

# CLAY TODAY



**UNDER THE BIG TOP**  
Artbotics brings the circus alive – Page 17



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THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2018

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## CRC holds final meeting

By Wesley LeBlanc  
Staff Writer

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – The final Charter Review Commission meeting consisted of quick votes and a bout between not only its appointed members, but with a Clay County Commissioner as well.

During the June 13 CRC meeting, the commission voted unanimously on two separate agenda items before a heated discussion between CRC Chairman Amy Pope-Wells, CRC members Amy Miller, Ronald Stotler and BCC member Gayward Hendry broke out. The two votes were the final ones needed to send two charter revision ballot questions to Clay County voters this fall.

After a 12-0 vote, CRC members approved a referendum that asks voters if BCC member term limits should be increased, from two consecutive four-year terms, to three, giving potential members the opportunity to spend 12 years in a BCC chair. The second vote made that night, which passed 12-0, will add to the ballot a referendum that asks voters if they believe the charter-specified county commissioner salary of \$37,000 should be removed. It also asks voters if they'd like to remove the requirement

SEE CRC, 14



STAFF PHOTO BY KILE BREWER

Members of the Green Cove Springs City Council met with local law enforcement, EMS, and hospital representatives to gain an insight into the opioid crisis and how it affects their city.

## City holds public discussion on opioids

By Kile Brewer  
Staff Writer

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Drug abuse will always be a problem.

Trends change, the drug of choice changes, but there will always be users and dealers ready to buy and sell. In Green Cove Springs, however, recent steps taken by the City Council and Green Cove Police Department look to curb use in their city through community initiatives and a focus on education.

“We have some great practitioners in the area to be able to put some knowledge out there and help us understand the crisis we’re seeing with opioid addiction,” said Police Chief Derek Asdot June

16 when introducing the panel at Green Cove Springs City Hall.

This was the first opioid town hall meeting held by the city, primarily to serve the council and city staff with information that they can use to try and create some positive change in what is commonly referred to as an opioid crisis.

Opioids, the catch-all term for poppy-based opiates such as heroin and opium as well as synthetic alternatives to these opiates like hydrocodone, oxycodone and fentanyl, are the most recent trend in users’ drugs of choice. In the last few years, use in Clay County and Green Cove Springs has been on the rise, but recent crackdowns by area law enforcement and

changes in the drug climate have caused a recent downward turn in the trend.

“I can’t address the addiction part of the issue, but what we see as part of it is the consequence of the addiction,” said Lorin Mock, Clay County fire chief.

Mock’s numbers come from the administration of Narcan by his paramedics when responding to medical calls. When a trained first responder issues a dose of Narcan, they are trying to save a patient from a potential opioid overdose.

According to Clay Fire and Rescue numbers, Narcan administration saw the biggest increases countywide, and in the

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# Judge hears arguments in judge suit against opponent

By Wesley LeBlanc  
Staff Writer

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – A St. Augustine judge is expected to rule this week in a court case involving a Clay County Judge who is suing to keep her first-ever opponent's name off the ballot in the general election.

On May 30, Clay County Judge Kristina Mobley filed suit against Lucy Ann Hoover of Middleburg who is challenging Mobley's seat. The complaint sought to have Clay County Supervisor of Elections Chris Chambless remove Hoover's name from the ballot.

According to the complaint, Mobley believes Hoover failed to complete necessary forms properly and did not turn them in before the deadline of noon on May 4. During court on June 19, Seventh Judicial Circuit Judge Howard Maltz heard arguments from Mobley's plaintiff lawyers, Michael Fackler and Paul Renner.

"Your honor, let me begin by saying our position is straightforward," Renner said. "We have a clear and unambiguous statute...it requires five items to be filed and those items must be received by the qualifying officer by the end of the qualifying pe-

riod, in this case, noon on May 4.

"Our position is that one or more of those items were simply not received before the noon deadline and that is our argument," Renner said.

Renner cited that there are similar court cases where substantial compliance would occur, which simply put, would allow a work-around on an otherwise strict rule, but that this instance does not fall under the same territory as those.

For example, in one case cited, a would-be candidate had their paperwork complete but was unable to have them turned in on time because there was a long line outside the building that said person had to wait in. In this situation, substantial compliance would be in play as had an outside force not affected the candidates' ability to turn in their complete and necessary paperwork on time, said person would have done so successfully.



Kristina Mobley

According to Renner, Hoover failed to turn in one or more of the necessary items on her own accord, meaning that rather than substantial, strict compliance was in play – strict compliance would disqualify Hoover in this instance.

When it was time for the defending party to speak, Chambless' lawyer, Ron Labasky, spoke first. Labasky began his argument by citing a list of relevant facts. He said Hoover was in the office prior to deadline and not all documents were received on time. If a candidate has initiated the procedure, which includes being in the office before deadline and filling out necessary paperwork, then the Supervisor of Elections, in this case Chambless, has the right to allow the potential candidate to finish. Maltz responded to this argument by asking Labasky if any Supervisor of Elections has the right to do this, thus superseding state policy with their own policy.

"I think Bayne v. Gibson tells us, 'yes, they do have that policy'," Labasky said. "That was the operative situation that allowed the Bayne candidate to qualify."

Maltz further questioned Labasky about Bayne v. Gibson, citing that in that court case, everything was completed by the

time Bayne entered the door before deadline but that was not the reality in Hoover's situation.

"I think all of the cases we've cited in our memo would lead to exactly the conclusion that the court will adhere to the vision that fundamental fairness would allow a candidate in this situation to qualify because the direction the court has taken, as cited by the case and in our brief and our memo, is that the courts favor having candidates being allowed to qualify," Labasky said.

When it was time for Hoover's lawyer, Mark Herron, to speak, he continued the discussion surrounding Bayne v. Gibson, citing that Hoover ran into an outside force, in this case, a glitch between Wells Fargo Bank and VyStar Credit Union, that prohibited her from completing all items necessary on time. Because of this, it would bring substantial compliance into play, like it did in Bayne v. Gibson.

"The candidate was in the office [before the deadline] and engaged in the process," Herron said. "I don't really think that in this instance, [Hoover failing to turn in the documents completed and on time] is the

SEE JUDGE, 9

# Town of Orange Park approves stormwater utility fund

By Wesley LeBlanc  
Staff Writer

ORANGE PARK – Orange Park stormwater cleanup is going to be very expensive and now, the town council will have to choose one of four different funding options to pay for it.

During a special meeting held June 18, Orange Park Town Council was presented with a stormwater study detailing the costs associated with the cleanup. The study, conducted by the Jacksonville offices of engineering consultant firm Jones Edmunds, was contracted earlier this year, and involved 30 days of field work, over 3,000 full feature assessments and 1,500 photos. Engineers now know exactly which areas of Orange Park are suffering the most in terms of stormwater buildup, which areas act as the major choke points, which features need replacing and more. While a necessary expenditure, the town is looking at a cleanup that will not only take years, but cost millions as well.

The first point of discussion during the Jones Edmunds presentation was the stormwater piping present throughout the

town. There are currently 1,618 pipes that will need to be replaced one day, naturally. To replace them all now would cost \$15.2 million. However, Brian Icerman, a vice president with Jones Edmunds, said not all of the pipes need to be replaced. He also pointed out the town's stormwater structures, of which, there are 1,165 in Orange Park. To replace all of them would cost the town \$5.1 million.

"Right now, thinking about it from a macro perspective, that's a ballpark number for you," Icerman said. "What this does help you do is see where you're at in terms of the spread. It also gives you an idea on how to come up with a life cycle cost."

From there, Icerman moved on to high priority areas in the town that need attention as soon as possible. The field work completed by Jones Edmunds determined that there were six of these high priority areas: Winfred Drive, San Robar Drive, Shaw Street, Azalea Lane, Hopkins Street and Gano Avenue. The problems with these high priority areas ranges from "large sediment buildup in channel downstream of headwall on the eastern bank causing a constriction in the channel," to, "Massive

tree fall at culvert and other trees in the channel," and even, culverts whose pipes are filled with 50 percent sediment.

Before closing, Icerman laid out what the engineering firm believes should be the next steps the town can and should take. He broke these steps down into three categories: maintenance and inspection, capital projects and funding.

For maintenance and inspection, Jones Edmunds recommends immediate maintenance on the areas designated as high priority and setting up a schedule for routine inspection and maintenance in these areas. The capital projects they recommend are acquiring a hydraulic or flow model, creating stormwater capacity improvements and replacing culverts. Finally, in terms of the funding, they believe the town needs to work on utilizing grants, general funds and setting up a stormwater utility.

After this presentation, Public Works Director Chuck Pavlos explained to the council how the \$81,000 freed up from the Capital Improvement Plan and \$500,000 from the General Fund Balance was used in stormwater cleanup and maintenance. He said \$50,000 of that paid for crew

wages, \$65,000 paid for the engineering of town projects and finally, \$466,000 paid for the Menzi Muck vehicle, ditch clearing, flow modeling, and conservation land and dredge permits.

Two grants the town is most likely able to secure are the USDA's Emergency Watershed Program NRCS grant and FEMA's Section 404 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The NRCS grant would be used for the Dudley Branch Floodway Restoration Project, which will cost \$1,051,544. The FEMA grant will be used for a number of projects such as Winfred Drive stormwater improvements, St. Johns river bank stabilization, Saw Street Pond improvements and more. These projects are estimated to cost \$3.8 million.

"Both of these grants, though, are reimbursement grants, which means we cover the costs up front and then they reimburse us," Pavlos said. "They also only reimburse 75 percent of the costs so the town would be covering 25 percent of the cost when all is said and done."

Unfortunately, this isn't all of the stormwater work the town faces.

SEE WATER, 14

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# Cadets graduate from Class 34 at FLYCA

By Chase Carle  
For Clay Today

ORANGE PARK – A glimpse of past pain briefly marred the startling intense gaze of Alexis Bastin as she spoke about what led her to this point. An abusive father had her feeling worthless and without purpose in life. Losing one of her closest friends only served to send her even further down a dark path. Sneaking out and skipping school became the norm. Substance abuse was just another way to escape those feelings. Then an encounter with a Clay County Sheriff's officer changed everything.

"He showed up at my house when me and my mom were having an argument. He told me that I needed to change my life or I was going to end up in jail if I kept going down the path I was going down," said Bastin. "He recommended the academy as a way to avoid that."

The academy Bastin is talking about is the Florida Youth Challenge Academy.

Established in 2001, the academy is a voluntary boot camp style alternative high school based on the campus of Camp Blanding. The program, which is open to students statewide, is funded by the Florida National Guard, state departments of Juvenile Justice and Children and Families, while the teachers are provided by the Clay County School District.



After graduating as a cadet from Class 34 at the Florida Youth Challenge Academy at Camp Blanding, Alexis Bastin will return to her high school career at Ridgeview High with a new formula for success.

Bastin was one of 137 cadets who graduated from Class 34 on June 12. Class 34 started with over 170 cadets, but for various reasons, only 137 made it to graduation and the graduation ceremony.

The class completed the almost six-month program and are moving on to the next stage in life. Some will be going to college, some to the military or the workforce while others will be returning to their local high schools to complete their education there. Bastin will return to Ridgeview

High near Orange Park where she plans to graduate in 2020 although she hopes to use credits she's earned at the academy to speed up the process.

While she says the first few weeks were rough, Bastin quickly began to flourish in the academy. She was placed in multiple leadership roles, including becoming the Platoon Sergeant for First Platoon, also known as the Cougars. She excelled at physical training, won numerous awards and was always eager to help and motivate other cadets. Bastin was also part of the Ambassador Program where she travels and speaks to everyone from teachers to government officials about the academy and what it is doing in her life.

"I didn't have respect for anyone, now I have complete respect for everybody," said Bastin. "I'm in the habit of saying yes sir and yes ma'am to everybody."

The change was noticeable to everyone she knew, according to Bastin.

"I thought I deserved the world, I was entitled. I've learned work before play," said Bastin. "When I first went home, my family was like 'whoa.'"

The graduation ceremony proceeds as normal, with some noticeable differences from a usual high school graduation.

The class was first introduced by platoon rather than the class as a whole with

each platoon performing their own unique drill routine to introduce themselves.

The guest speaker for the ceremony was Alice Sims, assistant secretary for the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. She talked about the importance of what she called her "three D's" which are dedication, determination and discipline and her mantra of "no excuses."

"I was told that I would never make it, that I'd never be anything," said Sims. "I went on to be a seven-time All American and two-time National Champion in track and field at FSU and was just inducted into the Florida Track and Field Hall of Fame this year. If I can do it, you can do it too."

After giving out awards and scholarships to a few of the stand-out cadets, the graduates received their diplomas.

After the ceremony, the graduates moved to their families to begin their journey back home, whether that be local or elsewhere in the state.

While their experience at the academy and their past may still play out in some of their minds, Bastin is only focused on one thing – moving forward. The flash of pain from earlier has been replaced with a look of hope.

"I need to move on from my past. I need to focus on my future. My parents finally trust me and are proud of me."



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## Court puts hold on smokable medical cannabis

By Jim Rosica  
FloridaPolitics.com

An appellate court has shot down a trial judge's order to make immediate her ruling that medical marijuana can be smoked in Florida.

The 1st District Court of Appeal, in a one-page order dated June 18, quashed Circuit Judge Karen Gievers' order allowing patients to smoke.



Jim Rosica

The state's appeal of the decision placed an automatic 'stay,' or hold, on the ruling pending review. Gievers' order lifted that stay.

"The stay provided for by (the) Florida Rule(s) of Appellate Procedure ... shall remain in effect pending final disposition of the merits of this appeal," the appellate court's Monday order said. "An opinion setting forth this Court's reasoning will issue at a later date."

A spokesman for the Florida Department of Health had said the agency is reviewing the ruling and "working every day to implement the law."

The agency said medical marijuana is still available to patients – though not in smoking form. It regulates the drug through its Office of Medical Marijuana Use.

Meantime, attorneys for plaintiffs in the smoking case and for Joe Redner – the Tampa strip club mogul who won a decision allowing him to grow and juice his own medical marijuana – have asked the state's Supreme Court to take over the appeals.

John Morgan, the Orlando attorney behind the 2016 constitutional amendment approving medical marijuana, also organized the smoking lawsuit. He has called on Republican Gov. Rick Scott, now running for U.S. Senate, to drop further court challenges of Gievers' ruling.

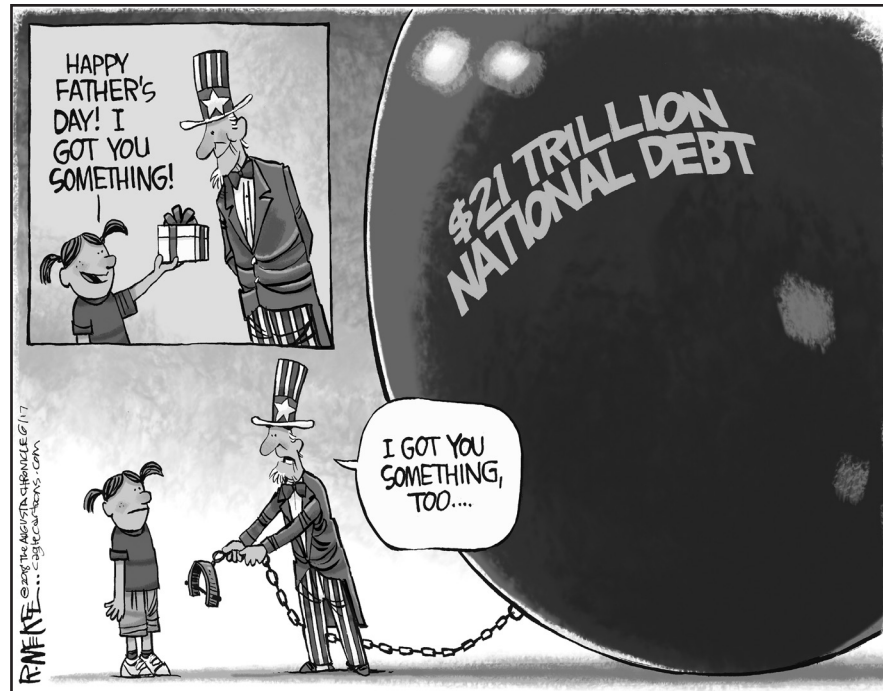
She previously found "there is no likelihood of success" by the state on appeal.

The governor "is wasting taxpayers' money on this frivolous appeal while veterans, cops, firefighters (with PTSD) and really sick people suffer," Morgan said in a statement. "This callous meanness has no room in Florida. This act of cruelty will cost him the Senate seat."

The department also reported last Friday that the state had surpassed 100,000 people with an approved medical marijuana patient identification card, but a

SEE CANNABIS, 5

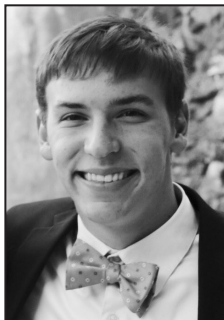
## Opinions



### A model for the day-in, day-out

By Harrison Dinsbeer

Every week, the police in Calais, France remove or cut up the tents of refugees seeking asylum in the U.K. These men, most of whom came from the Middle East and eastern Africa, are trying to reach southern England through the underwater rail tunnel that runs from Calais to Folkestone under the English Channel.



Harrison Dinsbeer

They live on no means but the goods distributed by volunteer aid organizations like L'Auberge des Migrants, where two friends and I volunteered for two weeks in May. The police often confiscate the men's possessions and firewood during the raids, and when I visited a clearing where many refugees were staying, the police had beaten three of them the night before.

L'Auberge processes donations and, alongside a few other groups, distributes them to the refugee sites. The pressure of this work – i.e. an awareness of its absolute necessity – would surely drive some to overwork themselves and to burnout if it weren't for the efficient schedule and attitudes of the volunteers.

The workday at the warehouse starts at 9:30 a.m. with an encouraging meeting led by the manager of the ware-

house. We're told that we must take two days off each week – rest is crucial to stay sane and to do our best work.

In one half of the warehouse, the volunteers measure, check for quality and sort men's and women's clothing, blankets, backpacks, etc. Not particularly large as far as warehouses go, this one is adorned with (often emphatic) instructional signs in French, English, or both. At the behest of a French supervisor, my friend Isaac made a sign explaining how to sort clothes.

The other half of the warehouse contains boxes of goods ready to be delivered, a makeshift car repair shop (I don't know whose cars are fixed or why), and an enormous pile of clothes unsuitable for the refugees.

Along the back wall, partly hidden by empty cardboard boxes, is a large white panel with painted handprints offering various messages (possibly graffiti), some legible and others not. They were encouragements, political claims and calls for international action in Europe's migrant crisis.

At 12:45 p.m., the hour-long lunch break starts, and it's practically mandatory. The workday ends at 6 p.m., and working late is hardly tolerated. This planned, inviolable rest enables the motivated to work hard without feeling driven to work too much for the sake of well-being.

A respect for time off is necessary for workaholics and sluggards alike – many of us who struggle to stay moti-

SEE WORK, 5

## Word of the week

**Word of the Week** is a feature that aims to help readers boost their vocabulary in a meaningful way that has practical application. Each week, our editorial staff presents a word, its definition and its use in a sentence.

**Doyen:** A noun meaning "a person considered to be knowledgeable or uniquely skilled as a result of long experience in some field of endeavor."

"After having such critically-acclaimed books as *The Liars' Club*, *Cherry and Lit*, author Mary Karr could quite well be called the doyen of memoir-writing."

## Letter to the Editor

### Animal lover shocked at over-filled pet shelters

As an animal lover, I am appalled that our local animal shelters are all either at or over capacity. Given the fact that spaying and neutering is now done free of charge at many facilities, it seems that this problem should no longer such a huge and tragic issue.

How, in this day and age, can so many people remain ignorant and/or lazy regarding their pets? I realize that sometimes pets must be surrendered due to circumstances beyond their owners' control. However, this year our shelters have seen a large number of surrenders from people who, for one reason or another, just no longer want their pets.

This level of irresponsibility says a great deal about us as a society. It seems that too many people do not realize that pets are a huge responsibility, just as children are. These animals are God's creatures, have feelings just as humans do, and deserve the same loving care and attention we give our children or any other human in need. Anyone who considers taking a pet into their family has the obligation to realize that they need to properly care for this animal throughout their entire life. Giving up a pet when one no longer wants to care for it, letting the animal run wild and uncared for, should be considered as much of a crime by our society as treating a human family member in the same manner.

Pamela Jordan  
Fleming Island

### Send us a letter ...

We'd like to hear from you. Perhaps you are concerned about the county commission, the school board or your city council or commission, sit down and take a few moments to write us a letter.

All we ask is that you keep it civil, no name-calling and write

no more than 600 words. All we ask is that you stick to local issues, be clear and make a point. We reserve the right to edit for AP Stylebook errors, grammar and spelling. In your email, type Letter to the Editor in your subject and send it to Managing Editor Eric Cravey at eric@opcfca.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

### Opinions

The views and opinions expressed on this page are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Clay Today.

# Work

from page 4

vated simply fail to rest sufficiently.

In fact, during a training session in one of the offices in the warehouse, I noticed a small sign hanging above the whiteboard: "When was your last day off?"

At the warehouse, I felt unusually driven to do my best, even while doing the most menial of tasks. The necessity of the work was obvious to me, so I was able to work with urgency and attention.

To do our best work, our job must be important to us. That is to say, we must make it important, no matter how meaningless it seems. We must work to serve God and

We must work to serve God and others, or our work will mean nothing to us. If we work in service like this, any job – from landscaping to dog-sitting to activism – can be done with vigor and inspired effort.

others, or our work will mean nothing to us. If we work in service like this, any job – from landscaping to dog-sitting to activism – can be done with vigor and inspired effort.

L'Auberge taught me that hard work depends not on toughness and gritted teeth but on deliberate rest and on a higher purpose that comes not from the work itself, but from the worker's desire to serve.

# Court

from page 4

spokesman said that would not trigger the issuance of another four licenses for marijuana providers under state law.

That "was everyone's expectation and assumption," Jeff Sharkey, founder of the Medical Marijuana Business Association of Florida, said last week. "I think there will probably be more than a little disappointment over this."

The 100,000-patient milestone was announced via email on June 15. But again, according to a department spokesman, that doesn't mean the department will issue another four licenses to grow and sell medical marijuana, as provided under state law.

The state had exceeded 100,000 overall almost two months ago – coincidentally on April 20, or 4/20 – in its medical marijuana use registry. The June 15 mark of 100,372 refers specifically to those that have an approved patient identification card application.

"That figure does not completely reflect an actual threshold that would trigger the new licenses," spokesman Devin Galleta said in a phone interview June 15. "Once we do have the ability to approve new licenses, we do expect there to be four new licenses available at that time."

The latest 100,000-plus tally covers "all applications approved over time," Galleta explained, including "renewals and nonactive patients, so that doesn't necessarily reflect the true number of active and qualified patients in the registry."

But exceeding 100,000 approved ID cards to trigger extra licenses "was everyone's expectation and assumption," said Jeff Sharkey, founder of the Medical Marijuana Business Association of Florida. "I think there will probably be more than a little disappointment over this."

State law says within six months of cracking the 100,000 mark, "the department shall license four additional medical marijuana treatment centers (MMTCs)." With every additional 100,000 patients, another four licenses have to issue.

Those patients, however, have to be

"active" and "qualified." That means "a resident of this state who has been added to the medical marijuana use registry by a qualified physician to receive marijuana or a marijuana delivery device for a medical use, and who has a qualified patient identification card."

As the department's own disclaimer says, "Not all patients entered into the medical marijuana use registry apply for medical marijuana use identification cards."

When asked when the number of patients would trigger the issuance of additional licenses, Galleta said he "was not certain on that," but would seek clarification from the department's Office of Medical Marijuana Use (OMMU), which regulates the drug.

Added Sharkey: "I agree it would be good to know what that number is. I believe (having over 100,000 approved ID cards) is what most legislators thought would trigger new licenses."

Approved MMTCs currently number 13, with 43 retail locations across the state, records show.

With a lack of new licenses, businesses seeking to get into the medicinal cannabis market in Florida will likely take to buying licenses from existing providers.

Earlier this month, MedMen Enterprises Inc. of Los Angeles, the country's biggest medical marijuana provider, said it had agreed to pay \$53 million for a license from Central Florida's Treadwell Nursery.

Others, such as Louis Del Favero Orchids – a Tampa orchid nursery – are seeking to use a provision in state law that gives preference in granting licenses to companies with underused or shuttered citrus factories. That was part of legislation that implemented the 2016 constitutional amendment allowing medicinal marijuana in the state.

*Jim Rosica covers state government from Tallahassee for Florida Politics. Jim graduated from law school in 2009 after spending nearly a decade covering courts for the Tallahassee Democrat. His article appears courtesy of FloridaPolitics.com.*

# This Week In History

## 5 years ago, 2013

Fourth Judicial Circuit Court Judge John H. Skinner recused himself from a death penalty murder case that was sent back to Clay County by the Florida Supreme Court for the re-sentencing hearing for Leo Louis Kaczmar III, of Jacksonville. Court.

Acting on a tip from a Florida Highway Patrolman in South Florida, the Clay County Sheriff's Office uncovered a sophisticated marijuana grow operation in Clay Hill worth \$834,000 that involved old steel shipping containers buried underground.

Green Cove Springs City Council took out a \$2.4 million loan to build a new trimmed-down \$5 million police station.

## 10 years ago, 2008

The United States Postal Service announced that Fleming Island will have the

new 32003 ZIP Code as of July 1, 2008.

Synovus Bank of Jacksonville opened its first branch in Clay County at 1440 Kingsley Ave. in Orange Park.

Citing spiraling energy costs, Green Cove Springs City Manager Don Bowles said city hall would soon shorten its work day to four days a week from 7 a.m.-5 p.m. each day.

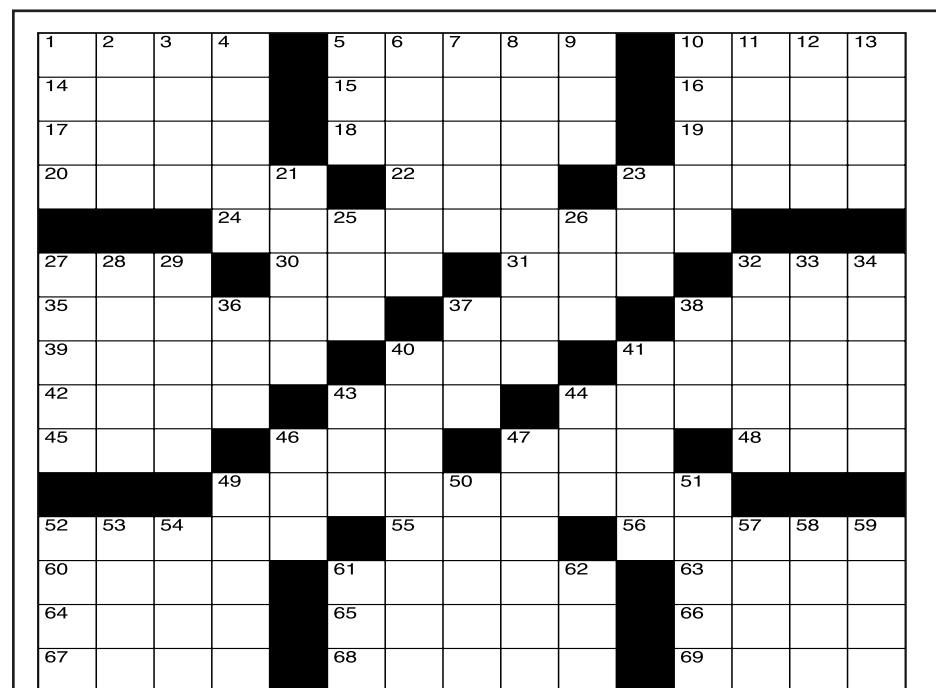
## 20 years ago, 1998

Clay High School was transformed into an emergency shelter for residents of Pier Station near Green Cove Springs who were forced to evacuate in the wake of uncontrolled wildfires.

The Florida Department of Transportation voiced opposition to three different citizens' "work groups" that recommended extending Parkridge Avenue to the undeveloped Branan Field Road area in order to create a new traffic-easing east-west route for Clay County.

The Clay County Sheriff's Office

SEE HISTORY, 11



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Green and yellow citrus fruit
5. Type of clock
10. Die
14. A hammer needs one
15. Leopard (Hebrew)
16. In the Hebrew calendar
17. Away from wind
18. Type of footwear
19. Malaysian coastal city
20. Arm bones
22. A type of diligence
23. Banquets
24. Home of The Beatles
27. Electromotive force
30. Small amount
31. Type of cola
32. Adult female
35. Astronomy unit
37. Hall of Fame
38. Type of gazelle
39. Places
40. Women from the Mayflower
41. Liquid served with food
42. Predatory semiaquatic reptile (abbr.)
43. Angle (abbr.)
44. Touched lightly
45. Cannister
46. Crony
47. Tell on
48. Body of water
49. Sorts out
52. Mammary gland of female cattle
55. Impudent behavior
56. Sword
60. Protein-rich liquids
61. Emaciation
63. Italian seaport
64. Agreement
65. Chinese ethnic group
66. University of Miami's mascot
67. People who buy and sell securities
68. Genus of mosquitos
69. Holds up your head

### CLUES DOWN

1. Two-toed sloth
2. Impudent behavior
3. The right to take another's property
4. Refers to end of small intestine
5. Mandela's party
6. Inserted strips of fat before cooking
7. Secret love affair
8. Responds to stimulation
9. Wife
10. Desert mammal
11. A nearly horizontal passage from the surface into a mine
12. Uncommon
13. \_\_\_ Kristofferson, actor
21. Where buildings are built
23. Chain attached to a watch
25. Holiday (informal)
26. Clod
27. Synchronizes solar and lunar time
28. Australian eucalyptus tree
29. Aerosol propellant
32. Coats with a sticky substance
33. Master of ceremonies
34. The venerable \_\_\_ British theologian
36. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
37. Witch
38. Strike with a light blow
40. The First State
41. Satisfies
43. A way to fish
44. Magnetic tape used to make recordings
46. For each
47. Flower cluster
49. Closes off
50. One who supports fanatically
51. Type of vaccine
52. Approves food
53. Hoofed grazing animal
54. Drearly dull
57. Youngster
58. \_\_\_ Clapton, musician
59. Take a chance
61. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
62. Female sibling

# Opioids

from page 1

city, from 2015 through the end of last year. In the county, use of Narcan increased from 330 cases in 2015, to 443 in 2016 and peaked at 517 last year. Locally, within the Green Cove Springs city limits, the numbers were 50, 51 and 79 cases. This year, however, Mock said that the county is on pace to see a decrease for the first time since use of Narcan became commonplace.

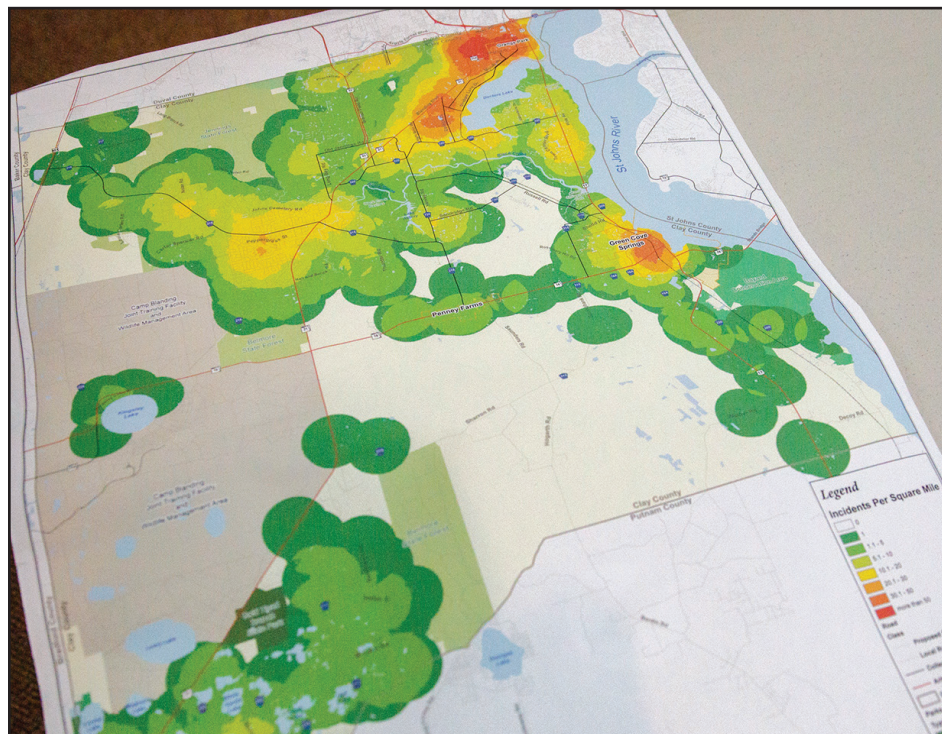
The drug, a nasal spray, is made up of molecules that push the opioid off the brain's receptors, causing immediate relief from the respiratory failure caused by opioid overdose. In recent years, Narcan has become a mandatory item for all first responders as the drug fentanyl – cheaper and up to 1,000 times more potent than heroin – has crept into the United States. It is then cut with the more expensive heroin powder and sold to unassuming users. The user will never see it coming when they prepare their usual dose, not knowing what they are about to ingest is potentially 1,000 doses at once.

"Fentanyl has really changed the way we do business in law enforcement," Asdot said, citing that all officers carry Narcan not just to revive a citizen who might have overdosed, but also to protect their fellow officers from casual exposure via inhalation during a routine drug recovery at a traffic stop. "It's incredibly dangerous."

In addition to Asdot and Mock, the city invited three medical professionals from Orange Park Medical Center to provide information from their end. This included Emergency Services Medical Director Steve Goodfriend, Pharmacy Director Jodie Graves and Orange Park Medical Center Chief Medical Officer Joseph Parra. The doctors talked about trends in the hospital, and the ER, concerning opioid cases, including their timeline of how the opioid crisis came to be.

"We are somewhat accountable for this," Goodfriend said. "It was the wild west. It was the wild west for opioids."

Goodfriend discussed the "pill mills" that started popping up a handful of years ago. Some of the less-ethical doctors were



A map shows the distribution of Narcan using the color red to identify overdose hotspots throughout the county with hotspots occurring mostly in city and town centers at the top of the photo.



Clay County Fire Chief Lorin L. Mock presented statistics from Clay County Fire and Rescue in regards to opioid abuse throughout the county, as well as numbers specific to Green Cove Springs at the city's City Hall during an opioid abuse workshop held with the City Council.

essentially taking in patients and giving them whatever drugs they asked for, without any fear of consequences. Eventually that subsided, with legislation that limited a patient's maximum supply of opioids to seven days' worth at a time without needing another handwritten prescription.

Things have changed and doctors are keener on the lies their patients tell them

to get prescriptions, and incidental addiction is carefully avoided by limiting opioid use during surgery recovery. However, that only paved the way for more illicit drugs like heroin to make a quick comeback after being on the backburner of the drug trade since the 1990s. Once heroin use increased, dealers started looking for cheaper alternatives, and then fentanyl

overdoses began showing up as the potent synthetic opioid started coming to America from China or Mexico.

Council member Van Royal asked the panel of physicians what can be done to curb the problem.

"There is a little bit of good news out there that ERs are down, responses, even in our own communities, are down. But realizing that there's an underpinning problem, depression and those kinds of things, is there anything we can do as community leaders?" he said. "In this crisis I'd like to think that we may have an opportunity to make that difference as a community. We understand that there's a problem there and we would like to be a solution as a community."

The doctors agreed that Green Cove Springs is on the right track, specifically through its increased focus on community outreach and city-sponsored events at Spring Park and Vera Francis Hall Park. They said that in getting people outside, and socializing, is the best thing for those who normally stay inside feeling depressed and using illegal drugs. It's certainly not an immediate solution to the problem, but showing people they are part of something greater than themselves seemed to be the best suggestion at how a community can tackle these problems.

Education also came up, including getting information on the city website and around town about local organizations that are there to help people going through addiction and mental health issues such as severe anxiety and depression that sometimes lead to drug abuse. Goodfriend discussed programs that take former drug users and assign them as counselors to current users, to let them know that they can stop using and get their life back on track.

"They're people who can connect with them, they understand, they have empathy for it, they know how it is. I can't say I can connect as well as someone who's been in their shoes before," Goodfriend said. "Before it used to be: criminalize it, and we've found out we can't arrest our way out of this. I think having empathy and understanding how powerful these drugs are combined with someone who doesn't have as much self-control."



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# Clay woman honored as 'Legendary Caregiver'

By Wesley LeBlanc  
Staff Writer

JACKSONVILLE – Tosha Egelund was minutes away from her Middleburg home preparing to relax after a long shift at Wolfson Children's Hospital, when she received a call from a physician whose patient needed emergency chemotherapy.

"He's deteriorating," said Egelund, recounting the call. "If he doesn't get chemotherapy tonight, the results won't be good."

The boy, who had been admitted to Wolfson months prior, would end up on a heart and lung machine. Doctors later identified a tumor pressing up against his trachea, limiting the intake of oxygen difficult.

Egelund, a pediatric clinical pharmacist in hematology, oncology and bone marrow transplant, was walking into her house while talking to her boss. She asked if she should write the chemotherapy prescription and talk the physician through administering the drug, or return to work and do it herself. Egelund wanted the latter option, but not because of a lack of faith in her coworker, but because she wanted to see the child through the night.

After Egelund's boss suggested she head back to work, she administered the chemo. The boy would live through the night. Today, he's in remission and Egelund is the recipient of the Legendary Caregiver Award.

The annual award is given to five employees out of the thousands employed by Baptist Health and Wolfson Children's Hospital. A recipient must be nominated by their coworkers. Each person nominated is then grouped into a pool where a committee selects who is to receive the award out of those nominated.

The committee looks for someone who has gone above and beyond to care for their patients. When Egelund received this award early this month, she was surprised and honored.

"I mean, it was an honor," Egelund said. "I was quite surprised and very thankful for them to nominate me for [this award]. I wasn't expecting it but it is nice that people notice the care you're providing."

Egelund was raised in Clay County, just on the edge of the border that separates Clay from Bradford County. Born prematurely, Egelund was so small that her father could hold her and her twin sister in the palms of each of his hands. While her only complication was being born too early, her sister, however, was diagnosed with cerebral palsy.

"We were always in and out of hospitals for my sister and I became very interested at a young age because of that," Egelund said. "I always loved science and my love for it just grew and grew. When I got closer and closer to graduation. I decided that I



Tosha Egelund of Middleburg, a pediatric clinical pharmacist at Wolfson Children's Hospital, was named a 2018 Legendary Caregiver.

was going to be a physician."

Egelund soon realized that the blood and gore physicians often see was something she preferred to stay away from. Because of this, she switched to pharmacy.

"I was able to get the best of everything I wanted from the medical field with becoming a pharmacist," Egelund said. "I still got the patient interaction which I love, and I don't get the blood and gore."

A large part of her day-to-day work is writing chemotherapy prescriptions for patients, which are children. For some, seeing children undergoing such aggressive treatments might seem difficult, and for Egelund, it is. But despite that, she loves her job.

"Because of my sister, I've always had a passion for helping others, and for helping kids," Egelund said. "A lot of times, a child has a disease for a reason they have absolutely no control over and because of that, I just feel for them. I want them to have the best possible life they can."

Because cancer generally isn't a quick fix, Egelund is often with patients for months at a time, through the worst of their cancer and onward to remission.

"You see these patients so often and you get to build these incredible relationships with them," Egelund said. "It doesn't always end the way we want it to, and when that happens, we grieve with them."

"We also celebrate with them, though, and I get comfort in that. I'm thankful God put me here. My work partner is amazing. My team is amazing. I couldn't do anything I do without the people I work with and I am thankful for that."



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# Obituaries

## Brenda B. Hamilton

Brenda B. Hamilton, 85, of Penney Farms, Fla., passed away June 13, 2018.

Broadus Raines Funeral Home, 501 Spring St., Green Cove Springs, FL (904) 284-4000.



## Justin Robert Thornton, Sr

Justin Robert Thornton, Sr., 30, of Middleburg, Fla., passed away June 11, 2018.

Broadus Raines Funeral Home, 501 Spring St., Green Cove Springs, FL (904) 284-4000.



## Joseph Kent Bull

Joseph Kent Bull, 76, of Penney Farms, passed away June 15, 2018. Arrangements are under the care of Russell Haven of Rest Cemetery, Funeral Home and Cremation Center, 904-284-7720.



## Dr. Benedict R. "Ben" Lacorte

Dr. Benedict R. "Ben" Lacorte, 83 of Orange Park, Fla. passed away June 16, 2018. Russell Haven of Rest Cemetery, Funeral Home and Cremation Center 2335 Sandridge Road Green Cove Springs, FL 32043, 904-284-7720, www.RHRFH.com.



## Sandra 'Sandy' Earl Kersey

Sandra "Sandy" Earl Kersey, 78, of Green Cove Springs, Fla., passed away June 15, 2018.

Broadus Raines Funeral Home, 501 Spring St., Green Cove Springs, FL (904) 284-4000.



## Robert L. Lambing, Sr.

Robert L. Lambing, Sr., 76, of Orange Park, Fla., passed away June 14, 2018.

Broadus Raines Funeral Home, 501 Spring St., Green Cove Springs, FL (904) 284-4000



## William Lee Beard

William Lee Beard, 96, of Orange Park, Fla., passed away June 19, 2018.

Broadus Raines Funeral Home, 501 Spring St., Green Cove Springs, FL (904) 284-4000



## Jordan B. Hughes

Jordan B. Hughes passed away on Saturday, June 9, 2018. Aaron and Burney Bivens Funeral Home, 529 Kingsley Ave., Orange Park, Florida 32073 (904) 264-1233.



## Joseph Alan Barth

Joseph Alan Barth passed away on Saturday, June 16, 2018. Aaron and Burney Bivens Funeral Home, 529 Kingsley Avenue, Orange Park, Florida 32073 (904) 264-1233.



## Robert Eugene Malott

Robert Eugene Malott passed away on Sunday, June 17, 2018. Aaron and Burney Bivens Funeral Home, 529 Kingsley Avenue, Orange Park, Florida 32073 (904) 264-1233.



## James Thomas 'Jim' Spurlin Sr.

James Thomas "Jim" Spurlin Sr., 91, of Fitzpatrick, Alabama passed away Tuesday, June 12, 2018. A funeral service was held Monday, June 18, 2018, 2 p.m., from Gray Funeral Home Chapel, Union Springs, Alabama with Rev. David Stewart officiating. Burial followed at Perpetual Care Cemetery with Gray Funeral Home directing. A visitation was held at the funeral home one hour prior to the funeral service. Jim was born on May 25, 1927 to George and Lula Rich Spurlin in Green Cove Springs, Fla.. On March 16, 1950 he married Elma Lee Hickey. They traveled to Fitzpatrick, Ala. for their honeymoon, and never left. He was a member of the Fraternal Order of Police, National Rifle Association, Alabama Cattleman's, Masons, and he was a World War II Veteran.

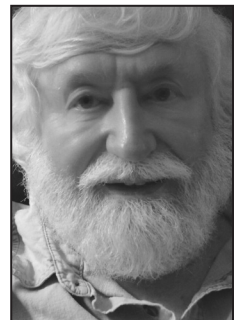
Jim got his first cow at the age of seven and owned cattle for the rest of his life. He was a kind and generous man, loved to tell stories, and visit with people. He was also an avid gardener and he loved sharing his vegetable crop with his neighbors.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 66 years, Elma Spurlin. He is survived by his children: Helen Spurlin Stewart (Alfred) of Valley Grande, AL, James Thomas "Jimmy" Spurlin, Jr. (Patti) of Union Springs, and Rebecca Spurlin Freeman of Auburn; five grandchildren 10 great-grandchildren; brother: Gerald Spurlin of Penny Farms, FL. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Bullock County Humane Society, P. O. Box 921, Union Springs, AL 36089.



## Joseph 'Wayne' Morris

Joseph "Wayne" Morris, 75, of Green Cove Springs, Fla. passed away Wednesday, June 6, 2018. Wayne grew up in Cottondale, Fla. on the family farm and moved to Lake Asbury in 1992 from Jacksonville. He received his master's degree from FSU and was working on his doctorate from University of Florida. Mr. Morris was a Political Science and International Relations professor at FCCJ for 50 years beginning his career in 1966. He enjoyed the outdoors, animals, and gardening. But his true passion was his grandchildren which he led by his example of hard work. Mr. Morris is survived by his wife, Kaye Morris, children, Emmett Guy "Trey" McClellan, John Joseph Morris and Kim (Edward) Richmond, grandchildren, John, Joseph, Justin, Mayte, Leonora, and Jeremiah, seven great grandchildren, aunt, Grace, father-in-law, Stephen Ennis, niece, Christy Morris and sister-in-law, Faye Morris. Memorial Services were held on Saturday, June 16, 2018 in the Chapel of Russell Haven of Rest with Rev. Ron Baker and Rev. Hobie Manning officiating. Arrangements are under the care of Russell Haven of Rest Cemetery, Funeral Home and Cremation Center, 2335 Sandridge Road, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043. Family and friends may share their condolences at: www.RHRFH.com 904-284-7720



Joseph Morris

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# Obituaries

from page 8

## Sharon 'Shari' McNeill Davis

Sharon "Shari" McNeill Davis, 60, passed away Monday, June 11, 2018, in her home. She was predeceased by the love of her life, her husband, Dale William "Bill" Davis, by a mere 5 months. She also followed to heaven her mother, Virginia Dare Howard McNeill, and her daughter, Kathryn Marie "Kati" Davis. She is survived by her father, Dr. David L. McNeill, MD; her sister, Jennie Campbell (husband, Stephen); her brother, Ron McNeill; her three children, Sara Anderson (husband, Josh); Senior Chief Will Davis, USN (wife, Christina); and Krys Mixon (husband, Phil); her six grandchildren, Willy Davis, Kati Davis, Gini Davis, Mya Brennan, Alivia Anderson, and P.R. Mixon; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.



Sharon Davis

She left behind more dear friends than could ever be listed here. Sharon Elizabeth McNeill was born in Harris, Texas on March 27, 1958 to David and Virginia McNeill. She was a fun and energetic child with a curious mind who loved to read, and to read aloud to others. As a child, she would organize skits and plays with her neighborhood friends for their parents. She was active in her church and community activities, including drama and minor stage productions. She loved to be with people, but she loved her animals too, and as a child had been known to bring home a new friend with her a few times. Shari also had a very special bond with her mother that was strengthened, in part, through a mutual love of cooking and family traditions. It was not until she attended college at the University of New Orleans that she met and fell in love with her soul mate, Bill Davis. Theirs was a strong bond that withstood the test of time and distance, the agonies of pain and loss, and all the other myriad trials and tribulations life has to offer. Bill and Shari

married on May 19, 1979 in New Orleans, Louisiana. Theirs being a match made of a great love, naturally, it was only nine months and three days later that they welcomed their first child, Sara. Their son Will followed in 1982, and three years later, in 1985, they had twin daughters, Kati and Krys. Kati's little life was cut short two months after her birth when she died of SIDS. Shari used the tragedy of losing her daughter to bring awareness to the, then, little known or understood Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. She also formed a support group for people who had experienced the pain of a SIDS loss, offering understanding and a place to heal to a surprisingly large community in the Greater Orlando area.

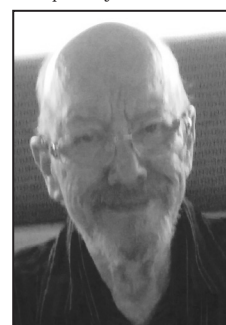
Always the consummate caregiver, she mended her own wounds by helping others to heal and she became a stronger person in the process. This pattern continued through most of her adult life, even including the way she was recovering after losing her husband in January of this year. Shari was one of the kindest and warmest people you could ever hope to meet. She was the type of person who was, as I used to say, "overly generous to [her] own detriment." She would give until she had no more left and then keep giving, never thinking of herself when anyone she loved was in need.

Devout in her faith in God no matter how many times it was put to the test, she was heavily and happily involved in her church and in the elder care-giving community. Her passion was giving care to anyone who needed it. After the love of her life passed, she started putting a positive spin on her life by traveling all over the country, seeing family, attending graduations, and even spending some relaxing time in Biloxi and Vegas. Her death was unexpected, and the world is a little lesser of a place because of it. Friends and family take comfort knowing that she has been reunited with her soul mate and daughter. We love you, Mom, and know that you, Dad and Kati are smiling down on us. A memorial service will be held at 5 o'clock in the evening on the 24th day of June, 2018, at St. Giles Presbyterian Church at 116 Foxridge Rd, Orange Park, FL 32065. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the

American Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Institute in honor of Shari's memory. Arrangement by Hardage Giddens Holly Hill Funeral Home 3601 Old Jennings Road Middleburg, Florida 32068. Leave words of comfort at [www.hollyhillfunerals.com](http://www.hollyhillfunerals.com).

## Richard Allen Wayne

Richard Allen Wayne, 64, passed away unexpectedly at his Orange Park home on June 17, 2018. He was born in Harrisburg, Penn. to parents Wallace L. Wayne and Daris A. Baum. He was a manager at Winn Dixie for 15 years prior to his retirement. He loved spending time with his family and enjoyed watching the Jaguars games and NASCAR. He is survived by his loving wife Christie Crump Wayne of 30



Richard Wayne

years, his children; Kathryn Delfraisse (Jonathan), Jessica Pifer, Denver Cole and grandchildren, Cynthia, Joseph, Charles, Alex, Chelsea, Kaylee and Willow, sisters; Kim Demnitski (Joe), Deborah Lingenfelter (Ken), Michelle Bricker and several brothers and sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews and his cats Black Jack and Baby Girl. He will be missed and in his family's hearts forever. Memorial service to be held at a later date. Broadus Raines Funeral Home, 501 Spring St., Green Cove Springs, FL (904) 284-4000



## Raymond L. Calley Sr.

Raymond L. Calley Sr. went to be with his Lord and Savior, Saturday, June 16, 2018. He was born in Sanford, Fla. to the late J. R. and Helen Calley on July 12, 1943. He loved his family, hunting and traveling the U.S. He served honorably in the U.S. Navy. He worked in the Jacksonville and North Florida Shipyards, as a ship fitter, he also built barbecue grills and later ran a boiled peanut stand in Green



Raymond Calley

Cove Springs and Penney Farms. He is preceded in death by a sister, Diane Kiedrowski; a brother, Willie Calley; son-in-law, David Carver; twin grandsons, Justin and Dustin Carver; and great-granddaughter, Peyton Avery.

He is survived by brothers, Robert, Pete and Alvin (Boss) Calley; and sister, Barbara Wollitz; two daughters, Melissa Alba and Dawn Lynn Carver; his son, Raymond L. Calley, Jr., ten grandchildren, Raymond L. the 3rd, Cody, Carrie, Justin, Chris, Alyssa, Victoria, Bo, Dalton, and Dylan; and nine great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m., Thursday, June 28, 2018 with military honors at Decoy Baptist Church, 671 Decoy Road, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043 with Pastor Tim Hall officiating.

## Judge

from page 2

fault of the candidate...this falls squarely within Bayne v. Gibson."

Renner responded and reiterated his previous argument that the policy surrounding candidate qualifications is clear and unambiguous. Maltz then responded by asking if the plaintiff's argument was draconian.

"Isn't it a bit draconian, for lack of better term, when somebody is just 10 minutes late to say no you can't qualify?" Maltz asked. "There's no doubt that the closer we get to the [deadline], the more our sympathies lie with the candidate, but those are facts that unfortunately cannot enter in aggregating a clear and unambiguous statute," Renner said.

Following the end of both parties' arguments, Maltz said he would do his best to have a verdict released by the end of the week.



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# Signs point to awesome readers in Middleburg

By **Kile Brewer**  
Staff Writer

MIDDLEBURG – As you drive through the streets and gravel roads surrounding Middleburg you might notice a handful of signs dotting the homes of the town's top young scholars.

When the Clay County School District embarked on the new reading initiative Achieve 3000, Wilkinson Elementary School administrators wanted to take the program a step further for its top performing readers. The program, originating with Superintendent Addison Davis, aims to get kids interested in reading, but with a challenging twist. The school district requires students to read nonfiction articles instead of the normal fare checked out from school libraries. The benefits of this are numerous, but the primary focus is introducing young readers to scientific research papers and carefully cited articles, similar to what they might have to use for research in college.

"Through reading these articles, a lot of these kids discover interests they didn't know they had," said Heather Teto, principal. "The more you read, the smarter you get."

Teto and the school's Assistant Principal Carolyn Hayward wanted to ensure the program was a success at their school, and provided incentives throughout the year to keep kids on track. Achieve 3000 has students reading 40 articles throughout the year, about one per week, but some students at Wilkinson doubled that number, something the two admins did not expect.

"Most of our students are exceeding the requirements," Teto said. "We've had a lot of success with this program. We live in a really challenging community but we have some beautiful children who are the most beautiful scholars."

In an attempt to meet the effort put forth by some of their highest achievers, Teto and Hayward looked to a school district in Georgia where they had been following a program similar to Achieve 3000 for a while and paid close attention to their incentives program. Through this research, the two came up with an idea to surprise the top two performers in each grade level from fourth through sixth and surprise them during summer break with a yard sign that lets passersby know that "A WES Extraordinary Reader Lives Here."

The kids have no idea they are top performers, and because of the close-knit



STAFF PHOTO BY KILE BREWER

Wilkinson Elementary School Assistant Principal Carolyn Hayward, left, and Principal Heather Teto, right, present a sign and certificate to Jackson Ingram, 10, at his home Monday after determining him to be one of the fourth grade class' top two readers of the year.

community at Wilkinson they are all happy to see their principal and assistant principal even though they're on break.

"This is the best school," said Jessie Kelley Jr., 10, after receiving his yard sign. "You guys are always doing something to keep learning fun!"

Kelley was one of the top readers from the outgoing fourth grade class, and said he was taking a break from reading after reading more than double the 40 articles required by the district. The break, however, is only a break from nonfiction as

Kelley has already embarked on a several-hundred-page fantasy novel in the week since school let out.

"I'm about 100 pages in," Kelley said while listing all the books he hopes to read this summer. "I really like science fiction because it's something that you can relate to the future. Reading is like a getaway for me, something to relax to."

Sarah Rosier, Kelley's mother, said she can't believe how her son has taken to

SEE READER, 16

## 2nd Annual Watermelon Fest

# Watermelon Fest

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## History

from page 5

arrested Todd Matthew Wesley, 31, of Keystone Heights and two juveniles for allegedly burning three large crosses in the lawn of African-American resident Bill Wesley in the 7000 block of Leigh Drive in Keystone Heights.

### 30 years ago, 1988

The Clay Board of County Commissioners approved the development of 2,133 acres on Fleming Island by DuPont. The approval came after months of meetings and planning, having been delayed from the original scheduled February date due to controversy over certain aspects of the project.

Clay County Sheriff's Officer's arrested 12 "street level" cocaine dealers in Green Cove Springs after a two-month investigation. According to the sheriff, all of the men arrested were working independently and there was no evidence of an organized drug trade.

The Florida Department of Transportation began looking at two Clay County locations for new bridges. One of the routes being considered would cross the St. Johns River near Magnolia Point on the Clay County side. The other route would be south of Green Cove Springs and cross the river about a mile and a half south of the Shands Bridge.

### 40 years ago, 1978

The County Commission passed a boat ordinance banning all boats that don't have an underwater muffler system from county waterways after numerous noise complaints from residents who live on area lakes and creeks.

The Clay County School Board accepted the high school drop-out program after previously turning it down. The vote to accept the program accepted it at a reduced rate of \$28,000 (down from \$54,000).

The County Commission began studying the option of purchasing a 16-acre site at the mouth of Black Creek to be used as a potential park. Other sites being considered include land owned by DuPont, across from the 16-acre site and a Camp Blanding location.

# City council votes on Water Master Plan

By Kile Brewer  
Staff Writer

GREEN COVE SPRING – The City of Green Cove Springs will continue its focus on the city-provided utility service after voting unanimously to approve a new Water Master Plan and the request for grant dollars to pay for part of the plan they had just approved.

"It has been, I believe, at least 20 years since we've had a formal water master plan completed," said Mike Null, assistant city manager and public works director. "We knew our system was in pretty decent shape for years, but it was time to review all of our resources and see what the needs were."

By the end of next year, the city should be well on its way to an improved water

utility as 2019 should see about \$1.27 million in projects to meet the most immediate of needs as determined by their engineering consultants at Mittauer and Associates. However, that's just a drop in the bucket of the improvements coming down the pike as the plan sets forth a half a decade of water improvements.

Shepler said the current system has a number of limitations caused by underperforming equipment as well as overuse by customers during peak times. Some areas in the northern reaches of the city are currently serviced by a temporary hook up to the Clay County Utility Authority, but all of that should be fixed by the end of the master plan, according to a document prepared over the last year by the consulting firm.

As council listened to the plan at its June 19 meeting, the conversation turned from projects that the city will complete to educating customers on what is to come for the city's water utility, as well as what are responsible practices in regard to water use.

"How are we going to define ourselves as a city?" council member Van Royal said. "The programs we're looking at here are actually to provide more water. More pressure, more availability, we're going to make sure that if you want to irrigate your yard you irrigate it and off you go, as opposed to, we know that water in our state, across the country, and globally that water is becoming sort of a finite

SEE PLAN, 13



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# Community

## Officials to take part in 'Active Shooter' drill

ORANGE PARK – Officials from various Clay County agencies will join with Clay County School District officials June 21 for an active shooter training drill.

From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Ridgeview High School's cafeteria will host the drill, which is being carried out by the Clay County Emergency Management department.

In past years, Clay County has been proactive in exercising these types of events, both in a table top environment, and well as with full scale exercises. In addition to testing and refining existing response and recovery plans dealing with the subject of a school active assailant, this exercise will help to solidify partnerships amongst current and new staff members across pertinent agencies.

As many of the operational specifics of response plans will be discussed in depth during this Table Top, we regret that neither the media, nor the public will be able to attend the exercise.

After the Active Assailant Table Top Exercise, the Florida Department of Health-Clay County will be conducting training for Clay County School District Administrators on how to properly stop a bleed in the event of an emergency. This training will be provided through the "Stop the Bleed" Initiative, which was designed and funded by the Department of Homeland Security following the 2012 tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary.

Much of the general public does not realize that uncontrolled blood loss lasting a mere five minutes can be fatal. This training will provide information on how to stop bleeding during an emergency. The Initiative is also providing each county school with at least one "Stop the Bleed" Kit.

## Amateur radio operators to have 'Field Day'

ORANGE PARK – Orange Park High will once again play host to the annual Field Day of the Clay County Amateur Radio Emergency Service this weekend.

On June 23 & 24, members of Clay

County ARES, the Orange Park Amateur Radio Club, as well as amateur radio operators all around the United States, will demonstrate their communication capabilities at Annual Field Day. The public is encouraged to attend and learn about amateur radio. On June 23, the event is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on June 24. A total of eight introductory sessions on amateur radio will be held during the two-day Field Day event.

"The future of amateur radio is bright. Exciting changes and challenges continue for us to enjoy the hobby and contribute to society. This is evident in the growth of our Amateur Radio Emergency Service organizations here in Clay County, doubling membership and attendance in meetings and nets, supporting local organizations such as Florida Striders, responding during hurricanes Hermine, Matthew and Irma, providing communication support for the county emergency operations center and each shelter," said Scott Roberts, assistant emergency coordinator and the public information officer for Clay ARES.

During Hurricane Irma, Clay County ARES members monitored their radios for over 1,350 hours, of which, 748 hours were spent manning communications in the County EOC and Clay County Shelters.

For a full schedule of events at Field Day, go to [www.aresfieldday.info](http://www.aresfieldday.info).

## HCA honors Oakleaf resident

JACKSONVILLE – An Oakleaf woman will travel to Nashville Monday to receive an award for her humanitarian efforts from HCA, the parent company of Memorial Hospital in Jacksonville. Lorrie Sarver, director of the Memorial Hospital Emergency Room, is the winner of the Frist Humanitarian Award, the highest honor HCA bestows on its



Lorrie Sarver

employees. While a working hands-on ER nurse, Sarver's work outside of the hospital is what's gotten the attention of her co-workers. For years, Sarver spent her free time making her community a better place to live at her church and in Florida prisons. In 2011, Sarver spearheaded the Angel Tree Project at her church, New Life Church in Jacksonville. She received a list of children's names as well as some suggested gifts based on what the parent in prison picked out using a gift guide. Sarver and her team purchased the gifts and delivered them in the name of their parent during a Christmas celebration.

After Christmas that year, Sarver began coordinating monthly field trips, including trips to the zoo, cookouts, ice cream outings and more. Sarver also wrote letters to the parents and included pictures of their children. While Sarver was getting this program implemented, she also rearranged her schedule to teach middle-school aged students from broken homes how to excel in school. In 2015 Sarver worked with the Florida Board of Nursing to start a Certified Nursing Assistant program for 11th and 12th graders interested in entering the healthcare field.

But Sarver says her mission to give back goes beyond helping children and teens. She says parents in prison need a support system too. On the weekends, Sarver travels to prisons throughout the state through a Prison Fellowship program. Through church services and words of encouragement, Sarver says she tries to restore hope to those affected by crime and incarceration.

"This award honors one exceptional individual in the entire company whose work and life reflects humanitarian values upon which HCA was founded 50 years ago," said Bradley S. Talbert, Memorial president and CEO. "The exemplary service and selflessness that Lorrie demonstrates in her life challenges and inspires us all to serve others and live our company's mission of caring for and improving human life."

## City offers free swim lessons for summer 2018

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – The city is still accepting applications for its summer swimming lessons program.

Taught and completely supervised by

Ponte Vedra Beach-based Planet Swim, the city is paying \$14,400 for 72 students ages 5-12 who live in Green Cove Springs to learn how to swim in historic Spring Park pool.

Lessons began June 12 and will run until August 10 and are broken into two four-week sessions, with classes held twice a week. The first session runs from June 12 to July 5 and June 13 to July 11, with the option of taking classes either Tuesdays and Thursdays or Wednesdays and Fridays. The second session runs from July 10 to August 2 and July 18 to August 10, with the option of Tuesdays and Thursdays or Wednesdays and Fridays classes.

Parents can choose a 40-minute swim lesson time slot between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. for each of the two-day class schedules. Planet Swim will provide total supervision of students during class until they are back under the supervision of a parent or guardian. This is the second year the city is offering swim lessons for free. Parks and Recreation Director Glee Glisson said the city initially decided to offer free swim lessons to fill a need in the Green Cove Springs community. Glisson took a poll of students attending Charles E. Bennett Elementary and found that 40 percent of students didn't know how to swim.

Last summer, swim lessons were offered to children ages three and four for a few weeks. This year Glisson aimed to expand the age range and length of classes for free. The four-week sessions ensure that students will get more time in the water and will have a greater chance of remembering what they learned.

"We'll be able to reach out to more people," said Glisson. "Kids will be available because they're out of school. Starting just before school last year limited the kids we could teach."

Glisson said that the city will also try to accommodate anyone over age 12 or handicapped who is interested in getting swim lessons. Lessons are offered on a first-come, first-serve basis. Any parents interested in signing up their children for swim lessons should contact Executive Assistant Kim Thomas at (904) 297-7054 or at [kthomas@greencovesprings.com](mailto:kthomas@greencovesprings.com). Swim lesson applications are available at [greencovesprings.com](http://greencovesprings.com), and a completed application is required to register.

## PET ADOPTIONS



### Chloe

My name is Chloe. I am a 5 year old exotic longhair. I love to be brushed. I also love people. I am fine with other cats as well, but beware they may get jealous of my good looks! I am cream colored and "oh so" soft. I will let you hold me and kiss me. I am very tolerant and really need a home. Every day I keep hearing the staff say, "Why is she still here?" I am wondering the same thing, because I am a diamond girl and will be a fantastic addition to any family. (The cost for Chloe is \$25.00)

### Bill

My name is Bill Murray. I am a four year old male dog with tons of love to give. I am a mainly outdoor dog and would love to live in a yard with a doghouse. I will cuddle on the couch with you, but I am truly the outdoorsy type. I like to tilt my head and stare at the stars and watch the trees blow in the wind. I play very well with other dogs too. I DO NOT like the kennel and am opposed to crate training as I am a free spirit. I am very easy to love and a little bit of a goofball. (The cost for Bill is \$25.00)



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# Plan

from page 11

product.”

Royal continued, saying the city had used a pricing structure that would cause customers to think before they left irrigation on during a rainstorm, or practiced other needless water uses. He said that the solution is for the city to hold an informational meeting with members of the public, specifically those at Magnolia Point who will see the greatest change in the near future, to explain that they will see rate increases as time goes on, and that they may need to change their current habits.

“This is a big deal, and it’s not just from a money component, it’s from a social attitude about water that we all should start to have,” Royal said.

City Manager Danielle Judd agreed, but cautioned the council that the meeting might turn into a finger pointing session laying blame on the city for current water pressure issues, despite the fact that the city is taking steps to improve pressure throughout its entire system.

Immediately following the approval of the master plan, the council voted to move forward with a request for inclusion in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s State Revolving Fund for a sum of \$6,090,600 for phase one improvements listed in the plan that would be carried out over the next year or so. The city also applied for St. Johns River Water Management District money for projects in February of this year for improvements to the Harbor Road Wastewater Treatment Facility after receiving \$2 million in funds from the SJRWMD in 2016 which paid for one third of a new reclaimed water main on the north side of town.

# Methodist church is now a Florida Heritage Site

By Sarah Pickett  
For Clay Today

MELROSE – It has served as a makeshift schoolroom in the aftermath of tragedy and its bell used to alert citrus farmers of impending winter frosts that could damage their crops. Now, 150 years later, Melrose United Methodist Church at 5802 Hampton St. not only celebrates a birthday, but gets an official state historical marker to capture the church’s place in history.

The official Florida Heritage Site marker was unveiled April 14 at a church celebration. The church is now the fifth entity in Melrose to be granted heritage site status by the Florida Department of State and its Division of Historical Resources. Other Florida Heritage Sites in Melrose include the Melrose Woman’s Club, the Melrose Cemetery and Melrose High School.

“People are interested in history and I think they are very pleased to see yet another marker go into Melrose,” said Ruth Berkelman, historian for Melrose United Methodist Church.

Berkelman completed the church’s application from the State Division of Historic Resources and researched the appropriate information including data, including original maps, GIS data, changes in architecture, and the original build date of the church.

“The designation process lasted approximately two years and consisted of an extensive amount of paperwork and research,” Berkelman said.

Berkelman had to research and locate a lot of historic documentation, either from books or Works Progress Administration records from the Great Depression and pulling out historic ref-



At the tender age of 150, Melrose United Methodist was recently named a Florida Heritage Site complete with a new historical marker from the Florida Department of State.

erences to verify the date the church was built and any structural changes to the building since, said Berkelman. She worked with Historic Melrose, the Alachua County Historical Commission and many members of the community to find the historical information needed.

Once she gathered the historical data, Berkelman sent the application to Tallahassee for approval. The text written on the plaque also required approval of several parties including the pastor, the church’s council and the state, whose board meets quarterly. The church has a long history of serving the Melrose community as a fire alarm, a warning for freezes and a signal for the arrival of Waldo steamships into Melrose Bay. The church structure that was built in 1879 is the historic site and is the original sanctuary. It was the first church established in the original plat of historic Melrose, according to Berkelman, who spent summers attending the church with her grandparents. The bell in the church tower is what alerted people to community meetings and it played a major role in the community, said Berkelman. In 1947, after the Melrose school burned down, the church served as a classroom for first-and-

second-grade students. Upon expansion of the church halls, the church opened its doors to local Boy and Girl Scouts organizations and YMCA summer day camps. Melrose United Methodist Church also played a role in founding the Lake Area Ministries program, started the Pak-a-Sack Program for children at Melrose Elementary and continues to hold a yearly Valentine’s Day party for disabled adults in the community.

The church’s contribution to the Melrose community and history is what encouraged Berkelman, after becoming the church’s historian, to apply the church for designation as a Florida Heritage site.

The church council, the congregation, and many others in the Melrose community sparked interest when she presented the idea. The church continues to serve the community with its active congregation of about 35 members. A homecoming ceremony is being planned later this year for a rededication of the newly-placed marker.

Now that the church is an official Florida Heritage Site, “this designation may benefit the church in applying for grants to reconstruct the original steeple and reproduce some of the original features of the church,” Berkelman said.

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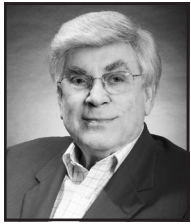
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## Faith Walk

Dr. William P. Register  
First Assembly Fleming Island

### Truth Prevails

My doorbell was ringing. When I opened the door, my new neighbor was standing there. I did not know her but she introduced herself and asked, "Are you the pastor?" I answered, "Yes, I am."

I had just become the pastor of a nearby church and had only been in the neighborhood a few days.

The lady said that she was sorry to meet me under the circumstances that brought her to my house but she had come to tell me about my son. She proceeded to tell me that my son was playing in her backyard and when she asked him to leave he was verbally abusive to her.

I said, "That doesn't sound like something my son would do." I assured her that I would talk with him about her report and that she would quickly receive an apology once I spoke to him.

When I found my son and told him what the lady told me, he said, "Daddy, I did not do that!" After talking with him for a few minutes, I decided to take him across the street to see the woman. I believed my 10-year-old son, but I had an adult telling me that she had personally experienced the bad behavior she reported.

We crossed the street and rang the woman's doorbell. When she answered, I said that I had brought my son to speak to her. When she saw him she asked, "Is he your only son?" I said, "Yes, he is." Then she told me that Billy was not the boy who had spoken abusively to her. After some discussion we realized another boy had given her Billy's name when she confronted him. Things are not always as they seem to be. Sometimes you may think you really know something that is not true. The answer to deception is truth!

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## Water

from page 2

"We still have dredging to pay for," Pavlos said.

Dredging costs, which would not be covered by the two grants the town is pursuing, would reach an estimated \$324,500 on the low side, and potentially as high as \$626,000.

In order to pay for these projects, the town is looking at four funding options. The first option funds the projects out of the General Fund Balance with no increase in expenditure. The second option funds the projects out of the General Fund Balance but sees an increase in ad valorem taxes to cover all costs. The third option relies on neighborhood assessments and finally, the fourth op-

tion sets up a stormwater utility fee, with or without millage decreases.

While the council did not vote on which option they best see fit, it was clear that all of the council members were committed to getting these projects funded one way or another.

"Irma was not an anomaly. It is the new reality," Vice Mayor Ron Raymond said. "We have got to get this fixed and this town ready."

Council members appeared especially interested in establishing a stormwater utility fee. Not only would this fee allow



Sarah Campbell

the town to set up a stormwater utility program with three dedicated workers, but it would cost less than \$10 a month for the average household in Orange Park.

"For the average home, which I believe is 3,700 square feet of impervious area, you would be \$7 a month [per monthly utility bill]," said Town Manager Sarah Campbell.

The meeting ended with a motion by Raymond to move forward with an assessment for a stormwater utility as an enterprise fund. According to Campbell, this assessment would cost \$10,000. The council approved the measure 5-0. Other votes pertaining to the special meeting's content, such as how best to fund future stormwater projects, will take place at the upcoming Orange Park Town Council regular meeting on June 26.

## CRC

from page 1

that county commissioner salary changes be approved by a majority of electors in a general election. If voters pass this measure, BCC members would be able to have their salaries adjusted without the consent of the majority of voters. The referendum will ask voters to allow BCC member salaries to be incrementally adjusted to "equal only 70% of the salaries set by general law for county commissioners in non-charter counties, phased in roughly equal increments over four budget years."

If voters pass this through, the BCC salary will increase from its current \$37,000 to \$51,580. As the ballot question will state, this salary increase will occur in equal incremental increases over four years.

The CRC meeting didn't end after these two votes, however. Earlier this month, Clay County judge Kristina Mobley filed a complaint against Lucy Ann Hoover, who is challenging Mobley who was appointed by Gov. Rick Scott. According to Mobley's complaint, Hoover failed to qualify for the ballot on time and improperly completed qualifying documents.

On June 12, CRC Chairman Pope-Wells spoke before the Board of County Commissioners threatening to hold another CRC meeting that involve investigating the circumstances surrounding Hoover's bid for office. Pope-Wells questioned whether Hoover's political consultant, Michael Kerekes was on the Clay County School Board clock while he assisted Hoover the day of qualifying in the Supervisor of Elections' offices on Orange Avenue in Green Cove Springs. Kerekes maintains he is on a leave of absence from his job as the coordinator of community and strategic partnerships for the school district, while working on his political campaign business. However, Pope-Wells said the CRC needed to decide if discussion concerning Kerekes should be opened up before the CRC disbands having fulfilled the role as-

signed it by the BCC.

"What this body has to do is just take a look at this complaint, and make sure that based on the issue that we discussed and considered, that it does not affect any of our current position," Pope-Wells said. "That given in light that before the body closes and goes to final report, that we share with the body, in complete transparency, that an issue was filed and the documents were there, and that it's up to this body to determine if we want to read this and entertain this for additional discussion or leave it the legal unit of the judge to actually make the decision."

CRC members Ronald Stotler quickly replied by explaining this court case and those involved has nothing to do with the CRC.

"I have no idea what this has to do with the board or the charter, and if somebody could explain that, then I might have a feeling, otherwise I'm for adjournment," Stotler said.

Miller jumped into the discussion following Stotler with the idea that preemptive action might be necessary.

"We don't know what the outcome is going to be with this," Miller said. "What if there is something that comes to fruition in the time to come, and it's something that we could have addressed through the charter, in terms of processes and keeping integrity within our system."

Following Miller, Hendry asked Pope-Wells if he could approach the podium where he said he doesn't understand why

anyone on the CRC is concerned about this at all.

"Why are you and your collective pursuing this?" Hendry asked Pope-Wells. "There's nothing in this lawsuit that speaks to integrity. It's between [Clay County Superintendent] Addison Davis and whoever the employee was. If you've got anything about that, Davis needs to know about it but it ain't none of you guys' business and it ain't none of my business."

Hendry continued by questioning Pope-Wells about a public records request she said she made regarding Kerekes' timcard.

"Can you do that?" Hendry asked Pope-Wells. "You spoke on behalf of your group and did you ask any of them?"

Most CRC members remained silent. Stotler shook his head no. Miller explained that because this was the last CRC meeting, there wasn't time to ask as it needed to be done before the June 13 meeting. Hendry responded to Miller by explaining that Pope-Wells very well could have brought it up at a previous meeting, but did not.

At this point, with tensions and volumes in the room climbing, Miller said she felt uncomfortable.

"I'm just looking at this and I made a comment and now I feel like you're attacking me and accusing me of being involved in some lawsuit," Miller said. "I really don't appreciate that."

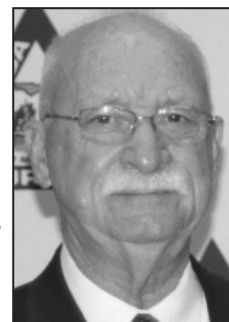
"I don't care if you appreciate it or not Mrs. Miller," Hendry said. He would later apologize for some of the things he said, like this, citing his passion in the heat of the moment.

At this point in the meeting, the discussion revolving around this topic continued back and forth between Hendry and other speakers, like former county commissioner Ronnie Robinson, Pope-Wells and Miller.

As the debate came to a close, the CRC voted 12-0 to approve the final report and ceased any further discussion surrounding the court case.



Amy Pope-Wells



Gayward Hendry

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

## WORSHIP GUIDE FOR CLAY COUNTY CHURCHES

Encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

### – 1 Thessalonians 5:11

<p><b>ARGYLE</b></p>	<p><b>SAMUEL'S AWAKENING MINISTRIES</b></p>	<p><b>PARADISE CHURCH</b></p>	<p><b>MIDDLEBURG</b></p>	<p><b>SALVATION ARMY</b></p>	<p><b>GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH</b></p>
<p><b>GOOD SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 6551 Argyle Forest 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 9 a.m. Sunday School 778-1491</p>	<p>Dr Colin Lieberman Fleming Island Plantation Amenity Center 2300 Town Center Blvd. 904-372-3716 www.samuelsawakening.wix.com/hear</p>	<p>1809 East West Parkway Fleming Island, Florida 32003 Website: www.paradisjax.com Pastor: Dr. Randy Bryan Email: randy@paradisjax.com</p>	<p><b>APOSTOLIC LIGHTHOUSE OF MIDDLEBURG</b> Pastor M. David Goodman 4182 CR 218 Suite 6, Middleburg, Fl 32068 Sunday Worship 11:00a.m. / Wed. 7:00p.m. (904) 298-1443 or (904) 945-9663</p>	<p>2795 CR220 • 276-6677 <b>SOUTH MIDDLEBURG BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Pastor Deiton Kilpatrick 4565 Alligator Blvd. 904-406-2883</p>	<p>Rev. Kedron Nicholson 245 Kingsley Ave. Sunday: 8:00a.m. in the Chapel (with music) 10:30a.m. in the Church (with music) 264-9981</p>
<p><b>IGLESIA PRESBITERIANA NUEVA ESPERANZA AT ORANGE PARK</b>-Culto Domingos/Worship 11:30 AM 8701 Argyle Forest Blvd. Jacksonville, FL 32244 ph. 904-779-7198 DR. Luis G. Collazo Nuevo Número Celular 939-332-1700</p>	<p><b>ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS ANGLICAN CHURCH</b> www.saintmichaelsanglican.org 5041 Lakeshore Drive West Fleming Island, 904-705-3614 Sunday services: 8:30 Morning Prayer; 9:30 Bible Study; 10:30 Holy Eucharist Wednesday service: 12:15 p.m.</p>	<p><b>RUSSELL BAPTIST</b> 2299 Sandridge Rd., GCS Lake Asbury 284-3951 8:15 am, 11:00 am &amp; 6:00 pm Sunday Service</p>	<p><b>BLACK CREEK CHURCH OF CHRIST</b> 3216 State Rd. 218 • 282-4033</p>	<p><b>ST. LUKE CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Pastor Andy Blaszkowski 1606 Blanding Blvd. • 282-0439</p>	<p><b>HIGHPOINT COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> Pastor Mike Hailey Pastor Tommie Darm 84 Knight Boxx Road 272-7949 Sundays 9:00 &amp; 10:30 a.m. www.highpointccop.com</p>
<p><b>KIRKWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> Pastor Sandra Hedrick 8701 Argyle Forest Blvd Sunday Worship 10a.m. Sunday School 8:45a.m. Wed. Bible Study 6:45p.m. Pre-school Dir April Bradlee www.kirkwoodchurch.org</p>	<p><b>CELEBRATION FELLOWSHIP CHURCH</b> 806 Oak St. • 284-1570</p>	<p><b>ST. JAMES ANGLICAN CHURCH</b> 207 Palmetto Ave., Green Cove (Sacred Heart Parish facility) Nicholas A. Marziani, Pastor 11 a.m. Sunday Worship Phone 460-0535</p>	<p><b>BLACK POND BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Rev. Charlie Hunt, Senior Pastor 3644 Old Jennings Rd., Middleburg Fl. 32068 282-5718</p>	<p><b>ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN</b> 1614 Blanding Blvd. • 282-8876</p>	<p><b>ISLAND VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 900 Park Avenue - www.ivbc.org Bible Study 9:15 &amp; Worship 10:30</p>
<p><b>OAKLEAF BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 800 Oakleaf Plantation Pkwy. Orange Park, FL 32065 Phone: 904-214-9066 www.oakleafbaptist.com</p>	<p><b>CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH</b> Paul Salazar, Pastor 506 So. Highland Ave. • 284-5936</p>	<p><b>ST. JOSEPH BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Rev. Embry Bradley P.O. Box 1042</p>	<p><b>CELEBRATION CHURCH - MIDDLEBURG</b> Meeting at Tynes Elementary 9:30a.m. &amp; 11:15a.m. 264-8133</p>	<p><b>THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS</b> 4342 County Road 218, Middleburg, Fla. (904) 282-1040 Worship services begin at 9 a.m. on Sundays</p>	<p><b>JOURNEY CHURCH</b> Lake Grey Boulevard 483-6881 Pastor Eric Jaffe www.journeychurch.org</p>
<p><b>THE CHURCH AT ARGYLE</b> 6823 Argyle Forest Blvd Jacksonville FL 32244 Phone: 777-1238 Fax: 779-1845</p>	<p><b>CHURCH OF CHRIST</b> Claude McEldowney 3650 Russell Rd • 284-1858</p>	<p><b>ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL</b> Rev. Celeste R. Tisdelle 400 St. Johns Ave. • 284-5434</p>	<p><b>GOOD SAMARITAN ANGLICAN CHURCH</b> Rev. Christopher M. Klukas, Rector 3813 Old Jennings Rd. 904-406-5660 www.GoodSamaritanAnglican.org Sunday Worship 8:00am &amp; 10:30am Sunday School 9:30-10:15am</p>	<p><b>THE ROCK BIBLE CHURCH</b> Intersection of CR 209 and 220 Middleburg, Fl 32068 (904)282-5048 &amp; #13; Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship service 10:45 a.m.</p>	<p><b>KINGSLEY AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST</b> 1365 Kingsley Avenue, OP, FL 9:30 Bible Study, 10:30 Worship, 6:00 p.m. Worship and 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Service</p>
<p><b>CLAY HILL</b></p>	<p><b>CONGREGATION HOLINESS CHURCH</b> Rev. Ronnie Surrency Hwy. 16 - Home • 284-5913 Congregational Holiness Church School</p>	<p><b>St. Michael and All Angels Anglican Church</b> 5041 Lakeshore Drive West Fleming Island 32003 904-705-3614 www.saintmichaelsanglican.org Sunday services: 9:00 Morning Prayer; 9:30 Bible Study; 10:30 Holy Eucharist Wednesday service: 12:15 p.m.</p>	<p><b>CHRISTIAN FAITH CENTER</b> 4201 Everett Ave. • Middleburg, FL Wendell A. Shaw, Minister Mark Sellers, Minister 291-1235</p>	<p><b>ORANGE PARK</b></p>	<p><b>LAKEVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Pastor Romeo Cerico Meets at New Life Fellowship 1045 Blanding Blvd., Ste. 209 Orange Park • 945-4712 • www.lbcjax.vpweb.com</p>
<p><b>CLAY HILL BAPTIST</b> 6054 CR-218, Maxville • 289-9292</p>	<p><b>CROSSROAD LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 5101 Lakeshore Drive West Fleming Island Plantation Rev. James Graeser • 264-6575</p>	<p><b>SHARON SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 5584 Sharon Rd. • 284-0046</p>	<p><b>CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN</b> Charles McGuckin 1651 Russell Rd. 282-5048 Corner of CR 220 &amp; 209 Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Sunday Service 11:00 a.m.</p>	<p><b>ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP</b> 317 Blanding Blvd., Orange Park, Fl 32073 298-3448 Sunday 10:30 AM 6:00 PM, Wed. 7:00 PM www.ALCfnw.org • www.prayforclay.org</p>	<p><b>NEW BEGINNINGS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP</b> 1134 Blanding Boulevard, Orange Park; Sunday Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Main Worship Service at 10:30 a.m., both with free nursery and child services.</p>
<p><b>LAKE ASBURY BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Pastor Skipper Smith Lake Asbury Comm. Center</p>	<p><b>DECOY BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Bobby Baker 671 Decoy Rd. • 284-5223</p>	<p><b>SOUL WINNING TEMPLE HOLINESS CHURCH</b> Pastor Kelvin Lockett Ernestine Lockett (Overseer) Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m. 607 Walnut Street • 284-4151</p>	<p><b>EGLISE BAPTISTE DU CALVAIRE</b> A French-Creole Speaking Church Dr. Samuel Louis-Jean, Pastor 1532 Long Bay Rd. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Sunday Night 7:00pm 639-5244</p>	<p><b>ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 2156 Loch Rane Blvd. Pastor Jerry Nordsieck 272-6370</p>	<p><b>ORANGE PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> Dr. Charles Lever, Pastor Worship: 8:00, 9:25, 11:00 • Youth: 6:30 2105 Park Avenue. • 264-2241</p>
<p><b>DOCTORS INLET CHURCH OF GOD</b> Chris Oliver 144 Old Jennings Rd. 272-0919</p>	<p><b>FAITH BAPTIST TEMPLE</b> Rev. Louie Doan • 4330 CR-15A</p>	<p><b>THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS</b> 780 Water Oak Lane Fleming Island, Fla. (904) 284-3722 Worship services begin at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.</p>	<p><b>EVANGEL TEMPLE</b> Southwest 5040 CR 218 Middleburg, Fl 32068 904-291-1426</p>	<p><b>ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ORANGE PARK</b> Rev. Carlos Otero Sunday Worship Sunday School 8:45 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. 16 College Dr. 272-0110 www.asburyop.com</p>	<p><b>ORANGE PARK CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b> 3212 Moody Rd. • 269-5623</p>
<p><b>FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH</b> Rev. Gary Shilling 2827 CR 220</p>	<p><b>FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 433 Palmetto Ave. 284-5490</p>	<p><b>BEULAH BAPTIST</b> 4579 SR-21 • 529-9530 beulahbaptist1850@yahoo.com Sunday School 9 a.m., Services 10 a.m Worship 7 p.m.</p>	<p><b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Pastor Ira Cloud 3167 CR 215 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. Wednesday 7 pm to 8 p., Children's Church, Student Ministries, Adult Bible Study Worship 7 p.m.</p>	<p><b>BAHA'I 1-800-22-UNITE</b> Jacksonville Baha'i Center 5034 Greenland Road, Jacksonville 904-646-9813</p>	<p><b>ORANGE COVE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH</b> New Pastor - Andre' Van Heerden Prayer meeting Wednesday at 7 p.m. Worship at 11:20 a.m. Saturday 4501 US Hwy 17 South • 269-2607</p>
<p><b>RIVERS OF LIFE MINISTRIES</b> Skip &amp; Sheilahn Ryan P.O. Box 324 D1. 32030 272-5433</p>	<p><b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 615 Walnut St. • 284-9231 Pastor Anselmo Castano</p>	<p><b>SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Pastor Marc Swarouth CR 226 • 284-9044</p>	<p><b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Dr. Bobby R. Lewis, Jr. 2645 Blanding Blvd. 282-5289</p>	<p><b>BEBEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Pastor Tom Neal 4459 U.S. Hwy. 17 S.</p>	<p><b>ORANGE PARK PRESBYTERIAN</b> Rev. John Diller Sunday School 9:30 a.m and 11:00am Worship 9:30 a.m. &amp; 11 a.m. 1905 Park Avenue 264-0536 • www.oppresby.com</p>
<p><b>LAKESIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> Pastor Craig Bowen 564 Tara Farms Dr. (across from Doctors Inlet Elementary near College Dr &amp; CR 220) 272-3302</p>	<p><b>FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> Rev. Mark D. Hulst 300 Gum St., Green Cove Springs 32043 284-9261 www.firstpresgcs.org Sunday worship 8:00 &amp; 10:30 am sunday school 9 am</p>	<p><b>PENNEY COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> "Interdenominational" Plhng &amp; Caroline Blvd. • 284-8200</p>	<p><b>FIRST CHURCH OF GOD</b> Pastor Bob Coulter 3965 Old Jennings Rd. 282-1810</p>	<p><b>BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Dr. Paul Fowler, Pastor 3060 Moody Rd.</p>	<p><b>RIDGEWOOD BAPTIST</b> Rev. Michael Clifford 939 Blanding Blvd. 272-3791 930 a.m. Connection Groups/Bible Study 10:45 a.m. Worship Service 264-0577</p>
<p><b>THE CROSS</b> Pastor Cary Sanders 582 Plantation Dr. (College Dr. extended south from CR 220) 9 a.m. Small Groups 10:15 Worship 7 p.m. Wednesday 272-1754</p>	<p><b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST</b> Buddy Dean, Pastor 5945 Hwy 17 S. Green Cove Springs, FL 32043 Sun. @ 10 a.m.; Thurs. @ 7 p.m. 850-322-4201</p>	<p><b>SUNRISE BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 1015 Idlewild Ave., Green Cove Springs Sunday Sch 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m., Wed. 7 p.m.</p>	<p><b>FREEDOM DESTINY</b> 1241 Blanding Blvd., Orange Park, 32065 Pastor Adam Smithyman</p>	<p><b>BIBLE BELIEVERS</b> Christian Fellowship Pastor Curtis A. Beckeles Sr. 2106 Park Avenue • 269-2423</p>	<p><b>ST. CATHERINE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Father Ignatius Plathanam, CMI, Pastor Weekend Mass Schedule Saturday Vigil Eucharist 5pm Sunday Eucharist 8am, 10am, 12pm, 5pm Sunday Eucharist (Spanish) 6:30pm 1649 Kingsley Ave. 264-0577</p>
<p><b>PENNEY FARMS</b></p>	<p><b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST</b> David S. Jackson 500 Walnut St. • 284-9700</p>	<p><b>SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Sunday 8:00, 10:30, 5:30 Saturday 5:30 p.m. 7190 Hwy 17, Green Cove Springs</p>	<p><b>GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Pastor Edward L. Weinberg Everett Avenue, Middleburg 282-7777 Pastor Melvin Register</p>	<p><b>BUCKMAN BRIDGE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH</b> http://www.bbuc.org P.O. Box 844, Orange Park, Fl 32067 276-3739</p>	<p><b>ST. GILES PRESBYTERIAN</b> Troy Lewis, Pastor 116 Foxridge Dr. 272-1244</p>
<p><b>FLEMING ISLAND</b></p>	<p><b>FOUNTAIN OF FAITH OUTREACH MINISTRY</b> Sunday services, 11 a.m. Moosehaven Chapel Phone 251-5484</p>	<p><b>VICTORIOUS LIFE CHURCH</b> 520 S. Oakridge Ave. Green Cove Springs • 284-0623 Sunday AM 5.5:45 Sunday AM 10:45 Wednesday Bible Study 7:00</p>	<p><b>MADEIRA BAPTIST</b> Dr. Jerry Robinson, Pastor 1650 Blanding, Middleburg 291-1880</p>	<p><b>CLAY COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> 801-3 Blanding Blvd, Orange Park, FL 32065 Pastor David Thomasson Service 9:30 a.m. www.claycommunitychurch.org</p>	<p><b>THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS</b> 461 Blanding Boulevard, Orange Park, Fla. (904) 272-1150 Worship services begin at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Sundays</p>
<p><b>CHRIST'S CHURCH FLEMING ISLAND</b> 5900 U.S. 17 South, Fleming Island Services: Sunday, 9:30 a.m. &amp; 11 a.m. 268-2500</p>	<p><b>GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST</b> 4411 Springbank Rd., GCS Brother Spurgeon Hayes - Pastor Sun. School 10 - 11 a.m. Worship Service 11 - Noon Sunday Eve. 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Wed. Eve. 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Thursday. Eve. 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>KEYSTONE HEIGHTS</b></p>	<p><b>LIVING WATERS OF MIDDLEBURG</b> Dennis Mills, Pastor 5118 County Road 218 West 291-0704</p>	<p><b>CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> Pastor Greg Evans 9 Knight Boxx Rd. 272-5774 Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Sunday 10 a.m.</p>	<p><b>NEW BEGINNINGS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP</b> Pastor Jerry Larkford 1134 Blanding Blvd. 272-1017</p>
<p><b>CROSSROAD LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 5101 Lakeshore Dr. W. Fleming Island Sunday Worship 8:00 a.m. &amp; 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m.</p>	<p><b>GREEN COVE SPRINGS CHURCH OF GOD</b> 3218 U.S. 17 N. • 284-6916</p>	<p><b>CHRIST EVANG. LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> Rev. Todd Engel, Pastor 3760 SR 21, KH Sunday worship 9:15 a.m., 10:30 a.m. Wed. Bible hour 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>MIDDLEBURG CHURCH OF GOD</b> 2728 Howard Rd. • 282-2957</p>	<p><b>CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 942 Oak Lane Pastor Jerry N. Thrower 276-9099</p>	<p><b>ORANGE PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> Pastor Jerry Larkford 1134 Blanding Blvd. 272-1017</p>
<p><b>CROSSWALK COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> (Meeting at Fleming Island Elementary) Armand Egnew, Pastor Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m. 888-713-8884 • 710-8723</p>	<p><b>HARBOR BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Samuel Jewell, Pastor 1120 Clay St. at Hwy 17 Green Cove Springs • 529-5229</p>	<p><b>FRESH START FELLOWSHIP</b> Fresh Start Fellowship 7191 State Road 21N Keystone 352-473-6550 Sunday Service 10:00 am Wednesday 6:30 pm</p>	<p><b>MIDDLEBURG PRESBYTERIAN</b> Pastor Holly Medeans 4564 Rosemary St. • 282-0130</p>	<p><b>CELEBRATION CHURCH O.P. CAMPUS</b> Pastor James Price Sundays 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. &amp; 5:30 p.m. Saturdays 6:00 904-737-1121 www.celebration.org</p>	<p><b>CLAY COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> 801-3 Blanding Blvd, Orange Park, FL 32065 Pastor David Thomasson Service 9:30 a.m. www.claycommunitychurch.org</p>
<p><b>FLEMING UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> (FIUMCORG) Pastor Heather Harding 930 A.M. Worship 7170 Highway 17 • 284-3366</p>	<p><b>HICKORY GROVE BAPTIST</b> 310 Oakridge Ave. - G.C.S. • 904-284-3311</p>	<p><b>CHRISTIAN FAITH CENTER</b> 4201 Everett Ave. • Middleburg, FL Wendell A. Shaw, Minister Mark Sellers, Minister 291-1235</p>	<p><b>MORNING STAR FAMILY CHURCH</b> Pastor Tom Croft 3900 Main St. 282-3393</p>	<p><b>CLAY COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> 801-3 Blanding Blvd, Orange Park, FL 32065 Pastor David Thomasson Service 9:30 a.m. www.claycommunitychurch.org</p>	<p><b>NEW BEGINNINGS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP</b> Pastor Jerry Larkford 1134 Blanding Blvd. 272-1017</p>
<p><b>HERITAGE BAPTIST</b> 4325 Hwy. 17 S. • 269-2405</p>	<p><b>HIBERNIA BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 7100 Highway 17 • Green Cove Springs 904 529-8944</p>	<p><b>KEYSTONE CHURCH OF CHRIST</b> 6963 State Rd. 21 North Keystone Heights 352-475-5805 Sunday Worship 10 a.m. Wednesday 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>NEW INDEPENDENT CHURCH OF GOD</b> 4360 Longmire Rd.</p>	<p><b>CLAY COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> 801-3 Blanding Blvd, Orange Park, FL 32065 Pastor David Thomasson Service 9:30 a.m. www.claycommunitychurch.org</p>	<p><b>NEW BEGINNINGS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP</b> Pastor Jerry Larkford 1134 Blanding Blvd. 272-1017</p>
<p><b>GRACE ANGLICAN CHURCH</b> 5800 Hwy 17 The Rev. Mike McDonald Sunday Services: 7:45 am - 9 am 11 am www.graceanglicanchurch.com</p>	<p><b>MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Rev. Johnny Bryant • 1315 East St.</p>	<p><b>KEYSTONE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> Don Corbit, Pasto Hwy. 21 South 9 a.m. Praise and Worship 10:55 a.m. Traditional Worship 352-473-3829 • www.khumc.org</p>	<p><b>OAK GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Pastor Kermit Matthews CR 215, Middleburg 282-2984</p>	<p><b>CLAY COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> 801-3 Blanding Blvd, Orange Park, FL 32065 Pastor David Thomasson Service 9:30 a.m. www.claycommunitychurch.org</p>	<p><b>NEW BEGINNINGS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP</b> Pastor Jerry Larkford 1134 Blanding Blvd. 272-1017</p>
<p><b>PATHWAY CHURCH</b> F.I. Elementary, Lakeshore Dr. E. 10 a.m. Sunday Teaching Pastor: Russell Franklin, 541-0092</p>	<p><b>MT. PLEASANT BAPTIST</b> Rev. Robert L. Wright 1300 MLK Blvd. • 284-9431</p>	<p><b>KEYSTONE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> Don Corbit, Pasto Hwy. 21 South 9 a.m. Praise and Worship 10:55 a.m. Traditional Worship 352-473-3829 • www.khumc.org</p>	<p><b>PINEWOOD PRESBYTERIAN</b> Pastor J. D. Funyak 198 Knight Boxx Rd. Middleburg, Florida</p>	<p><b>CLAY COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> 801-3 Blanding Blvd, Orange Park, FL 32065 Pastor David Thomasson Service 9:30 a.m. www.claycommunitychurch.org</p>	<p><b>NEW BEGINNINGS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP</b> Pastor Jerry Larkford 1134 Blanding Blvd. 272-1017</p>
<p><b>SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH</b> David Swinyer, Pastor 4501 U.S. 17 S. 269-2607</p>	<p><b>MT. ZION A.M.E. CHURCH</b> 549 Palmetto Ave. Rev. Darcey Moser, Jr. 2001 Deel Rd.</p>	<p><b>KEYSTONE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> Don Corbit, Pasto Hwy. 21 South 9 a.m. Praise and Worship 10:55 a.m. Traditional Worship 352-473-3829 • www.khumc.org</p>			



From left, Brookelyn Gerush, scholarship chairman Nancy Mills and Emily Luke.

## Seven Clay High students receive Women's Club scholarships

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Although school is out for summer, at least one area scholarship program keeps awarding cash.

On June 13, the Magnolia Point Women's Club presented scholarships to seven female Clay High School graduates from a pool of 12 applicants. The scholarship was started at Clay High to help female seniors achieve their academic goals. The scholarship is open to all Clay High School female students who plan to attend a 4-year college, get an associate in arts, a vocational school or a technical school. The recipients are selected by the MPWC Scholarship Committee who judges the students based on need, community involvement, school involvement, personal statement, grades and test scores. Applicants must also present reference letters and take part in an interview with the scholarship committee.

Alaska Nation graduated with a 3.8 GPA and will attend the University of North Florida where she plans to major in social work.

Hannah Jones graduated with a 4.6 GPA and will attend the University of South Florida and pursue a career as a pharmacist.

Emily Luke achieved a 4.0 GPA and will attend Florida State University to pursue a career as a budget analyst.

Brookelyn Gerush graduated with a 4.1 GPA and will attend the University of Florida and major in architecture.

Kaela Hillman graduated with a 4.3 GPA and will attend the University of North Florida and major in nursing.

Jordyn Ferguson graduated with a 4.2 GPA and will attend Florida State University and major in political science and pre-law.

Megan Newman graduated with a 4.0 GPA and will attend the University of West Florida and pursue a degree in environmental management.

Since its inception in 2003, the Women's Club scholarship has awarded \$91,000 to 87 young women in Clay County.

## Reader

from page 10

reading. "If I don't let him play Xbox or watch TV, the first thing he does is reach for a book," she said. "Sometimes late at night I go to his room because he's still up and I expect him to be watching TV or YouTube, instead he's usually just reading in bed with a flashlight."

Kelley's compatriot Jackson Ingram makes up the other half of the fourth grade class' top two readers. After beginning Achieve 3000, Ingram has answered some of the difficult questions he had always had such as, "How do tornadoes form?" or "Where does rain come from?"

"One day, when I was a child, I looked outside and it was raining. I thought to myself, 'Why does it rain like that? How does water fall from the sky?'" Ingram said. "I had lots of questions and those led to lots of answers."

Ingram said he hopes to one day become a climatologist, and even though some of the articles he read explored other sciences such as biology and chemistry, weather is where his interests lie. Since school let out for summer you'd think he would've slowed down, but if anything, the break has only provided him with more time for reading.

"I've been reading a lot more about weather," Ingram said of his time off so far.

Teto and Hayward look forward to continuing the program into its second year



STAFF PHOTO BY KILE BREWER

Wilkinson Elementary School Principal Heather Teto, right, hugs student Jessie Kelley Jr., 10, Monday when Teto and the school's assistant principal Carolyn Hayward delivered a sign to Kelley's house identifying him as one of the school's top readers coming out of fourth grade.

and look to incentivize students again with raffle items and rewards like pizza and ice cream parties every few months throughout the school year to keep kids' noses in research articles. "It was such a new program this year that we were trying to get everyone to buy in on it, but when you look at the district as a whole our school saw the greatest participation across the district," Teto said. "It shows how important [Achieve 3000] was for us. We're focusing on student literacy, but it's also been a great way to connect with our kids."



### Rotarians award annual grants

ORANGE PARK – Fourteen nonprofits in Clay County split \$27,750 in donations from The Rotary Club of Orange Park on June 19. The grants are a culmination of the fundraising events held the previous nine months by Rotarians. "This is an event that takes every member of our club to pull off and we do this every year to the benefit of so many charitable groups," said Pam Wolbert, event chair. From left in front, Rotary Club event chair Pam Wolbert, Denise Dreyer of Boy Scouts, Jennifer Friddell of Clay Pace Center for Girls, Beth Clark of BASCA, Tricirae Stancato of Girl Scouts, Mandy Hendon, of Orange Park Athletic Association and Kim Lewis of Salvation Army Clay County. From left in back, Phil Smith of Fleming Island Assembly Guyana Mission, Tim Rust for the Food Pantry of Green Cove Springs, Al Rizer of the Council on Aging of, Patrick Hale of Mercy Support Services, Sandra Staudt-Killea of Waste Want Want Not, Robert Wood of National Association of Veterans & Family, Dean Williams of NJROTC at Orange Park High.

**ROOTERVILLE ANIMAL SANCTUARY PRESENTS**

**SATURDAY JULY 14TH**

**TIME: 2-4 P.M.**

**AT**

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# Robotic circus invades Paterson Elementary

By Wesley LeBlanc  
Staff Writer

FLEMING ISLAND – As circus music blasted from the center of the stage in the Paterson Elementary School cafeteria, more than 20 children sat backstage, anxiously awaiting the show to begin.

This show would be different from the typical circus. These animals weren't alive – they were robots. Not only were these animals robots, but they were hand drawn and designed by elementary students from Clay County. Despite the amount of work each child put into their project, the show would not have been possible without the help of their two ArtBotics Summer Camp leaders, Paterson robotics teacher Jennifer Seco and Paterson art teacher Denise Madonia, though.

Three years ago, Seco discovered a way she could not only host a summer camp with one of her best friends, Madonia, but entice more girls to join her robotics camp. While some girls participated in previous robotics camps, the majority of participants were boys. Hoping to create the robotics spark found within herself as a young Clay County girl, Seco discovered that art was the answer.

"I knew art was very popular among girls [at Paterson] and I wanted to see if by including art, we could recruit more



This Clay student's artbotics creation was a rabbit programmed to jump out of a hat.

girls to join us for the summer camp," Seco said. "And it worked."

Now, three years later, Seco is happy to say that the Artbotics camp is made up of both boys and girls, but most importantly, kids who are thrilled to mix art with science. None of this would be possible, though, without the help of Madonia. Seco



Garret Johnson is all smiles after his monkey did exactly what he programmed it to do during the third annual Artbotics Summer Camp program held at Paterson Elementary School.

teaches the kids the robotics portion of the camp, which employed a circus theme and culminated in a circus with animals powered by robotics and coding.

When the circus began the week of June 14, Madonia called out a student's name as they rushed to the stage to power on their robotic creation. Sometimes this creation was a pig that shot out of a cardboard cannon. Other times, it was a monkey tossing bananas into the air, but always, it was something each kid could be proud of – a creation of their own.

While Seco was busy working with the kids in an effort to help them understand how the robotic engines worked all week long, Madonia spent her time with the kids determining what animal they wanted to create and how they wanted it to look. Some animals were poster board. Some were a mix of what appeared to be papier mache' and more. But most importantly, all of the art featured in the circus was created by the kids.

"I help them in the rough sketch stage but after that, these kids really take off with it," Madonia said.

Most of this year's participants were Paterson Elementary students but one student, Garret Johnson, was a fourth grader from Fleming Island Elementary, but that made no difference to him. He was happy

to be involved, despite not knowing any of the kids beforehand.

"I didn't know anybody really when I got here but it was still fun," Johnson said.

Johnson was responsible for a monkey who clapped two cymbals together. The monkey was, of course, the art portion of his project while the robotics made the cymbals clap together. While Johnson was happy to see his monkey come to life during the show, what excited him most was the code he learned to make his monkey perform.

"I learned a lot about coding," Johnson said. "I kind of knew some stuff about it but not really. It's much more advanced than I thought and it was cool to learn about it."

Johnson's mom, April Johnson, was excited to see something her son learned in just a week come to fruition.

"He would come home from camp and tell us about it and that was neat, but it was really awesome to see the thing he actually made," Johnson said.

For Seco and Madonia, that's what this camp is all about – watching kids learn something new, find interest in it and create something they want with that new knowledge.

"That's why we do this, you know," Madonia said. "We hope it grows into something bigger, and better, for them."



The centerpiece of this year's Artbotics Summer camp, themed as a circus, was the spinning horse programmed to dodge any paper knives thrown its way.



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# Police Briefs

## DUI Manslaughter arrest made in 2016 crash

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Authorities have charged a Green Cove Springs woman with DUI manslaughter and DUI with property damage in a two-year-old crash that killed her 4-year-old son.

The Clay County Sheriff's Office arrested Jennifer Elizabeth King, 31, on June 19 at 10:50 p.m. using an arrest warrant that was issued on June 14. She is charged with killing her 4-year-old son in a head-on collision on State Road 16 that occurred on November 18, 2016 at 3:19 p.m. approximately 80 feet from the intersection of County Road 315A, according to the Florida Highway Patrol.



Jennifer King

According to the arrest warrant, King's son, Jason Martin Gallion, was restrained in a booster seat in the back-passenger side seat prior to the collision. The impact of King's 2003 Pontiac Vibe was so strong when it struck a Ford Ranger XLT pickup, that the child's car seat "was located lying on the ground outside," after the crash.

During the investigation, FHP found King was traveling eastbound on SR 16 approaching CR 315A at approximately 49-miles per hour in a 45-mph zone when the vehicle exited the SR 16 travel lane where it "traveled onto the south grass shoulder for 118 feet," states the warrant.

King's vehicle re-entered the travel lane from the south shoulder, rotated counter clockwise and traveled approximately 76 feet where she collided with the truck that was westbound on SR 16.

FHP said there were no skid marks on

the roadway to indicate "pre-crash braking" before King struck the truck, which was driven by Carlton Davies Silcox Jr., who received "non-capacitating injuries."

Investigators said King's vehicle came to final rest on the north grass shoulder of SR 16 facing northwest, while Silcox's truck was forced to rotate counter clockwise and travel approximately 37 feet before coming to final rest facing southwest, partially obstructing the westbound lane and a right-only turn lane.

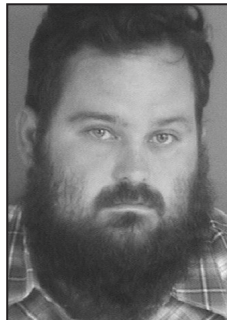
Fourth Judicial Circuit Court Judge John Skinner issued a search warrant to allow FHP to obtain King's blood and urine specimens that were collected after she was treated at Orange Park Medical Center the night of the crash. A drug toxicology test released on August 28, 2017 showed King tested positive for methamphetamine and amphetamine.

At press time, King remained in the Clay County Jail with bond set at \$100,006.

## Drunk driver gets slap on the wrist

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – After being out of jail free for two years, a 32-year-old Callahan man is in the Clay County Jail where he will serve a 10-month sentence for a May 2016 drunk-driving accident that killed a Middleburg man.

On June 18, Fourth Judicial Circuit Court Judge John Skinner sentenced Patrick Shawn Stone after a jury found him guilty on May 23. Stone also faces 10 years of probation when he is released from serving the 10-month jail sentence.



Patrick Stone

According to the Florida Highway Patrol, Stone's blood-alcohol content was .29, more than three times the legal limit of .08 percent the night of May 24, 2016 during the crash that killed 54-year-old Robert L. Hanson of Middleburg. Under Florida law, vehicular homicide is a second-degree felony.

According to FHP, Stone crashed his 2011 Toyota Tundra into Hanson's 2007 Honda Civic while Stone was intoxicated and driving approximately 78 miles per hour in a 40-mile-per-hour no-passing zone when the crash occurred near the corner of Nolan and Brangus Roads in Middleburg at 6:36 p.m.

Troopers said Hanson was driving north on Nolan Road and when he attempted to make a left turn onto Brangus, his vehicle was struck by Stone's Tundra. A passenger in Stone's truck told FHP that Stone was trying to pass Hanson in a non-passing zone. The Honda was pushed into a ditch where Clay County Fire-Rescue found Hanson dead.

Stone and his passenger were taken to St. Vincent's Medical Center Clay County where he was treated for minor injuries.

After the crash, FHP continued its investigation, which led to detectives obtaining a warrant for Stone's arrest. That warrant was issued on April 13, 2017, almost a year after the crash. The Nassau County Sheriff's Office arrested Stone at his home in Callahan on May 24, 2017. He was transported to Green Cove Springs and booked into the Clay County Jail where he was released after posting a \$75,003 bond.

## Child abuse charge for OP man

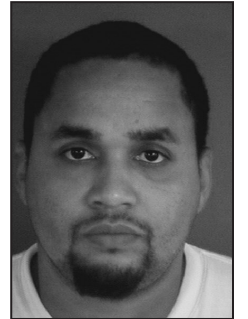
GREEN COVE SPRINGS – A Green Cove Springs man faces one count of child abuse



Robert L. Hanson

following an investigation by the Orange Park Police Department.

Using an outstanding warrant, the Clay County Sheriff's Office Josue Alfonso Santos, 27, of Orange Park, on June 15 at 11:46 a.m. He was located in the Duval County Pre-Trial Detention Center and brought to Green Cove Springs to face the charge.



Josue Santos

According to the arrest warrant, on August 24, 2017, the Department of Children and Families began looking into a potential child abuse case. A DCF officer was contacted by another undisclosed agency about a victim who had a hand mark on their face. At this point, the DCF officer became directly involved with the investigation. The victim reportedly not only had a hand mark on their face, but two small bruises on their cheek as well. Police said it also appeared that someone had been using their thumb and fingers to pinch the victim around their mouth. On the victim's stomach, a bite mark was visible as were marks on both the victim's ears and nose.

According to the report, these injuries are indicative of abusive head trauma, blunt trauma from a fist, forceful grabbing, asphyxia trauma and human bites.

A few months later, on October 2, 2017, a warrant was issued for Santos who was arrested on June 15 and transported to the Clay County Jail where he was held at press time. He was charged with child abuse and currently sits in jail with a bond amount set at \$75,003.

## Seatbelt traffic stop ends in drug seizure, arrests

ORANGE PARK – A June 18 traffic stop on Wells Road led the Clay County Sher-

SEE POLICE, 19

# Arrests & Bookings

## Tuesday, June 19

Michael Wayne Hall, 42, Keystone Heights, DWLSR

Justus William Westbrooks, 18, Orange Park, Possession of Ecstasy or MDMA, Possession of a Controlled Substance, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis

Michele Leigh Wilson, 41, Middleburg, Aggravated Battery With a Deadly Weapon

Aleksandr Trahern Walters, 26, Orange Park, FTA-Reckless Driving

Gary Wesley Cole, 52, Middleburg, VOP-Possession of Heroin With Intent to Sell

Clifford Ryan Stoberl, 38, Middleburg, Grand Theft of a Firearm, Grand Theft \$300-4,999

William Aurthur Wingate, 27, Middleburg, DWLSR

Jennifer Elizabeth King, 31, Green Cove Springs, DUI Manslaughter, DUI With Property Damage

Timothy Kevin Degolyer, 50, Middleburg, FTA-DWLSR

Rebekah Dawn Kestner, 18, Orange Park, Grand Theft \$300-4,999

Michael Thomas Gray, 28, Green Cove Springs, Grand Theft

Chad Michael Duvall, 36, Orange Park, Soliciting for Money Alongside Roadway

Vernon Leroy Kipp, 45, Orange Park, DWLSR

Pearl Ann Abrams, 58, Keystone Heights, FTA-Petit Theft

## Monday, June 18

Roberts Perpie, 38, Orange Park, Dating Violence Battery

Emmanuel Elias Michael Morrison, 22, Middleburg, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis, Drug Equipment Possession

Lonnie Eugene Robinson, 38, Orange Park, Possession of Methamphetamine, Cocaine Possession, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis, Drug Equipment Possession, DWLSR

Paton John Pinette, 21, Orange Park, Possession of Methamphetamine, Cocaine Possession, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis

Jonathon Paul Mehaffey, 26, Orange Park, Possession of Methamphetamine

Jacob Earl Griffin, 27, Green Cove Springs, VOP-Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis Patrick Shawn Stone, 32, Green Cove Springs, Vehicular Homicide,

Awaiting Transfer to State Prison

Cory Wayne Rogers, 26, Green Cove Springs, FTA-DWLSR

Jacob Eron Brown, 20, Green Cove Springs, VOP-Battery on a Law Enforcement Officer, Firefighter or EMT

Susan Eugenia Weeks, 43, Middleburg, Simple Battery

Kaitlyn Rachel Hyatt, 27, Fleming Island, VOP-Possession of a Controlled Substance

Kerri Anne Hawn, 37, Orange Park, Tampering With or Destroying Evidence, Drug Equipment Possession, Resisting an Officer

Nubian Rashad Green, 24, Green Cove Springs, FTA-Petit Theft

SEE ARRESTS, 19

## Arrests

from page 18

Aaliyah Jackee Earvin, 24, Orange Park, Violence on an Officer Firefighter or EMT, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis, Drug Equipment Possession, Driving Without a Valid License

### Sunday, June 17

Even Neil Tigar, 29, Oakleaf, DUI  
Henry Lee Rollins, 25, Orange Park, Domestic Battery  
Michael Raymond Williams, 30, Keystone Heights, Simple Battery  
Brittany Nicole Fike, 27, Melrose, Grand Theft \$300-4,999, Grand Theft Auto  
Jerone Ali Goodman, 21, Orange Park, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis  
Bruce Josua Blanton, 37, Middleburg, FTA-DWLSR

### Saturday, June 16

Muhammed A. Oliver, 27, Orange Park, Petit Theft  
Benjamin Hallett Morris, 26, Keystone Heights, Possession of Not More Than 20 g.

Cannabis Dale Mark Oberry, 20, Keystone Heights, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis, Drug Equipment Possession

### Friday, June 15

Rachele Anne Moore, 27, Middleburg, FTA-DUI  
Kemuel Ramos, 19, Green Cove Springs, FTA-Domestic Battery  
Jessica Ruth Newbern, 28, Green Cove Springs, VOP-Fraudulent Use of Credit Card  
Justin R. Satterfield, 33, Green Cove Springs, FTA-DWLSR  
Edwin Jose Llanos, 32, Green Cove Springs, VOP-Possession of a Controlled Substance  
Antonia Pierre Heard, 48, Green Cove Springs, FTA-Petit Theft  
Jacobi Deangelo Fluckers, 25, Green Cove Springs, VOP-Petit Theft  
Sherwin Rogers Chester, 59, Green Cove Springs, VOP-DUI  
Josue Alfonso Santos, 27, Green Cove Springs, Child Abuse  
Amber Nicole Burkes, 26, Fleming Island, Petit Theft, Fraudulent Use of Credit Card  
Jackie Louise Joiner, 36, Orange Park,

Petit Theft

Clifford Michael Bramlett, 24, Orange Park, Petit Theft  
John Ashton Valenzuela, 23, Keystone Heights, FTA-Possession of Less Than 20 g. Cannabis  
Dalton Lance Potts, 25, Orange Park, Simple Battery  
Trisha Upton Reid, 37, Middleburg, Burglary, Possession of a Controlled Substance, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis, Giving False Name or ID  
Jon William Gebhart, 51, Middleburg, Habitual Traffic Offender  
Kaetlyn Danielle Little, 19, Argyle, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis

### Thursday, June 14

Kevin Aurther Ratliff, 30, Melrose, Simple Domestic Battery, Drug Equipment Possession  
Whitney Lynn Wilhite, 30, Orange Park, Simple Domestic Battery, Passing a Counterfeit Bill, Advertising Drug Paraphernalia  
Ashley Nicole Eggestein, 30 Orange Park, Petit Theft  
Matthew Allen Reinhart, 38, Orange Park, Resisting an Officer  
Kenneth Paul Breese, 48, Green Cove Springs, Petit Theft of a Coin-Operated Device  
Desarae Lashae Manning, 22, Middleburg, VOP-Conspiring to Purchase a Controlled Substance  
Anthony Tillman Midgett, 33, Orange

Park, Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis

Eugene Grant Perry, 55, Middleburg, FTA-DUI, No Vehicle Registration  
Emily Amber Johnson, 37, Green Cove Springs, FTA-Tampering With a Public Utility, FTA-Petit Theft  
Tammie Lynn Laferriere, 59, Green Cove Springs, Scheme to Defraud > \$50,000  
Nathan Joseph Cevasco, 26, Orange Park, Simple Battery

### Wednesday, June 13

Tobie Lea Ann Stann, 27, Orange Park, Child Abuse Without Great Bodily Harm  
Bruce William Granai, 51, Orange Park, Sexual Predator Registration  
Brian Grey Kieffer, 34, Middleburg, Battery-Domestic Violence  
Michael Kenneth Moody, 51, Green Cove Springs, FTA-DWLSR  
Henry Rose Myers, 38, Green Cove Springs, VOP-Burglary  
Q De Angelo Sanders, 26, Orange Park, DWLSR  
Jennifer Marie Rice, 28, Orange Park, Domestic Battery  
Jamie Jo Calhoun, 52, Green Cove Springs, FTA -Introducing Contraband in a County Detention Facility  
Thomas Anthony McCary, 41, Middleburg, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis

## Police

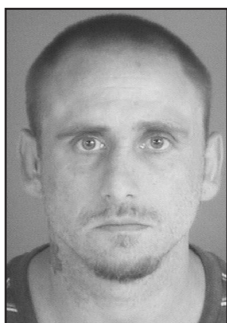
from page 18

iff's Office to arrest three men on similar drug possession charges.

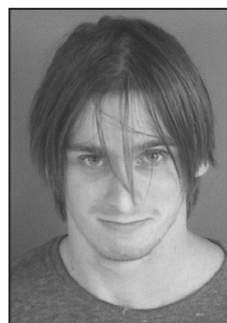
Police arrested Lonnie Eugene Robinson, 38, of Starke, Paton John Pinette, 21, of Jacksonville, and Jonathon Paul Mehaffey, 26, of Middleburg, on June 17 at 10:08 p.m. at 1871 Wells Rd. near Plaza Circle.

According to the police report, officers uncovered 2.76 grams of methamphetamine, 9 grams of cocaine, and 9 grams of marijuana from a Biege Buick LeSabre driven by Robinson, who was not wearing a seat-belt.

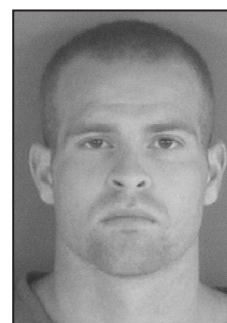
Robinson is charged with possession of methamphetamine, cocaine possession, possession of not more than 20 g. cannabis, drug equipment possession, driving without a valid license. Pinette is charged with



Lonnie Robinson



Paton Pinette



Jonathan Mehaffey

possession of methamphetamine, cocaine possession, possession of not more than 20 g. cannabis, while Mehaffey is charged with possession of methamphetamine.

At press time, all three men remain in the Clay County Jail. Bond for Robinson is set at \$26,512 and, for Pinette, bond is set at \$10,258, while Mehaffey's bond is set at \$7,503.

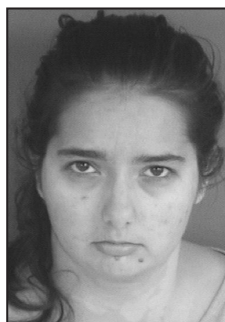
### Broom handle whack ends in arrest

ORANGE PARK – An Orange Park area woman faces child abuse charges after allegedly striking a child with a broom handle.

The Clay County Sheriff's Office arrested Tobie Lea Ann Stann, 27, on June 13 after an investigation by a Jacksonville Sheriff's Office officer and a Child Protective Investigator who interviewed the victim.

According to the report, the victim received injuries from Stann in the past including Stann's 2011 arrest for child abuse. This case involved Stann striking the victim three times with a broom handle, including one strike to the left knee and one to the right eye that caused a cut and bruising. According to the report, the victim has been staying with her paternal grandmother following the incident.

Stann faces a felony child abuse charge and is now out of the Clay County Jail after posting \$25,003 bond.



Tobie Stann

### Lake Asbury woman wins national scholarship contest

NEW YORK – A Lake Asbury woman won first prize in a national contest that aims to raise awareness about texting and other driving distractions.

Virginia "Ginny" Stephens, a student at St. Johns River State College, was awarded the only college level national scholarship for a radio public service announcement titled "Multitasking" that will be released on iheartradio this year to more than 800 radio stations for the Project Yellow Light No Texting & Driving Campaign. Stephens was awarded a \$2,000 Hunter Garner Scholarship from Project Yellow Light.

The ad played on the Clear Channel billboards above McDonald's, live in Times Square in New York City on June 8 during an event honoring this year's winners.

"We're so proud of this year's winners and all Project Yellow Light participants.



The work they do to encourage their peers not to text and drive is so important – we are incredibly thankful for them raising their voices in this important conversation," said Julie Garner, whose son Hunter died in a car crash in 2007.

Stephens, a 2017 graduate of Clay High, will finish at SJR State in December and plans to attend Southeastern University in Lakeland.

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## Proper Preparations:

# Trees and severe weather

By **Wayne Hobbs***Environmental Horticulture Agent*

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – We are now two weeks into the 2018 Atlantic hurricane season and have already had our tastes of our first effects from a tropical system. While the effects may have been somewhat mild, we are likely to have some major wind events this year and now is the time to think about what your trees may need to be prepared for in the event of severe weather.



Wayne Hobbs

**Keep Your Trees Healthy**

One of the biggest keys in making sure your trees can survive major wind events is to maintain their health. To do so, monitor for major issues such as large wounds, holes with sawdust from beetles, mushroom growth from the trunk or base, or branch die-back can all be signs a tree is having issues.

You should also work to protect your trees from damage. Wounds and breaking can make the tree more vulnerable to pests

or disease. Even the roots can be damaged through either cutting or compaction, often caused by traffic or placement of heavy materials over the root zone.

Mature, established trees rarely need extra irrigation or fertilizer.

**Pruning**

Pruning can help in the ability of a tree to survive wind events as well. Thinning of the canopy can be done on your non-palms, allowing wind to pass through easier and removing weight from the top of the tree. This should be done by cutting out any dead branches, those that are growing inwards or crossing other branches, and some that attach at a narrow angle, making them more likely to split.

Make sure all of your cuts are made with properly sharpened tools and are done properly. For more information on making good pruning cuts, see <http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/pruning-cuts.shtml>.

Also, make sure to be safe when pruning by protecting yourself with long sleeves, long pants, sturdy closed toe shoes, safety glasses, gloves and head protection. Be especially careful if you need to use ladders or power tools. If you are unsure if you can properly handle the job, hire an arborist.

With palms, you can remove brown fronds if you would like, but leave every-



thing that is green or even partially green. This is where they store their energy and pruning green fronds makes the tree susceptible to pests and more likely to be damaged during storms.

**Hazard Trees**

Do you have any trees that make you nervous? It is time to contact an arborist. Arborists have specialized training in the care of trees and many operate services where they can evaluate, care for, and remove trees if needed. Arborists who have

a Risk Assessment endorsement have gone even further with courses so they can expertly analyze the hazards that are present from a specimen.

To find your local arborists, visit [www.treesaregood.org/findanarborist/](http://www.treesaregood.org/findanarborist/).

*If you have any horticultural, agricultural, 4-H, or family and consumer science questions, contact the University of Florida/IFAS Clay County Extension Office online at <http://www.clay.ifas.ufl.edu> or call by phone at (904) 284-6355.*

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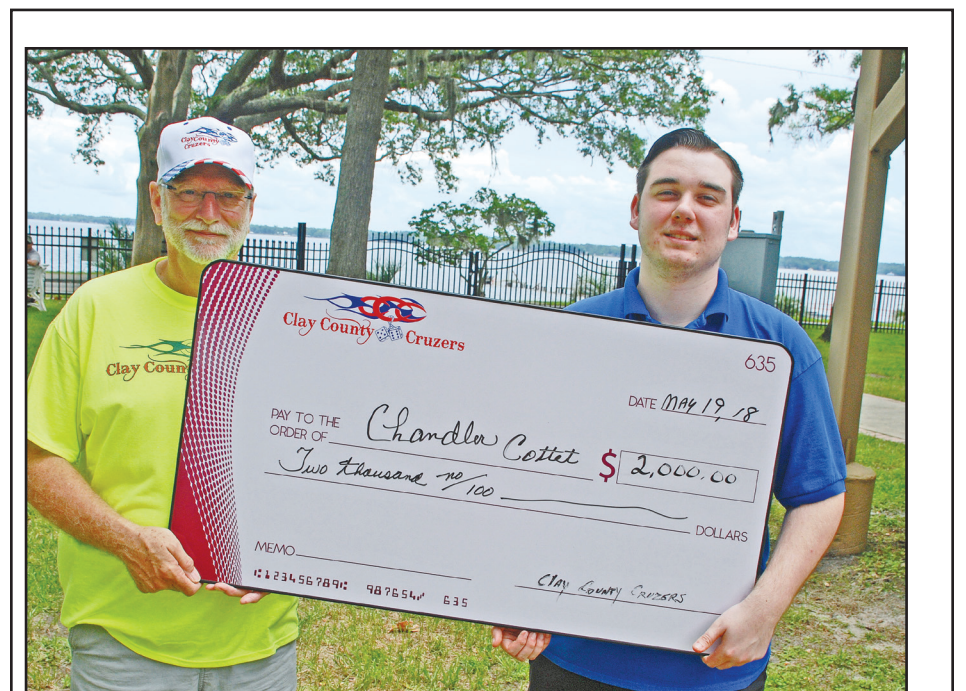
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**Cruzers award scholarship, more**

ORANGE PARK – An Oakleaf High graduate is the 2018 recipient of the Clay County Cruzers car club annual college scholarship. Cruzers awarded Chandler Cottet of Oakleaf High a \$2,000 college scholarship. Cottet, shown at right, helped Cruzers run their 9th Annual Rev It Up! Car Show held May 19 on the campus of Moosehaven. Cruzers secretary Terry Lewis presented Cottet “the check” at the riverfront event and was awarded the scholarship at the show. Clay County Cruzers is a car club that also gives back to the community. Members awarded financial grants to Quigley House, Safe Animal Shelter, Seamark Ranch, Special Olympics, the Food Pantry of Green Cove Springs and the Canines for Warriors program.

# TODAY'S Sports

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Clay Today All County Baseball

## Lanoux, Solomon named Co-Players of Year

By Randy Lefko  
Sports Editor

FLEMING ISLAND – One team in Clay County seemed destined to make a deep playoff run in 2018 with a returning squad of veterans while another team started disastrously with miscues foiling any thoughts of a playoff spot.

For Clay High, the guy who was the face of the Blue Devils' strength was senior Connor Solomon, a pitcher, shortstop and occasional clutch hitter for coach Josh Persinger.

For Fleming Island High, Caleb Lanoux, a senior pitcher and catcher, somehow unraveled the diamond in the rough play of his Golden Eagles with enough grit and



STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

Fleming Island High pitcher Caleb Lanoux, left, and Clay High pitcher Connor Solomon were the backbones to their teams' playoff runs.

**SEE PLAYER, 26**

## ★ TOP PLAYS ★ OF THE YEAR 2017-18 School Year

### Mineo stuffs Matanzas for Panther title



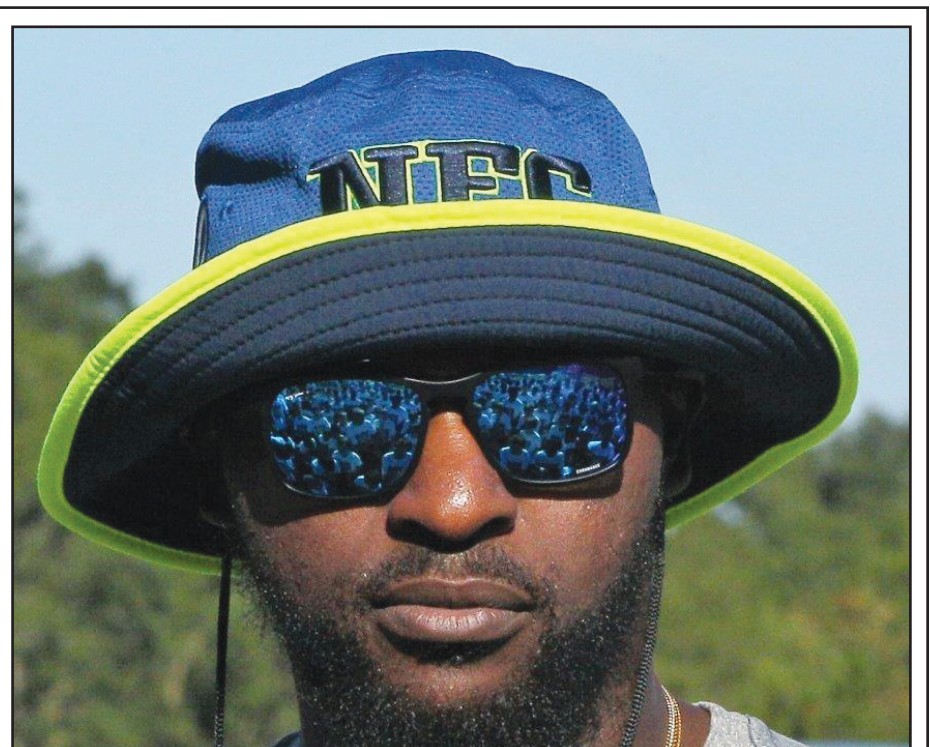
By Randy Lefko  
Sports Editor

ORANGE PARK – Ridgeview High junior goalkeeper Adam Mineo made three successful stops of shots by Matanzas High as the Panthers won the district 4-3A title in a 3-1 shootout at Ridgeview.

The title was a first for Panther coach Paul Tomaro as Ridgeview returns to the region playoffs after a five year hiatus. Matanzas fell to 13-7 overall after beating defending 3A champion Ponte Vedra in a shootout two nights prior. Ridgeview beat Menendez 6-1 off two goals from

**SEE TOP, 22**

Ridgeview High goalie Adam Mineo's stop of a penalty kick was play that thrust Panthers into a region championship game.



### Cliff Avril back in Blue Devils land

CORRESPONDENT PHOTO BY RAY DIMONDA

Clay High grad and NFL All Pro Cliff Avril returned to his Blue Devil stomping grounds Saturday to host his kids football camp, **See more pictures and story on page 25.**



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## Top from page 21

Miguel Ortiz.

"It was a tough, rough game obviously with a 0-0 score at the end of regulation time," said Tomaro, who guided the

Panthers through an 11-1-2 record with a lone loss to 4A-Oakleaf, the district 4-4A champions. "Adam only had three or four shots on him during the entire game. He had to come through in the shootout and he did."

With both teams sharing 10 shots on goal for the night with neither amassing any type of legit scoring threat during regular time and during a "Golden Goal" overtime period before the shootout, Tomaro liked his chances with his strong front players.

In the shootout, Ortiz, Andy Prestridge and Dante DeSantis all landed shots past Matanzas' goalie Brandt Herron. Charlie Barrett missed the fourth shot, but Mineo's efforts made the miss irrelevant.

### Lady Spartans stopped in district final

ORANGE PARK – St. Johns Country Day School's girls basketball team lost lead scorer Kendall Sage before their district tournament to a broken hand and head coach Yolanda Bronston asked a simple question?

"Are we a team?" said Bronston, who later guided the Lady Spartans to a semi-final district 2-3A berth that wound up a fourth quarter comeback victory that put



St. Johns Country Day School freshman guard Maggie Kent drilled the key three-pointer in a tight district semifinal win that put the Lady Spartans in their district title game.

the team into the district final.

In the district semifinal against St. Francis Catholic, the Lady Spartans were driven by freshman guard Maggie Kent who led an inspired effort to St. Johns' 49-34 win after the third quarter ended with the Spartans up by just one point, 30-29.

After St. Johns forward Kinley Hall converted an offensive rebound for two points, Kent got a steal at midcourt and landed a key three-pointer as St. Johns pushed their lead to 37-31 with 4:35 left in the game and a shot at a region playoff game on the line.

With 2:38 left in the game, though, St. Johns stalled somewhat and St. Francis hit a three-pointer to close the scoring a bit forcing Bronston to call a time out.

"I told them that a lot can happen with 1:51 left on the clock and if they played sloppy and St. Francis' shooters got hot, it would be a different ending," said Bronston.

St. Johns responded with Kent ending the game with another steal and a layup to finish the game at 49-34.

A day after their exciting finish, St. Johns would lose to Trinity Christian Academy of Deltona in the district final 67-30 before losing in their region opener to North Florida Christian.

### Spartans go 7-for-7

DELAND – St. Johns Country Day School scored within the first minutes of the first half and second half to back up a much-bigger defensive front from Miami Country Day School, but the relentless Spartan at-



STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

St. Johns Country Day School midfielder Alisa Detlefsen game-opening headball in the first minutes led to the first of six goals in the Spartans win in the Class 1A championship game.

tack proved fatal as St. Johns powered to a 6-0 Class 1A championship win Wednesday night at Spec Martin Stadium in Deland.

"We knew they would be physical and we had to adjust in that first half and the second half I challenged the seniors to play their very best game in their very last 40 minutes on the field for St. Johns," said St. Johns coach Mike Pickett, who now has seven consecutive Class 1A titles to add to his 10 overall titles since arriving at the St. Johns Country Day School campus 20 years ago.

St. Johns opened up against the much-bigger, much taller Miami team but wasted little time in getting the ball downfield and in front of the goal. With a long throw in from Payton Walton that found forward Alisa Detlefsen camped in front of the goal, outside forward Kamy Loustau picked up the deflected Detlefsen header and buried the ball into the net for the first goal of the night with 36 minutes until halftime.

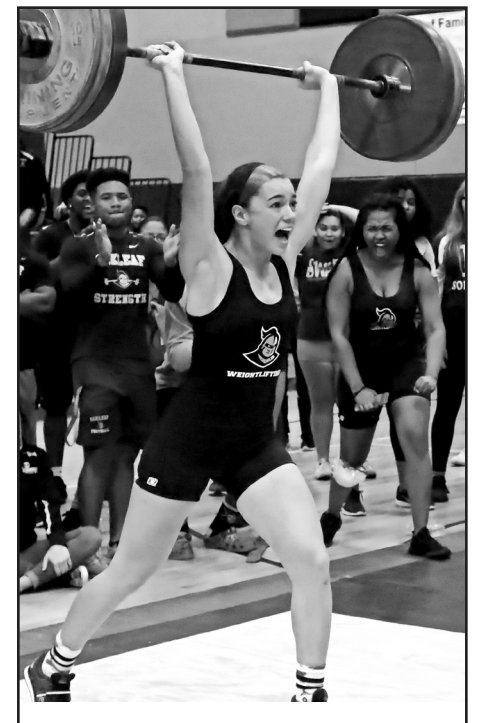
"We have scored more goals off our set pieces this year; corner kicks and free kicks," said Pickett. "Against Miami, we scouted their taller defenders and saw that they were not very aggressive in the air. Alisa is not very tall, but the timing is the key."

### OHS Perez outduels MHS Pena

OAKLEAF – Oakleaf High's Lexi Perez knew what she needed to hold off a strong bench press from Middleburg High's Jay Pena and delivered with a 205 pound best lift on her first try to win the 154 pound district title at the District 5-2A championship meet at Oakleaf High.

"Lexi won on her first lift (clean and jerk) at 185 then wanted to try for her best at 205," said Oakleaf High assistant coach Dana Arthur. "She is such a competitor out there. She's improved a ton."

Pena, with an impressive 20 pound gap on Perez after she powered through a 175 pound bench press, clean and jerked just 155 to finish second to Perez with her 330 total off Perez' 355 total.



On her last lift of the competition, Oakleaf High's Lexi Perez overcame a strong challenge from Middleburg's Jay Pena.

At last year's state meet, at 154, Perez finished 16th with just a 300 pound total off a 130 bench and 170 clean and jerk with Pena fifth at 325 off a 175 bench press and a 150 clean and jerk.

"There's power in the bench press and there's technique in the clean and jerk," said Middleburg coach Perry Hopper. "Jay is young and learning."

At last year's region 3-2A meet, Pena finished second at 310 with Perez third at 295 in the 154 pound division.

### Hughes takes out Highland Prep's Castillo

KISSIMMEE – An explosive 47 second pin by Fleming Island High's Briar Jackson set the tone for a gold grab for area wrestlers with four grappers coming home with the big hardware March 3 at the FHSAA State Wrestling Championships held in Kissim-

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Clay High's Peyton Hughes beat Lake Highland Prep's Noah Castillo, a two-time state champion, 12-10, in a thrilling semi-final.

## Top from page 22

mee's Silver Spur Arena.

In Class 1A, Clay High junior Peyton Hughes, the faces were familiar on his way to gold, but the results favored his long, strong style as Hughes first had to dispatch of Lake Highland Prep's Noah Castillo, a two-time defending state champion with a one win, one loss mark with Hughes this year. Hughes faced off against Castillo in the semifinal round and had to have a third period flurry to pull out a 12-10 win. Hughes beat Castillo 6-4 at the state duals semifinal clash in January.

"Probably beating Castillo a second time was harder than winning the state title," said Hughes, 38-2. "He's so fast and explosive, but I was able to watch him wrestle his quarter and saw some things. We went from 5-5 into the third period to the 12-10 final."

After dispatching of Castillo, Hughes had to reset his game plan for a more methodical attack from Tampa Prep senior Troy Nation (41-4) who beat Hughes 11-3 at the Clay Rotary Invitational in Febru-

ary. Hughes won 5-2 for a state gold medal at 138 pounds over Nation.

### Raiders beat by 85-foot buzzer beater

ORANGE PARK – Orange Park High senior guard Ty McBride followed two layups from teammates John Abate and D'Marre Craddock that tied the Raiders' region 1-6A quarterfinal game at 60-60 with less than two seconds on the clock in what was to be a spiningtling comeback against Ribault High School.

Did not happen.

Ribault High guard Devon Matthews took the ensuing inbounds pass going right to left in front of the Raiders' basket then lofted a long pass-throw for a final attempt of avoiding overtime as the packed Raiderdome arched to watch the trajectory as the buzzer sounded.

Game over, swish, 63-60.

"I've never had a game end like that before," said a visibly emotional Orange Park High coach Derek Kurnitsky after taking nearly 20 minutes in the team room to console his shocked troops. "We always fight our guts out on the court. It is what it is. I still think Raider basketball is in a good place."

For Orange Park, a second district 4-6A title goes into the history books with a second early exit in the state playoffs, but Kurnitsky, though emotional in this outcome, was optimistic.

"The seniors here have left a mark," said Kurnitsky. "Raider basketball is in good shape. It hurts more because I won't see these seniors in the locker here anymore."

In the fourth, at 57-51, with 52 seconds, McBride blasted through the lane but did not get a roll on a layup, but Elmore again responded with a huge three pointer in front of the Raider bench that put the score at 58-54 with 45 seconds left.

A little Kharma left the Ribault basket with two missed free throws landing Abate on a twisting drive to the basket and Crutch finding Craddock for a layup put the score at 60-58 with 35 seconds to go with Ribault again missing one of two free

throws in the raucous Raiderdome noise.

McBride took the ensuing throw-in and went straight up the middle of the Ribault defense against two 6'-4" buildings and wiggled in a twisting layup to tie the game at 60-60 with :09 on the clock.

"We did just about everything right,"

said Kurnitsky. "We got the shot, set up for pressure inside halfcourt and made them throw a running in bounds pass. Unfortunately, they got lucky on the throw. We didn't give him a clean look. It's what we sign up for, endings like this happen."

## Newton, Davis win Gatorade Players of Year awards



St. Johns Country Day School's Abbey Newton joins an elite trio of Spartans players with her Gatorade selection.

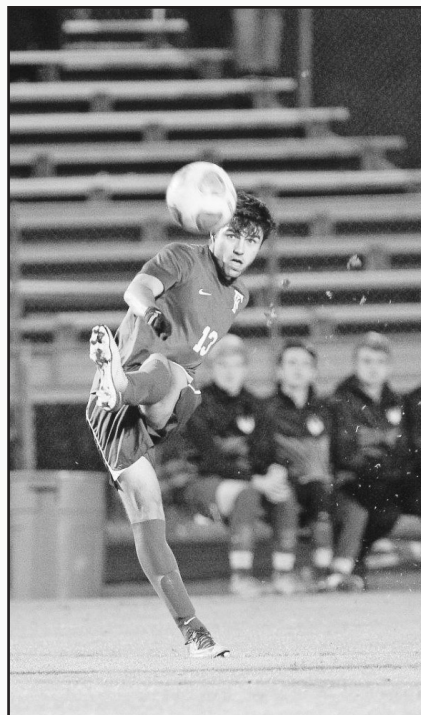
### Newton named best in Florida

ORANGE PARK – St. Johns Country Day School soccer forward Abbey Newton has been selected as the Gatorade girls soccer Player of the Year for Florida, according to a press release.

Newton, who has been a key part of seven straight Class 1A titles under coach Mike Pickett and a top ranking nationally, is heading to LSU in the fall after finishing with 35 goals and 25 assists this year.

Newton, who won the Florida Dairy Farmers' Miss Soccer award denoting her as the best player in all classes, is now eligible to win the Gatorade national player of the year spot.

Newton joins former Spartans Carson Pickett, who led FSU to a national title and is now playing professionally in Orlando, and Chelsea Burns, now at Duke University, as Gatorade award winners. Duke lost in the NCAA semifinals to UCLA.



Fleming Island High's Reed Davis scored an unprecedented first in winning two Dairy Farmer awards and two Gatorade awards.

### Davis wins Florida best award

FLEMING ISLAND – Fleming Island High School senior soccer forward Reed Davis was selected last week as the

Gatorade boys soccer player of the year for Florida, becoming the first player in Sunshine State history ever to win the award back-to-back.

Davis, heading to Jacksonville University next fall, scored 52 goals and 17 assists for the Golden Eagles, who spent most of the season ranked No. 1 in the national USA Today/United Soccer Coaches rankings.

He also scored 50 goals during the 2016-17, topping the half-century mark in consecutive seasons.

Earlier this year, Davis also received the Florida Dairy Farmers Mr. Soccer award. He has signed with Jacksonville University.

Counting Bishop Kenny's Trey Langlois in 2014-15, Northeast Florida players have won the award in three of the last four seasons.

In the 33-year history of the Gatorade award, Davis is the first back-to-back selection ever. Past winners for Florida include two former Jacksonville Armada players in Garry Lewis (Orange Park, 2003) and Pascal Millien (Auburndale, 2006), former Jacksonville Cyclones midfielder Mike Heald (Valrico Bloomingdale, 1990) and former United States World Cup midfielder Neil Covone (Hialeah, 1987).



Orange Park High guard Ty McBride sliced through two Ribault defenders to sink a layup and tie the Raiders' region playoff game with nine seconds on the clock to present a possible overtime period for the game. Ribault hit a court-length toss to win.

# Oakleaf Orcas v. Screaming Eagles



STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

Oakleaf Orcas butterflyer Samantha Balassaitus takes a peek at lane two during her battle in the 50 fly event at the Oakleaf Orcas dual meet against the Eagle Harbor Screaming Eagles.



Top left: Screaming Eagles freestyler Katie Townsend battles in 200 free relay.

Top right: Oakleaf Orcas' Ethan Albright, 15, gets a breath in 50 butterfly.



Left: Screaming Eagles' Molly Bright, 14, stretches to wall in 50 butterfly.

Below: Oakleaf Orca coach Harleight Guy, left, gets last minute instructions to relay swimmer Claire Schultz, 6, in the 4 x 25 free relay.



STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

Fleming Island High and North Florida Wrestling Academy coach P.J. Cobbert, left, has teamed with Orange Park High grad and football ace Austin Logue to condition and train the Academy wrestling crew as they prepared for the June 23-28 nationals in Orlando.

## OPHS gridder joins wrestling academy lineup

By Randy Lefko  
Sports Editor

FLEMING ISLAND — Fleming Island High wrestling coach P.J. Cobbert has long been a proponent of tough conditioning and weightlifting for his team with legendary Monday morning running sessions on the Fleming Island High track and the crafty leader of the North Florida Wrestling Academy summer program has bolstered the training regimen for Academy grapplers.

"We want tough, scrappy kids that can last six, seven periods," said Cobbert, who heads up the Academy out of Green Cove Springs in an industrial park near Magnolia Point Country Club. "If we put them through the ringer now, in the preparation stage for the upcoming Disney Duals (June 23-28) and maintain a high level of weekly conditioning and weightlifting, then, come November, we just have to tweak the system for wrestling system."

On Friday, the Academy wrestlers had endured a full week of conditioning under a new face, with Orange Park High football ace Austin Logue stepping up to bring his high level of fitness and strength training to the program.

Logue, a fullback and linebacker under legendary Raider coach Danny Green during Orange Park's region runs in 2009 and 2010, brings a college football experience to the mats of the Academy as well as recent mixed martial arts training.

"I had two and half years of college football at Webber International in south Florida," said Logue, who recently graduated with his criminal justice degree. "I also started a bit of mixed martial arts that I continue to train with top athletes with including James Smi-

ley, one of the first MMA guys in Clay County. P.J. and I have talked about using my Olympic weightlifting regimen to the wrestling program."

Logue hopes to bring solid technique to the Academy program with weightlifting designed to bolster wrestling strength.

"A lot of these guys have never touched a weight with real intent to make them better wrestlers," said Logue, 23. "I am bringing a lot of Olympic power clean and bench style to the room for explosive power."

Area wrestling got a boost in training Sat., June 9 at the Oakleaf High Wrestling Classic with teams from Georgia, Sandalwood, Columbia County, Gainesville Buchholz and the North Florida Wrestling Academy joining the Knights for a day of one-on-one grappling.

The AAU Scholastic Duals Wrestling Championship, the dubbed nationals of high school wrestling is set for June 23-28 at Disney's Wide World of Sports arena in Kissimmee.

In 2017, Fleming Island's NFWA placed second in the Community I division to Rhino WC of Pennsylvania 43-30 with three unbeaten wrestlers; Ryan Smenda, Paul Detwiler and Jason Davis, all now in college.

The Academy's championship entry in the Community I division was a first for a Florida school. Also wrestling in Community I, Oakleaf's Spartans finished fifth in Pool play and lost two matches in their championship silver bracket while, in Community II, the North Florida Wrestling Academy B team finished second in the championship silver bracket (16th place through 31st). Oakleaf is set to wrestle in the Developmental division this year.



# Avril returns to Clay, new life off NFL field

By Ray DiMonda  
Correspondent

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Typically, not much is happening on the football field behind Clay High School on any given Saturday in June, unless that is the date for the annual Cliff Avril Football Skills Camp. For six straight years, Avril has paid it forward, giving a little something back to the community he grew up in and where he played his high school football.

“I want to keep this thing going first and foremost, the camp and all the annual stuff, my foundation, and I want to keep giving back in different ways here in Clay County, to Seattle and to Haiti” said Avril when asked what he wanted in the future. This year the day camp was opened to 300 youth from Pop Warner, through High School, to work with several current and former NFL players, developing and honing their Football skills.

On hand for the event, were several NFL legends including Cliff Avril who played for the Blue Devils, attended Purdue University, and was drafted by the Detroit Lions. After five seasons, Avril went the way of free agency and found a new home in Seattle, playing for the Seahawks.



Another Clay High grad, defensive back Nolan Carroll, avoids some sunburn with his floppy hat while directing drills. Carroll plays cornerback for the Dallas Cowboys.

Avril was a member of the 2013 Championship Super Bowl XLVIII squad that beat up on the Denver Broncos 43-8. Avril was selected to represent the Seahawks at the 2016 Pro Bowl in Orlando. Also in attendance were Clay High graduate Nolan



CORRESPONDENT PHOTOS BY RAY DIMONDA

Football campers sprint on Clay High football field as part of Cliff Avril Youth Football Camp on Saturday. Avril is graduate of Clay High and an NFL player that won a Super Bowl ring with the e Seattle Seahawks.

Carroll who went on to play in Maryland, drafted by the Miami Dolphins, then onto the Philadelphia Eagles, and Dallas Cowboys; Defensive Tackle Red Bryant who played for the Seattle Seahawks, Jacksonville Jaguars, Buffalo Bills, and Arizona Cardinals; Steven Tulloch who played for the Tennessee Titans, Detroit Lions, and Philadelphia Eagles; Calais Campbell of the Arizona Cardinals, and the Jacksonville Jaguars; and Josh Evans also from the Jacksonville Jaguars, and Washington Redskins.

Avril suffered a serious neck injury in Week 4 of the 2017 season. During the first quarter of the Seattle - Indianapolis Colts game, he was kicked in his chin and began experiencing numbness in his arms. He was placed on injured reserve on October 20, 2017, and subsequently released May 4, 2018 with a failed physical designation. When asked what we could look forward to from him, Avril responded

“I have my own radio show in Seattle that I start next month, July 8th; Sports Talk Radio. It’s going to be fun and I’m still looking at a few other ventures and opportunities that may present themselves that I’ll tap into.”

Avril plans to call Seattle home, but said he will be back as his family still lives

here in Florida. Asked about any thoughts on the 2018 Seahawks, Avril immediately talked about the Fifth-round draft selection of University of Central Florida Linebacker, and 2018 Peach Bowl Defensive MVP Shaquem Griffin. “That’s the type of stuff Coach Carol likes to do. He sees the potential in the Griffin brothers (twin brother and fellow UCF alumni Shaquill already plays for Seattle). We were watching them all year and I’m so happy they were able to get back together because they play so well when they are with each other. I can see them lighting up the NFL.”

Even with all the star power from the NFL players, the event could not go forward without the full support of several current Clay High Blue Devil football players, as well as the entire cast of the Blue Devil Coaching Staff. Keeping 300 youth engaged, corralled up, and motivated takes a small army.

From Avril’s Foundation Web Page, “The Cliff Avril Family Foundation mission is to increase the awareness of Type 2 diabetes in youth and to encourage healthy living through nutrition and exercise. As well as provide educational support and opportunities to youth in Haiti, along with various community-based organizations in Jacksonville, Seattle and Charlotte.”



Clay High football coach Joshua Hoekstra leads drills in front of a handful of young football prospects as part of the Cliff Avril Youth Football Camp held Saturday at Clay High.



## SUMMER TIRE TIPS

It's that time again; the mercury is rising and kids are out of school. Summer heat can have negative effects on your tires. Here's a few things you should do before you hit the road: Check your tires don't have any visible signs of damage; cracks, bald spots, worn tread, punctures or bubbles.

Make sure they're properly inflated. Use a tire gauge to check tire pressure monthly, before long trips or when carrying an extra load. Manufacturer recommendations for tire pressure can be found on a label affixed to the driver's door or door jamb, or in the vehicle owner's manual. Tire pressure should be checked when the tires are "cold," which means the car hasn't been driven for three hours or for less than a mile at moderate speed.

Finally, don't drive too fast or overload your car. Lowering your speed and keeping your luggage under control means better gas mileage, but it also puts less strain on your tires. Let us take a look at your tires.

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**Jim Beaudry, Director**

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# Player

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gruff to push to a region final playoff spot.

In March, with Lanoux and Solomon both on the mound, Fleming Island struck for three runs in the first inning to set up a pitcher's duel that ended with Lanoux holding off a late comeback attempt by Clay for a Golden Eagle 3-2 win.

"That Clay game was important to us believing we should have been winning some of the close games we had," said Fleming Island coach Grant Bigilin. "From there, we started believing. Caleb was a big part of that."

Solomon, after leading the Blue Devils to a sterling season, responded to his own disastrous district title game against Ponte Vedra, a 6-4 loss, with a string of performances that included an eight strikeout win over Stanton, a tough rematch win over Ponte Vedra (in Ponte Vedra) before clamping down the explosive offense of Final Four powerhouse Mosley High of Lynn Haven to put Clay into the Final Four.

"Everything we heard about Mosley was they put the ball in play," said Persinger. "We were curious how that was going to play out because Solomon has been a strikeout guy all year."

Clay went one game further with a demoralizing loss to Tampa Jefferson in the Class 6A semifinal with a sickness-slowed Solomon lasting just three innings.

"He has been our horse all year and is a huge part of why we were there," said Persinger. "If I had it to do all over again, I'd give him the ball. Regrets? None, but I'll always wonder what could have been if we have him at 100 percent. I like our

chances."

Fleming Island, led by Lanoux's mound presence, rode a wave of inspired play through an unexpected district semifinal win over rival Fletcher and, once bestowed with a shot at a district title, finishing the task with a thrilling last inning district title win.

With many outside the dugout believing the Golden Eagles would fall to defending Class 8A champion Tallahassee Lincoln in their region opener, Lanoux unleashed a pitching performance for the ages that got a win over Lincoln, a win over Tallahassee Chiles in round two and nine innings of strong-armed play into the region final against Strawberry Crest.

"We just put everything on the table and see what happens," said Lanoux, who mastered three region playoff wins for the Golden Eagles to get the historic championship game. "We dreamed of a game like this, just not this ending."

Against Strawberry Crest, Lanoux again held the big bats of the enemy at bay into the ninth inning with a 0-0 score.

Unfortunately, fatigue finally caught up to the cagey veteran and a long double ended the Cinderella run at 2-0.

"We are going to miss Caleb for sure," said Fleming Island High baseball coach Grant Bigilin. "He is such a tough competitor and he makes the rest of the team do the necessary plays to make the outs out there. He's been the heart and sole of this team."

For both their efforts in ending their respective seasons in blazes of glory and leadership, Solomon and Lanoux are named as Clay Today Baseball All County Co-Players of the Year.

Solomon finished with a 9-2 season record, 133 strikeouts and a 1.78 earned

runs average while batting for 12 runs batted in with two homers.

Lanoux finished at a 1.00 earned runs average with 76 strikeouts in 72 innings pitched with just eight walks for the season. Lanoux finished with an 8-3 record with three wins of four in the playoffs.

For the Clay Today All County First Team, at catcher, Ridgeview High junior Anthony Roman was the wall behind home plate for coach John Sgromolo with an impressive low of just four field errors in 174 touches with 23 outs on 35 base steal attempts.

"He might be the best defensive catcher in northeast Florida," said Sgromolo.

In the infield, at third base, Clay High senior Tyler Spence saved his best game for his final while leading Blue Devils' defense; Fleming Island's Noah McCollum, a junior, was a highlight reel in the six hole, Ridgeview High senior Brandon Dumas, a transfer from Orange Park, highlighted the Panthers' defense at second base while being one of their biggest bats and also pitching and Clay's Andy Yarbrough, a senior, was a Jack-of-all-Trades at first base as well as being a Blue Devil closer on the mound.

Spence was Clay's go-to bat throughout the season, but his two doubles in the Class 6A championship game were not enough. From third base, Spence executed five double plays.

"Spence has been a proven three-hole hitter for his entire career here at Clay," said Persinger. "Last year, he put two balls off the 410 center field wall in Port St. Lucie at the Mets Complex. It broke my heart watching him tear up after the loss (Jefferson)."

McCollum raised his game for the Golden Eagles' playoff run following Lanoux's

lead from the mound and making numerous acrobatic plays to thwart potential baserunners. McCollum finished with a .328 batting average with 15 steals.

"He was a gamer," said Bigilin. "Whenever we needed big defensive play, it seemed he got it."

At second base, Dumas was a pitcher-crusher with a .453 batting average with 12 RBIs and seven doubles coming with just three times being struck out. Dumas also stole 10 bases and punched up a 2-2 pitching record with 28 strikeouts.

Yarbrough, one of the smallest players on the field, played with the biggest energy for Clay with 11 double plays coming his way and just four errors on 82 touches. Yarbrough also pitched to a 1.28 ERA on 36 innings.

"Andy was one of the leaders on the team," said Persinger. "He was an absolute workhorse with shut down work against Ponte Vedra three years in a row."

In the outfield, Ridgeview High senior Maury Gonzalez patrolled the field with equal speed and arm power while being one of Sgromolo's best hitters with a .443 BA and 18 RBIs with three doubles, three triples and a home run.

Centerfield goes to Fleming Island senior Drew Wilkerson who, according to Bigilin, executed error free all season while hitting .308 and stealing 15 bases. Wilkerson led the team in getting on base and scoring runs with 23 runs.

In right field, Clay High senior Kevin Jackson finished off a strong career with a .398BA, 12 RBIs and two homers plus 15 stolen bases. Jackson's consistent good positioning in right field led to just three errors in 73 touches with 69 putouts and a double play to first base with a heads up catch and rifle to first base.

## Co-Players of the Year

Caleb Lanoux, senior, Fleming Island  
Connor Solomon, senior, Clay

## First Team

### Pitcher

Troy Britts, SJCDs, Senior, 6-3 record, 2.5 ERA, 79 Ks in 55 innings. Was 3A player of the year.

### Catcher

Anthony Roman, RHS, Junior, Threw out 23 of 35 stolen base attempts. .275BA, 10RBIs 2 2Bs, 11 putouts, 4 errorw in 174 touches

### First base

Andy Yarbrough, CHS, Senior, .290, 9RBI, 11DPs, 4E 82Touches, 1.28 ERA in 36 innings

### Second base

Brandon Dumas, RHS, Senior- Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (GA) Commit- INF- .453 AVG, 34 Hits, 16, RBI, 7 2B, 16BB, 4K, only struck out 3Ks, LOB22, 10Steals, 2-2 Pitcher, 28Ks

### Shortstop

Noah McCollum, FIHS, Junior, Hit .328, 15 stolen bases

## Third base

Tyler Spence, CHS, Senior, .317, 22RBIs, 6 2Bs, 1Hr, 55LOB, 4E 48Touches, 5DPs

## Left Field

Maury Gonzalez, RHS, Senior- Thomas University Commit, .443 AVG, 35 Hits, 18 RBI, 3 doubles, 4 triples, 1 homerun

## Centerfield

Drew Wilkinson, FIHS, Senior, Stole 15 bases, hit .308 and had an on base percentage of .481. Andrew College Signee

## Right Field

Kevin Jackson CHS, Senior, .398 12RBI, 2HR

## Second Team

### Pitcher

Evan Wickieri, RHS, Senior, 7-1 1.50 ERA, 34K (35 innings), .333, 11RBI, 5 2b, 2 3Bs

### Catcher

Alex Kanos, KHHS, Senior, .400BA, 7RBIs, 93% FP, 10E 146T, 5Steals

### First Base

Cody Myers, SJCDs, Senior, .270 with 4 HRs and 6 doubles

## Second Base

Collier Summer, FIHS, Senior, Led the team in hits, average, OBP, Slugging, doubles, and tied for extra base hits. Offensive spark plug in the middle of the order. (.333/.500/.503)

## Shortstop

Blain Jones, OHS, Senior

## Third Base

Austin Kittle, RHS, Senior, .353, 25RBIs, 8 2Bs, 1 3B, 1HR, 11 steals, 1 E 67 touches,-Thomas University Commit-

## Left Field

Gary Searle, KHHS, Senior, .314, 8RBIs, 4 2Bs, 7SB, 18K in 24 Appearances

## Centerfield

Collin Henderson MHS, Senior, .329BA, 6 2Bs, 1 3B, 2 HRs, 15RBIs, 13 stolen bases

## Right Field

Tyler Turner, RHS, Senior, .246, 13RBI, 1HR

## Honorable Mention

CHS: Jacob Owens, CHS, Senior CF, 7steals; Nick Barrie, Junior LF .325BA, 17RBI; Josh Lemen, Senior 2B, .340, .308.; Dylan Faulkner, Junior P/LF 7-1, 1.68ERA; Chase Holman, Soph C, .310, 18RBI, 1Hr, 3 3Bs

**OHS:** Logan Schmidt P; Colby Coldiron C; Noah Detrick P Keegan Barrs 3B

**SJCDs:** Tyler Kuramoto, SJCDs, junior 3B- batted .365 with 9 doubles and 2 HRs; Finn Howell, SJCDs 2B; Troy Myers, Senior, career .350 hitter and batted .265 this year with OBP of .430. Had 7 doubles. Also pitched; Hunter Russell 8th grader 1B, batted .350 in 2 hole all year. 23 hits with 5 doubles-Tanner Zellum (OF) 3HRs

**FIHS:** Zack Mercer, Junior, 3B/P, Led the Golden Eagles in RBI's with 17, triples, Hit .286, Pitched 33 innings, striking out 34, and having an ERA of 1.38; Justin Hawkins, Junior, 1B/P

**RHS:** Jared Wilson LHP- Junior- 18ip, 1-1 record, 3.5 ERA Marcus Roman- LHP- Senior 30ip 4-1 record, only 5 walks, 29K, 2.57 ERA; Richie Long- Freshman- RHP- 2-1 record, 2 saves, 26 innings pitched, 9 earned runs, 27 strikeouts, 2.42 era

**KHHS:** Connor O'Steen, Senior (1B/P).324, 19RBIs, 1Hr, 2SB, 6DP, .967 FP. 2 Errors 60 touches, 47Ks, 44 innings; Trey Alsabrook, Junior 1B, .269, 10RBIs, 5 2Bs, 1HR, 4E, 4DP, 93% FP; Nate Gagnon, Senior, .373, 11RBIs, 5 2Bs, 1 3B, 2Steals, 86% FP, 13Es; Gary Searle, Senior, .314, 8RBIs, 4 2Bs, 7SB, 18K in 24 App

**MHS:** Scott Kneer SS, .361BA, 11 2Bs, 3HRs, 1 3B, 17RBIs; Corey Strange P, 2.70ERA, 4W, 65Ks; Seth Loyd, P, 3.30ERA, 46Ks.

## RHS Robison 'T-Rex' pitching for NY Oilers

By Chuck Pollock  
Courtesy of Olean Times Herald

OLEAN, New York – The Olean Oilers' losing streak is finally over.

All it took for the New York Collegiate Baseball League team to end its five-game skid was a bit of a roster shake-up.

The Oilers, who started the season 4-0, had dropped six of their last seven games heading into last night's rescheduled meeting with the Rochester Ridgemen from Sunday's rainout.

And before a modest turnout of 178 at Bradner Stadium, Olean rediscovered the batting prowess it showed to open the campaign with a well-rounded 6-2 triumph over West Division rival Rochester.

The Oilers, now 6-6 and tied for third in the division, logged 10 hits including four doubles, and starter Tyler Robison pitched six impressive innings.

Robison, a Ridgeview High graduate, is playing in the New York-based league after finishing his freshman season at Savannah State College in Georgia. Robison finished his freshman season with an 0-3 won/loss record with 16 appearances and two starts; 27 innings. Robison registered 16 strikeouts and held a 5.33 earned runs average. Savannah State finished 7-34.

"We had a tough go of it in Syracuse (13-7 loss to the Spartans, 5-2 defeat by Onondaga)," Oiler owner/manager Brian O'Connell said. "We keep preaching to everybody to stick together and work through some of the things we're trying to accomplish. We finally put together a game on all sides."

Besides the hitting and fielding (three errors were offset by two double plays),



Tyler Robison

O'Connell noted, "We had some great pitching from Tyler Robison and when I gave my post-game speech I told (the team) that his mentality was exactly the mentality that we need. He was upset when I took him out of the game at 94 pitches. He did not want to come out of the game, but I had to protect his arm ... we have a long season. But he wanted to go back in there ... he wanted the ball."

Robison's play hopefully will inspired the Oilers whose roster is filled with numerous collegiate athletes.

"I told every one of the guys, you've got to want to be in there, you've got to play hard for three hours and produce."

O'Connell added, "The way we hit tonight is the way we started early on. Some of the guys we've been resting have been getting a little healthier. We're mixing and matching in the lineup. I moved the lineup around (Thursday night) a little bit just to try to get us a little different life."

Both second baseman Dom Cecere and right fielder Cole Hollins, hitting .361 and .333, respectively, got the night off. They

were replaced by Allegany-Limestone's Zach Hemphill and just-signed Ryan Simmons of St. John Fisher.

"A lot of the guys are not used to playing every day," O'Connell pointed out. "When they play in college, they play a couple of days a week. We tell all the players this is a grind. It's important for myself to make sure that guys get adequate rest ... you've

got to have players come in and mix and match. I DH'd Hollins yesterday and gave him a full day off today.

"It worked out real well, but we're not celebrating too hard ... it would be really nice to put up another victory (tonight against Rochester back at Bradner) before having Saturday off."

First baseman Jimmy Webb (two runs) and shortstop Kevin Higgins (run, RBI) each had two hits including a double and center fielder Kam Lane added two safeties. Left fielder Brian Tagoe and third baseman Ben Flicker logged doubles.

Still, only three of the Oilers runs were earned, the others scoring on wild pitches by Ridgemen starter Evan Orren.

Rochester (5-5) totaled only three hits, all of them coming against Robison in the second inning.

## Oakleaf High alum earns Miami's Kichefski Scholarship

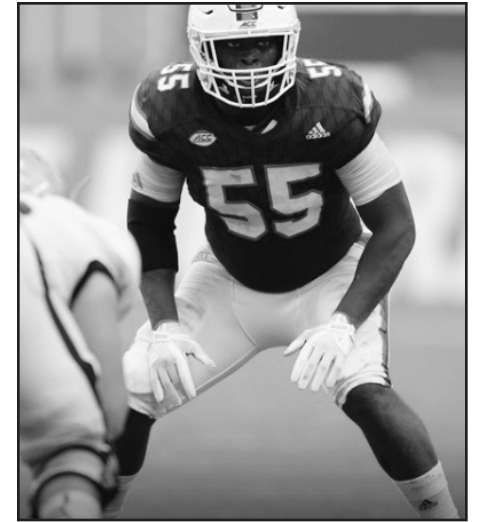
Special to Clay Today

CORAL GABLES – The University of Miami Sports Hall of Fame announced that junior linebacker Shaquille Quarterman is the 25th recipient of the Walter Kichefski Endowed Football Scholarship, as selected by his coaches, for the 2018-2019 school year.

The junior from Oakleaf High School in has started every game at linebacker since he arrived in Coral Gables, including the 2016 season as a true freshman, when he was named a Freshman All American and third team All-ACC selection.

In 2017, he was voted to the second team All-ACC by the conference coaches. He was presented a plaque for the award at the 50th Annual UM Sports Hall of Fame Induction Banquet on Thursday, April 19 at Jungle Island in downtown Miami. In addition, a plaque bearing his name will be displayed in the UMShoF, along with the names of past winner's.

There's no question that Walter Kichefski embodied the Spirit of Miami. He was associated with this university for 56 years as a player, coach and administrator. Following Walter's death in 1992, a committee was formed to raise funds for



a perpetual football scholarship in Kichefski's memory. It's a testament to his spirit that it only took one year to raise the \$400,000 that it took at the time, to endow the athletic scholarship. This remains the only undergraduate award presented by the University of Miami Sports Hall of Fame.

The scholarship recipient is chosen by the football coaches with the award going to the player who most embodies the characteristics by which Walter Kichefski lived. These characteristics are respect of his fellow man, loyalty, dedication, sacrifice, motivation and inspiration.

Among the Class of 2018 University of Miami Sports Hall of Fame inductees

SEE UPDATES, 29



## Fleming Island track signee

FLEMING ISLAND – Fleming Island High senior track runner Felipe Fernandez, seated, smiles with mom, Summer, and coaches; left, Karen Moritz and Chris Otero, after signing an athletic scholarship on Monday to run track at Embry-Riddle University in Daytona Beach. Fernandez was the anchor for Fleming Island's fifth

place in Class 4A 4 x 800 meter relay team. Fernandez also holds the school record for the 400 at Fleming Island at 49.13 seconds. The 4 x 800 relay also set a school record of 8:05. Fernandez was second at the region 1-4A championships with his 49.13 split. Fernandez was 15th in Class 4A at 49.44.

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### Ridgeview High football taking swings



Middleburg High golf coach Scott Thomas sports best shorts of the day with his intricate pattern on hole 14 of the Ridgeview High football golf tournament held Friday.

STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO



Ridgeview High football coach Cameron Porch chips up from the middle of the 14th hole.



Ridgeview High football coach Brandon Holdren lets rip with tee shot on 14th hole.



Donning a Ridgeview High shirt, Shawn Macpherson, brother to Orange Park High football coach Tom Macpherson, smiles with tee shot on 14th hole.



Orange Park High baseball standouts Brandon and Jordan Vairo with dad Todd Viro brought a strong trio of hitters to the golf links.



### Orien Pass Memorial Golf Tournament

The Clay County Salvation Army hosted their 5th Annual Orien Pass memorial Golf Tournament this past Friday at Magnolia Point Golf and Country Club. Shown above are the first place winners with a 24 under par score of 48. From left, Mark Beckworth, Wade Dukes, Phillip Powell and Don Benton. Thanks to the community for your support. For more information on the Salvation Army contact us at 904-276-6677.



### Darnell Demetrias Deas Jr

April 7, 2002 ~ June 14, 2018 (age 16)

DEAS – Family and friends will gather to celebrate the life of Darnell Deas 11 a.m. Thursday, June 21, 2018, at Bethel Baptist Institutional Church, Bishop Rudolph W. McKissick Jr, Senior Pastor; Bishop Rudolph W. McKissick Sr., Pastor Emeritus. He is survived by parents, Darnell & Cheryl Deas; sisters, Amiyah, Maliyah & MacKenzie Deas; other relatives and friends. Visitation was Wednesday, June 20 at The Soutel Chapel. Interment in Evergreen Cemetery, Gulfport, Miss. Because of the love of his family, arrangements entrusted to J. E. Fralin & Sons Funeral & Cremation Services, 5065 Soutel Dr., (904) 924-9400.

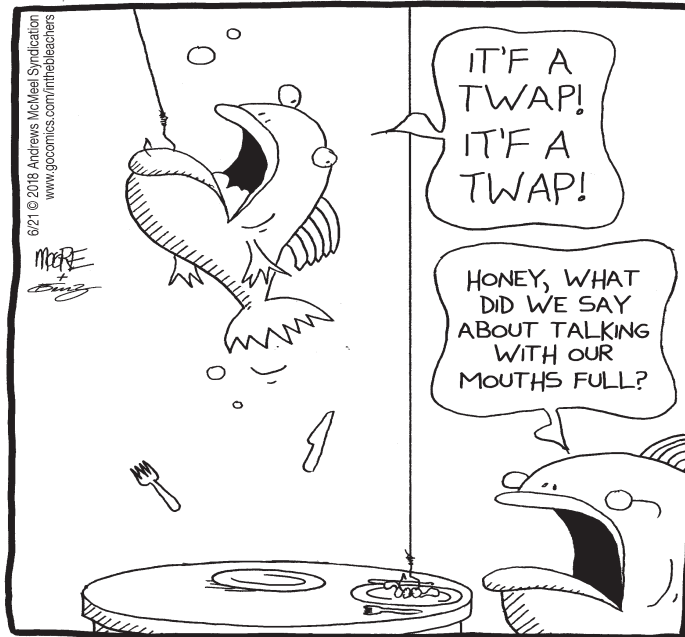
Deas was a sophomore track and football athlete at Fleming Island High School. He had set the school's triple jump record this year after transferring from Navarre High School. Deas finished 13th at the Region 1-4A track championships in the triple jump last year.

# Fun AND Humor

## Flying McCoys



## In the Bleachers



## Update

from page 27

are baseball's Yonder Alonso, basketball's Chanivia Broussard and John Salmons, football's Frank Gore, Devin Hester and Coach Larry Coker, track's Dominique Darden, golf's Tina Miller Lloyd and, Britney Butcher, the first soccer player ever inducted.



**Zack Blankenship signs with Valdosta State University**

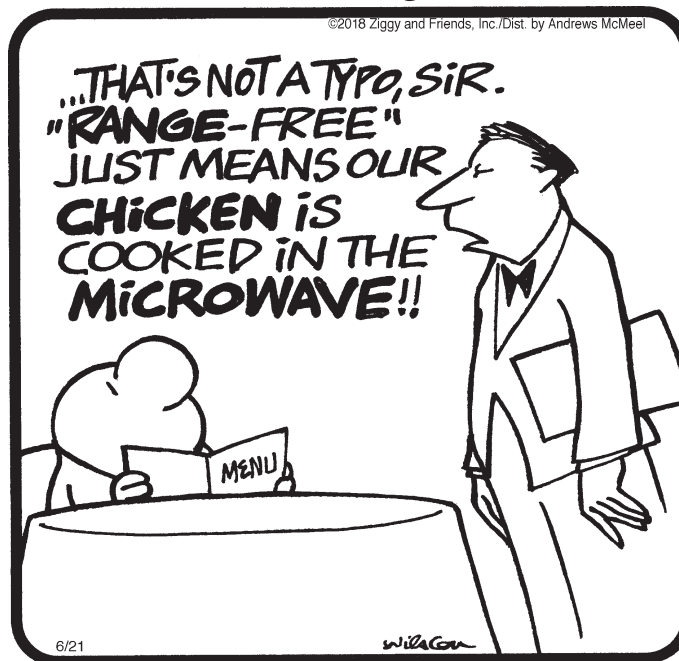
FLEMING ISLAND – Fleming Island High graduate Zack Blankenship, a left-handed pitcher for the Golden Eagles, has accepted a scholarship offer to play baseball at Valdosta State University in Georgia.

Blankenship recently completed his college stint at St. Johns River State College in Palatka with 11 appearances with three game starts. He won two games, lost one and had a 5.92 earned run average with 28 strikeouts. SJR State finished at 32-18 for 2018 and was 15-8 in the Mid-Florida Conference behind Santa Fe Community College.

## Non-Sequitur



## Ziggy



## Real Life Adventures



## UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

9		6	2		5			
	5			8	3	1		
4				9			6	3
	7	3		6		8	9	
	8	1						5
			2					
		9	6	7			8	
			5		8	9		2

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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

SOLUTION:

9	1	6	2	4	5	3	7	8
2	5	4	7	8	3	1	6	9
7	3	8	1	9	6	2	5	4
4	9	2	8	5	1	6	3	7
5	7	3	4	6	2	8	9	1
6	8	1	9	3	7	4	2	5
8	4	5	3	2	9	7	1	6
1	2	9	6	7	4	5	8	3
3	6	7	5	1	8	9	4	2

# wjct HIGHLIGHTS



**“Endeavour” Returns June 24 at 9 p.m. on WJCT-TV**

Endeavour Morse returns for a fifth season of crime-solving in 1960s Oxford. Presented by Masterpiece.



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For more information visit [wjct.org](http://wjct.org)



STAFF PHOTO BY RANDY LEFKO

Jacksonville Armada's forward Christian Silva, center, splits two Boca FC defenders to head toward one of seven goals by Armada in 7-0 win Sunday night at UNF's Hodges Stadium. Armada improved to 4-1-2 overall. Armada returns to UNF June 23 for a 7:30 p.m. start.



STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

Jacksonville Jaguars players, left to right, A.J. Bouye, Shane Wynn and Myles Jack walk toward the practice field in final OTA sessions in Jacksonville on June 14.



STAFF PHOTO BY RANDY LEFKO

Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp base runner Monte Harrison watches teammate John Norwood at bat during Shrimp's 7-0 loss to the Jackson Generals on June 17. Shrimp (28-40) go on the road to Mississippi for a six game stand against the Mississippi Braves (29-41).

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  - 1 Week \$14.50       2 Weeks \$24.50
  - 3 Weeks \$32.50     4 Weeks \$39.00
- Commercial (Rentals, Cars, Advertise your business.)**
  - 1 Week - \$23             2 Weeks - \$40
  - 3 Weeks - \$57          4 Weeks - \$72
- Garage Sales**  
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**Ad Copy One Letter, Number, Punctuation Mark or Space Per Box**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25

**ADDITIONAL LINES** are \$2.15 each.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
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- The most advanced stroke treatment possible is available through Baptist Clay
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- The stroke team at Baptist Clay is ready 24/7 with lifesaving treatment – and is part of Baptist’s comprehensive stroke network, with the highest level of care

Advanced stroke treatment is not available everywhere. It’s important to get to the right place the first time.



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