



Cheesecake, cookies and Carnegie Hall – Page 9

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

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# 'I still have my life'

## Keystone Heights teen uses faith, optimism after breaking spine in ATV accident

By Don Coble  
don@claytodayonline.com

GAINESVILLE – Cloaked beneath a green University of Miami blanket is a body of contradicting abilities.

The upper half is young and vigorous. The lower half is listless and unresponsive.

And yet, Anthony Reynolds, a 17-year-old senior from Keystone Heights High, refuses to be desolate.

So young to suffer one of life's unfairlest brutalities, Anthony's twisted body was confined to a small room at the UF Health Rehabilitation Hospital for nearly a month.

He has a cellphone, a stack of computer games against the wall and a television mounted to the wall – things to preoccupy his attention. But every day, the walls close

in even more because there isn't anything to feed his spirit.

He has movement above his chest. He suffered a severe spinal injury to his sixth thoracic vertebrae (T6) and along his vertebral column when he was thrown from his four-wheeler on Aug. 20 while riding on

SEE LIFE, 14

STAFF PHOTOS BY DON COBLE

Although doctors have told Anthony Reynolds he has little chance of recovering from a broken spine sustained in a four-wheeler accident, the 17-year-old Keystone Heights High senior said he's "going to live my life" and not give up. Reynolds has received support from the Lake Region community, including visits from his mother and father, Heather and Eric.



## Skynyrd fans can salute launch of Hell House Whiskey at Whitey's Fish Camp

PHOTOS BY DON COBLE, DOLTON SNEDDEN/HELL HOUSE WHISKEY

Lynyrd Skynyrd guitarists Rickey Medlocke (l) and frontman Johnny Van Zant will be at Whitey's Fish Camp on Wednesday, Oct. 4, to introduce their new Hell House Whiskey. They will be autographing bottles of the hooch named after the famous Green Cove Springs shack, where many of the band's iconic songs were written 50 years ago. The event is from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Due to the expected large turnout, they won't be able to sign any other merchandise.

By Don Coble  
don@claytodayonline.com

FLEMING ISLAND – Johnny Van Zant fondly recalled a story about getting ready to go on stage early in his career. His father, Lacy, offered him a shot of whiskey to smooth his vocal cords and calm his nerves.

"It was a shot of courage," Johnny said.

So when the lead singer for Lynyrd Skynyrd heard a proposal to put the band's

name – more importantly, the mothership of the band's creation – on a bottle of whiskey, it seemed like a natural fit.

Fans of the iconic Southern rock band will get their first taste of Hell House Whiskey when it's launched during a three-hour event on Wednesday, Oct. 4, at another familiar stomping ground for the band – Whitey's Fish Camp.

Van Zant and guitarist Rickie Medlocke

SEE WHISKEY, 13

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# BCC approves 12% millage rate increase

By Lee Wardlaw  
lee@claytodayonline.com

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – County commissioners approved an 8.3661 millage rate for the next fiscal year, generating approximately \$729.25 million, a 12.03% increase from last year's rolled-back rate of 7.4676.

Allocations for portions of the millage rate include county services (5.5471 mills), the unincorporated services fund (0.1477 mills), the law enforcement (2.4014 mills), fire control (0.5048 mills), challenger center (3.0 mills) and Lake Asbury MSBD (zero mills).

For the millage rate, Commissioners were required to vote on three separate resolutions: one which adopted the proposed spending changes for the new budget, another finalizing the millage rate for the fiscal year 2023-2024 and a last one adopting the budget for the Lake Asbury MSBD for the upcoming fiscal year. Each resolution passed unanimously, 5-0.

As a reference, details in the budget include \$269.07 million for the Special



STAFF PHOTO BY LEE WARDLAW  
Mike Cella joined four other county commissioners in approving the fiscal year 2023-24 budget, which includes a 12.03% increase in the millage rate.

Revenues Fund, \$225.38 million for the Total Capital Improvements Fund, \$151.97 million in the General Fund, \$74.42 million for the Enterprise Fund, and \$8.4 million in the Debt Services Fund. A millage rate is the amount assessed for each \$1,000 of value for non-exempt real property. The new budget will go into effect on Oct. 1.

# City council sets budget at \$428,174 with 6.48% millage rate increase

City Manager Lynn Rutkowski tells council she plans to resign

By Don Coble  
don@claytodayonline.com

While the Keystone Heights City Council approved a new budget for 2023-24, which includes a 6.48% millage rate increase compared to last year's rollback rate, members learned City Manager Lynn Rutkowski plans to tender her resignation.

Members were told informally before the special meeting to set the budget, and Rutkowski made her decision public shortly after the council approved the new millage rate and a final budget of \$428,174.25 that goes into effect on Oct. 1.

"I love it. It's a struggle, but I love what I do. I love my job," Rutkowski said.

Rutkowski asked members to extend the timeline in her contract so the city can take its time finding a replacement. She said she's required to give a 90-day notice, and she asked for that to be extended to 120 days to eliminate the need to hire somebody on an interim basis. She hopes to work with the city attorney to identify her replacement. Members clearly wanted her to reconsider.



"Before we can agree to an extension, we first have to accept your resignation," Councilman Stephen Hart said. "I hope you will reconsider. I, for one, will not accept your resignation.

"Keystone is small, but there's a lot going on – and it's all in her head."

Rutkowski said she's unsure about her future plans, but with holidays approaching, her final day will likely be in January or early February.

In other business, the council learned the Keystone Heights High homecoming parade was canceled next week ahead of the Indians' game against Crescent City for "financial and administrative" reasons.



Jackson de Ville, the mascot for the Jacksonville Jaguars, will join with the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer in October. Clay County District athletic teams will help promote the event by wearing pink at selected games.

## County schools athletic departments promote 'Pink Out' month

By For Clay Today

CLAY COUNTY – Clay County Athletics is proud to announce its second year partnering with the American Cancer Society and the Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation to promote PINK OUT month. In conjunction with the NFL's Crucial Catch program and the American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer movement, Clay County Athletics looks to combine efforts for an outstanding month of fundraising and breast cancer awareness.

At October football games, fans and school communities will be wearing PINK to help raise funds and breast cancer awareness on the First Coast! Also, football players will be wearing special Crucial Catch decals on their helmets from the Jaguars Foundation in support of the cause. Many schools

are doing individual fundraisers to help support the cause. The Making Strides Against Breast Cancer of the First Coast walk will be Saturday, Oct. 14, at Ever-Bank Stadium.

Here is a list of schools that will be hosting PINK OUT football games. Fans are highly encouraged to show their support by wearing PINK at the following games:

- Oct. 6 – Clay, Oakleaf highs
- Oct. 13 – Middleburg, Orange Park highs
- Oct. 27 – Ridgeview, Fleming Island, Keystone Heights highs

This year, it's estimated 300,590 people will be diagnosed with breast cancer. Of that number, more than 2,800 will be men. The American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer movement is helping to save lives from breast cancer nationwide. Since 1993, the three-to-five-mile noncompetitive walks have collectively grown into the nation's largest and most impactful breast cancer movement, providing a supportive community for courageous breast cancer survivors and metastatic breast cancer thrivers, including caregivers and families alike.

This year, Making Strides Against Breast will take place in more than 150 communities nationwide.

The American Cancer Society is funding more than \$78.2 million in breast cancer-specific research through 160 grants. The American Cancer Society's National Cancer Information Center responds to thousands of calls and live chats through its 24/7 cancer helpline, and it connects more than 2,900 women facing breast cancer with trained breast cancer survivors through a secure mobile app to support them during their journey – anywhere in the country. The death rate from breast cancer dropped by 42% from 1989 to 2019 because of earlier detection through increased awareness, mammography screening, and advances in treatment.

Be sure to follow along on all social media platforms @OneClaySports.



## Girl Scouts honor Hair by Lee & Friends owner Lee Goodnight

ORANGE PARK – Lee Goodnight, Hair by Lee & Friends owner in Orange Park, has been an adult volunteer with the Girl Scouts since 1987, and with the Gateway Council as a canoe and kayak instructor since 2001. On Sept. 23, he received the "Man Enough to be a Girl Scout" award presented annually to a man who has made significant contributions to the council. He received his award at the flag ceremony for Aquatics Weekend. Gateway Council holds four Aquatics Weekends each year, where girls can participate in four canoe classes, three kayak classes, two sailing classes and archery. There is also a program for Brownie Scouts. For information, GirlScouts-Gateway.org. Goodnight is pictured with Amanda Dempsey, Gateway Council Outdoor Programs Director and scouts.

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# Mammos and Mimosas

**October 20, 2023**

**8:15 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.**

**HCA Florida Orange Park Outpatient Imaging Center  
1825 Kingsley Ave., Orange Park, FL 32073**

Mammograms can help save lives. They are still the best tool to screen for breast cancer. Make an appointment to get your mammogram on October 20th and enjoy a zero-proof mimosa and charcuterie while you wait. Standard insurance rates apply.

To make your appointment, call our schedulers at 1-888-887-6675 or visit our online scheduling tool at <https://bit.ly/ophmammo>.

 **HCA Florida**  
Orange Park Hospital

## Don't make rookie mistakes finding Medicare plans

By StatePoint Media  
For Clay Today

Roughly 4.4 million Americans will reach the age of 65 in 2024, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. While age is just a number in some respects, this particular birthday marks the time when Americans become eligible for the federal Medicare health insurance program. And if you'll be hitting this milestone soon, you're in good company, as athlete, entrepreneur and philanthropist Earvin "Magic" Johnson will be doing the same.

"I've been a rookie a few times in my life, but this time, I'm new to Medicare," Johnson said.

Medicare is the government health insurance program for Americans 65 and older, and those under 65 with certain disabilities, providing hospital coverage (Part A) and physician visits (Part B) to those who qualify. This year's Medicare Annual Enrollment Period (AEP) takes place between Oct. 15-through-Dec. 7, rookies and pros alike can hone their health insurance selection game plan with a little coaching. That's why Magic Johnson got these tips from Cigna Healthcare, which serves millions of Medicare customers nationwide:

### Don't delay

Medicare has a seven-month window around your 65th birthday called the Initial Enrollment Period. Enrolling outside this window could result in higher premiums on Medicare Part B for the rest of your life. However, if you're still working, you may be able to keep your current plan, depending on the size of your company, and switch to Medicare without penalty when you retire. If you're not working and you've already filed for Social Security, you'll be automatically enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B when you turn 65.

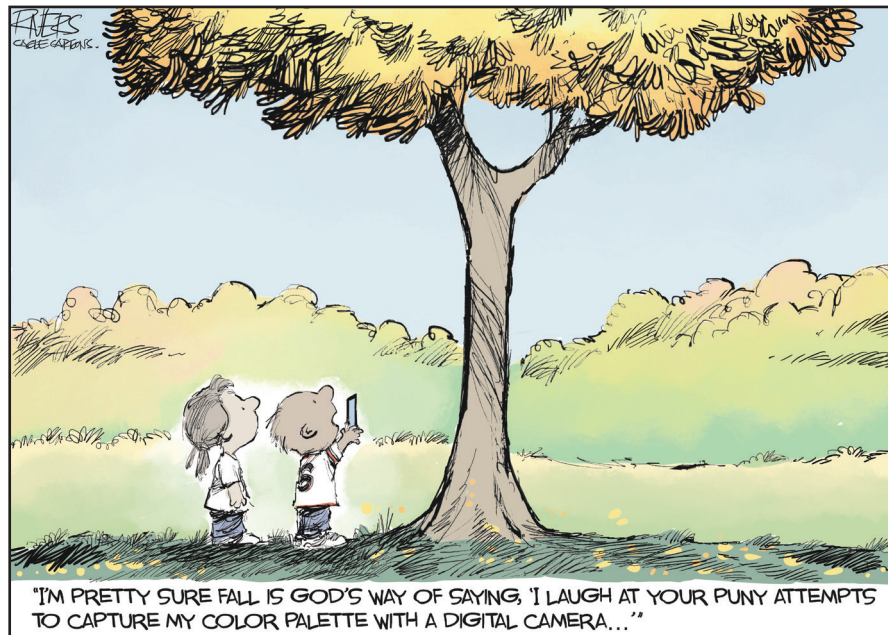
### Know what's covered

Medicare Parts A and B are sometimes called Original Medicare and cover hospital and physician expenses. To cover things like dental, vision, hearing and pharmacy, you may opt for a Medicare Advantage plan (also known as Part C), which covers everything that Medicare does and provides additional benefits, including, in many cases, prescription drugs (also known as Part D). Assessing your budget, health needs, doctor preferences and lifestyle will be important in making your best choice.

3. Read the fine print. Before signing up for a particular plan, make sure that your favorite healthcare providers are in

SEE MEDICARE, 5

## OPINIONS



### Time to Rebel:

## Our Administration must start following the law

By Don Coble  
Managing Editor

When Joe Biden took the oath to become our 46<sup>th</sup> president, he put his hand on the Bible and said, "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So help me God."



Don Coble

Section IV Article 4 of the Constitution clearly states, "The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of [the states] against invasion."

Our president is not doing his job because he's not following the law. What's happening at our border is an invasion.

We all are expected to obey the law and pay taxes (another story for another day), but our Administration simply ignores the reality of our Southern border. According to Border Patrol agents, there have been more than six million known and "got-away" crossings into the United States along the Southern border since the day Biden swore to uphold the Constitution during his inauguration.

**Section IV Article 4 of the Constitution clearly states, "The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of [the states] against invasion."**

Whether you're a Republican, Democrat or somewhere in the middle, that's a dereliction of duty.

It's clear Biden, Vice-President Kamala Harris and Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas don't mind having an average of 7,100 people entering our country illegally – and those numbers came from Mayorkas' office.

Sanctuary cities like New York, Chicago, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, San Francisco and Philadelphia are starting to feel the surge. The influx of immigrants in New York alone has forced the city to shut down a soccer complex on Randall Island so the city could build a tent city. Earlier this week, New York Mayor Eric Adams said the city would spend an additional \$1.365 billion to pay the rental fees for more than 100 hotels that were transformed into migrant shelters.

Meanwhile, many of our veterans and residents are being ignored. According to the Coalition For the Homeless, it's estimated there are 84,500 homeless people in New York – 27,500 of them children. The city's response is to take care of migrants.

Thomas Jefferson once wrote to James Madison, "I hold it that a little re-

SEE REBELL, 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.

**Appetency:** (APP-ah-dahn-see) a noun that means a longing or desire.

"My father passed along his appetency for playing golf."

## This Week in History

### Five years ago, 2018

- A Bradford County family is given the keys by Clay County Humane Society to a new house in Green Cove Springs, which cut a woman's commute to work by 45 minutes each way.

- The Clay County School Board starts work on a new policy on how medicine is administered, including medical marijuana.

- Fleming Island-based Raelynn Homes said it will build an 11-home community in Green Cove Springs called Cottages by the Cove.

### 10 years ago, 2013

- A motivational speaker from Vermont files a \$7,000 lawsuit in a Massachusetts court after a man claims the School District broke a speaking contract with him.

- The county commission approved a \$277 million budget and kept the millage rate at 7.851.

- Clay County Sheriff's Office Det. Gary Lavaron is given the Medal of Heroism by Gov. Rick Scott following the deadly drug raid of a Middleburg home that resulted in the deaths of Det. David White and the suspect.

### 20 years ago, 2003

- David John Kaiser is sentenced to 75 years for raping and kidnapping a Clay County child.

- The State Attorney's Office said Thomas White would be tried as an adult for manslaughter after it claimed he sucker-punched a student at Ridgeview High that resulted in Edgar David Baez collapsing and dying.

- Dupont's Maxville mining is asked to explain why runoff from the site led to silt being in the Black Creek on three different

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.

# Medicare

from page 4

its network. While you may be able to go out of network for care, be prepared to pay more if you do. You'll also want to factor in all the associated costs of a given plan, including monthly premiums, co-pays and deductibles, as well as the prices and rules around the prescription drugs you take.

## Get help.

Turn to resources and platforms that can help ensure you understand the plan you're enrolling in. Call Medicare at 800-MEDICARE (800-633-4227) 24/7. TTY users can call 877-486-2048. Or, visit the Medicare Plan Finder website at Medicare.gov/plan-compare. Refer to the State Health Insurance Assistance Program at www.shiptacenter.org for local assistance. You can also contact individual Medicare plans, including Cigna at CignaMedicareInformation.com.

## Use your benefits

For optimal health, make full use of your plan's benefits. In particular, be sure



Magic Johnson will turn 65 in 2024 and he will explore his Medicare options.

to get the wellness checks and preventive screenings needed for your age and health status. If your plan offers extra perks, such as fitness or nutrition programs, take advantage of them.

"If you find out that the plan you signed up for last year is not the right fit, lean into the experts about what works best for you and make changes during AEP to set yourself up for a winning year," Johnson said.

# Letter to the Editor

claytodayonline.com

## Reader thanks CCFR for saving his life

Editor,

I would like to commend the (Clay County Fire Rescue) EMT team, A shift, Station 11 in Keystone Heights, for their exemplary service during my recent emergency.

On Aug. 8, at approximately 9:30 p.m., we drove to the fire station because I wasn't feeling well. After ringing the bell, my wife and I were greeted by Lt. Patrick Peacock, Lt. Jack Miller, Engineer Jason Arzie, EMT Andrew Sass and firefighters Jeff D-Amico and Wesley Williams. After explaining that I was having chest pressure, they immediately hooked me up to an EKG, and they recommended they transport me to the emergency room.

At the hospital, I received emergency surgery. The "widow-maker" valve had two blockages, which caused them to collapse.

The doctors told me without their assistance, I probably wouldn't have survived because, technically, I died en route.

After visiting with the young men, I was told they had to use electrical shock to revive me. They performed chest compressions on the way to the hospital. So, I have commended these young men for their speedy, exceptional professionalism during my emergency. Peacock was in the rescue ambulance with me the entire trip to the emergency room.

I hope you will commend these firefighters and all the firefighters for their services and daily sacrifices to keep us all safe. I just wanted the citizens of Clay County to know how exceptional our emergency teams are and how lucky we are that they are there for us.

**Julian Fuller**  
Keystone Heights

# History

from page 5

occasions in seven months.

## 30 years ago, 1993

- The Orange Park Town Council passes a measure that combines the town's police and fire departments.

- Richard Anthony Meissner of Orange Park is charged with one count of murder and another count of attempted murder of two co-eds at the University of Florida.

- A prisoner who was sentenced to 10 years for possessing cocaine escaped from the Lawtey Correctional Institute while on

work detail in Green Cove Springs.

## 40 years ago, 1983

- Clay County Superintendent Jesse P. Tynes suggested the county offer a \$50 million bond issue to raise money to make capital improvements on school buildings.

- The school board voted to give teachers a 5.5% pay raise after months of negotiations. Union members scheduled a vote for early October.

- The Federal Aviation Administration investigated a crash of a Pitts Model S-2A airplane from Haller Air Park in Green Cove Springs that killed two men.

# Rebell

from page 4

rebellion now and then is a good thing and is as necessary in the political world as storms in the physical."

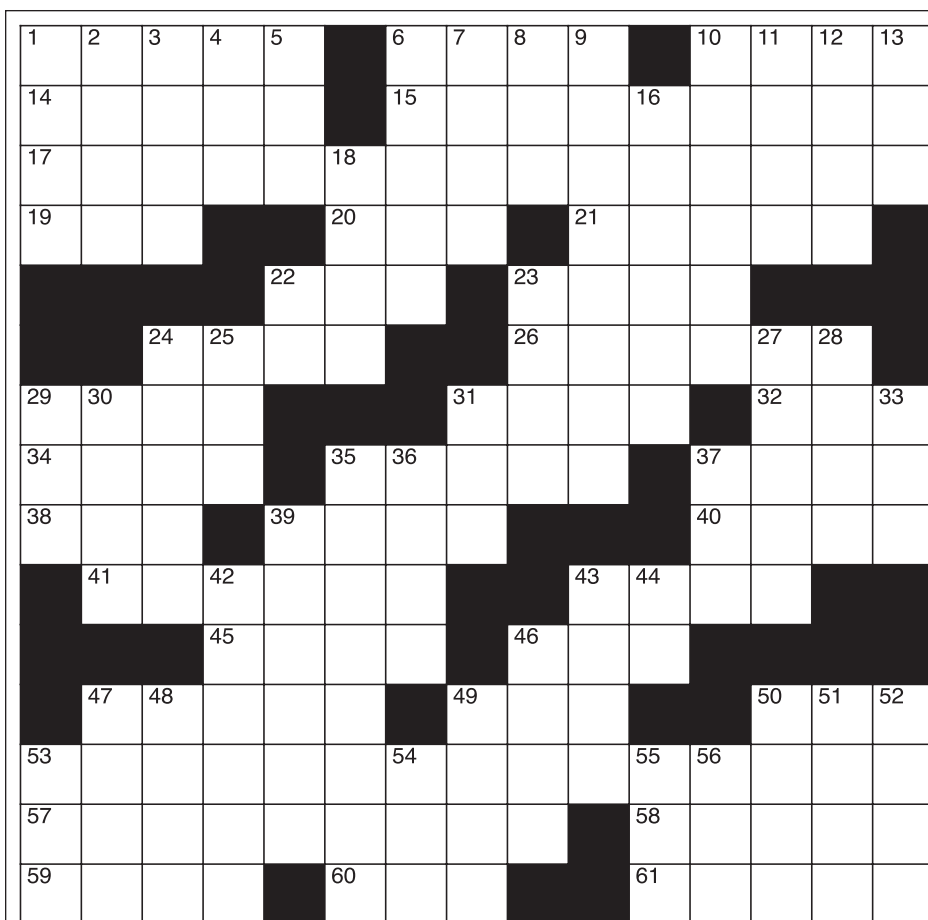
We need a revolution – not with guns or protests, but with pens at the ballot box. It's time we elect people who promise to obey and defend the law and follow it.

I'm not anti-immigration, but there's a process. It's true we're basically a nation of migrants. More than 12 million passed through Ellis Island

in a 62-year span, starting in 1892. Those migrants entered legally, signed the ledger and went through the immigration process.

The busiest year at our nation's most-recognized immigration center was 1904, when 1,004,756 came through Ellis Island. Last year, the Border Patrol said 2.2 million crossed our border illegally. The greatest shame in those numbers is more than 85,000 undocumented children have crossed, and nobody can account for their whereabouts.

It's time our elected leaders stop using humans at political pawns. It's time they followed the law. Or it's time for a rebellion at the ballot box.



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Type of cat
- 6. Weaponry
- 10. Western Christian Church service
- 14. Significant eruption of pustules
- 15. Baltic nation
- 17. Start of American holiday season
- 19. Unhappy
- 20. Maintains possession of
- 21. Metrical foot of one long and three short syllables
- 22. Mountain pass
- 23. Vestments
- 24. Type of dish
- 26. Escaped quickly
- 29. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
- 31. Wings
- 32. Political action committee
- 34. Touches lightly
- 35. Stood back from
- 37. Philippine Island
- 38. Popular winter activity
- 39. Type of amine
- 40. Small freshwater duck
- 41. Filled with love
- 43. Without (French)
- 45. Vetch
- 46. Swiss river

### CLUES DOWN

- 47. Describes a sound
- 49. Sign language
- 50. Hair product
- 53. Have surgery
- 57. Quality of being imaginary
- 58. Far-right German party
- 59. Drove
- 60. Former French coin of low value
- 61. Hard, durable timbers

- 25. Tax collector
- 27. Fencing swords
- 28. Native religion in China
- 29. Promotional materials
- 30. A shot in a film production
- 31. Afflict in mind or body
- 33. A passage with access only at one end
- 35. Breathing devices
- 36. Employ for wages
- 37. Kids' TV channel (abbr.)
- 39. Popular Boston song
- 42. Made amends
- 43. Selling at specially reduced prices
- 44. Atomic #18
- 46. With fireplace residue
- 47. Unleavened cornbread
- 48. Draw out
- 49. Southwestern Alaska island
- 50. Where the Pyramids are
- 51. People of Nigeria
- 52. Smaller quantity
- 53. Destroy the inside of
- 54. City
- 55. Chivalrous figure (abbr.)
- 56. No (Scottish)

# County officials target Saturday for gun range open house

Residents can use Clay County Adventure Park starting Oct. 7

For Clay Today

MIDDLEBURG – The 200-yard, 30-target-lane gun range will become a reality this weekend at the sprawling 158-acre complex near Camp Blanding.

The Clay County Adventure Park will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday, Sept. 29 at 3 p.m., while residents can get an early peek of the range during an open house a day later from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Clay County Sheriff's Office members will christen the facility with certification tests for a week before the public is invited to take their first shot on Saturday, Oct. 7.

The range, located at 3929 Sgt. Bradley Crose Road – 3.1 miles south of State Road 21 on County Road 215. The range accommodates two people in each of the 30 bays, and shooters can use any firearm up to .50 caliber – semi- and fully automatic. Range staff reserves the right to deny any firearm they deem unsafe.

The range will be open to the public on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Later this year, the hours will be expanded to Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bays 1-15 will only be open during the first several weeks. In the next several



The county will celebrate the Clay County Adventure Park opening with a ribbon-cutting on Friday and an open house on Saturday. The public will be allowed to use the 30-target-lane facility at 3829 Sgt. Bradley Crose Road in Middleburg on Oct. 7.

months, the range will be fully operational. Local law enforcement agencies will use the range for training Monday through Wednesday, and the range will be closed to the public.

Multiple safety features are built into the facility, including a ballistic sand downrange, a range tower and a control

tower. Shooters will have to complete a safety training video and sign a waiver, and range officials will be onsite at all times while the range is open. The range is also equipped with security cameras, and it is well-lit. Range staff will provide safety glasses and hearing protection and have that safety gear for sale at the range.

Hunting is not allowed. Shooters must be a minimum of 12 years of age to use the range, and children ages 12-17 need to be under the direct supervision of a parent or guardian to shoot. Shooters between 18-20 must be accompanied by someone 21 or older to shoot a handgun.

Various daily rates and membership options are available, including Clay County and non-Clay County residents, retired law enforcement, and active and retired military personnel.

The memberships include no range usage fees, lane waitlist priority, guest passes, a discount fee for a second person sharing the lane (one a day), discounts on pro shop merchandise, and one free range shirt. For information and pricing, visit [claycountygov.com/community/clay-county-outdoor-adventure-park](http://claycountygov.com/community/clay-county-outdoor-adventure-park).

Residents can make reservations through range staff. Later this year, they can make reservations on our website and via smartphones. Groups can make a reservation by calling (904) 917-2405. The range accommodates wheelchair access, and service animals are welcome.

Future plans in discussion include the potential for a wide variety of recreational outdoor activities, including archery, skeet shooting, paintball courses, airsoft courses, training opportunities, ATV courses, fishing and a pro shop.



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# Pragmatic Works headquarters groundbreaking set for Oct. 4

Three-story building offering commercial rental spaces

For Clay Today

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – The gateway into the city is about to look a lot different.

Pragmatic Works, a Clay County, Internet Technology-based training company will begin construction on a three-story building that will bring high-paying jobs and opportunities to Green Cove Springs.

“My brother, Devin, and I have grown up in Clay County,” said Brian Knight, founder of Pragmatic Works. “We are excited to become a part of the vibrant community that exists in Green Cove Springs. There are a lot of family businesses that are here, and we are excited to be another family business that can work with them.”

The new building will be 15,000 square feet with commercial rental space on the first floor and Pragmatic Works occupying the upper two floors. The building will be located at 1201 N. Orange Ave. Architectural consideration has been made to help blend the new construction into the downtown commercial corridor. The property is located just to the south of the Governor’s Creek Bridge.

“We’re looking forward to our new loca-



Pragmatic Works founder Brian Knight said he grew up in Clay County and is “excited” to join the vibrant community.

tion,” said Devin Knight, president of Pragmatic Works. “This new location will give us the opportunity not just to move, but to grow. And we feel like what will benefit us as a company, can benefit us all as a community.”

The official groundbreaking will be on Oct. 4 at 11:30 a.m.

Pragmatic Works is an Internet Technology training company that focuses on application creation and virtual mentoring for products on the Microsoft platform. For more information, please visit pragmatic-works.com.



STAFF PHOTOS BY DON COBLE

Fall Festival for the Amazing Grace Family Farms is approaching quickly, and visitors are encouraged to get their tickets in advance.

## Tickets going fast for Amazing Grace Family Farms’ Fall Festival

For Clay Today

MIDDLEBURG – Many of last year’s Amazing Grace Family Farms Fall Festival sessions sold out a year ago, so the operators are encouraging visitors to get their tickets in advance.

The festival opens on Oct. 6 and will run through Nov. 4. Sessions are from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Fridays and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturdays. A special session will

be on Monday, Oct. 16, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The farm, located at 4251 State Road 21 – just south of State Road 16 – includes a crop maze, pumpkin patch, cow train, farm animals, corn crib, jump pad, Hula Hoop cows and photo opportunities, which will be open on selected days from Oct. 6 through Nov. 4.

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# Obituaries [claytodayonline.com](http://claytodayonline.com)

## Myra Douberley

Myra Douberley, 88, of Orange Park, FL, passed away September 20, 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



## Amelia 'Amy' Mary Oliver

Amelia "Amy" Mary Oliver, a beloved member of our community, peacefully departed from this world on September 20, 2023, at the remarkable age of 94. Born as Amelia Mary Abdullah on March 13, 1929, in Lawrence, Mass, Amy was the youngest of seven children. Tragically, her parents, Simon "Sam" and Frances Abdullah, passed away when she was just 14 years old. Amy found solace with her sister Rose and played an instrumental role in raising her nephew, John. It was during this time that Amy and her niece Lillian encountered two sailors on Chelsea Beach, leading to a fateful double wedding ceremony on June 17, 1951. Her husband, Herman L. Oliver, served in the Navy and received orders to be stationed at the Naval base in Green Cove Springs in 1952. Thus, Amy and Herman relocated to Green Cove, where they



Amelia 'Amy' Mary Oliver

would reside for over 70 years.

Amy was a remarkable mother, raising eight children who all graduated from Clay High School and went on to pursue higher education, successful careers, and fulfilling marriages. She cherished having her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren around her, always extending a warm welcome to anyone in need during holidays and family celebrations. Amy's deep faith was an integral part of her life, and she actively participated in the Sacred Heart Catholic Church and Philip Neri Ecumenical Church, the latter being her oldest son's congregation. Professionally, Amy served as a nurse at Clay Memorial until its closure, after which she worked at the Health Department in Green Cove Springs until her well-deserved retirement.

Although her beloved husband preceded her in death in 2012, Amy is survived by all of her children: Hattie Willis (Ronny), John Oliver (Kathryn), Diana Rauchwarger (Alan), George Oliver (Debbie), Margaret Schulze (Kenny), Sandy Davis (Scott), Janet Marcum (Henry), Ray Oliver (Teresa). Additionally, she leaves behind 13 grandchildren: Troy Wright, Jeremy Wright, Tobin Oliver, Noah Oliver, Joshua Delp, Amy Pesterfield, Joseph "Ryan" Oliver, Kristin Luke, Kenneth "Preston" Schulze, Ashley Roberts, Cameron Oliver, Peyton Oliver, and Raymond "Trey" Oliver. Furthermore, Amy's legacy extends to her nine great-grandchildren.

Funeral services to honor Amy's life will be held on Monday, September 25, 2023, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, located at 7190 Hwy 17, Fleming Island, FL 32003. The viewing will commence at 10 am, followed by a mass at 11 am. After the ceremony, a reception will be held at the church, and a committal-gravesite service

will take place at 12 pm (noon) at Hickory Grove Cemetery, adjacent to Helms Funeral Home in Green Cove Springs on Hwy 16.

Amy's departure leaves a void in our hearts, but her memory will forever be cherished by those who had the privilege of knowing her. Her unwavering love, generosity, and dedication to her family and community serve as an inspiration to us all. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

Arrangements under the care of Helm-Gallagher Funeral Home & Cremation Services, 1811 Idlewild Avenue, SR 16, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043. 904-284-9696. [www.helmgallagherfh.com](http://www.helmgallagherfh.com)



## John A Hankins

Mr. John A Hankins, 83 of Fleming Island, passed away Monday, August 28, 2023. Mr. Hankins was born October 4, 1939 in Draper, North Carolina to parents Orion E. and Prudence Hazel (Craig) Hankins. John served in the United States Navy for 30 years and was a successful business owner. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Hibernia Baptist Church of Fleming Island. He loved fishing, gardening, church and fellowship, was a Gator booster, enjoyed reading western novels and most of all, loved his family. Graveside services will be held at Jacksonville Memory Gardens on Saturday, September 30, 2023 at 11:00 am with full military honors. Arrangements under the care of Helm-Gallagher Funeral Home & Cremation Services, 1811 Idlewild Avenue, SR 16, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043. 904-284-9696. [www.helmgallagherfh.com](http://www.helmgallagherfh.com)



Phillis was preceded in death by her daughter Andrea Wade & husband Keith, brother David, & sisters, Theresa & Christina.

Phillis was born on April 30, 1948, to parents Benjamin & Annelisia Mendoza. She was the oldest of nine children. Her life started in Cheyenne, WY & ended in Florida. She made homes in many other places along the way, including Hawaii, Washington D.C., South Carolina, Virginia, and Italy.

Phillis started her 40-year Federal Career as a fingerprint technician with J Edgar Hoover's FBI & advanced to several managerial positions in the U.S. Navy Security & Intelligence Communities.

Phillis is someone who will not be easily forgotten. She lived her life to the fullest & was an inspiration to those who she was close to. She taught her family how to be strong & in times of adversity would say, "this too shall pass."

She died as she lived, Fearless!

To honor Phillis' memory, the family is holding a celebration of life on Saturday, October 14th from 11am to 2pm at Club Continental, 2143 Astor St, Orange Park, FL 32073

The family invites those who knew Phillis to attend & celebrate her life. They ask attendees to wear bright colors & dress Florida casual.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the American Cancer Society or to the Salvation Army.

Arrangements by HARDAGE-GIDDENS HOLLY HILL FUNERAL HOME, 3601 Old Jennings Road, Middleburg, FL. Please post words of comfort at [www.hollyhillfunerals.com](http://www.hollyhillfunerals.com).



OBITUARIES CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

## Phillis Mendoza

Phillis Mendoza, age 75, passed away peacefully on September 17, 2023 at her home.

She is survived by her husband Joseph Daniel Bozeman "Dan", their children, Timothy S. Scheetz, James N. Scheetz & wife Jennifer, daughter, Kimberly Martin, & numerous grandchildren, & siblings.



Phillis Mendoza

Submit obituaries to [obits@claytodayonline.com](mailto:obits@claytodayonline.com)

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# Cheesecakes, cookies and Carnegie Hall



## Fleming Island Eagle Band prepares for trip to New York

By Zeinab Faraj  
For Clay Today

FLEMING ISLAND – The Eagle Band is practicing tirelessly as they prepare to take their talents to Carnegie Hall in New York City. Nerves are running high as the adventure approaches.

Senior Kortnee, the Section Leader and Spirit Sgt. who plays the saxophone, is “overjoyed to be a part of this trip” to take on this “once-in-a-lifetime (opportunity).” Kophamer and other band members have challenged themselves to build their confidence by “sight-reading pieces of music we’ve never seen.”

When they take to the stage, Kophamer will be ready to feel the “adrenaline of the moment,” he said.

World-renowned composer David Gillingham is also reportedly writing a piece that the band will perform in New York, and Kophamer is “very excited about that.”

Band One Director Alexander Buck is “absolutely thrilled and immensely proud” of band members. He believes the selection they have chosen to perform is a “testament to the hard work and dedication of our students (who have dedicated) countless hours of practice.”

The prospect of stepping onto the renowned stage has left an “overwhelming sense of excitement and anticipation,” Buck said.

Other than practicing, the obstacle of making the trip possible is fundraising. Buck said the band is “actively raising funds to support this incredible opportunity,” and he called on local businesses and community members for financial assistance.

“Your support will make a meaningful difference in the lives of our students, and together, we can make this Carnegie Hall trip a resounding success,” Buck said.

Senior and Woodwind Captain Tyler Wilkinson is “beyond excited” about taking the trip with his fellow band members. Wilkinson said playing at Carnegie Hall is an honor he will “forever cherish.” The band is “practicing tirelessly,” he said, not just for themselves but also to “make our school proud in New York City.”

The Fleming Island community is eager to show support for the band as they prime for their cross-country trip and touch up to what will be an exciting performance.

If you want to support the band, contact Buck at [alexander.buck@myoneclay.net](mailto:alexander.buck@myoneclay.net).



The Fleming Island High band is selling cheesecakes and cookies – both staples of New York City cuisine – to raise money for its trip to Carnegie Hall.

# Walk & Roll to School Day

**Oakleaf Village Elementary to emphasize physical activity during national event**

By Lee Wardlaw  
lee@claytodayonline.com

OAKLEAF – Students at Oakleaf Village Elementary will be lacing up their sneakers, dusting off their bicycles and snapping on their helmets for an event that aims to promote wellness.

On Wednesday, Oct. 4, children and teachers across the United States will celebrate “Walk & Roll to School Day,” the annual event promoting the health benefits of walking and biking.

With an enrollment of more than 1,000 students, the OVE administration hopes to join in solidarity with more than 217 registered schools participating throughout the state and 2,020 events planned across the country. “I’m hoping for at least a 75-80% turnout. I would love to see 700-800 (or more) students come out to this event. It’s going to be a lot of fun,” said Principal Jason Martin.

The plan for a high turnout: make Walk & Roll to School Day a big-ticket event. Football players and cheerleaders from nearby Oakleaf High will be signing autographs. The high school’s drum line will perform, and the event will even serve as a pep rally for the elementary school’s basketball team, which has a big tournament coming up. Meanwhile, Elevate Fitness of Orange Park owner Ray Carr will host a fitness instruction class.

A police escort by the County Sheriff’s Department and the State Highway Patrol will ensure the safety of the hundreds of children, parents and guardians during the walk. Superintendent of Schools David Broskie and Sherriff Michelle Cooke will be there if that’s not enough.

However, none of the sideshows will get in the way of the event’s true focus: promote safety on routes to and from school and encourage walking and biking as productive physical activities. That message will be preached all week in Physical Education class leading up to the big day, said

“We only have one single bus that comes to our school. Almost greater than 95% of our school population lives within walking or biking distance. So, with that, living in (Oakleaf) that has a true community-based school, let’s encourage and promote that health and wellness (through) walking and biking.”

– Jason Martin, Principal

Alan Brown, first-year PE instructor and longtime sixth-grade teacher at the school.

In an era where TikTok and video games have kept children from the backyard and playground, stressing the importance of daily exercise and prudence from damaging screen time will be a major focus for Brown and Dawn Brancaccio, fellow first-year PE instructor and longtime first-grade teacher.

“That’s going to be one of our main teaching standards. We’re going to be hitting really hard on that. In today’s age, we have to get the (children) out doing as much as possible because there really are so many draws inside the house, sitting on the couch,” Brown said.

Brown’s goal is to transform Walk & Roll to School Day into an annual tradition at OVE.

“We want to be doing this year after year and make it into a known statement at OVE that staying active is not only important when they come to Physical Education class, but also on the commute to and from school,” he said.

Martin said he, Brown, Brancaccio and other faculty will be outside, congratulating students on their healthy decision and encouraging them to continue to do so in the future.

“We’re going to be outside saying, ‘Look,



Dawn Brancaccio and Alan Brown are longtime teachers at Oakleaf Village Elementary but not as Physical Education instructors until this year. Principal Jason Martin said their initiative allowed the school to organize the big-ticket event to promote fitness and inspire lasting change at Oakleaf Village, part of a walkable, bikeable community. Their unique teaching styles and collaborative mindset have also been a boon for the department.



walking and riding your (bicycle) to school are healthy habits, and this is just a day to kick off those healthy habits,” he said.

The second-year principal encouraged students to commit to exercising on their daily commute to class, hoping to spark greater change in the walkable, bikeable community.

“We only have one single bus that comes to our school. Almost greater than 95% of

our school population lives within walking or biking distance. So, with that, living in (Oakleaf) that has a true community-based school, let’s encourage and promote that health and wellness (through) walking and biking,” Martin said. “This will lay a foundation for a lifelong love of fitness,” Brancaccio said. For the event, students and a parent or guardian can arrive at school any time after 7:30 a.m.

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# Obituaries claytodayonline.com

## Jason Lee Martin

Jason Lee Martin, 49 of Lake Asbury, FL went to be with the Lord on September 19th, 2023. He was born in Mableton, Georgia to his parents Dan and Lynn Martin. As a child, his parents moved them to Florida and have been residing since. Anyone who knew Jason knew how strong he was. He battled kidney disease for twenty

long years but always lived life with a smile on his face. He cared so much for his family and friends, they were his entire world. His favorite place to be was the ocean with his feet in the sand and the salty breeze blowing in his face. He loved sitting on his porch, listening to Jimmy

Buffett and smoking his cigars. He found his calling as an RN and he loved taking care of his patients. His sarcasm and humor made everyone in the room laugh. To have known him was a treasure. He was the best husband, son, dad, brother and pop pop and he will be dearly missed. He was a hero to many.

Jason was preceded in death by his father, Dan Martin. He is survived by his wife and love of his life, Tamy Martin; his mother, Lynn Martin; his children, Ashlynn Martin, Evan Martin and Tyler Conley; his brother, Joel Martin; his sister-in-law, Tiffany Heath; his son-in-law, Dylan Martin; and his grandsons, Maverick Martin, Gary



Jason Lee Martin

Wheeler and Benjamin Wheeler.

A graveside service was held on Wednesday September 27th at 10 am. Located at Russel Haven of Rest Cemetery. His immediate family asked that instead of flowers, we've chosen an ocean organization that we would like donations to be made in honor of his love of the ocean.

<https://donate.oceanconservancy.org>  
Arrangements are under the care of Russell Haven of Rest Cemetery, Funeral Home and Cremation Center, 2335 Sandridge Road, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043. Family and friends may share their condolences at: [www.RHRFH.com](http://www.RHRFH.com) 904-284-7720.



## Terry Rollen

After almost two years to the day, Terry Ann Harris Rollen, 75, of Orange Park, Florida, was reunited with her beloved husband, Terry. She passed peacefully on September 21, 2023. An inspirational couple to so many, Terry and Terry's contributions to their community will be sorely missed.

Terry was born to Sam and Margaret Harris on October 15, 1947, in Birmingham, Alabama. Known from an early age for the calm, sweet demeanor she would maintain throughout her life, she enjoyed Girl Scouts, playing piano, and participating in activities such as the YMCA, where

she was crowned Miss Gra-Bowl in middle school. She graduated from Ramsay High School and went to Auburn University, earning an education degree in 1968. She was a member of the Pi Beta Phi sorority and became a lifelong fan of the Tigers football team. On a Homecoming blind date during her first quarter, she met the love of her life, with whom she would maintain a true "War Eagle" romance, even once he left to begin his Naval career. Terry and Terry were married on the winter solstice in 1968, starting an unbreakable fifty-three years together.

(He) Terry's Naval career led them to many towns – Norfolk, Monterey, Key West, Patuxent River, Orlando, Alexandria, and Titusville. But it was Jacksonville and Orange Park that they came to call home over three stints – the last beginning in 1987 and spanning the remainder of their lives. Along the way, they raised their son, Scott, and daughter, Suzanne.

Terry was a woman of boundless compassion and endless generosity, always giving selflessly of her time and resources to causes big and small. As an active member of the Methodist church, she participated in women's circles, bible studies, volleyball leagues, and handbell choir, to name a few. She truly found her calling as a community leader in Orange Park when she assumed the leadership of The Clothes Closet and Food Pantry in 1990, where she

earned Reinhold service awards and oversaw significant growth of the charity until her retirement in 2021.

First and foremost, Terry had an unwavering devotion to her faith, her family, and her many friends. She was a deeply loving, patient, and committed wife, mother, and grandmother, and her beautiful, kind soul touched the lives of so many who were blessed to call her a friend.

Terry was preceded in death by Terry, her parents, Sam and Margaret Harris, and her sister-in-law, Joyce Rollen. She is survived by her brother Don Harris (Michael), son Scott (Stephanie), daughter Suzanne, and grandchildren Justin and Audrey.

The family will receive friends on Saturday, October 7, 2023 at 9:30 AM at Orange Park Methodist Church. The service will be led by Revs. Bob and Linda Standifer at 10:00am and a reception will follow. A private interment will be held for the family at Jacksonville National Cemetery, where Terry will be buried alongside her husband. In lieu of flowers, please donate to: The Clothes Closet and Food Pantry of Orange Park P.O. Box 2892 Orange Park, FL 32067

<https://www.ccfpop.org/donate>  
Please sign the family's online guestbook at [www.broadusraines.com](http://www.broadusraines.com)

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Terry Rollen



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# Crackers to break ground with fresher approach

By Lee Wardlaw  
lee@claytodayonline.com

ORANGE PARK—Crackers Lounge and Package developed a rustic charm after serving Orange Park residents cold beer, live music and rowdy fun for more than 20 years. Brad Skwirsk was handed the keys to the bar on Aug. 1, and the new owner began renovations the next day, determined to give Crackers the facelift it needs to continue being a welcoming locale in Clay County.

“It wasn’t bad, but it could be vastly improved, renovated and cleaned up,” he said.

Initially opened for business where G’s Slow Cooked BBQ now stands, Crackers has found a home at its current location at 1241 Blanding Blvd.

“We began by giving the place a thorough cleaning. The floors, the paint, the walls, everything,” he said. The brooding, dark paint was traded for a lighter, fresher color.

This wasn’t Skwirsk’s first rodeo, either. His first “bar-flipping” enterprise was when he purchased Cheers in 2012. Skwirsk renovated, rebranded and turned the bar around, now known as Locals.

Skwirsk intends to reinvigorate what makes Crackers beloved in the community.

It will keep the same sign out front and the vintage cigarette machine by the front

door. No smoking will be allowed inside, but will continue to be accommodated outside. Skwirsk wants to vitalize the so-called “hole in the wall” as an entertainment hub for the area. The goal is to keep the tradition alive with a modern touch.

As progress is being made, a large conglomerate of cars has started to fill the parking line outside the Town Center, and that number grows daily. Business throughout the shopping center is booming. Skwirsk believes that Harbor Freight, the retail hardware store next door, could bring even more customers through the doors.

When Skwirsk makes a purchase, he does so by betting on trends in the area and with a blueprint already in his mind. For Crackers, he saw a major county roadway between two towns surrounded by neatly planned suburbs that never seemed to quit growing. Skwirsk understood the community lacked a centralized, high-quality, clean nightlife attraction.

“We want to be the go-to spot for a relaxing evening out. After 6 p.m., there’s not much happening south of here towards Middleburg. We aim to fill that void by providing a welcoming space to enjoy cocktails, beer, watch their favorite live sports or entertainment and socialize with their friends. We’re



STAFF PHOTOS BY LEE WARDLAW

Brad Skwirsk purchased and remodeled the original Cheers on Wells Road in 2011, rebranding the Orange Park-based bar to Locals Pub. Now, he will seek to redesign another Clay County bar: Crackers Lounge & Package. The bar will keep the same name and atmosphere, continuing the tradition.

here for someone that wants to forget their problems and come inside to relax,” he said.

A lack of significant competition in a two-mile radius made his “gamble” a no-brainer. The ongoing renovations at Crackers encompass a complete overhaul of the interior. Workers assemble a dazzling feature wall to showcase an immense, neatly displayed, high-class liquor selection with cabinetry.

Crackers is working tirelessly to be ready for football season. Six 75-inch flat-screen TVs will be installed by the end of this week, and 10 more will be added by next year. “

“I just ordered \$20,000 worth of furniture,” Skwirsk said. That investment entails new booths, barstools and antique-style tables. A refurbished stage will rekindle a passion for live music and an age-old tradition at Crackers – open mic night. On stage, local bands can practice and perform

unreleased music. Perhaps the next Clay County musical sensation, a modern-day Lynyrd Skynyrd, will emerge from the establishment. Progress is being made every day, and renovations are hoped to be wrapped up in the next six to eight months. Once customers walk inside, Skwirsk envisions an experience they’ve never seen before. “When they walk through that door, I want them to say, ‘This isn’t the same place I remember from five or 10 years ago.’ It was not bad before, but I believe there will be a ‘wow’ factor about this place. It’s going to be special,” he said.

The previous owner wanted him to continue the tradition and Skwirsk intends to, but he also sees an opportunity for growth. “I want to continue where she left off, but I want to make it better. Locals is thriving. I (believe) I can do this one more time,” he said.

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**For additional information visit [chsfl.org/chefs](https://chsfl.org/chefs)**

# Whiskey

from page 1

will sign bottles of the hooch from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The event also coincides with the 50-year anniversary of the band, which set its roots in a tiny rental shack south of Green Cove Springs. The house got its name because it was small, lacked air conditioning and had a tin roof. Despite its oppressive conditions, it's where the band wrote many of their legendary songs like "Free Bird," "Simple Man," "Gimme Three Steps," "Tuesday's Gone" and "Sweet Home Alabama."

Bottles of Hell House Whiskey feature a drawing of the house on the label.

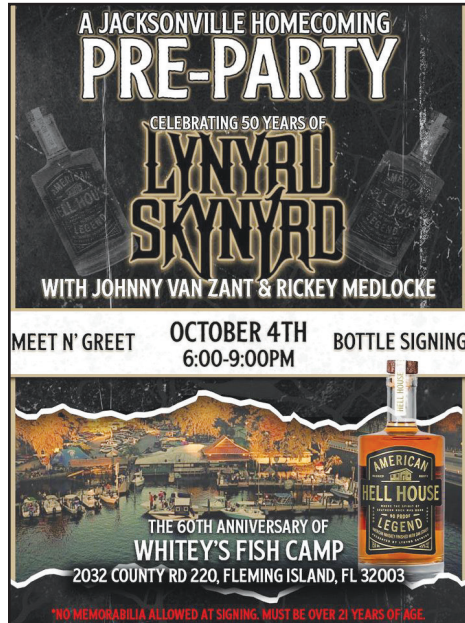
"We've got it in 35 out of 50 states," Van Zant said Tuesday by telephone from Brazil. "It's quite a process to get it approved in every state. Eventually, we'll have it in all 50 states, and then it will go worldwide."

According to Bespoken, which distills the whiskey in California, it has aromas of honeydew, sorbet, butterscotch and allspice. The palate reveals cotton candy sweetness and floral hints of rose and lavender. Its oak-driven finish leaves a sweet and spicy lingering allure.

It has 45% alcohol by Volume and is 90 proof.

The debut also comes ahead of the band's two-night appearance at the St. Augustine Amphitheater on Oct. 5 and 6.

It was easy to pick Whitey's as the place



to launch the whiskey in Florida. The restaurant, which will celebrate its 60th anniversary on Oct. 7, has been the unofficial home to Southern Rock music for generations. It's also where the original singer and band founder Ronnie Van Zant, was a regular. Signed guitars and posters from bands like Skynyrd, Molly Hatchet, The Allman Brothers Band and Curt Towne Band adorn the bar area.

"They got involved with a company to make Hell House Whiskey. Their manager called and said they'd like to make the (Florida) debut here," said Whitey's owner Elaine Cassala. "Sure, we'd love to have them. We'd love for the launch to be at Whitey's. This is like a second home to



STAFF PHOTO BY DON COBLE

Whitey's Fish Camp co-owner Elaine Cassala said having the Hell House Whiskey Florida debut at her restaurant is like having old friends coming home. Lynyrd Skynyrd memorabilia is prominent because members of the band frequently eat there.

them, anyway."

Fans will be able to buy the whiskey and have their bottles signed. Since so many fans are expected, they won't be able to sign any other merchandise, Cassala said.

"Lynyrd Skynyrd has been around here for a long time," Cassala said. "I can't tell you how many people who come up here just to see the Lynyrd Skynyrd stuff."

The band moved into Hell House off Russell Road in 1970 and played there until they recorded their first two albums. Shortly after they moved into a recording


studio, the shack burned down. The lot sat empty until it was sold to a developer. There currently are 157 homes in the Edgewater Landing subdivision and one empty lot – the land where Hell House once stood.

The whiskey assures where Lynyrd Skynyrd built its musical legacy will never be erased.

"We should have our own liquor," Van Zant said. "This came to fruition, and it was a good fit. We'll see where it goes, but it's been fun so far."

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# Life

from page 1

a dirt road in McRae.

"It completely broke at my T6, but it injured all my vertebrae up to T3," Anthony said. "They fused all of those vertebrae together."

While the prognosis isn't promising, Anthony said he won't stop trying to make the best of every situation.

"I've always been an independent person," Anthony said. "I hate it here (at the rehab). I love the people. They've been really good to me. I hate asking for help. If I drop something, somebody else must pick it up. It's been humbling, that's for sure."

## 'Mom, don't be mad'

Anthony was cutting trails with his friends on a Sunday along a limestone road off County Road 315C. He loved being in the sultry air, feeling the stings of branches scratching his skin and the grit of dust in his teeth.

As he approached a turn, he noticed he was going too fast. And he realized the brakes didn't work on his ATV.

"I was going too fast, and my four-wheeler was about to flip," he said. "I tried to back it down, but I had no brakes. I hit the lime rock in the road, launching me in the air. I saw fence posts, so I closed my eyes. While my eyes were closed, I hit a post and heard some cracks. When I opened my eyes, my friends were there freaking out. They helped me sit up and I heard cracks and pops down my back."

"I knew something was wrong." Anthony lay down and asked to use a friend's cell phone. The call was to his mother. He told her not to be mad because he wrecked the four-wheeler. Then he told her he may be paralyzed.

"He said, 'Mom, I'm pretty sure I can't feel anything,'" Heather said.

Clay County Fire Rescue Station 23 responded and quickly summoned a helicopter to life-flight him to UF Health Shands in Gainesville, using McRae Elementary as the rendezvous point.

"At the hospital, he was very depressed and scared," his father said. "Almost immediately, we started hearing from people from Keystone."

After becoming stable following sur-



**Anthony Reynolds faces a long and difficult recovery and rehabilitation after he severed his spinal cord while riding his four-wheel ATV near McRae. The Keystone Height High senior said he won't let his injury from fulfilling his goals or being with his friends.**

gery, Anthony was moved to the rehabilitation hospital to continue his recovery. The tedious regiment of twists, massages and stretches will probably be part of his daily routine for the rest of his life.

"I remember everything that happened except the surgery," Anthony said.

## Keystone community rallies

One of the first to call was Keystone Heights Junior/Senior High Principal Laurie Burke, who visited Anthony in the hospital the next day.

"Anthony is a super, super, super nice kid," Burke said. "Our community is good about coming together when there's a need. A big part of that is our churches. It doesn't matter where you attend. They all come together. We're all one family when it comes to our kids."

Anthony was released from the rehab hospital on Wednesday, but not before his doctors were convinced he was going to an environment conducive to his continued rehabilitation. Eric and Heather knew their house's floorplan was too restrictive, so the Music Minster at Gadara Baptist Church Sam Raab and his wife Susie in McRae invited the teen to stay with them.

"It's until my wife and I can collect enough for a downpayment for a house," Eric said. "People who barely know us



have stepped up."

A GoFundMe account, [gofundme/474b080f](https://www.gofundme.com/474b080f), was established to help the family with their medical bills and get them back together under one roof. Anthony is friends with Sam Raab's son, who is away in the Navy. The Raabs consider Anthony part of the family.

"After the initial shock of everything drew down, we got together and asked what we could do as a church," Sam Raab said. "It came down to one, a Holy Spirit moment. Let him stay here. Having him come home with us temporarily came to us very quickly."

Raab picked up Anthony from the rehab facility on Wednesday afternoon and took him to the midweek service later that day.

"All the ladies here at church wanted to be lovin' on him," Raab said.

A fundraising afternoon of music, food and vendors will be Dec. 2. Event organizers are finalizing the plans for a location.

Burke said a fundraising flyer is posted on the school's administration building wall. Classmates visit the rehab hospital every day.

## The long road ahead

Anthony wanted to be an underwater welder after graduation. While he hasn't given up on that dream, he also said he's

interested in computer science. For now, he's worried about missing more than a month of high school classes.

"I told Anthony not to worry," Burke said. "You will graduate. We're going to make sure that happens."

The rest of his future isn't as settled. The likelihood of being confined to a wheelchair is real. He probably will need around-the-clock care.

While the accident may have taken his ability to walk again, it couldn't rob him of his courage and optimism.

"I still have my life. This is not going to affect me. Nobody should be worried about it too much," he said.

"He's never once complained," Raab said. "He's never said, 'Why me? How did this happen to me?'"

Eric Reynolds has questions and concerns. He wants the best for his son, but is unsure what that means right now. Facing the unknown is never easy, especially for a parent.

"This makes you think," Eric said. "It's really hard sometimes to be strong. But we're Christians."

One thing Anthony knows is he's going to ride his four-wheeler again, even if he has to use a seatbelt.

"Next time," he said, "the brakes will be working."



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**Rock the Dock returns to benefit Chief Derek Asdot Scholarship Fund**

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Rock the Dock Casino Night will be on Sept. 30, and proceeds will go into the Chief Derek S. Asdot Law Enforcement Scholarship Fund.

The event will be at the Elk's Lodge No. 1892 at 702 S. Orange Ave. from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$30 at the door. Tickets include dinner and an entry to a door prize raffle. The night's festivities will include the sale of tokens for casino table games like blackjack, poker, roulette, craps and the money wheel. Tokens also can be used for a chance to win raffle prizes.

For more information on scholarship opportunities, visit GCSPD officer Josh Lee at lee@gcspd.com or Megan Young at youngm@gcspd.com.

**Lynyrd Skynyrd, The Curt Towne Band appearing in St. Augustine**

ST. AUGUSTINE – Part of Lynyrd Skynyrd's 50th-anniversary tour will include a show on Oct. 5 and 6 at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre. The Curt Towne Band will join the legendary band. Doors open at 6 p.m., and the show will start at 7:30 p.m.

Only a few tickets remain for the Oct. 6 show, prompting the promoter and bands to add a second one on Oct. 5. Tickets are available at the venue at 1340C A1A South or ticketmaster.com and vary between \$65 and \$170.50.

**County needs suggestions on its Gateway to Clay project**

CLAY COUNTY – Residents living on or near Wells Road are encouraged to complete a survey to share ideas for the Gateway to Clay initiative. The project is a partnership between public safety, government and businesses to improve Wells Road.

The survey is available at claycounty.gov/community/gateway-to-clay.

**Residents to vote on entry road name at Regional Sports Complex**

MIDDLEBURG – The Clay County Board of County Commissioners wants the com-

munity to vote on potential names for the entry road of the new Clay County Regional Sports Complex. You can find the survey at forms.office.com/g/N6dxX8Xm5q.

The five names under consideration are Championship, Sportsmanship, Tournament, Trophy and Victory. Residents can also submit their own options for consideration.

The complex is under construction, and crews have built a new road to access it. The 250-acre property is on State Road 21, just north of State Road 16. The designs include multipurpose fields, parking, restrooms and a walking trail. The park will be completed this year and will be an asset to bring the county's families outdoors and young people on the field. It would also be a tourism draw, marketable to regional tournaments.

The county received \$3 million in legislative matching funds for the complex's development and construction in fiscal year 2021. The county received \$1 million in legislative appropriations this year and an additional \$1.5 million for turn lanes to the park. Voting will end on Oct. 9.

**Senior Games returning to Jacksonville for 10 days**

JACKSONVILLE – Senior athletes are invited to register for the Jacksonville Senior Games from Sept. 29 to Oct. 8.

Seasoned athletes 50 and older can compete in an Olympic-style event with competitive and novice classes.

The Florida Sports Foundation sanc-

tions the games and is a qualifier for the Florida Senior Games State Championships. Being healthy and active is not only important for physical and mental well-being. This is why the Forever Fit 50 and Beyond: Jacksonville Senior Games offers non-physical games and activities and plenty of social events that allow our participants to renew friendships, create new ones, and share experiences. In the spirit of good sportsmanship, anything is possible. Events include 5K road race, powerlifting (bench press and deadlift), 5K and 10K cycling, singles and doubles table tennis, singles and doubles bowling, bridge, basketball free throws and spot shots, swimming, singles and doubles tennis, golf, Chinese Mah Jong and singles and doubles pickleball. Age groups are 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80-84, 85-89 and 90 and older. For more information about the 2022 Forever Fit 50 and Beyond: Jacksonville Senior Games, call (904) 255-5667 or email adultsvcs@coj.net.

**41st Orange Park Town Hall Fall Festival returns in October**

ORANGE PARK – The Fall Festival will return to Orange Park Town Council Park on Oct. 21 and 22. Opening ceremonies will be at 10 a.m. on Saturday, followed by music, food, crafts, vendors, children's activities and live entertainment. Admission is free. With thousands expected, parking will be available at Moosehaven, and a free shuttle will be provided. There are limited handicapped parking spaces at the town's police department on Smith Street.

For more information, visit opfallfestival.com or email Emily Dockery at edockery@townop.com.

**'Laughter is the Best Medicine' Ha-Has for Ta-Tas show Oct. 28**

ORANGE PARK – The Pink Ribbon Symposium will present its HaHas for Ta-Tas comedy event on Oct. 28 at 10 a.m. at the Springs Church, 900 Park Ave.

The event will feature comedians Foxy Hamm and Bobby Parker, with Charlie Ed-dins serving as MC. A fee of \$5 will help support the nonprofit group dedicated to beating breast cancer. To register, visit pinkribbonsymposium.org.

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- ◆ **BBQ Delights:** Indulge in mouthwatering BBQ dinners for just \$10.
- ◆ **Raise a Toast:** Visit the cash bar and sip on the exclusive "Howl at the Moon" featured drink, served in a limited edition commemorative event cup.
- ◆ **Groove to the Beat:** Enjoy the electrifying tunes of a live band
- ◆ **Event Tees:** Grab your exclusive event t-shirts, available for purchase starting Labor Day weekend at the River House. Cash only, so you can wear your support loud and proud!

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STAFF PHOTOS BY DON COBLE

Elaine West said this year's Hoggy Walloween and Haunted Woods Trolley rides at the Rooterville Animal Sanctuary would include a hidden treasure search for a Spookley doll, a hay bale maze and an opportunity for children to sign an anti-bullying pledge. West, who has more than 100 animals at her farm, said she wants to provide children with an opportunity to get outside, learn about animals, nature and be free of intimidation.

## Rooterville Sanctuary hosting Halloween, anti-bullying event

By Don Coble

Email: don@claytodayonline.com

MELROSE – “Spookley the Square Pumpkin” is the cartoon story of a loveable who was teased by a round pumpkin named Big Tom until Jack the Scarecrow and three spiders named “Edgar,” “Allan” and “Poe” helped him overcome his feeling of humiliation. Spookley then saved the pumpkin patch by plugging a hole in the fence during a storm.

It's a story Elaine West wants to share with everyone when the Rooterville Animal Sanctuary opens its gates on Oct. 28 and 29 for Boo and the Roo, featuring a Hoggy Walloween and Haunted Woods Trolley rides.

The farm at 1208 County Road 315 will be enhanced with customary Halloween decorations – but all with the intent to share awareness of animals and emphasize every-

one's unique strengths to benefit the community during Anti-Bullying Month.

“We want to entertain the kids and give folks something to do outdoors with animals in the fresh air, away from computer screens,” she said. “But it's also to promote kindness. It's an anti-bullying message to teach kids to be kind to other kids who are different. So that's the main point of it.”

More than 100 animals are on the 20-acre farm, including pot-bellied pigs, goats, cows, turkeys, cats, dogs, chickens and peacocks. There's also a butterfly farm and bee hive. The event will include trolley rides through the “haunted forest” and a maze made of hay bales.

“The butterfly garden is awesome,” West said. “And have a butterfly nursery over there where we get the caterpillars, and we keep them safe until they turn into butterflies. Otherwise, only 10% of the caterpillars turn into butterflies. So we're trying to help them out.”

A stuffed Spookley doll will be hidden on the property on both days, and the child



that finds it during the scavenger hunt will be allowed to keep it, along with a Spookley book, West said.

“We're going to make a hay bale maze,” she said, “and we'll let them sign the pledge when they get done with the maze. It's a pledge to be kind to people different from them.” The primary goal of Rooterville is to identify options for how some animals are “factory-farmed” as food. She said some children don't realize how animals are supposed to live in a more natural environment.

“(Many animals) don't have a life like this, so we want to work with the families to meet and interact with them and show them that they're no different than cats and dogs,” West said. “Hopefully, they can make clear choices when they leave here, you

know, that they choose more plant-based foods and start to leave animals off their plates.

“It's also the No. 1 polluter of the environment. It's a reason for the destruction of the rainforest. We're killing our planet to have cheap meat, and it's a shame. So if we give a little education, hopefully, people can make more informed decisions about what they eat.”

At the same time, Boo at the Roo will focus on fun from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on both days.

“We'll have decorations for Halloween, and it'll be family-friendly and won't be terrifying,” she said.

Tickets are required, and they may be purchased in advance at rooterville.org.

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# Really Nice

## Keystone Heights woman finds way to create jewelry while helping ailing brother

By Natalie Gilstrap  
For Clay Today

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – In 2020, Mary Skinner became the sole caretaker of her brother, Andy. They lost their father that year due to complications from exposure to Agent Orange, the infamous herbicide used in the Vietnam War. Since then, their mother has suffered from medical ailments that prevent her from tending to Andy's own severe health problems.

"Andy has cerebral palsy, spina bifida, and is cortically blind," said Skinner. "He was born this way due to our father's exposure to Agent Orange."

She assumes sole responsibility for her brother's daily needs – bathing, feeding and medication.

"He is physically and mentally unable to assist with his day-to-day needs," she said.

She coordinates with Veteran Affairs, Medicare and Medicaid to ensure Andy continues his medicine and medical exams. She oversees her family's finances and cooperates with lawyers to report medical expenses to the state, VA and Social Security. Still, she finds ways to spark joy. She takes Andy on family vacations, the park and fishing trips, with weather and his



health permitting. "Where we go, he goes." Skinner supports her brother with her small jewelry business, Something Really Nice LLC. Founded in 2021, the business allows her to follow her passion for crafting while granting the flexibility needed for her brother.

"I have always made crafts and when I could no longer maintain a work schedule to take care of my brother. I chose starting



PHOTOS BY NATALIE GILSTRAP

Mary Skinner makes unique jewelry pieces while caring for her brother, Andy. By handcrafting the jewelry from home, she's able to devote time to both.

a business as a way to do both," she said. Working from home, Skinner tirelessly creates resin journals, cutting boards, coasters and jewelry. She sells them on her website and appears at markets in the fall.

Skinner says that her faith in God and her family are the twin pillars supporting her continuing strength.

"My husband helps me out a great deal and babysits for me when I do markets or need some downtime," she said.

In her time off, Skinner enjoys gardening, crafting, outside, and fishing.

"My in-laws are awesome and help give us time together as a couple by sitting with Andy," she said.

Skinner said having a priority list and an outlined schedule keeps her organized as she manages Andy's needs, her home, and her career. She empathizes with families in similar situations.

"Don't give up. It eventually becomes a routine, and you learn a balance through trial and error," she said. "Take time for yourself. It's tantamount to keep sane, and you will be a better caretaker for it."

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# Middleburg, Argyle elementary students win bike lane design competition

Work will be painted on roads near their schools for Mobility Week

By For Clay Today

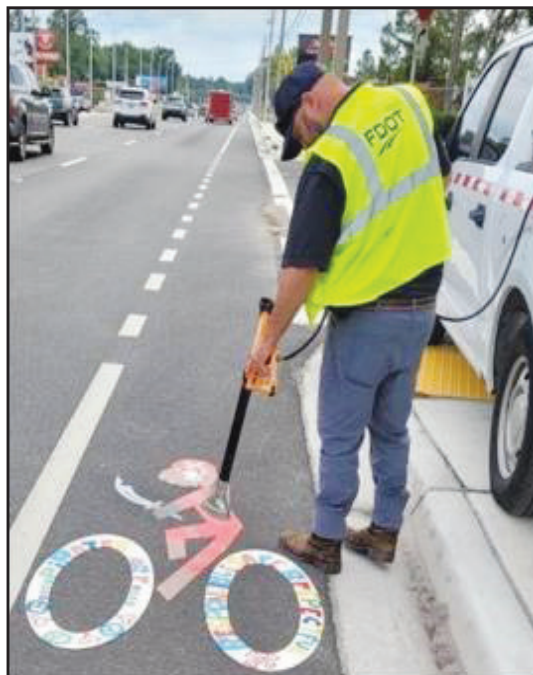
CLAY COUNTY – Two Clay County elementary students' artwork is getting viewed by thousands – in a different way.

The students won the Florida Department of Transportation Mobility Week Bike Lane Design Contest, and now, those winning designs are installed near Middleburg and Argyle elementary schools in recognition of FDOT's Mobility Week Partnership for Elementary School Kids.



The contest is part of an FDOT statewide initiative that promotes awareness of safe multimodal transportation choices, including bicycle and pedestrian safety. The bike lane design contest allows elementary school students to submit designs for a fun and creative bike lane symbol. Six Clay County District Schools elementary schools registered for the contest.

Argyle student Naomi Dorsey designed a colorful bicycle rider with flames from



PHOTOS BY CLAY COUNTY

Middleburg Elementary School student Andrea Navarro-Vasquez designed a pirate-themed bike and rider, while Argyle Elementary student Naomi Dorsey designed a colorful bicycle rider with flames from the back tire. Their works will be painted on bike lanes near their schools.

the back tire. Middleburg student Andrea Navarro-Vasquez designed a pirate-themed bike and rider.

The winning artwork was turned into templates and delivered to the county's engineering department, and FDOT maintenance crews assisted with the thermal installation in the bike lanes. This fun symbol does not replace or cover up the

original white regulation bike lane symbol. Still, it is a vibrant way to encourage discovering how active and sustainable travel choices like walking, biking, riding transit, or carpooling can reduce traffic congestion, benefit the environment, and improve community health.

Mobility Week is celebrated from Oct. 27 through Nov. 4.



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## FDOT repaving portion of U.S. 17 on Fleming Island

For Clay Today

FLEMING ISLAND – The Florida Department of Transportation will be conducting nightly lane closures on U.S. Highway 17 from Eagle Harbor Parkway to Creighton

Road for a milling and resurfacing project.

Work includes milling and resurfacing, base work, shoulder treatment, drainage improvements, signal and lighting upgrades, improved pedestrian and bike paths, new highway signage as well as other incidental construction.

The project is expected to be complete by the summer of 2024.

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## Faith Walk

by Pastor Billy Register  
True Life Church  
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### Use Your Time Wisely

Benjamin Franklin said, "Do you love life? Then do not squander time, for that's the stuff life is made of."

In the hustle and bustle of our lives, we often struggle with managing our time. Guided by the wisdom of the scripture, let's explore the importance of mindful living and setting godly boundaries in an age where distractions bombard us on every side. Ephesians Chapter 5 verses 15-17 offers invaluable guidance: "Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is." This reminds us of the preciousness of time and the need for intentional living. The world around us is filled with distractions, and it's easy to lose sight of what truly matters. Wisdom, as mentioned here, calls us to make the most of our time, aligning our actions with the will of God.

The question arises: Where does our time go? In today's digital age, it often slips away into things like social media, the black hole that is the internet, or the allure of television. While these can be valuable tools, they can also become distractions that consume our time, leading us away from what's truly important.

To use our time wisely, we need godly boundaries. Do you ever wonder if God is watching you? The answer is a resounding yes! Every moment is an opportunity to honor Him. Ephesians encourages us to evaluate how much of our time is spent on things that glorify God. It's not about striving for perfection but about consciously choosing to invest our time in activities that align with God's will.

Setting godly boundaries involves discernment. It's about recognizing when to engage with technology and media and when to step away to nurture our spiritual well-being. It's finding a balance that allows us to use our time wisely, to grow in our faith, and to make a positive impact on the world around us. Ephesians urges us to be intentional with our time, to guard against distractions, and to seek God's guidance in how we use our moments. By doing so, we honor Him, make the most of our days, and discover the fulfillment that comes from living in alignment with His will.

# Groups that support sobriety celebrate recoveries

**Celebrate Recovery allows addicts, families to share positive results**

By Lee Wardlaw  
lee@claytodayonline.com

MIDDLEBURG- Clay Behavioral Health Center, Clay County Fire Rescue and Groups Recover Together warmly embraced residents living with mental health disorders and recovering from addiction during the Recovery Celebration on Saturday. Founded in 2021 by former Battalion Chief Glenn East, the Community Paramedicine Program has been a stepping stone to recovery by providing counseling and services to families battling addiction, connecting patients to needed resources and administering Narcan, which can prevent deaths from opioid overdose.

The success of the Paramedicine Program has depended on its relationship with like-minded, altruistic charities in Clay, many of whom were in attendance at the event last weekend.

One charities was the Oxford House, an international network of democratically-ran, self-sustaining recovery homes. Members pay their share of rent and bills, vote on house rules attend recovery meetings together. They have men's and women's houses, and houses for with children. The organization started in Clay in June 2022. More than a year later, the organization has already built five houses in the county.

Casey, a county resident and two-year member of the Oxford House, is a living testament to the charity's impact.

"This is my first time being introduced into a program, and it has completely changed my life. This is the first time since I was 16 (years old) since I had complete sobriety from all substances. It's amazing not to depend on that constant chase, and I've got my children back. I've become a better mother, and I've applied the principles of (the program) into (other) areas of my life as well," she said. On Nov. 6, she will celebrate the second anniversary of her sobriety. The program she immersed herself in is growing faster than ever in the county, and has no plans of slowing down. Just ask Travis Massa, Outreach Coordinator for Greater Jacksonville.

"We've helped hundreds of people, and (the Oxford House) has made (so many) connections in the community that I've literally had to 'buckle up' to keep up. My phone rings off the hook throughout



STAFF PHOTOS BY LEE WARDLAW

The Oxford House, an international network of self-ran recovery houses, rents family homes, which become self-ran, financially self-supported places for people to begin their journey to sobriety. The organization joined the Celebrate Recovery last Saturday at the VA Center. Clay County got its first house in June 2022.



Alex Porter, Opioid Prevention Coordinator for the Florida Department of Health in Clay County and Clay Behavioral Health Center CEO Irene Toto talked about breaking down the stigma for addiction by celebrating progress made by those in recovery.

the week, and we've had to put people on a waiting list to interview for a spot in a house in Clay County," he said.

East continuing to build the county's network of services to fight the opioid epidemic in Clay is paramount, an effort the Recovery Celebration further aided. "(Originally), we started with very little with (just) the Fire Department. These events are really what strengthens our network. That's what makes Clay County one of the leaders in the state when it comes to addiction stabilization on (both) the nonprofit and public sides. I believe that's what puts us ahead of a lot of places. The bottom line is that Fire Rescue and Clay Behavioral can help, but we can't fix

(the opioid epidemic) alone," he said.

Alexandra Porter, the county's Opioid Prevention Coordinator for the State Department of Health, gave a heartfelt speech dedicating the event. She spoke further about the significance of the Recovery Celebration and its importance to the community.

"I think part of what we're doing here is breaking down the stigma surrounding the addiction by throwing events like these, celebrating those in recovery, and having people share their stories. That way, more people will be comfortable talking about it and reach out to seek help," she said.

Along with recovery partners and resources, the Recovery Celebration provided food, fun and live music on a beautiful, sunny afternoon. The festivities served to commend the residents and their resolve on their personal journeys.

"The big thing is to celebrate people that have taken that step. People have to want to be in recovery. I can't make someone do it. We wanted to put on an upbeat event and celebrate people for getting better. The fact that people are (participating) in the program shows they are putting in the effort and want to change their lives for the better," East said.

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# FIGHT CANCER

**BREAST CANCER AWARENESS**

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# BREAST CANCER FAQ

*In 2020, about 2.3 million women were diagnosed with breast cancer worldwide and 685,000 died. Every 14 seconds, somewhere in the world, a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer.*

**T**he World Health Organization reports that roughly 2.3 million women were diagnosed with breast cancer in 2020. By the end of that year, there were nearly eight million women alive who had been diagnosed with the disease in the previous half decade.

A breast cancer diagnosis inevitably leads to questions about the disease. The bulk of those questions undoubtedly are asked by the millions of women who are diagnosed with breast cancer. But millions more individuals, including friends and family members of recently diagnosed women, may have their own questions. Women can discuss the specifics of their diagnosis with their physicians. In the

meantime, the following are some frequently asked questions and answers that can help anyone better understand this potentially deadly disease.

### What is breast cancer?

Cancer is a disease marked by the abnormal growth of cells that invade healthy cells in the body. Breast cancer is a form of the disease that begins in the cells of the breast. The National Breast Cancer Foundation notes that the cancer can then invade surrounding tissues or spread to other areas of the body.



### Can exercise help to reduce my breast cancer risk?

The NBCF notes that exercise strengthens the immune system and women who commit to as little as three hours of physical activity per week can begin to reduce their risk for breast cancer. However, even routine exercise does not completely eliminate a woman's risk of developing breast cancer.

### Is there a link between diet and breast cancer?

The organization Susan G. Komen, (a nonprofit source of funding for the fight against breast cancer, reports that studies have shown eating fruits and vegetables may be linked to a lower risk for breast cancer, while consuming alcohol is linked to an increased risk for the disease. In addition, the NBCF reports that a high-fat diet increases breast cancer risk because fat triggers estrogen production that can fuel tumor growth.

### Is there a link between oral contraceptives and breast cancer?

The NBCF reports that women who have been using birth control pills for more than five years are at an increased risk of developing breast cancer. However, the organization notes that risk is very small because modern birth control pills contain low amounts of hormones.

### Can breastfeeding reduce breast cancer risk?

Breastfeeding and breast cancer are linked, though the NBCF notes that the role breastfeeding plays in lowering cancer risk depends on how long a woman breastfeeds. The World Cancer Research Fund International notes that evidence indicates that the greater number of months women continue breastfeeding, the greater the protection they have against breast cancer.

### Is there a connection between stress and breast cancer?

The NBCF notes that researchers have found that traumatic events and losses can alter how the immune system functions, which can provide an opportunity for cancer cells to establish themselves within a person's body. The NBCF urges women to identify ways to keep their stress levels in check. Breast cancer education can be a valuable asset as women seek to reduce their risk for the disease.



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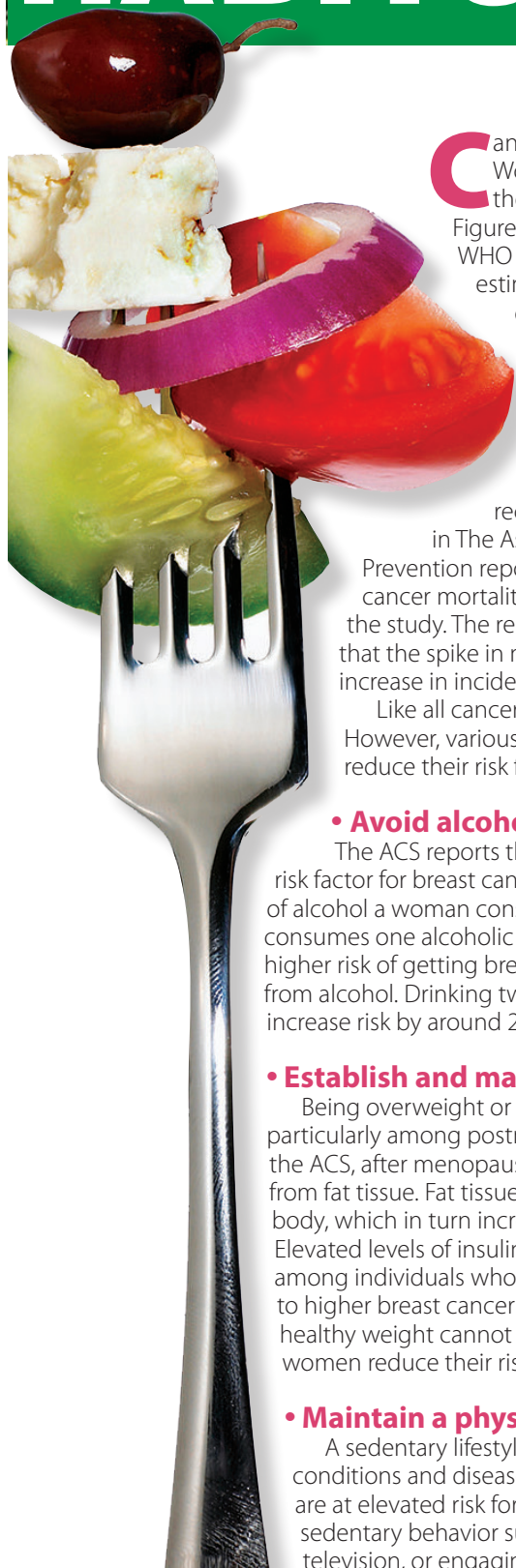
Breast Cancer Awareness Month 





# HEALTHY HABITS

## May help women reduce their breast cancer risk



**C**ancer is a formidable disease that the World Health Organization reports is the leading cause of death worldwide. Figures vary, but organizations such as the WHO and the American Cancer Society estimate that around 9.5 million people die from cancer every year.

No type of cancer causes more deaths in women across the globe than breast cancer.

Though the five-year survival rate for breast cancer patients has increased by a significant margin in recent decades, a 2019 study published in *The Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention* reported a significant increase in breast cancer mortality rate in the 25-year period preceding the study. The researchers behind the study theorized that the spike in mortality rate could be due to an increase in incidence and prevalence of breast cancer.

Like all cancers, breast cancer cannot be prevented. However, various healthy habits could help women reduce their risk for the disease.

### • Avoid alcohol

The ACS reports that alcohol consumption is a clear risk factor for breast cancer. Risk increases with the amount of alcohol a woman consumes. For example, a woman who consumes one alcoholic drink per day has a 7 to 10 percent higher risk of getting breast cancer than a woman who abstains from alcohol. Drinking two to three drinks per day could increase risk by around 20 percent.

### • Establish and maintain a healthy weight

Being overweight or obese increases breast cancer risk, particularly among postmenopausal women. According to the ACS, after menopause women get most of their estrogen from fat tissue. Fat tissue increases estrogen levels in the body, which in turn increases a woman's risk for breast cancer. Elevated levels of insulin in the body, which is common among individuals who are overweight, also has been linked to higher breast cancer risk. Establishing and maintaining a healthy weight cannot prevent breast cancer, but it can help women reduce their risk for the disease.

### • Maintain a physically active lifestyle

A sedentary lifestyle increases a person's risk for various conditions and diseases. Women who live such a lifestyle are at elevated risk for breast cancer. The ACS notes that sedentary behavior such as sitting, lying down, watching television, or engaging with screen-based forms of

entertainment that do not require physical activity can increase breast cancer risk, especially for women who spend most of their work day sitting down. A more physically active lifestyle that includes routine exercise can help women reduce their breast cancer risk.

### • Adopt a nutritious diet

Eating right is another way for women to reduce their breast cancer risk. Vegetables, fiber-rich legumes such

as beans and peas, fruits across the color spectrum, and whole grains are some components of a healthy, nutrient-rich diet that can help lower breast cancer risk. Women also can avoid certain foods, such as red and processed meats and refined grains, to lower their breast cancer risk.

Though there's no guaranteed way to prevent breast cancer, women can embrace various healthy habits to lower their risk for the disease.

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# Treatments that may be considered after a breast cancer diagnosis

A recent article in the January/February 2023 edition of CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians noted that roughly 3.8 million cancer deaths have been averted since 1991. That figure represents a 33 percent overall reduction in the cancer death rate over the last three-plus decades. A host of variables have combined to make that reduction possible, and advancements in cancer treatment are one such component.

Despite improvements in cancer survival rates, the disease remains a formidable foe. Women know that all too well, as various forms of the disease, including breast cancer, continue to affect millions of women each year. The World Cancer Research Fund International reports that breast cancer was the most common cancer in the world in 2020, accounting for 12.5 percent of all new cases diagnosed in that year. When diagnosed with breast cancer, women will soon begin treatment, and the following are some of the options doctors may consider as they devise treatment plans.

## • Chemotherapy

The aim of chemotherapy is to destroy cancer cells or slow their growth. The National Breast Cancer Foundation notes that chemotherapy employs a combination of drugs, which are usually administered orally or intravenously. Chemotherapy is a systemic therapy, which means the drugs will travel in the bloodstream throughout the entire body. That's likely why, according to the

organization Cancer Research UK, nearly everyone who receives chemotherapy experiences some level of fatigue.

## • Radiation

The NBCF notes that radiation therapy utilizes high-energy rays to kill cancer cells. Radiation therapy affects only those parts of the body that are treated with radiation, so it might not lead to the same level of fatigue as chemotherapy. However, cancer care teams often utilize both radiation and chemotherapy to treat cancer. When treating breast cancer, radiation therapy is often utilized to destroy any remaining mutated cells in the breast or armpit area after surgery.

## • Hormone therapy

The American Cancer Society notes that some types of breast cancer are affected by hormones. In such cases, the receptors on breast cancer cells attach to hormones like estrogen and progesterone, which enables them to grow. Hormone therapy prevents such attachments. The ACS indicates that hormone therapy is often utilized after surgery to help reduce the risk of recurrence. Unlike chemotherapy and radiation therapy, which are generally administered over a relatively short period of time, hormone therapy is usually taken in pill form for five years.

When discussing a course of treatment with breast cancer patients, doctors may also recommend newer treatments like targeted therapies. The NBCF notes that these treatments, which utilize drugs designed to block the growth of breast cancer cells in specific ways, are often administered in combination with chemotherapy.

Doctors utilize various treatments to help breast cancer patients overcome their disease. Women are urged to ask as many questions as possible as they discuss treatment options with their cancer care teams.



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Did You KNOW?

The length of time a women will receive treatment for breast cancer will ultimately depend on a host of variables unique to each individual. According to the nonprofit organization Living Beyond Breast Cancer, an individual diagnosed with early-stage breast cancer can be in active treatment for about one year. The administration of medicine, the performance or surgery and ongoing therapies are all considered part of active treatment. The Mayo Clinic reports that chemotherapy, a treatment option that utilizes various drugs to destroy cancer cells or slow their growth, can

last between three to six months for patients diagnosed with early-stage breast

cancer. Treatment with chemotherapy can extend beyond six months for individuals with advanced stage breast cancer. Hormonal therapy also can extend the time breast cancer patients are in treatment, as the American Cancer Society reports that this option typically requires patients to take a pill for five years. However, hormonal therapy can extend past five years in certain instances.





# The relationship between breast density and cancer risk

A host of variables affect a woman's risk for breast cancer. Some variables are related to a woman's lifestyle. For example, the American Cancer Society reports that a sedentary lifestyle can increase breast cancer risk. In addition, the ACS notes that women who consume unhealthy diets are at greater risk of becoming overweight or obese, which also increases breast cancer risk.

A woman's lifestyle is largely up to her, which means women can exert a measure of control over their risk for a disease that the World Cancer Research Fund International reports was the world's most commonly diagnosed cancer in 2020. However, additional variables beyond a woman's control, including breast density, can increase risk for breast cancer.

## What is breast density?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that breast density reflects the amount of fibrous and glandular tissue in a woman's breasts compared to the amount of fatty tissue in the breasts.

## How do I know if I have dense breasts?

Women cannot self-diagnose dense breasts. The National Cancer Institute

notes that only a radiologist can determine if a woman has dense breasts, and that's only possible after a mammogram.

## What is the significance of breast density?

Breast density and breast cancer are linked, which underscores how important it can be for women to discuss breast density with their physicians. The National Cancer Institute notes that dense breasts are not considered an abnormal breast condition or a disease, though they are a risk factor for breast cancer. Women determined to have dense breasts have a higher risk of breast cancer than women with fatty breasts.

The CDC notes that dense tissue can hide cancers, as the fibrous and glandular tissue in breasts, which is more abundant in dense breasts than fatty breasts, looks white on a mammogram. That's significant, as tumors also look white on mammograms, which means it's easy to mistake a small tumor for fibrous and glandular tissue.

## What can I do if I have dense breasts?

It's important that women with dense breasts open a dialogue with their physi-



cians. This is especially important when switching physicians, as a new doctor can consider this when treating a patient for the first time. Doctors may recommend certain tests to women with dense breasts, particularly after considering a woman's age and family history of breast cancer. The CDC notes that additional testing can produce a false positive result, so women can discuss that likelihood as well. But in some cases, a breast ultrasound or a breast MRI

may detect a tumor that a mammogram did not find, so additional testing should not be written off.

Breast density and breast cancer are linked, but the NCI notes that research has indicated that women with dense breasts are no more likely to die from breast cancer than women with fatty breasts. More information about breast density can be found at cancer.gov.

# Headcovering options

A cancer diagnosis can be difficult to process. However, advancements in cancer research over the last several decades have helped more people survive such diagnoses. That should come as good news to people who have recently been diagnosed with breast cancer.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says breast cancer is the second most common cancer among women in the United States. BreastCancer.org estimates that 276,000 new cases of invasive breast cancer and around 49,000 non-invasive cases are expected in 2020 in the United States.



Breast cancer treatment depends on the stage of the cancer, personal choices as well as doctor recommendations. Other factors like preexisting conditions or health history also may play a role in determining patients' treatments. In many cases, chemotherapy is included in a treatment plan. Chemotherapy targets fast-growing cancer cells in the body to prevent cancer from spreading and to shrink tumors. However, the American Cancer Society says other normal cells that are fast-growing can be affected by chemotherapy and cause side

effects. These cells include blood-forming cells in bone marrow, hair follicles, cells in the mouth, digestive tract cells, and reproductive system cells. This is why many people lose their hair during chemotherapy treatments. Many women confront chemotherapy-related hair loss with head coverings, and they have various options at their disposal.

- Scarves: Many women like to tie lightweight scarves around their heads. These scarves come in various patterns. Pre-tied scarves that can be pulled on also are available.
- Turbans: Turban style hats are pull-on options and are knotted or twisted in the front or side. Some may have decorative embellishments on the front.
- Baseball hat: Some baseball hats designed specifically for cancer patients provide more coverage than traditional baseball hats by stretching further down the back of the head and neck. They feature a brim and can offer substantial protection while out in the sun. Other baseball hats may come equipped with artificial or real human hair extensions attached inside of the hat to offer stylish options.

• Wigs: When a hat or scarf is not desirable, women can consider wigs. Wigs can be undetectable and mimic real hair. To simplify choosing a wig, women can bring a picture of their typical hairstyle. Save a lock of hair from the top front of the head where hair is the lightest to match wig color. Make sure the wig is adjustable.

Hair loss is a side effect of some cancer treatments. Finding head coverings can bridge the gap until hair regrows.

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## BREAST CANCER AWARENESS



# SYMPTOMS OF MALE BREAST CANCER

**B**reast cancer is one of the most common forms of cancer diagnosed among the female population. Though breast cancer may seem like a disease that's exclusive to women, breast cancer can affect men as well.

While they have a smaller concentration than women, men have breast tissue, which means it's possible for them to develop breast cancer. Male breast cancer is most common in older men, but it is important that men recognize that the disease can strike them at any age.

### Signs and symptoms

Men with breast cancer experience symptoms that are similar to those experienced by women. Possible signs to be aware of include:

- skin dimpling or puckering
- a lump or swelling, which is typically (but not always) painless
- nipple retraction
- redness or scaling of the nipple or breast skin
- discharge from the nipple, which may be clear or blood-tinged

The American Cancer Society advises that sometimes breast cancer can spread to the lymph nodes under the arm or around the collar bone and cause a lump or swelling in these locations. The protrusion may be noticeable even before the original tumor in the breast is large enough to be felt.

Men should realize that enlargements

or issues affecting both breasts (not on just one side) typically is not cancer. Enlargement or changes to both breasts in men can be caused by weight gain, medications or heavy alcohol consumption.

### Types of male breast cancer

Various types of breast cancer can affect men, according to the Mayo Clinic:

#### • Ductal carcinoma:

Cancer that begins in the milk ducts. Nearly all male breast cancer is ductal carcinoma.

• **Lobular carcinoma:** Cancer that begins in the milk-producing glands. This type is rare in men because they have few lobules in their breast tissue.

Especially rare types of breast cancer that can occur in men include Paget's disease of the nipple and inflammatory breast cancer.

### Diagnosis

BreastCancer.org says that a small study of breast cancer in men found that the average time between first symptoms and diagnosis was about 19 months. This can be startling because early diagnosis can be vital to survival. Through the realization that breast cancer can happen to men and more education and awareness, men can feel more comfortable about discussing changes to breast tissue with their doctors.

Male breast cancer is a very real occurrence, albeit a rare one. It is important that men take any abnormalities in their chests seriously.

# RADIATION vs. CHEMOTHERAPY

**C**ancer is so prevalent throughout the world that many people, even those who have never been diagnosed with the disease, are familiar with the methods used to treat it. Though radiation and chemotherapy are not the only ways to treat cancer, they are often part of treatment plans, and are not infrequently prescribed in tandem.

Chemotherapy and radiation perform different functions in cancer treatment. Recognition of those different roles can help patients and their families understand their treatment plans more fully.

### Chemotherapy

According to the AdventHealth Cancer Institute, chemotherapy utilizes specialized drugs that are designed to target and kill cells that divide rapidly, such as cancer cells. The American Society of Clinical Oncology notes that chemotherapy is a systemic medication, which means it travels throughout the bloodstream and reaches all parts of the body. Damage to healthy cells during chemotherapy is possible because the treatment is systemic. The ASCO notes this is why chemotherapy can cause side effects like hair loss and nausea.

Chemotherapy is utilized in different ways. Sometimes chemotherapy is administered as "curative chemotherapy," which the ASCO notes means it is the primary way of treating the disease and is being employed with a goal of getting rid of all

of the cancer and preventing recurrence. Sometimes chemotherapy is administered prior to cancer surgery or radiation therapy in an attempt to reduce the size of tumors.

### Radiation

Radiation therapy is not systemic but rather targets specific areas of the body where cancerous cells are present. During radiation therapy, high-energy X-ray or other particles are utilized to destroy cancer cells. The ASCO reports that radiation therapy aims to damage cell DNA so cancerous cells are destroyed or stop growing.

Though healthy cells near the cancer cells may be damaged during radiation therapy, the treatment, because it is localized, is unlikely to cause side effects in areas of the body where there is no cancer present. However, individuals receiving radiation therapy may develop symptoms in areas the radiation is targeting. For example, the ASCO notes that people who receive radiation therapy may experience dry, itchy, blistering, or peeling skin in the area being treated. As uncomfortable as these symptoms may be, they usually disappear within a few weeks of the completion of treatment.

Doctors often utilize a combination of treatments, including chemotherapy and radiation therapy, to treat cancer. However, these treatments are vastly different and can produce their own unique side effects.



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# Groups at elevated risk for breast cancer

The number of women diagnosed with breast cancer in 2020 exceeded two million. That figure, courtesy of the World Health Organization, underscores the significance of the threat posed by the disease.

Though no one is immune to breast cancer, researchers have concluded that certain groups have a higher risk of developing the disease than others. Women who recognize their personal risk for breast cancer may not be able to change certain factors that increase their chances of developing the disease. However, recognition of their personal risk could put women in position to lower that risk in other ways. According to the WHO, the following are some groups who are at elevated risk of developing breast cancer.

- Women: Johns Hopkins Medicine reports that less than 1 percent of all breast cancer cases occur in men. Though it's still important for men to recognize they've not immune to the disease, women must also recognize that nearly all of the more than two million annual breast cancer diagnoses across the globe are found in women.

- Women 50 and older: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that most breast cancers are found in women who are 50 years old or older. A report from the National Cancer Institute indicates that a 30-year-old woman has a 1 in 204 chance (0.49 percent) of being diagnosed with breast cancer, while a 40-year-old has a 1 in 65 chance (1.55 percent) of being diagnosed. By the time women reach age 60, their risk is 1 in 28 (3.54 percent), while a 70-year-old has a 1 in 24 chance (4.09 percent) of being diagnosed. Though women of any age can get the disease, the risk clearly increases as women get older.

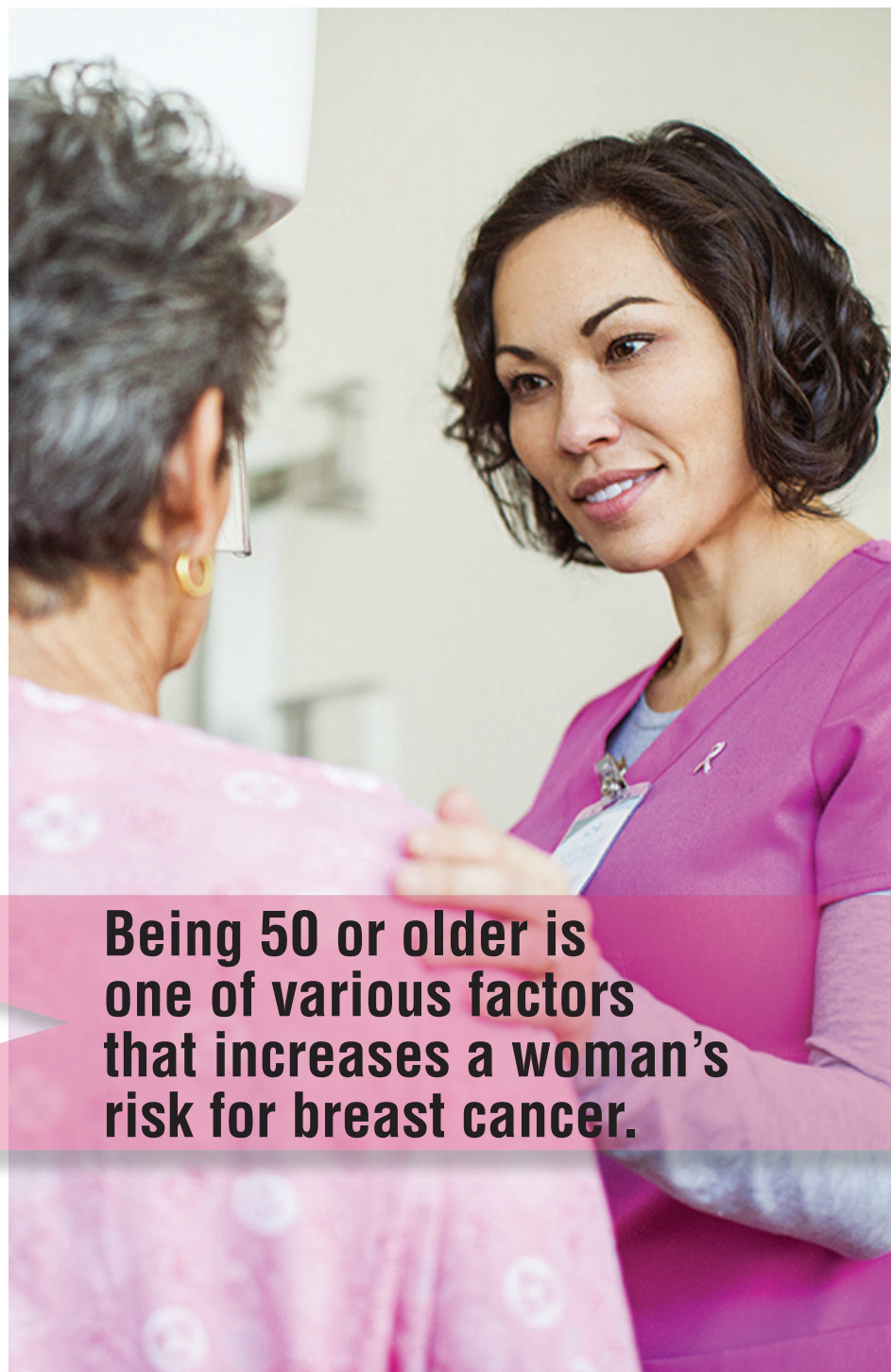
- Women who meet the criteria for being overweight or obese: The nonprofit

organization Susan G. Komen, which helps to raise funds for the fight against breast cancer, notes that women who are overweight or obese after menopause have a 20 to 60 percent higher risk of developing breast cancer than women who are not overweight or obese. The American Cancer Society reports that having more fat tissue increases breast cancer risk because it raises estrogen levels. However, the ACS notes the link between weight and breast cancer risk is complicated, so it's worth it for women concerned about their cancer risk to open a dialogue with their physicians.

- Women who consume alcohol: The MD Anderson Cancer Center reports that alcohol consumption and breast cancer risk are linked. Though the precise cause of the link is unknown, one theory suggests that consuming alcohol can increase estrogen levels as well as the levels of other hormones associated with breast cancer. However, the MDACC warns that the risk

is very low, particularly for women who limit their consumption to one drink or less per day. Routinely consuming more than one alcoholic drink per day is a cause for concern.

It's vital that women recognize their risk for breast cancer. Though any woman can be diagnosed with breast cancer, certain factors, including some that can be avoided, can increase a woman's risk for the disease.



**Being 50 or older is one of various factors that increases a woman's risk for breast cancer.**

# What to know about breast lumps

Breast cancer is a cause for concern for millions of women. Each year about 264,000 cases of breast cancer are diagnosed in women in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Canadian Cancer Society indicates around 28,600 Canadian women will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year. Globally, data from the World Health Organization indicates roughly 2.3 million women were diagnosed with breast cancer in 2020.

One of the more notable symptoms of breast cancer is the presence of a lump in the breast. Though not all lumps are malignant, it's important that women learn about breast anatomy and lumps as part

of their preventive health care routines.

Mount Sinai says that breast lumps can occur at any age in both men and women. Hormonal changes can cause breast enlargement and lumps during puberty, and boys and girls may even be born with lumps from the estrogen received from their mothers.

It is important to note that the vast majority of breast lumps are benign. The National Institutes of Health says 60 to 80 percent of all breast lumps are non-cancerous. The most common causes of breast lumps are fibroadenomas and fibrocystic changes. Fibroadenomas are small, smooth, moveable, painless round lumps that usually affect women who are at an age to have children, indicates the Merck Manual. They are non-cancerous and feel rubbery.

Fibrocystic changes are painful, lumpy breasts. This benign condition does not increase a woman's risk for breast cancer. Symptoms often are worse right before one's menstrual period, and then improve

after the period begins.

Additional factors can contribute to the formation of lumps. Breast cysts are fluid-filled sacs that likely go away on their own or may be aspirated to relieve pain. Complex cysts may need to be removed surgically. Sometimes cysts also may form in milk ducts throughout the breasts.

Lumps also may be the result of injury. Blood can collect under the skin and form a type of lump called a hematoma. Other lumps may be traced to lipomas, which is a collection of fatty tissue or breast abscesses, which typically occur if a person is breastfeeding or has recently given birth.

Additional causes of lumps can be discussed with a doctor. Though the majority of lumps are not a cause for concern, it is important for people to regularly feel their breasts to check for abnormalities. Doctors may recommend annual mammograms to women age 40 and older. In its earliest stages, breast cancer may produce little to no visible symptoms, but a mammogram may be able to catch something early on.





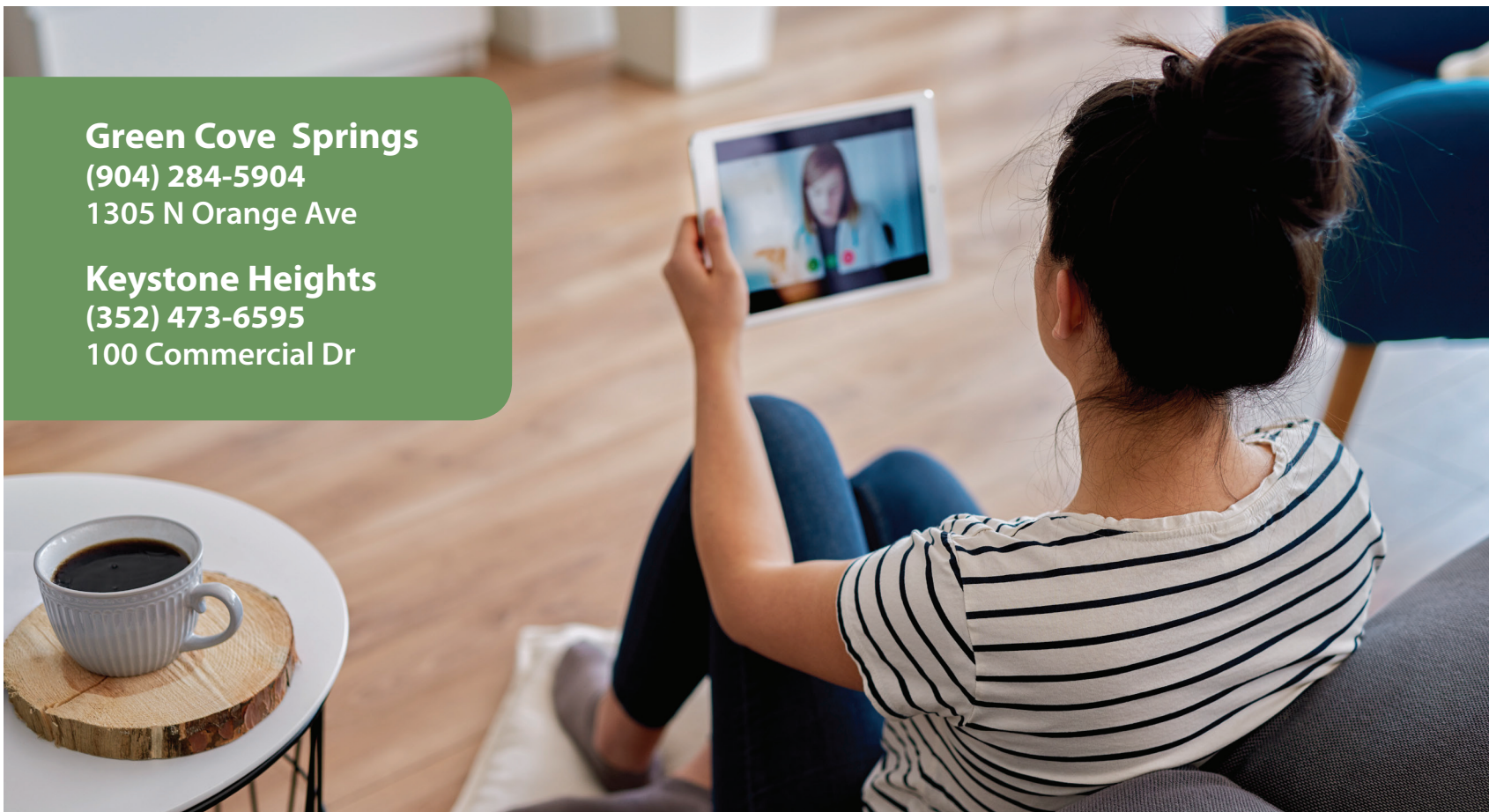
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# Police Briefs claytodayonline.com

## Former OPAA softball coach gets 20 years for making videos of girls

JACKSONVILLE — U.S. District Judge Brian J. Davis has sentenced Andrew Lynn Overheul, 43, of Orange Park, to 20 years in federal prison, followed by a lifetime of supervised release, for production and attempted production of sexually explicit images and videos of children. Overheul had pleaded guilty on June 7. He has been detained since his arrest on April 20.

According to court documents, on Sept. 17, the parent of a 12-year-old child ("MV1") contacted the Clay County Sheriff's Office to report a complaint that MV1 had made about finding a cellphone recording her changing and using the shower in the bathroom at her softball coach's house. CCSO responded that night and interviewed the parent and MV1. The parent and MV1 said that they were at Overheul's home earlier that day for a softball team family party, and that the children had decided to have an impromptu group sleepover at Overheul's home. Overheul told MV1 she could take a shower in the master bathroom, as another girl was using the shower in his other bathroom.

MV1 spotted a phone on the bathroom counter propped up between two boxes, with the camera facing the shower. Upon closer inspection, MV1 discovered the phone was actively recording and she immediately grabbed the phone and stopped the recording. MV1 reviewed the video and



Andrew Lynn Overheul

discovered that it depicted her, so she deleted the video, placed the phone back on the counter, and called her parents to pick her up.

MV1's parent sent a text message to Overheul at 8:17 pm indicating they were on their way to pick up their daughter and would tell Overheul about it when they got there. At 8:44 pm, Overheul responded by text message, "Hey we talked with the girls. No one is admitting [sic] to playing a joke. The others that were in that bathroom said they saw my phone charging but no other phones."

After interviewing the parents and MV1, CCSO detectives responded to Overheul's residence early the next day and conducted a recorded interview in which Overheul acknowledged that he was the only person that used or had access and control of his cellphone. Overheul acknowledged that his phone was in the bathroom and claimed he had placed it there to charge.

Agents obtained a search warrant to search Overheul's cellphone. During the forensic review, agents found two photos of several minor females on the softball team wearing swimsuits and sitting on the floor in Overheul's living room, dated September 17, 2022, with a time stamp of 5:36 pm. Forensics also showed that at 7:38 pm a search for "Canon remote app" was conducted on Overheul's phone, and then the Canon Camera Connect app was installed a few seconds later.

This app allows a camera to remote shoot with live view imaging of the camera from a smartphone. Forensics also showed a search in the evening of Sept. 17, 2022, in the Google Play Store on Overheul's phone, for two applications which were downloaded. These apps can be used to delete information from a person's phone.

On Nov. 18, 2022, Homeland Security

Investigations executed a search warrant at Overheul's residence. Numerous electronic devices were seized. Agents discovered hundreds of photos and videos of minors that appeared to have been taken surreptitiously without their consent.

"This individual, in a position of trust, mentorship, and oversight over children in our community, abused this position in the most heinous of ways and will be held accountable for his despicable actions," said HSI Jacksonville Assistant Special Agent in Charge K. Jim Phillips. "This is another successful Northeast Florida INTERCEPT Task Force investigation that has stopped another dangerous predator from exploiting the vulnerability of unsuspecting children."

The case was investigated by CCSO, Homeland Security Investigations, and the Northeast Florida INTERCEPT Task Force. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Ashley Washington.

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

## Middleburg man pleads guilty to producing child porn images

JACKSONVILLE — U.S. Attorney Roger B. Handberg announced Sam David Harris Jr., 38, of Middleburg, pleaded guilty to two counts of production of child sexual abuse images. Harris faces a minimum mandatory term of 15 years and as many as 60 years in federal prison. Harris has been detained since his arrest on April 20.

According to the plea agreement, in February 2023, Homeland Security Investigations began an investigation into a cyber tip received by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children about child sexual abuse materials being uploaded to a particular site of an electronic services provider. An investigation into that user-led law enforcement to Harris.

HSI Jacksonville Special Agents and Task Force Officers executed a search warrant at Harris's home.

They located a thumb drive concealed in the bottom portion of a small box in the top drawer of the nightstand next to Harris's bed. A subsequent onsite forensic preview of the thumb drive by HSI revealed numerous videos and images depicting child sex abuse materials.

Additional analysis of the thumb drive revealed more than 100 images that appeared to have been produced by Harris. Harris's hand, arm and forearm are visible in several files. A witness identified Harris's arm/tattoos, and Harris's bathroom and garage were visible in several other images on the thumb drive. One of the girls depicted in the images was subsequently identified as a child to whom Harris had access.

The Clay County Sheriff's Office and Homeland Security Investigations investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Ashley Washington is prosecuting it.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who sexually exploit children and to identify and rescue victims.

For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.justice.gov/psc](http://www.justice.gov/psc).

# Arrests & Bookings claytodayonline.com

(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, Sept. 26

Sakina B. Williams, 43, Oakleaf, resist/obstruct/oppose law enforcement

Juan C.M. Florentin, 37, Orange Park, driving without valid license

Madeline Nieves, 35, Orange Park, trespassing

Daviany S. Rodriguez, 24, Middleburg, FTA

Johnathan L. Reed, 35, Green Cove Springs, FTA-failure to register vehicle

## Monday, Sept. 25

Christopher R. Petty, 47, Middleburg, domestic battery

Natalie Wood, 38, Green Cove Springs, VOP-aggravated assault with deadly weapon

Antonyo J. Hatch, 41, Green Cove Springs, violation of jail rules

Morgan B. Vickers, 27, Keystone Heights, FTA

Jesse B. Carter, 32, Keystone Heights, resist/oppose/obstruct law enforcement, providing false ID

Justin W. Bryant, 40, Green Cove Springs, dating violence

Tiffany R. Carpenter, 50, Green Cove Springs, aggravated assault with deadly weapon, domestic battery, hindering law enforcement/judge

Elisha G. Robertson, 42, Orange Park, battery, disorderly intoxication

## Sunday, Sept. 24

August G. Roewe, 50, Middleburg, two counts FTA

Earnest M. Purifoy, 39, Middleburg, shoplifting

Monteka S. Kelley, 34, Middleburg, shoplifting

Aaron W. Wood, 32, Orange Park, domestic battery

Terrence C.B. Bowden, 51, Orange Park, shoplifting

Michael D. Jackson, 44, Keystone Heights, trespassing

Joseph F. Staskey, 25, Fleming Island, shoplifting

Saron D. Graves, 54, Middleburg, shoplifting

Carissa M. Gillard, 24, Orange Park, battery on hospital personnel

Tamara L. Huber, 55, Green Cove Springs, forgery/uttering counterfeit bill

Slade T. Sullivan, 29, Middleburg, attempting to flee/elude law enforcement, DWLSR

## Saturday, Sept. 23

Charles L. Griffith, 24, Keystone Heights, battery, vandalism

Jonathan D. Barger, 40, Orange Park, shoplifting

Brian J. Blair, 40, Green Cove Springs, possession-methamphetamine, DUI

Raquel L. Quintanilla, 33, Orange Park, possession-cocaine, possession-methamphetamine, possession-fentanyl, possession-drug paraphernalia

Melissa M. Correia, 41, Fleming Island, DUI

## Friday, Sept. 22

Jeffery G. Miller, 30, Orange Park, possession-cocaine, DWLSR

Robert H. Hunter, 37, Green Cove Springs, FTA

Desiree T. Wilson, 22, Green Cove Springs, petit theft, grand theft auto

Kari C. Fogle, 35, Green Cove Springs, failure to register vehicle

Donnie B. Wingate, 59, Fleming Island, DWLSR

# Keeping waterways clean starts with properly disposing yard debris

By Lee Wardlaws  
lee@claytodayonline.com

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Michelle Hord and Barbara Beyerl, volunteers with the UF/IFAS Florida Master Gardener Program, shared ways to dispose of yard debris properly and ways to protect the local waterways in their Gardening Advice Series. The series advocates for nine environmentally conscious principles.

“They overlap like a web,” Hord said.

The principles are as follows: growing plants in the right environment, using water efficiently, limiting fertilizer use, mulching when possible, attracting wildlife (to retain biodiversity), limiting yard waste, recycling yard waste, reducing stormwater runoff and keeping the waterfront clear.

In the county, yard waste is classified as small branches, leaves, grass clippings, and palm fronds, which must be bagged or sealed in a 40-gallon or less container and cannot exceed 50 pounds. Large branches must be cut into four-foot lengths and stacked curbside. Providers can collect up to 135 cubic feet of yard waste, about the size of five washing machines.

Beyerl said one important tip to remember is that excess grass clippings should not be placed on the street but instead blown back into the yard.

“If you happen to be on the street with a storm drain, it’s a really good idea for the safety of everybody in your neighborhood to shovel and rake that debris out of the drain area and put it out for pickup or put it into your bushes or (elsewhere in the



During a free session last Monday at the Clay County Extension Office, UF/IFAS volunteers Michelle Hord and Beyerl discussed the proper way to dispose of yard debris to better protect waterways.

yard),” Beyerl said.

Hord said she even goes on the street to sweep up excess debris from the street after workers pick up large piles of yard waste after a storm.

“The little, tiny species are still there. That’s just going down the storm drain,” she said.

To address this issue, Hord takes a broom and a dustpan and puts those yard clippings into a garbage bag for later. By leaving out multiple large garbage cans, residents can also eliminate the use of residual plastics and keep potential pollut-



STAFF PHOTOS BY LEE WARDLAW

ants that would leave behind a mess contained and accounted for. Waste Collectors usually accommodate residents who use more than one can.

“Put out as many garbage cans as you have to, as it’s easy not to get a mess on the road if it’s in a container,” Beyerl said.

When disposing of yard waste, preserving the health and beauty of the county’s waterways is paramount, and the residents at the meeting were eager to learn more.

“It’s so very important, yet so very boring. It’s not just the grass clippings, but all yard waste that contributes to (blue-green

algal blooms in the waterways,” Hord said.

After a rainstorm, water picks up debris, soil, motor oil, pesticides and other pollutants along the way. The sludge flows into retention ponds and streams that eventually feed into major waterways, most notably Florida’s longest, the St. Johns River. “Remember, what (debris) goes out of your yard, you’re only putting somewhere else. So, if you have a lot of fertilizer on your yard, it’s only going to stream down and go out into the stormwater drainage,” she said.

Overusing fertilizer in lawn maintenance can lead to algae blooms downstream.

In June and July, county health officials issued alerts for harmful blue-green algal toxins in Doctors Lake. Sunny days, warm temperatures and still water conditions ripen environmental concerns, but with excess nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus from fertilizers playing a factor, residents should do their part to negate stormwater runoff to improve water quality.

Hord and Beyerl also touched on the significance of compost and brush piles, which limit yard disposals, provide much-needed nutrients for the soil and can even attract wildlife such as redtail hawks and owls.

Members and residents absorbed the new knowledge, knowing that their actions could directly impact the water quality in the area. As they left the building, they carried home gardening tips and a shared dedication to protecting the state’s waterways for generations.

## Arrests

from page 29

Altariq H. Rollins, 22, Orange Park, FTA-DWLSR

### Thursday, Sept. 21

Ryan A. Wortman, 37, Orange Park, DWLSR

Morris E. Hayes, 47, Middleburg, felony domestic battery by strangulation

Floyd A. McKeel, 52, Middleburg, DWLSR

Theodore R. Davis, 48, Middleburg, domestic battery

Rocky L. West, 41, Green Cove Springs, VOP-battery on jail staff

Marissa L. Eaton, 25, Melrose, possession-methamphetamine

Holly L. Rochau, 42, Green Cove Springs, violation of pretrial release conditions against domestic violence

James R. Love, 44, Orange Park, shoplifting

Daramee J. Tranquille, 38, Green Cove Springs, writ of attachment

Antonia A. Cobb, 21, Green Cove Springs, three counts VOP-burglary

Suzanne M. Phillips, 50, Green Cove Springs, VOP-larceny

Joshua P. Norman, 24, Green Cove Springs, possession-ammo/firearm by convicted felon

### Wednesday, Sept. 20

Timothy L. Brown, 27, Orange Park, threatening to kill/harm law enforcement officer, trespassing

Sakayyah S. Gilbert, 30, Orange Park, domestic battery

Daniel E. Escalante, 22, Middleburg, petit theft

Jacqueline M. Dipaul, 33, Green Cove Springs, FTA-DWLSR, FTA-failure to register vehicle

William L. Lee, 41, Green Cove Springs, battery in jail

David A. Watkins, 25, Middleburg, leaving scene of accident without leaving ID

Victoria A. Velix, 36, Orange Park, VOP-possession-methamphetamine, VOP-possession-drug paraphernalia

Christian G. Rijo, 21, Middleburg, domestic battery

Donnie R. Vochum, 46, Fleming Island, disorderly intoxication

Alexandra E. Hayward, 26, Fleming Island, DUI, refusal to submit to BAL test

## Calendar

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**ORANGE PARK HISTORICAL PRESERVATION BOARD:** will meet on Sept. 28 at 4 p.m. in town council chambers, 2042 Park Ave.

**CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT** will meet on Sept. 28 at 6 p.m. at the BCC Meeting Room, fourth floor, at Administration Building, 477 Houston St. in Green Cove Springs.

**CLAY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE:** will meet on Sept. 28 at 10 a.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. 28 at 7:30 a.m. at the Montgomery Center, 88 SE 75<sup>th</sup> St. in Starke.

**MIND-BODY YOGA:** will be on Sept. 29 at 9 a.m. at the Fleming Island Library, 1895 Town Center Blvd. The session is free and open to the public.

**CARIN LEON’S COLMILLO DE LECHE TOUR:** will be at the VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena, 300 A. Philip Randolph Blvd.

in Jacksonville on Sept. 29 at 8 p.m. Tickets, which start at \$75, are available at axs.com.

**REGION 12 FLORIDA DAYLILY SOCIETY:** will host a sale on Sept. 30 from 9-11 a.m., at the Garden Club of Orange Park, 1820 Smith St. More than 100 daylilies will be priced for \$10 each.

**JUNIOR WOMEN’S CLUB OF KEYSTONE HEIGHTS:** will host its second annual Almost Fall Festival on Sept. 30 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Keystone Heights Woman’s Club, 6747 Women’s Club Drive. There will be more than 60 vendors.

**ORANGE PARK FARMERS AND ARTS MARKET:** will be on Oct. 1 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Town Hall Park, 2042 Park Ave.

**KEYSTONE HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL:** will meet on Oct. 2 at 6 p.m. at City Hall, 555 S. Lawrence Blvd.

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT:** is on Oct. 3 from 5-9 p.m. The Clay County Sheriff’s Office will have deputies on hand to share information to promote community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. To register your neighborhood, visit claysheriff.com or thodges@claysheriff.com.

**ORANGE PARK TOWN COUNCIL:** will meet on Oct. 3 at 7 p.m. in town council chambers, 2042 Park Ave.

**GREEN COVE SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL:** will meet on Oct. 3 at 7 p.m. in council chambers at 321 Walnut St.

# TODAY'S Sports

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STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

Fleming Island senior freestyle 50 free double state champion Maryn McDade put up some two times at the Frank Holleman Invitational in Ponte Vedra to put her hat in for yet another title run.

## McDade even faster

By Randy Lefko  
*Sports Editor*

PONTE VEDRA - Fleming Island High senior freestyle state champion twice Maryn McDade took on her top competitors from Ponte Vedra and Creekside at the prestigious Frank Holleman Invitational in Ponte Vedra and showed off some prowess that looks solid for a third consecutive 50 free

state title.

McDade, who won the 50 free the past two years with a fourth in the 100 free last year, ripped two fast times; a prelim split of 23.78 that was off her 23.07 seed time, then blasted the final in 22.94 seconds to hold off Ponte Vedra's Penelope Zarczynski, who was McDade's top chaser last

**SEE MCDADE, 39**



STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

Former St. Johns Country Day School soccer standout Avery Raimondo is in heavy traffic with a headball with the University of North Florida Lady Ospreys soccer team that beat Austin Peay 3-0 on Sunday. *See more photos and coverage, on page 38.*

## Indians go big, 46-8



STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

Keystone Heights High wide receiver Andru Seimers latches on to first-half touchdown in Indians 46-8 win over Interlachen. Indians travel to Starke to take on unbeaten Bradford County this week.

By Randy Lefko  
*Sports Editor*

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS - A pick-six interception, a blocked punt to a safety, two passing bombs and an 80-yard scoring run highlighted an explosive 46-8 win for the Keystone Heights High football team over Interlachen on Friday. The 46-point total was the Indians' second consecutive 40-plus-point game. Interlachen came in 0-5, but was 10-0 last year and the Sunshine State Athletic Conference 1A Atlantic champion under former Middleburg High coach Erick Gibson.

"We're getting big plays on both sides of the ball and the team responds to them with even bigger plays," said Keystone Heights coach Steve Reynolds, who sets up an interesting road game against rival Bradford County (4-0) this Friday. "Against a team like Bradford, they are very explosive as well and if we get a couple of plays like tonight, that game could be interesting."

Keystone Heights opened with a suc-

cessful onside kick that led to a score by running back Cartez Daniels from nine yards out. Daniels also had the 80-yard scamper in the second quarter that pushed the score to 31-8.

Along with the way, Keystone Heights' massive defensive tackle Josh Dowling crushed an Interlachen punt on the goal line then scampered to scoop the ball, but fell out of bounds on the recovery for a two-point safety.

Keystone Heights got dinged by an 80-yard kickoff return for a score by Interlachen to answer the score but the Indians' defense held through the rest of the night with a 44-yard pick-six interception by Kyle Perkins and a second interception and run from Colton Hollingsworth. Hollingsworth also recovered the opening onside kickoff by Keystone Heights.


"We wanted to start fast and put them on their heels," said Reynolds. "

Hollingsworth, brother to All-State running back Dalton Hollingsworth,

**SEE KEYSTONE, 37**



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# Athlete Of The Week



**Austin Cruce**, senior linebacker for the Middleburg Broncos, one of the leading tacklers in Clay County, took to the other side of the ball and took his first handoff as a running back and rumbled 38 yards to paydirt to fuel a 14-0 win over Ribault for the Broncos. Cruce also had 12 tackles as linebacker, by the way.



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**GAME OF THE WEEK**  
Fleming Island vs. Bartram Trail 7 p.m.

Keystone @ Bradford  
Ridgeview vs. Middleburg

Orange Park @ Columbia  
Clay BYE  
Oakleaf @ Creekside

## Tough roads ahead for area teams

By Ray Dimonda  
Correspondent

FLEMING ISLAND - Fleming Island High football coach Chad Parker has said numerous times that his game with Bartram Trail, now here and with the Bears at 5-0, is still just the "next" game.

Bartram Trail comes in hot to Fleming Island with a last-second lost to rival St. Augustine after both teams refused to let whatever lead was had stand.

In the end, the Bears lost 34-31 and that should irritate the Bartram Trail sideline when visiting the Golden Eagles.

Big passing against St. Augustine riddled the Yellow Jackets, but Braddock excoriated some Bear demons to win a close one and that may be a clue for Chipoletti to strategize. Bartram Trail has traditionally had a very confusing run attack strategy but that was the Sutherland era.

Against Titusville last week, the Golden Eagles got behind early and had to fight back, though not enough. Can't do that against Bartram Trail.

Middleburg revamped after a tortuous front schedule and took out a tough Ribault team and will face a Jekyll Hyde Ridgeview squad that scored 51 to win then allowed 50 to lose.

With Columbia down this year and Clay and Bishop Kenny (October 20 rain make-up) the final stretch, Wolfe could finish with the best season if "Old School" works.



CORRESPONDENT PHOTOS BY DON LONG

Oakleaf High's defense, led by defensive end J.J. Marsh-Mensie, left, will be tested with the high-powered offenses of Creekside, Buchholz and Mandarin.

Kennard, though, is big-time "old school".

Hutchinson and Marshall are a strong downhill pair for Arnette; Deshun is a big target for passes. Cruce, Cody and Carter are likely to plug the line, so Malone better be on his horse. Coach Wolfe had the wheels turning against Ribault and saw some results. Clay is off and deserves a break for Kennard to de-amp his heart after back-to-back spine tinglers.

Orange Park had Nease on the mat, but could not deliver the knockout on a woozy opponent. When they do, sooner rather than later, they will be formidable. Coach Wimberly is imploring just consistent, smart play. The athletes are there.

Oakleaf ran tough against Bolles and hit some long passes, always formidable and Creekside is treacherous turf, especially after taking out unbeaten Mandarin, 23-22, after being down 16-0. The Knights on Knights will be a grudge match at the line of scrimmage with Oakleaf holding an edge in explosive plays and fourth-quarter readiness.

Keystone Heights, with two 40-plus wins, needs some bad barbeque for Bradford County's pregame meal as the Tornadoes are rolling. If; a big if, Keystone Heights gets the turnovers and scores that have been a new trademark, this could be the upset of the decade for Reynolds.

## 'Cruce'-Control: Broncos get first win

"We are a good football team who played three juggernauts." - MHS Wolfe

By Mike Zima  
Correspondent

MIDDLEBURG - Not many people have ever had as good a night as Middleburg's Austin Cruce did on September 22. The two-way star had three and a half sacks and a tackle for loss to spearhead a suffocating defensive effort by the Broncos and scored the game-winning touchdown as Middleburg notched its first win of 2023 with a 14-0 shutout of visiting Ribault. As if his onfield heroics were not enough, the senior was named Homecoming King at halftime.

"I have been doing this for 20 years, and he is one of the worst dudes I have ever coached," Middleburg head coach

Ryan Wolfe said of Cruce. "He is the ultimate competitor. You show up to coach players like him."

After a scoreless first half in which each team squandered possessions that had reached the red zone, Wolfe inserted Cruce at quarterback on the Broncos' first drive of the third quarter. Cruce had three teammates lined up to his right behind the tackle in what Middleburg calls its heavy package. Cruce took the shotgun snap and followed his three blockers over the right side. The 6'0", 200-pounder found a crease and cut back against the grain as Ribault safety Dayniel Martinez overran the play. Cruce then turned on his considerable speed, leaving the Trojans behind and racing 38 yards for his first high school touchdown. Kaleb Robison added the extra point, giving the Broncos a 7-0 lead with 7:49 remaining in the third quarter.



CORRESPONDENT PHOTO BY RAY DIMONDA

Middleburg linebacker Austin Cruce, already known for his tackling prowess, added a 35-yard touchdown scamper in 14-0 win over Ribault.

Cruce was instrumental on defense, as well. The Trojans appeared determined to tie the game early in the fourth quarter, putting together consecutive first downs to reach their own 40-yard line. But Cruce



# Raiders forget second half

By Ray Dimonda  
Correspondent

ST. JOHNS - The Orange Park Raiders went into halftime leading the Panthers at Nease Stadium, which included an 80-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Gabe Taylor, 14-13. The Raiders could not find any answers to the Panther offense as Nease kept the Raider offense off the field they went on to notch two third-quarter touchdowns with the Raiders second half shut out, 27-14.

"We're just not a disciplined football team right now and it's just killing us," said Raiders Head Coach Marcus Wimberly. "We have our moments when we do things right and we can be pretty explosive on both sides of the ball. But, it has to come together, especially on defense."

Nease continued to nibble away on offense throughout the second half, chewing up the clock using everything they found in



Orange Park sophomore quarterback Gabe Taylor has done a solid job directing the Raider offense and just needs his defense to hold off some scoring late in games.



Orange Park speedster Jermel Brown looks to hit the jets downfield for a big gain against Nease.

the first half to hurt the Raiders. In the end, the Panthers amassed 421 total offensive yards on the Raiders. Nease quarterback Bryce Frick racked up 239 yards in the air against the Raider defensive backs. "All season long we haven't been able to get off the field," said Wimberly. "I told them before that last series (of downs) the offense only ran 34 plays. You can't win like that. We have the type of offense that can score points, but we need the ball."

Post-game, Wimberly had some tough talk for his players and what they need to do to turn the season around and get back into the playoff race before it is too late. "Tough love. If you're a senior and you're not doing what you're supposed to do, we have to put somebody else in that will. We have to have discipline. You can not win football games without discipline. Do your job, especially on defense."

their throat,' and that's what we did."

Middleburg ran the ball a whopping 43 times for 196 yards while throwing only six passes, three of which came during the two-minute drill at the end of the first half. Jenkins rushed 22 times for 79 yards and scored the clinching touchdown. After Cruce's fourth down stop, Jenkins ran the ball on four straight plays to move the ball to the Ribault five-yard line.

From there, he ran the same play that Cruce had scored on, following the three lead blockers over the right side and falling over the goal line to give the hosts a 13-0 lead with 5:39 left in the game.

"We went back to basics," said Wolfe. "Who are our best players? Let's get the ball in their hands."

For his part, Jenkins enjoyed the increased touches.

"I loved it," he said. "The plan was to get the ball in my hands and for me to make big plays."

The strategy worked well on the initial drive of the game. The Broncos used up seven minutes on a 14-play, 61-yard march that reached the Trojans' nine-yard



STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

Newcomers Iyen and Gino Addison; Iyen pictured here, have been huge additions to Clay offensive attack as the Blue Devils vaunted run game has started to exact its will on the opposing defense.

## Bellemare again! Clay wins

By Lee Wardlaw  
Staff writer

ST. AUGUSTINE- The game last Friday between Clay High and Toccoi Creek would be decided by a single kick. By the fourth quarter, the Blue Devils trailed 28-21 and hadn't scored since before halftime. The Blue Devils had to get back into the game, somehow, some way.

Taking the initiative, sophomore quarterback Landon Chadwick threw a long bomb to junior wide receiver Antonio Thomas along the right hashmark, which was capped off by a big off-tackle just before reaching the end zone. Keeping the momentum, running back Gino Addison found the ball in his hands. Addison, a 5-foot-10, 180-pound sophomore, quickly surveyed the field and switched gears, taking off into a physical, barreling gallop toward the left hash mark. He was untouched in his 14-yard stride to

the endzone.

All that was needed was for the Blue Devils to nail the extra point to tie the game up; however, their hopes were jeopardized when junior kicker Ethan Bellemare missed the extra point with just under six minutes remaining. Nevertheless, Clay's defense held firm to force a punt, which reinitiated another Blue Devils' drive from their own 24-yard line all the way to deep in Toros' territory.

With only two seconds remaining and the ball at Toccoi Creek's 6-yard line, Bellemare found himself another opportunity, a chance for redemption. A nearly sold-out crowd of orange-clad Toros' fans, who made life tough for Clay throughout the night, erupted into chaos, all in anticipation that Bellemare would miss again. The weight of the entire game and the crescendo of emotion from the bout

SEE CLAY, 41

## Broncos

from page 32

blitzed up the middle from his middle linebacker position and sacked Ribault's Timothy Cole on fourth down, turning the ball over and leading to Middleburg's second touchdown.

"It definitely feels good," Cruce said of his night. "But it was definitely weird not seeing what our game plan was coming out in the second half."

After being outscored 93-14 in losing their first three games of the season, Wolfe and his coaching staff made changes on both sides of the ball.

More of the Broncos' best players played both offense and defense. Jayden Jenkins was moved from slot receiver to quarterback as the Broncos operated out of their heavy package more than half of the time, usually at a no-huddle tempo.

"We were out of character for three weeks and needed to get back to Middleburg football," explained Wolfe. "Middleburg football is 'Line up and shove it down

line. However, running back Wain Sulph was hit hard by Ribault's Jayven Knighton, causing a fumble. Trojans' linebacker Jamel Bailey caught the ball in midair to quell the threat.

While the offense pounded the Trojans with the ground game, the Middleburg defense bottled up a Ribault attack that had scored a combined 81 points in its last two games.

The Trojans mustered only seven rushing yards on the night, an effort that was not helped when starting running back Bernard Brown, III, went down with what appeared to be a serious lower leg injury on the first possession of the game. Middleburg sacked Cole, who had been impressive in leading Ribault to a 3-1 record entering the contest, eight times and limited the sophomore to eight completions on 18 attempts for 110 yards.

"We started out bringing wide pressure with the defensive ends and corners, and then later we switched to widening our defensive ends and blitzing up the middle," said Wolfe.

Cruce credited pre-snap movements

along the defensive front with confusing Cole and the Trojans' linemen.

Ribault drove inside the Broncos' 10-yard line twice in the first half, but defensive end B.J. Carter sacked Cole from the blind side on fourth and goal from the nine on the first occasion and cornerback Landon Nalepa broke up a slant pass intended for Johnny Braziel on the second.

Middleburg, now 1-3, visits Clay County rival Ridgeview on September 29 in what will be the first District 3S-3 matchup of the season for both teams.

The Panthers will also enter the game with a 1-3 record.

None of the four members of District 3S-3, which also includes Orange Park (2-3) and Lake City Columbia (0-4), has a winning record. Wolfe feels like the district is wide open.

"We are a good football team who played three juggernauts," he said, referring to early season opponents Hawthorne, Bradford County and Ponte Vedra. "The teams we played got us battle-tested and ready for the rest of the season."

# Martinez, Nichols crush Bale N Trail XC

## Fleming Island takes on SE USA best

By Randy Lefko  
Sports Editor

**BARTRAM TRAIL** - Clay High senior Erika Martinez and St. Johns Country Day School senior Richard Nichols both ran breakout races on Saturday at the Bartram Trail High Bale N Trail 5K course.

Martinez and Nichols are fairly new faces on the local cross country scene with Martinez a defensive midfielder for the Blue Devils' girls soccer team and Nichols being a top five runner for the Spartans behind the likes of Matthew Stratton and Graham Myers the past few years.

"I definitely would not be here if not for Kaygen (soccer and XC teammate Kaygen Williamson)," said Martinez. "Kaygen just kept saying 'Erika just run, it will make you so much better in soccer'."

In her first season on the cross country scene, Martinez has slowly dipped her finishing times to approaching region-level qualifying times with her 20:59.70 on Saturday for 28th place a solid improvement on the elusive 20 minute mark that puts most athletes into their respective region championship meets. Most area region races hover in the 17-19 minutes range for state qualifiers.

"I figure from my running in a 90 minute soccer game, this seems like the same thing except there are no stops," said Martinez. "It definitely takes a lot of mental focus along the whole course to keep track of everything going on around you and how your body feels."

In the girls race, 17:50.50 was the winning time from Creekside sophomore Alyson Johnson in a runaway with second place at 18:39.20.

Not far behind Martinez, locally, were Williamson in 35th in 21:15.80 with

Oakleaf junior Morgan Wade at 37th in 21:23.70. The top 13 finishers were under 20 minutes.

In team scores, Bishop Kenny (4th in 2A last year) topped the girls field with all five scoring runners in the top five to earn 29 points with Oak Hall (1A state champion last year) second at 58 and Providence (1A 8th last year) third at 109. Oakleaf was top area school at 10th with 335 points.

Nichols, with a prerace strategy from coach Greg Stratton of pacing teammates, made a decision that he felt very good at the start and would run near the front.

"Honestly, I really wasn't feeling like a great race," said Nichols. "At the start line, I felt great with the great weather, everything just clicked and it felt right for a good race. I turned to coach Stratton and told him I felt like a good race."

Nichols powered against an elite field of runners up front from state powers Trinity Catholic (overall winner Cedric McFadden in 16:03.70), Creekside, Oak Hall and Ponte Vedra to push across in 27th place in 17:04.80. Note: McFadden played running back and linebacker for Trinity on Friday night and also was a varsity lacrosse player.

"That is my best time ever by about 30 seconds," said Nichols, who trained with state champion Matthew Stratton, now at University of Florida, for three years. "We hit the first mile at 5:20 which was a little fast for me, but I didn't even feel it out there. Everything felt good the entire race."

In the boys race, Oakleaf High sophomore Grant Keppel, who has been top area runner in the first half of the season, finished 37th in 17:21.00 with Orange Park football athlete Ty Obermeyer third area finisher in 64th at 17:48.30.



STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

Left: Clay High senior Erika Martinez is quietly moving into contention as a top runner in Clay County with a shot at a senior state meet berth. Right: St. Johns Country Day School senior runner Richard Nichols exalts his effort with best-ever finish and time at Bale and Trail Cross Country at Bartram Trail.

Creekside (4A state champion) won the team title with three runners in the top 10 with 57 points with Oak Hall (4th in 1A) tying the Knights also with 57 and three runners in the top 10. Bartram Trail was third at 80.

### FIHS Myers fourth in Georgia XC

Fleming Island High's senior cross country duo of Graham Myers and John Keester IV both powered to top finished as the prestigious Wingfoot XC Classic in Cartersville, GA, on Saturday in one of the toughest events in the southeast United States.

Myers and Keester both were among a front running pack of 25 runners under 16 minutes with Myers fourth in 15:26.20 and Keester IV 23rd in 15:54.00 as the Golden Eagles battled with the likes of winner Tommy Latham of Marist High (Brookhaven, GA), who has a mile split of 4:08.5 on his resume; Luke Alverson of James Clemens High (Madison, AL) with a 4:17 mile, and Raghav Gopalakrishn of Ardrey Kell

High (Charlotte, NC) who has a 4:06 mile and the North Carolina 4A state title.

Latham, the Georgia Gatorade (National) runner of the year last year and 6A state champion, won in 15:02.30 with Clemens at 15:15.20 and Gopalakrishn third in 15:18.0.

In the team scores, Fleming Island was fifth with 214 points with James Clemens winning with 161 points.

In the girls race, Fleming Island sophomore Brooke Reynolds was top finisher at 44th in 19:57.30 with individual champion Claire Stegall of Nolensville High in Tennessee (4:39.94 mile and 3A state XC, 1660, 3200 champion), leading a break-away threesome all under 18 minutes with her winning time of 17:21.20 winning by 28 seconds over Caroline Wood of Pace Academy of Atlanta (2A state champion). Claire Shelton of Dunwoody (GA) (defending Wingfoot champion/1A state XC champion) was third in 17:53.70.

Allie Knotts was second finisher for Fleming Island; 18th team, in 20:17 for 58th place.





PHOTOS COURTESY OF FURMAN SPORTS INFORMATION

Ridgeview High graduate Tyler Huff had spectacular first season at Furman last year with two playoff games and 10 wins. Left: Former Fleming Island High defensive end and wrestling standout Jeremiah Jackson is stellar starter for Furman along with linebacker Alex Maier, also of Fleming Island.

## RHS Tyler Huff named Southern Conference Player of week

By Randy Lefko

Sports Editor

with excerpts from *Furman Sports Information*

Quarterback Tyler Huff (Ridgeview HS, Orange Park) accounted for 250 yards of total offense and FCS No. 7 Furman limited No. 21 Mercer to just 267 yards en route to a 38-14 victory over the Bears in the Southern Conference opener for both schools on Saturday afternoon at Paladin Stadium.

Furman's backfield; Dominic Roberto

and Wayne Anderson Jr., rushed for touchdowns of nine and 13 yards, respectively, as Furman built a 17-0 lead in the second quarter.

The Bears trimmed the deficit to 17-14 on Carter Peevy's eight-yard quarterback keeper with 8:02 to play in the third quarter before Huff led the Paladins on a 14-play, 80-yard scoring drive, capped by Myion Hicks' one-yard touchdown plunge in the final minute of the period for a 24-14 advantage. Huff, in his second graduate season with Furman after four years

at Presbyterian, connected with tight end Mason Pline on a 10-yard touchdown toss on the Paladins next possession, and Jayquan Smith rumbled 20 yards to paydirt on the following drive to extend the Paladins' lead to 38-14 with 8:04 to play.

Furman (3-1, 1-0 SoCon) recorded seven tackles-for-a-loss, including three sacks, to hold Mercer (2-2, 0-1 SoCon) to just 144 yards on the ground and 123 through the air. Braden Gilby paced the defense with 11 tackles and registered one sack. On the defense, former Fleming Is-

land High standouts Jeremiah Jackson and Alex Maier; defensive line and linebacker; also are on Furman roster. Maier had two tackles; one TFL against Mercer.

Huff, the reigning SoCon Offensive Player of the Week after a 31-28 Furman win last week over Kennesaw State (24 of 32 passes, 237 Yds, 4TDS rushing off 79 Yds in 19 carries), went 20-of-24 passing for 168 yards and a touchdown while rushing for 82 yards on 11 carries. Huff is also a Preseason All Southern Conference selection at quarterback.

## Whoa! Panthers ripped 50-0

By Ray Dimonda

Correspondent

ST. JOHNS - The Beachside Barracudas took a solid bite out of the Ridgeview Panthers early, and just kept gnawing away all game as the Panthers gave up three unanswered first quarter touchdowns. As the Panther defense stepped up in the second quarter, Ridgeview was a yard away from breaking the goal line plane, coming away empty. The Barracuda's bite was too intense as the Panthers got blanked on the way to a 50-0 road beatdown.

The Panthers won the toss and elected to receive the kickoff, trying to set the stage. The plan looked solid as the Panthers gained an early first down.

That was the bright spot of the first quarter as Beachside needed only three plays to go ahead 7-0 early. Back on offense after a touchback kickoff, the Panthers would go three offensive plays and had to punt again.

Beachside needed only a single 40 plus yard pass to go ahead 14-0 with 7:52 left to play in the first quarter. After another touchback kickoff back to the Panthers, Rayhn Hutchinson gave it everything



Ridgeview quarterback Travon Malone put 51 points on the board last week in Panther win then went dry against Beachside in 50-0 loss.

he could muster on the ground running, backed by quarterback Travon Malone trying to find receivers anywhere on the field, with meeting nothing but frustration with the smothering Beachside defense.

The second quarter of play showed some hope as the Panther defense held their ground, preventing any Barracuda scores. Offensively, Malone found Deshun



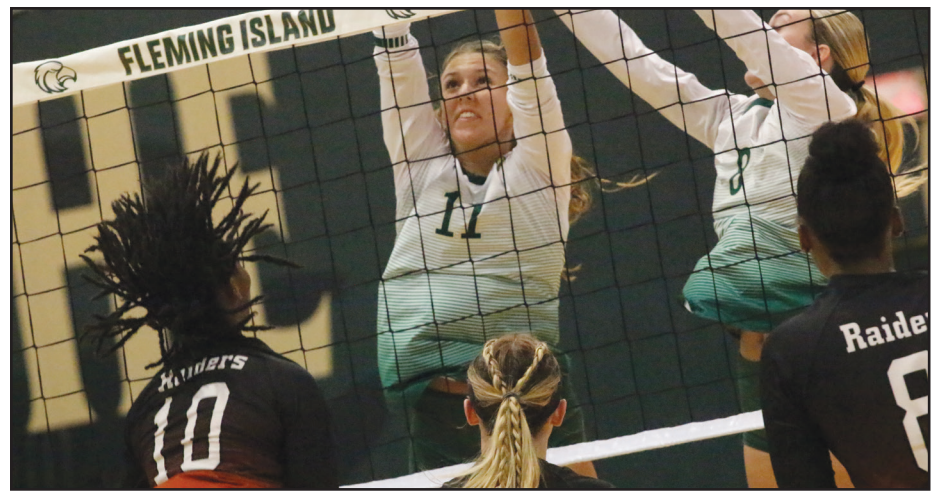
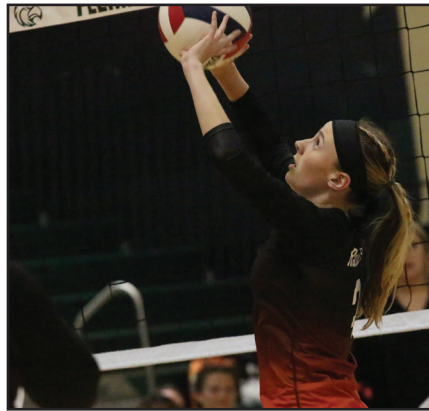
CORRESPONDENT PHOTOS BY RAY DIMONDA

Ridgeview High's defensive line rises to attempt field goal block against Beachside.

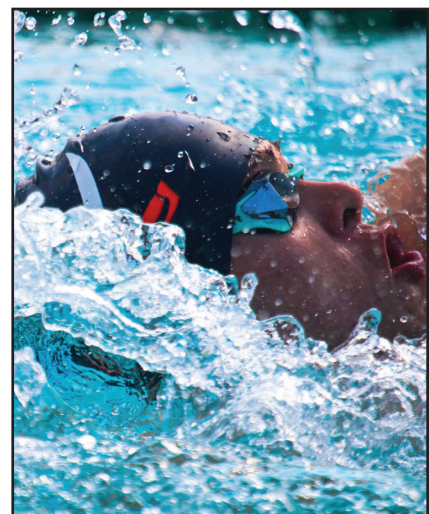
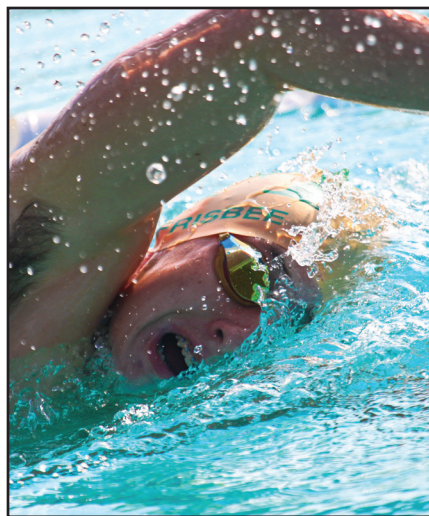
Green deep, getting stopped just shy of the goal line. The Barracuda defense came at the Panthers full bore, sacking Malone for a five yard loss, another sack for loss, then an attempt at a wildcat direct snap to Hutchinson that sailed over his head, recovered by the Panthers. On fourth down, Santiago Quecano attempted a field goal

and seemed to ground his foot, sending the ball short and into the hands of the Barracudas. Even with the shutout second quarter, the Panthers could do nothing with the sting of that Barracuda bite in the second half allowing 30 more unanswered points on the way to a 50-0 defeat. selection at quarterback.

### Orange Park vs. Fleming Island



### Orange Park vs. Fleming Island



# Clay girls dominate Floyd E. Lay rankings, Fleming boys second

By Randy Lefko  
Sports Editor

GAINESVILLE - With team state titles in weightlifting on both sides; boys for Fleming Island and girls for Clay High, Clay High's girls athletics dominated Class 5A in the FHSAA Floyd E. Lay Sunshine Cup All-Sports Awards in a press release of August 4.

Clay, with a repeat of their state weightlifting title and a handful of medalists including record setting Emma Heck, scored a whopping 114 points to outdistance runnerup American Heritage (Plantation) and third placer Matanzas with 75 and 71 points, respectively.

In the girls competition, statewide, Clay finished second to St. Thomas Aquinas' 151 as top point total for girls with Clay's 114.0 edging Bolles' 113.0.

For the boys award, in Class 6A, with



Clay High's girls weightlifting team earned a repeat of the state title and, combined with state swimmers and state track athletes garnered the top spot for Class 5A programs in Florida for the Floyd E. Lay All Sports Award.

the Golden Eagles boys team winning their weightlifting title, second place with behind wrestling powerhouse Lake Gibson was by just a half point, 104.0-103.5 in the

final tally. Fleming Island wrestling went right to the edge twice with Lake Gibson in wrestling to push the Golden Eagle point total.

In 2A girls, St. Johns Country Day School, with a state runnerup in soccer and a Final Four girls basketball finish, scored 30 points to finish fifth behind 57 points to cross country and track powerhouse Oak Hall.

In the overall standings, which combine girls scores and and boys scores, Fleming Island finished fourth in Class 6A with St. Thomas Aquinas overwhelming in first at 252.0 with Fleming Island at 147.50 behind Ponte Vedra and New Smyrna Beach.

In Class 5A, Clay was third to Jensen Beach, power volleyball, and American Heritage (Plantation) the the top two just a point apart; 148.0-147.0 and Clay at 122.0.

In Class 2A. St. Johns Country Day School finished sixth again with Oak Hall at the top.

SEE RANK, 42



STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

Keystone Heights running back Colton Hollingsworth was active with a 50 yard run and one yard scoring plunge, an onside kick fumble recovery and an interception in Indians 46-8 win over Interlachen.

## Keystone

from page 31

ripped a 50-yard scrimmage run that finished at the one-yard line late in the game. Hollingsworth scored off the one-yard plunge. Keystone Heights' offense, led by sophomore quarterback Baylor Ford, got two touchdown tosses nearly 40 yards with Andru Seimer grabbing one for 37 yards and Wyatt Van Zant grabbing the second for 52 yards. Van Zant also recovered a fumble. Jackson Parmeter had an interception in the fourth quarter. Keystone Heights also got a 25-yard field goal from kicker Tyler Sapp. "With Cartez having a good night on the ground, their defense had to cover him and that gave my receivers some space downfield," said quarterback Baylor Ford. "I just keep calm and let them get open. There were some great catches out there."

For Ford, the tutelage under former Orange Park High gunslinger Ken Mudge, has been progressive. "He's a quick learner and loves to play quarterback," said Mudge. "He's going to be a good one in the next couple of years."



Keystone Heights band gets set for renditions of Stevie Wonder music at halftime.



Keystone Heights coaching duo Steve Reynolds, left, and offensive coach Ken Mudge have produced back to back 40-points wins for Indians.



Keystone Heights cheerleader Tinleigh Gubics is "taking one for the team" by cheering with injury boot on foot.



Keystone Heights running back Cartez Daniels breaks for 80 yard scoring run in second quarter action. Daniels also scored from nine yards out in Indians first series.

Keystone Heights cheerleaders and coach Melanie Wells celebrate birthday for Wells during break in action Wells teaches match and financial literacy at Keystone Heights.

# UNF soccer showcases Clay County talent

By Randy Lefko  
Sports Editor  
with excerpts from *UNF Ospreys Athletics*

JACKSONVILLE - North Florida women's soccer earned its second Atlantic Sun win of the campaign thanks to two goals in three minutes and a Sophia Goetz brace as the Ospreys (4-5-2, 2-2-0 ASUN) stifled Austin Peay (4-7-1, 2-2-0 ASUN) 3-0, Sunday, Sept. 24.

On the field for the Lady Ospreys were Clay County High School and Clay County Soccer alums Lauren Weiss (SJCDS), Bella Pontieri (SJCDS), Avery Raimondo (SJCDS), Liz Anne Fogarty (Clay), Brialynd Anderson (Providence), Analiese Anderson (Providence/Clay County), as well as Sydney Hauth (FIHS) and Courtney Allen, both who were injured.

UNF caught the Governors on their heels, scoring twice within the first three minutes to take an early advantage. Sophia

Goetz bounced on the end of a rebounded shot by Paige McSwigan to open the scoring. Just a minute later, a saved header from Zara Siassi fell into the path of Jersei Dadah who slotted it home. Goetz got her brace in the 19th minute, heading in a Lauren Weiss cross after a good link-up play with Amanda Hartmann.

With the score 2-0, Fogarty and Raimondo entered the game and Fogarty immediately put two head balls into the goalie's hands. Fogarty also got a soft shot on goal that was handled.

Raimondo played midfield and directed passes into the Osprey offensive game with Pontieri entering in the second half as a forward.

It's the first time in the Eric Faulconer era and at least since 2012 that North Florida scored twice in the first five minutes of the match.



STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

University of North Florida women's soccer has a handful of Clay County talent on its roster with the Lady Ospreys winning a 3-0 game against Austin Peay Sunday. Pictured are, from left, Courtney Allen, Avery Raimonda (SJCDS), Sydney Hauth (FIHS), Brialynd Anderson (Providence), Liz Anne Fogarty (Clay), Bella Pontieri (SJCDS), Lauren Weiss (SJCDS) and Analiese Anderson (Providence). The Anderson sisters and Allen played club soccer at Clay County Soccer.



Former SJCDS standout Lauren Weiss has her face on the stadium fence banner as fans enter.

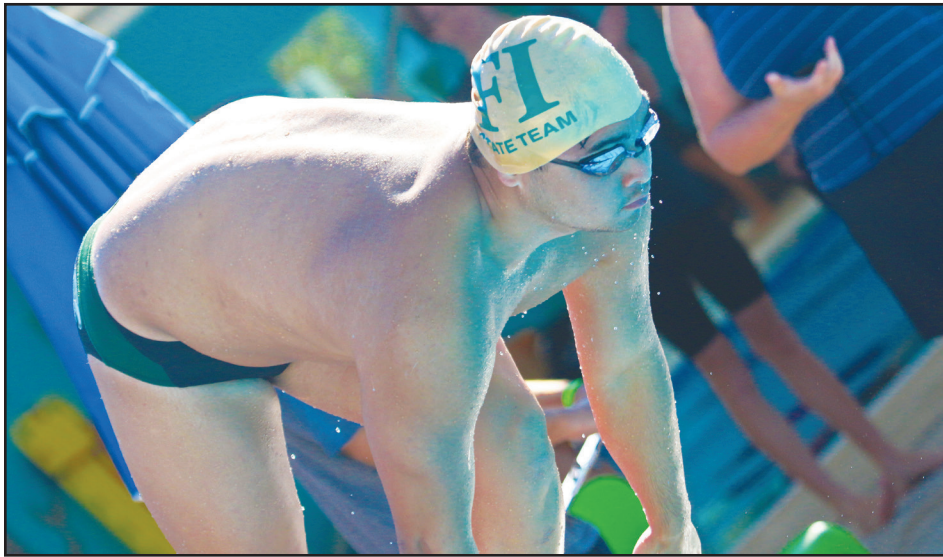


UNF struck quickly with two goals in the first two minutes; this header from forward Sophia Goetz and a second one 30 seconds later from Chloe Lynch.



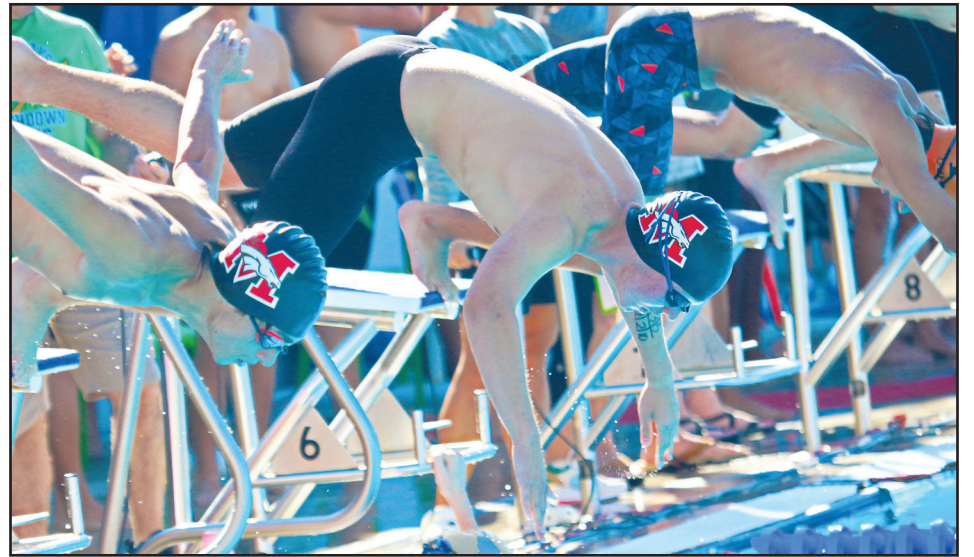
Clay High's Liz Anne Fogarty has a dooming sneer at Austin Peay goalie who had the tenacity to not let her shot on goal hit the net.





Fleming Island butterfly specialist Dylan Ducut finished 16th in B Final with a 57.31 split. Ducut swam a 56.02 in prelims.

STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO



Starting the 50 free in prelim action are Middleburg's Les Bessent, Max Zarczynski and Orange Park Travis Guhl.



Oakleaf High's Jack Strombeck readies for start of 100 fly, but Strombeck scored 10 team points with his 12th in the 500 free in 5:21.02.



Oakleaf High Delicia Coleman finished 11th in the 100 fly prelims and 12 in the 200 individual medley prelims.

## McDade

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year. Zarczynski, the defending 100 free champion, split at 23.73 for second to McDade. Zarczynski hit 24.13 in prelims then ramped to 23.73 to chase McDade.

Third place was also a familiar face in Ponte Vedra's Sophia Fox in 24.18.

At last year's 3A state championship race, McDade won in 23.07 with Zarczynski second in 23.36 to set up another possible showdown in November.

In the 100, McDade won in 50.97 with Nease junior Olivia Moore second in 51.86 and Ponte Vedra's Fox third in 52.64.

McDade's split, 50.97, was faster than Zarczynski's state championship winning 51.19. McDade got fourth in 51.74 last year.

Fox, as a freshman, was fifth in 51.94.

In team scores in Ponte Vedra, Bolles dominated the top spot with 541 points over runner-up Nease at 409 for the men. For the women, Ponte Vedra edged Bolles, 497-455, with Creekside third at 344. Fleming Island was sixth with McDade's points and a third place in diving from 3A defending champion Ava Brinkman, and a strong distance performance from Elizabeth Loehr; seventh in 200 free, fourth in

500 free and a fifth in the 200 free relay with McDade, Katelyn Moore and Keira Fetzner. Caroline Croce was eighth in diving as well for Fleming Island.

For the boys, David Chacin scored points with a 13th in the 100 butterfly, a 13th in the 100 backstroke and 13th in the 400 free relay with Luke Frisbee, Reed Ely and Kirk Lane. Butterfly specialist Dylan Ducut was 16th in the 100 fly.

Orange Park finished eighth in the boy's races with sprinter Sebastian Lopez scoring 22 points off a sixth in the 100 free, a ninth in the 100 breaststroke and a ninth in the 200 free relay and 10th in 400 free relay.

Oakleaf junior Peyton Loving scored 25 team points with a ninth in the 50 free (25.46), third in the 100 breaststroke (1:07.44), and eighth in 200 medley relay and ninth in 200 free relay.

Middleburg's boys 200 medley relay; Sawyer Hampton, Jace Shadrock, Collin Pirner and Landyn Johnson finished 20th.

Ridgeview's Connor Murphy had a 24th-place finish in the 100 backstroke with the boy's 200 free finishing 16th with Murphy, Carson Nicholson, Ben Kollasch and Timothy Morrison.

Ridgeview's girls 200 medley was 23rd with Rylen Wood, Brook Propes, Isabella Feliciano and Madaline Kendrick.



Oakleaf senior freestyler Diego Pelayo finished with 25.63 50 free and 1:10.13 100 breaststroke.

# Lady Broncos take one from Trinity on the road

No. 2 (5A) MHS vs. No. 4 (2A) TCA

By Randy Lefko  
Sports Editor

JACKSONVILLE - In one of the loudest and jam-packed gymnasiums for a high school volleyball game, the matchup between Middleburg, ranked second to Jensen Beach in Class 5A and 27th in Florida at 10-4, and Trinity Christian ranked fourth in Class 2A and 11th in Florida at 18-2, turned into a raucous all-out brawl above the net featuring two of the toughest hitters in north Florida.

"They beat us earlier in the season at the Nike Invitational in Tampa, 2-1 (25-21, 25-27, 7-15), and we have made some slight adjustments with our strategy to take them on," said Broncos coach Meredith Forkum, who, in her first year, revved up the Bronco machine for a clash with Trinity's top hitter, junior Amaria King (a Marquette University commit), who has nearly 300 scoring kill shots for the season with less than a week left in the season before districts. "We have three pretty good hitters and blockers upfront; Connor Rahn, Brooke Forkum, both with nearly 150 kills each and

Camden Rahn with 76, but King is a monster up there. We will move people to try and block her, but she's tough."

With Trinity taking game one decisively, 25-16, the Lady Broncos answered with a rugged overtime 25-23 win in game two with Connor Rahn exploding with massive rocket shots over the net opposite King.



Trinity Christian's monster hitter Amaria King peers around Middleburg defense awaiting serve. King, with 30 kills, was throwing lightning bolts over the net with the Lady Bronco defense having erratic success through the night.

Forkum had been the lead hitter for game one and Trinity shifted unsuccessfully with Rahn getting hot.

Games three and four were dominated by King who finished with 30 kills for the night as Trinity won game three 25-23 and game four 26-24. The loss snapped a six-game win streak for Middleburg with wins over Ponte Vedra, Nease and Fleming Island while Trinity Christian notched their 14th straight win.

Down on Blanding Blvd., Ridgeview, 10-6 now and ranked 54th in Florida and



STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

Middleburg High lefty hitter Brooke Forkum tries to slice between two Trinity Christian blockers in tough action in a loud gym.



Middleburg lead hitter Connor Rahn got her engine revved in the crucial second game won by Middleburg 25-23 with Rahn punching in for eight kills.

sixth in 5A, beat Fleming Island 3-0 after an upset loss to Ponte Vedra, Jupiter and Beachside in a three-game tournament

slide. The Panthers will finish their regular season with Beachside, Trinity Christian and Ponte Vedra a third time.

## Abbas leads Golden Eagles' record round

By Randy Lefko  
Sports Editor

FLEMING ISLAND - After junior Tyler Mawhinney roared to a three-way tie at the Randy Warren Memorial two weeks ago with an 18th hole eagle, a new face popped into the Fleming Island picture when senior Jaylen Abbas blasted a nine-hole round 33 on the Fleming Island Golf Course to lead his team to a 136-141 win over Episcopal in a battle of nearly the same golfers that Mawhinney had slayed prior. Episcopal notched a tie with Ponte Vedra (2A champs last year) on Mon., Sept. 16 at the Jacksonville Beach Varsity Invitational with both hitting 295 ahead of Beachside's 300. Beachside was third in 2A last year.

Right behind Abbas for the Golden Eagles, sixth in 3A last year led by graduated Colton Swartz and Mawhinney both finishing seventh, was the duo of Emmet Kuhlenkamp and Ryan Houck at 34 to bol-



Emmet Kuhlenkamp and Canbree Hodge

ster the Fleming Island scoring.

Top golfer was Episcopal's Henry Robards, second in 1A with Episcopal second in 1A team scores last year, with an outstanding 31 (5-under par) slate with three birdies and an eagle on his scorecard.

Abbas kept pace with Robards through the first five holes with three birdies to the fifth hole, then parred the final four holes.



Robards eagle and a birdie sixth hole proved the difference for the matchup.

Mawhinney, the hero of the Randy Warren, fell to a 37 (1-over par) score to tie for seventh with two bogies and just one birdie.

Keystone Heights senior Nick Binet was the lone ranger in the front seven tie group with a 37 score as the top Indian.

Beachside finished third behind Fleming Island with a 153 with Keystone Heights fourth at 160.

On Monday, Fleming Island notched a win over perennial power Bartram Trail, 144-167, with Mawhinney hitting the 33 mark with Houck behind him at 36. Abbas shot a 38.

In a huge dual match with 3A powerhouse Buchholz (12th in 3A ahead of Fleming Island at 13th by one point, 344-345, last year) with 3A runnerup Braydn Smith hitting a strong 35 score, the Fleming Island girls overcame the sprint to the finish with three golfers; Cambree Hodge, Kalia Polete and Chloe Blanc taking the next three spots to push the Golden Eagles to a 166-184 win at The Golf Club of Fleming Island.

Upcoming matches are Clay at Keystone Heights girls on Thur., Sept. 28, Clay girls at Fleming Island on Thurs., Oct. 5, Fleming Island girls and boys at Deerwood CC FGA Invitational on Wed., Sept. 27 which will feature all the St. Johns County schools and Fleming Island, Atlantic Coast and Bolles.





Clay wide receiver Antonio Thomas has a handful of clutch catches as Blue Devils head to second half of season. Right: Clay coach Kyle Kennard was adamant about returning Clay football to winning ways.

## Clay

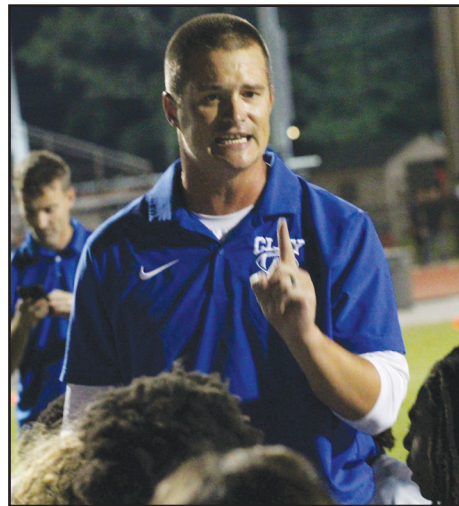
from page 33

between the border-county schools would fall onto the shoulders of the junior as he lined up for a 23-yard field goal attempt.

Bellemare sealed the deal, nailing the field goal through the uprights as time expired, initiating a wild frenzy that sent the entire Blue Devils' team into an on-field celebration. The Blue Devils secured a fourth straight win since falling to county rival and area superpower Fleming Island in their opener. In neighboring St. John's County, the Blue Devils crashed Toccoi Creek's homecoming party.

But the junior didn't boast of himself. Instead, Bellemare credited his coaches and teammates for the big win. "Once again, it's my team. My team has confidence in me. I love doing what I do, just putting it through those uprights. It feels like nothing else," Bellemare said. Not the first he handled himself under pressure, the cold-blooded kicker booted a game-winning try through the uprights at Orange Park on Sept. 8, two weeks before the commencement of the Raiders' new stadium.

The Blue Devils took advantage of multiple mistakes from Toccoi Creek junior quarterback Ryan Killmer, who dealt with connection problems throughout the night. On offense, Gino may have scored the



touchdown that put the Blue Devils back within striking distance, but his brother, Iyen, generated 255 yards and four touchdowns on a whopping 7.1 yards per carry. But leave it to Iyen, just another selfless teammate under the leadership of head coach Kyle Kennard, to credit his older brother for showing him the ropes. "I've really watched (Gino) a lot. I watch his film and style of running and try to copy that," he said.

Since their loss to the Eagles at the start of the season, the Blue Devils have been a formidable force with a high-flying offense that averages 37.3 points per game, aided by an opportunistic defense.



# WJCT 89.9 News

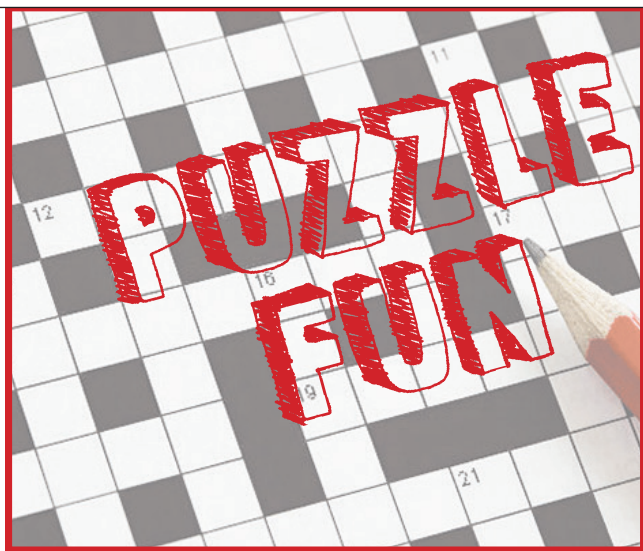
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Level: Advanced

# Rank

from page 37

Points are awarded to a school based on its finish in FHSAA State Series competition in each sport in the classification in which it has been assigned to compete. The top 16 places are scored. In all sports with team scores, points are awarded as follows: 20 for the state champion, 12 for the state runner-up, 9 for the state semi-finalists, 6 for 5-8th places, and 3 for 9-16th places. In sports where 16 or less schools qualify for the state tournament bracket, points will only be awarded to the 1st through 8th place finishers using the same scoring system.

### Results

- Girls:** Class 6A, 1. St. Thomas Aquinas 151; Fleming Island 44
- Class 5A:** 1. Clay 114, Ridgevieww 44, Middleburg 24,
- Class 4A:** 1. Bolles 113, Keystone Heights 2
- Class 2A:** 1. Oak Hall 57, SJCDs 30.0
- Boys:** Class 7A, 1. SW Miami 103.0, Oakleaf 2.5
- Class 6A:** 1. Lake Gibson 104.0, Fleming Island 103.5
- Class 5A:** 1. Jesuit (Tampa) 121.0, Clay 8.0, Middleburg 7.5, Ridgeview 6.0
- Class 4A:** 1. Bolles 119.0, Keystone Heights 42.50
- Class 2A:** 1. St. Stephens (Bradenton) 37, SJCDs 20.0
- Combined:** Class 7A, 1. Bartram Trail 137.75, Oakleaf 17.25
- Class 6A:** 1. St. Thomas Aquinas 252.0, Fleming Island 147.50
- Class 5A:** 1. Jensen Beach 148.0, Clay 122.0, Middleburg 31.50, Ridgeview 31.0
- Class 4A:** 1. Bolles 232.0, Keystone Heights 44.50
- Class 2A:** 1. Oak Hall 88.0, SJCDs 50.0

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## CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to employment. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 7 = E)

- A. 9 7 10 8 5 7**  
Clue: Account of one's qualifications
- B. 10 7 19 9 17 12**  
Clue: Look for
- C. 9 7 17 9 8 4 14 7 9**  
Clue: Fills positions
- D. 17 19 9 7 7 9**  
Clue: Occupation

Answers: A. résumé B. search C. recruiter D. career

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to getting a job.

### FOECIF

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

Answer: Office

## Guess Who?

I am a singer born in Canada on September 9, 1975. As a young man I prayed to become a famous singer. Since then, I have become a Grammy Award-winning jazz singer who has sold over 50 million records internationally.

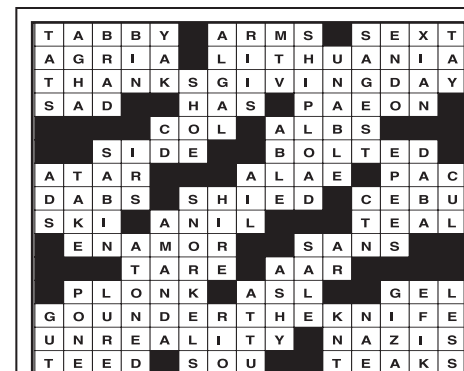
Answer: Michael Bublé

## JOB SEEKING WORD SEARCH

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

### WORDS

- ADVERTISEMENT
- APPLY
- ATMOSPHERE
- ATTIRE
- BENEFITS
- COMPANY
- COVER LETTER
- EMPLOYMENT
- EXPERIENCE
- FOLLOW-UP
- INTERVIEW
- JOB
- KEYWORDS
- LISTING
- MATCH
- NEGOTIATE
- OFFER
- RECRUIT
- RESUME
- SALARY
- SEEK
- SKILLS



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

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





CLAY COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES

Legal 84703 Published 9/21/2023 and 9/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA IN RE: ESTATE OF PROBATE DIVISION File No. 2023-CP-000461 Division D EUGENE LESTER FRANCIS Deceased.

The administration of the estate of Eugene Lester Francis, deceased, whose date of death was July 6, 2023, is pending in the Circuit Court for Clay County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 825 N. Orange Ave. / PO Box 698, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 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.

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.

Legal 84702 Published 9/21/2023 and 9/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper Legal Description: LOT 53 KINGSLEY COVE AS REC O R 4193 PG 1009 Parcel ID No.: 150623-021646-002-53 Opening Bid Amount: \$2,209.21 Physical Address: 6426 CABANA TRC - STARKE

Legal 84376 Published 9/14/2023, 9/21/2023, 9/28/2023 and 10/5/2023 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 October 17, 2023 10:00 AM.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:

FIRST COAST TOWING gives notice that on 10/19/2023 at 10:00 AM the following vehicle(s) may be sold by public sale at FIRST COAST TOWING INC - 2905 BLANDING BLVD. MIDDLEBURG, FL 32068 to satisfy the lien for the amount owed on each vehicle for any recovery, towing, or storage services charges and administrative fees allowed pursuant to Florida statute 713.78.

Legal 83483 Published 9/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: LANE VANCE-LAVA ASSETS INC, the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows: Certificate No.: 893/2020 Legal Description: LOT 12 BLK 94 HIGHRIDGE ESTATE AS REC O R 3142 PG 457

Legal 82858 Published 9/7/2023, 9/14/2023, 9/21/2023 and 9/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper Legal Description: LOT 16 KINGSLEY COVE AS REC O R 4369 PG 587 Parcel ID No.: 150623-021646-002-16 Opening Bid Amount: \$8,033.66 Physical Address: 6349 CABANA TRC - STARKE

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.: 202/2021 Legal Description: LOT 16 KINGSLEY COVE AS REC O R 4369 PG 587 Parcel ID No.: 150623-021646-002-16 Opening Bid Amount: \$8,033.66 Physical Address: 6349 CABANA TRC - STARKE

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 31st day of August, 2023 TARA S . GREEN Clay County Clerk & Comptroller

Legal 82835 Published 9/7/2023, 9/14/2023, 9/21/2023 and 9/28/2023 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.: 2056/2021 Legal Description: LOT 27 BLK 1 FLA FRONTIER REPLAT UNIT 1 AS REC O R 2557 PG 2136 Parcel ID No.: 190824-007292-000-00 Opening Bid Amount: \$1,785.73 Physical Address: 5196 COUNTY ROAD 214 , KEYSTONE HEIGHTS

Legal 82834 Published 9/7/2023, 9/14/2023, 9/21/2023 and 9/28/2023 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.: 629/2021 Legal Description: LOTS 20 & 21 BLK 32 HIGHRIDGE ESTATES AS REC O R 484 PGS 122 & 124 Parcel ID No.: 200823-002920-000-00 Opening Bid Amount: \$1,170.04 Physical Address: 6430 BUCKNELL AVE , KEYSTONE HEIGHTS

Legal 82832 Published 9/7/2023, 9/14/2023, 9/21/2023 and 9/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF ACTION BY PUBLICATION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY FLORIDA CASE NUMBER: 2023-DP-18 DIVISION: JV-E IN THE INTEREST OF: L.C. MINOR CHILD THE STATE OF FLORIDA TO: Alesia Caruso, Mother 2285 Marsh Hawk Lane, Apt. 11304 Fleming Island, Florida 32003

Last Known Address YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Petition has been filed in the above-styled Court by the GUARDIAN AD LITEM OFFICE for termination of parental rights and permanent commitment for subsequent adoption of the above named child, L.C., who was born on February 7, 2023. You are hereby commanded to appear before the 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 October 3, 2023 A.D. for a trial on this termination of parental rights petition. You must appear at the hearing on the date and time specified.

FAILURE TO PERSONALLY APPEAR AT THIS TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS TRIAL CONSTITUTES CONSENT TO THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS OF THIS CHILD. IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR ON THE DATE AND TIME SPECIFIED YOU MAY LOSE ALL LEGAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD NAMED IN THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS PETITION FILED IN YOUR DEPENDENCY CASE. 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 crlrinrp@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 23rd day of August, 2023. Tara S. Green as Clerk of Said Court By: Denise Haselwood As Deputy Clerk

Legal 82510 Published 9/7/2023, 9/14/2023, 9/21/2023 and 9/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AN ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE 2023 VALUE ADJUSTMENT BOARD OF CLAY COUNTY

Please be advised that an organizational meeting of the 2023 Value Adjustment Board of Clay County will be held on October 4, 2023, at 9:30 a.m., in the Meeting Room of the Clay County Board of County Commissioners on the 4th floor of the Clay County Administration Building, 477 Houston Street, Green Cove Springs, Florida. The meeting is open to the public and all interested persons are invited to attend. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person needing a special accommodation to participate in this matter should contact the Clay County ADA Coordinator by mail at Post Office Box 1366, Green Cove Springs,

Florida 32043, or by telephone number at 904-269-6334, no later than three (3) days prior to the hearing or proceeding for which this notice has been given. Hearing impaired persons can access the foregoing telephone number by contacting the Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8770 (Voice), or 1-800-955-8771 (TDD). Value Adjustment Board Clay County, Florida By: Its Chairman

Legal 79757 Published 9/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

NOTICE OF MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE HOUSING FINANCE AUTHORITY OF CLAY COUNTY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 - 2024

The Housing Finance Authority of Clay County ("the Authority") hereby publishes its monthly meeting schedule for the 2023 - 2024 fiscal year: October 19, 2023 November 16, 2023 December 14, 2023 January 18, 2024 February 15, 2024 March 21, 2024 April 18, 2024 May 16, 2024 June 20, 2024 July 18, 2024 August 15, 2024 September 19, 2024 The Authority will hold its monthly meetings on the above dates at 9:00 a.m. in the Board of County Commission Meeting Room, 4th Floor, Clay County Administration Building, 477 Houston Street, Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043. (Third Thursday of each month) Please be advised that if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Authority with respect to any matter considered at such meeting, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, said record to include the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the individual or agency publishing this notice no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at the address given in this notice. Telephone: 904-278-8006, 1-800-955-8771 (TDD) or 1-800-955-8770 (V), via Florida Relay Service. Housing Finance Authority of Clay County Post Office Box 1620 Orange Park, FL 32067-1620 904-278-8006 Legal 86335 Published 9/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

NOTICE OF ACTION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA Case No: 2023CA001231 NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, Plaintiff, vs. Slone T. Reece, et. al., Defendants. TO: SLONE T. REECE 2070 TANAGER DR ORANGE PARK FL 32073 SLONE T. REECE 167 JARDIN DE MER PL JACKSONVILLE, FL 32250 SLONE T. REECE 500 EAST ADAMS ST JACKSONVILLE, FL 32250 UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF SLONE T. REECE 2070 TANAGER DR ORANGE PARK FL 32073 UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF SLONE T. REECE 167 JARDIN DE MER PL JACKSONVILLE, FL 32250 UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF SLONE T. REECE 500 EAST ADAMS ST JACKSONVILLE, FL 32250 LAST KNOWN ADDRESS STATED, CURRENT RESIDENCE UNKNOWN and any unknown heirs, devisees, grantees, creditors and other unknown persons or unknown spouses claiming by, through and under the above-named Defendant(s), if deceased or whose last known addresses are unknown. YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose Mortgage covering the following real and personal property described as follows, to wit:

A portion of Lot 31, as shown on Plat of Woodside, as recorded in Plat Book 21, pages 16, 17, 18 and 19, less and except a portion thereof, as recorded in the Current Public Records of Clay County, Florida, and being more particularly described as follows: Begin at the Northwest corner of said Lot 31, also being the Northeast corner of Lot 30 of said Woodside, said corner lying on the Southerly right-of-way line of Interstate No. 295 (State Road 9A, according to State Road Dept. right-of-way map, section No. 72001-2404, dated February 13, 1967), also being a point on a curve leading to the left; thence along and around the arc of said curve and along said right-of-way line being concave Northerly and having a radius of 5879.50 feet, an arc distance of 48.32 feet said arc being subtended by a chord bearing and distance of South 84° 00' 18" East, 48.32 feet to a point on said curve; thence South 00° 03' 56" East, 115.64 feet, to a point lying on the Northerly right-of-way line of Tanager Drive (a 50 foot right-of-way as now established), also being a point on a curve leading to the left; thence along and around the arc of said curve being concave Southerly and having a radius of 182.89 feet, an arc distance of 50.77 feet, said arc being subtended by a chord bearing and distance of North 71° 44' 59" West, 50.61 feet to a point on said curve; thence North 00° 03' 56" West, along the Westerly line on said

TO THE PATIENTS OF: HCA Florida Orange Park ENT 1825 Kingsley Ave Suite 250 Orange Park, FL 32073 (904) 830- 3250

HCA Florida Orange Park ENT will close on October 6, 2023. Dr. Alexander Farag will provide care at the Jacksonville Sinus Institute after Monday, October 9:

Jacksonville Sinus Institute 836 Prudential Drive, Suite 1601 Jacksonville, FL 32207 (Phone) 904-396-8060 (Fax) 904-390-7385

Your medical records are confidential and will not be relocated. If you have any questions, please call (904) 830-3250.

Legal ad 85902 published September 28, October 5, 12, 2023 in Clay County's Clay Today Newspaper.



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CLAY COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES

**Lot 31 104.83 feet to Point of Beginning.**  
has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Anthony Vamvas, Esq., Lender Legal PLLC, 1800 Pembroke Drive, Suite 250, Orlando, Florida 32810 and file the original with the Clerk of the above-styled Court on or before 30 days from the first publication, otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.  
WITNESS my hand and seal of the said Court on the 25th day of September, 2023.  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT  
By: Chelsey Mason  
Deputy Clerk  
**Legal 86334 Published 9/28/2023 and 10/5/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**PUBLIC AUCTION**

The following vehicles will be sold at public auction.  
to accept or reject any and all bids.  
2004 FORD VIN # 1FTPX12564NA68045  
Auction will be held at 9:00 AM 10/16/2023 at  
G & M Towing, Inc., located at 4995 Highway 17 S, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043  
**Legal 86333 Published 9/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Clay County Towing gives notice of lien and intent to sell the following vehicles at 2864 Blanding Blvd., Middleburg, FL 32068 at date and time listed below.  
CLAY COUNTY TOWING & RECOVERY AUCTION: October 27, 2023 @ 10:00 AM 2006. CHE. Vin # . 1GCDT12V9K32069 Pursuant to subsection 713-78 of the FL Statute, Clay County Towing reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.  
**Legal 86331 Published 9/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**PUBLIC AUCTION**

The following vehicles will be sold at public auction for towing and storage costs at Horton's Towing 3645 Hwy 17, Bldg. 2, Fleming Island, FL 32003 Horton's Towing reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.  
Auction date - 10/27/2023, 9:00 a.m.  
1993 Ford VIN# 1FTCR10X6PUD13773  
Auction date - 10/27/2023, 9:00 a.m.  
2009 Ford VIN# 1FTPF12V79K32069  
Auction date - 10/12/2023, 9:00 a.m.  
2014 Mazda VIN# JM3KE2CY4E0402206  
Auction date - 10/12/2023, 9:00 a.m.  
2016 Lexus VIN# JTHBA1D2XG5035812  
**Legal 86330 Published 9/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** JEFFREY W KOCH-BB8 FINANCIAL, 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.: 818/2016**  
**Legal Description:** LOT 33 BLK 75 HIGHRIDGE ESTATE AS REC O R 569 PG 205 & 1232 PG 63  
**Parcel ID No.:** 210823-003739-000-00  
**Opening Bid Amount:** \$1,782.90  
**Physical Address:** 6168 EMORY AVE , KEYSTONE HEIGHTS  
**Classification:** VACANT RESIDENTIAL  
**Name in which assessed:** RACHEL L SIMMONS  
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 **29th day of November, 2023 at 9:30 A.M at www.clay.realtaxdeed.com.**  
**Dated this 25th day of September, 2023**  
TARA S. GREEN  
Clay County Clerk & Comptroller  
Clay County, Florida  
By: Christina Spadea  
Deputy Clerk  
**Legal 86329 Published 9/28/2023, 10/5/2023, 10/12/2023 and 10/19/2023 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.:** 1771/2021  
**Legal Description:** LOT 43 BLK 3 BLACK CREEK PARK UNIT 4 AS REC O R 4037 PG 946  
**Parcel ID No.:** 320524-006700-380-00  
**Opening Bid Amount:** \$1,724.59  
**Physical Address:** 4818 JOAN AVE , MIDDLEBURG  
**Classification:** VACANT RESIDENTIAL  
**Name in which assessed:** HARRY T THURAN & DARRELL C HEIMBACH 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 **29th day of November, 2023 at 9:30 A.M at www.clay.realtaxdeed.com.**  
**Dated this 25th day of September, 2023**  
TARA S. GREEN  
Clay County Clerk & Comptroller  
Clay County, Florida  
By: Christina Spadea  
Deputy Clerk  
**Legal 86328 Published 9/28/2023, 10/5/2023, 10/12/2023 and 10/19/2023 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.:** 1020/2021  
**Legal Description:** PT OF GOV LT 1 S32T8R23 & LOTS 1-5 & PT LOTS 6 & 7 BREEZY POINT 1 S31T8R23 AS REC OR 198 PG 206 & 208; 237 PG 422 EX PT REC OR 655 PG 61; 661 PG 508 ; 848 PG 66 & BREEZY SHORES PB 41 PG 18  
**Parcel ID No.:** 320823-004895-000-00  
**Opening Bid Amount:** \$3,422.31  
**Physical Address:** BREEZY POINT , MELROSE  
**Classification:** NO AG ACREAGE  
**Name in which assessed:** CHARLES J HARRIS ET AL, CHARLES J HARRIS TRUST, CHARLES J HARRIS JR, BONNIE  
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 **29th day of November, 2023 at 9:30 A.M at www.clay.realtaxdeed.com.**  
**Dated this 25th day of September, 2023**  
TARA S. GREEN  
Clay County Clerk & Comptroller  
Clay County, Florida  
By: Christina Spadea  
Deputy Clerk  
**Legal 86327 Published 9/28/2023, 10/5/2023, 10/12/2023 and 10/19/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** CHARLENE S KNOWLES, 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.:** 2854/2018  
**Legal Description:** PT OF LOT 5 HIBERNIA AS REC O R 88 PG 394 & 773 PG 363  
**Parcel ID No.:** 380526-014712-000-00  
**Opening Bid Amount:** \$5,432.53  
**Physical Address:** HIBERNIA , FLEMING ISLAND  
**Classification:** VACANT RESIDENTIAL W/SPECIAL FEATURES OR YARD ITEM  
**Name in which assessed:** JOSEPHINE HAGEN, C/O LILLIAN BOWENS  
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 **29th day of November, 2023 at 9:30 A.M at www.clay.realtaxdeed.com.**  
**Dated this 25th day of September, 2023**  
TARA S. GREEN  
Clay County Clerk & Comptroller  
Clay County, Florida  
By: Christina Spadea  
Deputy Clerk  
**Legal 86326 Published 9/28/2023, 10/5/2023, 10/12/2023 and 10/19/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CASE NO.: 2023-CP-455  
PROBATE DIVISION: D  
IN RE: THE ESTATE OF HELEN JEANNETTE STEWART, Deceased.  
TO: ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS OR DEMANDS AGAINST THE ABOVE ESTATE  
Within three months from the time of the first publication of this notice, you are required to file with the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Clay County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 825 N. Orange Avenue, P. O. Box 698, Green Cove Springs, Florida, 32043-0698, a written and verified statement of any Claim or demand you may have against the Estate of HELEN JEANNETTE STEWART, Deceased.  
Each claim must be in writing and must indicate the basis for the claim, the name and address of the creditor or his agent or attorney, and the amount claimed. If the claim is not yet due, the date when it will become due shall be stated. If the claim is contingent or unliquidated, the nature of the uncertainty shall be stated. If the claim is secured, the security shall be described. The claimant shall deliver a copy of the claim to the clerk who shall furnish the copy to the Personal Representative.  
ALL CLAIMS AND DEMANDS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.  
DATED September 25, 2023.  
**TERRANCE A. JONES, ESQUIRE**  
Florida Bar No.: 0454958

1688 Colonial Drive  
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043  
(904) 333-4400  
terrance@terrancejoneslaw.com  
Attorney for Personal Representative  
**Tabatha Melcolm**  
Personal Representative  
First Published on September 28, 2023.  
**Legal 86325 Published 9/28/2023 and 10/5/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**FICTITIOUS NAME**


Notice Under Fictitious Name Law Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of **Brooke's Wellness Lab**, located at 4465 Hwy 17, in the County of Clay, in the City of Fleming Island, Florida 32003 intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.  
Dated at Fleming Island, Florida, this 25th day of September 2023.  
LMT Brooks LLC  
**Legal 86324 Published 9/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Clay County, Florida has received an unsolicited proposal submitted under the provisions of Section 255.065, Florida Statutes, Public-Private Partnerships, to design, build and finance two (2) new fire stations in Clay County. The County is required to publish notice of the acceptance of the unsolicited proposal and a willingness to accept other proposals. As such the County will accept other proposals to build two fire stations in Clay County. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN sealed bids will be received until 4:00 P.M., Thursday, November 2, 2023, for the following: **RFP NO. 22/23-95, Public Private Partnership (P3) to Design, Build and Finance Two (2) Fire Stations in Clay County**  
Bids will be opened at 9:00 A.M., or as soon thereafter, on Friday, November 3, 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.

The solicitation package is available at: [HTTPS://PROCUREMENT.OPENGOV.COM/PORTAL/CLAYCOUNTY?STATUS=ALL](https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/claycounty/status-all).  
In order to submit a response to this solicitation the respondent must be registered on Clay County's Public Portal.  
For information concerning procedures for responding to this Bid, contact Donna Fish in the Purchasing Department at (904) 278-3761 or by email: [purchasing@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:  
a. Inquiries may be submitted to the Purchasing Department if specifically provided in the Request for Bids;  
b. Pre-bid conferences provided for in the Request for Bids; and  
c. Formal presentations by Bidders to the designated Evaluation Committee or to the Board or any committee thereof specifically contemplated in the Request for Bids.  
The Board reserves the right and power to reject any and all Bids without cause and to waive technical and non-technical or non-material defects in the Request for Bids or submittal of any Bid, and in its discretion to re-advertise the Request for Bids. The Board reserves the right to award Bids, quotes, or Proposals which would be in the Best Interest of the County. Interested suppliers 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 86316 Published 9/28/2023 and 10/5/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**



**Delivery Driver**  
Driver Qualifications  
21+ years old  
Valid, clean drivers Lic & record  
Capable of heavy lifting/ assembly

**Warehouse Worker**  
18+ years old  
Own Transportation  
Capable of heavy lifting/ assembly

**Text Elmer - Owner**  
**904-219-2188**



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Questions?  
Comments?  
Story Ideas?  
Let us know how we're doing.

**CLAY TODAY**

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Fleming Island, FL 32003  
904.579.2154

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**Starting a new business? Need to run a fictitious name advertisement? Email: [legal@claytodayonline.com](mailto:legal@claytodayonline.com) or call **904-579-2154** to request a form. Cost is \$35 and will run in the Clay Today Legals for one week. An affidavit will be mailed to you.**

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**Clarity XLC8 Cordless 50 dB Amplified Phone with Slow Talk, Caller ID, and Answering Machine**

**XLGGo Amplifies up to 50 dBs**

**Bluetooth**

**Amplify cell phone calls, at home & on the go!**



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**3513 U.S. Hwy 17**  
**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.

### PRIVATE PARTY COMMERCIAL

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

Cost includes online at:  
**claytodayonline.com**

### 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

### Pigs for Sale

425 lb pigs for sale. \$200 each. Keystone Heights. Please call 904-349-4972.

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**Experienced Cook Needed: Breakfast - Lunch - Days only Good Pay, Alternating Weekends, Paid Vacation, Call Rich @ Sunrise to Sunset 904-227-4905**

### Burial Plots

3 Burial Plots: 1 double depth and 1 single. Located at Holly Hill Memorial Gardens in Middleburg, FL. Lot 261 3 & 4 in Garden of Love Section - Valued at \$3,795 a piece. Will sell for \$3,500 a piece. Leave message or call back at 904-662-1702 or email rodsnow@comcast.net

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**(866) 643-0438**

\*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

**GENERAC**

**LAND AUCTION**

**72.2 AC± | 2 TRACTS MIAMI-DADE CO, FL**

**AUCTION: LIVE & ONLINE AT RANCHANDFARMAUCTIONS.COM**

**AUCTION DATE: 10/13/23**  
**AUCTION TIME: 5:00 PM EDT**  
**AUCTION LOCATION: FARM LIFE TROPICAL FOLIAGE OF HOMESTEAD HEADQUARTERS 17220 SW 232ND ST., MIAMI, FL 33031**

**OPEN HOUSE: 9/9, 9/14, 9/23 & 10/12 | 10AM-2PM**

**IN COOPERATION WITH WHITETAIL PROPERTIES REAL ESTATE, LLC**  
ERIK FLETT, AGENT: 239.872.7841  
TONY PELUSO, AGENT: 941.716.5894  
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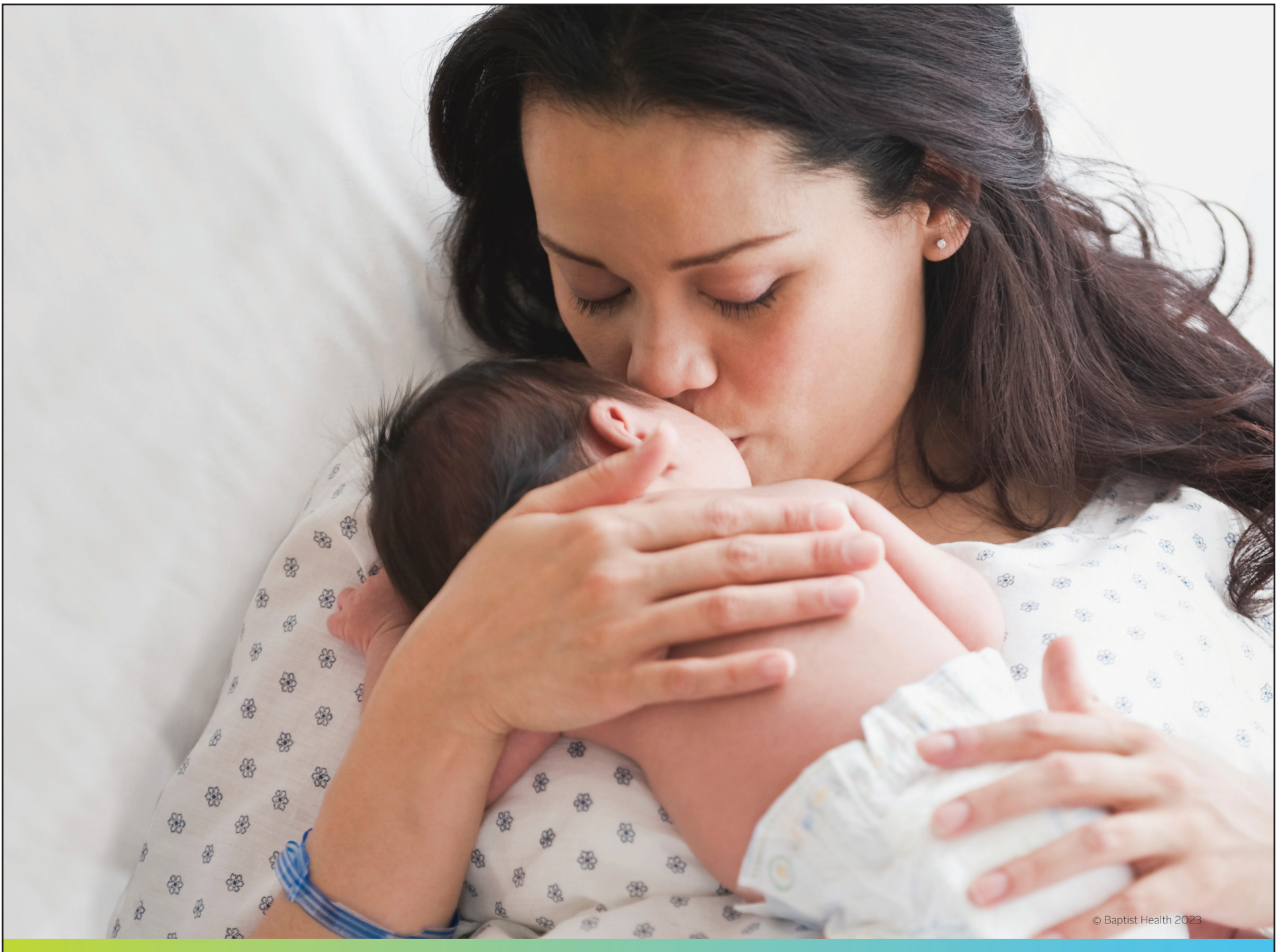
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