

CLAY TODAY

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Clay County gets \$54.3 million from new state budget

Governor approves completion of The Way, substance abuse center, road projects,



By Don Coble
don@claytodayonline.com

CLAY COUNTY – With the stroke of a pen on June 15, Gov. Ron DeSantis pushed The Way Free Medical Clinic from concept to reality.

The Way Clinic wasn't the only \$116.5 billion state budget-supported program. Thirty-one projects will share \$54,308,399 allocated to Clay County.

The Way Free Medical Center's Don Fann celebrates with Challenge Enterprises' Nancy Keating after both groups get state money.

"It doesn't get us to where we need to be, but it sure gets the ball rolling," said Florida Sen. Jennifer Bradley, who joined Florida Reps. Sam Garrison and Bobby Payne to champion support from other legislators and the governor.

The Way Clinic, which provides free medical treatment to uninsured, low-income families in Clay County, will receive the final \$1.45 million to finance the construction of a new facility on College Drive in Orange Park.

The 5,100-foot building will cost \$2.5

million, and the nonprofit has already raised \$1.25 million. The state pushed the project past the finish line.

"We're starting to look at contractors, and we expect the start moving dirt real soon," Executive Director Don Fann said.

"We're extremely elated and ready to proceed with the project. "We are so thankful for their (legislators') support. Without them, this project would not happen."

Neither would \$3 million for a substance abuse center, \$1.5 mil-

SEE BUDGET, 17



STAFF PHOTO BY LEE WARDLAW

The barriers that block residents from using Sandridge Road at Henley Road has created considerable animosity and financial hardships for local shop owners.

Sandridge-Henley shutdown

Construction digs significant financial hole for local businesses

By Lee Wardlaw
lee@claytodayonline.com

LAKE ASBURY – The road closure at the intersection of Sandridge and Henley roads hasn't just separated multiple neighborhoods, it's created a crippling barrier for businesses that depend on local customers.

In addition to a traffic nightmare, the two-month construction project to widen Sandridge has made it extremely difficult for residents to access grocery stores and locally-owned businesses.

Roadwork isn't the first time owner

SEE CONSTRUCTION, 19



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Green Cove Springs Council raises stormwater utility fees

By Kyla Woodard
For Clay Today

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – An increase in the stormwater utility fee for residents will start in October.

With a 5-0 vote, Green Cove Springs City Council members voted to raise the base charge rate for the stormwater utility fee to \$6 monthly for each parcel and the usage charge fee up to \$25 monthly for ESU.

Public Works Director and Assistant City Manager Mike Null said the increase comes as a necessity to provide upkeep on the system that ultimately keeps the town from flooding.

“The stormwater system just basically

is a way to capture all the stormwater that falls ... and gets it out to the river or the creek without flooding the town,” Null said.

Null said the base charge will mainly affect all property within city limits. The user charge will apply to the “core city.” However, Null said Reynolds Park and Magnolia Point will not be affected by the user fee.

Since these two areas are located at the northern and southern parts of town, they own and operate their own stormwater systems, separating them from the main city.

“Unfortunately, it may not look right, but the infrastructure ... maintained is in the core city, so that is also where the

properties are that’ll be charged,” Null said.

Null said the base fee will cover day to day operations of the stormwater system, while the user fee will go towards large construction projects aiming to replace failed systems within the community. Null said the user fee will aid in the funding of at least \$1.35 million worth of projects for the next 10 years.

During the meeting, citizens were concerned with the increased charges. With the base fee and user fee rising from an original payment of \$3.50 and \$10.42, respectively, some residents were concerned of the effects the charge could have on lower income families.

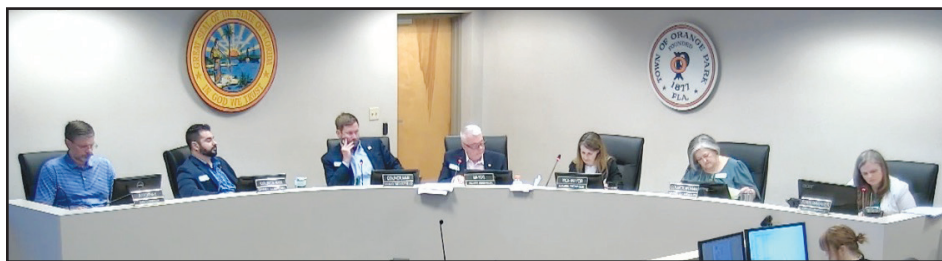
However, Null said the user fee’s impact is solely based on the amount of imperviousness a single property has.

“The user fee is based on impact to the system. So, the single-family home is going to have the same impact regardless of how much income is in that home. It’s based on the square footage of that home,” Null said.

Amid the concerns, Null urged the fee was the most appropriate way to solve the issue.

“That’s the tough part. The need is there, the storm pipes need to be replaced and there’s got to be a funding mechanism in place,” Null said.

Null said that residents can expect to see the new rate on Oct. 1.



Orange Park creates new website to keep up with technical progress

By Lee Wardlaw
lee@claytodayonline.com

ORANGE PARK – The Town Council green-lighted the creation of a new town website during its meeting on Tuesday night. The deadline for the new cloud-based website is Sept. 30.

Before the motion passed unanimously, Town Manager Sarah Campbell answered a few questions from council members about the website moving forward.

“There are a lot of features in the appendix listed throughout. That, to me, sounds great. I think there are things that are going to be expected by millennials who are more technically savvy than I ever will dream of being, but I’m glad we’re going to have a website that’s going to do that for the future, and hopefully, it will be able to grow with us and change with the times easily,” councilwoman Winnette Sandlin said.

Sandlin asked Campbell whether there would be additional costs if new features were implemented after the website was completed. Campbell said that additional features would each be part of the annual licensing and hosting agreement because the website would be cloud-based.

“Everyone gets everything. The only extra expense would be a redesign in a couple

of years at your choice,” she said.

Sandlin seemed to like the town manager’s response.

“This pleases me because I think there are a lot of things that will let us grow this system to meet our needs as those needs fluctuate and change,” she said.

Councilman Daniel Cobreiro said Campbell already answered his question, but he just wanted to make sure that staff would be able to make minor changes and updates to the sites when needed.

“My worry with the new developer and the news website was that it was going to be one of those things where they send it off and wait for someone else to put that (information) in,” he said.

Campbell also said those in charge of migrating the current site to the new one will not be in charge of changing any content, correcting any vocabulary, or “making the pages extra fancy.”

“Our goal is to be able to train (staff) to be able to update the pages with ease. That’s the process,” she said.

Mayor Randy Anderson wants a user-friendly site.

“I have problems with our (current site). I want to look for a park and click on it and get a picture and address of that park,” he said.

Judge Ray Forbess officially takes bench for Fourth Judicial Circuit

By Kyla Woodard
For Clay Today

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Clay County officially welcomed Judge Raymond Forbess Jr. to the bench.

“Every day, I’m excited to come to work. I’m excited to do the work. It’s just been better than I had even thought it could be,” Forbess said.

The judge was officially appointed to the Fourth Judicial Circuit last Thursday at his formal investiture. The courtroom was filled with honorary guests, family and friends to commemorate the special occasion.

An investiture is a ceremony meant to officially “clothe” officials in the robes of office. Judge Forbess was elected into the office back in January, however, he said that due to systematic circumstances, the ceremony had to be put on hold.

“Mine, of course, is over six months down the road. Some judges had to wait

more than two years because a lot of the investitures got shut down during COVID. And we just haven’t got caught up,” Judge Forbess said.

Chief Judge Mark H. Mahon resided at the ceremony. The occasion was filled with laughter and tears as the newest judge was ushered into his position.

The ceremony featured presentations from various lawyer associations in the Florida area. The Jacksonville Justice Association, the Catholic Lawyers Guild and the Conference of County Court Judges of Florida were some of many present on the big day. Each association was given time to present the judge with a keepsake to embrace him with open arms.

The ceremony also featured remarks from Judge Forbess’ friends and colleagues who gave in depth accounts of

SEE FORBESS, 15



PHOTO BY EDWARD FERNANDEZ

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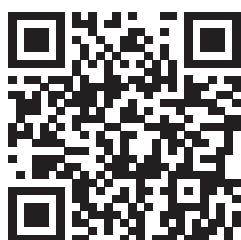
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Study: Drivers are more distracted with dog in car

By StatePoint Media
For Clay Today

Summer road trip season is heating up. Whether your vacation plans include national parks, sandy beaches or major metropolises, you may be thinking of bringing the entire family along, even your four-legged companions.

While we love having them near, dogs aren't always safe passengers. A recent poll commissioned by Selective Insurance, a leading home, auto and business insurance carrier, found that in the past year, dogs caused a majority of drivers to be distracted on U.S. roadways.

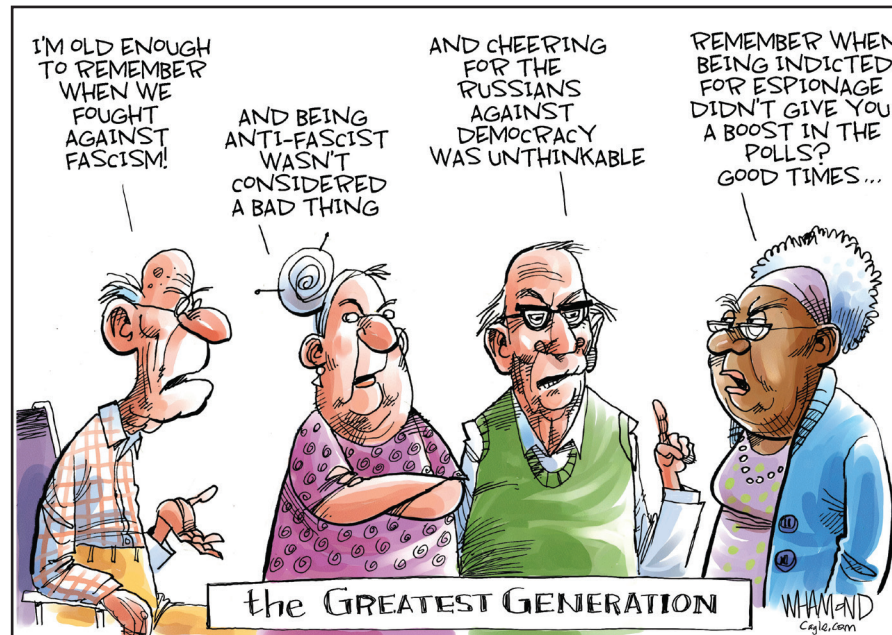
The study, conducted online by The Harris Poll, found that of licensed drivers who recently (over the last 12 months) drove with their dogs, 91% admitted to interacting with them while driving, including interactions requiring the driver to take their hands off the wheel or eyes off the road, and 48% acknowledged that they are more distracted when their dog is in the vehicle than when it is not.

"We love our dogs. However, some of their behaviors in the car, such as sitting on drivers' laps, jumping between seats, or sticking their heads out the window, divert drivers' attention from operating a vehicle," said Scott Smith, vice president and director of Safety Management at Selective Insurance. "To help keep our roads safe, drivers need to minimize distractions. That means our beloved pet passengers should be restrained in the back seat, and if they need tending, drivers should first pull over to a safe place."

Some of the more hazardous behaviors that drivers engaged in while recently on the road with their dog include giving them food/treats/water (36%), taking a photo/video of their dog (27%) or holding them in place (23%) while driving. In addition, 40% of drivers who have ever driven with their dog confessed to various reckless driving behaviors as a direct result of having their dog in the vehicle, including swerving out of the lane (11%) and hard braking (13%).

SEE DOG, 5

OPINIONS



There are no good options for Jaguars' home games during stadium rebuild

By Don Coble
Managing Editor

With the closure of the intersection of Henley and Sandridge roads, folks in Lake Asbury are learning that growth comes with growing pains.

The county needed to widen Sandridge Road to keep up with the plans to build hundreds of new homes. But to get there, it required the intersection to be closed for two months.

In the process, thousands have been barricaded from local restaurants, groceries and gasoline.

Jacksonville Jaguars fans will soon learn a major step toward the future requires stubbing your toe.

The franchise announced it would transform TIAA Bank Field into a futuristic venue that will attract major concerts, college playoff games and make the Jaguars one of the elite teams in the NFL.

That means the team will need a new place to play for at least two years.

Although Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry said the city's goal was to keep the Jaguars in town during the project, the team's sudden surge to the top of the AFC South standings is no longer feasible.

The University of North Florida's Hodges Stadium seats 12,000.



Don Coble

The Jumbo Shrimp play at 121 Financial Ballpark can only hold 11,000 fans on a good day.

Edward Water's Nathaniel Glover Community Field seats 5,000.

Let's face it: nobody really thinks Jacksonville is an alternative.

That leaves four realistic stadiums – the University of Florida, UCF, Florida State, Camping World Stadium, England and the Daytona International Speedway.

Each has its upsides, but all come with a lot of baggage. Let's examine each.

The most-popular place would be Florida Field. It's about an hour away and offers more than 88,000 seats. The downside, however, is traffic and field conditions.

While the Gators have no problem selling out the stadium for home games, tens of thousands of the fans are students who live on campus. There simply isn't enough parking at our around the campus.

Also, Florida will play at least five home games in 2025 when construction starts and probably will play at least six in 2026. That means the Jaguars would be playing on a field that, no doubt, will have a lot of divots and chewed-up turf.

Florida State has the same issues. And since it's 170 miles away, it's not an option.

UCF is 140 miles away, and it's not an easy drive. It shouldn't be considered because it only holds 44,000 – and will be going through its own expansion project as it moves into the Big 12.

SEE STADIUM, 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.

Exonym: (EK-so-nim) a noun that means a name for a place or group of people that is only used outside that place or group.

"Germany is an English-language exonym corresponding to the country Deutschland."

This Week in History

Five years ago, 2018

- The final meeting of the Charter Review Commission included a heated discussion between CRC Chair Amy Pope-Wells, CRC members Amy Miller and Ronald Stotler and Board of County Commission member Gayward Hendry on whether term limits for commissioners should be extended from two, four-year stints to three.

- The Green Cove Springs City Council and GCS Police Department met to discuss ways to fight opioid addictions.

- The Orange Park Town Council votes to approve a stormwater utility to create funding options for cleanup after storms.

10 years ago, 2013

- Fourth Judicial Circuit Court Judge John H. Skinner recused himself from a death penalty case that was sent back to Clay County by the Florida Supreme Court for the re-sentencing hearing for Leo Louis Kaczmar.

- The Green Cove Springs City Council agrees to take out a \$2.4 million loan to build a scaled-down police department headquarters.

- The Clay County Sheriff's Office uncovered a sophisticated marijuana growing operation worth \$834,000 that involved buried old steel shipping containers.

20 years ago, 2003

- Reginald Millard, who was wanted for the execution-style murder of a store clerk in North Carolina, walked into the Clay County Jail lobby to turn himself in.

- Six of 15 people arrested for selling cigarettes and alcohol to minors as part of the sheriff's office's sting worked at the

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.

Stadium

from page 4

The Jaguars are likely to play two games in Europe in 2025 and 2026, and any idea of playing home games there would be greeted with great disappointment and ire.

Camping World Stadium in Orlando, formerly the Citrus Bowl, is big enough with 60,000 seats. And it's an easy drive, even if it's 142 miles away.

There is precedence for playing away from a home stadium during renovations. The New Orleans Saints played games at LSU Tiger Stadium during the 2005 season following Hurricane Katrina. They also played in Baton Rouge while the Superdome was being built and during brief renovation projects.

The trip was about 82 miles and was an easy drive on Interstate 10. While Orlando is the best option, it's probably too far away. The speedway. Daytona has 101,500 seats, but most are too far from the likely field in the infield grass. Even those with 50-yard line seats would be about 50 yards away from the action, and about 70,000 of those seats would be more than 100 yards beyond the end zones.

do is the best option, it's probably too far away. The speedway. Daytona has 101,500 seats, but most are too far from the likely field in the infield grass. Even those with 50-yard line seats would be about 50 yards away from the action, and about 70,000 of those seats would be more than 100 yards beyond the end zones.

Instead of picking the best solution, we probably will be forced to accept a long drive or poor sightlines – all in the name of progress.

"This is also all happening at a fantastic time for everyone," Jaguars owner Shad Kahn said. "Jacksonville is red hot. Just check out all of the recent rankings – best places to live, best housing market, hottest job market, best place to start a business, Jacksonville ranks within the Top 5 in all of those lists."

But as everyone in Lake Asbury knows, it comes with a hefty price.



Dog

from page 4

This summer, as you head out with your dog on journeys near and far, help minimize driving distractions in your vehicle with these tips from Selective Insurance:

- Have your dog ride in the back seat and consider using a partition between the front and back seats.

- Use a dog seatbelt, safety harness or anchored crate to prevent distractions and provide your dog with some protection if there is an accident. A significant 70% of licensed drivers who recently drove with their dogs say their dogs were unrestrained in the vehicle. Yet, 82% of drivers who recently drove with their dogs agree that having an unrestrained dog in a moving vehicle can distract the driver. Not using a restraint is risky and could put you in violation of the law. Some states have animal restraint laws for vehicles to help keep drivers safe and focused. However,

only 24% of licensed drivers who recently drove with their dogs say they are very familiar with such laws in their state. That's compared to 34% who say they didn't know these laws existed.

- Plan ahead and identify rest stops along your route so you and your dog can take a break. If you need to make an unplanned stop, avoid the side of the road and instead look for a quiet parking lot. Use these occasions to give your dog food, a little exercise and most importantly in summer, plenty of water.

For additional survey findings, along with tips to keep roadways safe and K-9 companions secure, visit Selective.com. For survey methodology, visit selective.com.

"More pets in homes, especially with the introduction of the pandemic puppy, means more Americans than ever may be hitting the roads with their pooch on road trips this summer. Drivers should understand the risks associated with taking them along for the ride," Smith said.

searched for clues to identify a man whose body was found charred in the trunk of a burning car on Longbranch Cemetery Road in Maxville.

40 years ago, 1983

- The county commission lifts a ban on scavenging for reusable goods at the county's landfills.

- The Clay County Sheriff's Office investigates a vandalism spree at Lakeside Middle School, where someone spray-painted "666" on walls and chalkboards.

- The Clay County Board of Commissioners expressed concern after only four of seven members of the Planning Commission attended the two previous meetings.

History

from page 4

Shades Nightclub off Wells Road.

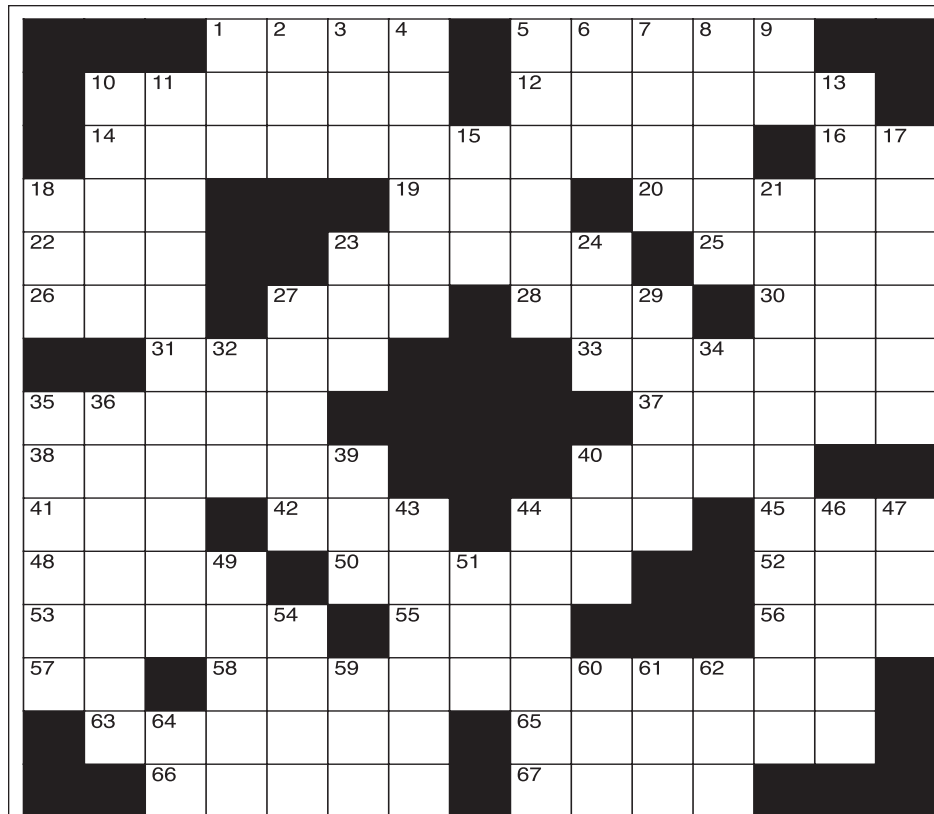
- Chick-fil-A opens on Wells Road in Orange Park.

30 years ago, 1993

- After asking the Clay County Commission for a \$10 million budget, Sheriff Scott Lancaster asked for an additional \$765,006.

- The Florida Department of Transportation announces a \$7.5 million plan to widen Interstate 295 to six lanes from 103rd Street to Blanding Boulevard.

- The Clay County Sheriff's Office



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Flat tableland with steep edges
 - 5. Where there's __, there's fire
 - 10. Talked incessantly
 - 12. Skill
 - 14. Without shame
 - 16. Where teens spend their days (abbr.)
 - 18. Boxing's GOAT
 - 19. Used to anoint
 - 20. Cluster cups
 - 22. Footballer Newton
 - 23. They make up a forest
 - 25. Split pulses
 - 26. Self
 - 27. Post-office box
 - 28. Test for high schoolers
 - 30. Large, flightless bird
 - 31. Expectorated
 - 33. Falsehood
 - 35. Prickly, scrambling shrub
 - 37. French river
 - 38. Told on
 - 40. Hillside
 - 41. Peyton's little brother
 - 42. Soviet Socialist Republic
 - 44. Cathedral city in Cambridgeshire
 - 45. Witness
 - 48. Brews
 - 50. Yellowish-brown
 - 52. Arctic explorers, abbr.
 - 53. Mexican agave
 - 55. A type of 'cast'
 - 56. Encourage
 - 57. Atomic #52
 - 58. Relating to position north of south of equator
 - 63. Gadget whose name you forget
 - 65. Another recording
 - 66. Small blisters
 - 67. Dark brown or black
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Licensed for Wall Street
 - 2. ' __ and flow'
 - 3. A very large body of water
 - 4. Accumulate on the surface of
 - 5. Central cores of the stem
 - 6. Angry
 - 7. Ceramic jar
 - 8. Scraped a car
 - 9. __ route
 - 10. Soviet labor camp system
 - 11. Strong hostilities
 - 13. Vitamin of the B complex
 - 15. Go quickly
 - 17. Toast
 - 18. A team's best pitcher
 - 21. A Philly culinary specialty
 - 23. Small child
 - 24. Unhappy
 - 27. Trims away
 - 29. Characterized by crying eyes
 - 32. Soft touch
 - 34. American spy organization
 - 35. A person's chest
 - 36. Came from behind to win
 - 39. Fall back
 - 40. Nellie __, journalist
 - 43. Great places to kayak
 - 44. Suffer patiently
 - 46. Majestic bird
 - 47. Electroencephalograph
 - 49. Organic compound used as an antiseptic
 - 51. Objects connected to the web (abbr.)
 - 54. Ship as cargo
 - 59. The bill in a restaurant
 - 60. Upper-class young woman (abbr.)
 - 61. Judge in OJ Simpson trial
 - 62. One's grandmother
 - 64. Siberian river

Bean visits Challenge Enterprises for fact-finding tour

Congressman hopes to earn distinction as AbilityOne Champion

By Don Coble
don@claytodayonline.com

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Aaron Bean is more accustomed to being asked for favors as a U.S. Representative.

But last Friday, the Congressman representing Clay County was at Challenge Enterprises to observe the tireless work done by the organization that provides day training, residential services and employment opportunities for adults with different abilities.

He also wanted to start the process of earning the designation as an AbilityOne Congressional Champion.

Bean toured the warehouse facility where residents work on several projects, including shredding documents from the Internal Revenue Service.

“I appreciate everything all of you do,” he said. “I was truly honored that you’d have me here.”

Following the 40-minute tour, Bean and Challenge Chief Executive Director Nancy Keating retreated to a conference room where Keating explained the program.

“We’re hopeful to get him included,” she said. “Being an AbilityOne Champion



is very important. I’m grateful to get it started.”

There currently are about 150 Congressional members of the program. According to the organization, SourceAmerica works with the National Industries for the Blind to honor representatives and senators who demonstrate a commitment both to their constituents who have significant disabilities or are blind and to the AbilityOne Program.”

Bean said it was important to recognize everyone who lives in his 4th District,



STAFF PHOTOS BY DON COBLE

U.S. Rep. Aaron Bean meets with Challenge Enterprises CEO Nancy Keating during a tour of the sewing room at the organization’s warehouse.

which consists of Clay, Duval and Nassau counties.

To become a member, an elected legislator must complete four steps. The first was to meet with an AbilityOne Program administrator at their Washington, D.C., office.

Bean completed Step 2 on Friday by touring a member agency contracted manufacturing or service contract site.

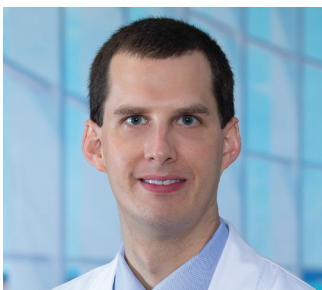
He also must support the Javits-Wagner-O’Day Act by using AbilityOne services or products in Washington or his district

office. Keating said he completed that stage by agreeing to have outdated or unneeded documents shredded in Green Cove Springs.

And he must support through a communication like a press conference, congressional record statement or a statement on social media supporting the AbilityOne Program.

Keating said Bean plans to talk about Challenge Enterprises on the House of Representatives floor to include the organization in the congressional record.

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Cardiology



Salman Farhat, MD
Interventional Cardiology



Nicholas Rossi, DO
Cardiology

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904-719-6442



What's for dinner? Ghost Kitchens has options when you can't decide

By Lee Wardlaw
lee@claytodayonline.com

FLEMING ISLAND – Head to the north-east corner of Walmart, and you will find a hidden gem of a restaurant with a unique business model. Ghost Kitchens, a Canadian-based company that gives customers eight brand options.

Breakfast, chicken, burgers and cheesecake are several options available.

Manager Tessa Smith said convenience greatly affects the restaurant's success.

"I believe it's extremely convenient. It's nice being able to order from multiple locations at the same time. That's the biggest thing that I've heard from customers is that they can order Cheesecake Factory and CaliBurger at the same time. It's the best of both worlds," Smith said.

The model is especially advantageous for a large family with hungry children.

"If you've got a family of five, and the kids are wanting chicken sandwiches and the parents are wanting a burger, you can get it all right here," said assistant manager Devon Kirkland.

Ghost Kitchens has only occupied the



space for three months but could expand to other Walmarts.

Most of the business is conducted through deliveries by DoorDash, but customers can also order inside the store and enjoy a myriad of options in the large, spacious and clean seating area.

"When you want a burger, you can hit the (burger button) and it will take you to all of our burgers, and if you want to check



STAFF PHOTOS BY LEE WARDLAW

Ghost Kitchens assistant manager Devon Kirkland explains the menu options to a customer at the Fleming Island Walmart.

out each individual brand, you can do that too," Kirkland said.

Customers can also order with a QR code.

The walls are currently blank, but Kirkland said this would change soon.

"The owners are debating on whether to have corporate put up some graphics or have something local, maybe have the schools do a competition. It's all-time (dependent), he said.

Among brand options CaliBurger, Monster Cupcakes, Sam's Crispy Chicken, Leaf Life, which serves salads, Umami Burger and Ghost Breakfast and Ghost Wings, two

in-house brands created by the company.

There's also Red Bull and many other sodas available.

Food is cooked fresh-to-order with locally-sourced ingredients in 10-15 minutes.

With endless options, making their pick can sometimes be challenging, but Kirkland recommends CaliBurger or Sam's Crispy Chicken.

Although Ghost Kitchens is relatively new to the area, the company has tested some of its brand options. The diverse

SEE GHOST, 18

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Obituary

Lydia Diane Modling

Lydia Diane Sawyer Modling, 78, of Green Cove Springs, FL passed away Sunday, June 18, 2023. Diane was born in Columbus, Georgia to parents Alto and Eunice Sawyer.

She lived in Columbus, Georgia until 1965, when she moved to Jacksonville, FL. She lived a joyful life with the love of her life and husband of 58 years. Diane loved life and never met a stranger. She was always active and never missed a chance to get on the dance floor. She was passionate about a lot in her life including dancing, going to the beach or being on the water in the boat, but her biggest passion was her family, especially her grandchildren. She will be deeply missed by those that she loved the most.



Lydia Diane Modling

Angels are only on loan from Heaven for a given time. Having served her generation by the will of God, she fell asleep.

Diane was preceded in death by her parents Alto Sawyer and Eunice Odom Sawyer; brothers, Howard Sawyer and Clayton Sawyer Sr. and sisters, Jeanette Schenk and Shirley Deadwyler.

She is survived by her loving husband Arthur Calvin Modling; daughter, Bonnie Fenwick (George); son, Jason Modling (Liz); sister, Betty Sawyer; grandchildren, Erika McCord, Bodhi Modling (Brooke), Larkin Modling, Cameron Harris, Lindsey Modling, Clay Fenwick, Claire Fenwick and

Connor Fenwick; great grandchildren, Arley McCord, Finnegan McCord and Slater Modling.

Funeral Services were held at 11a.m. Wednesday, June 21, 2023, in the Chapel of Russell Haven of Rest Funeral Home.

The time of visitation with the family was from 10-11 a.m. prior to the services. Burial will follow the funeral at Jacksonville Memorial Gardens, 111 Blanding Blvd., Orange Park, FL 32073.

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



Submit obituaries to obits@claytodayonline.com



Fleming Island UPS driver wins Florida Truck Driving Championship

Trevor Schmidt will try to deliver a national title in August

By Don Coble
don@claytodayonline.com

FLEMING ISLAND – Trevor Schmidt knows exactly the last time he had an accident while driving for UPS.

“March 25, 2005,” he said.

Despite delivering packages five days a week on Fleming Island, he parlayed his exemplary driving record into the Florida Truck Driving Championship last week.

“I always thought in my own mind I was a good driver,” he said after clinching the Step Van category at the Ocean Center in Daytona Beach last week.

As the top-rated Step Van driver in the state, Schmidt will join eight other class state champions at the National Championships from Aug. 16-19 in Columbus, Ohio. But until then, he plans to extend his flawless driving record one day at a time – all while delivering packages.

The state competition included a written test, pre-trip inspection and skills course. Almost immediately, he knew his final score was formidable.

“I mean, I knew it was good,” he said. “I’m not usually that person, but when you hit your marks, if you’re paying attention in the mirrors, you know it’s going to be good.”

“At each obstacle, they wave a red or green flag. If it’s red, you don’t get a score. I barely missed the first obstacle

because I was paying more attention to the next one. After that, all the flags I saw were green.”

Schmidt easily out-distanced FedEx driver Kristyna Crook, 364-338.

“You had to sacrifice about two hours a Saturday because we work Monday through Friday. We came in and practiced the course we thought was going to be,” he said. “We practiced the written test, and we practiced pre-tripping your truck, finding things that could go wrong while you’re on the road before you leave the building – you know, a flat tire, loose lug nuts, your mirrors don’t want to stay open or windshield wipers don’t work. Things like that. So we practiced it.”

Schmidt started with UPS in 1994. He worked part-time for 10 years and drove tractor-trailers until he settled on making deliveries.

“I just missed the people; I missed the customers,” he said. “So I came back to this. Most people look at it like they think I’m crazy for coming back. The semi trucks are air-conditioned with cruise control and radios, the whole nine yards. You don’t have to touch a box. You don’t sweat. I come back to this because I missed the people.”

“Although I’m in the same area, every day, something’s different.”

SEE UPS, 16

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Children introduced to power of music at Jumpin' & Jivin' Juneboree

By Don Coble
don@claytodayonline.com

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Lucius Whatley clutched his guitar and asked to go home early from Saturday night's Jumpin' & Jivin' Juneboree at the Boogerville Hideout Bar.

The boy from Keystone Heights couldn't wait to start teaching himself how to play the guitar gifted to him by Paul Wane's Guitars for Kids' Rising Star program.

But this wasn't a typical guitar. And Lucius wasn't a typical child eager to use music to inspire creativity and unity across generations.

While 34 instruments were given away, Lucius got a guitar from Metallica's James Hetfield.

"This is never going to leave my sight," Lucius said. "I'm going to start lessons as soon as I walk through the door."

Lucius was invited to the outdoor party by his friend, Austin James. As friends know him, AJ was one of the first youngsters to get a guitar when the founder and

Austin James delivered an energetic set during the Jumpin' & Jivin' Juneboree. AJ got his first guitar from Rising Stars and he came back to show what he's learned since.



STAFF PHOTOS BY DON COBLE

Keystone Heights' Delena "Dee" Burris found a spot to start playing her bass guitar moments after Paul Wane, right, gifted it to her at Boogerville Hideout Bar.

lead guitarist for the Duval County Line started the outreach program.

AJ returned two years later to play two sets Saturday. Festival-goers were shocked to hear AJ is just 13 – and so talented.

AJ now has his own band called CBD, which stands for Could Be Different.

AJ has known Lucius since they were in fifth grade. Now his friend is halfway

through treatment for Stage 3 Hodgkin's Lymphoma in his chest cavity. He's completed chemotherapy and radiation treatments will be next month.

But first, he plans to play his guitar. "I taught myself to play the keyboards," he said. "I can't wait to start playing the

SEE MUSIC, 16

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'Little Shop of Horrors' special show benefits Challenge Enterprises

By Natalie Gilstrap
For Clay Today

ORANGE PARK – The Orange Park Community Theatre presented the award-winning Broadway and Hollywood musical “Little Shop of Horrors” on June 15 as a fundraiser for Challenge Enterprises of North Florida.

“We are grateful to accept this opportunity to host this fundraiser, but we are also cheerful to be able to support a community

partnership like Orange Park Community Theater,” said Stephanie Young, Director of Marketing and Communications at Challenge. Residents came to watch the Sci-Fi horror comedy based on Roger Corman’s 1960s film. The story follows Seymour Krelboined, a struggling florist assistant, and his journey to fame after growing a man-eating plant named Audrey II.

The audience applauded and laughed throughout the performance. The talented



cast brought the story and its characters to life. In addition, the musical incorporated different styles of music, such as rock, doo-wop and Motown, into its narrative, thus giving the audience a vibrant and hilarious performance.

“It was great,” said one attendee. “I’ve never seen the show before and was so invested in it.”

Guests enjoyed refreshments and Challenge Enterprises gave a brief speech before doing a 50/50 raffle.

The event was a success as the audience enjoyed themselves and gave a standing ovation.

“I thought it was wonderful,” another attendee said. “I saw it on Broadway long ago, and this was so much like it. It was awesome.” In addition, Challenge Enterprises was able to raise \$1100. The proceeds went toward the organization’s fundraising goal of \$150,000, which will help pay off the mortgage of their Ladies’ Small Group Home. Lastly, the proceeds will allow Challenge Enterprises to continue providing opportunities to individuals with disabilities.

We want to continue to be able to say ‘yes’ to all those we serve for another 50 years and beyond.” Young said.

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Keystone Community Band wraps up spring season with concert

By Natalie Gilstrap
For Clay Today

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – The Kiwanis Keystone Heights Community Band, also recognized as the official band of the city, recently concluded its spring season with a concert at the Keystone Heights Historic Pavilion.

Since 2014, the band has entertained the community with their seasonal concerts. It was thanks to the suggestion of Dr. Susan Sailor, who was Keystone Heights' High principal at the time, Steve Hart and Mike Raftice formed the band. Founded as part of a summer program called "Summer in the City," its aim was to provide student musicians a creative outlet during the summer. In 2016, the band decided to play year-round with the introduction of a spring and fall season. "This is not your ordinary oom-pa-pa community band," said Hart, co-founder and business manager.

In the beginning, the band started out with 10-to-12 musicians, but now have grown to having 20 dedicated volunteers who range from high school students to senior citizens.

"The band's 20 or so volunteer musicians include student age, golden age players, working pro musicians, and many adults who have dusted off their horns long after high school," Hart said.



Unlike a high school band, they have a full big band "back line" which includes a keyboard, guitar, drums and bass. The band plays variety of music such as swing, jazz, 70s-80s pop and blues. They also play cover songs from well-known bands like Sam and Dave, Santana, Louis Prima and Frank Sinatra. The Community Band is a volunteer organization that is sponsored by the Lake Region Kiwanis Club. The band hosts two concerts every season and provide the community with a fun activity.

During their concerts, residents can reminisce about when community bands used to play concerts during the summer. It allows former musicians a chance to get together and play once again.

"We think it's a nice activity," said Hart. "It's part of the fabric of the community and I think it's very positive."

The band plans to return in the fall in which they will be hosting at least two concerts during their fall season.



Cassandre Francois



Janiyah Stevens



Savannah Green



Lydia Lovelady

Magnolia Point Women's Club present four scholarships

By Joanne LaBeouf
For Clay Today

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – At its meeting on June 14, the Magnolia Point Women's Club announced the recipients of scholarships for young women graduating this spring from Clay High. The Magnolia Point Women's Club Scholarship Fund is in memory of Gisela Ferrell, a founding member of the Club. The scholarship awards are funded by the annual luminary event held in December for residents of Magnolia Point. To date, more than \$175,000 in scholarships has been awarded.

Cassandre Francois was awarded \$6,000. She plans to attend the University of South Florida in the fall of 2023, and will pursue a career in Business Management.

While at Clay High, Cassandre was on the Academic Team that competed with other students from other county schools. Her team placed 4th overall in the community. She participated in Student-to-Student, raising money to support military children within her school, and planning events to accomplish this. Cassandre was also a member of the National Honors Society, a group that conducted fundraisers within the school to support the school and the community. She understands that the key to success is to push herself to exceed personal skills and abilities to accomplish her dreams. Cassandre contributed to her community by volunteering at the Clay County Agriculture Fair, distributing thrift items from Community Bins, and volunteering to assist those attending community events sponsored by the Lake Asbury Baptist Church.

Janiyah Stevens was awarded

SEE SCHOLARSHIP, 15

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Orange Park Skatepark takes flight with busy summer schedule

Business is booming at the skate park's skateboard shop, with funds generated through the shop selling boards, decks, bearings, wheels and other parts.

By Lee Wardlaw
lee@claytodayonline.com

ORANGE PARK – Paul and Melody Riegel formed OP Skatepark Inc. last December, creating the framework that led to Orange Park Skatepark opening a month later.

The park received a facelift in 2016, transforming it from an old, outdated collection of wooden structures into a fully-functional, modern and contemporary fun zone complete with half-pipes, handrails, pools, bowls and other favorite obstacles

constructed out of sturdy, clean, state-of-the-art concrete.

The town's skatepark lacked a soul, but now, it is rockin' and rollin' into the summer, especially this week.

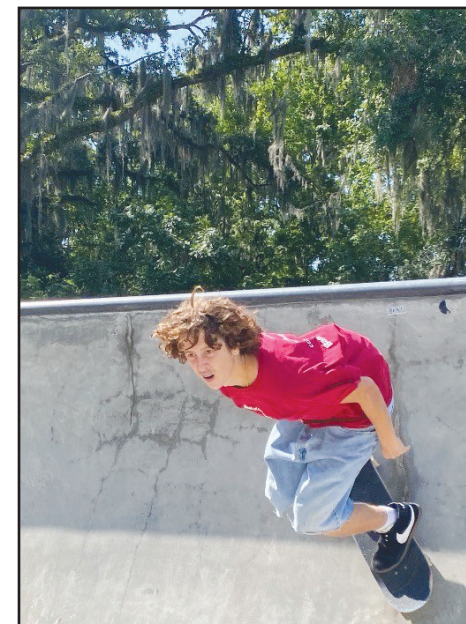
Skateboarders recently completed their repertoire of tricks, such as ollies and kick-flips, as hot dogs and hamburgers cooked on the grill throughout the day and into the night in honor of National Skateboard Day.

When the sun set, lights spotlighted the park while new, big-energy JBL speakers



STAFF PHOTOS BY LEE WARDLAW

Paul and Melody Riegel formed OP Skatepark last December and reopened the Orange Park Skateboard Park a month later. Facilities improvements from the town-owned park have since come with their presence, including a state-of-the-art concession stand and skateboard shop.



Paul and Melody Riegel turned an abandoned skatepark near the Orange Park Athletic Association fields and turned it into the Orange Park Skatepark where daredevils can attempt an array of moves in a controlled setting. The park already has plans for a busy summer season.

played their favorite hits.

The Orange Park Skatepark celebrated the national holiday until 10 p.m. It was a treat for children on summer break, who could stay up past their regular bedtimes, along with their parents, who watched in amusement.

Since taking over, the Riegels have already established a fully-operating concession stand and skateboard shop, two significant and much-needed upgrades for the park. They also hosted a skateboard contest earlier in the spring.

The park's schedule will be packed, including the Orange Park Summer Shred on Saturday.

Registration starts at noon, and the contest starts at 1 p.m., with age divisions

10 and younger, 11-14, 15-18, and 19 and older competing for prizes.

Awards will for the Best Trick and top finisher for the handrails and stair set. A raffle, food, and Free Product Toss will also be included in the fun.

"We're looking forward to a great turnout. It should be a nice contest," Riegel said. The park is quickly continuing to make facility improvements. A mountain bike trail will be built behind the skatepark. A recent unanimous vote from the Town Council approved the project outline.

To find out more, call (904) 708-8706 or visit the Town's Skatepark at 1006 Fromhart St. near the Orange Park Athletic Association complex.



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MONDAY CLASSES July 10 – August 28 (no class 7/24 & 8/7)

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Acrylics* | Elder Law | Mah Jong |
| Bingo | Flower Arranging* | Mental Health Tools |
| Book Club | Greeting Cards* | Movement and Exercise |
| Chair Yoga | Improv Comedy* | Pennies from Heaven |
| Clay History | iPhone/iPad | Rock n Roll |
| Current Events | Jewelry Making* | Watercolors* |
| Daring Women | Line Dancing | |

TUESDAYS July 11 – August 29 - Bridge Playing 1:30-3:30 Orange Park Presbyterian Church, 1905 Park Ave, Orange Park, Reservations Required

THURSDAY CLASSES July 13 – August 31

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| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Beginning Chess* | Movement and Exercise | Writing |
| Beginning Tai Chi | Pennies From Heaven | Yoga |
| Family History/Genealogy | Watercolors* | Zentangle Workshop* |

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- Tuesday - Down the Rabbit Hole of Local History
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Local leaders celebrate emancipation, embrace county history

By Kyla Woodard
For Clay Today

CLAY COUNTY – The year 1863 was a time of peace, when freedom was finally given to slaves after years of being weighed down by the harsh realities of bondage.

On Jan. 1, slavery was finally abolished for good in America. According to President Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation, slaves were supposed to be free.

However, the full effects of the life-changing proclamation wouldn’t be seen for another two years. An estimated number of 250,000 slaves still had yet to see the day their liberation would be official. In fact, many were unaware that

they were supposed to be free.

It wasn’t until June 19, 1865, that that notion changed.

That day marks what is known as Juneteenth, a celebration commemorating the day enslaved people who were still being held in Texas were read the words that declared them so. All slaves in the country were emancipated following centuries worth of captivity.

Becoming a national holiday back in 2021, Juneteenth is celebrated by many. The memorable day changed the way of life that Blacks had previously known.

Stripped from the plight of servitude, Black people could walk the Earth on their own two feet. Passing on their strength and gifts to the generations that would



PHOTOS BY KYLA WOODARD

Green Cove Springs Mayor Connie Butler, Superintendent David Broskie, former GCS mayor Felecia Hampshire, first appointed Black Clay County principal Ken Francis and Dr. Bernard Fennell attended a Juneteenth church service held at St. Mark Missionary Baptist.

come after them to further fight the long battle for racial equality.

Many of these generations reside in the very community of Clay County. The community is home to many Blacks who have left a lasting impact in the neighborhoods that Clay County residents call home.

They have shown their strength amid adversity, and their achievements are also a testament to the joyous freedom given on that momentous day – 158 years ago.

As a resident of Middleburg, Isaac Brown recalled attending the only Black high school in Clay County – Dunbar High.

Because of segregation, Dunbar remained the only high school available to Black students.

Brown said he and his other classmates trekked eight or nine miles daily to get a simple education.

“We had to do that every day – back and forth, every day. And people were hollering at us, calling us all kinds of names and things of that nature. And we just kept on going,” Brown said.


As a football player, it was common for Brown to travel a lot. However, Brown said

SEE JUNETEENTH, 22



PHOTOS BY KYLA WOODARD

Left, Ken Francis has a collection of artifacts and stories dealing with the county and the Civil Rights Movement, while the members of Black Rodeo USA appeared at Mackey’s Munchies.



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Challenge Enterprises honored by Fleming Island Rotary Club

By Natalie Gilstrap
For Clay Today

FLEMING ISLAND – Fleming Island Rotary Club awarded Challenge Enterprises of North Florida its Local Heroes Award. The prestigious award was given to Challenge for its outstanding contribution to the community.

“We are incredibly grateful to Starr Keating and the Fleming Island Rotary Club for this wonderful recognition,” said Katie Vineyard, Challenge Enterprises COO. “The Local Heroes Award holds a special place in our hearts, and we are proud to showcase it in the center of our ‘Love Us Cabinet’ for everyone to see.”

As a continuation of their contribution

to the community, the organization is launching a campaign called “Burn the Mortgage” and invites the community to join them. The campaign will

raise enough to pay off the mortgage of



their Ladies’ Small Group Home. In addition, the campaign will allow Challenge Enterprises to use its resources toward its other programs and needs.

“The rising cost of groceries poses a challenge for our organization, especially with a house full of ladies,” said Challenge CEO Nancy Keating. “By eliminating the mortgage, we can ensure that our monthly budget for the house prioritizes nutritious meals and snacks, supporting the ladies in their journey to learn how to cook healthy meals and desserts.”

Challenge Enterprises thanked the Fleming Island Rotary Club for their continuous support and encouragement as they continue to promote the power of peo-

ple and possibilities for individuals living with disabilities. Through their efforts, this non-profit organization has been impacting lives for 50 years.

They provide a variety of programs and services to help people to be successful and independent in life. They also offer different levels of adult training and residential services such as group homes, employment and career opportunities to individuals living with disabilities.

They provide recreational activities such as bowling, cycling, and karaoke for individuals to enjoy during their free time. To learn more about Challenge Enterprises or to donate, visit www.challengeenterprises.org.

Clay Women’s group funds Haven Hospice Dementia Program

For Clay Today

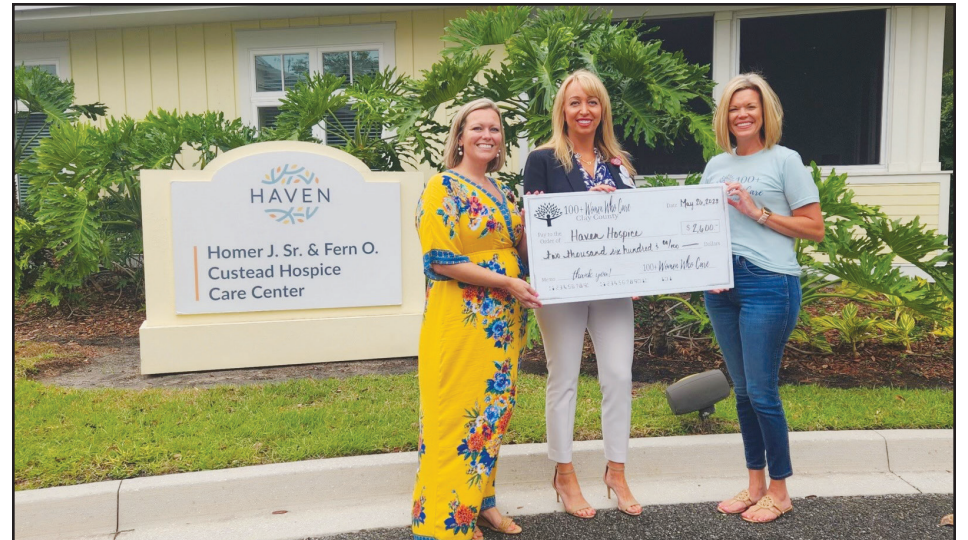
ORANGE PARK – A Clay County philanthropic group donated funds for Haven Hospice’s new dementia program. The 100+ Women Who Care Clay County organization presented Haven with a \$2,600 check.

One-third of all patients receiving Haven’s care in Clay County have primary or

secondary dementia or Alzheimer’s Disease diagnosis. With a growing need for dementia education and support, Haven is establishing a new program to focus on the needs of dementia patients and families and the staff caring for them. The program will provide additional training and resources for Haven staff, family caregivers, and staff at Haven’s partner facilities to ensure the best possible care for patients living with dementia.

“Haven Hospice’s dementia program is designed to meet patients and families where they are, whether in a home, skilled nursing facility, assisted living facility, hospital or group home,” said Haven Vice President of Business Development Jen Malko. “We know the dementia program will improve quality of life for patients with cognitive disorders and provide caregivers the support they need to navigate difficult times.”

In addition to specialized training, Haven’s new dementia program will also focus on the quality of life through companionship and specialized tools and activities. This includes patient-staff companionship with our specially trained team and engag-

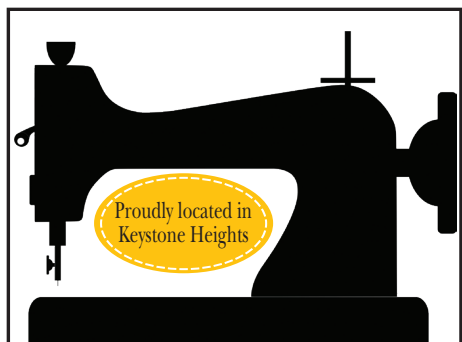


ing activities like busy blankets, aroma or massage therapy, or companion “pet” robotic animals.

Clay County is one of the 18 Florida counties served by Haven. One of Haven’s five hospice care centers, the Custeard Hospice Care Center, is at 745 Blanding Blvd. You can learn more about Haven’s services and programs at beyourhaven.org/. If you or your organization would like to become involved with the dementia pro-

gram, please get in touch with your local Haven Hospice care center or office.

Haven is the source for patients, their families and healthcare providers to find answers to their advanced illness challenges. In addition to providing comfort through the compassionate delivery of hospice services, Haven offers Advance Care Planning, Palliative Care Consultations and Transitions services with a patient-centric focus. When health becomes a challenge, we will be your haven. For more information, visit www.beyourhaven.org or call (800) 727-1889. Serving advanced illness needs in Florida since 1979 and licensed as a not-for-profit hospice since 1980.



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Forbess

from page 2

their relationships with him.

Following remarks, Clay County Clerk of Court and Comptroller Tara Green, read the official commission signed by Gov. Ron Desantis.

The previous judge gave Forbess his oath, The Honorable Tim Collins. With his left hand on the Bible and his right hand raised, Forbess was officially sworn in.

Judge Forbess' election comes as a replacement for the former judge after his retirement last year.

Judge Forbess said that his relationship with Judge Collins was indeed a highlight of his experience and brought much inspiration. During his speech, Forbess said he hoped to continue down the path already before him.

"A lot of the work that he did and put into it, I continue. That's easy to do, though, since he was also one of my biggest mentors," Forbess said.

After the Oath of Office, Judge Forbess' wife and son joined him at the front of the courtroom to participate in the ceremony's final piece. Together they helped enrobe him as a symbolic action of rewarding for the hard work and sacrifice they all endured.

After a welcoming speech from Judge Steven B. Whittington, Judge Forbess joined the judges on the bench. All dressed in their official robes and honorary titles, they sat together. In a speech of his own, the judge gave tearful thank you's as he recounted the ones who helped him run for office and got him to where he is today.

The newly elected judge said he hopes to continue to show the community who voted for him that he is keeping his promises and faithfully implementing the law for Clay County citizens.

"I would welcome any of them to come to court any time I'm in session and they can see that I'm upholding exactly what I told them that I would. I'm always on time; I'm always prepared. And I give everybody their say in court," Forbess said.

College Briefs

Fleming Island's Jiang earns degree at University of Iowa

IOWA CITY, Iowa – More than 6,500 University of Iowa undergraduate, graduate, and professional students received degrees. These Hawkeyes have engaged, excelled and stretched to reach their goals.

Eric Jiang, of Fleming Island, was among the students conferred their degrees. Jiang was a student in the Tippie College of Business whose program of study was Management. The degree awarded was a Bachelor of Business Administration.

Five local students graduate from Maryland Global Campus

ADELPHI, Md. – University of Maryland Global Campus graduated nearly 3,400 students in the 2023 spring semester, including five from Clay County. Students from all 50 states, four U.S. ter-

ritories, and 22 countries earned UMGC degrees. More than 2,000 graduates attended "Grad Walk," an in-person experience designed to place the spotlight directly on graduates and their achievements.

The following local students earned degrees:

Christian Irvine of Orange Park – Associate of Arts.

Meghan Kenison of Fleming Island – Bachelor of Arts in Humanities Magna Cum Laude.

Bruce Swygert of Orange Park – Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity Management and Policy.

Samuel Ejiroghene Atebefia of Middleburg – Bachelor of Science in Information Systems Management.

Yennifer Morales Vargas of Orange Park – Bachelor of Science in Health Services Management.

SEE COLLEGE, 22

Scholarships

from page 11

She plans to attend the University of Florida in the fall of 2023, and will pursue a career in Health Sciences (Pre-Med track). While at Clay High, Janiyah was active with the Varsity Girls Weightlifting Team, winning many awards from 9th to 12th grades. Some of her awards included FHSAA State Champion in 11th grade and FHSAA third and fourth State Place, first Team All County Athlete, Clay All County Athlete of the Week and Clay High Athletic of the Week.

Janiyah was crowned Miss Clay High with a scholarship opportunity when she was in the 11th grade. Janiyah also participated in community service, volunteering for the Center of Astrophysics, Green Cove Springs' Parade of Trees and NHS Tutor-

ing underclassmen experiencing difficulty in academics. Her goal is to be a Pediatric Physician and contribute to helping children while growing within herself to become an inspiration to others.

Savannah Green was given \$2,500. She plans to attend the University of North Florida majoring in Nursing with a minor in Nutrition.

While at Clay High, Savannah was active in team sports. She played Varsity Soccer from the 9th to the 12th grade and was Team Captain in the 12th grade. She also played Varsity Flag Football from the ninth to the 12th grade, receiving Clay County Honorable Mention and the second Team All-County Unsung Volunteer Award. She was also a member and speaker for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes from the ninth to the 12th grade. Community involvement for Savannah included participation in the Orange Park First Bap-

tist mission trip to Pawleys Island, South Carolina, helping the community in various ways, and a mission trip to Canada providing child care for local pastors and families so they could attend a conference. She also helped at the Green Cove Springs Junior High providing clerical services to students and staff, and helping with open house night.

Lydia Lovelady was awarded \$2,500. She plans to attend St. Johns River State College majoring in Finance and pursuing a career as a Financial Analyst. While attending Clay High, Lydia was a Student Manager Intern for VyStar Credit Union at both the Clay High and Green Cove Springs branches.

Her community involvement included volunteering at Wilkinson Junior High

School as an Assistant Volleyball Coach helping students with drill set up, equipment, and advice. Lydia values being accountable for herself as she faces challenges in her life.

Lydia believes in discipline and developing good habits as the key to success. More important for her is that she is aware that most everyone faces difficulties in life. Lydia also believes in understanding any difficulty she faces, and then choosing to concentrate on how she deals with or resolves her problems.

Thanks to Joanne LaBeouf, the Club's Scholarship Director, and to the committee members Pam Galloway, Marsha Fields, Marguerite Martin, Cheryle Newman, Janine O'Connor, Barb Phelps and Sharon Sprott, on another job well done.

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Lucius Whatley, left, holds one of Metallica's James Hetfield guitars after getting it from Paul Wane, whose Rising Star/Guitars for Kids program provides children with instruments for a positive option during their formative years.

Music

from page 9

guitar."

Another recipient was Duane. According to Wane, the boy is blind, but when he got home, he plugged his amplifier in and made sure his custom guitar was in tune. Fifteen minutes later, he was playing Metallica's "Enter Sandman."

Within minutes of getting a new bass guitar, Keystone Heights' Delena "Dee" Burris was sitting in the grass playing. She joined Wane and AJ on stage for a song.

"I originally started out playing guitar," she said. "I have a 1967 Classical Alvarez. I had these friends at school. They're gone. They were seniors and they played bass guitar. I thought it was just so cool. I knew then I wanted to do that."

Wane said he presented 27 custom guitars, two pianos, a drum set, a violin and two bass guitars at the annual event.

The instruments were donated and re-



furnished. So far, more than 250 have been gifted to local children.

"I've never cashed a million-dollar check, but I know what it feels like," he said. "It was a great turnout, a great time. One food truck said they served 160 kids. I don't know how many the other food truck fed. It was a community coming together for a great time."

Wane's next Guitars for Kids presentation will be his Rockin' the Stockins' on Dec. 3. That event also will be at Booger-ville.



Middleburg Black Creek Lions inducts new officers, members

MIDDLEBURG – From left, outgoing Lions Club President Ed Dickson joined new President Mary Singley, new member Phyllis Pitts, Past District Governor Tony Stefanowicz, new members David Robertson and Danny Davie and Board Member Linda Morrison during the organization's induction ceremony. The Lions collect used glasses and provide eye exams glasses for people who can't afford them. The group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at VyStar Credit Union, 2620 Blanding Blvd.

UPS

from page 8

Schmidt enjoys delivering packages during the Christmas season.

"Many guys probably say they don't like Christmas time because it's much busier," he said. "But you know, when Amazon ships out the box, the big dollhouse, and it's got the dollhouse pic-

tures all on it and whatnot, I like to be the guy that goes to the door to have the parents come out first rather than just leaving it at the door for the kids to find."

And the oddest thing Schmidt's delivered?

"Somebody once sent a two-foot, two-by-four with nothing attached to it," he said.

And it arrived without a scratch or splinter.

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State Budget Clay County

- Clay County - Regional Sports Complex (HF 2258) (SF 1844): **Community Services \$1,000,000**
- Orange Park Community Theatre, Inc.: **Cultural & Museum Grants \$25,982**
- The Fleming Island Theater, Inc.: **Cultural & Museum Grants \$25,576**
- Clamour Theatre Company - Clay & Water 2024, 6th Annual Playwrights' Retreat: **Culture Builds Florida \$5,250**
- Challenge Enterprises of North Florida - Club Challenge (SF 1436) (HF 1968): **Developmental Disabilities \$250,000**
- School Readiness Services: **Early Learning Services \$7,236,834**
- Voluntary Prekindergarten Program: **Early Learning Services \$4,874,087**
- Clay County Fire Station #20 (SF 2384) (HF 2041): **Fixed Capital Outlay - State Fire Marshal - DFS \$750,000**
- Clay County Fire Station #24 (SF 2385) (HF 2042): **Fixed Capital Outlay - State Fire Marshal - DFS \$750,000**
- Augusta Savage Friendship Park Phase 1: **Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program \$50,000**
- Moccasin Slough Trail and Observation Decks: **Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program \$200,000**
- Vera Francis Hall Park Phase VI: **Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program \$112,500**
- Clay County - Substance Abuse Recovery Center (SF 1431) (HF 2269): **Health \$3,000,000**
- The Way Free Medical Clinic College Drive New Clinic Facility Construction Project (SF 1426) (HF 1704): **Health \$1,450,000**
- YMCA of Florida's First Coast Immokalee Unique Abilities Center - Multipurpose Facility Phase 3 (SF 2676) (HF 1862) **Health \$450,000**
- Middleburg Colored School: **Planning for Preservation and Restoration Historic Preservation Grants \$20,000**
- Northeast Florida INTERCEPT Task Force (SF 1559) (HF 2030): **Local Law Enforcement Project \$1,529,703**
- Town of Orange Park - Black Creek to Doctors Lake Trail Connection (HF 2256) (SF 2884): **Local Transportation Projects \$500,000**
- Clay County - Regional Sports Complex Turn Lanes (HF 2259) (SF 1443): **Local Transportation Projects \$1,500,000**
- Clay County Greenways Expansion (HF 2043) (SF 2883): **Local Transportation Projects \$100,000**
- AMIkids Gender Specific Program: **RBAP*/Delinquency Prevention and Diversion Program \$723,542**
- Clay County District Schools: Expansion of Elevation Academy (SF 1850) (HF 2046): **School and Instructional Enhancements \$213,500**
- Clay County District Schools: Expansion of Workforce Development (SF 1435) (HF 2039): **School and Instructional Enhancements/Fixed Capital Outlay Public Schools Special Projects \$467,300**
- Clay Behavioral Health - Community Crisis Prevention Team (SF 1571) (HF 2266): **Substance Abuse and Mental Health \$500,000**
- County Transportation Programs: **Transportation Work Program \$10,713,349**
- Intrastate Highway Construction: **Transportation Work Program \$4,716,964**
- Preliminary Engineering Consultants: **Transportation Work Program \$1,824,413**
- Resurfacing: **Transportation Work Program \$8,514,958**
- Clay County Utility Authority Peters Creek Water Reclamation Facility (SF 2677) (HF 2045): **Water Project \$500,000**
- Clay County Utility Authority Swimming Penn Creek Water Main Interconnect (SF 1403) (HF 2035): **Water Project \$500,000**
- Public Schools Workforce Education Program Funds: **Workforce Education - Workforce Development \$904,441**

Total \$54,308,399



Clay County was a big winner in the newly-signed state budget. Challenge Enterprises, left, will get \$250,000 to offset operational costs, while The Way Free Medical Center was cleared to get \$1.45 million to build a new 5,100-foot clinic in Orange Park. Also, the INTERCEPT task force, right, will get \$1.530 million to work seven law enforcement agencies and Tim Tebow's Foundation to combat human trafficking and child exploitation.



Budget

from page 1

lion for two fire stations, \$7.3 million for School Readiness Services, \$8.5 million to resurface roads, \$6.8 million for engineering and construction of intrastate highways, \$10.7 million for transportation programs, \$2.5 million for construction and turn lanes at the Regional Sports Complex, \$1 million for greenways expansion, \$2.5 million for the Northeast Florida INTERCEPT Task Force for human trafficking, \$4.9 million for prekindergarten programs and \$7.2 million for school readiness programs.

Only three appropriation requests were vetoed – improvements at the Governors Creek Boat Ramp, County Youth Alternative to Secured Detention program and a Public Safety Warehouse. Those three asks totaled \$2 million.

"I think the budget was a big win for the state, and it was a big win for Clay County. No doubt about it," Bradley said. "We worked as a delegation on the projects, talked to all the entities involved and made sure that they were good projects that would be impactful to Clay County.

"Then the delegation worked together to try to secure them in the budget. And then



once they're in the budget, we advocate to answer any questions that the governor's office may have and continue to impress upon the governor's office how important they are for our community."

Both Bradley and Garrison joined Sheriff Michelle Cook in applauding the governor for creating a new substance abuse center.

"It's nice to have some beds in Clay County to be able to address addiction and substance abuse recovery," Bradley said. "It's a shame that we need it. But the fact is, we need it. We have people in Clay County who have to go to great distances to outlying counties to get the treatment



they need. I think that's a big deal for Clay County."

Cook also embraced the project. "We will continue to put drug dealers in jail," she said. "But for those that are ready to embark on a pathway out of drug addiction, this is that path for them. Anytime we can get somebody off of drugs and back to being a productive member of the community, then it's a win-win for all of us."

The legislature and governor also supported INTERCEPT, a collaboration of seven law enforcement agencies to create a task force to combat human trafficking and child exploitation.

I think Sheriff Cook got one of her big

initiatives in the INTERCEPT Task Force," Garrison said. "We made that pitch to our budget chair (in Tallahassee) and ultimately the governor. That's obviously going to be housed in Clay County through the Sheriff's Office, so it'll be a regional benefit. It's going to be housed here in Clay County."

Garrison also lauded the protection of several greenway projects and the funding to connect the Black Creek and Doctors Lake trails.

"It didn't happen through the normal government channels," he said. "It's just an example of people working together. It's just a great, great budget year all the way around."



The Ghost Kitchens cooks are on the ready to make meals from eight different restaurants. The Canadian-based restaurant hopes to expand to other Walmarts in the area.

Ghost from page 7

menu is up to interpretation, and Smith even said the company is open to customer recommendations.

Smith also said that the company is open to customer recommendations.

"If any guests or customers have any suggestions for us or something they would like to see on the menu, we are open to (those requests) 100%," she said.

One idea has already been implemented.

"We have a couple of customers who wanted a cheaper menu, so we added a value menu with 99-cent hot dogs, corn nuggets, jalapeno poppers, (and more) – just a couple of side items. That way, the customer doesn't have to spend as much money when they come in," Smith said.

Other than their deliveries, the business relies on word-of-mouth marketing. But many customers are just learning about a restaurant that offers eight unique menus.

"I would say that everybody has loved it. I had a gentleman who came in and loved (the concept). It was him and his two

kids. They got burgers, and he got a chicken sandwich. It was nothing crazy, but he was raving about it. He said, 'I'm texting my wife right now,'" Kirkland said.

Kirkland is a big fan of the business model.

"Me, personally, I think it's great. I'm glad to work where I do (due to) the amount of positive feedback we've gotten from the concept," he said.

"Once this one is established, the owner wants to open this up in another Walmarts within 10 miles and rinse and repeat every eight to 10 months once business picks up."

Jacksonville and other areas in Northeast Florida are possible spots for expansion.

"I had people from Argyle Forest stop by and say, 'Oh my gosh, I wish I knew this was here and would love to (stop in) and eat, but I've got to go to the other side of town. I'd say in about one to two years, (Ghost Kitchens) will be everywhere,'" he said.

To order from Ghost Kitchens, call (904) 592-7227 or download the DoorDash app, where three of the company's brands are listed individually.

Thrasher-Horne Happenings



THREE DOG NIGHT coming to Orange Park on Dec. 1

ORANGE PARK – Legendary band THREE DOG NIGHT, now in its fifth decade, claims some of the most astonishing statistics in popular music. In 1969 through 1974, no other group achieved more top 10 hits, moved more records, or sold more concert tickets than THREE DOG NIGHT.

The iconic group will make a one-night appearance at the Thrasher-Horne Center on Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets, which start at \$39, are available at the box office or at thcenter.org.

THREE DOG NIGHT hits weave through the fabric of pop culture today, whether on the radio where they are heard day in and day out, in television commercials or in major motion pictures – songs like "Mama Told Me (Not To Come)," "Joy to the World," "Black and White," "Shambala" and "One" serve to heighten our emotions and crystallize

THREE DOG NIGHT's continuing popularity. Boasting chart and sales records that remain virtually unmatched in popular music, THREE DOG NIGHT had 21 consecutive Top 40 hits, including three No. 1 singles, 11 Top 10s, 18 straight Top 20s, seven million-selling singles and 12 straight RIAA Certified Gold LPs.

White's Sweet Caroline Tour headed to Thrasher-Horne

ORANGE PARK – The Sweet Caroline Tour is a Neil Diamond Concert celebration starring the No. 1 Diamond performer in the world – Jay White. It is the most authentic Neil Diamond Concert Experience on the planet.

Conceived in response to Diamond's retirement from the concert stage and the huge demand from audiences worldwide to enjoy the music of the Rock N' Roll Hall of Fame icon in a live music setting, Jay and the dynamic Sweet Caroline Tour Band pays homage to Neil Diamond by performing the hits and beloved gems with the same energy and artistry Diamond delivered during his incredible 50-year career.

White will bring his legacy tour to the Thrasher-Horne Center on Aug. 13.

Tickets, which start at \$29, are available at thcenter.org.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE CLAY COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE

THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Planning Commission of Clay County, Florida, will hold a public hearing on Thursday, July 6, 2023, at 5:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as can be heard, and that the Board of County Commissioners of Clay County, Florida, will hold two public hearings, one on Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard, and one on Tuesday, July 25, 2023 at 5:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as can be heard. The hearings will be held in the BCC Meeting Room, 4th floor, Clay County Administration Building, 477 Houston St, Green Cove Springs, Florida. The proposed ordinance is entitled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING ARTICLE III OF THE CLAY COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, BEING THE CODIFICATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 93-16, AS SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED, AND COMPRISING THE ZONING AND LAND USE BY AMENDING SUBSECTION 3-5(ba) TO CHANGE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR BOAT STORAGE ON PARCELS ADJACENT TO PUBLIC OR PRIVATE MARINAS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Interested parties may appear at the hearings and be heard with respect to the proposed ordinance. After the public hearings the Board may take immediate action on the proposed ordinance, or may continue its deliberations to a date, time and place then announced without publishing further notice thereof. A copy of the proposed ordinance is available for inspection by the public at the Clay County Planning and Zoning Division, Third Floor of the Administration Building, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays.

Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, a person deciding to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the hearings or at any subsequent hearing to which the Board has continued its deliberations is advised that such person will need a record of all proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record of all proceedings is made, which must include the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person needing accommodations to participate in this matter should contact Clay County Risk Management by mail at P.O. Box 1366, Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043, or by telephone at (904) 278-4718, no later than three (3) days prior to the hearing or proceeding for which this notice has been given. Deaf and hard of hearing persons can access the telephone number by contacting the Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8770 (Voice) or 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).

Clay County Board of County Commissioners

Legal 72589 published in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper.



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Construction

from page 1

Skylar Davis and his Dalton's Sports Grill employees have been affected by construction.

He said construction on Blanding Boulevard north of County Road 218 wasn't the only reason he moved his business from Middleburg to Lake Asbury two years ago, but it certainly was a factor.

"Now, here we are, dealing with the (Sandridge-Henley Road) construction issue," Davis said.

The Dalton's owner isn't worried about his business surviving.

"I survived Hurricane Irma when it shut down the (Black Creek) bridge (on CR-218). I survived the previous building, which was literally falling apart to the ground on me. I've been known to take one on the chin and keep moving. We'll make it through it," he said.

Davis is more concerned for his neighbors across the street at Asbury Commons, south of his popular beer, burger and chicken wing joint, a little more than a football field from the construction site.

"I'm not upset or angry (about the construction). It's just that no one thinks about how bad it's hurting the mom-and-pop businesses around here. If anybody can be a voice for the small businesses, I'm going to be a voice for them," Davis said.

Davis and other small business owners in the area said they weren't forewarned. And the county put up barricades into the Glenhaven neighborhood to keep people from bypassing construction. A quarter-mile trip to the grocery now is a 10-mile trip along Sandridge to Russell Road to Henley Road.

"They didn't even tell us that they would be starting the project," he said.

Construction equipment, potholes and debris run along Sandridge, ending at the intersection of Asbury Commons and Lake Asbury Food Mart.

Customers commuting is crucial to maintaining a successfully-running operation for Tony Rahal, owner of the Food Mart, a locally-owned convenience store and gas station.

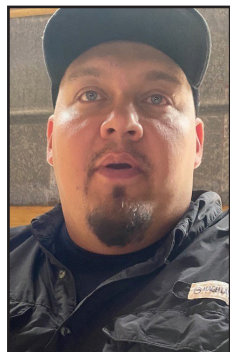
With the road bottled up until at least July 30, Rahal's sales have halted.

A store representative said that a usually-packed store open from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily had only seen fewer than 15 customers by 2 p.m. on Friday.

Rahal said he is so upset with the project that he struggles even attempting to visit the site of his once-bustling business.

He hardly ever returns to the store – at least for now. He isn't interested in seeing the damage to his bottom line the construction has caused.

"I get upset every time I go there. I ask employees (how things are going) once a



Skylar Davis



Zac's Pizza owner Zelda Bulut often stares at an empty restaurant during lunch hours. Construction beside her usually-busy store will keep thousands of Lake Asbury residents from picking up or having a pizza delivered until the end of July.



The Lake Asbury Food Mart usually is busy with customers getting quick treats and gasoline, but the store said one day it averaged less than two customers an hour because of the work being done to widen Sandridge Road.

week because I don't want to see it," he said.

But even worse was little forewarning – or lack thereof, he said. Rahl said he wasn't given any advanced notice.

"They could have at least told me something, so I could have tried to plan," Rahl said. Cones and construction vehicles line the outside of his business, which is Ground Zero for the melee. In the meantime, the project has crippled his sales because thousands of loyal customers along Sandridge Road now have to drive nearly 10 miles to get to his store.

On the first day of construction, he said workers came in unannounced and cut off

his water. Out went the soda machine and slushie machines, coffee makers and more. He had no other option than to pay out of pocket for refurbishments.

"I don't want to go there," he said.

The sports grill and convenience store owners understand road widening needs to be made to keep pace with growth, but both wish they were approached so they could plan.

"I know they're doing their job, and I appreciate it, but it's hurting business, and (the county) could have (approached it) in a different way. They could have left one lane open," Rahal said.

"I get that they've got a job to do, and it



STAFF PHOTOS BY LEE WARDLAW

needs to be done, but it's definitely slowing our business down," Davis said.

Dinner sales at Dalton's have declined due to the 10-mile round-trip that used to be two miles or less for take-out and sit-down orders.

"If they are having to drive that far, they might as well (eat here)," he said.

Several repeat customers, all of whom he knows by name, aren't able to make the trip like normal.

"A lot of people live in this area, but it's such a drive to get here," Davis said.

More planning would be better next time around, Davis said.

"This is self-inflicted. Somebody could have said, 'Hey, this is about to happen.' (The county) could have gone to the neighborhood, spoken with residents, and used that as a passage-through. Now, it's really inconvenient to get here, and they're building thousands and thousands of homes back there. Traffic flow is constantly being messed up. It's chaos," he said.

All hope business will return to normal after construction is complete.

But Zelda Bulut, owner and operator of Zac's Pizza, isn't buying the hype, and she's worried about the potential implications that the construction could have on the small business.

"It is literally killing our business. Our customers can't come to (the location). The construction workers are not doing their jobs. Why can't we get this over with? It's cutting our business and delivery down because nobody wants to drive," she said.

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Faith Walk

by Pastor Billy Register
True Life Church
Clay County

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Promises are easy to make. We make promises to our children, spouses, parents, coworkers, and neighbors on a regular basis. Take a moment to think back on your day. It's likely that you made many promises today!

It may have been a promise to your wife that you'd have a date night this evening; perhaps a promise to your child that you'd help them with their homework; or even a promise to a coworker to pick up an extra shift on their behalf. No matter what the promises are, they are often an everyday occurrence in our lives!

The important aspect of promises is keeping them. Sometimes, we get so busy that we find it's a lot easier to make promises than it is to keep them. But promises should be honored. It's much better to say no in the first place than it is to keep a promise unfulfilled. God NEVER leaves a promise unfulfilled.

2 Corinthians 1:20 says, "For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory."

Pastor and Author David Jeremiah said, "The promises of God are His guarantees amid life's uncertainties. They're the basis of all our life of faith."

When we walk in faith, anything is possible. Never believe that a promise of God is too big to be fulfilled in your life. God says, through Me, all things are possible!

What has God promised you? If you are still waiting on the fulfillment of that promise, don't give up hope! God WILL come through for you!

We must remember that God knows the past, present, and future of our lives. Only He has the boundless wisdom and foresight to make things happen at the right and perfect time. That's why we must trust Him in His timing.

The things He has promised you WILL come to pass, but they will do so at the time appointed by Him. Seek out and grab ahold of your promise today and trust in God to keep that promise.

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

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Naturalist shares significance of Camp Chowenwaw's beauty

By Lee Wardlaw
lee@claytodayonline.com

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Liza McCain, Parks Naturalist at Camp Chowenwaw Park, knows something about nature, history, and conservation, especially within the confines of the 150-acre park she has worked for four years.

Part of McCain's job at Chowenwaw is leading tours, teaching residents the ins and outs of the park's history, along with its plants and animals that make it so unique.

She led a tour last Saturday, taking residents on the Hickory Nature Trail Hike.

McCain will also lead two other nature trail hikes on Sept. 16 and Dec. 16 to provide another opportunity to see the park's natural wonders.

"It's a great opportunity to get out and get familiar with our native plants and habitats, especially if you're new to Clay County or if you have your own property that you want to get to know more about. I'm here to answer any questions, and I'd love to share (my knowledge) about native plants and animals here in Clay," she said.

She also advocates for environmental protection where habitat is dwindling in the face of development.

"I really advocate more for people to take notice of (plants and animals)," she said.

McCain and Camp Chowenwaw will also offer the "Wetland Walk," a similar hike that will instead focus on the park's dominant landscape, serving as a natural filter for the bordering Black Creek and nearby St. Johns River on July 15 and Oct. 21.

During McCain's hikes, there's plenty to learn.

With 100 acres, wetlands comprise two-thirds of the park's overall space, and their role in conserving the environment is significant.

Camp Chowenwaw is on a peninsula between Black Creek and Peters Creek.



Cinnamon ferns can be found throughout the park.

Wetlands play an essential role in the park and areas across Northeast Florida, even protecting against the powerful winds of hurricanes.

"(Wetlands) protect against storm surge, so they're kind of a buffer between our high water and developed areas," she said.

The park is a bottomland forest and a transitional area between uplands and wetlands. Additionally, with deciduous and conifer trees, McCain said it's one of the most diverse habitats in the United States.

"It's a good mix of domestic and hydric plants. It's a very diverse habitat," McCain said.

Hydric plants can tolerate being underwater for long periods, and domestic plants can tolerate little moisture.



STAFF PHOTOS BY LEE WARDLAW

Liza McCain is Park Naturalist at Camp Chowenwaw Park. Part of her job is leading residents on tours, where she presents a high level of knowledge on the park, conservation, history and nature.



To sign up for the next nature hike, please visit www.claycountygov.com/Home/Components/Calendar/Event.

McCain points to an approximately 200-year-old Southern Live Oak and a Bald Cypress, one of the only conifer trees that drops its needles annually, while leading hikers through the trail.

"It's quite an impressive tree. I relate them to the (Coast Redwood) in California. They're our version of the redwoods," she said.

Last week's tour included hoots from a Barred Owl and a beautiful long-tailed skipper butterfly nesting on pea flowers.

McCain told stories of the 1800s when the shores of the St. Johns River grew abundantly of orange groves. That was before the early 1900s when the crops died from a freeze. Instead of utilizing toxic pesticides, farmers put the manatee tree snail to work.

She pulled out a small glass container containing the snail shells for residents to see.

"They would strategically place it on infected citrus trees to combat the white fly infestation," she said.

In the meantime, growth and development are a concern at the top of her mind.

"We support and conserve what we have here, but there is not as much as we did before the development," McCain said.

It's important for parks to play their part, along with residents and landowners.

"I urge people to go home and leave space for wildlife," McCain said.

To sign up for the next nature hike, please visit www.claycountygov.com/Home/Components/Calendar/Event.

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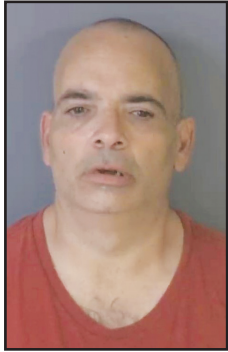
Police Briefs

Man arrested for threatening to blow up bank

ORANGE PARK – According to the Clay County Sheriff's Office, a 50-year-old man was arrested on June 17 after he threatened to blow up the Community First Credit Union on Blanding Boulevard.

Jason Glenn Cau, of Orange Park, was charged with making a false threat to use a bomb, explosive device or weapon of mass destruction after a fraud analyst for the bank said Cau threatened to "blow up" the bank. Cau was arrested at his home.

Because the case is still being investigated, CCSO didn't disclose many details. His bond was set at \$15,003.



Jason Cau

Middleburg man pleads guilty to having sawed-off shotgun

JACKSONVILLE – U.S. Attorney Roger B. Handberg announced Paul Steven Hulbert, 27, pleaded guilty to unlawful possession of an unregistered National Firearms Act sawed-off shotgun. Hulbert faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in federal prison. He made his initial appearance on Nov. 18, 2022, and was ordered detained.

According to court documents and public records, in May 2021, a court in Clay County issued a "Temporary Injunction for Protection Against Domestic Violence with Minor Children" against Hulbert. The court extended the injunction until September 2022. The injunction specifically prohibited Hulbert from possessing firearms and directed him to surrender any firearms to the Clay County Sheriff's Office.

In October 2021, Hulbert was convicted of the misdemeanor crime of domestic battery in Clay County. After the domestic battery conviction and issuance of the domestic violence injunction, both of which prohibited him from possessing firearms,



PHOTO BY CCSO

Nice try

From the "You Can't Make This Up" department, a driver was pulled over on Blanding Boulevard because a Clay County Sheriff's Office deputy was suspicious of the license tag. The driver used duct tape to spell out the tag number and a yellow sticky note for the expiration date. CCSO said the driver got an "A" for effort – and a ticket.

Hulbert obtained seven firearms that included rifles, pistols and a shotgun.

On May 16, 2022, members of the CCSO went to Hulbert's home to serve an arrest warrant for violating the injunction's terms. Upon arriving at the home,

the CCSO arrested him and searched the house. They located four rifles, a revolver, a pistol and a 12-gauge shotgun.

A follow-up investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosions' terms.

SEE POLICE, 22

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, June 20

Thomas E. Ross, 41, Orange Park, aggravated battery, possession-controlled substance

Michael L. Kite, 83, Keystone Heights, aggravated assault with deadly weapon

Adam A. Hall, 40, two counts possession-controlled substance, possession-drug paraphernalia, using false ID

Autaseasa M. Hunter, 21, Orange Park, fraudulent use of credit card

Monday, June 19

Jessica M. Smith, 26, Middleburg, domestic battery

D'Angelo Johnson, 24, Orange Park, domestic battery

Clayton T. Scalcucci, 27, Orange Park, DWLSR

Antwan E. Gary, 25, Orange Park, resist/obstruct/oppose law enforcement with violence

Quywanah A.D. Johnson, 23, Orange Park, battery

Pamela J. Baldree, 43, Keystone Heights, FTA-DWLSR

Gary C. Chapman, 45, Orange Park, sex offender violation

Sunday, June 18

Allen C. Rochon, 34, Middleburg, DUI with property damage/injury

Omar A. Giraldo, 38, Orange Park, possession-drug paraphernalia

Justin K. Fussell, 37, Orange Park, trespassing

Zaida A. Rockett, 23, Fleming Island, shoplifting

Malisa A. Alcorn, 50, Green Cove Springs, possession-methamphetamine, possession-drug paraphernalia, possession-fentanyl

Walter G. Trancynger, 36, Middleburg, two counts FTA-failure to register, FTA-DWLSR

Gina M. Nasser, 34, Orange Park, possession-cocaine, possession-drug paraphernalia, shoplifting

Nicolas P. Reiman, 19, Orange Park, riding a motorcycle without valid license

Kelley J. Gardner, 58, Orange Park, DUI

Michell L. Woodard, 41, Middleburg, FTA-possession-drug paraphernalia

Jeremy E. Scott, 34, Orange Park, DUI

Thomas R. Loudermilk, 21, Middleburg, domestic battery

Jordan R. Dozier, 21, Orange Park, DUI

Saturday, June 17

Zachary R. Olsen, 19, Orange Park, possession-marijuana

Walter H. Cary, 59, Fleming Island, petit theft

Tori L. Ward, 20, Middleburg, trafficking-methamphetamine

Thomas R. Morrison, 42, Keystone Heights, domestic battery

Norman L. Vassar, 41, Middleburg, possession-methamphetamine, resist/obstruct/oppose law enforcement, trespassing

Jessica R. Mabry, 46, Middleburg, FTA-

possession-drug paraphernalia

Bo Lee Johns, 34, Middleburg, VOP-domestic battery

Marvin A. McQueen, 40, Middleburg, shoplifting

John R. Clay, 61, Orange Park, DUI with property damage/injury, leaving scene of accident with property damage

David H. Scott, 41, Green Cove Springs, possession-marijuana

Jason G. Cau, 50, Orange Park, reporting false bomb threat

Katlie A.-M. Neibauer, 25, Middleburg, battery

Anthony M. Stephens, 43, Orange Park, resist/obstruct/oppose law enforcement, disorderly intoxication

Martin Derrera, 43, Middleburg, battery

Hennessey M. Johnson, 25, Orange Park, resist/obstruct/oppose law enforcement

Friday, June 16

Cherry M. Padgett, 43, Middleburg, trespassing

John A. Recchiuti, 52, Fleming Island, domestic battery

Wayne H. Gray, 32, Middleburg, trespassing

Branden A. Watts, 34, Fleming Island, shoplifting

Samuel J. Gilmore, 40, Green Cove Springs, DWLSR

Brandon A. Badgett, 49, Green Cove Springs, two counts VOP-blank/forged/stolen driver's license, two counts VOP-larceny of credit card,

Samuel J. Gilmore, 40, Green Cove Springs, DWLSR

Christine Y. Evans, 29, Fleming Island,

dealing in stolen property

Mary E. Rice, 32, Green Cove Springs, fraudulent use of credit card

Garth M. Murray, 73, Middleburg, domestic battery

Felipe F.G. Martins, 37, Orange Park, DUI with passenger younger than 18

Destini N. Hunter, 32, Middleburg, possession-methamphetamine, possession-drug paraphernalia, possession-fentanyl, diving without valid license

Thursday, June 15

Stephen T. Lott, 40, Orange Park, FTA

Javonta D. Hall, 27, Green Cove Springs, introduce/remove contraband into jail

Wednesday, June 14

Eric L. Osborne, 45, Keystone Heights, domestic battery

Anna J. Grimes, 58, Middleburg, shoplifting

Brenda L.G. Wright, 49, Orange Park, domestic battery

Jonah D. Bethel, 18, Middleburg, shoplifting

Emilie A. Keene, 28, Middleburg, shoplifting

Deonte D. Holloman, 29, Oakleaf, giving false name/ID, DWLSR

George Deane, 32, Green Cove Springs, FTA-interference with custody of minor, FTA-shelter unmarried minor without notifying parent

Glen A. Stoltling, 54, Orange Park, battery, adult imprisonment

Kenneth S. Smith, 47, Middleburg, three counts FTA

Michael D. Kruger, 35, Fleming Island, disorderly intoxication



PHOTOS BY KYLA WOODARD

Clay County celebrated the Juneteenth holiday last Monday. Many Black leaders reminisced about their education at Dunbar High, as well as how the county evolved from a repressive culture of decades ago to one that embraces the contributions made by many of its residents.

Juneteenth

from page 13

while his white counterparts could travel in large buses meant for their teams, he and his teammates could only carpool.

Brown said that as a team, they made their way to the Clay County School Board to make their voices heard. Brown said the board offered a bus, but only if the team found someone to drive it.

"We told him that we see the bus carrying everybody else to the football game where they can play, but we don't have a bus. So, what do we need to get a bus," Brown said.

Pursuing perseverance and determination in the face of adversity is a stepping stone for possible accomplishments.

That was true for Kenneth Francis. As another Dunbar graduate and community activist, Francis' history lies deep in Green Cove Springs.

In 1968, at the beginning of integration, Francis became the first appointed Black principal in the Clay County school system. Francis said that as a new principal, he

began at R.C. Bannerman and later transitioned to Green Cove Springs Junior High.

As principal of the junior high school, Francis ushered in many new changes into what he called an "oasis of learning." Francis said his efforts to improve higher education resulted in the school becoming a top-performing school in the county.

"I integrated the staff completely. I hired more Black teachers than any other school in the county. I had to let a few go now and then if they didn't live up to those standards because my standards were high," Francis said.

Dunbar High is a critical part of Clay County's history because many Black leaders were educated there. Today, the building is now known as The Augusta Savage Arts and Community Center in Green Cove Springs.

The building was renamed after Augusta Savage, a prominent Black sculpture artist who grew up in the small community. Savage was born in Green Cove Springs in 1892.

Green Cove Springs Mayor Connie Butler said that by renaming the building, the

city recognized Savage's work within the community.

Butler said as a young girl, Savage walked the streets of what is now known as "The Cove" from Middleburg Avenue – now known as Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard – to pick out the clay she would use to craft figurines.

Butler said that the city is aiming to preserve Savage's history and teach future generations about the culture that exists around them.

"[We are] preserving the history of Augusta by having activities that teach that of arts and culture, and to keep that spirit enriched and alive – because of her," Butler said.

Along with past showings of Black achievements, current residents continue to push the mark and shed more light on the county's rich history.

Brandye Mackey, owner of the restaurant Mackey's Munchies, said that by having a prominent Black business in the county she continues to push for inclusive ways to celebrate Black accomplishments.

"Being out here in Clay County, my job,

my love, my passion is to bring people together... [by] the love of food," Mackey said.

Mackey was one of many residents in the community to host a special celebration to honor the new holiday. While hosting a "Black Rodeo" at her restaurant, Mackey invited Black Rodeo USA members to meet guests, sign autographs, and tell the history behind Black cowboys.

Among other celebrations, Middleburg's St. Mark Missionary Baptist church hosted a service to commemorate the holiday and an outdoor gathering filled with food trucks, vendors and a bounce house. Attended by numerous people, the celebration marked the beginning of many more.

The mark that Blacks have made on Clay County is substantial. The achievements made possible from the past to the present because of what those of the past endured. And remembering the past is essential for building the future.

"Because we came from separate beginnings, did not mean that we are secondary in life. We have proven ourselves to be as first-class as anyone else," Francis said.

College

from page 15

University of Maryland Global Campus was founded more than 75 years ago specifically to serve the higher education needs of working adults and military service-members.

Borge makes Dean's List at Roger Williams University

BRISTOL, R.I. – Orange Park's Michael Borge earned a spot on the Dean's List at Roger Williams University. Full-time stu-

dents who complete 12 or more credits a semester and earn a grade point average of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean's List that semester.

At Roger Williams University, students are prepared to be thinkers and doers ready to solve challenging problems with innovative solutions.

Valdosta State has seven from Clay on Dean's List

VALDOSTA, Ga. – More than 1,600 students were named to Valdosta State University's Spring 2023 Dean's List. This includes the following area residents –

Jackson Bull of Fleming Island, Tatiana King, Julia Higdon, Iyanni Felder and Madeline Higdon of Orange Park and Bre'niah Hare and Victoria Ahmadu of Oakleaf.

To qualify for Dean's List at VSU, students must achieve a semester grade point average of 3.50 or higher on nine or more semester hours with an institutional grade point average of 3.00 or higher. Please note that developmental studies, transient, and graduate students are not eligible for Dean's List status.

Established in 1906, Valdosta State University is a premier comprehensive university that offers both the extensive academic, cultural, and social opportuni-

ties of a major university and the small classes and close, personal attention of smaller institutions.

Middleburg's LeClair on McNeese Honor Roll

LAKE CHARLES, La. – The McNeese State University Honor Roll for the 2023 spring semester has been announced. The honor roll lists undergraduate students earning at least a 3.0 or B average while carrying 12 or more semester hours.

McNeese out-of-state students on the Honor Roll included Middleburg's Richard Cole LeClair.

Police

from page 21

sives determined the 12-gauge shotgun was illegally modified, as both barrels had been sawed off. ATF determined that the 12-gauge shotgun was not registered to

Hulbert in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record.

The case was investigated by the Clay County Sheriff's Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Jacksonville Office. Assistant U.S. Attorney Kevin C. Frein is prosecuting it.

This case is part of Project Safe Neigh-

borhoods, a program bringing together all levels of law enforcement and the communities they serve to reduce violent crime and gun violence and to make our neighborhoods safer for everyone. On May 26, 2021, the department launched a violent crime reduction strategy strengthening PSN based on these core principles: fos-

tering trust and legitimacy in our communities, supporting community-based organizations that help prevent violence from occurring in the first place, setting focused and strategic enforcement priorities and measuring the results.

Sports

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The Middleburg High girls wrestling team, led by state champion Cheyenne Cruce, center front, will be traveling to a first-ever shot at the AAU Scholastic Duals national championships held in Orlando June 23-25.

NFWA chocked full of staters for nationals

Middleburg sending first team

By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

KISSIMMEE - With two recent state runner-up finishes; Duals and Individuals, Fleming Island High's wrestling summer club, North Florida Wrestling Academy is looking to make some noise at the upcoming AAU Scholastic Duals in Orlando on June 23-25 at the Orange County Convention Center. NFWA will be in the Community I division. NFWA Black, in 2022, was fifth in the Gold Championship bracket in Community I.

"We are strong top to bottom and have been doing twice a day workouts the past few weeks since school is out," said NFWA coach P.J. Cobbert, also the Fleming Island High School that guided the Golden Eagles to runnerup state finishes against repeat Class 2A champions Lake Gibson for the

past season. "I'm giving our seniors from this year a rest and want to see the young faces in the big lights."

For Middleburg High coach Coll Robertson, his program will send athletes on two teams; Applied Pressure and Kame Style with a girls team, Riot, featuring his girls athletes.

"As a wrestler myself at Ridgeview, I've never been to this Nationals meet and I do believe this will be the first Middleburg-based team to compete so we will both be experiencing something new this week," said Robertson. "We have most of our Middleburg High team going including three state guys; Wyatt LeDuc, Grady Woodard and Tucker Cody with Logan Moore, our only senior not going. Logan wanted to go, but I wanted to let guys that will be back next year to get the mat time."

Robertson will also have two Clay High guys; Brady Glavin and Will Kelly. Robert-

SEE NATIONALS, 27



STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

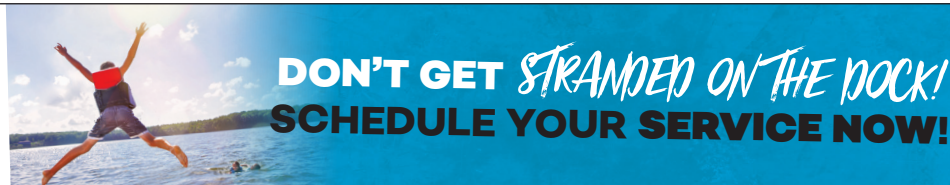
Campers let's go!

Clay High head football coach Kyle Kennard, center, releases a handful of football campers at Saturday's Clay High youth football camp in Green Cove Springs.



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Carlascios head to North American Championships



STAFF PHOTO BY RANDY LEFKO

Husband Keith and wife Michelle Carlascio are a double helping of powerlifting; here with Michelle doing the lifting, after qualifying to travel to Grand Cayman Islands for the North American Championships in August.

By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

FLEMING ISLAND - Second place finishes at a recent Powerlifting American championship event held June 2-3 in Scottsdale, AZ, have catapulted Fleming Island's strongest weightlifting couple to an invite to the North American Powerlifting Championships in August in the Grand Cayman

"We competed in the same nationals events last year and went to Panama and Canada," said Michelle Carlascio, a masters 2 competitor, aged 52, who took sec-

ond in Arizona at the 2023 Classic Masters Nationals with husband, Keith, 54 (55 Tues., June 20), who also finished second in the Masters 2 division. "This year, we are competing in the NAPF (North American Powerlifting Federation) and they will host the North American Powerlifting Championships in the Cayman Islands August 7-12."

With their finishes, both Carlascios will be donning USA attire on their visits as representatives of the American team. Both qualified with second place finishes

at the Jacksonville Open Championships in February.

One trip the Carlascios missed qualifying for was the World Powerlifting Championship to be held in Mongolia in October.

"We both could be reserves on the USA team that is going so if someone can't go or someone gets hurt in our age group, we could get an invite," said Carlascio. "Theoretically, we could both do well in Grand Cayman, but the national worlds team is based on the final national rankings," said Keith Carlascio.

Michelle Carlascio, who was doing a dead lift workout while being interviewed for this article, is the stats and nuts and bolts end of the partnership with her computer generated workout from her Miami coach showing a graph of progressions. Keith, admittedly, is just the guy who lifts with her and gets to go on the trips.

"I'm not as serious as Michelle is, but I get my workouts in and we both eat healthy and share goals and such," said

SEE CARLASCIO, 28



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Clay hovering into traditional Blue Devil lore

By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

GREEN COVE SPRINGS - Though area teams tend to relish the chance to compete in 7-on-7 passing scrimmages, Clay High football coach Kyle Kennard is working on the premise of historical Clay High football.

"We are not built for 7-on-7 kind of stuff," said Kennard, who has had 7-on-7 scrimmages against Bolles and Nease recently. "We just line it up and run the ball, eat the clock."

Clay has road schedule 7-on-7 at Keystone Heights on Tuesday, June 20.

Against Williston, a top Class 1A program in the Gainesville area, Kennard was a bit disappointed in the first half outcome; a 21-0 deficit that could have been 28-0 not for a penalty and was hopeful that the

experience would be a wake up call for the leaders of the 2023 squad.

"We knew Williston was going to be good and that became a learning experience," said Kennard. "We were doing things in the first half that we were not doing all during the spring team scrimmages; snapping the ball three times over the quarterback's head; one for a safety. Before we blinked, 30 seconds into the game, it was 9-0."

Kennard was aware that the game was wet, raining, mopyy, but did not want to excuse bad play on weather.

"They executed in the same weather," said Kennard. "When it is like that, smart play will win the day."

Kennard is optimistic as his summer days have been full rostered in the searing

SEE LORE, 29



Blue Devils hot in sun

Clay High football has been working hard in searing heat in the mornings as the Blue Devils look to bring firepower to the gridiron in 2023. Clay will travel to Webber International University for a team camp later this summer.



Football Camp

Blue Devil Youth Football

A couple of very, very young future Blue Devil football hopefuls trek the treacherous agility bags and tackling dummies in Saturday's youth football camp at Clay High School.







Fish Tacos

On the boat called Fish Tacos with Bill Pascoe, fishing was plentiful with Todd Arzie, Justin Jewell nailing a Mahi Mahi, Collin Davis and Bill Pascoe with a black fin tuna; Collin Davis and Justin Jewell with a second black fin tuna; Justin Jewell with a Mahi Mahi, Clint Darnell with a gag grouper. All caught on trip to Marathon.



Fourth of July Freedom 5k

July 4 runners can choose the Keystone Heights Freedom 5K to be run at 8 a.m. through city streets. The 5K benefits the Jordan Cooper Memorial Scholarship Fund.







SPECIAL PHOTOS BY RUTH MELICHAREK, AGE 8.

The Florida SOL womens pro soccer team gets in some action at the Clay County Soccer Complex on Sun., June 18 with area high schoolers now in college on the roster for the summer schedule in the WPSL (Womens Pro Soccer League).



Left: Fleming Island High wrestling coach and North Florida Wrestling Academy director P.J. Cobbert, left, in blue, will have two state medalists on his AAU Scholastic Duals roster; Kaden Schaefer and Chris Chop, as the NFWA team, right, will take on three days of wrestling against the best athletes in the United States in Orlando on June 23-25. Below: Middleburg High wrestling state qualifier Grady Woodard will lead a first-time Middleburg team to the AAU Scholastic Duals with coach Coll Robertson.

Nationals

from page 23

son will also field a girls team led by his Middleburg High squad that had a fantastic season this year with state champion Cheyenne Cruce competing as well as teammates Skyla Fisher and Memphis Moses.

"I think this will be a first time girls and boys team for Middleburg, if not the county," said Robertson.

Cobbert, who is no stranger to the rigors of the three days of battle for national supremacy, knows the grind of four to five matches a day against the best guys in the nation is a matter of wear and tear.

"Our guys can go the distance, our conditioning is tough," said Cobbert. "Our lead guys are all battle tested; Chris Chop, Kaden Schaefer, Jordan Mukkaddam and the rest of the high school team, plus our add-ons; from Oakleaf, Palatka and a Georgia, will fill the roster."

One face on the roster will be state weightlifting champion Kevin Reyes, an offensive lineman for the Golden Eagle football team, that will be adding his heft to the



upper weights.

"He's just a sophomore going to be a junior and he's a stud," said Cobbert. "I think he wrestled a little in middle school, but he's been here everyday and will be a force down there."

One wrestler not going is state champion Jayce Paridon, a junior, who is headed to Tulsa for a junior national tournament.

"He's getting his work against guys in the Freestyle/Greco Roman style," said Cobbert. "He'll be the total package next year."

Cobbert had a handful of wrestlers travel

to Virginia for the NHSCA; the 2023 NHSCA High School Nationals; Schaefer (145, 7-3), Chop (170, 5-5) and Walter Poe (182/195, 4-6), who wrestled on the Indiana Outlaws Black team that was 32nd team of 200 teams. "Those guys took the time to go up against some pretty good guys up there," said Cobbert. "Chop and Schaefer are both state medalists. Walter could be a surprise. He's explosive sometimes too much, but a solid attacker."

Cobbert's three add-ons, one a Geor-

gia state medalist from Brunswick High, a Georgia state champion team formerly coached by Cobbert's assistant Larry Insalaco. Palatka Class 1A 138 runnerup Mikade Harvey, 32-3, a graduating senior, will also join the team with Oakleaf sophomore Sebastian Bonachea (32-9, fifth 126 2A).

Also joining the Fleming Island High team as a freshman in the fall is St. Johns Country Day School's Matthew Braddock who will shore up one of the lower weight brackets with Paridon missing.



Oakleaf wrestling

Oakleaf High wrestler Kailani Barrientos recently finished with a 5-2 overall record at the 2023 USAW Womens National Duals as a member of Team Florida. Team Florida finished 10th overall. Barrientos is set to compete at the AAU Scholastic Duals in Orlando and then travel to Fargo, ND, for the USAW Marine Corps Nationals.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF PWRBLDMEDIA

Fleming Island powerlifter Keith Carlascio sets to do back squat at National Masters in Arizona. Carlascio finished second in Masters 2 division and advances to North American Championships in Grand Cayman Island in August.

Carlascio

from page 24

Keith Carlascio, who was tinkering with a steering column of a 1980 Trans Am in the same garage as the family weightlifting domain right next to a For Sale Viper (\$63,000, if interested). “I may come out from under the hood to spot her if she needs a spot, but she’s the serious one.”

Michelle Carlascio’s prowess, at 130 pounds, are the two legs-driven lifts of the competition; dead lift and back squat. Her bench press, at 110 pounds, is her work in progress and most in need of improvement for international rankings. Her backsquat was 170 pounds while her deadlift was 243 pounds.

“My bench at nationals was my best lift while my dead lift was 243 pounds,” said Carlascio. “My favorite is the dead lift with the back squat coming back strong after an injury last year. The bench is what it is.”

Carlascio cited her new coaching, under Miami-based Arian Khamesi (2018 USA Powerlifting Coach of the Year and a past Open Raw World and National champion), as a key to her strong return from injury and improved lift totals.

“He sends me three blocks of workouts and we video my technique and then he critiques it,” said Carlascio. “He likes to kill me in the workouts, but it is working.”

Carlascio said Khamesi’s athletes go through phases of strength, technique, taper and competition. Carlascio also gets advice from Bill Davis at Steel Mill Fitness in Fleming Island.

“It’s all targeted to be ready for competition dates,” said Carlascio. “I’m about 100 pounds total from winning my division while Keith was second by just 45 pounds. Coach Kharmeni is really pushing me.”

Carlascio is equally dedicated to her diet (Kodiak Waffles, though a favorite) being a critical part of improving.

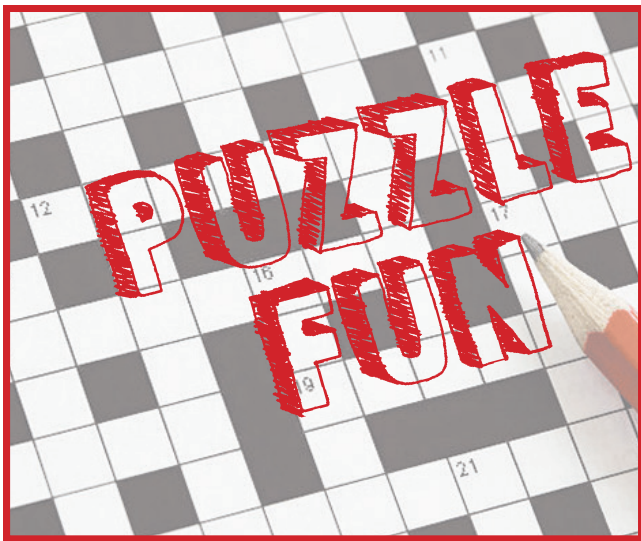
“I lost about 15 pounds, lost body fat, but increased my work load,” said Carlascio, noting eight possible competitors in her division in the Cayman Islands. “The whole idea is to be stronger, but smaller.”

Keith Carlascio’s diet is a bit less stringent.

“I find it easier to stay fat and lift,” joked Keith, who has three division wins in 2022; one at the IPF 2022 World Masters Championships, and his second place in Arizona. “I’m just the guy on the plane with her as she competes seriously.”



Michelle Carlascio is one of top three powerlifters in America in Masters 2 division and is pushing to get into the World Rankings.



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Level: Advanced

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CRYPTO FUN

☰ ☾ ☽ ✱ ♂ ♁ ♃ ✨ ✨
Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to hamburgers.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 9 = N)

- A. 24 19 6 6 14 9 17 21**
Clue: Lettuce and tomato are two
- B. 17 18 14 5 5**
Clue: Cooking device
- C. 15 13 24**
Clue: Oily or greasy matter
- D. 3 16 9 21**
Clue: Burger breads

Answers: A. toppings B. grill C. fat D. buns

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to hamburgers.

T K E U P H C

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Answer: Ketchup

Guess Who?

I am an actor born in Ireland on May 25, 1976. I was interested in acting since seeing a stage production of "A Clockwork Orange." I've starred in a number of movies, but my role on a television show about a street gang from the late 1800s made me a household name.

Answer: Cillian Murphy



Under the direction of coach Jim Reape, the Clay High football team has been executing various multiple station weightlifting stations for summer preparations.

Lore

from page 25

heat with a team camp approaching down at Webber International.

"We have had great participation so far in the summer stuff," said Kennard.

Clay's future for the rest of the year is to condition, be a dominant strong force into the second half as in past years and be back to Clay football; rugged and strong.

"We are big up front; Cody Mobley and Eli Iscoa, a junior, looked good and will have some adjustments there against a good front like Williston," said Kennard. "Omar Goosby looks dominant as a defensive lineman for us. Senior wide receiver Payton Dykas will be our focal point on offense. Chandler Thomas at running back is strong and healthy and he is Clay football; just running downhill."

BURGER JOINT SLANG WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- ALL-THE-WAY
- BLOWOUT
- BLUE
- BUTTER BURGER
- COMBO
- DOUBLE MEAT
- EAST COAST
- FACIAL
- HAMMERED
- LTO
- MID-RARE
- MINIBURGER
- NO FUN
- ON WHEELS
- PATTY
- PLAIN JANE
- RABBIT FOOD
- RATIO
- SALLY
- SEAR
- SLIDER
- SLUG
- SMASH BURGER
- SPECIAL SAUCE

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



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

CLAY COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES

The Owner reserves the right to waive any irregularities and minor technicalities or to reject any and all bids. Each bidder must deposit with his bid, a Bid Bond or Cashier's Check in the amount of five percent (5%) of the Base Bid price, payable to the Owner.

The successful bidder will be required to provide a Performance, Labor, and Material Bond in the amount of 100% of the accepted Bid amount.

No bidder may withdraw his bid within (60) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

Any actual or prospective bidder who disputes the reasonableness or competitiveness of the terms and conditions of the Invitation To Bid, Contract Award, or Recommendation for Contract Award, shall file a Notice of Protest with the Superintendent of Schools within 72 hours of receipt of the bid solicitation, posting of the bid tabulations, or posting of the bid award, and must file a formal written protest within ten (10) days following the filing of the Notice to Protest. Failure to observe such timelines will constitute a waiver of proceedings and of right to protest as stipulated in Chapter 120 of the Florida Statutes. The School Board requires a protestor to post bond in accordance with Florida Statutes, Section 255.0516 F.S.

Bond Requirement: With respect to state contracts and bids pursuant to competitive bidding, whether under chapter 1013, relating to educational facilities, or under 2019 Florida Statutes 255.0516, relating to public buildings, if a school board, a community college board of trustees, or a state university board of trustees uses procedures pursuant to chapter 120 for bid protests, the board may require the protestor to post a bond amounting to:

1. Twenty-five thousand dollars or 2 percent of the lowest accepted bid, whichever is greater, for projects valued over \$500,000; and

2. Five percent of the lowest accepted bid for all other projects. Conditioned upon payment of all costs and fees, which may be adjusted against the protestor in the Administrative Hearing. If at the Hearing the School Board prevails, it may recover all costs and attorney's fees from the protestor; if the protestor prevails, the protestor shall recover from the School Board all costs and attorney's fees.

Bid Tabulations shall be posted in the Operations Reception area at 925 Center Street, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043 after the intended recommendation is announced on or about four (4) days after the bid opening. The Bid Tabulation will remain posted for a minimum period of 96 hours.

David Broskie, Superintendent
School District of Clay County
Legal 69326 Published 6/8/2023, 6/15/2023 and 6/22/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

FICTITIOUS NAME

Notice Under Fictitious Name Law Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of

The Chord College located at 755 Celebration Lane, in the County of Clay, in the City of Middleburg, Florida 32068 intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida, this 19th day of June 2023.

Dated at Middleburg, Florida, this 19th day of June 2023.
Michael Strickland
Legal 73106 Published 6/22/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

PUBLIC AUCTION

The following vehicles will be sold at public auction for towing and storage costs. G & M Towing, Inc. reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids.

2004 CHEVROLET VIN # 3GNEC12T64G335458
Auction will be held at 9:00 AM 7/10/2023 at

G & M Towing, Inc., located at 4995 Highway 17 S, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043.
Legal 72972 Published 6/22/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

PUBLIC AUCTION

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated: 1939 East West Parkway, Fleming Island, FL 32003

July 11, 2023 at 10:00 am
Jasmine Wooten-Household Goods
The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storage-treasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

Legal 72971 Published 6/22/2023 and 6/29/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

FICTITIOUS NAME

Notice Under Fictitious Name Law Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of

Screen Doctors located at 20 Hialeah Dr, in the County of Clay, in the City of Orange Park, Florida 32073 intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of

State, Tallahassee, Florida. Dated at Orange Park, Florida, this 19th day of June 2023.

Josh Shaver Titan Property Development Inc.
Legal 72970 Published 6/22/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

PUBLIC AUCTION

On July 7, 2023, at 9:00 AM, an auction will take place at 1046 Airpark Rd, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043.

The vehicles which will be auctioned include: 1C6RR6FG6ES148127 2014 RAM

Legal 72969 Published 6/22/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: RAJENDRA INC, the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate No.: 29611/2020
Legal Description: PT OF GOV LOT 9 AS REC O R 212 PG 298,564 PG 171,1821 PG 300 2482 PG 64, 2610 PG 2052, 2822 PG 1530, 2823 PG 516 & 3131 PG 309

Parcel ID No.: 280526-014371-000-00
Opening Bid Amount: \$2,703.40
Physical Address: 3159 DOTHAN, GREEN COVE SPRINGS

Classification: VACANT RESIDENTIAL W/SPECIAL FEATURES OR YARD ITEM
Name in which assessed: MARY KACZMAR & IAN CASLETON
Said property being in the County of Clay, State of Florida.

Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder online on the 9th day of August, 2023 at 9:30 A.M at www.clay.realtaxdeed.com.
Dated this 16th day of June, 2023

TARA S. GREEN
Clay County Clerk & Comptroller
Clay County, Florida
By: Jewel Baskin
Deputy Clerk
Legal 72962 Published 6/22/2023, 6/29/2023, 7/6/2023 and 7/13/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

REQUEST FOR BID NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN sealed bids will be received until 4:00 P.M., Monday, July 17, 2023, for the following: **BID NO. 22/23-32, CR 218 From Clay Hill Elementary To Taylor Road Sidewalk Improvement Project**

Bids will be opened at 9:00 A.M., or as soon thereafter, on Tuesday, July 18, 2023 in the Clay County Administration Building, Conference Room "B," Fourth Floor, 477 Houston St, Green Cove Springs, Florida and through the County's electronic bidding system as well. Bids will not be valid unless received by the bid deadline. **A Mandatory Pre-Bid meeting is scheduled at 10:00 AM, June 30, 2023 at the Clay County Administration Building, Conference Room, "B" Fourth Floor, 477 Houston Street, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043.**

Proposals require a five (5%) percent bid bond and may not be withdrawn after the scheduled opening time for a period of thirty (30) days. The term bid bond shall include bonds or cashier or certified checks payable to the County. The solicitation package is available at: [HTTPS://PROCUREMENT.OPENGOV.COM/PORTAL/CLAYCOUNTY?STATUS=ALL](https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/claycounty?status=all). In order to submit a response to this solicitation the respondent must be registered on Clay County's Public Portal.

For information concerning procedures for responding to this Bid, contact Donna Fish in the Purchasing Department at (904) 278-3761 or by email: purchasing@claycounty.gov.

Bidders are prohibited from contacting, by any means, whether orally, telephonically, electronically or in writing, any member of the Board, any County employee, including the County Manager, the County Attorney or the Commission Auditor, any member of the designated Evaluation Committee or any agent of the County regarding the Request for bids in any respect during the Request for Bid Period. The Request for Bid Period during which no contact may occur commences from the date of publication of the notice of a Request for Bids and ends upon a Bid Decision becoming final, i.e. after the notice of bid protest period of 72 hours has expired. However, in the event of a notice of protest, the no contact rule continues in place during the Protest Period and does not end until a resolution of the protest has occurred and become final. The following exceptions exist to the no-contact rule:

- a. Inquiries may be submitted to the Purchasing Department if specifically provided in the Request for Bids;
- b. Pre-bid conferences provided for in the Request for Bids; and
- c. Formal presentations by Bidders to the designated Evaluation Committee or to

the Board or any committee thereof specifically contemplated in the Request for Bids.

The Board reserves the right and power to reject any and all Bids without cause and to waive technical and non-technical or non-material defects in the Request for Bids or submittal of any Bid, and in its discretion to re-advertise the Request for Bids. The Board reserves the right to award Bids, quotes, or Proposals which would be in the Best Interest of the County. Interested vendors are advised that the Clay County Board of County Commissioners has a local preference policy and Buy American policy. The complete policy for both can be viewed at: <https://www.claycountygov.com/government/purchasing/vendor-information>.

A PERSON OR AFFILIATE WHO HAS BEEN PLACED ON THE CONVICTED VENDOR LIST FOLLOWING A CONVICTION FOR A PUBLIC ENTITY CRIME MAY NOT SUBMIT A BID ON A CONTRACT TO PROVIDE ANY GOODS OR SERVICES TO A PUBLIC ENTITY. MAY NOT SUBMIT A BID ON A CONTRACT WITH A PUBLIC ENTITY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OR REPAIR OF A PUBLIC BUILDING OR PUBLIC WORK, MAY NOT SUBMIT BIDS ON LEASES OF REAL PROPERTY TO A PUBLIC ENTITY, MAY NOT BE AWARDED OR PERFORM WORK AS A CONTRACTOR, SUPPLIER, SUBCONTRACTOR, OR CONSULTANT UNDER A CONTRACT WITH ANY PUBLIC ENTITY, AND MAY NOT TRANSACT BUSINESS WITH ANY PUBLIC ENTITY IN EXCESS OF THE THRESHOLD AMOUNT PROVIDED IN SECTION 287.017, FLORIDA STATUTES, FOR CATEGORY TWO FOR A PERIOD OF 36 MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF BEING PLACED ON THE CONVICTED VENDOR LIST.

Legal 72959 Published 6/22/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON ROAD CLOSING PETITION

The Board of County Commissioners (the Board) of Clay County, Florida, has received a petition (the Petition) filed pursuant to Sections 336.09 and 336.10, Florida Statutes, on behalf of Jeffrey L. Carter, to close, vacate and abandon the right of way adjacent to Parsonage Street hereinafter described. In accordance with the Petition, the Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 5:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as can be heard, in the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room on the Fourth Floor of the Clay County Administration Building, 477 Houston Street, Green Cove Springs, Florida, to consider the adoption of a resolution pursuant to Section

336.10, Florida Statutes, closing, vacating and abandoning said right of way, said portion being more particularly described as follows:

Tax Parcel No. 14-05-24-006323-003-02. All interested persons are invited to attend the public hearing and be heard by the Board regarding the adoption of the resolution. Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, a person deciding to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the hearing or at any subsequent hearing to which the Board has continued its deliberations is advised that such person will need a record of all proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record of all proceedings is made, which must include the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person needing accommodations to participate in this matter should contact Clay County Risk Management by mail at P.O. Box 1366, Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043, or by telephone at (904) 278-4718, no later than three (3) days prior to the hearing or proceeding for which this notice has been given. Deaf and hard of hearing persons can access the telephone number by contacting the Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8770 (Voice) or 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).

Board of County Commissioners
Clay County, Florida
Legal 73125 Published 6/22/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

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(No onsite attendance)

AB-1098 AU-3219, Eric Rubin

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