

CLAY TODAY

happy mother's day!

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2022

WWW.CLAYTODAYONLINE.COM

VOLUME 60, NO. 18 75¢



Law enforcement runs to support Clay County Special Olympics

Members of the Clay County Sheriff's Office and supporters of Clay County Special Olympics joined forces last week to raise money and awareness for athletes who will compete at the state and USA Games in the next few weeks at Walt Disney World. The group ran and walked a course around Fleming Island and were welcomed by students at Thunderbolt Elementary. See story on page 21.

Three able to provide information about officer-involved shooting

Men were standing in parking lot with a close-up view of deadly incident

By Don Coble
don@claytodayonline.com

ORANGE PARK – After each job is completed for their moving company, Adam German, Zachary Kellar and a co-worker have a ritual stop at the Wawa on Blanding Boulevard to get a soft drink and a sandwich.

That routine provided them a clear

view of the deadly officer-involved shooting on April 27.

"It was really bizarre," German said. "I was standing close enough I could hear the bullets whizzing and cracking."

The man was shot to death after the Orange Park Police Department answered a call for possible domestic violence. A man left in a PT Cruiser and led police on a car chase. Clay County Sheriff's Office deputies eventually became involved in the chase as he sped toward

SEE SHOOTING, 29



PHOTO SPECIAL TO CLAY TODAY

One of three men who were relaxing after a moving job were a few yards away from the deputy-involved shooting last week in Orange Park reacts the moments gunfire erupted.

GORDON
CHEVROLET • ORANGE PARK

NO BULL PRICING

904-272-2200
WWW.GORDONCHEVY.COM

Wolfson Children's Emergency Center
at Baptist Clay Medical Campus

Where you take your child for ER care matters.

wolfsonchildrens.com/ER

INDEX

Opinion | 4-5
Obituaries | 8

Crime | 28-29
Sports | 31-41 SPORTS

Puzzle | 41
Classifieds & Legals | 42-47



School board to review self-funded insurance plan

By Nick Blank
nick@claytodayonline.com

FLEMING ISLAND – The Clay County Schools District received an overview of what potentially adding self-funded insurance would look like at a recent workshop.

Former state Rep. Travis Cummings, The Bailey Group's vice president of benefits, called the discussion exciting and said self-funded insurance is meant to curb the volatility of the market.

"The goal all along from the insurance committee and the superintendent ... and all the stakeholders was to make a transition that was not burdensome clearly to the employees in terms of change or disruption," he said. "It's still United Healthcare. It's still the same plan designs."

Senior account executive Allison Profitt provided details on the firm's support, funding specifics and the district's position.

In a self-funded model, premiums would be split between claims, an administration fee, stop loss insurance and pharmacy



benefits the district pays. She compared it to an a la carte system. "Really what we're going to do is take that premium and split it up," she said. Profitt presented numerous advantages and disadvantages to self-funded insurance. It offers the elimination of some taxes and operational costs, gives access to more data and provides flexibility. However, it assumes certain risks, adds

more administration and depends on a fluctuating claims market. Profitt said the Bailey Group has to monitor relationships with benefit and insurance providers.

Stop-loss insurance, a key factor in insurance discussions, has two forms: specific and aggregate. Specific stop-loss coverage places a cap on the amount that the employer pays for any one individual

claim, while aggregate stop-loss coverage places a ceiling on the figure a self-insured employer must pay across an entire plan year.

"Anything above that stop-loss deductible is going to be reimbursed," Profitt said.

During the board member discussion, board member Janice Kerekes asked for a recommendation on plans. Profitt and Cummings said the Bailey Group could hone in on what the district's claims are and complete valuations based on district data. Cummings presented the district with a projected \$1,898,158 cost savings if it went self-funded from October 2022-September 2023 fiscal year.

"We just feel good about the position of the school district," Cummings said.

The insurance portion of the meeting concluded with Superintendent David Broskie telling board members the process to bring insurance information before the board could take months. It will resume at a future meeting.

Orange Park talks events for adults, stormwater projects

By Nick Blank
nick@claytodayonline.com

ORANGE PARK – Town officials reviewed having more events for adults at Tuesday night's council meeting, in addition to discussing purchasing two pieces of property for conservation.

Town council members and staff have set aside \$500,000 in American Rescue Plan Act relief funds for stormwater-related projects.

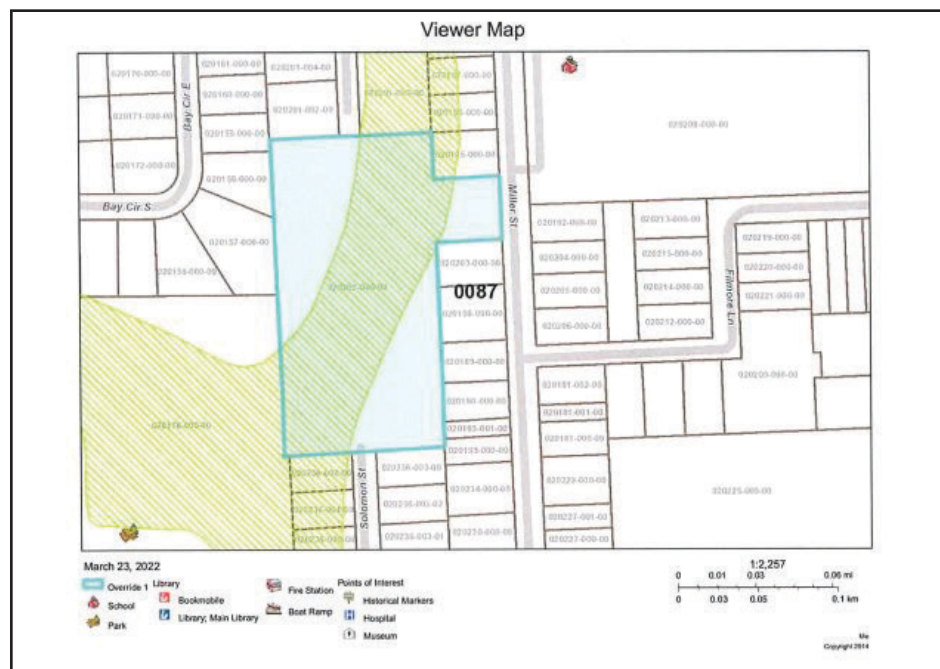
There are 3.26 acres near Park Avenue and Elbow Road, which town staff identified because of its proximity to Johnson Slough. It was appraised at \$49,000 and the town has made an offer, according to town documents.

Another property was a 5.3-acre parcel that borders Clarke Park, as well as Miller and Solomon streets. The town sought the property due to its access to the creek system near the park. The appraised value is \$55,000 and there is about \$614 of property taxes owed on it.

Town Manager Sarah Campbell said an offer has been made on the parcel near the slough.

"I expect it will be a while before we receive a response on that parcel," Campbell said.

Campbell asked for a motion to authorize negotiations on the Solomon Street parcel and they later did by a unanimous vote. Council Member Susana Thompson



The area outlined in blue shows property the town of Orange Park has displayed interest in buying with federal disaster relief funds.

asked about the purpose of buying the land and if town staff could alleviate homeowners by removing downed trees.

Campbell said the land is near the pond of Clarke Park and acquiring it could help with maintenance.

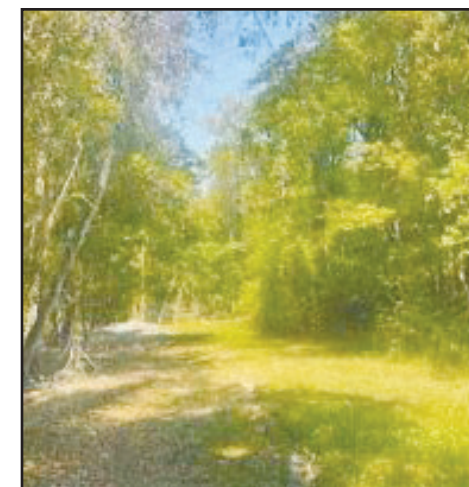
"It's conservation first and foremost," Campbell said.

In other business, Mayor Randy Anderson said entertainment was a hot topic

during previous visioning meetings. He said singing or open mic nights were possibilities with local entertainment.

"I think we need to start this out slow and maybe do something once a quarter, or until we get it and moving," Anderson said.

Council Member John Hauber said people could get to know their neighbors better and express themselves.



On Tuesday night, Orange Park officials discussed purchasing a property that is near Solomon and Miller streets.

"This would be a good opportunity for them to do so," he said.

Thompson said Green Cove Springs has well-attended events and Orange Park can do something similar with its local artists and vendors. Vice-Mayor Eddie Henley asked when the last time a standalone concert was organized by the town.

"I think we shouldn't have to drive north, drive south. There's a lot of local talent within our county, within our town of Orange Park as well," Henley said.

Council members voted unanimously to direct staff to research holding events for adults once a quarter.

CLAY TODAY

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Clay Today, 3513 U.S. Hwy 17, Fleming Island, FL U.S.P.S. (063-800) Periodical Postage Paid at Orange Park, Florida
NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS This newspaper assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertisements, but when notified promptly will reprint correctly the part of the advertisement in which the typographical error appears. All advertising in this publication is subject to approval of the publisher. This newspaper will not knowingly accept or publish illegal material of any kind. Advertising which expresses preference based on legally protected personal characteristics is not accepted. PHONE ALL DEPARTMENTS 264-3200. MEMBER, FLORIDA PRESS ASSOCIATION & SOUTHERN NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY
Subscription Rate
1 Year in County \$34
1 Year out of County \$44

CLAY TODAY 904-264-3200

Co-Owner, COO/VP: Hugh Osteen
Business Manager: Christie Wayne
Publisher: Jon Cantrell
Managing Editor: Don Coble
Staff Reporter: Nick Blank
Sports Editor: Randy Lefko

Classified/Obituaries/Legals/Admin: Cassandra Shaw
Sales Manager: Sheri Lhotak
Sales & Marketing: John Denmark, Leesa Tillman
Creative Services: Sheila Holcombe, Michele McNeill, Lisa Murphy
Kathy Roy



A WHOLE NEW STATE OF HEALTHCARE.

Your loved ones matter. Your community matters. Your passions matter. That's why we've come together to create Florida's largest healthcare family. With more than 450 affiliated sites of care, our network of hospitals, urgent cares and physician practices spans the entire state, helping us serve you even better with advanced, personalized care. We show up for you and your health whenever, wherever and however you need us. So, you can show up feeling your best for everything you care about. **Learn more at HCAFloridaHealthcare.com**



Scan to find out which facilities are part of HCA Florida Healthcare

 **HCA Florida**
HealthcareSM

We show up

Leaked abortion draft could reshape races for governor, legislature

By Jacob Ogles
For FloridaPolitics.com

A leaked report suggesting the Supreme Court will soon overturn *Roe v. Wade* drew strong reactions from Florida leaders. Immediate reactions showed how the sudden restriction on access to abortion could impact Florida's elections for U.S. Senate and for Governor.

Sen. Marco Rubio criticized the leak, but signaled support for restricting abortion. He voted to confirm three of the conservative Supreme Court justices likely to be part of a majority overturning *Roe*.

"The next time you hear the far-left preaching about how they are fighting to preserve our Republic's institutions and norms remember how they leaked a Supreme Court opinion in an attempt to intimidate the justices on abortion," he tweeted.

He also tweeted in response to a post by Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders suggesting the Senate should pass a law codifying *Roe*.

"Translation: Let's change the rules of the Senate to pass a federal law legalizing the killing of unborn children right up to the day of delivery," Rubio posted.

U.S. Rep. Val Demings, the lead Democrat challenging Rubio's re-election, expressed disdain at the potential decision.

"Striking down *Roe v. Wade* and taking away a woman's right to make her own decisions is appalling and dangerous," Demings said in a statement. "We refuse to go back to being treated as second-class citizens whose personal decisions are made by politicians like Marco Rubio, who has fought relentlessly against the right of Florida women to control their own destiny. Women deserve an end to the constant politicization of our basic, fundamental rights. Let me be clear: I will always stand up, speak out, and fight to codify *Roe v. Wade* into law, no matter what."

Meanwhile, the decision could also reshape the race for Governor, where Gov. Ron DeSantis last month signed a 15-week abortion ban into law in anticipation of this ruling. As of this posting, DeSantis had not addressed the leaked ruling but all his major Democratic opponents responded to news immediately.

U.S. Rep. Charlie Crist, a Democrat running for Governor, tweeted the potential decision to overturn *Roe* should drive voters to oust DeSantis.

"If true, the fight for a woman's right to choose will be left up to each state to decide... and front and center in this fall's election," he posted after POLITICO first reported news.

"We must defeat DeSantis," Crist

SEE DRAFT, 5

OPINIONS



Walter Cronkite would be disappointed with today's journalism

By Don Coble
Managing Editor

In the past 64 years, I've lost a lot more than my hair, eyesight and control of my waistline. I've lost a lot of respect for the job that's consumed the last 48 years of my professional working life.

Journalism used to be an important, proud and honest profession. We worked hard to earn your respect with honest and fair reporting, and we worked even harder to sustain that connection with our contacts and our readers.

Those of us who were fortunate to watch Walter Cronkite every night on the *CBS Evening News* saw true journalism. Although Cronkite admitted to embracing many progressive and left-leaning ideas, you never knew it in his reporting. He was fair and balanced long before it became a catchphrase.

I still remember Cronkite on Nov. 22, 1963, when CBS broke into *As the World Turns* to tell the world three shots were fired at President John F. Kennedy's motorcade and that the president had been seriously wounded.

An hour later, Cronkite went on the air live. He put his glasses on and said, "From Dallas, Texas, the flash apparently official: President Kennedy died at 1 p.m. Central Standard Time." Then he took his glasses off and stared directly



Don Coble

into the camera. He no longer was a reporter. He was our friend at a desperate time. Then he choked back tears after peering at the clock.

During his 19 years as the anchor-man for CBS News, he often was cited as "the most trusted man in America" by several opinion polls. Can we say the same for today's media?

It's alarming the majority of our country now get their information through social media and shows with obvious agendas. Actually, it's more than alarming. It's frightening.

To post a story online all you need are fingers and a reckless disregard for the process. You don't need a sense of honesty. You don't need to check facts. In fact, you can make it up.

I refuse to believe true journalism is dead. At least in our little corner, Clay Today always will be vigilant to finding the facts, no matter how many questions we have to ask. Being first isn't as important as being correct.

Last week's Clay County Sheriff's Office deadly shooting of a man in Orange Park was difficult for everyone. A man is dead. Deputies are working through the trauma of using deadly force. Witnesses have to relive the sounds of gunshots.

A little more journalist integrity also died that night.

First, a woman drove to the scene and accused a deputy of killing the man without cause. Then she started streaming online, telling viewers CCSO didn't give the man "a chance."

The problem with her "reporting" was she wasn't there. At least three witnesses saw her arrive at the scene several minutes after the shooting. One of

SEE CRONKITE, 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.

Tittup: (TID-up) a verb that means to move with jerky or exaggerated movements.

"Chris Farley tittuped his way through some of his most-iconic comedy skits."

This Week in History

Five years ago, 2017

- Sue and Jerry Campbell decide to close down the last dairy farm in Clay County and expect to sell all of their cows from their Green Cove Springs farm.
- Core Construction misses another deadline after being hired to overhaul portions of Spring Park in Green Cove Springs.
- The Clay County Chamber of Commerce awards 16 scholarships to students, including a top prize of \$2,000 to Margaret "Molly" Urnek of St. Johns Country Day School.

10 years ago, 2012

- Family and friends of Army Staff Sgt. Dick Alson Lee, Jr., 31, meet for a memorial service in Keystone Heights after he was killed by an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan.
- Paul Piner, a 10-year-old boy from Fleming Island, is picked to spend six weeks at the Bolshoi Ballet Summer Dance Intensive program in Middlebury, Connecticut.
- The Department of Children and Families join forces with other child agencies after cases of children endangered by drug-related issues rise from 13 to 26 in one month.

20 years ago, 2002

- A 3-year-old Middleburg boy is airlifted to the hospital after he was viciously attacked by a pit bull at a birthday party.
- A lack of money and size of classrooms were the main topics of discussion at the Community Forum on Public Education in Clay County.
- Clay County Sheriff's Office Deputy Wilson Walker's name is added to the Po-

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@claytodayonline.com

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.

Cronkite

from page 4

the witnesses interrupted her online rant by telling her he saw what happened and she wasn't providing true details.

"She was definitely spinning a narrative," the witness said.

Good for the witness. As long as there's a sense of fair play among the readers and viewers, my profession needs to keep working to clean up our act.

A day later, Sheriff Michelle Cook appeared at Quigley House headquarters ahead of sexual abuse awareness month. Reporters were told before the event the sheriff couldn't talk about the shooting because it was being investigated by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

After the speeches, a reporter still asked about the shooting. When Cook didn't answer, the outlet reported she refused to talk about one of her officers killing a man.

That was unfair. And it certainly wasn't journalism.

Accredited journalists aren't entitled to information that's not readily available to the general public. The advantage we have is we know who to ask and where to find it – all while building a respectable relationship to expedite the process.

Cook immediately responded on her personal social media pages, saying:

"I'm at that event and I've got victims' advocates and team members and victims with me, and we're talking about it and I have a local reporter asked me to comment on the shooting last night and I said, 'You know, we're here to talk about sexual assault awareness month, and I'm not here to talk about an officer-involved shooting.' So, the news station goes online and says the Clay County Sheriff refused to answer questions of after deputies shot and killed somebody Wednesday.

"I want to make it very clear to you the community I didn't refuse to do anything. What, you know, what I did, I refuse to talk about it more for number of reasons. No. 1, I'm there to talk about the sexual assault awareness month. And that is such an important topic and we're not going to

take away from that topic. No. 2, I gave a news media briefing last night and gave out all the information that we had all the information that I could release and at this point it is up to the Florida Department of law enforcement to put out the information they have the investigation. I think I would be remiss if I started weighing in on their investigation. Listen, my commitment is for us to be transparent, to be account-

able."

I'm going to let everyone know a little secret. Accredited journalists aren't entitled to information that's not readily available to the general public. The advantage we have is we know who to ask and where to find it – all while building a respectable relationship to expedite the process.

But make no mistake, our need to know isn't more important than the need to follow protocol and facts. The dead man's family, CCSO deputies and our community deserve no less.

So as Walter Cronkite used to sign off, "And that's the way it is..."

Draft

from page 4

wrote. "This issue is personal to so many of us. Early in my career I was faced with the decision to protect a woman's right to choose. I stopped a bill in the State Senate that would have required a 24-hour waiting period. As your Governor, I vetoed an anti-abortion bill. And I'll do it again if need be — because I will always stand with women."

Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried, a Democratic candidate for Governor, tweeted anger about the potential decision.

"The women of our country are under direct attack by right-wing radicals," she posted. "Overturning the freedom over our bodies is unconstitutional, unacceptable, and taking us back to a dark, dark time. If they can control our bodies, what do we have left? This cannot stand."

State Sen. Annette Taddeo, also a Democratic candidate for Governor, said she opposed the potential overturn of Roe.

"I never thought I would see the day when our own Supreme Court would strip away the rights of millions of women across this country. Regression like this is

commonplace in fascist countries but has no place in a free society," Taddeo said in a statement.

"Make no mistake about it, the brunt of this ruling will be felt by women who cannot afford to cross state lines, the majority of them Black and Brown, to states that allow access to this medical care. Allowing states to ban access to reproductive healthcare will only lead to an increase in unsafe, non-medical alternatives. As a mother, I am terrified for my daughter and the rest of her generation who might lose safe access to vital care. Now more than ever it's urgent to elect a governor who will protect a woman's right to choose."

Jacob Ogles has covered politics in Florida since 2000 for regional outlets including SRQ Magazine in Sarasota, The News-Press in Fort Myers and The Daily Commercial in Leesburg. His work has appeared nationally in The Advocate, Wired and other publications. Events like SRQ's Where The Votes Are workshops made Ogles one of Southwest Florida's most respected political analysts, and outlets like WWSB ABC 7 and WSRQ Sarasota have featured his insights. He can be reached at jacobogles@hotmail.com.

sioners vote to separate itself from the Putnam/Clay Economic Opportunities Agency.

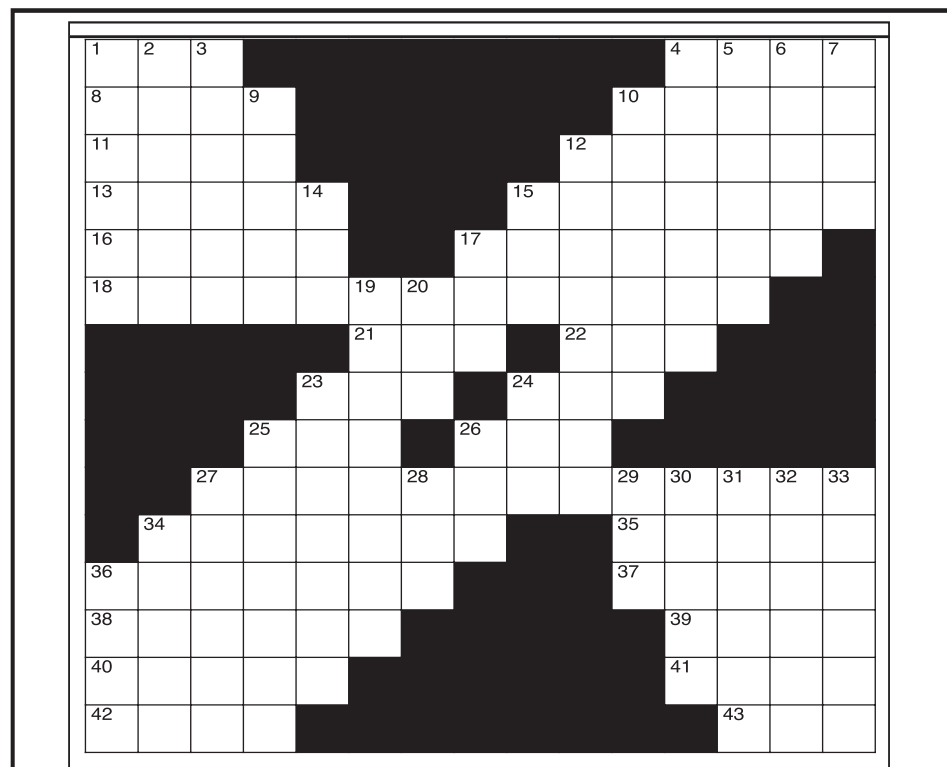
- The county's new administration building in Green Cove Springs opens.

40 years ago, 1982

- The Green Cove Springs City Council votes to make councilman George Killian as its mayor.

- Cato and TG&Y prepare for grand openings at the Cove Plaza Shopping Center in Green Cove Springs.

- Ray Zerba takes over as the county's new Horticulture Agent for UF/IFAS.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. A power of perception
- 4. Slotted hinged metal plate
- 8. Popular crop
- 10. Siamese fighting fish
- 11. Larval crabs
- 12. South American mammal
- 13. Occur as a result of
- 15. Slavic language
- 16. An electric underground railway
- 17. Transporting
- 18. A direction
- 21. Opposite of start
- 22. Mock
- 23. People love and hate it (abbr.)
- 24. A people of Myanmar
- 25. A Queens ballplayer
- 26. Southern Thailand indigenous person
- 27. Famed actress
- 34. Thin strips
- 35. Bluish greens
- 36. Ridiculed
- 37. Having the shape of a cube
- 38. Came down
- 39. Indian religious god
- 40. "Bewitched" actress Moorehead
- 41. Leak through slowly
- 42. Buzzing insects
- 43. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Skin condition
- 2. Earlier
- 3. Right away
- 4. Vomiting
- 5. Go to
- 6. "The Police" frontman
- 7. Bullfighting maneuver
- 9. Pacific island
- 10. A system of algebraic notation
- 12. A room used for the activities of a group
- 14. The longest division of geological time
- 15. Car mechanics group
- 17. A barrel of liquid (abbr.)
- 19. Bound to do
- 20. Explosive
- 23. Ridicules
- 24. Adult male
- 25. Military personnel
- 26. French and Belgian river
- 27. Found in the sea
- 28. A share lost in default (abbr.)
- 29. Type of medication (abbr.)
- 30. City on the Rhine
- 31. Animal disease
- 32. They're in martinis
- 33. Get away
- 34. Wampum
- 36. Lacking brightness

History

from page

lice Memorial Wall in Tallahassee, eight years after he died from lung disease caused by the chemicals used to bring out fingerprints on paper.

30 years ago, 1992

- Gwendlen Dowell Benton was arrested for armed robbery less than two hours after she was featured on *America's Most Wanted* television show in connection with the holdup of Kingsley Jewelers in Orange Park more than three years earlier.
- The Clay County Board of Commis-



Left: Senior Forester Jon Johnson measures a Southern Magnolia on HCA Florida Orange Park Hospital last week. Sam Negaran and Jon Johnson of the Florida Forest Service stand beneath a large Southern Magnolia last week.

Orange Park hospital Magnolia grows into state, national spotlight

By Nick Blank
nick@claytodayonline.com

ORANGE PARK – A local hospital's Southern Magnolia tree is not only gathering moss, but state and national recognition.

The tree, near one of HCA Florida Orange Park Hospital's new medical office building, is the largest Southern Magnolia tree in the state and the third-biggest Southern Magnolia in the country.

Florida Forest Service Senior Forester Jon Johnson performed an official measuring of the tree for the first time in 10 years last week.

Not only is Johnson trying to assess the proportions of a magnolia tree an extreme test of measuring tape, but it also involves the bane of most high-schoolers and quite a few college students: trigonometry. However, the South is famous for its diverse plant life, he said.

"We find our special trees of each species throughout the country. I mean we've got one of the most diverse forests in the

world," Johnson said. "The Southeast just has some amazing forests."

The tree is a bit off the beaten path. There are foundations of a house on the property and even an orange tree. The tree is visible from Kingsley Avenue and predates the road, Johnson added.

"It's one of those idyllic trees. When you think of the South, you think of magnolias," Johnson said. "That's what this is, one of those iconic trees."

Forestry Resource Administrator Sam Negaran said trees like the particular Southern Magnolia are a community resource. He said champion trees are measured every 10 years to verify their numbers. People take pride in having large trees with historical value, he said.

Negaran conducted the measurements of the same tree 10 years ago.

"It's just a way to monitor, track and update any changes," Negaran said. "We're always on the lookout for champion trees. Our foresters are out in the community."

Negaran said the tree's size is com-

mendable considering the development in the county.

"I think it's a really great thing that (Orange Park Hospital) has decided to hopefully keep it, showcase it in years to come, take care of it and take the same pride any other landowner would," he said.

As for preservation, Negaran and Johnson said the tree has been around so long with little support. It isn't fighting with other plants for resources, Johnson said.

"It's getting really no competition," Johnson said.



Kingsley Jewelry

Perfection is Our Obsession...

Purchase a special gift
for Mom and make it
a perfect day.

Happy Mother's Day!



KingsleyJewelry.com
(904) 278-2480

668 Kingsley Ave., Orange Park
Tues. – Fri. 10am to 6pm • Sat. 10am to 2pm

Operation



Quigley House hangs its messages of abuse on display

By Don Coble
don@claytodayonline.com

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – The multi-colored T-shirts were hung neatly on a clothesline that stretched far too long at the Quigley House administrative offices.

Each tee had hand-written messages that spoke of pain, survival and hope. But most of all, they spoke of anger.

One by one, they told a horrific tale of abuse. The reality of the Clothesline Project erased the splendor of their colorful dance created by a gentle breeze.

Officials and volunteers of the county's only dual-certified domestic violence and sexual assault center joined with the Clay County Sheriff's Office last week to remind the community of its resolve to end physical and sexual abuse. Quigley House offers temporary emergency shelter and a safe environment for men, women and children who face the challenges of starting over following an abusive relationship, and, unfortunately, the need for the services is growing.

"At Quigley house we work to build awareness of domestic violence, sexual

assault, human trafficking, bullying and harassment," said CEO Jennifer Rodriguez. "Our mission is to educate, equip and empower individuals and families through community education and awareness events like today. We hope that people will understand the true nature of these crimes, and abandoned preconceptions and social norms of what they think abuse is."

According to Quigley:

- One in four women and one in seven men will suffer physical violence by their intimate partner during their lifetimes.
- A least one in six men have been sexually abused or assaulted.
- A majority of female victims of completed or attempted rape first experienced such victimization early in life. With 81.3% reporting that it first occurred before age 25.
- A majority of LGBTQ-identified college students experience sexual harassment or assault by the time they graduate.

The abused started their journey to re-

SEE QUIGLEY, 9



STAFF PHOTO BY DON COBLE

The multi-colored T-shirts are a reminder of the number of abusive cases handled each year at the Quigley House. Colors define the abuse and offer an outlet to vent anger and pain.



The gift that's everything you could want for them *and everything they desire.*

Treat them to something special with a gift card from The Spa at Ponte Vedra Inn & Club. Call us today at 904.273.7700, come see us at The Spa, or shop from anywhere at pvspa.com.

MM1481

Depression? Anxiety? Panic?

BRAIN-BASED INTERVENTIONS FOR IMMEDIATE SYMPTOM RELIEF. BRAINSPOTTING, EMDR, AND SSP PROTOCOL

ACCEPTING NEW CLIENTS

United Healthcare, Aetna, Oscar & Oxford
VIRTUALLY SERVING FLORIDA AND CLAY COUNTY

Lake Area Counseling, LLC
KATHLEEN HILL, LCSW • (904) 362-7305

RECLAIM YOUR VISION

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS IN ORANGE PARK
(904) 822-1095

1560 Kingsley Ave #3, Orange Park, FL 32073 FloridaEyeSpecialists.com

Obituaries

Albert "Butch" Delio

Albert "Butch" Delio, 78, of Orange Park, FL passed away April 23, 2022.

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



John M. Flynn

John M. Flynn, 70, of Orange Park, FL passed away April 30, 2022.

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



Gina Randine Ballinger

Gina Randine Ballinger passed away peacefully in her house in Fleming Island, Florida, on March 8, 2022, surrounded by her loved ones. She was born May 10, 1933, in Wild Rose, North Dakota. Her and her twin sister Lina were the youngest in a family of nine. Her parents (Elling and Johanne Svendsbye) were both direct immigrants from Norway, with Elling being a farmer and lumberjack and Johanna a homemaker. In 1936 the family moved to the small town of Bonners Ferry, Idaho, near the Canadian border, and this is where Gina grew up and graduated from high school.



Gina Ballinger

While attending nursing school in Spokane, Washington she met Robert Ballinger, a Navy seaman from California. They married in 1954 and lived in various bases around the country, including Hawaii and Tennessee, before settling in the Jackson-

ville, Florida area, where they remained for the rest of their lives. They had three children (William, Cynthia, and James), all currently dwelling in the Northeast Florida area.

Gina worked as a registered nurse at St. Vincent's Hospital and Humana Orange Park Hospital for many years. She was an avid reader and enjoyed watching movies and sports (especially the Gators and Jaguars) and playing card and board games. She was a strong Christian who faithfully attended Advent Lutheran Church in Orange Park. She participated in the Lake Asbury Ladies Club for several years, serving a term as Secretary. Her lifelong dream to travel the world was fulfilled in her later years, as she traveled to Europe, the Middle East, Central America, and India.

She is survived by her sister Lina Hazle (living in Toledo, Ohio) and 10 grandchildren (Dana, Holly, Jason, Elizabeth, Eric, Shayna, Chris, Shaun, Robert, and Randy) and 1 great grandchild (Atlas).

A Memorial Service, open to the public, will take place at 2 pm on Saturday, May 21, 2022, at Advent Lutheran Church, 2156 Loch Rane Blvd, Orange Park, FL 32073, (904) 272-6370.

Timothy John Smith

Timothy John Smith of Green Cove Springs, FL passed away Thursday April 21, 2022 of natural causes.

Tim was born to John and Marie Smith of Louisville, KY on March 19, 1957, on his eldest brother, Fred Jones' 15th birthday. Having resided in Louisville throughout his adolescence, the bluegrass state was Tim's true home as well as the foundation for his life long support of the Louisville Cardinals. Tim was a proud graduate of Atherton High School, where he excelled in the football program- donning jersey #51. Tim was baptized in the Episcopal Church of Meridian Idaho in 1989. He went



Timothy Smith

on to reside in Boise, ID, Missoula, MT, and the Orange Park, FL area throughout his lifetime, touching hearts everywhere he went. Tim was a proud member of the Green Cove Springs Elks Lodge 1892 for eight years. After earning much respect from his fellow lodge members, Tim was appointed Exalted Ruler of the Green Cove Springs Elks Lodge on April 2nd, 2022- a position he was immensely proud to fulfill.

Tim enjoyed playing golf, attending his grandson Easton's ball games, spending time with friends and family, and traveling with Lynn. He will always be remembered for his love of people, good nature, and sharp sense of humor. He was a bright light to many and will be dearly missed.

Tim was preceded in death by his mother, Marie Smith; father, John Smith; brothers, Bobby Jones and Charlie Jones; and best friend Geoff Snyder.

He was survived in death by his brothers, Fred Jones and Phil Smith; sister, Shirley Jones; his children, Carsen Smith and Marques Green, Colin Smith, Mechaila LaPointe, Mackenzie Miller, Mitchell Smith, Nicole Smith, Michael Smith; grandchildren, Easton Green, George LaPointe, Paisley Mackin Smith, Georgia Miller, and Camren Smith; partner, Lynn Elrod and numerous family and friends.

The family will receive friends for the celebration of Tim's life at 11:00 am, Saturday, May 7, 2022 in the Broadus-Raines Chapel, 501 Spring St., Green Cove Springs, FL 32043.

A reception to follow will be held at Green Cove Springs Elks Lodge 1892, 702

S Orange Ave., Green Cove Springs, FL 32043.

Contributions made to the family are greatly appreciated and will be applied to Tim's Final Expenses. Donations can be delivered by cash or check to the funeral home as well as accepted via PayPal at [paypal.com/InTimsMemory](https://www.paypal.com/InTimsMemory)

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

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



Donald Edward Larson

Donald Edward Larson passed away March 24, 2022 after a long fight from cancer. Donald Spent 20 years in the Air Force, retiring in 1992. Donald was preceded in death by his



father, Donald Wesley Larson in 2003. Donald is survived by his mother Winnie Sue, Rene the

mother of his children, one daughter, Amy Clint, one son, Christopher (Linda), sister, Crystal Yates (David), two brothers James and Roger (Beth) and several grandchildren and great grandchildren. Donald's remains are interred in the National Cemetery in Jacksonville, Florida.

Community Briefs

Barras appointed to State Apprenticeship Advisory Council

TALLAHASSEE – Gov. Ron DeSantis announced the appointment of Kirk Barras, Steve Cona III, Marcelo Dossantos, Eric Kennedy, David McCraw, Lee Middleton, Natasha Sherwood, and Kathryn Starkey to the



Kirk Barras

State Apprenticeship Advisory Council.

Barras, of Middleburg, is the Training Director for Jacksonville Plumbers and Pipefitters. He is a veteran having served in the United States Navy. Barras is the President of the Jacksonville General Apprenticeship Association and serves on the Board of Directors for CareerSource Northeast Florida.

These appointments are subject to confirmation by the Florida Senate.

SEE BRIEFS, 15

JACKSONVILLE MEMORY GARDENS

FUNERAL HOME AND CEMETERY

One convenient location, because it's important for family to be together at a difficult time.

Pre-Planning - Peace of mind, Locking in at today's prices - 0% financing for 60 months

Discounted Funeral Packages (Pre-Need Only) | Pre-Planned Veteran Discounts

Visit us at JacksonvilleMemoryGardens.com

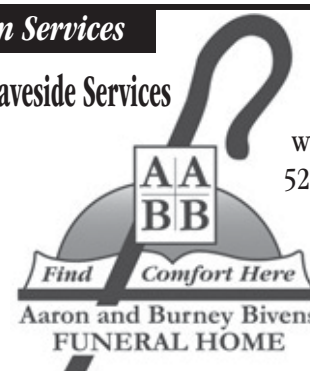
111 Blanding Boulevard (Next to Orange Park Mall) | 904-272-2435

Funeral & Cremation Services

Traditional, Church & Graveside Services

- Pre-Need & Insurance Arrangements
- World Wide Shipping
- Caskets & Urns
- Pre-Planning
- Cremation

Locally Owned With A Tradition of Service



Funeral Home

904-264-1233

www.BivensFuneralHome.com
529 Kingsley Ave • Orange Park

Burney Bivens Orange Park Attorney Since 1982

Law Office
1543 Kingsley Ave. • Orange Park
904-264-3412

Former SJRSC president Robert L. McLendon Jr. dies

Special to Clay Today

ORANGE PARK – The St. Johns River State College family is mourning the loss of former President Robert L. McLendon Jr., who died April 26 at the age of 84. McLendon served as SJR State's third president for 36 years, retiring in 2008 as the most senior president in the community college system.

SJR State President Joe Pickens remembered McLendon's role as leader, mentor and friend.

"What do Gene Bartow, Phil Bengston and Joe Pickens have in common?" Pickens asked. "Simple: we each succeeded legends. While Bartow succeeded John Wooden and Bengston succeeded Vince Lombardi, I succeeded Dr. Robert L. McLendon, Jr.

"Doc, as I called him, was larger than life in so many ways and was the bedrock of St. Johns River Jr./Community College. His shaping of the College and its future over almost four decades is an unparalleled achievement in the annals of the Florida College System. Fittingly, the College's Palatka campus is named in his honor."

When McLendon arrived at the Palatka Campus in 1966 as the Dean of Academic Affairs, the sparse buildings and surrounding dirt roads were only a sign of potential to the 29-year-old Marianna native. The College's true potential would slowly begin to surface in the years following McLendon's appointment as president in 1972 when it received the state appropriations to build the Florida School of the Arts and add a second location in Orange Park.

The addition of FloArts and the Orange Park location convinced McLendon that he would not only make the College his career but would also make Palatka his home. "I felt this was an excellent place to raise a family, and my children loved it here," McLendon said in a 2008 interview. The Orange Park location would later expand from a few portable buildings into a full-service campus in 1989, including the



Robert L. McLendon Jr.

\$21-million Thrasher-Horne Center for the Arts in 2004 and the \$12-million, two-story health-sciences facility in 2008.

McLendon's vision for St. Johns County included the beautiful St. Augustine Campus in 1996, the criminal justice center in 2003 and a new health-sciences facility in 2010. Perhaps one of McLendon's finest achievements is retiring from a College that is free of debt.

"We're in good shape. We're as good as it gets," McLendon said in 2008. "There's not a school in the state that is as well taken care of, ...is as comprehensive, or is as financially secure as St. Johns," he said. "We know what to do. We know how to do it."

Pickens said the greatest gift Dr. McLendon gave to him was to hand over the reins of an institution with no problems, financially or otherwise.

"In fact, Doc told me himself on his last day as President, "'Joe, this College is in great shape; it will run itself for years if you just don't screw it up.'" Pickens said. "My biggest hope is that I haven't."



Sheriff Michelle Cook (left) and Quigley House CEO Jennifer Rodriguez highlight the need to stop physical and sexual abuse during the Operation Clothesline announcement. T-shirts are designed by survivors who tell their stories as they recover from their abuses.

Quigley

from page 7

recovery by expressing their feelings on T-shirts.

Each tee represents the courage to leave an abusive relationship; the struggle to become whole again; the courage to become a survivor instead of a victim; and, the defiant resolve to walk away.

Quigley House created its Clothesline Project as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April. The colors of each shirt represent a specific abuse, with white tees epitomizing abuse that resulted in death.

Black shirts are from survivors who were left disabled by an attack or were assaulted because of a disability; orange is for survivors of physical assault or domestic abuse; red and pink are for survivors of rape or sexual assault; purple represents survivors who've been attacked for their sexual orientation; blue and green are survivors of incest and childhood abuse and gray and brown are for survivors of emotional, verbal and spiritual abuse.

Sheriff Michelle Cook said her agency will work tirelessly with other organizations until no new tees are hung on Quigley's clothesline.

"Our dedicated members, both sworn and civilian spend countless hours investigating and helping victims," Cook said. "The detectives and our special



victims and Internet Crimes Against Children units have a job that is especially not easy to stomach. And our victims' advocates work everyday work countless hours to bring support to our victims.

"We must continue to work together to educate our community about sexual violence prevention, to support survivors and to speak out against harmful attitudes and actions."

Quigley's numbers are shocking. The agency said it received 1,112 calls at its crisis center last year. It also provided 43 sexual assault emergency crisis forensic examinations, a combined 9,905 nights of emergency shelter and assisted 218 survivors to get injunctions for protection.

"Our goal here today is to create awareness and educate our community while highlighting our relationships with our community partners so that if or when something happens, survivors know that they won't be hurt," Rodriguez said. "I want to walk away I want you to walk away knowing that if someone you know is experiencing domestic violence or sexual assaults, or if you have questions regarding people's behaviors or need resources you can reach our 24-hour hotline, 365 days a year, and we are here to help you in every way possible."

Quigley House's hotline number is (904) 284-0061.

For more information, visit quigley-house.org.

JOIN THE COVENANT ROOFING FAMILY



THE DIFFERENCE IS[®]
• THE PROMISE •
Drug free workplace.

Roofing Repair Tech (Middleburg Office)
Looking for experienced roofing repair technician
for busy, growing roofing company.
Must have valid drivers license.

Pay based on experience. Must be highly driven and self-motivated. Must be able to pass a drug test and background check. Competitive pay! Apply today and start tomorrow. We are extremely busy and need to grow our team!

We offer paid training with opportunity for advancement and full benefits including:

Health Insurance • 401 K • Paid vacation and sick days • Paid Holidays

Please contact our office at 904.423.0819 or visit our website at www.covenantrooffl.com to complete an application.

Gould committed to helping her Ukraine

By Kathleen Chambliss
For Clay Today

The mood was high alert on the evening of Feb. 23 in a seminary housing building in Ukraine. There was word that Russia would pull out, that they had just wanted the control of the already Separatist states in the south, and negotiations might soon be underway.

Missionaries, including American Kathy Gould and her Ukrainian ministry partner, celebrated the hope that they could return to their operations in Kyiv within the next week as they fell asleep on the sparse seminary bunk beds.

They woke up to air raid sirens. Russia had invaded Ukraine and started dropping bombs, focusing on cities like Kyiv. There was little left to do but act and move to flee.

Gould is clear that she doesn't want the attention to be focused on her, but the situation that thousands of Ukrainians faced and are facing as they attempt to flee from their homes to stay out of harm's way.

She and countless others left behind apartments, cars, and even family members as they made the trip to the Polish

border. What should have only been a two-hour trip by car became 10 as the narrow two-lane road came to a standstill.

They sent women and children to the front of the line, but when the entire country evacuates its women and children, how can the border determine who can enter and who must stay behind? Gould and her team left their car in the line and walked for six miles in the dark to make it to the border. By the time they got there, there was no chance she could make it through on her own.

Gould traveled with a grandmother and her grandchild. Her team had left at her urging to get out of the open-air as the bombs still fell. As she sat in the van, others knocked on windows, the missionary moving to make room for the others that begged to be taken through as well.

After letting in as many as the van could carry, Larissa, the grandmother, had to turn them away. The border guards were strict. There could only be as many passengers as there were seats. They couldn't crowd.

"I didn't want to take a seat that could go to Ukrainian people who needed to leave



Missionary Kathy Gould returned from Ukraine, but she brought the horrific images and memories of Russia's unprovoked attack with her.

desperately, but the seminary had made it clear, that if I were to be captured by the Russian forces, it would put everyone in contact with me in danger. They would go after my team and the other missionaries."

The Polish-Ukrainian border is always operational, but in this mass exodus, no one was prepared. The border guards were overworked and exhausted, many of them Ukrainian themselves, and were just as worried as the citizens trying to leave. They had protocols they had to follow, and orders were firm. There couldn't be any

exceptions.

"I remember as we got closer to the border, seeing a man with a child. He was all bundled up like babies are, but the man was alone. I remember thinking... 'They're not going to let him pass'. An hour later, I saw him walking back, the baby still bundled up by his chest. They had turned him away. They couldn't let him in. I don't know what happened to them," she said.

Though Gould and many others made

SEE UKRAINE, 11

WATCH & WAGER ON THE KENTUCKY DERBY!



Saturday, May 7th

Place your bets on the best thoroughbreds in the country at bestbet Orange Park! Wear your best derby gear and enjoy our delicious food and drinks along with some exciting giveaways.



455 PARK AVENUE | ORANGE PARK, FL | 904.646.0001 | BESTBETJAX.COM

Ukraine

from page 10

their way across the border and could leave Ukraine, there were more who couldn't or wouldn't leave. Thousands remain in Ukraine, a fact that Gould wants to emphasize.

"They haven't stopped fighting. No one really expected this from Ukraine. Even Ukrainians didn't expect this from Ukraine, but they haven't given up. They keep standing against Russia and the forces Putin throws at them. They're unbelievably strong."

Gould's return to the States and her ministry to churches in Clay County have offered a unique perspective to the people she ministers to. Not only is she American, but after living in Ukraine for almost thirty years, her experience gives credence to the pleas she voices.

"I get so many people asking me 'Why should we care about Ukraine?' About what Russia is doing if it doesn't affect them directly. America made a promise during the Cold War to ensure that Ukraine remains free. Putin already walked back on his side of the agreement. America can't do the same."



According to Gould, there are countless ways that American citizens can help the citizens of Ukraine. Whether it's calling state representatives, donating money or supplies, or even just wearing the colors of the Ukrainian flag- all of it helps.

"With all the news coming in constantly, you can feel overwhelmed. It hurts, and as humans, we try to avoid being hurt at any cost, so we harden our hearts and go numb to the suffering around us. We can't afford to go numb to Ukraine. Russia will be stopped; the people of Ukraine will continue to stand against Putin... but they're standing against a goliath. America has given them pebbles. It's time we help them find a boulder."



Clothes Closet needs votes

For Clay Today

The Clothes Closet and Food Pantry is one of the top 200 finalists chosen out of 4,000 submitted applicants in the State Farm Neighborhood Assist grant program. This year, 100 winning causes will be chosen, giving us a better chance to win a \$25,000 grant. The organization really needs you to rally behind our cause and cast your votes to help. The Food Pantry has been seeing a drastic increase in families in need of food and other assistance. We serve a range of individuals: homeless, residents of Quigley House (domestic abuse shelter), job displacement individuals with no way of providing food for their families, the recently divorced or the recently widowed who have found themselves with lessened resources. We strive to bring hope to these individuals. As they get home and

unpack their grocery order, we want them to experience a sense of belonging to the community and a renewed sense of hope. We strive to provide core nutritious foods. Better nutrition produces better employees, better students, and better communities. This all leads to an overall increase in the health of the community. Here's how: click and vote for The Clothes Closet and Food Pantry.

To vote, visit <https://www.neighborhoodassist.com/entry/2044068?tmaadmin=cx5wne6n59n58uuaa>.

Voting is open until Friday at midnight and you can vote up to 10 times per day, every day for our cause. Winners will be announced June 7. Clothes Closet and Food Pantry asks you to forward this to your colleagues, friends and family to vote and help spread the word.

"Serving Loving Families & Preserving Living Memories"

REV. KARL N. FLAGG, L.F.D.I.C.
 KARLA N. FLAGG-WRIGHT, L.F.D.
 2400 MADISON STREET
 PALATKA, FL 32177
 386.312.0444
www.flaggserenitychapel.com

Monday, May 23
 8:30am Tee Time
 Eagle Harbor Golf Course

1st Annual
Victory Tournament

Plan to attend the First Annual Victory Golf Tournament to benefit the V for Victory Foundation. This local charity is a non-profit organization dedicated to cultivating relationships with local businesses to provide resources and services to meet the "every day" needs of local families and individuals battling cancer.

\$150 per player
 Silent Auction
 50/50 Raffle
 Door Prizes
 Dinner

Sponsored by:
GARBER AUTOMALL

Register at: <https://victorygolftournament.com>

Everybody's Favorite Entertainment
presents
Everybody's Favorite BARBECUE AND HOT SAUCE FESTIVAL

Taylor Dayne
 Morris Day
 Purple Madness

May 13 - 15, 2022
ORANGE PARK MALL (OUTSIDE)

VENDORS OR MORE INFO, CALL 877-415-7258 OR VISIT WEBSITE
EVERYBODYSFAVORITEFESTIVAL.COM



PHOTOS BY DON COBLE, PASTOR JOHN SANDERS



The Vineyard starts transition to new building, expanded service

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – The walls are coming down at The Vineyard Transitional Center – and that’s a good thing. The facility that houses in-need men as they transition from a life of despair to a functioning member of the community, was in dire need of a makeover. In fact, contractors said it would have been cheaper to tear the old building down and start anew. That process currently is underway on Pine Street, but the challenge to raise between \$450,000-\$500,000 remains. To help, visit The Vineyard at claycountyhomelessshelter.com.



Call to schedule your tour!
Rates starting out at \$3250.
904-592-9995



AT FLEMING ISLAND

Independent Living is open!

Independent Living And Assisted Living

MAKE THE MOVE SPECIAL!

Be one of the first ten to deposit and receive:

- ✓ 2 year rate lock
- ✓ \$500 towards moving expenses
- ✓ Pay off your 30 day notice from a like competitor
- ✓ Reduced Move in Fee

2771 CR 220, Middleburg • silvertreasuresflemingisland.com • (904) 592-9995



ferti·lome®



Rose & Flower Food w/Systemic Insecticide
small and large bags available

Celebrate Mom this year with fantastic gifts from Pat's!



Azalea/Evergreen Food Plus w/Systemic
small and large bags available



OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK



Premium Bedding Plant Food
small and large bags available



Fruit, Citrus and Pecan Tree Food
small and large bags available

Thank you for supporting the "Little Man"



7060 Hwy. 17, Fleming Island • 904-284-2011 • PatsNurseryInc.com

Operation Barnabas supports veteran's wellness at OP event

By Nick Blank
nick@claytodayonline.com

ORANGE PARK – At 12:04 p.m. Saturday after the National Anthem serenaded the crowd at Operation Barnabas' "For The Vet We Haven't Met Yet" event, planes soared above the stage and the crowd cheered.

During the course of the day at the Orange Park Mall parking lot, the event featured about 70 vendors and a car show, as well as performances from the Curt Towne Band, the Tiffany Sweet Band and Framing the Red.

Operation Barnabas Lead Officer Raylan Heck, a retired U.S. Army Ranger, said

160 volunteers assisted Operation Barnabas throughout the event. The mission of the organization is to address veteran homelessness and suicide with mentors, faith and encouragement. It emphasizes hand-ups instead of handouts.

"To be for a veteran, to be for grace, it is just a huge opportunity to bring everybody together," Heck said.

Operation Barnabas also has veteran housing, Fort Grace, and hotel rooms for veterans in need. Heck referred to the group's namesake, Saint Barnabas, as

SEE BARNABAS, 15



STAFF PHOTOS BY NICK BLANK, DON COBLE
Green Cove Springs' The Curt Towne Band headlined an afternoon of live music.



Visitors were treated to vendors, live music and food trucks as Operation Barnabas brought financial and spiritual support to veterans and first responders at the Orange Park Mall.

Palagio
Senior Living
Live the Good Life®

MEMORY CARE

INDEPENDENT LIVING

ASSISTED LIVING

Furnished Options AVAILABLE NOW!

Transitioning to a senior living apartment can be overwhelming. From coordinating a move, to selling a home and even unpacking!

Let us HELP!

TOUR today to learn about more about the FULLY FURNISHED, MOVE-IN READY apartments available to move into TOMORROW!

Call us at **904-639-4700** to schedule your appointment!



Barnabas

from page 14

someone who encouraged and empowered others.

Heck said making a veteran whole again is a comprehensive process, meaning they could need food, shelter or employment, which the organization can assist with.

“A main part of what we’re doing is action, we stand on faith,” Heck said. “We operate from a place of action and encouragement.”

Ben Hickey, a U.S. Navy veteran who chairs Operation Barnabas’ board of directors, said the organization doesn’t let people go. Mentors are assigned to veterans at different steps and the group highlights following through, Hickey said.

Hickey has been on the board since September. He used an acronym, WIT (Whatever It Takes) as the organization’s philosophy to help veterans.

“They’ve got like-minded people who have been through the stuff they are going through,” he said. “We instill in them that they are not alone. That we love them. That they’ve got a place.”

“It’s not somebody on the phone saying, ‘I’ll be back in two weeks,’” Heck added. “It’s literally relationships.”

Army veteran Jordan Brimlow also joined Operation Barnabas about eight months ago as a participant. He said the organization works 24/7 for veterans and is willing to drop everything in the early hours of the morning.

“When the veteran is there and doesn’t know what the resources are, (Operation Barnabas) is there and there’s action,” Brimlow said.

He said there will always be more veterans to help. Reaching out is the first step, Brimlow said. He added that the organization gives a struggling veteran hope and a group that can root for them.

“I’m doing it for guys like me,” Brimlow said.



Fitz Gerald Despres and LaToya Despres (above) told supporters how Operation Barnabas helped them move from being homeless after the V.A. cut their benefits to getting a home and jobs in six months, while Framing the Red (below) brought their soulful, southern music to the festival that was created to connect veterans and first responders with support programs.

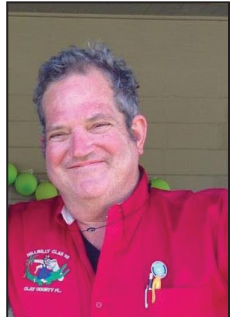


Briefs

from page 8

Governor appoints Schoeff to Florida Building Code Administrators and Inspectors

TALLAHASSEE – Gov. Ron DeSantis appointed of Charles Howe, Jane Decker, Mark Grenier, Alexander Hernandez, Peter Ringle and Steven Schoeff to the Florida Building Code Administrators and Inspectors.



Schoeff, of Keystone Heights, is currently the Building Official for Clay County Board of Commissioners. He has over 25 years of experience as a building inspector. Schoeff is a member of the Code Interpretations Committee. These appointments are subject to confirmation by the Florida Senate.

Hitchcock’s Markets accepting SNAP for online grocery orders.

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – The Florida-based regional grocery chain announced all Hitchcock’s locations that offer online delivery and pick-up orders will now accept SNAP benefits. SNAP beneficiaries can order groceries through the Hitchcock’s Markets website or app and use their EBT card to complete purchases.

Using EBT as a form of payment online is a simple process. Hitchcock’s customers can visit delivery.myhitchcocks.com or download the Hitchcock’s Markets app, create an account, and enter their EBT card information as a form of payment. Customers can then pick from a large assortment of SNAP-eligible groceries and add them to their virtual cart. Orders can be placed for same-day delivery or pick-up and can be scheduled.

BOLD CITY
MORTGAGE

Jamei Lake Axelsen
US Navy Veteran, Military Spouse and Mom

Loan Originator
NMLS ID 2096353
Company NMLS ID 2174083
C: (904) 505-3492
Jamei@boldcitymortgage.com

River Birch Realty

Katrina Leek
Broker/Owner/REALTOR®

(904) 945-5610 | [f](https://www.facebook.com/riverbirchrealtyjax)@riverbirchrealtyjax
Katrinaleek@riverbirchjax.com
riverbirchjax.com

GET YOUR MEDICAL MARIJUANA CARD TODAY!

RE-CERTIFY BY PHONE! Edibles
NO NEED TO LEAVE HOME! Now Available!

\$150
RE-CERTIFICATIONS

DO YOU HAVE...
Stress & anxiety from the Coronavirus?
Call today for a PTSD evaluation.

No medical records,
NO PROBLEM.
Visit us at
www.CMMDR.com

CERTIFIED MARIJUANA DOCTORS

ORANGE PARK 920 BLANDING BLVD., SUITE 4 • 904-420-0044

Keystone craftsman's work set in stone, forged in fire

By Nick Blank
nick@claytodayonline.com

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – Traveling around the world gave Adam Batchelor the inspiration to develop a passionate craft for stonework and later a mastery of the ancient art.

Now a devotee of both blacksmithing and stonework, he works out of a 2,400 square-foot workshop in Keystone Heights with his forges for metalwork and his tools for chiseling arrowheads and spearheads. He's done stonework since 2002 and blacksmithing since 2015. Early on, he saw primitive stonework in museums, voraciously read about the subjects, and the next thing he knew, he was making them.

"I got interested because I was like, 'How do they turn rocks into spearheads or knives?'" he said. "The whole art was lost at one point."

The two arts are far from easy or simple. It took him three or four years of toil to make the work acceptable and involved burns, effort and sweat, Batchelor added. Now he uses online platform Etsy to sell his items.

"It is hard. It is difficult. You can't buy your way into it," he said. "Eventually, it's not ugly and it's something someone could



A candle or tiki torch holder created by Adam Batchelor.

buy."

Stonework was critical to ancient civilizations, like the early Vikings and the Egyptians.

"That's the perfect age where stonework became as high level as it could before metal happened," Batchelor said.

He joked he has been asked about the History Channel's hit TV show "Forged in



Adam Batchelor at his workshop in Keystone Heights.

Fire" several times. Batchelor's blacksmithing is more about crafting useful items rather than weapons, he said. However, the show has had a profound impact on driving more people to make knives and has a positive impact overall.

"Many bladesmiths wouldn't have gotten started if not for the show," Batchelor said.

As for Batchelor's process, it's a com-

bination of mental and physical strength to complete something.

"It takes really intense focus, and that's for either of them, stonework or blacksmithing," Batchelor said. "You shut the whole world out around you. At the end of it, you're mentally wiped out. I enjoy learning new stuff, I don't want to do the same thing every day. I'll challenge myself with something else."

RECENTLY RENOVATED!



Live Beautifully.

Here, community comes together, and new friendships form...

Voted Best in Clay County three years running, Allegro Fleming Island is a luxury senior living community featuring gorgeous grounds, limitless activities, and unsurpassed amenities. Here, you'll find a place where you or your loved ones enjoy thoughtful care and committed attention. Here, you'll find a place where independence and individuality are cherished and celebrated. **Here, there is beauty.**

RATES STARTING AT \$3,850/MONTH

INDEPENDENT LIVING | ASSISTED LIVING | MEMORY CARE

(904) 385-3756 | info.allegroliving.com/claycounty

Be sure to ask about our move-in specials!

Assisted Living License #10313



Seaside art on display at Clay County Courthouse

STAFF PHOTOS BY DON COBLE

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – The First Coast Plein Air Painters brought some of their best pieces of art featuring the beach, ocean and ships in the fourth floor of the Clay County Courthouse. As part of a new community outreach effort, Art in the Courthouse, the Clay County Clerk and Comptroller’s Office unveiled its second show, “Brush Strokes of Light,” of the season. Ribbons were given to first, second and third place, as well as three honorable mentions. According to the clerk’s office,

thousands conduct business inside the Clay County Courthouse each year and, regardless of the reason for their visit, the clerk’s office wants the building to be a peaceful venue where citizens and employees feel at ease when conducting business. The displays, which are scheduled to rotate every three-to-four months, will be available for viewing from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-through-Friday. Other shows include the Clay County Women’s Clubs from July 18 to Nov. 3 and Holiday Season Children’s Art from Nov. 18 to Jan. 31.



CARPET MAN FLOORING
Well Road - Orange Park - 904-272-8430

Visit our showroom for the best selection, prices & customer service!

FREE ESTIMATES

1988 Wells Road Orange Park, FL 32073 | 904-272-8430

Mon-Fri 9-6pm | Sat. 9-4 pm
Sun 12-4 pm

www.CarpetMan.biz

Apples Auto Sales
Where you're treated like family

This Week's Special



Finally, a dealership that offers affordable AND reliable vehicles for sale!

Across from Winn Dixie on Hwy. 17 • 3287A US Hwy 17
Green Cove Springs • 904-531-5165

Thrasher-Horne to welcome Oak Ridge Boys

ORANGE PARK – Theirs is one of the most distinctive and recognizable sounds in the music industry. The four-part harmonies and upbeat songs of The Oak Ridge Boys have spawned dozens of Country hits and a Number One Pop smash, earned them Grammy, Dove, CMA, and ACM awards and garnered a host of other industry and fan accolades.

The legendary band will be at the Thrasher-Horne Center on May 12 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are now available at thcenter.org.

Every time they step before an audience, the Oaks bring four decades of charted singles, and 50 years of tradition, to a stage show widely acknowledged as among the most exciting anywhere. And each remains as enthusiastic about the process as they have ever been.

"When I go on stage, I get the same feeling I had the first time I sang with The Oak Ridge Boys," said lead singer Duane Allen. "This is the only job I've ever wanted to have."

"Like everyone else in the group," said bass singer extraordinaire, Richard Sterban, "I was a fan of the Oaks before I became a member. I'm still a fan of the group today. Being in The Oak Ridge Boys is the fulfillment of a lifelong dream."

The two, along with tenor Joe Bonsall and baritone William Lee Golden, comprise one of Country's truly legendary acts. Their string of hits includes the Country-Pop chart-topper "Elvira," as well as "Bobbie Sue," "Dream On," "Thank God For Kids," "American Made," "I Guess It Never Hurts To Hurt Sometimes," "Fancy Free," "Gonna Take A Lot Of River" and many others.

The group has scored 12 gold, three platinum, and one double platinum album – plus one double platinum single – and had more than a dozen national No. 1 singles and more than 30 Top 10 hits.

Rimes' The Story ... So Far Tour coming to Thrasher-Horne

ORANGE PARK – GRAMMY Award-winning singer, songwriter, actress and author LeAnn Rimes announced her upcoming tour, *The Story...So Far*, in support of her 25th music anniversary and forthcoming album, *God's Work*.

She will bring her show to the Thrasher-Horne Center on June 23 at 7:30 p.m.

A new, more personal and intimate walk through her musical journey thus far. Ticket are available at thcenter.org or by calling (904) .

The Story... So Far will tell the story of Rimes' impressive career during the past 25 years and will give a glimpse into her



The Oak Ridge Boys

new music. Throughout this past year, the singer-songwriter has been celebrating her momentous 25th anniversary as a recording artist, commemorating the release of her debut album "Blue," which made an ever-lasting impact on the music industry.

Nitty Gritty Dirt Band headed to Thrasher-Horne Center

ORANGE PARK – With a refreshed lineup and newfound energy, The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band remains one of the most accomplished bands in American roots music.

The band will bring its legendary setlist to the Thrasher-Horne Center on Sept. 2 at 8 p.m. Tickets, which start at \$39, are now on sale.

Following an extended 50th anniversary tour, the ensemble grew to a six-piece in 2018 for the first time since their early jug band days. The group now includes Jeff Hanna, Jimmie Fadden, Bob Carpenter, Jim Photoglo, Ross Holmes and Jaime Hanna. All six members also sing, and when their voices merge, the harmonies add a powerful new component for the legendary band. And with the father-son pairing of Jeff and Jaime Hanna, the band carries on a country music tradition of blood harmony.

The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band played their first gig in 1966 in Southern California as a jug band and by 1969 had become a cornerstone of the burgeoning country-rock community.

During a tour stop in Nashville around that time, Earl Scruggs and his family came backstage to say hello.

That introduction led to a friendship and some of the connections the band needed to record *Will the Circle Be Unbroken*. That three-disc album brought Nitty

Gritty Dirt Band together with a number of country, folk and bluegrass legends. Heroes like Roy Acuff, Mother Maybelle Carter, Jimmy Martin, Merle Travis and Doc Watson joined the scruffy, young band to record country music standards such as "I Saw the Light" and "Keep on the Sunnyside." The acclaimed project is considered a landmark recording in American music.

The Marshall Tucker Band's 50th anniversary tour coming to Thrasher-Horne

ORANGE PARK – The Marshall Tucker Band came together as a young, hungry and quite driven six-piece outfit in Spartanburg, South Carolina in 1972, having duly baptized themselves with the name of a blind piano tuner after they found it inscribed on a key to their original rehearsal space – and they've been in tune with tearing it up on live stages both big and small all across the globe ever since.

Plus, the band's mighty music catalog, consisting of more than 20 studio albums and a score of live releases, has racked up multi-platinum album sales many times over, and the band will bring it to the Thrasher-Horne Center on Nov. 18 at 8 p.m.

A typically rich MTB setlist is bubbling over with a healthy dose of hits like the heartfelt singalong "Heard It in a Love Song," the insistent pleading of "Can't You See" – the signature tune of MTB's late co-founding lead guitarist and then-principal songwriter Toy Caldwell, the testifying "Fire on the Mountain," the wanderlust gallop of "Long Hard Ride" and the explosive testimony of "Ramblin," to name but a few.

Tickets start at \$39 and can be found at thcenter.org.

Always ...Patsy Cline musical headed to Thrasher-Horne

ORANGE PARK – "Always...Patsy Cline" has enjoyed great success all over

the United States, including a successful run off-Broadway. It has been one of the most produced musicals in America according to American Theatre Magazine. "Always...Patsy Cline" has also been enjoyed internationally by audiences in Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia.

The group will perform at the Thrasher-Horne Center on Jan. 8, 2023.

"Always...Patsy Cline" is more than a tribute to the legendary country singer who died tragically at age 30 in a plane crash in 1963. The show is based on a true story about Cline's friendship with a fan from Houston named Louise Seger, who befriended the star in a Texas honky-tonk in 1961, and continued a correspondence with Cline until her death.

The musical play, complete with down-home country humor, true emotion and even some audience participation, includes many of Patsy's unforgettable hits such as "Crazy," "I Fall to Pieces," "Sweet Dreams" and "Walking After Midnight" – 27 songs in all. The show's title was inspired by Cline's letters to Seger, which were consistently signed "Love ALWAYS... Patsy Cline."

Tickets start at \$29 and can be found at thcenter.org.

Fleetwood Mac tribute band, Rumours, to perform in January

ORANGE PARK – Rumours, lead singer Mckenzie Jackson, in the part of Stevie Nicks was bewitched by the music of Fleetwood Mac at a young age and as it turns out she can duplicate the iconic singer's voice so well that she and Rumours effortlessly transport audiences to the height of Fleetwood Mac's amazing success. The sensational voices of Rumours accomplished musicians recreate the signature harmonies; and along with their expert instrumentation, stage moves and wardrobe, replicate those magical moments in music history that Fleetwood Mac fans cherish and can relive when they play at the Thrasher-Horne Center on Jan. 19, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

The passion for the music of Fleetwood Mac is what makes Rumours a success. The band's members have been influenced by and admirers of Fleetwood Mac for many years and strive to not only recreate their unmistakable, enchanting sound but to give it the honor it so rightly deserves. Fans attending Rumours concerts can feel the love.

Rumours are composed of band members Mckenzie Jackson (lead vocals), Denny Hanson (lead and backing vocals, guitar and percussion), Alex Thrift (lead guitar), Adrienne Cottrell (keyboards, lead and backing vocals), Nick Whitson (bass) and Daniel Morrison (drums).

Tickets, which start at \$29, can be found at thcenter.org.

CLEAN YEAR PRESSURE WASHING LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED
PROFESSIONAL PRESSURE WASHING SERVICE **(904) 521-8214**

- LOW PRESSURE HOUSE WASH • DRIVEWAY AND SIDEWALK CLEANING
- POOL PATIOS AND SCREEN ENCLOSURE CLEANING • DECK CLEANING • DOCK CLEANING

Find us on Facebook
 CLEANYEARPRESSUREWASHING



STAFF PHOTOS BY DON COBLE

Elementary Art Show attracts large crowds at the Orange Park Mall

ORANGE PARK – Hundreds of art projects were on display last weekend at the Orange Park Mall, attracting a constant flow of admirers and impressed shoppers. The Clay County District Schools Elementary Art Show featured both 3D and 2D pieces from 20 local schools. Each school focused on a unique subject and technique, and art teachers offered help to children who wanted to create their own masterpieces.



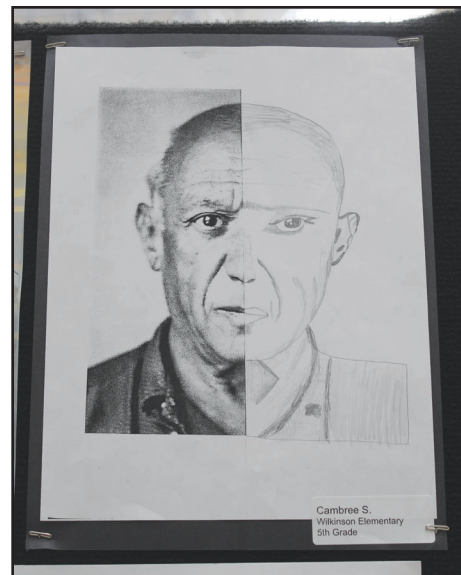
The BEST Consignment Program Available!

BUY **SELL**

DANA DRAKES

COUNTRYSIDE RV
GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FL

(904) 945-7812
4127 US17
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043
www.DanaDrakesCountrySideRV.com



OPEN FOR BUSINESS NEW BUSINESSES IN CLAY



MiMortgage celebrated its grand opening at the Westover Station on Fleming Island

MiMortgage opens on Fleming Island

For Clay Today

FLEMING ISLAND – MiMortgage opened an office in the Westover Station in the former Network Funding office.

The company's founders have a long history in the Florida real estate and Mortgage markets and have leveraged their expertise to create a loan process focused on simplicity, reliability, and great customer

experience.

MiMortgage is on a mission to make the lending experience as easy and enjoyable as possible. This starts with their powerful, all-online mortgage application that allows borrowers to apply in as little as 10 minutes and get an instant pre-approval letter, right from their phone or computer. Within the app, borrowers can manage their entire loan process, communicate with their loan officer, and upload any documentation needed to get the job done.

Our technology is forward-thinking,

but we're also customer-focused, so every borrower is paired with a dedicated loan officer to be their single point of contact through the entire loan process. They are dedicated to getting you home your way and being your partner on that journey.

MiMortgage is located at 3521 U.S. Highway 17 on Fleming Island. They can be reached at (904) 269-5992.

and introduced the term "Pure Conscious Design" to the industry, setting new precedents for how home decorating can positively change the way we live, improve our health, protect the environment and even combat climate change. Silver Needle and Thread is located at 1580 Wells Road, Suites 29-32. For more information, visit www.snthome.com or www.silverneedleandthread.com or call (904) 395-1860.

Jacksonville Quartz & Stone offering latest designs in quartz

ARGYLE FOREST – Jacksonville Stone & Quartz, one of the fastest growing importers and wholesalers servicing the Jacksonville area offers an expansive showroom at 8601 Youngerman Circle, Suite 4.

Guests are treated to the latest designs in quartz, as well as tours through the warehouse.

Jacksonville Quartz & Stone travels the world for the best manufacturers and designs in the quartz market today. Their commitment to providing superior customer service means their customers always have a stress-free slab shopping experience. They only carry Grade A quality Quartz slabs (93% Quartz, 7% Resin), which makes their slabs the hardest and most durable option in the market today. They also are also scratch and stain resistant, antibacterial, non-porous, and come in a wide variety of color options.

To view the latest collection, visit their website at <https://jaxquartz.com/collection>.



Silver Needle & Thread has an expansive selection of materials and consulting services in Orange Park.

Silver Needle & Thread features organic, natural, sustainable materials

ORANGE PARK – Silver Needle & Thread believes it's "a different kind of place," since it has a find a large selection of fabrics for fashion, bridal and home materials.

The company offers custom sewing, fabrication, classes, pattern making and consulting services. snTHOME is a division focusing on interior design. The company represents 218-plus fabric mills and brands from around the world and provide 21 services. Services include upholstery, drapery, bedding, design consultation, color matching, professional measures, installs, pickup and delivery.

The company is on the leading edge pioneering innovative new ideas for the home industry focusing on the use of organic, natural and sustainable materials. It's an Individual Member of US Green Building Council and other green organizations. Recently snTHOME coined, copyrighted



Jacksonville Quartz & Stone has the area's best selection of stress-free counters and slabs.

#SmallBusinessWeek

The Clay Chamber has always been the place for businesses big and small. For the 2022 Small Business Month we are excited to be hosting events and social media campaigns that highlight just a few of everyone's favorite businesses in Clay County who through their partnership with the chamber not only do business in clay but make sure clay keeps being one of the best places to work and live. The first week of May will be our selfie contest and social media spotlights of just a few of our small business owners in categories like coffee, food, and shopping. In the second week of May on 5/10 at 5:15pm at the Orange Park Mall we will be hosting a small business celebration which will include 4 ribbon cuttings and a happy hour hosted by several businesses located in the Orange Park Mall. We will be wrapping up our festivities with a Lunch and Learn on 5/19 at 12:00PM at the Courtyard By Marriott on Wells Rd hosted by the Clay Chamber in partnership with the SBDC for an informational session on successful business practices how to acquire Partners, manage Processes, & Grow Profits within your business model. Feel free to join us during these celebrations for more info visit the chamber website, www.claychamber.com, check out our social media, and tag a local business with #SBWClayChamberFL22. This month and every month remember to Shop Local!!!



The Clay County Chamber of Commerce
Call 904-264-2651 for Membership Information



Always Fresh
Culver's 100% FRESH BUTTER
NEVER FROZEN

THE CULVER'S DELUXE

BUY 1 GET 1 FREE
The Culver's Deluxe ButterBurger®

Electronic versions of this coupon are not accepted.
Based on purchase at regular menu price. Please no substitutions.
Not valid with any other offer. Value 1/200 cent.
Limit one coupon per person per visit.
Valid only at participating Culver's® restaurants.

Culver's
718-01/20

VISIT YOUR LOCAL CULVER'S RESTAURANT:
Culver's of Middleburg
1767 Blanding Blvd
Middleburg, FL 32068
(904) 203-2071

Guardians of the Flame



Law enforcement, residents walk, run for Special Olympics athletes

FLEMING ISLAND – More than 45 runners and walkers participated in the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Florida on April 28, just weeks before Clay County athletes head to Walt Disney World for the State Summer Games.

Members of the Clay County Sheriff's Office, Orange Park and Green Cove Springs police departments and local athletes, sold purple shirts to raise money for Clay County's team, according to event coordinator Sgt. Zachary Cox.

"It's probably the biggest turnout we've had in the history of the torch run according to Marsha (Skiles, Special Olympics Coordinator). "She said she's never remembered having more participants. And then of course, we had people that just bought shirts and just gave donations. We had one person gave a \$300 donation. So, so it was great."

The state games on May 20-21 will be a preview of the Special Olympics USA Games, which will attract athletes from around the world. The USA Games are scheduled for June 5-12.

The Fleming Island march started at the Publix Super Market parking lot and proceed south along U.S. Highway 17, then east onto Village Square Parkway and north along Town Center Boulevard and back to Publix.

As the group approached Fleming Is-



land High, they were joined by the school's marching band.

"That's where our walk our walk first portion was went on basically from high school to Thunderbolt Elementary," Cox said.

"I think the entire school basically came out, which was awesome from that principal (Amy Vann) alone. But those kids were ecstatic and everyone has great time."





DIOCESE OF
St Augustine

Is your house in need of repair?
Urban Plunge, a Diocese of St. Augustine youth ministry,
is serving in Clay County the week of June 26th.

There is no cost for this service-we provide everything!

All jobs are prioritized based on need and our skill set.

If you would like to apply for help, please contact:
Robin Shipley at rshipley@dosafl.com



Urban Plunge is a group of people committed to putting their faith into action by giving hands-on help to homeowners in need, regardless of creed, color or any other determinate.

St. Johns River State College spotlight:

Meet Arrianna Luzunaris

Special to Clay Today

ORANGE PARK – Arrianna Luzunaris, 20, is enrolled in the nursing program at St. Johns River State College. This Middleburg High graduate will complete her Associate of Science degree in May.

She took a moment from her studies for a question and answer about her continued education. Here is what she had to say:

Question: Arrianna, what inspired you to pursue a nursing degree?

Arrianna: "My mom inspired me to become a nurse. Growing up, I would hear stories about her experience in the hospital as a patient care technician in the ER, and I wanted to learn so much more about the field."

Question: How has SJR State been most beneficial to you?

Arrianna: "I have had such an amazing experience in the SJR State nursing program. My classmates have made my time in the program so enjoyable. With the small class size, you go through the program in a tight-knit group, experiencing lab skills and SIM training together."

Question: What have you learned about yourself in the nursing program?

Arrianna: "Nursing school has taught me that it's okay to not know everything. With time, experience, and collaboration, knowledge becomes readily available. Nursing has so many aspects to it, so growth and knowledge will continue to occur throughout the span of your career."

Question: What advice would you give someone who wants to go into nursing?

Arrianna: "To make a study group and



to not give up. Nursing school is one of the best decisions I have made, and I can't wait to see where it takes me."

Question: Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Arrianna: "I aspire to work in a unit with a high acuity of care. In the future, I see myself continuing my education in hopes of going to graduate school and becoming a nurse practitioner."



After being sidelined by the COVID-19 pandemic, Friends of Keystone Heights resumed their meetings ahead of the city's centennial celebration.

Friends of Keystone Heights resumes work to highlight city's charm, rich history

By Natalie Gilstrap
For Clay Today

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – The Friends of Keystone Heights is an independent organization of individuals and businesses that aren't officially affiliated with the city that works on projects to promote the area.

It originally was formed in 2017 after City Manager Lynn Rutkowski suggested the city should do something for its centennial. The group was then formed in January 2020 as a corporation.

"One of the reasons to incorporate was to have practical existence to continue on after the original members are no longer involved," said co-founder Steve Hart.

However, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the group went into repose for several years. It was not until last November that they resumed formal meetings. In January, they appointed Paul Fessenden as president and Debbie Beals as the secretary of treasure.

As of now they have six board members and will be adding more. After the Keystone Heights centennial, the corporation will continue to function to further benefit the city in the future.

Recently, the Friends of Keystone Heights held its fourth meeting in which

they further discussed plans for the city's centennial. The members discussed reaching out to local organizations such as AM-VETS Post 86, the city council, American Heritage Girls and other local civic and business groups.

"The original idea was to have all the clubs that wanted to participate, take an event or two and have every month in 2025 at least be covered," Hart said.

They plan to sponsor events such as the Christmas parade, Our Country Day and the Mayor's Ball to be themed by an organization in order to showcase the city's history. In addition, they discussed the possibility of placing a monument and signage to commemorate Keystone Heights's centennial. Lastly, they discussed possibly putting a time capsule in the monument for future generations.

Though the corporation is reaching out to organizations for representatives, they also welcome individuals wanting to participate, even if they no longer live in Keystone Heights.

"Individuals are welcomed to contact us about membership," Fessenden said.

Individuals are encouraged to join and there is no cost for joining. For more information, contact Paul Fessenden at lunar-peak@yahoo.com.

KidX CLUB

LOVE

in bloom

Saturday, May 7
11am - 1 pm

Special crafts for kids ages 4 - 12 and Mom too!

Sponsored by:

HCA Florida
Orange Park Hospital

OrangeParkMall.com

Silver Needle & Thread

Home

A Different Kind of Place

"Pure Conscious Design"

904-395-1860 • 1580 Wells Rd., Ste. #31 • Orange Park • www.snthome.com

- Specialize in organic, natural and sustainable fabrics, products and materials.
- Represent 218+ fabric brands.
- Provide 21 services to include: Custom Drapery-Upholstery- Bedding-Furniture, Color Matching, Measures- Installs-Delivery.
- Natural Latex Rubber, Organic Mattresses.

Celebrate Clay History

Exploring the county's rich history in a fun, educational way

For Clay Today

CLAY COUNTY – The Clay County Clerk and Comptroller's Office's history archives office, the Clay County Hospitality and Tourism and the Board of County Commissioners will join Clay Today in celebrating the county's history in May.

The month will start with a simple – and fun – assignment by traveling to the different sites throughout the spring and summer.

And at each stop, residents are encouraged to cross off the site on a BINGO card that lists each area of interest.

No. 1

Check out the locations on the card and pick those you'll enjoy visiting

No. 2

Once you've gone, mark it off on your BINGO card

No. 3

Win by being the first family member or friend to connect all locations in a row, and in the process win bragging rights.

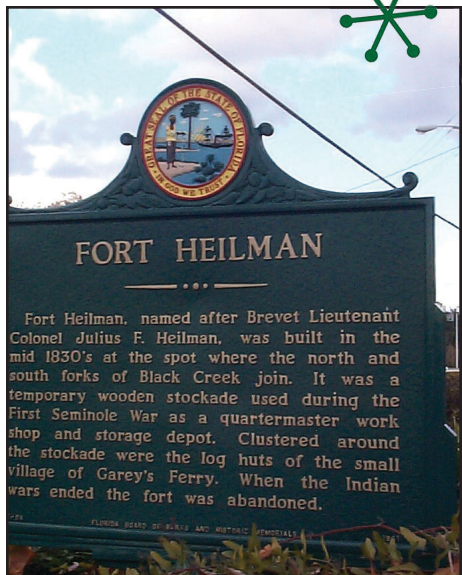
You can visit these local historic sites for either no cost or very low cost – they are just a short drive from any Clay County home. Pop in/pop out, or make a full day of it as you absorb not only the area's unique history but also enjoy public parks, swimming holes, hiking trails, local eats and unique shops near each site. True stories about our county's history-making people, places and events will surprise and entertain you.



Historic Middleburg

Middleburg's Historic Main Street Fort Heileman Site History Museum

The oldest continuously used road in Clay County and in Middleburg even before area became known as Middleburg. Maps from the 1830's illustrate the early road as a dirt path cutting through the



Fort Heileman

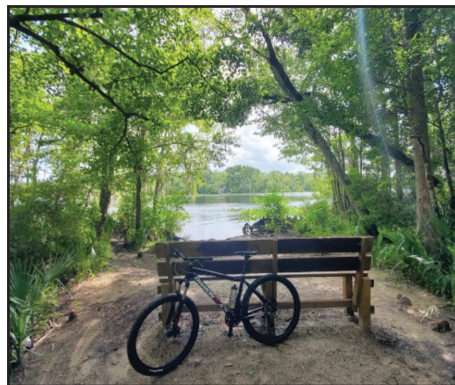
wilderness which later morphed into a military road during the Second Seminole War, cutting across Black Creek with the use of a ferry on its way to Jacksonville. Main Street is the site of the oldest home in Clay County (Clark-Chalker house dates back to 1830) among many others that are worth viewing by car, bike or on foot. The Middleburg History Museum is located at nearby 3912 Section St. and welcomes visitors on Sundays from 2-4 p.m.



Black Creek Boat Ramp

Middleburg's Black Creek Nature Walk, Playground & Boat Ramp Park

Main street ends at the Main Street Boat Ramp, site of the 1830's Garey's Ferry as well as the site of the Second Seminole War's Fort Heileman. Nestled in the trees is a boardwalk through the woods out to Black Creek. Nearby, MSGT. John E. Hayes Memorial Park provides picnic tables and a small playground.



Fleming Island Black Creek Park & Trail

Fleming Island Black Creek Park & Bike Trail

A maintained bike trail through conservation lands on Black Creek, this trail covers ground that was once a British land grant. In 1767 Sir Richard Russell, Lord Buckworth, was granted 10,000 acres bounding east on the St. Johns River and south on Black Creek. British Governor James Grant personally selected the site for Lord Buckworth, an absentee planter in East Florida who never actually saw his beautiful property.

Gold Head State Park Keystone Heights

One of Florida's first state parks, Gold Head Branch became part of Florida's state park system in 1935. The initial property was donated by Martin J. "Mike" Roess (pronounced "Race") and developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC).



Gold Head State Park

The CCC was launched in 1933 under President Franklin D. Roosevelt to combat unemployment during the Great Depression. In 1935, 25 seasoned craftsmen from Company 2444 were sent to the Gold Head site and were joined by hundreds of CCC youth. Together, they established Camp SP-5 where they planted trees, cleared campsite areas, built roads and constructed many of the buildings still in use today at the park. Swimming, hiking, wildlife viewing and camping are all available. The state park was officially dedicated on April 15, 1939. For years the park was simply known as Gold Head Branch, until 1966 when the Florida Board of Parks and Historical Monuments changed the name to honor the late Mike Reynolds.



US Navy Mothball Fleet

Reynolds Park Yacht Center Lee Field, US Navy Mothball Fleet & Space Shuttle Fuel Tank

Formerly a Naval flight training facility known as Lee Field (or NAS Green Cove Springs) during WWII, its most famous flight student was JFK's older brother Joseph Kennedy and its most famous instructor was Ed McMahon. After the war, it became the Mothball Fleet wherein hun-



Space Shuttle Fuel Tank

dreds of Navy ships were cleaned, maintained and stored. Now the site of Reynolds Park Yacht Center, a drive through this interesting site while “googling” photos from its WWII era fame online proves entertaining. The modern-day piers and ships in dock can also be viewed from nearby Spring Park and city pier. <http://www.rpyc.info/about.html>.



Clay History Museum and Railroad Depot

Clay History Museum & Railroad Depot



Featuring a former train depot now positioned at the Historic Triangle site, exhibits include railroad memorabilia, an old time country kitchen and country store displays. Operated by the Clay County Historical Society at 915 Walnut Street, the museum is open on Sundays from 2pm-5pm. Outdoor exhibits (red railcar and railroad depot building) can be viewed any time and are great spots for outdoor photos.



Historic Triangle, Old Jail

Historic Triangle, Old Jail and Archives, 1890 Courthouse, TAPS Military Monument

The Historic Triangle site forms a triangle as the grounds sit inside three crossroads - Walnut, Gratio and Ferris Streets in Green Cove Springs, and is home to the 1890 Courthouse, 1894 Old Jail, TAPS Military Monument and County Archives. The land was donated to the county by the Borden Family of the Borden Condensed Milk fame in the 1880's. Clerk of Court personnel serve as the County Archivist and await your visit Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm. Tours of the grounds and

buildings are available – call ahead! Phone Archives at (904) 371-0027. <http://archives.clayclerk.com/>.



Clarke House Park

Clarke House Park and Playground

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the house was originally built in the early 1900's by William Clarke and his wife Carrie. It was a working farm with acres of productive pecan trees. Several outbuildings nearby were leased as housing for the scientists from the Yerkes Primate Laboratory (“monkey farm”). The home is now the meeting place of the Orange Park Historical Society and other facilities include a large playground, sand volleyball court, nature trails, gardens, lake, pavilions, grills, restrooms and numerous beautiful oak trees. <https://www.townoforangepark.com/departments/economic-community-development/parks-recreation/clarke-house-park/>.



Camp Chowenwaw

Camp Chowenwaw, Tree Houses, Historic Girl Scout Cabin, Pool, Nature Trails & Dock

This county-owned park on Fleming Island started out as a Girl Scout camp in 1933. The county purchased the park in 2006. Famous for its tree house campsites and stunning views of Black Creek. There is also a pool and walking trails. <https://www.claycountygov.com/community/parks-and-recreation/camp-chowenwaw-park>.



Orange Park's River Road

Orange Park's River Road, Kingsley East River Overlook

This riverfront overlook and adjoining mile-long walkway feature views of the

great St. Johns River and nearby Moosehaven, a retirement community founded in 1922 by the Loyal Order of the Moose. Moosehaven is the former site of Laurel Grove, Zephaniah and Ana Kingsley's plantation. At the end of Kingsley Avenue where the walkway begins there is a historical marker describing the torpedo warfare that took place on the St. Johns River during the Civil War. The Maple Leaf, an underwater archeological site on the opposite bank of the river from this point, was sunk by Joshua D. O'Hearn, Clay County's second sheriff, in 1864. At the same site of the marker, one can imagine the 1,000-foot pier that once stretched out into the river.

<https://www.townoforangepark.com/departments/economic-community-development/parks-recreation/kingsley-east-river-overlook/>



Cecil Field National POW/MIA Memorial & Museum

Branan Field OLF (Oakleaf), Cecil Field National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum (Jacksonville)

Branan Field Road was named after Branan Field, the Navy airfield constructed during WWII. The Navy bought the land from the Branan Family during WWII. It was a large hexagonal shaped field with crisscrossing runways. In the mid-to-late 1940's the original Blue Angels squadron used the landing field for practice. Today, the landing field runways are built over by Oakleaf area subdivisions and community activity fields. Further north, at Cecil Field, is the National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum. Located on 26-acres in Northeast Florida at the former Naval Air Station Cecil Field, Master Jet Base (1941-1999), we now know the location as Cecil Commerce Center in Duval County. The new memorial to honor POW/MIA military is under construction there.

Neptune Park and Historical Marker (Fleming Island)

This new athletic field and park is located off Thunderbolt Road on Fleming Island. The park was named in honor of the crew of a Navy P2V2 Neptune aircraft



Neptune Park

that crashed near that location on June 14, 1951, killing seven of the nine crew members on board.

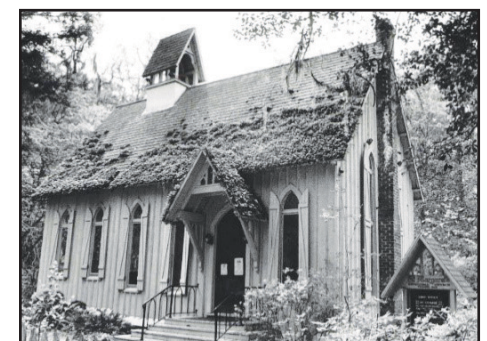
The crew was on a training mission originating from NAS Jacksonville in preparation for the Korean War. After a fire broke out onboard, the crew attempted an emergency landing at the Fleming Island Naval Outlying Field. The park honoring the memory of these veterans has amenities that include three ball fields, covered dugouts, backstop fences, bleachers, a concession stand, and restrooms. <https://www.claycountygov.com/Home/Components/FacilityDirectory/FacilityDirectory/1534/1021>.



Camp Blanding Military Museum & Airplane Garden

Camp Blanding Military Museum & Airplane Garden

Camp Blanding was built in 1939 as a National Guard training facility but, when WWII occurred, the US Army took it over. At any given time, several divisions were in training at the camp. It also was a prisoner of war camp for German submariner prisoners. After the war, the camp reverted to the Florida National Guard. Kingsley Lake is the camp's most beautiful asset at 3 miles wide and almost a perfect circle. The camp is named after WWII general Albert H. Blanding, as in Blanding Boulevard (State Road 21) and is located south of Middleburg. <https://campblandingmuseum.org/>.



St. Margarets Church at Hibernia

St. Margaret's Church at Hibernia

Hibernia was the name of the Fleming Family plantation. Hibernia Road turns into Old Church Road and leads travelers directly to St. Margaret's Church, built by Margaret Fleming in 1875. Margaret's funeral was the first one held in the church. Fleming's Island, as originally called, is a Spanish land grant given to George Fleming. The church is of carpenter gothic style and has beautiful stained glass windows. The adjacent family cemetery holds generations of Flemings and other early settlers of our county. <https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/1451633/hibernia-cemetery>.

Clay History

BINGO



JC Penney Statue

Penney Farms Museum and JC Penney Statue

Visit the little community of Penny Farms, the community initially created by JC Penney as a utopian agricultural experiment. Its most famous resident was Meinhardt Raabe, one of the Munchkins from the Wizard of Oz, an iconic movie still today. Although JC Penney never lived there himself, the community honors his legacy through a statue at Town Hall and Museum.

<https://historicalsocietyofpenneyfarms.org/penney-farms-historic-museum/>



Keystone Heights Beach

Keystone Heights Beach, Pavilion and Playground

Set on the shores of Lake Geneva is the beach pavilion where WWII GI's and local girls once danced the night away. There is a tree-lined park with a playground and picnic tables available for public use.










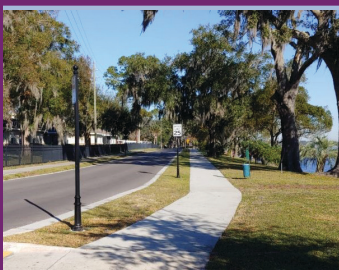



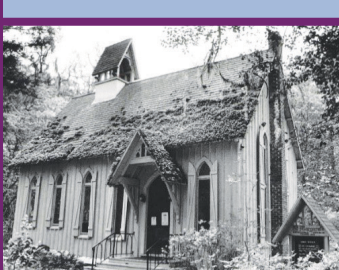




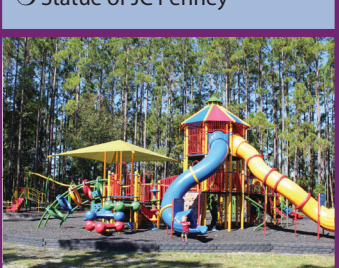
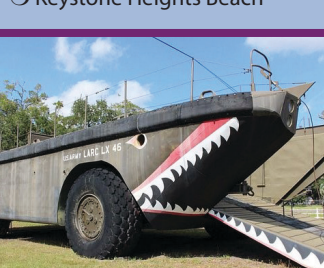


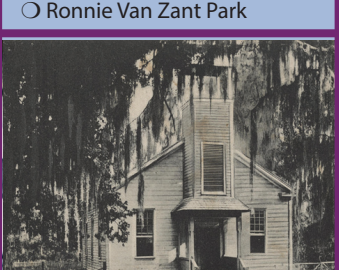

<https://www.keystoneheights.us/parksrec/page/keystone-beachgeneva-jungle>



Keystone Heights Natural Park

Keystone Inn and Natural Park

The Inn was opened in 1924 just as John Lawrence was developing Keystone Heights. Located at 555 Lawrence Boulevard, a historical marker details the importance of the once-famous inn in the growth of the area as well as the bonding of the early community there. <https://www.keystoneheights.us/parksrec/page/keystone-heights-natural-park>

			
○ Historic Middleburg	○ Black Creek Boat Ramp	○ Fleming Island Black Creek	○ Gold Head State Park
			
○ US Navy Mothball Fleet	○ Clay History Museum & Depot	○ Historic Triangle	○ Clarke House Park
			
○ Camp Chowenwaw	○ Orange Park River Road	○ Cecil Field Memorial & Museum	○ Neptune Park
			
○ Camp Blanding Museum	○ St. Margarets Church	○ Statue of JC Penney	○ Keystone Heights Beach
			
○ Keystone Heights Natural Park	○ Spriong Park Fishing Pier	○ Ronnie Van Zant Park	○ North Florida Military Museum
			
○ Orange Park Normal School	○ Roy Geiger Historical Marker	○ Methodist Church Middleburg	○ Bayard Conservation Area

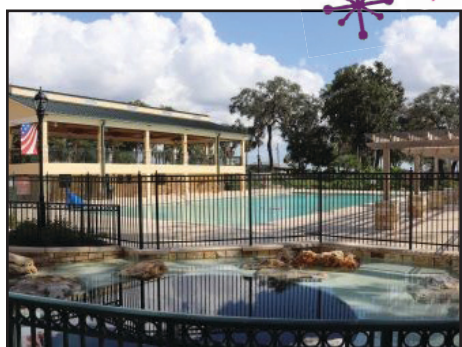


Spring Park Fishing Pier

Spring Park, Pool and Splash Pad, Playground and Fishing Pier

Located in Green Cove Springs behind city hall, this spring has been a tourist hotspot since the 1870's when the original snowbirds (Northern tourists) began visiting Florida. City Hall sits on the site of the Clarendon Hotel (1871), then the Qui Si Sana Hotel (1904). The city's fishing pier is in the same place as the original 1870s pier. Fun in the sun abounds at this lovely park – fishing, swimming, walking trails, playground, picnic pavilions and more.

<https://www.greencovesprings.com/maps/location/SpringPark>.



Ronnie Van Zant Memorial Park



Ronnie Van Zant Memorial Park

Ronnie Van Zant Memorial Park

Located in the Lake Asbury community, this park is dedicated to the memory of Lynyrd Skynyrd's founder and lead singer, Ronnie Van Zant. Ronnie and his family resided, in addition to Duval County, in Clay County and his family donated this land for the park. The frisbee golf course at the park is considered one of the best. There is a new playground and the 90-acre park also has two basketball courts, four tennis courts, one soccer field, one softball field, eight covered pavilions with picnic areas, one volleyball court, and a fishing pond with four fishing piers. There are two 34-foot by 28-foot covered pavilion for large family functions.



North Florida Military Museum

North Florida Military Museum at Reynolds Park

This museum is filled with memorabilia, artifacts and displays about the modern wars (WWII forward). Its location itself is historical as it's located at the former, WWII era Lee Field. Today, it's the site of the Military Museum of North Florida, many local industrial businesses and the storage site of a space shuttle fuel tank. <http://www.themilitarymuseumofnorthflorida.com/>



Orange Park Normal School

Orange Park Normal School, Town Hall Historical Marker

In the 1890s, Orange Park had a trailblazing de-segregated school in the middle of town. The teachers at this classical academy openly defied Florida laws against teaching black and white students together. Their trouble got them arrested but the case was later thrown out of court by Judge Rhydon Call as unconstitutional. Today, the town hall, fire department and police department buildings sit where the school campus was once located. The site is often used for festivals and farmers markets and also includes a small playground.



Jennings State Forest Walking Trails

Jennings State Forest Walking Trails

Jennings State Forest offers a unique hiking experience not commonly found in Florida. Jennings State Forest can be found in northeastern Florida in the northern section of Clay County. Constant eleva-

tion gain/loss, beautiful bluffs above Black Creek, hollows, waterfalls and much more can be found here. Enjoy hiking trails such as Fire and Water, Dunn's Farm and North Fork Black Creek, each included in the Florida Forest Service's Trailwalker Hiking Program. Convenient resting benches and wayfinding signage are common on these trails. For longer outings, try Pioneer Trail with a total length (from southern terminus to northern terminus) of approximately 10 miles.

A great place to enjoy nature and experience some history as well. Going back to the 1800's many families had homesteads there, farms and schools dotted the landscape as well. Turpentine was one of the main industries in this area and the forest provided plenty of resources and places for turpentine camps. Many of the families also had cemeteries there, one was known as "Dunn Cemetery", named after the farmer who owned the land. <https://www.fdacs.gov/Forest-Wildfire/Our-Forests/State-Forests/Jennings-State-Forest>.



General Roy E. Geiger Historical Marker

General Roy E Geiger Historical Marker

General Geiger was born and raised in Middleburg. The "Father of Marine Corps Aviation," was born on January 25, 1885, in his family home on what is now the campus of Middleburg First Baptist Church. That's where you'll find the historical marker. He served as a school teacher, principal, and lawyer. Geiger joined the Marine Corps in 1907 and was commissioned in 1909. After tours of duty in Nicaragua, Panama, and China, he became the fifth Marine Corps Aviator in 1917.

Major Geiger commanded the 1st Marine Aviation Force in France during WWI. During WWII, he commanded the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing at Guadalcanal and was named Commander of Third Marine Amphibious Corps for the invasion of Guam and Okinawa. He also commanded the Tenth Army, being the only Marine to command an Army unit. He was promoted to Lieutenant General in July 1945 and was named Commander of Fleet Marine Force, Pacific. General Geiger was the most senior Marine present at the Japanese surrender on board the U.S.S. Missouri in September 1945. Following his death on January 23, 1947, Geiger was promoted to four-star general by the U.S. Congress. General Geiger is the only general in the American military to be born and raised in Clay County. An icon in Marine Corps history, General Roy Geiger now rests in Arlington National Cemetery.



Middleburg Methodist Church & Cemetery

Middleburg Methodist Church and Cemetery

This church was founded in 1823 and is one of the oldest Methodist churches in Florida. The property where the historic church now stands was deeded in 1847 by John Schuefler. George Branning donated the lumber and the labor came from slaves owned by Branning and Osias Budington. The church has wide clapboards on the exterior and wide random-width tongue and groove boards on the inside. Nails were made by hand at a local blacksmith shop and can still be seen in the pews. The pews are mahogany and were finished by hand with a drawknife. The bell, hanging in the steeple, was cast in 1852. The accompanying cemetery is filled with early, pioneering Clay County citizens with names like Dillaberry, Branning, Budington, Austin, Bardin and more. The famous singer, Slim Whitman is also buried there. <https://www.middleburgumc.org/history>.

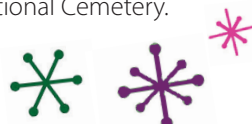


Bayard Conservation Area

Bayard Conservation Area

The St. Johns River runs broad and deep near Green Cove Springs where the Bayard Conservation area preserves and untouched Florida riverfront, bottomland, and floodplain with dense stands of bald cypress, sweet gum, and red maples. More than 15 miles of trails wander through the John P. Hall Nature Preserve portion of the conservation area. John P. Hall was Clay County's longest serving sheriff from 1929 to 1964. He was also one of the county's largest landholders and donated some of the land in the conservation area. Bank fishing, hiking, bicycling, kayaking, boating, horseback riding, geocaching, primitive camping at designated sites and wildlife viewing are all available. <https://www.sjrwmd.com/lands/recreation/bayard/>.

Let's make the Summer of 2022 your family's Summer of Clay County History BINGO! And at each stop, residents are encouraged to check out the sights, sounds, activities and nearby businesses and attractions, too. Then, mark off the site on the bingo card. There's even an online version of the card available through the county's Tourism office at exploreclay.com



Police Briefs



Man charged with DUI following slow-speed chase with child in truck

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – A man was arrested for driving under the influence after he ran over a mailbox and leading the Green Cove Springs Police Department on a 10-mph chase in the Magnolia Point subdivision – all with his 4-year-old child in his pickup truck.



David Johns

David Allen Johns, 34, of Orange Park, eventually stopped and was charged with child neglect, DUI with two prior convictions within the past 10 years, vandalism, refusing to take the blood alcohol level test, DUI with property damage, attempting to flee or elude law enforcement, driving with a suspended license and leaving the scene of an accident on April 29 after GCSPD got a call about two men who appeared to be intoxicated and a child climbing into a silver truck. According to the arrest report, as officers arrived, they saw Johns run over a mailbox on Colonial Drive. He continued for nearly a mile at 10 mph, although two GCSPD cars were trailing with emergency lights and sirens engaged.

Once he was detained, he punched the Plexi-glass shield between the front and back seats of the patrol car, causing damage to the bars that also separate suspects from law enforcement, GCSPD said.

According to court records, Johns was convicted of DUI and refusing to take the blood alcohol test after being stopped on Aug. 24, 2020 and Feb. 2, 2020, as well as driving with an open container with liquor on March 13, 2014, and at least nine previous stops in the last 10 years for driving with a suspended license.

Johns' bond was set at \$100,105.

Angry woman busted for shooting handgun at her birthday party

ORANGE PARK – An Atlanta woman was arrested on April 30 after the Clay County

Sheriff's Office said she became outraged at guests of her birthday party and fired a handgun into the ceiling after threatening she was going to "kill everybody in the house."

Briya Jarhey McGuire, 29, was charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and shooting into a dwelling on April 30. Her bond was set at \$100,006.

According to the arrest report, McGuire flew from Atlanta on April 29 to spend her birthday with her new boyfriend on Cranbrook Court. During the party, McGuire and the boyfriend continuously argued over "dumb" stuff.

According to the arrest report, McGuire was so upset she turned a table over while others were playing cards. She went to a bedroom and returned with her boyfriend's handgun. One of the victims said "she started shooting."

Deputies saw bullet holes in the rook and arrested McGuire.

Fake name, accounts used to get child porn in Middleburg

MIDDLEBURG – A internal IT manager was arrested May 2 for exchanging explicit images of young girls with someone in Washington.

According to the Clay County Sheriff's Office's Crimes Against Children Unit, Alvin Hardy Bost Jr., 49, of Middleburg, used Craigslist and Facebook Messenger to have nude photos of girls sent to two devices him in an elaborate scheme involving fake accounts and email addresses.

The 10-page affidavit for an arrest warrant said the investigation originally started in Ellensburg, Washington, when a girls said a man offered her \$1,500 to paint a portion of his house and an additional \$1,500 if she'd do it in the nude. He then provided two fake addresses, according to the affidavit.

Investigators said the offer came from someone named Marc Halstone or Marc Halston. Further investigation revealed the account actually belonged to Bost, CCSO said.

One of the conversations coming from the Halstone/Halston account asked a woman: "You know my appetites, you have a general idea."

The woman then promised to photograph girls who were between 16 and 17 years old. She also was angry "Halstone/



Briya Jarhey McGuire

Halston" hadn't paid for a previous picture, writing "I'm taking risk."

"Halstone/Halston" told the woman he would pay \$20,000 if she could get photos of a teen-aged girl and her younger sister.

Once investigators uncovered "Halstone/Halston" was Bost, they served a search warrant on his Middleburg home. Detective then found images on two devices taken from the home.

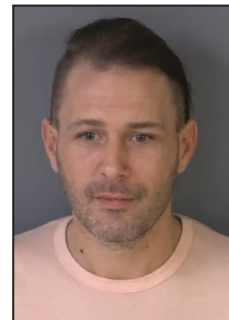
Bost was taken to the Clay County Jail, and his bond was set at \$300,009.

Passed out man arrested for drugs while on probation

JACKSONVILLE – An Orange Park man faces charges that he violated conditions of his probation after he was found slumped behind the seat of his car at a convenience store parking lot on March 21 on 103rd Street.

Stephen Thomas Aspden Jr. was taken to the Duval County Jail after a JSO deputy found marijuana, methamphetamine, Xanax, a scale and plastic bags inside the car. He was transported to the Clay County Jail on April 28 for violating the conditions of his parole.

Aspden served 108 days after being convicted on July 29, 2021, for possessing ecstasy or molly, methamphetamine, LSD, alprazolam, buprenorphine, oxycodone, marijuana, psilocybin and drug paraphernalia. He then was placed on probation for 18 months.

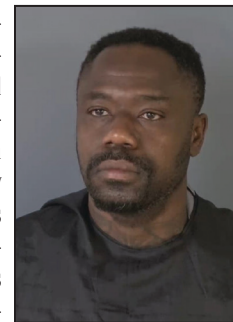


Stephen Aspden

In addition to facing the likelihood of completing his original sentence, he still faces new charges from JSO. Aspden now is being held without bond in Clay County.

Swerving man new faces fentanyl trafficking charges

ORANGE PARK – A traffic stop for weaving in and out of traffic on Blanding Boulevard led to the arrest of an Orange Park man who was found with 19.3 grams of fentanyl. Reginald Fils Aime, 37, was charged with trafficking fentanyl and possession of crack cocaine, marijuana, drug paraphernalia and driving with a suspended license after he was stopped on April 27 for failing to maintain a single lane. A Clay County Sheriff's Deputy said he noticed plastic bags with a "white powdery substance" in the passenger seat.



Reginald Fils Aime

The substances later tested to be fentanyl and crack cocaine. Deputies also found about a pound of marijuana, 72 THC cartridges, two large vacuumed-sealed bags of THC edibles, THC packaging, 2.2 pounds of Supermanitol, which is used as a cutting agent, and four bottles of powdered caffeine. A search of Aime's home led to the discovery of another 7.6 grams of fentanyl and 9 grams of an "unknown" cutting agent. Aime, whose bond was set at \$462,519, is currently on federal probation for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute at least 500 grams of cocaine and 28 grams of cocaine base.

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 3

Boyce C. Williams, 47, Middleburg, DUI
Ryan A.K. Hughes, 31, Green Cove Springs, FTA
Misty L. Downs, 48, Middleburg, FTA
James A. Simon, 47, Middleburg, DWLSR
Rubin M. Hill, 48, Orange Park, FTA
Jesse L. Messer, 18, Orange Park, possession-marijuana, use of two-way communication device to facilitate felony, possession-drug paraphernalia
Travis A. Wright, 36, Green Cove Springs, battery in county jail
Christian H. Hertl, 25, Green Cove Springs, battery in county jail
Paul A. Gainers, 30, Orange Park, credit

card fraud

William K. Woodrum, 58, Green Cove Springs, FTA-DUI, FTA-driving with permanently revoked license, FTA-refusal to submit to BAL test

Devin J. Adams, 28, Green Cove Springs, FTA-failure to register vehicle, FTA-DWLSR

Nathan D. Perkins, 19, Orange Park, six counts burglary

Shatamra L.A. Gillyard, 24, Keystone Heights, trespassing

Austin T. Leek, 23, Fleming Island, domestic battery by strangulation

Sarah W. Brooker, 37, Middleburg, DUI

Monday, May 2

Semaj D.M. Hall, 24, Green Cove Springs, FTA

Alexander J.P. Acosta, 45, Middleburg, driving without valid license

Rashamel O. Gardner, 28, Orange Park, grand theft

Alvin H. Bost, 49, Middleburg, three

Arrests

from page 28

counts possession/controlling/viewing child sexual conduct

Hunter C. Deen, 19, Middleburg, FTA

Morris S. Smith, 33, Keystone Heights, battery of a person 65 or older

Marquez K. Jones, 18, Orange Park, possession-marijuana, possession-drug paraphernalia

Terrance T. Anthony, 19, Orange Park, possession-marijuana with intent to sell/manufacture/deliver, possession-marijuana

Tesya P. Long 24, Keystone Heights, aggravated battery

Slone T. Reece, 25, Orange Park, domestic battery

Lexys R.S. Ruiz, 34, Orange Park, simple domestic battery

Sunday, May 1

Alexis E. Paul, 28, Middleburg, simple battery

William A. Lavin, 41, Fleming Island, aggravated assault with deadly weapon, simple battery, disorderly intoxication

Rory S. Wade, 33, Orange Park, resisting officer with violence, possession-fentanyl, possession-drug paraphernalia, attempting to flee/elude with lights/siren active, DWSLR

Alexander J. Woods, 23, Orange Park, resisting officer with violence, battery on law enforcement/firefighter/EMT

Saturday, April 30

Ellen V. Austin, 30, Keystone Heights, simple battery

Edward C. Fleck, 37, Middleburg, simple domestic battery, resist/obstruct/oppose law enforcement

Alan L. Dailey, 70, Green Cove Springs, practicing law without proper authority

Rodney R. Baxter, 32, Orange Park, FTA DWSLR

Alexander K. Donohoe, 35, Green Cove Springs, possession-fentanyl, FTA

Megan R. Perkins, 41, two counts each dealing in stolen property, giving false information to pawnbroker

Joseph A. Bowen, 52, Middleburg, violation of injunction against domestic violence

Douglas B. Morgan, 50, Middleburg, DWSLR

Briya J. McGuire, 29, Orange Park, aggravated assault with deadly weapon, shoot/throw missile into dwelling/building/aircraft/vehicle

Friday, April 29

Lisa J. Ireland, 56, Middleburg, DUI

Larry S. Reddick, 35, Orange Park, simple battery, false imprisonment, aggravated assault with deadly weapon, possession-controlled substance

Keyon N. Seay, 23, Orange Park, leaving scene of accident with property damage

Emanuel T. Cuff, 21, Green Cove Springs, robbery by sudden snatching

Cassie L. Davis, 32, Green Cove Springs, FTA-trespassing

David A. Johns, 34, Green Cove Springs, DUI-third violation in less than 10 years, vandalism, child neglect, DUI with property damage, refusal to submit to BAL test, attempting to flee/elude law enforcement with lights/siren active, DWSLR

Thursday, April 28

Megan M. Lewis, 28, Keystone Heights, simple domestic battery

Michael A. Beeskau, 59, Green Cove Springs, simple domestic battery

Any'a O.A. Mitchell, 18, Middleburg, shoplifting

Stephen M. Pittman, 23, Orange Park, burglary

Lawrence V. Curry, 41, Green Cove Springs, non-support (Putnam)

Reginald F. Aime, 37, Orange Park, selling fentanyl, trafficking fentanyl

Stephen T. Aspden, 34, Green Cove Springs, VOP possession-methamphetamine, VOP possession-LSD, VOP possession-ecstasy/molly, VOP possession-alprazolam, VOP possession-buprenorphine, VOP possession-oxycodone

Scott G. Ballou, 34, Keystone Heights, simple battery

Joseph R. Davis, 42, Green Cove Springs, VOP BUI

Wednesday, April 27

Tyler D. Clifton, 18, Middleburg, domestic battery

Reginald F. Aime, 37, Orange Park, traf-

ficking fentanyl, possession-crack cocaine, possession-drug paraphernalia, possession-marijuana, DWSLR

Shane E. Mason, 43, Green Cove Springs, FTA-DWSLR

Lindsey C. Hunley, 40, Orange Park, possession/receive/retain stolen credit card, fraudulent use of credit card

Brandon P. Wright, 35, Orange Park, driving without valid license

Louie J. Murphy, 33, Middleburg, VOP community control

Quincy R. Slater, 26, Orange Park, DWSLR



Shooting

from page 1

Middleburg on Blanding Boulevard.

The man turned right on Filmore Street onto a road behind the gas station, which gave a deputy the opportunity to perform a PIT maneuver. Seconds later, more than 20 rounds were fired.

The man was pronounced dead at the scene. His identity hasn't been released by the sheriff's office or the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, which assumed the lead role of the investigation immediately after the shooting.

German and Kellar not only saw the incident, they heard it. They also got one of the clearest views of the PIT maneuver, shooting and aftermath – and they were able to record it on a cellphone.

Clay Today obtained a copy of the recording. In it, deputies clearly yelled commands to the man to not move and show them his hands. Clay Today then forwarded the recording and an audio of an interview with German and Kellar the day after the shooting to authorities.

The FDLE has since interviewed both men, German said.

"The lead cop car was able to get up close to him and actually picked it up and

spun him out," German said. "The lead car got out the police officers behind and then got out and proceeded to pull their firearms saying, you know, yell, 'Put up your hands! Let me see your hands! I heard that. I heard them yell at him.

"And then they started opening fire."

The men said deputies quickly created a perimeter and pushed everyone back. Because of that, they didn't tell them what they just witnessed.

"We witnessed this," Kellar said. "I heard him (CCSO deputy) say, 'Put your hands up. Don't move.'"

"I don't know what the police knew if he had a firearm or not," German said. "I don't know anything like that."

Sheriff Michelle Cook offered basic details at the scene.

"Our deputies got involved at some point during the call ended up in a pursuit over here to Blanding and Filmore, where an officer or deputy-involved shooting occurred," she said. "The subject is deceased on scene and the deputies are all OK."

CCSO asks FDLE to take charge of all deputy-involved shootings. Cook said since the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the State Attorney's Office were in charge of the investigation, she said it was improper for her to make any additional comments.

CRIME DOESN'T PAY, BUT WE DO!

FIRST COAST
CRIME




PERS

Rewards Up To \$3,000

REMAIN ANONYMOUS

Call Toll Free:

1-866-845-TIPS (8477)

Submit a tip online:

www.fccrimestoppers.com

PD BY CSTF



UPCOMING SPEAKERS

May 10, 2022
Darin Roark
Baptist Clay Update

May 17, 2022
Howard Berg
Speed Reading

Local insurance broker writes free book to navigate Medicare breakdown

For Clay Today

ORANGE PARK – Bill Green, president and owner of Green Insurance Agency has authored a new book covering Medicare to help baby boomers and seniors navigate the complex insurance process with advice and tips for better decision-making.

Medicare Breakdown, The Alphabet Soup of Medicare is offered free of charge to those interested in learning more at medicarealphabet-soup.com.



Bill Green

Green and his team have helped thousands of people in the Medicare and insurance coverage industry. His new book co-authored by Justin Brock, a renowned industry expert, will further assist with learning more about the varying parts of Medicare, plan options, enrollment periods, applying for low-income subsidies, applications, coverage, costly mistakes and a variety of life cycle and Medicare selections for clients.

The self-published 79-page book is available in digital and print formats. For more information, call (904) 717-1176, email bill@greeninsagency.com or visit the website at <https://greeninsagency.com>.

Green, 37, started in the insurance industry in 2014. Green initially worked for a large company as a top producer and award-winning agent. In January 2020, he went into business to create his own legacy and started Green Insurance Agency.

As an independent agent, he now focuses on helping clients with insurance products including providing solutions in the complex world of Medicare, and the many health insurance and product options, educating clients about financial exposure, providing solutions in life insurance, long term care, dental, vision, and group health. He also specializes in the hospital plus cancer insurance plans, among others.

“As a comprehensive insurance and financial advisor, it is my mission to help every person and family I meet with to make sure there is a plan in place and to refer clients to local professionals in the legal field, and others as needed. I take immense pride in helping guide people with a wide variety of product options in the industry for their specific needs,” said Green.

“It has been my goal since the company’s inception to help people get the type and amounts of coverages and the benefits they need,” he said. “The new book is a great way to begin and continue the process of Medicare. We’re available to assist new and existing clients to further understand the most beneficial path of coverage for individuals, families and businesses.”

Green’s office is located at 1950 Miller St. Suite 6. Orange Park.



Lisa Ashworth
Commercial Relationship
MGR - Community First CU



Jon Cantrell
Publisher
Clay Today



Jane DiLoreto
Coldwell Banker
Vanguard Realty



Mike Glickman
General Manager
Achieve Fitness



Teresa Harrington
Harrington &
Associates



Geraldine Hartin
Hamilton
& Hartin PA



Patrick Hayle
Mercy Support
Services



Nicole Hepler
Mortgage Officer -
South State Bank



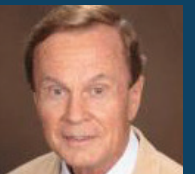
John Linge
Wealth Enhancement
Group



Curtis McClees
Winning
Concepts, Inc.



Michele Riley
Branch Manager
SouthState Bank



Vaughn Rivers
E. Vaughn Rivers
Construction



Gi Teevan
ProdiGI
Event Planning



Pam Wolbert
Owner
Park Ave.
Florist



Kirk Young, MS, DDS
Orange Park
Periodontist

2022 Membership Rotary Club of Orange Park

Kyle Abshire, Gerald Agresti, John Arnold, Lisa Ashworth, Selena Barbieri, Lillian Bell, Wayne Bolla, Cindy Bosnyak, Robert Brown, Tom Brown, Makayla Buchanan, William Byrns, Jon Cantrell, Michelle Cook, Bob Cowie, James Cribb, Charles Dellinger, Jane DiLoreto, David Faraldo, Shelley Howells Farmer, Mary Virginia Fisher, Mary Fortson, Holly Fulton, Mike Joseph Glickman, Patrick Golemme, Bob Harrington, Teresa Harrington, Geraldine Hartin, R. Patrick Hayle, Howard W. Henderson, Nicole Hepler, Don Holcombe, Patti Holcombe, John David Horne, Tim Howells, Garland Hudson, Diane Hutchings, Phillip Irish, William Jameson, William Johnson, Doug Jones, James Kaelin, Janice Kerekes, Richard Keyworth, Larry Klaybor, John Jr. Linge, Cristina Luciano, Kay Lynch, Carlyle Martin, Roland Mastandrea, Curtis McClees, Michelle McLeod, Yul McNair, Frank Meininger, David Mosborg, Philip Murphey, Larry Nichols, William Jr. Nipper, Bo Norton, Pat Partridge, John Peden, Dan Powers, Jim Renninger, Michele Riley, E Vaughn Rivers, Ginger Rivers, Gerald Roberts, Steven Rodesney, Mike Rubel, Jack Jr. Scorby, W. Ashton Scott, Ed Sellars, Carol Studdard, David Tarkington, Gi Teevan, Constance Thomas, Sheryl Timm, Caroline Tingle, John Tolson, Helen Williford, Pamela Wolbert, Jake Young, Kirk Young.

TODAY'S Sports

Clay Today | Thursday, May 5, 2022 | claytodayonline.com

Proven reputation of
Honest, Trustworthy and
Professional service.

MeLissa Pellerito
352-494-1829
(call or text)
mpelleritorealtor@gmail.com



Florida Homes
Realty & Mortgage



Super 6 Wrestling



Big boys Tyre, Mosley top Clay Today Super 6

By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

FLEMING ISLAND - Clay High's Garrett Tyre went from zero to state champion in one year after suffering defeat at the hands of a referee's call last year that kicked him out of post-season possibili-

ties to a more focused, more disciplined approach to his craft and the grand prize earned with just seconds to spare.

Tyre, Clay High's Class 1A champion at 220, the only state champion from Clay County, earns the Clay Today Super 6 team most valuable wrestler for his ac-

tions.

With one notable opponent through his senior season; Raines High's Jamari Watson, who had just three losses on the season, all to Tyre, Tyre, at 49-2 rifled through his season to a championship

SEE WRESTLING, 34



Oakleaf High senior triple jumper Arianna Eason has one of top jumps for Class 4A and is a potential state champion in an event dominated in past years by Oakleaf athletes. Area track athletes head to regions this week.

Barrera, Eason, Brown top picks for state

By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

OAKLEAF - With the top five region qualifiers within just two seconds of each other, Oakleaf High junior distance runner Sierra Barrera, with solid finishes in the 800 and 1600 at the district championships, is a solid choice to get a top four finish, if not a gold medal, at the upcoming region 1-4A track and field championships to be held Sat., May 7 at Flagler Palm Coast High

SEE TRACK, 40



Spring football is here!

STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

Ridgeview High football coach Bryan Arnette watches as his quarterback Durriente Myrick cocks back to toss a pass in week one of spring football practice. Area teams are gearing up for springs games in late May, see coverage inside.



Wake & Surf
LAKE AREA
WATERSPORTS

REGISTER TO SURF!

MAY 14TH, 2022

WAKESURFLAW.COM/ Register

KHHS vs CHS baseball

Indians nearly pull off season finale upset

By Ray DiMonda
Correspondent

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS - The regular season wrap-up tradition continued with a barn burner as the Clay Blue Devils traveled to Keystone Heights to take on the Indians. It seemed to be all Blue Devils as Clay had a brick-by-brick attack going into the middle of the fifth inning as they built a small, but steady 3-0 lead over the host Indians. As everyone in the area knows, never turn your back on the Keystone Kids. With any opportunity, the Indians will get themselves right back into the fight.

"I could be up 10-0 and I'm still sweating until I get that final out," said Clay Blue Devil Head Coach Josh Persinger. "I don't like to get too comfortable because that's when it comes back and bites you. These two teams have always battled. For the last twenty years, even when I was in high school in 2003, it's always been a rival and we want to beat the heck out of each other on the field. This is always a friendly rivalry, always a good game."

After pulling within one run 3-2 in the



CORRESPONDENT PHOTOS BY RAY DIMONDA
Keystone Heights High's pitcher Ty Glenn had banner night in keeping Clay High batters at bay, but Blue Devils prevailed in season finale.

sixth inning, the top of the seventh saw the Blue Devil's Alec Burke sail one out of the park in left field for an RBI homer to go ahead 5-2. With one more at bat, the Indians knew what it would take. An Alex Addington walk, followed by a Noah Branch single from a bunt had two of the three needed runs on the bases. After two

strikeouts, it came down to Dalton Hollingsworth's heavy stick. Could he even the score? Off a full count, Hollingsworth walked putting all the needed runs to tie on base and Chase Packham in the batter's box. After a first strike pitch, a ball, and a couple of Godzilla sized hacks with all he had, Packham went down swinging as the Blue Devils held their breath long enough to hold onto a 5-2 end of the regular season victory. "We got a chance. We got a guy that can swing it, I think we get a chance," said Indians Head Coach Alan Mattox. "A tight game all the way through. A couple breaks go our way and things are different. A really good ballgame against a really good ball team."

Clay got out of the blocks quick, taking advantage of hit by a pitch and a walk with one out to load the bases in the top of the first with an Logan Wilson grounder. Jayden Long took the sacrifice chop to go to deep center field to score Josh Rouw. The inning was shut down by the Indian defense to keep the score at 1-0. In the top of the third inning, Clay took it to 2-0 when Wilson notched an RBI double to left field, scoring Rouw again. Clay added a third brick to the wall in the top of the fifth, this time with Rouw grounded out to second base which allowed Alec Burke to get behind the play to score, 3-0. The Indians defense finished the job and needed the bats to wake up quick.

In the bottom of the fifth, with Alex Addington on base, Ashton Roach tagged a

line drive RBI single to right field to put Keystone Heights right back into the game, 3-1. After holding the line on the Blue Devils in the top of the sixth, Conner Guy tripled on a line drive to right field, and then took advantage of a passed ball on a 2-2 count to score, 3-2 in the bottom of the sixth inning.

In the top of the seventh, with a walk and a strikeout, Alec Burke came up to the plate. With a full count, Burke found the pitch he was looking for and tattooed it long out of left field to get a couple insurance runs in at 5-2.

Persinger looked forward to the post season after not making it out of the districts last season. "Even with the rankings, you have to win. I think this team realizes that. As much success as we've had, we haven't had a district championship since 2015. Now we've been runner up, we've went to the states and such, but that is one of the goals we reset. Let's bring home the hardware early. Let's set the precedent of a district champ because you're guaranteed in. If you don't win, it's up to rankings. Just win. It doesn't matter our rankings if we just win."

Even with the loss, Mattox likes what he saw to finish his regular season. "Sets me up for the post season very well. We saw a great arm on the hill tonight. I'm pleased with the way they are playing and I was very pleased with their attitude, which is huge for us, and I'm looking forward to the post season."



Keystone Heights (12-11), the third seed in district 2-3A, will open play in the semifinals against second seed Baldwin (15-6). Clay coach Joshua Persinger will want to avoid another district semifinal disaster as happened last year with a solid game Tuesday against Menendez. The Blue Devils (16-9, 7th in 4A), who won their district tournament opener 7-0 over Raines and face Menendez (8-14) on Tuesday, were upset last year by Baker County.

KHHS vs. MHS Softball

Indians hold surging Broncos at bay

By Randy Lefko
Correspondent

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS - Like a cliff hangar novel that had you glued to the book, the visiting Middleburg Lady Broncos brought it when they visited the Keystone Lady Indians for the penultimate game of the season as both teams were blanked 0-0 through five innings. Back and forth with a runner here, a runner there, both teams had the fans glued to the action. With a stiff wind blowing in from the outfield, the teams had their challenges set. Through six innings, the Broncos had hits, but could not get anyone to complete the trip. The Indians were in the same seat until they finally broke through in the bottom of the sixth inning.

Asked what made the difference through five innings, Keystone Heights Head Coach Jessica Marquart said "I think we were swinging at bad pitches. We were not being disciplined at the plate. Once they made the adjustment in the box, they started hitting the ball on the ground. We proved Middleburg can catch fly balls."

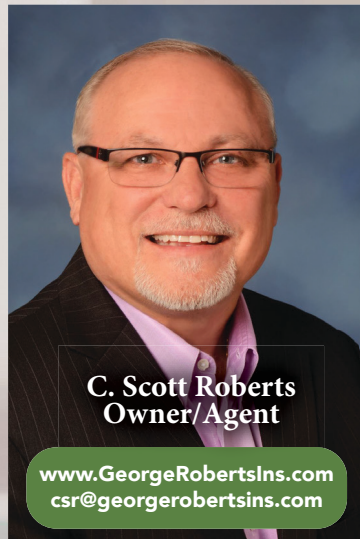
In the bottom of the sixth inning, it was showtime for the Indians. Alaina Kinsal started the show with a full count single to center field to get her safely onboard. Kiley Channell followed with a blistering line drive right back to center field to notch an RBI double to finally break the



Keystone Heights shortstop Kiley Channell is exciting playmaker on the basepaths for Lady Indians who got the 3-0 win and finished at 15-9, ranked 15th in 3A. Keystone Heights got a bye in round one of district 3-3A tournament as the top seed and will face fourth-seed Interlachen on Tuesday.


ice and get the Indians on the board 1-0; and the intensity built. Channell took matters into her own hands and stole third to have another threat loaded and ready with no outs; and the drama meter goes up another notch. Madison Mitzel walked to get two onboard. After a pop out, Abbie Roach

SEE INDIANS, 41



**INSURANCE RATES TOO HIGH?
WE CAN HELP!**



Auto • Business • Home • Life/Health



Independent Insurance Agent

- ✓ Been in business over 60 years
- ✓ Two locations in Clay County
- ✓ We can write ALL lines of insurance

We represent more than 30 A-Rated insurance companies providing you the best insurance at the best price.

ROBERTS INSURANCE
EXPERIENCE, SERVICE & GREAT RATES

Middleburg 2361 Blanding Blvd. • 904-282-7665
Keystone Heights 333 S. Lawrence Blvd. • 352-473-7209

C. Scott Roberts
Owner/Agent

www.GeorgeRobertsIns.com
csr@georgerobertsins.com

'Clutch much' still alive for Panthers

Double Double Plays?

By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

ORANGE PARK - Ridgeview High softball has had a pretty good record of Final Four finishes topped off with nail-biting finishes to continue playing and a typical "Clutch Much" finish seemed in order in Friday night's 7-6 win over 7A-Creekside (15-8, 24th in Class 7A, 6A region semifinals last year) in front of the Panther faithful on Thursday.

The "Clutch Much" though came from defense. Read on.

"We have a young, good, scrappy team here, key word young, and they have made my life a little stressful," said Ridgeview coach Casey Thompson, who now sits at 13-5, ranked fifth in 4A and as the top seed in the upcoming district 3-5A lineup to be hosted by rival Middleburg High School (12-11, 15th in 4A). "Libby (freshman pitcher Libby Bennett) is just a freshman and will become a great pitcher on the same page as Brittany Michael here at Ridgeview. At one point, she threw six balls in a row and that's something that can be fatal in a playoff game. She does not panic though and that shows her quick regroup and recover."

The clutch win over Creekside was something Thompson has seen before, but it still concerns him.

"I think last year we had 12 or 13 one run ball games," said Thompson, including a 2-0 loss in the Final Four to eventual champion Eustis High. "Mary Girgis, a junior, has been on fire at bat and that is keeping the dugout hopping."

In district 3-5A, which now pits Middleburg and Ridgeview after the Panthers were 4A last year and Middleburg in Class 6A, both teams were deep region finishers last year in their respective classes, but did not face each other all season.

Ridgeview gets the bye on the opening of the district tournament with Middleburg

District Tournament Schedules

District 2-2A: 1-Trinity Christian(10-8) vs. 4-First Coast Christian (8-4) TC wins 17-0; 2-SJCDS (11-2) vs. 3-Bishop Snyder (4-16) SJCDS wins 9-2. Final: Trinity vs. SJCDS May 4

District 3-3A: 1-Keystone Heights (15-9) beats Interlachen 15-0; Santa Fe beats Palatka 9-8. May 5 Santa Fe at Keystone Heights

District 2-4A: 1-Baker County (10-11) vs. ED White (2-16), 2-Paxon (11-9) beats 3-Clay.

District 3-5A: Semis (May 4): 1-Ridgeview (13-5) vs. 5-Orange Park (3-17), 2-Middleburg (12-11) vs. 3-Ponte Vedra (11-11). OP beats Columbia 6-5, MHS beats Riverside 15-0

District 2-6A: 1-Chiles (14-5) vs. 4-Leon (6-18) Chiles wins 5-0, 2-Fleming Island (9-9) vs. 3-Buchholz (6-19), FIHS wins 9-3, Final Chiles vs. FIHS May 4.

District 1-7A: SEMIS: 1-Oakleaf (13-7) beats 5-Bartram Trail (14-7) 6-0, 2-Creekside (15-8) beats 3-Mandarin (14-10) 5-4. Final Oakleaf vs. Creekside May 5

Region Playoffs: Quarterfinals 2A-4A (May 11), 5A-7A (May 12)
Semifinals: 1A May 12, 2A-7A May 17
Finals: 1A May 17, 2A-7A May 20

State Championships: Legends Way Ball Fields (Clermont) May 24-28.

(12-11) playing Riverside (7-11), Columbia (4-16) playing Orange Park (3-17) and Ponte Vedra (11-11) playing Englewood (5-8). With both teams opposite in the bracket, wins over the tournament should have Ridgeview and Middleburg in the district championship game on May 5.

Against Creekside, with Ridgeview first ahead 1-0 off a Girgis single and steal and



STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

Ridgeview High freshman pitcher Libby Bennett is all smiles after her infield; Paetyn Kirk and Ky Torrence, executed near-perfect double play (see pic below) to end 7-6 win over 7A-Creekside.

Creekside answer with a walk and single tying the game. Again Girgis singles and scores off a Natalie Foret single to put Ridgeview back up, but Creekside opened with a double and two singles sandwiching an error to go up 4-2.

A Creekside error and another Girgis hit tied the game at 4-4 with Ky Torrence slamming down a run-scoring bunt to put Ridgeview up 5-4.

Bennett struggled with a hit batter and double allowing Creekside to get back to 6-6 and set up the dramatic "Clutch Much" finish.

In the sixth, both pitchers slammed the door with three batters apiece.

In the seventh, with Ridgeview ahead 7-6 off another "Clutch" Girgis run scoring

single, the drama turned to defense.

On two consecutive hard infield grounders; one to shortstop Paetyn Kirk, just a freshman, the other to second baseman Ky Torrence, just a sophomore, the quick-tossing infielders blasted two scoops and tosses for an impossible four outs in two plays, one might think.

Unfortunately, the first double play was deemed a late arriving throw amidst a 20 minute officials discussion with both coaches.

Seemingly unfazed, the second grounder whisked to Torrence who repeated Kirk's previous scoop and Kirk delivered the game-ending strike to first base.

DONE.



DONUT GET CAUGHT 5K & FUN RUN

MAY 28, 2022 ORANGE PARK MALL

5K START: 8:00AM
FUN RUN START: 9:00AM

REGISTER AT:
<https://DonutGetCaught5k.itsyourrace.com/>

FREE T-SHIRTS!

CUSTOM WINNERS TROPHIES!

DELICIOUS DONUTS!

HOSTED BY THE POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE

2022 DONUT GET CAUGHT 5K ATHLETIC LEAGUE

CLAY PAL GUARDIANS

PACKET PICKUP INFORMATION:
MAY 26 & 27 @ 7AM TO 6PM
WALTER ODUM PARK POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE CLUBHOUSE
470 WOODSIDE DR. ORANGE PARK FL 32073
(BUILDING TO THE RIGHT AT THE DEAD END OF WOODSIDE DR.)
SILENT AUCTION, T-SHIRTS AND PAL SWAG BAGS @ PACKET PICKUP!



Clay Today Super 6 wrestlers; left to right, included Jayce Paridon, Fleming Island; Joshua Sandoval, Fleming Island; Jhoel Robinson, Fleming Island and Jordan Mitchell, Oakleaf.

Wrestling

from page 31

match with Watson that defied the logic of three's the charm as Tyre looked to be in peril throughout the match until the final 20 seconds.

For the Clay Today Super 6; two light-weights (up to 138), two middle weights (145-182) and two heavy weights (195-Unlimited), the plethora of talent through Clay County was immense and thus the decisions excruciating.

In the light weights; up to 138 pounds, Fleming Island's Jayce Paridon maintained a course of perfection throughout his season with uncanny precision and unrelenting toughness to enter the Class 2A championship match at 113 with a perfect 58-0 record. As a freshman, though, Paridon, with years back to five or six years old of experience on the mat lost 8-1 in that final to another freshman, Maximus Brady of Mariner High, who finished at 54-2. Brady's win was a historic first-ever for the Mariner program and foretells a possible rematch in upcoming years for the pair.

At 120, the second Duhaylungsod of the roster; Laird, was a second look of the twins; brother Shane at 106, with Laird just happened to face off against the Class 2A runnerup in his second Friday match to get knocked back to consolations.

From there, though, Duhaylungsod buckled up and wrestled tough to get to his fifth place finish as a freshman with

a guy from Lake Gibson (17-0 win), a 4-0 win and a tough 4-2 loss to Tampa Jesuit's Danny Vargas (40-7) who lost his semifinal to eventual state champion unbeaten Tyson Lane of Brandon. Duhaylungsod got a quick shot of rugged wrestling as a freshman and stood toe to toe. Both Duhaylungsods, with brother Shane seventh at 106, will be major forces for coach P.J. Cobbert for the next three years.

In the middle weights; 145-182, Clay High had the meat of their lineup at this point, but Fleming Island had the quietest assassin of the nights with Joshua Sandoval patrolling at 170 as a top five ranked guy all season and taking down pretty good talent along the way.

Sandoval, 59-10, was a smooth moving technician with little flash, but relentless pursuit to execution.

At state, he took a surprise pin from then unbeaten Cory Cannon of Barron Collier, the eventual state champion. Sandoval kept his wits and rumbled to a fourth place finish with a loss to Lake Gibson's Frank Solorazano, a 49-4 junior.

At 182, Fleming Island's most exciting wrestler, Jhoel Robinson entered the fray with dominating fashion with his extreme athleticism and acumen for escape to roll to the state final before losing an 8-1 decision to Countryside's Brian Burburija, who had just one loss on the season.

Robinson and Sandoval will both be back next year.

In the upper weights, 195-Unlimited,



Top left: Fleming Island's Laird Duhaylungsod had one of toughest weight classes to battle through, while, top right, Ridgeview High's Derrick Mosley finished second in Class 2A while, below, Garrett Tyre and Derrick Mosley share a moment at the state championships.



there were some pretty good inter-county rivalries to choose from with Ridgeview High Derrick Mosley, a third place finisher last year, finding his path to gold going through Fort Walton Beach's unbeaten Cedric Fairrow, whom Mosley lost to in the Class 2A 220 championship match after posting a 42-4 overall record. Mosley also lost to Fairrow in the region final. Mosley also faced off and lost to 1A-Bolles' Jack Pyburn, a top ranked 285-er injured at state. Beyond the top-ranked guys he faced, Mosley was unstoppable with his

immense strength and agility on the mat. The final Super 6 athlete is Oakleaf's 285 pound Jordan Mitchell who lost his first match at state, but then annihilated by pin four opponents before finishing fourth after a 4-0 loss against 65-5 Gozie Mosi of Cypress Bay.

Note: An honorable mention vote goes to the Keystone Heights High School program; both boys and girls, who achieved an couple inches more of success in their second season with a few region finishers on both ends.

PET ADOPTION



♥ STAFF PICK OF THE WEEK ♥

This week we asked our Kennel Supervisor, Amy, who her absolute favorite dog here at the shelter is. Meet Precious:

The first time I met Precious, I was drawn to her beauty and confidence. She has such soulful eyes and the cutest ears. She has had a rough life, from living outside for years, being heartworm positive, having bronchitis and lymphoma. Despite all that, she continues to smile and be the goofy girl. We have gone on so many adventures, she is always on her best behavior. Even if we just sit in my car, listening to music and taking selfies, she is so grateful for the love and attention. Precious has lived at the shelter for over a year. She needs a home with no dogs, cats or children. If I didn't have 5 dogs already she would be living with me. I know there is a special someone out there willing to give her a loving home. Until then, I am happy to be her shelter Mama. Dogs like Precious is the reason why I do what I do.

Safe Animal Shelter | 2913 County Road 220 Middleburg | 904-276-7233
Wednesday-Sunday 12pm-5pm | www.safeanimalshelter.com





Ridgeview High's graduating class left some holes for coach Bryan Arnette with a passing game likely to highlight the Panthers' offense led by Miles Burris, right center.

Arnette has sprinkles of veterans to improve

By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

ORANGE PARK - Wideouts Chris Baptiste, Miles Burris, Nappoleon Cion and Andrew Rexach should be chomping at the bit in anticipation of an offensive schematic that could very well see their names in highlight reels if Ridgeview High coach Bryan Arnette creates the opportunity.

With a dynamic quarterback in mobility and attack, senior Durrionte Myrick should get the keys to the engine that should have eight cylinders of drive for four quarters.

Big question for Ridgeview, again, is offensive line protection with inexperience a

boon, but Myrick looked quick with his feet and showed a solid quick release that could unload the arsenal around him.

Arnette loses one of the strongest guys around in Derrick Mosley at nose guard and that could create anxiety.

Arnette pointed out Sheppard Bridges as a top candidate on defense with James Laycock, Collier Stephens and even big dude Brayden Mackey, brother to former Clay Today defensive player of year Brandyn Mackey at Fleming Island High a few years back, as a line plugger with his 300-plus heft.



Wideout Chris Baptiste is solid pass catcher and exciting kick returner for Panthers and his senior year could be full of highlights. Miles Burris can go multiple positions with some reps tossing pass in spring practice sessions.



Former Panther great running back Jaidan Turner is familiar face, now coach in backfield for Ridgeview after college career. Andrew Rexach is third threat downfield for Panthers with speed to burn on vertical routes.



Graduated defensive tackle Derrick Mosley will leave a big hole in the center of the Panther defense.



Ridgeview High says farewell to long-time athletic trainer Ari Fosse after her work on the sidelines of Panther athletics now turns to studies to become physical therapist.

Still relevant
and trusted
New
frequency!



TRY IT AGAIN ...



Chris Guzewich Agency Manager
office 904.579.2391

10151 Deerwood Park Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32256

ADV036 2202 The Western and Southern Life Insurance Company, Cincinnati, Ohio





STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

Clay and Middleburg High flags get to face off for third time in Tuesday region openers with Clay defender Shelby McClain snagging an interception in semifinal loss against Middleburg ace quarterback Brooke Swenson, right, who has orchestrated the Bronco offense behind crisp passing and strong run game.

Broncos, Eagles, Blue Devils in state flag tourney

By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

MIDDLEBURG - With impressive victories in their district championship weeks, the Middleburg High Lady Broncos and the Fleming Island Lady Golden Eagles flag football teams won district championships while Clay High qualified as the region eighth seed to play with their strength of schedule.

Region playoff games start on Tues., May 3, with the state championships set for Mandarin High School at May 13-14.

Middleburg, unbeaten in 14 contests, made short work of district runnerup ED White with a 32-0 bashing behind the elusive quarterbacking of senior Brooke Swenson and the Broncos two outside threats; Laura Palagyi and Jaden Lopresti. Swenson's outside receiving corps is led by Cheyenne Jenkins.

On defense, the Broncos have inside rusher Desiree Hall alongside of Palagyi.

Middleburg, with two 20-0 wins over Clay earlier in the season; one the district semifinal, will host the Blue Devils for a third time on Tues., May 3 in their region opener.

Clay, at 7-4 with the two aforementioned losses to Middleburg and losses to Florida Deaf and Fleming Island, gets into the regions behind quarterbacking from Dakota Hills and passcatching from Addison Holestein. Clay coach Jared Moses also got an interception from linebacker Shelby McClain on defense. McClain has become a key target of Hills with Annalee Harbison out injured with a knee.

One of Moses' threats is speedy tailback Juliana Garcia, just a freshman, who has speed to get downfield if she gets an opening.

The winner of the Middleburg/Clay game will play the winner of the Suwannee (11-6) vs. Florida A & M (9-2) contest. Suwannee won their district title with a 25-13 win over FSU High while Florida A & M, the Class 1A runnerup to six-time Class 1A champion Tampa Robinson, and a region final winner over Middleburg, lost a 26-25 game to Choctawhatchee in that district final after beating Gulf Breeze 26-0

in the semifinal.

Clay has history in the region playoffs with the Blue Devils losing in the region finals to Choctawhatchee in 2017, losing to Tampa Robinson in the state semifinals in 2018 and 2019.

In Class 2A, Fleming Island, now twice district 2-2A champion, has been hot behind quarterback Mykayla Maddox and ball specialists Rose Martin and Gabi Musa en route to a 13-1 record and a double shut-out of Deland (7-0), Mandarin (20-0) and Spruce Creek (25-0) in their district tournament. Center Mackenzie Kirk, also a soccer standout, is a strong presence on both sides of the ball. The Golden Eagles lost last year to Navarre in the region semifinals last year with Navarre eventually losing to 2A champion Newsome in the state semifinals. Navarre beat Spruce Creek in the region final last year.

The Golden Eagles host Crestview out of the Florida Panhandle (9-7) on Tues., May 3.

Fleming Island's only loss was a 21-13 contest to Middleburg on April 4. The Golden Eagles offense has five 40-plus point wins in their season.

Fleming Island lost in 2019 in the region finals to Martin County and to Dr. Phillips in the region finals in 2017.

In the district tournaments around the area, Ridgeview (9-4) lost a 12-2 semifinal to ED White after beating Orange Park 18-0 in their playoff opener.

Against ED White (12-5), Ridgeview scored off a safety by rusher Paetyn Miller, but could not put any more points on the board despite being in the red zone numerous times. Quarterback Nia Blocton, running back Lexi Haile and wideouts Mia-Bella Gutierrez and Ziyah Campbell led the Panther offense. Miller led the defensive rush with Emma Rayes on the corner and Ania Haber inside.

For Orange Park, Caroline Hudgins was the top offensive weapon at either quarterback or catching passes with Jada Blanton taking snaps at quarterback to free Hudgins. Amani Brown, Alanna Kennedy and Katherine Davila were top tacklers for defense.



Ridgeview High had opportunities in semifinal against ED White with running back Lexi Haile blasting through gaping holes but Panthers fell 12-2 with numerous Red Zone failures including an end zone interception.



Mackenzie Kirk is key player for Golden Eagles with strong running and solid open field tackling for Fleming Island to go deep in region play. Eagles won district title over Spruce Creek with 25-0 game and will host Crestview on Tues., May 3 in region opener.

Keystone Heights ended with a flurry with four wins in their final six games to close at 5-10. The Lady Indians got a playoff win, 12-6, over Wakulla to advance to the district semifinal where the season ended 27-0 to FSU High.

Oakleaf, 1-6, won their first game, a 19-8 win over St. Augustine, but lost six in a row including a 31-6 district playoff loss to Fletcher. The Knights lost a host of talented players to basketball commits and had to restructure their lineup midseason.

All new lineup for Clay

By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

GREEN COVE SPRINGS - Clay High coach Kyle Kennard was not pulling any punches on the first week of practice for his Blue Devils football with an emphasis on the details of winning football.

"We are very young, very inexperienced and we are starting from ground zero," said Kennard. "A new quarterback, new linemen, but a good batch of veterans in key spots on the defense."

Among the notables on the field, speedster Jarvis Lee, an all everything threat on both sides of the ball with riveting kick and punt returners and a ballhawk in the defensive secondary.

In front of Lee, linebacker Dominic Martin and possibly Chandler Thomas bring some muscle to the first punch on



New quarterback Merrick Rapoza is solid candidate to take over duties left behind by Billy Mobley with Clay Today defensive player of year Blake Thompson, right, listening intently to coach Kyle Kennard in spring football week one.

STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO



Part of Clay High offense will be catching passes, left, with sophomore Michael Atkins showing good concentration while, center, offensive coach Brian Flanahan emphasizes ball security in drills. Right, linebacker Dominic Martin will be one of best enforcers of Clay's 11-hats on ball defense.



Jarvis Lee is one of quickest ball hawks in county on defense and kick return specialist that broke plenty of games last year, while, center, Chandler Thomas is solid rugged runner for offense. OL Bradley Warren is leader of always tough Clay line directed by former great Jarrod Leeds.



enemy ball carriers.

On the line, Clay Today defensive player of the year Blake Thompson has a steely-eyed view of the mess with his motor still on high octane pushing the young guys to keep up.



On the line, Bradley Warren is a mountain of power with Cody Mobley, younger and lighter brother of departing quarterback Billy Mobley his wing man. From there, questions, but heft in abundance. Leave it to another Clay Today offensive player of year, tackler Jarrod Leeds to ready the chamber for cannon power.

Kennard did smile on one comment, "We have a freshman Samoan; beast."

Fleming sideline filled with Eagle all-stars

By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

FLEMING ISLAND - Fleming Island High quarterback Cibastian Broughton looks all confident as can be after an astounding freshman learning season with big results.

Now, as a sophomore, the field general, one quips, has to fulfill the now established potential he displayed last year.

Behind him, but not on the field at the first week of practice, is running back Sam Singleton who has been treading lightly through track with a hamstring issue while little brother Kaylib Singleton lights up the sprints for the track team.

Bulldog fullback Musthafa Marshall is also on the sidelines with his Crocs on

nursing ailments.

Whether the duo is healthy for summer preparations will be seen.

If not, Jhace Edwards looks solid as a back with power and enthusiasm.

Up front, Ethan Hoffstetter, Ethan Williams and Braden Cunningham looks like a triple power play for pushing people with freshman Khalil Matthews a hefty 300 pound sledgehammer that needs to upload the Golden Eagle OL scheme.

Seniors Tim Lawrence and Brenden Cook, also heading to regions for track hurdles, are solid downfield players.

On defense, linebacker Jhoel Robinson is legit cover and destroy guy with Abram Wright on recon on the opposite side.



STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

Top receiver for Golden Eagles will be track hurdler Brenden Cook who exploded at end of season last year with big plays to put Fleming Island into playoffs. Quarterback Cibastian Broughton is back with year under his belt after solid freshman campaign.



Fleming Island's defense will feature solid pass coverage here with coach Gio Portabanco putting his athletes through drills with Jhace Edwards a big bruising running while, right, Fleming Island's offensive line will be big, strong and experienced a year.



Is the Raider Nation ready for NFL level work?

By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

ORANGE PARK -A definite need for an uptick in effort seemed apparent for the Orange Park Raider football practice as new head coach Marcus Wimberly prowled his first week of Raider football in intense heat and humidity.

With his coaches growling about walking and talking, the Raider players quickly learned that an NFL guy has a different outlook than most coaches and Wimberly's college record, NFL experience and state champion Tennessee record has a high standard of excellence.

Top draw for attention was the combination of tackle Roderick Kearney, who completed a top 10 state weightlifting finish and partner Braylon Hawkins give Orange Park power up front, as well as cruncher back JoJo Restall who looked impressive in his gear and engine.

The receiving crew; Brian Green, Nolan Chambers, possibly track speedster Jerm-



Orange Park High's new football coach Marcus Wimberly has the Raiders looking sharp and uniform with his spring practice attire.

el Brown and Larry Thomas for Wimberly should be a showcase for the offense but a quarterback with a slingshot arm will need to be groomed. Elijah Craggette is a top contender for the slot with his outside speed an additional weapon on the corner.

On defense, Wimberly has holes to fill from departed seniors.



TUESDAY PLAYOFF ACTION



Clay High batter Brandon Adams smashes three run double in fifth inning in front of two-run homer by Tyler Mills as Blue Devils won 6-0 district semifinal against Pedro Menendez. Clay plays at Bishop Kenny in championship final. Also in district tournaments; Middleburg lost to St. Augustine, Fleming Island lost to Chiles, Ridgeview lost to Columbia, Oakleaf lost to Creekside, Keystone Heights lost to Baldwin. St. Johns Country Day School beat First Coast Christian. SJCDs hosts Trinity Christian on May 5 6:30pm. Clay travels to Bishop Kenny May 5.



Fleming Island flag football got stellar night on both sides of line of scrimmage from Gabi Musa in 26-12 win over Crestview Tuesday night. Golden Eagles host Spruce Creek for region 1-2A final. Fleming Island beat Spruce Creek for district title a week ago.



Middleburg High's potent offense, led by quarterback Brooke Swenson and running back Jaden Lopresti, No. 3, beat Clay High for a third time this season with a 27-7 win in the region 1-1A opener Tuesday at Middleburg. The Broncos, still unbeaten, will host Florida A&M on May 5 in the region semifinal. Florida A&M (10-2) beat Suwannee 35-0 to advance.

Wake & Surf

LAKE AREA
WATERSPORTS

MAY 14TH, 2022

WW MOTOCROSS PARK

REGISTER NOW! @WAKESURFLAW.COM

SPONSORED BY

NEWNAN
CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP RAM
PEACHTREE

With 8 divisions, anyone can enter and compete at a level that's right for them! Not a surfer? Join us on the shores for a fun day in the sun. Enjoy food trucks + vendors and a mid-day Gatorland Ski Show! See it all up-close on the JumboTron!

FIND OUT MORE AT
WWW.WAKESURFLAW.COM

STREAMING EVERYWHERE



THE JACKSONVILLE
MUSIC EXPERIENCE

A service of WJCT Public Media



THE
INDEPENDENT 89.9 HD4

Discover new music from emerging & established artists working in rock, hip-hop, R&B, jazz, electronic, modern global & more.



SCAN HERE
or visit
JAXMUSIC.ORG
for more info



Oakleaf High distance runner Sierra Barrera has had outstanding finishes in big races; Bob Hayes, Don Hall and districts and can be a factor for a medal at regions en route to the state meet.

Track
from page 31

School. Oakleaf's second contender for not just a state qualifying top four finish, but also a gold, is senior jumper Arianna Eason who dominated the district 2-4A meet with wins in the long jump and triple jump.

Eason's jumps; 17'-4.75" and 39'-5.75" got her in as fourth qualifier for the region with an 18'-7.25" leap from top qualifier and defending region long jump champion Sidney Allen of Seminole and a region leading 39'-5.75" triple jump district title that stands as the top jump in the region with Allen at number four nearly three feet away. Top contender is at 37'-8.75 from Taylor Sapp of Lake Mary, a senior. Eason was second at region last year at 37'-6.5" and fourth in 4A at 37'-8".

Eason also is anchor for the girls 4 x 100 relay that qualified fourth with just .48 seconds separating first through fourth to create a stressful race dependent on perfect execution with the baton.

Also in the jumps, high jumper Sydney Brown is second ranked with her 5'-1.75" finish with Ocoee's Amarianna Lofton, in district 4-4A, top seed at 5'-3.75". Lofton got to her 5'-3.75 after making a third attempt at 5'01.81" to continue then hitting her first try at 5'-3.75". Brown, who tied with Nease's Sasha Gregory for second at the district meet, followed Lofton's heights, but missed three times at 5'-3.75". Brown was 11th in 4A last year at 4'-11.75".

For Barrera, a junior, who has exploded on to the state scene after experimenting with some mid-race tactics to add to her ferocious finishes, took second in the both the 800 and 1600 at districts with times of 2:22.01 and 5:18.06.

Barrera's 800 and 1600 splits are both fifth ranked for the region with the 800 time closer to the top tier and the 1600 nearly nine seconds off the top time of 5:09.80.

Barrera was fourth at region last year with a 2:20.44 split with a 2:14.76 the winning time then 15th in Class 4A at 2:21.12.

In the hurdles, Oakleaf duo of sophomore Keira Smalls in the 100 hurdles (7th ranked) and Kayla Havens in the 300 hurdles (13th ranked) will have their work cut out to get to the top four spot. Smalls' 15.56 is half a second from the fourth place finisher. Havens is three seconds away but 10 hurdles in the way offers a lot of opportunity for mistakes and Havens is a hurdle technician that can benefit from a hiccup ahead of her.

In discus, Adrionna Coleman is fifth ranked, but 30 feet from the top throw, but two inches from the fourth ranked throw.

For the Oakleaf boys, shotputter Jordan Mitchell is less than two inches from the top put in the region with a 52'-3.75" toss second to Niceville's Noah Harman, fifth in the region last year with a 50'-2.75" put.

High jumpers Korey Huff and Josber Stimphil are in the hunt with Huff sixth ranked and Stimphil 20th.



Freshman sprinter Kaymin Sales can boost Oakleaf relays to medal status.

PUZZLE FUN

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

Level: Advanced



Keystone Heights outfielder Abbie Roach makes reaching stab of outfield fly ball in win over Middleburg.

Indians

from page 32

grounded into a fielder's choice to catch Channell out at home plate for two outs. With only one run across and two outs, the Broncos liked their chances to get away pretty easy with the single run.

But the Indians said not so fast as this novel was not in the final chapter just yet. The play at the plate had the two other runners both in scoring position on second and third base. Delia Johnson nailed a bullet line drive to left field that scored both Mitzel and Roach. The two RBI double was exactly what the Indians needed to put the heavy pressure on the Broncos. After the third out, it was all on the bats of the Broncos to try to even things up. The Broncos could do no better than a single runner on as the pop-up fairy would visit the Broncos at the wrong time to bring the final out in the 3-0 thriller.

Starting district play Tuesday, Marquart had her eye on the one thing she feels the girls need to do to make the difference. "I really think we need to be a little better in the box. We need to be selective on our pitches, swing at better pitches, not pop them up by finding the middle of the ball and just do what we do."

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

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

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to exercise.

TSUAQ

--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Squat

Guess Who?

I am an actor and wrestler born in California on May 2, 1972. I played football in college and later in the Canadian Football League. After becoming a professional wrestler, I became a wildly popular actor in several action films and franchises.

Answer: Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson

☉ ** ☰ ☹ ☺ ☻ ☼ ☽ ☿ ♁ ♂ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓

CRYPTO FUN

☰ ☹ ☺ ☻ ☼ ☽ ☿ ♁ ♂ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to exercise.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 13 = E)

A. 14 1 21 5 13 15 15

Clue: Being healthy

B. 10 13 1 7 9 21 15

Clue: Heavy exercise tools

C. 7 18 17

Clue: Fitness location

D. 13 3 13 24 19 1 15 13

Clue: Physical activity

Answers: A. fitness B. weights C. gym D. exercise

GET FIT WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

- AEROBIC
- BALANCE
- CIRCUIT
- COMPOUND
- COOL DOWN
- DEADLIFT
- ENERGY
- FITNESS
- HEART
- INTENSITY
- INTERVAL
- ISOMETRICS
- LUNGE
- MOVEMENT
- MUSCLES
- OXYGEN
- RECOVERY
- RESISTANCE
- STAMINA
- STRENGTH
- STRETCH
- WARM UP
- WORKOUT
- YOGA

I haven't smoked in years.

I don't have a family history
of lung cancer.

I don't have any
symptoms.



Think you're not at risk for lung cancer? Think again.

Unfortunately, if you quit smoking 15 years ago or less, you may be at risk for developing lung cancer. You could also be at risk even if you have no family history and no symptoms.

What can you do to reduce your risk and catch lung cancer early?

Consider a lung cancer screening. Early detection of lung cancer can save your life. If you meet the following criteria, you could be eligible for a low-dose CT lung cancer screening, which is covered by Medicare and many insurance plans.

Please note these guidelines were recently expanded to cover even more patients, so you may be eligible for a screening this year even if you were not eligible previously.

- ✓ You are between 50 and 77 years old.
- ✓ You have a 20 pack-year history of smoking or more (this means 1 pack a day for 20 years, 2 packs a day for 10 years, etc).
- ✓ You are a current smoker or have quit within the last 15 years.



To see if this screening is right for you, talk with your primary care physician or go to baptistjax.com/lungscreening.

Baptist Health offers lung cancer screenings throughout Northeast Florida, including **Baptist Medical Center Clay**.