

CLAY TODAY

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2022

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Clay County fortifies its response ahead of next catastrophic storm

By Don Coble
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CLAY COUNTY – Five years ago this week, a tropical wave quickly was organizing in the Atlantic Ocean into one of the costliest hurricanes in Florida’s history.

Although it was little more than a rain event by the time it gutted the length of the peninsula like a medical examiner’s scalpel, Irma left behind a \$40 million swath of damage in Clay County that’s taken years to repair.

Flood waters, especially along the Black Creek and Doctors Lake, flooded homes, sunk boats and changed the way

the county prepares for future storms. While no emergency agency can turn back winds and driving rain, it can provide residents with better tools to minimize the damage.

County Emergency Management Director John Ward, whose agency kicked off Hurricane Preparedness Month on Thursday, said his biggest challenge is fighting a sense of complacency.

“When you look at Irma, Irma was really an isolated incident to the Black Creek and Doctors Lake area,” he said. “So everywhere else you know, they may have

SEE IRMA, 24

Cover Girl

Passionate, impactful video on domestic violence recorded in Green Cove Springs

16-year-old girl delivers remarkable performance on a difficult topic

By Don Coble
 don@claytodayonline.com

ORANGE PARK – Each word of her song is dripping with passion and purpose. So young to be so poignant, LeeAnn Purvis delivered an emotional reminder of the darkness of domestic violence in her newly-released video, “Cover Girl.”

Purvis, who just turned 16, doesn’t LeeAnn Purvis will include her single “Cover Girl” in her upcoming album “Finding Myself” this fall.



*Cover Girl.
 Tell me what it is you’re covering up,
 Tell me what it is you’re hiding from.
 You don’t have to be ashamed.
 You know you’re not the one to blame.
 I want to know what you’re going to do,
 I want to see what he did to you –
 every cut and every bruise.
 It’s time to blow his cover ... girl.*

SEE COVER, 18

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2020 BEST OF CLAY TODAY

INDEX

| | | |
|------------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| Opinion 4-5 | Crime 22-23 | Puzzle 32 |
| Obituaries 8-9 | Sports 25-32 | Classifieds & Legals 32-39 |



Officials react to school board shakeup

By Nick Blank
nick@claytodayonline.com

CLAY COUNTY – The Clay County School District had two candidates defeat incumbents, meaning two of the five faces on the school board will be new.

It's safe to say the district has a lot going on. School started about two weeks ago. The district is one of the best in the state with high school grades, an "A" district grade and the state Teacher of Year, Lakeside Junior High's Melissa Matz.

However, the district is currently addressing backlash against controversial books, accommodating the county's growth and bus driver shortages. Each of those three issues, however, is being seen statewide. In addition, two incumbents lost in the Aug. 23 primaries.

Michele Hanson bested Tina Bullock in District 4, which encompasses a large swath of western Clay including Middleburg and Keystone Heights. In Fleming Island's District 1, Erin Skipper unseated three-term incumbent Janice Kerekes. The pair of newly elected officials will take office in November.

The board's agenda workshop was conducted on Aug. 22 with former board members Bullock and Kerekes present. Before the board's meeting on Thursday, board members were asked what they thought of the shift.

Board Chairwoman Mary Bolla said anytime there's an election there's a possibility for change.

"What the citizens have done is select a representative of their district," Bolla said.

"Each of the five of the members is going to do their best."

Bolla recalled her training through the Florida School Board Association when she first entered the dais in 2016. She said she wanted to maintain the district's high ratings and continue to see standards rise.

"Our purpose as a school board is simply to set the budget and make policy, not the weeds or each individual complaint," Bolla added. "I think it'll be fine. I'm looking forward to working with these folks and seeing how we progress."

Getting to be in as many schools as possible was an early signifier to Bolla of the job's importance. Since COVID-19 precautions became more optional, Bolla looked forward to a year of open houses and school visits.

"Having a grasp of what's going on in the schools, to be supportive of the strengths of those schools, that's just huge," Bolla said.

With new members, Board Member Beth Clark said the board can continue to keep moving.

"We always welcome the new constituents and we want to have a functioning board that works together," Clark said.

Skipper said the first weeks after the primary contains meetings with district officials and lots of preparation.

"Right now, it's about doing my homework and the due diligence to be the best school board member I can," Skipper said.

For now, it's about speaking with officials, taking in meetings and listening to community members. Skipper said she's



Supporter celebrated Tuesday night after Michele Hanson, second from right, unseated incumbent Tina Bullock for the District 4 seat on the Clay County School Board. Below Gov. Ron Desantis endorsed school board member candidate Erin Skipper and Skipper unseated three-term Janice Kerekes.



preparing for the position as though she was taking it tomorrow and she wanted to bring a voice for parents' rights to the table.

"I think it's important to be an advocate of parents' rights, allowing our parents to be heard and bringing them full circle back into our schools," Skipper said.

Clay celebrates International Overdose Awareness Day

Special to Clay Today

FLEMING ISLAND – International Overdose Awareness Day was commemorated on Wednesday, Aug. 31.

The campaign was created to raise awareness of overdose as a public health crisis, remind us of the impact of the opioid epidemic in our communities, and help reduce the stigma attached to the opioid epidemic. It is also a day of remembrance for those who have lost their lives to overdose and an acknowledgment of grief for the family and friends who have been left behind.

The Florida Department of Health in Clay County participated in the "Remembering Without Stigma" event in honor of International Overdose Awareness Day at

the New Season Treatment Center at 1241 Blanding Blvd., Suite 5, in Orange Park. The event, hosted by the Clay County Opioid Taskforce, remembered those that have lost their lives to substance use, acknowledged those who are struggling with addiction and supported those that are in recovery.

Battalion Chief Glenn East of Clay County Fire Rescue was the keynote speaker and he shared information on the Community Paramedicine Program. There also was a special message: "A Story of Struggle and Hope from a Peer Specialist in Recovery," given by a peer specialist from Clay Behavioral Health Center.

Attendees received Narcan and Deterra and were taught how to properly use each

product. Resources Educational materials were deployed by the Florida Department of Health and the Florida Department of Children and Families to ensure Floridians are aware of the signs of overdose and how to respond. These print and digital materials can be found here. A public health and safety alert was deployed by the Florida Department of Health on July 8 to ensure Floridians remain vigilant of the signs of overdose. For questions regarding potential overdoses and other drug-related exposures, Florida's Poison Control Centers are a valuable resource to individuals throughout Florida, including emergency personnel. Poison Control Centers are staffed by health care professionals that are specifically trained

to assist in treating drug overdoses or assessing patients exposed to drugs of abuse. Medical toxicologists are available 24/7 for physician consultations.

HEROS (Helping Emergency Responders Obtain Support) is a Florida Department of Health program that provides free naloxone to emergency response agencies. Since the inception of the program in 2018, more than 455,000 doses have been distributed to emergency response agencies in Florida through HEROS. All first responders in Florida are eligible to request free naloxone through this program.

For more information about the Florida Department of Health please visit www.FloridaHealth.gov.

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Most Florida college students ignore 'intellectual survey'

By Florida Phoenix
For FloridaPolitics.com

Florida's public university students seemed reluctant to fill out a controversial survey on so-called "intellectual freedom and viewpoint diversity" that was prompted by the Legislature, as about 8,800 of some 368,000 students bothered to submit responses.

That's only a 2.4 response rate, according to draft survey results posted on the website of the Board of Governors, which oversees the statewide university system.

The draft results were published in preparation to discuss findings at a BOG meeting on Friday, but the very low response rate raises questions about whether officials can glean enough information from the already contentious questionnaire.

The intellectual freedom and viewpoint diversity survey is a result of legislation passed during the 2021 legislative session, to select "an objective, nonpartisan, and statistically valid survey to be used by each state university which considers the extent to which competing ideas and perspectives are presented and members of the university community, including students, faculty, and staff, feel free to express their beliefs and viewpoints on campus and in the classroom."

The state's community college system was also surveyed. The Phoenix reached out to the Florida Department of Education, which oversees state colleges, to find out if there are results for those schools, but the agency hasn't responded.

According to the draft results, only 8,835 students from Florida's 12 state universities did the survey, out of 368,120 students who received it. That led to a 2.4% response rate.

The survey responses were collected from April 4 through April 8 this past spring. There were two versions of the survey, one for students and one for employees, which included faculty and staff.

Some schools had a higher response rate than others.

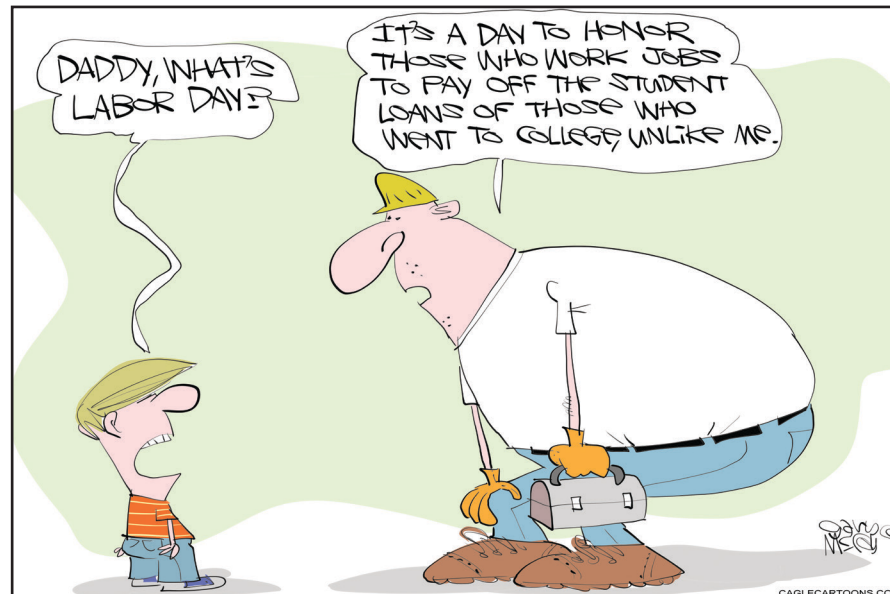
For example, at New College of Florida in Sarasota, 141 students responded out of 636 total students contacted, resulting in a 12.1% response rate from students.

Florida Polytechnic University, in Lakeland, in Polk County, also had a 12.1 response rate among students, with 171 students submitting the survey out of 1,411 total.

The lowest student response rate was at Florida A&M University, a historically

SEE STUDENTS, 5

OPINIONS



Stop the madness: Vote for plans that are fiscally honest and fair to everyone

By Don Coble
Managing Editor

Write these dates down: Nov. 8 and Nov. 5, 2024. That's when we can vote for real fairness. That's when we can stop the reckless and irresponsible spending in this county.

President Joe Biden's said his plan to excuse between \$10,000-to-\$20,000 of federal student loan debt is a matter of fairness. It's not. It's pandering to the progressive left and a younger generation who's been indoctrinated to believe they are entitled to benefits they haven't earned.

The president is intellectually dishonest to pass along debt to those who paid for college – like me – and to those who didn't go to college. More people join the workforce out of high school than go to college. Now they're on the hook for the president's new group of freeloaders.

Let's be clear: it's not free. The total cost starts at \$300 billion. And now it's up to everybody else to pay for it. Watch the White House dodge questions about cost and who has to pay for it. They are defiant when they tell Americans like me who paid their college debt we don't deserve to get a refund – all under the guise of fairness.

But I'm not just spewing. I have solutions. I've always believed if you don't have an answer, you're part of the prob-



Don Coble

The president is intellectually dishonest to pass along debt to those who paid for college – like me – and to those who didn't go to college. More people join the workforce out of high school than go to college. Now they're on the hook for the president's new group of freeloaders.

lem.

There's no reason for many to graduate with huge debt balances. What if we gave many of them an avenue to work off large chunks of that debt?

A teacher, for example, can volunteer an afternoon or two each week to tutor students. By doing that, it's *fair* to erase as much as \$250 a day from the balance sheet.

That's a win-win for everyone – especially our students.

A doctor can volunteer two Saturdays a month at a free clinic. I'm sure The Way Clinic could use the help. One day eliminates \$500 of debt.

That's a win-win for everyone – especially our neighbors in need.

Someone with an architect degree can volunteer a couple of weekend days a month with Habitat for Humanity. Their skills would be very useful for an organization that is dedicated to turning sweat

SEE VOTE, 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.

Telos: (TEL-uhs) a noun that means an ultimate object or aim.

"The telos for the Jacksonville Jaguars during preseason camp is to avoid injuries and set its lineup."

This Week in History

Five years ago, 2017

- Lightning strikes cause hundreds of thousands of dollars to Clay County schools, including the loss of a \$159,000 fire alarm system at Doctors Inlet Elementary.

- Green Cove Springs learns payment for Hurricane Matthew damage may be delayed by the more-recent flooding in Southeast Texas from Hurricane Harvey.

- A mural depicting a frog sitting inside the spring at Spring Park is finished by artist Anthony Hooper at the Green Cove Springs Library.

10 years ago, 2012

- Works starts on the First Coast Expressway from Interstate 10 to Blanding Boulevard.

- A man's body was discovered inside a submerged minivan in Black Creek near the Main Street boat ramp in Middleburg.

- Plans are put on hold by the school board on whether it will ask voters to decide whether superintendents should be elected or appointed.

- Although \$1.4 million in federal assistance is on the way to Clay County, residents learn there's still time to apply for relief following Tropical Storm Debby.

20 years ago, 2002

- The school district learns 61% of its schools were rated as 'A' schools by the Florida Department of Education.

- A 10-year-old girl escapes a wound-be abduction by running to a neighbor's house.

- Green Cove Springs' Jack Farrington, a World War II B-17 co-pilot who was shot down in Europe, finish receives his Purple Heart from Sen. Bill Nelson.

30 years ago, 1992

- The Board of County Commission re-

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.

Vote

from page 4

equity into a new home. Spend a day swinging a hammer and \$250 in debt disappears.

That's a win-win for everyone – especially our community.

If you have a business degree, you can volunteer to teach a class to children and young adults on how to be fiscally responsible. Learning how to balance a checkbook and compute interest rates is far more important information than dwelling on gender identity. Teach one class and \$300 of debt will go away.

That's a win-win for everyone – especially the next generation of residents and consumers.

But if you have a degree in memeology, extraterrestrial life or puppet arts – and yes, these degrees do exist – you're out of luck. If a bank was stupid enough to give you money for those worthless diplomas,

they deserve to get stiffed. But the rest of us don't deserve to be responsible to pay for it.

When I went to college, I paid as I went. I worked the midnight shift at Waffle House, Sambo's and at hotels. I went to classes in the morning, took a nap in the afternoon, then worked a 40-hour entry-level job at the Orlando Sentinel.

It's amazing what you can accomplish when you have skin in the game. My degree has served me well. I will be starting my 50th year in the business next week.

The only way we can get rid of unfair, irresponsible, irrational and self-serving policies is on election day. If a politician is handing you money with one hand, he's got the other hand lifting your wallet from your back pocket.

So write these dates down: Nov. 8 and Nov. 5, 2024. That's when we can vote for real fairness.

Students

from page 4

Black college in Tallahassee, where 53 students responded out of 8,393 surveys provided. That's a 0.6% response rate. Also in Tallahassee, Florida State University posted a low response rate of 1.8% out of 43,936 students who received the survey.

The next lowest response rate goes to Florida International University, in Miami, with only 413 students out of 49,477 students responding to the survey, resulting in a 0.8 response rate.

Since its inception in the legislature, the survey has long been criticized as a means for Republican lawmakers to cast Florida universities and colleges as liberal bastions and claim that conservative voices are being suppressed, the Phoenix previously reported.

And when the surveys were released in April, the Phoenix found that people who were not university students, faculty or staff could easily gain access to the surveys if someone sent them the link, raising questions on the security and validity of the survey.

Determining a valuable response rate for a survey is tricky, according to various online survey sites.

SmartSurvey, an online survey site, says that there are a "lot of factors that can affect response rates, from the survey distribution method that is used and whether it's an external or internal survey, to how strong your relationship is with your respondents before issuing the survey."

It adds: "However, more generally and irrespective of your survey type, typical survey response rates can lie anywhere in the region between the 5% to 30% range, with those surveys distributed from unknown senders tending to be at the lower

end of this scale."

SurveyMonkey, the program that the Board of Governors used for the survey, did not provide a range to help determine a worthwhile response rate, only saying that effective response rates "can be as high as 20% to 30% (emphasis in context)."

Of the 2.4% of university students who responded to the questions, most of the responses seem to be either neutral or supportive of how universities navigate so-called "viewpoint diversity," the draft data suggests, though the results also indicate a smaller population of student respondents who believe university campuses are more tolerant of liberal ideas than conservative ones.

On the other hand, professors and staff had a higher rate of responses to the survey, the draft results show.

Out of 98,704 total university employees who received surveys, 9,238 responded, resulting in a 9.4% response rate.

The draft results show that 4,336 respondents self-identified as staff, 1,666 identified as faculty with a continuing contract or tenure, 1,308 identified as an administrator, and 1,154 identified as faculty without tenure or a continuing contract. There were 551 respondents who identified as "other" and 223 who did not provide a response.

The highest response rate among university professors and employees was at Florida Polytechnic University, with a 21.6 response rate. That's 101 employees out of 468. The lowest employee response rates were at Florida A&M University and University of North Florida, of Jacksonville, both with a 6%. For FAMU, that's 140 employees out of 2,323. And for UNF, that's 255 employees out of 4,249 contacted for the survey.

History

from page 4

luctantly agrees to spend \$150,000 for dirt to fortify one of the walls around a retention pond at the Rosemary Hill Landfill.

- Michael Scott Haley and a juvenile were arrested in Green Cove Springs after they were caught with a dead deer outside of hunting season.

- Clay County Extension Horticultural Agent Ray Zerba is honored with the Distinguished Service Award from the National

Association of County Agricultural Agents in Little Rock, Arkansas.

40 years ago, 1982

- Sen. Lawton Chiles is the guest speaker at the Clay County Democratic dinner dance.

- Green Cove Springs Mayor George Killian hand delivers a letter to Rep. Bill Chappell opposing any new plans to build low-income housing in the city.

- Clay County teachers vote, 704-5, to ratify a new contract.

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| 60 | | | | | 61 | | | | 62 | | 63 | | | |
| 64 | | | | | 65 | | | | | | 66 | | | |
| 67 | | | | | 68 | | | | | | 69 | | | |

CLUES ACROSS

- Bay Area humorist
- Hurt
- Icelandic poems
- A taro corm
- Metaphorical use of a word
- It fears the hammer
- Excessively quaint (British)
- Laid-back California county
- Cook in a microwave oven
- Not late
- Go from one place to another
- Peoples living in the Congo
- Popular pasta
- Available engine power (abbr.)
- Popular musician Charles
- Angry
- Spelling is one type
- One who makes a living
- Indicates location
- Imperial Chinese dynasty
- Small water buffaloes
- Hungarian city
- Fabric
- Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- Precursor to the EU
- Philly footballers
- Female sibling
- "When Harry Met Sally" actress
- Magnetic tape of high quality

- Insecticide
- Apparatus to record and transmit
- Some is considered "dog"
- Israeli city __ Aviv
- Fencing sword
- Ottoman military title
- Wise people
- Cold wind
- Popular type of shoe
- Administrative district
- A way to reveal
- Cooked meat cut into small pieces
- Actress Zellweger
- Romanian city

CLUES DOWN

- Small town in Portugal
- Site of famed Ethiopian battle
- German river
- Christmas carols
- Cash machine
- Rough and uneven
- Rumanian round dance
- Widespread occurrence of disease
- A place to relax
- Feeling of listlessness
- Coat or smear a substance
- Wild mango
- Brews
- Belgian city

- Confined condition (abbr.)
- Swiss river
- Small amount
- Part of buildings
- Vietnamese capital
- Sailboats
- Shelter
- Terminated
- Discharge
- Snag
- Partner to cheese
- A container for coffee
- Spend time dully
- Satisfies
- Snakelike fish
- Consume
- Type of student
- Erase
- Instruct
- Girl's given name
- Jewish spiritual leader
- "To __ his own"
- North-central Indian city
- Greek alphabet characters
- Weapon
- Amounts of time
- American Nobel physicist vital to MRIs
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Witness

Bella Notte kicks off Orange Park's focus on adult-themed events



Artist Tim Stahlheber paints an Italian gangster before the Bella Notte event taking place on Sept. 15.

By Nick Blank
nick@claytodayonline.com

ORANGE PARK – The town's goal has been seeking events for adults, and that's where the town hopes the upcoming Italian arts and culture event, Bella Notte, comes in.

The Orange Park Art Guild began planning the Sept. 15 event in February. Guild President Phyllis Renninger said the group, known for its murals, is entering uncharted territory with event planning. It takes place at Azaleana Manor on the St. Johns riverfront.

"Our mission is to educate people and get arts and culture into the community. We did murals. That really kicked on our attention to having an annual event that celebrated art," she said.

In branding and visioning meetings the past few months, town officials noted the success of children-focused festivals, but adult events could make the town a destination and enhance its standing.

Renninger said the town's visioning



Artist Kathleen Shores paints a grape-crushing lady in advance of the Sept. 15 Bella Notte art event at Azaleana Manor.

process established that improving arts and culture is important. The town was a sponsor of Bella Notte, with town officials observing the need for adults to have fun post-COVID.

"The mayor wanted more adult-oriented events and challenged staff," Renninger

added. "All these different ventures were merging together toward a need, which is to have a night of art and culture in the town."

Guild members have been busy painting props, vases and glasses. Guild mem-

SEE BELLA NOTTE, 7



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Bella Notte

from page 6

bers also painted local flora and fauna of the area, paintings which will be showcased at Orange Park Town Hall soon, Renninger said.

Bella Notte will have live music, Italian food, wine tasting and numerous works of art for sale. At the end of the evening, a painting that event-goers can edit, will be auctioned off. Renninger said the venue was a nice fit.

The art guild's 50th anniversary is next year, she added, so the guild may ramp up its programming.

"A venture of this size was scary," Renninger said. "We love art and to be able to celebrate it with the community is just what we wanted."

One town event, called the Longest Table, was canceled this year due to inclement weather after a consistent run.

Mayor Randy Anderson said the art guild has collaborated with the town before and Bella Notte was continuing that partnership.

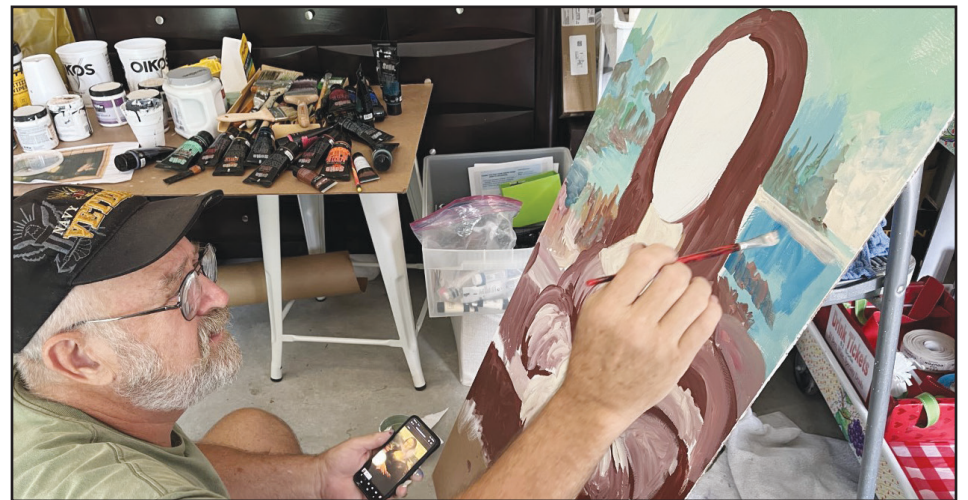
"This is perfect, right up the art guild's alley," Anderson said.

Anderson said he made a point to walk through different neighborhoods and meet residents. They asked for more events, he said, which meant it was up to the town to deliver. Not only with Bella Notte, but with future music events or the retro-themed



40th Fall Festival on Oct. 15-16.

"Everything is based around kids. We wanted ways to bring the community together," Anderson said. "They've done murals, this is keeping the partnership going. (Bella Notte) is testing the waters."



(Right) Artist Bill Gura paints the Mona Lisa in preparation for the Bella Notte event on Sept. 15.

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Obituaries

Susan Marie Lewis

Susan Marie Lewis, 66 was born in Des Moines, Iowa on March 31st, 1956 to Dr. Thomas and Joanne Hardin. She departed this life on August 15th, 2022.

She was predeceased by her father, Dr. Thomas F. Hardin, her first husband Rick Cheek, her brother Daniel Hardin, and a daughter-in-law, Jessica Cheek.

She is survived by her husband, Steven Lewis, daughter, Amy Cheek, her son Eric Cheek, grandson, Ricky Cheek, her brothers, Dr. Michael Hardin (Cecily) and Dr. Mark Hardin, a sister, Rebecca O'Neill (Joey) many nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews.

Susan graduated from Bishop Kenny High School and Florida Community College with a degree in nursing. She worked at Orange Park Hospital, for Dr. Bahri, and for Family Medical Centers as a nurse and Quality Assurance professional. She was well-liked and respected by both patients and the doctors with whom she worked. Susan had a great sense of humor and cared deeply for her patients. When not working, Susan enjoyed spending time on the river and Black Creek,

She was a great water slalom skier and loved shrimping and fishing. She was devoted to her husband Steven, and spent the last few years caring for him. She delighted in her only grandson, Ricky Cheek and her children Amy and Eric.

There will be a private service at a later date for family and close friends. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Safe Animal Shelter or the local Humane Society.

Arrangements are under the care of Russell Haven of Rest Cemetery, Funeral Home and Cremation Center, 2335 Sandridge Road, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043. Family and friends may share their condolences at: www.RHRFH.com 904-284-7720



Susan Marie Lewis

Beverly Ann Griffis

Beverly Ann Griffis, 56, of Orange Park, Florida passed away on Sunday, August 21, 2022. She was born on February 16, 1966 to James Johnston and Linda Johnston-Lane in Jacksonville, Florida.

She married the love of her life, Herman, on January 23, 1984, going on to become the mother of two adoring sons, Chad and Justin. Beverly was always passionate about early childhood education and was a preschool teacher at La Petite Academy in Lake Asbury for many years.

Beverly was predeceased by her parents and her sister, Melinda Sieg Clifton.

She is survived by her devoted husband, beloved sons and six grandchildren, and her brothers, Jimmy Johnston and Eric Lane. Beverly's teacup yorkie, Mustang Sally, and her grandchildren Virginia, Braeden, Christian, Justin, and Max, as well as many nieces and nephews were all the apples of her eye. She was very loved and will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Funeral Services were held at 11:00 AM, Monday, August 29, 2022 at Hardage-Giddens Holly Hill Funeral Home, 3601 Old Jennings Road, Middleburg, FL with visitation held 1 hour prior to service from 10-11 AM. Burial followed in Holly Hill Memorial Park. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.hollyhillfunerals.com.

Barry Alton Gero

Barry Alton Gero, 90, of Orange Park, FL passed away August 24, 2022. Broadus-Raines Funeral Home, 501 Spring St., Green Cove Springs, FL (904) 284-4000. www.broadusraines.com



Beverly Ann Griffis

Richard (Rich) Thomas Freeman

Richard (Rich) Thomas Freeman, 74, passed away on August 22, 2022 at the Good Shepherd Hospice House, Manhattan, Kansas.

Rich was born in Portsmouth, Virginia on July 30, 1948, the son of Commander John Keith Freeman and Betty Jean (Foster) Freeman. As the son of a naval officer, his early years were spent in numerous locations in the United States and abroad, including Pensacola and Jacksonville, FL; San Diego, CA; Newport, RI; Yokosuka, Japan; Tehran, Iran; and Alexandria, VA. Between kindergarten and graduation from high school at Fort Hunt High School, Alexandria, VA, Rich had attended thirteen schools.

Rich attended college at Ottawa University, Ottawa, KS, and Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS. While at K-State he was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science in 1971. During his senior year at K-State, he met Nancy Jane Anderson, a member of the neighboring sorority, Kappa Alpha Theta, and they married at Central Congregational Church in Topeka, KS on August 21, 1971.

Following graduate study in political science and grain science, Rich and Nancy moved to Orange Park, FL, where Rich began a long career in marine transportation and fuel oil supply for electric utilities in the northeastern U.S. He was employed as a boarding agent for Eller and Company, then as an oil trader in the U.S. for New England Petroleum and North American Petroleum, and then Kildair Service, Ltd., Montreal, Canada.

During their 46 years in Florida, Rich and Nancy raised a son, Patrick Keith, and daughter, Anne Kristin. As a strong supporter of Nancy's career, they moved to Amelia Island, FL in 2003 when her job required that move, and later relocated to Gainesville, FL. They returned to Manhattan in October 2020 to be closer to their granddaughter who was then a K-State Wildcat.

Rich's life interests centered on family, Boy Scouts, playing the banjo, bluegrass



Richard (Rich) Thomas Freeman

music, amateur ham radio, and World War II history. He reconnected with his TKE fraternity brothers in recent years, where he enjoyed reliving old stories of his college years.

Rich is survived by his wife, Nancy; children, Patrick (Regina) Freeman, High Springs, FL, and Anne Freeman, Manhattan, KS; and grandchildren, Hailey Pitts, Keith Freeman, Jacob Freeman, and Blair Labombarbe; his sister, Patricia L. Freeman, Orange Park, FL; brother, John K. (Ann) Freeman, Jacksonville, FL; and numerous nieces and a nephew. He was predeceased by his parents.

Rich requested cremation. A Memorial Service to celebrate Rich's life was held Saturday, August 27 at 10:00 a.m. at First Christian Church, 3001 Grand Mere Parkway, Manhattan, KS, with a short reception to follow. A graveside service will be held at Mt. Hope Cemetery, Topeka, KS at a later time. In lieu of flowers, the family suggested donations in memory of Rich to Good Shepherd Hospice, Manhattan, KS.

Contributions may be sent in care of the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas 66502. Ymlfuneralhome.com

Mary Vignold Fellows

Mary Vignold Fellows, 90 years old, of Middleburg, FL was born on November 22, 1931, in Jacksonville, FL to the late Edward and Florence Vignold. She broke free from Alzheimer's and passed peacefully into the glory of Heaven on August 28, 2022, in Palatka, FL. She graduated from Landon High School and Jones Business College. Mary was a member of Lake Asbury United Methodist Church in Orange Park, FL. She loved traveling, the beach, animals, flowers, cooking, and most of all her family. She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Ernest Bethel and Jack March; son, Edward "Bubba" Ivey and her husband, Richard Fellows.

Mary is survived by her daughters, Marsha Dukes (Clayton) of Doctors Inlet,



Mary Vignold Fellows

SEE OBITUARIES, 9



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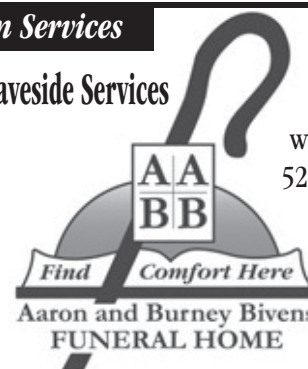
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STAFF PHOTO BY NICK BLANK

A new building for The Way Free Clinic took another step toward becoming a reality Tuesday when officials broke ground on a new facility that will offer free medical and dental services to those without insurance. CEO Don Fann, right, said the project has taken more than a year to come into fruition.

The Way Free Medical Clinic breaks ground for new facility

By Nick Blank
nick@claytodayonline.com

ORANGE PARK – The Way Free Medical Clinic and Clay County Dental Care are combining forces at a new location on College Drive.

Both organizations offer free services and serve uninsured Clay County residents. At a press conference and groundbreaking Wednesday afternoon, both signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The 5,000-square-foot building will eventually be expanded to 7,500 square feet to accommodate dental services.

The coordinated care program is expected to double the free clinic patient intake within three years of being in operation, according to the organization. Way Free CEO Don Fann said the integrated dental and medical facility is unheard of. He called it the holy grail equivalent of similar facilities.

“You go to the left and there are dental services,” Fann said. “Going to the right, there’s the medical clinic.”

Fann said the services are vital to uninsured patients, who otherwise wouldn’t have a route to care. He said more potential patients can be accessed with the location change.

“I know we can double the number we serve within the next three years. The cur-

rent population lives in rings around Green Cove Springs clinic,” Fann said. “Establishing a clinic in the northern part of Clay County will geographically draw more patients.”

The campaign to redevelop the site and launch the Expanding Capacity to Care Initiative, raised \$1 million of its \$1.5 million goal, the total cost of the property renovation.

“The community has been tremendously supportive of this project evidenced by the ability to raise \$1 million in the silent phase of the campaign,” Fann said. “I’m confident we’ll be able to make our goal. It’s really the community that made this happen.”

The 302 College Dr. clinic is the launch site of the ClayPASS Coordinated Medical Care program, which directs uninsured Clay County residents to appropriate care. Fann said he hoped the emerging care coordination system will be a model for other counties.

“It will essentially navigate uninsured patients to receive the appropriate care,” Fann said.

The move is occurring when the county is pushing to make College Drive a hub for culture, resources and care. A significant part of the College Drive Initiative is establishing a corridor for nonprofits.

Fann said he was involved in the initiative early on, and the clinic has been a constant supporter of making College Drive flourish. Mercy Support Services, Pace Center for Girls are among the non-profits that moved on the road that cuts from Blanding Boulevard to County Road 220.

“The initiative is going to make College Drive a social and community services and culture destination for Clay County,” Fann

said.

“We’re already seeing the evidence of that with the influx of established and new nonprofits in that corridor as well as the county putting departments, notably among those nonprofit community services and veterans affairs.”

More information is available at the-wayclinic.org.

Obituaries

from page 8

FL and Melanie Long (David-deceased) of Jacksonville, FL; grandchildren, Adam Fox (Erin) and Misty Sawdo (Chris); great-grandchildren, Hunter Sawdo, Luke Fox and Bo Fox.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Haven Hospice, Clay County Safe Animal Shelter or a charity of your choice in her memory.

Graveside services will be held at

10:30am on Wednesday, September 7, 2022 at Jacksonville National Cemetery.

Please sign the family’s online guest-book 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.





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Clay Chamber moves into new offices at Orange Park Town Hall

By Nick Blank
nick@claytodayonline.com

ORANGE PARK – Members of the business community and elected officials came out to the Orange Park Town Hall in droves late last week, but it wasn't about government business.

Jon Cantrell, the former Clay Today publisher, is the newly installed Clay County Chamber of Commerce President. The chamber hosted a ribbon cutting on Aug. 26. Mostly, members got to check out the facility, exchange contacts and reflect on the state of business in Clay.

Just past the town's meeting chamber, former Orange Park Town Manager John Bowles and businessman Bill Garrison discussed the organization.

"He will do well," Bowles said of Cantrell. "He will move the organization forward. I have no doubt about it."

Garrison formerly chaired the county's Economic Development Corporation, an organization with a different function though similar goals compared to the chamber. Garrison then referred to the \$70 million Niagara water bottling plant in Middleburg. That's the kind of industry that should be targeted for economic growth, he said.

"Our challenge has been to bring in some larger ones like Niagara," Garrison said. "The new interstate (First Coast Ex-



Clay Chamber President Jon Cantrell, left, and Chamber Chairman Randy Bowman officially open the new home to the Clay Chamber at the Orange Park Town Hall.

pressway) facilitated that. They used to call it the bypass or the outer beltway, but that's exactly what it is, it's bringing new economic growth into the county."

The chamber left its Fleming Island location last year and later rolled out its Orange Park move-in date.

After the ribbon cutting, Chamber Vice-Chair Amy Miller said the chamber is now in the heart of Orange Park and has a central location within the county. Miller, of Asphalt Pavement Alliance, said Cantrell can help grow the chamber and reach out to every area of the county assisting current or potential business owners.

"We feel like we're in a good place to reach other areas within Clay County. We welcome people to stop by and come and visit with us," Miller said. "We think it's good, as people go in to get business licenses, we're right across from (the town of Orange Park) and people stop in to ask about the chamber."

Orange Park Mall General Manager CEO and Chamber Chair Randy Bowman called the move a big step for a chamber. A new location and a new president is a great opportunity, Bowman said.

"(Cantrell) understands the businesses of Clay County. He's deeply rooted in Clay



County to transition to the chamber to lead in a new direction," Bowman said.

Bowman said the location is a gateway into Clay County via U.S. Highway 17, but Wells Road, Kingsley Avenue and Blanding Boulevard are not far. Fleming Island, Oakleaf and Green Cove Springs each have short to moderate commuting times from the chamber's new home.

The chamber's role is to look ahead, he continued.

"To be right on the main highway, that's huge," Bowman said. "There's always an opportunity. We evaluate that every day as a chamber. We're taking this time to look at our business model, what we can do better to assist our members and what is needed."

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Skipper smokes the competition at Daytona race

DAYTONA BEACH – Justin Allgaier’s job requires him to go as fast as he can. Josh Skipper’s job on Aug. 26 required him to go low and slow. Allgaier’s Xfinity Series team hired Skipper, a newly-crowned world champion pitmaster, to fire up his grills and prepare a memorable feast ahead of the Wawa 250 at the Daytona International Speedway. Skipper crossed the line with an assortment of smokey goodness – ribs, chicken wings and tomahawk chops. Allgaier (below second from left), who drove the No. 7 Chevrolet for Dale Earnhardt Jr.’s race team, wasn’t as lucky. He was involved in a seven-car pileup and an eight-car crash six laps later. Nonetheless, he finished on the lead lap in 13th place – but with a full belly.



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| 10:10-11:05 | The Importance of Teaching Creation - Pat Roy | Marine Science, A Sea of Evidence - Bill & Merilee Clifton | Dr. Danny Faulkner | Demystifying Radiometric Dating - Dr. Richard Overman |
| 11:15-12:10 | Made in God's Image - Pat Roy | Walk with Dinosaurs - Bill & Merilee Clifton | Dr. Danny Faulkner | It's a Young Earth After All - Dr. Richard Overman |
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| 1:30-3:30 | Creation Experience matinee performance | | | |

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Clay County Habitat, State Farm provide 100 hurricane kits

For Clay Today

MIDDLEBURG – Clay County Habitat for Humanity partnered with State Farm to distribute 100 hurricane kits to low-income individuals and families last Sunday.

The hurricane kits included a weather radio that has a flashlight and phone charging capabilities, a manual can opener, a first aid kit, a pack of bottled water, and disaster preparedness guides which included evacuation routes and other items.

The bottled water was generously donated by Niagara Bottling in Middleburg.

“I am most impressed by the number of youth volunteers from different entities that are all working together,” said State Farm’s

Diane Banks. “I am shocked by the need for these kits. At noon, people were lined up and waiting.”

Youth volunteers packed the kits before the distribution. The youth volunteers were from the Diocese of St. Augustine, Crossroad Lutheran Church and Clay High’s Senior Class Officers.

“Like A Good Neighbor State Farm is there” isn’t just our tagline, but our call to action.”

“We were contacted by Clay County Habitat to help with a need in our community and it is a part of Crossroad Lutheran Church’s DNA to lend a helping hand,” said Steve Barengo, youth leader of Crossroad Lutheran Church.



Volunteers worked to collect and compile 100 hurricane kits for needy families. The kits included a radio, water, flashlight, survival guides, phone chargers, first aid kits and maps.

Clay County Habitat was able to take reservations for some kits for medically homebound and senior adults. Those kits will be delivered to their homes in the following week.

“We were awarded a grant from State Farm for a project that would involve youth. We decided to focus on basic hurricane provisions needed since we are officially in the hurricane season. Our Emergency Management Office in Clay County provided a wealth of information and spoke of a few items residents need during a hurricane if the power goes out. We realized many residents, especially seniors and residents without transportation could not obtain these basic items, thus the idea for a ‘Hurricane Kit’ was born. They are most vulnerable. The response from the community has been very encouraging. Organizations like Niagara Water, Clay County Emergency

Management Organization, several churches, school groups and others joined in our first effort to fill this need. The success of this event will set the precedent for future Hurricane Kit giveaways. This is yet another way Clay County Habitat commits to filling a need in our community,” said Carolyn Edwards, Clay County Habitat for Humanity’s Executive Director.

Habitat for Humanity was established in 1977, building its first home in Penney Farms. Our mission is to build or renovate safe, decent and affordable housing in partnership with the community for low to moderate-income families.

Since its inception, the organization has constructed 178 homes serving more than 750 adults and children in Green Cove Springs, Middleburg, Orange Park, Penney Farms and Keystone Heights.



Local and state State Farm agents supported the drive last Sunday at the Clay Habitat for Humanity ReStore on Blanding Boulevard.



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Brandi's Wig shop helps uplift a variety of clientele

By Nick Blank
nick@claytodayonline.com

ORANGE PARK – A wig boutique seems fashionable but it also serves a vital need in helping the confidence of those suffering from illness.

Brandi Connor has run Brandi's Wigs & Boutique on Blanding Boulevard for about eight years, after spending 28 years in business on 103rd Street. She recalled her family assisting with the move and the decoration

"This was just an empty room," Connor said.

Her store's interior is mostly pink and black, and the wigs rest on several dozen mannequins that line the shelves. Toward the back are chairs and mirrors, where Connor can give consultations. The boutique caters to women suffering from hair-eliminating conditions, who are tired of hair-based maintenance or who are seeking a new look.

Wigs are common in everyday life, she said.

"People don't realize how many people are wearing wigs. They have no idea. I have clients with 20 or 30 wigs," Connor said. "There are some people who get their hair buzzed down because they are tired of caring for it and going to the salon, so they get wigs."

Connor has insight into how people view themselves and their hair. She observes that wigs can feature heavily in a person's life when everything changes drastically, though the accessory that people use to make their busy lives work.

"It's two entirely different worlds,"

Connor said. "One may be a medical need, whether it's alopecia or going through chemotherapy. People have lost their hair due to COVID, that was a whole thing I never expected."

People enter her store in a delicate state of mind. Connor, who said she's had several family members have cancer, said the customer comes in depressed and upset. Their diagnosis is a shock, and they're scared everyone will know they're wearing a wig.

"They can cover everything except their hair. That's the one thing they're so self-conscious about," Connor said. "My thing is to first listen to their story so that I can understand where they're at."

Connor said doctors suggest clipping hair early to avoid months of hair loss, which can be painfully long. After getting a wig, it can feel like a celebration, a small victory over the condition. They want their life to be normal under the circumstances rather than to receive pity.

New hair helps a person move on, Connor said.

"If they can walk out with a smile on their face, when they came in crying, I feel like I made a difference today in somebody's life," Connor said.

On the other hand, people have wardrobes of wigs like they have wardrobes for clothes, Connor said. Her clientele wants wigs recreationally, or they have jobs where they don't have time for hair care.

"There are so many different reasons people wear wigs," Connor said. "I find out what their needs are, what their wants are and what their goal is, what they want to achieve."



STAFF PHOTOS BY NICK BLANK

Brandi Connor's wig shop not only offers an opportunity for an instant change of appearance, but it helps those who are suffering with medical issues to instill confidence and positivity.



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District officer sells memorabilia to rally community for program donation

By Nick Blank
nick@claytodayonline.com

ORANGE PARK – A Clay County School District Police Officer noticed a local educational support organization in need so he got busy gathering items and friends.

Community Partnership Schools was trying to turn a classroom portable into a community center for students, but they were about \$1,000 short. Rob Troxel was 27½ -year veteran of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office before joining CGSDPD. He's based in Orange Park High.

The organization is there for low-income students in need, whether it is food, toiletries or setting up medical appointments. Troxel, an OPHS graduate, said he used to be one of those students.

"Some may be embarrassed to get items. Kids can get made fun of, or that kind of thing," he said. "I say, don't feel bad. There's an opportunity there for you to get the services."

His mind then turned to his 20-plus years working sporting and charity events in Jacksonville.

Troxel had signed merchandise from the likes of Jacksonville Jaguars Hall of Fame left tackle Tony Boselli and a ball signed by former Jaguars running back Fred Taylor and receiver Keenan McCardell. Troxel also sold a bat signed by famous pitcher Roger Clemens and others and memorabilia signed by former Tampa Bay Buccaneers receiver Michael Clayton.

"I had a lot of autographed stuff. I worked security at the stadium for 20 years," Troxel said. "CPS has a box to give kids stuff they need at the front of the school. They take care of them. I thought, 'If I can do something to help them out, I will.'"

The \$1,000 they needed was soon in the form of a check. Troxel thanked employees at Local's Pub on Wells Road for assisting him and leading to more donations.

Community Partnership School Director Lauren Pfanenstiel said Troxel cares about the school and that the school is grateful for his efforts.

"It made sense why he would take it on



CHS's Jennifer Salliotte, left, and Officer Rob Troxel presents a \$1,069 check to Community Partnership Schools after getting local donations and selling some of his memorabilia.

to help us with this vision of renovating an old portable turned into a unique space for students and (the) community. As an alumnus and a life-long Raider he is a legacy-maker," Pfanenstiel said. "I am looking forward to bringing students and other OP alumni together in this space, 'The Backyard,' for workshops, family fun nights, medical visits and mentorship."

Longtime law enforcement officers like Troxel have seen a lot, and they try to pass lessons to the next generation of students. Troxel said he was clear about becoming a school resource officer after retirement and the goal was to help students using his experiences rather than "play policeman."

Students make choices about how they conduct themselves and who they associate with, he said. Troxel referenced a 2018 Jacksonville shooting where three teenagers were killed outside of a gas station in a shooting. Two of the men were from Orange Park.

"My goal is not to play policeman towards these kids. Just make good choices. I'll talk to several kids a day, like 'Hey, how was your weekend?'" Troxel said. "If I wanted to come back, I wanted to come back as an SRO."



Criminal Justice Academy cadet Samantha Dangerfield engages in defensive tactics exercise with St. Johns River State College instructor Hancel Woods.

SJR State College spotlight: Samantha Dangerfield

Special to Clay Today

ORANGE PARK – Samantha Dangerfield is enrolled in the Florida Law Enforcement Academy at St. Johns River State College.

As part of her basic recruit training, the 24-year-old Clay County resident will master many techniques, including vehicle operations, criminal investigations, CPR, firearms and defensive tactics. Upon completion of the program, Samantha will be eligible to take the state officer's certification exam.

She took time from her busy schedule to talk about her academic career and future goals.

What inspired you to pursue a career in law enforcement?

Dangerfield: "I come from a long line of law enforcement officers. There are nine members of my family who are either retired, starting a new career or are currently employed in law enforcement, including both of my parents. My mom is, by far, my biggest role model. She has been with the Clay County Sheriff's Office for more than 30 years and is now serving as a sergeant. She, too, started in the dispatch unit, and I aspire to serve with the same commitment to my community."

What was your career before applying to the Criminal Justice Academy at SJR State?

Dangerfield: "I have worked at the Clay County Sheriff's Office as a public safety telecommunicator (911 dispatcher/NCIC operator) for 2½ years."

Why did you choose SJR State?

Dangerfield: "I'm sponsored by the Clay County Sheriff's Office. And, I know several alumni from this Academy and have always heard great things, so I'm glad I got to enroll here."

How is your training best preparing you for the workforce?

Dangerfield: "It's easy to think that when you've grown up around law enforcement that you have a pretty good idea about how things work; however, as a cadet, I've realized there is an immense learning curve to this profession – from the academic side to the physical demands. Our classes cover many subjects that I never realized were such major components of this profession."

What do you like most about the program?

Dangerfield: "I really enjoy the physical training, especially the grappling technique."

What was the most valuable thing you learned about yourself as a student?

Dangerfield: "I'm learning there is no situation that I can't handle. Between good communication and self-defense, I can handle anything. My smaller frame doesn't mean I can't handle the same situations as the big guys."

What advice would you give to those considering the program?

Dangerfield: "Take prepping for the physical training seriously; they won't go easy on you. They're going to push you to your limits, but that's because they're teaching you to never give up, no matter how tired you are. Law enforcement is a career where you're never going to be 100% safe, so knowing what you can and can't handle physically is important, and learning to never give up is one of the most valuable lessons they can teach you."

Where do you see yourself in the next 10 years?

Dangerfield: "At the agency, I love the work family I have there. I'm hoping to serve on a specialty unit, such as the K-9 unit. I also hope to take over the sergeant radio number my dad used before he retired, as well as the one my mom currently has now."

PET ADOPTION



♥ STAFF PICK OF THE WEEK ♥

This week we asked one of our kennel techs, Monte, who his favorite pup here at the shelter is. He chose his girl Lena!

One morning while pulling into work I noticed a couple of dogs that had been abandoned in the playground. Whoever left them didn't even shut the gate. One of the dogs was a very plump and confused Lena, who at that point was only about halfway through her pregnancy. Carl and myself formed bonds with her as she would not allow anyone else to get close to her. When she did eventually go into labor, she had 9 babies. Over the first 3 weeks she lost 6 of the puppies. We kept a constant watch on Lena and the babies day and night. After the fifth week I fostered the remaining 3 baby girls until it was time to adopt them out. Lena is very special and was a fantastic momma to her babies. She is great with dogs, but not with cats or other small animals. She loves group playtime with the other dogs and once she knows you she will be your loyal protector for life. She is wary of strangers though makes friends easily. She has been through a lot and deserves a forever home of her own, with people who will love and care for her. Please help us make this happen. I love you Lena.

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



Clay High's athletic programs win Ascension St. Vincent Cup

Special to Clay Today

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – During halftime of the Clay-Fleming Island high football games, Clay's athletic teams were awarded the Clay County Ascension St. Vincent's Cup.

Ascension St. Vincent's is a proud partner of Clay County District Schools and is dedicated to assisting the school district to provide the safest student-athlete experience for the student-athletes and the Clay County community.

Due to this commitment, each year, Ascension St. Vincent's provides the funding for every high school and junior high in Clay County to have a dedicated athletic trainer. In partnership with Preferred Physical Therapy, the student-athletes and community in Clay County are in good hands.

When asked about the partnership, lead hospital administrator Kevin Rinks said, "We are honored to have the opportunity to further our mission here in Clay County by impacting positively approximately 5,800 Clay County student-athletes through the Ascension St. Vincent's partnership with the Clay County School System, Southeast Orthopedics, and Preferred PT. Congratulations again to the 2022 winners and here's to an exciting 2023 season for all of our athletes."

The criteria for winning the cup is a point system that was developed by the school district's 14 athletic directors that stem from a team's success starting with district play, all the way through FHSAA state championships.

"We are extremely grateful for the relentless support of Ascension St. Vincent's



(From left) Clay High Principal Jen Halter, Vice-Principal Matt Lewis, softball coach Jared Moses, athletics director/boys basketball coach Jared Moses, FHSAA Associate Executive Director of Athletic Services Scott Jamison, Clay County Coordinator of District Athletics John Sgromolo, Superintendent David Broskie, Ascension St. Vincent's Hospital Administrator Kevin Rinks and Dr. Aaron Bates of Southeast Orthopedics join in the celebration of the Blue Devils winning the county-wide Ascension St. Vincent's Cup for having the best overall athletic program during the 2021-22 school year.

Due to their contributions, we can provide our student-athletes and community with the safest possible environment said county coordination of district athletics John Sgromolo. "Data shows that athletic trainers are essential to first aid response times and help students get back to competition safely and further protect students against future injuries."

During the 2021-2022 season, the Blue Devils had a year of tremendous athletic success. The Blue Devils won the Ascension St. Vincent's Cup with 32 total points. The teams that were instrumental in the

victory were:

- Girls softball- Final four appearance
- Wrestling- State Runner Up- Team Duals
- Boys golf- District Champions
- Boys soccer- Regional appearance
- Flag football- Regional appearance
- Baseball- Regional appearance
- Competitive cheerleading- State Runner Up and 3rd at Nationals
- Girls weightlifting- Team State Champions! (The first girls' weightlifting team in Clay County History to win a team state title)

"As a former football and softball coach in Clay County District Schools, I can attest to the value that athletics plays in a student's educational experience. I am grateful for our partnership with Ascension St. Vincent's to ensure our student-athletes are safe on the field and sidelines so they can compete both inside and outside of the classroom," Superintendent David Broskie said.

Be sure to follow along throughout the school year on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram at @OneClaySports.

Two model homes open at Wilford Preserve in Oakleaf

OAKLEAF – Two new models are now open at Dream Finders Homes' Wilford Preserve in Argyle Forest area.

The Wellington and Edison II are two of over 200 one- and two-story homes being built in the natural gas, single-family home community, Division President Brad Muston said.

"The Edison II, which functions as a sales center for Dream Finders Homes, can be built as a three- or four-bedroom home," Muston said, adding that 14 other plans are available, including the three-bedroom, two-bath Wellington. Homes at Wilford Preserve range in size from 1,711 to 3,500 square feet and are priced from

the low \$300,000s.

The single-family community of Wilford Preserve is located off Cheswick Oak Avenue in the established Argyle Forest area of Orange Park.

For more information, visit www.dreamfindershomes.com.



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STAFF PHOTOS BY DON COBLE

Juniors Cody Woronka (left) and Jamaris Frierson show off two of the three instruments donated to Orange Park High by Concert on the Green. Woronka has a bassoon; Frierson sits a a new set of drums.

Concert on the Green donates \$8,000 of instruments to Orange Park High

ORANGE PARK – Concert on the Green’s commitment to enhancing music, art and theater led to an \$8,000 donation to the Orange Park High band. The Raiders got a new set of Gretsch drums, bassoon and baritone saxophone from the nonprofit

Monday. The instruments were delivered by Board of Director member Leslie Welch to band director Brett Pikuritz before a class. Last year, Concert on the Green worked with band parents to deliver four sousaphones to Lakeside Junior High.

Since 1987, Concert on the Green is an all-volunteer group that’s dedicated to inspiring audiences of all ages and backgrounds through the engagement of music and art. To date, the group has donated more than \$370,000 in scholarships to Clay County

students and \$15,510 in grants to county schools, and they’ve exposed more than \$100,000 people to the unique experience of seeing a live orchestra performance.

Registration underway for BASCA Run, Walk and Roll

ORANGE PARK – Registration is open for the 10th annual BASCA Run, Walk and Roll.

The fun run supports the nonprofit organization’s support of serving adults with intellectual and developmental differences in Clay County. Participants are encouraged to dress up like their favorite superheroes.



The run is scheduled for Sept. 24 at 8 a.m. at the BASCA headquarters at 352 Stowe Ave. in Orange Park. There will be a one-mile fun run and a 5K run. Registration is \$30 for the 5K and \$10 for the fun run through Sept. 10 and it increases by \$5 for both classes after that. Runners, walkers and rollers will receive a T-shirt and a medal.

The annual event welcomes everything

from racing shoes to wheelchairs for the family-friendly event. This year’s celebration will include special guests including appearances by Superheroes and Star Wars characters. Local singer Stephen Quinn will sing the national anthem. Title sponsors for the event are the Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation and Publix Super Markets Charities.

This year, participants will get a disposable bib chip timer that eliminates the shoe tag, so there is no chip to rent or return. Runners will get an instant text message with their time as they cross the finish line. Both the Fun Run and the 5K will include a Jaguar Kiosk where runners can get a printout showing their time and place. Plus, free finish line photos will be available for download to social media or purchase a high-resolution print. Friends and family will be able to follow your progress with live results online.

Awards will be presented to the top three men and women overall runners and in multiple age groups, as well as first-

place for the men’s and women’s divisions.

Additional sponsors of the community event include Margaret A. Lessig, DMD, VyStar Credit Union, Dentistry 4 Children & Teens 2, CVB Cares, Bodine Perry CPAs & Advisors, Growing Healthy Smiles Pediatric Dentistry, Aiosa and Hoffman Orthodontics. Concession sponsors are Dairy Queen and The Urban Bean.

In-kind sponsors include Capes and Gowns, Star Wars Troop, DJ Shawn Rockin’ the House, Stephen Quinn Music and API Drumline. For information or to register, visit <https://bascainc.org/events/5krunwalkroll>. For visitor information, please go to www.exploreclay.com

Clay Soil and Water looking for supervisors

CLAY COUNTY – The Clay Soil and Water Conservation District is seeking people who wish to consider serving as Supervisors effective January 2023.

Supervisors are elected serving two-to-four years each term, but the two unfilled seats shall be appointed by the other three Supervisors according to State Statutes.

After the passing of Senate Bill 1078, the District is seeking anybody who is an eligible voter residing in Clay County and meets one of the following: actively engaged in, or retired after 10 years of being engaged in, agriculture as defined in Florida Statutes 570.02; employed by an agricultural producer; own, lease, or actively employed on land classified as agriculture under Florida Statutes 193.461.

Clay County looking to fill several job openings

CLAY COUNTY – The Board of County Commissioners is looking for a few good people – make that a lot of good people.

The county posted several job openings, including animal control officer, building inspector, deputy director of engineering, engineering specialist, equipment operator, firefighter/EMT, grants administration analyst, grounds maintenance technician, HVAC technician, kennel attendant, laborer, permit services technician, veterans’ services officer and 4-H young development extension agent (apply through the University of Florida). Visit website, www.claycountygov.com for more info.

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Doctor's Inlet gas station drops price to \$2.38 to remind motorists of rising costs

By Don Coble
don@claytodayonline.com

MIDDLEBURG – Joseph Irvine tried to squeeze every drop of gasoline into his truck's gas tank Tuesday until it started to spill. Every penny he could get in his truck and the five-gallon cans used for his lawn service company were pennies saved.

As soon as he hung the dispenser back on the pump, the price sign in front of the Middleburg Mobil at 2584 County Road 220 flickered and the numbers changed quicker than the running calculator that shows the growing national debt.

One minute the cost was \$2.38 a gallon. The next it was back to \$3.53.

An organization called Americans for Prosperity-Florida partnered with the station to remind some lucky motorists that gas prices are still \$1.15 a gallon more expensive now than it was in mid-January of 2021. The state branch of AFP said their national campaign is to remind the government that current restrictions, "top-down spending" and new regulations have limited growth and led to rising costs for everyone. The organization said due to inflation, the average Floridian spent \$681 on goods, services and gasoline in May.

Irvine said the one-hour promotion saved him about \$70.

"This is a very big deal for me," he said. "My uncle called me last night and told me about it. I got one of the tickets and I got as much as I could. It usually costs me more



STAFF PHOTOS BY DON COBLE

Gas dropped to \$2.38 a gallon for one hour Tuesday to remind motorists of the inflationary hardships and, as expected, it created a traffic jam at College Drive and County Road 220. Middleburg's Joseph Irvine said he saved nearly \$70 filling up his truck and lawn maintenance equipment.

than \$100 every time I fill up. This was a lot less."

AFP, which was founded in 2004 by David and Charles Koch, gave away tickets for the promotion and motorists were allowed to enjoy the savings from, 10-11 a.m. One of the activists said 77 cars were able to fill up. The demand was so overwhelming, that the Clay County Sheriff's Office had to close off the front and back entrances to the station. Some residents were concerned the presence of two sheriff cruisers and heavy traffic could have been related to a problem at nearby Doctors Inlet Elementary.

CCSO confirmed there were no incidents reported at the school.



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Cover

from page 1

just sing in the video that was filmed in Green Cove Springs. There is an emotion and pain that can be felt.

In "Cover Girl," Purvis implores a woman of abuse not to cover her bruises and shame, eventually telling her it's time to "blow his cover ... girl." The song will be featured in her upcoming album, "Finding Myself" which will be released in the fall.

"I feel like this is my favorite just because I really am on the teenager and I am finding myself," Purvis said. "And it's been pretty exciting."

By the time one of her students finished singing "Cover Girl" four years ago, music teacher and director Marie Hardway of Orange Park already had a plan for a video. She knew where she wanted to shoot the video, and she knew who she wanted to sing the song.

She also knew the timing was critical. She wanted to use Ronnie's Wings and Oyster Bar in Green Cove Springs as a backdrop. There also were scenes from Spring Park and an ending where the victim, a model named Hannah Moran, is reporting the abuse to Officer Brad Camp of the Green Cove Springs Police Department.

"They contacted the police department and requested to hire an off-duty officer for the music video and our off-duty coordinator put the email out to the entire police department," Camp said. "I just happen to be the first one to reply to the email to get the position. When I got there, they played the song for me I thought a very powerful song with a good message. I'm definitely happy to be involved with it. I'm very impressed with it."

Hardway waited two years to play the song, which was written by another of Hardway's students, Brooke Eden, to Purvis. But since she was 14 at the time, she knew Purvis was too young to sing about such a difficult subject.

They filmed the video a year ago and waited another year to release it because Tyler Farr released a song also called "Cover Girl" that dealt with domestic violence.

"I waited until Purvis was a little older before I gave it to her because that's was a heavy subject for a 14-year-old," Hardway said. "But and then once I played it for her, she was on board. she's like yes, so I contacted Brooke to make sure everything was cool with her recording it. (Eden) even gave her some tips on how to sing it."

Watch the video
www.youtube.com/watch?v=imkjHx1B_w

"We recorded it last year, but there was another song that was released at the same name on the same subject. So we held it off for a year so people wouldn't get them confused."

Hardway said Moran also was convincing in her portrayal of a victim of abuse. So much of the interaction between Moran and Purvis when far beyond the script, and it made the project more believable, Hardway said.

"I want to point out there was one point in the video where you can see LeeAnn," Hardway said. "She was kneeling down beside Hannah and you can see her shoulders you can feel like she's getting ready to cry. And that was 100% real."

"This was the most emotional we've done a lot of music videos for my students. When we turned off the cameras and we just had to walk away. It was so emotional when she did that. When she reached out and took the sunglasses off of Hannah's face, that was powerful. You can tell him to do it but you can't make them feel it."

It's out now on YouTube. And it is powerful.

"When I heard the song, I said, 'I'm making this video.' It's not something you just show up, sing and it's done. There was a lot. (Hardway) had all the ideas for what we specifically wanted to do. A lot went into it for all of us. I'm sure we were all stressed out."

Purvis lives in nearby Callahan. While she's still trying to find her identity in the music business, her biggest ambition is to take the stage at the Grand Ole Opry someday. Until then, she's content with perfecting her stage presence in smaller venues, including the Community Stage at the Clay County Agricultural Fair.

But she's not committed to a specific genre yet.

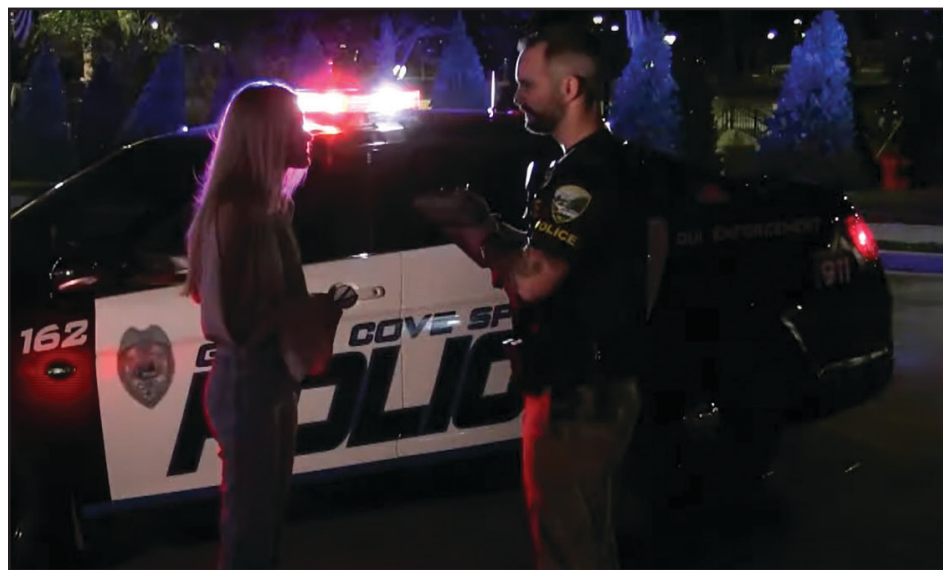
"I like to do my own thing and make my own decisions," Purvis said. "I love all kinds of genres of music. This next album that I have coming out in the fall, I would say it has a lot of different genres of music, different types of music that I like. Country and gospel are where I started and it's where I came from."

"Cover Girl" is a reason to believe LeeAnn Purvis will be successful on any career path.

To report domestic abuse, call the Clay County Sheriff's Office's 911 emergency number or contact the Quigley House's 24-hour hotline at (904) 284-0061.



LeeAnn Purvis, left, sings to Hannah Moran during the single "Cover Girl." The song asks victims to "blow his cover ... girl."



"Cover Girl" ends with Hannah Moran filing a report with Green Cove Springs Police Department officer Brad Camp.



LeeAnn Purvis tells Hannah Moran "don't be afraid it's OK let me see your eyes."



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Coming to Thrasher Horne Center



Nitty Gritty Dirt Band at Thrasher-Horne on Saturday

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 Saturday, 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. Their career breakthrough came in 1970 with the release of the record "Uncle Charlie and His Dog Teddy"

and the single "Mr. Bojangles," a folksy Top 10 pop hit that remains a staple of their live show.

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.

Thrasher-Horne adds The Hodgetwins to its growing schedule

ORANGE PARK – Viral Internet Sensations The Hodgetwins are taking the show on the road for one special night at the Thrasher-Horne Center on Sept. 17.

Keith and Kevin Hodge, aka the Hodgetwins, are famously known for their comedic commentary regarding politics, current events, fitness tips and relationship advice across their several YouTube channels.

The show starts at 7 p.m. Tickets, which start at \$45, can be found at thcenter.org.

The Hodgetwins, also known as the Conservative Twins, is an American stand-up comedy and conservative political commentary duo. The twins started out as YouTubers, but in 2016 branched out to live stand-up comedy shows as well.

Community Calendar

THE NITTY GRITTY DIRT BAND: will perform at the Thrasher-Horne Center on Sept. 2 at 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$39 and are available at 283 College Dr., Orange Park or at thcenter.org.

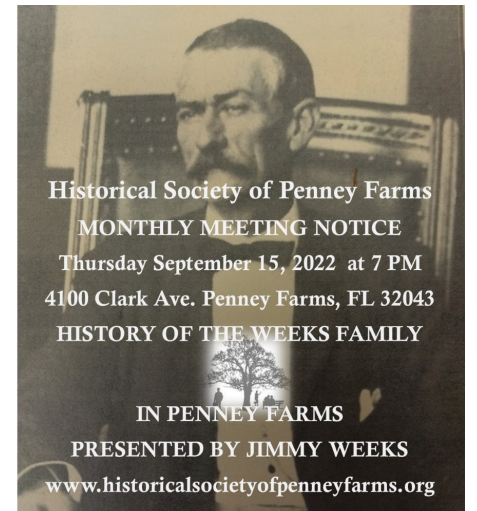
ROD STEWART: will perform on Sept. 2 at 7:30 p.m. at Daily's Place Amphitheater, 1 Daily Place at TIAA Bank Field, in Jacksonville. For tickets, visit dailysplace.com.

CHALLENGE ENTERPRISES: will host its Food for Clay Free Distribution on Sept. 2 at Challenge Enterprise, 3530 Enterprise Way in Green Cove Springs. Food is available for all Clay County residents from 10-11 a.m. for more information, call (904) 284-9859 or visit facebook.com/forforclaycounty.

ONE REPUBLIC: will perform on Sept. 4 at 7 p.m. at Daily's Place Amphitheater, 1 Daily Place at TIAA Bank Field, in Jacksonville. For tickets, visit dailysplace.com.

CHALLENGE ENTERPRISES: will host its Shred for Good Residential Drop-off event on Sept. 6 from 10 a.m.-noon at Challenge Enterprises warehouse, 3530 Enterprise Way in Green Cove Springs. Donations are accepted. For more information, visit www.challengeenterprises.org/shred-for-good-residential-shred-drop-off-reboot, or call (904) 284-9859.

CLAY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION: will meet on Sept. 6 at 7 p.m. at the Commissioners Meeting Room, fourth floor, Administration Building, 477 Houston St. in



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Thursday September 15, 2022 at 7 PM
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www.historicalsocietyofpenneyfarms.org

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNEY FARMS:

will meet on Sept. 15 at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall, 4100 Clark Ave. Jimmy Weeks will speak about the history of his family. For more information, visit www.historicalsocietyofpenneyfarms.org.

Green Cove Springs.

THE MALPASS BROTHERS: will perform on Sept. 10 at 7 p.m. at the Thrasher-Horne Center on Sept. 2 at 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$39 and are available at 283 College Dr., Orange Park or thcenter.org.

JACKSONVILLE ORCHID SOCIETY: will

host its Fall Orchid and Plant Sale on Sept. 10-11 at the Mandarin Garden Club, 2892 Loretto Road in Jacksonville. Hours on Sept. 10 are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, visit www.jaxorchidsociety.org.

SEE CALENDAR, 23

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Bo Norton, President
Rotary Club of Orange Park

Jim Renninger began residence in Orange Park more than 35 years ago when he was assigned as a U.S. Navy pilot at Cecil Field. Jim successfully completed 26 years in the US Navy and attained the rank of Captain before retiring in 1998. He served on numerous command tours and was most noted for earning an Air Medal through superb airmanship and the first-ever barrier landing on an aircraft carrier in an S-3B saving a \$32 million aircraft and four lives from certain disaster.

After retirement, he worked as a financial planner (1998-2002) and served at Florida State College (FSCJ) where he was assigned as Director of the Aviation Center of Excellence at Cecil Airport (2002-2010) where his testimony to Congress on March 30, 2007 was critical to authorization and development of the Air Traffic Control education and training program at FSCJ.

His last assignment was as Dean of Workforce Programs at the Downtown Campus (2010-2013). He has a long history of service to the community where he was elected three times to Orange Park Town Council, serving 9 years as Mayor twice, Vice Mayor, and Councilman terming out of office in May 2016.

He also served as the President of Northeast Florida League of Cities. He is currently on the board of the Penny Farms Retirement Community and on the board of Portofino Condo Association in Pensacola, Florida. He is a member of the Republican Executive Committee, Republican Men's Club, and past president of the Navy League, Jacksonville Council.

He is a member of Grace Anglican Church on Fleming Island and serves in various social and professional organizations. Jim was recently elected to the Board of County Commissioners for Clay County. He is the co-manager/co-founder of Grant Development & Management, a consulting company.



Guest Speaker: Jim Renninger
Clay County Commissioner,
District 3 - USN (Ret.)



OP Garden Club: *Khaki Campbell ducks really make good pets*

By Carolyn Warren
*Garden Club of Orange Park Birds, Bees
and Butterflies Chairman*

ORANGE PARK – Khaki Campbell ducks are reported to be one of the most popular domesticated breeds kept in the United States.

These ducks are a good option for potential first-time duck owners. They are truly one of the best beginner duck breeds. These ducks love to be free to range and benefit from being given space to do so. A large backyard with access to a pond is ideal.

A large kiddie pool will suffice in a pinch; however, regular cleaning is essential. These ducks also provide an environmental service by eating insects, and their favorite food is slugs.

These ducks can't fly, but they are able to run and flap their wings enough to get a few inches off the ground.

It doesn't happen often, but it's really funny when they try to fly. They become trusting and social with their keepers when purchased as ducklings. When they get used to you and their surroundings, they are friendly.

I have two males, and they have become very trusting of me. I have several bird feeders, and when they see me fill them, they come running.

Why are they called Khaki Campbell? These ducks were bred by Adele Campbell in the latter part of the 1800s in hopes of supplying her family with eggs and meat. She thought the mature duck's color was similar to the uniforms worn by the English military soldier in the late 1800s, therefore, the name given was Khaki Campbell.



Lisa Ashworth
Commercial Relationship
MGR - Community First CU



Jon Cantrell
President
Clay County Chamber



Jane DiLoreto
Coldwell Banker
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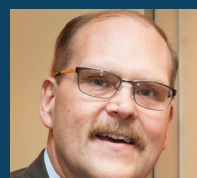
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Police Briefs

Explicit text messages land Interlachen man in Clay County Jail

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – The Clay County Sheriff's Office turned a chat room conversation into an arrest after a man who was "looking for a sexual hook up" with a 12-year-old girl.

Michael Joseph Ingram, 44, of Interlachen, was charged with soliciting a child with a computer and unlawful use of a two-way communication device to facilitate a felony after the CCSO's Internet Crimes Against Children Unit said he



Michael Ingram

sent a text to a girl he believed to be "Ellie" on June 11. The conversation quickly became explicit with Ingram suggesting several sexual acts.

He was arrested in Putnam County and transferred to Clay County on Aug. 24.

The sheriff's office got a subpoena to investigate the bandwidth and telephone number of the cellphone where the messages originated. It came back to Ingram's phone.

According to the affidavit for the arrest warrant, Ingram texted the person pretending to be Ellie's "stepmother" 23 times.

Ingram's next court appearance will be on Sept. 19. Until then, he will remain in the Clay County Jail with a \$350,006 bond.

State: Sex offender back in jail after violating terms of probation

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – A man who was placed on Sex Offender Probation for 15 years after pleading guilty to molesting a child was arrested on Aug. 27 for violating the terms of his release.

Joseph Anthony Donato III, now 21, now faces the possibility of serving 15 years in prison after the Florida Department of Corrections said he violated 11 conditions of his probation after he pled guilty in 2019 to four counts of sexual assault of a child who was younger than 12 and one count each of lewd and lascivious molestation and battery. According to the original arrest report, Donato was 16 at the time. The crimes happened between Oct. 27-29, 2017, according to the Clay County Sheriff's Office. Donato was arrested on Feb. 15, 2018.



Joseph Donato

The Department of Corrections said Donato failed to complete a sex offender treatment program, submit to an annual polygraph test, maintain a driving log and not make unauthorized stops while driving to and from work without notifying a supervising officer, paying \$40 a month for the cost of supervision, not notifying a supervising officer of a change of employment or residence.

According to the state, Donato owed

\$6,412.85 in supervision fees and he was fired from his job for poor attendance. He also was dropped from the sex offender treatment program for poor attendance.

Donato now is being held without bond. His next court appearance is Sept. 26.

Failed drug test sends sex offender back behind bars

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – A failed drug test resulted in a man convicted in 2017 of attempted lewd and lascivious behavior back in the Clay County Jail.

James Paul Michel, 44, of Jacksonville,

was arrested on Aug. 25 after the Florida Department of Corrections said he failed a drug test on July 22. He's now awaiting his next hearing on Sept. 26 while being held without bond.

Michel originally was arrested on Feb. 27, 2017, after a 4-year-old girl said he made her watch pornographic movies with him. She also said he forced her to inappropriately touch him.

Michel pled guilty to the charges on June 12, 2017, and he was sentenced to five years in prison and 10 years of probation. He was released on Feb. 21.

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, Aug. 30

Richard J. Brooks, 41, Green Cove Springs, VOP-DUI
Matthew R. Waller, 34, Green Cove Springs, battery, criminal mischief
Jaselyn T. Johnson, 28, Orange Park, domestic battery
Kyle M. Williams, 29, Green Cove Springs, two counts criminal mischief, resist/obstruct/oppose law enforcement
John V. Jones, 35, Orange Park, resisting law enforcement with violence
Justin C. Tharp, 29, Orange Park, possession-firearm/ammunition by convicted felon, violation of injunction for domestic violence by possessing firearm
Tyler I.M. Plummer, 21, Orange Park, possession-methamphetamine, possession-drug paraphernalia
Clifford M. Bramlett, 29, Green Cove Springs, DWLSR, operating motorcycle without valid license
Bryan L. Maynard, 35, Orange Park, aggravated assault with deadly weapon
Joshua M. Maselli, 35, Green Cove Springs, VOP-burglary, VOP-child neglect
Monroe D. Smith, 52, Middleburg, failure to report residency change, failure to renew driver's license within 48 hours
Jammie E. Armentrout, 40, Orange Park, possession-cocaine, possession-controlled substance, possession-drug paraphernalia, FTA
Zachary N. Bryant, 38, Keystone Heights, violation of injunction against domestic violence

Monday, Aug. 29

Jack C. Irby, 53, Green Cove Springs, vandalism
Christopher M. Burns, 27, Orange Park, possession-ecstasy, possession-drug

paraphernalia, resist/obstruct/oppose law enforcement

Shirley L. Wells, 50, Green Cove Springs, burglary

Luis P. Tineo, 48, Middleburg, driving without valid license

Sunday, Aug. 28

Tabius N. Booker, 39, Oakleaf, DUI with property damage/personal injury, driving without valid license

James P. Hucks, 21, Orange Park, DWLSR, leaving scene of accident with property damage

Maya S. Ochoa-Vaughan, 19, Fleming Island, shoplifting

Christine B. Rager, 64, Middleburg, DUI
Anthony M. Deluca, 39, Orange Park, petit theft, possession-controlled substance

Teddy J. Stanze, 23, Keystone Heights, domestic battery

Kyle J. Hough, 36, Middleburg, DUI

Saturday, Aug. 27

Meloin A. Presha, 61, Green Cove Springs, DWLSR

Karen M. Williams, 62, Green Cove Springs, domestic battery

Ayden D.W. Miles, 21, Orange Prk, shoplifting

Rikayah W. Harris, 21, Orange Park, DUI with property damage/personal injury

Tori L. Carnes, 23, Orange Park, simple battery

Tami L. Landry, 54, Fleming Island, DUI, DWLSR

Michael L. Evans, 64, Fleming Island, resist/obstruct/oppose law enforcement

Tyler L. Radenold, 37, Fleming Island, DSWLR

Jesse R. Hale, 37, Middleburg, FTA-DWLSR

Jennifer M. Karneol, 35, Middleburg, battery

Durwood C. Horne, 48, Middleburg, aggravated assault with deadly weapon

Nicole M. Dombroski, 38, Orange Park, resist/obstruct/oppose law enforcement, trespassing

Mark A. Spoor, 38, Maxville, domestic

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PD BY CSTF

Clay Eye welcomes glaucoma specialist Yasmin Islam

For Clay Today

CLAY COUNTY – Clay Eye Physicians & Surgeons recently welcomed

Glaucoma Specialist, Dr. Yasmin Islam to their practice.

Dr. Islam received her medical degree from the University of Florida College of Medicine in Gainesville, FL. She completed her internal medicine internship at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, MA and her ophthalmology residency at the

University of Florida. She furthered her training at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Palm Beach Gardens, FL completing her Glaucoma fellowship.

Dr. David Hayes, Ophthalmologist and Glaucoma Specialist with Clay Eye Physicians & Surgeons states,

"We are very fortunate to have Dr. Is-



Yasmin Islam

lam join our team. As a fellowship-trained glaucoma surgeon, her knowledge and expertise in glaucoma will be invaluable. We have a significant population of glaucoma patients and with the addition of Dr. Islam, we have now expanded our resources to care for them. She's a welcome addition and we're excited about her contribution to the future of Clay Eye."

Clay Eye Physicians and Surgeons offer comprehensive eye care in the following specialties: glaucoma surgery, cornea surgery, diabetic eye disease and macular degeneration, laser cataract surgery, laser

floater lysis, medical retina, retinal surgery, LASIK surgery, cosmetic eye procedures, pediatric ophthalmology and pediatric eye exams.

In addition, they offer routine eye exams, contact lenses and boutique eyewear for the entire family.

Clay Eye Physicians & Surgeons was established in 1977 and is now a 16-physician group. They currently have offices in Orange Park, Fleming Island, Mandarin, Riverside and Middleburg.

For more information, call (904) 272-2020 or visit www.clayeye.com.

Calendar

from page 19

GARDEN CLUB OF FLEMING ISLAND: will meet on Sept. 12 at 10 a.m. at the Fleming Island Library, 1895 Town Center Blvd. Featured speaker will be Master Gardener Sarah Harvey, who will deliver her fall gardening tips.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: will meet on Sept. 13 at 4 p.m. at the Commissioners Meeting Room, fourth floor, Administration Building, 477 Houston St. in Green Cove Springs.

CHALLENGE ENTERPRISES: will host its Shred for Good Residential Drop-off event on Sept. 13 from 10 a.m.-noon at Challenge Enterprises warehouse, 3530 Enterprise Way in Green Cove Springs. Donations are accepted. For more information, visit www.challengeenterprises.or/shred-for-good-residential-shred-drop-off-reboot, or call (904) 284-9859.

identical-shred-drop-off-reboot, or call (904) 284-9859.

CLAY COUNTY TOURISM STRATEGIC PLAN: will finalize its plans on Sept. 14 from 1-2:30 p.m. at the Commissioners Meeting Room, fourth floor, Administration Building, 477 Houston St. in Green Cove Springs.

CHALLENGE ENTERPRISES: will host its Food for Clay Free Distribution on Sept. 16 at Challenge Enterprise, 3530 Enterprise Way in Green Cove Springs. Food is available for all Clay County residents from 10-11 a.m. for more information, call (904) 284-9859 or visit facebook.com/forforclaycounty.

CLAY COUNTY TOURISM STRATEGIC PLAN: will finalize its plans on Sept. 16 from 10:30 a.m.-noon at the Commissioners Meeting Room, fourth floor, Administration Building, 477 Houston St. in Green Cove Springs.

THE HODGE TWINS LIVE: show will be on Sept. 17 at the Thrasher-Horne Center, 283

College Dr. in Orange Park. Tickets, which start at \$29, are available at thcenter.org.

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS JUNIOR WOMEN'S CLUB: "Almost Fall Craft and Vendor Festival" will be on Sept. 17 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Keystone Heights Women's Club, 6747 Women's Club Dr. More than 20 talented crafters, vendors, food trucks and activities will be on hand.

CHALLENGE ENTERPRISES: will host its Food for Clay Free Distribution on Sept. 19 at Keystone Heights Senior Center, 125 Commercial Cir. In Keystone Heights from 10 a.m.-noon. Food is available for all Clay County residents from 10-11 a.m. for more information, call (904) 284-9859 or visit facebook.com/forforclaycounty.

CHALLENGE ENTERPRISES: will host its Food for Clay Free Distribution on Sept. 19 at Lake Hill Baptist Church, 5165 County Road 214 in Keystone Heights from 10 a.m.-noon. Food is available for all Clay County residents

from 12:30-1 p.m. for more information, call (904) 284-9859 or visit facebook.com/forforclaycounty.

CHALLENGE ENTERPRISES: will host its Food for Clay Free Distribution on Sept. 19 at Gadara Baptist Church, 6779 County Road 315C in Keystone Heights from 1-1:30 p.m. Food is available for all Clay County residents from 10-11 a.m. for more information, call (904) 284-9859 or visit facebook.com/forforclaycounty.

CHALLENGE ENTERPRISES: will host its Food for Clay Free Distribution on Sept. 20 at Middleburg Senior Center, 3916 Section Street from 10 a.m.-noon. Food is available for all Clay County residents from 10-11 a.m. for more information, call (904) 284-9859 or visit facebook.com/forforclaycounty.

CHALLENGE ENTERPRISES: will host its Food for Clay Free Distribution on Sept. 20 at Clay Hill Baptist Church, 6054 County Road 218 in Middleburg from 12:30-1 p.m.

Arrests

from page 22

battery

Willie R. Frye, 58, Orange Park, possession-marijuana

Marilu P. Castelan, 33, Orange Park, driving without valid license

Martin P. Ramirez, 34, Keystone Heights, driving without valid license

Tyler D. Guthrie, 29, Fleming Island, domestic battery

Sean D. Letterle, 32, Orange Park, possession-controlled substance

Omid Farhad, 43, Orange Park, resist/obstruct/oppose law enforcement, trespassing

Friday, Aug. 26

Katie A. Tague, 43, Orange Park, shoplifting, two counts possession-controlled substance

David L. Goble, 31, Orange Park, possession-controlled substance, possession-drug paraphernalia

Marco A. Rivera, 64, Orange Park, Aggravated assault with deadly weapon

Maci G. Carrington, 26, Orange Park, battery

Richard D. McEwen, 58, Keystone Heights, DUI with property damage/personal injury

Harli R. Riley, 20, Green Cove Springs, FTA-hit and run with property damage

Javone R. Modica, 46, Orange Park, possession-controlled substance

Andrew R. Sepper, 41, Orange Park, possession-controlled substance

David W. Teel, 58, Orange Park, trespassing

Adriene N. Graffis, 33, Middleburg, two counts FTA-DWSLR, failure to register, possession-fentanyl, possession-drug paraphernalia, DWSLR

Joseph A. Donato, 20, Orange Park, VOP-lewd/lascivious molestation

James B. Hester, 21, Oakleaf, possession-marijuana, possession-drug paraphernalia

Donald Flowers, 69, Orange Park, two counts violation of protection injunction against domestic battery

Thursday, Aug. 25

Anna M. Townsend, 52, Orange Park, DUI

Adelson Cornier, 52, Orange Park, driving without valid license

Janeil Gillespie, 32, Fleming Island, petit theft

Cameron L. Yarbrough, 32, Keystone Heights, VOP, VOP-possession-controlled substance, VOP-DWSLR, VOP-battery

Lane T. Mizell, 26, Keystone Heights, possession-controlled substance

Arriana R.M. Genter, 26, Fleming Island, shoplifting

Kari A. Kay, 46, Middleburg, violation of pre-trial release condition against domestic violence

Jonathan M. Crier, 41, Green Cove Springs, three counts VOP-dealing in stolen property

Brian L. Burdette, 47, Green Cove Springs, writ of attachment

Juan A.A. Lopez, 36, Green Cove Springs, VOP-burglary, VOP-criminal mischief

Curtis V. Grady, 20, Green Cove Springs, VOP

Kahlil J.Q. Hampton, 23, Green Cove Springs, VOP-assault/battery during armed burglary, VOP-harassing witness/victim/informant, VOP-false imprisonment of adult, VOP-grand theft

Samantha M. Lancina, 33, Green Cove Springs, FTA-possession-fentanyl, two counts FTA-possession-cocaine, FTA-possession-alprazolam, FTA-smuggling contraband into jail, FTA-possession-drug paraphernalia

James P. Michel, 44, Green Cove Springs, VOP-attempted lewd/lascivious molestation of child

Rodnesha D. Graham, 25, Green Cove Springs, FTA-DWSLR

Marcus F. Newman, 22, Green Cove Springs, FTA-DWSLR

Wednesday, Aug. 24

Lindsay N. Vanegrift, 36, Orange Park, possession-controlled substance, possession-drug paraphernalia, DWSLR

Michael P. Moore, 48, Orange Park, possession-marijuana, DUI

David G. Price, 40, Orange Park, shoplifting

Christopher A. Brown, 45, Green Cove Springs, violation of pre-trial conditions against domestic violence

Michael J. Ingram, 44, Interlachen, soliciting a child via computer, unlawful use of two-way communication device

Dawson T. Buckler, 20, Middleburg, VOP-battery, VOP-criminal mischief

Brian W. Flegle, 52, Green Cove Springs, FTA-trespassing

Arthur Dye, 31, Orange Park, criminal mischief

James H. Martinez, 39, Green Cove Springs, failure to re-register every six months

Melaine A. Underwood, 44, Orange Park, DUI

Trenton A. Edsall, 19, Keystone Heights, possession-methamphetamine, possession-marijuana

Michael T. Sommise, 24, Fleming Island, trespassing

Cameron J. Brown, 20, Middleburg, domestic battery



Portions of Green Cove Springs were flooded by the rain that came with Irma in 2017.

Irma

from page 1

had some, some wind damage or some tree branches down or something, but it was really an isolated event for them.

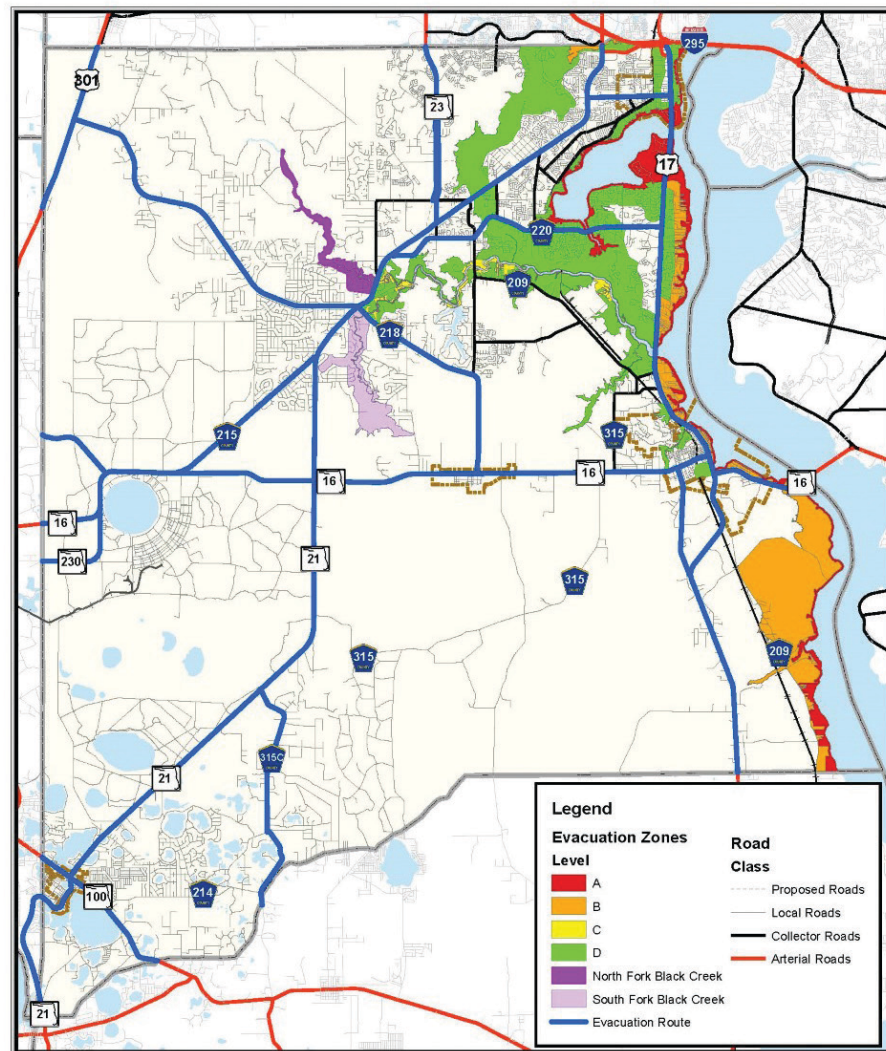
“If you talk to people, you know, they say, ‘Well, we’ve been through Hurricane Matthew, we’ve been through Hurricane Irma. We’ve been through Beryl (in 2006) and all the other alphabet soup storms, but the truth is they really haven’t because when the systems came here, they had degraded so much that they may have been rainmakers. We have not had a sustained tropical storm in Clay County since 1964 (Hurricane Dora).”

The county has worked feverishly since

Irma to improve its infrastructure. At the same time, the emergency management office has been just as committed to keeping everyone informed before the skies darken and the surf churns.

Emergency management has a preparedness guide that offers evacuation maps, ways to protect property and a checklist for a family disaster kit. The guide is available at www.claycountygov.com/community/emergency-management and claytodayonline.com/specialsections. There’s also a video at <https://youtu.be/vHH4jZ6V-tio>.

The county also spent \$787,000 through the Community Development Block Grant to buy dilapidated homes on Forest Drive, Lazy Acres, Halperns Way and Scenic Drive



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in Middleburg to reduce flood damage by creating a permeable natural green space.

“You know, some of them were repetitive loss homes,” Ward said. “We’re doing volunteer home buyouts for mine some of the homes that were repetitively flooded, bulldozing them and turning them back to natural green space. We’re working on quite a few programs like that.

“We rebuilt a couple of the piers with composite boards instead of wood. It’s supposed to stay together a little bit better. There’s also been a couple of shovel-ready projects; there’s been a couple of drainage projects that we’ve worked on.”

According to Ward’s office in 2017, at least 450 homes were either heavily damaged or destroyed by Irma’s floodwaters that chased 900 residents to five emergency shelters. Ward called the damage a “catastrophic event” after flood waters capped at a record 28.5 feet along north and south branches of the Black Creek.

The National Weather Service said Clay County got about 14 inches of rain and wind gusts were measured as high as 70 mph.

Statewide, Irma required \$5.58 billion in state and federal assistance, accord-

ing to the Florida Emergency Management Agency.

There currently is a string of storms in the Atlantic, so county officials want residents to stay well ahead of a possible strike.

“Even though Clay County is inland, we are still susceptible to damage from sustained tropical force winds, and we are certainly prone to flooding along the St. Johns River and Black Creek,” said county commission chairman Wayne Bolla. “Hurricane Irma caused significant flooding in Clay County in September of 2017, so now is the time to make a plan to protect your family and property.

With all the recent rain we have had, it won’t take a significant tropical storm to cause inland flooding.”

And when officials sound the alarm, Ward said it’s imperative to pay attention.

“At the end of the day, we still need citizens to pay close attention to the word from their respective local government, no matter where they live, and take action at they’re told to and not believing social media or the other type of apps that they’re paying attention to,” he said. “We really just want to get the word out there.”

TODAY'S Sports

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Keystone @ Eastside

Sept. 2
Clay @ Ridgeview
Oakleaf @ Baker County
Middleburg @ Bishop Kenny

St Johns @ Duval Charter
Ridgeview vs. Clay
Orange Park vs. Episcopal
Fleming Island @ Rickards



CORRESPONDENT PHOTO BY RAY DIMONDA

Fleming Island running back Sam Singleton has his eye set on the end zone as he breaks for one of his two touchdowns in Golden Eagles win against Clay High on Friday.



Fleming Island High golfer Emmett Kuhlenkemp is part of strong Golden Eagles team with senior Colton Swartz and newcomer Tyler Mawhinney, a freshman, that could repeat Golden Eagles state run two years ago.

Eagles' run platoon crunches Blue Devils

By Ray Dimonda
Correspondent

GREEN COVE SPRINGS - With FSU commit Sam Singleton flashing some of his brilliance to Fleming Island fans with two scintillating touchdowns; one with a soaring from-the-five dive to the pylon, the Golden Eagles executed a rugged ground game with half a dozen ball carriers to dominate rival Clay High 49-7 with a 35-0 halftime score bringing a running clock for the annual slugfest.

Commenting on the mid-season form the Fleming Island Golden Eagles came out of the box with, Head Coach Dame-nyum Springs said "This team has played more live repetitions together than any teams we had in past seasons. We feel like we have more athletes on paper than we've

had in past seasons. All of these guys have been starters the last one or two years."

Fleming Island (1-0) at Tallahassee Rickards

Tallahassee Rickards got a playoff berth last year but matched up in round one against eventual state runnerup Pensacola Pine Forest who lost 35-29 to Tampa Jesuit for the Class 6A title. Rickards opened 2022 with a 35-33 loss to St. John Paul II with St. Johns, a Class 2A region semifinal finisher last year (lost 44-7 to 2A champion Trinity Christian Academy), scoring 14 fourth quarter points for the win.

Rickards' key guy is Oklahoma commit wide receiver Keyon Brown, also a track standout, who blitzed St. John for three

SEE EAGLES, 30



CORRESPONDENT PHOTO BY DON LONG

Oakleaf High wide receiver Taylor Bradshaw cradles perfectly thrown pass for long touchdown against Orange Park High.

Outlaw breaks free with 4 TDs

By Mike Zima
Correspondent

ORANGE PARK - Oakleaf High senior running back Devin Outlaw ran for 279 yards and four touchdowns to open 2022 in full attack mode after two years of nagging injuries while the Oakleaf defense forced four turnovers including a Drake Stubbs interception touchdown, lifting the Knights to a 45-8 rout of host Orange Park in the season opener for both teams.

Outlaw simply dominated, averaging 16.4 yards per carry on 17 rushes. The senior carried the ball on thirteen of Oakleaf's first 19 offensive plays, and at one point had accounted for 229 of the Knights' 243 yards of offense. The 5'11", 210-pounder was quick to get past the line of scrimmage, and punished would-be tacklers in

SEE KNIGHTS, 29

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Athlete Of The Week



Oakleaf High senior running back **Devin Outlaw** ran for astounding 279 yards with four touchdowns to lead Knights to season opening 45-8 win over Orange Park.



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Broncos blastoff in first series, but simmer in season opener

By **Randy Lefko**
Sports Editor

MIDDLEBURG - Against a two-time Class 1A state runnerup, Middleburg High hit a 65 yard first pass to Mike Mitchell to set up a touchdown plunge from T.J. Lane as the Broncos roared out of the locker room, but playoff experience and some questionable refereeing spelled doom for the Broncos who eventually lost 24-7 to Hawthorne in the season opener for both schools at Middleburg.

"Obviously, we didn't want to lose the ball game, but there are a ton of positives that happened on the field," said Middleburg coach Ryan Wolfe. "I hope the kids learned that against a team of this caliber, a state title contender in Florida, we have to be perfect. And we weren't. We were right there."

Both Mitchell and Lane were dethrottled to just 41 and 42 yards by the massive Hawthorne defensive front line with 6-3, 300 pound defensive tackle Stanley Cooks creating chaos in the Bronco backfield all night. Hawthorne's entire front defensive line were all near 300 pounds.

"We just went toe to toe with one of the better programs in Florida," said Wolfe. "We'll see how we respond from this. Our kids have to know we aren't playing average football teams in the next four weeks before district games start."

Middleburg (0-1) at Bishop Kenny (1-0)

Broncos took a hard lesson in state title football with a rugged match against Class 1A two-time state runnerup Hawthorne to open the season and came away with a hard-fourth, rainy 24-7 loss.

Broncos showed good offensive spark with T.J. Lane and Mike Mitchell both having sporadic success, but Middleburg got some timely pass catches as well as some pass drops and motion flags to negate success on offense.

On defense, Aidan Postemski at safety intercepted and almost locked down a top draw wide receiver (one long pass for big gain) and the defensive line; Demarion Suggs, Tucker Cody and Tony Steele battled a mammoth offensive line.

Bishop Kenny comes in with 27-0 thrashing of First Coast team that was winless last year (0-10).

Bishop Kenny was 8-3 last year with a 52-24 playoff loss to Wakulla in the region opener.

"We got Bishop Kenny, Bradford, Ponte Vedra in the next three weeks," said Wolfe. "Bishop Kenny coach Tim Krause is a great playcaller and their quarterback, James Resar (1266 Yds, 13TDs last year), could be playing anywhere in the country. Ponte Vedra almost beat Bartram Trail last week and Bradford had a big game against Baker County (21-0 at half, game called light-



STAFF PHOTO BY RANDY LEFKO

Rain, rain muddles the sight of Middleburg offensive players; from left, T.J. Lane, Jaydan Jenkins and Wyatt Underwood in soggy fourth quarter of Broncos 24-7 loss to Hawthorne.

ning, continue week 7) and Oakleaf in their spring game."

35 yard opening kickoff

Middleburg's few highlights of the game included a 35 yard opening kickoff return from Jayden Boyd that gave the Broncos position at the Bronco 38 to set up a diving sideline catch by Mitchell for a the first down.

Middleburg quarterback Jaydan Jenkins would find Mitchell again after two stuffs on handoffs by the Hawthorne defense.

On the third down, Jenkins found Mitchell in the center of the field near the Hawthorne five yard line to put the Broncos on the goal line with less than a minute off the clock.

A full house backfield; Wyatt Underwood up front, got pushed with guard Khoda Moses as Lane powered into the end zone for a 6-0 lead. Kicker Wade Mathis' kick pushed the score to 7-0 with 7:44 left in the first quarter.

"We came and found out we could throw the ball quickly on them, but that our running game struggled," said Wolfe. "We got a good scramble from Jaydan, a good conversion on third down and we punched it in and were up 7-0 very quickly."

With Hawthorne's offensive line matching up in girth to the Bronco offensive line; nearly 300 pounds across the front, the Hornets looked to attack the front of the Bronco defense.

Bronco nose tackle Demarion Suggs, just 5'-8", 230 pounds, was able to sneak past the Hornets offensive line numerous times throughout the game to disrupt the backfield.

"He has a high motor and I call it twitchy," said Wolfe. "He gets great starts off the snap and can get a step or two deep

before those big guys can get their hands on him."

Hawthorne had their own "little" guy in wide out Ga'mon Randall, a 5'-6", 145 pounder, who was able to get downfield for passes through the night.

Hawthorne quarterback C.J. Ingram, son to head coach Cornelius Ingram, had open receivers early in the half, but could not find the connection with Ingram dumping a fluttering out pass to Randall that was just over the outstretched hand of Russell on defense.

A quarterback draw for 24 yards by Ingram for the Hawthorne offense put the game at 7-6 with 5:06 still left in the quarter.

With less than three minutes, Toshombe Jenkins put his kickoff return at the Bronco 26 to start the Broncos' next offensive set with a five yard penalty for illegal procedure the first flag of the night.

Jenkins had Mitchell behind the defense on third down, but the ball caromed off Mitchell's fingers to force a punt.

"That was a critical drop," said Wolfe. "We were moving the ball at that point."

On the punt, with Mitchell as punter, a bad snap left Mitchell in the grasp of a handful of Hawthorne tacklers to end the quarter with Hawthorne in the Bronco red zone.

With Hawthorne deep in Bronco territory, Suggs ramped up to steal eight yards on a sack plus a second down incomplete pass in front of safety Aidan Postemski near the five yard line to force a third down.

On third and 17 at the Bronco 28, Hawthorne got a pass to 6'-6" wide out Jailen Ruth to push the score to 12-7. Kicker Sam Carroll got mauled on the snap to keep the score 12-7 with 11 minutes to halftime.

SEE BRONCOS, 31

Myers best among area runners at XC opener

By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

FLEMING ISLAND - With a new set of shoes, shirt and shorts, former St. Johns Country Day School cross country and track runner Graham Myers officially opened up his 2022 season with Fleming Island High School gear on and made the biggest area splash with an eighth overall finish at the Cecil Field Summer Classic held Fri., Aug. 26 at Cecil Field's New World Golf facility in Jacksonville.

Myers, a silver medalist in the track 3200 behind graduated Matthew Stratton (now at University of Florida) and an 11th in the Class 1A cross country championship race, ran a 15 minute, 47 second split for his top 10 finish with Tallahassee Leon's Patrick Coon winning in 15:22. Myers ran 16:38 for his 11th place at the hilly state championship race. The top 12 boys finished under 16 minutes on the fairly flat and fast course that got tempered with some rain spouts through the Friday night festival.

The rest of the Fleming Island High boys team, led by senior Danny Sakowski's 75th place finish in 17:12, finished far behind Myers to take 15th overall in the elite boys race. Fleming Island was without top runner John Keester IV.

Top team finishers were Creekside at 77 points with Sunlake at 189 and Bolles at 192. Fleming Island had 431 points.

In the elite girls race, Fleming Island showed off their strong pack running style led by junior Reese Scott's 43rd place in 20:03, but enhanced by a 51st place from Allie Knotts (20:17) and a 54th from Katelyn Thompson (20:25).

Fleming Island's fourth and fifth were at 72 and 77; Brooke Reynolds and soccer ace Kaitlyn Scherer, to amass strong team points.

Bolles won with 109 points ahead of Cambridge Christian School's 140 and Buchholz's 151. Fleming Island had 292 points.

Freshman Eliana Black of Cambridge won in an impressive



Oakleaf High cross country runner Sierra Barrera looks to add to outstanding junior season in cross country and track with state championship berths in both sports.

17:46 with Bolles senior Jillian Candelino second in 18:13.

Oakleaf High junior Duane Lee was 10th in the varsity boys race in 18:02 with Bolles' Alexander Ruge winning in 16:59.

Oakleaf senior Sierra Barrera was third in the girls varsity race in 20:32 with Bolles' sixth grader Sofia Stam winning in 20:13. St. Johns Country Day School's Rebecca Stratton finished 11th in 21:30.

On Sat., Aug. 27, at the Spikes and Spurs Classic in Flagler Palm Coast, Ridgeview's Julio Rodrigue topped the area runners with a 19th place finish in 18:28.80 with winner Price Wheeler of Lake Mary winning in 17:19. Nease edged Flagler 62-64 for team top honors with Ridgeview eighth.

For the girls, Middleburg's Molly "The Hurt" Burt took 12th in 22:30 in a field led by Ponte Vedra High (team champions) and a winning time of 20:05 by Madison Carr of Astronaut High. Next up is the Craig Speziale Invite at Ponte Vedra High on Sat., Sept. 3 and the Florida Horse Park Invite in Ocala also on Sept. 3.



Oakleaf High's Lailah Hester readies for bash at net in Knights' loss to Fletcher.

VOLLEYBALL

Fleming Island 0-2

Lost 3-0 to New Smyrna Beach
Lost 3-2 to Mandarin

Tues. Aug. 30 at Ridgeview (2-1)

Thurs., Sept. 1 at Fletcher
Tues. Sept. 6 vs. Bartram Trail
Wed., Sept. 7 at Orange Park
Tues., Sept. 13 at Ponte Vedra

Ridgeview (2-1)

Lost 3-0 to Ponte Vedra
Beat Wolfson 3-0
Beat Episcopal 3-0

Tues., Aug. 30 vs. Fleming Island (0-2)

Thurs. Sept. 1 at Mandarin
Tues., Sept. 6 vs. Trinity Christian
Thurs., Sept. 8 at Atlantic Coast

Clay (1-2)

Beat St. Augustine 3-1
Lost to Bishop Snyder 3-0
Lost to SJCDs 3-2

Tues., Aug. 30 at Orange Park

Thurs., Sept. 1 at Baker County
Tues., Sept. 6 at Keystone Heights
Sat., Sept. 10 at Fletcher (11am)

Middleburg (0-0)

Tues., Aug. 30 at Creekside (2-0)
Fri., Sept. 2-Sat., Sept. 3 at Tournament in Tampa
Thurs., Sept. 8 vs. Spruce Creek
Tues., Sept. 13 at Clay

Oakleaf (0-1)

Lost to Fletcher 3-0
Tues., Sept. 6 at Providence
Thurs., Sept. 8 vs. Keystone Heights
Tues., Sept. 13 vs. Mandarin

Keystone Heights (2-0)

Beat West Nassau 3-0
Beat Interlachen 3-0
Tues., Aug. 30 at Newberry
Thurs., Sept. 1 vs. Bolles
Tues., Sept. 6 vs. Clay
Thurs., Sept. 8 at Oakleaf

Orange Park (0-2)

Lost to SJCDs 3-1
Lost to Beachside 3-0
Wed., Sept. 7 vs. Fleming Island
Thurs., Sept. 8 at Bishop Snyder
Tues., Sept. 13 vs. St. Augustine

St. Johns Country Day School (3-0)

Beat Orange Park 3-1
Beat St. Joseph Academy 3-0
Beat Clay 3-2
Tues., Aug. 30 vs. Bishop Snyder
Thurs., Sept. 1 at Countryside Christian
Tues., Sept. 6 at Beaches Chapel
Wed., Sept. 7 vs. St. Francis
Thurs., Sept. 8 at Florida Deaf
Mon., Sept. 12 at Harvest Community

Kortright, Mussante lead Moccansins

MELBOURNE, Fla. - The Florida Southern women's cross country team was predicted to finish third by the Sunshine State Conference cross country coaches with the release of the 2022 SSC Preseason Coaches Poll. The Moccansins have finished third at the SSC Championships for three-straight seasons and return four of the top five individual finishers for last year's team.

The Mocs top finisher from last season, Ellie Fluman, returns after a top-10 showing last season. She will be joined by sophomore Marisa Kortright, a Fleming Island High School graduate, who finished in the top-15 as a freshman. The other point scorers from last year's third place finishing team are sophomore Emma Mussante, a Middleburg High School standout, and junior Jinia Johnson. Junior Emery Roth and sophomore Julia Svartstrom both finished just outside the top five for the Mocs but could make impacts in 2022.

Tampa, who was just edged at the 2021 SSC Championships by Saint Leo, enters 2022 as the preseason favorite after receiving four of the seven first place votes. The defending champion Lions were picked second with three first place votes



Two area runners; left, Emma Mussante (Middleburg) and Marisa Kortright (Fleming Island) will be two top runners for strong Florida Southern College team in 2022.

and finishing two points behind the Spartans, the same margin as the 2021 SSC Championship split between the Lions and Spartans. Florida Southern rounded out the top three followed by Palm Beach



Atlantic, Lynn, Embry-Riddle and Nova Southeastern.

The Mocs will open up the 2022 season Saturday, Sept. 10 at the Eastern Florida State College Fall Classic.



Colton Swartz, FIHS



Alyzabeth Morgan, FIHS



Kalia Polete, FIHS



Taylor Young, CHS

GOLF SCORES

Mon., Aug 29

Girls: Oakleaf v. Middleburg Eagle Landing Golf Club

1. Oakleaf 177
2. Middleburg 224

1. Neva Winslow MHS 38
2. Emily Acosta OHS 40
3. Hailey Evans OHS 41
4. Emma Farrar OHS 44
5. Taylor Ring OHS 52

Thurs., Aug. 25

Boys: Keystone Heights, Union County, at Oak Hall Hawkstone Country Club

1. Oak Hall 158
2. Keystone Heights 169
3. Union County 225

1. Lucas Katz, Oak Hall 37
2. Alex Addington KHHS 38
2. Tanmauy Chandra, Oak Hall 38
4. Andrew Powell, Oak Hall 39
4. Ty Mitzel, KHHS 39
6. Kenneth Guy, KHHS 43

Thurs., Aug. 25

Boys: Fleming Island, Nease, Beachside Fleming Island Golf Club

1. Fleming Island 142
2. Nease 144
3. Beachside 152

1. Colton Swartz FIHS 34
1. Emmet Kuhlenkamp FIHS 34
3. Nolan Harper Beachside 35
3. Ryan Gear Nease 35
5. Cooper Diaz Nease 36
5. Jackson Klauk Nease 36
5. Tyler Mawhinney FIHS 36

Wed., Aug. 24

Boys: Oakleaf at Middleburg Eagle Landing Golf Club

1. Middleburg 178
2. Oakleaf 189

1. Chase Carroll MHS 36
2. Will Buzby MHS 39
3. Carson Craven OHS 46
3. Ethan Mendoza OHS 46
5. Nathan Bauman OHS 48
6. Tanner Thompson OHS 49



Kathryn McNeill, FIHS



Tyler Mawhinney, FIHS



Addy Vogt SJCDs



Alex Addington, KHHS

Wed., Aug. 24

Girls: Keystone Heights, Oak Hall, Buchholz Hawkstone Country Club

1. Buchholz 167
2. Keystone Heights 203
3. Oak Hall 219

1. Braydn Smith BHS 35
2. Candace Jackson KHHS 39
2. Savannah Wroath BHS 39
4. Ava Van Vorst OH 46
4. Keira Lee OH 46
6. MJ Rivera KHHS 47
6. Ella Haas BHS 47

Thurs., Aug. 25

Boys: St. Johns Country Day School, PK Yonge Mark Bostick Golf Course (UF)

1. PK Yonge 168
2. SJCDs 187

1. Katelyn Huber PKY 35
2. Ian Lentz PKY 39
3. Nathan Kipnis SJCDs 42
4. Jackson Gosselin SJCDs 44
5. Charlie Tumminia PKHY 46
6. Tripp Vogt SJCDs 47

Tues., Aug. 23

Girls: Bartram Trail, SJCDs, Fleming Island at Fleming Island

1. Bartram Trail 171
2. Fleming Island 181
3. St. Johns Country Day School 184

1. Lizzie Thompson BT 41
1. Alyzabeth Morgan FIHS 41
3. Helena Rios BT 42
4. Fiona Clancy BT 44
4. Abrianna Carstens BT 44
4. Sydney Sharpe BT 44
4. Cambree Hodge FIHS 44
8. Kalia Polete FIHS 45
9. Addy Vogt SJCDs 50

Tues, Aug. 23

Girls: Middleburg vs. Clay Magnolia Point Golf Club

1. Middleburg 237
1. Clay 237

1. Taylor Young CHS 42
2. Neva Winslow MHS 46
3. Delaney Clark MHS 49
4. Rebecca Gibson CHS 50
5. Shyann Walters CHS 65

Knights

from page 25

the secondary with his physical style.

"I wouldn't get in front of him," Oakleaf head coach Marcus Miller said of Outlaw. "He probably is stronger than last year."

Oakleaf (1-0) at Baker County (0-0)

Baker County, 11-3 last year with 54-21 state semifinal loss to 5A champion Miami Central, was getting manhandled last week to the tune of 21-0 at halftime to Bradford before officials ended the game due to weather, but the Wildcats are probably a much better team than the score indicates.

Baker County graduated a ton of talent including a 1600 Yds, 12TD QB and a 915 Yds, 14TDs running back, but return senior running back Cam Smith (1400 yds, 15TDs). Baker County is always rugged up front with a pounding ground game.

Bradford, under former Baker County coach Jamie Rodgers, the Class 5A Florida Dairy Farmers coach of the year in 2017 with Baker County getting to a Class 5A runnerup finish, comes in with track speed at all positions. Bradford will face Keystone Heights on September 30.

Oakleaf, whose schedule the past few years has included some Georgia trips and visitors from south Florida, will be close to home this season and will make a first trip to Baker County on Friday and get a first-ever visit from Class 1A perennial state champion Madison County in October. Oakleaf does travel to Tallahassee Chiles on September 23.



Oakleaf High senior running back Devin Outlaw had one of best running games on day one in his four-year career.



Oakleaf High cheerleaders were as enthusiastic in the rain as their Knights' football dominated Orange Park in season opener.



Oakleaf quarterback Drew Ammon sidesteps Raider tackler.

Oakleaf gets early lead

Outlaw scored on runs of six, five, two and 19 yards. He was headed well past the 300 yard mark after scoring to cap the opening drive of the third quarter, but sat out the remainder of the contest.

Oakleaf shot out to an early lead courtesy of a series of Raiders miscues. Orange Park quarterback Durrionte "Bo" Myrick and running back Kenneth Henderson botched a handoff on the first play from scrimmage. Oakleaf linebacker Da'Jon Brown pounced in the loose ball at the Raiders' 20 yard line. Outlaw took advantage, covering the short field in two plays, scoring from five yards out just 35 seconds into the game.

Orange Park fumbled on its next two offensive plays, and though the Raiders recovered both of them to retain possession, the losses led to a punt by Jaden Atteo that traveled only 12 yards. One play later, Outlaw broke two tackles in the backfield, gaining 20 yards to the five yard line. After an offsides penalty against the Raiders, Outlaw bolted through a hole up the middle to score easily, putting the Knights ahead 12-0.

Orange Park regained its equilibrium on its next possession, turning to their own senior running back, William "JoJo" Restall, who gained 98 yards on seven rushes before leaving the game with an ankle injury. Restall found a hole up the middle and raced 50 yards to the Knights' 25 yard line, where his fumble was recovered by teammate Jermel Brown. Myrick converted a fourth and four with a read option that gained eight yards, and scored on a quarterback sneak on the next play. He then rolled right and dived into the pylon for a two-point conversion that brought the Raiders within 12-8.

Outlaw rushed for 73 yards on the next drive, which was capped by a perfectly thrown fade route from Oakleaf's Drew Ammon to Taylor Bradshaw from twelve yards out—the only pass of the first half completed by either team—. Ammons' pass on the two-point conversion attempt fell incomplete, leaving the Knights with an 18-8 lead with 11:51 remaining in the second quarter.

The turning point came on the ensuing Orange Park possession. Looking to answer Bradshaw's touchdown with a drive to again

draw within one score, Myrick led receiver Brian Green a little too far on a slant pattern. Oakleaf safety Drake Stubbs stepped in front of the pass, intercepted it and weaved his way 54 yards for a touchdown, evading Myrick at the 10. Ammon booted the extra point, giving the Knights a commanding 25-8 lead.

After a touchback, the Raiders mounted a drive, moving 51 yards to the Knights 29 yard line. However, while running back Kenneth Henderson was stood up at the line of scrimmage, Oakleaf tackle Justin "JJ" Marsh-Mensie stripped the ball loose, recovering it for the Knights to end the threat. As with the first lost Raiders' fumble, it took Outlaw just two runs to take advantage. He galloped down the right sideline for 70 yards, and then bulldozed into the end zone from two yards out.

Ammon was only able to complete one of six passes in the rain that fell on Hoyt B. Cotney Stadium most of the night, but showed off his running ability on the final drive of the first half.

Pressured in the pocket, he stepped up and took off, not stopping until he was run out of bounds at the Orange Park 20 yard line with three seconds left on the clock. On the last play of the half, Ammons surveyed the field but could not find an open receiver. He tucked the ball and ran to his left, cut back right and received a block from Carlos Witherup that enabled him to get into the end zone.

With a 39-8 score at the intermission,

both teams played mostly back-ups in the second half. Oakleaf picked up where it left off, starting at its own 35 and calling eight running plays, four by Outlaw and four by new quarterback Brandon Wallace. The five minute drive culminated in Outlaw's fourth touchdown of the game, a 19 yard jaunt. The visitors finished with 444 total yards, 432 of them on the ground, while Orange Park had 181 rushing yards and 216 yards overall.

A 70 yard kickoff return by Nolan Chambers set the Raiders up at the Oakleaf 25 yard line, but disaster struck one final time. Backup quarterback Elijah Craggette completed three passes to reach the five yard line. But on the next play, Craggette fumbled in effort to take the ball back from Henderson, and could not corral the loose ball. Tackle Akeem Neal jumped on it for Oakleaf, the fourth Raiders turnover.

Orange Park (0-1) vs. Episcopal (1-0)

Orange Park's Achilles Heel seems to be in their fingers with the Raiders victimizing solid game play with fumbles; 0-0 versus Bolles in first quarter of preseason before turnovers turned game into 28-0 halftime score and fumbles and interception against Oakleaf thwarting one red zone visit and upping score in season open blowout.

Still, coach Marcus Wimberly can reverse course with a little duct tape on the ball (reference Friday Night Lights scene with Tim McGraw) and maybe some Stick-Um from Fred Biletnikoff on the sideline.

JoJo Restall got a 55 yard blast and a 28 yard blast with quarterbacks Bo Myrick and Elijah Craggette getting loose for some double digit runs.

Episcopal got gacked by Middleburg in preseason play but found some mojo for 37-7 score for three quarters over Christ's Church Academy in their opener with four touchdowns via pass.

"You can't fix a lack of effort"

Neal also had a sack and a tackle for loss. "The game could have been a lot different," lamented Orange Park head coach Marcus Wimberly, making his Raiders debut after moving to North Florida from Tennessee in the offseason. "Both teams play in the same weather. We have to be mentally prepared from the start."

Wimberly was pleased with the effort given by his Raiders.

"They kept playing," he said. "We have got to coach better on tackling and blocking. Those things we can fix. You can't fix [a lack of] effort."

Oakleaf's Miller partly attributed the four turnovers forced by his defense to the maturity of five sophomores, including Stubbs, who started last season and have made great strides.

Orange Park hosts Jacksonville Episcopal in its next game on September 3, while Oakleaf travels to Baker County that same evening.

"Baker County was a state semifinalist last year," said Miller. "They are well-coached and they have a heck of an atmosphere up there, so it will be a heck of a challenge."



CORRESPONDENT PHOTOS BY RAY DIMONDA

Left: Fleming Island running back flies into end zone with 40 yarder in win over Clay. Right: Fleming Island defense has a crowd stopping Clay running back Dwonya Williams.



Left: Fleming Island running back Musthafa Marshall powers downfield, center, Fleming Island quarterback Cibastian Broughton escapes a tackle by Vonte Burke, right, Clay quarterback Merrick Rapoza got his first taste of high school rivalry football.

Eagles

from page 25

scores. Rickards missed a late field goal that could have won the game.

Fleming Island flexed a bit of run game muscle against a graduation-weakened lineup with Singleton relinquishing his game time with the game in hand early.

Opening game jitters

The only thing that Fleming Island couldn't control were the opening game jitters which contributed to several penalties. Several holding and false starts were the early issues. "It's a thing we've been working on the last year," said Springs. "I think this was more nerves than not ready to be out there."

Fleming Island received the opening kickoff and couldn't stop stepping on their own feet. With several penalties, the Golden Eagles would use their only punt, only to have the snap sail over the kickers head. With a first and goal to go, it looked like

money in the bank to Clay, only to go three and out, and from the four, have a field goal attempt blocked. It was that kind of night for Clay.

On the counter from the Clay 20, sophomore Golden Eagle Quarterback Cibastian Broughton connected with senior Wide Receiver Brenden Cook for an 85 yard touchdown that began the Golden Eagle onslaught. Until the fourth quarter, each Clay possession finished with a punt or a turnover.

Back in action on the second, Fleming Island drive was Senior Running Back Sam Singleton. From 25 yards out, Singleton went through the left side of the offensive line and began a sprint to the corner with Clay Senior Linebacker D'wonya Williams in pursuit. Singleton would challenge Williams to the goal line, getting upended as he went across the line for score number two of the first quarter to put the Golden Eagles ahead 14-0. Fleming Island Senior Kicker Austin Tucker was perfect on all

seven point after attempts.

Singleton would add another rushing touchdown, followed by Broughton with a 41 yard rushing touchdown after losing yards in a Clay sack. The first half scoring was topped off by Senior Running Back Tay'Shaun Smith with a 25 yard sprint to the endzone just before the teams headed to the locker rooms.

Clay was dealing with more than just a lack of experience on the varsity bench. "We had our starting running back out there with a bum ankle. It was black and blue all week," said Blue Devils Head Coach Kyle Kennard, referencing Chandler Thomas. "Our backup running back has a shoulder issue and we were using our Middle Linebacker who never carried a single time this season, to run the ball."

Clay (0-1) at Ridgeview (0-1)

Both teams got smarted in their openers and one will get a bit of breathing room with the Panthers losing a 43-0 spot to Pe-

dro Menendez on Friday.

A 150 yard, three touchdown effort in rainy conditions by the Pedro Menendez High run game kept the ball away from the Ridgeview offense as the Falcons rolled to a 43-0 win over Ridgeview Friday night at Menendez High.

Menendez sophomore Christian Coleman rumbled for 146 yards with scores of 27 and 25 yards for the Falcon shutout. Menendez also got a 31 yard score and a 60 yarder.

The Blue Devils showed deep dedication to their school and one another as they powered through in the fourth quarter to find themselves in a second and goal situation. Sophomore Quarterback Merrick Rapoza tacked on a few more yards for his 68 of the night when he found Junior Payton Dykas for a two yard touchdown keep the Blue Devils from being shut out on opening night. In the end, Fleming Island's experienced bench was too much for the young Clay team with the final, 49-7.



Touchdown for Staub

Fleming Island 8-Under running back Anthony Staub gets escorted into end zone for four yard touchdown with teammate Everett Segretto in Dreadnaughts 32-0 win over West Nassau.

Broncos

from page 26

but flags were flying.

On the ensuing kickoff, Wyatt Underwood caught the floater at the Bronco 41.

After a Jenkins jaunt for nine, more flags littered the field as officials answered with a first and 15 for Middleburg with Mitchell again mishandling a pass on first down.

Now facing second and 20, Jenkins got intercepted on a long pass by Hawthorne safety Darian Smith-Williams who returned the snag to the Bronco 37. Toshombe Jenkins made the score-saving tackle.

Ingram hit wide out Terrell James at the Bronco 14 yard line, but flags put the ball back to the Bronco 40 with a second and 12.

Middleburg's defense, plus three flags for various infractions, held to create a third and 18.

On the snap, Hawthorne fumbled with linebacker Austin Cruce emerging with the ball, but officials called the play dead with Middleburg flagged for offsides.

Now at third and 12, Ingram passed for the first down at the Bronco 10 on a bootleg with seven minutes left in the half.

Bronco defensive back Errick Fryer broke up a pass on second down with Hawthorne at third and 12 before Postemski stepped in front of the next pass before stepping out of bounds to thwart the drive at 7:16 to go.

"He was our defensive MVP for that game and our defensive line played great against a very good offensive line," said Wolfe.

Middleburg opened with Lane stutter-stepping for six to the Bronco 16 then getting sacked with his helmet flying off on second down, but no flags.

On third down, Underwood's helmet gets removed on a first down run by Lane, but no flags.

At the Bronco 21, Jenkins hit Mitchell on a slant pass for nine to the 30 with flags following; Broncos for holding.

Jenkins flubbed a lateral that Lane recovered on the six to make a second and 25 after Postemski's interception.

Lane made up 15 of the 25 behind Landen Padgett before Jenkins got sacked and lost the ball on the Bronco nine yard line.

With 2:05 in the half, Postemski rocked Ingram on a sweep to dislodge the ball in the end zone with a penalty flag for holding against Middleburg putting the score at 18-7.

Late in the second quarter, Mitchell exploded down the sideline with a high kick jaunt for a 25 yard first down at the 45 of Hawthorne. The drive stalled to force a Mitchell punt to the Hawthorne 10 with 1:25 in the half. Hawthorne took a knee to end the half.

A kickoff tackle by Luke Wheeler and hold flag put Hawthorne at fourth and five after another quarterback hurry by Suggs.

On the Hawthorne punt, the snap was mishandled with Russell coming up with the ball at the Hornet seven yard line.

Hawthorne's defense held at the three yard line to bring in Mathis for a field goal attempt but holder Joe Forte bobbled the snap and got smothered with Hawthorne taking over at the 15 with 7:18 left in the quarter.

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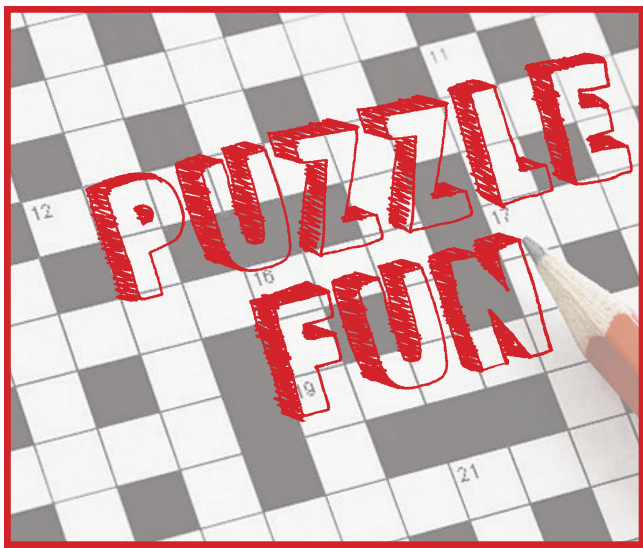


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Level: Intermediate

RHS grad Tyler Huff to start at quarterback for Furman

Special from Furman
Sports Report/Scott Keeler

GREENVILLE, SC - When Furman kicks off the 2022 football season Thursday night

against North Greenville, grad transfer Tyler Huff will be taking snaps as the starting quarterback. The Presbyterian transfer beat out sophomore Jace Wilson in pre-season camp for the spot, but head coach Clay Hendrix has confidence in both moving forward.



Tyler Huff

“They’ve both have had solid Augusts. It certainly wasn’t picking the lesser of two evils,” Hendrix said. “Tyler’s just been a little more consistent. That’s probably the decision maker as much as anything.”

“Going through a season nowadays with one guy is really hard to to, so we feel good about who all we’ve got there.”

Huff made it to Furman, where he’s reunited with former Blue Hose head coach Tommy Spangler, after three seasons at PC. Huff started 12 games over the 2019 and 2020 seasons under Spangler, who joined Hendrix’s staff this offseason.

In the shortened seven-game 2020 season played in the spring of 2021, Huff led the Pioneer League in total offensive yards per game (278.5) and was second in passing (244.2). Huff threw for 1,465 yards and 10 touchdowns that season, while rushing for 206 yards and three scores. As a true freshman in 2019 at PC, Huff passed for 871 yards and seven touchdowns and ran for 326 yards and two scores. Under a new regime last season, Huff completed 17-of-21 passes for 224 yards and four touchdowns in four games. He also ran for a touchdown and caught another. Huff has two years of playing eligibility left. “He’s just a really mature kid whose played in tough situations and been productive,” Hendrix said. “He’s really athletic, and has been accurate and a good decision maker. You can tell he’s competitive as heck.”

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CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to baking and decorating.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 6 = E)

A. 1 21 16 6

Clue: Confection

B. 24 22 12 10 21 12 3

Clue: Sugary cake topping

C. 20 18 24 3

Clue: Separate flour

D. 1 9 6 21 3 6

Clue: Make something

Answers: A. cake B. fondant C. sift D. create

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to baking.

OPSSNO

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Answer: Spoons

Guess Who?

I am an actress and talk show host born in New Jersey on October 2, 1970. I was a cheerleader and ballet dancer during high school. I spent 12 years on an ABC soap opera before landing a gig as a morning talk show host.

Answer: Kelly Ripa

BAKING TREATS WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

- BAKING
- BROWN
- BUTTER
- CAKE
- CONFECTION
- COOKIES
- DESSERT
- EGGS
- ICING
- INGREDIENTS
- LEAVENER
- MIXER
- OIL
- OVEN
- RISE
- SHEET
- SIFTED
- STIR
- SUGAR
- SWEET
- TEMPERATURE
- TEST
- WHIP

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| E | A | R | L | Y | G | A | D | L | L | U | B | A |
| S | P | A | G | H | E | T | T | I | | | | |
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| M | O | A | B | E | E | G | E | A | G | L | E | S |
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PROPUESTAS DE ENMIENDAS Y REVISIONES CONSTITUCIONALES PARA LA ELECCION GENERAL DEL 2022

Yo, CORD BYRD EE, Secretario de Estado de la Florida, por el presente notifico que el título del boleta, el resumen del boleta, y el texto de las siguientes enmiendas constitucionales propuestas y revisiones estarán en el boleta de las elecciones generales del 2022 en el día 8 de noviembre, 2022, en cada condado. El texto completo de estas enmiendas como se presenten aquí también se puede encontrar en [DOS.Elections.MyFlorida.com/initiatives](https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/initiatives), en [FloridaPublicNotices.com](https://floridapublicnotices.com), y en el sitio web de este periódico.

N.º 1 Enmienda Constitucional

Capítulo VII, Artículo 4; Capítulo XII, Artículo 42

Título de la boleta

Límites Sobres La Tasción Raíces Utilizados Con Fines Residenciales

Resumen de la boleta

Proponer una enmienda a la Constitución Estatal, con entrada en vigor el 1.º de enero de 2023, que autorice a Legislatura, de acuerdo con la ley general, a prohibir la consideración de cualquier cambio o mejora a los bienes raíces utilizados con fines residenciales que aumente la resistencia del bien frente a daños por inundaciones a la hora de determinar el valor de dicho bien con el fin de calcular el impuesto *ad valorem*.

Texto

CAPÍTULO VII FINANZAS Y TRIBUTACIÓN

ARTÍCULO 4. Impuesto; tasaciones. — Se establecerán disposiciones de acuerdo con la ley general para asegurar una tasación justa de todos los bienes alcanzados por el impuesto *ad valorem*, con las condiciones que se enumeran a continuación:

(a) Los terrenos destinados a la explotación agrícola, los terrenos que generan gran recarga de agua para los acuíferos de Florida o los terrenos utilizados en forma exclusiva para fines recreativos no comerciales pueden clasificarse según la ley general y tasarse únicamente en razón de su naturaleza o su uso.

(b) Según lo dispuesto por la ley general y sujeto a las condiciones, limitaciones y definiciones razonables especificadas en la misma, el terreno utilizado para fines de conservación se clasificará por ley general y se tasaré únicamente en función de su carácter o uso.

(c) De acuerdo con la ley general, los bienes personales tangibles conservados para la venta en unidades de intercambio comercial o en cabezas de ganado podrán evaluarse para la determinación de impuestos a un porcentaje específico de su valor, podrán clasificarse con fines impositivos o podrán estar exentos del pago de impuesto.

(d) Se realizará una tasación del bien de familia al justo valor vigente al 1.º de enero del año posterior a la fecha en que esta enmienda entre en vigencia a aquellas personas con derecho a la exención del pago de impuestos a los bienes de familia conforme al Artículo 6 de este Capítulo. La tasación solo cambiará según lo dispuesto en este inciso.

(1) Las tasaciones sujetas a este inciso se modificarán el 1.º de enero de cada año; dichos cambios no pueden exceder al monto menor de los ítems enumerados a continuación:

a. Tres por ciento (3%) de la tasación del año anterior.

b. El cambio porcentual en el Índice de Precios al Consumidor en las ciudades, el Costo Promedio Urbano de EE. UU., todos los ítems 1967=100 o informes subsiguientes para el año calendario anterior según lo informado inicialmente por el Ministerio de Trabajo de los Estados Unidos (United States Department of Labor) y el organismo de Estadísticas Laborales (Bureau of Labor Statistics).

(2) Ninguna tasación podrá exceder el justo valor.

(3) Con posterioridad a cualquier cambio de titularidad, de acuerdo con lo establecido por la ley general, se realizará la tasación del bien de familia al justo valor vigente al 1.º de enero del año posterior, a menos que apliquen las disposiciones del párrafo (8). A partir de entonces, se realizará la tasación del bien de familia de acuerdo con las disposiciones establecidas en este inciso.

(4) Se realizará la tasación del nuevo bien de familia según el justo valor al 1.º de enero del año posterior a la constitución de dicho bien, salvo que apliquen las disposiciones del párrafo (8). La tasación solo podrá

modificarse según lo dispuesto en este inciso.

(5) Se realizará una tasación de las reformas, agregados, reducciones o mejoras a los bienes de familia de acuerdo con la ley general con la condición de que, con posterioridad a la revisión por cualquier reforma, agregado, reducción o mejora, se realice la tasación de los bienes de acuerdo con lo establecido en este inciso.

(6) En caso de que caduque la condición de bien de familia, el bien se evaluará de acuerdo con lo dispuesto por la ley general.

(7) Las disposiciones de esta enmienda podrán considerarse en forma separada. En caso de que cualquiera de las disposiciones de esta enmienda sea declarada inconstitucional por un tribunal competente, la decisión de tal tribunal no afectará ni limitará las disposiciones restantes de esta enmienda

(8)a. La persona que constituya un nuevo bien de familia al 1.º de enero de 2009 y que haya recibido una exención al pago de impuestos sobre el bien de familia conforme el Artículo 6 de este Capítulo al 1.º de enero de cualquiera de los tres años inmediatos anteriores a la constitución del nuevo bien de familia tendrá derecho a una tasación del nuevo bien de familia a un valor menor al justo valor. El valor de los bienes recientemente constituidos como bien de familia se determinará de la siguiente manera:

1. Si el justo valor del nuevo bien de familia es mayor o igual al justo valor del anterior bien de familia al 1.º de enero del año en que el bien anterior fuera destituido, el valor del nuevo bien de familia será igual al justo valor del nuevo bien de familia menos un monto equivalente al menor monto entre USD 500,000 y la diferencia entre el justo valor y el valor determinado del bien de familia anterior al 1.º de enero del año en que el bien de familia anterior fuera destituido. A partir de entonces, se realizará la tasación de los bienes de familia de acuerdo con las disposiciones establecidas en este inciso.

2. En caso de que el justo valor del nuevo bien de familia sea inferior al justo valor del bien de familia anterior vigente al 1.º de enero del año en que el bien de familia anterior fuera destituido, el valor determinado del nuevo bien de familia será igual al justo valor del nuevo bien de familia dividido por el justo valor del bien de familia anterior y multiplicado por el valor determinado del bien de familia anterior. Sin embargo, en caso de que la diferencia entre el justo valor del nuevo bien de familia y el valor determinado del nuevo bien de familia calculado conforme este párrafo sea mayor a USD 500,000, se aumentará el valor determinado del nuevo bien de familia de manera tal que la diferencia entre el justo valor y el valor determinado sea igual a USD 500,000. A partir de entonces, se realizará la tasación del bien de familia de acuerdo con las disposiciones establecidas en este inciso.

b. Por aplicación de la ley general y conforme los principios allí establecidos, la legislatura preverá la aplicación de este párrafo a los bienes que tengan más de un propietario.

(e) La legislatura podrá, según la ley general, a los fines de la tasación y de acuerdo con las disposiciones de este inciso, facultar a los condados y municipalidades a autorizar por ordenanza la tasación de bienes históricos únicamente en razón de su naturaleza o uso. Dicha tasación en razón de su naturaleza o uso será aplicable únicamente dentro de la jurisdicción donde rija la ordenanza. La ley general debe especificar los requisitos para los bienes considerados admisibles.

(f) Un condado puede, de la manera establecida por la ley general, prever la reducción del valor determinado del bien de familia en el marco de cualquier incremento en el valor determinado de tal bien que resulte de la construcción o reconstrucción del bien con el fin de asignar un espacio para la vivienda a uno o varios padres o abuelos biológicos o adoptivos del propietario o su cónyuge en caso de que al menos uno de los padres o abuelos para quien se provee el espacio para la vivienda tenga 62 años o más.

Tal reducción no podrá ser superior al monto menor de los ítems enumerados a continuación:

(1) El incremento del valor determinado que resulte de la construcción o reconstrucción del bien.

(2) El veinte por ciento del valor determinado total del bien mejorado.

(g) En relación con todos los gravámenes, a excepción de aquellos que sean en razón del distrito escolar, la tasación de los bienes residenciales, tal como la define la ley general, que consiste en nueve ambientes o menos y que no está sujeta a las restricciones de la tasación establecidas en los incisos comprendidos desde (a) hasta (d), se modificará únicamente conforme a lo dispuesto en este inciso.

(1) Las tasaciones alcanzadas por este inciso se

modificarán anualmente en la fecha de tasación establecida por la ley a condición de que tales modificaciones no superen el diez por ciento (10%) de la tasación del año anterior.

(2) Ninguna tasación podrá exceder el justo valor.

(3) Con posterioridad a un cambio de titularidad o dominio, de acuerdo con lo establecido por la ley general, incluido cualquier cambio en la titularidad de una institución legal propietaria del bien, se realizará la tasación de dicho bien de acuerdo con el justo valor vigente a la próxima fecha de tasación. A partir de entonces, se realizará la tasación del bien según lo dispuesto en este inciso.

(4) Se realizará la tasación de los cambios, agregados, reducciones o mejoras a dicho bien de acuerdo con lo establecido por la ley general. Sin embargo, luego de la revisión por cualquier reforma, agregado, reducción o mejora, se realizará la tasación del bien de acuerdo con las disposiciones establecidas en este inciso.

(h) En relación con todos los gravámenes, a excepción de aquellos que sean en razón del distrito escolar, las tasaciones de bienes raíces que no estén sujetas a las restricciones a la tasación establecidas en los incisos comprendidos de (a) a (d) y (g) podrán modificarse únicamente según lo establecido en este inciso.

(1) Las tasaciones alcanzadas por este inciso se modificarán anualmente en la fecha de evaluación establecida por la ley a condición de que tales modificaciones en las tasaciones no superen el diez por ciento (10%) de la tasación del año anterior.

(2) Ninguna tasación podrá exceder el justo valor.

(3) La legislatura debe estipular que se realice la tasación de dicho bien en razón del justo valor a la fecha de tasación posterior a una mejora de calidad, conforme lo define la ley general, realizada en el bien. A partir de entonces, se realizará la tasación del bien según lo dispuesto en este inciso.

(4) La legislatura podrá prever que se realice la tasación de dicho bien en razón del justo valor a la fecha de tasación posterior al cambio de titularidad o dominio, según lo define la ley general, incluido cualquier cambio en la titularidad de la institución legal propietaria del bien. A partir de entonces, se realizará la tasación del bien según lo dispuesto en este inciso.

(5) Se realizará la tasación de los cambios, agregados, reducciones o mejoras a dicho bien de acuerdo con lo establecido por la ley general. Sin embargo, luego de la revisión por cualquier reforma, agregado, reducción o mejora, se realizará la tasación del bien conforme las disposiciones establecidas en este inciso.

(i) La legislatura, de acuerdo con la ley general y sujeto a las condiciones allí establecidas, podrá prohibir la consideración de lo enumerado a continuación en relación con la determinación del valor de los bienes raíces que se utilicen con fines residenciales:

(1) Cualquier reforma o mejora realizada con el propósito de mejorar la resistencia frente al daño causado por viento o por inundaciones.

(2) La instalación de un dispositivo de fuente de energía solar u otra energía renovable.

(j)(1) La tasación de los bienes costeros utilizables se realizará en base al uso actual de los bienes:

a. Terreno utilizado principalmente para la pesca comercial.

b. Terreno accesible al público utilizado para el lanzamiento de embarcaciones en aguas navegables.

c. Marinas y guarderías fuera del agua con acceso al público.

d. Astilleros dependientes del agua, instalaciones para la pesca comercial e instalaciones para la construcción y reparación de embarcaciones y sus actividades de soporte.

(2) El beneficio para la tasación que se establece en este inciso está sujeto a las condiciones y restricciones y las definiciones razonables conforme los dispone la legislatura y la ley general.

ANEXO DEL CAPÍTULO XII

ARTÍCULO 42. Limitación a la tasación de bienes raíces que se utilizan con fines residenciales. —La fecha de entrada en vigor de este artículo y la enmienda al Artículo 4 del Capítulo VII, que autoriza a la legislatura a prohibir el aumento del valor determinado de los bienes raíces utilizados con fines residenciales como resultado de cualquier cambio o mejora realizada para mejorar la resistencia del bien frente a daños por inundaciones, será el 1.º de enero de 2023.

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