

CLAY TODAY



DON'T FORGET!



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2022

WWW.CLAYTODAYONLINE.COM

VOLUME 60, NO. 46 75¢

Connelly-Eiswerth leads USA to Women's PGA Cup victory

Special to Clay Today

SANTA ANA PUEBLO, N.M. — Stephanie Connelly-Eiswerth was disappointed following her opening round score of 7-over par 80 at the 2022 Women's PGA Cup at Twin Warriors Golf Club.

Connelly-Eiswerth, a Teaching Professional from Fleming Island and a North Florida PGA Section Member, responded in a big way for the United States on both Friday and Saturday, as she was the team's top performer during the second and third rounds.

Connelly-Eiswerth recorded her second consecutive 3-under par 70 to help the United States (1-under par, 656) win the second Women's PGA Cup by two strokes over Canada (1-over par, 658).

Great Britain & Ireland (662) finished in third place, followed by Australia (686) in fourth, Sweden (698) in fifth and South Africa (753) — playing in the PGA Cup for the first time — in sixth.

The Americans rallied after being down by five strokes to the Great Britain/Ireland team after the turn on the final day.

The U.S. has captured both Women's PGA Cups after also winning the inaugural event in 2019 at Barton Creek Resort in Austin, Texas.

The United States Team began the third and final round with a one-shot lead over first-round leader Team Canada.

"Nobody panicked," said PGA President and U.S. Captain Jim Richerson. "Every-



Stephanie Connelly-Eiswerth's par putt on the final hole clinched the Women's PGA Cup for Team USA.

body just played their game, concentrating on what we talked about all week, which was one shot at a time, one hole at a time."

Connelly-Eiswerth's par on the par-4, 395-yard 18th hole clinched the title. She

SEE GOLFER 23



Woodwind musicians warmed up Tuesday ahead of playing in London on New Year's Day.

Popcorn, cookies, socks help fund Fleming Island High's trip to London

Golden Eagles marching band to appear in New Year's Day parade

By Don Coble
don@claytodayonline.com

FLEMING ISLAND — The invitation to participate in the New Year's Day parade in London came nearly a year ago, which only gave the Fleming Island High band about 11 months to raise \$90,000 to pay for it.

The band currently is selling wreaths — all while they're working on their show that honors Queen Elizabeth. It is their final push to make sure their airline, hotel and meals are funded.

In the past year, however, the band has sold sports cups, socks and desserts.

They also benefited from sponsorship and donations and completed surveys on websites for companies. But nothing filled the coffers more than popcorn.

"We made \$16,000 on popcorn," said band director Mara Rose. "That's a lot of popcorn."

The band will leave on Dec. 27 and return on Jan. 4. It will be the second time in seven years the Golden Eagles have made the trip across the pond to perform in front of 100,000 people and on national television.

"The show is definitely a lot of fun,"

SEE PARADE, 24



904-272-2200
WWW.GORDONCHEVY.COM



Emergency Center
at Baptist Clay Medical Campus



Where you take your child for ER care matters.

wolfsonchildrens.com/ER

INDEX

Opinion | 4-5
Obituaries | 8

Crime | 26-27
Sports | 29-40

Puzzle | 40
Classifieds & Legals | 41-47





BCC, Camp Blanding join forces for big Veteran's Day celebration

By Don Coble
don@claytodayonline.com

CAMP BLANDING – The Board of County Commissioners will join Camp Blanding for one of the largest Veteran's Day celebrations in Northeast Florida.

The event will start at 11 a.m. at the Camp Blanding Museum, and it will include a short program, followed by an afternoon of food, games and tours to tell the history of the base.

The fort, which serves as a joint training center for the Florida National Guard, recognized Veteran's Day last year by giving away T-shirts to veterans and serving hot dogs and hamburgers at World War II

prices.

This year's program will include comments from Garrison Commander, Lt. Colonel Jason Hunt in front of the Camp Blanding Museum Building. The menu will feature cheap prices and children will be able to play in a bounce house.

Commissioner and former U.S. Navy pilot Jim Renninger asked if the county could host a Veteran's Day event. County Manager Howard Wanamaker, the former base commander at NAS-Jax, suggested the commission join the Camp Blanding effort.

That plan was quickly adopted.

The Camp Blanding event was the inspiration of Matt Johnson, the current

Mayor of Green Cove Springs and the former Commanding Officer of Camp Blanding.

Wanamaker and veteran David King both worked the grill last year, and both said they will be flipping burgers and hot dogs again this year.

"Last year, we had enough food to feed 200 people," King said. "The night before, I said we didn't have enough, so we went out and got more food. We ended up serving about 400 – and we ran out of hamburgers."

Every branch of the U.S. Armed Forces was represented and many brought their children since it is a school holiday.

Concessions again will be offered at World War II prices. That means hot dogs for a dime and cheeseburgers for a quarter. And like a year ago, a limited number of T-shirts will be given to veterans.

Wanamaker said Susan Carter of the Clay Chamber and her husband, John Hess, will bring their "Mack-Daddy" grill to help keep up with the demands for food.

"They're bringing that out, so they're also part of the crew, cooking and wrapping and serving," he said.

King said he will on base at 7 a.m. to lite get the grills.

For more information call the museum at (904) 682-3165.

Volunteers needed for Pond to Park Project On College Drive

By Kylie Cordell
For Clay Today

ORANGE PARK – Lowe's of Orange Park will partner with Clay County and the College Drive Initiative to turn the spillway pond next to Cassie Gardens into the first phase of a recreational nature park.

The College Drive Initiative is currently looking for volunteers to begin the first phase of this new adventure on Nov. 4.

"Lowe's of Orange Park approached us with district needs," said College Drive Initiative Founder, Connie Thomas. "They wanted to do a project in their community and asked if there was anything that would be appropriate to help with. And of course, we have many projects with College Drive. But the one that was most feasible to start with was the Pond to Park Project, which came out of the ongoing deliberative dialogue in the community. Community mem-



bers wanted to see a recreational area where people could go walk their dogs or just be able to enjoy the water."

Ideally, visitors will be able to view the pond and the various wildlife found living there, from water turtles and birds to various species of frogs and fish.

"I see people coming to the park at the end of the day or early in the morning, parking their car and walking around the pond. I see plants and wildlife, things

happening out on the pond, and people just enjoying nature and taking part in the community. I see neighbors meeting neighbors. I just love that concept, a place bringing people together," Thomas said.

Volunteers will be working on a range of projects from assisting with planting 8.5-gallon trees and shrubs, as well as putting together approximately six benches on site. The pond will also have a viewing area, allowing park patrons to get up close to the natural beauty of the pond. It will be walker and wheelchair accessible.

"It just seemed like the perfect fit and Lowes was really excited to come in and take on this project," Thomas said. "The project is fully funded from the plant material, the benches, everything, so we just have to help supply the volunteers and the overall coordination of the event."

If you would like to get involved, you

can register to volunteer on the Clay County Volunteer Website.

"If want to be involved in the entire project, or just this one aspect of it, it's a great aspect for the community to come together to enhance the College Drive area. We think it will be a destination park," she said.

In preparation for the event, volunteers will need to supply their gloves, insect repellent and sunscreen. The site address is next to Cassie Garden Apartments at 534 College Dr.

Parking will be provided at Cassie Gardens at the far right near the park and at Mercy Support Services across from the park.

"After we do this part, we will start talking to the county about the masterplan, to landscape architects, to look at what all will be needed there," Thomas said.

**CLAY
TODAY**

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

SUBSCRIBE TODAY
Subscription Rate
1 Year in County \$40
1 Year out of County \$50

CLAY TODAY 904-264-3200

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

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



Classic arcade games, pinball machines, craft beers, 16 taps for draft beers, full bar and a menu of great food!

Williams
DEFENDER

5375

HALL OF FAME

TODAYS GREATEST		ALL TIME GREATEST	
1 DRJ	21270	1 PIN	79075
2 SAR	18315	2 PIN	65675
3 LED	15920	3 PIN	61900
4 P60	14285		5450
5 CAR	12520		
6 WRS	11035		
7 SSR	8265		
8 TAH	6040		

CREDI



(904) 579-3435 • 1760 Wells Road • Orange Park 32073
www.leaderboardarcade.com

Gov. Ron DeSantis: Antisemitism 'has no place in Florida'

By Renzo Downey
For FloridaPolitics.com

Gov. Ron DeSantis is denouncing antisemitism after a weekend that saw hateful displays across the Sunshine State.

The statement, sent by DeSantis Press Secretary Bryan Griffin Monday afternoon, comes after Florida Democrats criticized the Republican Governor for not immediately condemning the acts. A homeowners' association property was defaced in Weston this weekend after other, anti-Jewish sentiments were displayed around Jacksonville Friday and Saturday, most prominently at a full-capacity football game between the University of Florida and the University of Georgia at the TIAA Bank Field.

"Governor DeSantis rejects attempts to scapegoat the Jewish community – it has no place in Florida," Griffin said in a statement. "Through legislative proposals, laws, and decisive executive action, Governor DeSantis has a proven record of supporting the Jewish community and fighting anti-Semitism and the Boycott, Divest, and Sanctions movement in Florida."

Griffin also listed several of the Governor's achievements in supporting the Jewish community and combating antisemitism. Among the named measures was a law DeSantis signed in Israel in 2019 that formally banned antisemitism in schools. Another piece of legislation signed the following year mandates a school curriculum about the Holocaust.

The Governor has also approved funding for Florida's Jewish community, including \$4 million in security funding for Florida's Jewish Day Schools, \$1.35 million for the Florida Holocaust Museum in St. Petersburg, \$400,000 for the Holocaust Memorial in Miami Beach, \$100,000 for the Holocaust Task Force and \$250,000 for the Florida-Israel Business Accelerator. Another \$1 million in recurring funds supports collaboration between Israel and Space Florida.

DeSantis has also used Florida's "anti-BDS" law against companies like Ben & Jerry's to stop buying shares of companies that take positions against Israel. In the Ben & Jerry's case, the ice cream brand and its parent company initially announced they would no longer sell products in the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories at the end of 2022 before later reversing its position.

DeSantis was at Saturday's Georgia-Florida game before heading to New York

SEE DESANTIS, 5

OPINION



Be sure to study the true facts before you vote

By Don Coble
Managing Editor

I voted just a few hours after the early voting polls opened. I proudly showed my identification, got my instructions and performed one of the most important things a citizen of this country should do.

I walked away with a sticker. I also had the satisfaction that our great system works.

For the past month, I muted my television anytime they played a political ad. It didn't matter if it was for a Republican or Democrat, I refused to be swayed by a 15-second sound bite. I did what most responsible voters should do. I looked at each candidate's record and explored their positions on a variety of issues.

First, I've never subscribed to the single-issue voter. If you vote solely on your support for abortion rights or pro-life rights, then you are part of this country's problems.

There are too many issues that all of us face. Crime. Inflation. The border. Education. Locally, it's our growth and infrastructure. In short, it's our future.

For nearly two weeks, I was hounded by a local reader who demanded I write a column denouncing Kat Cammack. He



Don Coble

Being misinformed is the greatest threat to our democracy. One party said the mid-term elections are about saving our democracy. The other touts saving our freedom. Both sound incredibly important, but neither means a thing. They are talking points. As voters, we need to be smarter.

said she was one of the people who still feel Donald Trump won the election. He also questioned her record.

I refused because I don't do letters to the editor or columns endorsing or criticizing any candidate. Moreover, Cammack won't be the U.S. Rep. for Clay County after the inauguration. The winner of the Aaron Bean-LaShonda Holloway in the new 4th District which includes Clay, Duval and Nassau counties.

The biggest reason I ignore the clutter is there's so much false information being spewed by candidates. Saying Republican voters all back Donald Trump is as irresponsible as saying all Democrat votes supported defunding the police. When you paint a party with a wide brush, there are going to be a lot of splatters.

Being misinformed is the greatest threat to our democracy. One party said the mid-term elections are about saving our democracy. The other touts saving our freedom. Both sound incredibly important, but neither means a thing. They

SEE SMARTER, 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.

Brumous: (BRUH-moss) an adjective that means being foggy and wintry.

"Deborah used her scarf to cover her face when she walked home on the brumous February evening."

This Week in History

Five years ago, 2017

- The Town of Orange Park commissions a study of how to prevent future flood following Hurricane Irma.
- Former President Bill Clinton visits the Orange Park Medical Center to talk with a mother who lost her son to a fentanyl and heroin overdose.
- Amy Pope-Wells was selected to head the Clay County Charter Review Commission.

10 years ago, 2012

- Chief Warrant Office Michael S. Duskin of Middleburg was killed by small arms fire in the Chak District, Wardak Province, Afghanistan.
- The Clay County Sheriff's Office arrest Shelly Diane Rose, 48, after she was accused of trying to kill her mother with a claw hammer.
- Superintendent Ben Wortham attended his final school board meeting before going into retirement.

20 years ago, 2002

- Supervisor of Elections Chris Chambliss said 61% of registered voters in Clay County cast ballots in the General Election.
- The Green Cove Springs City Council voted 4-1 to delay buying an electrical distribution system.
- More than 300 enthusiasts attend a horse auction after 13 horses were rescued by the Clay County Sheriff's Office after they were abused and neglected.

30 years ago, 1992

- The new elementary school on Old Jennings Road that will open in 1994 is named Tynes Elementary by the Clay County School Board.
- The red caboose and train station are

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.

Smarter

from page 4

are talking points. As voters, we need to be smarter.

Some claims are so outrageous they need to be called out. When President Joe Biden and other Democrat candidates repeatedly say Republicans want to end Social Security and Medicare, they are lying to you. That was a proposal mentioned by Florida Sen. Rick Scott a few months back. No other Republican signed onto that ridiculous idea. In fact, the Washington Post called it one of the biggest lies of the election cycle.

But they stick with that lie, providing again desperate people do desperate things.

Charlie Crist now is running an ad claiming Gov. Ron DeSantis raised taxes by \$1 billion in Florida by signing the largest tax relief package in state history. Crist claims it only benefited the larger corporations and put the burden on the middle class. Another lie. Even the newspaper across the river, hardly a bastion of conservative thinking, called out Crist, calling the claim “misleading.”

DeSantis

from page 4

state to campaign with Lee Zeldin. His office didn't comment until two days later, leaving time for critics to condemn both the demonstrations and the Governor.

Earlier Monday, the Florida Democratic Party derided DeSantis for his silence — now broken — on the recent demonstrations.

“This year alone, Ron DeSantis has had a disturbingly high number of opportunities to condemn anti-Semitism, including neo-Nazi supporters waving a flag that bears his name, but he's chickened out every time. For someone who seemingly launches a new culture war every day, it is extremely telling that he won't confront this type of hatred,” said Florida Democratic Party spokesperson Travis Reuther.

“It's clear that this is DeSantis' electoral strategy to court the most extreme and hateful segments of his base and that he will always be too much of a coward to protect his constituents from neo-Nazis, white supremacists, and hate groups when the time comes.”



**EARLY VOTING ENDS SAT. Nov. 5
8 AM - 6 PM**

Secure Ballot Intake Stations “Drop Boxes” are available inside each Early Vote location during these hours.

But the Crist campaign is sticking with it. Again, desperate people do desperate things.

Democrats aren't the only party trying to muddy the waters. Many Republicans are still claiming the 2020 election was stolen in Florida. DeSantis created an election police unit that recently announced the arrests of 20 people who voted illegally in 2020. That's 20 people out of 14,461,755 registered voters in the state. Sounds like a complete waste of time and money.

Locally, voters are asked if term limits should be abolished for constitutional officers in Clay County. On the national level,

Democrat Charlie Crist, who is challenging DeSantis for the Governor's Mansion on Election Day next week, blamed DeSantis' “absolute failure of leadership” for facilitating the displays before and after the event.

“I am disgusted and horrified at the hateful, antisemitic rhetoric that was displayed in Jacksonville this weekend. Hate should have no home in Florida, period,” Crist asserted on Sunday.

“But while antisemitism is spreading in our state, Governor DeSantis refuses to condemn it — even when it's broadcast on the side of a stadium he is in,” Crist added. “It's a disgusting and absolute failure of leadership. Today and always, I stand with our Jewish neighbors in Florida and across the nation.”

Renzo Downey covers state government for Florida Politics. After graduating from Northwestern University in 2019, Renzo began his reporting career in the Lone Star State, covering state government for the Austin American-Statesman. Shoot Renzo an email at renzo@floridapolitics.com and follow him on Twitter @RenzoDowney.

40 years ago, 1982

- Democrat John Keene defeats Republican Gary McIntyre for the District 2 seat on the County Commission.
- The Clay County Fair Association invites community and organizational leaders to a membership meeting.
- Rosehill Avenue residents protest the dumping of used tires south of Green Cove Springs near their residences.

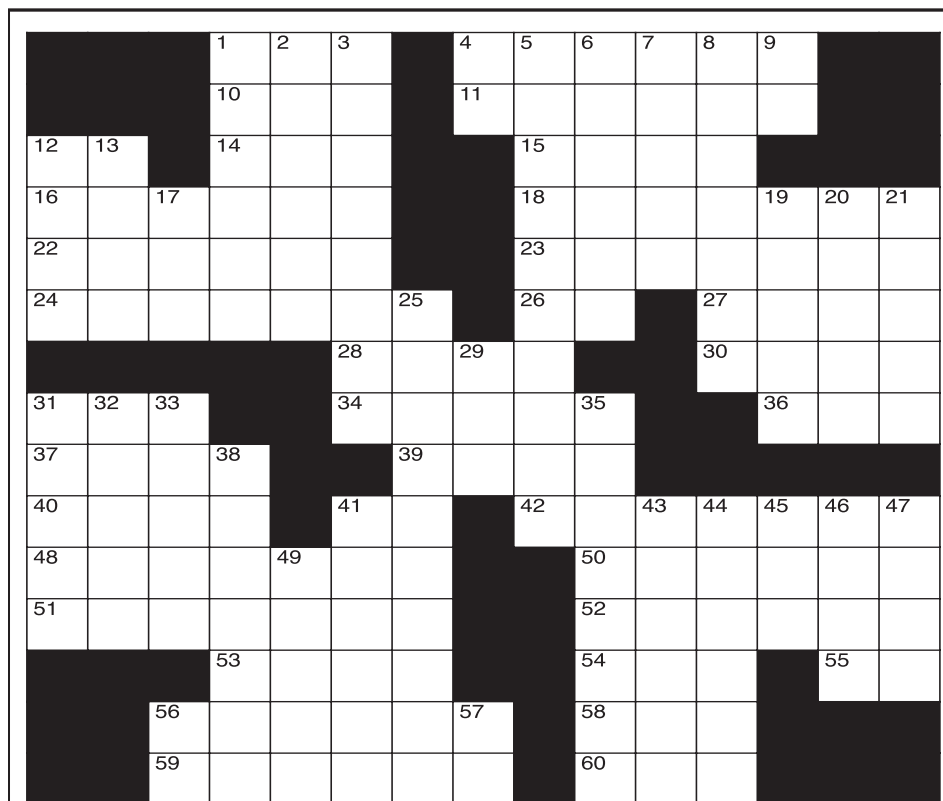
Orange Park Library 2054 Plainfield Ave. Orange Park, FL 32073	Supervisor of Elections Office 500 N. Orange Ave. Green Cove Springs, FL 32043	Keystone Heights City Hall 555 S. Lawrence Blvd. Keystone Heights, FL 32656
Eagle Landing Residents Club 3975 Eagle Landing Pkwy Orange Park, FL 32065	Thrasher-Horne Conf. Center 283 Collect Dr. Orange Park, FL 32065	Middleburg Civic Center 2102 Palmetto St. Middleburg, FL 32068
Fleming Island Library 1895 Town Center Blvd. Fleming Island FL 32003	VOTE ON ELECTION DAY - Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022 - 7 AM to 7 PM	
On Election Day, you must vote at your assigned precinct. Your precinct is based on your legal residence address. All voters are encouraged to check their information before Election Day. Find your precinct at VoterStatusClay.com		

that may be a good idea, especially since the most important job of a federal senator or representative is to be re-elected. But on a local level, however, where voters are smarter, I believe we already have self-imposed term limits. If somebody doesn't do their job, we vote them out.

The point is, we should be as aware of our state and federal elections as we are of our local elections. In Clay County, we get it right most of the time. It's because

we make it a point to know our candidates. We're smart enough to think past catchy one-liners and examine the real substance of a candidate. So mute your television and do the same with the other candidates. You might be surprised by how much you've been misled.

To view the sample ballots for the Nov. 8 election visit <https://www.claytodayonline.com/stories/sample-ballots-for-nov-8-election,41712>



- CLUES ACROSS**
- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1. The central bank of the US | 42. Cause to move slowly | 13. Soft creamy white cheese |
| 4. Direct one's ambitions | 48. A person's natural height | 17. Comedienne Gasteyer |
| 10. Only | 50. Elicited | 19. Exclamation used for emphasis |
| 11. 'Nothing ventured, nothing ___' | 51. Legislator | 20. Expel from one's property |
| 12. Lead | 52. Baking ingredient | 21. Philly transit body |
| 14. Returned material authorization (abbr.) | 53. Sandwich store | 25. Small amount of something |
| 15. Indicates the pitch of notes | 54. Peyton's little brother | 29. Retirement account |
| 16. Set up to blame | 55. Southeast | 31. Holey type of cheese |
| 18. States of rest | 56. Popular Mexican beer | 32. Young pig |
| 22. Complete | 58. Baglike structure in a plant or animal | 33. Climbing palm |
| 23. Be around longer than | 59. Car body manufacturer | 35. Discomfort |
| 24. Instructs | 60. Midway between south and southeast | 38. Bullfighter |
| 26. Childless (abbr.) | | 41. High-level computer language |
| 27. Coffee machines do it | | 43. Fleshy extensions above the throat |
| 28. Bowfin | | 44. Request |
| 30. A group separate from established Church | | 45. Equal to 10 meters (abbr.) |
| 31. Soviet Socialist Republic | | 46. Bruce and Spike are two |
| 34. Mends with a needle | | 47. Precipice |
| 36. When you hope to get there | | 49. Wombs |
| 37. Popular 80's pop duo | | 56. A radio band |
| 39. Beloved Mexican dish | | 57. Emphasizes an amount |
| 40. Extremely small amount | | |
| 41. Special therapy | | |
- CLUES DOWN**
- | |
|--|
| 1. Colorless volatile acid |
| 2. A way to tangle |
| 3. Jam rock band devotee |
| 4. The nation's highest lawyer (abbr.) |
| 5. Inviolable |
| 6. Collision |
| 7. Clumsy |
| 8. Bends again |
| 9. 'Pollock' actor Harris |
| 12. Flew off! |

History

from page 4

scheduled to be delivered to the Historic Triangle in Green Cove Springs.

- The Green Cove Springs City Council votes 4-0 to eliminate the rule that city employees must live within the city limits.

Keystone Height's Wreaths Across America founder dies

Joan Jones, 95, organized patriotic salute at cemetery 12 years ago

By Don Coble
don@claytodayonline.com

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – Joan Jones was relentless about her favorite causes, particularly the military. More importantly, she wasn't apologetic.

Joan, who organized the city's Wreaths Across America program, as well as founding the Veterans Memorial Pathway at the Keystone Heights Cemetery, became a community leader who was revered by everyone in the Lake Region.

The gentle woman with vivacious energy and passion died on Oct. 26. She was 95.

She was born in Australia and she married a soldier who fought in World War II.

Jones met her future husband, a Navy officer, in Melbourne, Australia, in 1945 at an amusement park. She married Larry F. Jones, "the love of her life," in 1946. They came back to the United States later that year and Joan became a U.S. citizen 76 years ago. The Joneses moved to Florida in 1990.

"My life changed forever (as) I became known in Clay County for the work I did for



Joan Jones was a "firecracker" who was passionate about honoring the military.

the United States Veterans," Joan said in an interview with Clay Today in 2018.

She had a revelation in the middle of the night that changed her life – and the lives of hundreds of local veterans.

"I had a dream in the middle of the night. I went out to the kitchen and started writing all of this stuff down. It was the dream telling me what to do for the GIs," she said.

Joan pushed the construction of the Veterans Memorial Pathway in 2005. She then brought Wreaths Across America to the same cemetery in 2011.

Wreaths were placed on crosses in the cemetery bearing the flags of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marines and POWS/MIAs.

Each live, balsam veteran's wreath was a gift of respect and appreciation, donated by a private citizen or organization and it is placed on graves by volunteers as a small gesture of gratitude for the freedoms Americans enjoy, according to the national organization. For centuries, fresh evergreens have been used as a symbol of honor and have served as a living tribute renewed annually.

Joan's husband died in 2013, but Joan remained resilient in bringing attention to the military.

"She was a firecracker. She was a very determined woman," said city councilman Tony Brown. "She had a goal for veterans and Keystone Heights and she stuck to the plan. And she saw it through."

School board member Tina Bullock took the reigns of the Wreaths Across America last year. The ceremony included the unveiling of a plaque on the pathway honoring Joan's work. Bullock said there will be special recognition of Joan's work and life at this year's ceremony on Dec. 17 at noon.

"What she did with Wreaths Across America was just phenomenal," Bullock said. "She was a tremendous mentor to me. I couldn't have done it without her. And in fact, I was amazed at her age and how much she could do and get donated and coordinate all of that, considering her lack of physicality at that time. It was amazing.

"She worked on that Wreaths Across America year-round. I mean, when January came around, she was already calling people to ask them for donations. She was there because there was no rest for her. She did it all the time. You know, she wanted to make sure that they (the military) were honored properly."

SEE JONES, 8



Allegro
FLEMING ISLAND

Live Beautifully.

You are invited to our "Shop 'til you Drop" event on November 17th from 4pm – 7pm.

Come one, Come all. Don't miss out on this exciting indoor shopping event. Join us and meet our crafters and vendors with their unique products and creations. Something for everyone on your shopping list.

Hors d'oeuvre and drinks will be served. All are welcome.
Free admission and free parking.

Call (904) 385-3756 or email us at marketing-flemingisland@allegroliving.com for more information.

RATES STARTING AT \$3,600/MONTH

INDEPENDENT LIVING | ASSISTED LIVING | MEMORY CARE

To learn more about Allegro Fleming Island, visit info.allegroliving.com/claycounty

Assisted Living Facility #10313



Ridgeview's High School's Becky Murphy selected principal of the year

For Clay Today

ORANGE PARK – Clay County District Schools selected Ridgeview High's Becky Murphy as the 2022- 2023 Principal of the Year. Murphy was nominated by other administrators in Clay County and Superintendent David Broskie presented the honor by surprising Murphy at the school on Oct. 26.

Murphy has worked in public education for 23 years and has been an administrator for the past eight years. She has led both Ridgeview High and Lake Asbury Junior High as a principal and is known by her

colleagues and staff as a passionate and driven leader that cares for all students.

"My favorite part about being a principal is seeing our students grow into amazing young men and women with bright futures ahead. Our most significant role as educators is to help our students reach their full potential socially, emotionally, and academically while supporting their endeavors," Murphy said.

"Principal Murphy is a wonderful representation of Principal of the Year for Clay County District Schools. Ms. Murphy truly cares for all students and staff and has



Front from left, Chief Academic Officer Roger Dailey, Ridgeview's Becky Murphy, Superintendent David Broskie and Chief of Staff Kelly Watt, join (back) Director of K-12 Academic Service Treasure Pickett for the surprise Principal of the Year announcement.

spent the last four years at Ridgeview High focused on building a great culture where students are not only involved in their school community on campus but involved with their surrounding community outside of schools," Broskie said.

As the award recipient, Murphy will represent Clay County District Schools in the state competition. In November, Murphy will be formally recognized at the monthly school board meeting.

Front from left, Superintendent David Broskie, Middleburg Elementary's Amanda Strickland and Chief of Elementary Education Heather Teto celebrate Strickland's selection as Assistant Principal of the Year with (back from left) Middleburg Principal Becky Wilkerson and Chief Academic Office Roger Dailey



Middleburg Elementary's Amanda Strickland wins Assistant Principal of the Year

For Clay Today

MIDDLEBURG – Clay County District Schools selected Amanda Strickland from Middleburg Elementary as the 2022- 2023 Assistant Principal of the Year. Strickland was nominated by other administrators in Clay County and Superintendent Broskie

presented the honor by surprising Assistant Principal Strickland on campus on Oct. 27.

Strickland has worked in public education for 12 years and has been an administrator for the past three years at Middleburg Elementary. Her colleagues describe

SEE STRICKLAND, 10

Politics is Women's work. Join our meetings on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 11:30am at Club Continental. Call or text Chance Irvine at 904-627-4535 to RSVP. Visit www.federatedrepublicanwomenofclay.com for more information.

Early Voting: Oct. 29 - Nov. 5
Election Day: Nov. 8



★ *Vote Republican* ★

- ☑ U.S. Senate - Marco Rubio
- ☑ Chief Financial Officer - Jimmy Patronis
- ☑ Congressional District 4 - Aaron Bean
- ☑ Commissioner of Agricultural - Wilton Simpson
- ☑ Governor - Ron DeSantis
- ☑ State Representative District 11 - Sam Garrison
- ☑ Attorney General - Ashley Moody
- ☑ State Representative District 20 - Bobby Payne
- ☑ County Commission District 2 - Alexandra Compere

 **Keep Florida Free**

Paid for and approved by the Federated Republican Women of Clay PAC

Obituaries

Joan Alice Jones

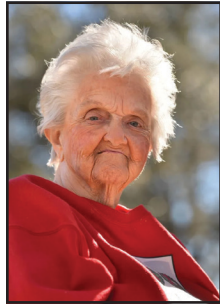
Our beloved mother, Nana and great-grandmother, passed away peacefully on Oct. 26, 2022, at the age of 95. She was preceded by her husband, Larry F. Jones of 38 years, and her two daughters, Barbara Ann White and Donna Kay Allen.

She is survived by three sons, Myron C White and his wife Trish, Dennis Green and Rodney Green; Grandchildren Anna Webster, Sean Allen, Myron White Jr. and Erin Steichen; and, Great grandchildren Taylor, Myles, Lily and Elaine.

Born on May 4, 1927, in Bendigo, Victoria Australia, she came to America, as a WWII bride in 1946. For 31 years, she made Keystone Heights her home with her husband Larry Jones.

She was very active in her community of Clay County. She was president of the Garden Club of the Lakes in Keystone Heights, which helped establish the Butterfly Garden at Keystone Heights Natural Park. She was a founding member of the Garden Club of Green Coves Springs.

She was very proud to work on projects that Honored U.S. Military Veterans. Her vision, founding the Veterans Memorial Pathway in 2005, located at the Keystone Heights Cemetary, was one of her proudest accomplishments.



Joan Alice Jones

She is also known for all her work and commitment to bringing Wreaths Across America to Clay County, which is one of the largest ceremonies in the county. These were just a few of the projects that she was dedicated to in her long lifetime.

Though small in stature, she was large in Energy and Inspiration!

Leslie Gerald Rodgers Jr.

Leslie Gerald Rodgers Jr., age 72, of Orange Park, Florida passed away on Thursday, October 27, 2022. He was born in Portland, Oregon and served in the U.S. Army.

Leslie is survived by his loving wife, Penny Rodgers; 5 sons: Joseph (Shelly) Jundt, Dominic (Lynn) Jundt, Mark (Jeanne) Jundt, Michael (Shana) Jundt and Mathew (Jamie) Jundt; 8 grandchildren: Nicholas, Karley, Lexie, Eilesha, Taylor, Harlie, Tiffany and Donovan; and a host of extended family and friends.

The family honored his wishes for no formal services. He will be laid to rest at Holly Hill Memorial Park.

Arrangements by Hardage-Giddens Holly Hill Funeral Home, 3601 Old Jennings Rd, Middleburg, FL. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.hollyhillfunerals.com.



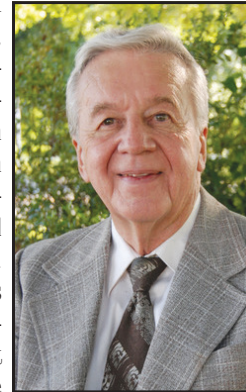
Clay Electric Trustee Carl Hagglund dies

For Clay Today

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – Carl Hagglund, a member of Clay Electric Co-op's board of trustees since 2013, passed away.

A resident of Keystone Heights, Hagglund represented Clay Electric members in District 1, which encompasses portions of Clay and Putnam counties. Hagglund was elected to the District 1 trustee seat in 2013. When he was elected, he listed his family and church as his main areas of involvement.

He served as president of the board in 2019. In 2020, he earned the NRECA's Director Gold Credential Certification. This is the highest level of achievement in NRECA's Director Certificate programs.



Carl Hagglund

As a trustee, Hagglund attended many of the check presentations for Operation Round Up. He also frequently attended the annual Legislative Cookout in Tallahassee. Employees often saw him at retirement gatherings as well. Hagglund was also a Clay Electric retiree. He began his career at the co-op in 1958 as a groundman. One year later he was promoted to lineman.

Other positions he held were utility serviceman, breaker maintenance, meter and OCR repairman, utility service equipment repairman and substation foreman. For 27 years until his retirement in 2007, he was a substation maintenance foreman. At the time of his retirement, he had the most years of service among any active employee with 49 years.

Survivors include his wife, Pat; four children; and eight grandchildren.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the Hagglund family," said Ricky Davis, Clay Electric's general manager/CEO. "Carl was a very active and valued member of the board of trustees for the past nine years and an involved retiree before that. No one loved Clay Electric more than Carl."



Jones from page 6

Joan also was the president of the Garden Club of the Lakes which helped establish the Butterfly Garden, which is located at the Keystone Heights Natural Park, and she was a founding member of the Garden Club of Green Coves Springs.

In addition to her husband, she was

proceeded in death by daughters Barbara Ann White and Donna Kay Allen, and she is survived by sons Myron C. White and his wife, Trish, Dennis Green and Rodney Green, along with grandchildren Anny Webster, Sean Allen, Myron White Jr. and Erine Steichen and great-grandchildren Tylor, Myles, Lily and Elaine.

According to her family, "Though small in stature, she was large in Energy and Inspiration!"

Hardage-Giddens to host Veterans Day ceremony on Nov. 12

ORANGE PARK – Hardage-Giddens Rivermead Funeral Home will host a Veterans Day celebration at 127 Blanding Blvd. on Saturday, Nov. 12, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Hear from Operation Barnabas and Fort Grace, which aid veterans through faith, action and encouragement. For every family who protects our community and loved ones, we can protect another deserving veteran.

Southern-smoked barbecue will be served.

To reserve a spot, call (800) 955-6018 or contact Jason.Woodard@DignityMemorial.com.



JACKSONVILLE MEMORY GARDENS

FUNERAL HOME AND CEMETERY

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

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

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

Visit us at JacksonvilleMemoryGardens.com

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

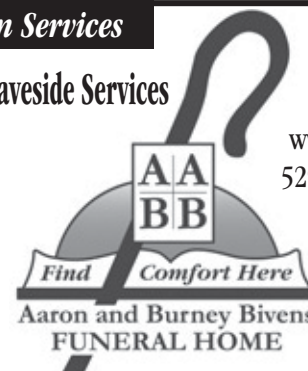


Funeral & Cremation Services

Traditional, Church & Graveside Services

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

Locally Owned With A Tradition of Service



Funeral Home

904-264-1233

www.BivensFuneralHome.com
529 Kingsley Ave • Orange Park

Burney Bivens Orange Park Attorney Since 1982

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



Liam



Adalynn



Lialani



Jaida



Knox



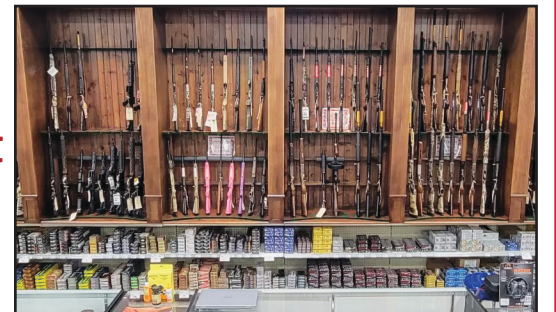
Liam

Sweet treats at Orange Park Hospital

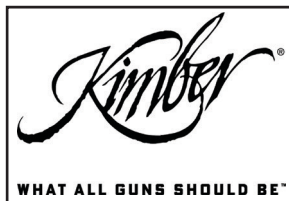
ORANGE PARK – Nurses at HCA Orange Park Hospital made sure the babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit were dressed for Halloween. The babies are receiving specialized care during the first month after suffering an illness or being born prematurely. A year from now, the hospital hopes to see the children at home and trick or treating in their neighborhoods.

Hagan **ACE** Hardware **NOW STOCKING:**

Come see our new
Firearms, Ammunition
and Hunting Department
at Hagan Ace Hardware
of Green Cove Springs!



FIRST GUN SOLD! CONGRATULATIONS!



1305 North Orange Ave,
Suite 110,
Green Cove Springs
(904) 284-9931



HOURS
Mon-Fri 7:30am-7pm
Sat 8am-6pm
Sun 9am-5pm

Rescheduled Soul Food Festival returns with parade, activities

For Clay Today

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Although the original date for the 21st Annual Green Cove Springs Soul Food Music Festival was postponed by the threat of Hurricane Ian, organizers will try again this Saturday with a day of music, entertainment, games and, of course, great food at Vera Francis Hall Park at 1503 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

The day will start at noon with a festive parade along MLK Boulevard that will end at the park.

The festival was established by a group of community volunteers called BATCOP – Breaking Away The Cycle of Pain” in 2002. The event now draws up to 5,000 visitors each year.

From the start to a 7 p.m. finish, the park will be filled with activities.

Wanda Cobbert’s first grade class from Charles E. Bennett will start the opening ceremonies by leading the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the presentation of colors by the Florida Youth Challenge Flag Corp. Sylvia Howard will sing the National Anthem and the National Black Anthem, “Lift Every Voice and Sing.”

This year’s festival theme is Mental Health Awareness’ “Get Help, We Care.”

Entertainment includes The Special Formula Band, Timotheos, Toby’s Steel Drums Karribean Flava, Royale904, and Gospel Hour, hosted by Bishop James



Lee and Family. This year’s entertainment theme is: “Get up, Get down, Get Funky, Get Loose!”

An array of other activities for children and adults includes a cornhole and Spades tournament, BBQ ribs and sweet potato pie contests, horses by Maria, dance contests, bounce houses and professional steppers.

According to the festival, there will be vendors from near and far, offering an array of mouth-watering country/Southern soul food and cuisines served with Southern hospitality.

The festival was established by a group



Originally scheduled for September and canceled due to Hurricane Ian, the 21st Annual Green Cove Springs Soul Food Music Festival will be held Saturday. Music, activities and plenty of great food are planned.

of community volunteers called BATCOP – Breaking Away The Cycle of Pain” in 2002. The event now draws up to 5,000 visitors each year.

This year’s Grand Marshal is Jason Tay-

lor and the Queen of the Soul Food Festival is Lakeisha Singleton.

For tickets or information, contact statealertevents@gmail.com or call (904) 609-9363.

Strickland from page 7

her as passionate, data-driven, and caring.

“Making MBE the place to be for all students is my favorite part of my role as an assistant principal. I greet over 300 students each morning as they leave breakfast in our cafeteria and tell them “See you tomorrow” as several hundred boards their buses in the afternoon,” Strickland said.

“Amanda Strickland is an amazing assistant principal who has a bright future in leadership within Clay County District

Schools. She actively participates in mentoring others, provides professional development to both leaders and teachers, and truly cares that every student on her campus has the resources needed to ensure success,” said Superintendent David Broskie.

As the award recipient, Strickland will represent Clay County District Schools in the state competition. In November, Strickland will be formally recognized at the monthly school board meeting on Nov. 3 at 6 p.m. at the Teacher Training Center at Fleming Island High.

ATLANTIC
Tree & Landscape
Services, Inc.

904-859-4188
atlantictree64@gmail.com

- **Excavator Work:**
 - Forestry Mulching
 - Pond/Ditch Bank Mulching
 - Fence Line Clearing
 - Excavating
 - Demolition
- **Tractor Services:**
 - Heavy Brush Moving
- **Bobcat Services:**
 - Dirt & Gravel
 - Grading & Site Preps
- **Tree Removal**
- **Tree Trimming**
- **Stump Grinding**

Fully Licensed & Insured

Workmans' Comp

Wake Up Santa!
Saturday, November 19 | 10:30am

Come in your favorite holiday PJ's to help Santa's elves wake him up for Christmas!

Get all the details at OrangeParkMall.com

Sponsored by:
HCA Florida
Orange Park Hospital

ORANGE PARK MALL

KidX CLUB

GET YOUR MEDICAL MARIJUANA CARD TODAY!

**RE-CERTIFY BY PHONE!
NO NEED TO LEAVE HOME!**

\$150

RE-CERTIFICATIONS

**DO YOU
HAVE...**

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

**CERTIFIED
MARIJUANA
DOCTORS**



**Edibles
Now
Available!**

920 Blanding Blvd., Suite 4 • Orange Park
904-420-0044

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



STAFF PHOTOS BY DON COBLE

BBQ lunch feeds the needs of Clay County seniors

ORANGE PARK - Hundreds took advantage of tasty barbecue, perfect weather and the opportunity to help the Clay County Senior Adult Advocacy Council on Oct. 27. The lunch at Orange Park Town Hall was provided by Whitey's Fish Camp and Mojo Smokehouse, BBQ & Blues.



Live the Good Life®

MEMORY CARE



INDEPENDENT LIVING



ASSISTED LIVING



Furnished Options AVAILABLE NOW!

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

Let us **HELP!**

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

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



 Are you ready for Medicare's Annual Enrollment Period? Choose a CarePlus plan today.

Benefits you need. Savings you want. Choose CarePlus.

You could get benefits like these:



Up to **\$1,440** added back to your Social Security check yearly¹

Up to \$120 monthly reduction in 2023 Medicare Part B premium.



For those with Medicare and Medicaid, up to **\$1,800** a year to spend on select groceries, utilities, rent, personal care, pet care, and more with the CareEssentials Card^{2,5}

\$150 per month.



Up to **\$1,000** in Flexible Care Assistance for eligible members with qualifying conditions on certain plans^{3,5}

Must be coordinated and authorized by a care manager.



\$10 specialist copay⁴

Plus more!

CarePlus
HEALTH PLANS

Why wait? Enroll today!



Call a licensed CarePlus sales agent today.
1-855-379-2457 (TTY: 711) | ChooseCarePlus.com

¹Offered on CareFree Platinum (HMO). ²Offered on CareNeeds Plus (HMO D-SNP). ³Offered on CareNeeds Plus (HMO D-SNP) if you have Medicare and Medicaid. The benefits mentioned are a part of special supplemental program for the chronically ill. Not all members qualify. ⁴Offered on CareOne Platinum (HMO). ⁵Allowance amounts cannot be combined with other benefit allowances. Limitations and restrictions may apply.

North Florida. CarePlus is an HMO SNP plan with a Medicare contract and a contract with the Florida Medicaid Program. Enrollment in CarePlus depends on contract renewal. CareNeeds Plus (D-SNP): This plan is available to anyone receiving both Medicare and Medicaid: Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMB/QMB+), Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiaries (SLMB/SLMB+), Qualifying Individuals (QI), Qualified Disabled and Working Individuals (QDWI) and other Full Benefit Dual Eligibles (FBDE). Sponsored by CarePlus Health Plans, Inc. and the State of Florida, Agency for Health Care Administration. No amounts on the CareEssentials Card can be used to purchase Medicare-covered prescriptions or services, nor can it be converted to cash. Referrals and/or authorization may be required for certain specialists. Important: At CarePlus, it is important you are treated fairly. CarePlus Health Plans, Inc. complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, disability, age, marital status, religion, or language in their programs and activities, including in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, their programs and activities. The following department has been designated to handle inquiries regarding CarePlus' non-discrimination policies: Member Services, PO Box 277810, Miramar, FL 33027, 1-800-794-5907 (TTY: 711). Auxiliary aids and services, free of charge, are available to you. 1-800-794-5907 (TTY: 711). CarePlus provides free auxiliary aids and services, such as qualified sign language interpreters, video remote interpretation, and written information in other formats to people with disabilities when such auxiliary aids and services are necessary to ensure an equal opportunity to participate. This information is available for free in other languages. Please call our Member Services number at 1-800-794-5907. Hours of operation: October 1 – March 31, 7 days a week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. April 1 – September 30, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. You may leave a voicemail after hours, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays and we will return your call within one business day. Español (Spanish): Esta información está disponible de forma gratuita en otros idiomas. Favor de llamar a Servicios para Afiliados al número que aparece anteriormente. Kreyòl Ayisyen (French Creole): Enfòmasyon sa a disponib gratis nan lòt lang. Tanpri rele nimewo Sèvis pou Manm nou yo ki nan lis anwo an. H1019_MKNaepbobprint2023rev_M

One pill can kill

Clay County mother shares her painful story of losing a son to drug abuse

By **Kylie Cordell**
For *Clay Today*

CLAY COUNTY – “It was Friday night. He had just gotten off work and he looked at me – I was on the phone talking to my sister – and he said I love you, mom. I’ll see you tomorrow. That was the last time

I heard from him because he never came home.”

Middleburg’s Tina Baker will never forget the night she lost her youngest son to a fentanyl-laced cocaine overdose and she wants to make sure others don’t go through the same pain.



Residents were able to get information about how to deal with the opioid epidemic, including available resources for treatment and how family members can deal with addictions. Anyone needing information or help can call the Community Paramedicine hotline at (904) 284-7703.



The expert panel and an audience hear the gripping story of how Middleburg’s Tina Baker lost her son to a fentanyl-laced heroin overdose.

Jacob was a soccer player at Middleburg High. He battled months of addiction after being prescribed Oxycontin following two major knee surgeries.

“At the time we didn’t know that Oxycontin was so addictive,” the mother said. “Eventually, it got so bad I had to kick him out of the house. He ended up staying with some friends. Unfortunately, the addiction was so tough that he stole checks from a family and forged their names to pay for his drug habit.”

After serving time behind bars, Jacob went through rehabilitation and detox.

“He began to be drug tested regularly. He had a stable job. He was receiving counseling. He was going back to school,” said Baker. “But he started using again. He tried to beat it but he couldn’t.”

This time, it cost Jacob his life.

“Jacob and a friend he graduated high school with met in Orange Park. They had

SEE PILL, 21

MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES

Great Care *in* Good Company



Great care goes beyond treating fevers and mending broken bones. Our providers and patients are a community – sharing smiles, laughs, and life in good company.

These services and more are why so many seniors choose **Family Care Partners**.



IN-HOUSE SPECIALISTS



TELEHEALTH



24/7 ON-CALL PHYSICIANS



ON-SITE LABS



SAME DAY ACCESS CENTER



TRANSPORTATION

JOIN US TODAY!

904.425.8056

FamilyCarePartners.com



By INNOVACARE HEALTH

Arlington | Fleming Island | Intracoastal | Northside

Early intervention: Autistic children should start therapies earlier

By **Kylie Cordell**
For *Clay Today*

CLAY COUNTY – According to the CDC, approximately one in 54 children is diagnosed with autism each year. About 2% of all children in the United States have some form of the disorder, which can encompass a range of conditions, symptoms and traits.

However, autism detection and treatment are often delayed. The wait times for undergoing a diagnosis screening and starting therapy in Florida can range from eight to 24 months, and even then, children on the spectrum may not receive the care they need until they are of school age. This can set treatment back and present challenges later in life.

So why are we seeing longer waitlists? Why are autistic children not getting the therapies they need to be successful in life?

“I think we need more evaluators. When there are not enough evaluators, then the waitlist is longer and they can’t access the services that they need. Because northeast Florida is so large, getting evaluated in Clay County can be really hard if there are only two evaluators in this county,” said Lilibeth Rodriguez, community outreach



Cultivate
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & EDUCATION

coordinator of Cultivate Behavioral Health and Education in Orange Park. CBHE is a learning center for children with autism.

“The schools can do evaluations,” Rodriguez said. “But they don’t typically evaluate the child until their fifth or sixth birthday depending on when they enter school. Typically, insurance will not cover them if they get an educational evaluation.

“So they really need a medical diagnosis to receive proper care. This is where things get tricky because families are depending on the schools to get an evaluation. They have the diagnosis and they have the school evaluation, but the insurance doesn’t accept that all the time.”

Without a medical diagnosis, insurance companies won’t cover treatment. They require an official diagnosis before they’ll pay for applied behavior analysis, the most common type of autism therapy, Rodriguez

said.

“Really, it’s the standard treatment for children of the autism spectrum. It’s medically necessary support for children. We can work with children as early as they are evaluated.”

Without the proper evaluation, treatment can be set back for months, even years. “That’s something that I think that we can do better, letting people know the difference and where they can go to receive the appropriate evaluation.”

For many parents of young children, waiting for an evaluation can be frustrating and confusing. Many parents don’t know what to do or how to move forward with getting their children the proper care they need. However, some resources can help. “For children, the diagnostic piece is really challenging. And for families, they have to decide what their next plan of

action is,” said Rodriguez, “but there are many things you can do. I always suggest using developmental monitoring. The CDC has a Milestone App that you can use to track your child’s development. You can make a personal profile for your child and it will give you activities based on their age. It’s fun interactions that help supports interpersonal skills or motor skills, whatever area they may be lacking in.”

Cultivate’s clinical team was at the Fleming Island Library on Thursday, Nov. 3 to present information on understanding your child’s behaviors, the functions of behavior, and understanding how Applied Behavioral Analysis can help.

For those who couldn’t attend on Thursday, another session will be offered on Dec. 8 at the Green Cove Springs Library.

“We also a virtual social skills group for ages 6 to 10,” Rodriguez said. “They meet and do a show and tell. They can have fun with it.”

If you have questions about therapies and supports for your child, contact Cultivate Behavioral Health and Education through their website or Facebook page. They will also be available to chat during the College Drive Initiative Food Truck Nights.

Community Calendar

ST. CATHERINE CATHOLIC CHURCH’S FALL BAZAAR: will be on Nov. 4 from 6 p.m. at 1649 Kingsley Ave. in Orange Park. Tickets are \$20 for 20 game tickets. Games, concessions, handcrafts, thrift sales, book nook and plant booths will be featured. For more information, visit www.stcatherineop.com.

PENNEY FARMS: will host its Arts, Crafts, Plants and Bake Sale on Nov. 4 from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at along Clark Avenue.

STEEP CANYON RANGERS: will play on Nov. 4 at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, 1050 A1A North, at 7 p.m. For tickets, visit ticketmaster.com.

CHALLENGE ENTERPRISES: will host its Food for Clay Free Distribution on Nov. 4 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/forclaycounty.

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS KIWANIS: will host a four-person captain’s choice golf tournament on Nov. 5 at the Keystone Golf and Country Club, 294 SE 43rd St. Registration is a 8 a.m., followed by a shotgun start at 9 a.m. Entry fee is \$65 a golfer or \$260 for a four-person team. Cash prizes will be paid. Anyone interest in playing or being a sponsor should contact Todd Beals and (904) 588-2083 (bealsteam@gmail.com) or John Falmer at (850) 339-7559 (johnralmer70601@gmail.com).

WINTER VEGETABLE GARDENING BY SARAH HARVEY: will be on Nov. 5 from 10 a.m.-noon at Camp Chowenwaw Park, 15-17 Ball Road, Green Cove Springs.

PENNEY FARMS: will host its Arts, Crafts, Plants and Bake Sale on Nov. 5 from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at along Clark Avenue.

ST. CATHERINE CATHOLIC CHURCH’S FALL BAZAAR: will be on Nov. 5-6 from 6 p.m. at 1649 Kingsley Ave. in Orange Park. Tickets are \$20 for 20 game tickets. Games, concessions,

handcrafts, thrift sales, book nook and plant booths will be featured. For more information, visit www.stcatherineop.com.

PENNEY FARMS COMMEMORATIVE CONCERT: will feature the Portland (Maine) Wind Trio on Nov. 6 at 7 p.m. at the Penney Memorial Church, 4465 Poling Blvd. Group includes Alison Hale, Thomas Parchment and Ardith Keef. Parking and admission are free.

TEE OFF FOR TATAS: golf tournament will be on Nov. 7 at 1 p.m. at the Eagle Landing Golf

Club, 3989 Eagle Landing Pkwy. in Oakleaf. The tournament will support the American Cancer Society and it includes a putting, long drive and a closest to the pin contests, as well as a silent auction and raffle. Cost is \$440 a foursome. For more information call Jamie Perry at (904) 993-4135 or jperrystrides@gmail.com.

CLAY COUNTY TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL: will meet on Nov. 7 at 3 p.m. at the Commissioners Meeting Room, fourth floor, Administration Building, 477 Houston St. in Green Cove Springs.

GET YOUR MEDICAL MARIJUANA CARD TODAY!

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

\$150

RE-CERTIFICATIONS

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

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

CERTIFIED MARIJUANA DOCTORS

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

Families opting out of traditional funerals to personalize celebration of life

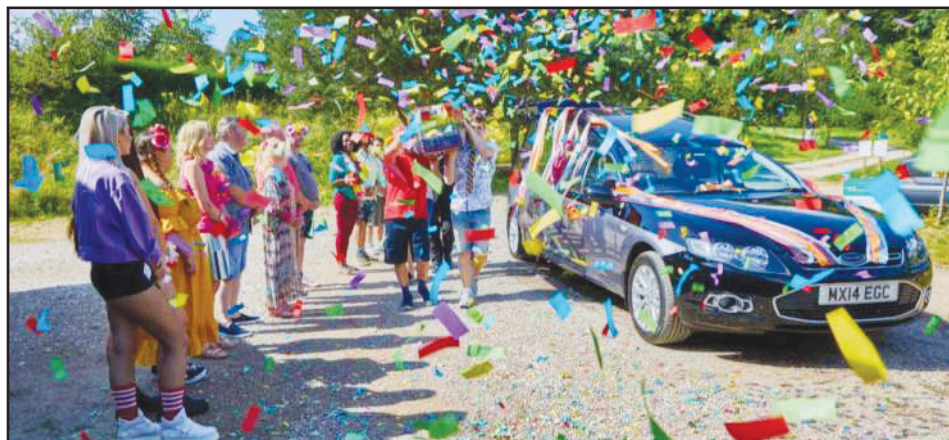
By **Kylie Cordell**
For *Clay Today*

CLAY COUNTY – It's often said funerals are not for the dead, but for the living, a way of saying goodbye to a loved one. Although this may be true, funerals don't serve just one thematic end.

"Funerals usually have negative connotations and celebration of life a positive one, but it doesn't have to be one or an-

other. It can be both," said Craig Seaton, planning director at Broadus-Raines Funeral Home and author of "Some Perfect Tomorrow: True Stories of Hope in Loss, Love in Grief, and Life in Death."

In the last decade, more people are opting out of traditional funerals. Resources are becoming available to help people when they're dealing with loss that allows people to try to personalize a significant



ritual moment after death and try to figure out the best way to memorialize their loved one.

You might recognize the myriad of ways in which funerals have gotten more personalized to the deceased: requests for mourners to wear nonblack clothes, video collages for the families, personal items to be displayed, music liked by the deceased playing at funerals and tombstones that pay homage to the person's hobbies.

The etiquette for funeral ceremonies is evolving. People are searching for new ways to celebrate the lives of their loved ones.

"Our society has changed. Every single profession reflects the society in which it operates, whatever it is. I think what it has done, essentially, is react to those changes," Seaton said. "The services haven't changed apart from technology, but the

ceremony has definitely changed."

So how are they changing? For one, many are turning to alternative, non-traditional ceremonies that focus on celebrating the life of the deceased, rather than mourning their deaths.

"Having the space to share stories, to laugh, cry and smile gives people a gamut of different ways, different options, to grieve," said Mary Denard, director of Hardage-Giddens Rivermead Funeral Home. "Because again, everyone in the room may be at a different stage of grief. It just opens up a lot of communication to talk about the loved one."

Another significant difference is the physical setup of the ceremony.

"We are starting to see more people opting for round tables instead of pews.

SEE FUNERALS, 17



Green Cove Springs 21st Annual

Soul Food & Music Festival

Saturday, November 5

Vera Francis Hall Park 1503 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Enjoy an amazing day of southern cooking, live music, family and fun. Also enjoy, local artist, specialty vendors, food competitions, and More! Join us at the historic Vera Francis Hall Park, For a Soulful good time!

MUSIC HEADLINER
69 BOYZ 6 p.m.



ENTERTAINMENT

Natural Truth	Kev Foodie Spencer
7 th Street Band	Timotheus
S.O.N.Y.	Kingdom Steptaz
GLD linedancers	Gospel Hour with
Royale 904	Bishop James Lee
April Purdie	
Toby Carribean Flavor	

Parade begins at 12pm / Vendors open at 11am
 Pledge by Mrs. Cobbert's First Grade • Class BBQ Ribs Cook Off • Dance Contest
 •Cornhole Tournament • Spades Tournament • Live Music • Vendors and Much More!!!






10-3 p.m.

Contact: Felecia Hampshire at soulfoodfestgcs@gmail.com
www.gcssoulfood.net

GOLD SPONSORS:

City of Green Cove Springs - Co-Sponsor 904-297-7500
 Almeta Monroe - State Farm Insurance Agent, 904-269-5200
 3521 US Hwy. 17 South, Fleming Island
 VyStar Credit Union - 904-777-6000 • Green Cove Springs Branch
 Pamela Gaw

SILVER SPONSORS:

Van Royal - Exit Magnolia Point Realty 904-853-8735
 3616 Magnolia Point Blvd., Green Cove Springs
 Stephen and Valerie Kelley - Spring Park Coffee - "Real Coffee.
 Real Good. 904-531-9391 • 328 Ferris St., Green Cove Springs
 Neighbor to Neighbor - "Providing the best of Clay County
 Living" 904-278-7256
 Winn Dixie Grocery - "It's a Winn Win" Whitnee Dash-Braithwaite
 3260 Hwy. 17, Green Cove Springs - 904-529-8888
 Healthcare Extraordinaire - Dr. Tana Robinson, DNP/APRN
 1532 Kingsley Avenue, Suite 109, Orange Park • 904-644-7536
 David Bright - Bright Minds Youth Development - "Cultivating
 Young Minds for Excellence and Success"
 1857 Wells Rd. #222b, Orange Park • 904-637-4720

FRIENDS OF SOUL FOOD FESTIVAL

T & C Auto Glass - Windshield Repair 904-291-6393
 BADCOCK Home Furnishings - 904-863-3595
 1435 Orange Avenue, Green Cove Springs
 Hagan ACE Hardware - 904-284-9931
 1305 N Orange Ave., Green Cove Springs
 Clay County Port Inc. - 904-284-3676
 1065 Bulkhead Rd., Green Cove Springs
 In-Kind Services - Hott Coffey Entertainment /
 Festival Volunteers
 Cheri Starnes - The Corner Pocket
 14 Magnolia Avenue N., GCS • 904-284-1992
 Dr. Lorrie Sarver - Ascension St. Vincent's;
 Director of Emergency Services

Funerals

from page 16

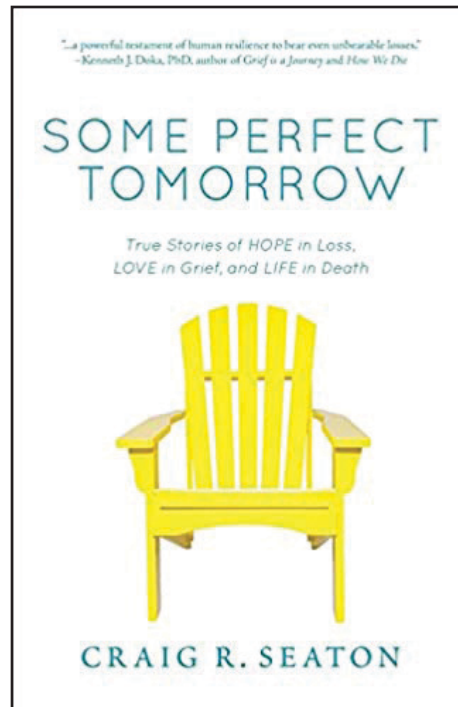
This way makes the ceremony more liked, and airier. You might be sitting with someone you may not know, and it spurs a conversation. You can talk about the loved one in a way that you wouldn't be able to in a pew, where you might be sitting three spaces down from someone not making eye contact," Denard said.

Another prominent change in funeral and memorial services is the music played during the ceremony. Music influences the mood and attitude and is a meaningful way of honoring the dead. Although gospel music is commonly used in funeral services, Denard said more people are opting for nontraditional music tailored to the preferences and needs of the deceased, rather than a given religious or spiritual tradition.

"As more Americans are coming out as spiritual rather than religious, more people are shying away from the Judeo-Christian or even the Muslim or Jewish religious ceremony," Seaton said.

Denard agreed and said: "It [non-traditional funerals] just opens up a lot of communication to talk about the loved one and not a pastor or minister of any kind, in a sense, they are not the main focus."

According to the National Funeral Directors Association, cremation has surpassed traditional burial, and by 2040, four out of five Americans are predicted to



choose cremation over casket burial.

"You can also have your ashes pressed into a coral reef or sent to space. You can form them into diamonds or tattoos and things like that," Denard said.

Not only are funeral services more open to alternative burials and ceremonies, but Seaton believes people are also becoming more comfortable with planning their funerals, which further drives the trend toward personalization.

"You just have to be willing to say that you want it," he said.

Community Briefs

Best-selling author, illustrator Nathan Hale coming to GCS Library

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Nathan Hale, a New York Times bestselling graphic novelist, will spend the day on Nov. 12 at the Green Cove Springs Library.

No registration is required and a live drawing and storytelling will start at 10 a.m. Recommended ages for attendees are between 9-13.

Hale is known for his "Hazardous Tales." He also illustrated the graphic novel "Rapunzel's Revenge," which was an AI's Book Club for Kids selection, an ALA-ALSC Notable Children's Book, and a YALSA Great Graphic Novel for Teens.

Hale then will talk about creating comics from 1-2 p.m. and again from 3-4. Registration is required for the creating comics portion of the program. For the 1-2 presentation, visit claycountygov.libcal.com/event/9677469, and for the 3-4 program, visit claycountygov.libcal.com/event/9677680. Every student who attends will receive a free book, while supplies last, for Hale to sign. The event, which will happen at 403 Ferris St., is sponsored by the Friends of the GCS Library.



Nathan Hale

Thrasher-Horne hosting library job fair on Nov. 18

ORANGE PARK – The Northeast Florida Library Information Network will host a library job fair on Nov. 18 at the Thrasher-Horne Center on the St. Johns River State College campus from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Clay County Public Library system will be joined by Jacksonville, Putnam and St. Johns public libraries, and academic libraries from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Flagler College, Florida State College at Jacksonville, SJR State College and the University of North Florida at the fair. Staff will be available to speak regarding opportunities available at their libraries. For more information, visit neflin.org/jobfair.

Veterans get free race at Autobahn Indoor Speedway in November

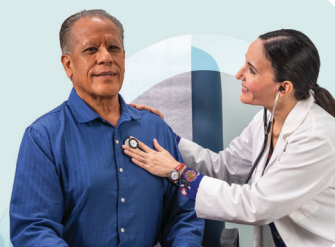
JACKSONVILLE – All active military and veterans will be able to enjoy a complimentary race during November at the Autobahn Indoor Speedway and Events at 6601 Executive Park Ct. in Jacksonville. The karting and gaming facility is making the offer because "We didn't think one day was enough for our heroes, so we decided to make the free race available all month," said managing partner David Larson. Riders must have a valid military ID card, and the offer isn't available on Friday, Nov. 25. For more information, call (904) 425-5005.

For Medicare Patients

Your health changes with age. Your care should too.
Discover senior primary care that goes *beyond your expectations*



Access to your Care Team day & night,
 Same-day appointments*, and
 Free social & educational events



We accept a variety of Medicare Advantage plans including but not limited to Aetna, CarePlus, Cigna†, Humana, Wellcare, as well as Original Medicare.‡

*Subject to availability. †Effective 01/01/2023. ‡Varies by location. Conviva Care Center® does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex.

CONVIVA
 Care Center

**Call to tour one of our 11
 Jacksonville-area locations**

**(904) 867-8169
 ConvivaGoesBeyond.com**



@ConvivaCareCenters



@ConvivaCare



Conviva Care Center



GCSPD, CCSO fill hundreds of Halloween buckets

The lines started to form an hour before Trunk or Treats were opened by the Clay County Sheriff's Office at the Orange Park Walmart and by the Green Cove Springs Police Department at its headquarters last weekend. More than 500 children were treated with candy and the opportunity to see law enforcement vehicles, including the paddywagon, while hundreds of children got a chance to fill their buckets with candy and be thrilled in a scare tent. The Trunk and Treat events are two of the biggest, and most popular, programs offered by both agencies.

Clay County Sheriff's Office & Green Cove Springs Police Department



HALLOWEEN FUN



Keystone Heights



Dakleaf



NFLT hosting a Volunteer Day at Little Rain Lake

Special to Clay Today

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – North Florida Land Trust still needs volunteers to join them for a property tour and cleanup at Little Rain Lake. The nonprofit land conservation organization is hosting the event on Saturday, Nov. 5, starting at 9:30 a.m. to remove

the trash on the 578 acres that NFLT protected and is currently restoring.

Volunteers will participate in a hayride which will take them to the area where the cleanup will occur. Along the way, NFLT staff and guides will stop to explain the landscape and the restoration efforts that are underway to bring back some dis-



Little Rain Lake



appearing habitats that are essential for many plant and animal species.

Participants can register for the event at www.nflt.org/2022/09/30/little-rain-lake-volunteer-day/. Volunteers must be able to work in the sun and lift 15 pounds. Helpers should wear closed-toe shoes and clothes they don't mind getting dirty. Please bring work gloves, a bucket and pickers if you have them, plus water in a reusable water bottle. Volunteers may also want to bring sunscreen, insect repellent, a hat, and sunglasses. NFLT will have additional gloves, trash bags and supplies.

Volunteers will meet at the Little Rain Lake ballfield at 6725 Little Rain Lake Road at 9:30 a.m. where they will be briefed on the workday and what to expect. NFLT will then transport everyone to the cleanup site via the hayride. The event is expected to last until noon.

NFLT acquired 415 acres of land in Clay County in 2017, which is home to an endangered sandhill forest with a longleaf pine ecosystem. Little Rain Lake Preserve is near Little Rain Lake Park and close to Camp Blanding. The land was acquired through funding from with the Department of Defense's Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration program. The REPI program identified the land as a prime candidate for conservation and important for the protection of military lands from the threat of encroaching development.

"Preserving this land is important not

only to act as a buffer for Camp Blanding but also to restore and preserve one of Florida's most endangered ecosystems," said Jim McCarthy, president of NFLT. "Longleaf pine forests were once a widespread ecosystem throughout the state but has experienced a 98% decline. We plan to restore the property by reintroducing prescribed burns to promote the growth of the longleaf pines, which protect the habitats of many threatened and endangered species."

Little Rain Lake Preserve is a sandhill community, which is a longleaf pine ecosystem characterized by gently rolling terrain that provides important habitat for many Florida species including the gopher tortoise, indigo snake, Sherman's fox squirrel and the Florida Black Bear. It is within the "O2O" corridor, which is a nationally critical wildlife corridor that stretches from the Ocala National Forest to the Osceola National Forest and eventually to the Okefenokee Swamp in Georgia. NFLT has organized a new partnership to combine the efforts of state and federal agencies with nonprofits' efforts to preserve and restore this important wildlife corridor.

The REPI program is designed to secure buffers around military installation to protect the military mission. Preserving the land around Camp Blanding will allow Florida National Guard soldiers to train to the fence line without fear of affecting the quality of life for neighbors.

Always Fresh **100% FRESH MEAT DAILY** **NEVER FROZEN**

THE CULVER'S DELUXE

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

Electronic versions of this coupon are not accepted.

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

718-0120

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

Champions of Parents and Babies
SUPPORT GROUP
LED BY DEBBIE NOVAK, RN, IBCLC

All parents are invited:
biological, foster,
adoptive and grandparents!

Topics: Breast/bottle feeding,
postpartum support, general
baby care and more.

Scales are available to weigh
babies.

2nd & 4th
Monday
at 10am

FELLOWSHIP BIBLE
CHURCH
2827 CR 220
MIDDLEBURG, FL 32068
CONTACT (904) 509-7013
ALLABOUTBABIESLLC@YAHOO.COM

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

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

FREE ESTIMATES

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

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

www.CarpetMan.biz

Pill

from page 14

gone out and bought some cocaine. I don't know if he knew it was laced. I don't think he would have," Baker said. "It may not have been the cocaine that killed him, but the fentanyl did."

Now, Baker shares Jacob's story to warn others of the dangers of experimenting with opioids. "It's on our streets, here in Clay County. We have to be preventative across the board. Our school districts, our business leaders, our churches, and our parents," she said. "We have to be able to talk freely about this. Not that we become afraid, but we become more aware."

Jacob was not alone in his struggles. Last year, 8,000 people died of an overdose in Florida. According to the CDC, 107,375 people in the United States died of drug overdoses and drug poisonings in 2021. A staggering 67% of those deaths involved synthetic opioids like fentanyl.

Project Opioid Jax's TJ Ward was the event moderator of the Overdose Awareness Seminar recently at First Baptist Middleburg. Panelists included Clay County Sheriff's Office Director Wayne McKinney, Clay County Fire Rescue Battalion Chief Glenn East, Clay County District Schools Superintendent David Broskie and HCA Florida Orange Park Hospital Director of Pharmacy Dr. Jodie A Graves. The Panel discussed the global effects of opioid use and overdoses, as well as the Opioid crisis here in Clay County. "In 2020 alone, there were 108,000 deaths, a 12% increase from the previous year. Florida represents 6.2% of those deaths," said Dr. Graves. "For perspective, nationally, that would be one-half of Clay County, and for the state of Florida, that would be Orange Park."

According to Broskie, 31% of Clay County's school-age children are being raised by grandparents, in large part by the drug epidemic. "That's why we have to bring awareness to students when it comes to the overdose crisis," said Broskie.

If you or someone you know is at increased risk for opioid overdose, especially those struggling with opioid use disorder, you should carry naloxone and keep it at home. "Narcan is an opioid antagonist. Opioids bind to the receptors of the brain and when those receptors get filled up, that's what causes symptoms. Narcan interrupts those signals because it knocks off and replaces the opioid molecules. It cleans the receptors, so they are not stimulated to shut down," East said.

East has given away more than 700 Narcan kits through the Community Paramedicine program.

McKinney agrees that it will take a group effort to make a difference.

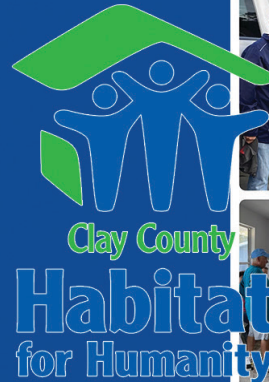
"We're trying to partner with these other groups to help attack the issue because we know that it takes a community. No one alone can fix this problem," he said.

If you want to learn strategies to reduce access to opioids, and resources for treatment and recovery available in the county, go to Clay Action Coalition and visit their resource page, or email community.paramedicine@claycountygov.com.



**SERVE TO
CHANGE LIVES**

SERVICE ABOVE SELF Rotary Club of Orange Park



Clay Habitat for Humanity
Saturday, November 5, 2022

Our November service project will be Saturday, Nov. 5, 2022 with the **Clay County Habitat for Humanity**.

We will be working on a current build. In every Habitat home, you find the work and dedication of many people, all working with a common goal: helping another family build strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter.

For more information on this project, Club members can contact **Nicole Hepler**.

#RCOP #Rotary
#HabitatforHumanity
#ClayCounty
#ServiceAboveSelf



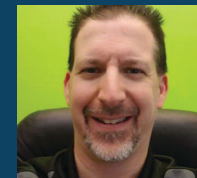
Lisa Ashworth
Commercial Relationship
MGR - Community First CU



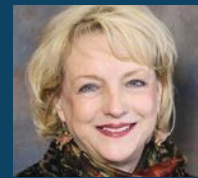
Jon Cantrell
President
Clay County Chamber



Jane DiLoreto
Coldwell Banker
Vanguard Realty



Mike Glickman
General Manager
Achieve Fitness



Teresa Harrington
Harrington &
Associates



Geraldine Hartin
Hamilton
& Hartin PA



Patrick Hayle
Mercy Support
Services



John Linge
Wealth Enhancement
Group



Curtis McClees
Winning
Concepts, Inc.



Michele Riley
Branch Manager
SouthState Bank



Vaughn Rivers
E. Vaughn Rivers
Construction



Nicole Hepler
Mortgage Officer -
South State Bank



Pam Wolbert
Owner
Park Ave.
Florist



Kirk Young, MS, DDS
Orange Park
Periodontist

2022 Membership Rotary Club of Orange Park

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

Keys to healthy yard begins with fall preparation

For Clay Today

CLAY COUNTY – Fall is a dog-gone good time to spend in your family yard. It's also the top-dog time of year to prep our living landscape for another favorite season – spring.

Here's what you need to do now to have a fabulous and TurfMutt-approved family yard this fall and beyond.

Mulch leaves: Mulching your leaves rather than raking and bagging is good for your lawn and the environment. As shredded leaves decompose, they feed your lawn, naturally.

Aerate the family lawn: Aerating prevents soil from becoming compacted and covered with thatch - a thick layer of roots, stems and debris that blocks water, oxygen and nutrients from reaching the soil.

Mow at the right height: Keep cutting your grass until the first hard frost. Find the just-right length for your species, typically between 2-3 inches, to keep your grass healthy when it turns



cold.

Water wisely: If you're not getting at least an inch of water a week from Mother Nature, you'll want to keep watering through the fall. Install watering solutions, such as smart controllers on irrigation systems, to help conserve water. For more information, visit turfmutt.com.



From left, Rick Skinner, Nautique Global Vice President of Sales; Robby Sherrill, LAW Sales Representative; Wendy Baxley, LAW Office Manager; LAW CEO and Founder, Chad Hovsepian; Carrie Carter LAW Sales Assistant; Thom Jones LAW Shop Foreman; and Greg Meloon, President of Nautique Boat Company, take a moment after award presentation.

Lake Area Watersports wins Nautique's Excellence in Market award

For Clay Today

MELROSE – Lake Area Watersports won the North America Excellence in Market award from Nautique Boats during the 2022 Nautique Dealer Awards.

The award includes the Market Share Leader of the Territory, Highest Response Rate in Surveys, and Excellent Dealer Grade on Surveys.

Lake Area Watersports was founded in 2004. It specializes in both new and pre-owned vessels, including top brands such as Nautique, Axis, Bennington and more.

They are proud to be a part of the local Melrose community. Lake Area Watersports founder and CEO, Chad Hovsepian, was reared in Keystone Heights. Both he and his wife, Tera, attended Keystone Heights Junior/Senior High, where Tara currently teaches.

After graduation, both Chad and Tera attended the University of Florida, continuing the tradition of staying local. They have two children who both also graduated from Keystone Heights Junior/Senior High and are now attending the University of Florida and Santa Fe College.

Receiving Nautique's prestigious North America Excellence in Market award is an honor and Lake Area Watersports is happy to represent the Gainesville, Ocala, Orlando, Tampa and Keystone Heights territory. Bringing high-quality vessels and service to the local community is of utmost impor-

tance to the Lake Area Watersports family, as is encouraging a love of boating, wake-surfing, and outdoor water activities to people and families across the area.

They strive to continue to provide award-winning services to their community and encourage both veteran and novice boaters and wakesurfers to join them at their showroom, centrally located in Melrose.

Lake Area Watersports hosts an annual wakesurf competition, drawing competitors from across the United States, including both nationally ranked and sponsored athletes and novice wakesurfers alike. The next competition is scheduled for June 10, 2023 at WW Motocross Park in Jacksonville.

They also host boat shows across the territories of Jacksonville, Gainesville, Keystone Heights and Ocala.

Upcoming shows include Nov. 5 at the Orange Blossom Cafe in Keystone Heights; Jan. 6 at the World Equestrian Center in Ocala; and, Jan. 27 at the Prime Osborn Convention Center in Jacksonville.



Clay Electric donates \$15,000 to Keystone Heights schools

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS - Clay Electric gave Keystone Heights Senior/Junior highs a \$15,000 grant to benefit the school's band, Junior ROTC, Community Partnership School and Business Department. School board member Tina Bullock and Mayor Karen Lake accepted the check.

Strength Depot

FITNESS EQUIPMENT SUPERSTORE

- Olympic Bars & Plates
- Squat Racks
- Cardio Machines
- Pulley Systems
- Dumbbells
- Kettlebells
- and More!

Delivery & Installation Available!

strengthdepot.com (904) 747-0789 sales@strengthdepot.com

WANTED! CAREGIVER

Provides friendly companionship and assistance with daily personal care activities and household duties.

Basic Salary: \$30.05 per Hour / 5 days a Week

Email for more details White (mewills07@gmail.com)



Stephanie Connelly-Eiswerth gets drenched by her teammates after her par putt at the 18th hole clinched the Women's PGA Cup in New Mexico. The Fleming Island professional was part of a five-player team in the international competition.

Golfer

from page 1

was immediately mobbed by teammates as the celebration began.

"It's everything and more," said Connelly-Eiswerth. "I really wanted to qualify for this. To qualify and also to win it, it's not just being here and being part of the team. You want to win with the team. It's truly incredible."

Philadelphia PGA Section Member Joanna Coe, the Director of Instruction at Merion Golf Club in Haverford, Pennsylvania; and Middle Atlantic PGA Section Member Ashley Grier, an Assistant Golf Professional at Yingling's Golf Center in Hagerstown, Maryland, were the U.S. team's next two lowest scorers.

Coe registered an even-par 73, while Grier shot 1-over par 74 to help the U.S. record a 2-under par 217 on the final day.

"All week, I hit it really about as well as I could have asked for," said Grier. "We stayed patient, didn't try to force anything, and made a few birdies here and there. That was the difference."

The 10th, 11th and 12th holes at Twin Warriors Golf Club proved challenging

throughout the week due to their extreme elevation changes and sightlines and winter-like weather conditions on Thursday.

The U.S. team's top three scorers combined for even-par through that three-hole stretch on Saturday. Meanwhile, Canada recorded a pair of back-nine bogeys that proved pivotal.

"That really helped," said Richerson. "We picked up a couple of shots there. The ladies played fantastic down the stretch to retain the Cup. I'm just so proud of the way they played."


Connelly-Eiswerth's 1-under par 35 on the back nine helped close out the win. She birdied the par-4 350-yard 14th and the par-5 542-yard 16th. Grier also birdied the 16th to help the U.S. hold off Canada.

"I was hitting the ball really well," said Connelly-Eiswerth. "I was getting on the green. I kept giving myself chances. The biggest thing is that I stayed on the shot that was in front of me. I was happy to mentally stay in the moment."

For Canada, Caroline Ciot shot 3-under par 70, while Christine Wong posted an


"It's everything and more. I really wanted to qualify for this. To qualify and also to win it, it's not just being here and being part of the team. You want to win with the team. It's truly incredible."

— Stephanie Connelly-Eiswerth



2022 WOMEN'S PGA CUP







TWIN WARRIORS GOLF CLUB HYATT REGENCY TAMAYA RESORT & SPA
OCTOBER 24-29 | SANTA ANA PUEBLO, NEW MEXICO




FINAL RESULTS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2022

CONGRATULATIONS USA!

	RD 1	RD 2	RD 3	TOTAL
 USA	225	214	217	656
RD 1) J. Borocz - 74; J. Coe - 75; A. Grier - 76 RD 2) S. Connelly-Eiswerth - 70; A. Grier - 72; J. Coe - 72 RD 3) S. Connelly-Eiswerth - 70; J. Coe - 73; A. Grier - 74				
 CANADA	220	220	218	658
RD 1) C. Wong - 72; K. Rutherford - 73; C. Ward - 75 RD 2) C. Ciot - 72; E. de Groot - 72; K. Rutherford - 76 RD 3) C. Ciot - 70; C. Wong - 73; C. Ward - 75				
 GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND	221	220	224	662
RD 1) H. MacRae - 70; S. Dickens - 75; J. Smart - 76 RD 2) A. Nicholas - 71; S. Dickens - 74; H. MacRae - 75 RD 3) H. MacRae - 70; S. Dickens - 75; A. Gray - 76				
 AUSTRALIA	232	224	230	686
RD 1) K. Must - 77; P. Stubbs - 77; N. Martino - 78 RD 2) P. Stubbs - 72; K. Must - 73; A. Knight - 79 RD 3) N. Martino - 76; K. Must - 77; P. Stubbs - 77				
 SWEDEN	232	230	236	698
RD 1) A. Lennartsson - 76; T. Nilsson - 77; C. Skager - 79 RD 2) A. Lennartsson - 71; T. Nilsson - 78; C. Condrup - 81 RD 3) C. Skager - 78; A. Lennartsson - 78; T. Nilsson - 80				
 SOUTH AFRICA	254	250	249	753
RD 1) N. van Pletsen - 80; A. de Langen - 84; R. Howard - 90 RD 2) N. van Pletsen - 77; J. Bruyns Leach - 86; A. de Langen - 87 RD 3) A. de Langen - 81; N. van Pletsen - 83; R. Howard - 85				



even-par 73, and Casey Ward registered a 2-over par 75 to help their team finish at 218.

Great Britain & Ireland (224) was led by Heather MacRae (3-under par 70), Suzanne Dickens (2-over par 75) and Alison Gray (3-over par 76) on Saturday.

Coe thinks the competition this week is a strong testament to the state of women's golf across the world.

"I'm just so proud of the PGA of America and proud of women's golf for another team to be added to this event," said Coe. "For us to end up under par as a team after that craziness of round one, we got a squad for sure. For the other countries to be right

there with us, that means women's golf is in a really good place."

Winning the 2022 Women's PGA Cup as U.S. Captain will be a lasting memory for Richerson.

"When you're fortunate enough to be elected as an Officer and represent PGA Members, you get to be involved in some really cool things," said Richerson.

"The things that stand out for me the most are those that are memories with PGA Members. Being involved with this team with five unbelievable PGA Professionals, five ladies that are unbelievable players, it'll be a memory that I have for a long time."

Still relevant
and trusted

New

frequency!

TRY IT AGAIN ...



MULTI-PURPOSE EVENT CENTER

Private Parties • Weddings • Seminars • Fundraisers
Corporate Events • Theatre & Musical Performances

Your vision customized with unique themes!

Call us today to book your next event!

904-375-9547

1809 East-West Pkwy. • Fleming Island, FL 32003

WWW.SPOTLIGHTEVENTSCENTER.COM • INFO@SPOTLIGHTEVENTSCENTER.COM






Golfers and goblins

STAFF PHOTOS BY DON COBLE

PENNEY FARMS – Cloudy skies couldn't dampen the mood during last week's Women's Member-Guest at Penney Farms. The threesome of (from left) Susan Mackert, Teresa Barrett and Lisa Leiby had plenty fun getting ready for Halloween by dressing up in their favorite costumes.



Parade

from page 1

said senior Andrew Mechling, who plays the tuba. "The music we're getting is a lot of fun. We're putting a lot of work into the show. I've never done anything like this."

Only a handful of band members have been to England. All said they were looking forward to exploring the city. Peyton Prokop, who plays the saxophone and oboe, said he is eager to see Big Ben and "all the places that are 1,000 years old." He also wants to ride in a double-decker bus.

To earn an invitation, Rose had to give parade officials with testimonial letters, photos and a video of their performances. The Golden Eagles now are a legacy band, which means invitations essentially now are a matter of formality.

When she told the band in August 2021 about the trip, the students were caught off guard.

"It was like I was speaking another language," she said.

The show is called "Lilibet," which was Queen Elizabeth's nickname. The original plan was to highlight her 70th jubilee, but they had to make adjustments after she died on Sept. 8.

"We had to make changes so the show made sense," Rose said. "We're pretty excited about it."

Two of the songs will be "God Save the Queen" and the music of Jupiter from "The Planets" by Gustav Holst.

The parade will take the band on a three-mile walk through the historic city. Once they are done, they will play six other shows around town.

"We've been fundraising for a year, but it's going to be very worth it to see all those cool places," said Cameron Lowery, who plays the trumpet. "I've never been out of the country. It's going to be very interesting."



Band members carried out instruments for another rehearsal for the London trip.

The band has plans to see the Crown Jewels and see a couple plays. Students will be allowed to go out on their own to

"explore" the city.

"I want to see everything about the queen," Lowery said.

TRAVEL TRAILERS **RV CONSIGNMENTS WANTED!** 5th WHEELS

CLASS A's CLASS C's

\$\$ TOP DOLLAR \$\$

904-945-7812

CLASS B's

DanaDrakesCountrysideRV.com

DANA DRAKES COUNTRYSIDE RV GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FL

Handfuls of Purpose

CRAFT FAIR

Come Shop for Christmas!
Nov. 5, 2022 9 am - 2 pm

Come join us at our 5th annual Craft Fair!
There will be lots of Crafts, Gifts and Food Trucks!

Support your local crafters!!

Calvary Baptist Church
1532 Long Bay Rd.
Middleburg Florida

PoJack
904-999-9855

Professional Service

Simply
The Best Hauling

Call Jerome for Details & Pricing

UCALL - I HAUL!

Black ties and blindfolds

Nonprofit fundraiser focuses on fighting retinal degenerative diseases, supporting sight-saving research

By Kylie Cordell
For Clay Today

CLAY COUNTY – MOMS for Sight, Inc. a nonprofit offering support to families living with retinal degenerative diseases and helping fund sight-saving research, celebrated by surpassing \$100,000 in donations in the past 10 years at its “Black ties and Blindfolds” gala.

Net proceeds go to Foundation Fighting Blindness, an organization dedicated to funding sight-saving research around the world. The night not only included a silent auction and presentation, but it also included “Dining in the Dark” where patrons were asked to wear blindfolds during dinner to better understand the challenges of being sightless.

This year marks the organization’s 10th anniversary of becoming incorporated. “This year, our 10-year cumulative effort will hit well over \$100,000, our event has sold out for the first time, and our impact is growing,” said Director Suzi Ford.

MOMS for Sight is an approved recipient of the EXIT Realty Corp Intl Spirit of EXIT Dollar-for-Dollar Matching Program which will match the funds raised by EXIT Associates benefiting Black Ties and Blindfolds up to \$5,000.

“Once we hit \$5,000, we will have secured the additional \$5,000 match. This is on top of all of the other fundraising and sponsorships for the event,” Ford said.

Over 50 years, the Foundation Fighting Blindness has provided \$856 million to the world’s elite in research science.

“We are trying to ensure that low-vision specialists share resources such as our Chapter with their patients so no other family has to feel as scared and isolated as we once did,” Ford said. “They are not alone. We are volunteers who simply want to make a meaningful difference in our community and help others so their struggle is less significant because education, resources, and support are right here for them.”

Ford lived in Orange Park, but her work encompasses most of Northeast Florida.

Ford’s grandfather was diagnosed with Retinitis Pigmentosa, a group of rare eye disorders that affects the retina’s ability



Patrons at the “Black Ties and Blindfolds” event were encouraged to eat dinner with blindfolds to get a better understanding of the challenges facing sight-impaired people.

to respond to light. However, as his peripheral vision worsened and the patches of vision loss became more prominent and closed in on his central vision, it became apparent that more testing needed to be done and it would involve more family members.

Choroideremia is estimated to affect between 1 in 50,000 to 1 in 100,000 individuals. However, it would follow Ford’s family for four generations.

“We learned that my mom and aunt were both carriers because they inherited the affected gene. They had a 50/50 chance

of passing it on. My cousin inherited it. My aunt was pregnant with him and he was born a few months after the trip to Billings Hospital. My brother and I both inherited it,” she said.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, there are 21 million Americans considered blind (20/400 or worse) or visually impaired. This makes up about 9% of the population. Nearly 70% of blind or visually impaired people are unemployed. 30% of blind Americans are living below the poverty line. Only 31% will get a high school diploma, and only 14% will get a Bachelor’s degree or higher. When you look at the statistics, it might seem discouraging, even hopeless, but this is because we are looking at the world from our perspective, rather than looking at the world from theirs. Blindness does make you different. It just makes you see things differently.

Hope does not see with the eyes. It sees with the heart. If you would like to support MOMS for Sight, you can donate on their webpage or follow MOMS for Sight on Facebook to learn more about the organization and the strength of its community.



Faith Walk

by Pastor Billy Register
True Life Church
Clay County

Live to Glorify God

“Darkness as black as night covers all the nations of the earth, but the glory of the Lord rises and appears over you.” Isaiah 60:2

We all have reasons for living. Everyone needs the inspiration to strive toward living the best life they can possibly live. Otherwise, we simply go through the motions and never achieve all that we can achieve.

Sadly, people choose all kinds of things to put in that spot in their lives. For some, it may be money, career, and status. For others, it’s an idealized vision of a romantic relationship based on the deceptions we see in the movies and on TV. But what if it was all simpler than that? What if there was one thing we were all meant to live for, and if we did, everything else would fall into place?

In fact, that’s exactly how it is. Our lives should glorify God. God made us this way! We were created from an overflow of His love to love and be loved by Him. It’s that simple and beautiful! We should live to glorify God first and foremost. If something else ever takes the top priority in our lives over this, it has become an idol in our lives.

Romans 3:23 says, “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” There’s nothing we can do about this in our own power. Thankfully, God has done something about it on our behalf. Because of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross, we now have the freedom to walk in relationship with God, unchained by our sins. We can live to glorify God!

God made this universe, this world, and all in it for His glory. When you fully embrace that truth it’s a life changer. Live so the glory of God is displayed in you!

1 Corinthians 10:31 says, “So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” When you live out this mindset in your everyday life, you will reach the fullness of your potential in Christ.

You can write the Pastor at pastor-billy@findtruelife.com.

“Serving Loving Families & Preserving Living Memories”





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

Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc.
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Competitive rates, not-for-profit, right here in your community.

Keystone • (352) 473-4917
Orange Park • (904) 272-2456
clayelectric.com

Police Briefs

Former Putnam librarian sentenced to nearly 22 years for producing, distributing child porn

For Clay Today

JACKSONVILLE – Chief U.S. District Judge Timothy J. Corrigan has sentenced Kurt Batucan Sheldon, 31, of Interlachen, to 21 years and 10 months in federal prison for the production and distribution of child sex abuse images. Sheldon was also ordered to serve a life term of supervised release and register as a sex offender. In addition, the court ordered \$13,000 in restitution for the victims of Sheldon's offenses. Sheldon, who worked with the Putnam County Library, was arrested on Sept. 4, 2020, and ordered to be detained during the proceedings in the case. He pleaded guilty on Feb. 17, 2022.

According to court documents, this case was initiated when the parents of a minor female child made a report to the Clay County Sheriff's Office about sexually explicit messages being sent by an adult to their child on two different social media applications. The adult referred to himself as "K t," and used the username "tacticfallout." "K t" originally began communicating with the minor child on a social media application and represented himself as a male, between 25-and-29 years of age. The minor child told him that she was 15 years old. "K t" told the minor child that his name was "Kurt" and that he lived in Putnam. The child told "Kurt" she lived with her parents and was in school. Their conversation later moved to another social



Tractor-trailer with sod overturns at intersection of U.S. 17 and S.R. 16

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Traffic was tied up for three hours while Clay County Fire Rescue and the Green Cove Springs Police Department tried to clean up a tractor-trailer loaded with sod turned on its side in the middle of U.S. Highway 17 and State Road 16 Monday afternoon. Traffic was limited to one lane each way while the crew worked to extract the driver, who wasn't injured.

media platform, over which "K t" requested child sex abuse material – images and videos – from the minor child and directed the child on how to take the images and how to pose. Approximately 50 images and/or videos were sent to "K t" at his direction.

Further investigation by the Clay County Sheriff's Office and Homeland Security Investigations identified Sheldon's residence as the source of the IP address used by the account, "tacticfallout," and for other associated accounts.

On Sept. 4, 2020, HSI agents and deputies and detectives from the Putnam County Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant at Sheldon's residence. Sheldon admitted there would be child sexual abuse material on his electronic devices and that he was attracted to children. He also admitted to

asking girls he met via online applications, who he knew to be underage, to send him nude photographs, including a 15-year-old female. Forensic examination of his devices identified more than a thousand images and several hundred videos depicting child sex abuse.

During the same investigation, HSI also learned of a 2016 St. Johns County Sheriff's Office investigation involving Sheldon's IP address and residential address engaging in peer-to-peer file sharing of child sex abuse materials. Law enforcement accessed and downloaded files that contained child sex abuse materials that were later connected to Sheldon. Sheldon also admitted his involvement in this conduct.

"Men who use the anonymity of the internet to prey on the vulnerability and innocence of children are a special kind of evil," said HSI Jacksonville Assistant Special Agent in Charge K. Jim Phillips. "Through our partnerships with the Clay County, Putnam County and St. Johns County Sheriff's Offices, we will remain vigilant in targeting these dark web predators, bringing them to justice to face their crimes."

This case was investigated by Clay County Sheriff's Office, the Putnam County Sheriff's Office, the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, and Homeland Security Investigations. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Ashley Washington.

It is another case brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who sexually exploit children, and to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.justice.gov/psc.

Cyber Tip leads to arrest of Green Cove Springs man

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – A coordinated effort by the Clay County Sheriff's Office and Homeland Security Investigation led to the arrest of a 20-year-old man for child pornography.

According to a seven-page affidavit for arrest, Wesley Ryan Wager, of Green Cove Springs, is accused of two counts of possession, viewing and controlling child sexual conduct, two counts of transmitting child pornography and using a two-way communication device to facilitate a felony.

Acting on a Cyber Tip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children last November, the agencies worked to identify who was using a Kik account to store video files of child sexual abuse material.



Wesley Wager

After tracking down his IP address to a cellphone, a warrant was issued for Wager. It stated the files were viewed in four days in October 2021. Wager told investigators the cellphone was his and that "I was young and dumb back then."

The sheriff's office was so eager to put Wager behind bars, it made him the focus of last week's "Fugitive Friday" on its social media pages. But unlike previous weeks, they posted the warning on Thursday. Wager turned himself in hours later.

"Every week we we get with our detectives and our warrants people," Sheriff Michelle Cook said. "We do a rundown on some of the fugitives that are outstanding. And so when that one (Wager) came up, I'm like yeah, we need to make that one a priority."

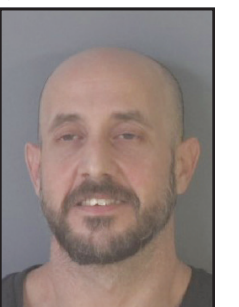
Cook said Wager saw the post and he walked into the jail to surrender.

He was arrested on Oct. 28. Wager's bond was set at \$250,015.

Man caught in stolen truck following three-week burglary spree in Middleburg

MIDDLEBURG – The Clay County Sheriff's Office said it caught up with a man suspected of a series of break-ins, including one when the suspect was armed with a rifle in a 20-day stretch.

Timothy Justin Hatcher, 36, of Middleburg, was arrested by the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office on May 20 and returned to Clay County to face charges of two counts of grand theft, five counts of



Timothy Hatcher

CRIME DOESN'T PAY, BUT WE DO!

FIRST COAST CRIME STOPPERS

Rewards Up To \$3,000
REMAIN ANONYMOUS

Call Toll Free:
1-866-845-TIPS (8477)

Submit a tip online:
www.fccrimestoppers.com

PD BY CSTF

Police

from page 26

burglary, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, two counts of grand theft auto after he was stopped on Blanding Boulevard in a truck reported stolen a few minutes earlier.

According to eight different affidavits for an arrest warrant, Hatcher is suspected of taking things from a shed on Appaloosa Road on May 7. He then was identified as a suspect in the theft of an 18-foot trailer on Hatcher Road on May 17. A day later, a four-wheeler was stolen on Old Jennings Road.

On May 20, a homeowner caught Hatcher in her house and she managed to chase him away. He then broke into a bedroom closet that belonged to someone else at his house on Pinto Road. He was chased away, but he returned five minutes later with a rifle to complete the robbery. Also on the 20th, a woman said Hatcher broke into her garage on Logger Trail.

CCSO spotted the Hatcher's vehicle after getting a description from at least two of the victims. He was seen "driving erratically" on Long Bay Road before he parked his truck at his house on Pinto Road. There, deputies noticed the missing trailer and they eventually found the four-wheeler under a tarp. A woman told deputies Hatcher

admitted to taking the truck. Hatcher escaped in some woods by his house, and he wound up on Junction Drive where a construction truck containing more than \$5,000 of equipment was taken.

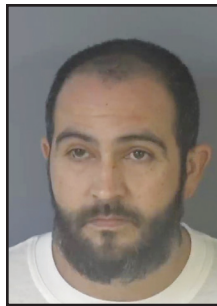
Shortly afterward, JSO arrested him following a short chase. When interviewed by CCSO detectives, Hatcher admitted to stealing the trailer, according to the affidavit.

Hatcher's next court appearance was set for Dec. 5. He is being held at the Clay County Jail with a \$190,015 bond.

Knife-welding shoplifter arrested in by sheriff's office

ORANGE PARK – A man suspected of taking three items worth \$827 from The Home Depot on Wells Avenue brandished a knife at store security before driving away in a pickup truck on Aug. 4, the Clay County Sheriff's Office said.

Milton Michael Younnett, 40, of Jacksonville, was charged with grand theft and resisting while committing a felony after a security guard saw Younnett leave the store without paying for merchandise.



Milton Younnett

When the guard approached Younnett in the parking lot, Younnett pulled a knife and approached the guard, according to the affidavit for arrest warrant. The store provided surveillance video of the incident.

Younnett was in the Duval County Jail when he was transported back to Clay County on Oct. 26.

Younnett's bond was set at \$65,015.

Man who left residents in the dark busted for violating probation in Clay County

ORANGE PARK – A man found guilty a year ago for child abuse is back behind bars for violating the terms of his probation – all while residents of his Blanchard Apartments in Jacksonville were left to figure out how to pay an overdue \$7,428 electric bill.

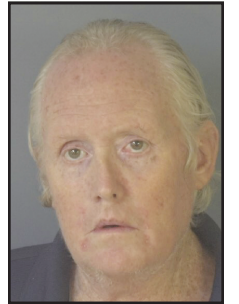
Brian Roy Lozito, 53, of Orange Park, is being held without bond in Clay County, while residents an apartment building he owns has been the source of several problems.

First residents were told they had to leave after the property was condemned when it appeared fresh water and sewage were puddling at the entrance of the complex.

Residents said sewage had overflowed into their sinks and bathtubs.

Residents were allowed back in their apartments after the sewage problem was fixed, but now they face more problems because JEA said Lozito hadn't paid the electric, water or sewage bill. Since Lozito didn't pay the bill, residents will be given 10 days to pay or face disconnection, JEA said.

Lozito originally was arrested on March 13, 2019, after he slapped a juvenile across the mouth in the Fleming Island Walmart because the boy wouldn't stop crying.



Brian Lozito

After the slap, a store employee said the child's nose and mouth were bleeding. According to the original arrest report, the blood trail from the place of the attack to Lozito's car was nearly 100 feet.

Lozito's probation was revoked on Aug. 8 after the Florida Department of Corrections said he was arrested six days earlier for leaving a child alone or more than 15 minutes while he was away using illegal drugs and drinking alcohol and for failing to show documentation that he had been given a mental health evaluation.

The state said a drug screen tested positive for both drugs and alcohol.

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, Nov. 1

Lauren N. Letterle, 33, Orange Park, domestic battery

Jacqueline N. Rivers, 24, Green Cove Springs, two counts assault/battery during burglary, resisting law enforcement with violence, battery on law enforcement/firefighter/EMT, vandalism
Daniela Alvarez, 34, Green Cove Springs, DWLSR

Rosina J. Moore, 46, Green Cove Springs, FTA-DWLSR

Alvaro R. Esteban, 23, Green Cove Springs, domestic battery, child abuse

Kady L. Freeman, 30, Keystone Heights, possession-controlled substance, possession-drug paraphernalia, trespassing

Jared B. Wagner, 47, Orange Park, battery
Isaac T. Grullon, 29, Green Cove Springs, battery

Monday, Oct. 31

Tonya M. Bennett, 22, Middleburg, possession-fentanyl

Frandy D. Oragon, 21, Fleming Island, scheme to defraud

Ramon H.C. Otero, 26, Fleming Island, scheme to defraud

Bradley C.S. Sweat, 22, Orange Park, two counts domestic battery, resist/obstruct/oppose law enforcement

Penny Y. Powell, 61, Green Cove Springs,

FTA-DWLSR

Desaree E. Robinson, 31, Green Cove Springs, possession-drug paraphernalia, possession-crack cocaine, resist/obstruct/oppose law enforcement

Samantha R. Donohue, 26, Orange Park, two counts child neglect

Sunday, Oct. 30

Lali A.H. Elmour, 51, Green Cove Springs, battery

Henry L. Roberson, 47, Orange Park, DWLSR
Kelly J. Swartout, 37, Orange Park VOP-community control, trespassing

Christopher L. Hartley, 38, Middleburg, stalking

Vladimir Vukshich, 34, Middleburg, DUI
Kyan K. Howard, 35, Orange Park, possession-cocaine, possession-marijuana, trafficking-ecstasy/molly, trespassing

Chris L. Mason, 20, Orange Park, disorderly intoxication

Saturday, Oct. 29

Mariam A. Junkins, 54, Middleburg, shoplifting

Christopher J. Cooper, 42, Green Cove Springs, resist/obstruct/oppose law enforcement, disorderly intoxication, trespassing

Wesley D. Johns, 35, Middleburg, felony domestic battery by strangulation, domestic battery

Curvin J. Toro, 22, Orange Park, trespassing
Erika M. Jimenez, 41, Orange Park, DUI

Friday, Oct. 28

Jack W. McKerrell, 27, Middleburg, follow/harass/cyberstalk, extortion/threats

Timothy J. Hatcher, 36, Middleburg, five counts burglary, two counts grand theft, two

counts grand theft auto, aggravated assault with deadly weapon

Ernest A. Pitts, 27, Green Cove Springs, FTA-possession-methamphetamine, FTA-possession-fentanyl, FTA-destroy/conceal/remove physical evidence

Austin B. Miller, 26, Green Cove Springs, FTA-DWLSR

Roy J. Dodgen, 47, Green Cove Springs, violation of injunction for protection against domestic violence

Christina R. Ragland, 30, Middleburg, possession-drug paraphernalia

Christopher C. Arsenault, 34, Middleburg, possession-drug paraphernalia, possession-fentanyl, possession-methamphetamine

Thursday, Oct. 27

Steve O. DeYoung, 38, Middleburg, possession-fentanyl, possession-drug paraphernalia, DWLSR

Robert B. McDade, 50, Green Cove Springs, possession-methamphetamine, possession-drug paraphernalia

Leslie J. Wright, 38, Middleburg, battery on law enforcement/firefighter/EMT, disorderly intoxication

Kayden A. Almeida, 20, Orange Park, aggravated assault with deadly weapon

Shannon D. Colson, 52, Orange Park, trespassing

Wesley R. Wager, 20, two counts possession/control/viewing child sexual conduct, two counts in-state transfer of child pornography, use of two-way communication device to facilitate felony

Timothy J. Kelley, 38, Green Cove Springs, non-support

Benjamin L. Brown, 21, Green Cove Springs, VOP-burglary

Gary E. Boyd, 42, Keystone Heights, violation of injunction for protection against domestic violence

Dion A. James, 19, Middleburg, domestic battery

Joseph C. Sheilds, 26, Middleburg, aggravated battery on person 65 or older, simple battery, resist/obstruct/oppose law enforcement

Wednesday, Oct. 26

Kyle Michael Williams, 29, Green Cove Springs, battery

Christopher L. Hartley, 38, Middleburg, trespassing

Connor M. Magee, 24, Green Cove Springs, FTA

Joshua K. Hartwell, 35, Keystone Heights, failure to post bond and pay civil penalty

Steven W. Farris, 38, Orange Park, shoplifting
Alyssa M. Griffin, 22, Fleming Island, petit theft

Milton M. Younnett, 40, Orange Park, four counts grand theft, resisting while committing theft,

O'Shane O.U. Smith, 34, Orange Park, domestic battery

Jaylen A. Muller, 22, Green Cove Springs, FTA-petit theft

Kyle J. George, 30, Green Cove Springs, failure to report sex offender violation

Devin R. Gibson, 27, Green Cove Springs, FTA-robbery

Kayla L. Williams, 31, Green Cove Springs, FTA-burglary

Rose M. Wakefield, 47, Green Cove Springs, FTA-DWLSR

Joshua C. Smith-Coley, 26, Orange Park, breach of peace/disorderly conduct/fighting/brawling, resist/obstruct/oppose law enforcement

Clay pickleball duo qualify for Florida State Senior Games



By Don Coble
don@claytodayonline.com

OAKLEAF – When Eric Stokes and Ben Amponin left for a pickleball tournament at Ormond Beach last week, they decided the drive was too long to come home without a victory.

As winners of the Ormond Beach Senior Games, they face an even longer drive to Zephyrhills for the state championship on Dec. 10-11.

Pickleball has become one of the most popular sports for seniors, Amponin said. In fact, many of the senior athletes at the state games will be playing a sport that

Eric Stokes (l) and Ben Amponin won the pickleball qualifying tournament at Ormond Beach. The Clay County duo now will advance to the Florida State Senior Games in December.

combines tennis and ping pong.

“We moved on, we’re going to we’re able to play in the Florida Senior Games, the state competition next month Zephyrhills,” Amponin said. “So far, 972 athletes have registered, so the majority of athletes are playing pickleball – more than basketball, more than golf, more than volleyball or track and field. Pickleball is definitely growing in popularity.”

Amponin lives in Oakleaf; Stokes lives on Fleming Island. They practice at Eagle Landing on Fleming Island.

County and city officials have been busy building new pickleball courts or converting tennis courts to keep up with the demand. Amponin said the reason is simple: it’s easy to play, especially for seniors.

“Tennis courts are being used less around the county,” he said.

“We’re finding that around the county,

there’s more and more pickleball courts. They’re either painting lines or creating lines to play pickleball within the tennis courts. Where I live in Oakleaf, they’re going to build out six designated pickleball courts. We used to have two tennis courts and they’re converting them into six specific or designated pickleball courts.

“The sport is exploding. It’s just very popular. It’s easy to learn. It’s simple. It’s a simple game. It just takes a little time to develop the skills.”

Another regional tournament was played in Jacksonville and those games attracted 50-and-older players from Georgia, Gainesville and Eustis.

“We were determined to not come empty,” Amponin said of the Ormond Beach Games. “We accomplished that. Now we’re setting our sites on Zephyrhills.”



Paterson Parade

On Monday, Paterson Elementary held their annual Halloween Parade in their South parking lot. Parents lined the parking lot to watch their child participate. Even principal O’Brian dressed up as a circus ringmaster.

FREE INTERIOR DESIGN IN-STORE CONSULTATION
*By appointment only 904-269-5444
Tuesdays and Fridays

ORANGE PARK FURNITURE
“feels like home”

*In-Home consultations are available at an hourly fee.
1329 PARK AVENUE | www.orangeparkfurniture.com

Chris Guzewich Agency Manager
office 904.579.2391
10151 Deerwood Park Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32256
ADV036 2202 The Western and Southern Life Insurance Company, Cincinnati, Ohio

W&S Western & Southern Life
INSURANCE | RETIREMENT | INVESTMENTS

Sports

Clay Today | November 3, 2022 | claytodayonline.com

Proven reputation of
Honest, Trustworthy and
Professional service.

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



Florida Homes
Realty & Mortgage



Mawhinney, Swartz torch region golf



By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

PORT ORANGE - After a disappointing 18-holes on their home course at Fleming Island Golf Club, the Fleming Island High boys golf team forgot and forged on at their region 1-3A championship tournament on Monday at The Golf Club at Cypress Head in Port Orange.

"With the guys on the team understanding we had to regroup and play better next time (at regions), we were set to just do that," said Fleming Island senior Colton Swartz after the Golden Eagles less than stellar 305 team score on their home course.

After a second place finish to Nease High at the district 3-3A tournament on Wed., Oct. 26 at Fleming Island Golf Club, 293-305 with Fletcher third at 318, the Golden Eagles shaved 13 strokes off their team score to best all challengers in Port Orange behind the hot hand of freshman Tyler Mawhinney and senior Colton Swartz who went 1-2 with scintillating scores of 68 and 70 to torch the field with a 291 to-



Senior Colton Swartz regrouped his teammates from a less-than-stellar finish at districts to storm the region championships and return the Golden Eagles to the state championship tournament.

tal with host Spruce Creek a nine-stroke second and Nease crumbling to seventh with a 312 score. Fletcher finished tied for fourth with 311. Fleming Island will compete in the Class 3A championship tourna-

ment for a second time in three years on Tues.-Wed., Nov. 8-9 at the Mission Inn Resort and Club in Howey in the Hills.

SEE GOLF, 35



Rings, rings, rings

Middleburg High softball coach Ashley Houston hops in front of her girls during a state champions ring ceremony at Middleburg High School. Houston guided the Broncos to a first-ever team state title last year with a stunning 1-0 win in the Class 5A championship game.

STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO
Freshman Tyler Mawhinney rolled with an astounding 68 to be top finisher at the Region 1-3A golf championship in Port Orange.

Boat Show

+ BUYER APPRECIATION DAY

SATURDAY, NOV 5TH, 2022

EVENT LOCATION: 7154 S E COUNTY RD 21B
KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FL 32656

Lake Area
WATERSPORTS

Athlete Of The Week



Fleming Island sophomore **Ava Brinkman** earned her first region diving title after winning the district title last year with the state's best score, but then suffering a season ending injury. Brinkman's region title score; 484.30, won by almost 100 points, and was the top score in Florida for the upcoming state diving championships. Congratulations Ava.



Sponsored by



(904) 579-3435
1760 Wells Road
Orange Park
LeaderBoardArcade.com

GAME ON!

Keystone vs. P.K. Younge
Clay @ Oakleaf
Middleburg @ Fernandina Beach

St. Johns Country Day – BYE
Ridgeview – BYE
Orange Park @ Fleming Island

Young Clay survives Yellow Jackets' depth

By Ray Dimonda
Correspondent

ST. AUGUSTINE - Knowing he was out-gunned in experience coming into tonight's matchup in St. Augustine against the Yellow Jackets, Clay High Head Football Coach Kyle Kennard dialed up some early strategy for his Clay Blue Devils.

Needing to slow down the lightning speed of the tempo, Run/Pass option (RPO) Yellow Jacket offense, Kennard used the play clock to try and slow the game enough to have his team go on a paced offense to try and hang with the gunslinging offense of St. Augustine. Through most of the first quarter, the tactic worked, holding the Jackets to a single score, 7-0 at the end of the first. But the depth of the Jacket backfield and the RPO deception in the pocket allowed St. Augustine to bust open the dam in the second quarter with another 21 unanswered points going into the half, 27-0 on their way to a 45-7 trouncing of the Blue Devils.

"Run-Pass option is a cat and mouse game," said Kennard, now 3-6 with a season ender at Oakleaf High. "If we tighten up in the back of the box, they threw to the perimeter and made us take on their athletes in space. If we backed out, they began running the ball. They are a big, physical team, they have a great program, and they beat us up tonight."

St. Augustine sophomore quarterback Locklan Hewlett made the option look easy. As one or two running backs would seem to have the ball, Hewlett would continue to look downfield. If he had a defender one-on-one with one of his receivers, he pulled the ball back out and heaved it downfield. As Clay played more defenders back to take away the pass, the Jackets used the stacked backfield to ram the ball up the middle and clip off four to nine yards a run, breaking several out for double digit gains. "It's not that these kids aren't playing hard," said Kennard. "It's that they don't understand what it takes to compete at a high level. They are going through a process and it is not easy. We have to get through this and get in the weight room." As Kennard told his team after the game, they "need to eat weights."

In the second quarter, if Hewlett wasn't seeing an open receiver, he had a loaded backfield with Ivyn Collins, Devonte Lyons, and Sean Harvey who were not held to a single negative yard all night. The trio rotated in and gave St. Augustine fresh legs on every down. The Jackets only punted twice all game.

The tempo offense was another thing St. Augustine did with precision. As quick as the referees could spot the ball, the Yellow Jackets were on the line and



CORRESPONDENT PHOTOS BY RAY DIMONDA
Clay High quarterback Merrick Rapoza escapes from the St. Augustine pass rush in Blue Devils clash on Friday.

Clay (3-6) at Oakleaf (4-5)

Oakleaf ran into the Bartram Trail buzzsaw to the tune of a 55-20 district loss on Friday. The Knights got sterling performance from wide receiver Taylor Bradshaw for a second straight game with two scores off a seven catch night with 135 yards. Sophomore XBack Carlos Witherup added three catches apiece with Outlaw putting one in the end zone. Knights' quarterback Drew Ammon was efficient at 15 of 28 passes for 220 yards and the three scores with one interception. Outlaw is 36 yards from a 1,000 yard season with Ammon throwing for 1,680 yards while also rushing for 365 yards as Oakleaf number two rusher. Bradshaw, around north Florida, is one of top pass catchers with 42 snags for 684 yards and eight scores. Witherup has 24 catches with Jaylin Martin, Jamaal Gibbons and Outlaw all in double digits for the pass-strong Knights offense; 19, 12 and 12 for the trio, respectively.



Clay defensive back Antonio Thomas dives to try and knock down pass in Friday game against St. Augustine.

snapped the ball. The discipline it takes to run this offense is rare at this level and St. Augustine perfected it.

In the third quarter, after a failed on-side kick attempt by Clay, St. Augustine went 55 yards in :52 seconds to blow the score up to 35-0 with three tempo passes. Clay again went three and out, punting the ball back to the Yellow Jackets. After driving the field, the Clay defense started seeing the patterns and broke up a third down and short yardage pass to force the Jackets to a field goal, 38-0, putting the game into a running clock. As the third quarter ended, the Blue Devils were on the march into St. Augustine territory.

On the first play of the fourth quarter, the Blue Devils caught the Yellow Jackets by surprise as Clay quarterback Merrick Rapoza found one of his favorite receivers one-on-one. With a 30 yard air mail package, Rapoza hit Payton Dykas up

high where the defender could not get to. Coming down with the rock, Dykas turned and brought the shutout to an end. With the good Alex Weiss point after, Clay was finally on the board 38-7. On the next series, after an incomplete pass, the Yellow Jackets needed only a single pass play to 50 yards for the final score, 45-7.

Middleburg 35, Orange Park 14

Massive game for senior tailback T.J. Lane who broke for two 50-plus yard first quarter scores en route to a phenomenal 351 yards rushing on 24 carries as Broncos dominated Raiders 35-14. Lane scored four times as Broncos were without Mike Mitchell.

On defense, junior middle linebacker Austin Cruce was all over the field for 16

Myers wins Region 1-3A cross country

RHS Rodriguez, MHS Burt
3A solo invites

By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

GAINESVILLE - Fleming Island High junior cross country runner Graham Myers confidently executed a second lap pass of a familiar foe then cruised to victory in the region 1-3A cross country championships held Saturday at Santa Fe College.

In the girls 1-4A race, also held Saturday at Santa Fe, Oakleaf senior Sierra Barrera continued her barrage of state-ranked front runners with a fifth place finish and another best time of her senior season. Barrera, with her 18:48.90, stayed close to a strong pack of Buchholz front runners; Kate Drummond, Lucy Voss and Emma White as the quartet ran behind the lead pack of Olivia Niewald of Spruce Creek who won in 18:28.70, Olympica's Emily Knopfle and Creekside's Alyson Johnson. Johnson's third to Barrera's fifth was separated by just 1.3 three seconds as the trio sprinted into the finish area.

"We had a good plan of attack and how to take the race out to get a faster time on this course," said Barrera. "I got a little behind on the start lap and had to work to bridge a gap to the back of the leaders by the second lap. It was a lot of work and I had to dig down to finish the final 100 meters in the pack with the three other girls."

Last week, at the district 1-4A on the hilly Apalachee state meet course, Barrera was third behind Buchholz's Drummond and Voss in 18:59.00. The surprise for Buchholz was White who was 14th last week at districts in 20:06.80.

Myers, a Class 1A medalist at last year's cross country state championships, is set to be ranked among the top 10 in Florida all classes for the November 4 state meet after his district and region

titles in back-to-back weeks with 15:40.30 effort enough to beat Ponte Vedra's Grant Doherty for a second week. Doherty finished at 15:50.70.

Last week, at the district 2-3A championship race, Myers beat Doherty with a final surge; 15:28.90-15:30.40.

"I got caught sleeping at the start and wound up in the middle of a big pack up until mile one and had to get around a bunch of people to start moving up," said Myers. "When we came back around to the start area at the top of the hill, I started to reel in Grant and got to him as we hit the bottom and made the left turn."

Myers, though, with three Ponte Vedra runners between himself and teammate John Keester IV, figured the team title would go to Ponte Vedra again.

Keester, in at 16:30.40 in ninth place had senior Danny Sakowski just eight seconds behind in 12th place to make the team calculations dicey with the Sharks prevailing by just a 42-54 score. Right behind Sakowski, in one of his best races of the season, sophomore Jacob Campbell, in 16:40.10, bolstered the team points even more with a 13th place finish.

"Jacob ran great and Danny pulled him along to stay close to John," said Fleming Island coach Chris Otero. "Us and Ponte Vedra are right there together most of the time and the winner will be the team with one or two spots just ahead of the other."

The difference became the fifth finishers for both teams with Ponte Vedra freshman Miles Wick edging Fleming Island freshman Andrew Boyer by five seconds to take 17th for Wicks and 19th for Boyers.

"Two freshmen battling to decide a region title is always interesting," said Myers. "The guys up front; me and John and Danny and now Jacob, keep it close, then it's a matter of inches for the fifth spot."

In the girls region 1-3A race, Fleming Island got a surge from freshman Brooke



STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

Fleming Island High cross country runner Graham Myers pushes away from Ponte Vedra's Grant Doherty in passing move near two mile mark in region 1-3A championship race in Gainesville on Saturday. Myers held lead to win.



Fleming Island's Brooke Reynolds sprints away from pack to be Golden Eagles' top finisher at region 1-3A championship race. Right: Oakleaf senior Sierra Barrera leads second pack at mile two en route to fifth place finish at region 1-4A championship race.



Reynolds in the final 100 meters of the race that got her in just ahead of teammates Katelyn Thompson and Reese Scott as the Golden Eagles tried to stay in the mix behind front runners Ponte Vedra,

the defending state champions, Leon, who had region champion Lilee Tang blasting the field by a 17 second margin with her

SEE XC, XX



Christie



Lori

MEDICARE

Open enrollment is here!

October 15th - December 7th






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



ROBERTS

INSURANCE

EXPERIENCE, SERVICE & GREAT RATES

Middleburg 2361 Blanding Blvd. • 904-282-7665
Keystone Heights 333 S. Lawrence Blvd. • 352-473-7209
Starke 986 N Temple Ave • 904-964-7826

PET ADOPTION

♥ STAFF PICK OF THE WEEK ♥

A forever home for Lily

Lily is the longest resident in our shelter. She has been in our shelter for over 800 days. When a dog is in a shelter for that long people begin to think, "what's wrong with her" or "will she be able to acclimate into a home setting" we can proudly say "YES SHE CAN." Lily was fostered temporarily last month with a wonderful family who reassured us that she can be a normal dog in a normal environment. She did so well. She is house trained and did not have an accident once. She enjoyed playing with her toys, going on walks, and car rides. Lily has completed the P.A.W. (Pups at Work) Program at Lawtey Correctional Institution and graduated with her AKC Canine Good Citizen Certificate (twice). She is very obedient and has a strong desire to please and work for her owner. Due to her strong prey drive and natural instinct to hunt, she would do best in a home where there are no cats or dogs. She needs a fenced in backyard where she can get consistent exercise and a dedicated family willing to put in the work to train her due to her need for physical and mental stimulation. We know that she is capable of being an amazing dog and living a loving fulfilled life with a family of her own.





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



STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

Top left: Middleburg High's Molly Burt earned third individual spot to race at the Class 3A championship race on Saturday as did Ridgeview's Julio Rodriguez, below, who ran his best race of season to advance. Below: Clay High's Noel Looney finishes his region 1-3A race.



XC from page 31

the field by a 17 second margin with her 18:07.50 winning time, and Fort Walton Beach getting a third place finish from sophomore Belicia O'Grady.

Fleming Island got their three front-runners in a tight formation at the finish, but Ponte Vedra already had their top five in. St. Augustine had three runners in behind top finisher Katie Lawrence's fourth place finish with Leon and Fort Walton Beach having just two in front of Reynolds as coaches awaited the finishes of third and fourth runners to determine the top five teams. In the second surge at the finish, Fleming Island's Allie Knotts and Sydney Fallin got in at 25th and 28th.

Ponte Vedra dominated the top team title with 37 points with Leon second at 57 and Fort Walton Beach edging Fleming Island 88-95 for third and fourth.

Ridgeview and Middleburg also sent full teams to the region race with the Panthers finishing 13th and Middleburg 14th, 373-379. Middleburg senior Molly "the Hurt" Burt was in at 36th in 21:26.20 while Ridgeview's got junior Emory Thomas in at 53rd in 22:24.60. Burt took the third in-

dividual invite to the Class 3A meet with her finish.

Clay had solo runner Kaygen Williamson in at 40th in 21:40.30 with teammate Noah Looney in at 50th in 18:03.40.

For Ridgeview, Julio Rodriguez ran a strong 17:09.50 to finish 23rd and grabbed one of just three state meet bigs as an individual runner.

"He ran a really gutsy run," said Ridgeview coach Paul Grybb.

In region 1-1A at the New World Golf course in Jacksonville, St. Johns Country Day School's girls team, led by the other Stratton, sophomore Rebecca Stratton, little sister to Class 1A champion Matthew Stratton, now at University of Florida, got fifth team finish to advance behind Pensacola Christian Academy, Maclay and Providence going 1-2-3.

For the boys, junior Richard Nichols was top finisher for the Spartans at 14th in 17:35.60, but the Spartan team was 14th team. Nichols was second solo qualifier for Class 1A championship race next week.

In region 1-2A, also at New World Golf, Keystone Heights' boys finished 15th with junior Tyler Griffin 54th in 18:18.30.

In the girls race, Keystone Heights eighth grader Olivia Griffin finished 70th in 22:52.90.



Spartan girls to state

St. Johns Country Day School's girls cross country team, led by a Stratton, Rebecca Stratton, advanced to the Class 1A championship race to be held Saturday in Tallahassee.



State Champions

Middleburg High hosted a state champions ring ceremony for their softball team that stormed the Class 5A championship bracket with exciting wins all the way to a 1-0 championship win off a solo homer by Belle Mincey, showing off her ring.



Singleton selected to All America team

PHOTO BY LAURA ANDERSON/FIHS

Fleming Island High senior running back Sam Singleton, slated to compete for the Florida State University Seminoles football team next fall, dons his All American football shirt as his selection as one of the nation's top 100 players. Singleton will play in the All-American Bowl in the Alamodome in San Antonio. Among those honored in past selections have been Tim Tebow, Derrick Henry, Odell Beckham, Jr., and Christian McCaffrey.

Prewitt hitting trail after VB

By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

MIDDLEBURG - Carrie Prewitt got an effort of a lifetime from those under her coaching care, but the possibility of getting that elusive state title ended against another one-of-the-best teams in Florida just days later.

"If we had had the same game as we had for the district title, we would still be playing," said Prewitt, who lost her region 1-5A quarterfinal 3-1 to fifth seed Ocala Vanguard, the district 2-5A champion, despite another 26 Kill effort from junior hitter Connor Rahn. "The thought of not doing this anymore has hit me in waves. These girls, game after game, played their hearts out and that's all I can ask for as a coach."

Prewitt admitted the thought of a final run for a state title; with a handful of Final Four finishes and a runnerup, has been in the back of her head, but in the front of her team's collective heads.

"We were either going to win the state championship or go out playing our best game," said Prewitt. "And, we went out playing our best game. I'm just really proud of them. That Ridgeview game was just back and forth at championship level all night."

In ending her illustrious career, which included about 35 years of games, over 500 notches in the W column and a slew of top-tier collegiate players from every level of college; junior college, NAIA, Div. III, Div. II, Div. I, and a reputation of unfailing devotion to making every one of her teams hard-nosed and up to the task against all



foes.

Note: Vanguard continued through the regions with a win over top seed Choctawhatchee and now will face sixth seed Ridgeview in the region championship on Wed., Nov. 2 in Ocala.

For Prewitt, the future has some ideas ranging from a long hike down the Appalachian Trail to a country-wide journey in a van or RV around America.

"First, I'm going to close up everything at home and I'm going to hike," said Prewitt, who embarked a few years ago on a self-motivate fitness regimen that included pushup challenges, lots of walking and hiking and, of course, volleyball practice. "I'm still getting ready for beach volleyball season, then I retire from teaching in May and



Middleburg High volleyball coach Carrie Prewitt has been an icon of Florida volleyball dating back to a handful of Final Four appearances and a bucket load of district titles including a final trophy in this year's district championship with a thrilling win over Ridgeview. Left: Carrie Prewitt shares a moment with softball coach Ashley Houston who was honored as a state champion during Friday's football game.



it all starts."

As for the leaving of the teaching she does, Prewitt admitted teaching without coaching would not be a good day.

"I could not be here and not coach," said Prewitt, a physical education teacher.

Prewitt's next big emotional step is to give the keys to her assistant coach Meredith Forkum to take over the program.

"At the banquet, I will officially give her the keys to engine," said Prewitt. "She's going to do a great job. She's well prepared and will have a good team to start off with."

Prewitt's first trek, she planned, was a March 2024 start of the Appalachian Trail with a finish at the famous Katahdin, Maine finish point, a near 2,000 mile, six-month adventure.

"That will be my decompression effort," said Prewitt. "By myself, with my little backpack, tent and food."

Talking volleyball, Prewitt admitted not being able to single out just one player as her most influential, but that her approach to the game has significantly evolved in the

her 30 years.

"When we first started out, we were just figuring out the game itself and we just worked hard on the coaching, drilling and making them tough," said Prewitt.

"The volleyball intelligence has evolved immensely. At first, we were more teaching the game. Now, the kids come fully immersed in the game and have studied the little nuances."

Prewitt's final thoughts of her career that she felt she had plenty of up moments but also its share of sad moments were more coach missteps that may have changed a game situation.

"We all have shoulda, woulda, couldas as coaches and we all hate them," said Prewitt. "I don't think I ever cracked in front of the team, but always felt that if I freaked out, the kids would freak out. On the inside, there is plenty of those shoulda, woulda, couldas. The main goal was to assess and figure a way that a bad set doesn't happen again."



Orange Park High's Brock Buhnerkemper will be in Tuesday's Region 1-2A championship tournament on Tues., Nov. 1 in Pensacola.



Golf

from page 29

Mawhinney's 68 came with a slew of birdies; six, and one eagle on his final hole off a 503 yard par five hole that Mawhinney canned in three strokes to power to the gold medal.

Swartz, equally steaming on the course, went back to back 35s with six birdies and just four bogies, chased Mawhinney; 33 on front nine, 35 on final nine, through most of the morning. Swartz bogied his third and fourth holes to give Mawhinney a two stroke lead that he never relinquished.

The rest of the Fleming Island scorecard included Dylan Frein at 76, Ryan Houck at 77.

At the district tournament, Fleming Island could only muster a best of 74 from Mawhinney with Frein, Swartz and Houck tied at 77.



Fleming Island two freshman sensations; top, Dylan Frein and, below, Ryan Houck, will get first taste of state tournament action while, above, Addy Vogt, for St. Johns Country Day School, gets her second visit.

SJCDS Vogt back to state tournament

St. Johns Country Day School's Addy Vogt shot a three over par 75 to advance to the Class 1A championship tournament with her second place finish (four tied at 75) at the region 1-1A championship tournament at Windsor Park Golf Club on Mon., Oct. 31.

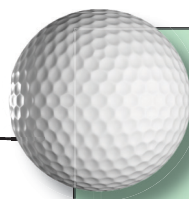
Vogt, a sophomore, finished tied with three other golfers; Madison Balaskiewicz of Bolles, Emma Wells of Providence and Danielle Dailey of St. Joseph Academy, to make her second state tournament visit.

Keystone Heights girls team, led by senior Candace Jackson's 85, placed seventh with Bolles top team with a 316 score.

Vogt will play in her second state tournament after a 171 (83, 88, 83) total last year with the winning score at 138.

Keystone Heights boys 8th in region

Keystone Heights junior Alexander Addington scored an 8-over 80 to finish 18th at the region 1-1A championship tournament at Marsh Landin Country Club as the



Tuesday Nov. 1

Region 1-2A Boys at Perdido Bay Golf Club in Pensacola

OPHS: Brock Buhnerkemper

MHS: Chase Carroll

Region 1-2A Girls at Quail Heights Country Club, Lake City

CHS: Cora Parker, Rebecca Gibson, Shyann Walker and Taylor Young

MHS: Neva Winslow

Region 1-3A at Hawkstone Country Club in Gainesville

FHS: Alyzabeth Morgan, Cambree Hodge, Chloe Blanc, Kalia Polete and Kathryn McNeill



Middleburg High's Chase Carroll has shot at fourth state tournament and one more shot to equal big brother Cody Carroll with a state title.



Clay High's Taylor Young has been strong finisher all season with consistent game and could be a Blue Devil to state invitee.

Indians finished as eighth team. Episcopal scored a 298-304 team title over Bolles with Keystone Heights finishing with a 348.

With Addington were Kenneth Guy (85), Nick Binet (90), Shepherd Rozier (93) and

Ty Mitzel (96).

Bishop Snyder senior Matthew French of Orange Park, finished ninth with a 76 score to earn the third individual qualifier to the state tournament.



STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

Middleburg High's offensive line is key component of Broncos run game that saw tailback T.J. Lane rumbled for 350 yards and four scores in win over Orange Park.



Orange Park wide receiver Brian Green battles with Middleburg defensive back Errick Fryer for pass attempt in first half action of Broncos win over Raiders.

Football

from page 30

tackles to lead the Bronco defense. Defensive back Jaden Boyd had one interception and defensive end BJ Carter and Karim Russell both scooped up Raider fumbles.

Orange Park got a first quarter score off hard running from JoJo Restall. The Raiders were without offensive tackle Roderick Kearney, on the sidelines with a wrist injury.

In the first half, Bronco defensive back Errick Fryer also got a blocked punt that led to a Bronco score.

Middleburg (4-5) travels to Fernandina Beach (4-5) on Friday.



St. Johns running back George Friedline has been workhorse running back for Spartans.

Fleming Island 35, Buchholz 49

Fleming Island's run game got double 100-plussers with quarterback Cibastian Broughton pumping out 186 yards on the ground with two scores while senior running back Sam Singleton added 139 yards and two scores as the Golden Eagles fought

the good fight on Thursday, but fell 49-35 to Gainesville Buchholz (7-1) in a game critical to playoff points for the Golden Eagles.

Singleton also scored off an 80 pass play for Fleming Island.



Oakleaf High running back Devin Outlaw returned to his rugged, hard hitting style as Knights battled one of toughest schedules in north Florida.

Fleming Island hosts Orange Park on Friday.

Tocoi Creek 35, Keystone Heights 0

Senior tailback Bryar Schenck popped a 50 yarder en route to a team high 91 yards rushing, but Keystone Heights (2-7) could muster minimum offense against a stout Toco Creek High team (6-3) to lose 35-0 at home.

Keystone Heights (2-7) will host P.K. Yonge (2-7) on Friday.

Old Plank Christian Academy 26, St. Johns Country Day School 6

St. Johns Country Day School football gae up 20 first half points to go into the lockers down 20-6, then held Old Plant (7-1) to just one second half score to lose 26-6 in their regular season finale.

St. Johns will play in the Sunshine State Athletic Conference state playoffs with a road trip to Lakeland Christian. St. Johns is seeded fourth with Lakeland Christian third.

Against Old Plank, St. Johns' lone score was from running back George Friedline who finished with 44 yards on the night with one a 26 yarder.

Bodie Brafford led the receiving corps with three catches for 28 yards.

In the tough trenches game, three Spartan defenders had double digit tackles; An-



Devin Outlaw dives for extra yards against Bartram Trail.

drew Staten (19), Caleb Cameron (14) and Trey Dubnansky (11).

Corbin Scott had an interception. In the SSAC No. 3s vs. No. 4s bracket for 8-Man football, St. Johns' end of the bracket features Masters Academy vs. Oasis Christian, Countryside Christian vs. Calvary Chapel and Florida Deaf vs. Sarasota Christian. The 3s vs. 4s championship will be played November 19 at 2 p.m. in Bryant Stadium in Lakeland.

The SSAC championship game, No. 1s, vs. No. 2s, will be played at Bryant Stadium in Lakeland on November 19 at 7pm.



Middleburg defensive back Jaden Boyd steals interception for Broncos defensive in win over Raiders.

Brinkman, McDade set to battle for state titles

By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

FLEMING ISLAND - Fleming Island High swimming has a defending state champion determined to defend her title and grab the second one she missed last year while the diving team has a returning top point scorer who missed her region meet due to injury last year as area swimmers gear up for the FHSAA state swimming and diving championships this week in Stuart at the Sailfish Splash Waterpark and Aquatics Center on Fri., Nov. 4.

Ava Brinkman, who scorched her way to a 505 point district title last year before suffering a broken nose prior to regions, is set to challenge the best in the state with a reinvigorated vigor to finish what she could not do last year.

In one of the more dramatic events to be highlighted in Stuart, the girls diving, Fleming Island High sophomore Ava Brinkman has been on a mission to finish what she could not finish last year because of a season-ending injury.

"People may not comprehend the extent of the trauma of just the initial diagnosis to the final diagnosis," said Andrea Brinkman, mom to sophomore Ava, who will travel to Stuart after a year of emotional, physical and psychological trauma that has tested the young athlete to be prepared for the Class 3A championship. "Her accident was on a three meter platform inward dive where she smashed her face on the board somersaulting toward the diving board. We went from a diagnosis of a broken neck, a concussion, a cervical fracture and multiple face fractures to, after hours of excruciating second and third opinions, to her final just a broken nose and stay out of the water."

Ava, just 15, stayed true to her sport and weathered the emotional trauma of the injury plus the loss of competing at the highest level for about three months.

"I think because of the injury and the recovery, I am a much stronger person overall," said Ava Brinkman, who recently took fourth at the USA Nationals in Texas to solidify her return to the highest level. "I use the story of Greg Louganis, an 1988 Olympic gold medalist for the United States, as my inspiration to stay the course. He did kind of the same thing and smashed his face (just a laceration) during prelims, but returned to win a gold medal."

For Brinkman, the return took a bit more than a bandage across her nose as, according to mom Andrea, Ava broke the nose perfectly and did not need any post injury casting or wrapping.

"She just had to stay out of the water for six weeks to avoid impact with the water," said Andrea Brinkman. "She was still doing her dryland exercises and other cardio and weightlifting workouts to keep her fitness high."

Class 3A diving

1. **Kaitlyn Raby** St. Thomas Aquinas (4-3A) 495.55 (2nd 2021 436.35)
2. **Hadley Futch** Winter Springs (2-3A) 490.75 (13th 2021 337.90)
3. **Ava Brinkman** Fleming Island 484.30 (505.25 at Districts 2021)
4. **Samantha Heverly** Osceola (3-3A) 454.65 (3rd 2021 425.85)

Class 3A 50 free

(Times under 24 seconds)

1. **Maryn McDade** FHS 23.82 (1st 2021 23.58)
2. **Maya Golubovic** St. Thomas Aquinas 23.89 (7th 2021 24.13)

2. **Penelope Zarczynski** Ponte Vedra 23.89 (6th 2021 24.13)

3. **Alex Pope** St. Petersburg 23.91 (10th 2021 24.56)

Class 3A 100 free

(Times under 53 seconds)

1. **Charlotte Driesse** Nease 52.08
2. **Penelope Zarczynski** Ponte Vedra 52.19
3. **Havana Layton Naples** 52.25 (Tied 2nd 2021 51.47)
4. **Maya Golubovic** St. Thomas Aquinas 52.40 (6th 2021 52.91)
5. **Maryn McDade** Fleming Island 52.56 (Tied 2nd 2021 51.47)
6. **Sophie Fox** Ponte Vedra 52.57

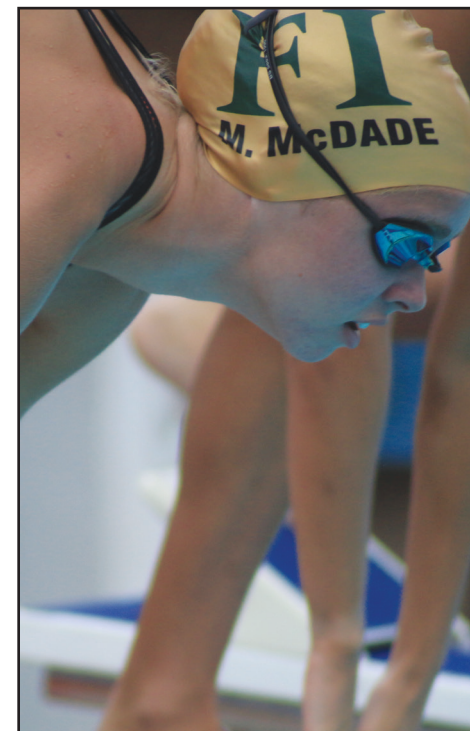
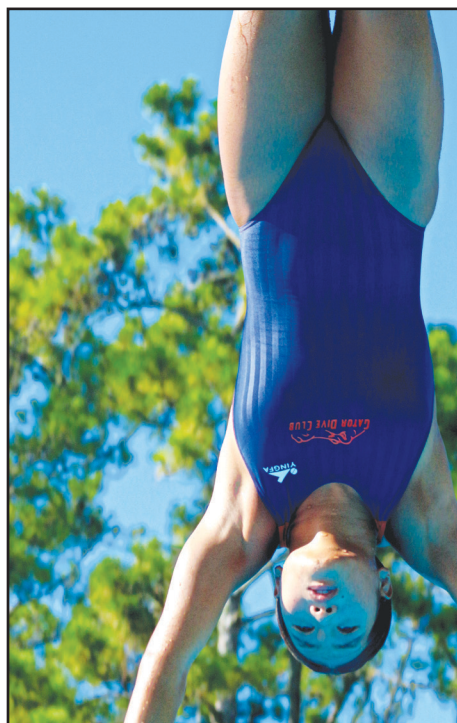
Brinkman recalled that her first return to the diving board was a bit tentative if not scary.

"It took a while to be confident on my inwards for sure," said Ava Brinkman, who also won AAU titles in one meter and three meters over the summer with a second place finish on platform over the summer. "I did have a mental block about it and stayed with 1.5 inwards until I was mentally confident, then I went for the more difficult multiple somersault dives."

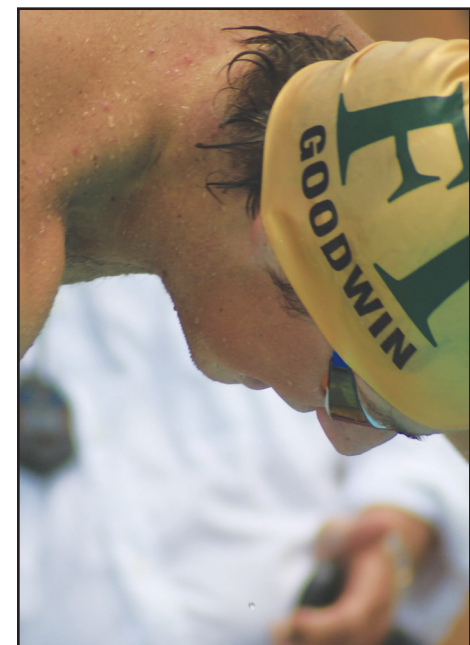
Brinkman's ascension back into the state ranks has been closely monitored by her competition as well as her followers and parents.

"She won't even look at the numbers of

SEE SWIM, 39



Left: Fleming Island diver Ava Brinkman will be completing tough rehab year that took her out of state title contention last year with trip to Class 3A championships Saturday in Stuart. Right: Class 3A defending 50 free champion Maryn McDade has been steadily deflecting all challengers to fast district and region titles.



Left: Fleming Island High captain Karen Tang is strong leader of tough Golden Eagle relays. Right: David Goodwin is seconds away from a medal finish in the 200 free.



Left: Fleming Island's Dylan Ducut is strong medal contender in 100 free and 100 butterfly. Right: Orange Park's Sebastian Lopez is Raiders top choice in sprints.

Ridgeview's Huff leads No. 24 Furman past No. 6 Chattanooga

Courtesy of Furman Athletics

GREENVILLE, S.C. — Furman quarterback Tyler Huff threw for 203 yards and a touchdown and rushed for 132 yards and another score to lead FCS No. 24 Furman to a 24-20 victory over FCS No. 6 Chattanooga on Homecoming Saturday afternoon at Paladin Stadium. Huff is a graduate of Ridgeview High School in Orange Park, FL.

The sixth-ranked Mocs are the highest ranked opponent the Paladins have defeated since downing No. 4 Wofford, 34-14, in Greenville during the 2018 season.

Furman (7-2, 5-1 SoCon) overcame three turnovers and an early 10-7 deficit to notch its fourth straight victory. Devin Abrams' five-yard run gave Furman a 14-10 advantage with 6:46 left in the first half, and Axel Lepvreau connected on a 30-yard field goal on the final play of the second quarter to up the margin to 17-10.

After Huff followed up his own 30-yard run on the first play of the second half with a 30-yard touchdown strike to All-America tight end Ryan Miller to give Furman a 24-10 lead, Chattanooga's Aaron Sears

booted a 23-yard field goal to trim the margin to 24-13 with 5:32 left in the quarter, halting the Paladins' 17-0 run.

Preston Hutchinson rushed for a five-yard touchdown with 13 minutes remaining to pull the Mocs within 24-20, but Jack Barton blocked a 23-yard field goal attempt with 6:54 remaining to maintain Furman's advantage.

The Mocs regained possession at the Furman 40 with 3:13 left following an 11-yard Paladin punt, but a five-yard rush and three consecutive incompletions — the last of which was deflected by Furman cornerback Cally Chizik on fourth down at the Paladin 35 — allowed Furman to regain possession with 2:26 on the game clock.

Huff, who completed 16-of-25 passes in the contest, ensured Furman would end the game with the ball when he connected with Kyndel Dean on a third down pass for 17 yards and a first down at the UTC 47.

Huff's 132 yards rushing on 20 carries represented the first 100-yard rushing performance by a Paladin quarterback since Chris Forcier ran for 130 yards in a



PHOTO COURTESY OF FURMAN ATHLETICS

Ridgeview High graduate Tyler Huff, now a fifth year transfer quarterback at Furman University, has rocketed the Paladins to a strong season record with his passing and running prowess.

45-15 win over Colgate in 2010.

The Paladins forged a 388-354 advantage in total offense, rushing for 185 and passing for 203.

Furman's defense limited Chattanooga (6-2, 4-1 SoCon) to only 84 yards rushing on 32 carries and Mocs' quarterback Pres-

ton Hutchinson below 50 percent passing (17-of-35) with two interceptions. The Paladins were also credited with eight pass breakups.

Furman is idle next weekend before traveling to Macon, Ga., to face nationally-ranked Mercer on Saturday, November 12.

Swim

from page 37

the other divers in the state," said Andrea Brinkman. "She will be the best she can be and that will be a lot considering how her year has been."

Top challenger for Brinkman, who dominated her region 1-3A competition with a 484.30 ahead of runnerup Lilah Kage of Gainesville's 385.55 (5th last year at 383.65), is last year's runnerup Kaitlyn Ross, a senior out of St. Thomas Aquinas, who scored a 436.35 for her silver medal last year with Brinkman's 505.25 as a district champion the only comparison number.

"From district to state, the judging gets more difficult and the dives riskier," said Brinkman. "I feel confident and strong that I have prepared to my very best."

Top returner to the state championship is Fleming Island junior Maryn McDade, the defending 50 free Class 3A champion and a second place tie finisher in the 100 free.

Thus far, McDade has been flawless with a district and region title in the 50 and a fast third place in the region 1-3A 100 free. McDade's 50, won in 23.82 ahead of Ponte Vedra challenger Penelope Zarczynski, a sophomore, who was runnerup by a slim 23.89 with Ponte Vedra freshman Kate Pelot third in 24.39, looks to be one of three probable challengers to McDade's title.

For the rest of Class 3A, region 3-3A champion Maya Golubovic, a Seminole



Clay High butterfly specialist Kylie Elrod is top candidate to make splash at regions this week with possible state meet berth.

High junior, blasted her field in the 50 in 23.89 with runnerup Alex Pope in at 23.91 to set up a very fast final race field for Class 3A.

"That 50 free with those five girls in it will be a sub 23 second final," said Fleming Island High coach Jordan Bright. "Maryn is very quiet and focused and she will have more to show at state. Every champion athlete definitely wants to defend the title and get the repeat."

In region 4-3A and region 2-3A, the 50 free events were won in 24.63 and 24.49, respectively, with both swimmers; Anastasia Lutz, a sophomore out of St. Thomas Aquinas, winning handily by nearly a sec-

ond, and Veronica Shulman of Horizon winning by 1.23 seconds.

In the 100 free, McDade's third place 52.56, was the end of top four finishing times that started with Nease Charlotte Driesse's winning 52.08 and ending with Ponte Vedra's Sophie Fox's 52.57 with just .51 separating the top four finishers.

"The way the schedule is set, Maryn will have about an hour to recover from the 50 and be ready for the 100," said Bright. "Getting the double in the 50 and 100 is something every sprint swimmer wants."

Lutz was top finisher at 53.91 in region 4-3A with Havana Layton of Naples, who McDade tied for second with last year at

51.47, punching in at 52.25 to earn the third fastest split in Class 3A with Golubovic fourth in 52.40.

In 2-3A, Madison Houck won in 53.03 with Lutz winning region 4-3A in 53.91.

In region 1-3A, for the women, Fleming Island finished eighth with Oakleaf 10th behind Ponte Vedra's winning 421 with Nease second and Fletcher third.

For the boys, Nease won with 406 points with Chiles second and Pensacola Washington third. Fleming Island finished 12th, Orange Park 13th and Oakleaf 23rd.

Fleming Island to state (event, rank): Maryn McDade (50 free, 1st), Dylan Ducut (50 free 20th), Ava Brinkman (Diving, 3rd), Dylan Ducut (100 Butterfly, 13th), Maryn McDade (100 free, 5th), Elizabeth Loehr (500 free, 22nd), Girls 200 free relay (16th), David Goodwin (100 back, 16th), Girls 400 free relay (13th)

Oakleaf to state: 200 medley relay (10th), Peyton Loving (50 free, 17th), Olivia Votava (500 free, 19th), Peyton Loving (100 back, 14th), Girls 200 free relay (15th), Boys 200 free relay (12th)

Orange Park to state: Sebastian Lopez (100 free, 17th), Sebastian Lopez (100 breaststroke, 17th)

Clay to regions (Nov. 3 in Pensacola): Girls 200 Medley Relay (13th), Boys 200 Medley Relay (15th), Kylie Elrod (200 IM, 5th), Bryce Thompson (200IM, 24th), Adam Goss (50 free, 20th), Amanda Torres (100 Fly, 23rd), Mason Corby (500 free, 16th), Boys 200 free relay (14th), Kylie Elrod (100 Breaststroke, 9th), Girls 400 free relay (11th), Boys 400 free relay (13th).



STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

Ridgeview High has gotten strong net play from junior hitter Harper Herring, left, as Panthers take on Ocala Vanguard on Wed., Nov. 2 for region 1-5A title and trip to Class 5A Final Four. Below: Libero Kasey Casiple is one of best backline players in north Florida.

Panthers back in Elite Eight

By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

After a “humbling” district championship effort against rival Middleburg High last week, the Ridgeview High Lady Panthers volleyball team regrouped, retooled and responded with a two-game road trip play-off trek that puts the Panthers one game from a Final Four appearance for a second year in a row.

“The Middleburg game kind of humbled us that we have to bring our A game every time we play,” said Ridgeview coach Steven Henry, who returns from a double travel week of back-to-back 3-1 region 1-5A playoff wins over Pensacola Washington and Tallahassee Lincoln to advance to the region final on Wed., Nov. 3 at Ocala Vanguard. “We tried some new lineup moves against Middleburg and they came with a better game than us and it cost us a district title. This team responded and made it very clear that we are probably the best team in the area at this point.”

Middleburg, with coach Carrie Prewitt announcing her retirement this year after her final year of teaching and coaching, got the best of her girls against Ridgeview, then faced off with what Prewitt characterized as an equal effort against Vanguard.

“Our girls left everything out there against Ridgeview and then we had to face a good Ocala Vanguard team that ended our season,” said Prewitt, who will leave the Bronco sidelines to enjoy a trip up the Appalachian Trail (see Prewitt story, page ?). “The program is in good hands with Meredith Forkum taking over. The girls fought hard all season and I can’t be more proud of how the team played all season.”

Middleburg lost a 3-1 decision to Vanguard (15-11) with Vanguard dispatching of top-seed Choctawhatchee 3-0 to advance to face Ridgeview (18-11). Choctawhatchee (23-6) beat Stanton (17-7) in three games to advance.

Against Vanguard, Middleburg gave up the first two games, 25-22 and 25-20 before taking game three 25-19. Vanguard



ended the match with a 25-21 final game.

Top scorer for the Broncos was junior Connor Rahn with another 26 Kills night with Brooke Forkum adding just 11. Vanguard’s top hitter, senior Emma Ehmann slammed for 31 kill points to add to her season 230 kills.

Against Washington (16-9), Ridgeview won 3-1 behind 16 kills from junior Haley Robinson and 15 from sophomore Katie Cole as gave up the first game, 25-23, then trounced Lincoln with games of 25-13, 25-15, 25-18.

“Lots of travel, homecoming concerns and a little sting from the Middleburg kind of messed up the first game, but we dialed in from there and played our game,” said Henry. “Haley was a menace at the net with seven blocks on top of her offense.”

Against Lincoln, it was Ridgeview taking the early advantage with wins of 25-19 and 25-20 in the first two games before Lincoln got a win in game three, 25-22. Ridgeview won the final game 25-19.

“We had a more balanced attack with three girls in double figures at the net (Robinson 16 Kills, Makenna Clark 14 Kills and Katie Cole 11 Kills),” said Henry. “Our libero Kasey Casiple made dig after dig

SEE PANTHERS, 40

wjct | PUBLIC MEDIA

AN EVENING WITH
**SONIA
MANZANO**

Best known for playing “Maria”
on Sesame Street

**THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 17
6-9PM**

WJCT STUDIOS

100 Festival Park Avenue
Jacksonville, Florida 32202

VISIT WJCT.ORG



GET TICKETS



sponsored by

PNC BANK

JIMENEZ LAW FIRM
REAL ESTATE • PERSONAL INJURY
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA



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

Level: Intermediate

Panthers

from page 39

(33) to save volleys, but Makenna was on the floor alot for her 28 digs. Against Vanguard, with their bigger hitter, both will be needed to have their best games.”

Note: Against Choctawhatchee, Vanguard limited the Choctawhatchee net offense to just three players with scoring shots; 16, 7, and 5 total in the blowout win (25-11, 25-20, 25-19).

Vanguard's history is long and storied back to 1979 with 11 Final Four appearances with state titles in 2012, 2013 and 2018 and runnerup finishes in 2014, 2016 and 2019.

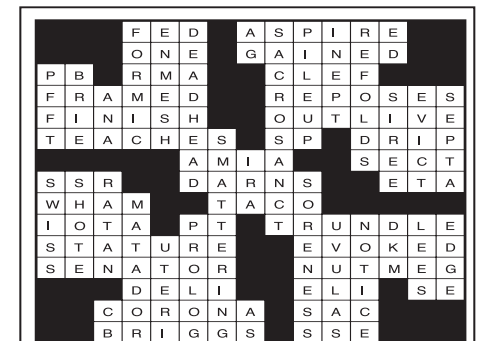


Hayley Robinson is Ridgeview menace at the net with blocking prowess pushing Panthers to a second consecutive region championship game on Wed., Nov. 2 vs. Ocala Vanguard.

Last year, Vanguard made it to the Final Four only to lost to Mosley High in the Class 5A state semifinal while Ridgeview lost to Mosley in the region final. Vanguard was in region 2-5A last year.

Ridgeview has never played in a Final Four despite seven straight district titles; minus last week's loss to Middleburg with the Panthers making five region semifinals before Henry got the team to the region final last year. In region 1-2A, St. Johns Country Day School lost a 3-0 semifinal to Christ's Church Academy for their third loss to Christ's Church of their 19-6 season record. Christ's Church, the second seed, improved to 18-5 and advances to play top seed Oak Hall (24-4) on Tues., Nov. 1.

In region 1-4A, Keystone Heights (17-8), the sixth seed, lost 3-0 to third seed South Walton 3-0 in the region quarterfinal. South Walton later advanced with a win over Bolles, 3-2, to get to the region final against top seed Bishop Kenny on Tues., Nov. 1.



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

☉✳⊗⊕⊖⊗⊘⊙⊚⊛⊜⊝⊞⊟⊠⊡⊢⊣⊤⊥⊦⊧⊨⊩⊪⊫⊬⊭⊮⊯⊰⊱⊲⊳⊴⊵⊶⊷⊸⊹⊺⊻⊼⊽⊾⊿

CRYPTO FUN

☁ ☾ ♀ ☼ ♂ ⚓ ⚔ ⚡ ⚓ ⚔ ⚡

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

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

- A. **26 18 12**
Clue: Adult male human being
- B. **16 25 18 19 11 16**
Clue: Well-being
- C. **18 5 18 3 25 12 25 15 15**
Clue: Cogizance
- D. **15 10 24 24 2 3 11**
Clue: Assistance

Answers: A. man B. health C. awareness D. support

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to men's health.

CRENCA

--	--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Cancer

Guess Who?

I am a musician born in New Jersey on November 5, 1987. I am part of a successful trio of brothers who burst on the scene after making an appearance on "Hannah Montana." I play lead guitar for the band, which still produces hits today.

Answer: Kevin Jonas

MEN'S HEALTH WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- ANNUAL
- ASSIST
- AWARENESS
- CANCER
- CAUSE
- DIAGNOSE
- DIAGNOSIS
- DOCTOR
- FUNDRAISER
- HEALTH
- MENTAL
- MOUSTACHE
- NOVEMBER
- PHYSICAL
- PROSTATE
- RESEARCH
- RISK
- SCREENING
- SYMPTOMS
- TESTING
- THERAPY

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

CLAY COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION CASE NO. 10-2022-CA-000580 SELENE FINANCE LP, Plaintiff, VS. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN NIPPER A/K/A BENJAMIN F. NIPPER; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN NIPPER A/K/A BENJAMIN F. NIPPER; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, et al. Defendant(s). NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated 10/27/2022, and entered in 10-2022-CA-000580 of the Circuit Court of the FOURTH Judicial Circuit in and for CLAY County, Florida, wherein SELENE

FINANCE LP is the Plaintiff and, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN NIPPER A/K/A BENJAMIN F. NIPPER; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN NIPPER A/K/A BENJAMIN F. NIPPER; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT are the Defendant(s). Tara S. Green as the Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at www.clay.realforeclose.com, at 10:00 AM, on January 4, 2023, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:
PART OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 16, TOWNSHIP 8 SOUTH, RANGE 23 EAST, CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID NORTHEAST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 FOOT ROAD SITUATED ON THE SOUTH BOUNDARY OF LITTLE LAKE GENEVA AS RECORDED IN PLAT

BOOK 6, PAGE 54, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF SAID COUNTY; THENCE ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID NORTHEAST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4, RUN SOUTH 00 DEGREES 27 MINUTES 10 SECONDS WEST, 800 FEET TO THE NORTHWESTERLY LINE OF THE LANDS DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 745, PAGE 544, OF SAID PUBLIC RECORDS; THENCE ALONG THE SAID NORTHWESTERLY LINE OF THE LANDS DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 745, PAGE 544, NORTH 56 DEGREES 53 MINUTES 40 SECONDS EAST, 548.88 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE ALONG THE LAST DESCRIBED LINE, NORTH 56 DEGREES 53 MINUTES 40 SECONDS EAST, 118.10 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 35 DEGREES 25 MINUTES EAST, 365.04 FEET TO THE SOUTHEASTERLY LINE OF SAID LANDS DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 745, PAGE 544; THENCE ALONG THE LAST DE-

SCRIBED LINE, SOUTH 52 DEGREES 15 MINUTES 50 SECONDS WEST, 118.09 FEET; THENCE NORTH 35 DEGREES 26 MINUTES WEST, 374.59 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. SUBJECT TO AN EASEMENT FOR INGRESS, EGRESS, DRAINAGE AND UTILITIES OVER THE NORTHWESTERLY 30 FEET AND AN EASEMENT FOR UTILITIES IN FAVOR OF CLAY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. OVER THE SOUTHEASTERLY 10 FEET OF THE NORTHWESTERLY 40 FEET OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED LANDS. TOGETHER WITH THE RIGHT OF INGRESS AND EGRESS OVER THE NORTHWESTERLY 30 FEET OF THE NORTHEASTERLY 998.08 FEET OF THE LANDS DESCRIBED IN SAID OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 745, PAGE 544, LESS THE RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR GAS LINE (PIPE LINE ROAD) ROAD. Property Address: 6117 MANDALAY PL KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FL 32656 Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than

the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim in accordance with Florida Statutes, Section 45.031. Dated this 31 day of October, 2022.
 Tara S. Green
 As Clerk of the Court
 By: Taylor Tison
 As Deputy Clerk
IMPORTANT AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator at crintrap@coj.net or (904) 255-1695 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.
Legal 43197 Published 11/3/2022 and 11/10/2022 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper.

PUBLIC SALE
 SCOTT'S AFFORDABLE TOWING INC gives Notice to sell the following vehicles for towing and storage lien on November 17, 2022 at 10:00 am at 2909 BLANDING BLVD MIDDLEBURG, FL 32068, pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes.
 1994 Ford ID# 1FTCR10A2RTA88398
 2012 Ford ID# 1FTMF1CM6CKD64792
 2009 Saturn ID# 1G8ZS57B79F126317
Legal 42969 publish Nov 3, 2022 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
 BURGART ENTERPRISES TOWING INC. gives notice that on 11/18/2022 at 12:00 PM the following vehicle(s) may be sold by public sale at 4360 CR 218 MIDDLEBURG, FL 32068 to satisfy the lien for the amount owed on each vehicle for

NOTICE OF RULEMAKING FOR EAGLE LANDING GOLF CLUB AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES USER RATES AND FEES BY SOUTH VILLAGE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

A public hearing will be conducted by the Board of Supervisors ("Board") of the South Village Community Development District ("District") on Tuesday, December 6, 2022, at 6:30 p.m., at the Eagle Landing Residents Club, 3975 Eagle Landing Parkway, Orange Park, Florida 32065.

In accordance with Chapters 190 and 120, Florida Statutes, the District hereby gives the public notice of its intent to revise the District's Eagle Landing Golf Club and recreational facilities user rates and fees (collectively, "Amenity Rates"). The public hearing will provide an opportunity for the public to address proposed revisions to the Amenity Rates. The proposed Amenity Rates are as follows:

Eagle Landing Golf Club – User Rates & Fees

ANNUAL PASSHOLDER		\$4,000 - \$5,000
GUEST FEES		
Weekday Guest – Residents Club		\$4-\$10
Weekend Guest – Residents Club		\$10-\$30
Holiday Guest – Residents Club		\$15-\$40
Weekday Guest – Athletic Center		\$4-\$10
Weekend Guest – Athletic Center		\$10-\$30
Holiday Guest – Athletic Center		\$15-\$40
Houseguest – (one week pass)		\$20-\$60
RENTAL FEES/DEPOSITS (Facilities only rented to Residents/Passholders)		
Rental Deposit (non-refundable, applied to fee)		\$50
Club Room, Café, Patio, Village Green		\$150-\$250
Kids Club		\$175-\$275
Gymnasium (3 hrs. rental min/each additional hour)		\$300 / \$100
Half-court Gymnasium court rental		\$30-\$70
Canoes, Garden Golf, Billiards, Ping-Pong, etc.		Complimentary for Residents & Patrons
Event Food Truck	\$250-\$350	
Vendor Booth Fee	\$50-\$75	
Special Event Guest Fee	\$10 - \$50	
Lake Park Rentals (Pavilion, Field)	\$50 - \$300	
ATHLETIC CLUB (Rates are for Residents/Passholders unless otherwise specified)		
Tennis/Pickleball Lessons – Full Hour		\$40-\$80
- Non-Resident participants		Resident Rate + \$2-\$15
Tennis/Pickleball Lessons– Half Hour		\$30-\$35
		\$30-\$45
- Non-Residents participants		Resident Rate + \$2-\$15
Tennis/Pickleball Clinics – Full Hour		\$10-\$20
- Non-Resident participants		Resident Rate + \$2-\$15
Tennis/Pickleball Clinics – Full Hour & Half		\$15-\$30
- Non-Resident participants		Resident Rate + \$2-\$15
Personal Training (per session, if available)		\$25-\$50
Group Fitness (per class, if available)		\$5-\$10
Tennis Camp		\$10-\$200
Non-Resident Tennis Membership		\$750-\$1,000 Ind / \$1,000-\$1,500 Family
KID'S CLUB (Slash "/" denotes additional sibling discount, if applicable)		
School's Out (per session, Resident/Passholders only)		\$25-\$50 / \$20-\$40
Kids Only Party (per session)		\$20-\$40/\$15-\$30
Day of		\$35-\$50/\$30-\$40
Non-Resident and/or Guests		\$20-\$60
Day of		\$40-\$60
Teen/Adult/Family Events		Based on Event
Summer Camp (per week, Residents/Passholders only)		\$150-\$250 / \$100-\$200
Swim Lessons (Private - 4 lessons, Residents/Passholders only)		\$125-\$175/\$100-\$150
Swim Lessons (Group - 4 lessons, Residents/Passholders only)		\$100-\$150/\$65-\$150
Swim Team Participation (per season, Residents/Passholders only)		\$125-\$250
PROMOTIONAL RATES		
The District may, upon approval of the Chairman, adopt temporary rates and fees ("Promotional Rates") for use of the recreational facilities in a manner not currently contemplated. These Promotional Rates shall be in place for no longer than 90 days, and shall be designed to meet customer demand, promote additional revenues, and enhance operations of the recreational facilities.		

Eagle Landing Golf Club – User Rates & Fees

Golf Club Passes & Fees			
Pass Type	Initiation Fee	Annual Fee	Monthly Fee
Social Pass	\$400 - \$600	\$240 - \$360 + Plus Tax	\$20 - \$30 + Tax
Player's Club		\$312 - \$700/Individual	\$26 - \$65 / 1 st Individual \$15 - \$45 / 2 nd Individual \$8 - \$35/ 3 rd Individual
Annual Golf Pass		\$1800 - \$2400/Individual \$2060 - \$3200/Couple	
Full Golf Pass	\$1000 - \$5000		\$175 - \$350 / Individual \$185 - \$450 / Family \$100 - \$250 Junior \$1100 - \$3500 Seasonal (6 Months)
Trails Pass		\$1050 - \$1500/Individual \$1300 - \$1800/Family	
Club Cart		\$1700 - \$2000 Single \$2300 - \$2800 Family	

Pay to Play Rates & Other Charges	
Greens	\$20 - \$100 / 18 Holes \$14 - \$60 / 9 Holes
Cart Rentals	\$20 - \$50/ 18 Holes \$10 - \$40 / 9 Holes
Driving Range	\$4 - \$25
Handicap Card Fees	\$20 - \$40
Rental Clubs	\$15 - \$75
Promotional	\$15 - \$90
Employees	\$25 - \$35
Golf Lessons – Individual	\$25 - \$100
Golf Lessons – Group	\$40 - \$200
Golf Lessons – Series	\$120 - \$500
Golf Lessons – Playing	\$50 - \$200
Clinics & Camps	\$75 - \$600

The proposed rates may be adjusted at the public hearing pursuant to discussion by the Board and public comment. The purpose and effect of the Amenity Rates is to provide for efficient District operations by setting policies, regulations, rates and fees to implement the provisions of Section 190.035, Florida Statutes (2018). Specific legal authority for the rule includes Sections 190.035(2), 190.011(5) and 120.54, Florida Statutes. Prior Notice of Rule Development was published in Clay Today on August 22, 2019.

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

The public hearing may be continued to a date, time, and place to be specified on the record at the hearing. If anyone chooses to appeal any decision of the Board with respect to any matter considered at the public hearing, such person will need a record of the proceedings and should accordingly ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made which includes the testimony and evidence upon which such appeal is to be based. At the hearing, one or more Supervisors may participate in the public hearing by speaker telephone.

Pursuant to provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this hearing is asked to advise the District Office (herein defined) at least forty-eight (48) hours before the hearing. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 1 (800) 955-8770, who can aid you in contacting the District Office.

A copy of the proposed rule may be obtained by contacting the District Manager at 475 West Town Place, Suite 114, St. Augustine, Florida 32092 or by calling (904) 940-5850 ("District Office").

Legal 42462 published November 3, 2022 in Clay County's CLAY Today newspaper.

OPENING LATE FALL 2022

Special deliveries soon at Baptist Clay!



There's no day more special than the day you have a baby. Where you have your baby should be special, too.

Baptist Medical Center Clay, opening late fall, will have 20 large maternity suites with advanced medical care and all the comforts moms and families deserve.

Our new maternity center will have:

- Large private rooms for labor, delivery and post-partum care
- Separate care station so the baby can room in with mom
- Resort-style decor
- Large spa-like bathrooms
- Recliner/gliders and sleeper sofas
- Plenty of storage room for mom and family
- Large windows for natural light
- Mini-fridges in each suite
- 55" flat-screen TVs



A sneak peek at our large and comfy L&D suites.

And for your peace of mind, Baptist Clay will have Neonatal Intensive Care Unit if your baby needs a higher level of medical care. Moms and their partners can stay with their infant until it's time to go home.

Choose Baptist Clay for the best in care and comfort. A special place for a special day.

For more information about Baptist Clay, visit bapitstjax.com/clay

To find an OB who will deliver at Baptist Clay, call **202.4HER**.



Changing Health Care for Good.®