

CLAY TODAY

This Week ..

Facebook Question of the Week – PAGE 8
 Blood donations still flowing – PAGE 12
 Principal of the Year – Page 21
 School News – INSERT
 CLAY ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE – INSERT



COVID-19 IN CLAY COUNTY

As of May 4

20,232 Positive cases reported
 346 Deaths
 49,925 Full vaccinations given
 1,222 Positive student cases reported in schools
 196 Faculty and staff cases in schools
 961 Care facility cases
 138 Active positive cases at care facilities
 121 Deaths at care facilities

THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2021

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VOLUME 58, NO. 20 75¢

GREEN COVE CELEBRATES COMPLETION OF THE

Augusta Savage Social Services and Cultural Complex

For Clay Today

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – The City of Green Cove Springs, along with Clay County, Food Pantry of Green Cove Springs and additional community partners, celebrated the newly renamed Augusta Savage Social Services and Cultural Complex on Monday, May 3.

Work to the complex includes new parking lot and paving on the west side of the complex and circular driveway and portico at the Food Pantry of Green Cove Springs. The two biggest changes to the complex are the newly constructed Augusta Savage Museum and Mentoring Building and a complete interior renovation of the Green Cove Springs Food Pantry, which includes new A/C and heating, electric, ceiling, walls to create dedicated waiting room, office space and bathroom and lockable storage areas.

The Augusta Savage Museum and Mentoring Building, built on the foundation of the former Dunbar High library building, holds classroom space for a computer lab and individual and group tutoring, a dance studio, a music studio, and a permanent art museum space dedicated to the work of Augusta Savage and

SEE SAVAGE, 14



City and county officials join volunteers at the long-awaited grand opening of the Augusta Savage Social Services and Cultral Complex on Martin Luther King Blvd.



Sheriff to ask BCC for money to keep deputies from leaving

By Don Coble
 don@opcfla.com

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – The average store manager at Home Depot earns \$71,601 a year and a night manager at Wawa convenience store averages \$43,000. A company in Middleburg is looking for carpentry assistants with a starting salary at \$41,000, and a local company is advertising for a mulch blower with a \$50,000 annual salary, according to indeed.com.

COMPARISON OF STARTING PAY FOR LOCAL SHERIFF, POLICE DEPUTIES

St. Johns County Sheriff's Office.....	\$48K
Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (A).....	\$46K
Nassau County Sheriff's Office	\$44K
Green Cove Springs Police Department	\$43K
Clay County School District Police Department (B)	\$40K
Clay County Sheriff's Office	\$38K
Putnam County Sheriff's Office	\$38K
Orange Park Police Department (C).....	\$38K

A – Plus \$11,500 a year contribution to employee retirement
 B – Plus \$500 a year bonus with 10-years of experience
 C – Pay raises to \$42,000 after one year, \$49K after five years

A deputy with the Clay County Sheriff's Office wears a bulletproof vest, a gun and a badge before heading out into public – all for a starting salary of \$38,000.

Sheriff Michelle Cook wants to change that.

SEE PAY, 24



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INDEX

Opinion | 4-5
 Obituaries | 8

Crime | 22-23
 Sports | 25-32

Puzzle | 32
 Classifieds & Legals | 33-39



Green Cove Springs Police: 'Our motto is to protect with courage and serve with respect'

By Chief Derek Asdot
Chief of Police, Green Cove Springs

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – There is no doubt that law enforcement agencies have been heavily scrutinized over the past few years, and some rightly so. Due to the ever-available social media presence in our lives, these incidents are viewed on our cellular phones, laptops or tablets within minutes of taking place. These types of horrific and tragic events undermine our mission as law enforcement officers.

This is where self-assessments of law enforcement organizations need to take place.

Policies, procedures, training and tactics should be often reviewed and trained upon accordingly. That is what we are witnessing in the law enforcement world right now. Agencies across the country are reviewing best practices to ensure that services rendered are unbiased, professional and as efficient as possible. Our department is currently pursuing the heralded CALEA Accreditation as well as the State of Florida CFA Accreditation. Both of which ensure best practices industry wide are in policy and procedure as well as adequate training in those areas to prove proficiency.



Chief Derek Asdot

Social media can surely be a good thing, but it is very much a double-edged sword. Often it appears that both the media and some people will paint law enforcement with a "very broad brush." The idea that one police officer in another part of the country, or even locally with misconduct issues, commits a crime or is unethical "thus painting all law enforcement officers as such" is a very slippery slope. If that idea

were applied equally to all persons of every walk of life, no good people would be left.

As the Chief of Police of the Green Cove Springs Police Department, I am tasked with the direction, message and training of our Officers. What I do not subscribe to is "Painting with a broad brush." That is both reckless and irresponsible. All persons deserve respect, we deliver that message in the way we handle our calls for service. Behind our walls we constantly preach to "treat others how you wish to be treated." Criminals and criminality play by different rules. Nonetheless, we still deploy, answer the calls for service and treat people with dignity and respect. We have gotten very good at "blocking out the noise" and pushing forward. Sometimes it is hard. We are human after all, just like all of you. We are parents, siblings and friends like all of you. When we are unfairly judged by an irresponsible, dangerous or rogue officer, we carry that. No one dislikes a "bad cop" more than a "good cop." Our motto is to "to protect with courage and serve with respect," and we live by that.

The GCSPD is extremely community oriented, we enjoy it. We love our citizens and visitors alike. From Food Truck Fridays, Christmas on Walnut Street, Riverfest,

Trunk or Treat or the many other events we host, we are on full display. Our Officers, Dispatchers and Civilian Staff put themselves out there to support these events. The reason we do this is because we have a "culture" in Green Cove Springs. Our culture starts at the top. From our Mayor Van Royal and the City Council Members to our City Manager Mr. Steve Kennedy. Our culture is to embrace the community, to volunteer often and to put team work first. The City of Green Cove Springs can best be described by looking at the New England patriots. (I know they are not a popular team here, and whether Miles Jack was down or not is not the point of the article.) But the Patriots had a dynasty like no other. They did it year in and year out, without ever having many Pro Bowl players or many future Hall of Famers. Besides Brady obviously, but this discussion is not about the GOAT, so I digress. But they did it with TEAMWORK. Our City Council is the front office that creates the support and guidance through the budget process and decisions for the direction of the city during Council Meetings. Coach Belichick would be our City Manager. The rest of the staff are the players. Working synergistically,

SEE ASDOT, 10

Orange Park fire chief's job will be decided within 30 days

Town Council decides a third-party arbitrator to investigate claims Barker violated 'town's core values'

By Wesley LeBlanc
wesley@opcfla.com

ORANGE PARK – The fate of the town's fire chief's job will be decided in 30 days.

Alvin Barker was asked to resign as the Orange Park Fire Department's Fire Chief in March and he did not accept the offer. He instead pled his case during the April 20 town council meeting, when the town council was originally scheduled to hear town manager Sarah Campbell's recommendation to fire Barker after he refused to quit.

This led to more than an hour of discussion where Barker's lawyer, Paul Donnelly, argued on behalf of Barker, saying his client was a "whistleblower" for revealing an account he deemed "illegal." Campbell said her request for Barker's resignation had nothing to do with that, while also explain-



The town council made a motion to have third party mediation occur between the town and its suspended fire chief, Alvin Barker, with the hope that a resignation route agreeable between all parties involved is found for the former fire chief.

ing the account wasn't illegal, and instead had to do with three separate issues that put Barker's integrity into question.

Campbell discussed those three incidents during a special meeting held Wednesday, April 28. The first issue was brought to her attention on Feb. 16. She

said she received an email from Barker asking if it was OK if insurance sales representatives were allowed to come into the fire and police departments to talk about insurance.

"I didn't think much of the email at the time and I responded and said I think this

would not be appropriate to come in as they [the insurance sales representatives] need to go through the open enrollment process," Campbell said. "We're asked frequently about this and that's our practice."

She said the concern didn't come up until police chief Gary Goble spoke to Campbell. Campbell says Goble told Barker having the insurance sales representatives come in was against policy and upon seeing his name attached to Barker's email about it to Campbell, Goble reached out to Campbell to explain that he did not approve of Barker's email and didn't want Campbell thinking he did by virtue of his name being attached to it.

"Goble expressed his concern to me and he didn't want to be seen as in agreement and that was concerning to me because it seemed like a department head was trying to manipulate me in order to do something they wanted to do even though it was against town practice to do so," Camp-

SEE CHIEF, 15

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State commission to enforce gambling laws moved to Special Session

By Haley Brown
For Florida Politics

When legislators are called back to work later this month to ratify a freshly signed contract governing gambling in the state, they'll also consider three bills that deal with other gaming laws.

Gov. Ron DeSantis agreed to a new gaming compact with the Seminole Tribe on Friday, April 30. A major provision of the compact opens the state of Florida to sports betting.

The compact is subject to approval by the Legislature, but with only a week left in the Regular Session there is not enough time to add it to the agenda.

House Speaker Chris Sprowls, in an announcement made from the House floor after the compact was signed, said the Legislature will convene for a Special Session May 17 to ratify the compact.

Also pushed to the Special Session will be three gaming bills. Two of the bills would establish a gaming commission, and the third removes the live racing requirement for certain gaming permit holders.

The bills had already worked their way through the committee process with unanimous approval and were sitting on the Senate calendar. Amid rumors of the new gaming compact, the bills were temporarily postponed.

Senate President Wilton Simpson reasoned in a memo that the gaming bills should be swept to the Special Session so the Legislature "can discuss and address the future of gaming in our state in a more comprehensive manner at that time."

The Senate bills originated in the Regulated Industries Committee. Sen. Travis Hutson chairs that committee.

Hutson said during the committee process the bills were designed to work with or without an agreement with the Seminole Tribe. He told Florida Politics Friday that even though the new deal covers sports betting, which would mark a significant expansion of gaming in Florida, the bills should not change much.

"There may be an edit or two since the

SEE GAMBLING, 5



Success in Draft, free agency will be measured by Jaguars victories

By Don Coble
Managing Editor

Fans rejoiced when Shad Khan bought the Jacksonville Jaguars in 2011. We were promised a fresh approach and victories. For the first time in years, we had hope.

Apart for the 2017 campaign which ended one win away from the Super Bowl, the Jaguars continued to guarantee improvement and success, only to deliver a myriad of failures.

By hiring Urban Meyer as the new head coach and tanking the 2020 season to land the No. 1 pick in last week's NFL Draft, Jacksonville is telling us better days are coming in a few months. But after being duped by the team for so many years, it's not easy to keep buying into the hype.

Or is it?

Something does seem different this time around. The Jaguars have made sweeping changes after finishing 1-15. They've signed 12 free agents. They drafted nine new players, including everybody's All-America Trevor Lawrence. And now there's talk Tim Tebow could come back to play tight end.

While Khan has a collective record of 41-108 as the owner, he did more than come up with a catch phrase to keep the fans from hitting the exits.

"This time, I got it right, OK? I talked about the process here, seriously, over the last few months," he said while introducing Lawrence to the franchise. "And you know, for me, it's like as the owner



Don Coble

you're sitting on that knife edge of micro-management and abdication. How do you strike that balance? And so, learning from experience. But starting off, we have the opportunity go with winners and then let them build."

For fans, it's a lot to take in. It's the wakeup call we've wanted for years.

It's going to take a lot to forget Blaine Gabbert. Or Justin Blackmon and Luke Joeckel. The team's decision to draft punter Bryan Anger in the third round with the 70th pick – five spots before Seattle took quarterback Russell Wilson off the board with the 75th pick – should be a reminder for fans to keep their exhilaration in check.

Lawrence clearly was the best quarterback on the market. And for a team that's been desperate to fill that void in the lineup, it was an easy pick. The 6-foot-6, 220-pounder led Cartersville (Ga.) High to 41 consecutive wins and two Georgia state championships. From there, he was 34-2 at Clemson, where he led the Tigers to the 2018 CFP National Championship.

More impressive, he brings a refreshing attitude to a franchise that's been going nowhere for too long.

"Obviously, you don't know a place until you get there, and it's been special since I've been here today, so [I'm] really excited to learn more about it and really be a part of the community and just to go to work," Lawrence said. "I'm excited that I'm here and I'm officially a part of a team now. It's kind of a weird period going from you're on a team your whole life and you have this period before the draft, where you're kind of just working to get better, but you're not a part of the

SEE DRAFT, 5

Word OF THE WEEK

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

Bogart: (BOH-gahrt) a verb that means to cause someone to do something by means of force or coercion.

"Because cigarettes were in such short supply, inmates often would bogart them and not share them."

This Week In History

Five years ago, 2016

- Convicted felon Richard Price Tucker of Middleburg pled not guilty after being charged with six new counts of fraud against prominent elected officials. The new charges bring the total to 21, including Gov. Rick Scott, Attorney General Pam Bondi, Sheriff Rick Beseler and Clerk of County Courts Tara Green.

- The Clothes Closet and Food Pantry of Orange Park join with the U.S. Postal Service for a "Stamp Out Hunger" program.

- Super heroes and villains turn out for Free Comic Book Day at the Rogue Gallery in Orange Park.

10 years ago, 2011

- Owners of Club Christopher, Club Chameleon Café and Crazy Horse told the Board of County Commissioners their proposed ordinance to reduce crime on Wells Road would run them out of business.

- The Clay County School District said it will lose \$8 million in student funding and another \$11 million in non-recurring federal stimulus as a result of the sluggish economy.

- A task force comprised of community leaders and business owners propose more job cuts to county employees to address budgetary shortfalls.

20 years ago, 2001

- The county terminates the lease of Jack and Marilyn Richards at Black Creek Marina after their boats weren't removed ahead of a reconstruction project of new boat slips.

- The Clay High fast pitch softball team defeats Pensacola Pine Forest, 3-2, to advance to the Class 4A Final Four.

- Matthew Tinney is elected unanimously by the rest of the city council as the new mayor of Green Cove Springs.

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.

Gambling

from page 4

Governor signed the compact, but they can go on their own merits," Hutson said.

Simpson, in his memo, indicated support for the bills as he did when he announced the legislation mid-Session.

"In my view, we have a responsibility to update our laws to reflect current realities of this heavily regulated industry and to ensure those laws are properly enforced," Simpson said.

The sports-betting arrangement in the proposed compact is aimed at complying with a 2018 constitutional amendment, known as Amendment 3, that requires

statewide voter approval for future expansions of gambling. The amendment was approved by 71 percent of Florida voters.

The proposed compact also addresses controversial "designated player" games, which have been a major sticking point in previous attempts at sealing a deal. The compact signed Friday would recognize that designated player games do not breach the tribe's exclusivity but would constrain the card games to their current footprint and would not accommodate any significant expansion of the games.

Based on the current legislation (SB 7076), the way the state plans to enforce gaming laws is through a new Florida Gaming Control Commission, which would reside within the Office of the Attorney

"This team lost a lot of games last year. There's a bunch of games they could've won. You look at the roster that has some very good core players, but there's also some very significant weaknesses that you had to hit, and I think we hit them. The one that was brought up, the tight end position, no, there's still work to be done at that spot.

remain in relentless pursuit of continuing my lifelong dream of being an NFL quarterback."

A year later he was playing baseball in the New York Mets farm system.

Now 33, he recently got a workout with the Jaguars as a tight end.

"Tim and I've talked about, when he was a quarterback in the NFL that was a big topic," Meyer said. "I was so busy I didn't give him the time. 'What do you think? What do you think?' and I didn't know, I was too busy to even think it through. I know playing a position in the National Football League without — that's a long shot, this is years ago. How did it happen this time? We had a conversation. He worked out with our tight ends coach, I stopped by, did not stay for the whole workout. We're going to revisit here in the near future."

ment.

40 years ago, 1981

- Councilmen Donald Fullerton and Calvin Wilcox are sworn into office in Green Cove Springs, while the council selects John Bradley as the new mayor.

- The BCC holds a special meeting to allow the Housing Finance Authority to "clarify" a \$2.5 million discrepancy.

- Irene and Woodrow Thomas of Green Cove Springs win first place in the city's beautification contest.

General.

The five-member committee would have law enforcement authority over gaming laws like unauthorized gambling. The commission is required to have an experienced attorney, accountant and law enforcement officer included.

Members would be appointed to four-year terms by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Each member would make \$136,000 a year, an amount based on the salaries of other public service commissions, according to a staff analysis.

Details of the Gaming Control Commission's criminal investigations would be kept out of the public eye under a public records exemption bill (SB 7078).

A third piece of gaming legislation (SB 7080) will be closely watched by the harness horse racing community. A representative for that community testified during committee hearings to say the new law would have a negative impact on their industry.

The bill would remove parts of a law governing pari-mutuel permit holders, including harness racing, quarter horse

racing and jai alai. Current Florida law requires a certain level of live racing or competition for pari-mutuel wagering to take place. If the bill is passed, decoupling would be allowed, which means race tracks could still allow gaming like slot machines even if no live racing is taking place.

The harness horse racing representative said decoupling makes live racing less important to race tracks and could have a negative impact on their industry.

The thoroughbred horse racing community had the option to decouple but decided not to in order to keep the thoroughbred horse racing industry from eroding.

Haley Brown is a capitol reporter for FloridaPolitics.com. Her background includes covering the West Virginia Legislature for a regular segment on WVVA-TV in Bluefield called Capitol Beat. Her reporting in southern West Virginia also included city issues, natural disasters, crime, human interest, and anchoring weekend newscasts. Haley is a Florida native. You can reach her at haleybrown@gmail.com.

Draft

from page 4

team and I miss that, so [I'm] just excited for that."

Meyer also seems enthused. He emphasized winning will be an immediate priority, not a step of another rebuilding project.

"This team lost a lot of games last year," he said. "There's a bunch of games they could've won. You look at the roster that has some very good core players, but there's also some very significant weaknesses that you had to hit, and I think we hit them. The one that was brought up, the tight end position, no, there's still work to be done at that spot. We hit the three technique right at the end and hopefully he's good enough and he comes in ready to go. It'd be a bad feeling if we started the draft with a bunch of holes and left the draft with a bunch of holes."

By all accounts, Jacksonville didn't address the need for a pass-catching tight end in free agency or the draft, which added fuel to the Tebow speculation.

Tebow was a Heisman Trophy winner at Florida who was part of two national championship teams — both coached by Meyer. He had a brief career at quarterback in the NFL — all while scouts said he was better suited to be a tight end.

He left football in 2015, saying, "I will

History

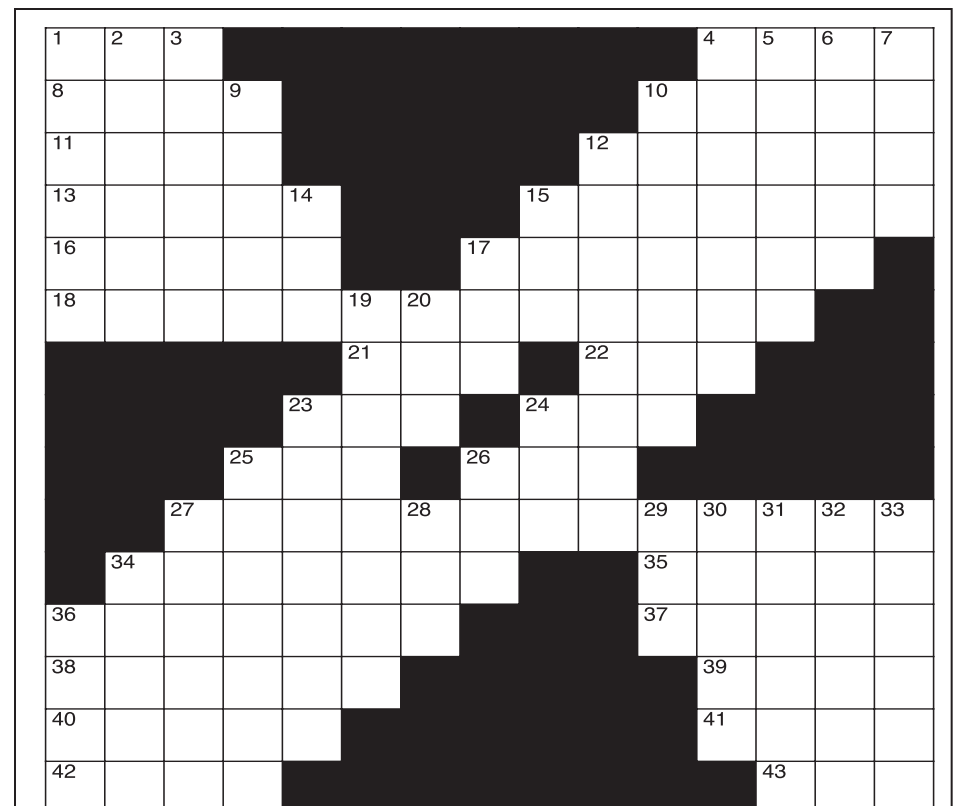
from page

30 years ago, 1991

- A community meeting to allow parents to ask questions about the Human Growth and Development curriculum — commonly known as sex education — concludes at Clay High.

- The Clay County Commission asks an Argyle Forest developer if they plan to fulfill an agreement to connect Argyle Forest Boulevard with Branan Field Road.

- The program for Ridgeview High's Festival of the Arts will include representation from all phases of cultural enrich-



CLUES ACROSS

- Engine additive
- A hearty laugh
- Restrain
- Dried coconut kernels
- Nefarious
- Elderly
- Central part of a church building
- Throw into confusion
- Intestinal
- Qualities of being religious
- Live up to a standard
- Seize
- Go quickly
- Automated teller machine
- Bowling necessity
- One point east of due south
- Japanese honorific
- A way to induce sleep
- Makes cash register rolls
- A city in S Louisiana
- Make more cheerful

CLUES DOWN

- Beautiful
- Polynesian island country
- Shrub of the olive family
- Self-governing Netherlands territory
- Shared one's view
- Tailless amphibians
- Charge passengers must pay
- Sound sheep make
- Known for sure
- Filled with unexpressed anger
- Student (abbr.)
- Criticize
- Gathering place

- Informal alliances
- One's mother (British)
- Landholder
- Peter's last name
- Parties
- Title of respect
- Red wine
- Pearl Jam's debut
- Shaft horsepower (abbr.)
- Frosts
- Cry of joy
- Induces vomiting
- Mother or father
- Dal __: Musical navigation marker
- Door fastener part

Always look up Middleburg art class provides pediatric ward with colorful ceiling tiles

By Wesley LeBlanc
wesley@opcfla.com

ORANGE PARK – The art of Middleburg High students will live on forever on the ceilings of Orange Park Medical Center’s pediatric ward.

Hospitals can be quite scary. That feeling is heightened when children don’t understand why they’re there. They now can find comfort – and maybe even a smile – when they look up at the ceiling, thanks to art teacher Adam Goodwin’s portfolio class students.

“We’ve been doing this ceiling tile art for a couple of years now,” Goodwin said, explaining how the ceiling tiles in the hallway where his art room is located have been painted by his students for years.

SEE TILES, 18



From left: Adam Goodwin - Art Teacher, Louis Lindsay - Auxiliary President, Mary Parris - ER staff, Rachel Criswell - ER staff, Sandra DiGiovanni - Auxiliary Treasurer, Lydia Smart - Student, Kurtikia Johnson - Transporter, Jasmine Bole - Student, Adrianna Ouzts - Student, Suzanne Jones - Director of Women’s and Children Services. Kneeling from left: Melissa Resinger - Manager of Labor and Delivery and Christine Fernandez - ER Manager.



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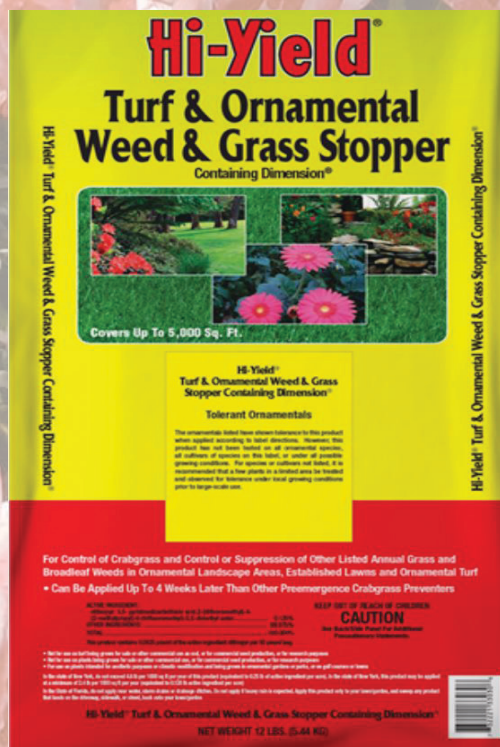


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Obituaries

Arthur Glen Rutten

Arthur Glen Rutten, 73 of Middleburg, passed away Saturday, May 1, 2021.

Mr. Rutten was born September 17, 1947 in Jacksonville to parents Eldon and Pansy (Thomas) Rutten. Arthur was a longtime marine electrician and worked at Blount Island for 40 years.

In his free time, he enjoyed fishing, boating, and duck hunting. He also enjoyed live music and attending concerts. Arthur loved his family and will be dearly missed. His parents preceded him in death.

Survivors are his wife of 35 years, Kathy (Kitchen) Rutten of Middleburg, children, Michelle Reed (John) of Middleburg, Jennifer Meehan (Shane) of Orange Park, Sheena Jacobs (Jimmy) of Grove Town, Georgia, Ashley Glen (Kristen) of Middleburg, Steven Williams and Shane Williams both of Black Mountain, North Carolina. Also surviving him are his brothers, Mike Rutten of Green Cove Springs and Chuck Rutten (Donna) of Palatka, nine grandchildren and his niece and great nephew, and a host of friends.

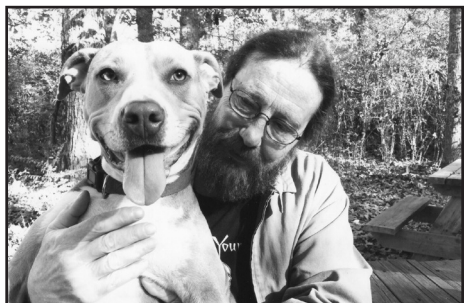
A memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family requests a donation be made in his name to the American Heart Association www.heart.org. Arrangements under the care of Helm-Gallagher Funeral Home & Cremation Services, 1811 Idlewild Avenue, SR 16, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043. 904-284-9696. www.helmgallagherfh.com



Arthur Glen Rutten



Helm - Gallagher
Funeral Home & Cremation Services



Alfred Louis Dorlac, Jr.

Alfred Louis Dorlac, Jr.

Alfred Louis Dorlac Jr. was delivered to the Lord on May 1, 2021, at the age of 68. He is remembered as a loving husband, father, and grandfather, whose love will remain until the end of time.

Alfred was born on July 3, 1952 in Houston, Texas to Alfred Louis Dorlac Sr and Nora Lorene Baldwin, he later moved to Clay County, Florida.

His career began by honoring his country as a corpsman in the United States Navy. After being discharged, he began working in construction and eventually became superintendent over many commercial projects. Alfred attended college for several years at St. Johns River Community College, graduated from the Bob Ross School of Art and became a certified art instructor, and had several technical trade certifications.

Alfred loved his wife, children, and grandchildren more than anything in the world. He was a hero to his children and a home to his family. He found endless happiness painting beautiful scenarios and created magnificent stories with each stroke of his paintbrush. His lifelong hobby was his love for fishing and he shared this love with his brother, nephew, and son, and many others.

Alfred was preceded in death by his father, Alfred Louis Dorlac Sr, his mother, Nora Lorene Baldwin, brothers Marvin and Lani Dorlac, and sister Mary Jane Elledge. He is survived by his wife, Faith Dorlac, daughters Cherie Dorlac (Brian) and Bonnie Miller (Curt) his son, Justin Miller (Laura) five grandchildren, Lily, Logan, Luke, Chase, and Sarah Nora Hope, sisters Margie Foye and Mickie Ray, his Uncle Charles Dorlac and Aunt Helen Riddle, and many beloved cousins, nieces and nephews.

He will be greatly missed by his family and friends who he met along the way.

The celebration of life will be held on Saturday, May 8, at the Helm - Gallagher Funeral Home in Green Cove Springs. The viewing will begin at 10:00am and the services are scheduled directly after at 11:00am. Flowers are welcomed and can be sent to 1811 Idlewild Avenue Green Cove Springs, FL 32043.

Arrangements under the care of Helm-Gallagher Funeral Home, 1811 Idlewild Avenue, SR 16, Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043. 904-284-9696. www.helmgallagherfh.com



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Donald Keith Kingsnorth

Donald Keith Kingsnorth, 85, of Orange Park, FL passed away May 1, 2021

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Facebook Question of the Week What do you think of President Biden's new \$1.8 trillion "infrastructure" bill?

By Wesley LeBlanc
wesley@opcfla.com

CLAY COUNTY – President Joe Biden has revealed the American Families Plan and it offers free education, direct support to children and families, additional tax credits and more.

It is being sold as a bill to rebuild the country's infrastructure.

It's a massive \$1.8 trillion plan that comes about one month after the president's \$2 trillion infrastructure plan which hasn't yet been approved by Congress. Biden's goal with the American Families Plan is to revitalize the nation's economics and family structure.

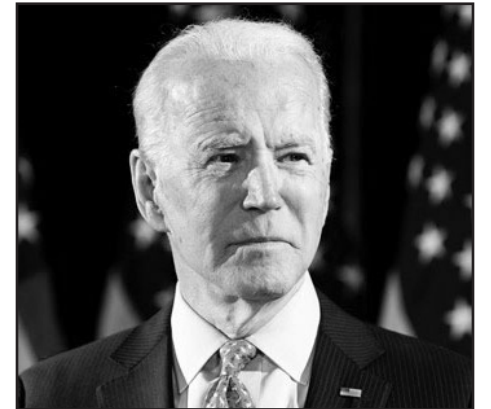
It includes a proposal to have low and middle-income families pay no more than 7% of their income on childcare for children younger than 5.

It also includes an additional push for a national \$15 an hour wage and \$109 billion to go towards making two years of community college free for all students. Biden's plan comes with a focus on enhancing Pell Grants, family and medical leave, universal preschool, nutritional assistance for children, expanded child tax credits through 2025, and more.

To make it happen, Biden wants to raise the 37% tax rate those in the top 1% of American income earners face to 39.6%, something 99% of American wouldn't have to pay.

We asked Clay Today readers what they thought of the American Families Plan for this week's Facebook Question of the Week and here's what they had to say:

Sandra Davidson kept her reply simple and said, "nothing is free." The ability to



President Joe Biden has revealed a massive \$1.8 trillion American Families Plan which would provide free community college for two years, help with childcare, universal preschool and more. We asked Clay Today readers what they thought of this plan for this week's Facebook Question of the Week.

afford such a plan comes from taxes and in particular, those paid by the uber-rich 1% class of Americans.

Amanda Laffoon said she doesn't like that the plan gives so much to people seemingly for free.

"They already probably get welfare," Laffoon said. People who are given everything will never work for anything."

Pam Norwood agreed and said, "I'm not really sure why we should send monthly payments for children in low-income brackets." She said that common sense says if someone needs to help to afford a child, they should not have a child.

"Common sense tells me that [sending monthly payments] is encouraging people to have babies they cannot afford," Nor-

SEE FACEBOOK, 13

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Community Hospice & Palliative Care Celebrates Nurses Week

CLAY COUNTY – Nurses Week takes place between Thursday, May 6 to Wednesday, May 12 and marks the 201st year of celebrating nurses. The week allows people the chance to acknowledge the nurses in their lives, and provides an opportunity to thank them for the work they have done.

Community Hospice & Palliative Care employs over 386 nurses that care for almost 1,600 patients a day. Many times, at the end of life, a nurse is the last person a patient has contact with and the care they provide during this phase will affect the family's memories of their loved one's final days.

"Katie, our nurse, was my angel. She was the kindest and most giving person we have ever met, and she just felt like family," said Mrs. Strickland, wife and caregiver of a patient at Community Hospice & Palliative Care. "She knew my husband was going to go and she stayed with him and held his hand. I thank you all every day for watching over him. I'm grateful for what you did for him, even for such a short time he was in your care, and I'm grateful he wasn't alone."

"Our nurses are an integral part of our care team. We are blessed to have an amazing group of caring compassionate loving nurses. They are Community Hospice.

– Mary McElroy, Senior Vice President of Hospice Services

Nurses have played an even more important role over the last year as our community and the nation dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic. They have regularly put their health and safety on the line to compassionately care for those who may be positive for the virus while also suffering from chronic or advanced illness.

"Our nurses are an integral part of our care team. We are blessed to have an amazing group of caring compassionate loving nurses. They are Community Hospice." Said Mary McElroy, Senior Vice President of Hospice Services.



Nurses are an often under appreciated but highly important part of critical care.

Community Hospice & Palliative Care will celebrate by honoring their nurses with a recognition webinar series, gift bags, social media campaign that share messages of thanks from staff. In addition, the Healthcare Relations team will be honoring nurses in the community to thank them.

Established in 1979, Community Hospice & Palliative Care is an innovative national leader in palliative and hospice care, as well as providing programs and services to meet the diverse needs of the communities it serves.

During its 42-year history, through the support of more than 1,000 employees and 1,000 volunteers, the organization helps approximately 1,600 patients a day to live better with advanced illness – at home, in long-term care and assisted living facilities, in hospitals and at its 10 inpatient care centers. No one is ever denied care due to an inability to pay. To learn more about the support and services of Community Hospice & Palliative Care, visit CommunityHospice.com.

COLLEGE NEWS

Lauren Carstens graduates at University of Mississippi

OXFORD, Miss. – Lauren Marie Carstens of Fleming Island is among the more than 5,000 candidates for graduation in the Class of 2021 who were celebrated during the university's 168th Commencement exercises.

Carstens, who is a Food and Nutrition Services major, is a candidate for a Master of Science degree in the Graduate School.

Croci inducted to The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

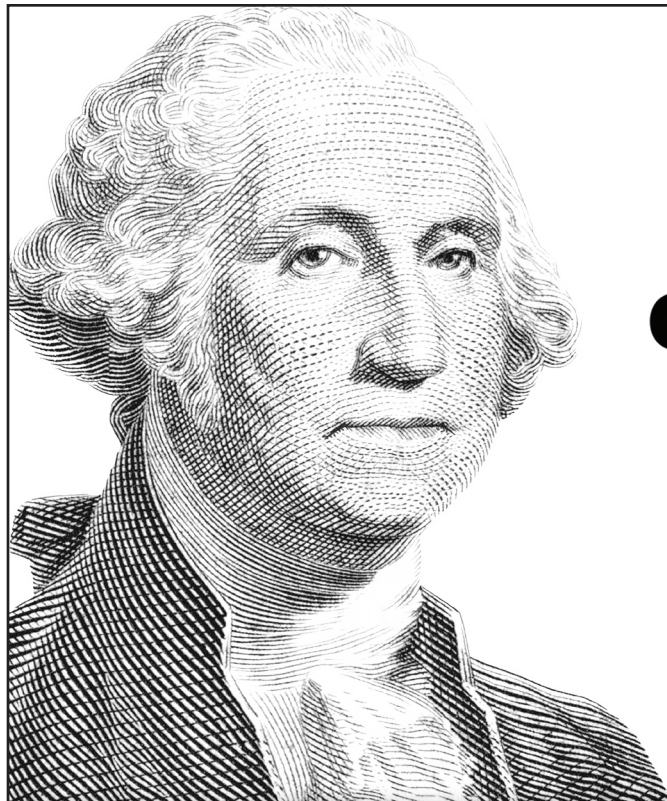
BATON ROUGE, La. – Jonathan Croci of Fleming Island, Florida, was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society.

Croci was initiated at University of Maryland Global Campus.

Croci is among approximately 30,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year.

Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter.

Only the top 10% of seniors and 7.5% of juniors are eligible for membership.



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Asdot

from page 2

we accomplish many things which make the County Seat of Clay County, the City of Green Cove Springs such a great place to work, live and play. Our teamwork helps us do so much with so few. We subscribe to the culture, believe in our commitments and work tirelessly to hold the great events that we do. Our culture is to excel, to provide for and to do it selflessly. Our City leaders

exemplify this.

Lastly, we are very fortunate to have such socially responsible citizens. They truly make our job so much easier. Both the citizens and visitors to Green Cove Springs are simply amazing. In closing, all we ask is that you give us a fair shake, turn off the national news and look at who we are, what we offer in this beautiful city and judge us by those interactions. We, as always are committed to the community.

Derek S. Asdot, Chief of Police



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Calendar of Events

CLAY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE: will meet May 6 at 10 a.m. in the Zoning Department Conference Room, third floor of the Administration Building, 477 Houston St. in Green Cove Springs.

ORANGE PARK ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: will meet May 6 at 4 p.m. at Town Council Meeting Chambers, 2042 Park Ave.

CLAY COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD: will meet May 6 at 6 p.m. at the District Multi-Purpose Room, at Fleming Island High, 2233 Village Square Pkwy., on Fleming Island.

GREEN COVE SPRINGS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: will be discussed at a public workshop at the Clay Theater on May 6 from 6-8 p.m.

ORANGE PARK PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD: will meet May 6 at 6 p.m. at Town Council Meeting Chambers, 2042 Park Ave.

COMMUNITY HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE: will offer an online support session "Bereavement Education and Support" on May 7 from 3-4:30 p.m. To sign up, visit engagement@communityhospice.com or call (904) 407-6464.

ORANGE PARK WOMEN'S CLUB THRIFT STORE: is open May 8 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 130 Kingsley Ave.

ELDERSOURCE GENTLE JOINT-SAFE EXERCISE FOR STIFFNESS/BALANCE: virtual webinar is May 10 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.



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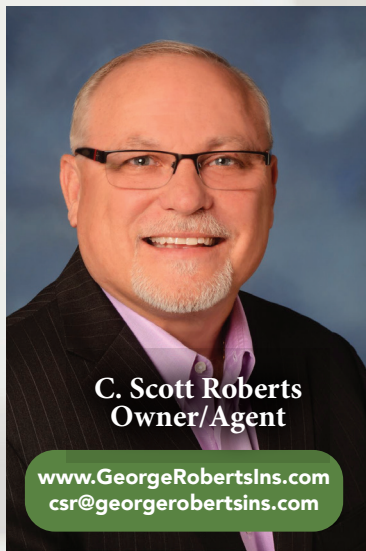
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New Orange Park Medical Center COO eager to manage future growth

By Wesley LeBlanc
wesley@opcfla.com

ORANGE PARK – Clay County’s largest hospital has found a new chief operating officer in Pete Long-Innes, who’s been with the Hospital Corporation of America for 12 years.

Orange Park Medical Center is one of many hospitals in the HCA chain and it’s a natural fit for Long-Innes, who has long had his eye on the rapidly-growing hospital. When the position for OPMC COO opened up, he promptly applied.

“I said, ‘No time like the present,’ and here we are today,” Long-Innes said.

A colleague of his who worked in the same HCA division office had been filtering opportunities as they opened up, and he’d been watching for an opportunity at OPMC. With the recent opening of an 18,200-square foot, five-story patient tower, he said OPMC is a hospital that’s rapidly moving forward and he was excited about the prospect of being a part of it. He also was looking for a place to put down roots. The Orange Park Medical Center and Clay County community was a perfect fit, he said.

His new position is a bit of a reunion with CEO Lisa Valentine. He’s excited to work with her to help the hospital’s current and future expansion plans.

Long-Innes started as an administration intern in Nashville. During his undergraduate years, he then became EMT certified while in college with the goal of working as an emergency room technician. He did so for about a year and a half in northern Virginia. His original plan was to become a doctor, but he quickly became allured by the broad stroke applications of healthcare administration.

Instead of helping a single patient at a time, Long-Innes could help an entire hospital and in turn, an entire hospital’s patients. He wanted to put in some ER tech time, though, because he “wanted to have some credibility with knowing what care delivery is like on the actual floor.” He jokes that he learned more in that year and a half on the ER floor than he did in his master’s program at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia.

He continued to work part time for HCA healthcare during his time working toward a master’s and upon graduation, he did a residency between that HCA division office



Pete Long-Innes is the new chief operating officer of Orange Park Medical Center, and in this position, he’ll help guide the hospital through its unparalleled growth to meet the needs of the Clay County community.

and one of the larger hospitals in the Richmond area.

“I spent time at both [facilities] and saw increasing levels of administrative oversight in doing so,” he said. “I was accepted into HCA’s executive development program and that was exciting because HCA is really strong about internal devel-

opment and promoting from within to grow our own. It did so much for me in terms of readiness and preparing me for a role like this.”

That opportunity took him to Kentucky and he was there for nearly three years.

SEE OPMC, 15

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LifeSouth: Donating blood not affected by COVID-19 pandemic

Nonprofit group struggling to fill shortages created in past year

By Wesley LeBlanc
wesley@opcfla.com

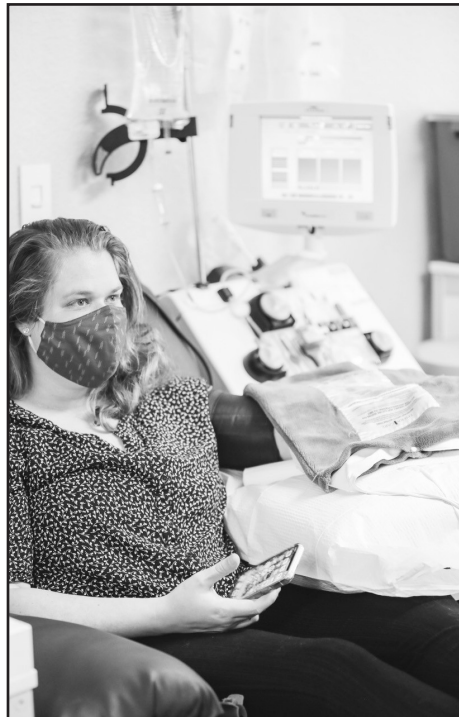
CLAY COUNTY – The need for blood doesn't take a vacation so neither does LifeSouth Community Blood Centers, the organization that stocks the shelves of Northeast Florida hospitals.

Keeping those shelves stocked has been harder than ever before due to the global COVID-19 pandemic and LifeSouth is trying to get one simple message out: they still need blood. Despite what some might believe, the novel coronavirus has no effect on blood. While nobody should give blood when they have COVID-19 because they might transmit the virus to the recipient. But according to LifeSouth community development coordinator, Karen Patterson, there have been no transmissions of the virus through blood donation.

"It's still safe and we still need it every day," Patterson said. "One in three people will need blood in their lifetime. People have taken a break, but the need for a blood supply never did."

Patterson said blood donation numbers were down 50% when the pandemic began, a big hit for the organization that usually collects 35,000 units of blood of year – the primary reason was people were scared to go out. When little was known about COVID-19 beyond the dangers associated with it, a lot of people stayed home and a lot of those people were regular blood donors.

Patterson said LifeSouth is getting the word out the organization following all CDC recommendations and donating blood at this time is safe. It's even safe for those



that have had COVID-19 in the past, but no longer have it. The Moderna, Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson vaccines don't affect one's ability to donate blood either, she said.

LifeSouth has a donor center at the Baptist Medical Center in Jacksonville that's open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; a center on Baymeadows Way in Jacksonville open Monday through Friday; and, bloodmobile that stops at various locations in Clay County.

The bloodmobile can be brought directly to neighborhoods, churches and businesses. More information about it can be found at lifesouth.org and right now, anyone who



People might have taken a break donating blood due to the pandemic, but LifeSouth Community Blood Centers are hoping to reinvigorate the community to help hospitals and the community get the blood it needs.

donates blood will get a \$10 e-certificate gift card.

LifeSouth supplies more than 300 hospitals across Florida, Georgia and Alabama, and each of LifeSouth's locations supplies blood to the region it can be found.

"We're all about getting local blood and giving local blood locally," Patterson said. "Blood you give here will stay here."

Patterson said that each donation of blood is first sent through a rigorous battering of health tests before it's sent to hospitals like OPMC. Blood donations have risen since the numbers seen at the start of the pandemic, but LifeSouth's numbers are still 20% lower than its pre-pandemic donations.

"A lot of people don't realize how big the need is for our community," Patterson said. "We want people to know we're all in this together. Just like getting a COVID-19 vaccine, donating blood is a great way to positively impact the local community."

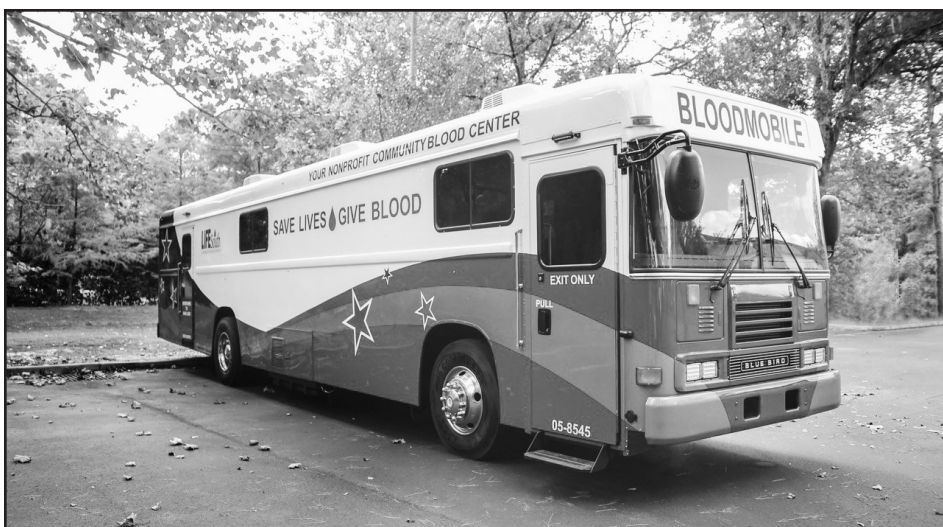
Anyone interested can go to one of LifeSouth's locations or one of its bloodmobile with a valid government-issued form of identification.

Masks are required to donate. Patterson said there's an interview process first with technicians to make sure the donor is safe and feeling well and then there's a 10-to-15-minute donation period.

After a quick pinch of the needle, patients are given a drink and some snacks for the duration of the donation. They're sent on their way after that and they can feel great knowing they just saved three lives with their one donation, according to Patterson.

"The need for blood is constant and our hospitals and our community need blood now," she said. "It takes about 45 minutes all together and literally saves lives."

To review LifeSouth's bloodmobile schedule, visit lifesouth.org.



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from page 8

wood said. “[I’d] rather see the money go to training these parents to provide better and help them with job placement.”

Some argue this is what the free college portion of the American Families Plan would do. Karen Fey replied to Norwood and said that’s not necessarily a fair way

to look at things.

“Well sadly, everyone complains about birth control being given out, to the point that they try to stop it,” Fey said. “[They] complain about women wanting abortions on fetus’ and try to ban them. Lose-lose situation right there. [It’s] not really fair to let kids suffer because of their parents...would be good if it led to more children getting fed in school, then you know they’re actually reaping the benefits.”

What are your thoughts on Biden’s American Families Plan?

Let us know by responding to last week’s Facebook Question of the Week and be sure

to follow the official Clay Today Newspaper Facebook page so that you don’t miss this week’s Facebook Question of the Week.

Monday - Closed
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Wednesday Nights - Silent Disco Music Trivia 7 - 10 w/ DJ Reverb
Thursday Nights - Ladies Night
Friday Nights - Silent Disco Headphone Party
Saturday Nights - Saturday Night Live with a band or DJ
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Business Briefs

Comcast to participate in Emergency Broadband Benefit program

CLAY COUNTY – Comcast is participating in the Emergency Broadband Benefit program, which will go into effect on Wednesday, May 12.

Through the program, qualified households will receive a \$50 a month discount on broadband service from any participating Internet service provider, including

Comcast, or up to \$75 a month in Tribal areas. The discount will apply across all Xfinity Internet service tiers, as well as **Internet Essentials**, low-cost residential Internet program for low-income households established in 2011.

Participating in the EBB program further demonstrates Comcast's long-time commitment to helping low-income households get online. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began last year, we've taken numerous steps to promote digital equity and inclusion, including:

- Opening access to more than 1.5 million Xfinity WiFi hotspots for free to everyone to use, including non-Xfinity customers
- Offering new Internet Essentials participants free service for 60 days
- Establishing the Internet Essentials Partnership Program to give schools and other organizations a way to sponsor Internet Essentials service for large groups of low-income students and families
- Creating WiFi-enabled Lift Zones at community organizations where students can participate in distance learning and do homework and adults can build digital skills and search for jobs

Building on the work we did during the pandemic and over the last decade, Comcast recently committed **\$1 billion** over the next 10 years to give 50 million low-income Americans the tools and resources they need to cross the digital divide.

Jacksonville International Airport to host job fair on Tuesday, May 11

JACKSONVILLE – With the resumption of increased flight activity at Jacksonville International Airport, more than 20 companies doing business at the airport will participate in a job fair on Tuesday, May 11, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Double-

Tree by Hilton Airport Ballroom at 2101 Dixie Clipper Dr.

American Airlines, Avis Budget Rental Cars, AvMax Aircraft Maintenance, Comfort Zone Spa, Doubletree Hotel, Enterprise Rental Cars, FedEx Express, Florida Cleaning Systems, Golden Gate America, Hertz Rental Cars, HMS Host Food and Beverage, Hyde Park Hospitality (The Club JAX), Insight Gift Shops, Paradies Shops Retail Concessions, PrimeFlight Aviation Services, Prospect Airport Services, Quantum Aviation, Sheltair Aviation, Signature Flight Support, SP Plus Parking and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) will be looking for new employees.

"As air travel continues to increase, companies are staffing up to meet the demands of passengers," Jacksonville Aviation Authority CEO Mark VanLoh said. "This job fair offers those looking for an exciting airport career the opportunity to interview with businesses operating at JAX."

Participating businesses are hiring for a wide range of positions both inside and outside the terminal. These jobs run a wide gamut from ramp agents, TSA security officers and rental car associates to aircraft mechanics, restaurant bartenders/servers and baggage handlers.

Attendees will be required to wear a facial covering and observe social distancing while at the JAX Airport job fair.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ANNEXATION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The City of Green Cove Springs proposes to adopt the following Ordinance:

ORDINANCE NO. O-02-2021

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA, ANNEXING APPROXIMATELY 560.52 ACRES OF REAL PROPERTY INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY; SAID PROPERTY BEING GENERALLY LOCATED ADJACENT TO THE EXISTING SOUTHWESTERN CITY LIMITS, EASTERLY OF OAKRIDGE AVENUE/COUNTY ROAD 15A; DESCRIBING SAID PROPERTY BY METES AND BOUNDS IN EXHIBIT "A"; FINDING THAT ALL THE OWNERS OF SAID PROPERTY HAVE PETITIONED THE CITY PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 171.044, FLORIDA STATUTES, TO VOLUNTARILY ANNEX SAME; FINDING THAT THE PROPERTY IS CONTIGUOUS TO THE EXISTING CITY LIMITS AND REASONABLY COMPACT; PROVIDING FOR REPEALER, SEVERABILITY, AND SETTING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The following public hearings have been scheduled and will be held in the City Council Chambers, 321 Walnut Street Green Cove Springs, Florida, to hear comments, if any, regarding said Ordinance:

Planning and Zoning Commission:	Tuesday, April 27, 2021, 5:00 pm
City Council:	Tuesday, May 18, 2021, 7:00 pm
City Council:	Tuesday, August 17, 2021, 7:00 pm*

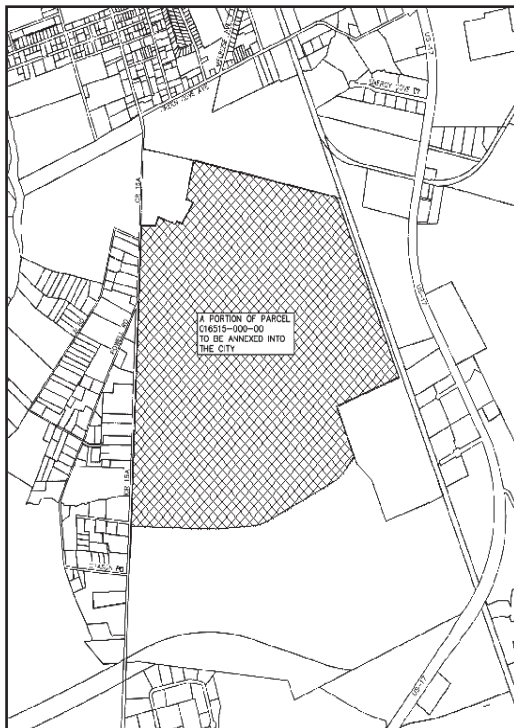
*Tentative

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

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person needing a special accommodation to participate in this matter should contact City Hall at (904) 297-7500 at least three (3) days prior to the meeting. Hearing impaired persons may access through Florida Relay – Dial 7-1-1.

A Map clearly showing the area proposed to be annexed is provided below. The complete legal description by metes and bounds and the ordinance can be obtained at the office of the City Clerk at City Hall for review during the hours of 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Thursday.

All interested individuals are invited to attend this public hearing.
City of Green Cove Springs
Heather Glisson, Planning Technician City Hall, 321 Walnut Street
Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043



Legal No. 47681 published April 29 and May 6, 2021 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper.

Savage from page 1

other artists.

Total cost of construction and renovation work is \$952,926, which includes \$250,000 of CARES Act funding for work on the food pantry and \$300,000 from Clay County for construction.

"The City is proud to make these additions to the complex that not only support the community and the nonprofit organizations that serve them, but also foster community partnerships to guide our youth to opportunities for a better future," said City of Green Cove Springs City Manager Steve Kennedy. "Augusta Savage has been an inspiration to generations of artists, and we want to honor her legacy by making this museum and mentoring building a place where children and teens find their passion for the arts."

Clay County Chairman of the Board Mike Cella said: "County Commissioners wanted to contribute to this local community enhancement project and have long supported the efforts of the City of Green Cove Springs to provide this resource for its residents. The county committed \$300,000 in funding for this Capital Improvement Project designed to improve the existing facility and provide a cultural arts center that will be valued and enjoyed by the community for many generations."

Kennedy said the City has already received a few works of art and memorabilia by Augusta Savage to add to the museum

area of the building, and continues to ask the community to donate pieces to add to the museum. The City is also looking for anyone with experience in archiving art to curate the museum space on a volunteer basis.

The City is currently working with community partners to implement programming at the museum and mentoring building through a working group which includes Chair of the City Planning & Zoning Board and member of the City Citizens Advisory Committee Henrietta Frances, Green Cove Junior High Principal Jen Halter, Charles E Bennett Elementary Assistant Principal Marcia Mainer, former City of Green Cove Springs mayor and council member Felicia Hampshire, and himself.

This group is crucial in creating sustainable programs in the arts and education and selecting individuals who can offer their skills on a volunteer basis as teachers or mentors. The group is open to others who can contribute to implementing programs or working as a volunteer.

The City is continuing to work on furnishing the museum and mentoring building with remaining budgeted funds for the building. It anticipates announcing programming by the end of the year.

Anyone interested in donating instruments, computers, artwork, any supplies for music, dance or art, or becoming a volunteer can contact Executive Assistant to the City Manager Kimberly Thomas at (904) 297-7054 or kthomas@greencovesprings.com.

Chief

from page 2

bell said.

The second incident occurred on Feb. 26, according to Campbell. Council member-elect John Hauber asked about open data ports. She said Barker sent an email explaining why having an open data port wasn't necessarily cause for concern. His explanation was multiple paragraphs long and after reading through a few of them, Campbell said it didn't sound like Barker's own words so she put Barker's words into Google and the search engine returned a site which had Barker's exact words.

"It's not that we're writing term papers, but in normal communication, [you might say], 'Here's some information I found online,'" Campbell said. "It seemed like somebody passing off work that wasn't their own trying to make me think it was their own and that made me uncomfortable."

The third issue was Barker supposedly tasking an employee with doing some policy edits that took the employee an entire day to complete, only for Barker to allegedly tell a different OPFD employee he was playing a joke on the employee working on the policy edits. She said at the previous meeting she found this inappropriate and that the employee did as well.

"These were the three reasons I ultimately made the decision that I did," Campbell told the town council. "I take very seriously the town's core values of integ-

riety, accountability, transparency, ethics, and economic stewardship. The Town's employee handbook code of conduct prohibits directly or indirectly making any statement related to town business that is knowingly false or misleading in any material respect.

"I want to [say] that there was no discrimination based on disability or whistleblower action. In conclusion, you know me to be a town manager with integrity and patience and that I would not bring it before you if it were not a serious matter. I take my duty to protect the employees of the town very seriously and I ask you for your support in my recommendation for termination."

Barker said he was privy to protection under the Firefighter Bill of Rights, but the town's labor lawyer said Barker doesn't fall under the description of a firefighter.

Donnelly argued the council didn't have all the facts it needed to make a decision about Barker's career.

"Having the facts is important, or in other words, investigating is important," Donnelly said.

Donnelly said an external investigation by an unbiased, third party cleared Barker of any charges related to complaints from employees, such as the joke he played on a fellow employee. He also mentioned that to date, Barker has apparently yet to receive official documentation outlining why he's being fired. He also said there's been no testimony, sworn statements or anything else usually associated with the process.

The town's labor lawyer argued because

Barker is an at-will employee, he's not privy to those rights. They said this doesn't mean this entire process wasn't done in fairness, however.

Donnelly pointed out despite what Campbell had said about integrity and the core values of the town, Barker had received employee ratings from her saying otherwise. Barker received a 3.43 out of 4 in 2018, a 3.42 in 2019 and a 3.86 in 2020.

"That [2020] evaluation said [Barker] has an excellent understanding of his profession," Donnelly said, allegedly reading from Barker's 2020 employee review. "[It says], 'I believe Al acts with integrity by following all rules and policies by raising attention to matters that could be risky.'"

Donnelly then said Barker listened to Campbell about the insurance sales email and didn't allow them to come in and present their insurance to the departments. He also explained that it's not uncommon for people to copy and paste information from a source online into an email. He said Barker wasn't trying to submit a paper for "a PhD certification," after all. He just wanted to get true and accurate information to the manager, he said.

A few town residents spoke on behalf of Barker and said he shouldn't be fired. Dozens more made comments of support on the live Facebook feed's comment section.

"Is this truly a fireable offense, or is it just a case of a few employees not liking their boss?" one resident asked. "Did the chief show up to work and complete the requirements of his job description? What

will this do for this man's reputation and career?"

One town employee said she supported Campbell because Campbell has always been a manager who makes decisions with integrity and compassion.

The rest of the meeting centered on how this would impact Barker and whether he should be terminated or allowed to resign on better terms. Barker said he wants his name cleared and his reputation restored. He explained he would be willing to resign, but not based on the original resignation letter written up by the town.

He's been on administrative leave without pay for six weeks, something he said is usually reserved for criminal offenses. Council member Roland Mastandrea was in favor of bringing in third party mediation to figure out a better resignation route for Barker, fighting for it several times throughout the meeting.

He ended up making a motion that was approved unanimously to have an agreeable third party come in for mediation with the goal of finding a suitable route of resignation for Barker with the findings brought back to the town council within 30 days. The motion also includes the stipulation that Barker be paid for the six weeks of administrative leave without pay he had endured and that he be put on administrative leave with pay immediately.

Barker and his lawyer said they believe a proper mediation could lead to a resignation route that would satisfy him.

OPMC

from page 11

Now he's at Orange Park.

"Orange Park Medical Center's one of those opportunities you look for in terms of a great position to land at," Long-Innes said. "It has all the opportunity in the world. It's a growing hospital in a growing community."

He also spoke of the center's complex surgery halls and renowned doctors like Dr. Michael Horowitz, whose special skill set focuses on neuroendovascular and intracranial neurosurgical disease.

To build a program all around that is an

Orange Park Medical Center recently opened a \$126 million expansion project housing 48 private patient beds for medical and surgical patients, as well as areas for patient registration, outpatient testing and imaging services

incredible opportunity, he said.

"Orange Park Medical Center recently opened a \$126 million expansion project housing 48 private patient beds for medical and surgical patients, as well as areas for patient registration, outpatient testing and imaging services," according to an OPMC press release. "The expansion is adding more than 100 jobs for the community. The hospital is also scheduled to break ground on a 60,000-square-foot medical office building this spring."

Long-Innes said it's an extremely exhilarating time to join the organization due to the growth.

"It's great to see this hospital continually advance to meet the needs of our community," he said.


He hopes all of the recent construction and upcoming construction allows OPMC to fully transition to a hospital where patients have private rooms, rather than semi-private. He's not sure if that's going to happen soon. If not, he hopes a majority

of them soon will be private.


Long-Innes said his new position tasks him with managing day to day operations of the facility while making sure clinicians and caregivers have the resources necessary to provide high-level care.

"I think to describe where I see this organization going...I think of depth and breadth, especially of our services," he said. "It's about really bringing high-quality advanced care to this community consistently and growing to meet the needs and the footprint of Clay County and surrounding areas."

PET ADOPTIONS




Magnum
Hi! My name is Magnum and I am looking for my fur-ever home. I am a Cattle Dog/Coonhound mix and I am about 1 1/2 years old, weighing around 55 pounds. I am up to date on all my vaccinations, neutered and microchipped. True to my breeds, I am an energetic pooch that would like a job. I am affectionate and playful with my humans and I do great with older kids, dogs and cats. I like to be outdoors playing in the yard, I am still young and need to burn off my energy, a fenced yard would be ideal to play ball. I know basic commands and I am house/crate trained. I love to be petted and have a good rub down. I walk well on a leash but I will pull if I don't get regular walks and play time. I do not like to share my food with others but you could feed separately. Make me your family's best friend. If you are interested in being my fur-ever home please come see me at Safe Animal Shelter. I am looking for a family that I can share my love and be loved back.
The shelter requires a meet-n-greet with all members of the household for a fur-ever home compatibility encounter (includes children and dogs).



Gabby
Hi! My name is Gabby and I am available for adoption. I am a 5 year old Retriever mix and weigh about 50 pounds. I am up to date on my vaccinations, I have been spayed and microchipped. I am a sweet, fun loving and affectionate girl. I am kid, dog and cat friendly. I am a laid back girl who likes to explore, I would do best in a home with a fenced yard. I am perfectly happy having my belly scratched and getting treats. I miss being part of a family and hope you can be mine. If you are interested in being my fur-ever home please come see me.

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Clay County Habitat for Humanity dedicates two new homes in Orange Park

ORANGE PARK – Two new homes were dedicated in a virtual ceremony by Clay County Habitat on Friday, April 30. The Polk Avenue project consist of two homes each with four bedrooms and two bathrooms. While the pandemic has slowed volunteer programs, we are so grateful to have both homes completed with the help of our 11 core volunteers. They alone put in 2,755 hours of hard work and dedication to grantee these homes would be ready for the families. The virtual event featured the new homeowners, Korey and Thealia speaking of their excitement and relief to finally have a place their families can call home. The main sponsor who helped to make this project happen is Wells Fargo. Ashley HomeStores donated beds for the children. The virtual home dedication can be viewed at https://youtu.be/_wioSbld9M.

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Could it be a hernia? 8 silent signs

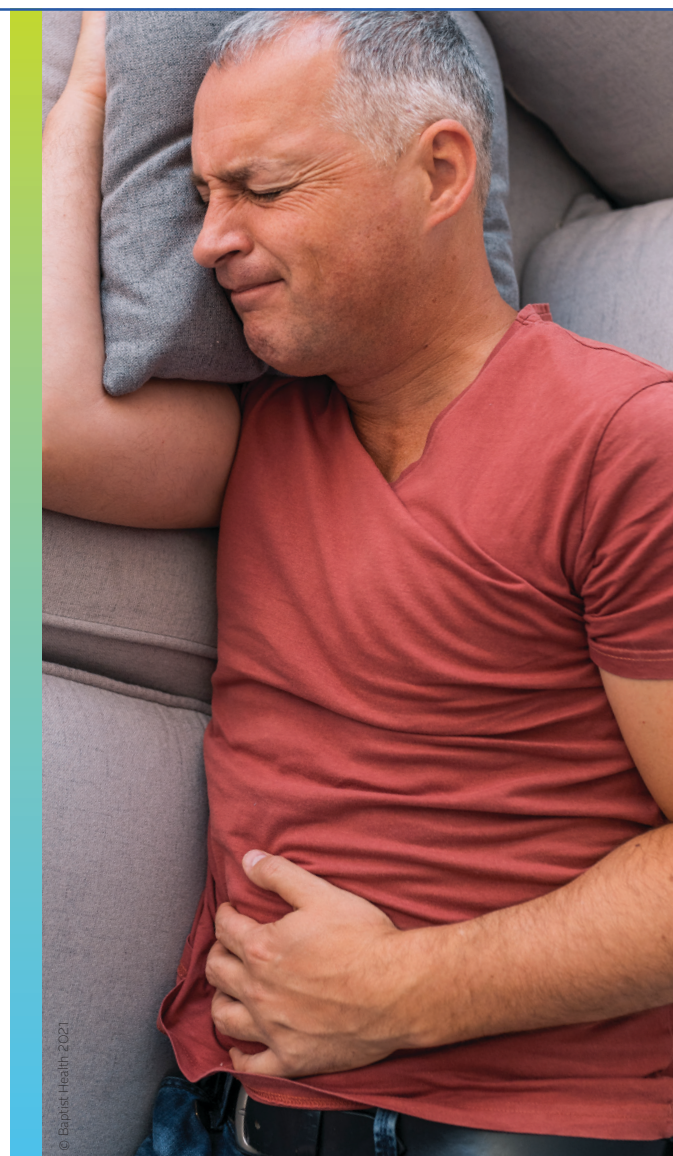
The signs of a hernia are not always obvious. Most common is a bulge in the abdomen, but here are some other symptoms that you may be more likely to ignore:

- Pain in the pelvic area
- Nausea and vomiting
- Fever
- Constipation
- Weakness and muscle fatigue in the upper leg or groin
- 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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Schedule an appointment



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Ascension St. Vincent's Clay County celebrates more A-ratings

For Clay Today

MIDDLEBURG – Ascension St. Vincent's Clay County, Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside, and Ascension St. Vincent's Southside each earned an 'A' in the spring 2021 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade, a national distinction recognizing Ascension St. Vincent's commitment to clinical and service excellence, protecting patients from harm and providing safer, higher quality healthcare. The hospitals also received 'A' grades last fall.

The Leapfrog Group is an independent national watchdog organization committed to healthcare quality and safety.

"Safety is essential to clinical excellence, providing an exceptional patient experience, and authentically living our Mission. Ascension Florida and Gulf Coast has clearly articulated and reinforced pa-



tient safety as a top priority as evidenced by these straight A's, multiple 5-Star ratings from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, multiple 5-Star ratings from Professional Research Consultants, Inc., and numerous other specialty-specific awards and recognitions," said Ascension Florida and Gulf Coast President and CEO Tom VanOsdol. "I'm grateful for every physician, every nurse, every caregiver, and everyone on our entire team for dedicated and self-

less work to care for those we're so blessed to serve. Recognitions like these require a total team effort and clearly demonstrate our differentiated expertise with respect to the quality of our care, and caring."

"An 'A' safety grade is an elite designation that your community should be proud of," said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. "The past year has been extraordinarily difficult for hospitals, but Ascension St. Vincent's shows us it is possible to keep a laser focus on patients

and their safety, no matter what it takes." The Safety Grade assigns an 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D', or 'F' grade to all general acute care hospitals across the country and is updated every six months. It is based on a hospital's performance in preventing medical errors, injuries, accidents, infections and other harms to patients in their care.

Developed under the guidance of a national Expert Panel, the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade uses up to 27 measures of publicly available hospital safety data to assign grades to more than 2,700 U.S. acute care hospitals twice a year. The Hospital Safety Grade's methodology is peer-reviewed and fully transparent, and the results are free to the public.

To see each hospital's full grade details and access patient tips for staying safe in the hospital, visit www.hospitalsafetygrade.org. To learn more about Ascension St. Vincent's, visit www.jaxhealth.com.

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Tiles

from page 6

"One of the ladies from OPMC came to a freshmen orientation one year and when she saw them, I think she took the idea back to the hospital and then asked us if we could do it for them."

Goodwin said it was a two-year process, but that the tiles recently were given to OPMC. He said his students at first were reserved, likely nervous about the permanence that comes with a project like this, but once they got into it, "they were really excited about it." Some of the students and Goodwin presented the art to OPMC. While they couldn't go in and see their work displayed due to COVID-19 restrictions, they were still able to hear about the excitement from OPMC officials and doctors from the pediatric ward.

"If you ever have to take your own kid to the hospital, you want the kid to feel a little better about going in, because it can be scary, and it's great that these students were able to do this. I don't think it'll be a one-time thing, either, and we're hoping it's a yearly thing. ...

— Adam Goodwin

"This project warmed our hearts," Director of Women and Child Services at OPMC Suzanne Jones said. "We know these students have had a challenging year dealing with the pandemic, yet they took the time to do something so special for our patients. It really means a lot to us."

Goodwin said the students that participated were from his upper-level portfolio class, otherwise known as the honor art students. He said he was extremely proud of them for their work.

"If you ever have to take your own kid to the hospital, you want the kid to feel a little better about going in, because it can be scary, and it's great that these students were able to do this," Goodwin said. "I don't think it'll be a one-time thing, either, and we're hoping it's a yearly thing. It all depends on the hospital really."

Adrianna Ouzts, 18, is a senior and she painted dolphins and jellyfish on some tiles. She said she was excited to work on tiles with a zoo theme, especially because of how much children generally love zoo animals.

"We presented the art on the school news and then the day we were going to take them to the hospital, they were placed outside the classroom for everyone else to see, and then when we actually took them to the hospital, we couldn't go in," Ouzts said. "The people in charge of the hospital and the ward came out and talked to us and thanked us so that was really nice."

"It makes me feel good knowing it'll provide happiness for children and I think it's really cool to have an opportunity to paint something for a public place, but even more than that, for children. It warms your heart."

Green Cove Springs exploring challenges to increasing traffic, lack of parking

Council approves first reading of rezoning request for "Dollar Tree" corner

By Don Coble
don@opcfla.com

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – The city council addressed two of its most pressing issues Tuesday night – traffic and parking.

Not only did the city get an update on roadway construction projects, the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization told the council an \$80,000 study already has been earmarked for Orange Avenue through the middle of town. Shortly afterwards, Michael Daniels told the council the Green Cove Springs Planning and Zoning Department recommended approval to rezone a 1.26-acre parcel from Gateway Corridor Commercial to Central Business District so developers can expand commerce on the corner of the busiest intersection in town at South Orange Avenue and Ferris Street.

Developers of the property, known as the "Dollar Tree," is a complex that's also home to Green Cove Dental, the Clay County Probation office and Andrews Auto Broker, want new zoning so they would have better flexibility to expand. If approved, it would be the first parcel in the Central Business District to be south of Ferris.

While the council approved, 5-0, the first reading of the request, all had concerns about parking.

"Parking [in the downtown area] has been a hot topic and it's going to be a hot topic," councilman Steven Kelley said.

The current lot has 60 parking spaces.

The new proposed zoning would require the developers to expand parking to 78. That drew an immediate reaction from the council, which already has been wrestling with the lack of parking in the downtown area.

Mayor Van Royal said businesses already struggle with parking in the Central Business District, which currently stretches north of Ferris from the St. Johns River to Green Street and includes a large portion of the downtown area to North Street. Drivers are forced to find spot along the street, in a handful of smaller private lots or in public lots which requires walking to the business.

Royal said it's best to know ahead of any development where customers will park.

"Not knowing is not good," he said.

Royal also said the lack of downtown parking is one reason why many retailers and restaurants have avoided opening their doors in the heart of the city.

City Manager Steve Kennedy said the demand for parking spaces have been "exhausted."

Daniels said it would be up to the developers, Janis Fleet, Fleet and Associates, would be responsible for expanding the number of parking spaces on the parcel, or find an "alternative" option which would include businesses agreeing to share their designated spaces. Councilmen seemed unsettled with an agreement that would allow new businesses to count on public spaces to fulfill their quotas.

The council also didn't like any plan that would require customers to cross busy Orange Avenue (U.S. Highway 17).

Kennedy reminded the council the first

reading was to address a request to rezone the property so developers could explore expansion. Any project that could move forward would have to comply with existing rules already in place for the Central Business District.

Daniels said other areas that would have to be addressed would be a requirement to abide by the district's landscaping polices, comply with the Florida Department of Transportation's sight triangle requirements, have approval from FDOT on driveway locations and forcing the developers comply with city code for the placements of dumpsters and loading docks.

Nonetheless, Daniels said his department suggested the project be approved. The council eventually agreed.

In other business, the council agreed on proclamations honoring National Public Service Recognition Week and National Polic Week.

Also, the council approved the expenditure of \$7,500 to the Design Loan Agreement for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Application and \$356,800 for design of capital improvements to the city's water system; spending \$50,111.16 to KBT Contracting Corp. for a new library building; an \$87,000 expense to build a drive-through canopy at the Food Pantry of Green Cove Springs; allowing Amanda Upton of the police department to attend a Special Event Planning and Management Training in Orlando; and, the agreement between Kennedy to executive a Professional Services Agreement with Planet Swim.

Orange Park High, Clay Chamber, Orange Park Mall hosting teen summer job fair

For Clay Today

ORANGE PARK – This Saturday, May 8, Orange Park High School, A Community Partnership School, in partnership with the Clay Chamber of Commerce and the Orange Park Mall, will host the first annual Clay County Teen Summer Job Fair Extravaganza at the mall.

The job fair is open to all teens in the local area and will support high school students by offering a professional development opportunity to apply the concepts they're learning to real-life situations and help them discover their true passions.

The fair will run from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Students will have opportunities to network with potential employers, secure entry-level jobs and learn about internships and apprenticeships. Interviews will be conducted by Lauren Pfanenstiel, Community Partnership School Director; Randy Brown, General Manager, Orange Park

Mall, Interim President, Clay Chamber of Commerce; and, Miki Johns, St. Johns River State College Recruiter.

Teens also will be instructed how to network with local business owners and community leaders, with additional onsite interviews with teens and participating business owners.

Studies show that transitions from high school to postsecondary education and employment can be challenging for many students. As some teens enter the workforce or postsecondary education, they are in need of additional coursework, while others do not meet employers' standards in various academic areas or by employable skills, such as attendance, communication, teamwork and collaboration.

The first Summer Job Fair Extravaganza will help create smoother transitions to college and the workforce for Clay County Teens by offering a professional develop-

ment opportunity to apply the concepts they're learning to real-life situations and help them discover their true passions.

Expanded Learning is a key focus of the Community Partnership Schools model and by increasing postsecondary opportunities, we are helping students focus on their skills, develop new interests and reach beyond their comfort zone, empowering more Clay County children realize their full potential.

Orange Park High School, A Community Partnership School is a collaborative partnership among Children's Home Society of Florida, Clay County School District, Orange Park Medical Center, Palms Medical Group and St. Johns River State College. Together, partners focus on removing tough barriers to learning by bringing together high-quality academics, health care, counseling, support and more – right on-site at the school.

Orange Park Town Council considers backing Concert on the Green

By Wesley LeBlanc
wesley@opcfla.com

ORANGE PARK – The Town Council might be what saves the 36th Annual Concert on the Green.

The festival has struggled in years of late and it all comes down to finances. Its 35th year was a success after Orange Park council member, Roland Mastandrea, along with residents like Danny Garcia, pleaded with the Board of County Commissioners to help make it happen. The concert organization is looking for Orange Park to do the same this year.

“If there’s any way the Town can help with this and give this a continuation – we lost members last year who have been doing this year in and year out and we’ve picked up some new people who are putting in a big effort – then ...we should,” Mastandrea said during the May 4 council meeting, which was his last as a council member. “I’m afraid if we stop this year, it’ll stop forever. It’s a really good thing for the image of this town.”

The discussion began last month with the Parks and Recreation Committee, but after some shuffling, nothing official came of it. Town manager Sarah Campbell suggested it be brought before the Town Council. She said the organization hasn’t yet locked in its concept – it could be a series of concerts this year or just one. The agreement is open and broad as a result.

It would require in-kind funding from the town, which means the funds might not have

to be paid back, depending on the concert’s proceeds. The in-kind expenses of the town would come from the waiving of road closure fees, police and fire and rescue personnel and public works staff.

Concert on the Green is specifically looking for Orange Park to become an event partner.

“The visioning process resulted in [a desire] for more adult-oriented or music-based events and this seems like a good fit,” Campbell said. “It also doesn’t provide the town to put it on. I mean, we’re providing support, but we’re not in charge of funding it all, the volunteers, parking, musical acts or anything like that.”

The event usually is staged on or near Memorial Day, but Campbell said they’re aiming for June this year.

Council member Eddie Henley said he’s in favor of the event, but that the town needs to be sure to follow proper guidelines so that “we aren’t making an exception for one group and not another...so that it doesn’t set a precedent for others to come.”

Mastandrea said the event has made as much as \$25,000 before when it’s given the time and effort to succeed. He also pointed out the profits go to the arts, especially at high school, “so it’s a very good event” for the community.

The council approved a memorandum of understanding with a 4-0 vote, with council member Randy Anderson dissenting.

In other business, the Tuesday, May 4,



The Orange Park Town Council could be the saving grace for this year’s Concert on the Green. Tuesday’s meeting was last for Virginia Hall and Roland Mastandrea.

meeting was the final meeting for Mastandrea and council member Virginia Hall, who will be replaced by upcoming council members John Hauber and Susana Thompson, respectively, on May 18.

“It’s been an incredible three-year journey for me,” Mastandrea said. “Certainly, you know, my time on the council has not always been easy, but I’ve certainly enjoyed every minute in my role representing the people of Orange Park. I get on something, study it, present it in full and complete it.”

“There are things I’m proud of that could not have been achieved without my vote or my council members. It’s been a great privilege to serve on Seat 3. Goodnight and God bless this council and staff going forward.”

Hall, who was only recently appointed by the council earlier this year to serve in the

vacant seat following former council member Connie Thomas’ departure last year, also used her final comment period on the dais to say thank you as well.

“Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve,” Hall said. “I was honored to be able to serve with each of you and I appreciate all the time and effort that everyone puts in to try and make the best decision that we can make for the Town of Orange Park and our residents.”

“I don’t think people necessarily understand how heavy of a job it can be...when the reality is you just want to do the best you can do and I think sometimes that gets lost in everything that goes on. Nobody sits up here to make bad decisions. They want to do the best they can and make the best decision they can.”

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Jen Halter selected 2021 Florida Principal of the Year

By Wesley LeBlanc
wesley@opcfla.com

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Green Cove Spring Junior High’s Jen Halter was selected as Florida’s 2021 Principal of the Year.

Halter is in her sixth and most successful year as principal yet, having been named the Clay County School District’s Principal of the Year. She then went on to become a state finalist. She’s been very open about how critical the people surrounding her are to her success so this news is a win for not just her, but the staff and friends at GCSJH and in the district that help her steer the school’s ship. “Green Cove Springs Junior High is an excellent school whose teachers and staff believe in providing positive learning experiences for all students,” Halter said. “I am also so thankful for our two amazing, hardworking assistant principals who support the work of taking care of our students and staff every day: Ms. Monica Green and Mr. James DeMari. We make a great team and we are successful together. I look forward to the continued success of our students in Clay County and at the state level. Let’s keep doing great for all students.”

State officials were impressed by her ability elevate and maintain an “A” grade from a “C” at the junior high.

“This is a fantastic day for Principal halter, Green Cove Springs Junior High, and Clay County District Schools,” Superintendent David Broskie said. “The Florida Department of Education could not have chosen a better leader for this honor. Principal Halter is everything a superintendent could ask for in a building leader. She is a mentor to beginning and novice principals, a strong collaboration on many of our district committees, and is an instructional coach to her faculty and staff, always encouraging them to be the best educators possible for their students.” “[She] leads at the state level on the board of the Florida Association of Secondary School Principals for the Florida Association of School Administrators where she works to champion other great school principals’ work across the state during National Principals Month, and at the national level as the State Coordinator for all secondary school principals of Florida for the National Association of Secondary School Principals,” a press release from the school district reads. “Principal halter is part of Education Class 6 for Leadership Florida and is also currently earning her doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of North Florida.”



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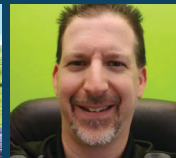
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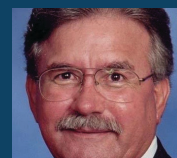
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Orange Park
Periodontist

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State to seek death penalty for man accused of dumping Fleming Island woman in landfill

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – The state will try to put a Fleming Island contractor on Florida's Death Row for killing an unhappy customer who was threatening to report her, according to notices filed in court last Tuesday, May 4.

Corey Louis Binderim, 46, was indicted in April for first degree murder of Susan Mauldin after investigators said she was reported missing by a neighbor. Binderim was paid \$12,000 to remodel her bathroom, but he refused to finish the job.

Mauldin's body was uncovered at the Chesser Island Road Landfill in Folkston, Ga. The Clay County Sheriff's Office said they have evidence that shows Binderim buying heavy duty construction bags and



Susan Mauldin

Corey Binderim

concrete at the Home Depot on Fleming Island. County records show Binderim dumped 300 pounds of materials at the Rosemay Hill Landfill on Oct. 24, 2019 – a day within investigators said Mauldin

was either beaten or choked to death at her Harbor Island subdivision home on the same day. Trash from Rosemary Hill is transferred to the South Georgia landfill.

Investigators said they used residential surveillance video to show Binderim was the last person to see Mauldin alive. Those videos also reportedly show him loading a bundle of trash into the back of his truck.

Binderim pled not guilty. He also told investigators, "I didn't do what you think I did." When CCSO asked what happened to Mauldin, Binderim said, "I don't know. I don't have any clue."

Binderim was at the Duval County Jail after being charged with taking money and not completing a project for

another client when CCSO, the State Attorney's Office, FBI and Florida Department of Law Enforcement found her remains. He was returned to Clay County on March 3, 2019, after originally 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.

The state filed notices of aggravating circumstances and a request for notice of mitigating circumstances, as well as a notice of intent to seek the death penalty on Tuesday.

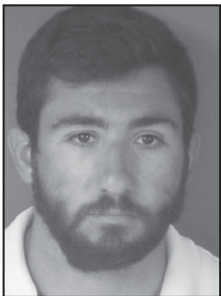
Binderim's next pretrial court appearance is June 30.

Police Briefs

Former SJCDs coach arrested for online exploitation of child

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – The former swim coach at St. Johns Country Day School was arrested on May 3 after the Clay County Sheriff's Office said he used his computer to seduce a 17-year-old girl.

Mitchell Jacob Bentz, 24, of Green Cove Springs, was charged with using a computer to seduce, solicit or lure a child for sex, as well as cruelty toward a child by transmitting harmful materials.



Mitchell Bentz

According to the arrest report, Bentz made contact with the girl on April 27 on a local bulletin board service. Bentz met the girl at her job and solicited her for "unlawful sex acts and sent lewd material, via an electronic device," CCSO said.

CCSO's Internet Crimes Against Children were alerted last month of Bentz's outreach. The agency said several illicit images were sent to the girl online.

The school said none of its students was involved.

Bentz met with detectives and he eventually turned himself in at the Orange Park substation. He is being held at the Clay County Jail without bond. His next court appearance is June 1.

Man on probation for attempted murder back in jail

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – A man who was convicted for attempted first-degree murder, attempted armed robbery and conspiracy to commit robbery in 2016 botched robbery was arrested in Hillsborough County for violating his probation by not remaining confined to his house and not keeping an hourly accounting of his activities.

Dahlis Jaedin Smith, 21, was returned to the Clay County Jail on April 30. He is being held without bond.

Smith and LeDarius Kardi Smith, were accused on shooting someone in the hand and neck while the victim sat on the front porch drinking beer near Ridgeview High. Michael William Kolb of Orange Park was charged with being an accessory to attempted murder and armed robbery.



Dahlis Smith

Dahlis Smith was sentenced to 36 months of probation by Judge Don Lester. The Clay County Sheriff's Office was notified Smith failed to fulfill the conditions of his probation.

Woman faces several drug charges following traffic stop

ORANGE PARK – A woman faces a multitude of drug charges after she was stopped because a Fraternal Order of Police badge blocked the last letter on her license tag.

Lindsey Nicole Pearce, 30, of Jacksonville, was charged with possession of fentanyl, Xanax, marijuana and drug paraphernalia, along with tampering with evidence, introducing contraband into the Clay County Jail and resisting arrest after Clay County Sheriff's Office deputies called in K-9 Ory to conduct a sniff search of the car after Pearce became irate and cursed at deputies.

The dog indicated the presence of narcotics, according to the arrest report. They found marijuana in the passenger door, and pills inside a plastic bag that was



Lindsey Pearce

stuffed in her bra. Pearce started banging her head against the cage and kicking the doors once she was in custody, prompting deputies to use a hobble restraint. While she was being booked, Pearce removed a glass pipe and 2.5 grams of marijuana from her underwear. She smashed the pipe on the concrete floor, CCSO said.

Pearce's bond was set at \$46,518.

Three killed in Middleburg plane crash

MIDDLEBURG – A 76-year-old Middleburg man was one of three people who died after his plane crashed shortly after take-off on April 30.

According to the Florida Highway Patrol, Carl "CJ" Powell's single-engine Beechcraft C23 Musketeer crashed into a

wooded area off Violet Way near Spencer's Airpark.

Two passengers also died at the scene. "Shortly after collision a small fire occurred at the crash site, engulfing the wreckage and also the surrounding area," FHP Sgt. Dylan Bryan said. "... Due to the severity of the crash and of course the aftermath, the wreckage is basically unrecognizable.

"Three souls were on board. Unfortunately, all three perished in the crash, and then shortly after the collision, a fire ensued, which basically ignited a woods fire in the area as well."

The highway patrol didn't release the names of the passengers.

The National Aviation Administration said it likely will issue a preliminary report next week.

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, May 4

Marco L. White, 43, Orange Park, possession-firearm/ammo by convicted felon, possession-marijuana, possession/use-drug paraphernalia, possession-THC oil, driving without valid license, failure to register car

Doan N. Phan, 53, Middleburg, simple domestic battery

Jason R.P. McKinney, 28, Orange Park, possession-chlordiazepoxide HYD

Robert E. Reynolds, 42, Orange Park, trespassing

Amanda J. Bailey, 33, Middleburg, DUI with property damage

Christopher J. Dean, 42, Orange Park, disorderly intoxication, trespassing

Walter H. Cary, 57, Green Cove Springs, possession-methamphetamine, possession/use-drug paraphernalia

Lisa A. Wilkerson, 51, Green Cove Springs, possession-methamphetamine, possession/use-drug paraphernalia

Thomas R. Ferrell, 52, Green Cove Springs, FTA-trespassing

Danny L. Hinsley, 48, Green Cove Springs, possession-controlled substance

Paul S. Hulbert, 25, Middleburg, burglary, grand theft, battery, tampering in misdemeanor or proceeding

Cameron E. Hungerford, 24, Orange Park, shoplifting

Kyle A. Terrill, 40, Green Cove Springs, writ of attachment

David M. Lemon, 53, Green Cove Springs, VOP-sex offender probation

Clyde A. Muller, 47, Orange Park, simple domestic battery

Josue R.M. Hernandez, 49, Green Cove Springs, FTA-larceny

Brittany N. Morgan, 30, Green Cove Springs, FTA-petit theft

Edward L. Colton, 42, Orange Park, trafficking in fentanyl

Stephon Williamson, 31, Orange Park, non-

Arrests

from page 22

support (Duval)

Monday, May 3

Justin K. Fussell, 35, Orange Park. Trespassing
William L. Parker, 31, Green Cove Springs, FTA, DWLSR

Jennifer J. Duncan, 33, Keystone Heights, possession-cocaine with intent to sell/manufacture/deliver, possession/use-drug paraphernalia

Dorian R. Davis, 24, Green Cove Springs, possession-marijuana, possession-hallucinogen
Robert E. Reynolds, 42, Orange Park, trespassing

Malisa A. Alcorn, 48, Green Cove Springs, FTA-trespassing, VOP-battery, VOP-criminal mischief

Mitchell J. Bentz, 24, Green Cove Springs, use of computer to seduce/solicit/lure a child, in state electronic transmission to harm a minor
Frank B. Jenkins, 52, Middleburg, possession-cocaine

Sunday, May 2

Gerald L. Williams, 74, resisting police with

violence, misuse of 911 system

Trenton R. Howell, 29, FTA-hit and run/leaving scene of accident with property damage, FTA-DWLSR

Donald W. Messer, 37, Middleburg, possession/use-drug paraphernalia, possession-controlled substance

Brianna F. Saito, 30, Middleburg, DUI
Philip J. Rehberg, 33, Keystone Heights, disorderly intoxication

Hiram M. Dicandio, 33, Keystone Heights, disorderly intoxication

Brandon L. Jobe, 34, Green Cove Springs, DUI with BAL .15 or higher

Samuel R. Wilson, 21, Fleming Island, DUI with property damage

Saturday, May 1

Elizabeth L. Mountain, 56, Fleming Island, DUI

Brittany M. Munoz, 38, simple domestic battery

Angie C. Wolters, 40, Middleburg, simple domestic battery, criminal mischief

Dennis P. Schwindt, 48, Orange Park, DUI with property damage

Richard K. Edwards, 54, Fleming Island, retail petit theft

Katria D. Swint, 42, Orange Park, simple

domestic battery

William A. Middleton, 20, Orange Park, three counts burglary, resist/obstruct/oppose police

Michelle A. Martin, 37, Orange Park, simple domestic battery

Morgan R. Wood, 35, Fleming Island, DUI
Bryce H. Smith, 19, Orange Park. DUI

Friday, April 30

Julia L. Moore, 52, Orange Park, domestic battery, simple battery

Sarah M. Ponce DeLeon, 43, Middleburg, aggravated battery with deadly weapon, resist/obstruct/oppose police

Tricia A. Henderson, 49, Middleburg, DWLSR
Stephan E. Wright, 64, Green Cove Springs, DUI

Christopher I. Vandegrift, 45, Orange Park. Assault/battery during burglary, burglary

Patricia L. Bennett, 55, Green Cove Springs, FTA-burglary, FTA-petit larceny, FTA-criminal mischief

Dahllis J. Smith, 21, Green Cove Springs, VOP-attempted first degree murder, VOP-conspiracy to commit armed robbery, VOP-attempted armed robbery

Abygail E. Thornton, 25, Orange Park, DUI
Brittani D. Tukes, 36, Orange Park, aggravated battery

Jemiah F. Mitchell, 42, Green Cove Springs, FTA

Thursday, April 29

Kameron A. Thomas, 22, Orange Park, possession-unlicensed firearm

Renee L. Frazier, 35, Orange Park, FTA-battery/touching/striking (Duval), FTA-criminal mischief

Jessica J. Baumgartner, 29, Orange Park, possession-fentanyl, possession-methamphetamine, possession/use-drug paraphernalia

Clinton S. Biggs, 38, Orange Park, retail petit theft

Tracey L. McCourt, 31, Keystone Heights, aggravated battery

Lorie M. Clarke, 45, Orange Park, fraudulent use of credit card

Clyo D. Crowder, 43, Middleburg, non-support

Alexis N. Acosta, 27, Fleming Island, DUI
Juan N. Arellano, 49, Orange Park, DUI

Lindsey N. Pearce, 30, Orange Park, tampering with/altering/destroying/concealing physical evidence, possession-fentanyl, possession-Xanax, possession-marijuana, possession/use-drug paraphernalia, introducing/removing contraband into jail, resist/obstruct/oppose police

Wednesday, April 28

Ingrid M. Underwood, 43, Middleburg, simple battery

Jana'e M. White, 30, Orange Park, simple battery

Jason W. Daughtery, 41, Middleburg, possession-firearm/ammunition by convicted felon

Zachary P. Hulse, 22, Middleburg, domestic battery

Renee L. Goetz, 52, Middleburg, criminal mischief

Brittany N. Youngblood, 35, Middleburg, burglary, possession-controlled substance

Samuel A. Miller, 44, two counts each dealing in stolen property, giving false information to pawn broker

Kenneth R. Slate, 44, Orange Park, domestic violence

Juan A.A. Lopez, 35, Orange Park, burglary, vandalism

Clay County partners with PulsePoint

GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FL – Clay County Fire Rescue is partnering with PulsePoint to empower everyday citizens to save a life from sudden cardiac arrest (SCA). Each year, more than 356,500 cardiac arrests occur outside hospitals, making it the third leading cause of death in the United States. In Clay County, more than 300 people experience SCA annually and need immediate assistance. For extremely time-sensitive emergencies like SCA, notifying nearby individuals willing to take quick life-saving action at the same time the Fire/EMS response system is initiated, is the premise behind PulsePoint. The delivery of CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and defibrillation within moments of an SCA, can sustain life until paramedics arrive.

PulsePoint works through a pair of smart phone applications, PulsePoint Respond and PulsePoint AED, that together notify nearby users of the need for help and identify the location of the nearest Automated External Defibrillator (AED). Both PulsePoint apps can be download for free on your smart phone from the App Store or Google Play.

The PulsePoint Respond app allows you to follow the Clay County Fire Rescue 911 calls to see where vehicle accidents, fires, or medical emergencies are occurring in real-time. All Clay County Fire Rescue 911 calls are linked to PulsePoint through advanced Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) integration, which provides immediate notification to the app user. Select the type of notifications you want to receive, and PulsePoint will send an alert at the same time emergency responders are dispatched. These notifications are NOT intended for a public response and are for situational awareness only. If you opt in for "CPR Needed" alerts and are within ¼ mile of a cardiac arrest in a public location, the

app will send an alert that CPR is needed and guide you to the scene displaying any AEDs in route. The app also provides CPR How-To and AED How-To instructions. Watch the PulsePoint Respond video here: <https://www.pulsepoint.org/pulsepoint-respond>.

The American Heart Association recommends "Hands Only" CPR as opposed to CPR with rescue breaths because there is typically enough oxygen in the blood to keep the brain and vital organs alive for up to eight minutes, the heart just needs to be stimulated through chest compressions or the use of an AED to circulate the oxygenated blood. Cover your own mouth and nose with a face mask and cover the person's mouth and nose with a face mask or cloth to reduce the risk of contracting COVID-19.

Clay County Fire Rescue Chief David Motes said, "The brain and vital organs need oxygen restored rapidly after an SCA or permanent brain damage can occur within minutes. High-quality chest compressions or defibrillation must be delivered within moments to offer the best possible outcome for those suffering SCA outside of the hospital. Clay County Fire Rescue's partnership with PulsePoint will immediately alert bystanders of the need for help, so they can begin these life-saving actions while paramedics are in route."

Clay County Fire Rescue is using the PulsePoint AED app to develop a county-wide, comprehensive registry of AEDs. Paramedics need the help of residents and business owners to locate and add these critical devices to the registry. The app walks you through the steps of searching for the device location, dropping a pin on the map, and adding a photo and description of the AED and its surroundings. Users

can also help discover and report problems with devices already in the registry such as a closed business, restricted location, or if the AED is no longer present where shown—helping to keep the registry accurate and reliable. Once AEDs are registered and verified, their locations can be viewed by anyone using PulsePoint Respond. Video tutorials are available at <https://www.pulsepoint.org/pulsepoint-aed/>.

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Pay

from page 1

A profession that's already facing criticism and political discord is struggling to find new officers – and keep the ones already on the force.

Add that with an 18% growth rate in the county during the past 10 years with a pay scale that makes CCSO deputies the lowest-paid in Northeast Florida, it creates disturbing trend she knows will require major changes at the highest level of county government. Clay County starts its deputies at \$38,000. St. Johns' beginning pay is \$48,000, and JSO pays \$46,000 a year. Cook said Clay County often hires younger recruits – many who stay long enough to gain experience before bolting to a higher-paying agency. The Green Cove Springs Police Department starts officers at \$43,000, while Orange Park pays \$38,000 in the first year, but the town offers a bump to \$42,000 in the second year and to \$49,000 after five years. Cook said a little more money and a positive work environment may be enough for some deputies to stay put.

"I want the taxpayers to reap the benefits of the investment they've made to our employees," she said. "You'll see when agencies have high turnover in personnel and they end up going somewhere else, they're not as invested in their community. I really want them to be invested in this community.

"You want people that are familiar with the area, have roots here – even if they've moved here recently. They develop a sense

of belonging and ownership. It's my community. I care about the community and the community cares about me, I'm going to do the best job I can. I don't want to let my community down. We have such a high turnover, it's hard to maintain that sense of belonging."

Cook said she's responsible for creating a positive work environment. But it's going to take more money to fill more of the void.

"One, the organization culture and that's something I can control," she said. "That's something I work on every single day. I want them to feel value. I want them to feel appreciated. I want them to know what they are doing is righteous work."

Counting three deputies who've quit in the first four days of May, CCSO now has openings for 21 sworn deputies and eight corrections deputies.

Cook currently is preparing to submit her budget to the Clay County Board of Commissioners. She knows her agency will never get the money to be competitive with neighboring St. Johns County and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, but she hopes to find a workable middle ground.

"It is a challenge to ask for more money, but it is very compelling that in my realm is that in the last 3.25 years, we've lost 180 critical personnel," Cook said. "When I say critical, we've lost 180 police, dispatch and detention. And people say they all retire. The answer to that is no. Sixty-three percent of those people left within six years of being employed to go to other agencies for more money."

The turnover rate for patrol deputies since the beginning of 2018 is 35.3%, according to information Cook's agency compiled. More alarming is less than 5% of dispatchers who started before 2018 are still on the job, and 36.5% of detention deputies have quit. Not only does it create a never-ending job search, it's resulted in more than \$6 million of additional expense to the agency. The costs of drug testing, physicals, psychological exams, Hepatitis-B shots, supplies, armory and training is about \$36,021 for a deputy and a dispatcher and \$27,509 for a detention deputy, Cook said.

"The cost that I cannot recoup in that hiring process is [\$6.1 million] those are the costs that I cannot recoup," she said. "If I hire you today and I give you a gun, a rifle, I can reuse that."

Although Cook submitted a booklet of facts to the council, she hasn't submitted her proposed budget yet.

"I like antidotal stories, but I wanted to give them the data," Cook said. "I wanted to know how many people are leaving. What does that cost us? Why are they leaving?"

"I showed the commission our presentation and talked about our priorities. We are currently submitting our budget items to the county."

Cook said there are three primary reasons people stay at CCSO.

"One, the organization culture and that's something I can control. That's something I

work on every single day. I want them to feel value. I want them to know what they are doing is righteous work.

"The second thing that keeps an employee is 'What is my pay?' Not in my lifetime will we be able to pay as much as St. Johns County or Jacksonville. That's where we are losing our people because they don't have our tax base. I get that. But we have to be competitive. People will forgo a few thousand dollars if they really enjoy where they work.

"The third thing that keeps people is a career salary plan. I know what I'm going to make Day 1. I know what I'm going to make 10 years from now. What we're doing is not only looking at surrounding agencies' offers and starting pay, what do they have as a career salary plan? It is the industry standard now for agencies to have a plan laid out so that when deputies start, they can look at a piece of paper and know how much they're going to make moving forward. The other benefit to that is the communities, the [board of county] commission can forecast that. It helps prevent the turmoil tension that's caused every time you try to get a negotiation for a few percentage here, a few percentage there [in raises]. It eliminates a lot of that because it's spelled out for everybody."

Until then, the beat will go on at CCSO – along with the defections – at the county's frontline deputies against crime.



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STAFF PHOTO BY RANDY LEFKO

Ridgeview High softball team shows off championship trophy after thrilling 3-1 win over clay high in district 4-4A championship game at ridgeview high School. Both teams will advance into the regional playoffs.

Lone run lasts; but not enough for win

By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

ORANGE PARK - Ridgeview High senior pitcher Brittany Michael had a familiar face to look to after a shaky first inning against Clay High in the district 4-4A softball championship game with the Blue Devils turning two walks into a run.

"Brooke (twin sister Brooke Michael, Ridgeview catcher) makes it easy for me to stay in the dugout when things get dicey," said Ridgeview coach Casey Thompson, who maintained his own poise and let his team play their game to a final 3-1 win for his third consecutive district title. "The relationship between those two, just like most twins, is pretty awesome to watch."

District results

District 1-7A: Oakleaf beats Nease 12-2 in semifinal behind seven run fourth inning with Mariyah Sanchez getting three

RBI's before beating Bartram Trail 9-2 in the championship game. Sanchez and Triniti Murrell hit homers against Nease. Khloe Banks had a triple. Oakleaf, with 15 hits for the game, scored five runs in the fifth against Bartram Trail with Banks hitting a homer.

District 3-5A: Middleburg bats come alive for 20-0 win in round one and 7-1 win over Ponte Vedra in semifinals before losing a 2-1 thriller in the sixth inning to top seed Gainesville. Kaylee Crickmore hit a run scoring grounder for the Lady Broncos.

District 3-3A: Number two seed Keystone Heights (14-9) lost a 4-1 match against host Baldwin, the fourth seed. Baldwin (20-5) lost to top seed West Nassau (19-6) 6-4

District 2-2A: St. Johns Country Day School (9-5) beat First Coast Christian (2-4) 11-1 in their semifinal, then lost a 10-0 final to Trinity Christian Academy (15-6).

SEE SOFTBALL, 27

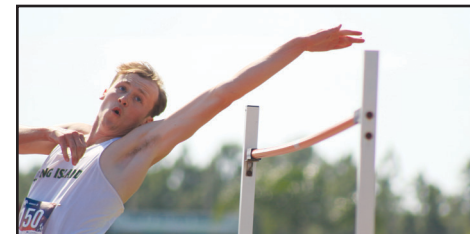
State track ticket tough to get for area teams

By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

FLAGLER PALM COAST - With no individual region track champions, area track and field athletes waited nervously Monday afternoon to see if their times, throws or jumps would be enough to get a ticket to the FHSAA Track and Field championships to be held Friday and Saturday, May 7-8 at the University of North Florida.

Only the top two finishers in each event were automatically advanced to the state meet with the next 13 times or distances selected for the state meet.

Top track runner for Clay County was Keystone Heights High senior Camryn Williams who finished a strong second in the Region 2-2A 1600 with a state-ranked five minutes, 10.74 second finish behind Bolles' Jillian Candelino's 5:09.71.



Fleming Island high jumper Cameron Mackenzie stretches to go over 6'-6" bar in dramatic jump off at the region 1-4A track and field championship at Flagler Palm Coast on Saturday. Mackenzie finished second and advances to the class 4A championship track and field at University of North Florida on Saturday.

Williams has fluctuated up and down with her times as a checkpoint for her targeted races and has produced some of the fastest state times in big meets.

In one of the more dramatic finishes of the Saturday list of region meets; 1-1A at

SEE TRACK, 29

Middleburg, Fleming Island flag seasons over

By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

MIDDLEBURG - Middleburg High scored first off a Sam Hardison interception and a pass catch from quarterback Brooke Swenson to Jewel Taylor, but the FAMU High flag football team's overall size and speed was a bit too much for the Lady Broncos who fell 31-12 in their second region playoff game of a season that saw Middleburg finish at 12-1 on Monday.

"These girls just kept competing at the end," said Middleburg coach John Stilianou. "That team showed up and played hard and fast. They had some fast girls. They just ran vertical and that quarterback was throwing good passes.



Middleburg high flag football athlete Meghan Bonser takes off on 60 yard touchdown scamper. Middleburg season was ended with 31-13 loss to FAMU High Monday.

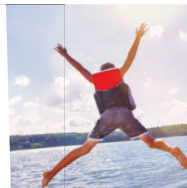
We played every defense we had."

FAMU roared right back in the second quarter with a methodical passing game that found openings in the Bronco defense.

SEE FLAG, 30



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Golden Eagles' streak ends at Lake Mary

By Ray DiMonda
Correspondent

LAKE MARY - After 11 straight wins, a first-ever district championship, and a 12-7 win over Ocala Forest a week prior that moved the team from the State Regional Semi-Final to the Regional Final, the 19th-ranked Fleming Island Golden Eagles traveled to Central Florida to take on the number four ranked team in the state, the Lake Mary Rams. The Rams, riding a single loss season, came in with a few advantages which Fleming Island would have to overcome, such as a huge home team support, an uber-fast team and the one that was a difference maker; a turf-grass field that played tricks with the ball when shot off the turf and rubber surface.

"I had a rough practice yesterday and I needed to come in with more confidence," said Fleming Island sophomore Goalie Paul Walter. "When the ball was spinning (from side-arm shots) and bouncing, it changed directions and it took the whole first quarter to adjust to it. I got more confident in the third and fourth quarter."

Even with Walter's seven saves and the Golden Eagle offensive onslaught of 25 shots on the Lake Mary goal, Fleming Island just could not match the speed of the Rams as the 2021 dream season came to an end, 14-4.

"They were faster than we are used to seeing and they were really accurate," said Walter.

Fleming Island coach John Hawley, who also was without key players due to injuries, knew his task was uphill.

"They are great shooters," said Hawley. "Very accurate and we couldn't get enough pressure on their hands. It is something we'll work on in the future. That will affect their accuracy. We also need to go out and approach quicker, and learn to

not go too quick or they will just hitch and dodge around us. Tonight, was just a tough matchup and we knew that going in."

The Rams were on the board in 37 seconds, but Fleming Island is used to a quick score against them and kept at it. It took several minutes for Lake Mary to score

"We played well and possessed the ball. If we could play all four quarters that way, we would have been more competitive with them. Lacrosse is the fastest game on two feet. Lake Mary plays it that way. You learn from your losses, that's for sure."

— Fleming Island coach John Hawley

again. At the end of the first quarter, it was 4-0. In the second quarter, Will Krupsky finally showed the way to break through as Fleming Island was on the board at 4:26, the only score in the first half, 8-1.

The tiny victory the Golden Eagles had was the third quarter, where Lake Mary statistically has its worst outcomes. Fleming Island tied the third quarter, with each team scoring three goals.

"The third quarter went our way," said Hawley. "We played well and possessed the ball. If we could play all four quarters that way, we would have been more competitive with them. Lacrosse is the fastest game on two feet. Lake Mary plays it that way. You learn from your losses, that's for sure."

Fleming Island will graduate 20 Seniors, but still have scoring weapons in Krupsky and a defense led by Walters.

"I just have to play on a good team over the summer, practicing, and continue to get better every day, as much as I can," said Walter.

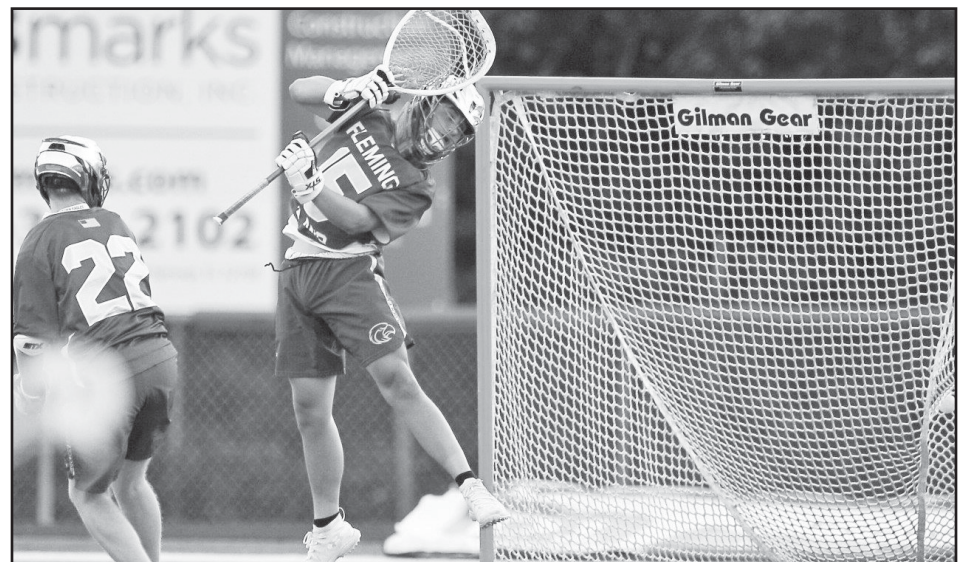


Fleming Island top scorer Will Krupsky gets into traffic in front of Lake Mary goal.



CORRESPONDENT PHOTOS BY RAY DIMONDA

Fleming Island lacrosse forward Hayden Spiller looks for passing lane in Golden Eagles region playoff loss to Lake Mary on Friday.



Fleming Island lacrosse goalie Paul Walter makes twisting attempt to stop shot on goal against Lake Mary.



The Fleming Island High girls 200 medley relay shows off newly purchased state champions rings with athletic director Travis Cunningham, left, and Principal Tom Pittman. The four girls who won gold a second consecutive season are Sara and Emma Grimm, Aubrey Clarke and Christine Johnson.

Gidcumb block secures Eagles' title

Spartans, Indians win; Middleburg comeback just short

By Ray DiMonda
Correspondent

FLEMING ISLAND - Five weeks ago against the Creekside High Knights on the same home field, Fleming Island High baseball had a sneak preview to what it would take to bring home the third district 3-6A championship as Fleming Island won that contest 2-1.

"We have a day before a game routine for practice. We really ramped it up yesterday," said Fleming Island coach Grant Bigilin, after his Golden Eagles baseball defense, led by senior catch Jack Gidcumb, successfully fended off a bases loaded late inning collision to beat Creekside 4-3 to



CORRESPONDENT PHOTO BY RAY DIMONDA

Fleming Island baserunner Justin Corfield gets excited greeting after crossing home plate for Golden Eagles in district championship win over Creekside.

secure the district trophy. "We knew they would bunt and run. It seemed to pay off."

In other baseball district finals, St. Johns Country Day School had a bombard-

ment of sorts with five homers, including a Connor Moore grand slammer, leading the Spartans to an 18-0 semifinal win in district 3-2A, then doubled down with three more in the final; a 12-1 win over University Christian (See Mike Zima story).

In district 3-5A, the surging Middleburg High Broncos (11-15) with preliminary wins over Robert E. Lee (13-3) and Terry Parker (4-1 in 9 innings) gave up nine runs in the first two innings then came back close behind three runs batted in by Logan Baxley, but not close enough in a 13-9 championship loss to Stanton Prep.

In Baldwin, Keystone Heights (15-12) punched up with an 11-0 win over P.K. Yonge (17-7) with a six run third inning and shutout pitching from Moreland Mike before Guy Connor hit a walk-off single with two baserunners; Packham Chase (hit by pitch) and Miller Jeremy (singled), to score the Indians with a 6-5 district 3-3A championship win over Baldwin (14-14). Baldwin, the fourth seed, upset top seed

SEE BASEBALL, 31

SJCD peaking; five homers, then three

By Mike Zima
Correspondent

ORANGE PARK - If the Clay Electric Cooperative is searching for alternative sources of power, it need look no further than the baseball diamond at St. Johns Country Day School.

After mashing five home runs their 18-0 thrashing of Eagle's View in the District 3-2A semifinal on April 27, the Spartans hit three more in a 12-1 rout of visiting Jacksonville University Christian to capture the district championship on April 29.

SJCD scored eight runs in the fifth inning to prematurely end what had been a close game through the first four frames. Leading off the fifth, Jordan Taylor started the tsunami with a shot that landed well beyond the left field fence. Connor Moore put an exclamation point on the rally with a grand slam to deep center that invoked the run rule. Eight of the nine Spartans to bat in the inning scored.

Taylor's drive was his fifth roundtripper of the season; Moore, like Taylor an FSU commitment, upped his team-leading total to nine.

"We do have a lot of power, but we are not pushing the home runs," said SJCD coach Tom Lucas. "We feel like if we just hit the ball hard, good things will happen."

Six of the SJCD's 13 hits went for extra bases. Brad Hodges, who played left field until moving to the pitcher's mound in the fifth, went three for three with two doubles and four runs batted in.

University Christian was much more competitive than they had been against the Spartans in 11-1 and 10-2 losses to SJCD

earlier this season. The Christians took the lead in the first inning when freshman Seth Alford singled, moved to second base on a groundout, and scored on Nick Cates's two-out single.

Meanwhile, starting pitcher Trent May kept the Spartans at bay. The Spartans' scored their lone run in the first two innings when Mason Davis drove a hanging curve ball over the fence near the left field foul pole. When the first two Spartans hitters reached base in the third, Christians head coach John Sirmon lifted May in favor of freshman Austin Pickett. Tyce Moore greeted Pickett with a single to drive in a run. Two outs later, Hodges doubled to right, scoring Moore and Taylor to put SJCD ahead 4-1. University Christian right fielder Camden Harnage appeared to have a bead on the sinking liner, but tripped and fell as the ball bounced over his glove.

Junior Finn Howell pitched four strong innings for SJCD, allowing one run, striking out three and scattering five hits.

"He is a three-pitch pitcher," Lucas said of Howell, a North Florida commit. "He mixes up pitches and pounds the strike zone."

With only a three-run lead entering the fifth, Lucas brought in Hodges, a lefty with a 91 mile-per-hour fastball.

"He [UC coach Sirmon] had a good plan, changing pitchers every two innings," said Lucas. "He had us on our toes, so I brought Hodges in to keep the score where it was."

Hodges, a Virginia commit, struck out the side on 11 pitches.

The win was the ninth in a row for SJCD, which improved to 20-6. The Christians fell to 13-7.

Softball

from page 25

Region schedules

Region 1-7A: Spruce Creek (13-9) at Oakleaf (16-9), Thurs., May 6. Opposite bracket: Bartram Trail (17-10) at University High (22-0)

Region 1-5A: Middleburg (13-14) at Deltona (10-10), Thurs., May 6. Opposite bracket: Matanzas (11-9) at Gainesville (18-6).

Region 1-4A: Yulee (8-19) at Ridgeview (23-3), Wed., May 5 7pm, Clay (18-9) at Bishop Kenny (16-5) Wed., May 5 5pm.

Region 1-2A: St. Johns Country Day School (9-5) at North Florida Christian (11-9). Opposite bracket: Aucilla Christian (7-12) at Trinity Christian Academy (15-6).

In the district final between Clay and Ridgeview, after the first inning, which did feature three strikeouts by Michael, Brittany Michael answered right back by lacing a hard line drive to center field to look like the Panthers were about to answer Clay's early salvo.

"No matter what the game is called; district championship, regional playoff or just a regular season game, coach Matt Lewis (Clay coach) will have his girls ready to play hard and execute," said Thompson.

Michael advanced to third on a Mary Girgis bunt and a fielder's choice bunt to heavy hitter Ashlyn Halford, but Clay freshman pitcher Gabrielle Ellis throttled down the momentum with a whiff of Haley Mcrae to end the scoring opportunity.

Michael added three more whiffs of her own in the ensuing inning and what

"No matter what the game is called; district championship, regional playoff or just a regular season game, coach Matt Lewis (Clay coach) will have his girls ready to play hard and execute."

— Casey Thompson

looked like may be a scoring bonanza was slowly becoming a defensive duel waiting for one team to blink.

Clay shortstop Kaylee Stacy made an outstanding stretched snag of a hard line drive by Ridgeview's Natalie Foret to stymie a two base error to Brooke Michael in the prior at bat.

"In a game like this, it's one or two little things that make big momentum shifts," said Thompson. "Their defense played great when they were pressed and we could not capitalize."

Brittany Michael again hurled three Ks for inning three.

In the bottom of the fourth, Stacy again snagged a hard Ridgeview at bat; this time from Halford, to end the inning with the 1-0 score holding.

The Clay defense blinked in the fourth inning with Ellis giving up a walk and two doubles; one to Brooke Michael for a tying run before a third double came, but Clay's defense held at 1-1.

Clay had a chance to score runs in the fifth with Ellis reaching on an error and Kendyll Mann awarded first base on a dead ball call. Ellis got to third, but Mann was tagged out at second base on a baserunning snafu to end the inning.

With the apparent momentum shift of the Clay miscues, Ridgeview piled on with Girgis smashing a triple to centerfield followed by doubles to Halford and Mcrae to put Ridgeview up 3-1.

"I was holding my breath thinking hard all day about my lineup and if I should adjust, but I stayed with the girls where they were knowing they always find a way," said Thompson.

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Emma Richard
Fleming Island, Javelin

Emma Richard, known for her jump shot in basketball and her kill shot in volleyball, became Fleming Island High's first state meet javelin hopeful after finishing third in region 1-4A.



Josiah Sabino
Orange Park, Triple Jump

Josiah Sabino, noted Orange Park High basketball All-State player and noted Orange Park swim state meet athlete, added a third sport to his resume with a second place finish in the region 1-3A triple jump that got him to the state track championships.

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Hope Therapy bringing life back to racing legs

By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

MIDDLEBURG - Fleming Island High cross country had a banner year in 2010 with a state cross country invite that including a brothers pair and a track state champion as team members.

The brothers duo; David and Luke Steinberg, combined forces with the likes of Cameron Davis, 16:44, and an 800 meters state champion in the spring and Florida State University athlete, and names like Erik Hartley (Flagler College cross country record holder) and Benjamin Bayles (17:04, U of South Florida, Jacksonville U football kicker, FIHS state soccer champion

As life ventured forward, David Steinberg's life took some tragic turns after small bounds of success; one a Disney Marathon finish in just over three hours in 2012.

Today, Steinberg, a hard-charging finisher of his cross country and track races, is a bit away from his running stature with a debilitating illness; HSP-11, Hereditary Spastic Paraplegia type 11; characterized by progressive muscle stiffness and the development of paralysis of the lower limbs.



Former Fleming Island High cross country and track runner David Steinberg, now 29, sits atop Merlin during a therapy session at Hope Therapy in Middleburg. Steinberg has a debilitating muscle illness and is using the Hope Therapy methods to strengthen his legs. With David is Hope Therapy director Rebecca Davenport, right in blue, with volunteers Klare Bryan, right, and Hailee Deaton from Clay High. Bryan is an Episcopal High grad recovering from traumatic injuries and hoping to be a rodeo clown or entertainer.

According to medical information, the illness involved spasticity of the leg muscles and muscle weakness.

For Steinberg, the diagnosis of his HSP came about a year ago after a dramatic, but successful finish of a marathon in Columbus, OH in 2018 despite severe dehydration and cramps.

"For now, we are trying numerous therapies to offset his HSP," said Mary Steinberg. "We have flown him to Arizona for sessions with a neurological based exercise physiologist that works with professional athletes to improve performance with rehabilitation."

Ironically, one of the shining lights of returning to normal walking and even less-cumbersome standing, Steinberg and his family found Hope Therapy in Middleburg, a reknowned Hippotherapy non-profit near Jennings State Forest.

"I found them on the internet and decided to give it a try," said Mary Steinberg. "It's a different experience for David; he likes horses and I read that the movement of a horse is similar to human walking movement."

Established in 2001 by a mother/daughter team of Marianne and Rebecca Davenport, Hope Therapy is one of just a few Equine Assisted Activities and Therapy (EAAT) program in northeast Florida and the only premiere center with PATHintel (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International) in Florida.

"Our love for horses; my mom her whole life and me taking lessons as a kid, got us here," said Rebecca Davenport, who began as an occupational therapist. "We work to connect mind and body for a better quality of life."

Davenport admitted that having an athlete with Steinberg's history seemed a challenge for her, but that her own running and athletics has been hampered by injury and she can see the connection with athletes.

"The horse gait duplicates the human gait when he is on the horse and works the flexibility and range of motion of the hips," said Davenport. "We were in awe of David's improvement as far as his core and leg function after just one ride. We have, in the past, dealt with young kids with developmental delays or traumatic injury negating the neuro input of movement. David has been a great athlete before and his brain



Merlin readies with David Steinberg, left, and Hope Therapy volunteer Klare Bryan in recent session.

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Track

from page 25

Bishop Snyder; 1-3A at Orange Park High School and 1-4A at Flagler Palm Coast with Clay attending 1-2A in Panama City Beach, Fleming Island High jumper Cameron Mackenzie, who has jetted himself from a 5'-8" height two years ago to a near region title at 6'-5.5", the final tally of the day came down to three jump-offs with Niceville's Kendall Mosely for the region first place finish. Cypress Creek's Jaden Mathieu had the top spot in class 4A secured at 1.98 meters (6'-6").

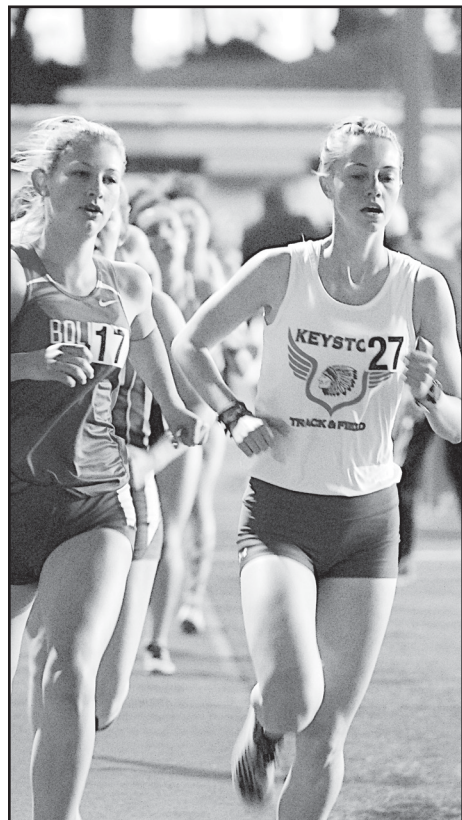
"I know what it feels like to jumping tired," said Mackenzie, who with Mosely both cleared 6'6" to fuel the jump-off for second place. "I took two jumps at 6'-8" after getting there after jumps at 1.72, 1.77 and 1.82, then two jumps each at 1.87, 1.92 and then 1.97 (6'-5.5") before missing three at 6'-8". That's 12 jumps in the span of about two hours."

Both jumpers missed at their attempts at 6'-8", 6'-6" before Mosley made 6'-4" and Mackenzie failed.

"I guess I should do a lot more cardio and core," said Mackenzie, a junior. "My sophomore to junior year, I went from a best of 5'10" to 6'-5" this season just working on form, looking at film and working with coach Darryl Thompson."

At the region 1-3A meet, in the triple jump, Orange Park multiple athlete Josiah Sabino; state swimmer, region basketball player and, now, a state meet triple jumper, finding his rhythm for the triple jump seemed best suited for his basketball-dunking thighs to the tune of a second place finish by just about five inches.

"It's a new sport kind of and I'm learning more each time I jump," said Sabino, who finished at 44'-.75" to finish second



Keystone Heights High senior 1600 runner Camryn Williams ran her best race at 5:10 in the region 2-2A championships and goes to the Class 2A championship meet as a second seed in the 1600.



Fleming Island High 3200 meter runner Kameron Wallizada took the lead for the first mile of the 3200 meters at the region 1-4A track and field championships with Nease's Rheinart Harrison, the top 3200 meter runner in the United States, in close pursuit. Harrison won. On right, St. Johns Country Day School's Stanley Cowherd made the state meet in Class 1A in the long jump, 200 and 400.



Orange Park High triple jumper Josiah Sabino makes final attempt in his event that got him a ticket to the Class 3A track and field championships on Saturday at the University of North Florida.

to Bellevue's Cade Gray's winning jump of 44'-5.25". "I won't lie, I threw up before the meet I was so nervous. I couldn't eat anything. I was scared last night about this, but we did it."

Sabino, known for his high-flying slam dunks on the Raiders basketball team as a leading scorer and an All-State selection recently, jumped just 6'-2" in the high

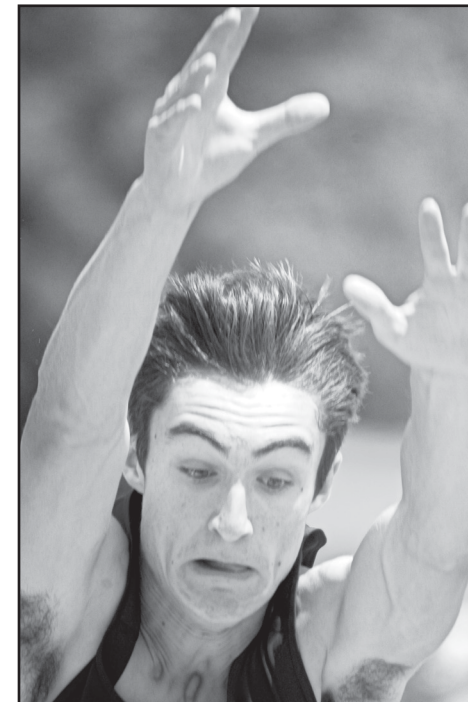
jump, but thought the basketball jumping was more in line with the triple jump.

"I can dunk off either leg and I think with the skip here, the triple just was an easier transition," said Sabino, eighth ranked for the state meet with Kyree Brown of Sebastian River top ranked at 46'-7."

Orange Park got a second second in the jumps with senior long jumper Markez Ser-



Oakleaf High 800 meter specialist Sierra Barerra made her region 1-4A her best yet with a 2:20 that got her to the Class 4A championship meet on Saturday.



mons, a top candidate in the sprints from districts, focusing to take second at 22'-7.25" to Leon's Curtis Williams' winning jump at 24'-11". Williams is top ranked state wide with Sermons sixth.

At region 1-1A, with the Stratton siblings; junior Matthew and eighth grade sister Rebecca, both advancing to the state meet, it was St. Johns Country Day School sprinter Stanley Cowherd who grabbed some headlines with advancement in three events for the Class 1A championships. Cowherd joined Matthew Stratton, advancing in the 1600 and 3200, with top 15 statewide finishes in the 200 (11th in 22.45), 400 (4th at 50.11) and long jump (7th at 21'-2"). Cowherd was second in the long jump at his region meet by eight inches. Cowherd's 50.11 in the 400 is a hair from top seed Micah Mays of Benjamin School who is top-ranked at 49.23.

State meet qualifiers (rank)

1A: SJCDs: Ethan Beauvais shot put (13th), Matthew Stratton 1600 (6th), 3200 (8th); Stanley Cowherd (200 (11th), 400 (4th), long jump (7th); Rebecca Stratton 1600 (8th); Ava Johnson 400 (16th).

2A: KHHS Camryn Williams 1600 (2nd)

3A: MHS Wyatt Underwood Discus (9th); OPHS Josiah Sabino Triple Jump (8th); OPHS Markez Sermons Long Jump (6th); OPHS 4 x 100 relay (8th); OPHS Joel Childs 300 hurdles (8th); RHS Rasheed Baker 110 hurdles (13th); RHS James Snipes 1600 (11th); MHS Nya Russell Long jump (12th); RHS Zoe Whaley High Jump (4th); RHS Blythe Duchene 800 (11th)

4A: FIHS Cameron Mackenzie High Jump (3rd); FIHS Ezra McCollum High Jump (10th); FIHS 4 x 800 boys relay (8th); FIHS Emma Richard Javelin (4th); FIHS Marissa Deckard Javelin (9th); OHS Arianna Eason Triple Jump (5th); OHS Tamira Briley Triple Jump (8th); FIHS Gabrielle Flores High Jump (10th); OHS Sydney Brown High Jump (15th); FIHS Isabelle Flores 300 Hurdles (7th); OHS Sierra Barerra 800 (14th).



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Fleming Island High flag football quarterback Mykayla Maddox looks for receiver downfield in Golden Eagles loss to Navarre in region playoffs.

Flag
from page 25

"Every time we changed the defense, they hit someone else," said Stilianou.

A quick slant into the end zone with 9:07 left in the half tied the game at 6-6.

As the half loomed both teams got interception with Middleburg's Cheyenne Jenkins snagging one deep in FAMU territory, but FAMU held.

In the third, FAMU jumped a pass attempt from Swenson to Megan Bonsor that went for a score after scoring first off a slant just three plays earlier.

Down 18-6 into the fourth quarter, Middleburg had a near breakaway from Laura Palagyi on an out route to the sideline and a missed flag grab, but Palagyi stepped out of bounds avoided the flag tag. The drive ended with a dropped fourth down pass.

FAMU went right to the air with a 40 yard scoring bomb to go up 24-6 with 8:13 on the clock.

Not ready to concede, Bonsor found a seam and Swenson hit the pass for a 60 yard scoring play that jolted the Bronco bench with score at 24-13 with 6:38 to go.

FAMU got one more score; a 30 yard bomb to end the game.

Results from round one playoff games:

No. 19 Navarre 12, No. 17 Orange Park Fleming Island 7

The Raiders, in their first-ever playoff contest in Flag Football, pulled the upset on the host Golden Eagles who have been an annual playoff contender for the last few years. The Raiders scored with not much time left to take the lead and never looked back to win the game and head to next week's Regional Finals. Raiders move to 13-3 on the season while Fleming Island finishes the season at 10-2.

Fleming Island scored first in their region playoff game against Navarre after Riley Cooper converted a fourth down to a first down at the Navarre 10 yard line. After wide receiver Elizabeth Edwards dove short of the goal line on an outside pass play, Fleming Island went to senior athlete Amelia Sailing for a two yard plunge behind a full house lineup on the line of scrimmage, but Sailing was flagged from behind to force a third down.

From the one, Sailing caught a swing pass from quarterback Mykayla Maddox for six points at 3:51 in the first quarter. Sailing also caught the point after conversion to put Fleming Island up 7-0.

The score stayed at 7-0 with Navarre intercepting a pass to Mackenzie Kirk with 4:41 left in the half at the Fleming Island 20 thwarting a possible scoring drive for the Eagles.

In the third, Navarre scored on a sideline pass, but missed the extra point to keep Fleming Island up 7-6.

Navarre continued to move the ball using quick out passes but Sailing intercepted a pass at the Fleming Island five yard line with 10 minutes left in the game.

Navarre's gamewinner came with 43 seconds still on the clock and Fleming Island holding precariously to a 7-6 score, but Navarre got an end zone pass to go up 12-7. Navarre attempted a two-point conversion pass to keep Fleming Island from winning on just a score, but the pass went way overhead of its target.

With some hope of a last minute winning finish, Fleming Island coach Clint Lyons had two time outs. A dropped pass at midfield saw the balloon burst for the Eagles as Navarre's defense held for the win.

Tallahassee FAMU DRS 19, No. 12 Fort Walton Beach Choctawhatchee 13 (OT)

The Baby Rattlers stunned the Indians at home after coming back late in the fourth quarter to tie the game and intercepting a pass in overtime to end the game with the victory. FAMU DRS moves to 10-2 on the season while Choctawhatchee sees their season end at 13-4.

No. 16 Middleburg 26, Jacksonville Andrew Jackson 6

The Broncos dominated the Tigers from start to finish in a battle of first-time playoff teams in Middleburg with dominating performances from Brooke Swenson, Sam Hardison, and Meghan Bonser. Up 19-0 at the half, Bonser added one more with a 45 yard punt return while Jackson scored off a long breakaway to avoid the shutout. Sam Hardison scored twice for the Broncos in the first half. Middleburg remains undefeated, moving to 12-0 while Andrew Jackson ends their season at 9-3.

Baseball

from page 27

Trinity Christian 3-1 in the semifinal to get to Keystone Heights in the final.

Region quarterfinals

Region 1-6A: Lyman (6-17) at Fleming Island (21-5), Fri., May 7. Opposite bracket: Creekside (15-11) at Winter Springs (13-13)

Region 1-5A: Middleburg (11-14) at Ponte Vedra (11-15), Thurs., May 6. Opposite bracket: Pine Ridge (8-13) at Stanton (16-12)

Region 1-3A: Episcopal (20-6) at Keystone Heights (15-12), Thurs., May 6. Opposite bracket: Baldwin (14-14) at Bolles (22-4)

Region 1-2A: Trinity Christian Academy (Deltona) (3-15) at St. Johns Country Day School (20-6), Fri., May 7. Opposite bracket: Wakulla Christian (12-4) at Aucilla Christian (16-8)

For Fleming Island, after two innings, it was 2-2, and the Golden Eagles were leaving cash on the table with already abandoning five runners still on base.

"It's something we preach, leaving runners on base," said Bigilin. "If you have runners on base, you are doing something right, but you have to score them."

It was just a matter of time before the runners would finally pay off in the fourth and fifth inning to put the team up 4-2, and then lean as hard as they could on that preparation, as it cashed in, in the sixth inning.

After Creekside loaded the bases with one out in the sixth with intention on an upset, the situation practice was gold.

With a bunt to the pitcher Isaac Williams, the play to first was made, and the bench erupted with screams of "Four" as the runner at third tagged up and took off for home.

"I saw Isaac throw the ball to first. I looked and saw him coming," said Gidcumb. "I looked to first base, saw the ball

coming to me and that was it. I had it and that was it. He was out."

First Baseman Justin Lebesch threw a dart to Gidcumb, who took the runner on body to body to tag him, hold onto the ball, and get out three to snuff out the inning.

"I didn't know if I lost the ball. It jammed my hand as he slid in to me," said Gidcumb. "After it was over, I showed him the ball- it was awesome."

The play turned out to be the play of the game as the Golden Eagles and Knights could not score anymore runs as Fleming Island took the 4-3 win and their third District Championship into the State Playoffs.

Gidcumb continued to produce at the plate as well getting on base all three times with two hits and a walk with junior Justin Corfield pinch run for his Catcher, which would pay off hugely late in the game.

In the fourth, with one out, Gavin Billingsley made it over to third base thanks to a passed ball, then crossed the plate off a Justin Lebesch line drive to left field, 3-2, but again runners left on base.

In the bottom of the fifth, Gidcomb led off, and again took what Creekside teed up for him.

"I don't know what to say. I'm just glad my teammates followed me up. I got on base for them and they drove them in. I just thought, I'll take what he gives me and he threw a good pitch inside. I got the barrel to it and it went," said Gidcumb."

Corfield took over for Gidcumb on the basepaths and made the magic happen with a steal into second, and then a pitch later, into third, where the Knights made a critical error. As the Creekside catcher saw Corfield bolt for third, he launched a cannon shot that misfired, went wide of the third baseman, and as Corfield slid, looked up, heard everyone screaming and took off for home, bagging what turned into the game winning run.

"We went after it" said Bigilin. "We threw all our arms but one, and if that was the way we went out, that was it. We found a way to hang in there. It was impressive."



Ocean fisherman Bill Pascoe, right in blue, and Alan Anderson show off their best Black Drums with banner day at Little Talbot Island. The fishing friends used dead shrimp as bait.

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PUZZLE FUN

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

Level: Intermediate

David

from page 28

knows how that works (not kind of) to walk and run and we hope to tap into that with the help of our special horse.”

For Steinberg, the feel of the horse, his being Merlin, is a new sensation in his body awareness.

“I’ve ridden horses before so I wasn’t nervous or scared, I rode a horse at a ranch in Arizona while on vacation,” said Steinberg. “My mom did the research and we are trying anything we can to help my legs. I feel a lot looser when I get off the horse. I’d like to run again.”

Note: Hope Therapy, at 1591 Big Branch Road in Middleburg (904-887-8451), operates solely on grants, corporate and individual donations and fundraising events, is hosting their annual fundraiser at the 15-acre campus on Sat., May 8 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Davenport has seen marked improvement with Steinberg’s mobility after just three sessions with Merlin.

Whether Steinberg progresses to his high school running status is unlikely, but to reverse some of the affects of HSP and create a smoother leg-strong lifestyle is the goal of John and Mary Steinberg.

“We want to keep his mobility to walk and stay out of a wheelchair,” said Mary Steinberg. “This was his third on the horse and we have seen more erect posture, he can side step better and he has improved range of motion with his legs.”

Mary Steinberg is forever searching for some answers for her son.

“Being a very good competitive athlete, David has struggled for quite a while trying to keep his competitive nature in tact with his illness,” said Mary Steinberg. “He now has a recumbent bicycle that gets him outside and using his legs more and that has helped, but it is an ongoing process to stay ahead of the HSP.”

For Mary Steinberg, the difficulty is finding adaptive programs for David. “They are out there and it’s hard to find them..I’m looking all the time and Hope Therapy has been a good find.”

⊙ * ✨ ☺ ☼ ☽ ☿ ♀ ♁ ♂ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to police.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 18 = E)

- A. 18 25 10 5 2 17 18**
Clue: *Compel compliance with law*
- B. 26 2 5 22 18 17 22**
Clue: *Keep safe from harm*
- C. 9 18 2 5**
Clue: *Admired or idealized*
- D. 17 5 19 19 20 25 11 22 8**
Clue: *People living together*

Answers: A. enforce B. protect C. hero D. community

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to police.

EGALL

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Answer: Legal

Guess Who?

I am an actor and wrestler born in California on May 2, 1972. I initially gained fame through wrestling in both the WWF and WWE — you could say I was a rock. I then became a wildly popular actor. I set an all-time world record when I earned the highest income for a first-time starring role.

Answer: Dwayne Johnson

POLICE JARGON WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- ACCESSORY
- AGGRAVATION
- ALIAS
- ARREST
- BURGLARY
- CAUSE
- CITATION
- COMPLAINT
- COUNTY
- COURT
- DISORDERLY
- LAWS
- MISDEMEANOR
- MUNICIPAL
- NEGLIGENCE
- NEIGHBORHOOD
- POLICE
- POSSESSION
- RADAR
- SEARCH
- SHIFT
- SPEEDING
- TERRITORY
- TRAFFIC

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

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

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

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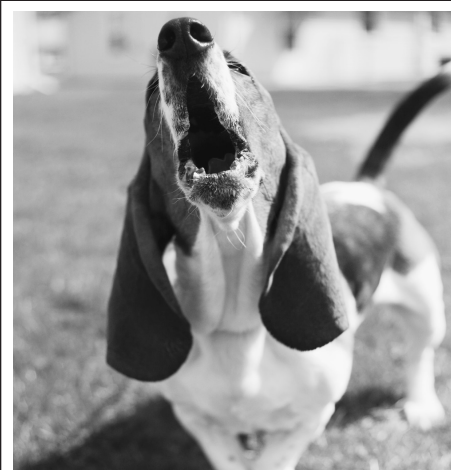
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER IMPOSITION OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS PURSUANT TO SECTION 170.07, FLORIDA STATUTES, BY THE ANABELLE ISLAND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF ASSESSMENT ROLL PURSUANT TO SECTION 197.3632(4)(b), FLORIDA STATUTES, BY THE ANABELLE ISLAND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE ANABELLE ISLAND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

The Anabelle Island Community Development District ("District") Board of Supervisors ("Board") will hold public hearings on **June 8, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.** at the **Plantation Oaks Amenity Center located at 845 Oakleaf Plantation Parkway, Orange Park, Florida 32065**, to consider the adoption of an assessment roll, the imposition of special assessments to secure proposed bonds on benefitted lands within the District, a depiction of which lands is shown below, and to provide for the levy, collection and enforcement of the special assessments. The streets and areas to be improved are geographically depicted below and in the District's *Master Engineer's Report*, dated March 31, 2021 (the "Improvement Plan"). The public hearing is being conducted pursuant to Chapters 170, 190 and 197, *Florida Statutes*. A description of the property to be assessed and the amount to be assessed to each piece or parcel of property may be ascertained at the office of the District's Records Office, Governmental Management Services, located at 475 West Town Place, Suite 114, St. Augustine, Florida 32092.

The District is a unit of special-purpose local government responsible for providing infrastructure improvements for lands within the District. The infrastructure improvements ("Improvements") are currently expected to include, but are not limited to stormwater management improvements, roadway improvements, water distribution and wastewater systems, electrical and street lighting improvements, landscape and hardscape improvements and recreational facilities, and other eligible public improvements, all as more specifically described in the Improvement Plan, on file and available during normal business hours at the address provided above.

The District intends to impose assessments on benefitted lands within the District in the manner set forth in the District's *Master Special Assessment Methodology Report*, dated April 15, 2021 (the "Assessment Report"), which is on file and available during normal business hours at the address provided above.

The purpose of any such assessment is to secure the bonds issued to fund the Improvements. As described in more detail in the Assessment Report, the District's assessments will be levied against all benefitted lands within the District. The Assessment Report identifies maximum assessment amounts for each land use category that is currently expected to be assessed. The method of allocating assessments for the Improvements to be funded by the District will initially be determined on an equal assessment per acre basis, and will be levied on an equal assessment unit ("EAU") basis at the time that such property is platted or subject to a site plan. The costs are allocated to all units equally, regardless of size.

The annual principal assessment levied against each parcel will be based on repayment over thirty (30) years of the total debt allocated to each parcel. The District expects to collect sufficient revenues to retire no more than \$31,240,000 in debt to be assessed by the District, exclusive of fees and costs of collection or enforcement, discounts for early payment and interest. The proposed maximum annual schedule of assessments is as follows:

Product Type	Number of Units	Allocation of Construction Costs	Allocation of Total Par Debt	Benefit Per Unit	Allocation of Maximum Net Annual Debt Service	Debt Service Assessments Per Unit
40' lot	75	\$4,908,527	\$6,332,432	\$84,432	\$455,686	\$6,076
50' lot	295	\$19,306,873	\$24,907,568	\$84,432	\$1,792,364	\$6,076

The assessments may be prepaid in whole at any time, or in some instances in part, or may be paid in not more than thirty (30) annual installments subsequent to the issuance of debt to finance the improvements. These annual assessments will be collected on the Clay County tax roll by the Tax Collector. Alternatively, the District may choose to directly collect and enforce these assessments. All affected property owners have the right to appear at the public hearings and the right to file written objections with the District within twenty (20) days of the publication of this notice.

Also on June 8, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. at the Plantation Oaks Amenity Center, located at 845 Oakleaf Plantation Parkway, Orange Park, Florida, 32065, the Board will hold a regular public meeting to consider any other business that may lawfully be considered by the District. The Board meeting and hearings are open to the public and will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Florida law for community development districts. The Board meeting and/or the public hearings may be continued in progress to a date and time certain announced at the meeting and/or hearings.

Additional information regarding this public hearing may be obtained by contacting the District Manager, Jim Perry, at jperry@gmsnf.com or by calling (904) 904-5850.

If anyone chooses to appeal any decision of the Board with respect to any matter considered at the meeting or hearings, 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.

Any person requiring special accommodations at the meeting or hearings because of a disability or physical impairment should contact the District Office at (904) 904-5850 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8770 for aid in contacting the District office.

**RESOLUTION 2021-27
A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ANABELLE ISLAND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT DECLARING SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS; DESIGNATING THE NATURE AND LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS; DECLARING THE TOTAL ESTIMATED COST OF THE IMPROVEMENTS, THE PORTION TO BE PAID BY ASSESSMENTS, AND THE MANNER AND TIMING IN WHICH THE ASSESSMENTS ARE TO BE PAID; DESIGNATING THE LANDS UPON WHICH THE ASSESSMENTS SHALL BE LEVIED; PROVIDING FOR AN ASSESSMENT PLAT AND A PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT ROLL; ADDRESSING THE SETTING OF PUBLIC HEARINGS; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION OF THIS RESOLUTION; AND ADDRESSING CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, the Anabelle Island Community Development District ("District") was established by Ordinance of the County Commission of Clay County, Florida, and is a local unit of special-purpose government organized and existing under and pursuant to Chapter 190, *Florida Statutes*, as amended, located entirely within Clay County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the District is authorized by Chapter 190, *Florida Statutes*, to finance, fund, plan, establish, acquire, install, equip, operate, extend, or construct certain improvements, including but not limited to transportation facilities, utility facilities, recreational facilities, and other infrastructure projects, and services necessitated by the development of, and serving lands within, the District; and

WHEREAS, the District hereby determines to undertake, install, plan, establish, construct or reconstruct, enlarge or extend, equip, operate, and/or maintain the infrastructure improvements described in the District's Master Engineer's Report, dated March 31, 2021, attached hereto as **Exhibit A** and incorporated herein by reference ("**Project**"); and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the District to pay all or a portion of the cost of the Project by special assessments pursuant to Chapter 190, *Florida Statutes* ("**Assessments**"); and

WHEREAS, the District is empowered by Chapter 190, the Uniform Community Development District Act, Chapter 170, Supplemental and Alternative Method of Making Local Municipal Improvements, and Chapter 197, the Uniform Method for the Levy, Collection and Enforcement of Non-Ad Valorem Assessments, *Florida Statutes*, to finance, fund, plan, establish, acquire, construct or reconstruct, enlarge or extend, equip, operate, and maintain the Project and to impose, levy and collect the Assessments; and

WHEREAS, as set forth in the *Master Special Assessment Methodology Report* dated April 15, 2021, attached hereto as **Exhibit B** and incorporated herein by reference and on file at Governmental Management Services - North Florida, LLC, 475 West Town Place, Suite 114, St. 2 Augustine, Florida 32092 ("District Records Office"), the District hereby finds and determines that:

- (i) benefits from the Project will accrue to the property improved,
- (ii) the amount of those benefits will exceed the amount of the Assessments, and
- (iii) the Assessments are fairly and reasonably allocated.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ANABELLE ISLAND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT:

1. **AUTHORITY FOR THIS RESOLUTION; INCORPORATION OF RECITALS.** This Resolution is adopted pursuant to the provisions of Florida law, including without limitation Chapters 170, 190 and 197, *Florida Statutes*. The recitals stated above are incorporated herein and are adopted by the Board as true and correct statements.
2. **DECLARATION OF ASSESSMENTS.** The Board hereby declares that it has determined to undertake all or a portion of the Project and to defray all or a portion of the cost thereof by the Assessments.
3. **DESIGNATING THE NATURE AND LOCATION OF IMPROVEMENTS.** The nature and general location of, and plans and specifications for, the Project are described in **Exhibit A**, which is on file at the District Records Office. **Exhibit B** is also on file and available for public inspection at the same location.
4. **DECLARING THE TOTAL ESTIMATED COST OF THE PROJECT, THE PORTION TO BE PAID BY ASSESSMENTS, AND THE MANNER AND TIMING IN WHICH THE ASSESSMENTS ARE TO BE PAID.**
 - A. The total estimated construction cost of the Project is \$24,215,400 ("**Estimated Cost**").
 - B. The Assessments will defray approximately \$31,240,000, which is the anticipated maximum par value of any bonds and which includes all or a portion of the Estimated Cost, as well as other financing-related costs, as set forth in **Exhibit B**.
 - C. The manner in which the Assessments shall be apportioned and paid is set forth in **Exhibit B**, as may be modified by supplemental assessment resolutions. Commencing with the years in which the Assessments are certified for collection, the Assessments shall each be paid in not more than thirty (30) annual installments. The Assessments may be payable at the same time and in the same manner as are ad valorem taxes and collected pursuant to Chapter 197, *Florida Statutes*; provided, however, that in the event the uniform non-ad valorem assessment method of collecting the Assessments is not available to the District in any year, or if determined by the District to be in its best interest, the Assessments may be collected as is otherwise permitted by law, including but not limited to by direct bill. The decision to collect Assessments by any particular method - e.g., on the tax roll or by direct bill - does not mean that such method will be used to collect Assessments in future years, and the District reserves the right in its sole discretion to select collection methods in any given year, regardless of past practices.
5. **DESIGNATING THE LANDS UPON WHICH THE ASSESSMENTS SHALL BE LEVIED.** The Assessments shall be levied, within the District, on all lots and lands adjoining

and contiguous or bounding and abutting upon such improvements or specially benefitted thereby and further designated by the assessment plat hereinafter provided for.

6. **ASSESSMENT PLAT.** Pursuant to Section 170.04, *Florida Statutes*, there is on file, at the District Records Office, an assessment plat showing the area to be assessed, with certain plans and specifications describing the Project and the estimated cost of the Project, all of which are open to inspection by the public.

7. **PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT ROLL.** Pursuant to Section 170.06, *Florida Statutes*, the District Manager has caused to be made a preliminary assessment roll, in accordance with the method of assessment described in Exhibit B hereto, which shows the lots and lands assessed, the amount of benefit to and the assessment against each lot or parcel of land and the number of annual installments into which the assessment may be divided, which assessment roll is hereby adopted and approved as the District's preliminary assessment roll.

8. **PUBLIC HEARINGS DECLARED; DIRECTION TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF THE HEARINGS.** Pursuant to Sections 170.07 and 197.3632(4)(b), *Florida Statutes*, among other provisions of Florida law, there are hereby declared two (2) public hearings to be held as follows:

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

DATE: June 8, 2021
 TIME: 2:00 p.m.
 LOCATION: Plantation Oaks Amenity Center
 845 Oakleaf Plantation Parkway
 Orange Park, Florida 32065

The purpose of the public hearings is to hear comment and objections to the proposed special assessment program for District improvements as identified in the preliminary assessment roll, a copy of which is on file and as set forth in **Exhibit B**. Interested parties may appear at that hearing or submit their comments in writing prior to the hearings at the District Records Office.

Notice of said hearings shall be advertised in accordance with Chapters 170, 190 and 197, *Florida Statutes*, and the District Manager is hereby authorized and directed to place said notice in a newspaper of general circulation within Clay County (by two (2) publications one (1) week apart with the first publication at least twenty (20) days prior to the date of the hearing established herein). The District Manager shall file a publisher's affidavit with the District Secretary verifying such publication of notice. The District Manager is further authorized and directed to give thirty (30) days written notice by mail of the time and place of this hearing to the owners of all property to be assessed and include in such notice the amount of the assessment for each such property owner, a description of the areas to be improved and notice that information concerning all assessments may be ascertained at the District Records Office. The District Manager shall file proof of such mailing by affidavit with the District Secretary.

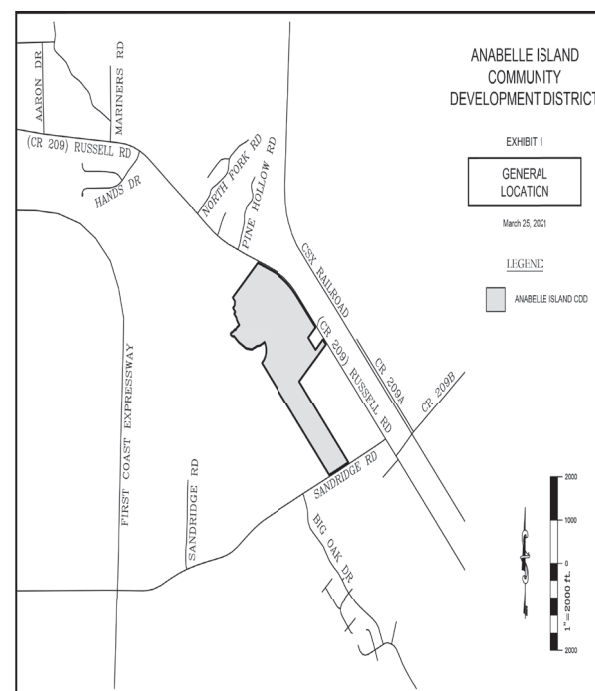
9. **PUBLICATION OF RESOLUTION.** Pursuant to Section 170.05, *Florida Statutes*, the District Manager is hereby directed to cause this Resolution to be published twice (once a week for two (2) weeks) in a newspaper of general circulation within Clay County and to provide such other notice as may be required by law or desired in the best interests of the District.

10. **CONFLICTS.** All resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are, to the extent of such conflict, superseded and repealed.

11. **SEVERABILITY.** If any section or part of a section of this Resolution is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the validity, force, and effect of any other section or part of a section of this Resolution shall not thereby be affected or impaired unless it clearly appears that such other section or part of a section of this Resolution is wholly or necessarily dependent upon the section or part of a section so held to be invalid or unconstitutional.

12. **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Resolution shall become effective upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 6th day of April, 2021.



Bid Notices

RIGHT TO PROTEST THE BID REQUEST, ANY ADDENDUM THERETO, OR THE BID DECISION, AS APPLICABLE, AND TO INITIATE A FORMAL PROTEST PROCEEDING UNDER THE PURCHASING POLICY. THE COUNTY'S PURCHASING POLICY CAN BE VIEWED AT THE COUNTY'S WEBSITE BY FOLLOWING THE APPROPRIATE LINKS FROM THE HOMEPAGE ADDRESS SET FORTH ABOVE. IF A PROSPECTIVE BIDDER IS IN DOUBT WHETHER THIS REQUEST REQUIRES A BID BOND, SUCH PROSPECTIVE BIDDER IS SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING APPROPRIATE INQUIRY. THE BOARD RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS WITHOUT CAUSE AND TO WAIVE TECHNICAL AND NON-TECHNICAL OR NON-MATERIAL DEFECTS IN THE REQUEST OR SUBMITTAL OF ANY BIDS.

Legal 47740 published May 6, 2021 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper.

Notice of Sale

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

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

CASE NO.: 2020CA000964

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, FOR MANUFACTURED HOUSING CONTRACT SENIOR/SUBORDINATE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATE TRUST 1999-3, Plaintiff,

vs.

WARREN K. HORNE, JR. A/K/A WARREN K. HORNE; PORTFOLIO RECOVERY ASSOCIATES, LLC; UNKNOWN TENANT(S) IN POSSESSION #1 et al., Defendant(s)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Summary Judgment of Foreclosure dated April 26, 2021 entered in Civil Case No.: 2020CA000964 of the Circuit Court of the Fourth Judicial Circuit in and for Clay County, Florida, wherein U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, FOR MANUFACTURED HOUSING CONTRACT SENIOR/SUBORDINATE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATE TRUST 1999-3, Plaintiff, and WARREN K. HORNE, JR. A/K/A WARREN K. HORNE; PORTFOLIO RECOVERY ASSOCIATES, LLC; UNKNOWN TENANT(S) IN POSSESSION #1 NKA PEGGY HORNE are Defendants.

I will sell to the highest bidder for cash, at www.clay.realforeclose.com, at 10:00 AM, on the 2nd day of June, 2021, the following described real property as set forth in said Final Summary Judgment, to wit:

A PARCEL OF LAND SITUATED IN SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 24 EAST, CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA; SAID PARCEL BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 4; THENCE ON THE SOUTH LINE THEREOF, RUN SOUTH 89 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 59 SECONDS WEST 649.85 FEET TO THE WESTERLY LINE OF JOHNS CEMETERY ROAD; THENCE ON LAST SAID LINE, RUN THE FOLLOWING FOUR COURSES: (1) NORTH 55 DEGREES 20 MINUTES 40 SECONDS EAST 106.35 FEET; (2) ON THE ARC OF A CURVE CONCAVE NORTHWESTERLY, AND HAVING A RADIUS OF 210.00 FEET, RUN A CHORD DISTANCE OF 186.07 FEET, THE BEARING OF SAID CHORD BEING NORTH 29 DEGREES 02 MINUTES 50 SECONDS EAST; (3) NORTH 02 DEGREES 45 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST 476.79 FEET; (4) NORTH 03 DEGREES 01 MINUTES 20 SECONDS EAST 1.755.04 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 34 MINUTES 05 SECONDS WEST 467.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE NORTH 89 DEGREES 34 MINUTES 05 SECONDS WEST 167.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 03 DEGREES 01 MINUTE 20 SECONDS EAST 261.00 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 34 MINUTES 05 SECONDS EAST 167.00 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 03 DEGREES 01 MINUTE 20 SECONDS WEST 261.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, BEING 1.00 ACRE, MORE OR LESS, IN AREA.

Notice of Sale

TOGETHER WITH AN EASEMENT FOR DRAINAGE, UTILITIES, AND GENERAL ROAD PURPOSES, COVERING A PORTION OF SAID SECTION 4; SAID PORTION BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 4; THENCE ON THE SOUTH LINE THEREOF, RUN SOUTH 89 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 59 SECONDS WEST 649.85 FEET, TO THE WESTERLY LINE OF JOHNS CEMETERY ROAD; THENCE ON LAST SAID LINE, RUN THE FOLLOWING FIVE (5) COURSES: (1) NORTH 55 DEGREES 20 MINUTES 40 SECONDS EAST 106.35 FEET; (2) ON THE ARC OF A CURVE CONCAVE NORTHWESTERLY AND HAVING A RADIUS OF 210.00 FEET, RUN A CHORD DISTANCE OF 186.07 FEET, THE BEARING OF SAID CHORD BEING NORTH 29 DEGREES 02 MINUTES 50 SECONDS EAST; (3) NORTH 02 DEGREES 45 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST 476.79 FEET; (4) NORTH 03 DEGREES 01 MINUTE 20 SECONDS EAST 1.694.98 FEET, TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; (5) NORTH 03 DEGREES 01 MINUTE 20 SECONDS EAST 60.06 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 34 MINUTES 05 SECONDS WEST 634.00 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 03 DEGREES 01 MINUTE 20 SECONDS WEST 60.06 FEET; THENCE, SOUTH 89 DEGREES 34 MINUTES 05 SECONDS EAST 634.00 FEET, TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

TOGETHER WITH THAT CERTAIN 1999 80X32 BAYMANOR MOBILE HOME, SERIAL NUMBERS FLHML3B127321284A AND FLHML3B127321284B.

If you are a person claiming a right to funds remaining after the sale, you must file a claim with the clerk before the clerk reports the surplus as unclaimed. If you fail to file a timely claim you will not be entitled to any remaining funds. After the funds are reported as unclaimed, only the owner of record as of the date of the lis pendens may claim the surplus.

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 APPEARANCE IS LESS THAN 7 DAYS; IF YOU ARE HEARING OR VOICE IMPAIRED, CALL 711.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of the court on April 30, 2021.

(seal)
TARA S. GREEN
CLERK OF THE COURT
By: Taylor Tison
Deputy Clerk

Legal 47741 published May 6 and May 13, 2021 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper 20-48948

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

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

CIRCUIT CIVIL DIVISION
CASE NO.: 2018CA000569

DITECH FINANCIAL LLC F/K/A GREEN TREE SERVICING LLC Plaintiff(s),

vs.

SAMUEL JOHNSON A/K/A SAMUEL E JOHNSON; THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF SAMUEL JOHNSON A/K/A SAMUEL E JOHNSON; SILVER CREEK HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC; Defendant(s)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, pursuant to Plaintiff's Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on March 11, 2020, in the above-captioned action, the Clerk of Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at www.clay.realforeclose.com in accordance with Chapter 45, Florida Statutes on the 17th day of May, 2021 at 10:00 AM on the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment of Foreclosure or order, to wit:

Lot 337, SILVER CREEK, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 44, Pages 52-72, Public Records of Clay County, Florida.

Property address: 2318 Creekfront Drive, 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

Notice of Sale

the date of the lis pendens, must file a claim before the clerk reports the surplus as unclaimed.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at not cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator for the circuit court system at crtintrp@coj.net or (904) 630-2565 at least 7 days before your scheduled court 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 16, 2021

(seal)
Tara S. Green
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
As Clerk of the Court
By: Rebecca Crews
Deputy Clerk

Legal 47710 published April 29 and May 6, 2021 in Clay County's Clay 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: 2019-CA-000327

U.S. BANK TRUST, N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR LSF9 MASTER PARTICIPATION TRUST, Plaintiff,

vs.

SANDRA M. WERNISCH, et al. Defendant(s).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated March 23, 2020, and entered in 2019-CA-000327 of the Circuit Court of the FOURTH Judicial Circuit in and for Clay County, Florida, wherein U.S. BANK TRUST, N.A. AS TRUSTEE FOR LSF9 MASTER PARTICIPATION TRUST is the Plaintiff and JAMES W. WERNISCH; SANDRA M. WERNISCH are the Defendant(s). Tara S. Green as the Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at www.clay.realforeclose.com, at 10:00 AM, on June 1, 2021, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 5, BLOCK 4, GREENWOOD ESTATES UNIT TWO, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 15, PAGES 32 AND 33, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Property Address: 2703 TINA LN, MIDDLEBURG, FL 32068

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 29th day of April, 2021.

(seal)
Tara S. Green
As Clerk of the Court
By: Taylor Tison
As Deputy Clerk

IMPORTANT

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. 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 you scheduled court 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.

Legal 47733 published May 6 and May 13, 2021 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper 18-194558

AMENDED NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

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

CASE NO.: 2019-CA-000636

CITIMORTGAGE, INC., Plaintiff,

vs.

CAROL JANET YOUNG; Defendant(s).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sale will be made pursuant to an Order or Final Judgment. Final Judgment was awarded on March 31, 2020 in Civil Case No. 2019-CA-000636, of the Circuit Court

Notice of Sale

of the FOURTH Judicial Circuit in and for Clay County, Florida, wherein, CITIMORTGAGE, INC. is the Plaintiff, and CAROL JANET YOUNG; ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS, are Defendants.

The Clerk of the Court, Tara S. Green will sell to the highest bidder for cash at www.clay.realforeclose.com on July 6, 2021 at 10:00 AM EST the following described real property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

FOR A POINT OF REFERENCE COMMENCE AT THE SE CORNER OF THE WEST 1/2 OF THE NW 1/4 OF THE SW 1/4 OF THE NE 1/4 OF SECTION 34 TOWNSHIP 4 SOUTH, RANGE 25 EAST, AND RUN NORTH 0°29'58" EAST FOR 49.7 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, THENCE CONTINUE NORTH 0° 29' 58" EAST FOR 210 FEET TO A POINT. THENCE TURN AND RUN NORTH 89° 21' 10" WEST FOR 210 FEET TO A POINT. THENCE TURN AND RUN SOUTH 0° 29' 58" WEST FOR 210 FEET TO A POINT. THENCE TURN AND RUN SOUTH 89° 21' 10" EAST 210 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

TOGETHER WITH A NON-EXCLUSIVE EASEMENT FOR INGRESS, EGRESS, AND UTILITIES ON THE NORTH 25 FEET OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY IN CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA:

FOR A POINT OF REFERENCE COMMENCE AT THE SE CORNER OF THE WEST 1/2 OF THE NW 1/4 OF THE SW 1/4 OF THE NE 1/4 OF SECTION 34, TOWNSHIP 4 SOUTH, RANGE 25 EAST, AND RUN NORTH 0° 29' 58" EAST FOR 49.7 FEET TO A POINT. THENCE TURN AND RUN NORTH 89° 21' 10" WEST FOR 210 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. THENCE TURN AND RUN NORTH 89° 21' 10" WEST FOR 210 FEET TO A POINT. THENCE TURN AND RUN SOUTH 89° 21' 10" WEST FOR 210 FEET TO A POINT. THENCE TURN AND RUN SOUTH 89° 21' 10" EAST FOR 210 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

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.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of the court on May 6, 2021.

(seal)
Tara S. Green
CLERK OF THE COURT
Rebecca Crews
Deputy Clerk

IMPORTANT

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: 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 for the circuit court system at crtintrp@coj.net or (904) 630-2564 at least 7 days before your scheduled court 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.

Legal 47728 published May 6 and May 13, 2021 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

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

CASE NO: 2018-CA-000930

OCWEN LOAN SERVICING, LLC Plaintiff,

vs.

PEDRO J. RAMOS; MERISOL RAMOS A/K/A MARISOL RAMOS, ET AL. Defendants

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated April 13, 2021, and entered in Case No. 2019-CA-000930, of the Circuit Court of the Fourth Judicial Circuit in and for CLAY County, Florida. PHH MORTGAGE CORPORATION (hereafter "Plaintiff") is Plaintiff and PEDRO J. RAMOS; MERISOL RAMOS A/K/A

Notice of Sale

MARISOL RAMOS; UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ROBERT BUNN; USAA FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK; SANDRA BOLVIN; JEANNETTE CHISHOLM; KRISTINA ELIZABETH BUNN A/K/A KRISTINA ABBASSI; UNKNOWN HEIRS OF SANFORD BUNN A/K/A SANFORD WILLIAM BUNN A/K/A SANDY BUNN; ARLENE BUNN; UNKNOWN TENANT IN POSSESSION OF SUBJECT PROPERTY are defendants. Tara Green, Clerk of Court for CLAY, County Florida will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash via the internet at www.clay.realforeclose.com at 10:00 a.m., on the 14th day of June, 2021, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 14, BLOCK 5, OF HERITAGE HILLS UNIT TWO, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 15, PAGE(S) 29 THROUGH 31, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation 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) 630-2564 at least 7 days before your scheduled court 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.

Dated this 16th day of April, 2021.

(seal)
TARA S. GREEN
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
By Kayla R Beard
As Deputy Clerk

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.

Legal 47723 published May 6 and May 13, 2021 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

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

CASE NO. 2020 CA 000305

COUNTRY FINANCIAL CREDIT UNION F/K/A COUNTRY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, Plaintiff,

vs.

MICHAEL E. RICKS, TERI L. RICKS, AMERICAN EXPRESS NATIONAL BANK AND UNKNOWN TENANT, Defendants.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, Clerk of Circuit Court, Clay County, Florida, will on July 20, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., online at www.clay.realforeclose.com, offer for sale, one by one, to the highest bidder for cash, the property located in Clay County, as follows:

A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN THE SOUTH 1/2 OF SECTION 21, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 23 EAST, CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 10, BLOCK H OF "FIRST ADDITION TO KINGSLEY LAKE VILLAGE" AS PER PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 2 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND RUN THENCE NORTH 0°9'58" WEST, ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SUBDIVISION, 165.0 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE NORTH 0°9'58" WEST, ALONG SAID EAST LINE, 165.00 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 15, BLOCK E OF SAID SUBDIVISION AND THE SOUTH LINE OF BLOCK E OF "KINGSLEY LAKE VILLAGE", AS PER PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 1, OF SAID PUBLIC RECORDS; THENCE NORTH 89°50'05" EAST, ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE, 849.61 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF A PARCEL OF LAND AS DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 144, PAGE 544, OF SAID PUBLIC RECORDS; THENCE SOUTH 58° 41'14" EAST, ALONG THE WESTERLY BOUNDARY LINE OF SAID PARCEL, 317.01 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID PARCEL; THENCE NORTH 89°50'05" EAST, ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID PARCEL, 248.26 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 0°9'55" EAST, 82.5 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89°50'05" WEST, 248.26 FEET;

Notice of Sale

THENCE NORTH 73°34'23" WEST, 282.12 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89°50'05" WEST, 849.61 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

TOGETHER WITH THE RIGHT OF INGRESS AND EGRESS OVER AND ACROSS A 30-FOOT STRIP OF LAND LYING CONTIGUOUS TO AND EAST OF THE EAST LINE DESCRIBED HEREIN

pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on April 21, 2021, in the above-styled cause, pending in said Court.

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 with the Clerk no later than the date the Clerk reports the funds as unclaimed.

(seal)
Tara S. Green
Clerk of Circuit Court
By: Jaimie Pippin
Deputy Clerk

Legal 47736 published May 6 and May 13, 2021 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper.

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Scott McGinley, MD, treats all types of injuries and orthopedic conditions for patients of all ages.

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