# CLAY TODAY

#### This Week

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Townsend first black to earn ranks of lieutenant, captain at CCFR- PAGE 20

> CLAY ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE - INSERT



19,558 POSITIVE CASES REPORTED
335 DEATHS
40,667 FULL VACCINATIONS GIVEN
1,139 POSITIVE STUDENT CASES REPORTED IN
SCHOOLS
182 FACULTY AND STAFF CASES IN SCHOOLS
955 CARE FACILITY CASES
131 ACTIVE POSITIVE CASES AT CARE FACILITIES

COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION 1-866-779-6121

THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2021

WWW.CLAYTODAYONLINE.COM

**VOLUME 58, NO. 18 75¢** 

# Officials trade their desk jobs for day on back of garbage trucks

Public works department pitch in to erase three-week backlog of yard trash

By Don Coble don@opcfla.com

CLAY COUNTY – Howard Wanamaker was back at his desk this week, carefully busily working on the county's business. His hands were sore and blistered. His face was red and weathered by sun. His back was softened by a dull pain.

As the Clay County Manager, Wanamaker has the daunting responsibility of solving all of the county's problems. That includes working on budgets, implementing programs and providing an important connection between residents' needs and solutions from their government.

And for a day last week, it meant picking up trash.

Staffing problems created by COVID-19 and a lack of people who are willing to work couldn't have hit Waste Management at a worse time. As local residents completed spring cleaning projects, yard debris continued to be piled on curbs.

To catch up, the county rented four garbage trucks from Green Cove Springs and  $\,$ 

provided workers from the public works department a reflective vest and work gloves to clean up the mess. Wanamamker, county director of environmental services Charlie Latham and Jim Fish Jr., the Florida President of Waste Management, also pitched in.

"Being able to help out the crews was a rewarding experience and one that I will never forget," Wanamaker said. "I have nothing but the utmost respect for those

SEE HELP WANTED, 3



Clay County Manager Howard Wanamaker, middle, spent Wednesday, April 14, working on the back of a garbage truck to help Waste Management pick up three weeks of yard trash.



STAFF PHOTO BY DON COBLE

#### Releasing their savage

It didn't take long for Pam Jordan, left, and Angie Diamond to get on target after they spent an hour at Valhalla Indoor Axe Throwing on Fleming Island. The new business has quickly gained a passionate following since throwing axes relies more on muscle memory than brut stretch. For more, read the story on page 12.



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## County puts Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccines on hold

Precautionary measure taken after 7 in 7 million patients suffer rare blood clots

By Wesley LeBlanc

wesley@opcfla.com

CLAY COUNTY - All Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccines have been put on pause for further research after seven patients received rare blood clots after their vaccination.

While that sounds alarming – and for those seven patients it probably is - is there a cause for concern? If you're someone who's already received a Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccine and weeks have passed, the answer is no.

All seven cases occurred in exclusively women between the ages of 18 and 48 and the symptoms appeared roughly six to 13 days after the vaccination. Five people are in stable condition, one is in critical condition, and a sixth person, a 45-year-old woman in Virginia, has died. Statistically, the chances of this vaccine affecting you in this way are extremely slim - about six in 6.8 million, or in other words, 1 in 1.13 million.



Johnson and Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine has been put on pause, but experts said that's not necessarily a cause for concern, especially when you consider that it's been paused after rare blood clots appear in just seven recipients out of nearly seven million doses.

Here are some other statistics that many face every single day. According to InjuryFacts.org, a not-for-profit site that tracks death-related statistics: someone on a bike has a 1-in-3,825 chance of dying. Someone in a car has a 1-in-107 chance of dying if they got into a wreck. There's

a 1-in-59,507 chance that a hornet, wasp, or bee sting will kill you. There's even a 1-in-63,113 chance that a hot surface or substance will kill you.

The chances of being struck by lightning are 1-in-15,300, according to the official national government weather page. All of this is to say that the chances of this Johnson and Johnson vaccine affecting you are extremely slim.

The CDC and Federal Drug Administration paused the distribution of the vaccine, but not because they're worried the vaccine will cause clots. It's a precautionary study recommendation to re-examine the vaccine to determine how and why these clots happen, and if there's further cause for concern.

'We have been working closely with medical experts and health authorities, and we strongly support the open communication of this information to healthcare professionals and the public," Johnson and Johnson said in a statement.

The company said if someone develops a severe headache, leg pain, shortness of breath or abdominal pain they should contact their doctor, although Johnson and Johnson said these effects are "extremely

"It's a very rare event," Emory University School of Medicine executive associate dean Dr. Carlos del Rios told CNN Health. "You're talking about one in a million, and

SEE VACCINE, 5

## **County continues to move** forward on building new animal services facility

**Bv Weslev LeBlanc** 

wesley@opcfla.com

CLAY COUNTY - The county is the closest it's been to finally building a new animal services facility, something that's been needed and talked about by the Board of County Commissioners for years.

The county has been talking about a new animal facility services building for nearly a decade, if not longer, and the BCC requested an audit in 2016 for the project. A workshop was held in May of 2017 and the topic has often popped up at BCC meetings since. The BCC held another workshop on April 15, and the new building is looking more and more like a reality.

"We've wrestled with this for years," BCC Chairman Mike Cella said during the meeting last Thursday. "The Friends of Clay County Animals is even in favor of the new shelter. It would attract new interns and new volunteers ... and it would enhance our services greatly.

Cella said the current building was built

in the 1970s, with some parts of it having been built even earlier. It was built when the county had a population of 40,000 people, Cella said. Clay County's population is now more than 220,000.

The BCC didn't vote on it during the meeting, but it seemed to come to a general consensus the facility is needed. That's because animal services lead, Troy Nagle, spent the meeting telling the board why a new building is needed.

Five hundred and fourteen dogs and 1,161 cats were adopted in 2020 from the shelter, with another 229 animals adopted at Petco and 307 at PetSmart, both of which are partners with the shelter.

'The idea is that we should be the last resort for your animal," Nagle said. "We offer assistance though. If someone needs food, we have a food bank. Sometimes all people need is help with food. We try to help people find other alternatives before we take an animal into our animal shelter."

It costs \$27.85 for a cat to be taken





The county is the closest it's ever been to building a new animal services facility, something that's been needed for years.

in on its first day and \$7.16 for every day after that. Dogs, on the other hand, cost \$42.22 on the first day and \$13.57 after that. When animals are taken in, there's a good chance they'll go into foster care – but not before proper medication and spaying and neutering.

The shelter did 1,521 sterilization surgeries last year and 249 trap-neuterrelease procedures. It also treated various dogs for heartworms and other ailments.

'What we've seen happening is people bring us their animal to leave here because they can't afford to get it fixed," Nagle said. "So, we say, 'let's work with you, let's get fines paid, let's reduce the fees, and let's get these animals where they need to be."

Nagle said during kitten season, which has just begun, the shelter will have 100 to 200 kittens in foster care at any given time. Two hundred and forty-five dogs and 717 cats were fostered in 2020, which was a slower year due to COVID-19, especially compared to 2019, which had 257 dogs and 829 cats fostered.

All of that was possible due to the shelter's "incredible" team of foster families and volunteers. Fostering, sterilization. and adoptions aren't all the shelter does,

"We have six full-time and one parttime animal control officer positions,"

SEE FACILITY, 21



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## **Help Wanted**

from page

in and day out. It was very labor intensive, hot, and hard on your back. The only saving graces were the few long stretches between stops."

Like many other local businesses, Waste Management has struggled to find workers. Stimulus payments and unemployment benefits often make it more lucrative to stay at home than punch a time clock. In short, going to work, especially in the service industry, generally requires taking a pay cut compared to "free" money being given away by state and federal officials.

Waste Management officials are looking into several ways, including offering signon and stay-on bonuses and increasing starting pay for drivers, and raising starting salaries for back of truck helpers, to solve the problem.

"We understand there's a problem, and there are reasons for that problem," said regional manager Greg Huntington. "It's important for the commission to hear the reasons for the situation, as well as your residents. It's not like we're trying to hide. It's not like we're trying to fail.

"COVID-19 – there's a continued impact on our operations, both in the state of Florida and nationwide. The impact of the stimulus money and the change in unemployment benefits, which have caused a reduction in the labor pool, as well as our solutions."

Waste Management has been able to hire enough workers to collect residential trash and recyclables, but the company wasn't able to pick up yard trash for nearly three weeks.

To help catch up, the county has put some of its workers on the back of trucks on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays to catch up. They eventually managed to make up the three-week backlog and plan to be caught up by Friday, said Milton Towns, Deputy Director of Clay County Environmental Service.



"Thus far, we're running near to schedule," he said. "We put county staff on the rear steps to collect yard waste. This week has been encouraging. We always have the highest volume [of trash] this time of year because of yard waste."

On a normal Wednesday, before staffing issues began, routes would average approximately 100 tons of yard waste a day. On Wednesday, April 14, with the help of other companies and municipalities — including Wanamaker, the county was able to collect 192 tons of yard waste.

Waste Management will be responsible for paying the county for collections and Green Cove Springs for use of its city trucks, Towns said.

Waste Management also brought in 25 workers from outside the area, and the company now is working with several temporary employment services to fill job vacancies. Huntington said temporary work-

ers often are promoted to fulltime positions "once they prove themselves."

To help, the county waived yard trash fees at the Rosemary Hill Solid Waste Management Facility in Green Cove Springs until April 28. Residents can drop of yard debris from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. every day except Sunday.

To be eligible, residents must show proof of county residency with a driver's license, lease or utility bill, and commercial yard service companies don't qualify for free dumping, the county said.

Otherwise, residents are asked to stack up yard waste at the curb for pickup.

To report missed garbage and/or recycling, please submit a missed service request using Clay County's Customer Portal, please visit https://myservices.clay-countygov.com/en. And for more information about the Rosemary Hill, please visit https://www.claycountygov.com/commu.../garbage-and-recycling.





## Welcome Back!

Clay County senior centers have resumed face to face programs for registered participants. Seniors are welcomed back under phase one of the re-opening plan.

- The centers operate weekdays from 9AM 1PM with lunch served at noon. No guests are allowed in phase one of the re-opening.
- Reservations are required for lunches served at the center and Grab-and-Go.
- Participants may attend a maximum of two times per week and the centers will operate at a limited capacity.
- Face coverings should be worn expcept when eating, and guests should follow CDC recommended social distancing guidelines.



Please contact your local senior center to register or learn more!

**Green Cove Springs Senior Center** 

904-531-5022

**Keystone Heights Senior Center** 

352-473-7121

**Middleburg Senior Center** 

904-291-3520

**Orange Park Senior Center** 

904-269-4731

## Bill to raise Florida's smoking age clears final Florida House committee

**By Jason Delgado** *For Florida Politics* 

A bill that would align the state's smoking age with federal law and grant state regulators broader oversight over nicotine product sales cleared its final committee stop Monday.

Sponsored by Republican Rep. Jackie Toledo, the bill (<u>HB 987</u>) would raise Florida's smoking age to 21 and require nicotine vendors to acquire a state permit.

The Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco, which already regulates tobacco permits, would regulate nicotine permits under the bill. A tobacco permit costs \$50, but the new nicotine permits would be free.

If compliant with federal regulations, Toledo noted, the state would become eligible for additional health care funding from the federal government.

Notably, military members would be exempt from the age restriction — a carveout that notably conflicts with federal law and Department of Defense policy.

"If you can sign your name and raise your hand and be handed an M-16 and asked to go die for your country, smoking is the littlest thing you have to worry about," said Republican Rep. Matt Willhite in support.

Throughout the committee process, the proposal has received pushback from several organizations, including the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network.

Speaking on the network's behalf on Monday, Susan Harbin warned lawmakers the bill would preempt local regulations that target tobacco marketing and product placement.

"The local governments are really your best friend in the fight against tobacco and nicotine addiction," Harbin said. "They are doing that work on the ground at the point of sale, and they're putting money into it, they're putting resources into it. Wiping this out is going to set us back decades.

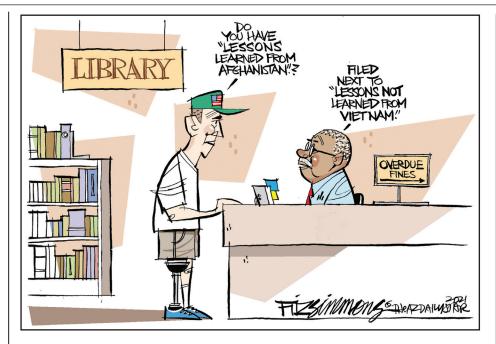
Toledo, meanwhile, contended that federal agencies are ineffective at the local level.

"If you have to call the FDA to get enforcement or to complain, it's worse than calling the IRS," she said. "Who do you even talk to?"

The proposal comes after the Legislature cleared similar legislation last year that would've cracked down on vape products.

Despite acclaim from Attorney General Ashley Moody, Gov. Ron DeSantis shot the legislation down.

**SEE SMOKING, 5** 



## With our help, St. Simon Baptist Church will rise from the ashes

**By Don Coble** *Managing Editor* 

ORANGE PARK — The telephone now rings without an answer at St. Simon Baptist Church because there is no phone to answer. It was destroyed and buried in the rubble of the iconic church.

There are no pews or pulpit. The roof's gone and the walls are charred and lay in crumbled in twisted heaps. Yellow crime scene tape still draped around the shell of the building, and a sign asks curious visitors for informa-



Don Coble

tion to help investigators find who lit the match.

While the building was destroyed in a March 25 fire, parishioners haven't lost their faith – or their commitment to raise their church from the ashes.

"We as a devoted congregation believe God has a purpose and plan for everything," Deacon Lester Perry said. "We have faith that God's hand will lead us through this difficult time and help us rebuild our place of worship for His glory and praise."

St. Simon can't do it alone. They need our help and support. That's what friends, family and neighbors do when one of our own has a problem. We join hands and work toward a common solution.

A GoFundMe account has been established to help bridge the gap between the cost of rebuilding the 3,200-square-foot church and their insurance settlement. The church needs as much as \$450,000 since the damage was so severe inspectors said even the concrete foundation must be replaced. The discrepancy was created by the church's renovation and addition of a fellowship hall. Since construction hadn't proceeded to the point of running new electrical lines and installation of drywall, church officials didn't increase their coverage.

"We had no idea someone was going to burn the church down," Perry said.

SEE ST SIMON, 10





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.

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} For fend: & (for - FEND) & a & verb & that \\ means to forbid or prevent. & \\ \end{tabular}$ 

"Alarm systems and surveillance cameras ae used to forfend robberies."

#### This Week In History

#### Five years ago, 2016

- The Clay County School District and the Clay County Education Association agree to a new contract that will provide a \$500 a year raise to teachers.
- Residents complete a spring makeover at Somer's Garden, a one-year-old park built on the lot where Somer Thompson's convicted killer, Jared Harrell, once lived.
- Orange Park pilot Kerry Bentley is recognized by Angel Flight Southeast as its Pilot of the Year for using his aircraft and fuel to assist the nonprofit organization.

#### 10 years ago, 2011

- Clay County Superintendent Ben Wortham said he won't reverse the district's decision to fire Ridgeview High wrestling coach Chris McNealy.
- The Board of County Commissioners introduce two ordinances to create an overly district on Wells Road to lower crime at nightclubs.
- Bealls Department Stores donates \$10,000 to the Clay High marching band to replace their 15-year-old uniforms.

#### 20 years ago, 2001

- The United Food and Commercial Workers Union files a grievance against Food Lion after the grocery store chain said it will close the distribution center in Green Cove Springs in June.
- Boat owners must vacate Black Creek Marina so the county can do construction on its 33 slips.
- Popular Orange Park Pop Warner coach Ralph R. "Dick" Shipley dies. He was 65

#### 30 years ago, 1991

• The Clay County Commission accepts bids for an expansion of the Orange Park Library.

SEE HISTORY, 5

#### 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 Don Coble at don@opcfla.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.

## Thanks to healthy start, every day in Florida is Mothers' Day

By Monica Figueroa King and **Cathy Timuta** 

In Florida, we've had a special reason to celebrate Mothers' Day every day for the last 30 years.

Our state's landmark Healthy Start program, which will celebrate its 30th anniversary later this year, demonstrates Florida's commitment to ensuring every baby has a healthy start and chance to succeed in life - no matter where they live or who their parents may be. Florida Healthy Start creates community-level support systems for pregnant moms and babies, services not offered so comprehensively anywhere else.

Every day is the birth day for some 610 Florida babies. Healthy Start creates countless opportunities for new mothers, fathers and their babies to improve the odds for self-sufficiency, and pursue a successful future for their families.

It's important to remember that we have the opportunity to measure our state's success over a time frame of generations, not just years or fiscal quarters. Our most significant accomplishments are reflected each time a healthy child is born with a lifetime of success ahead of them.

As Florida House Speaker Chris Sprowls recently said, "We believe that providing access to postnatal coverage for up to one year after the birth can significantly boost health outcomes for moms and their babies, and we know that healthy moms are better positioned to raise healthy and thriving children."

Sprowls continues a bi-partisan commitment of Florida leaders to use facts in guiding policy decisions. His call to hold open the maternal care window from two

## History

- Nearly 600 members of the Citizens for Religious Freedom and Right to Assembly in Clay County expressed their concerns about the county's proposed amendment that would create five categories for private service zoning.
- Despite several rainy days, attendance at the Clay County Agriculture Fair increased by nearly 30% compared to numbers from 1990.

#### 40 years ago, 1981

- County clerk George Carlisle questions the financial disclosure of the Clay County Housing Finance Authority Rescue Account and said the account is missing nearly \$2.5 million of the \$20 bond issue.
- The BCC puts a freeze on Government Study Commission funds until it learns exactly what's expected of the county to manage the account.
- The Green Cove Springs City Council awards bids for transformers for the Florida Power & Light tie-in.





Monica Figueroa King

Cathy Timuta

months to one year is a smart investment that pays great dividends for decades ahead.

Infant mortality is often used as an indicator to measure the health and wellbeing of a community or society. Florida has made the right investment in Healthy Start. Over a single generation, Florida went from being a perennial national laggard at bottom of America's infant mortality rankings to a national leader for healthy mothers and babies, reducing our state's infant mortality rate by 32.6% since 1991.

Prevention initiatives like Healthy Start can save \$10 for every dollar we invest. Remember this: It's not what it costs, but what it saves.

We applaud Governor Ron DeSantis for recommending future investments in Healthy Start and look forward to the

## **Vaccine**

when there are millions of doses, you will see events like this that you couldn't see in the clinical trail just because you didn't have millions of people enrolled."

The vaccine has been paused in Clay County, which is unfortunate as the county's health officials were relying on it to boost the county's vaccination numbers. It's currently about 44,000 vaccinated people away from hitting what's needed for herd immunity.

"Since the announcement that the Johnson and Johnson was a thing and a single dose at that, we've had a high demand for it," emergency management services director John Ward said. "We weren't receiving any at first...and we were hearing that a lot of people were waiting for it... so our demand was high."

Ward said the county finally received allocation for two vaccination sites to doll out 600 Johnson and Johnson vaccines. The first was to be at the Shiloh Church in Green Cove Springs on April 15, and the second was to be at the Keystone Heights First Baptist Church on April 19. With the Johnson and Johnson vaccine on pause. vaccinations at those sites are on hold, too.

Professionals expect the vaccine to be available again sooner, rather than later, but for now, the medical community and those wanting that vaccine are waiting to hear the results of the FDC and CDC's reexamination.

Legislature's support in extending the successful track record of positive health outcomes and family-focused services to ensure healthy births.

Pregnant women can't get these essential services anywhere else. Florida Healthy Start improves outcomes for a lifetime, and positions children and their families for increased opportunities for

success. Let's celebrate these achievements as we reap the emotional and economic benefits in the future.

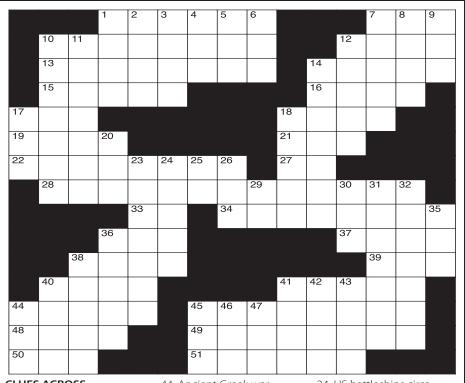
Monica Figueroa King serves a President of the Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions. Cathy Timuta is FAHSC's Chief Executive Officer. For more information visit www.healthystartflorida.com

from page 4

"Reducing the use of all nicotine-related products, including vaping, among our youth is an important goal, but this will not be achieved by eliminating legal products for adults and by devastating the small businesses who provide these adults with reduced-risk alternatives to cigarettes," DeSantis said of the proposal.

The latest proposal now awaits full House consideration.

Jason Delgado covers news out of the state capital for Florida Politics. After a stint with the U.S. Army. Jason attended the University of Central Florida where he studied American Policy and National Security. His past bylines include WMFE-NPR and POLITI-CO Florida. Throw him a line at jason@ floridapolitics.com or on Twitter at @ JasonDelgadoFL.



#### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Switches
- 7. Legal financial term (abbr.)
- 10. Sweeties
- 12. Competition
- 13 Measures electrical resistance
- 14. Psychotherapy researcher
- 15. Causes injury to
- 16. Open
- 17. Polish peninsula 18. Hebrew calendar month
- 19. Whale ship captain
- 21. Children's accessory
- 22. Unknown point
- 27. Exists
- 28. Extremely confident 33. Expression of disgust
- 34. The government has many
- 36. Small constellation
- 37. Northern Indian city
- 38. The best pitchers
- 39. Naturally occurring solid
- 40. Apple computers
- 41. Portuguese city

- 44. Ancient Greek war dance
- 45. More reliable
- 48. Sailboat
- 49. Newspapers
- 50. Frequently flooded area
- 51. They dig for coal

#### **CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Partial
- 2. 'Mad Men' leading man of March 3. The
- 4. Healthy
- 5. Where golfers begin 6. Soviet Socialist Republic
- (abbr.) 7. Of the cheek
- 8. Injury reminder
- 9. Statesman Franklin
- 10. For an unknown reason 11. Brain parts
- 12. Islamic calendar month
- 14. Avenue where ad men work
- 17. Possesses
- 18. Accept
- 23. Former British PM May

- 24. US battleships circa
- 25. Greek alphabet letter
- 26. When you hope to get there
- 29. Top lawyer
- 30 Fiddler crabs
- 31. Intolerant
- 32. Persons that cause extreme fear
- 35. Car mechanics group
- 36. Capital of Ghana
- 38. Famed ballplaver Hank
- 40. Emphasizes
- insignificance
- 41. Liaht-colored 42. Distinctive smell
- 43. Muckraking
- journalist Jacob
- 44. Sunscreen rating
- 45. Short-term memory 46. Japanese delicacy
- 47. One point north of
- due east

## Orange Park Town Council to wrestle with demand for fire chief's resignation

Town manager asked for Chief Alvin Barker to quit after he made claims of an 'illegal' bank account

By Wesley LeBlanc

wesley@opcfla.com

ORANGE PARK – Town manager Sarah Campbell told the Orange Park Town Council it should fire chief Alvin Barker be fired.

That came Tuesday night after Barker refused Campbell's request his resignation following three apparent incidents the town manager said broke the town's No. 1core value of integrity.

Barker is unwilling to resign, and he's prepared to fight back, according to his attorney, Paul Donnelly.

"Barker is a long-term public servant," Donnelly said. "He has worked for 33 years in Northeast Florida and in that entire time in his professional life, he's never been subject to any kind of material or inverse, adverse discipline. He's a fantastic town



Town manager Sarah Campbell recommended fire chief Alvin Barker be fired from his position, but the council wants more time and information. A special meeting will be held next week to discuss it.

fire chief...and has been for over half a decade...and looks forward to continuing for many years."

Donnelly claimed Barker had been fired for being a whistleblower over an "illegal town bank account." Donnelly said that after he allegedly pointed out to Campbell the bank account in question was illegal, he was asked to resign a couple of days later. Donnelly also said complaints deemed meritless by outside investigators that cost the town \$18,000 were being used to jus-

tify his firing. Donnelly those investigators shouldn't affect his professional career.

The meritless complaints were calls for harassment and unfair targeting by Barker to subordinates, but Donnelly said the complaints were made because of "disgruntled employees." Donnelly said the employees in question weren't at the meeting to represent themselves. As a result, Clay Today opted not to include their names. He said one of the main "disgruntled employees" had applied for Barker's Fire Chief job, which is currently being advertised. That person was being considered for the position, something Campbell later said wasn't true.

Donnelly's argument during the meeting centered around he and Barker's claim that Campbell "attempted to entrap Barker by asking him to take control of an illegal town [bank] account." And allegedly, because Barker refused because it violates

SEE OP COUNCIL,17

## Green Cove Springs police hires a new officer; promotes another to sergeant

By Bruce Hope bruce@opcfla.com

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – One new officer was sworn into duty and another earned a promotion at the Green Cove Springs Police Department during Tuesday night's city council meeting.

Russell Reese was hired as a patrol officer, while Austin Graham was promoted to the rank of sergeant.

In other business, the council was briefed by Clay County Manager Howard Wanamaker on the county's progress of getting its yard trash pickups back on schedule. The county has rented four Green Cove Springs garbage trucks on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays to

make up a three-week backlog created by a staffing shortage at Waste Management.

The council also discussed the revision of the council meeting schedule due to the holidays this winter. It was decided and approved the November schedule would be determined later, while one meeting will be held in December, on the seventh of the month

Finally, a presentation was then given by Mike Daniels of GCS and Rives Deuterman of Geographic Technologies Group on the new GeoHub software that will soon be available for the citizens of Green Cove Springs. The software will provide a lot of information and views of the city that residents and city officials will be able to use.



Russell Reese



Sgt. Austin Graham



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## Residents line up early for Annual Passport Day ahead of this summer's vacations

By Bruce Hope

bruce@opcfla.com

ORANGE PARK — Clay County residents, along with others from around the First Coast, lined up Saturday morning at the Orange Park branch of the Clerk's Office to take advantage of annual Passport Day.

"Across the state, across all clerk's offices, there is a dedicated passport Day annually," said Clerk's Office Chief Operations Officer Tracie McRae. "And it's just an opportunity for citizens to go to their local clerk of court, and potentially even post office outside of normal business hours."

The annual date doesn't always fall on the same weekend. It's held whenever it's convenient for the clerk's office and resi-

Last year, the COVID-19 lockdown of the state led to the cancellation of special event.

"This year, we were trying to do it in the spring, so we could help those people that maybe were looking for some summer travel, to go ahead and get a jump-start on those summer plans," McRae said. Turnout in the past has been measured. The 2019 event was done by appointment only, so the appointment slots weren't filled and the clerk's office felt it could have serviced more residents. The turnout this time was substantial, with people lined up to the back of the shopping plaza well before the office opened.

"A friend of a friend [told me]," said Quantavious Johnson of Duval county, who came over to take advantage of the opportunity. "I do plan on going out sometime in the summer, but just going to get it done now."

Typically, appointments at the post office are booked out as far as three-to-four months, so events like Passport Day greatly help the community.

"I called them and it was hard to get an appointment," said businessman Moe Mokhtar. "So, they said that they have on Saturday and the make it special from 8:30 in the morning to [noon] — first in, first out." Mokhtar travels internationally on a regular basis and will be heading to Thailand on his next business trip.



STAFE PHOTO BY BRUCE HOPE

Residents took advantage of a rare Saturday passport application day in Orange Park.

Lisette Grant also was in line to get a passport application processed. She and her daughter had an appointment with the Fleming Island post office, but that branch doesn't have someone available to process passport applications.

"I ended up coming here on a whim, and they told us about this," Grant said. "My daughter's traveling on a school trip abroad."

Agents were kept busy throughout the event.

"We have a wonderful turnout this morning and I'm very excited to get these citizens in on a Saturday morning," said McRae. "And get their passports processed for them so they can look forward to traveling sometime soon."



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#### Gladys R. Hall

Gladys R. Hall, 88, of Green Cove Springs, Florida, passed away April 10, 2021, at home.

Gladys Risley Hall entered this world at the birthing home of Mrs. Howe in Manchester, CT, July 4th, 1932. An appropriate birthday for such a feisty, independent lady! Her parents are John and Winifred (Cooley) Risley.

There were three sisters, Marion, Dot, and Polly, and one brother, Dick, who all predeceased her.

Gladys was a selfproclaimed tomboy and grew up with lots of room to indulge her love of the outdoors across from



Gladys R. Hall

Risley Reservoir. Along with her sister Dot, she donated a parcel of the reservoir property to the Manchester Land Trust who have since opened this beautiful property to allow public enjoyment.

In 1955. Gladys met Norman Hall at the Crystal Lake Ballroom. He asked her to go to church with him on their first date. She knew at that moment he was the man she would marry.

They married and had 5 children together, Linda Hall, Cindy VanLeuven, Steven Hall. Clifford Hall and JoAnn Mever. Norman had three children which Gladys always counted and cared for as her own. Vicki Gee, Jeffrey and Kenneth Hall. Each of their children were profoundly loved. Gladys was predeceased by her beloved husband Norman and her daughter Linda in 2018.

In 1966, Norman began New England Mechanical Services, Inc. (NEMSI) in the basement of the family home with Gladys by his side to make a significant contribution to the success of this endeavor.

Over the years, Gladys and Norman were able to travel to various countries around the world. But Maine, where Norman was from, was always the most beloved place to spend their time. Their home in Maine later became the hub of many joyous family gatherings.

Gladys and Norman donated a home in Belfast, Maine to Child Evangelism Fellowship. This gift honored their love of children and their faith.

In the 1990s, they sold NEMSI and their family home in Connecticut, and moved to Florida. They attended Black Pond Baptist church. Faith remained a beacon in their lives and their hearts all their days.

# )bituaries

The family received friends from 3pm -4pm, Friday April 16, 2021 at Black Pond Baptist Church Middleburg, FL. Funeral services followed at 4pm with Rev. Charlie Hunt officiating. Graveside services will be held Saturday July 3, 2021 at Hillside Cemetery, Machiasport, Maine.

Please sign the family's online guestbook at www.broadusraines.com

Arrangements are under the care of Broadus-Raines Funeral Home, 501 Spring St., Green Cove Springs, FL 32043. (904) 284-4000



#### August Eppler

On Monday, April 5, 2021, August Eppler passed away at the age of 73. Augie was born in Jacksonville, Florida to August and Helen Eppler, Sr. He worked as a landscaper and gardener and had a great passion for it. He married Sybil Crayton in 1970 and together they raised their daughter. Jennifer.

One of his most prized possessions was his family. In addition to his wife and daughter, he is survived by his brother. Phillip, three grandchildren, Jessie, Hunter, and Rocky, and twin great grandchildren, Madelyn, and Annabelle.



**August Eppler** 

Augie had a gift of always knowing the answer to any question, our very own personal Google. He loved fishing, reading, and had a great love for music. He was also an amazing chef and could out cook anyone in the family. He shared his hobbies with his family, always encouraging us to try new recipes, read his favorite authors and expanding our music and movie collections. He was known for his quick wit and he could always put a smile on everyone's face with one of his dad jokes, or with a goofy prank. He is greatly missed and loved

Augie was preceded in death by his parents, August and Helen, and his sister,

Please sign the family's online guestbook at www.broadusraines.com

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#### **Stephen Bruce Roberts**

Stephen Bruce Roberts, 58, passed away Saturday, April 10, 2021 in Green Cove Springs, FL. He was born on May 2, 1962 in Jacksonville, FL, to the late Gene R. Roberts, Sr. and Nanette A. Peine Rob-

Stephen was a big sports fan and espe-

cially loved Alabama and Miami Dolphins football. He was a baseball umpire and member of the North Florida Umpire Association #28. Stephen worked as a project manager at USI Inc.



R. Roberts, Jr. and grandparents, Marvin Roberts and Ada L. Roberts.

Stephen is survived by his loving family, wife, Rachel; children, James Moore (Ashley), Rebeka Brown, Stephen Roberts, and Heather Kane (Danny); grandchildren, Peighton, Aodhan, Amelia, Liam, Corbin, Irelynn, Loclyn, Ellie May and Flynn; brothers, Donald Roberts and Alan Roberts; sister, Stephanie Roberts as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

A memorial gathering will be held Saturday, April 24, 2021 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Aaron and Burney Bivens Funeral Home, 529 Kingsley Avenue, Orange Park, FL 32073.

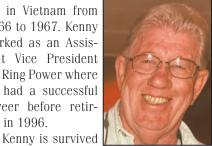
#### Kenneth (Kenny) C. Amato

Kenneth (Kenny) C. Amato was called home on April 12, 2021.

Kenny was born on February 11, 1942 in Springfield, Massachusetts to Ralph and Claire Amato.

Kenny attended Agua Fria Union High School in Litchfield Park, Arizona and graduated in 1961. He joined the Army

and served his country in Vietnam from 1966 to 1967. Kenny worked as an Assistant Vice President for Ring Power where he had a successful career before retiring in 1996.



by his loving wife Kenneth C. Amato of 52 years Sharon

Amato; son Brian (Marysia) Amato, son TC (Veronica) Amato and son Kevin (Lauren) Amato; grandchildren William, Trace, Paige, Grace, Bailey, Brooklyn, Blake and Zoey; brother Chuck (Rose) Amato, sister Christine Ross and brother Rik (Edie) Amato; uncle George Amato along with many nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents and brother-in-law

Kenny had many passions in life. He loved his grandkids, trucks, hunting and fishing. He loved spending time with his sons and grandkids at the hunting club sometimes doing nothing but swapping stories (and talking about trucks) around the fire. He could always be found cheering on the grandkids at their games - he was their biggest fan! He had a larger than life personality and was an absolute blessing to his family.

Kenny will be laid to rest at the Jacksonville National Cemetery on Monday, April 26 at 10:30AM. A celebration of life will be held after at the Amato Family Residence at 1PM.

Donations in lieu of flowers can be given to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at https://www.stjude.org/.

Please sign the family's online guestbook at www.broadusraines.com.

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MORE OBITUARIES, 10

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# bituaries

#### Lucy 'Peggy' Mae (Robinson) Mechtel

Lucy 'Peggy' Mae (Robinson) Mechtel passed away on April 8, 2021 at the age of 85. She was born in Sutton West Virginia to Ira Robinson and Ruthie (Dobbins) Robinson on June 6, 1935.

She graduated Gassaway High School

class of 1956 with Honors and was a member of the Honor Society. She further took her education later in life to Fitchburg State in MA and Florida Junior College in FL.



Lucy 'Peggy' Mae

She went on to join the Civil Service (NASA) in California. (Robinson) Mechtel where she met and

married Robert Mechtel (1958) and had 3 children: her daughter Cheryl (Mechtel) Gawron of NH, her son Steven Mechtel of FL. who predeceased her in 2002, and her son Robert 'Robbie' Mechtel II of FL. She also leaves behind her grandchildren: Jonathan Levasseur of NH, Neil Levasseur of SC, Jovia Levasseur of CA, Danielle (Mechtel) Lampke of FL, and Nathaniel Moore of NH. She was a devoted mother to her children, grandchildren, and three great-grandchil-

Lucy also leaves behind her sisters Martha Helen (Robinson) Lewis of FL, and Maysel 'Cissy' (Robinson) Hassel of FL., and

was predeceased by her siblings Ira 'Bud' Jr., Evelyn, Joan, and Jerry, as well her half siblings Grace Helen, Velma Mae, Omer, Clarence, James, Edith, Harland Lee, and Mary Doll. She also had many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews throughout the United States.

Lucy was an astute academic and lifelong achiever of many personal and professional accomplishments. Her career was highlighted by her dedication and devoted service to the United States government in the Civil Service as a Property Acquisitions Clerk and Contracting Agent, during which time she received numerous commendations and awards throughout her career.

Her hobbies included sewing, cooking, playing and listening to music, reading, dancing, and world travel. Lucy spoke three languages fluently during her lifetime. Lucy was a friend to untold numbers of people she met throughout her life's journey and left her mark upon this world and the countless lives that she touched. Her loss is greatly felt, and she will be sorely missed.

A celebration of her life has been planned to be held at Rafter Cross Cowboy Church. located at 16550 US-Alt 27, in Williston, FL 32696, on May 1st at 2:30 P.M. Anyone wishing to attend to celebrate her life is welcome. This is a casual affair as she would not want it any other way. Please note Covid protocols will be honored. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you donate to the charity of your choice in her remembrance.

## St. Simon

from page 4

Perry said friends and other local churches have offered donations. That's why the GoFundMe account was estab-

'Some people were walking up to us on the site and saying 'Here, I want to give you more, but take this.' Wow. All of this is going into the building fund." Perry said.

Perry, the church administrator, said investigators are convinced the fire was intentionally set. However, he said the cause of the fire "isn't associated" with a protest against religion or race. The news came as a relief at a time when the country is embroiled in social discord that's intended to keep us divided.

"It's good to talk about things and doing the right thing," Perry said. 'We're not trying to build an elaborate church. We're trying to build back a church where we can actually have our worship and still service the good. We'll have more space for Christian education. That's what we really need. That's why we began the expansion.

"We at St. Simon Baptist Church always kept the church doors open to all, who needed spiritual refuge, Christian education and leadership."

The church originally was built in 1965. It's survived hurricanes and continued to offer spiritual fellowship during the Civil Rights Movement. The congregation decided to buy the church in 2004 and they made their final payment in 2019. They already had \$207,000 invested in the remodeling project when fire gutted it in a matter of minutes.

The church hasn't been used since the beginning of the pandemic. That allowed construction crews unfettered access to the building at 1331 Miller St. Work already completed by contractors and subcontractors isn't suspected as the cause,

"There wasn't anything flammable in there," he said,

Nonetheless, parishioners vowed to move forward and rebuild. And since the church has been, and always will be, a valued member of our community, it's a project we all can embrace.

We can start by going to GoFundMe and search for "Help St. Simon Rebuild Fire Destroyed Church."

"Every little bit helps," Perry said.

Sunday services have been moved to the parking lot. Perry said God's work nev-

'We would also like to convey our profound appreciation to all the churches in the surrounding areas for their support, assistance, prayers and friendship," Perry posted on GoFundMe.

"This event has made the passage of scripture in 1 Corinthians 12:26-27 even dearer to us. "And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

"We implore and thank anyone who has a desire to help us in our effort to rebuild. May the Lord Bless you all for your prayers and generous donations; for God loveth a cheerful giver."



### Re-opening ceremonies planned for Lake Kingsley Park playground

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – The First Kingsley Lake Community Block Party and Playground Grand Re-Opening Ceremony will be on Saturday, April 24, from 4-8 p.m.

The playground is at 6110 Kingsley Lake Dr. Clay County Commissioner Betsy Condon will be part of the ceremony, along with county parks and recreation officials Eric Jones and Michelle Sharp.

The county installed new playground equipment. The event celebrates the remodeling project, as well as gradual end to a year of pandemic seclusion by providing an outdoor activity where neighbors can meet and greet safely, and enjoy music and fun for the entire family.



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## Middleburg's Branan Field was original home for Blue Angels training

Site now home of Walmart, housing development, St. Vincent's Clay County

By Wesley LeBlanc

wesley@opcfla.com

MIDDLEBURG – A Walmart, a hospital and suburban homes now reside on top of Blue Angel history, but most people don't know it.

That's because one of the Blue Angels' first practice spots was located at the Branan Field during the 1940s and early 1950s. The Blue Angels were born out of NAS Jacksonville, just outside of Clay County, but the birthplace of their flight formations, tricks and demonstrations was in Clay County.

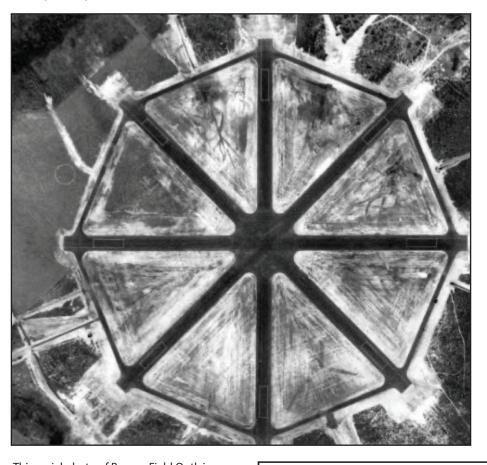
"It's because of NAS JAX," Clay County Archives historian Vishi Garig said. "They were born and stationed at the base, but they needed a new place to practice where they weren't interrupted by other flight lines. When you can fly three minutes down the road and have clear air space, why not do that?"

The official name for the Middleburg-based practice field was the Navy's Branan Field Outlying Landing Field, or OLF, and it was named after the Branan family whose property was acquired by the military. The northwestern area of Middleburg was used for many different purposes during World War II, but after the war was over, it became the demonstration practice field for what are now the most-popular flying jet groups in the world.

The OLF wasn't a standard airfield run-



The Blue Angels were born at NAS JAX, but what a lot of people might not know is one of their original practice spots was located in Middleburg. Today it's buried today under a Walmart and a hospital.



way. It looks more like a wagon wheel from above, with the individual spokes being the runways. Each runway was about 4,000 feet long and the halfway point of each of the four runways met at a central point in the wagon wheel design.

"This OLF's unique geometry made it particularly suitable for training Blue Angel pilots," according to the archives. "The large symmetrical shape [an octagon or eight-sided polygon] of Branan Field OLF with its convergence of multiple 4,000-foot runways facilitated visualization by pilots approaching a single central spot from various compass points in their jet aircraft."

"Having no based units or aircraft and minimal facilities, an outlying landing field is used as a low-traffic location for flight training, without the risks and distractions of other traffic at a naval air station or other airport."

Not too far from the OLF, about a mile

south in Middleburg, a rectangular piece of land was used as the Spencer Bomb Range for "target practice for mainly inert, powder-filled bombs." The design was simple: a large rectangle with a circle in the middle. The circle was the target.

Despite the site's history, the U.S. Navy sold the land in 1953, unfortunately with no care of historical preservation although who knew back then how big of a deal the Blue Angels would become decades later.

"For a while there, you could still see the spokes of the field, but obviously that's not possible anymore," Garig said.

What used to be the OLF training field eventually became subdivisions of homes, a Walmart, Ascension St. Vincent's Clay County and other businesses likely are unaware they're sitting on history.

According to archives, "Their original reputation was built over the skies of Clay County and on the runways of Branan Field OLF, in Middleburg Florida."

This aerial photo of Branan Field Outlying Landing Field in Middleburt was taken when the Navy's Blue Angels used the base 80 years ago for training. The area now is home to houses, a Walmart and Ascension St. Vincent's Clay County.



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STAFE PHOTOS BY DON COBLE

Kandi Castonguay, left, reacts to throwing a bullseye at Valhalla Indoor Axe Throwing on Fleming Island, while co-owner Dan Davis offers instruction on the two-hand, overhead throw ahead of a session. The new business is a member of the International Axe Throwing Federation and soon will start hosting league play.

## One throw at a time Valhalla Indoor Axe Throwing provides entertaining, competitive 'savage' release

By Don Coble don@opcfla.com

FLEMING ISLAND - Kandi Castonguay didn't take a warmup throw or stretched exercises before she quickly grabbed a small axe and hurled it toward a wooden target.

Whack!

Bullseye.

In one exhilarating, adrenaline-fueled burst, the operations manager at Island Dentistry unleashed her "savage" passion by tossing a razor-sharp hatchet, end over

end, deep into a solid chunk of wood.

"This is good family fun," Castonguay said.

Michele and Dan Davis opened Valhalla Indoor Axe Throwing at the Eagle Pass Executive Suites to provide a unique outlet for entertainment and competition. The facility is a member of the International Axe Throwing Federation, and it soon will be home to an all-woman's marathon Valkyrie League. The first tournament is Aug. 14 where teams will play eight league games in a single night. Valhalla already has competitors registered from Texas, North

Carolina and New Jersey. Castonguay also plans to compete.

"We threw for the first time in Canada," Castonguay said. "Our family loved it. There's a nice comfort zone, a healthy atmosphere. What I like about it is there's not a strength component to it. It's muscle memory. You can have a slight frame and still be competitive."

Office and medical staff from Island Dentistry booked Valhalla last week for an afternoon office party. Castonguay returned with her family two days later for an hour-long session.

"Something like this is long overdue," she said. "Until this came along, the only family leagues were things like bowling and kids' games.'

Axe throwing was a tool used by Viking warriors. Valhalla is the heaven in Norse mythology were slain heroes in battle go to be honored.

The Davises challenge newcomers and veterans alike to "Release Your Savage" the moment you pick up an axe.

Michele Davis said she threw her first

SEE AXE,13











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## Clay High's Johnson promoted to Commanding Officer for school's NJROTC unit

**By Bruce Hope** bruce@opcfla.com

GREEN COVE SPRINGS - Clay High junior Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps Cadet Jane Johnson is a leader.

Since her freshman year, she has been a cadet with the program and has steadily risen through the ranks while demonstrating everything for which the program stands. Decorated multiple times, she now stands on the cusp of holding the highest cadet position, commanding officer of her unit, which she will take up the next school

"Cadet Jane Johnson was promoted to the Commanding Officer of the Clay HS NJROTC Unit on 09 April 2021 and will lead over 100 cadets for the 2021-2022 school vear." said Ret. Sr. Naval Science Instructor Lt, Berley Rodabaugh. "This young lady was the Administrative Officer for the 2020-2021 school year as a junior. This job is typically reserved for a twelfthgrade senior cadet; however, her maturity, commitment, and ability to do the job earned her the spot."

Johnson isn't just a model cadet but a model member of the Clay High student body. She has a 4.514 weighted GPA and is ranked 12th in a class of 442 students.

She is on the "all A honor roll." and is the Academic team captain for the NJROTC Brain Brawls, a game resembling Jeopardy. Johnson is also a member of the Varsity Marksmanship team and helped it qualify for the state-level competition in Anniston, Alabama. The team earned a sixth-place overall finish. She is on the drill team and competes against other schools that local active-duty U.S. Marines and Sailors judge.

Earlier this month, Johnson was decorated again, this time by the Patriots Chapter, National Society United States Daughters 1812. Julia Saldivar presented the award, a JROTC bronze medal and cer-

The award is given to a cadet who "who has demonstrated qualities of academic excellence, leadership, military discipline, dependability, patriotism and upright character in speech and habits, upon which our Nation was founded."

"One of the missions of NSUSD 1812 is to promote patriotism," said Jo Ann Orren, president of the Patriots Chapter, NSUSD 1812. "We do this by way of our National Defense Committee, which recognizes outstanding high school seniors who are involved in JROTC programs."

Johnson has received some other deco-



Clay High's Jane Johnson, right, was promoted to Commanding Officer for the school's Navy JROTC unit. She will be in charge of more than 100 other cadets.

rations: the Military Order of the World Wars Bronze Medal, the Military Officers Association of America ROTC Bronze Disc Pendant, the Daedalian JROTC Achievement Award, and Honor Cadet with two Bronze Stars in place of the third award.

Surprisingly, given all of her success as a cadet, Johnson is not a military brat. Her interest was sparked by family.

'My brother was actually in NJROTC before I went into it," she said. "He convinced me to join the unit because he was really involved, invested and he wanted to

Johnson is unsure whether or not she plans to join the military in the future, but says that it will likely be as a reservist if she does. She is unsure about her career plans but thinks that she will do something regarding politics.

The NSUSD 1812 was a great honor for

"Whenever I hear of an award being presented, I'm sort of just in shock because it's such a great honor," she said. "I feel a bit embarrassed and overwhelmed."



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Hi, my name is Rat, yes, my previous owner had a sense of humor I guess. I am a very loving 1 year old female very chill that loves sunbathing and watching the world going bye on the window or the patio. It can take a few days for me to come out of my shell but I'll give you all my attention and love after that. Who needs a velcro cat right? I have all my vaccinations. microchipped and spayed. Come and meet me at Safe Animal Shelter and we can chat. I have all my vaccinations, microchipped and spayed.

Please come meet me at Safe Animal Shelter, if you have children and/or another dogie, please bring him to meet me too and see how well we get along. I will not disappoint

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## **Keystone Heights students excel at fair's Youth Creative Arts Contest**

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – Students from Keystone Heights High won ribbons and money at the Youth Creative Arts Contest during the Clay County Agriculture Fair.

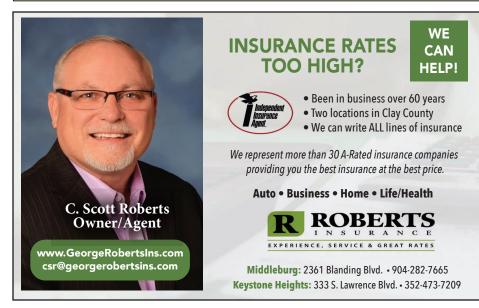
Josh Hankins, Michael Loftis, Tomyka Clark, Chason McKittrick, Madison Locke and Bethany Mulkey came away with many ribbons and prize money for their entries. Students entered string art in the shape of American flags, bead suncatchers, decorated flower pots, painted paper projects, bowl and cup pottery.

One student, Heylie Stephens, competed in the adult creative arts section and won Best in Class and Best in Show for her handmade fabric doll.

Assistant Principal Sarah Denmark presented the students ribbons and prize money.









Michele and Dan Davis

## Axe

from page 12

axe while she was visiting family up north. Like most, she instantly was impressed.

"We were looking for something to do," she said. "From the very first day we threw an axe, we were hooked. Actually,

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1115 Blanding Blvd, Suite 202 Orange Park, FL 32065 904-541-4266 Dan's got some Viking blood."

The couple moved to Clay County and decided to turn their passion into a business. All eight throwing lanes are generally filled.

Valhalla allows competitors to bring their own drinks, including alcohol. Throwers are provided axes and instruction on throwing with two hands, as well as single hand and underhand.

Michele Davis said Valhalla is offering a deal that allows four players for the price of three during April.

Although walk-ins are welcomed, throwers are encouraged to make a reservation, Michele Davis said.

Valhalla is located at 4479 U.S. Highway 17 on Fleming Island. For more information, visit vahallasavage.com or call (904) 375-8442.



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# Could it be a hernia? 8 silent signs

The signs of a hernia are not always obvious. Most common is a bulge in the abdomen, but here are some other symptoms that you may be more likely to ignore:

- Pain in the pelvic area
- Nausea and vomiting
- Fever
- Weakness and muscle fatigue in the upper leg or groin
- Constipation
- Feeling full and bloated
- Heartburn
- Pain when lifting or coughing

If left untreated, your hernia could grow, get more painful, or even become dangerous at some point. And a hernia won't go away on its own. The good news is, today's minimally invasive hernia treatment options can offer you fast recovery.

Could it be a hernia? Find out today.

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Changing
Health Care
for Good:

## County reverses course and will allow LGBTQ spread in Fleming Island yearbook

By Bruce Hope bruce@opcfla.com

FLEMING ISLAND – When a decision was made earlier during the school year to remove a page from the Fleming Island High yearbook featuring the LGBTQ community at the school, editor Hannah Coulter knew something had to be done.

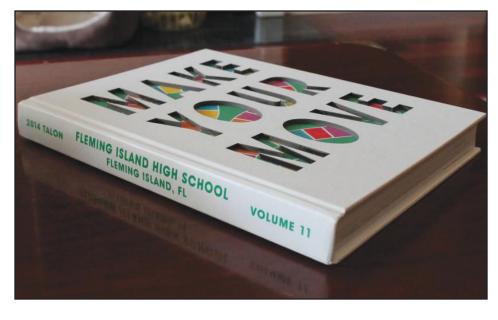
So she began a change.org petition, which led to an agreement to feature a diversity spread in this year's book.

"On Wednesday the 14th [of April], I was called into a meeting with some school administrators, along with my teacher advisor, where I was told the page wouldn't be in our yearbook; in fact, there wasn't anything I could do, it was already too late due to printing," said Coulter. "This angered me for mainly two reasons — Inez Nieves, the original producer of the culture page, wouldn't have her cultural inclusion in our book, and my pride page wouldn't be showcasing our wonderful LGBTQ students. I was told it was because we had a GSA club, so we wouldn't be needing a Pride page."

To Coulter, the reasoning made little sense because other clubs and groups at the school, such as JROTG, Bands and Advanced Placement, maintained a full spread in the yearbook.

Nieves, FIHS alumnus who currently attends college in Oregon, began a multicultural page of the yearbook during her time at the school.

"I introduced a multicultural page my sophomore year of high school because I wanted people like me to feel represented in the yearbook they paid good money for," she said.



Coulter, who identifies as bisexual, said it's important for the LGBTQ community to be represented.

"Whoever's decision it was, even if it was unintentional, felt homophobic. Stuff

like this usually doesn't bother me. Even though I'm a relatively bland-appearing bisexual, I still get called slurs often," Coulter said. "It's water off my back. When it's something that affects my fellow students, though? I'm like a moth on a flame. I've been in yearbook for four years. I know this may sound dramatic to some, but I consider myself a servant to the students. My 'job' in yearbook, regardless of whether or not I'm editor, is to serve them."

After meetings with school administrators and the chief academic officer on April 15 and 16, a compromise was reached, with the pages returning via an add-on that will come with the yearbook.

A Clay County District Schools spokesperson gave the following statement: "The district has been notified of a situation regarding the yearbook at Fleming Island High School. The district is currently in the process of investigating this situation. Clay County District Schools values the diversity of all students and remains dedicated to positively promoting and supporting the students of Clay County."

It is still unclear who made the original decision to remove the pages.



## Cornhole competitors invade Clay County

A total of 318 cornhole players from four states converged to the Cattleman's Arena at the Clay County Fairgrounds on Saturday, April 17. The tournament beneftied area high school athletic departments, and it was the second American Cornhole League event for the Southeast Conference to be held in the county.











## **Facebook question of the week**

#### What makes Clay County businesses so unique?

By Wesley LeBlanc wesley@opcfla.com

CLAY COUNTY – The county is jam packed with great local businesses from restaurants, to dance studios, to dry cleaners.

It's Clay County's local businesses that make the area such a unique spot in Florida, a state filled with Winn-Dixie and Publix supermarkets and a Chick-Fil-A on every other street, not to mention that little-known place called Disney World. Clay Today's Best of Clay 2021 competition wrapped up its voting earlier this week, we asked readers what their favorite local businesses were and why they loved those businesses so much.

"There are so many great local businesses in Clay County," Mimi Williams said. "Some of my favorites include Pat's Nursery – family run and extremely knowledgeable – Steelmill Crossfit [Steel Mill Fleming Island] – amazing coaches that help achieve results – and of course, Urban Bean – best coffee and atmosphere by far."

Karen Fey said one of her favorite businesses in Clay County is Green Cove Springs' Spring Park Coffee. She said it has great ambience and consistently-excellent products. It always makes her soul feel better after a quick Spring Park Coffee visit and a blended coffee, she said.

Keeping with the food industry, Frank Brewer said Gerald's Restaurant is their favorite business in the county.

"Talk about looking out for the community...every Thanksgiving, he feeds anyone and everyone a full meal and has a Bluegrass band for entertainment," Brewer said. "Customers and employees volunteer their time to take care of each other. Nobody has to be alone on this special holiday."

Doug Deters said his favorite business is The Carpet Man in Orange Park, by the Orange Park Mall. He said it's a local business with "deep local ties and the best prices and services in Northeast Florida."

"My favorite business is No Limits Dance Studio, Inc.," Jami Maxwell-Bloedow said. "My daughter joined the team



Clay County businesses thrive thanks to the support of the community and when asked what some of their favorites are, residents responded with restaurants, dance studios, coffee shops, gyms and more.

there last year and was brought into a family of friends that are like sisters – not just a team. The positive and encouraging atmosphere the instructors provide helps the girls believe in themselves, which is so important in life.

"They truly love each student and help them grow and develop their own unique styles, all while teaching them the discipline and perseverance that is necessary to reach their goals, which will carry over into their future and all they set out to do." Clay Today currently is tabulating the results of more than 350 categories, and winners will be announced in May.

It's safe to say that Clay County businesses are loved by the community. What's your favorite local business in the area? Let us know by responding to the Facebook Question of the Week and be sure to follow the official Clay Today Newspaper Facebook page so you don't miss this week's upcoming question.

## **OP Council**

from page (

law, he was asked to resign.

He was given a settlement offer that required Barker to waive his rights and his position as the fire chief. Donnelly said by signing, Barker would have waived his ability to pursue legal remedies under the Florida Whistleblower laws.

Town attorney Rob Bradley stopped Donnelly a couple of times throughout his presentation to explain Bradley's claims may not have violated law. Bradley said he disagreed with much of what Donnelly said in regards to law, especially in regards to the Florida Firefighter Bill of Rights, which Donnelly claimed Barker was protected. Bradley, however, said that because Barker's position was more administrative than anything else, he was not protected under that bill of rights.

When Campbell spoke, she said many of Donnelly's claims were false. She also said the item on the agenda, which was asking the Town Council to vote on Campbell's recommendation had nothing to do with the "illegal bank account" – something she said wasn't illegal. Bradley said the "illegal bank account" was propped up as dramatic moment, but that in reality, it has nothing to do with Campbell's resignation request.

"The town accountant came to me with a bank statement and asked if I knew about it and I did not," she said during the meeting. "But that's not illegal. It was for the Explorer Posts [which has to do with a local Boy Scouts of America troop]. It was a bank account created before I was the town manager."

Campbell said the town's finance de-

partment asked her to find out about the account and she was informed one of the fire department employees was the only signee on the account. Donnelly and Barker earlier argued was not OK, and Barker should have at least been on the account if it was an account under the fire department's jurisdiction.

Campbell said when she saw that employee's name on the account, she immediately knew it was for the Explorer Post and it was set up for the explorers to buy food and gas when they travel for competitions. The leadership of the town at that point thought it was appropriate for that to be a separate bank account, Campbell said.

After learning of this, Campbell spoke to Barker and asked if it should remain a separate account or a town account and Barker told Campbell that it should be a town account, she said. She contacted the signee and they turned in the funds from the account to the town's finance department in the form of a check.

"It was really a non-issue and really an administrative issue," Campbell said. "The account was closed and the funds were turned over to the town. Explorers is a protected account under the town's budget for the fire department."

Campbell said it's three incidents leading to Barker's potential firing. She said Barker tasked one of his employees in question with reviewing and editing a department policy and that this employee spent an entire day working on it. This policy was about chain of command, which sees employees with complaints, questions or concerns going through multiple chains of command before reaching Campbell.

"After the policy was issued, Barker contacted [another employee in the fire de-

partment that was the subordinate of the employee Barker had review and edit the policy procedure] and asked if anyone was complaining about the policy," Campbell said. "Barker then says he was just messing with [the employee that reviewed and edited the policy] and that it was a joke."

Campbell said the employee was very upset to learn it was a joke and a prank. He didn't find it funny and he didn't think it was a joke, she said. He thought it was inappropriate and he thought his supervisor [Barker] had gone behind his back to talk to a subordinate privately, which broke the policy he had just reviewed and edited.

Campbell said Barker denied that this

"joke" incident had ever occurred so she contacted the people involved again to double check and she said she has reason to believe that all of it occurred and that Barker denying it ever happened was a show of extreme "dishonesty."

"I believed [their testimonies] to be accurate...as they had no reason to fabricate the story against Barker," Campbell said, explaining how the person Barker told it was a joke to was friends with Barker and wouldn't make up a story to get him in trouble. "To me, that was the final straw and when it was a question of dishonesty,

**SEE OP COUNCIL, 22** 

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE TOWN OF PENNEY FARMS LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS – ARTICLE III

The Town proposes to adopt the following Ordinance: Ordinance 2021-0

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF PENNEY FARMS, FLORIDA, AMENDING ARTICLE III, ADDING SECTION 3.02.05 – PROHIBITED USES – PROHIBITING THE CREATION OR ENLARGEMENT OF BORROW PITS IN THE TOWN LIMITS, PROVIDING FOR REPEALER, SEVERABILITY AND SETTING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The following public hearings will be held on the Ordinance:

Planning and Zoning Commission: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Town Council: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

In the Town Council Chambers of Town Hall, 4100 Clark Avenue, Penney Farms, Florida.

The public is invited to attend these public hearings to offer comments for or against the proposed change to the Town's Land Development Regulations. A copy of the proposed Ordinance is available for inspection at Town Hall, 4100 Clark Avenue, Penney Farms, Florida, during normal working hours of 7:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Written comments may also be submitted.

Please be advised that if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Planning and Zoning Commission or the Town Council with respect to any matter considered at these scheduled public hearings, he/ she will need to ensure that a verbatim transcript of the proceedings is made, which record includes testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based.

In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, any person needing a special accommodation to participate in this matter should contact the Town Clerk's Office no later than three (3) days prior to the hearing or proceeding for which this notice has been give.

All interested individuals are invited to attend these public hearings.

By: Anita Cooper, Town Clerk

Town of Penney Farms

4100 Clark Avenue Penney Farms, FL 32079

David Cooper, Town Manager

## **Police Briefs**

## Woman caught with underwear filled with drugs at the jail

ORANGE PARK – A woman being booked for a traffic warrant now faces a multitude of charges after Clay County Sheriff's Office deputies found drugs stuffed in her underwear.

Shellie Ann Truitt Ramey, 24, of Middleburg, was charged with possession of methamphetamine, fentanyl, cocaine and Buprenorphine/Naloxone, as well as introducing contraband into the Clay County Jail.



Shellie Ramey

According to the arrest report, a detention officer noticed a "bulge" during her body scan. She was taken into the restroom, where deputies found a bag filled with the drugs and dozens of small unused plastic bags. Deputies also found another substance, but they weren't able to identify it.

Ramey's bond was set at \$125,015.

## Grand jury indicts two Clay men for first-degree murder

CLAY COUNTY – A newly-impaneled Clay County grand jury returned first-degree murder indictments last week of two men, including a contractor charged with killing his client and dumping her body at the Rosemary Hill Landfill.

Corey Louis Binderim, 46, was charged with killing Susan Mauldin, a Fleming Island resident, after she hired him to do



Corey Binderim Cameron Kirk

a \$12,000 remodel of a bathroom at her Harbor Island subdivision home on Oct. 23 or 24, 2019. Her body eventually was found at the Chesser Island Road Landfill in Folkston, Ga., after it originally was left at Rosemary Hill.

The Spring Session grand jury also indicted Cameron Wesley Kirk, 42, of shooting his mother, Paula Kirk, to death in their Middleburg home sometime between Feb. 1, 2020, and May 12, 2020, and wrapping her body in plastic and leaving it in his garage.

According to the indictment, Binderim is accused of returning to Mauldin's home after she threatened to report him for not completing the remodeling project. At some point, investigators believe she was either beaten or strangled to death. Binderim then was recorded on store surveillance at The Home Depot on State Road 220 buying cement and large trash bags.

Investigators said Mauldin's body was left at Rosemary Hill, where trash is then transferred to the South Georgia location. Detectives alerted officials at Chesser Island and had the area roped off was Rosemary Hill trash was unloaded. The Clay County Sheriff's Office, State Attorney's

Office and the FBI found her body.

Binderim already was at the Duval County Jail after being charged with taking money and not completing a project for another client. He was returned to Clay County on March 3, 2019, after being charged with second-degree murder.

The grand jury decided first-degree charges, as well as tampering with evidence and assault and battery during robbery also were part of the indictment. His next appearance is scheduled for May 4.

CCSO deputies responded to Kirk's home after a friend reported the 65-year-old woman missing. Kirk told deputies he hadn't seen her mother for nearly two months. Kirk told them he believed she went to South Florida with an unidentified man.

Deputies asked if they could look at her bedroom to see if anything was out of the ordinary. Once they were inside the home, they detected the "faint odor of human decomposition." They also found all her clothes still in the bedroom.

Her body then was found in the garage when deputies served a search warrant.

Kirk admitted to punching his mother in the face during an argument, according to the arrest report, and continuing the beating while she tried to run through the living room. She eventually landed on the floor following the beating. Kirk told investigators he then took a shotgun from his bedroom and shot his mother in the head.

Kirk left his mother in a spare bedroom for two days before moving it into the garage, CCSO said.

He also was charged with abusing a dead human body.

Kirk is due back in court on May 26.

#### FDLE: Daniels sent \$60,000 to former mistress during their affair

CLAY COUNTY – Former Clay County Sheriff Darryl Daniels told investigators he gave his former mistress \$60,000 during an affair that started when both worked at the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement released 33 files of evidence it plans to use against Daniels after he was charged with one count of tampering with evidence and three counts of giving false information to law enforcement after he demanded his mistress, former JSO jailer Cierra Smith, be arrested last August for stalking him. Smith was briefly detained and taken to the Clay County Jail, but she was released before being booked because a chief and undersheriff decided there wasn't probable cause.

Daniels was arrested five days before he ran for re-election in the Aug. 18 primary. He lost to Michelle Cook, and days later he was suspended by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis. Cook was selected to serve the final few months of Daniels' term before she was sworn into office in January.

The State Attorney's Office offered Daniels a deal before the primary, offering him a chance to escape prosecution if he dropped from the race and promised not to run for sheriff again. He refused.

Now he faces charges of trying to delete or destroy information on his cellphone which reportedly proved nearly 200 calls and texts between Daniels and Smith.

FDLE released a taped interview with Daniels where he admitted to exchanging nude photos with Smith. He denied having sex with Smith at the Clay County Sheriff's Office or in his patrol truck.

Daniels' next online court appearance is scheduled for May 4.

## **Arrests & Bookings**

(Name, age, location of arrest, charges). Key: FTA-Failure to Appear; DWLSR-Driving Without a License-Suspended or Revoked; DUI-Driving Under the Influence; VOP-Violation of Probation; BAL-blood alcohol level. There are no assumptions or representations about guilt or innocence. Anyone arrested or booked is presumed innocent.

#### Tuesday, April 20

Josephine S. Vargas, 39, Fleming Island, FTA-petit theft, FTA-DWLSR

Megan J. Hahnenberg, 20, Fleming Island, possession-marijuana, possession/use-drug paraphernalia

Eric L. Tillman, 31, Orange Park, possession-marijuana

Amy S. Moore, 41, Orange Park, DUI with property damage

David W. Keefe, 58, Green Cove Springs, possession-cocaine

Christopher P. Bushey, 29, Middleburg, disorderly intoxication, trespassing

Amanda J. Pfadenhauer, 34, Middleburg, FTA Robin L. Vojik, 39, Fleming Island, DUI

Arthur J. Green, 29, Orange Park, retail petit

lan L. Davenport, 18, Orange Park, burglary Helen K. West, 50, Middleburg, two counts TTA

Daniel C. Raymore, 20, Green Cove Springs, in-state person electronic transfer to harm minor, use of two-way communication device to facilitate felony

Robert E. Reynolds, 42, Orange Park, trespassing

Donald W. Combs, 48, Middleburg, criminal mischief

Walter J. Scott, 51, Green Cove Springs, fugitive from justice

Dalton W. Carver, 23, Middleburg, grand theft

Steven M. Adams, 24, Green Cove Springs, petit theft

Everett J. Brooks, 22, Fleming Island, five counts burglary

Cesar A. Torres, 18, Fleming Island, five counts burglary, grand theft auto

Lennell L. Everett, 20, Fleming Island, five counts burglary

Everett J. Brooks, 22, Fleming Island, DWSLR Heather B. Tyrie, 50, Fleming Island, simple domestic battery

#### Monday, April 19

Joseph A. Brown, 51, Middleburg, DUI with property damage

Jammar Hills, 22, Orange Park, simple battery

Wendell K. White, 33, Middleburg, VOP-community control

Samantha E. Gallagher, 30, Orange Park, FTA Nyhunta R.Y. Augustin, 20, Green Cove Springs, FTA-driving without valid license

Frederick E. McNeill, 21, Green Cove Springs, FTA-larceny

Desiree A. Shingler, 34, Keystone Heights, possession-marijuana, possession/use-drug paraphernalia

Richard C. Devore, 32, Orange Park, grand theft auto, VOP-DUI

Cherokee N. Drafts, 20, Green Cove Springs, possession-methamphetamine

Wesley E. Kight, 61, Green Cove Springs, simple battery

Emory T. Nickmeyer, 28, Orange Park, simple batterv

SEE ARRESTS, 19



## State Farm: Create a disaster plan before the storm arrives

#### **For Clay Today**

CLAY COUNTY – During the peak of storm season, our greatest concern is for the safety of everyone who will be affected by a storm. State Farm encourages all residents in the projected path of any storm to protect themselves and their property.

The agency suggests the following preparation tips:

#### **Before**

- Create a safe room. If you're at home, pick a place in the home where family members can gather if a tornado is headed your way. One basic rule is to avoid windows. An exploding window can injure or kill
- If there is no basement, go to an inside room, without windows, on the lowest floor. This could be a center hallway, bathroom, or closet. For added protection, get under something sturdy such as a heavy table or workbench. If possible, cover your body with a blanket, sleeping bag, or mattress, and protect your head with anything available--even your hands. Avoid taking shelter where there are heavy objects, such as pianos or refrigerators, on the area of floor that is directly above you. They could fall though the floor if the tornado strikes your house.
  - Move garbage cans, patio furniture,



and other large objects inside.

- Put together an emergency kit. The kit should include basics such as water, food, first aid, blankets and important documents.
- Evacuation Follow your local authority's evacuation process. Fill your vehicle's gas tank. Don't forget medications, identification and cash.

#### After

• If you have damage, contact your in-

surance agent/company immediately. State Farm customers can call 1-800-SF-CLAIM, their agent or report their claim online at www.statefarm.com.

- Avoid driving if possible. If you have to travel, turn around if the road is flooded or blocked by debris.
- Stay away from downed power lines. Anything touching the power line can carry a charge. Report the downed line and avoid the area.

#### **Clean Up**

- Examine the area for hazards: Before any cleanup, survey the property. If there are any unusual odors, water near electrical appliances or outlets, the structure of the building is questionable, or you see any chemicals in the water, check with your local authorities like Clay County Emergency Management and utilities to make sure it's safe to return.
- Use proper safety gear, such as goggles, hard hats, masks, heavy gloves, and waterproof boots, begin the cleanup process
- Make temporary repairs to avoid further damage to your property. Take plenty of photos and receipt for repairs.
- Document everything: To assist with the insurance claim process, be sure to document items you throw out. Save your receipts, photograph the items and by making a room-by-room inventory of missing or damaged goods. Include manufacturers' names, dates and places of purchase and prices, if possible.
- Find a qualified license contractor to complete any repairs. Insist on a detailed, written estimate clearly stating the quantity of materials needed. Avoid signing any repair contracts without reviewing first with your insurance company.

## **Arrests**

from page 18

Bruce A. Matthews, 38, Orange Park, simple battery

Christopher S. Bray, 19, Orange Park, DUI Alexis M. Brooks, 18, Orange Park, battery on police/firefighter/EMT, resist/obstruct/oppose police

#### Sunday, April 18

Austin S. Hare, 26, Orange Park, DUI with property damage

Anitrius C. Miller, 36, Orange Park, retail petit

Hezekiah P. Lucas, 26, simple domestic battery

Shawna M. Orlowski, 27, Orange Park, domestic battery

Itzel A.G. Castro, 28, Orange Park, vandalism Tasha M.B. Sullivan, 32, Orange Park, simple battery, child abuse

#### Saturday, April 17

Mathew L. Zummo, 34, Orange Park, aggravated assault with deadly weapon, resist/obstruct/oppose police

Tyler R. Besherse, 26, Fleming Island, DUI with property damage

Melanie M. Mosley, 54, Green Cove Springs, two counts simple battery

Jonathan N. Dalexis, 25, Orange Park, retail petit theft

Savali S.S. Kemp, 38, Orange Park, non-support (Duval), retail petit theft

Cassie L. Davis, 31, Keystone Heights, burglary, trespassing Rubin N. Hill, 47, Orange Park, four counts criminal mischief

Audrey N. Hughes, 41, Orange Park, grand theft auto, three counts possession-controlled substance

Tamara L. Williams, 37, Orange Park, retail petit theft

Vanessa Melendez, 44, Middleburg, DUI Ryan C. Parker, 35, Orange Park, simple batterv

Todd Trabosci, 52, Orange Park, DUI

#### Friday, April 16

Kristinia E. Furman, 33, Orange Park, contempt of court

Stephen E. Bonnette, 40, Green Cove Springs, DUI

Trinity A. Green, 20, Middleburg, grand theft Tyler Cyriaque, 24, Middleburg, grand theft auto

Rafael A.V. Hidalgo, 20, Green Cove Springs, FTA-DWLSR

Christopher J. Schwab, 39, Green Cove Springs, non-support

Ricky L. Taylor, 25, Orange Park, simple battery

Heather M. Babinski, 37, Green Cove Springs, felony battery

Charles J. Spencer, 40, Green Cove Springs, non-support

Pricilla N. Peterson, 20, Orange Park, retail petit theft Eden P. Clark, 19, Orange Park, retail petit

Jacob M.G. Collier, 45, Keystone Heights, domestic battery

Richard H. Adams, 47, Green Cove Springs, vandalism, battery on police/firefighter/EMT

Michael J. Cole, 18, Orange Park, FTA

Darsean R.W. Johnson, 25, Orange Park, violation of condition for release

Jesse L. Harwell, 30, Orange Park, violation of condition for release

Maylyn A. Smith, 22, Middleburg, DUI Gary G. Lemerand, 20, Orange Park, VOP-

community control

Michael A. Stiers, 45, Middleburg, simple do-

mestic battery

Charles T. Shad, 50, Fleming Island, DUI

#### Thursday, April 15

Brandon T. Wilson, 30, Green Cove Springs,

Benjamin M. Carley, 40, Orange Park, simple domestic battery

Reggie J. Norman, 61, Middleburg, simple domestic battery

Renee S. Johnson, 55, possession-Adderall Jared R. Atkins, 29, Orange Park, simple domestic battery

Derreck T. Anthon, 30, Orange Park, possession-marijuana

William J. Muldrew, 39, Green Cove Springs,

James C. Owens, 44, Green Cove Springs, DWLSR-habitual offender

Timothy J. Henderson, 46, Green Cove Springs, VOP-burglary

Isaac Crowder, 27, Orange Park, VOP-attempted homicide, VOP-battery, VOP-resisting officer

Johnnie L. Greene, 45, Green Cove Springs, FTA-driving without valid license

Nicole M. Dombroski, 37, Green Cove Springs, two counts FTA-trespassing

#### Wednesday, April 14

Judy L. Estren, 61, Fleming Island, DUI David A. Arendt, 53, Middleburg, grand theft David W. Arnett, 50, Orange Park, grand theft Dalton R. Hooks, 25, Orange Park, resist/ obstruct/oppose police, DWLSR, giving false name/ID, failure to register

Dominic A.L. Hobbs, 18, Orange Park, trespassing

Bryce A. Sides, 19, Middleburg, simple battery

Bernard R. Degolyer, 18, Middleburg, simple battery

Katherine M. Curl, 65, Orange Park, DUI

Sean F. Kane, 53, Green Cove Springs, FTA-DWI SR

Christopher T. Sapp, 33, Green Cove Springs, possession-methamphetamine, possession-fentanyl, possession-marijuana, possession/use-drug paraphernalia

Ezekiel Z. Assefa, 22, Orange Park, two counts simple domestic battery

James P. Wright, 38, Middleburg, VOP-community control

Shawn Z. Akers, 46, Green Cove Springs, VOP-larceny, VOP-criminal mischief with property damage, VOP-trespassing

Shellie A.T. Ramey, 24, Green Cove Springs, possession-methamphetamine, possession-fentanyl, possession-controlled substance, possession-cocaine, introduce/remove contraband into iail

David P. Stearns, 61, Green Cove Springs, VOP-felony traffic violation

James D. Pearson, 49, Orange Park, possession/use-drug paraphernalia

Leslie A. Armstrong, 55, Orange Park, grand theft auto

# COCK UP SOMETHING GOOD JAX PBS

(Channel 7.1, Comcast Channel 8 & 440)



Jax PBS is a service of WJCT Public Media



## Townsend becomes first Black to earn the rank of lieutenant, captain at CCFR

Firefighter wants to be 'a driving force for them to want to apply themselves more to climb the ladder'

#### By Bruce Hope

bruce@opcfla.com

CAMP BLANDING – Clay County Fire and Rescue Capt. Rodney Townsend loves his job. The veteran firefighter, who admittedly was afraid of fire trucks as a child, would rather not be doing anything else now.

"Believe it or not, when I was a child growing up, I was scared of fire trucks," he said. "I could be in the house playing and hear fire trucks screaming by. I'd run in the room and jump under the bed. I thought they were coming for me."

His career as a firefighter began with applying to Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department, which at the time was looking for minority candidates to join the force. He was selected and passed the training

Townsend has made the most of the opportunities in his life. He is a Jacksonville native who served in the U.S. Army for one enlistment as a field artillery repairman. In addition to being a veteran, he has been a daycare owner with his first wife and a restauranteur. He also served with Jacksonville Fire and Rescue for more than twelve years before transferring to Clay County's Camp Blanding Station 25. He holds undergraduate and advanced degrees as a registered nurse from Florida State College at Jacksonville, bachelor's in Business Administration from Edward Waters College and a master's from Colton University in Public Administration. Now, and perhaps most importantly, he has made history in his current position.

Townsend has earned the rank of captain and, in doing so, has become the first Black to attain the positions of both lieutenant and captain in the department.

"For me, it was a major accomplishment," he said. "I kind of got to the point where I was content with just being a lieutenant and as the years went by, I thought 'Maybe I want to be a captain." He says that being extremely busy with life [teach-

#### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**

#### **BURGART TOWING, INC** gives

Notice of Public Forecolosure of Lien and intent to sell these vehicles on May 7, 2021, 12:00 at 4360 County Road 218, Middleburg, FL 32068-4852, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes.

#### BURGART ENTERPRISES TOWING, INC.

reserves the right to accept or reject any and/ or all bids.

1FALP62W4VH148907 1997 Ford 4T1BF18B8XU304565 1999 Toyota

gal published April 22, 2021 in Clav County's Clav Today newspaper.

ing Paramedic courses at Keiser University] didn't allow him to focus on prep for the exam and he didn't pass on his first two tries. Finally, he locked in.

"I said, I'm going to make captain because if I'm going to retire here in about six years, I want to be as high as I can," Townsend said. He passed the test and was formally promoted in May 2020.

For Townsend, a big part of the job is its simplicity. And helping people.

"Sometimes we help people in their worst time and the worst of the worst time of their need," he said. "For them, it's an emergency. So, for us, it's an emergency — weather it's a toothache, a stumped toe or whatever it might be. No matter how minor it is or how serious it is, it's an emergency and we treat it as such."

Townsend wants people to know the opportunity is there for everybody. Sometimes you might fall short, but you have to pick yourself back up and know what to for next time.

"As far as future employees or other minority employees, whether black, Hispanic, or whatever, the opportunity is there. It's just a matter of how much you want to apply yourself," he said. "I hope by me doing it they can see, 'well you know what, it can be done,' and it can be a driving force for them to want to apply themselves more to climb the ladder."

Townsend believes he is a good role model. He has a mantra that he believes in strongly and passes it onto everyone.

"Don't fight against the system; make the system work for you and your family and for others," he said.

## Dye Clay YMCA hosting healthy day for children on Saturday

ORANGE PARK – Following a year of social distancing, lack of in-person events and endless screen time, the First Coast YMCA is celebrating what makes a child a healthy child during its annual Healthy Kids Day on Saturday.

Clay County residents are welcome to join the Dye Clay YMCA on Saturday to participate in free family events that encourage a carefree day for children while teaching families how to develop and maintain healthy routines at home this summer. Activities are listed below with a news release for more information about Healthy Kids Day:

10:15–10:45 a.m.: Kids Zumba, Kids Boot Camp, Sports Clinic

11–11:30 a.m.: Kids Zumba, Kids Boot Camp, Wee Chefs, Sports Clinic

10 a.m.-noon: Summer Camp, Splash Fun Swim Lessons

## Clay Walmarts band together to refurbish Clay Humane mobile veterinary unit

Stores provide nonprofit group \$4,000 to fix trailer after it was stolen last year

By Wesley LeBlanc

wesley@opcfla.com

ORANGE PARK — A Clay Humane mobile veterinarian unit stolen last year was gutted and left in shambles before police found it in Gainesville. Now, almost a year later, it's looking better than ever.

That's thanks to a \$4,000 check from Clay County Walmarts given to the non-profit animal services center on Tuesday, April 20. The check, along with donations from elsewhere, helped Clay Humane restore, if not upgrade, its mobile veterinary unit.

"When we learned that their mobile unit had been stolen [and ransacked], we looked into finding a way to help," Blanding Boulevard Walmart store manager Julian Spirollari said. "And that's what we're here to do today."

Clay Humane's mobile vet unit was stolen last June and found a week later in

Gainesville. The new unit is wrapped with Clay Humane insignia and massive pictures of cats and dogs. The older unit didn't have any identifying logos, which made it tougher to track down. Clay Humane executive director Linda Welzant said the Clay County Sheriff's Office was great at tracking it down. A week later, it was back home. It needed a lot of work, though, and Walmart, MWI Veterinary Supply, Custom Graphics and Melissa Lockhard helped make the work possible.

"Walmart's money is what helped us get it back up and running," Welzant said.

Spirollari said every Walmart is given money from a grant to put back into the community. Spirollari said when he learned that Clay Humane needed help, he spoke with managers at the other Clay County Walmart locations and they pitched in to increase the donation to \$4,000.

The work is complete and now the unit is adorned with pictures of the nonprofit's employee's animals. It's also in tip-top shape to get back to what it's best at doing: taking Clay Humane's services on the road.

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Clay County Walmarts banded together to donate \$4,000 to Clay Humane to help the non-profit organization repair its mobile veterinary unit.

## **Facility**

from nage 2

Nagle said. "At this time, three of those positions are filled. Our animal control officers are responsible for the entire country except for Orange Park, and we respond to calls every day of the week, all 365 days of the year."

Nagle said they had 3,597 calls last year and 9,063 executable actions last year. The shelter's live release rate is greater than 90%, which means the shelter is a no-kill shelter.

"With all of that...what's needed in a new facility?" Nagle asked. "Twenty-eight thousand square feet of space is needed to house 100 dogs and 100 cats. The idea is that (a building of that size) should take us through the next 10 years with the possibility for expansion if needed after that."

The cost for that will run around \$10

million. There's \$714,000 in design work on the current budget with \$7 million in construction costs for the 2023-24 capital improvement plan. That doesn't necessarily mean it's happening. It just means some of the money is there, but something could happen to divert the money elsewhere.

The shelter's veterinarian, Dr. Jennifer Broadhurst, said everyone at the facility would "love to see the new shelter built sooner rather than later." She said one surgery table would be great, but multiple would be even better, especially since so many interns and college students come to Clay's animal services facility to shadow.

Everyone agrees the need for a shelter is there. It's now just a matter of determining when it will be addressed.

"I think we have a good plan for the coming years," commissioner Betsy Condon said.

"A big thing with it is our natural disaster response," Welzant said.

Welzant said the unit is taken to disaster sites to take care of the animals on the scene. It's also used to bring Clay Humane's services to those pets who can't necessarily be taken to the organization's facility in Orange Park.

An extra-large check was given to Welzant and Clay Humane right in front of the newly-remodeled mobile unit on Tuesday by Spirollari and Walmart asset protection representative Mare Howell.

Howell said community checks are given to nonprofit organizations like Clay Hu-

mane throughout each year. Walmart also donates money to Ridgeview High's JROTC program, among many other community programs and partners.

While it's unfortunate the mobile unit was stolen last year, a year where COV-ID-19 plagued the world which made repairing the unit at the time impossible, it being stolen led to its improved condition.

"Clay Humane would like to express our appreciation to Spirollari with Walmart, MWI Veterinary Supply, Custom Graphics and Melissa Lockhard for coming to the rescue in the restoration of our returned mobile veterinary unit," Welzant said.

#### Tickets On Sale Now!

### GOLDEN YEARS GALA

Celebrating and Recognizing Senior Adults in Clay County

#### Sullivan Hall Wednesday, May 5, 2021

Breakfast Begins at 8:30 a.m. with Live Auction by Senator Aaron Bean Awards Program with Ernie Cohen, Emcee.

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Contact 904-269-5315 for ticket purchase.

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Lifetime Achievement Award

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## Calendar of Events

**LAKE REGION KIWANIS:** will meet April 22 at the Montgomery Presbyterian Conference Center, 88 DE 75<sup>th</sup> St., Starke, at 7:30 a.m.

**ELDERSOURCE MATTER OF BALANCE:** virtual webinar is April 22 from 9:45-11:45 a.m. for seniors 60 and older. To sign up, call Northeast Florida Area Health Education Center at (904) 482-0189 or (877) 784-8486.

#### **CLAY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT REVIEW**

**COMMITTEE**: will meet April 22 at 10 a.m. at the Zoning Department Conference Room, third floor of Administration Building, 477, Houston St., in Green Cove Springs.

**ELDERSOURCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ FINANCE COMMITTEE:** will meet April 23 at 1 p.m. on Zoom. To participate, visit https://us02web. zoom,us/j/83627584805 or call (929) 436-2866 and use meeting ID 836 2758 4805 #.

**ORANGE PARK WOMEN'S CLUB THRIFT STORE:** is open April 24 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 130 Kingsley Ave

**KINGSLEY LAKE COMMUNITY BLOCK PARK:** and playground grand re-opening ceremony is April 24 from 4-8 p.m. at Lake Kingsley Park, 6110 Kingsley Lake Dr., Keystone Heights.

**ELDERSOURCE CHRONIC DISEASE SELF- MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**: virtual webinar is
April 26 from 9:30 a.m.-noon a.m. for seniors 60
and older. To sign up, call Northeast Florida Area
Health Education Center at (904) 482-0189 or (877)
78/1-8/186

**CLAY COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD**: will conduct a workshop on April 27 at 9 a.m. at the District Multi-Purpose Room, at Fleming Island High, 2233 Village Square Pkwy., on Fleming Island.

**ELDERSOURCE TAI CHI FOR ARTHRITIS:** virtual webinar is April 26 from 9:30 a.m.-noon for seniors 60 and older. To sign up, call Northeast Florida Area

Health Education Center at (904) 482-0189 or (877) 784-8486.

**ELDERSOURCE GENTLE JOINT-SAFE EXERCISE FOR STIFFNESS/BALANCE**: virtual webinar is
April 26 from 2:30-3:30 p.m. for seniors 60 and
older. To sign up, call Northeast Florida Area Health
Education Center at (904) 482-0189 or (877) 7848486

**ELDERSOURCE MATTER OF BALANCE:** virtual webinar is April 27 from 1-2 p.m. for seniors 60 and older. To sign up, call Northeast Florida Area Health Education Center at (904) 482-0189 or (877) 784-8486.

**ELDERSOURCE GENTLE JOINT-SAFE EXERCISE FOR STIFFNESS/BALANCE**: virtual webinar is April 28 from 2:30-3:30 p.m. for seniors 60 and older. To sign up, call Northeast Florida Area Health Education Center at (904) 482-0189 or (877) 784-8486.

**CLAY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE:** will meet April 29 at 10 a.m. at the Zoning Department Conference Room, third floor of Administration Building, 477, Houston St., in Green Cove Springs.

**LAKE REGION KIWANIS**: will meet April 29 at the Montgomery Presbyterian Conference Center, 88 DE 75<sup>th</sup> St., Starke, at 7:30 a.m.

**ELDERSOURCE MATTER OF BALANCE:** virtual webinar is April 29 from 9:45-11:45 a.m. for seniors 60 and older. To sign up, call Northeast Florida Area Health Education Center at (904) 482-0189 or (877) 784-8486

**ORANGE PARK WOMEN'S CLUB THRIFT STORE:** is open May 1 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 130 Kingsley Ave.

**ELDERSOURCE CHRONIC DISEASE SELF- MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**: virtual webinar is
May 3 from 9:30 a.m.-noon a.m. for seniors 60 and

older. To sign up, call Northeast Florida Area Health Education Center at (904) 482-0189 or (877) 784-8486

**ELDERSOURCE GENTLE JOINT-SAFE EXERCISE FOR STIFFNESS/BALANCE**: virtual webinar is

May 3 from 2:30-3:30 p.m. for seniors 60 and older. To sign up, call Northeast Florida Area Health Education Center at (904) 482-0189 or (877) 784-8486

## **OP Council**

from page 1

he couldn't be honest and own up to his actions."

Campbell said it was the third incident that demonstrated dishonesty that led to her asking him to resign.

"It's not something I take lightly," she said. I've handled the town's [human resources] for a number of years. We have to do it with compassion and integrity, but you've charged us with a certain set of rules. The town's code has been violated. Our number one core value is integrity, so when I believe a department head has lied to me on three occasions in rapid succession, I no longer trust him to be on the leadership team. He was given the opportunity to resign and he denied that opportunity so here we are today."

The council and everyone in the room was somewhat taken by surprise at everything that played out that night. They were supposed to either vote yes to approve Campbell's recommendation to fire Barker or no to reject her recommendation. The majority of the council felt that it needed more time to make this decision, and perhaps more importantly, they wanted more of the information about everything argued during the meeting. They voted 3-2, with mayor Alan Watt and council member Virginia Hall voting no, to table the item.

A special meeting will be held next week to discuss in more detail this potential firing. Bradley recommended the council make a decision sooner rather than later as it's an important nobody should be left in limbo, especially considering that the possibility for litigation.

**Proposed Rate Range** 

## NOTICE OF RULEMAKING BY THE FLEMING ISLAND PLANTATION COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

A public hearing will be conducted by the Board of Supervisors ("Board") of the Fleming Island Plantation Community Development District ("District") on Tuesday, May 25, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., at the Splash Park, located at 1510 Calming Water Drive, Fleming Island, Florida 32003.

In accordance with Chapters 190 and 120, Florida Statutes, the District hereby gives the public notice of its intent to adopt its amended Amenities Policies and Procedures (together, "Amended Amenity Rules"), all of which govern the operation of the District's amenity facilities and other properties.

The purpose and effect of the Amended Amenity Rules is to provide for efficient and effective District operations of the District's amenities facilities and properties by setting policies, regulations, rates, and fees to implement the provisions of Section 190.035, Florida Statutes. Prior Notice of Rule Development was published in Clay Today on Thursday, April 15, 2021.

The Amended Amenity Rules will address certain revisions to the District's rules and policies governing the operation of the District's amenity facilities and other properties. Proposed rates include:

**Current Rate** 

Splash Park Gathering Room, half (Medium)	\$75 - \$125 (2 hours)	\$75 - \$125 (2 hours)
Maximum 50 People	\$150 (4 hours)	\$150 - \$225 (4 hours)
Splash Park Gathering Room, full (Large)	\$125 (2 hours)	\$125 - \$200 (2 hours)
Maximum 100 people	\$225 (4 hours)	\$225 - \$300 (4 hours)
Gazebo	\$100 (2 hours) \$150 (4 hours)	Not Available \$ 150 - \$250 (4 hours)
Lifeguard Services for Pool Patron Event Rentals in Excess of 10 Attendees	N/A	\$50 (2 hours)

Specific legal authority for the rule includes Sections 190.035(2), 190.011(5), 190.012, 120.54, 120.69 and 120.81, Florida Statutes (2020).

Any person who wishes to provide the District with a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative as provided by Section 120.541(1), Florida Statutes, must do so in writing within twenty-one (21) days after publication of this notice.

A HEARING WILL BE HELD AT THE TIME, DATE, AND PLACE SHOWN BELOW:

TIME AND DATE:

6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 25, 2021

PLACE:

The Splash Park 1510 Calming Water Drive Fleming Island, Florida 32003

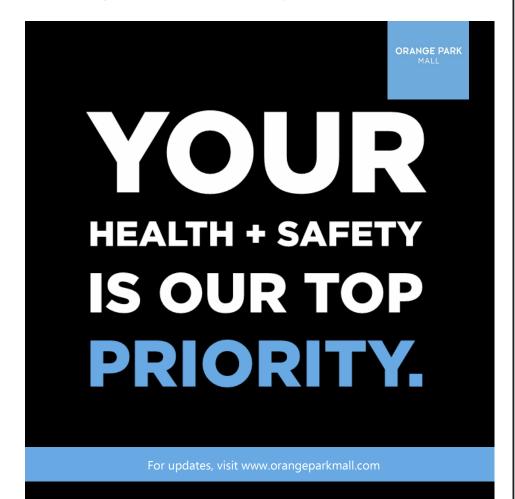
This public hearing may be continued to a date, time, and place to be specified on the record at the hearing. If anyone chooses to appeal any decision of the Board with respect to any matter considered at a public hearing held in response to a request for such a public hearing, such person will need a record of the proceedings and should accordingly ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made which includes the testimony and evidence upon which such appeal is to be based.

One or more Supervisors may participate in the public hearing by telephone. At the above location, if a public hearing is requested, there will be present a speaker telephone so that any interested party can attend the public hearing at the above location and be fully informed of the discussions taking place either in person or by speaker telephone device.

A copy of the proposed Amended Amenity Rules may be obtained by contacting the District Manager, Janice Eggleton Davis, c/o Inframark, 12574 Flagler Center Boulevard, Suite 101, Jacksonville, Florida 32258, Ph: (904) 436-4102.

Janice Eggleton Davis District Manager

Legal notice published April 21, 2021 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper.



# STODAY'S Clay Today | Thursday, April 22, 2021 | claytodayonline.com

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## Winless start ends with district title

## Fleming Island boys lacrosse upends Fletcher

**Story by Mike Zima** *Correspondent* 

NEPTUNE BEACH - Fleming Island High lacrosse striker Will Krupsky scored six goals as he and teammate Luke Schreiober led the sharpshooting Fleming Island High School boys lacrosse team to a 16-8 win at Neptune Beach Fletcher in the District 2-2A championship game on Thursday, April 15. The championship win comes after a season start that had four straight losses followed by eight regular season wins including plus two playoff games.

The win was Fleming Island's 10th in a row a streak that started with a 15-8 home win over Fletcher on March 3. The Golden Eagles, now 10-4, will host a regional final against Ocala Forest (13-4) on Friday, April 23 at Fleming Island High School. Opposite Fleming Island's side of the bracket, Creekside (12-4) will travel to Lake Mary (16-1) for their playoff game. Creekside defeated Fleming Island 17-7 on February 24 as the second of the four losses that started the season. Fleming Island beat Fletcher 15-8 on March 3 in the first game of the 10 game win streak with Krupsky scoring four goals; three in the first quarter to a 9-1 early lead.

Against Fletcher, Krupsky scored half his goals on dodges from the right wing. The sophomore used shoulder, leg or shot fakes to duck inside his defender and shoot before a second defender could close. At 6'2", Krupsky is an inviting target on the inside, and worked himself free in front of the net to score his other three goals off of feeds from teammates.

"Will can shoot left- or right-handed," said Fleming Island head coach John Hawley after the game. "He puts in so much work, the sky is the limit."

As dominant as Krupsky was, Schreiber had an even bigger impact. The senior defenseman caused three turnovers, scooped a game-high 10 ground balls, scored three goals and had an assist. Even with a long pole, Schreiber was accurate when left



The Fleming Island High School boys lacrosse team celebrates their district championship win after defeating Fletcher 16-8. Fleming Island will advance into region playoff competition with a home game Fri., April 23 against Ocala Forest.

open to snipe the goal from the top of the

"Luke can play any position," said Hawley. "He is such as a threat, even as a defenseman, that we leave him out there on offense."

The key sequence came at the end of the first half and the beginning of the third quarter. The Golden Eagles had a 7-1 lead when Fleming Island's Jack Halstead was called for a three minute, non-releasable penalty. When the Senators' Aiden Heilman scored thirty seconds into the man-

SEE LACROSSE, 24

## Sweatt continues pitching prowess with 13 strikeouts

By Randy Lefko

Sports Editor Also excerpts from U of West Florida Athletics

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. – The 20th-ranked University of West Florida softball team, with three Oakleaf High state champion softball graduates on the roster, split a doubleheader at Flagler College on Thursday afternoon, dominating in Game 2 after falling to a late-inning home run in the

With the split, UWF is 26-11 on the year.

For the University of West Flordia, Kelsey Sweatt, one of three college Division I pitchers from the Oakleaf High lineups under coach Christina Thompson that won a state title (2017) and enjoyed numerous Final Four runs, struck out 13 batters over seven innings in a one-hitter in Game 2, marking the third time this year that she has recorded 10 or more strikeouts and tying her single-game high that was set last year. She and West Georgia's Morgan Goree are the only pitchers in the Gulf South Conference with three games with 10 or more strikeouts this season.

**SEE SWEATT, 23** 



Kelsey Sweatt



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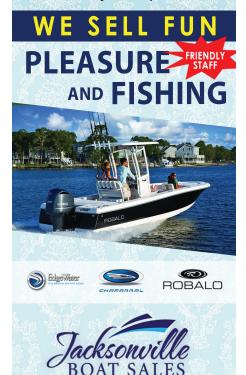
#### **Jaeda McFarland University of Maryland Softball**

Jaeda McFarland, a freshman softball player at the University of Maryland and a graduate of Oakleaf High School was named a Big Ten Co-Freshman of the Week in March for her outstanding play at bat; triple, double, single, runs scored in 9-1 win over Michigan State University.



#### **Reed Davis Jacksonville University Soccer**

Reed Davis, a two-time Mr. Florida soccer award winner for Fleming Island High School and also a state champion player, now a sophomore midfielder at Jacksonville University was named an All-Tournament player for the ASUN Championship game won by the Dolphins.



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## **Sweatt**

Also a starter for the Argonauts, shortstop Mika Garcia is a staple in the infield and one of West Florida top baserunners.

At catcher, West Florida utilized Angela Agurkis with senior catcher Jacqueline Poling.

#### GAME 2: UWF 7, Flagler 0

Kelsev Sweatt threw a gem against the Saints in Game 2. She threw seven innings and struck out 13 in her third shutout of the year, improving her record to 12-3 with the victory. She became the second pitcher in the GSC this season to hit the 100-strikeout mark.

Sweatt has kicked into another gear in April, with 48 strikeouts over 33.0 innings across six outings this month and a 1.91 ERA during that time. Each of her three appearances with 10 or more strikeouts have come in April, as well.

West Florida gave Sweatt plenty of offense and quickly got ahead with a fourspot in the second inning to take a 4-0 lead. Jacquelynne Poling scored on a bases-loaded grounder from Mika Garcia that was bobbled in the infield by Flagler, and Howard brought in two with a sharp ground ball up the middle and a throwing error from Flagler pitcher Madelyn Wise.

Garcia finished with three at bats; one run scored and one run batted in Garcia was left on base twice.

Agurkis batted three times and had one



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Angela Agurkis

In the second inning, Agurkis smashed a long fly ball to right field. Garcia reached base on an error at shortstop and scored Poling who had doubled as leadoff batter. Garcia would advance to second then score off an error on a second shortstop error.

In the third, Agurkis struckout and Garcia popped out to second base.

In the fifth, Agurkis grounded out to shortstop with Garcia reaching on a fielder's choice grounder, then reaching second base on a wild pitch.

Kara Wilson capped off the scoring with an RBI single to shortstop.

UWF added three more runs in the fourth, starting with a leadoff single from Howard, who also stole second. Wilson drove in Howard with another RBI single. and Ally Merrill hit her sixth home run of the season just a batter later to stretch the lead to 7-0.

Wilson and Merrill each had two RBIs in the game, and Wilson, Poling, and Kayla Mayo had two hits apiece.

#### GAME 1: UWF 0, Flagler 2

Starting pitchers Grace Gilbert and Kyra Gipson battled in Game 1, with Flagler's Gipson and the Saints coming out on top after a late home run.



Mika Garcia

UWF put together its own scoring threats in the fourth and fifth innings, though no runs would score.

Flagler broke the scoreless tie in the sixth inning with a two-run home run from first baseman Alyssa Velez, and that would be the only scoring in the game.

Garcia got two at bats; a flyout to centerfield in the third inning and a groundout in the sixth inning.

Gilbert's start continued a string of solid outings from the Chipley, Florida, native. Since March 28, she has a 1.46 ERA over 24.0 innings and a .165 opponent batting average that stretches across her last five appearances.

West Florida next play at West Georgia on April 24-25.

In other college softball action, Oakleaf High's Alex Acevedo, also a member of the 2017 state champions, is a a senior infielder for the Syracuse University softball team. Acevedo has playing time in six games; North Carolina, Campbell, Boston College and, most recently, Florida State University. Aceved has six at bats with one

SEE BASEBALL, 25

## Lacrosse

from page 24

up opportunity, it appeared as though the hosts might claw their way back into the game. But the Golden Eagles' Parker Flagg won the ensuing faceoff, and Fleming Island maintained possession for the remaining 1:27 of the half. Then the Golden Eagles scored a short-handed goal on the first possession of the second half when Krupsky cut to the goal and converted a deft feed from Zach Lestrange. Flagg again won the faceoff, and Fleming Island held the ball for the duration of the penalty time.

"To stay essentially neutral there, that that was huge," Hawley said of the penalty kill.

Flaggs' faceoff wins were as timely as they were unlikely, as Fletcher won 17 of the 25 draws. The Golden Eagles evened out possession time by causing 15 turnovers, relentlessly pressuring the hosts every time they held the ball in their own end. Instead of heading to the sidelines to be replaced by defensive middies or even long poles, the Fleming Island midfield-

ers remained on the field and locked on to their midfield counterparts. Meanwhile, Hawley stationed an attack on each side of the goal, where they wreaked havoc as the Senators tried to work the ball upfield. Junior Alex Bergin scored the opening goal of the game by knocking the ball out of Fletcher goaltender Bryce Kanatck's stick behind the goal, scooping it up and outrunning Kanatch to the crease.

Fleming Island also countered Fletcher's faceoff advantage with shooting accuracy. The Golden Eagles put 20 of their 31 shots on goal, while the Senators did so on just 13 of 23 shots. Hawley has had his offense report to practice 25 minutes early for the last three weeks to work exclusively on shooting.

"We focused on it, and our shooting has improved significantly," he said.

Shaeffer Clark had a trick for the Eagles, Hayden Spiller had two goals and Lestrange notched a single goal.

Heilman and Nico Degance, both juniors, had three goals apiece for the Senators, who end their season at 9-3.

## **Baseball**

run batted in against Boston.

At Florida State University (now 31-5, ninth ranked in NCAA Div. I) is redshirt freshman pitcher Brianna Enter of St. Johns Country Day School.

Enter played in 13 games in the COVIDshortened 2020 season with a one win, two loss record and a 4.12 earned runs against

In 2021, Enter has one appearance.

At the University of Central Florida (30-12-1), pitcher Madi Davis is a redshirt sophomore. In 2020, Davis finished with a 5.25 ERA with three appearances.

### McFarland: Big Ten Co-Freshman of the

At the University of Maryland, former Oakleaf High outfielder Jaeda McFarland is a freshman with 28 starts in 28 games and a .322 batting average off 90 at bats. McFarland has 29 hits: four doubles, four triples, one homer and 12 RBIs.

In an April 9 game with Michigan State, McFarland had three at bats with a triple and a double in a 9-1 Maryland win.

In the first inning, McFarland doubled, then scored off two grounders.

McFarland was named a Big Ten Co-Freshman of the Week for the Michigan State series with McFarland's honor the first for Maryland since March 2020. Mc-Farland notched eight putouts, and lead the team in runs (5) on five hits with an impressive .833 slugging percentage throughout the series. Her fifth hit at the plate was a triple that set her up to score the game winning run on Saturday night for the Terps to take the series over the Spartans 5-4 (3-1 overall). McFarland's performance has extended her appearance at the top of the team leader board with 13 runs and 27 hits overall.

The freshman also leads in several other team categories including RBIs (12), doubles (4), triples (4), stolen bases (7), total bases (42), and game starts (24). She is currently first overall in the Big Ten in triples (4), sixth in fielding with 56 putouts and a 1.000 percentage, and 16th in hitting with her .342 average - one of the youngest players throughout the conference to appear on any list.

In the third, McFarland tripled down the right field line, then scored off a double to put Maryland up 3-0.



McFarland



Arturo

In the fourth, McFarland singled, reached third on a throwing error then scored off a singled to put Maryland up

At Pensacola State College (23-6), Jaycie Brookshire, a power hitting first baseman for Oakleaf, is a freshman first baseman with 14 games played and a .250 batting average. Brookshire has six RBIs.

In her most recent game, Brookshire, in an 11-6 win over Northwest Florida State College, had four at bats; one hit, one RBI and two strikeouts while being left on base

At Palm Beach Atlantic University (12-11), sophomore pitcher Cambria Arturo is a transfer pitcher from Jacksonville University after graduating Oakleaf High School.

Arturo holds a 3.24 ERA with a 3-6 record in nine game starts and 11 appearances. Arturo has struck out 37 batters with 55 hits against in 62.2 innings pitched.

Arturo's most recent game action was a no-hit losing 1-0 effort against Rollins College. Arturo struck out seven and gave up no hits in the loss. Rollins scored off an infield error and sacrifice bunt in the top of the seventh inning.



#### Jacksonville wins **ASUN soccer title**

Former Fleming Island High soccer standout Reed Davis, now a midfielder at Jacksonville University, was named to the ASUN All Tournament team with three teammates after the Dolphins defeated Florida Gulf Coast University 2-0 in the championship game. Davis is tied as the team's lead goal scorer with five goals in 12 games. Jacksonville (7-4-1) will next play in the NCAA Division I championship tournament on Thurs., April 29 against Patriot League Champion American University (4-1-2) in Winston-Salem, NC. The winner will play top seed Clemson on Sun., May 2.

## Marx breaks goals record; Lady Eagles finish 11-4

By Mike Zima, Correspondent

FLEMING ISLAND - Fleming Island High lacrosse forward Isabella Marx scored seven goals in the final game of her record-setting high school career as host



Fleming Island pulled away in the second half for a 12-4 win over St. Augustine Pedro Menendez on April 9 in the season finale of an outstanding season that finished wiht 11 wins, four losses.

Marx entered the game needing six goals to reach the 100 mark in her Fleming Island career, a milestone she seemed unlikely to reach when she tallied just one in the first half. But the senior attack heated up in the final two quarters, finding the net six times to put the Golden Eagles comfortably ahead and push her total to 101.

"Izzy is one of those players that can really turn it on," said Fleming Island head coach Chris Peterson. "When that happens, I like to just sit back and watch her take control."

Quarterbacking the Golden Eagles attack from behind the net, Marx found success with a series of drives around the goal. She now holds the Fleming Island girls lacrosse records for goals in a season, points in a season, career goals and career points.

Fleming Island led 4-0 at halftime. Goaltender Libby Pittman and Katie Townsend kept the Pirates at bay while the

Isabella Marx

SEE MARX, 26

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Where: Magnolia Point Golf & Country Club

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**What:** Includes golf, lunch, after-play food, range balls, proximity games, play certificate, door prizes, awards for 1st place team, and hole-in-one prizes.

#### **Contacts for Questions:**

Steve Hollingsworth at shollingsworth@clayelectric.com (904) 509-7787 or

Nancy Keating at NancyK@ challengeenterprises.org (904) 813-6722 or David Fieber at david.fieber@edwardjones.com

Online registration and payment available at: greencovespringsrotary.com

## Marx

from page 25

Fleming Island offense struggled. Pittman, who finished with 10 saves and a sparkling 57.1 percent save percentage, turned away every Menendez shot in the first half while Townsend put the clamps on Pirates leading scorer Raina Richard.

"Katie is so tough and physical and it make it a great matchup," said Peterson. "We thought if we could contain Richard then we would have a good chance."

Maya Dawson scored twice for the Golden Eagles, who end the 2021 season with an 11-4 mark. Fellow seniors Gabby Rochester and Summer Knight each notched one goal, as did sophomore Jillian

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7	8	4	5	6	9	3	2	1

LaBelle.

Fleming Island's seven seniors have a special bond with Peterson, being the first group that the fourth-year head coach got to mentor from their freshman year forward.

"I love all of them and they will leave huge shoes to fill," he said. "They exemplify the tremendous work ethic, dedication and the will to be successful, and to top it off, they are genuinely whole-heartedly good people."

Fleming Island played this season as an independent, meaning that they will not participate in the FHSAA playoffs. Peterson's understanding is that in 2022, the Golden Eagles will rejoin the FHSAA, be assigned to a district and participate in the playoffs. Menendez fell to 7-6

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Kurnitsky: Wilt's 100 points

By Randy Lefko Sports Editor

ORANGE PARK - In 1962, Wilt Chamberlain, a 7-foot center for the NBA's Philadelphia Warriors, unleashed 36 baskets and hit 28 of 32 free throws to score an astounding 100 points in a 169-147 regular season win against the New York Knickerbockers in a small gym in Hershey, PA.

For Orange Park High School boys basketball coach Derek Kurnitsky, that sporting performance has been chosen as his "Time Warp" event.

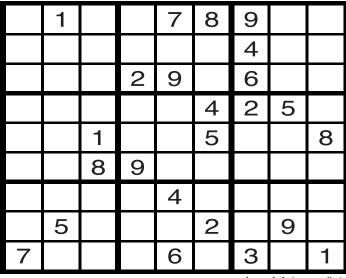
"I've been coaching basketball a long time and have never gotten a team to score 100 points," said Kurnitsky, himself a high school basketball player with an 18 point effort as his high point career mark. "To think in that era, without a three point shot, a player could score like that is amazing."

Chamberlain's iconic 100 point game is the start point of a new series set for a Clay Today's sports pages as we look at a TIME WARP opportunity to see a sporting event or meet a sports personality. Fans are encouraged to email or text their names with the sporting moment that captured their imagination to Clay Today Sports Editor Randy Lefko at 904-477-0407 or Randy@ OPCFLA.com.

Comparing Chamberlain's accomplishment to the modern era, the statistic that is revealing to Chamberlain's scoring ability is Los Angeles Lakers' guard Kobe Bryant's 81 points in 2006 only because Chamberlain took took 63 shots in his game; making 36. Bryant shot just 46 shots, but had seven three pointers (21 points) at his behest.

"Chamberlain was a definitely a low post player that took hook shots, finger rolls and lots of dunks," said Kurnitsky. "The NBA had to change some rules because he had so many dunks. He also made a lot of free throws which in this era, many big men are not good at."

# PUZZLE FUN



Level: Intermediate

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## CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to poetry.

Each number corresponds to a letter.

(Hint: 25 = E)

A. 6 13 16 22 25

Clue: Sounds alike

B. 8 25 6 5 25

Clue: Written in metrical rhythm

**C. 5 9 10 23 20 10** Clue: A group of lines in a poem

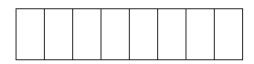
D. 24 2 9 25 6 10 9 17 6 25

Clue: Written works

## **WORD SCRAMBLE**

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to poetry.

TRCOIMNA



Answer: Romantic

## Guess Who?

Answers: A. rhyme

B.

verse

C. stanza

D.

I am a pop singer born in Michigan on April 27, 1988. I started performing with groups in 2011. In 2014 I was named as an artist to watch, and a few years later I had a No. 1 hit.

ozziA :19w2nA

## POETIC TERMS WORD SEARCH

Ε N S R R G N C C C Α Н Ε 0 D C L C S Ι 0 Т R V Α В Ι Α Y S Ε Α Ν N Т 0 L М G N Α Ε C V Α Α В L P T Ι Υ N Α М G Ε Ε L N C В L Ι D C М Α C В P T C D Α P G Ι L Τ Α Ε Ι Α L D Α В C D 0 S C C П Α S Ε Ι L C М K Y Α L В U V В V 0 Ε 0 S N R 0 C R R М М Т Т Ν L Н Υ V L D C Α 0 Т P Υ Т Т Ι L 0 В Α U S 0 Ε 0 Н Α R N U Α Е S Ε Ι L Α Ε Ι S 0 C R R 0 Υ ٧ S Α R D Α Α R K R Н L S G N Ι U N L U R S C K Υ S Α R Α Α Α Ε C C Ε Ε 0 Ε Υ Α 0 C Н S L T R U S Α М U N L Ε 0 Ε L Ι М S S D D T T R R V Α Α S Ι М R U 0 U S D S Ε D D K L Α R Υ G G T G C C 0 N S C Ε Α Т S N Ι C 0 Ν Α Ν Ν L Ε 0 В Ι R Υ D U Υ М D D Н G М Т R V Α C N Ε 0 Ρ L Ι S Υ Н В U М Υ Ρ 0 V S U L Ρ U Α N Ν C Α N Α C Н R 0 N Ι S М 0 L В C Ι 0 T ٧ 0 В R Υ L Ι C R Ε S L Α В D U C S Υ S D Ρ 0 U V Ε R S Ε Ρ Т S

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

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## NOTICE OF RULE DEVELOPMENT BY THE ANABELLE ISLAND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

In accord with Chapters 120 and 190 Florida Statutes, the Anabelle Island Community Development District ("District") hereby gives notice of its intention to develop Rules of Procedure to govern the operations of the District

of the District.

The Rules of Procedure will address such areas as the Board of Supervisors, officers and voting, district offices, public information and inspection of records, policies, public meetings, hearings and workshops, rulemaking proceedings and competitive purchase including procedure under the Consultants. and competitive purchase including procedure under the Consultants Competitive Negotiation Act, procedure regarding auditor selection, purchase of insurance, pre-qualification, construction contracts, goods, supplies and materials, maintenance services, contractual services and protests with respect to proceedings, as well as any other area of the general operation of the District.

The purpose and effect of the Rules of Procedure is to provide for

of Procedure is to provide for efficient and effective District operations and to ensure compliance with recent changes to Florida law with recent changes to Florida law. The legal authority for the adoption of the proposed Rules of Procedure includes sections 190.011(5), 190.011(15) and 190.035, Florida Statutes (2021). The specific laws implemented in the Rules of Procedure include, but are not limited to, sections 112.08, 112.3143, 112.31446, 112.3145, 119.07, 119.0701, 189.053, 189.069(2)(a)16, 190.006. 112.51490, 112.5143, 113.07, 119.0101, 119.0101, 119.0101, 119.0101, 119.011(3), 119.011(5), 119.011(5), 119.013, 119.011(5), 119.013, 119.013, 1218.391, 255.05, 255.0518, 255.0525, 255.20, 286.0105, 286 011 286 0113 286 0114 287 017 287.055 and 287.084, Florida Statute

copy of the proposed Rules A copy of the proposed Rules or Procedure may be obtained by contacting the District Manager, c/o Governmental Management Services - North Florida, LLC, 475 West Town Place, Suite 114, St. Augustine, Florida 32092, Phone: 904-940-5850. James Perry, District Manager Anabelle Island Community

Development District Legal 47659 published April 22, 2021 in Clay County's Clay Today

#### NOTICE TO **CREDITORS**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File No. 2021-CP-000185

IN RE: ESTATE OF CAROL SLACK A/K/A CAROL SLACK VIVIAN

SLACK
Deceased.
The administration of the estate of Carol V. Slack a/k/a Carol Vivian Slack, deceased, whose date of death was January 17, 2021, is pending in the Circuit Court for Clay County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 825 N. Orange Avenue, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

are set forth below.
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
All other creditors and in the creditors are all other creditors. All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or

#### Legal Notice

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NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME
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MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S
DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

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The date of first publication of th
notice is the 15th day of April, 2021.
Attorney for Personal
Representative:
Joy Bogaert, Esquire
Attorney
Florida Bar Number: 0179264
KARLSON LAW GROUP, P.A.
301 Dal Hall Blvd.
Lake Placid. Florida 33852 Lake Placid, Florida 33852 Telephone: (863) 465-5033

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E-Mail: joy@karlsonlaw.com Personal Representative: Mikell A. Slack Mikell A. Slack
32 Tall Oaks Trail
Lake Placid, Florida 33852
Legal 47642 published April 15 and
April 22, 2021 in Clay County's Clay
Today newspaper

#### **PUBLIC SALE**

FIRST COAST TOWING gives Notice of Lien and intent to sell these vehicles on 05/07/2021 10:00 am at BLANDING BLVD 2905 BLANDING BLVD MIDDLEBURG, FL 32068-6349, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes. FIRST COAST TOWING reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids. 1C4PJLCB3FW793472 2015 JEEP 2HKYF18564H525452 2004 HONDA 2HKYF18796H556599 2006 HONDA 4T1BE30K62U109714 2002 TOYOTA Legal 47643 publish April 22 2021 in

Legal 47643 publish April 22, 2021 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

NOTICE OF LANDOWNERS' MEETING AND
ELECTION AND MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS OF THE
ANABELLE ISLAND
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given to the public and all landowners within the Anabelle Island Community Anabelle Island Community Development District (the "District"), the location of which is generally described as comprising a parcel or parcels of land containing approximately 164.13 acres, generally located near Russell Road and Sandridge Road in Clay County, Florida, advising that a meeting of Florida, advising that a meeting of landowners will be held for the purpose of electing five (5) persons to the District Board of Supervisors. Immediately following the landowners' meeting and election, there will be convened a meeting of the Board of Supervisors for the purpose of considering certain matters of the Board to include election of certain District officers, and other such business which may properly come before the Board. DATE: May 11, 2021

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: to the District Board of Supervisors

PLACE:

Plantation Oaks Amenity Center 845 Oakleaf Plantation Parkway

845 Oakleaf Plantation Parkway Orange Park, Florida 32065
Each landowner may vote in person or by written proxy. Proxy forms may be obtained upon request at the office of the District Manager, c/o Governmental Management Services North Florida, LLC, 475 West Town Place, Suite 114, St. Augustine, Florida 32092 ("District Office"). At said meeting each landowner or his said meeting each landowner or his or her proxy shall be entitled to or her proxy shall be entitled to nominate persons for the position of Supervisor and cast one vote per acre of land, or fractional portion thereof, owned by him or her and located within the District for each person to be elected to the position of Supervisor. A fraction of an acre shall be treated as one acre, entitling the landowner to one vote with respect thereto. Platted lots shall be

#### Legal Notice

counted individually and rounded up to the nearest whole acre. The acreage of platted lots shall not be aggregated for determining the number of voting units held by a landowner or a landowner's proxy. At the landowners' meeting the landowners shall select a person to serve as the meeting chair and who shall conduct the meeting. The landowners' meeting and the

The landowners' meeting and the Board of Supervisors meeting are open to the public and will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Florida law. One or both of the meetings may be continued to a date, time, and place to be specified on the record at such meeting. A copy of the agends for meeting. A copy of the agenda for these meetings may be obtained from the District Office. There may be an where one or nors will participate supervisors

supervisors will participate by speaker telephone.

Any person requiring special accommodations to participate in these meetings is asked to contact the District Office at 904-940-5850, at least forty-eight (48) hours before the hearing. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 7-1-1 or (800) 955-8770 for aid in contacting the 955-8770 for aid in contacting the

955-8770 for aid in contacting the District Office.

A person who decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the meeting is advised that such person will need a record of the proceedings and that accordingly, the person may need to ensure 904-940-5850 that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. be based

District Manager

Legal 47650 published April 15 and April 22, 2021 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

## **NOTICE OF** WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA

The Board of County Commissioners of Clay County, Florida, will hold a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Workshop on Thursday, April 29, 2021 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the BCC Meeting Room, 4th floor, Clay County Administration Building, 477 Houston Street, Green Cove Springs, Florida. The Board of County Commissioners

Florida.
All interested persons are invited to attend and be heard at the meeting.
Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, a person deciding to appeal any decision made by the Board with any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the meeting of the Board or any subsequent meeting to which the Board has continued its deliberations is advised that such person will need a record of all proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record of all proceeding is made, which must include the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, any person needing a special accommodation to participate in this matter should contact the Clay County ADA Coordinator by mail at Post Office Box 1366, Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043, or by telephone at number (904) 269-6376, no later than three (3) days prior to the meeting for which this notice has been given. Hearing impaired persons can access the foregoing telephone number by contacting the Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8770 (Voice) or 1-800-955-8771 (TDD). Legal 47612 published April 22, 2021 accordance with the Americans

Legal 47612 published April 22, 2021 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

#### **Legal Notice**

#### **PUBLIC AUCTION**

The following vehicles will be sold at public auction for towing and storage costs at Horton's Towing 3645 Hwy 17, Bldg 2, Fleming Island, FL 32003 Horton's Towing reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.

Auction date - 5/13/2021, 9:00 a.m. 2010 Chevy 2G1WB5EK6A1129323 2000 Nissan 1N4DL01A7YC179914 2018 Ford 3FA6P0LU3JR137560

Legal 47674 publish April 15 , 2021 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

#### NOTICE TO **CREDITORS**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File No. 2021CP000164

IN RE: ESTATE OF EDWARD
CLEMENT HALL,
Deceased.
The administration of the estate of

Edward Clement Hall, deceased, whose date of death was 12/7/2020, is pending in the Circuit Court for Clay County, Florida, Probate Division, File No. 2021CP000164, the address of which is 825 North Orange of which is 825 North Orange Ave, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043. The names and addresses of the Personal Representative and the Personal Representative's attorney are set forth below. All creditors of the decedent and

other persons, having claims or demands against decedent's estate, on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served, must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE

claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH

THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENTS DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE IS

THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE IS April 15, 2021

Attorney for Personal Representative Representative Bruce A. McDonald Attorney for Personal Representative Florida Bar No. 263311 Suite B, PMB # 137 707 E. Cervantes St. Pensacola, FL 32501-3286 850-776-5834 hamcdonald@pensacolala

bamcdonald@pensacolalaw.com mmstoner@pensacolalaw.com Personal Representative Betsy Hall McKinne 1956 Centro West Street Tiburon, CA 94920

Legal 47678 published April 15 and April 22, 2021 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

#### PUBLIC SALE

Atlantic Self Storage PUBLIC SALE will be on May 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM starting location: 1075 Blanding Blvd. Orange Park, FL 32065 - Unit 147 - Anita Marie Robson

Those listed above are delinquent in rent and under FL Statute 83.806 the rent and under FL Statute 83.806 the contents of their units will be sold at Public Sale with a 10% Buyer's Premium. The above units contain household goods and personal items unless otherwise noted. All Vehicles are sold AS-IS, PARTS ONLY. Terms of sale are CASH ONLY, due at the end of each Public Sale.

Legal 47663 published April 15 and April 22, 2021 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

#### Legal Notice

LEGAL NOTICE

The Clay County Sheriff's Office is designating the Assistant Chief of Professional Standards to the Senior Management Service Class with the Tlorida, Division of effective January 1, State of Florida, Retirement, effectiv 2021. Michelle Cook. Sheriff - Clay

County, Florida
Legal 47672 published April 15 and
April 22, 2021 in Clay County's Clay
Today newspaper

#### **PUBLIC SALE**

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated:

1939 East West Parkway, Fleming Island, FL 32003.

May 7 2021 at 10:00am

May 7, 2021 at 10:00am Valencia Lewis- Household Goods

Benjamin Jacob Gunter- Household

Goods
The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storagetreasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

Legal 47665 published April 15 and April 22, 2021 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper Today newspaper

#### **NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

File No.: 2021CP000171

#### RE: ESTATE OF LESTER PELHAM **Deceased.**The administration of the estate of

The administration of the estate of Lester Pelham, deceased, whose date of death was January 28, 2021, is pending in the Circuit Court for Clay County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 825 North Orange Avenue, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representatives. the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.
All creditors of the decedent and

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM. All other creditors of the decedent All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of first publication of this and other persons having claims or

DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
The date of first publication of this notice is April 15, 2021.
Attorney for Personal
Representative:
Ryan C. Grubich, Esq.
Florida Bar Number: 0105961
ADRIAN PHILIP THOMAS, P.A.
515 East Las Olas Boulevard
Suite 1050 Suite 1050 FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301

Telephone: (954) 764-7273 Fax: (954) 764-7274 E-Mail: rgrubich@aptpa.com Secondary E-Mail:

#### **Legal Notice**

vrojas@aptpa.com Attorneys for Michele Shockey

Personal Representative: Michele Shockey

1502 Oak Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101
Legal 47646 published April 15 and
April 22, 2021 in Clay County's Clay
Today newspaper

#### NOTICE OF ACTION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY, COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO.: 2021CA000060 CASE NO: 2021CA000060
U.S. BANK NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, FOR
MANUFACTURED HOUSING
CONTRACT
SENIOR/SUBORDINATE
PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATE
TRIIST 1999-2

TRUST 1999-2, Plaintiff.

Plaintiff,
vs.

DONALD LEE SAVAGE A/K/A

DONALD L. SAVAGE; UNKNOWN
SPOUSE OF DONALD LEE SAVAGE
A/K/A DONALD L. SAVAGE;
ESTATE OF MARTHA DIANE
SAVAGE A/K/A MARTHA D.
SAVAGE, DECEASED; UNKNOWN
HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES,
ASSIGNEES, CREDITORS,
LIENORS, TRUSTEES OF MARTHA
DIANE SAVAGE, DECEASED; ARTHUR
EDWARD SAVAGE, DECEASED;
ARTHUR EDWARD HINTON;
RUSSELL THOMAS HINTON;
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA;
STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE;
UNKNOWN TENANT(S) IN
POSSESSION #1 and #2, et. al.
Defendant(S)
TO:
ESTATE OF MARTHA DIANE

TO:
ESTATE OF MARTHA DIANE
SAVAGE A/K/A MARTHA D.
SAVAGE, DECEASED

(Current Residence Unknown) (Last Known Address) 2267 AMARYLSIS AVENUE

MIDDLEBURG, FL 32068
UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, CREDITORS, LIENORS, TRUSTEES OF MARTHA DIANE SAVAGE, AKA MARTHA D. SAVAGE, DECEASED (Last Known Address)

2267 AMARYLIS AVENUE
MINDLEPHIRC EP 1 29969

MIDDLEBURG, FL 32068 ALL OTHER UNKNOWN PARTIES, ALL OTHER UNKNOWN PARTIES, INCLUDING, IF A NAMED DEFENDANT IS DECEASED, THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES, THE SERVING SPOUSE, HEIRS, DEVISES, GRANTEES, CREDITORS, AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING, BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST THAT DEFENDANT, AND ALL CLAIMANTS, PERSONS OR PARTIES, NATURAL OR CORPORATE, OR WHOSE EXACT LEGAL STATUS IS UNKNOWN, CLAIMING UNDER ANY OF THE ABOVE NAMED OR DESCRIBED DEFENDANTS

ABOVE NAMED OR DESCRIBED
DEFENDANTS
(Last Known Address)
2267 Amarylsis Avenue
Middleburg, FL 32068
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action
for Foreclosure of Mortgage on the
following described property:
LOT 17, BLOCK 73, JACKSONVILLE
SOUTH UNIT TWO, ACCORDING
TO PLAT THEREOF, AS
RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 11,
PAGES 1 THROUGH 13,
INCLUSIVE, OF THE PUBLIC
RECORDS OF CLAY COUNTY,
FLORIDA. RECORDS FLORIDA.

FLORIDA.
TOGETHER WITH THAT CERTAIN
1999, 76X16 MOBILE HOME,
SERIAL NUMBER FLA 146277.
A/K/A: 2267 AMARYLSIS AVENUE,
MIDDLEBURG, FL 32068.

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it, on Brian L. Rosaler, Esquire, POPKIN & ROSALER, P.A., 1701 West Hillsboro Boulevard, Suite 400, Deerfield Beach, FL 33442, Attorney for Plaintiff, within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this Notice in the Clay Today and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiffs



Have you registered your name with the state and now need to run a fictitious name advertisement?

One easy step Email Christie at

christie@opcfla.com or call 904-579-2153 to request the necessary form. It will run in our legal section for one week for \$35 Affidavit will be mailed to you.

#### **Legal Notice**

attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded

against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY WHO NEEDS ANY ACCOMMODATION IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCEEDING, YOU ARE ENTITLED AT NO COST TO YOU, TO THE PROVISION OF CERTAIN ASSISTANCE. PLEASE CONTACT THE ADA COORDINATOR AT CRTINTRP@COJ.NET OR (904) 255-1695 AT LEAST 7 DAYS BEFORE YOUR SCHEDULED COURT APPEARANCE, OR IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIVING THIS NOTIFICATION IF THE TIME BEFORE THE SCHEDULED BEFORE THE SCHEDULED APPEARANCE IS LESS THAN 7 DAYS; IF YOU ARE HEARING OR

DAYS; IF YOU ARE HEARING OR
VOICE IMPAIRED, CALL 711.
WITNESS my hand and the seal of
this Court this 7th day of April, 2021.
(seal)
TARA S. GREEN
As Clerk of the Court
By Jaimie Pippin
As Deputy Clerk
Legal 47644 published April 15 and
April 22, 2021 in Clay County's Clay
Today newspaper. 20-49015

## NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT RULE T. JOHNS RIVER STAT

STATE

TO ADOPT RULE
ST. JOHNS RIVER STATE
COLLEGE
District Board of Trustees
Amendment to SJR Board Rule 5.09
(R5)-Vacation Leave
The District Board of Trustees of St.
Johns River State College will hold a
public hearing for the following rules
to be taken into consideration:
Amendment to SJR Board
Rule 5.09 (R5)-Vacation Leave
The public hearing will be held on
Wednesday, May 19, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.
in the Criminal Justice Multipurpose
Room (J-149), on the St. Augustine
Campus, 2990 College Drive, St.
Augustine, Florida. Authority for the
rules is found in Florida Statutes,
Section 1001.64 (18). Estimated
economic impact on all affected
persons cannot be determined at this persons cannot be determined at this time. Written comments may be submitted within 14 days of the date of this notice to:

Melissa Miller, Senior

Melissa Miller, Senior
Vice President/General Counsel
St. Johns River State College
5001 St. Johns Avenue
Palatka, Florida 32177
Substantially affected persons may,
within 14 days of the date of this
notice, file an objection to this
rulemaking with the agency. The
objection shall specify the portions
of the proposed rules to which the
person objects and the specific
reasons for the objection.
The full text of the proposed rules is

reasons for the objection.
The full text of the proposed rules is available upon request.
Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in the noticed meeting should contact the College at the following address at least five days before the date of the scheduled meeting: Edie Bruce. scheduled meeting: Edie Bruce, Director of Human Resources, 386-312-4074 or ediebruce @sirstate.edu.

@sjrstate.edu.
Persons with speech or hearing
impairments should contact the
College using the Florida Relay
Service, 1-800-955-8771 (TDD) or
1-800-955-8770 (Voice).
Legal 47645 published April 22, 2021
in Clay County's Clay Today
newspaper

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

CIRCUIT COURT FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION IN THE

IN RE: ESTATE OF MICHAEL EUGENE MIRACLE,

EUGENE MIRACLE,
Deceased.
The administration of the estate of
MICHAEL EUGENE MIRACLE,
deceased, whose date of death was
May 30, 2019, is pending in the
Circuit Court for Clay County,
Florida, Probate Division, the
address of which is PO Box 698,
Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043.
The names and addresses of the
personal representative and the
personal representative's attorney
are set forth below.
All creditors of the decedent and
other persons having claims or

other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is on whom a copy of this hotter is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF

#### **Legal Notice**

THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM. All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of first publication of this notice is April 15, 2021. Attorney for Personal Representative: Dale S. Wilson

Representative: Dale S. Wilson E-Mail Address: wilsdale@bellsouth.net Florida Bar No. 176945 Dale S. Wilson PA PO Box 1808

PO Box 1808
Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043
Telephone: (904) 284-5618
Personal Representative:
Rebecca Pyles Miracle
4502 Springbank Road
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043
Legal 47679 published April 15 and
April 22, 2021 in Clay County's Clay
Today newspaper

#### NOTICE TO **CREDITORS**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File No. 2021-CP-182

IN RE: ESTATE OF EARL B. LANG,

IN RE: ESTATE OF EARL B. LANG, Deceased.
The administration of the estate of Earl B. Lang, deceased, whose date of death was February 13, 2021, is pending in the Circuit Court for Clay County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is PO Box 698, Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is April 15, 2021.

Attorney for Personal Representative:

Date S. Wilson

Representative: Dale S. Wilson E-Mail Address wilsdale@bellsouth.net Florida Bar No. 176945 Dale S. Wilson PA PO Box 1808

PO Box 1808
Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043
Telephone: (904) 284-5618
Personal Representative:
Cheryl L. Korey
1210 Lenda Lane
Middleburg, FL 32068
Legal 47648 published April 15 and
April 22, 2021 in Clay County's Clay
Today newspaper

#### **Notice of Sale**

#### NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION CASE NO: 2019-CA-000567 NEWREZ LLC F/K/A NEW PENN FINANCIAL LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING, Plaintiff,

MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, R. GARCIA; AQUA FINANCE, INC.
THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF DEVISEES, GRANTEES, MAGNOLIA WEST HOMEOWNERS
THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER ASSIGNEES, CREDITORS, ASSOCIATION, INC. AKA

#### **Notice of Sale**

LIENORS AND TRUSTEES OF DOUGLAS ED; ROBERTSON JENNIE L

DOUGLAS H. ROBERTSON,
DECEASED; JENNIE L.
ROBERTSON; DOUGLAS LLOYD
ROBERTSON, AS POTENTIAL
HEIR OF DOUGLAS H.
ROBERTSON-SHEFFIELD A/K/A
MARY JILL SHEFFIELD A/K/A
MARY JILL SHEFFIELD
PATIO-HOMEOWNERS
ASSOCIATION, INC.; ASMC
SERVICING, LTD; ALL UNKNOWN
PARTIES CLAIMING INTERESTS
BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR
AGAINST A NAMED DEFENDANT
TO THIS ACTION, OR HAVING OR
CLAIMING TO HAVE ANY RIGHT,
TITLE OR INTEREST IN THE
PROPERTY HEREIN DESCRIBED;
UNKNOWN TENANT #1;
UNKNOWN TENANT #2
DEFENDANT

UNKNOWN TENANT #2
Defendants.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
pursuant to a Final Judgment dated
March 24, 2021 entered in Civil Case
No. 2019-CA-000567 in Circuit Court
of the 4th Judicial Circuit in and for
Clay County, Florida, Civil Division,
wherein NEWREZ, LLC F/K/A NEW
PENN FINANCIAL, LLC D/B/A
SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE
SERVICING, Plaintiff and THE
UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES,
GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES,
CREDITORS, LIENORS AND
TRUSTEES OF DOUGLAS H.
ROBERTSON, DECEASED; JENNIE
L. ROBERTSON, DOUGLAS LLOYD
ROBERTSON, AS POTENTIAL L. ROBERTSON; DOUGLAS LLOYD ROBERTSON, AS POTENTIAL HEIR OF DOUGLAS H. ROBERTSON-SHEFFIELD A/K/A MARY JILL SHEFFIELD, AS POTENTIAL HEIR OF DOUGLAS H. ROBERTSON; CEDAR BEND PATIO-HOMEOWNERS
ASSOCIATION, INC.; ASMC SERVICING, LTD; UNKNOWN TENANT #1 N/K/A JOHN WILSON, are Defendant(s), Tara S. Green, Clerk of Court, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash beginning at 10:00 AM at www.clay.realforeclose

Clerk of Court, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash beginning at 10:00 AM at www.clay.realforeclose .com in accordance with Chapter 45, Florida Statutes on May 10, 2021 the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit: LOT 30, CEDAR BEND UNIT 3, ACCORDING TO PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 21, PAGES 51, 52 AND 53 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA PROPERTY Address: 1973 Acorn Run West, Orange Park, Florida 32073 ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS, MUST FILE A CLAIM BEFORE THE CLERK REPORTS THE SURPLUS AS UNCLAIMED. THE COURT, IN ITS DISCRETION, MAY ENLARGE THE TIME OF THE SALE. NOTICE OF THE CHANGED TIME OF SALE SHALL BE PUBLISHED AS PROVIDED HEREIN.

IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH A

TIME OF SALE SHALL BE PUBLISHED AS PROVIDED HEREIN.

IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY WHO NEEDS ANY ACCOMMODATION IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCEEDING, YOU ARE ENTITLED, AT NO COST TO YOU, TO THE PROVISION OF CERTAIN ASSISTANCE. PLEASE CONTACT THE ADA COORDINATOR AT (904) 255-1695 OR CRTINTRP@COJ.NET AT LEAST 7 DAYS BEFORE YOUR S C H E D U L E D C O U R T APPEARANCE, OR IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIVING THIS NOTIFICATION IF THE TIME BEFORE THE SCHEDULED APPEARANCE IS LESS THAN 7 DAYS; IF YOU ARE HEARING OR VOICE IMPAIRED, CALL 711. Date: April 6, 2021

(seal)
Tara S. Green
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
Clay County, Florida
By Kayla Ray Beard
DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT
Legal 47647 published April 15 and
April 22, 2021 in Clay County's Clay
Today newspaper. Today newspaper.

#### NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT IN THE
FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN
AND FOR CLAY COUNTY,
FLORIDA
GENERAL JURISDICTION
DIVISION
CASE NO: 2020CA000087

CASE NO: 2020CA000087 LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, Plaintiff,

vs MICHAEL J. GARCIA II; AMANDA

#### Notice of Sale

MAGNOLIA WEST OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC., et al.

Defendant(s).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated March 23, 2021, and entered in 2020CA000087 of the Circuit Court of the FOURTH Judicial Circuit in and for Clay County, Florida, wherein LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC is the Plaintiff and MICHAEL J. GARCIA II; AMANDA R. GARCIA; AQUA FINANCE, INC.; MAGNOLIA WEST HOMEON INC. AKA MAGNOLIA WEST OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC. are the Defendant(s). Tara S. Green as the Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash **Defendant(s).** NOTICE IS HEREBY the highest and best bidder for cash at www.clay.realforeclose.com, at 10:00 AM, on May 24, 2021, the following described property as set AMERICANS

✓ Local Coverage

✓ Community Events

✓ Local Sports

#### **Notice of Sale**

forth in said Final Judgment, to wit: LOT 284, MAGNOLIA WEST UNIT TWO-B, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN
PLAT BOOK 58, PAGE 37, OF THE
PUBLIC RECORDS OF CLAY
COUNTY, FLORIDA.
Property Address: 3371 CANYON
FALLS DR GREEN COVE SPRINGS,

FALLS DR GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FL 32043 Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim in accordance with Florida Statutes, Section 45.031

Dated this 23rd day of March, 2021. (seal) Tara S. Green As Clerk of the Court

By: Jaimie Pippin
As Deputy Clerk
IMPORTANT WITH DISABILITIES

#### Notice of Sale

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Legal 47584 published April 22 and April 29, 2021 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper 19-407227



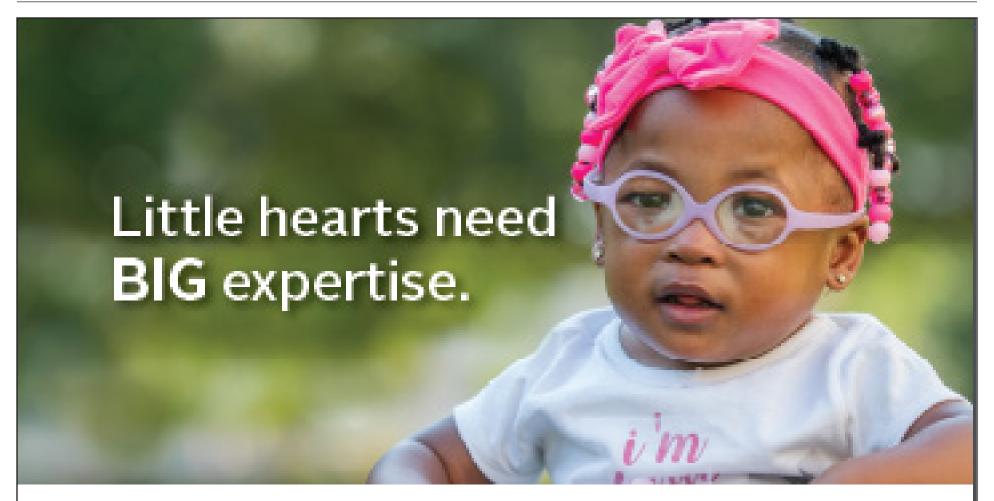
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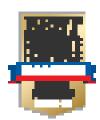
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