

# CLAY TODAY

2023 Clay County Football Preview - INSERT

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2023

WWW.CLAYTODAYONLINE.COM

VOLUME 61, NO. 34 \$1.00

## Orange Park's Eagan advances to Jax Idol finals

Singer just three songs away from winning competition

By Don Coble  
don@claytodayonline.com

ORANGE PARK – When the Jax Idol competition started in April, Chad Eagan was one of 68 contestants, and his goal was to advance to the upper half of the survivors.

Now he has a different aspiration. The stylist from Orange Park's Beach

SEE IDOL, 18



Orange Park's Chad Eagan will join Princess Nealey and Aerial Robinson on stage at the Moose Lodge at 5051 Collins Road on Sunday night for the finals of Jax Idol. Doors open at 5 p.m., and the show starts at 6 p.m.



STAFF PHOTOS BY DON COBLE

Sophomore Jasmine Conliffe and CTE teacher Victoria Gwaltney said the grant from Whole Foods' foundation would help replace dilapidated raised beds used to grow flowers, vegetables and herbs.

## Oakleaf High gets \$3,000 grant from Whole Foods

Money to be used to rebuild raised garden beds

By Don Coble  
don@claytodayonline.com

OAKLEAF – Over the course of 10 years, the agriculture beds at Oakleaf High became worn and rickety. Time, sun and

rain turned once-sturdy beams into crumbled heaps that turned agriscience classes into construction lessons.

Now the school can afford to replace all of them.

Career and Technical Education teacher Victoria Gwaltney secured a \$3,000 grant from the Whole Foods Foundation to

replace the beds. The overhaul was overdue – and much appreciated.

“We’ve got 16 full-size beds and then some different ones we call rounds,” Gwaltney said. “It’s a recycled culvert from a ditch that we used to raise off the ground

SEE GRANT, 13

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# Commissioners award trash contract to Waste Management

By Lee Wardlaw  
lee@claytodayonline.com

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – The County Commissioners voted on two items regarding trash pickup for the new fiscal year.

Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the Solid Waste Disposal Assessment Fee of \$96, while voting 4-1 to approve the rate resolution for the Solid Waste and Recovered Materials Collection Service Assessments, which will be \$228. Betsy Condon was the only one to vote against the measure.

Residents will pay \$8 monthly for the Solid Waste Disposal Assessment and \$19 monthly for Solid Waste and Recovered Materials Collection Service Assessments. The 10-year contract with Waste Management will save taxpayers as much as \$1.2 million annually compared to another bidder.

Condon said she voted no because of the rate hike. While wanting to save as much money as possible and get the best deal for the county is a must, Jim Renninger said other factors, including rising operational costs for items like fuel, heavy equipment and transportation may have to come county reserves next year.

Passionate residents met to express concerns like the quality of service, the in-

creasing cost of disposal services and how it impacted their household budgets. They said rising costs of other areas, such as healthcare, insurance, and other necessities like groceries, should be considered. They asked if they could opt out of the universal collection program.

Commissioners said provisions can be made in the contract for items such as universal collection if needed. For further context, 75,642 dwelling units will pay more than \$7.62 million for the Solid Waste Disposal Assessment Fee. The number of units was not listed for Solid Waste and Recovered Materials Collection Service Assessments, but the price was nearly \$16 million.

Part of the reason for higher costs was the 10-year depreciation schedule for heavy equipment in the waste services industry. Contracts for transport and disposal were mentioned, which come with penalties for non-performance and provisions for contract cancellation in case of failures.

The county has been working with Waste Management since 2006. Despite some failures, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, commissioners said the new contract eventually will save residents money.



PHOTOS BY LEE WARDLAW

The Board of County Commissioners approved two items relating to Waste Management Services and debris pickup in the county during their meeting on Tuesday. Residents will pay \$96 annually for the Solid Waste Disposal Assessment Fee and \$228 a year for the Solid Waste and Recovered Materials Collection Services Assessments.



# Rep. Bean introduces legislation to help missing, exploited children

For Clay Today

WASHINGTON – Early Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education Subcommittee Chairman Aaron Bean (R-Fla.) and Congressman Joe Courtney (D-Conn.), a senior member of the Committee, introduced H.R. 5224, the Missing Children’s Assistance Reauthorization Act of 2023. This bipartisan legislation renews the Missing Children’s Assistance Act and makes critical updates to help the National



Aaron Bean

Center for Missing and Exploited Children better support youth who are missing, reduce child sexual exploitation and prevent child victimization. “As a father of three, I cannot imagine the pain of a missing or exploited child. Reauthorizing the MCAA gives hope and encouragement to loved ones during a time of immense heartbreak and uncertainty. Time is a critical factor in the search and recovery effort, and this bill will modernize the reporting system, so law enforcement can more efficiently find missing persons and bring closure to countless families to ensure the NCMEC can continue their critical mission to help find missing children, reduce child sexual exploitation, and prevent child victimization,” Bean said.

Bean represents Florida’s 4th District, which includes Clay County, in the U.S.

House of Representatives.

The MCAA was enacted in 1984 to provide federal coordination of state and local efforts to recover and support missing and exploited children.

It has been reauthorized and amended multiple times, most recently by the Missing Children’s Assistance Act of 2018.

The MCAA directs the Department of Justice’s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to establish a national resource center to carry out many of the objectives of the MCAA. NCMEC, a nonprofit organization headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, has served as the national resource center since the enactment of the MCAA in 1984.

In 2022, NCMEC assisted law enforcement, families, and child welfare agencies with 27,644 cases of missing children

and recovered the child in 88 percent of those cases. Specifically, the Missing Children’s Assistance Reauthorization Act of 2023 improves NCMEC’s ability to:

- Assist law enforcement to identify, locate, and recover missing and exploited children;
- Develop educational materials to reduce the risk of child sex trafficking, online enticement, sexual extortion, and cyberbullying
- Provide education and technical assistance on conducting background checks on individuals working with children;
- Offer support services to missing and exploited children and their families;
- Facilitate requests to have child sexual abuse material removed from the internet.

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## Three ways people of all ages can give back

By StatePoint Media  
For Clay Today

No matter your age, you've likely questioned your ability to make a difference. Research from the global nonprofit Points of Light shows that 73% of people believe that volunteering is more important than ever, yet 66% think they can't make a big impact in their communities. Activists on the ground prove otherwise. That's why Points of Light, dedicated to inspiring and equipping people to take action, has recognized thousands of volunteers for their contributions to their communities through The Daily Point of Light Award.

"Points of Light's research found that Gen Z is the most civically engaged generation to date. Our youth honorees demonstrate that people of all ages can strengthen communities and solve persistent problems," says Diane Quest, interim CEO of Points of Light.

To inspire you to action, the organization is sharing the stories of youth honorees, along with three elements from The Points of Light Civic Circle®, a framework for helping individuals get civically engaged:

### Volunteer

Nonprofit organizations and NGOs need volunteer power to deliver support to the communities they collaborate with. If you're an adult wanting to facilitate youth volunteerism, consider organizing a youth-specific event or helping transport the young people in your life to an event. To find a volunteer opportunity that aligns with your interests and availability, check out Points of Light Engage, a database with hundreds of thousands of in-person and virtual volunteer opportunities.

The power of volunteering is apparent when considering Daily Point of Light Award honoree Nate Buescher, a high schooler who prepares food for a local food pantry and distributes home-cooked meals to tent cities around Chicago. Buescher began fighting food insecurity at age 7 with the Honeycomb Project. Today, he mentors younger volunteers while maintaining his own service projects.

### Voice

The youth voice is vital, pointing us to the most important concerns of future world leaders and helping broaden perspectives. Use your voice to advocate for causes you care about by posting on social media, attending rallies, or contacting a government leader. Adults can amplify youth voices by sharing with their net-

SEE GIVE, 5

## OPINION & VIEWPOINTS



### Do the math

## Nobody can calculate who will make NASCAR playoffs

By Don Coble  
Managing Editor

DAYTONA BEACH – The math is simple: 15 of 16 spots in the NASCAR Cup Series playoffs have gone to race winners. With one race remaining in the regular season – Saturday's Coke Zero Sugar 400 at the Daytona International Speedway – that means 17 drivers will vie for the final spot at one of the most unpredictable races of the season.



Don Coble

Although they haven't won this year, Brad Keselowski and Kevin Harvick locked in a spot on points during last Sunday's road-course race at Watkins Glen International. The other 12 have been in Victory Lane.

"We're in a great spot with the best yet to come," Keselowski said.

Three drivers are eligible to clinch with points, while 14 others must win to get in.

Sit back and buckle up. It's going to be a bumpy ride.

Remember 2020 when Chase Elliott sent the sport into a tizzy by winning the championship? Now he must steer clear of the typical Daytona mayhem and do what he's never done at the 2.5-mile trioval – win.

Elliott didn't help himself by missing six races with a broken leg sustained

while snowboarding, another race after being suspended for intentionally turning Denny Hamlin head-first into the outside wall at the Charlotte Motor Speedway or running out of gas at Watkins Glen – a track where he's won twice.

"To show up there and be in a must-win situation is like going to Vegas and having to hit the nearest slot machine for the jackpot," Elliott said. "That's just silly."

Other top-tier drivers who need a 200-mph haymaker include Alex Bowman, Austin Cindric, Aric Almirola and Austin Dillion.

Winning at Daytona is difficult enough. Just ask Rusty Wallace, Martin Truex Jr., Ricky Rudd, Terry Labonte, Kyle Busch and Mark Martin. And Chase Elliott. None of those drivers have a Cup Series win at Daytona. That group combined to win 255 Cup races and six championships.

What makes Daytona such a wildcard is restricted engines. To keep cars from getting airborne and possibly into the grandstands, NASCAR mandates using a tapered spacer to restrict airflow into the engine. But since cars don't have the power to create separation, traffic jams often are 10 deep and two wide. With cars racing nose-to-tail, the most innocent of taps can turn a straightaway into a multi-million-dollar junkyard.

The likelihood of a crash – there were five pileups last year involving 29 different cars, including six that crashed twice – has led to some improbable winners. Greg Sacks, Derrike Cope, Michael

SEE WIN, 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.

**Adscitious:** (Ad-sah-TISH-us) is an adjective that means to form an addition or supplement.

"Before the decline of daily newspapers, the Sunday editions used to have more than a dozen adscitious magazines and promotional flyers."

## This Week in History

### Five years ago, 2018

- Clay County Sheriff's Office Deputy Ben Zirbel died three days after a truck turned into his path on Blanding Boulevard while on motorcycle patrol.
- Days after the county earned an "A" rating from the state, the School Board discusses rewarding Superintendent Addison Davis with a pay raise.
- The Board of County Commissioners approve a 425-acre solar farm south of Green Cove Springs.

### 10 years ago, 2013

- Florida Associate Medical Examiner Stacey A. Simmons ruled Daniel Joseph Linsinbigler, 19, died of suffocation in the Clay County Jail after being pepper-sprayed and outfitted with a spit mask after he fought with deputies.
- Although plans for the proposed Big League Dreams sports complex continued, some residents tell the county commission they'd rather see a community arts building for young students.
- Town of Orange Park officials open the Boundless Playground park on Moody Avenue to give children with special needs a chance to play together.

### 20 years ago, 2003

- Rep. Jennifer Carroll held a community meeting with residents at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church in Argyle.
- Superintendent David Owens wrote to the Clay County Legislative Delegation members to ask for more money to pay for local schools.
- Father Moises Palaroan, 52, of Key-stone Heights, was arrested after being

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.

# Wyman Dickey re-appointed at Fortis College

For Clay Today

ORANGE PARK – Fortis College in Orange Park, part of a network of schools managed by Education Affiliates, Inc., has re-appointed Wyman Dickey as its new campus president. Dickey formerly served as the campus president of Fortis College in Orange Park for 12 years before temporarily stepping away from higher education to pursue a career in health-care leadership. Dickey will oversee all aspects of the campus' day-to-day operations, including budget, academic programs, new instructor hires, student admissions and other essential operations. Under his leadership and strategic guid-



Wyman Dickey

ance, Dickey will be pivotal in steering the campus toward continued growth and success. His expertise and vision will contribute to shaping a promising future for the campus and its academic community.

"Wyman's extensive experience in higher education and his proven track record in campus leadership make him the ideal candidate to drive our campus to new heights," said Fortis College Regional Vice President Niki Good. "We're excited to have him back in the Fortis family and look forward to the positive impact he will undoubtedly bring to the growth and development of our campus."

Bringing more than 20 years of experience in higher education leadership, Dickey previously served as the president of Sanford-Brown Institute in Jacksonville, vice president of Keiser Career College in St. Petersburg and campus director of Daytona College in Ormond Beach.

Dickey was responsible for various aspects in these roles, including budget man-

agement, degree program accreditations, compliance requirements and other vital operations.

He received his Master of Health Science Education from the University of Florida and his Bachelor of Science in

Health Services Administration from the University of Central Florida.

For information and details about specific campus program offerings, please visit [www.fortis.edu/campuses/florida/orange-park.html](http://www.fortis.edu/campuses/florida/orange-park.html).

## History

from page 4

accused of stealing \$197,707 from St. William Catholic Church and \$100,000 from parishioners.

### 30 years ago, 1993

- The Green Cove Springs City Council discusses cutting its proposed \$14 million budget by 10%.

- The Clay County Board of Commissioners voted 4-1 to ask for a \$1.6 million line of credit from First Union Bank to help fill the gaps in a tight budget.

- Town of Orange Park Town Council considers cutting three firefighting positions to save \$90,000 after Councilman Ted Coleman said the Town spent too much overtime.

### 40 years ago, 1983

- Ridgeview Elementary opened its inaugural year with about 100 more students than expected.

- The school district and teachers union continue to quibble over a new contract. Teachers want a 9% raise, while the school board offers 7.5%.

## Win

from page 4

McDowell, John Andretti, Trevor Bayne, David Ragan and Justin Haley have Cup victories at Daytona, and that group combined to win 11 Cup starts and no championships.

Teams will approach Daytona with different strategies, and each requires more luck than a perfect plan to make it to the finish line. The saying, "To finish first, first you have to finish," has never been so fitting.

Bubba Wallace is in the best position to advance to the postseason. If he doesn't wreck, he will move on if there aren't any

new winners.

"You just have to go out and run your own race," Wallace said. "You have to go with a positive mindset and believe."

A.J. Allmendinger is a driver who seems to excel on superspeedways and road courses. He's out of road course chances during the regular season. His last-ditch hope will be on Saturday.

"We want to get in the playoffs," he said. "We'll lay it all on the line [Sunday]. But it's just about building momentum and trying to get better."

The race is scheduled for a 7 p.m. green flag start. What transpires after that will be both nerve-racking and unexpected.

## Give

from page 4

works or organizing forums for youth to be seen and heard.

Seventeen-year-old Daily Point of Light Award honoree Maanit Goel used his voice when organizing a rally of fellow activists on the Washington State Capitol steps to support legislation protecting the Chinook salmon and orca populations. He also regularly addresses state legislators and travels statewide to speak to K-12 students about environmental issues.

### Listen and learn

Social justice and environmental issues are nuanced, involving many people with different perspectives shaped by their own experiences. Listening and learning is one way to honor others' lived experiences and get a fuller scope of an issue.

Young people can commit to thoroughly researching causes they care about, talking to those working toward solutions and holding space for those impacted. Adults

can connect with the young people in their lives, inviting dialogue that allows for sharing different perspectives and finding common ground.

These are the driving ideas behind the work of high schooler Kristie To, who became a leading force in Asian American racial justice when she founded Hearts Against Hate. Among the initiatives of her nonprofit is distributing Asian history and Asian American Pacific Islander civil rights curriculum to children.

"Cultural sensitivity starts with exposure, and that's what we're trying to do with these elementary schoolers," To said.

To learn about other avenues for social engagement, check out the Points of Light Civic Circle by visiting [pointsoflight.org/civic-circle](http://pointsoflight.org/civic-circle).

"There are many formal channels for civic engagement, but simple actions make a difference too," says Quest. "Whether it's carrying groceries in for a neighbor or donating books to the library, the important thing is to get started when you see a need in your community."

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- CLUES ACROSS
- A way to pick up
  - Presents
  - Type of guitar
  - Actor Idris
  - A citizen of Iran
  - Creative
  - Harness
  - Weight unit
  - You better call him
  - Utterly devoted
  - Male cat
  - Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
  - Risk-taker
  - A team's best pitcher
  - Cool!
  - Women's \_\_ movement
  - Georgia rockers
  - Step-shaped recess
  - The princess could detect its presence
  - Type of truck
  - Butterhead lettuces
  - Angry people see it
  - Lines where two fabrics are sewn together
  - Soviet city
  - Carpet
  - Traveled all over
  - Thin, straight bar
  - Body art (slang)
  - Congressman (abbr.)
  - No seats available
  - Breaks apart
  - Arabic name
  - Ballplayer's tool
  - Type of sword
  - Baseball team
  - Upper bract of grass floret
  - Italian Seaport
  - Ancient Syrian city
  - Shoelace tube
  - The Miami mascot is one
  - South American nation
  - Popular video game "Max \_\_"
  - Body part
  - Challenges
  - Popular BBQ food
  - Subway dweller
  - By way of
  - Shady garden alcove
  - Egyptian city
  - Partner to "flowed"
  - Widens
  - Old Eurasian wheat
  - Act incorrectly
  - European pipeline
  - Al Bundy's wife
  - Ocean
  - Root eaten as a vegetable
  - Sound units
  - Style of music
  - A way to drench
  - Hot beverage
  - A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
  - Rumanian city
  - Urge to action
  - Vaccine developer
  - Canadian law enforcers
  - Wings
  - "Perry Mason" actor Raymond
  - Small fry
  - \_\_ Clapton, musician
  - Take a chance
  - Bland food
  - Consumed
- CLUES DOWN
- German courtesy title
  - Ancient Greek City
  - Ancient Hebrew calendar month
  - Long-legged frog family
  - Photo
  - Delivered a speech
  - Lute in classical Indian music
  - Decorated
  - Take a seat
  - Belonging to a bottom layer
  - Member of a Semitic people
  - Part of a ticket
  - Defunct Guinean money



# Blessings in a Backpack fills weekend food insecurity gap

Organization determined to feed Clay County children on weekends

By **Kylie Cordell**  
For Clay Today

CLAY COUNTY – According to the School Nutrition Association and Feeding America, one in eight children in America live in households without consistent access to adequate food. In Florida alone, more than 600,000 children are facing food insecurity.



Every Monday morning, cafeteria workers and food service operators witness hunger on the faces of students who are eagerly waiting for a school breakfast after a long weekend without enough to eat.

They gobble down pizza or baked spaghetti at lunch and finish their classmates' leftovers. And what food they can stash away, they shove in their backpacks for later.

The truth is, many students don't know where their next meal is coming from. When families lack the financial resources to pack food or send their children with a nutritious breakfast, school lunch may be their kids' only meals of the day— But the nonprofit Blessings in a Backpack is filling that gap.

The national program began in Louis-

ville, Kentucky, 15 years ago to help mobilize neighborhoods to ensure children do not go hungry on the weekends. During the 2022-2023 school year, Blessings in a Backpack secured 175,700 bags of food for 4,500 students on the First Coast.

The national organization has served students in Clay, Duval and St. Johns Counties since 2005.

"We are a food assistance program for students who are in the free or reduced lunch scenario. So these kids, when they qualify for the free and reduced meal plan, a lot of times, if they don't eat at school, they don't eat at all," said Sean Stenson, board member and volunteer at the Clay County Chapter.

"Going from a Wednesday afternoon to a Thursday morning without eating is one thing. We have all missed a meal. You will not feel well, but you can pull it off. But when you think about Friday afternoon to Monday morning – that's a whole other ballgame."

Through public donations and sponsorships with local businesses and charities, Blessings in a Backpack distributes pre-packaged meals to more than 200 students on free and reduced lunch in the county.

Pre-packaged food is purchased locally, ordered through Sysco Services, or donated. Blessing's team of incredible volunteers fill bags with a couple of breakfast items and snacks to sustain students when they're home on the weekends.

**SEE BLESSINGS, 18**



## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

### ORDINANCE NO. O-22-2023

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 113, ARTICLE VI AND VII OF THE CITY CODE TO MAKE REVISIONS TO THE CITY LANDSCAPE AND TREE REQUIREMENTS; AMENDING THE PURPOSE AND INTENT OF SECTION 113-242 ADDING AND AMENDING DEFINITIONS IN SECTION 113-243; AMENDING THE SUBDIVISION STREET TREE REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN SECTION 113-246; AMENDING THE LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND MATERIALS REQUIREMENTS IN SECTION 113-247; AMENDING THE TREE PRESERVATION REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN SECTION 113-248; AMENDING THE REMOVAL OF TREE REQUIREMENTS IN SECTION 113-275; AMENDING THE TREE EXCEPTIONS AND EXEMPTIONS IN SECTION 113-276; AMENDING THE CONDITIONS FOR TREE REMOVAL IN SECTION 113-278; AMENDING THE TREE REPLACEMENT REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN SECTION 113-279 AMENDING THE CITY RECOMMENDED LIST OF PLANTS BY THE CITY IN SECTION 113-280; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY AND SETTING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

City Council Tuesday, September 5, 2023, at 7:00 pm or shortly thereafter

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

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

Said application is available at City Hall for review during the hours of 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Thursday.

All interested individuals are invited to attend this public hearing.

City of Green Cove Springs

Lyndie Knowles, Development Services Representative  
321 Walnut Street  
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043

Steve Kennedy, City Manager

Legal 81282 published August 24, 2023 in Clay County's Clay Today Newspaper.



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# Officials break ground on Cathedral Oak Parkway

New roadway will connect FC Expressway to CR 315

By Lee Wardlaw  
lee@claytodayonline.com

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Community and county officials gathered at the corner of Feed Mill Road and County Road 215 last week for the historic groundbreaking ceremony for Cathedral Oak Parkway.

The roadway, which will be two lanes and 3.3 miles long, will connect the First Coast Expressway and County Road 315.

The timeline for the connector is 19-to-20 months, and it will address the evolving needs of the growing county. Commissioner Betsy Condon led the festivities and opened with: “It’s such an exciting time in Clay County. We are growing and trying to keep up with that by strengthening our infrastructure and easing congestion on the local roadways. The First Coast Expressway is a game-changer for the county. It will bring new jobs and residents to the county. Just talk to anyone that lives in the area, and their smile is very wide,” she said.

Condon said the parkway is the first east-west roadway in the county in a long time.

Kristen Burke, who represents the district for the project, said the roadway is



PHOTO BY LEE WARDLAW

County Commissioners, Assistant County Attorney Kelli Lueckert, and representatives from the Jacksonville Women Lawyers Association smile for the camera as the ribbon-cutting before the ribbon-cutting takes place. Right; County Manager Howard Wannamaker, who was a critical piece in completing project plans, gave his thoughts on the historic new road that will give drivers a critical, key connection throughout the county and protect sensitive wetlands by utilizing a bridge.

part of a series of several infrastructure projects in the area to improve driver safety and traffic flow.

The roadway will also interconnect with another ongoing project, linking the First Coast Expressway to Shadowlawn Elementary on County Road 218.

“This is a very exciting time for our county, and we really appreciate you for coming out,” she said.

U.S. Rep. Aaron Bean (R-Fla.) also spoke at the ceremony, commending the work of commissioners and County Manager Howard Wannamaker in their unre-

lenting efforts to secure the funding and approval. He compared the teamwork and dedicated mindset of officials to the military.

Ed Dendor, Project Administrator for the Bonded Transportation Program, put the scale of the massive project into perspective. “(Workers) will be moving enough steel, concrete and asphalt to weigh well over 14,000 pickup trucks. They’re going to move enough earth and martial to fill up 59,000 dump trucks placed bumper to bumper. That’s enough to stretch 200 miles,” he said.

During his speech, Dendor reminded residents why it’s important to push it forward.

“It’s all in an effort to create a safer, interconnected route for our community, as well as the traveling public,” Dendor said.

“Aaron Bean said it best with his (military) analogy. It takes a team, and we couldn’t have done it without working with the congressman and Brian Campbell to navigate the permitting. Thank you to all of our partners and all of you that have made today a reality that continues to bless Clay County and the United States,” he said.

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# Community News



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY JACKSONVILLE SYMPHONY

## Music lovers can attend free concerts to preview Jacksonville Symphony season

JACKSONVILLE – The Jacksonville Symphony announces its annual Community Concerts, presented by Haskell. A Symphony tradition, these concerts welcome all of Jacksonville to Jacoby Symphony Hall for a preview of the season’s musical offerings. Performances will be on Friday, Sept. 15, and Saturday, Sept. 16 at 7:30 p.m. in Jacoby Symphony Hall.

Both Community Concert performances

are free and open to all and will feature a lively mix of Classical and Pops favorites. Music Director Courtney Lewis, along with the ultra-talented musicians of the Jacksonville Symphony, is sure to deliver an exhilarating performance with something for every musical taste showcasing the full versatility of the orchestra.

“Symphonic music has the power to bring people from all walks of life together in ways that few other art forms can,” Lewis said. “I simply cannot wait to welcome the community to Jacoby Symphony Hall for these special concerts. I hope listeners will leave feeling overjoyed and inspired, ready to embark on a journey of symphonic excellence throughout the 23-24 season.”

Admission to the Community Concerts is free, but a ticket is required. Up to four free tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Contact Haley Cox, Group Sales and Community Engagement Manager, for larger groups at [hcox@jaxsymphony.org](mailto:hcox@jaxsymphony.org).

For more information and to claim tickets, visit [JaxSymphony.org](http://JaxSymphony.org).

## Quigley House’s Casino night to raise funds, awareness for abuse survivors

FLEMING ISLAND – Quigley House will host the Monte Carlo Night on Sept. 30 at Sullivan Hall of Sacred Heart Catholic Church on U.S. Highway.

The \$100 admission includes a \$100 gameplay card, beer, wine, hors d’oeuvres, music, a cash 50/50 drawing, a silent auction and more. All proceeds from the event directly benefit victims of domestic and sexual violence, human trafficking, and stalking in Clay County. Join Quigley House in their mission to Educate, Equip, and Empower survivors and their families

through advocacy and community education.

You may purchase tickets on Eventbrite, Quigley House’s website at [www.quigleyhouse.org](http://www.quigleyhouse.org) or the Quigley House Facebook page. Quigley House is the only certified domestic violence and sexual assault center in the county. They provide the following services free to survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, human trafficking, and stalking such as an emergency shelter, 24-hour crisis helpline, sexual assault forensic evidence collection exams, individual and group counseling, victim advocacy, Injunction for Protection legal assistance, court advocacy, case management, information and referrals, pet shelter, financial literacy and child advocacy. You can find more information on Quigley House and its services on their website [www.quigleyhouse.org](http://www.quigleyhouse.org).

## Green Cove Springs Library to close for construction

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – The library will be closed for a scheduled construction project from Aug. 21 to Nov. 1.

Residents will be able to utilize the services at other branches – Fleming Island at 1895 Town Center Blvd., Keystone Heights at 175 Oriole St., Middleburg-Clay at 2245 Aster Ave. in Middleburg and Orange Park at 2054 Plainfield Ave.

## Orange Park High alums planning 50-year Reunion

ORANGE PARK – The Class of 1973 from Orange Park High will celebrate its 50th Reunion on Oct. 13 and 14. For more information, call (904) 910-7575 or (904) 614-5659. Graduates also are encouraged to join the Facebook page.

# Obituaries

## John Wade Hoffpaur

John Wade Hoffpaur was born (on August 16, 1944) and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana and moved to Florida in the late 1960s, and died on Saturday, July 8, 2023, at his home in Crescent City, Florida, with his companion, Linda Keener, at his side.

Wade Hoffpaur was a graduate of East Jefferson High School in Metairie, the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg and LSU Baton Rouge with a master’s in wildlife biology.



John Wade Hoffpaur

He moved to Green Cove Springs, Florida around 1969 for a biology teaching position at Clay High School where he worked for 30 years until retirement around 1999. While he was teaching, he started a plant nursery business and after retirement, devoted himself to building the business “Transplant Nursery” in Green Cove Springs for many years.

Around 2006, he realized his lifelong dream when he purchased a home on the river in Crescent City, Florida and enjoyed many many years relaxing, boating, and watching the sunset on the river. He enjoyed

meeting and socializing with people and friends including the time he spent with friends telling big fish stories with the “Liar’s Bench” group in Crescent City.

He will be greatly missed by his friends and his family. He was predeceased by his parents, Carroll L. Hoffpaur and Anna Volking Hoffpaur, his sister, Carol Ann Hoffpaur Hall and his brother, Albert Hoffpaur. He is survived by his daughter, Bronwyn Hoffpaur of Austin, Texas and his companion, Linda Keener, and family members, nieces, Carla Hall Minor, Cathryn Hall Angeles, Tammy Barron, and nephew, Albert Hoffpaur, Jr.

There are plans for a Celebration of Life for Wade Hoffpaur at some point in the future.

## George L. Boyd

George L. Boyd, 69, of Green Cove Springs, FL, passed away August 16, 2023. Please sign the family’s online guestbook at [www.broadusraines.com](http://www.broadusraines.com)

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

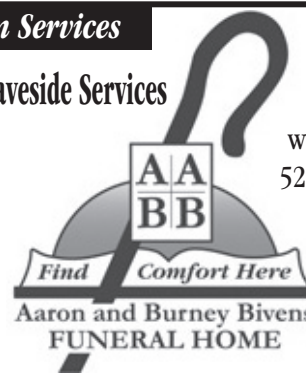


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# Residents create Solite Task Force to fight for answers

Group to meet with state officials to seek testing at site

By Lee Wardlaw  
lee@claytodayonline.com

LAKE ASBURY – In a bold move, residents formed the Solite Task Force for County Citizens in response to the former aggregate kiln company they feel ran a reckless operation off County Road 209A that's linked to severe health, environmental and quality of life concerns for three generations.

Hugh Peeples, who heads the Task Force, announced the move during the public comment period during a recent Board of County Commissioners meeting. The group's first business order is to meet with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

The Task Force plans to meet with officials from the state agency in the next two weeks in Tallahassee. A 14-member committee hopes to review and ask questions about the 1,000-acre site, including the proposed plans for development.

Another goal of the Task Force would be to facilitate independent third-party testing for a 600-acre portion of the property that hasn't been tested.

Kristen Burke, the county commissioner who represents the area, told Clay



Residents have been loud and vigil in their opposition of development the old Solite property. The group created a Task Force and will meet with state officials in the next two weeks to demand independent testing on the entire 1,000-acre site.

Today that raising awareness and communicating more effectively with elected officials is another goal for the task force.

Many task force members have skilled backgrounds in career fields that could aid the group in pressing officials for answers to the alleged environmental malpractices.

"The big deal (about Solite right now) is that the task force has been formed. (Members) include doctors, lawyers, paralegals, hazardous waste experts, and concerned residents," Burke said. She will serve as an advisor to the group.

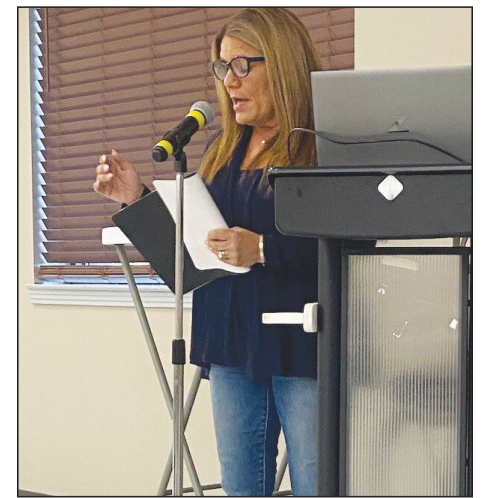
Peeples said there is great interest in the property for residential development

but that the task force and others don't believe it meets Environmental Risk Assessment standards.

"For decades, the Russell Landing community has been trying to raise awareness to address environmental and health concerns stemming from the property," he said.

Stoneridge Farms, the shell company of Solite, asserts it has conducted testing on a 240-acre portion of the property in collaboration with Golder Associates, a long-standing client of Stoneridge and Golder for more than 20 years.

Their past studies with FDEP and



Golder Associates revealed contamination, which the organization has already admitted. In a March Zoom call with County Manager Howard Wannamaker and County Attorney Courtney Grimm, three former employees said toxic barrels were buried throughout the property.

Split-sample soil tests on 10 sites by FDEP in April revealed heightened levels of arsenic in two areas.

Two letters dated June 30 and July 10 obtained by Clay Today provide context regarding those findings and their

**SEE SOLITE, 12**



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# Nursing lounge opens at Clay County Courthouse

By Lee Wardlaw  
lee@claytodayonline.com

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – In a pivotal moment in history for the County Courthouse, officials celebrated the completion of a refurbished nursing lounge on the third floor.

The new initiative will offer a private and comfortable space for mothers at the courthouse who need breastfeeding and lactation needs.

The courthouse nursing lounge will give mothers allotted time to pump breast milk, which can take up to three hours in a private setting. Taking the proper amount of time is especially important, considering the American Academy of Pediatrics found children need two years of breastmilk. Now, instead of a sitting in a car or restroom, they can use the lounge, said Kelli Lueckert, Assistant County Attorney.

The room was meticulously planned and is equipped with pumping bags for breastfeeding and lactation and other essential equipment, such as bags for diaper changing, along with comfortable seating and a refrigerator to store milk and other essential items, she said.

“This provides a space mothers can utilize. It can be used by jurors, witnesses, staff or any patrons of the court. They will have access to it, and it will allow them private space to pump and breastfeed,” said Lueckert, who is also immediate past president at the Jacksonville Women Lawyers Association.

Lueckert was essential in getting the project completed.

“This project has been near and dear to our hearts. We’re trying to make the (Fourth Judicial Circuit) the first circuit to have a lactation space in each of our court-



The lounge has items such as pumping supplies, microwaves to heat bottles for breast milk and bags for diapers. The facility will provide a major service to all women traveling to the courthouse.



STAFF PHOTOS BY LEE WARDLAW

Kelli Lueckert, Assistant County Attorney and immediate past president of Jacksonville Women Lawyers Association, smiles as she cuts the ribbon for a nursing lounge at the courthouse while Kimberly Woods, current president of the organization and Commissioner Mike Cella watch in approval. Below: BCC Assistant Attorney Kelli Lueckert and Jacksonville Women Lawyers Association representatives prepare to open the nursing lounge.



houses,” she said.

Duval County was first; Clay was second, and Nassau County is working on a lounge, said Kimberly Woods, president of the Women’s Lawyers Association.

Gene Price, County Director of Facilities, underscored the importance of the Nursing Lodge. “This is a small room with huge impacts across the county. I didn’t understand how important this really was at the beginning, but I (came to learn of

that) through (communications) with Lueckert,” he said.

Price said the process started with a plan and included approval by the county commission.

He said the maintenance team, from electricians to painters, played a crucial role in transforming the space into a safe haven. Blinds provide privacy, and signage throughout the building shows the direction.

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# VyStar Foundation accepting Youth initiative grant requests

For Clay Today

CLAY COUNTY – VyStar Foundation announced it's now accepting grant requests for its Youth initiative. Funding priority will be given to nonprofit organizations that support youth by creating access to nutritious meals and stable housing; building workforce experience, skills and education that lead to long-term career pathways; or providing learning environments that encourage creativity and positive development.

The foundation is dedicated to doing good and leading by example through collaborative partnerships that support military members and veterans, youth, and overall community vitality in the areas served by VyStar Credit Union. During its first grant cycle, VyStar Foundation awarded nearly \$200,000 to 10 military service

nonprofits in June.

"VyStar Foundation is thrilled to announce the opening of our next grant cycle that will focus on the youth in our communities," said Patricia McElroy, President VyStar Foundation. "We are committed to helping young people achieve their goals and put them on a path to success by providing access to creative learning environments that positively impacts their lives.

The foundation will consider youth grant requests up to \$20,000 and will fund a total of \$200,000. The Board of Directors may vary funding amounts and the number of awards depending on the quality and number of applications received.

VyStar Foundation grant application information sessions will be held virtually on Aug. 28 from 3 p.m.-5 p.m., Aug. 31 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and Sept. 6 from 12:30 p.m.



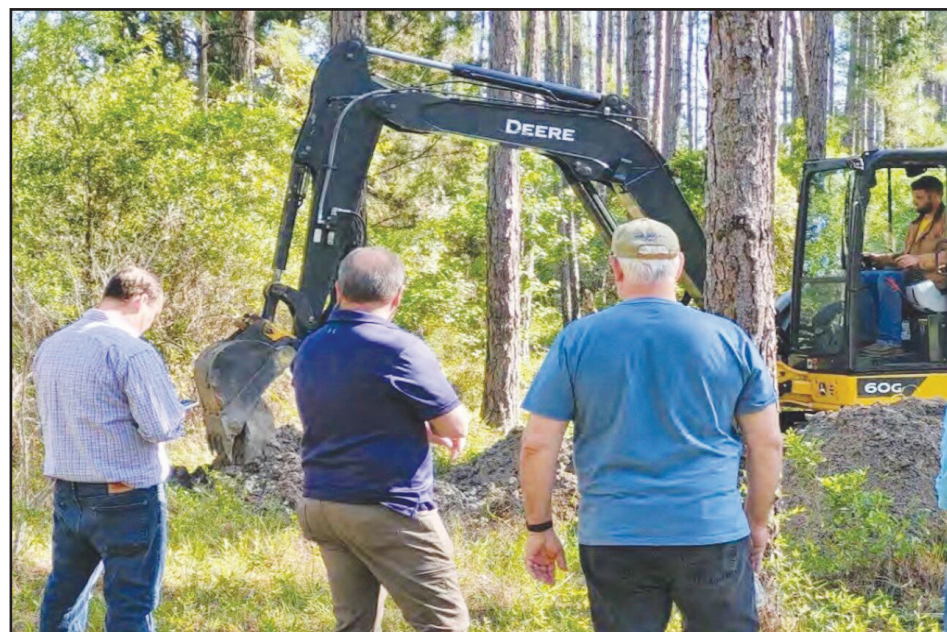
to 2:30 p.m. Grants through VyStar Foundation are available to 501(c)(3) organizations whose purpose and mission align with the Foundation's strategic giving pillars:

**Military:** Ensuring military members, veterans and their families receive the social services they need and the recognition they deserve.

**Youth:** Empowering youth by providing

equitable access to creative learning environments. Community Building: Cultivating financially strong, culturally vibrant, and interconnected communities.

The youth program applications are due by 5 p.m. on Sept. 30. For additional information about eligibility and how to apply, view the Notification of Funding Opportunity, visit [vystarfoundation.org](http://vystarfoundation.org).



The Florida Department of Environmental Protection admitted high levels of arsenic found in two areas of the former aggregate kiln company.

## Solite from page 9

significance, detailing test recent test findings from FDEP and other assessments conducted by Golder to remediate contamination issues from 2011, 2013, 2018 and 2019.

Additionally, extensive research into FDEP archives and regulatory history indicates the state agency may not have

enforced environmental regulations as strictly during more than a 40-year span that Solite was in the county before they abandoned the property, Peeples said.

"The (Environmental Protection Agency) and FDEP have been involved for decades, but the community believes that those agencies have not taken the necessary actions to fully identify the chemicals and other hazards issues on the site and the health impacts on the Clay County community," Peeples said.

# Tara Green provides insight into services to Clay Chamber

Clerk of Courts Office has myriad of responsibilities

By Lee Wardlaw  
[lee@claytodayonline.com](mailto:lee@claytodayonline.com)

ORANGE PARK – Clay County Comptroller and Clerk of the Courts Tara Green presented an insight on how her office functions to the Clay Chamber's Finally Friday meeting on Aug. 18.

Green started by listing staggering statistics. She said the organization has 631 employees and produces 18,711 invoices. She said the county collects \$266.3 million in revenues.

The office plays a large role in county business, recording meeting minutes at Board of County Commissioners' meetings twice monthly at the Administration

Building in Green Cove Springs. Their records date back to 1969, but Green has bigger ambitions. "I want to go back to 1870," she said.

Her organization's record-keeping and other roles are to protect the county officials and the public.

"We are big about bringing in the public because the courthouse is not just for judges, not just for (the Clerk of Court and Comptroller), and not just for the state attorneys. It's your taxpayer dollars that pay for that," Green said.

Protecting commissioners and their decision-making processes, ensuring the effective management of the county, safeguarding taxpayers' interest and dollars, and fostering a sense of transparency to the public in the courthouse are key

SEE GREEN, 13



STAFF PHOTOS BY LEE WARDLAW

Clay County Clerk of Clerk of Courts and Comptroller Tara Green told Clay Chamber members about the many services offered at her office during a recent Clay Chamber Lunch and Learn meeting.

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STAFF PHOTO BY DON COBLE

Sophomore Jasmine Conliffe said the agriscience program at Oakleaf High has taught her how to be more self-reliant when it comes to growing flowers and vegetables. A \$3,000 grant from the Whole Foods Foundation will provide more resources to satisfy her thirst for knowledge.

## Grant

from page 1

and grow other fruits and vegetables, herbs, and things.

"The whole garden has been here since the first or second year since the school opened. So since like 2012, all that stuff out there is hidden, the 10-year mark. It's fallen apart pretty badly and splintering. It was getting a little dangerous.

"We've had to focus a lot on finding money to refurbish the raised bed garden. Now we have the money to actually do something."

The agriscience program is thriving at Oakleaf. In addition to beds used to grow flowers, herbs and vegetables, the school has a greenhouse and livestock barn.

Sophomore Jasmine Conliffe said learning how to build a new bed, not just maintain it, is something she's eager to learn.

"I just think it's a really good opportunity because learning how to plant stuff," she said. "For me, it's really fun. I like the fact that you can learn while planting stuff at school. Over the summer, I came out and helped pull weeds and made sure that we turned over crops.

"I don't know how they did that before. It's a classroom out there. I think it'll be a lot better now that we have new stuff."

Oakleaf is the second high school in the county to earn grant money. Ridgeview High received a \$5,000 ProStart Grow Grant from Rachael Ray's foundation two

months ago. The money was designated to promote the school's culinary program.

Gwaltney said she applied for the grant last February. She said she applied for the same grant a year ago, but the application was rejected.

"They told us they liked our request, and they kind of suggested if we kept applying, we'd get it," she said.

The school was notified of the award a couple of weeks ago.

The agriscience program is so popular at Oakleaf that master gardeners and garden clubs are frequent guests. Everything grown attracts butterflies and is given away to hungry families.

"We send a lot of stuff home with the kids," Gwaltney said.

Conliffe said she didn't know some organizations were willing to help.

"I didn't know you could apply for school grants," she said. "I never really questioned where that money came from. That's good for future knowledge."

Despite the deterioration, Oakleaf earned the "People's Garden" designation from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Conliffe said her attraction to agriscience is based on a desire to find ways to grow things in restricted spaces.

"The class teaches about garden spaces in an urban area," she said. "That's cool because we have so little space here, and it's so much fun. You can do raised beds at my house if you have the stuff to do it – and you want to do it."

## Green

from page 12

priorities, Green said. She underscored the courthouse's accessibility to the public, reminding residents that taxpayers fund the building and it's open to the public.

Green said Public Information Officer, Mary Justino, is ramping up tours. Just stop by and say hello if you want an inside look into mega-operation that plays such a crucial role in the successful operation of the county, she said.

Among all that, tracking grant revenues and payments from 2,500 vendors and suppliers managed by the county are part of the daily routine. If that doesn't keep her organization busy, fraud does – a factor that she must consider.

"We pay them timely and legally, but we have to ensure they exist. Some sketchy people out there will try anything," Green said.

Preserving artifacts is an item that's important. She wowed members and guests when talking about the full evidence room.

Civil evidence is a snooze.

"It's just a bunch of paperwork and court forms," she said.

But criminal evidence is a 360-degree turn.

"There's some pretty interesting stuff in there," she said. Evidence like DNA from cases dating back to the late 1960s and early 1970s is maintained, such as a gory murder that was committed with an axe.

"We still have that sweatshirt, and we still have that axe. We have to preserve it. It sounds easy, but it's not because it deteriorates over time. A lot of work and money goes into that," she said.

Another thing not to forget: head to her office if you plan on applying for or renewing your passport now.

"Don't wait until the last minute because you'll probably not get it in time. It's terrible because so many families come in that say they're going across the sea in three weeks, and I'm like, 'No, you're not.' It's heartbreaking because



"Don't wait until the last minute because you'll probably not get it in time. It's terrible because so many families come in that say they're going across the sea in three weeks, and I'm like, 'No, you're not.' It's heartbreaking because they've invested all that money, and now, they must change everything. I take every chance I get to try to educate people on that."

– Tara Green

they've invested all that money, and now, they must change everything. I take every chance I get to try to educate people on that," she said.

Numbers have skyrocketed since the pandemic. She said 8,000 passport transactions had been completed, and residents from Duval have come to her office after hearing about faster and better service. She said it could take approximately eight to 12 weeks, with a maximum of 18 weeks, to receive a passport.

"If you're going out of the country and don't have a passport or need it updated, go ahead and do that now," she said.

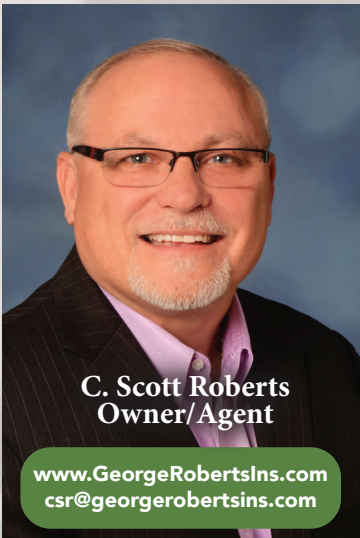
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# Set up the ultimate workstation for a successful school year

By StatePoint  
For Clay Today

Want to help guarantee your child's academic success? While you can't control what goes on in the classroom, you can facilitate their study time at home by setting up an A+ workstation. Here's how:

## Choose a location

Select a location that's well-lit, preferably with some natural light, and away from noise and distractions. Whether it's your child's bedroom or a corner of the dining area, the area should be large enough for all their supplies and tech to stay organized.

## Use color wisely

Research has shown that certain colors have the power to boost productivity and creativity or promote a sense of calm. Decorating the space with care could potentially help your student weather crunch periods with ease. You may also opt to color code binders, dividers and other supplies by coursework so that your child can quickly identify the items they need.

## Update tech

Equip the workstation with the latest technology and educational tools. For easy essay composition, your child's suite of devices should include a tablet or laptop and a printer. To get your student prepped for math and science classes, be sure to supply them with a graphing calculator featuring the latest capabilities. The fx9750GIII,

for example, is not only stylishly available in trending colors, it's capable of programming in CASIO Basic and MicroPython. Python files are easily stored and transferred via USB to a computer. With graph and statistical functions, exam compatibility mode and a suite educational resources, your student will be well prepared to take on all their STEM coursework and test prep.

## Prevent clutter

Clutter can pile up all too easily, making it difficult to find notes and assignments. Keep the mess to a minimum with the addition of a few organizational tools. Hang a corkboard to post reminders and to-do lists. Add wall shelving or a sorting tray to keep papers filed by subject area or due date, and use small baskets or cups to collect erasers, paper clips and other small supplies. Finally, be sure the workstation has its own waste bin, so that items that are no longer needed can be efficiently tossed or recycled.

## Consider ergonomics

Eliminate distractions by making sure the workstation is ergonomic-friendly and comfy. If your child sits at a desk, ensure their computer monitor is at eye level and that their feet touch the floor. Adjustable laptop tables can transform a makeshift work area on the couch or bed into a comfortable workstation.

By setting up a dedicated homework area designed for productivity, you can help your student make the grade.



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# Beans and Rice: Congressman visits Keystone Heights

By Lee Wardlaw  
lee@claytodayonline.com

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – U.S. Rep. Aaron Bean hosted his Beans and Rice dinner last Friday night at Keystone Beach.

He told about 50 constituents about local, national and international issues he faces in Washington, D.C. He thanked city and county officials for their hard work and invited them to make their pitches ahead of the 2024 election.

Bean spoke on the rising threat of China as a global power and why their aggressive tactics and rising military strength concerned him. Bean expressed the need for stringent reporting requirements from colleges and universities that accept money from China and restrictions on land purchases that they purchase near U.S. military bases.

Locally, he underscored the importance of Cathedral Oak Parkway, a two-lane, 3.3-mile roadway that will link the First Coast Expressway to the intersection of County Road 315 and Maryland Avenue. The project will include a grass median and sidewalks and is expected to be completed by 2025.

"It's going to be absolutely beautiful and spectacular. Let's make this thing happen. It's only 19-20 months away, and you're going to be really proud of it once it's completed," he said.



STAFF PHOTOS BY LEE WARDLAW

Residents enjoyed a dinner of beans, rice, and sausage for the Beans and Rice with Congressman Aaron Bean event at the Keystone Heights Beach Pavilion, which was catered by Grumpy's.

County Manager Howard Wannamaker also talked about the road that will increase connectivity in Clay County.

"This will connect you from the First Coast Expressway to U.S. Highway 17, right through the central part of the county.

This is definitely going to be a game changer throughout the entire area and get people where they want to go," he said.

Bean introduced Keystone Heights mayor Nina Rodenroth and councilman

Tony Brown, along with several other hard workers that keep the county running smoothly, including county commissioner Alexandra Compere, Supervisor of Elections Chris Chambless, school board member Michele Hanson, and Representative District 20 candidate Judson Sapp.

Rodenroth and Brown spoke of the small city's progress, especially embodied by the recently renovated event venue, the Keystone Beach Pavilion. "It's fantastic to

see this many people come out on a Thursday night in Keystone Heights and see this little town's progress over the years. This venue used to be a shack. You could see through the floors," Brown said.

Bean talked about national issues such as school books and commending the recently-passed Parents' Bill of Rights. He also spoke of the national debt ceiling and who the government will allow to receive financial assistance. The bill will ensure parents can meet with school teachers, among other things.

"Porn should not be allowed in middle schools, and parents should have the right to know the curriculum that their children are being taught," he said.

Bean said progress is being made on the national debt ceiling. It's hard to get officials to agree, and when an agreement is not made, debt increases at a 6-7% growth rate. A resolution was made during the summer to add 1% annually.

The Rep. said that he believes the government's budget could be balanced in 10 years.

He also spoke of the military, hailing a 5% pay increase to active-duty members while also lamenting the military was at its lowest level of arms, missiles, and supplies. He said China had passed the United States as the world's largest Navy.



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# Extreme weather dangerous for wildlife

By Carolyn Warren

FFGC Birds, Bees and Butterflies Chairman

CLAY COUNTY – Extremely hot weather seems more common each year, and the heat is causing stress for our wildlife, particularly our birds, bees and butterflies.

Here are some suggestions on how you can help now and in the future.

- Provide water for butterflies and bees by placing a shallow dish of water outside and adding a few stones so that they protrude above the waterline so they can safely reach the water. Putting birdbaths, misters or fountains in your yard will also help the birds.

- Provide some sort of shelter so that all our flying friends have a place to rest. Plant a native tree that can provide shade, reduce surface temperature, and don't trim shrubbery back too far, thus leaving a place for them to hide. Use a garden hose to mist spray onto trees and shrubs. Hummingbirds, butterflies and bees will also gather water this way.

- Provide food by planting bee and butterfly-friendly flowers such as sage, rosemary, lavender, lantana, zinnias and wildflowers. The spent blooms of these flowers will also provide seeds for the birds. Hang feeders for birds near trees so they can quickly grab a seed and return to the shade.

Here's hoping you will help these wonderful creatures we enjoy watching daily.



## Seven Winn-Dixie stores in Clay County bought by ALDI

For Clay Today

CLAY COUNTY – Southeastern Grocers Inc., the parent company of Fresco y Más, Harveys Supermarket and Winn-Dixie grocery stores, has entered into definitive agreements with ALDI and Fresco Retail Group, LLC to effectuate a comprehensive strategic divestiture of its businesses. The deal includes all seven Winn-Dixie stores – Green Cove Springs, Melrose, Middleburg, two in Orange Park, Argyle and Fleming Island. The deal also means pharmacies will be closed in those stores.

There are three ALDI stores in Clay – Oakleaf, Orange Park and Orange Park. Under the proposed merger agreement, ALDI will acquire all outstanding SEG capital stock in an all-cash transaction, which encompasses all SEG grocery operations under the Winn-Dixie and Harveys Supermarket

banners. This includes approximately 400 stores in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and Florida where 75% of the stores are located.

Following the completion of the sales process, ALDI will serve the customers and communities of Winn-Dixie through the continued operation of the banners' existing stores. The retailer will also evaluate which locations will convert to the ALDI format. For those stores that are not converted, ALDI intends for them to continue to operate as Winn-Dixie Supermarket stores.

Anthony Hucker, President and CEO of Southeastern Grocers, said, "Our successful transformational journey has created a unique opportunity with leading partners who share our vision and common commitments to creating value for their customers. We believe these next steps will fuel a phenomenal experience for our customers, new opportunities for our associates and increased value for our shareholders. As the sales processes proceed, we'll stay acutely focused upon delivering the exceptional quality, service and value that our customers and communities have come to expect from us."

The holders have approved the merger agreement of a majority of SEG's outstanding shares, and the merger is expected to close in the first half of 2024, subject to regulatory approvals and customary closing conditions. SEG will continue to operate its respective banners and stores in the normal course of business up to and until the transactions are completed.

RBC Capital Markets, LLC served as financial advisor to SEG. Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP was transaction counsel and Kirkland & Ellis LLP served as antitrust counsel to SEG.

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## Consider these cool ideas for yards during heatwave

For Clay Today

CLAY COUNTY – As temperatures continue to hover near 100 degrees, it's increasingly important to care of your yard's lawn and landscape. However, it's important to ensure your yard is healthy before a heat wave hits.

"The healthier your grass, trees, and shrubs, the more resistant it will be to summer's extreme temperatures. Lawns, in particular, that have healthy grass leaves and deeper roots can store more moisture," says Kris Kiser, President & CEO of the TurfMutt Foundation, encouraging people to care for and use their outdoor spaces.

Here are a few recommendations on protecting your yard during a heat wave The TurfMutt Foundation:

- Put the right plant in the right place. Always select appropriate plants and grass for your climate zone. This ensures the space is attractive and will be more likely to thrive in your microclimate, be easier to maintain, and support pollinators and wildlife. Consider water, sunlight or shade requirements for your yard.

- Water at the correct times. The best time to water the lawn and plants is in the early morning or late evening when it's cooler.

- Don't over water. It's OK to make your grass work hard for its water. With little water, grass will send its roots deeper, seeking water. The grass then does a better job of sequestering carbon and releasing oxygen.

Also, most turfgrasses – and there are hundreds of species – will go brown during the summer when water is more scarce. It will "green up" again when conditions change.

- Know what type of soil you have. The frequency and amount of water you apply

to lawns and gardens vary based on its soil, clay type, organic matter, and the type of plants and grass. Some soil holds water better than others; water molecules cling to fine particles of clay soil than to the coarser particles of sandy soil.

- Cut grass long. Don't cut more than one-third of the grass's height when mowing. By keeping it longer, turfgrass can develop stronger roots and greater tolerance to heat and drought stress.

- Keep foot traffic minimal. For already stressed grass, foot traffic can cause damage. Keep people off the lawn while the heat persists.

For more information visit [www.turfmutt.com](http://www.turfmutt.com)

TurfMutt was created by the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute's TurfMutt Foundation and has reached more than 70 million children, educators and families since 2009. Through education partners such as Weekly Reader, Discovery Education and Scholastic, TurfMutt has taught students and teachers how to "save the planet, one yard at a time."

Today, TurfMutt is an official USGBC Education Partner and part of their global LEARNING LAB. TurfMutt has been an education resource at the U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools, the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Green Apple, the Center for Green Schools, the Outdoors Alliance for Kids, the National Energy Education Development project, Climate Change Live, Petfinder and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In 2017, the TurfMutt animated video series won the coveted Cynopsis Kids Imagination Award for Best Interstitial Series. TurfMutt's home habitat was featured in the 2017-2020 Wildlife Habitat Council calendars. More information at [www.TurfMutt.com](http://www.TurfMutt.com).

## Calendar

**EXPERIMENTING WITH WATER-COLORS:** will be on Aug. 24 at 6 p.m. at the Keystone Heights Library, 175 Oriole St. The meeting is free and open to the public.

**LAKE REGION KIWANIS:** will meet on Aug. 24 at 7:30 a.m. at the Montgomery Center, 88 SE 75<sup>th</sup> St. in Starke.

**LAKE REGION PROSPERITY PARTNERS COUNCIL:** will host a meeting on Aug. 24 at 6 p.m. with guest speaker County Council Chair Betsy Condon. The meeting will be at the Keystone Beach Pavilion, 565 S. Lawrence Blvd. in Keystone Heights. To register, visit [www.claychamber.com](http://www.claychamber.com).

**WORKING MAN'S BASS TOURNAMENT:** will be on Aug. 24 at 4:30 p.m. at Whitey's Fish Camp, 2032 County Road 220 on Fleming Island. Guaranteed \$500 prize to the winning two-person team. Call Daniel Green at (904) 449-9691 for more information.

**CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT** will meet on Aug. 24 at 6 p.m. at the BCC Meeting Room, fourth floor, at Administration Building, 477 Houston St. in Green Cove Springs.

**CONVERSATIONS AND CRAFTS: PRESSED FLOWERS VOTIVES:** will be on Aug. 25 at 10 a.m. at the Keystone Heights Library, 175 Oriole St. The meeting is free and open to the public.

**FRIENDS OF THE GREEN COVE SPRINGS LIBRARY:** will meet on Aug. 25 at 10:30 a.m. at The Club, 3616 Magnolia Point Blvd. Tell the security guard at the gate that you're attending the library meeting.

**MIND-BODY YOGA:** will be on

Aug. 25 at 9 a.m. at the Fleming Island Library, 1895 Town Center Blvd. The session is free and open to the public.

**CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH: FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES:** will be on Aug. 25 at 3 p.m. at the Orange Park Library, 2054 Plainfield Ave. The meeting is free and open to the public.

**JASON ALDEAN'S HIGHWAY DESPERADO TOUR:** will be at the VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena, 300 A. Philip Randolph Blvd. in Jacksonville on Aug. 25 at 7:30 p.m. Special guests include Mitchell Tenpenny, Corey Kent and Dee Jay Silver. Tickets, which start at \$128, are available at [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com).

**MATISYAHU PLUS G. LOVE AND SPECIAL SAUCE:** with special guest, Cydeways will play on Aug. 25 at 6:30 p.m. at the Saint Augustine Amphitheatre, 1340C A1A South. Tickets, which start at \$48.50, are available at [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com).

**RIVER CITY DULCIMERS AND FRIENDS IN CONCERT:** will play on Aug. 26 at 1 p.m. at the Orange Park Library, 2054 Plainfield Ave. The concert is free and open to the public.

**TOUCH-A-TRUCK:** will be on Aug. 26 from 9-11 a.m. for quiet time and 11 a.m.-2 p.m. with lights and sounds at the Clay County Fairgrounds, 2497 State Road 16 in Green Cove Springs. The event includes indoor and outdoor activities provided by

SEE CALENDAR, 23

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# Blessings

from page 6

“It’s primarily for younger children. It’s for younger hands, so they can open it up, and it’s ready to eat. They don’t need anyone to cook it for them. Nothing needs to be refrigerated. If they are hungry, they can just eat it,” Stenson said.

The program works with a team of nutritionists to develop nutritious weekend menus. The food given to the kids is shelf stable, easy to open, and requires no preparation.

“It’s all name-brand stuff but with 30% lower sugar than something you would get off the grocery store shelf,” Stenson added.

It costs the district about \$100 to buy the packs for one student for a year. According to Stenson, 5,500 students in Clay County qualify for weekend food assistance, putting the yearly total around \$550,000.

“Unfortunately, there are more kids than we can cover. But we have grown steadily over the years,” he said.

On July 21, the local nonprofit group, the 100+ Women of Who Care About Clay County, hosted its 10th meeting. The Clay County chapter was launched in the fall of 2020 by a group of women wanting to combine their donations to impact local nonprofits.

Members donated \$115,000 to organizations in and serving Clay County, including First Coast Blessings in a Backpack, which will receive 50% of this quarter’s giving total.

“They have a quarterly meeting, and we were nominated to do a five-minute presentation on the organization. We presented, and then they voted on which nonprofits they think most deserved. We were fortunate enough to get first choice,” Stenson said.

With the donations, Blessings in a Backpacks’ First Coast Branch will start a foodbank for Clay County schools.

“So if a teacher identifies a child who needs food, they can contact us, and we will have this pull of dollars to make sure this child is fed. It’s specific to Clay County only,” Stenson said.

Stenson expects the demand for food will only grow.

“When we connect with a sponsor, we want them to sponsor us for years to come, not just short term. We don’t want kids to get fed and then not get fed. We want sponsors to commit to at least a few years, and then we can re-evaluate the situation and maybe fill those holes if they opt out,” he said. “Just to know you are doing something so impactful for the children- that’s a big deal.”

– Sean Stenson

“Five dollars feeds a kid for an entire weekend. It’s \$100 to feed a kid for an entire year. We have all gone out to dinner and sent more than that on one meal,” Stenson said.

Without the help of local individuals and businesses providing donations, these children may otherwise go hungry.

“When we connect with a sponsor, we want them to sponsor us for years to come, not just short term. We don’t want kids to get fed and then not get fed. We want sponsors to commit to at least a few years, and then we can re-evaluate the situation and maybe fill those holes if they opt out,” he said. “Just to know you are doing something so impactful for the children- that’s a big deal.”

Your donation is more than just a meal. Children need nutrients so they can grow, develop and focus on learning instead of thinking about the food they need. When children eat better, they learn better, Stenson said.

“When they show up, they tend to learn something, and their grades go up. We get better attendance and better grades. They feel good, so they are more equipt for the day.”

For more information or to donate, visit [blessingsinabackpack.org](http://blessingsinabackpack.org) or contact Brent Glass, VP of chapter relations, at [brentg@blessingsinabackpack.org](mailto:brentg@blessingsinabackpack.org). To learn more about the 100+ Women of Who Care About Clay County and how to get involved, send them a message at [100whocareabout-clay@gmail.com](mailto:100whocareabout-clay@gmail.com).

“People want to help, and they want to help our children. Our ability to come together and help, it’s very powerful. I love the giving spirit. This city is about taking care of its own,” Stenson said. “Again, we’re just one of many nonprofits that benefit from that.”



Orange Park’s Chad Eagan will join Princess Nealey and Aerialy Robinson on stage at the Moose Lodge at 5051 Collins Road on Sunday night for the finals of Jax Idol. Doors open at 5 p.m., and the show starts at 6 p.m.

# Idol

from page 1

Please Salon is one of the three finalists who will be on stage Saturday night at 6. And now he wants to win.

“I just wanted to get halfway through the competition. Now I’m so pumped up and ready to show everyone what I got,” he said. “I have all my favorites. There’s going to be no doubt I will give it my all.”

Eagan made the cut on Aug. 13 when the competition hosted Latin Hits. Eagan sang “The Prayer,” a duet with judge and reigning Idol champion Jessica Stewart. He then performed “Heaven” by Los Lonely Boys, with fans dancing on and around the stage.

The show has been at Lillian’s Sports Grill in Jacksonville since it started in April, but the event’s popularity prompted organizers to move the finals to the lodge on the Duval/Clay county border.

On Sunday, Eagan must sing a song from a previous performance and one the judges picked. Then he can finish with a song of his choice.

“I don’t want anyone to know about that song until people see the finale,” he said. “If I do, they won’t be shocked. Even the judges don’t know what I’m doing. I have totally re-done a song. I have never done anything like it before.”

Eagan was a contestant in the Jax Idol competition for seven years, but it shut down for various reasons – particularly the COVID-19 pandemic – before being revived this year. He finished eighth.

“This is a stepping stone to get you ready to move forward in your career,” he said.

Jax Idol isn’t associated with American Idol. And since he’s 35 and American Idol’s cutoff age is 29, he wouldn’t be eligible.

However, Sunday’s winner will earn cash, recording time, six selected bookings and a professional photo shoot. But for Eagan, the biggest prize will be, “As long as my music is heard, that’s enough validation for me.”

Eagan said the experience has been physically and emotionally draining and time-consuming.

“With all the practices, preparations, costumes and remembering lyrics on top of working, it’s been difficult,” he said. “I feel like I’ve grown so much as a performer that at the end of the day, win or lose, I feel like I’m already a winner. I’m proud of myself. I’ve grown more comfort and comfortable with myself as a performer.”

“And I got to share my talents with a lot more people, which is a win-win.”

Admission is \$15 (cash only). Food and a full bar also are available.

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# Touch A Truck



### For Clay Today

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Saturday's Touch A Truck at the Clay County Fairgrounds will be a family-friendly event that allows children to exchange their customary playground equipment for an opportunity to climb aboard big trucks, tractors, ambulances, police cars, cranes and fire engines.

In addition to several disaster and emergency agencies, they will set up their informational tents to educate the public on disaster preparedness. County District Schools will be collecting back-to-school supplies with its Stuff-The-Bus program.

More than 1,000 are expected. The free event will run from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Quiet time for those with autistic and other sight and sound sensitivities will be from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. During quiet time, the music will be muted and emergency crews will silence their sirens.

County departments, construction companies, nonprofits, and public safety agencies will bring a variety of service vehicles, such as fire trucks and po-

**TOUCH A TRUCK**  
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lice cars, construction vehicles and heavy machinery will be available for children to explore. Food trucks, games, giveaways and vendors also will participate. This is the perfect event for families to touch and experience emergency vehicles and learn all about the different groups and programs.

Touch-a-Truck will be on Saturday at the Clay County Fairgrounds. Service vehicles and construction trucks will be on display for children to explore.



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**Colt Ford rumbles into Thrasher-Horne next Friday**

ORANGE PARK – Hick-hop? Rap-rock? Nah, categories are way too confining. Collectively as the LACS, Baxley, Georgia’s renegade redneck rap duo Clay Sharpe and Brian King create the kind of music that created them; a hybrid of elements drawn from raw outlaw country to southern rock to crunk hip-hop. That’s quite a fusion indeed, and one that captured the hearts and ears of those yearning for something fresh and relatable. “I call it the mix CD era. You put a little bit of everything on it,” Clay said of the eclectic vibe. “I feel like that’s how our music is and how it’s evolved.”

Ford and the Lacs will bring their unique show to the Thrasher-Horne Center for a one-night stand on Sept. 1 at 7:30 p.m. For tickets, visit thcenter.org.

It’s been a long yet worthwhile wait. The Lacs have delivered a symposium of sounds sure to please everyone. So then, what is country lit? To ask Clay, he will mischievously retort - “I would say it’s exactly

what you think it means.” It’s what people have come to know and love the Lacs for, the stuff that makes them who they are. “We’re talking about jumping in a four-wheel drive, hitting a mudhole, getting drunk all night!”

And it doesn’t stop there. “I think our true fans and the majority of our fan base will be happy we went back to our roots,” Brian said of the final product. The new album, including songs like “Hellraisers in Heaven,” “Hurt Like Hell” and “Redneck for Life,” delivers a wild ride through every moo

**Music sensation The Newsboys coming in Oct.**

ORANGE PARK – The Newsboys are one of the biggest bands in Christian music history, having sold more than 10 million records across 23 recordings and garnering boundless accolades, including 1 RIAA Double Platinum certification and 8 Gold certifications, 33 No.1 radio hits, four GRAMMY nominations, two American Music Award nominations and multiple Dove Awards. The popular band will appear for one night on Oct. 21 at 6 p.m. at the Thrasher-Horne Center. Tickets, which start at \$20, are available at the box office or at thcenter.org.

With signature songs like “We Believe,” “Born Again” and the unstoppable mega-hit “God’s Not Dead” – which birthed a film franchise of the same name – Newsboys have continued to collect career-defining accolades at full speed ahead.

With VIP tickets, you will get the best seats in the house, a private photo op, early access to merchandise shopping, a VIP



laminate and autographed tour poster. VIP doors are at 4 p.m. and you must be on site with the doors open to receive all of the VIP perks.

**Mamma Mia! Almost ABBA Tribute headed to Thrasher-Horne**

ORANGE PARK – Almost ABBA, the No. 1 tribute to Swedish supergroup ABBA, will be at the Thrasher-Horne Center on March 15 at 7:30 p.m. The group recreates the magic and nostalgia of ABBA in a costumed, choreographed, audience-interactive experience. This dynamic show has performed for the U.S. military, NBC, Universal and the release of MAMMA MIA!

Almost ABBA has performed for audiences of as many as 50,000 and was recently asked to open for Cher on her “Here We Go Again” Tour of Australia.

With their look alike, sound alike performance, intricate harmonies and top-notch musicianship, they truly live up to their name, Almost ABBA!

Tickets, which start at \$29, are available

at the box office or at thcenter.org.

**Let it RAIN: A Tribute to Beatles hits stage April 30**

ORANGE PARK -- RAIN: A Tribute to the Beatles is an electrifying concert experience celebrating the timeless music of the legendary fab four.

With note-for-note precision, this mind-blowing performance transports you back to the iconic eras of Sgt. Pepper and Magical Mystery Tour, along with all your favorite hits. The tribute will be at the Thrasher-Horne Center on April 30 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets, which start at \$29, are available at the box office or at thcenter.org.

From energetic classics to reflective favorites, the band delivers an unforgettable performance that appeals to fans, old and new. With vibrant costumes and psychedelic visuals, RAIN creates a stunning concert full of nostalgia and good vibes. RAIN: A Tribute to the Beatles promises an extraordinary journey through the eras that captivates hearts and inspires all generations.

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## CareerSource Northeast Florida hosts Employer Informational Session



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY CCSO

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – CareerSource Northeast Florida hosted its first Employer Informational Session at the Clay County Jail. Inmates were educated about various jobs, the skills needed and how to apply for a job. We were very fortunate to have Amazon, Coca-Cola, JTA, Meineke Car Care Center, TLC Landscaping and Thorne Metal Systems, Inc. as potential employers. While inmates are held accountable for their actions, we also focus on rehabilitating them during their time in custody. They have the option to attend various classes and vocational programs that provide them with skills that can be used once they have completed their sentence. Helping them reintegrate into their communities and their ability to work and become self-sufficient is critical to lowering the recidivism rate, thereby creating a safer community.

## Police Briefs

### Former Oakleaf coach arrested for lewd behavior of “many” students

OAKLEAF – An investigation by the Clay County District Schools Police Department and Clay County Sheriff’s Office led to the arrest of a former teacher and weightlifting coach at Oakleaf High.

According to the affidavit for an arrest warrant, Benjamin Davis White, 40, of Jacksonville, was charged with lewd and lascivious behavior toward girls after several, all between 15 and 17, accused him of inappropriate text messages and touching “many” between Nov. 1, 2021, and May 31, 2022.

In the affidavit, one of the victims told a School Resource Officer she received “explicit” text messages from White on Aug. 20, 2021. White left the Clay County District for a job at Pedro Menendez High in St. Augustine this year.



Benjamin Davis White

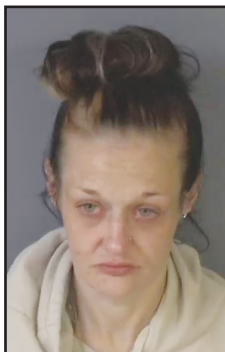
White was arrested on Aug. 17. His bond was set at \$100,003, and his next court appearance is Sept. 26.

### Woman charged with grand theft auto for second time in 14 months

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – A convicted car theft was back in jail after she was caught returning another car reported stolen two hours earlier.

Christen Renee Modlin, 35, was charged with grand theft auto, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of ammo by a convicted felon after the Clay County Sheriff’s Office was called about a missing Chevrolet Silverado. While deputies were getting information, Modlin and another man pulled into the driveway in the truck.

A search revealed she was found guilty



Christen Renee Modlin

of stealing a car 14 months earlier.

During a truck search, deputies found a glass pipe and shotgun shells.

Her bond was set at \$30,007.

### Orange Park driver killed in County Road 220 crash

FLEMING ISLAND – According to the Florida Highway Patrol, a 34-year-old driver from Orange Park was killed when a woman entered County Road 220 from a side street and ran into him.

The accident happened at 3:47 p.m. on Sunday. According to the accident report, a 20-year-old girl turned right from Lakeshore Drive in front of a pickup truck traveling west on C.R. 220. The front of her car struck the rear of the truck. FHP didn’t disclose the gender of the victim.

The woman wasn’t injured, but FHP said charges are pending.

### Man accused of shoplifting grass seed, cereal from Walmart

MIDDLEBURG – A man was arrested after a security officer at Walmart said she saw him leave the store without paying for

three bags of grass seed and a box of Cinnamon French Toast Strips cereal.

Anthony Jerome Griffin, 42, of Orange Park, was charged with shoplifting, resisting law enforcement and resisting retail theft recovery on Aug. 16 after a loss prevention officer tried to stop him from leaving the store without paying for the items.

According to the arrest report, Griffin was asked to go to the security office, but he pushed his cart into the officer. He then tried to leave the store with the items.

Walmart called the Clay County Sheriff’s Office with a description.

A deputy saw him and turned on his flashing lights. Griffin then removed his shirt and ran across Brannan Field Road toward The Home Depot.

He later told deputies he didn’t hear their commands to stop because his hearing aids fell out. He also said he was running to use the restroom at The Home Depot and removed his shirt because it was hot.

Griffin was released from the Clay County Jail after posting a \$5,006 bond.

## Arrests & Bookings

(Name, age, location of arrest, charges).  
Key: FTA-Failure to Appear; DWLSR-Driving Without a License-Suspended or Revoked; DUI-Driving Under the Influence; VOP-Violation of Probation; BAL-blood alcohol level. There are no assumptions or representations about guilt or innocence. Anyone arrested or booked is presumed innocent.

### Tuesday, Aug. 22

Justin D. Thomas, 29, Green Cove Springs, DUI with injury to another  
Shilo Northham, 32, Orange Park, domestic battery

Timmie L. Richardson, 52, Orange Park, shoplifting at multiple locations, shoplifting, grand theft, two counts FTA-grand theft

Gregory P. Weiler, 61, Middleburg, grand theft of firearm, fraud/false ownership to pawn shop, dealing in stolen property

Juan A.A. Lopez, 37, Green Cove Springs, VOP-burglary, VOP-criminal mischief

Brandon D. Murray, 26, VOP-domestic battery by strangulation

Emory L. Bell, 57, Green Cove Springs, FTA

Reynaldo T. Holmes, 38, Green Cove Springs, VOP-battery

Syler K. Knight, 24, Middleburg, vandalism

Daniel G. Canon, 40, Fleming Island, DUI

### Monday, Aug. 21

Nathaniel A. Dean, 28, Middleburg, possession-methamphetamine, possession-drug paraphernalia, destroy/conceal/remove physical evidence

Robbie L. Dorminey, 51, Keystone Heights, domestic battery

John W. Phillips, 30, Middleburg, VOP-

battery

Dawson T. Buckler, 21, Green Cove Springs, aggravated battery by strangulation, domestic battery

Timothy E. Andrews, 28, Orange Park, DWLSR

Gary D. Samuel, 61, Orange Park, FTA-disorderly conduct

Shawn M. Keiper, 40, Middleburg, possession-marijuana

Shannon D. Colson, 53, Orange Park, trespassing

James L. Garland, 40, Keystone Heights,

SEE ARRESTS, 23



## CCDSPD's Tony Reno to be laid to rest on Saturday

The funeral for Anthony "Tony" Reno will be on Saturday, Aug. 26, at the First Baptist Church, 2645 Blanding Blvd., in Middleburg. Visitation will begin at 10 a.m., followed by a Celebration of Life Service at 11 a.m. The funeral procession will travel to Holly Hill Cemetery, 3601 Old Jennings Road, in Middleburg. A multi-agency Honor Guard will give the honors. Reno, the School Resource Officer at Plantation Oaks Elementary with the Clay County District Schools, was found unresponsive on Aug. 12 while diving at The Wall at Lake Jocassee in Pickens County, South Carolina. A statement by the district read: "CCDSPD and Officer Reno's family are humbled at the outpouring of support."

## Calendar

from page 17

local organizations, county services, and vehicles of all sizes.

**SUICIDEBOYS'S GREG DAY:** tour will be at the VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena, 300 A. Philip Randolph Blvd. in Jacksonville on Aug. 27 at 6:30 p.m. Special guests include Ghostmane, City Morgue, Sematary and Ramirez. Tickets, which start at \$60, are available at ax.com.

**HISTORY OF MIKE ROESS GOLD HEAD BRANCH STATE PARK:** will be presented by the Clay County Historical Society on Aug. 28 at 7 p.m. at Old County Courthouse, 915 Walnut St. in Green Cove Springs. Guest speakers will be Ryan Worthington and Barbara Bradley.

**UF/IFAS EXTENSION GARDENING ADVICE SERIES:** will focus on attracting bees, butterflies and birds on Aug. 28 from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Extension Office, 2463 State Road 16 in Green Cove Springs. For more information, call (904) 284-6355 or email whhobbs@ufl.edu.

**FAMILY SEARCH:** will be on Aug. 28 6 p.m. at the Fleming Island Library, 1895 Town Center Blvd. To register, visit Library.ClayCountyGov.com. The meeting is free and open to the public.

**JOURNEY THROUGH THE DECADES WITH CRESCENDO AMELIA:** will play on Aug. 29 at 6:30 p.m. at the

Fleming Island Library, 1895 Town Center Blvd. The concert is free and open to the public.

**CLAY COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD:** will conduct a workshop on Aug. 29 at 9 a.m. in the Multi-Purpose Center at H.C. Long Building, 23 Green St. in Green Cove Springs.

**CARD MAKING WITH THE CRICUT:** will be on Aug. 30 at 5:30 p.m. at the Orange Park Library, 2054 Plainfield Ave. Register at Library.ClayCountyGov.com. The meeting is free and open to the public.

**GHOST: RE-IMPERATOUR USA:** featuring Amon Amarth will be at Daily's Place Amphitheater, 1 Daily's Place in Jacksonville adjacent to EverBank Stadium on Aug. 30 at 7:30 p.m. For tickets, which start at \$31, are available at ticketmaster.com.

**LAKE REGION KIWANIS:** will meet on Aug. 31 at 7:30 a.m. at the Montgomery Center, 88 SE 75<sup>th</sup> St. in Starke.

**WORKING MAN'S BASS TOURNAMENT:** will be on Aug. 31 at 4:30 p.m. at Whitey's Fish Camp, 2032 County Road 220 on Fleming Island. Guaranteed \$500 prize to the winning two-person team. Call Daniel Green at (904) 449-9691 for more information.

**MIND-BODY YOGA:** will be on Sept. 1 at 9 a.m. at the Fleming Island Library, 1895 Town Center Blvd. The session is free and open to the public.

**FOOD TRUCK FRIDAY:** will be on Sept. 1 from 5-9:30 p.m. at Spring Park in Green Cove Springs. There will be several food trucks and live music by Duval County Line. Bring your own chair and

cooler to the free event.

**SLIGHTLY STOOPID:** will bring their Summertime 2023 tour with Sublime with Rome, Atmosphere and The Movement to Daily's Place Amphitheater, 1 Daily's Place in Jacksonville adjacent to EverBank Stadium on Sept. 1 at 7:30 p.m. For tickets, which start at \$39, are available at ticketmaster.com.

**MARKET AND MUSIC AT THE COVE PLAZA:** will be on Sept. 2 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at 1415 S. Orange Ave. in Green Cove Springs. Fresh produce, food trucks, home décor, music, jewelry and hourly giveaway will be offered. For more information, email [showcaseevents17@gmail.com](mailto:showcaseevents17@gmail.com).

**HOT WHEELS MONSTER TRUCKS:** will be at the VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena, 300 A. Philip Randolph Blvd. in Jacksonville on Sept. 2-3. Times are 12:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 2 and 2:30 p.m. on Sept. 3. Tickets, which start at \$20, are available at ticketmaster.com.

**CLAY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION:** will meet on Sept. 5 at 5 p.m. at the BCC Meeting Room, fourth floor, at Administration Building, 477 Houston St. in Green Cove Springs.

**LAKE REGION KIWANIS:** will meet on Sept. 7 at 7:30 a.m. at the Montgomery Center, 88 SE 75<sup>th</sup> St. in Starke.

**CLAY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD:** will meet on Sept. 7 at 5:30 p.m. at the BCC Meeting Room, fourth floor, at Administration Building, 477 Houston St. in Green Cove Springs.

## Arrests

from page 22

possession-ammo/firearm by convicted felon, resisting law enforcement, sale-methamphetamine

Allen T. Grimes, 32, Keystone Heights, possession-ammo/firearm by convicted felon, possession-drug paraphernalia

Caitlyn A.M. Buckner, 25, Green Cove Springs, VOP-possession-fentanyl, VOP-possession-clonazepam, VOP-possession-cocaine

Juan B. De La Cruz, 31, Green Cove Springs, VOP-possession-methamphetamine, VOP-possession-fentanyl, VOP-burglary, VOP-grand theft

Donald R. Adams, 44, Green Cove Springs, violation of pre-trial release conditions for protection against domestic violence

Katrina A. Daniels, 20, Green Cove Springs, VOP-possession-methamphetamine

Monica J. Reece, 32, Green Cove Springs, FTA-DWLSR

Roy A. Stone, 48, Green Cove Springs, writ of bodily attachment

Dalton W. Carver, 24, Middleburg, sale/delivery-methamphetamine

Shawn D. Marcum, 41, Green Cove Springs, deliver-methamphetamine

Jason W. Micco, 51, Fleming Island, possession-marijuana

Patricia M. Hart, 55, Orange Park, battery on law enforcement/firefighter/EMT

Juan-David L. Linares, 34, Orange Park, driving without valid license

### Sunday, Aug. 20

Tommy D. Nevitt, 25, Keystone Heights, possession-ammo/firearm by convicted felon

Lanette N. Faber, 39, Green Cove Springs, domestic battery

Mason E. Cornish, 45, Middleburg, burglary, disorderly intoxication

David E. Chesser, 34, Keystone Heights, resist/obstruct/oppose law enforcement

### Saturday, Aug. 19

Martin J. Derrera, 43, Middleburg, FTA-battery

Connie F. Richter, 61, Orange Park, attempting to flee/elude law enforcement with lights/siren active, DWLSR

Terry G. Kern, 51, Fleming Island, DUI, refusal to submit to BAL test

Antwaun L. Roberts, 35, trespassing

### Friday, Aug. 18

Andrew R. Dickerson, 18, Orange Park, discharge firearm in public

Daniel R. Cleavland, 23, Orange Park, DUI with property damage/injury

Cassandra T. Burch, 49, Green Cove Springs, FTA-DWLSR

Molly A. Newman, 50, Middleburg, criminal mischief

Linda P. Behnejad, 59, Green Cove Springs, FTA-DWLSR

Keith A. Koehler, 30, Middleburg, FTA-DWLSR

Rahmaan K.T. Muhammad, 22, Green Cove Springs, vandalism

Marquita D. Lewis, 41, Middleburg, shoplifting

Laurence D. Franklin, 43, Middleburg, shoplifting

Zachary L. Malinowski, 28, Orange Park, battery on law enforcement/firefighter, EMT, resisting law enforcement with violence

Keith L. Mays, 35, Green Cove Springs, violation of pre-trial release conditions for protection against domestic violence

Toby D. Tyler, 51, Fleming Island, possession-cocaine, possession-drug paraphernalia, DWLSR

Michael S. Edwards, 36, Middleburg, aggravated battery on pregnant woman

Matthew J. Summers, 40, Middleburg, DUI

### Thursday, Aug. 17

Colvin L. Cox, 39, Orange Park, solicitation on public road

Benjamin D. White, 40, Oakleaf, lewd/lascivious behavior to child younger than 16

Arnold A. Alvarez, 58, Orange Park, grand theft auto, criminal mischief

Trey N. Perry, 25, Green Cove Springs, VOP-possession-drug paraphernalia, VOP-DWLSR

Stacey L. Crossno, 49, Green Cove Springs, VOP-domestic battery

Zachary D. Hurt, 22, Green Cove Springs, VOP-sale/manufacture/deliver oxycodone, VOP-use of two-way communication device to facilitate felony

Rahmann K.T. Muhammad, 22, Green Cove Springs, batter on law enforcement/firefighter/EMT

Serna N. White, 24, Orange Park, petit theft

Merquis S. Baynard, 35, Green Cove Springs, violation of pre-trial release conditions for protection against domestic violence

Legen M.-D. Lanear, 30, Orange Park, FTA

Christen R. Modlin, 35, Green Cove Springs, grand theft auto, possession-drug paraphernalia, possession-ammo/firearm by convicted felon

Keith L. Mays, 35, Orange Park, two counts domestic battery, criminal mischief, resist/obstruct/oppose law enforcement

Kyle R. Nolan, 33, Middleburg, possession-methamphetamine, possession-drug paraphernalia

### Wednesday, Aug. 16

Ray Davis, 48, Orange Park, domestic battery

Matthew D. Campbell, 39, Orange Park, battery

Wendy N. Vlacos, 36, Orange Park, FTA-DWLSR

Vincent J. DePalma, 29, Middleburg, battery on person 65 or older

Anthony J. Griffin, 42, Middleburg, shoplifting, resist/obstruct/oppose law enforcement, resist arrest during recovery of property

Michael P. Prevatt, 45, Orange Park, shoplifting

Donald R. Adams, 44, Green Cove Springs, violation of pre-trial release conditions for protection against domestic violence

# Clay County History

## Indigo: Clay County's first cash crop

By Vishi Garig

Archives Supervisor, a service of  
Tara S. Green, Clay County Clerk of  
Court and Comptroller

CLAY COUNTY – 1763 The Treaty of Paris ended the Seven Years War between the British, French, and Spanish. England took Canada from the French. Havana was captured by the British and returned to Spain in exchange for Florida. Florida was then divided into two parts: British East Florida and British West Florida.

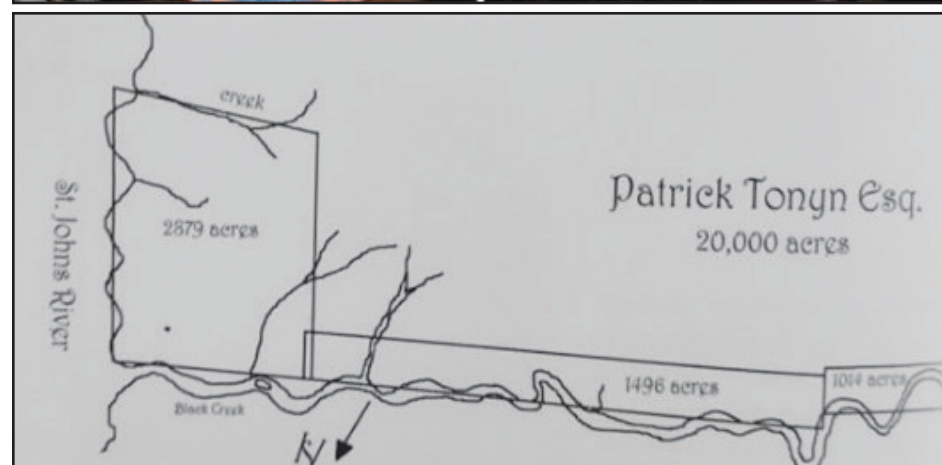
With St. Augustine as its capital, British East Florida stretched from the Atlantic Ocean to the Apalachicola River. British West Florida, with Pensacola as its capital, reached from the Apalachicola River to the Mississippi River. The land between St. Augustine and Pensacola was wilderness.

Hoping to attract investors and settlers to the area, the British began giving citizens land grants. Some grant holders were absentee owners, while others were speculators. Some were hands-on owners, however, who endeavored to create successful plantations in the new colonies. Indian hostilities were not an issue anymore, as the British had signed a treaty promising not to colonize west of the Appalachians. The demarcation line ran north and south through the western side of Clay County.

Meanwhile, the economy was on fire. Some of the grants in present-day Clay County numbered 20,000 acres each. They stretched some 20 miles south from near what became NAS Jacksonville and ran upriver towards Palatka in Putnam County.

During this period, several large indigo plantations surrounded Doctor's Lake, and many others graced the shores of Black Creek and the St. John's River. The plantations had lovely names like Spring Garden, Tobacco Bluff, Laurel Grove, and Harmony Hall. Indigo was inexpensive to cultivate and worth its weight in gold.

The British enthusiasm for indigo in Florida led planters to import thousands of slaves to tend the crop. As with other labor-intensive crops (sugar cane, rice, cotton), indigo cultivation caused laborers to suffer. It was hot, smelly work. Indigo vats stunk of rotted vegetation, much like the vase water of a rotted floral bouquet. Yet, the brilliant blue dye it produced was a beauty to behold.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY CLAY COUNTY ARCHIVES OFFICE  
The vats and drying sheds used to produce indigo dye. Indigo paste and churning of the paste. Drying squares of indigo. Below: Governor Tonly's indigo plantation. The first creek at the top left of this map is Governor's Creek, named for British Governor Patrick Tonly.

Indigo grew wild in Florida, but the plantations tended to grow several imported species. The best indigo was called floutant, also called flora. The paste it made dried easily and was a dark blue, lending towards a violet hue. The next grade down was called violet, and both types were used for dyeing cotton-based cloth and linen. Indigo production smelled terrible due to the putrefying plants filling the vats. It was so offensive that the vats were at least a fourth of a mile from houses. The smell drew flies by the thousands, which created a serious risk of disease. The flies even attacked the livestock on the plantation, making life miserable for man and beast alike.

"Uncommon swarms of flies, gnats, and other insects, which attend putrid air, and unhealthy places covered with wood; the first of these is not common here, except at indigo works; and if these, according to my former caution be little remote from the dwelling, I never saw nor heard of any bad consequences with regard to health attending them. I have already mentioned the bad effects of these voracious vermin on cattle of all kinds at an indigo work; gnats, here called mosquitos, are vastly numerous in some spots." Said Bernard Romans, an 18th Century Dutch-born navigator, surveyor, cartographer, naturalist, engineer, soldier, promoter and writer who worked in the British American colonies.

The process of making indigo dye is not complicated, but it does require skilled workers. During the twenty years of British occupation, Florida plantations exported significant quantities of indigo, citrus, sugar, and naval stores, all through the hard work put in by enslaved peoples. Slavery existed under Spanish rule, and African slavery became more prominent

after the British took control of Florida. It came to a point when there were more enslaved people than colonists.

Indigo production was a labor-intensive process. The plants needed loose soil (Florida has lots of sand), hammock-style soils (moist) and a flat, level field. Getting the soil right was imperative to getting a good first crop. About four bushels of seed were required for one acre. Sowing the seed was done March through May, as that was the wet season, and crops could be harvested three to five times a season between May and November.

Farmers harvested the best dye with the first cutting. After the third year, the poor quality of the dye meant replanting. Indigo is a legume; all it needed was the addition of phosphorus to the soil to yield well. Indigo was grown for dye, to enrich the soil, and to feed livestock. It only had two enemies, drought and caterpillars. Water was not an issue in Clay County, as all the plantations here had access to creeks, lakes, springs, and wells. Caterpillars were hand plucked from the plants and crushed.

The cut plants were placed in a vat with water and then pounded with wood staves to break the plants down. English planters used water mixed with lime. The mixture was allowed to ferment for up to twenty hours. Once the fermentation began, the mix became bubbly, thick, and turned purplish-blue. The now-smelly mix had the plant material removed and was churned by hand by slaves. Buckets were plunged repeatedly up and down into the indigo until the indigo paste separated from the water. This was a messy process, and it turned the hands of the workers a permanent shade of blue. The paste settled to the bottom of the vat and the water drained. The paste sat there for an additional eight

to ten hours before being strained through a horsehair sieve. Next, the paste was either poured into conical cloth bags called "Hippocrates sleeves" and hung in the shade to dry or spread out on trays under a drying shed. No sunlight could touch the indigo at this stage, as it would destroy the dye. Once the paste was completely hard and dry, it was cut into squares. These squares were carefully turned three to four times a day to make sure that they were completely cured. Also, the flies had to be driven away from the paste all day and all night, as they would damage the indigo.

The third and last governor of British East Florida had a very successful indigo plantation around Magnolia near Green Cove Springs. His "large and commodious" frame house with plaster walls is believed to have been situated where Camp Chowenwaw is now. When William Bartram visited Patrick Tonly's plantation, he took note of the quality of the indigo crop. Bartram said he was shown "some samples of the best flora Indigo [he] had yet seen, there were twenty hands employed on this plantation who made about twelve hundred [weight] of indigo the last year and had now planted this year's crop."

Florida could produce multiple crops of high-quality indigo each year. By 1769, the indigo harvest totaled more than 6,000 pounds. The peak of production was in 1776, when 58,300 casks were exported. By 1778, the exported amount was cut in half due to the depletion of the thin, sandy soils. In 1786, the fate of indigo production in the Americas was sealed when the British East India Company dumped 250,000 pounds of indigo into the market and crushed the plantations into oblivion. By 1810, the company was capable of placing 5.5 million pounds of indigo into the market per year, and the price of indigo bottomed out. None of this mattered to the British plantation owners in Clay County since they had long fled Florida in 1783 when Britain ceded Florida back to Spain.



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**GAME OF THE WEEK**

**Clay @ Fleming Island | 7:30 pm**

**Keystone BYE**

**Oakleaf vs. Orange Park  
Middleburg @ Hawthorne  
Ridgeview vs. Menendez**

## Indians, Panthers trade big plays

By Ray Dimonda  
Correspondent

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS - In the annual Fall Classic season opener, host Keystone Heights Indians took on the Ridgeview Panthers, testing who had the early fall advantage.

On Friday night, the Indians under new Head Coach Steve Reynolds, showed the team overhauled some long-standing traditions under the Chuck Dickerson years and came out with the same ground-and-pound run game.

"In reality, it's going to be the same hard-nosed physical football," said Reynolds, a former defensive coordinator under Dickinson. "There will be a few differences."

The new look, though, was a sophomore quarterback, Baylor Ford, whose arm, combined with the inside running prowess of Damien Dunlap and speed back Cartez



Keystone Heights wide receiver Andrew Siemer goes airborne after making a pass catch in the Indians' preseason game against Ridgeview.

CORRESPONDENT PHOTOS BY RAY DIMONDA

Daniels, proved to be a dual threat too much for the Panther defense.

Where the new look came from was

a passing attack that targeted senior Wyatt Van Zant and Garrison Teague in

**SEE INDIANS, 30**



PHOTO COURTESY OF SPEEDO

Former Clay High swim state champion Caeleb Dressel, now an Olympic and World champion numerous times, is still a powerful presence off the swim block as he plans a return to his sport.

## Dressel opens up about 2022

By Randy Lefko, Sports Editor  
Excerpted from SwimSwam.com Mel Stewart

GAINESVILLE - After his historic and unexpected departure from the 2002 World Swim Championships in Budapest, Caeleb Dressel, 7X Olympic Gold Medalist, has been mostly silent in his response to numerous media requests to talk about the fateful days that followed.

In an one hour interview on YouTube with SWIMSWAM.COM's Mel Stewart, Dressel let a little bit out on how his life has transitioned.

"I needed every bit of the eight months I was out of the water," said Dressel.

**SEE DRESSSEL, 31**



CORRESPONDENT PHOTO BY CARRIE CUNNINGHAM/FIHS

Fleming Island's captains; from left, Braden Cunningham, Cibastian Broughton, Sebastian Cruz and David Smith look to put the Golden Eagles back on a playoff path, but first a rivalry game with Clay High Is on the table.

## WEEK ONE FRIDAY, AUGUST 25 Clay at Fleming is big; Middleburg at Hawthorne bigger

By Randy Lefko  
Sports Editor

Clay at Fleming Island: It is the big one and for a good reason. Both teams looking to rebound from no-playoff 2022. Quarterbacks are both solid; Rapoza and Broughton. Run-

**GAME OF THE WEEK**

**SEE GAMES, 31**



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## Athlete Of The Week



Middleburg High sophomore defensive back **Vondarius Lane** opened up the 2023 with the first highlight play of the year with a first half 65 yard interception return for a touchdown in the Broncos 17-17 preseason win over Episcopal High School. Lane is younger brother to T.J. Lane, all state running back for the Broncos last year now at the University of West Florida.



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## It's time!

# Eagles show out for Clay visit

Clay at Fleming, Fri., Aug. 25 at 7:30 p.m.

By **Randy Lefko**  
Sports Editor

FLEMING ISLAND - Fleming Island High first-year football coach Chad Parker offered a few thoughts on his teams' overwhelming 35-6 win in preseason play over Westside on Friday in anticipation of the rivalry matchup with Clay High on Fri., Aug. 25.

"At first, honestly, we didn't know if we would have any running backs that would fit our scheme, but Dehmir Jackson and Tyler Beverly look like two that are as good as I've ever seen," said Parker. "Cibastian (junior quarterback Cibastian Broughton) had good reads for the whole game and kept the game moving. He threw a couple of long balls out there with Daeven Boykin (3 passes, 91 YDs, 2TDs) a top receiver for him."

Fleming Island scored off a Broughton (195 YDS passing, 3TDS) run down the sidelines, Jackson going about 30 yards, Beverly scored one and Boykin snagged two scores in the air.

"We were trying to spread the ball around to get everybody in the end zone and stretch the defense," said Parker. "Dehmir took a swing pass near midfield and turned the jets on. That was a good one."

One aspect of the offense that Parker liked was Broughton's quickness to re-



CORRESPONDENT PHOTOS BY CARRIE CUNNINGHAM

Fleming Island senior tackle Braden Cunningham, No. 75, is a massive figure downfield as he leads quarterback Cibastian Broughton downfield in the Golden Eagles' preseason win over Westside.

lease the ball on pass plays.

"Westside had a good pass rush and Cibastian was reacting pre-snap to the play and making good decisions," said Parker. "He knew the coverages before the snap and exploit it."

On defense, Parker noted Sebastian Cruz had an interception and a 64-yard punt return.

"We had Joey Couch in on the offensive line for most of the game," said Parker. "We lost a guy and he has stepped

up. One play he had two pancake blocks on the same play."

Parker's enthusiasm for the upcoming Clay game is more like a kid in a candy store.

"I've read about the rivalry with the wrestling and football, but I've never been able to see it," said Parker. "I was always coaching somewhere else. I'm more excited just to be a part of the atmosphere."

## Middleburg cages Episcopal in preseason wrapup

By **Lee Wardlaw**  
Staff Writer

JACKSONVILLE – After a sloppy, back-and-forth, and hard-fought battle, Middleburg came away with a 17-7 road win against Episcopal during the Preseason Classic at Jangro Stadium last Friday night.

It all started with a Middleburg field goal late in the first quarter after a Broncos' drive stalled at the 28-yard line, but 6-foot-2, 195-pound senior kicker Kaleb Robinson came in clutch with a 45-yard field goal.

The Broncos put the contest away with 5:42 remaining in the second quarter with a "pick six" interception by sophomore cornerback Vondarius Lane on a Nate Blair pass to extend Middleburg's lead to 10-0.

Episcopal's offense was off and on most of the game, but the Eagles had a brief burst when Blair took a draw play up the middle for a touchdown with 4:57 remaining in the third quarter.

After a Broncos punt, Episcopal had



CORRESPONDENT PHOTOS BY JESSICA MULLANAX

Middleburg middle linebacker Austin Cruce led a strong upfront defensive front with his line; BJ Carter, Kendric O'Neal and Tucker Cody in shutting down the Episcopal offense.

a drive that nearly took the entire third quarter. The Eagles' offense seemed like it would stall again, but a Blair completion to Omar Dixon went for a 30-yard pick-up. Less than a minute later,

Then, with 5:09 in the third, Frank Owens picked up 14 yards to advance to the 1-yard line on a run to the left. But Middleburg responded with a score. It all started with a big rumble up the middle from converted middle linebacker Kendric O'Neal. Head coach Ryan Wolfe called his name multiple times at running back, and it was a good decision, as the Eagles struggled to stop him.

A 59-yard pass from O'Neal to Jaydan Jenkins essentially put the game away. The senior waited in short range for the sneak attack delivered from quarterback Carson Stewart, a junior with a big arm that had his struggles at times but also turned in an impressive performance.

The drive was set up by the Broncos' defense, who stopped a hot Eagles offense that had just marched right down the field for a score right in their tracks. Sophomore outside linebacker Keensdee Roseme delivered a crushing blow with 2:15 remaining in the third with a hard tackle of Blair, who was left with neither his helmet or the

SEE BRONCOS, 29



## Hot field for 7th annual Cecil Field XC

STAFF PHOTO BY RANDY LEFKO

Area high school cross country runners finally get to let loose with the 7th annual Cecil Field Summer Classic set to go on Fri. Aug. 25 with nearly 70 schools already set to go. Race director Richard Fannin will once again have a star-studded field filled with defending state champions from as far as South Carolina, Alabama and Georgia. Pictured is graduated Katie Thompson from Fleming Island who now runs for University of South Florida with Clay High senior Kaygen Williamson to be a top contender. Fleming Island's boys team, led by second in state senior Graham Myers, will attend as well as the girls. Fannin noted that the elite boys and girls races (runners under 17 minutes/20 minutes) will have nearly 350 runners with 40 teams. Festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. with a middle school race (2.5K), a 6:15 p.m. start for High School varsity girls (5K), a 6:45 p.m. start for high school boys, 7:15 p.m. for elite girls and 7:45 p.m. for elite boys. The meet record is 15:05 (Patrick Koon, Leon, 2021) and 17:46 (Eliana Black, Cambridge Christian 2022). The course is staged at the Cecil Field New World Golf Facility on Normandy Blvd.

# Clay County players rock UNF soccer

By Randy Lefko  
Sports Editor  
Excerpts from UNFOSPREYS.com

JACKSONVILLE - With a roster housing five former Clay County womens soccer standouts; Sydney Hauth (Fleming Island), Liz Fogarty (Clay), Avery Raimondo (St. Johns Country Day School), Lauren Weiss (St. Johns Country Day School) and Bella Pontieri (St. Johns Country Day School), the University of North Florida womens' soccer team is off to an unbeaten season start with a quick tie, and 3-0 win in their first two games.

Against the University of Florida in an exhibition game, the Lady Ospreys, who finished 4-7-5 last season, finished off with a 0-0 tie on August 12 then returned to the pitch on Thurs., Aug. 17 to defeat the Air Force Academy 3-0.

North Florida women's soccer (1-0-0) improved to 5-0 in season openers under head coach Eric Faulconer as the Ospreys dismantled Air Force (0-1-0) in a 3-0 rout, August 17.

The Lady Ospreys struck first in the 28th minute with sophomore Allie Fekany, a Boone High (FL) graduate, opened the scoring in the 28th minute after a beautiful long ball from Weiss put her through on goal. Weiss, a junior, is a St. Johns Country Day School standout. Weiss has been playing since a freshman with the Osprey defense recording a school record eight shutouts her freshman year and seven shutouts in her sophomore season. Weiss was selected as an A-Sun All Freshman selection and a 2021 All-ASUN second teamer.

Just 15 minutes later, freshman Avery Raimondo, another St. Johns Country Day School standout, sent a ball into the box finding the feet of Sydney Hauth who worked it past goalkeeper Sydney Davis. Hauth, red shirt senior, is a Fleming Island High standout.

"I believe we found a true diamond with

Avery Raimondo," said Faulconer. "She is an excellent ball-distributing holding midfielder and has a very high-level soccer IQ."

Liz Anne Fogarty, a Clay High standout, put the game to bed in the 86th minute after she was brought down in the box to set up a flawless penalty kick goal. Fogarty is a two year letter winner at Georgia State after first playing at Mississippi State with five goals at the NCAA Division I level with MSU.

"I have known Liz Anne for a long time and we are thrilled to provide her the opportunity to close out her career back home at UNF," said Faulconer. "Liz can play center back, anywhere in the mid-field and at center forward. She has scored five times at the collegiate level, is powerful in the air and strikes the ball very well from long range. These were two elements that our 2022 team was lacking."

Pontieri played 44 minutes and had one of three shots on goal for the Ospreys.

Goalkeepers Sarah Barrentine (Dunedin) and Sofia Miliancano (Boca) split the halves and helped contribute to a seventh



Liz Fogarty



Avery Raimondo



Bella Pontieri



clean sheet in the Osprey's last eight contests. The performance marked UNF's seventh-straight clean sheet on the Hodges Stadium pitch.

All told the Ospreys sent 26 student-athletes into the match, while North Florida outshot Air Force, 15-8.

# FISH Tales

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# Miscues costly for Blue Devils preseason opener

## Retool for FIHS visit on Friday

By Doug Deter  
Correspondent

JACKSONVILLE - Football is FINALLY here! For the Clay High Blue Devils and head coach Kyle Kennard, the season couldn't get here fast enough. Bishop Kenny, though, in the preseason opener on Friday at Bishop Kenny was less than hospitable with a 35-21 win over the Blue Devils; 21-0 at the half with the second half mainly junior varsity.

"I thought we competed really well and played hard for four quarters. Bishop Kenny is a really good football team," said Kennard. "It's an exhibition game where we can see on film where we were good and bad and what we need to fix. I have no doubt we will be ready to go Friday night for the season opener."

The 2022 season of youth, inexperience, and lack of size has turned into a 2023 season of improved leadership and experience along with noticeable gains in size, strength, quickness and depth.

"We graduated seven Seniors so we have the bulk of our team back and with



Clay High coach Kyle Kennard will be heading to Fleming Island High for rivalry clash that Kennard has had success with at Fleming Island High School.

the players we have added, our receivers don't have to also play defensive back, so our increased depth will only help us moving forward," said Kennard.

The Bishop Kenny offense wasted little time, picking up right where the playoff team left off last season; running an up-

tempo, fast-paced offense scoring on an 80-yard, five-minute drive that ended on a 17-yard touchdown pass to give the Crusaders a 7-0 lead.

From there, the Clay offense stalled numerous times on drives into the Bishop Kenny end of the field with a missed field

goal and a fumbled ball.

One bright spot was newcomer Geno Addison at running back, a sophomore transfer from Bradford County, who broke some runs for extra yardage.

Just before the half, with Landon Chadwick at quarterback, down 21-0, Clay looked to get to the half with a score, but an interception with 14 seconds ended the opportunity.

A 51-yard scoring bomb by Bishop Kenny awaited the Blue Devil defense after the half to push the Crusaders to 28-0.

"Even though our entire secondary is new, we have to be more disciplined. But, I think those guys really gained some valuable game experience against a really good group of receivers," said Kennard.

Clay finally hit paydirt with Rapoza and Dykas combining for a 65-yard toss and go pass play to put the Blue Devils on the scoreboard, Kenny would hit a 35-yard scoring pass to answer and go up 35-7.

Senior running back Chandler Thomas ran for a score late in the third before teams emptied their benches.

Clay opens at county rival Fleming Island Friday. Kickoff is set for 7:30 pm.

# Raiders fall prey to Bolles' 20-0 preseason fast start

By Mike Zima  
Correspondent

ORANGE PARK - Three turnovers in the first half derailed any chance that Orange Park could keep up with Bolles' fast break offense, as the host Raiders lost 35-0 in a preseason game on Friday, August 18.

"It is a lack of focus," said Orange Park head coach Marcus Wimberly. "We do turnover drills in practice every day."

The Raiders fumbled on three consecutive possessions spanning the end of the first quarter and the start of the second. Quarterback D.J. Moore and the Bolles no-huddle offense converted each one into a touchdown, putting the game out of reach.

First, Bulldogs safety Trey Brown pounced on a Dylan Ruiz fumble at the Orange Park 33-yard line. Five plays later, cornerback Donovan Bradley was running stride for stride with Bolles receiver Naeem Burroughs, but Moore dropped the ball perfectly to Burroughs' outside shoulder, and the sophomore who already enjoys multiple collegiate offers warded off Bradley to make the catch in the end zone for a 20-0 lead.

"We don't get those types of looks in practice," said Wimberly. "They [the Orange Park defensive backs] had some 'Ah-hah moments,' where you see something on the field and say, 'That is what Coach

was talking about.'"

Taking on Bolles, an FHSAA Class 2 state semifinalist last year, was no easy task, but Wimberly wanted a formidable opponent for the Raiders' preseason game.

"I like to find out where our holes are so we can fix them," he said. "If you play cupcakes, you get a false impression."

Finally, Ryder Fulmer caught a pass from Orange Park quarterback Gabe Taylor but fumbled when hit at the Raider's 44-yard line. After Bolles' Tyrone Neal converted a fourth and three with a four-yard gain, Grzebin bolted up the middle, broke two tackles and scored. Theo Hardt drilled the extra point to cap the scoring.

The turnovers marred what was mostly a promising showing by the Raiders offense, which gained more first downs in the first half than the Bulldogs did. Taylor completed 12 of 19 passes. Wimberly was pleased with his young sophomore, saying that he did well and just needs more repetitions. Paulk, who had six receptions, and Fulmer, who had four, proved to be capable receivers. And Wimberly liked the hard running he saw from Ruiz, who gained 17 yards on seven carries, and fellow running back Joshua Johnson, who finished with 52 yards on 10 attempts.

"We should be a pretty potent offense if we are locked in," said Wimberly.

## Broncos

from page 26

football. The Eagles maintained possession but not the game. After the Broncos scored at the end of the quarter, backups took the field.

Wolfe said the Broncos experienced some first-game "jitters" and growing pains, but having a game film to analyze should be a plus heading into the regular season.

He said the defensive line played especially well, including BJ Carter, Tucker Cody and middle linebacker Austin Cruce.

Defensive backs could have played better overall, but Wolfe said he isn't worried about the unit. "Those are just things we have to fix," he said.

O'Neal's snaps at running back not only paid huge dividends.

"I think that he found his way to (becoming) our running back," Wolfe said.

Middleburg will play at Hawthorne Friday night in its regular-season opener.

One of the biggest hits of the night came from outside linebacker Keensdee Roseme, here, getting a helmet-removing dinger for a sack.



# Double goose-eggs for Knights in preseason scrimmages

By Randy Lefko  
Sports Editor

OAKLEAF - After a season of watching teams score the likes of 49, 45, 55 and 49 points last year, Oakleaf High first-year football coach Chris Foy had a crisp smile knowing his defense against Sandalwood and Baldwin in two half-only preseason scrimmages netted two shutouts and two stanzas with no first downs by opposing offenses.

"We didn't give up a first down in both halves," said Foy, with a 10-0 score versus Sandalwood; 14-0 vs. Baldwin. "J.J. Marsh-Mensie, my linebackers; Neal Whyte and Dajon Brown absolutely controlled the line of scrimmage."

On his offense, Foy, who got over 200 yards on the ground, got exceptional play from youth Michael Conner, a freshman, who caught a 67-yard scoring bomb, and

Jordin Pryce, a sophomore, both pass receivers while junior running back Chris Foy II hit for more than 100 yards behind his massive offensive line. Dajon Brown scored off a 30-yard scamper as well.

"Those big guys up front; Quory Ambrose, Chase Johnson and Akeem Neal were moving people," said Foy, noting Sandalwood had two upfront defenders that had numerous NCAA offers. "Brandon (Wallace, Jr., QB) played really well and made good choices. We did have some ball security issues that we will address."

On defense, in the secondary, with James Kitchen and Bryson Kitt roaming the field, Foy commented that both teams completed just one pass. Kamari Davis did intercept one pass.

"They were locked down all night, make some good knockdowns," said Foy. "The defense up front; with Biggie in shape, was a force to contend with for both offenses."



STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

Oakleaf High senior linebacker Neal Whyte is part of strong linebacker tandem with teammate Dajon Brown who knocked out back-to-back preseason shutouts; 10-0 vs. Sandalwood and 14-0 vs. Baldwin to set up a defensive showdown with rival Orange Park in the season opener on Friday at Oakleaf.

For Foy, Wallace is the go-to guy for Foy on offense.

"We will live and die by him," said Foy.

"He's the leader. We had a conditioning and film session on Saturday and the team was all in. We're in a good direction."



Keystone Heights running back Cartez Daniels is in unique company as he tries to evade a Panther tackler while being wary of the very-dangerous Panther mascot on the sideline.

## Indians

from page 25

field strikes to keep Ridgeview on its heels.

In the end, the Keystone Heights varsity part of the game was a 20-12 Keystone Heights victory, followed by the JV teams continuing without reset with an overall game 27-26 Keystone win.

Those differences included wristbands with plays coming in via sideline signals, a serious air threat, and kicking point after attempts.

Post-game, Reynolds had some things to work on, and was pleased with others.

"Some good, and some not so good, but we have to get into game shape," said Reynolds, referring to the many injury timeouts both teams had for cramping up on this hot evening. "Overall I'm happy with the way they competed."

Reynolds did lament that the Indians' defense did give up too many big plays to the much larger Panther front line attack



Ridgeview High cheerleader coach Aimee Stutz gets selfied with her girls during a break in Keystone Heights visit.

and senior running back Rayhn Hutchinson, who took the first play from scrimmage for over 50 yards before putting the first points on the board at 11:41 in the first quarter.

The other highlight for the Panthers was sophomore quarterback Travon

Malone who made plays happen by not being afraid to step up when needed, roll out when pressured, and tuck the ball to run when he had no one open.

"Travon is actually a basketball kid we pulled off the court in February," said Panther's Head Coach Bryan Arnette. "His first live-action was the spring game. This is only his second outing with live bullets coming at him. We had a few route issues tonight, but overall, I feel pretty good about what we saw."

Defensively on both sides, the teams had the routine early season issues with a few encroachments, pass interference, and the coaches on both sides have to practice staying back to avoid the sideline infractions. All things that practice are correct.

Both teams had plenty to talk about with good rushing, great size up front, and few huge break-away plays. Defensive back coverage was good for this point in the season and both teams had the occasional issue.

The Indian's special teams' kick coverage showed an area for concern as the Panthers were only stopped a single time from gaining significant yardage on kick-offs and punts.

"We have some things to improve on with kick coverage," said Reynolds. "It's ongoing work, but we are getting better. Tonight showed us some things."

Noticeable was the Panther's zero attempts at kicking point after attempts. The post-game word was the kicker is a multi-position player who got dinged up early and was best to not try his leg right now. All Arnette would say on the record was "Not being able to kick is concerning."

Several Junior Varsity players showed some serious skills which if needed, could be pulled up onto the varsity squad. Keystone Heights sophomore Destin Harnage and freshman Brody Stephens both had great runs in the second half with Stephens looking to be a great inside pounder, and Harnage showing blistering speed.



## 2023 State title weightlifters

Keystone Heights High's boy's weightlifting team, filled with many football players, displays their state championship rings after a third state title was earned in 2023. The weightlifters are coached by Lantz Lowery, also the linebackers coach for football.

## Games

from page 25

ning backs to Fleming Island: Tyler Beverly vs. Chandler Thomas. Wideouts to Clay: Payton Dykas is simply the best in area but Trace

Burney is a burner, maybe Kaylib Singleton speed out there too. Defense, the Shark vs. Omar..That will be worth a ticket.

At Fleming Island, new coach Chad Parker wants to get on the W board in the rivalry. Parker dominated Westside; 27-0 at the half before lights went out, 35-6 final, in preseason play with explosive plays.

From Clay, Kennard has been in the game and knows the emotions. Clay got banged by Bishop Kenny with little offensive production.

Of course, with a rivalry game, none of the preseason matters.

### Middleburg at Hawthorne

State champs again for game one for Wolfe. Learned to start fast from slow starts last year. Jenkins on the outskirts in green space. Look for Boyd or Fryer to go 70 on the first handoff to set Hawthorne back then let Cruce, Cody, Carter dominate the line this year. Vondarious Lane, brother to All Stater TJ Lane Rb, with 60 yard interception return. See Lee Wardlaw's Middleburg vs. Episcopal recap.

### Orange Park at Oakleaf

New coach at Oakleaf Chris Foy has pushed the program to new level of team discipline, great linebacker duo, could be a game-changer. Raiders have speed to burn, young QB. Bolles is unfriendly to Raiders in new house; 80-yard opening kickoff score, have to find offense and hold on to the ball. See Orange Park vs. Bolles recap by Mike Zima.

### Menendez at Ridgeview

Arnette has size this year. Get a quick win, and gain momentum. Get the ball to JJ and let him run like a truck.

Ridgeview had a solid game; traded scores, against a much-improved Keystone Heights team and looks to get more than one win this season. See Ray Dimonda's Keystone Heights vs. Ridgeview recap.



Middleburg football has a chance at a program-altering game with a road trip to two-time defending state champion Hawthorne to open their 2023. A win here is huge for momentum to get follow-up last year's historic playoff run.



Orange Park second-year coach Marcus Wimberly got stung by the high-powered Bolles team in the preseason and steps into a high-powered home opener for Oakleaf and their new coach Chris Foy. One has to win to start on good foot for 2023; the other has to get answers for a better second year. Ridgeview High coach Bryan Arnette needs a jolt with a win to offset back-to-back 2-8 seasons now that team has been the same faces for the past three years.



## Dressel

from page 25

"(Olympic coach Anthony) Nesty had me in the water like one hour three days a week for five or six weeks. It was really tough."

Stewart writes that "During and immediately after 2022 World Champs, there was not a public statement from Caeleb Dressel because he didn't know what was happening to him, but it was clearly a mental health event."

"I went numb," said Dressel in a one hour interview after Dressel participated in TEAM SPEEDO photo shoot recently. "On the plane ride back, I was like what is going on right now. I had to go home. I was completely done."

Dressel noted that one of his first returns to water was a swim with the manatees with wife Meghan, who recently announced a Dressel grandchild (future champion?) was imminent.

Stewart wrote about Dressel seeing a therapist and questioning whether he should swim again or take care of his mental health.

"I had a shirt made; Motorcycles, hiking and counseling, that's all I was doing," said Dressel. "Every now and then, I would go for a run to get my heart rate up, but swimming was not in the picture."

At the recent U.S. World Swim Trials, where Dressel was a heavy number one ranked swimmer based on huge resume and being a past world champion, but the

Clay High grad failed to make the US World team.

"I lost my age group fun for just swimming," said Dressel. "I got results, I kept thinking of the one-ups from 2017 Worlds (7 golds) to 2019 Worlds (6 golds)."

Dressel, who did race at the U.S. World Trials, but finished no higher than a fifth in the 100 fly an event that he holds the world record in, admitted to Stewart that it was fun to race, but tough not being in the center lane, normally where top qualifiers go in finals races.

"I got more love from that meet from friends who welcomed my return," said Dressel. "Even after the 100 fly, I cried because I wasn't used to being where I was."

Dressel's Olympic swim coach, Anthony

Nesty, after the 2022 World Championship event, commented that Dressel just needed a break.

"2022 mental break, and where Caeleb is at right now, he is a happy swimmer," said Nesty, after the 2022 Worlds. "And, I like training happy swimmers."

One thing Dressel told Stewart was of his unreadiness for the media burst on his time.

"It does get tough, but I try to act like it doesn't bother me, but it does," said Dressel. "When you are carrying the weight not only what your goals are and also I've got Phelps (Michael) comparisons, it's hard."

Two goals for Dressel, in Stewart's story, are the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics and to eventual become a swim coach.

# ALL NEW SEASON

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### Hammerhead Ocean Marathon

Founder of the Duval Ocean Swimmers swim club Giancarlo Bertozzi, above, joined a bevy of brave swimmers on Saturday at the 18th annual Hammerhead Ocean Marathon Swim weekend in Jacksonville Beach and came home with a handful of action photos in the depths of the Atlantic Ocean. The Hammerhead swim festival, featuring ocean swim races of 1K, 2K, and 5K distances starting south and finishing at the Jacksonville Beach Fishing Pier, is staged to benefit the Jacksonville Beach Volunteer Life Saving Corps and is supported by the City of Jax Beach Ocean Rescue. Top finisher in the 5K was Brody Singley, 16, on the Episcopal Amberjax Swim Team, in one hour, nine minutes with former Fleming Island High swimmer Brian Fleischmann fifth in 1:15. Top female was Leah DeGeorge, a University of Florida and a member of the USA Junior Olympic Open Water Swim Team in 1:13. Nearly 300 swimmers participated in the three races.





CLAY COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES

**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 **Pun-E-Farm** located at 2312 Bramble Court, 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. Dated at Middleburg, Florida, this 21st day of August 2023.  
Steve Crenshaw  
Legal 81287 Published 8/24/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED ZONING ATLAS CHANGE ZON-0723-00017**

THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Planning Commission of Clay County, Florida, will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, September 5, 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 a public hearing on Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at 5:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as can be heard, both hearings taking place in the Board of County Commissioners 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, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III OF THE CLAY COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, KNOWN**

AS THE ZONING AND LAND USE LDRS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE 93-16, AS AMENDED, PROVIDING FOR THE REZONING OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY (TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION # 16-05-24-005954-187-00) FROM ITS PRESENT ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF BA-2 (COMMERCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL OFFICE DISTRICT) TO BB-2 (COMMUNITY BUSINESS DISTRICT); PROVIDING A DESCRIPTION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. The proposed ordinance would change the current zoning classification on approximately 1.02 acres from BA-2 (Commercial and Professional Office District) to BB-2 (Community Business District) on the following land, the owner of the land being Discovery Services, LLC: **Location Address for ZON-0723-00017** Tax Parcel Identification Number 16-05-24-005954-187-00. 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 con-

tinue 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).  
Board of County Commissioners  
Legal 81286 Published 8/24/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

the bid package. **Bids are valid for a period of 60 calendar days after date of opening.** Bidders declare that the only persons or parties interested in their bid are those named on the Bid Proposal Form. They state that their bid is in all respects fair and without fraud and without collusion with any official, agent, or employee of the City or anyone submitting another bid. The City reserves the right to require the successful bidder to execute an agreement incorporating all bid documentation, and which contains standard provisions for default, bid security, attorney fees, termination, remedies, jurisdiction, and other conditions deemed legally appropriate by the City. It is the desire of the City to enter into an agreement to complete this singular project. The City reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids in whole, or any part thereof, waive any or all irregularities, and award the bid to the responsible bidder determined to represent the City's best interests. Bid packages may be obtained from the City's website www.greencovesprings.com, under the bidding opportunities section. By: Kimberly Thomas Executive Assistant of City Manager City of Green Cove Springs 321 Walnut Street Green Cove Springs, FL 32043 L. Steve Kennedy, City Manager  
Legal 81284 Published 8/24/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

www.clay.realtaxdeed.com. Dated this 21st day of August, 2023  
TARA S. GREEN  
Clay County Clerk & Comptroller  
Clay County, Florida  
By: Christina Spadea  
Deputy Clerk  
Legal 81280 Published 8/24/2023, 8/31/2023, 9/7/2023 and 9/14/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** GLORIA J WARNICK, 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.:** 1657/2017  
**Legal Description:** PT LOT 9 SW OF RD BLACK CREEK ESTATES AS REC O R 919 PG 568  
**Parcel ID No.:** 110524-006143-000-00  
**Opening Bid Amount:** \$1,521.25  
**Physical Address:** SCENIC DR, MIDDLEBURG  
**Classification:** VACANT RESIDENTIAL  
**Name in which assessed:** CECILE K ABRAM  
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 15th day of November, 2023 at 9:30 A.M at www.clay.realtaxdeed.com.  
Dated this 21st day of August, 2023  
TARA S. GREEN  
Clay County Clerk & Comptroller  
Clay County, Florida  
By: Christina Spadea  
Deputy Clerk  
Legal 81279 Published 8/24/2023, 8/31/2023, 9/7/2023 and 9/14/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** GRACE SALAS, 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.:** 910/2017  
**Legal Description:** LOT 19 BLK 96 HIGHRIDGE ESTATE AS REC O R 3150 PG 963  
**Parcel ID No.:** 210823-004239-000-00  
**Opening Bid Amount:** \$2,005.18  
**Physical Address:** 7184 RUTGERS ST, KEYSTONE HEIGHTS  
**Classification:** VACANT RESIDENTIAL  
**Name in which assessed:** DENTON II LLC  
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 15th day of November, 2023 at 9:30 A.M at www.clay.realtaxdeed.com.  
Dated this 21st day of August, 2023  
TARA S. GREEN  
Clay County Clerk & Comptroller  
Clay County, Florida  
By: Christina Spadea  
Deputy Clerk  
Legal 81278 Published 8/24/2023, 8/31/2023, 9/7/2023 and 9/14/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** BUFFALO BILL LLC, 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.:** 3639/2016  
**Legal Description:** W1/2 LOT D WILES S/D OF LT 7 BLK 30 N S GCS DB 30 PG 356 & O R 1 PG  
**29 EX O R 126 PG 328 & 242 PG 134**  
**Parcel ID No.:** 380626-017901-000-00  
**Opening Bid Amount:** \$4,112.99  
**Physical Address:** WALBURG ST, GREEN COVE SPRINGS  
**Classification:** VACANT RESIDENTIAL  
**Name in which assessed:** ESTATE OF LEWIS REDMOND C/O LEE P WASHINGTON JR  
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 15th day of November, 2023 at 9:30 A.M at www.clay.realtaxdeed.com.  
Dated this 21st day of August, 2023  
TARA S. GREEN  
Clay County Clerk & Comptroller  
Clay County, Florida  
By: Christina Spadea  
Deputy Clerk  
Legal 81277 Published 8/24/2023, 8/31/2023, 9/7/2023 and 9/14/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

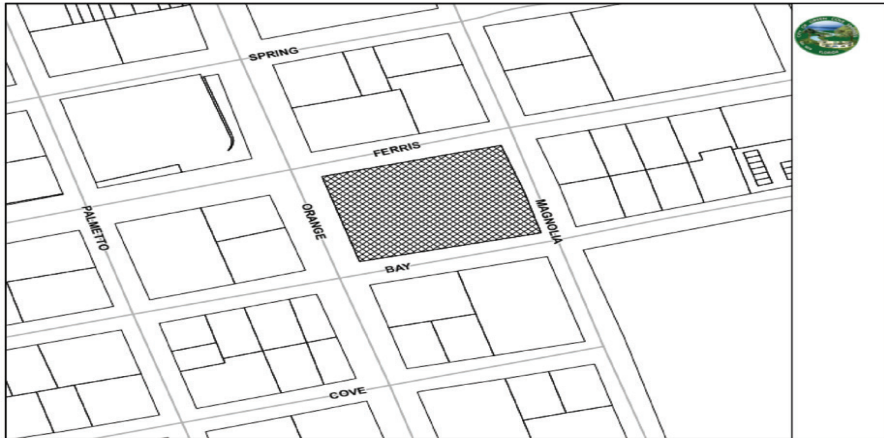
**LEGAL NOTICE**

The City of Green Cove Springs City Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, September 5, 2023 to consider a Development Agreement to be entered into pursuant to Sections 163.3220 through 163.3243, inclusive, Florida Statutes, between D.R. Horton – Jacksonville and the City of Green Cove Springs, project CDA-22-0001.

The following public hearing has been scheduled and will be held in the City Council Chambers, 321 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs, to hear comments, if any, regarding the proposed Agreement:

City Council: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. or shortly thereafter

The property is approximately 1.26 acres and is located on the east side of US 17, south of SR 16/Ferris Street. A detached legal description of the property is on file with the Development Services Department of the City, which is located at 321 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs, Florida. The location of the property is further shown on the enclosed map:



The proposed Development Agreement is for the redevelopment of the existing 19,848 square foot Dollar Tree Plaza building and the addition of a 2,463 square foot outparcel building located at 206 S. Orange Avenue. The Development Agreements addresses public facility improvements, building and site design improvements, and permitting requirements.

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

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

Said Ordinances are available at City Hall for review during the hours of 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Thursday.

All interested individuals are invited to attend this public hearing.

City of Green Cove Springs

Lyndie Knowles, Development Services Representative  
321 Walnut Street  
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043

Steve Kennedy, City Manager

Legal 81281 Published August 24, 2023 in Clay County's Clay Today.

**BID ADVERTISEMENT**

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Green Cove Springs, Attn: Kimberly Thomas, 321 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043, until **10:30 a.m. local time, September 25, 2023** at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud, for the following City of Green Cove Springs project: **Bid No. 2023-10, Concrete Construction Work.** Proposals shall comply with the conditions, instructions, specifications, and terms as described in the bid package. Bids shall be mailed or delivered in person to City Hall, Attn: Kimberly Thomas, 321 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043. Faxed, electronic, telephonic, website or oral transmittals will not be accepted. Any bid received after the designated closing time will be immediately rejected. Bids shall be sealed in an envelope and plainly marked: **Bid No. 2023-10, Concrete Construction Work.** Bidders are expected to fully inform themselves of the requirements of the specifications. Failure to do so is at the Bidder's risk. Bidders will not secure relief on the plea of error or misunderstanding. Bidders agree by signing and delivering a bid proposal to the acceptance of all terms, conditions, and specifications of the bid package. **Bids are valid for a period of 60 calendar days after date of opening.** Bidders declare that the only persons or parties interested in their bid are those named on the Bid Proposal Form. They state that their bid is in all respects fair and without fraud and without collusion with any official, agent, or employee of the City or anyone submitting another bid. The City reserves the right to require the successful bidder to execute an agreement incorporating all bid documentation, and which contains standard provisions for default, bid security, attorney fees, termination, remedies, jurisdiction, and other conditions deemed legally appropriate by the City. It is the desire of the City to enter into an agreement to complete this singular project. The City reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids in whole, or any part thereof, waive any or all irregularities, and award the bid to the responsible bidder determined to represent the City's best interests. Bid packages may be obtained from the City's website www.greencovesprings.com, under the bidding opportunities section. By: Kimberly Thomas Executive Assistant of City Manager City of Green Cove Springs 321 Walnut Street Green Cove Springs, FL 32043 L. Steve Kennedy, City Manager  
Legal 81285 Published 8/24/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

**BID ADVERTISEMENT**

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Green Cove Springs, Attn: Kimberly Thomas, 321 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043, until **11:00 a.m. local time, September 25, 2023** at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud, for the following City of Green Cove Springs project: **Bid No. 2023-12, Spring Park Dock Extension.** Proposals shall comply with the conditions, instructions, specifications, and terms as described in the bid package. Bids shall be mailed or delivered in person to City Hall, Attn: Kimberly Thomas, 321 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043. Faxed, electronic, telephonic, website or oral transmittals will not be accepted. Any bid received after the designated closing time will be immediately rejected. Bids shall be sealed in an envelope and plainly marked: **Bid No. 2023-12, Spring Park Dock Extension.** Bidders are expected to fully inform themselves of the requirements of the specifications. Failure to do so is at the Bidder's risk. Bidders will not secure relief on the plea of error or misunderstanding. Bidders agree by signing and delivering a bid proposal to the acceptance of all terms, conditions, and specifications of

**BID ADVERTISEMENT**

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Green Cove Springs, Attn: Kimberly Thomas, 321 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043, until **10:00 a.m. local time, September 25, 2023** at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud, for the following City of Green Cove Springs project: **Bid No. 2023-11, Tree Trimming & Removal Services.** Proposals shall comply with the conditions, instructions, specifications, and terms as described in the bid package. Bids shall be mailed or delivered in person to City Hall, Attn: Kimberly Thomas, 321 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043. Faxed, electronic, telephonic, website or oral transmittals will not be accepted. Any bid received after the designated closing time will be immediately rejected. Bids shall be sealed in an envelope and plainly marked: **Bid No. 2023-11, Tree Trimming & Removal Services.** Bidders are expected to fully inform themselves of the requirements of the specifications. Failure to do so is at the Bidder's risk. Bidders will not secure relief on the plea of error or misunderstanding. Bidders agree by signing and delivering a bid proposal to the acceptance of all terms, conditions, and specifications of the bid package. **Bids are valid for a period of 60 calendar days after date of opening.** Bidders declare that the only persons or parties interested in their bid are those named on the Bid Proposal Form. They state that their bid is in all respects fair and without fraud and without collusion with any official, agent, or employee of the City or anyone submitting another bid. The City reserves the right to require the successful bidder to execute an agreement incorporating all bid documentation, and which contains standard provisions for default, bid security, attorney fees, termination, remedies, jurisdiction, and other conditions deemed legally appropriate by the City. It is the desire of the City to enter into an agreement to complete this singular project. The City reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids in whole, or any part thereof, waive any or all irregularities, and award the bid to the responsible bidder determined to represent the City's best interests. Bid packages may be obtained from the City's website www.greencovesprings.com, under the bidding opportunities section. By: Kimberly Thomas Executive Assistant of City Manager City of Green Cove Springs 321 Walnut Street Green Cove Springs, FL 32043 L. Steve Kennedy, City Manager  
Legal 81283 Published 8/24/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** ATCF II FLORIDA A LLC, 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.:** 205/2021  
**Legal Description:** LOT 61 KINGSLEY COVE  
**Parcel ID No.:** 150623-021646-002-61  
**Opening Bid Amount:** \$2,199.36  
**Physical Address:** 4072 BUENA VISTA AVE, STARKE  
**Classification:** VACANT RESIDENTIAL  
**Name in which assessed:** NUTTY BUDDY LLC  
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 15th day of November, 2023 at 9:30 A.M at







CLAY COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES

Clay County, Florida, wherein LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC is the Plaintiff and JORDAN A. ADAMS; SARAH M. ADAMS are the Defendant(s). Tara S. Green as the Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at www.clay.realtaxdeed.com, at 10:00 AM, on September 13, 2023, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

**LOTS TWO (2) AND THREE (3), SUNNY ACRES, A SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 5, PAGE 24, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA.** Property Address: 4886 HWY 17 S, GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FL 32043

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim in accordance with Florida Statutes, Section 45.031.

Dated this 8 day of August, 2023.  
Tara S. Green  
As Clerk of the Court  
By: Jennie Pippin  
As Deputy Clerk

**IMPORTANT AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT.** If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator at crtntrp@coj.net or (904) 255-1695 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

Legal 79399 Published 8/17/2023 and 8/24/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA  
GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION  
CASE NO. 2023CA000222  
U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff,  
vs.  
JOHN D. EDENFIELD, et al.  
Defendant(s).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated August 2, 2023, and entered in 2023CA000222 of the Circuit Court of the FOURTH Judicial Circuit in and for CLAY County, Florida, wherein U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION is the Plaintiff and JOHN D. EDENFIELD are the Defendant(s). Tara S. Green as the Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at www.clay.realtaxdeed.com, at 10:00 AM, on October 4, 2023, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

**LOT 1, BLOCK 9, BLACK CREEK PARK UNIT THREE, A SUBDIVISION ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED AS PLAT BOOK 13, PAGES 32, 33 AND 34, IN THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA.** Property Address: 4533 MAGNOLIA STREET MIDDLEBURG, FL 32068

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim in accordance with Florida Statutes, Section 45.031.

Dated this 3rd day of August, 2023.  
Tara S. Green  
As Clerk of the Court  
By: Jennifer Brosky  
As Deputy Clerk

**IMPORTANT AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT.** If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator at crtntrp@coj.net or (904) 255-1695 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

Legal 79394 Published 8/17/2023 and 8/24/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

**NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE (NO CHILD OR FINANCIAL SUPPORT)**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CASE# 23-7465  
Division 44190  
Abudu Olatunde Olalekan Petitioner  
and  
Abudu Richardine Respondent.  
TO: Abudu Richardine  
351 Crossing Blvd, Apt 1311, Orange Park, FL 32073  
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for dissolution of marriage has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Abudu Olatunde Olalekan whose address is 8900 NW 54th Street, Sunrise, FL 33351, on or before September 5, 2023, and file the original with the clerk of this Court at 201 SE 6th St, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301, before service on

Petitioner or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.  
Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request.  
You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Designation of Current mailing and E-Mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed or e-mailed to the addresses on record at the clerk's office.  
WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.  
Dated: July 20, 2023.  
BRENDA D. FORMAN  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT  
By: Angel Harris  
Deputy Clerk  
Legal 79266 Published 8/10/2023, 8/17/2023, 8/24/2023 and 8/31/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PROBATE DIVISION  
File No. 2023-000346-CP  
IN RE: ESTATE OF ROBERT WILLIAMS  
Deceased.  
The administration of the estate of ROBERT WILLIAMS, deceased, whose date of death was July 24, 2021, and whose social security number ended in 6176, is pending in the Circuit Court for Clay County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 825 N Orange Ave # 308, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043. The names and addresses of the personal representatives and the personal representatives' attorney are set forth below.  
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.  
All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.  
ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.  
NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.  
The date of first publication of this notice is August 10, 2023.  
Attorney for Personal Representatives  
SHERYL J. MANNING  
Florida Bar No. 101743  
SHERYL J. MANNING, P.L.  
1104 Ponce de Leon Blvd.  
Coral Gables, Florida 33134  
Telephone: (786) 804-3456  
E-Mail Address: manning@miamieslateplans.com  
Robert W. Williams  
Personal Representative  
819 53rd Terrace N.  
St. Petersburg, FL 33703  
Legal 78758 Published 8/10/2023 and 8/17/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 4TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CIVIL DIVISION:  
CASE NO.: 2023-CA-001020- LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC., Plaintiff,  
vs.  
GERALD CORA; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF GERALD CORA; UNKNOWN TENANT IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, Defendants.  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated the 2 day of August 2023, and entered in Case No. 2023-CA-001020., of the Circuit Court of the 4TH Judicial Circuit in and for CLAY County, Florida, wherein LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC. is the Plaintiff and GERALD CORA UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF GERALD CORA; and UNKNOWN TENANT IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY are defendants. TARA S. GREEN as the Clerk of the Circuit Court shall sell to the highest and best bidder for cash electronically at https://clay.realtaxdeed.com/ at, 10:00 AM on the 20 September 2023, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

**LOT 17, BLOCK 7, BELLAIR, UNIT 2, AS PER PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGES 48 AND 49, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA.**  
IF YOU ARE A PERSON CLAIMING A RIGHT TO FUNDS REMAINING AFTER

THE SALE, YOU MUST FILE A CLAIM WITH THE CLERK NO LATER THAN THE DATE THAT THE CLERK REPORTS THE FUNDS AS UNCLAIMED. IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A CLAIM, YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO ANY REMAINING FUNDS. AFTER THE FUNDS ARE REPORTED AS UNCLAIMED, ONLY THE OWNER OF RECORD AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MAY CLAIM THE SURPLUS.  
If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator at crtntrp@coj.net or (904) 255-1695 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.  
Dated this 3 day of August 2023.  
TARA S. GREEN  
Clerk Of The Circuit Court  
By: Gracie Moore  
Deputy Clerk  
Legal 78757 Published 8/10/2023 and 8/17/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:**

A-1 TOWING AND RECOVERY gives notice that on 09/08/2023 at 09:00 AM the following vehicle(s) may be sold by public sale at 3052 JOE JOHNS RD MIDDLEBURG, FL 32068 to satisfy the lien for the amount owned on each vehicle for any recovery, towing, or storage services charges and administrative fees allowed pursuant to Florida statute 713.78.  
1C4NJPA7DD166610 2013 JEEP  
KM8J33AL8KU014659 2019 HYUN  
1G1FB1RX5L0104152 2020 CHEV  
Legal 78754 Published 8/24/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: MIKON FINANCIAL SERVICES INC & OCEAN BANK, 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.: 168/2021  
Legal Description: PT OF LOT 84 DUCK POND UNREC S1T5R23 AS REC O R 2069 PG 371  
Parcel ID No.: 010523-000493-001-00  
Opening Bid Amount: \$4,355.37  
Physical Address: 5389 MUSCOVY , MIDDLEBURG  
Classification: MOBILE HOME  
Name in which assessed: JACINTA A BLACKMON  
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 4th day of October, 2023 at 9:30 A.M at www.clay.realtaxdeed.com.  
Dated this 2nd day of August, 2023  
TARA S . GREEN  
Clay County Clerk & Comptroller  
Clay County, Florida  
By: Christina Spadea  
Deputy Clerk  
Legal 78756 Published 8/10/2023, 8/17/2023, 8/24/2023 and 8/31/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: KEYS FUNDING LLC - 2021, 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.: 2912/2021  
Legal Description: LOT 25-A STONE CREEK @ EAGLE HARBOR O R 3048 PG 1515  
Parcel ID No.: 090526-014176-009-38  
Opening Bid Amount: \$15,166.74  
Physical Address: 6376 ISLAND FOREST DR A , FLEMING ISLAND  
Classification: SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL ATTACHED  
Name in which assessed: MARY B LISTER  
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 20th day of September, 2023 at 9:30 A.M at www.clay.realtaxdeed.com.  
Dated this 26th day of July, 2023  
TARA S . GREEN  
Clay County Clerk & Comptroller  
Clay County, Florida  
By: Christina Spadea  
Deputy Clerk  
Legal 77858 Published 8/3/2023, 8/10/2023, 8/17/2023 and 8/24/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: RAM TAX LIEN FUND LP, 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.: 1268/2021  
Legal Description: PT OF SW1/4 S5T5R24 A/K/A LOT 4 MIMOSA WOODS UNREC AS REC O R 1848 PG 1421  
Parcel ID No.: 050524-005931-003-04  
Opening Bid Amount: \$4,237.16  
Physical Address: 101 PLANKTON AVE , MIDDLEBURG  
Classification: MOBILE HOME  
Name in which assessed: JOHN L & PATRICIA L HILLS, PATRICIA L HILLS  
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 20th day of September, 2023 at 9:30 A.M at www.clay.realtaxdeed.com.  
Dated this 26th day of July, 2023  
TARA S . GREEN  
Clay County Clerk & Comptroller  
Clay County, Florida  
By: Christina Spadea  
Deputy Clerk  
Legal 77857 Published 8/3/2023, 8/10/2023, 8/17/2023 and 8/24/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: MIKON FINANCIAL SERVICES INC & OCEAN BANK, 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.: 904/2021  
Legal Description: LOTS 22 & 23 BLK 84 HIGHRIDGE ESTATES AS REC O R 1314 PG 602 1669  
PG 2193 F/J & 2688 PG 671  
Parcel ID No.: 220823-003972-000-00  
Opening Bid Amount: \$18,749.45  
Physical Address: 6072 JUILLIARD AVE . KEYSTONE HEIGHTS  
Classification: MOBILE HOME  
Name in which assessed: VIRGINIA MAYO BENNETT  
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 20th day of September, 2023 at 9:30 A.M at www.clay.realtaxdeed.com.  
Dated this 26th day of July, 2023  
TARA S . GREEN  
Clay County Clerk & Comptroller  
Clay County, Florida  
By: Christina Spadea  
Deputy Clerk  
Legal 77856 Published 8/3/2023, 8/10/2023, 8/17/2023 and 8/24/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: RB TAX INVESTMENTS LLC, 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.: 2127/2021  
Legal Description: LOT 10 BLK 35 MEADOWBROOK 10 AS REC O R 458 PG 594 & 887 PG 289  
Parcel ID No.: 010425-011758-123-00  
Opening Bid Amount: \$7,163.94  
Physical Address: 409 LIBRA LN , ORANGE PARK  
Classification: SINGLE FAMILY  
Name in which assessed: COLLEEN FORTE (HEIRS)  
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 20th day of September, 2023 at 9:30 A.M at www.clay.realtaxdeed.com.  
Dated this 26th day of July, 2023  
TARA S . GREEN  
Clay County Clerk & Comptroller  
Clay County, Florida  
By: Christina Spadea  
Deputy Clerk  
Legal 77855 Published 8/3/2023, 8/10/2023, 8/17/2023 and 8/24/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: DEL REY PACHECO, 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.: 921/2016  
Legal Description: LOT 10 BLK 108 HIGHRIDGE ESTATES AS REC O R 3071 PG 2171, 3072 PG 502 & 3076 PG 501  
Parcel ID No.: 160823-004468-000-00  
Opening Bid Amount: \$1,701.61  
Physical Address: 7090 SEWANEE ST , KEYSTONE HEIGHTS  
Classification: VACANT RESIDENTIAL  
Name in which assessed: TAX CER-

**TIFICATE REDEMPTION INC**  
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 20th day of September, 2023 at 9:30 A.M at www.clay.realtaxdeed.com.  
Dated this 26th day of July, 2023  
TARA S . GREEN  
Clay County Clerk & Comptroller  
Clay County, Florida  
By: Christina Spadea  
Deputy Clerk  
Legal 77854 Published 8/3/2023, 8/10/2023, 8/17/2023 and 8/24/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

**NOTICE OF ACTION FOR SUPPLEMENTAL PETITION TO MODIFY CONSENT FINAL JUDGMENT (WITH MINOR OR DEPENDENT CHILD AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT)**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CASE NO: 10-2019-DR-000885-FM DIVISION: E  
IN RE: The Former Marriage of KATELYN NICOLE MCRAE n/k/a KATELYN NICOLE THRASHER, Former Wife/Mother And BEAU NICHOLAS MCRAE, Former Husband/Father  
TO: BEAU NICHOLAS MCRAE  
LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: 3414 Talisman Dr, Middleburg FL 32068  
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Supplemental Petition to Modify Consent Final Judgment has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on KATELYN NICOLE THRASHER, at her attorney's address at: DRAKE LAW FIRM, P.A., 4600 Touchton Rd. E. Bldg. 100, Suite 150, Jacksonville, FL 32246, or before, and file the original with the clerk of this court at: Clay County Clerk of Family Court, 825 N. Orange Ave., Green Cove Springs, FL 32043 before service on Petitioner, or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the supplemental petition. Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request.  
You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. You may file Designation of Current Mailing and E-Mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed or e-mailed to the clerk's office.  
WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.  
Dated: July 25, 2023.  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT  
By: Rebecca Crews  
Deputy Clerk  
Legal 77647 Published 8/3/2023, 8/10/2023, 8/17/2023 and 8/24/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

**SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF ACTION BY PUBLICATION**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CASE NO: 10-2021-DP-000088  
DIVISION: JV-  
IN THE INTEREST OF:  
T.M.D.  
DOB: 06/11/2021  
A MINOR CHILD  
THE STATE OF FLORIDA  
TO:  
Genie McHenry, MOTHER  
Address Unknown  
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Petition has been filed in the above-styled Court by the FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES for termination of parental rights and permanent commitment for subsequent adoption of the above-named child, T.M.D. born June 11, 2021. You are hereby commanded to appear before Honorable Angela M. Cox, at the Clay County Courthouse, Juvenile Dependency Courtroom, 825 North Orange Avenue, Green Cove Springs, Florida at the hour of 2:00 p.m. o'clock on September 12, 2023, A.D. You must appear at the hearing on the date and time specified.  
FAILURE TO PERSONALLY APPEAR AT THIS ADVISORY HEARING CONSTITUTES CONSENT TO THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THIS T.M.D. AND YOU MAY LOSE ALL LEGAL RIGHTS AS A PARENT TO THIS CHILD.  
If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the Court ADA Coordinator at (904) 255-1695 or crtntrp@coj.net at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled court appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.  
WITNESS my hand as clerk of said Court

and the Seal thereof, this 25th day of July 2023.  
Tara S. Green  
As Clerk of Said Court  
By: Denise Haselwood  
Legal 77646 Published 8/3/2023, 8/10/2023, 8/17/2023 and 8/24/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: SAVVY FL LLC FTB COLLATERAL ASSIGNEE, 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.: 1609/2021  
Legal Description: LOT 3 BLK 10 BLACK CREEK PARK UNIT 3 AS REC O R 3838 PG 1261  
Parcel ID No.: 210524-006700-278-00  
Opening Bid Amount: \$3,260.89  
Physical Address: 4695 ROSEMARY ST , MIDDLEBURG  
Classification: MOBILE HOME  
Name in which assessed: MATTHEW B RICKS  
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 20th day of September, 2023 at 9:30 A.M at www.clay.realtaxdeed.com.  
Dated this 24th day of July, 2023  
TARA S . GREEN  
Clay County Clerk & Comptroller  
Clay County, Florida  
By: Christina Spadea  
Deputy Clerk  
Legal 77528 Published 8/3/2023, 8/10/2023, 8/17/2023 and 8/24/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: SAVVY FL LLC FTB COLLATERAL ASSIGNEE, 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.: 1798/2021  
Legal Description: LOT 12 BLK 204 BLACK CREEK PARK UNIT 2 AS REC O R 3454 PG 1580  
Parcel ID No.: 350524-006699-885-00  
Opening Bid Amount: \$2,996.35  
Physical Address: 2681 N PERIWIN-KLE AVE , MIDDLEBURG  
Classification: VACANT RESIDENTIAL  
Name in which assessed: HANH N HO-ANG & SANG HOANG VO  
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 20th day of September, 2023 at 9:30 A.M at www.clay.realtaxdeed.com.  
Dated this 24th day of July, 2023  
TARA S . GREEN  
Clay County Clerk & Comptroller  
Clay County, Florida  
By: Christina Spadea  
Deputy Clerk  
Legal 77411 Published 8/3/2023, 8/10/2023, 8/17/2023 and 8/24/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: SAVVY FL LLC FTB COLLATERAL ASSIGNEE, 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.: 2010/2021  
Legal Description: LOT 30 BLK 3 LAKESIDE TERRACE AS REC O R 299 PG 242 & 1869 PG 142  
Parcel ID No.: 140824-007116-000-00  
Opening Bid Amount: \$1,070.33  
Physical Address: 7159 QUAIL ST , FLORAHOME  
Classification: VACANT RESIDENTIAL  
Name in which assessed: RALEIGH W & NADINE M BALLOU  
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 20th day of September, 2023 at 9:30 A.M at www.clay.realtaxdeed.com.  
Dated this 24th day of July, 2023  
TARA S . GREEN  
Clay County Clerk & Comptroller  
Clay County, Florida  
By: Christina Spadea  
Deputy Clerk  
Legal 77410 Published 8/3/2023, 8/10/2023, 8/17/2023 and 8/24/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: SAVVY FL LLC FTB COLLATERAL ASSIGNEE, the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a

CLAY COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES

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.:** 2044/2021  
**Legal Description:** PT NW1/4 OF SE1/4 AS REC O R 609 PGS 129-135  
**Parcel ID No.:** 180824-007178-003-00  
**Opening Bid Amount:** \$1,809.35  
**Physical Address:** COUNTY ROAD 214, KEYSTONE HEIGHTS  
**Classification:** VACANT RESIDENTIAL  
**Name in which assessed:** OSCAR LEWIS  
 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 **20th day of September, 2023 at 9:30 A.M. at www.clay.realtaxdeed.com.**  
**Dated this 24th day of July, 2023**  
 TARA S. GREEN  
 Clay County Clerk & Comptroller  
 Clay County, Florida  
 By: Christina Spadea  
 Deputy Clerk  
**Legal 77409 Published 8/3/2023, 8/10/2023, 8/17/2023 and 8/24/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** SAVVY FL LLC FTB COLLATERAL ASSIGNEE, 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.:** 2098/2021  
**Legal Description:** LOT 11 LIVE OAK FOREST AS REC O R 1481 PG 699(PUTNAM CO) & 4 038 PG 1527  
**Parcel ID No.:** 310824-007852-034-00  
**Opening Bid Amount:** \$2,673.11  
**Physical Address:** 5499 DARWOOD ST., MELROSE  
**Classification:** MOBILE HOME  
**Name in which assessed:** MARITZA MENDOSA & BENJAMIN M GOMEZ  
 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 **20th day of September, 2023 at 9:30 A.M. at www.clay.realtaxdeed.com.**  
**Dated this 24th day of July, 2023**  
 TARA S. GREEN  
 Clay County Clerk & Comptroller  
 Clay County, Florida  
 By: Christina Spadea  
 Deputy Clerk  
**Legal 77408 Published 8/3/2023, 8/10/2023, 8/17/2023 and 8/24/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** SAVVY FL LLC FTB COLLATERAL ASSIGNEE, 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.:** 3270/2021  
**Legal Description:** PT W1/2 OF N1/2 LOT 4 AS REC O R 317 PG 439;703 PG 133;1652 PG 137-2522  
**PG 1905;3366 PG 1650 & 3824 PG 2028 EX PT O R 801 PG 400 & 1171 PG 474**  
**Parcel ID No.:** 020726-015750-000-00  
**Opening Bid Amount:** \$1,511.03  
**Physical Address:** 5217 S US HIGHWAY 17, GREEN COVE SPRINGS  
**Classification:** VACANT RESIDENTIAL  
**Name in which assessed:** LUKE A WILSON  
 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 **20th day of September, 2023 at 9:30 A.M. at www.clay.realtaxdeed.com.**  
**Dated this 24th day of July, 2023**  
 TARA S. GREEN  
 Clay County Clerk & Comptroller  
 Clay County, Florida  
 By: Christina Spadea  
 Deputy Clerk  
**Legal 77407 Published 8/3/2023, 8/10/2023, 8/17/2023 and 8/24/2023 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:  
 2406 Hutton Ct. Middleburg Fl. 32068  
 September 5th, 2023 10:00 AM.  
 Donovan Taylor,  
 Household Goods  
 William Bryan Learn  
 Household Goods  
 Sarah Whitney  
 Household Goods  
 Cynthia Lynn Johnson  
 Household Goods  
 Cynthia Lynn Johnson  
 Household Goods  
 MaryAnn Franklin  
 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 until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.  
**Legal 76841 Published 8/17/2023 and 8/24/2023 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., Thursday, September 21, 2023, for the following:  
**RFB NO. 22/23-86, GREEN COVE SPRINGS AUGUSTA SAVAGE ARTS & COMMUNITY CENTER PICKLEBALL COURTS COMPLEX**  
 Bids will be opened at 9:00 A.M., or as soon thereafter, on Friday, September 22, 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 will be held at the Green Cove Springs Augusta Savage Arts & Community Center Pickleball Courts Complex at 415 Lemon St, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043, on Thursday, August 31, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.**

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 Stephanie Puhalla in the Purchasing Department at (904) 284-6388 or by email: [purchasing@claycountygov.com](mailto:purchasing@claycountygov.com).

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:

- Inquiries may be submitted to the Purchasing Department if specifically provided in the Request for Bids;
- Pre-bid conferences provided for in the Request for Bids; and
- 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 81426 Published 8/24/2023 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., Thursday, September 7, 2023, for the following:  
**RFB NO. 22/23-85, COUNTYWIDE PEST CONTROL**

Bids will be opened at 9:00 A.M., or as soon thereafter, on Friday, September 8, 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.

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 Stephanie Puhalla in the Purchasing Department at

(904) 284-6388 or by email: [purchasing@claycountygov.com](mailto:purchasing@claycountygov.com).

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:

- 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 81425 Published 8/24/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

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# Classifieds for Clay County

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**Fleming Island, FL 32003**

### MESSAGE TO ADVERTISERS

All ads are non-refundable. Please check your ad copy the first week of publication. We will only apply credit for the first run and credits are subject to approval of the publisher. If ad is canceled prior to the first insertion cancellation must be made by classified deadline of Monday by noon. Ads must comply with Federal, State a

local laws. We are not responsible for ad content. Ads are subject to approval by the publisher.

### DEADLINE MONDAY NOON

### LINER ADS

All line ads are 4 lines, 20-25 characters per line. Additional lines may be purchased. All rates are NET.

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1 week \$14.50	1 week \$23
2 week \$24	2 week \$40
3 week \$32	3 week \$56
4 week \$40	4 week \$72

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### EMPLOYMENT SPOTLIGHT

Ads are \$27 per column inch with a minimum of 2"

### ESTATE & GARAGE SALES

\$21

### BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

1.5" x 2" \$80 for 4 weeks  
1.5" x 4" \$160 for 4 weeks

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**FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty\***  
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- Attention oxygen therapy users! Inogen One G4 is capable of full 24/7 oxygen delivery. Only 2.8 pounds. Free info kit. Call 877-929-9587

### Miscellaneous

- Prepare for power outages today with a GENERAC home standby generator \$0 Down + Low Monthly Pmt Request a free Quote. Call before the next power outage: 1-855-948-6176
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