

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS HERALD

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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 unfairest 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 verte-

bral column when he was thrown from his four-wheeler on Aug. 20 while riding on 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

SEE REYNOLDS, 10

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.



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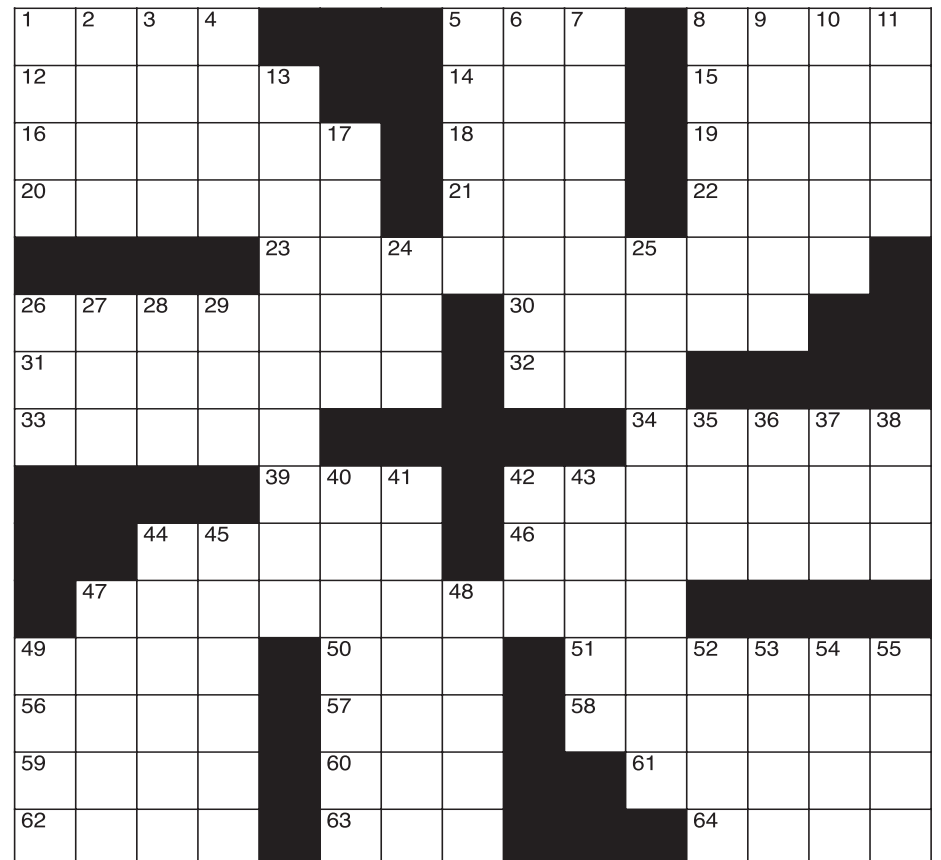
PUZZLE FUN

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

enwalhloe

Answer: Halloween



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. A device to disengage without a key
- 5. Subdivision
- 8. Network of nerves
- 12. Lounge chair
- 14. Ocean
- 15. C. European river
- 16. Bowl-shaped cavity
- 18. ___ Caesar, comedian
- 19. Lyric poems
- 20. Tia's sister
- 21. A way to develop
- 22. Cows collectively
- 23. Areas close by
- 26. Slightly disreputable
- 30. Made a mistake
- 31. One who cites
- 32. Food stall: ___ pai dong
- 33. Narrow valley between hills
- 34. Members of people living mainly in the Congo
- 39. More (Spanish)
- 42. Classroom implements
- 44. Cognizant of
- 46. One who tells on others
- 47. Free from slavery

CLUES DOWN

- 13. Someone who serves in the armed forces
- 17. Bring up
- 24. Factual written account (abbr.)
- 25. Having three sides
- 26. Annoy
- 27. Hustle
- 28. American WW2 leader
- 29. Stale atmosphere
- 35. US Treasury
- 36. Sound unit
- 37. They ___
- 38. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 40. Places to play video games
- 41. Medical event
- 42. When you hope to arrive
- 43. Fixed prices
- 44. Popular Boston song
- 45. Valley in Indiana and Illinois
- 47. Omit when speaking
- 48. German explorer of the Congo Basin
- 49. Stick around
- 52. From a distance
- 53. Heroic tale
- 54. Amounts of time
- 55. Eat

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Rooterville Sanctuary hosting Halloween, anti-bullying event

By Don Coble
don@claytodayonline.com

MELROSE – “Spookley the Square Pumpkin” is the cartoon story of a loveable a 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 everyone’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



SEE BOO, 7

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OPINIONS & VIEWPOINTS

Skynyrd proves humility, honest sincerity comes naturally

By Don Coble
don@claytodayonline.com

FLEMING ISLAND – Richard Petty never took a Dale Carnegie Professional Development Course, but racing has never had a better spokesman.

Petty never refused an autograph or photo opportunity. If he doesn't remember meeting you in the past, he simply says, "Hello."

If he remembers talking with you, he refers to you as "buddy."

For a very lucky few – and I wasn't one – he calls you by name.

I was a "buddy." But no matter who you were, Petty made you feel special. He always made eye contact – maybe



Don Coble

an educated assumption since his greatest trademark is his dark sunglasses, along with his cowboy hat and North Carolina drawl.

The King always took a moment to ask how you're doing. He smiled. Most importantly, he thanked you for sharing a moment with him. And he meant it.

It's estimated Petty has signed more than two million autographs. I believe it. While covering NASCAR for over 40 years, I've witnessed him signing thousands of autographs. Heck, I have a couple.

What's impressive is the care in his penmanship. His famous signature is legible and as vibrant as the red and blue paint job on his No. 43 stock car.

Even if the encounter lasted less than 10 seconds, Petty made sure it was the most important 10 seconds of his life.

I know another acclaimed driver who's won races in NASCAR, Formula One and IndyCars. I remember how he held a marker in one hand and a chicken sandwich in the other. He never looked up, never said a

word to the line of fans who had waited for hours. Upon being handed a hero card, he scribbled a name, pushed it down, moved the conveyor line along and took another bite.

Legend has it that a North Carolina State Fair girl asked The King to sign a live duck, and there's a photo of him in 1992 signing the fickle fowl's back: "Richard Petty 43."

You can't teach that. A Madison Avenue polish doesn't work with people who prefer Pabst over champagne, a pickup truck over a sports car.

I got to Whitey's Fish Camp shortly after it opened, more than six hours ahead of the Florida launch of Hell House Whiskey. Fans were already in the restaurant, eager to buy their bottle and have it signed by Lynyrd Skynyrd frontman Johnny Van Zant and guitarist Rickey Medlocke.

They pulled out old T-shirts and hats that probably hadn't been worn in years. They shared stories. One person flew from

SEE HONEST, 5

DeSantis condemns Hamas, Iran for brutal Israel attacks

By A.G. Gancarski
For FloridaPolitics.com

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis booked an interview on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" before Hamas attacked Israel early Saturday, and the hostilities in the Middle East turned expected fireworks into a friendly give-and-take between the Governor and Joe Scarborough.

"This is perhaps Israel's darkest hour," DeSantis said, asserting the country's "right to defend itself."

"And that means do that to the hilt. You have to uproot the terrorist infrastructure. These networks and Hamas need to be no more," DeSantis said.

The Governor said Hamas' moves last weekend looked like an "orchestrated attack" against the country, noting that for him, there was a "personal" connection given that Iran also has "American blood on its hands."

"Look, this is personal for me, in the sense that I served in Iraq in 2007, 2008. We were in places like Fallujah and Ramadi," DeSantis said.

While the opposition was "mostly Sunni Arab al-Qaida fighters at the time," DeSantis said, "most of the casualties that U.S. troops were suffering were at the hands of Iranian-backed Shia militias."

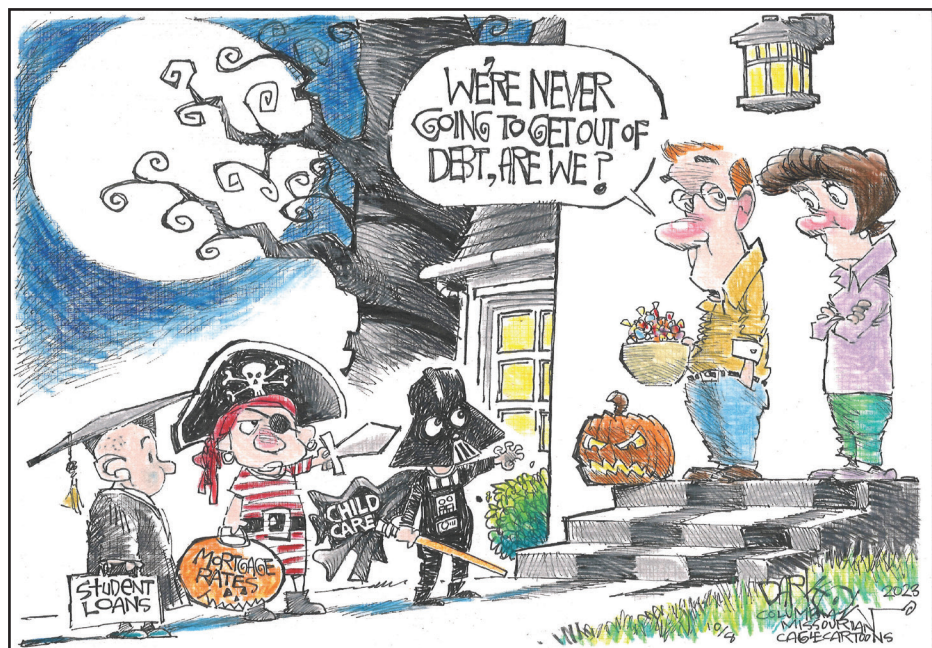
DeSantis also expressed disappointment in modern-day Iraq.

"As a veteran of that conflict, it definitely leaves a bad taste in my mouth to see that that country is basically a satellite of the Iranians, and you have the Shia dominant, and they've not been the type of partner that people envisioned back in the day."

Additionally, DeSantis defended his old political ally, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, saying that he didn't "buy" attacks and that his preoccupation with other issues left Israel vulnerable to the attack.

"With respect to Prime Minister Netanyahu, I was just out there in April, and I found him, I met with him, I found him to be very

SEE DESANTIS, 5



Word OF THE MONTH

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.

Obsequious: (ub-SEE-kwee-us) an adjective that means being overwhelmingly obedient or attentive.

"The famous director's obsequious film interns were paralyzed with admiration."

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email, type Letter to the Editor in your subject and send it to Managing Editor Don Coble at don@claytodayonline.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

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.

This Week in History

Five years ago, 2018

- Glee Glisson, Green Cove Springs Park and Recreation Program director, endorsed the sporting craze "Pickleball" as a new program at Thomas Hogans Memorial Gym.
- Freedom Baptist Church in Keystone Heights held a benefit concert to help an orphaned family that tragically lost both parents, Holly and Phillip Ulsch, in a traffic collision.
- Brass Tacks Coffee Co. debuted a new coffee blend, "Sheepdog Coffee," with a portion of sales earmarked for a Jacksonville-based organization supporting fallen law enforcement officers' families.

10 years ago, 2013

- The Board of County Commissioners expanded public comment to allow guests to speak at the beginning and the end of each meeting for three minutes at a time.
- Green Cove Springs City Council named The First Coast Expressway, the Augusta Savage Arts and Community Center and Spring Park as top priorities for legislative funding.
- The Jacksonville Symphony performed at Thrasher-Horne for the first time, which was also its first-ever indoor concert in Clay County.

20 years ago, 2003

- Orange Park Police investigated two robberies within two days. One, a home invasion robbery, took place inside Club Continental.
- Fourteen civilian correctional drill instructors graduated from Camp Blanding's Florida Drill Instructor Training Course to work with youth challenge programs for nonviolent offenders.
- Clay County's Director of Student Services, Joyce Alford, retired after a 24-year career in the school district.

30 years ago, 1993

- The Florida Dept. of Transportation announced plans to upgrade U.S. Highway 17 in Green Cove Springs. Plans called for planting trees and bushes in the median between Magnolia Avenue and Gum Street.
- The Orange Town Council scheduled a hearing to get input on whether to merge its police and fire departments into one department of public safety.
- Detractors claimed John Keene, Clerk of Court and Comptroller for Clay County, was responsible for a \$7.6 million county budget shortfall.

Honest

from page 4

New Hampshire for a signed bottle. They were heading home the following day – but not before Van Zant and Medlocke made them feel special. If for only a second or two.

Like Petty, the guys from Jacksonville's Westside don't bother with clever promotional pitches. That's not their style. And that's what makes them effective marketers.

They're your buddies. These guys shop at Walmart and Home Depot. They go to Little League games. They cut their grass. Given the choice between spending the day trying to hook a bass or getting pampered with a massage at a day spa, they'll grab a rod and reel every time.

Van Zant co-wrote a song that described them best: "If you wanna know where I've been, just look at my hands."



Johnny laughed and shared memories with fans at Whitey's, who stood for hours outside through at least four separate rain showers. He thanked everyone after he returned their signed bottle.

I have my autographs. They're on bottles of whiskey. I plan to position them next to my signed Richard Petty picture.

If for only a moment, hundreds of fans felt they were important at Whitey's. It's because they were.

STAFF PHOTOS BY DON COBLE

Lynyrd Skynyrd singer Johnny Van Zant and guitarist Rickey Medlocke signed bottles of their Hell House Whiskey at Whitey's Fish Camp on Friday, Oct. 6. First in line were Janice and David Whitely, right, who drove from Raleigh, North Carolina, to meet the famed musicians.

Desantis

from page 4

engaged," DeSantis said. He credited the Likud leader with an "amazing... knowledge of everything going on in the region."

DeSantis then returned to Surfside to roll out a legislative proposal dealing with Israel and Iran, including untrammelled support for the former and the "strongest sanctions" from "any state in this country" for the latter.

Behind placards proclaiming "Stand with Israel" and "Sanction Iran," the 2024 presidential candidate described the latter country as a "clearing house for terrorist fi-

nancing" and said it was necessary to "choke off" money going to the "Iranian regime."

"Put them in their place. Do not let them get any money flowing into their coffers," DeSantis advised.

"Never, ever should your tax dollars go to that despicable regime," DeSantis said, expanding that critique to the Gaza Strip as well.

The Governor discussed his own emotions in the wake of the Hamas attacks, saying he was "sad" and "angry."

"I think that we need justice, and I think that justice needs to be so severe that they wouldn't think of doing this ever, ever again. And you can count on us to be a friend

and ally of the state of Israel and the Jewish people."

The Governor blasted the Joe Biden administration for deleting tweets calling for a de-escalation.

"Having the administration do anything other than a unified voice saying that Israel should be able to defend itself and that we support, that was honestly not surprising, but it's still very disappointing," DeSantis said.

"They should be talking about how it's wrong to support policies that enrich the Iranian regime."

Others spoke in support, including Lt. Gov. Jeanette Nuñez, who pledged to "always

make sure that special bond between Florida and Israel grows stronger every day" before criticizing Hamas and what she called their "war crimes."

"These terrorists are motivated by hatred," Nunez said, driven by a "total rejection of Israel's right to exist."

Nunez added that there is "no two-state solution" that Florida or Israel will accept. "We will never do business or prop up terrorists or communists," she added.

A.G. Gancarski has written for FloridaPolitics.com since 2014. He is based in Northeast Florida. He can be reached at AG@FloridaPolitics.com or on Twitter: @AGGancarski.

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

SEE NICE, 18

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.



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Boo

from page 3

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."



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.

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

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The next chapter: Keystone Heights residents get sneak peek of library improvements

By Natalie Gilstrap
For Clay Today

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – The Keystone Heights Public Library recently hosted an open house to show the community its improvements and to showcase the non-profit organization Friends of the Library.

“I wanted to highlight some of the things we’ve done, and I also wanted to showcase our Friends of the Library group, who do a lot of behind the scenes,” said Katie Jackson, Branch Manager.

Community members were able to see the new changes that the library has made, such as combining the two adult sections into one and expanding their young adult area. The library also improved its DVD section by providing additional options and making it more accessible.

Guests enjoyed various activities such as crafts, table games, paint stenciling and temporary tattooing. The event also had refreshments, a raffle and a historic corner where residents could learn the history and view historic newspapers and pictures. Patrons also learned about the library’s many programs and about a non-profit group called Friends of the Library, which supports local libraries.

“I love what they are doing here and how they created different sections for the younger kids, inviting the teens and still giving the adults a quiet space to read and do what they want. It’s amazing.” Said City Manager Lynn Rutkowski

Overall, the event was a success as locals filled the library and loved the new improvements.

Other guests, like City Manager Lynn



PHOTO BY NATALIE GILSTRAP

Residents got a sneak peek of the improvements at the Keystone Heights Public Library during its recent open house.

Rutkowski and County Commissioner Betsy Condon, attended the open house to show their support.

The improvements to the library are expected to benefit the community, such as providing a safe place for teens to hang out after school, bringing the community together

for programs, and being more open to all age groups.

“It’s going to impact it in such a positive way,” Rutkowski said.

To learn more about Keystone Heights Public Library and its program, visit clay-countygov.com/community/library.

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City manager tells Lake Region Prosperity Partners of Keystone's 'strategic' growth

By Don Coble
don@claytodayonline.com

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – Residents seemed comforted during a Lake Region Prosperity Partners meeting on Thursday, Sept. 28, to know how the city is working ahead to manage growth.

City Manager Lynn Rutkowski said the Florida Department of Transportation and North Florida Regional Transportation Management Center is talking with the city about relieving congestion at State Roads 100 and 21.

At the same time, she said everything in the city has been mapped technologically so responsible departments can pinpoint and quickly resolve problems.

Rutkowski also said the city is reviewing plans to build a recreational park behind Hitchcock's Plaza and is studying the feasibility of a new municipal building.

"Traffic in Keystone Heights has increased, which is not bad," she said. "We're starting to plan on what we're going to do in the future. Keystone Heights is growing, and it's growing in a very strategic, very fantastic way."

"We're looking at new innovations to bring businesses in to support our town atmosphere. Keystone Heights has a heart and soul, a very love-your-neighbor, love-your-community atmosphere. We can never lose that. So all the things that we do

are very strategic and cute."

Residents have long been critical of the main intersection in town. Traffic headed north on SR 21 is often delayed by three or four light changes at SR 100. An abandoned Asian restaurant is also a blight and restricts drivers' vision to the east on SR 100.

Rutkowski told members the city has gained attention nationally and internationally for its progress in becoming a "smart city." Engineers with Manzan Consulting have mapped every inch of the city, compiling locations of every tree, building and garbage can that can be monitored electronically.

"That way, we can work smarter, not harder," she said.

Publications from as far away as Venice, Italy, and Seattle, and as close as Washington, D.C., Tampa and Miami have studied the benefits of using sensors, not human resources, to monitor the city.

"That's been our goal for the past three years in the city," Rutkowski said. "How can we keep our taxes, keep our millage rate where it's at, and not have to charge additional taxes and offer the services and keep up with the demand, keep up with the cost of living and the increased costs across the board? So we've been working with this. I'm proud to say Keystone Heights is the leading edge with this technology."

Keystone Heights will also be recognized for its smart city initiatives at this month's

Northeast Florida League of Cities meeting.

"We've been busy for the past couple of weeks to question the visuals or capturing all of our vertical assets," Rutkowski said. "We're putting a two-dimensional digital twin to see more issues, our areas of concern, instead of deploying individuals to ride the streets now."

The North Florida Transportation Planning Organization awarded the smart city grant.

Clay County Utilities Authority, St. Johns River Water Management District and Clay Electric Cooperative also are part of the smart city program.

Rutkowski finished by members that the city is exploring ways to replace its dilapidated town hall and building Sunrise Park behind Hitchcock's Plaza on SR 100.

The proposal includes replacing the town hall "because we can't patch the roof anymore. When you come in, you have to flip the light switch on three or four times until they turn on, and even then, only half are working."

SEE PROSPERITY, 15

STAFF PHOTO BY DON COBLE

Keystone Heights City Manager Lynn Rutkowski told Lake Region Prosperity Partners members how the city is completing a project to strategically monitor growth. The city has been on the world stage as publications in the United States and Italy with its 'work smarter, not harder' technology.



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Reynolds

from page 1

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 surgery, Anthony was moved to the rehabilitation



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.

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 Minister 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, [gofund-me/474b080f](https://www.gofundme.com/474b080f), was established to help the

family with their medical bills and get them back together under one roof. To date \$4,940 has been raised.

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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Americans count on local newspapers to remain informed

By Benjy Hamm
Institute for Rural Journalism

Nearly 220 million American adults regularly turn to their local newspapers for news and information they need to stay informed, feel more connected to their neighbors, and improve their lives and communities.



Benjy Hamm

That readership number is based on a recent national study by independent research firm Coda Ventures for the America's Newspapers organization.

Most likely, the number of readers is higher. Many people who say they receive news on their phone or from social media instead of newspapers fail to understand that the sources for those stories are often journalists at U.S. newspapers.

We sometimes take the work of journalists for granted, but those who work at newspapers are playing an essential role in the health of our communities and country.

Everyone, even nonreaders, benefits from the work of journalists. News coverage has led to improved food safety, decreased traffic



Clay Today is the leading source for informing residents on local issues.

and plane fatalities, better care for veterans and nursing home patients, support for victims of natural disasters and exposure to all sorts of wrongdoing.

I have long loved this quotation by Frank Batten Sr., a media visionary and former chairman of Landmark Communications, who said about journalists and newspapers: "Our calling was never more important. We

have the capacity to inform, to enlighten, to awaken and to inspire. We have the opportunity to enrich the lives of thousands of people every day."

Across the United States, journalists and other newspaper employees are serving their communities and democracy every day by informing, enlightening, awakening and inspiring millions of readers.

The news they provide is accessed in many forms. Many people still use the word newspaper as the all-encompassing term for those various forms. Still, information is delivered through websites, social media, electronic editions, email alerts, newsletters, and traditional printed paper.

Those delivery methods have changed significantly in recent years. But one thing remains constant: Americans depend on the trusted news coverage newspapers provide.

Based on surveys of 5,000 people, the study by Coda Ventures revealed respondents ranked local newspapers and their websites as the most accurate sources of original news reporting. The results also listed the top five reasons Americans seek out local news – to stay informed, feel connected in the community, decide where they stand on local issues, find places and things to do, and talk to other people about community news.

Survey respondents consistently said they prefer newspapers in print and digital

formats over TV, radio and social media as their primary source for news and information vital to them.

They like the fact newspapers use different ways to deliver their news stories to various audiences. The survey showed that people 39 and younger listed social media as the No. 1 way they prefer to access news, though they also like news websites and email alerts. People in the 40 to 74 age group ranked news websites as their top choice, followed by email alerts and the printed newspaper. Those 75 and older prefer the print edition, like news websites and email alerts.

Based on the frequent reports of struggles within the news business, many people might be surprised to learn that newspapers and their digital offerings reach so many readers.

Those financial struggles are real and affect many media companies, not just newspapers. But, the new ways of delivering news allow newspapers to reach even larger audiences. Frank Batten might not have anticipated the widespread use of the internet and social media when he first commented in the 1980s, but his words remain true today.

Newspapers and their dedicated employees continue to inform, enlighten, awaken and inspire – enriching their communities and the lives of millions of people who benefit daily from their work.

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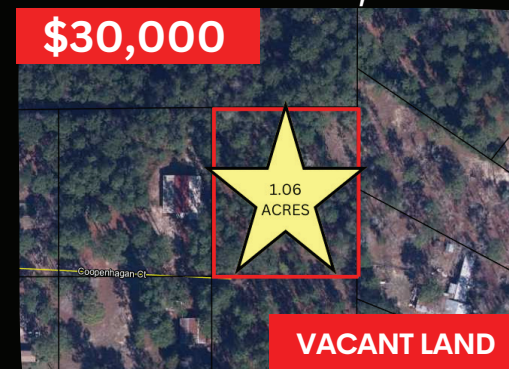
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Fall Festivals

HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS

Orange Park Fall Festival, Amazing Grace highlight season of jubilees, Halloween

ORANGE PARK – The temperatures are finally dropping, the air is crisper and the smell of pumpkin spice is everywhere. That means fall festivals and Halloween parties will fill the calendar.

The county's biggest, oldest and most esteemed festival will get the season underway. The 42nd annual Orange Park Fall Festival will return to Town Hall Park at 2042 Park Ave.

The two-day event will run both days between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., including one of the largest arts, crafts, entertainment, children's activities and food celebrations in Northeast Florida.

The first festival was in 1982, and it attracted 12 vendors and two guitar players. This year's event already has more than 200, including 25 food trucks and a farmer's market, eight activities for children and representation by 29 nonprofit groups and 15 businesses.

With crowds expecting to approach 10,000, organizers are urging patrons to park at Moosehaven. Parking and a shuttle ride to the park are free. Attendees are also warned not to park at Winn-Dixie and CVS across the street, and the city will have a limited number of handicapped spots at the police station adjacent to the park.

Admission to the event is also free.

There will be music and dance acts, including LeeAnn Purvis, who recorded the song "Cover Girl" in Green Cove Springs. The song tells the gripping story of a woman who hides her domestic battery wounds with makeup and denial by blowing his cover. Purvis will be on the Main Stage for the opening ceremonies with Mayor Randy Anderson and the Ridgeview High Navy JROTC team at 10 a.m. on Saturday, then for her show two hours later.

Counting the Community Stage, there are 36 acts booked.

With thousands expected, the Town asks visitors to leave their dogs at home.

Another major event that usually sells out and attracts thousands is the Amazing Grace Fall Festival at 4251 State Road 21, just south of State Road 16.

The family-oriented festival includes pumpkins, a five-acre crop maze, duck races, a playground, farm animals, corn hole, corn cribs, jump pads, photo opportunities, treats and attractions.

The times are Fridays from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. The venue also will be open on Monday, Oct. 16, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The farm is owned and operated by Justin and Kelly Mosley. They are known for carving a special message in their maze. The maze honored former Clay High swimmer Caeleb Dressel two years ago, who won seven Olympic gold medals.

This year, the Mosleys honored the memory of Levi Shepherd, a boy with special needs who died last year following a lengthy illness. A portion of the fall farm proceeds will be donated to the "Dreams Come True" organization.

Since most sessions are sold out, guests should purchase tickets in advance at ag-cropmaze.com/events.

Other festivals and Halloween-theme events include:

Saturday, Oct. 21

- Just Smash That Rage Rooms will open its doors for the Let's Have a Smashing Trunk or Treat from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. at 1101 Blanding Blvd. in Orange Park. Mini games, bounce house, food, prizes and raffle will be offered, as well as vehicles with Halloween decorations.

- Crotoberfest will be from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at The Senior Center at 604 Walnut St. in Green Cove Springs. Fee is \$45 with the exclusive kit and \$35 without kit. Fees include lunch, prizes and space to crop.

Thursday, Oct. 26

- The Clay County Sheriff's Office's Trunk or Treat will be at the Walmart, 1580 Branan Field Road in Middleburg, at 5 p.m. The free event for the entire family includes first responders and their vehicles and plenty of candy.

Friday, Oct. 27

- College Drive Fall Extravaganza will be at the Asbury United Methodist Church of Orange Park, 16 College Dr., from 6-8 p.m. The event



includes trunk and treat, a pumpkin patch and a family-friendly costume competition – all in conjunction with the monthly Food Truck Friday. For vendor information, contact CDI-FoodTruckNight@gmail.com.

- Dress up your furry friend for the Howl-O-Ween Costume Contest at Woof Gang Bakery and Grooming, 1960 East West Pkwy. on Fleming Island. The event starts at 9 a.m. Costumed pets will be photographed and entered in a raffle for free treats for a year.

- Code Ninjas will celebrate Halloween in Minecraft – Parents Night Out from 6 p.m.-9 p.m. at 1811 Golden Eagle Way on Fleming Island. Families can work on a spooky maze game in Minecraft with a scary movie playing in the background. There will be a costume contest with the ninjas.

Saturday, Oct. 28

- Boo on the Boulevard in Keystone Heights from 5-9 p.m. The event includes trick-or-treating along Lawrence Boulevard, food trucks, face painting, games and the movie Disney/Pixar's "Monsters, Inc." at Keystone Beach at 7:30 p.m.

- Visitors are invited to dress up for the Boo at the Roo, Hoggy Walloween Event on Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Rooterville Animal Sanctuary, 1209 County Road 315 in Melrose. The cost is \$15 a person or \$45 for a family. The event allows families to interact with more than 100 animals. The 20-acre farm will have Halloween decorations. The goal of the event is to promote an anti-bullying campaign. For tickets, visit rooterville.org.

- Haunted at the Hilltop Wine Social will be at The Hilltop Restaurant from 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at 2030 Wells Road in Orange Park. Even cost \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. It includes sips, snacks and the scariest prize for the most creative costume.

- Reparation Earth will present its Aqtoberfest at 11 a.m. at 5968 County Road 209 South

SEE CALENDAR, 15



Calendar

from page 14

in Green Cove Springs. The event includes music, farm tours at noon and 2 p.m. and lunch. For reservations or questions, call (904) 755-1606.

- Ripple Effect Martial Arts will host a Trunk and Treat from 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m. at 1851 Golden Eagle Way on Fleming Island. The event includes candy and a costume party.

- A Halloween Doubles Tournament and Costume Contest will start at 6 p.m. at Park Avenue Billiards at 714 Park Ave. in Orange Park. For registration, visit parkavenuebilliards.com. Contestants must be members of the First Coast American Poolplayers Association.

- Star Seed Holistic Spa invites everyone to a morning of Halloween Painting and Mini Facial from 9 a.m.-noon at 767 Blanding Blvd.

Prosperity

from page 9

She said the city wants to build a sports complex with two batting cages, two tennis courts that can also be converted into four pickleball courts and at least one basketball court.

Rutkowski said that the city still has about \$400,000 left over from American Rescue Plan funds that would be used toward the complex.

“So everything you need will be in one spot,” she said.

To consolidate services, Keystone Heights hopes to find partners like the tax collectors and sheriff’s offices to offset the costs of a new municipal headquarters. The city council and staff are exploring an expansion behind the town hall that would remove the old tennis and basketball courts.

“You can live here; you can work here,” Rutkowski said. “You can shop here and be entertained here because this is the best place in Florida.”

The Clay Chamber hosts the Lake Region Prosperities Partners meeting on the last Thursday of each month at the Keystone Beach Pavillion.

in Orange Park. Tickets cost \$50, including an 11-by-14-inch blacklight painting, a 15-minute facial, mimosas and appetizers. To register, visit eventbrite.com/e/treat-yourself-to-a-morning-of-halloween-painting-and-a-mini-facial-tickets.

- Scooters Coffee’s Spooktacular Trunk or Treat will be from 3 p.m.-6 p.m. at 151 Park Ave. in Orange Park. Guests can decorate their vehicles, participate in a raffle and support a fundraiser.

Sunday, Oct. 29

- Fleming Island United Methodist Church will host a Halloween Mystery Dinner from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. at 7170 U.S. Highway 17. Wear your costume and enjoy a frightful dinner.

- Candypalooza will start at 9:30 a.m. at Fleming Island United Methodist Church, 7170 U.S. Highway 17 on Fleming Island. The event combines church, costumes and candy.

Tuesday, Oct. 31

- Trick or Treat and Haunted Maze at Moosehaven will be from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The event at 1701 Park Ave. in Orange Park will include food trucks, a happy haunted trail and trick or treats. Admission is free. Volunteers and donations are needed. Contact Susan Luke at sluke@moosehaven.org.

- The Candy Crawl will be at the Orange Park Mall at 5 p.m. Families can dress up and collect treats as they explore the mall.



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Hundreds toast launch of Hell House Whiskey



Despite standing through four rain showers, fans stood in line to buy bottles of Hell House Whiskey last week. Once they had the coveted hooch, they went to another line to have the bottles signed by Lynyrd Skynyrd's Johnny Van Zant and Rickey Medlocke.

By Don Coble
don@claytodayonline.com

FLEMING ISLAND – Janice Whitley had an unusual request for her 29th wedding anniversary gift. She wanted to see Lynyrd Skynyrd.

So when she read lead singer Johnny Van Zant and guitarist Rickey Medlocke would

host the Florida launch of their Hell House Whiskey, she joined her husband, David, on a 500 drive from Raleigh, North Carolina, to Whitey's Fish Camp for an autographed bottle of the spirit.

"When she read it, I said, 'I guess we're going to Florida.' We took off on a whim," David said.

The Whitleys arrived on Tuesday, Oct. 3.

They had lunch at Whitey's "so we could see the layout of the place," Janice said. They also visited the cemetery in Jacksonville, where several band members are buried.

They arrived at the autograph session/ whiskey launch at Whitey's more than an hour before the restaurant opened.

"We're not the crazy people at a concert," Janice said. "I just love their music."

The Whitleys weren't alone.

Hundreds of fans attended the special event. They stood in line for several hours to buy a bottle of whiskey. Then they waited in a second line to get an autograph. Despite being first in line, the Whitleys said the process took over three hours.

It was worth the effort, they said.

And they were joined by other out-of-state fans.

Brent Hall got up quickly on Oct. 4 and arrived five hours early from Columbia, South Carolina. Phil and Darlene Putnam drove from Middlesex County, Virginia. Leighann Smith and Jeremy Mattingly came from Brandenburg, Kentucky.

Everyone brought their favorite memories of the legendary Southern rock band.

"I caught a guitar pick from Damon John-

SEE WHISKEY, 17

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Whiskey

from page 16

son at a show in Paducah (Kentucky), and I've been a fan since," Smith said.

The Putnams said meeting Van Zant and Medlocke was a "bucket list" item.

"They've been my heroes since 1977," Phil Putnam said.

Van Zant and Medlocke obliged numerous requests for autographs and photos. The meet and greet cranked up to a party and then to a concert. The Curt Towne Band, which opened for Lynyrd Skynyrd for two shows last week at St. Augustine, played inside the small dining area, and Van Zant and Medlocke joined them to perform "Sweet Home Alabama."

The two, in good spirits after the recital, agreed to stay longer for more autographs and photos.

Florida became the ninth state to approve sales of Hell House Whiskey. The band members and Bespoken, the company that distills the whiskey, decided to debut at Whitey's since the restaurant has been a favorite haunt of band members for decades.

"This was a great event," said Gabriel Garcia-Pons, the Vice President of Global Sales for Bespoken. "The concept started slow, but it got bigger, bigger, bigger. When we started thinking about this, we were thinking of 200 people. Then it was 400. Then 600. Now 1,000. We expected this to be popular, but we weren't aware it would get this big this quick."

"We definitely will come back next year."

The crowd was so large, many fans relied on a free shuttle from an auxiliary parking lot at Swimming Pen Elementary. The demand was so great, fans were limited to a single bottle.

While some came nearly 800 miles, others lived right around the corner. Some fans included Orange Park Police Chief Gary Goble, Paul Wane of Jacksonville Jaguars National Anthem fame and Grumpy's



After working her shift at Grumpy's in Orange Park Mackenzie Guidy was happy to be on her feet for another three hours to get her Lynyrd Skynyrd hats signed at Whitey's Fish Camp.

Middleburg owners Dell and Peggy Hoard. Everyone endured four rain showers while waiting in line.

Janice Whitley said she's been to two Skynyrd concerts, but meeting two of her favorite musicians in person was an opportunity she couldn't pass up.

"We got here early, and we were afraid they were going to run us off," she said. "This is why we came here. We didn't drive 500 miles to get shut out."

Their dedication was rewarded by Whitey's co-owner Billy Ham. He granted the couple the table closest to the autograph session, then the honor of being first in line.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I expect this," Janice said. "Everyone was so nice – especially Johnny and Rickey. They were so genuine. Then we heard them sing 'Sweet Home Alabama' in a little room with 50 people. It doesn't get better than this. It was worth the trip. We'll be back."



19 complete Clay Chamber Leadership class

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY CLAY CHAMBER

The Clay County Chamber of Commerce awarded 19 certificates for business leaders who completed its Leadership Class. They were (back, from left) Dominic Antonello of the Clay Sheriff's Office, Justin Pierce of Clay County Parks Department and Nick Gardella of Ideal JAX Electrical, (middle, from left) Nate Southerland of SJR State College, Mike Chamberland of The Salvation Army, Alexis Edwards of Challenge Enterprise, Patricia Evans of Capital City Bank, Heather Stewart of the Clay County Supervisor of Elections Office, Tyra Nelson of Ameris Bank, Helana Cormier of Florida Homes Realty and Brian Corson and VyStar Credit Union, (front, from left) Melissa Meeks of 121 Financial, Carolyn Krall of Clay Education Foundation, Dena Collins of Mercy Support Services, Rebecca Padgett of Penney Retirement Community, Debbie Pascoe of Healthy is Beautiful, Ashley Barber, of CCSO and Gina Blume Out of the Box Public Relations. Tina Pugh, HCA Florida Orange Park Hospital and Nichole Redgate of Challenge Enterprises were not photographed. The Leadership Program gave local business leaders an opportunity for personal growth, a chance to meet and acquire knowledge about historical, military, industrial, medical and governmental operations and their key stakeholders across all corners of Clay County in a nine-month class. Relationships were made to add lifelong value and opportunity among graduates of the class. The next Leadership Clay Class will begin in February. If you are interested, visit claychamber.com/leadership-clay/. You can also contact Chamber President Jon Cantrell at (904) 264-2651.

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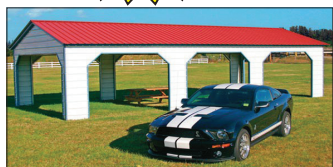


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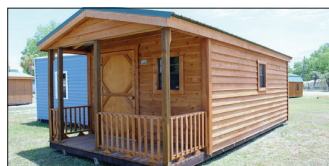
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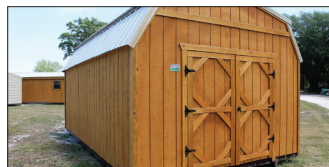
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Nice

from page 6

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 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."

SPORTS

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS

Broncos home stop means title-time

Game of the Week: Columbia (2-4) at Middleburg (3-3)

By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

MIDDLEBURG - Middleburg High football got their biggest shot in the arm Friday night with their amazing finish against Clay, but the fate of #Horsepower will be for that same team to dial in that Columbia High football doesn't care what happened last Friday.

Take what happened last Friday in Columbia, a surprising 35-31 win over Bolles, and a football fan only has to think Are the Tigers that good, or is Bolles on an off year?

I am sure Broncos' coach Ryan Wolfe, who has faced the iconic coaches of Columbia; Danny Green, Brian Allen, Craig Howard and the whole list of stalwarts that

have made the Tigers program the winningest high school in Florida history.

By the way, the record against Middleburg? 10-0 for Columbia.

"All I know is that most guys down 33-7 would have tapped by halftime," said Wolfe, as he revealed in Friday's astounding 26-point second half and his team's defensive effort to capitalize on Clay's superb first-half effort; 33-14 at the half. "Not this team, not these guys. We have been in this spot before and keep the fight."

Two guys that highlight the "keep the fight", are linebacker Austin Cruce and defensive end Tucker Cody. Two guys that, at Clay, absolutely did not slow down until the final whistle.

Quarterback Jaydan Jenkins, playing in

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Keystone Heights running back Cartez Daniels had strong 160 yards and one score in the Indians' homecoming win over Crescent City, 31-28, on field goal from Tyler Sapp in final seconds. Indians next travel to Palatka.

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Middleburg High's girls cross country takes off at start of Bronco Classic on Saturday on their Middleburg High home course. The Lady Broncos finished strong third behind a top finish from senior Stephanie Wagner. Below: The boys race blasts from the start at the Bronco Classic on Saturday.

St. Johns County dominates Broncos XC

By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

MIDDLEBURG - Creekside, St. Augustine and Ponte Vedra high schools brought their manpower heavy cross country programs to Middleburg High School for the Bronco Classic and went home with strong performances in the muddy, mucky course around



STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

Clay High cross country runner Noah Looney trumps through mud in first mile of the Bronco Classic Invitational cross country at Middleburg High School. Clay High got a double strong finish with seniors Kaygen Williamson, here just ahead of teammate Erika Martinez, both finishing in the top 10 of the Bronco Classic XC Invitational Saturday at Middleburg High School.

the school grounds.

Ponte Vedra sophomore Miles Wicks won a duel with Christ's Church Academy eighth grader Tyson Manley to sprint out the win in 16:30.80 to 16:31.90. Third went to Creekside sophomore Jackson Lafser in 16:38.30. Creekside, with four top 10 finishers, won the team title over St. Augustine 30-63 with Ponte Vedra third at 64 points.

In the girls' race, Ocala Forest junior Jordan McLean dominated from the start to win in 20:05.60 with Creekside's Abigail Clark second nearly a minute behind in 21:06.10. Christ's Church senior Danielle Raulerson was third at 21:10.70.

Creekside won the girls' title over Ponte Vedra, 34-52, with Middleburg and Ocala Forest finishing tied for third with 113 points.

Ridgeview was sixth with 144 points. Clay County got solid runner from Clay High's leading duet of Kaygen Williamson and Erika Martinez who finished sixth and seventh with Ridgeview's Emily Turner just behind Martinez; 21:37.40-21:43.30-21:47.60.

Middleburg's top finisher was senior Stephanie Wagner in 20th in 23:22.40. Middleburg's top five finishers were just 16 finishing spots apart; 16th to 32nd, to bolster their team finishing points.



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Indians

from page 19

the shadow of big brother Jaylen, who was one of Clay's all-time greatest playmakers in their era of deep playoff runs, was undeterred by the aura of the same Blue Devil Stadium that his brother influenced.

Friday's game against Columbia could simply be one of the greatest games in the history of Clay County; much like Fleming Island' Frank Hall beating Bolles and Corky Rogers; Derek Chipoletti beating Fletcher a second time in the same season to stay unbeaten and Keystone Heights' Chuck Dickinson putting 50 points on the board in his first playoff win after nearly a decade of playoff invites.

"We always had to play Starke or Titusville Astronaut and never won one," said Dickinson, now retired from football, but still athletic director at Keystone Heights. "We were always in the first game, just never won it. That's why the Bradford County games are such a big rivalry because they kept us out most of the time. They were the team I always wanted to beat."

Keystone

Around the county, Keystone Heights got a sterling offensive explosion in their 31-28 win over Crescent City with Tyler Sapp nailing the game-winner as time expired. Quarterback Baylor Ford threw for nearly 200 yards and had two long scores; one a 70-yard to Wyatt Van Zant and running back Cartez Daniels workhorsed 30 carries for 160 yards and two scores. Defensive end Jayden Goodman broke the game open with a blocked punt for a touchdown. Indians' coach Steve Reynolds is getting traction with his team and if they sneak into the playoffs with a win over Palatka (5-1, 58-0 over Central High, 1-5 out of Brooksville) and maybe P.K. Yonge (3-3, though with losses to Hawthorne and Union County) in their final, the Mudge "air-attack" factor could be critical.

Clay

Clay (4-2) must regroup and be ready for a three-game district slate with road games to Menendez (2-5) and Matanzas (4-2), then a home bonanza against St. Augustine (6-0) with Oakleaf the final.

Whatever happened in the second half on Friday, coach Kyle Kennard still has solid players that punch the time clock to work. Now is not the time to stray from Blue Devil hats to the ball mentality.

Fleming Island coach Chad Parker knew his schedule would be tough and he got a big dose of tough from Lake Minneola, but

life gets no easier with Mandarin, Creekside, then Buchholz, all three having power seasons, on the flip side.

One win or three losses by close scores could be crucial for playoff hopes. Buchholz is the big target and they too face three biggies the next three weeks with Oakleaf, Bartram Trail then Fleming Island. A hiccup by both teams in this three-game slate is lethal.

Oakleaf plays as monstrous a schedule

as they have ever had and sits as dangerous a team with a losing record as any. Coach Chris Foy has the football knowhow to corral his troops and get to basics to finish his season and, with the District of Doom coming into play, Oakleaf (Buchholz, Madison County, Bartram Trail) and Fleming Island control both destinies. As Yogi Berra famously said, "It ain't over till it's over."

At this point, Ridgeview at Orange Park is for recovery rights as both teams have fal-

tered despite athletic lineups on both ends. This could be a late breakout for either team to finish the season on a positive note. Ridgeview senior running back Rayhn Hutchinson has proven that he is a legit ball carrier with three 100-plus games against defenses that know he is getting the ball.

Orange Park answers with junior tailback Joshua Johnson in what could make the game a track meet if both let'er rip on Friday.



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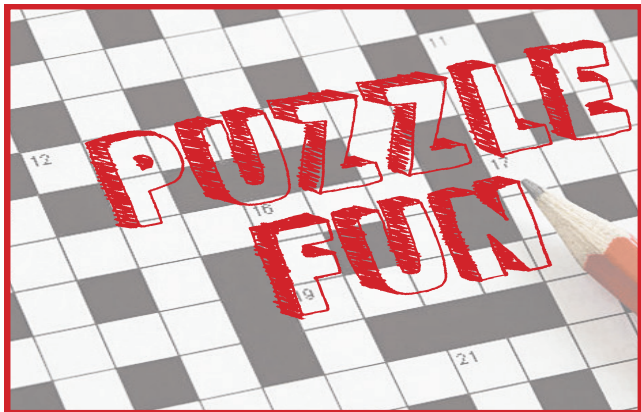
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Level: Intermediate

CALENDAR

LAKE REGION KIWANIS: will meet on Oct. 19 at 6 p.m. Clyde's Cozy Corner Café, 195 S. Lawrence Blvd. in Keystone Heights.

MIDDLEBURG-CLAY HILL LIBRARY: will host a book sale on Oct. 19 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at 2245 Aster Ave. in Middleburg. The organizers can only accept cash, checks and books in good condition.

CAMP CHOWENWAW SPOOKY NATURE TRAIL: will be open from Oct. 19-31 at 1517 Ball Road in Green Cove Springs from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Visitors can venture into a spooky nature trail to encounter live animals in their mysterious habitats. Bug spray, closed-toed shoes and water are suggested. The event is free.

FLORIDA REP. BOBBY PAYNE: will hold office hours on Oct. 19 from 9 a.m.-noon at Keystone Heights City Hall, 555 S. Lawrence Blvd. For more information, call Tammy Still at (352) 732-1244 or email her at tammy.still@myfloridahouse.gov.

MIDDLEBURG-CLAY HILL LIBRARY: will host a book sale on Oct. 20 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at 2245 Aster Ave. in Middleburg. The organizers can only accept cash, checks and books in good condition.

LONESTAR: will perform on Oct. 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the Thrasher-Horne Center, 283 College Dr. in Orange Park. Tickets, which start at \$29, are available at thcenter.org.

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CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to dental hygiene. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 17 = T)

- A. 10 12 13 18 6 19 3**
Clue: Dental technique
- B. 17 13 8 17 13 8**
Clue: Hard, calcified deposits
- C. 17 9 19 3 11 1**
Clue: Part of the mouth
- D. 17 9 9 17 7 23 8 11 10 7**
Clue: Cleaning device

Answers: A. scaling B. tartar C. tongue D. toothbrush

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to dental hygiene.

LSOSF

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Answer: Floss

Guess Who?

I am a rapper born in Missouri on October 17, 1972. I aspired to be a comic book artist until I was introduced to Ice-T's song "Reckless." I became an international rap sensation. My stage name refers to the initials of my real name.

Answer: Eminem

DENTAL HYGIENE WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

- ABRASION
- ABSCCESS
- ABUTMENT
- ACID
- ADJUSTMENT
- AMALGAM
- ANALGESIA
- BACTERIA
- BICUSPID
- BITE
- BONDING
- BREATH
- CARIES
- CLEANING
- CROWN
- FLUORIDE
- HYGIENIST
- PARTIAL
- PLAQUE
- ROOT
- SEDATION
- STAINS
- TARTAR
- TOOTH

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