

# CLAY TODAY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2023

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## YEAR IN REVIEW

2023 ————— 2024

## Memorable stories from 2023

Compiled by Don Coble

### Lake Asbury's Miller, Orange Park's Rosaro-Castillo earn school awards

ORANGE PARK – Not only did Lake Asbury Elementary fourth-grade math and science teacher Heather Miller and Orange Park Elementary media technician Abigail Rosaro-Castillo win the support of a committee comprised of school officials, but they also brought two of the loudest cheering sections to the Jan. 25 Apple Awards at the Thrasher-Horne Center.

Both received rousing cheers as Superintendent David Broskie announced their names from a group of five finalists for both categories.

SEE 2023, 2



## Clay County saw it all in 2023

Sorrow and celebration; traffic and tranquility; high costs and growth

### Top stories of the year

Compiled by Don Coble

### Clay schools flex its muscles with 16 state championships

When it came to winning gold, few school districts in Florida ran faster, hit harder, were stronger or wrestled better than Clay County District Schools.

Four teams and SSS individual athletes were crowned state champions in the past calendar month.

It started with Middleburg 190-pound wrestler Cheyenne Cruce winning the Class 2A girls' state championship. After finishing fourth in her freshman season a year ago, the sophomore finished the season with a 39-0 record.

She was joined on the champions' podium by Fleming Island's Jayce Paridon, who won the Class 2A boys 132-pound class.

The county also celebrated a runner-up finish by Oakleaf's Adrianna Barrientos

SEE TOP, 16

## Town of Orange Park, police union tentatively agree to pay raises

Town of Orange Park, police union tentatively agree to pay raises

By Lee Wardlaw  
lee@claytodayonline.com

ORANGE PARK – Ongoing negotiations between the Town of Orange Park and the union representing its police

SEE RAISES, 21

Contract negotiations last week between the Fraternal Order of Police Orange Park Lodge No. 144 and the Town of Orange Park moved both sides closer to an agreement.



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Heather Miller Abegail Rosaro-Castillo

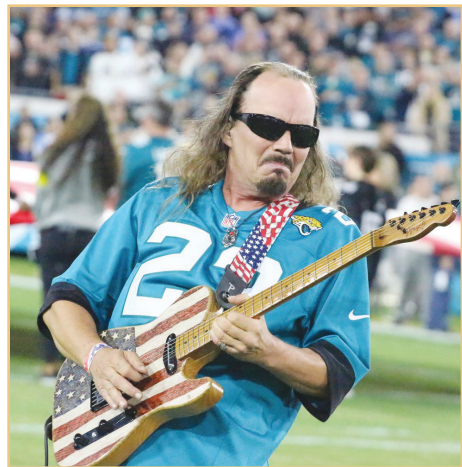
# 2023

from page 1

"Tonight represents the work of our teachers and staff," Broskie said. "This is our way to say thank you." Rosario-Castillo also received a \$1,500 check from Garber Automall as the School-Related Employee of the Year, while Miller drove away in a 2023 Chevrolet Malibu – also provided by Garber. Miller as the Teacher of the Year. She became eligible for Florida Teacher of the Year honors.

Lakeside Junior High math teacher Melissa Anne Matz won the teaching award in 2022, and served as the Christa McAuliffe Ambassador for Education.

Each school in the Clay County District Schools had a teacher and school-related who moved into the countywide competition. From there, the list was narrowed to five in each group.



## Paul Wane rocks 'Star-Spangled Banner' at Jaguars-Titans game

CLAY COUNTY – Paul Wane's 47-year music career came down to a 90-second performance on Jan. 7 in the final regular season game for the Jacksonville Jaguars.

And the local Duval County Line Band guitarist rocked TIAA Bank Field.

His rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner" not only put nearly 70,000 fans in a deafening frenzy but also sent shock waves around the country. Social media quickly praised the local musician, including nearly 112,000 likes on YouTube in one day.

Wearing biker boots, sunglasses and

a No. 23 Jacksonville jersey, Wane put a distinctive Southern Rock spin on the song representing the nation.

"It's been way more than I expected," Wane said of the overwhelming response. "It's been a whirlwind. I'm doing my best to keep up with it, but it's not easy. My phone has been going crazy."

The pregame song was a solo act that shook the stadium. When he finished his final lick, the crowd erupted in approval, and national media outlets who are more accustomed to long-winded versions of the song were impressed.

The process for the Jaguars game started with Wane's Guitars for Kids Foundation's Rising Star program. Wane takes donated guitars and refurbishes them before giving them to children. The foundation was created to provide children with the option of music instead of drugs and alcohol.

One of the guitars went to a boy whose father works security at TIAA Bank Field. He told fellow workers and word eventually reached the Jaguars brass.



## Hungry customers return to Grumpy's after fire

MIDDLEBURG – There was frantic activity on Jan. 2 at Grumpy's inside the popular eatery. There were menus to place on tables, food to be prepped, T-shirts to be folded and a final moment for everyone to catch their breath.

"I need these guys to be exceptional today," co-owner Del Hoard Sr. told his kitchen staff. "Actually, guys, just do what you always do."

Outside, the line of hungry and eager customers was growing. The dark and foggy conditions created an eerie backdrop. Headlights poked a hole through the thick cover as the line quickly became a crowd.

Then, at 5:30 a.m., Courtney Hoard, the wife of the co-owner, opened the door. She was quickly greeted with smiles and hugs.

"We got here about 4:40 (a.m.). We wanted to be the first when they opened the doors," said Middleburg's Jay Miller.

The restaurant was destroyed on Jan. 19, 2022, by a fire that started with an electrical spark in the wall behind the dish-



## OPERATION LIGHT SHINE

washer. COVID, supply chain issues, red tape and labor shortages caused several delays in the rebuilding.

Nearly a year of frustration and anticipation was replaced with filled stomachs, hot cups of coffee and a few tears.

"It feels good to be back," Del Hoard Sr. said. "We never gave up."

## February

### Sheriff's office joins six law enforcement agencies to stop child trafficking

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – The Clay County Sheriff's Office receives "hundreds" of tips about sexually abused and trafficked children. More alarming is the fact those represent a small portion of the victims.

That's why the Clay County Sheriff's Office became one of seven law enforcement agencies on Feb. 25 to join forces to create the largest task force in the country to combat human trafficking and child exploitation.

Operation Lightshine is a group organized by former U.S. Marine Matt Murphy, whose sister was murdered by a man who sold women and drugs.

Murphy and Tim Tebow, who won a Heisman Trophy and two national championships with the Florida Gators, have worked tirelessly to stop the scourge of child exploitation and trafficking. Both delivered powerful messages during Thursday's announcement at the Old County Courthouse.

"I had the privilege of growing up, whether it was at Normandy Baseball Park, at Lakeshore, or it was at Trinity (Christian)

or at Niece (High), or it was even at the University of Florida, to be fortunate at times to now and then win an MVP for being the most valuable player of a baseball game or a football game or even basketball for me. But, if that's one of the coolest things I did in North Florida, that would be a big mess for me.

"But as cool as those MVPs are, they mean nothing compared to what this group is fighting for, and that's a way, way, way more important MVP. This group is fighting for (are) real MVPs – the most vulnerable people who desperately need us. Need you. Need all of us to work together to put the mission above the credit."

Clay County Sheriff Michelle Cook, Murphy, Sheriff's Gator Deloach of Putnam, Bill Leeper of Nassau, T.K. Waters of Duval, Robert Hardwick of St. Johns counties, Florida Department of Law Enforcement Science Applications International Corporation's Mike Williams, Homeland Security Investigations Tampa Special Agent John A. Condon, Florida Rep. Sam Garrison, U.S. Attorney for Middle District of Florida Roger Handberg and Tebow jointly announced the creation of the INTERCEPT Task Force to "protect our most vulnerable," Cook said. The task force's purpose is for law enforcement agencies in Northeast Florida to pool their resources and information to catch and punish people who exploit children.

"We are putting ourselves in a position to protect our children, our most vulnerable," Cook said. "We will have investigators assigned to this, and together, we can have a more involved investigation."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

**St. Johns Country Day's girls soccer championship streak ends**

DELAND – The St. Johns Country Day School's girls soccer team played about as good a game as expected, according to coach Mike Pickett, but several factors and bad bounces denied the team from extending its state title streak to 12 years.

A 2-0 loss on Feb. 22 in the Class 2A championship to Lakeland Christian also ended the team's run of 59 consecutive playoff victories.

Lakeland's win was the first for them in 10 Final Four opportunities against St. Johns. Lakeland moved to Class 3A and had won two straight titles prior to the Wednesday final in Class 2A.

"We had our chances; Sydney Schmidt's shot that hit the crossbar could have changed the game," said Pickett, referring to a 25 mph wind. "They had four shots in the game, and all were late. Their corner shot was just dumb luck and a lot of wind."

Lakeland scored on a corner kick by Lilly Harrington near the 10-minute mark. Harrington quickly scored again to put the Vikings out front, 2-0.

"That corner kick was just dumb luck with the wind," said Pickett. "The second goal was us pushing forward too much



and them getting behind us. Roxie made a save, but she put the rebound in."

**Persistence leads to detention deputy identifying murder suspect**

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Clay County Sheriff's Office Detention Deputy Jesse Holbert was determined to discover why Sean Williams refused to reveal his real name.

It didn't matter Williams was only in jail for a minor possession of marijuana charge. Holbert sensed something didn't add up.

Williams didn't understand that as long as he kept giving the agency a fake name, he would be behind bars longer. So Holbert started digging deeper.



Sean Williams

"When he got pulled over, he said his name was Keyshawn West," Holbert said. "He gave us the right date of birth, but he said he didn't know his social security number. Other guys showed up at the scene, and he used the name James. So now we had two names."

Williams told another detention deputy he was Sean West. And none were correct.

"John Doe" believed the sheriff's office would flinch first, but deputies couldn't file charges without a proper name. So Williams sat.

"He figured since it was a simple marijuana charge, he would get out soon," Holbert said.

Holbert checked with Williams' roommate and learned his real name was Sean. He also learned he was from Philadelphia, so Holbert called the Philadelphia Police Department. That's when both agencies realized the man in the Clay County Jail was Sean Williams, who was wanted for murder. Holbert's intuition and determination led to Sean Devant Williams, now 30, being returned to Philadelphia to face charges of murder, robbery, criminal conspiracy and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

CCSO also selected him as the Detention Deputy of the Year on Feb. 10.

"But he had some unique tattoos, and

that's how we figured out who he was," Holbert said.

*March*

**Middleburg Elementary principal, student win TaxWatch, lottery awards**

MIDDLEBURG – A group of sixth-grade students eagerly listened on March 24 as Middleburg Elementary Principal Becky Wilkerson told them she picked one to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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## Congress to chip away at PGA Tour's tax-exempt status

By Jacob Ogles  
FloridaPolitics.com

Congress may count a merger with LIV Golf as a stroke against the league to chip away at the PGA Tour's tax-exempt status.

U.S. Rep. Vern Buchanan said it's time the country calls a penalty on the nonprofit status enjoyed by the sports league. The Longboat Key Republican filed a bipartisan bill with U.S. Rep. Mike Thompson, a California Democrat, that would strip the PGA Tour of its tax-exempt status.

The lawmakers want to count a stroke against the PGA Tour for its decision to merge with LIV Golf, a league primarily owned by Saudi Arabia.

"With billions of dollars in annual revenue and record profits streaming in, coupled with their looming partnership with Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund, why should hardworking American taxpayers subsidize the PGA's tax-exempt status in the world?" Buchanan said.

The legislation would impact any sports organization that earns more than \$1 billion in any year over five years. Golfweek recently reported that the PGA Tour earned around \$1.9 billion in 2022, up significantly from \$1.59 billion in 2021.

The PGA Tour-LIV merger has proven rife with political controversy. Last week, former President Donald Trump, who Buchanan endorsed for a return to the White House in 2024, announced he would welcome LIV Golf to several golf course properties he owns, including in Doral.

Meanwhile, Jeff Roe, who just left a super PAC backing Gov. Ron DeSantis' competing bid for President, boasts ties to a PR firm that represented the PGA Tour before the merger and had rallied 9/11 families behind an anti-LIV Golf public opinion campaign. That included bringing the families to an event at the Florida Governor's mansion earlier this year.

For his part, Buchanan focused his criticism mainly on the fact that professional golf rakes in enormous amounts of money to be still considered a 501(c)(6) organization, a tax designation generally reserved for chambers of commerce and other business leagues.

"We should be supporting local charities on Main Street, not foreign-backed professional sports organizations that are not dedicated to benefitting the American people," Buchanan said. "That's why I'm pleased to introduce this legislation with Congressman Thompson to end this special-interest giveaway and require the PGA to pay taxes, just like every other Ameri-

SEE CHIP, 5

## OPINIONS & VIEWPOINTS



## My only resolution is to figure out odd things in 2024

By Don Coble  
Managing Editor

I've said it many times, but I'm not fond of making resolutions. I don't need a calendar to remind me to read more books, watch less television and stop considering the supersize option.

Instead of making changes, I'd like to figure out why my mind wanders.

Why is there an obsession to wear blue jeans with huge holes and rips? I'm old enough to remember iron-on patches when we wore our knees out the old-fashioned way – playing outside. I introduced Donnie Van Zant and Richard Petty at the New Hampshire Motor Speedway several years ago, and Van Zant was wearing pants with several frayed rips. Without hesitation, Petty said: "Something's been eatin' your britches, son." That's why he's the King.

Have you wondered why people driving Jeeps line the dashboard with small figurines like rubber ducks?

I don't know about you, but I always give myself a five-star rating when Walmart asks for my opinion at the self-checkout register.

Maybe somebody can tell me why I have to pay sales tax when I buy dirt and cow manure at the garden shop. That really stinks.

During an interview, I heard a mall



Don Coble

general manager talking about Christmas shopping last week. He said it's rare to have a Saturday before Christmas. Uhm, isn't there always a Saturday before Christmas? It's like asking if there's a Fourth of July in England.

They say, "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me." That's true, unless you're a fan of the Jacksonville Jaguars and you keep allowing yourself to be fooled nine out of every 10 seasons.

Do you ever get frustrated by local television news when they tell you part of the story and promise to tell you the rest later in the broadcast?

Why do I pay nearly \$200 monthly for cable television, and there's nothing worth watching? Of course, I don't get ABC or NBC because DirecTV and Universe have blacked out Tenga Inc. stations for more money.

Guacamole.

I don't understand why anyone would live in California. I had a friend return from a short trip, and he said you have to weave through people sleeping on the street in Los Angeles. I know a couple who had to move back in with his mother because their monthly taxes increased by \$600 – not to \$600, but in addition to their current taxes.

I find it amusing when you ask a Democrat a question about one of their failed programs, and they always shift it back to Donald Trump. In fairness, when you ask a conservative about a problem with Trump, they turn it back on Joe Biden.

Do electric cars have gas pedals?

SEE ODD, 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.

**Chapfallen:** (CHAP-faw-lun) an adjective that means having one's lower jaw hanging due to extreme exhaustion or dejection, i.e., "Why the long face?"

"Gina was chapfallen when she learned that her best friend's visit would have to be postponed."

## This Week in History

### Five years ago, 2018

- Clay County District Schools achieved a graduation rate greater than 90% for the first time in the county's history, according to the Florida Department of Education.

- The No. 1 story selected for the year of 2018 was when a Clay County Grand Jury indicted four people for the 2016 first-degree pre-meditated murder of Kolton T. Shearer, 18, of Middleburg. Shearer was fatally shot in the abdomen while inside a home at 1956 County Road 16A during a reported robbery at about 2 a.m.

### 10 years ago, 2013

- Clay County School District officials celebrated news that Orange Park High had earned an "A" grade from the state, the first time since the state began its grading system in 1999.

- Clay County officials conducted an inventory audit at the Clerk of Court office after the firing and arrest of former information technology director Michael John Hamilton of Lake Asbury, who was charged with grand theft, dealing stolen property and giving false verification of ownership after allegedly stealing computers at his job.

### 20 years ago, 2003

- Clay County Sheriff's Office investigators asked for the public's help with information that could lead to the arrest in a case involving \$1,950 worth of scratch-off lottery tickets from Cheap Butts and Suds on Knight Boxx Road.

- VyStar Credit Union opened its full-service branch in Middleburg.

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.



# Business Briefs

For Clay Today

## Bourre elected Chairman of Florida Building Commission

TALLAHASSEE – The Florida Home Builders Association announced that its past president, Michael Bourré, was elected to serve as Chairman of the Florida Building Commission.



Michael Bourre

Bourré is the President of Bourré Construction Group of Fleming Island.

Bourré is a

veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and an alumnus of the University of Florida Rinker School of Building Construction.

He serves as a Clay County Planning Commissioner and Gubernatorial appointee to the Northeast Florida Regional Council. He also received the Northeast Florida Builders Association's Pinnacle Builder of the Year Award and was recently recognized as Clay County Builder of the Year.

Bourré has worked with HabiJax in his community, helping provide affordable homes to those less fortunate. He also strongly supports local charities and non-profit groups, including the Marine Corps League and Boy Scouts of America. Michael covets family time outside his industry commitments with his wife, Sandra, their seven children and two grandchildren.

"Michael has dedicated a significant amount of his time to bettering the Florida building industry through his service in our association," said Rusty Payton, FHBA CEO. "In 2011, he served as President of the Northeast Florida Builders Association in Jacksonville; served as chair of the FHBA Government Affairs Committee in 2016; and ultimately led the direction of the FHBA as President of our 8,000 member organization during the tumultuous year of 2020.

## New State Farm office on Fleming Island opening on Jan. 2

FLEMING ISLAND – Wendell Chindra is opening a new State Farm Insurance office on Jan. 2 at 865 Hibernia Road, Suite 109. Chindra said he also plans to hire four people. The office will be open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Chindra is a native of Trinidad and Tobago but has been in the community since 2021. Chindra has more than nine years of experience in financial services and has served in various management roles. He is also known for his active community ser-

vice. Chindra holds a Master's in Public Policy and Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Jacksonville University. He is licensed in property and casualty, life and financial services products.



Wendell Chindra

"State Farm is a company that I am proud to join, and I look forward to offering our products and services to families in this amazing community," Chindra said. The mission of State Farm is to help people manage the risks of everyday life, recover from the unexpected, and realize their dreams. State Farm and its affiliates are the largest auto and home insurance providers in the United States. Its 19,200 agents and 57,500 employees serve approximately 85 million policies and accounts, which include auto, fire, life, health, commercial and financial service accounts.

Chindra can be reached at (904) 297-4063.

## Odd

from page 4

The national media and Democrats are blaming Republicans for not advancing the aid package to Ukraine because they want southern border security tied to it. But aren't the Democrats just as responsible for not dealing in good faith for refusing to add border changes? Both sides are so committed to their party's marching orders they have become dysfunctional. And who loses? All of us.

Who keeps sneaking into my computer bag and tying my USB cables into knots?

Why is movie theater-battered popcorn five times better than anything I can make at home?

Also, I want to find out why Fox News sent me an alert about Taylor Swift screaming from the luxury box when Travis Kelce didn't draw a pass interference call.

And, I don't know why my mother's Dutch-German background led to us having sauerkraut, pork and buttered mashed potatoes on New Year's Day. Or why my father's southern roots include blackeyed peas and collard greens. I only know I will resolve to enjoy the food from both cultures.

Happy New Year everyone.

## History

from page 4

### 30 years ago, 1993

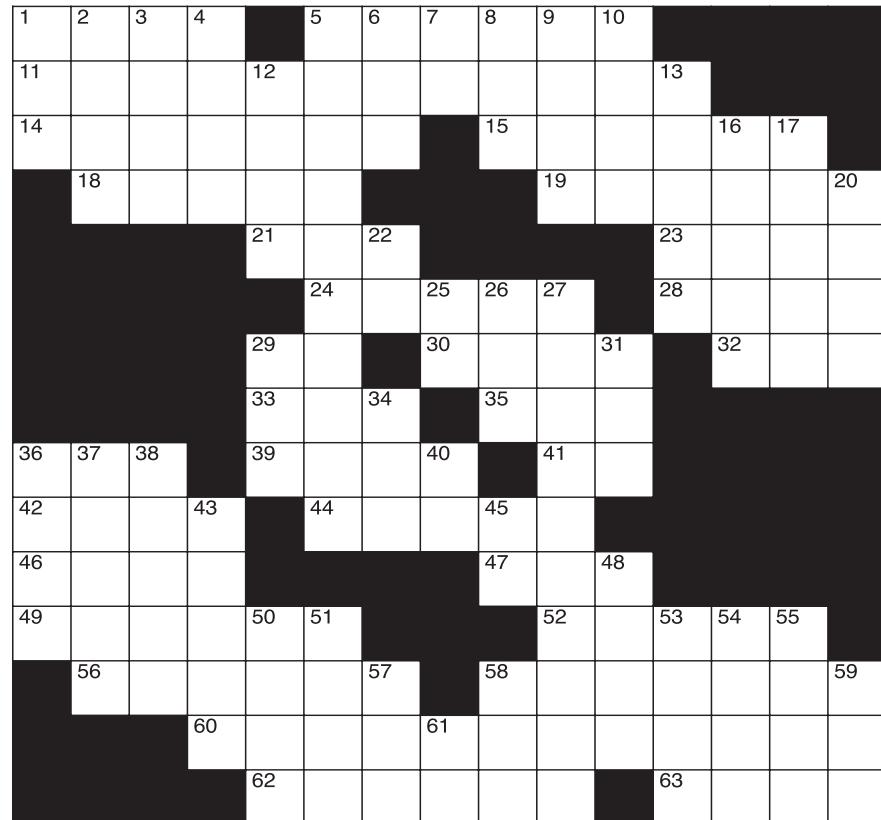
- The Board of County Commissioners voted 4-1 to have the Florida Legislature pass a bill creating an independent county-

wide water and sewer authority. The proposal would pave the way for the creation of the Clay County Utility Authority.

- The National Wild Turkey Federation offered a \$2,500 reward for information leading to an arrest in the deaths of two hunters that occurred the previous month.

onto similar status until 2007 and the National Football League clung on until 2015. But those groups gave up the status voluntarily. The National Basketball Association, National Hockey League and Major League Soccer also do not have such status.

*Jacob Ogles has covered politics in Florida since 2000 for regional outlets including SRQ Magazine in Sarasota, The News-Press in Fort Myers and The Daily Commercial in Leesburg. His work has appeared nationally in The Advocate, Wired and other publications. Events like SRQ's Where The Votes Are workshops made Ogles one of Southwest Florida's most respected political analysts, and outlets like WWSB ABC 7 and WSRQ Sarasota have featured his insights. He can be reached at jacobogles@hotmail.com.*



### CLUES ACROSS

- Old English letters
- Sculpture
- Showing up again
- Tie the knot again
- Washington city
- Stiff structures in invertebrates
- Mark over a vowel
- Explosive
- Popular race: \_\_\_ 500
- Pile up
- Mint
- Commercial
- A minute amount (Scottish)
- Small Eurasian deer
- Baseball stat
- Numbers cruncher
- Japanese masked drama
- Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- Blood group
- Assist in wrongdoing
- Language spoken in Cameroon and Chad
- Grayish-white
- A woolen cap of Scottish origin
- Microorganism
- Place under prohibition
- Calm, dependable
- Congressman
- Force
- As a result of this document
- One of two main branches of Islam

### CLUES DOWN

- Make a mistake
- Gordon and Snider are two
- Geographical region of Finland
- Ejected saliva
- A way of performing
- Scotland's longest river
- One of the six noble gases (abbr.)
- Body art
- Two-toed sloth
- Electronic counter-countermeasures
- Foolish person (Brit.)
- Of the wind
- Grand home
- Sound
- English river
- Symbol indicating ownership
- Exclamation of surprise
- Pouch
- Apart from
- Satisfaction
- The bill in a restaurant
- Sea bream
- Port in southern Japan
- Double-reed instruments
- Center
- South Dakota
- An orderly crowd
- Indicates position
- \_\_\_-pedi
- Nonsense (slang)
- Republic of Ireland
- Nocturnal flyers
- American state
- Clusters in fern fronds
- Patriotic women
- A person's brother or sister
- Breed of sheep
- Popular film Despicable \_\_\_

## Chip

from page 4

can business."

Thompson similarly questioned why Americans should pay more taxes than international golf circuits.

"The proposed PGA-LIV merger raises serious concerns. Nonprofit tax treatment should be reserved for institutions and charities that help everyday Americans — not billion-dollar sports leagues backed by Saudi government money," the Democrat said. "I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to achieve that goal as the PGA and LIV continue their negotiations."

The PGA Tour largely stands alone among major sports organizations in the U.S. that are still claiming its tax-exempt status. Major League Baseball gripped



**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3**

receive free tuition for their first two years of college.

When she mentioned the winner was a girl, some boys moped dejectedly. The more Wilkerson narrowed her comments, the more Kimberlee Dimorier started to think it was her.

"When she said the winner was in all-advanced classes and was a straight-A student, I thought it might be me," Dimorier said.

It was. Dimorier earned a two-year Florida Prepaid College Scholarship. The award came in partnership with Florida TaxWatch and the Florida Lottery.

The scholarship is one of only nine presented in the state. It was made possible because Wilkerson was selected to win one of three Principal Leadership Awards in the state.



"It's really an award for Middleburg Elementary School," Wilkerson said as Superintendent David Broskie, District Schools Chief Kelly Watt, Chief of Elementary Heather Teto, School Board members Beth Clark and Ashley Gilhousen, Florida TaxWatch Senior Vice President of Research Bob Nave, J.M. Rubin Foundation Vice President and Treasurer Kim Harris and Florida Prepaid College Foundation

Director Cindy O'Connell participated in the ceremony.

Dimorier said she wants to major in forensic pathology.

According to TaxWatch, the Principal Leadership Awards program acknowledges and rewards educational leaders who create meaningful change in their students' lives while promoting their uniquely effective practices among their peers.

"We don't pick our winners in a normal way. We use data-based information. It is not a popularity contest," Nave said.



**Longtime volunteer Kirkland honored ahead of Clay Fair**

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Lemmie Kirkland needed two minutes to slowly walk to the stage at the Cattleman's Arena on March 26 during the Clay County Agriculture Fair luncheon.

That was a pretty good pace for someone who was days ahead of her 95th birthday.

The longtime fair volunteer was honored with the first Lifetime Award for her dedication and effervescent spirit has been a big part of Early Florida Village's success.

Kirkland has worked at the fair for "many, many, many years," Fair Executive Director Tasha Hyder said. And she's not ready to slow down.

"I'll be at the Baxley House greeting people this year, too," Kirkland said. "I'm

going to be like the Energizer Bunny. I'm going to keep on kicking as long as I can."

Kirkland welcomed fair-goers into the historic village, and she told stories of how simple life used to be. She liked to talk about wood-burning stoves similar to what her mother and grandmother used.

"People can enjoy the old-time section of the fair because it gives them an idea of how people used to live," she said. "Sometimes I think people are astonished about how we used to live."

It proved to be Kirkland's final appearance.

The fair ended on April 9, and Kirkland passed away peacefully while surrounded by family 27 days later.

**Officials break ground on Clay County Regional Park**

MIDDLEBURG – Bulldozers were five acres away, busily turning Florida scrubland into what will soon become Clay County Regional Park when County Commission Chair Betsy Condon put the project in perspective on March 28.

"I can't wait for the day to see this open," she said. "I can't wait to see kids out here playing. I want to bring people outdoors and onto the playing fields."

The 250-acre complex will now celebrate its grand opening on April 5.

The county bought nearly 250 acres of land on U.S. Highway 21, a mile north of State Road 16, to create a unique sports park to draw national tournaments.

North Florida Land Trust bought the 750 acres between the park and SR 16. The nonprofit, which is committed to preserving natural places, told the county it could add nature trails in its portion.

"This will be a first for Clay County and Northeast Florida," Condon said.

Former Florida Sen. Rob Bradley and Rep. Travis Cummings were instrumental in working with County Manager Howard Wanamaker to secure a matching grant from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity program. The county paid the first \$3 million, and the state matched it.

Once operational, the park could become a money-maker in taxes, Condon said.



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- |                  |                                   |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
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| Art Appreciation | Flower Arranging*                 | Movement and Exercise |
| Beginning Chess* | Greeting Cards*                   | Pennies From Heaven   |
| Bingo            | Improv Comedy*                    | Rock n Roll           |
| Chair Yoga       | iPhone/iPad                       | Ukulele*              |
| Current Events   | Jewelry Making*                   | Walking to the River  |
| Drawing*         | Line Dancing                      | Watercolors*          |
| Elder Law        |                                   |                       |

**TUESDAYS January 9 - March 12 - Bridge Playing 1:30-3:30**  
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**THURSDAY CLASSES January 11 - February 29**  
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- |                          |                       |                     |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Beginning Tai Chi        | Movement and Exercise | Yoga                |
| Bridge Instruction*      | Pennies From Heaven   | Zentangle Workshop* |
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## April

### Clay County Agriculture Fair shatters attendance record

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Except for an occasional bird trying to find an easy meal of leftover fries or pretzels, the Clay County Fairgrounds were eerily quiet on April 10.

Most of the rides that thrilled patrons a day earlier had been disassembled and were on the way to their next stop at Sumter County. Livestock was back at their farms. Volunteers were still resting aching feet and tired eyes. And the countdown to next year's Clay County Agriculture Fair had already started on the marquee.

The fairgrounds were Ground Zero for Northeast Florida fun for nearly two weeks.

Even with inclement weather in the last two days, everything ran smoothly. Even when finding a parking spot presented a challenge and lines were long at the rides, fair volunteers wanted to ensure everyone had a good time.

That's why this year's fair attracted a record 156,480 people. Executive Director Tasha Hyder said this year's attendance could have been as much as 200,000 if not for the final weekend washout.

"We are growing with the development around us," she said. "We knew it was going to be big, but I don't think we realized the numbers would be that big. If you think about it, if we hadn't had bad weather (on the final) on Saturday and Sunday, we probably would have been very close to 200,000. To be honest with you, on Saturdays, we averaged about 25,000-ish. And on Sunday, we average about 15,000 to 20,000 on that second Sunday. So imagine that we would have had good weather on Saturday and Sunday we would have been talking about right now."

The previous fair record was 147,948 in 2021.

The fair also broke three daily records – 23,475 for a Sunday, April 2, 8,808 for a Monday, April 3, and 10,270 for a Wednesday, April 5.

### Waste Not Want Not wins top Reinhold Foundation honor

ORANGE PARK – Sandra L. Staudt-Killea realized her nonprofit was about to be honored as the Paul E. Reinhold Community Service Award winner shortly after Olivia Myers talked about the winner during the



Celebrate Clay breakfast on April 25.

Her suspicions were confirmed when Myers said:

"It is our civic responsibility to be good stewards of the Earth's resources and to feed the most vulnerable. Today's agency we honor is a clear champion on both fronts, bridging the gap between waste and want.

"We're so proud to present this year's Paul E. Reinhold Community Service Award to Waste Not Want Not."

Staudt-Killea's agency was one of more than 100 local nonprofits hoping to earn a portion of the \$100,000 the foundation awarded.

"It was so exciting waiting to hear the words," Staudt-Killea said. "It's like a beauty pageant. You don't want to hear your name too soon. At the same time, the longer you don't hear your name, you start to worry about it being too late."

Staudt-Killea operates a group that collects unused food and redistributes it to 47 food banks that feed 7,000 people a week.

Waste Not Want Not earned the top award of \$15,000 from the Paul and Klare Reinhold Foundation. The organization was one of 47 county nonprofits that were selected for a variety of prizes.

The Way Free Medical Clinic and Clay Behavioral Health Center earned \$7,000 after winning the Judge's Choice Program Awards. Penney Retirement Community President and CEO Teresa Scott earned the Jack Myers Executive Director Award and Saved 2 Serve's William Darnell won the Peggy Bryan Volunteer of the Year Award. Both earned \$7,000 checks.

### School Board approves new plan to review library books

FLEMING ISLAND- The school board unanimously approved the School Board Procedures Manual for Instructional Resources on April 11 to clarify which books are allowed to be on school library shelves.

The vote was in response to House Bill 1467, which Gov. Ron DeSantis approved in March. It requires each school board to define its rules for training media personnel and reviewing and approving all books and publications. Part of this means the public and parents getting involved in the process.

The bill was approved to identify the objective material and list those removed. In the Clay County School District, 383 books have been removed. Eleven parent volunteers helped by reading disputed

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

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# Keystone Heights narrows search for city manager

By Jack Randall  
jack@claytodayonline.com

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – The city council evaluated 13 applications on Dec. 20 for the soon-to-be-open City Manager job. Lynn Rutkowski submitted her letter of resignation in November, but she agreed to continue to serve until Jan. 10 to ensure a smooth transition for the city.

“I’m proud that we received 13 applicants,” said Mayor Nina Rodenroth. “We need to find the right person, right now, for our town,” she said. “I spent two days (reviewing the applicants),” said Councilmember Christine Thompson.

The job description calls for “high level administrative, technical and professional work in directing and supervising the administration of City government,” according to an online listing.

The salary ranges from \$65,000 to \$90,000.

City Council began the session by crossing some names off the list. The council was concerned about one applicant who had managerial experience but was fired for harassment. Other applications were discarded for lacking the right experience or background. One application was disregarded because of a cover letter:

“He mentioned ‘Mayor Lake’ (instead of



Elmon Lee Garner



Jeff Shoobridge



Charles Van Zant Jr.



Mayor Rodenroth) in his cover letter. He is out of touch with our community,” said Councilmember Dan Lewandowski.

However, most of the applications were well received. City Council made the tough decision not to consider otherwise qualified candidates, preferring instead those who could transition into the role quickly and hit the ground running. Rodenroth reaffirmed the importance of “finding the right person right now.”

Ultimately, three candidates from the applicant pool of 13 were invited for interviews: Elmon Lee Garner, Jeff Shoobridge, and Charles Van Zant Jr.

Garner brings a background in city management and an ICMA certification to the table. He served as city manager in Chattahoochee, Palatka and Sneads.

Shoobridge served as city manager of Madison Lake, Minnesota, and Redington Shores.

Van Zant was the former Superintendent of Clay County schools. He served as superintendent from 2014 to 2017 but was defeated in subsequent reelections by Addison Davis and again by David Broskie.

All three candidates have military experience.

“We were spoiled to have (Lynn Rutkowski as Town Manager). She’s literally been out in the storm helping out. It is going to be hard to find someone willing to do that,” said Councilmember Tony Brown.

The city council will interview the three candidates on Jan 3. that’s open to the public.



PHOTO BY ORANGE PARK LIONS CLUB

## Orange Park Lions Club supports pair of local food banks

CLAY COUNTY – Last week, the Orange Park Lions Club members visited and donated to two local food banks. Dave and Celia Vencil visited Orange Park’s Clothes Closet and Food Pantry. They presented them with a check for \$300. A few days later, club president Ken Groleau visited the Green Cove Springs Food Pantry and presented a holiday donation of \$200. The local Orange Park Lions Club just celebrated their 75th Anniversary this year. They meet on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at their meeting hall at 423 McIntosh Ave.

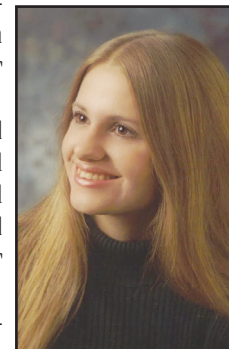
# Obituaries [claytodayonline.com](http://claytodayonline.com)

## Mona May Clausen

Mona May Clausen, age 68, passed away at home, with the love of her life Mike by her side, in Jacksonville, Florida on Friday, December 15, 2023.

Mona married her high school sweetheart Michael “Mike” Clausen and they were together for 49 years.

Mona was dedicated to her children and her home.



Mona May Clausen

The children were her pride and joy and because of that, she enjoyed volunteering in any activity relating to them.

Her honesty often allowed everyone around to see her sense of humor and the unique way in which she could see multiple sides of any situation.

Survived by Michael L. Clausen. Daughter, Lena Cook and son-in-law Kevin Cook. Sons: Mark Clausen and daughter-in-law Angela Clausen; Eric Clausen and Joseph Clausen and daughter-in-law Sheena Clausen. Nine Grandchildren and two Great Grandchildren.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

books. The bill also seeks to increase public participation in the transparency of selections and website availability of all instructional materials before purchase.

## May

### Residents help create 20-year long-range strategic plan

FLEMING ISLAND – Residents had the opportunity on May 15 to help county officials create a 20-year long-range strategic plan. Although the Board of County Commissioners generally looked 10 years into

the future, they solicited help developing a master plan that will serve as a roadmap for the next generation.

"I'm definitely a proponent of habits for success," said County Manager Howard Wanamaker. "So, these habits can lead to many things out into the future. So as a county and as we're growing and expanding, we can now take the lead and ultimately have a litmus test on how we're doing and achieving these goals."

Some residents were surprised to know many future projects had already been approved. Assistant County Manager Troy Nagle said, "We're doing seven bonded road projects. We have implemented impact fees recently, which is a fee charged on new developments to help them pay for needs like fire stations and police stations. We are currently work-

ing on a regional park and a gun range; we've got designs in the works for two fire stations and others to build four fire stations in the next five years."

At the first of six town hall meetings, residents were encouraged to list what they liked and disliked about the county. Then, they were asked to suggest what they'd like to see in the next 20 years. Two primary concerns were roads and growth.

Some said the small-town feel is the best part of living around Clay County. Others said their biggest concern is how growth is erasing that coziness.

Other popular features of the county were the quality of schools, availability for recreation, overall quality of life, safety, low taxes and affordability for retirees.

Dislikes mentioned were traffic, over-development, a lack of access to public transportation, food deserts, a lack of

alternative modes of transportation and putting development ahead of addressing infrastructure.

### Sheriff's office drops 'Hammer' with 57 drug arrest warrants

ORANGE PARK – It's called Hammer and Hope for a reason.

While more than 20 organizations have united to provide the hope portion of the program by helping those fighting opioid addictions, the Clay County Sheriff's Office said on May 24 the hammer side has resulted in 57 arrest warrants.

Sheriff Michelle Cook said her agency would remain diligent in removing the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



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“plague” of drugs. And with 52 people already charged and booked, she vowed to track down anyone who peddles illegal narcotics.

“The Clay County Sheriff’s office recently had the largest drug bust in Clay County history, seizing enough fentanyl to kill four million people,” she said. “Since the announcement of that drug bust, our detectives have continued to work the various investigative units, and today, I want to update the drug seizure totals attributed directly to Operation Lucky 7’s.

In total, 3,519 grams of cocaine, 5,400 grams of methamphetamine and 12,480 grams of fentanyl have been removed from our streets. In addition, we are up to \$334,651 of drug dealer money seized, and we’ve seized 31 illegally owned firearms.”

Cook called a press conference two days ahead of a community support program to get addicts and their family members – the help they need. Cook said the two-pronged approach has made a difference.

“Just since January of this year – our narcotics team this does not count totals from our patrol division, which does a phenomenal job of taking drugs off the streets as well – but just our narcotics team have removed from Clay County streets, an additional 450 grams of cocaine 285 grams of methamphetamine and 470 grams of fentanyl.”

CCSO also caught 52 of 57 people suspected of selling, possessing or trafficking drugs. She said five – Harley Pearson, Austin Downs, Michael Van Ness, Alphonse Flores and Paul Simmons – remain at large.

Anyone with information about their whereabouts can call (904) 264-6512 or leave a tip on the SaferWatch app.

### Four Keystone students inducted into National Speech and Debate Honor Society

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – The Keystone Heights High Speech and Debate team inducted four National Speech and Debate Association Honor Society members – Mikayla Turner, Oliva McCoy, Seth Preseau, and Benjamin Man.

“This is our first year as a debate team. We have competed in a total of seven regular-season tournaments and a couple of state tournaments, and then we are going to nationals at the end of the week. It’s been keeping us very busy,” said coach Shannon Southam.

Turner and McCoy competed at the national tournament with The National Catholic Forensic League in Louisville, Kentucky, on May 26-29. The competition is one of the most prestigious in the country.

Events range from limited preparation events that require extensive knowledge of current events, impromptu speaking, Congressional Debate where students draft proposed laws and give position statements and Oral Interpretation of literature.

To prepare for competitive events, the team engaged in practice rounds. Students get seven minutes to select a topic, brainstorm ideas, outline and deliver a speech in front of their peers. Students also worked on presentation skills, tips and techniques.

Speech and debate sharpen students’ ability to think critically, organize their thoughts, and communicate their viewpoints quickly and succinctly. Whether debating in the classroom, volunteering, speaking at a rally, or acting on stage, students use what they learn in speech and debate daily.

## June

### School board decides students must use birth-assigned restrooms, locker rooms

FLEMING ISLAND – The school board approved a policy requiring students to use restrooms, locker rooms and changing rooms according to their birth-assigned gender.

The measure passed unanimously, but not without much discussion and one final moment of controversy.

After casting her vote, Mary Bolla attempted to abstain from her “yes” decision. Board attorney J. Bruce Bickner suggested she shouldn’t change her vote. He wasn’t trying to influence her opinion but warned Bolla that changing the vote would require her to complete ethics paperwork.

The school board member still has her doubts moving forward.

“My concern with this particular policy with an attachment of punishment is that we are punishing some of our most vulnerable students. These vulnerable students have gone through a lot in their lives. They have not had the support that some of our sons and daughters have. It concerns me that we’re going to push the vulnerable students even deeper into vulnerability,” she said.

Violating the policy could result in school detention or potential law enforcement consultation.

“I think regarding the bathroom policy, we can all say a lot, but to me, it’s simple common sense, and it’s sad that we have to even write a policy,” board member Beth Clark said.

Students can request an exemption. A student or parent must submit a request, and the school’s administration must approve it. If approved, the individual can use any gender-neutral or single-stall accommodations available on campus.

### County considering a Southern Rock Museum

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – The Southern Rock Initiative got a lot of attention at a unique subcommittee meeting on June 13 at the Clay County Administration Building.

There were several issues, like the location, who would manage it, and whether it would be a private, public or public-private partnership.



One blueprint for a successful model is the Museum at Capricorn in Macon, Georgia, at Mercer University, which exists via funding from two to three private investors and a partnership with the school at the municipal auditorium.

The submitted committee agreed on a couple of deliverables, including putting together a draft Request For Quote, which would be vetted by the county’s legal and purchasing staff and would give requirements and information. A draft score would be sent to committee members.

A project could include a number of amenities, such as a cafe and gift shop, visitor and welcome center, art council, performance stage, in-house house kitchen and a gallery. Hosting historic tours, private events, and a Southern Rock festival could all be in the mix between the multi-use facility, which would include a Hall of Fame Museum, Boutique Outdoor Amphitheater and more.


The county has deep Southern Rock roots. It was home to Hell House, where Lynyrd Skynyrd wrote their first three albums. It’s also where members of Skynyrd, 38 Special, Molly Hatchett, Tom Petty, DCL and The Curt Towne Band live.

### Ridgeview’s Alex Romer appears on NBC’s ‘American Ninja Warrior’ finals

ORANGE PARK – For Ridgeview High senior Alex Romer, the tension of competing on television is over. Still, the anxiety of being unable to talk about it was probably more taxing than his adventure.

“I’m not allowed to talk about how I did because of the show,” said Romer, 17, who






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recently returned home from Los Angeles after a stint on the TV show "American Ninja Warrior." "I submitted a video of my skills, and they invited me. I went out, competed and now we wait."

Romer's segment aired in episode eight. "American Ninja Warrior," which will be starting its 14th season on NBC and it will feature an age limit of 15 and younger.

The winner earned \$1 million at the national finals in Las Vegas.

Athletes like Romer compete in numerous qualifying rounds and semifinals to advance.

"We have American Ninja gyms in the area and in Georgia, and there is a Ninja League that we can compete at the local level against other gyms," Romer said. "It's all designed to keep us active and developing our skill set to be able to get on to the TV show."

Romer, a soccer and band member at Ridgeview, has been an American Ninja Warrior fan for nearly a decade after seeing the highly competitive obstacle race show on television.

"He saw the show, then told us he wanted Dad to build him some obstacles in the backyard," said Dawn Romer, who and husband Pete co-own Mighty Orion Fitness Gym on Blanding Boulevard.

Alex started with gymnastics but quickly embraced American Ninja.

Romer, who has two siblings who are also into the Ninja craze, credits his dad's energy and skill to replicate the obstacles to the family's backyard, first, then to the Orion gym on Blanding.

"Pete retired from the U.S. Navy, and then the interest grew, and he just kept

adding stuff to the yard, then the business came into play," said Dawn Romer. "Our gym is a combination of seeing obstacles on TV, talking to other athletes and trying to replicate the courses we have seen."

Romer qualified for the finals but was eliminated in a non-winner runoff in Stage 2.

## July

### Ridgeview High culinary wins Rachael Ray Foundation's ProStart Grow Grant

ORANGE PARK – Ridgeview High was honored with a grant from the Rachael Ray Foundation's ProStart Grow Grant to help the school improve its student experience and update its curriculum, classroom supplies, and educational opportunities for its culinary students.

More than 1,850 schools from 40 states, representing nearly 165,000 students, participated in the program. Ridgeview was one of only 40 schools nationwide with a \$5,000 grant.

"The culinary program will benefit heavily from this grant, allowing us to purchase a new refrigerator and buy more pasta," said culinary instructor Amy LaPierra.

LaPierra and two students wrote a three-paragraph essay on why Ridgeview should be considered. LaPierra said condensing so much information into three paragraphs was no easy task.

"This is huge for the culinary depart-



ment. This will help us greatly for years to come," she said.

According to the foundation, ProStart, a two-year technical education program focused on culinary arts and restaurant management who are closely connected to industry experts through guest speakers, class mentors, tours of local facilities, student competitions, and more – all to ensure the real-world experience is brought directly to the classroom. ProStart students finish the program ready to join the workforce and make an immediate impact in restaurants and food service.

### Orange Park gets \$7 million from Florida Department of Environment Protection

ORANGE PARK – The Town got a \$7 million grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan.

It was the only grant awarded by the state program for a municipality in Clay

County. Duval was the only neighboring county to receive funds, which received \$11.67 million for two projects.

The grant, titled "Johnson Slough Roadways and Culvert Improvements," will seek to address infrastructure concerns at Johnson Slough on Plainfield Road, Nelson Drive, Nelson Drive South and Carnes Street via roadway improvements, culvert replacement and improvements and improvements to the project's overall design, according to Public Works Director Kyle Croce.

He said the town's engineering consulting firm would assist in enhancing the project design.

Johnson Slough was identified as an area of "critical infrastructure that needs improvement," according to Croce.

Town officials directed their pitch to the streets near Rob Bradley Conservation Park at Nelson Point and Doctors Lake, which are prone to flooding after heavy rain.

### Darin Roark leaves Baptist Medical Center Clay, replaced by Orange Park's Ed Hubel

FLEMING ISLAND – With his work completed in Clay County, Baptist Medical Center Clay President Darin Roark left the hospital on July 14 to tackle new challenges in New Hampshire.

Before he left, Roark was honored by the Board of County Commissioners for spearheading the completion of the \$234 million, 102-bed hospital. He will

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11



assume his new role as President and Chief Operating Officer of Wentworth-Douglass Hospital in Dover. He will start at his new job on July 24.

"It was definitely a tough decision," Roark said. "I love living here in Clay County. We've built this beautiful hospital here and put a lot of blood, sweat and tears in it. We built something great here. It is hard to leave. But at the same time, it's an opportunity to go to another area of the country where I feel that I can have an impact and make a difference in that community. It'll definitely be different."



Ed Hubel

In addition to directing the medical

center's approval, planning and construction, Roark coordinated the addition of three new satellite emergency rooms in the county.

Roark was the director of emergency services at HCA Florida Orange Park Hospital (then known as Orange Park Medical Center) before becoming the vice president of Baptist's oncology and emergency service lines.

Ed Hubel, a graduate of Orange Park High, will become the interim president at Clay. He currently is the president of Baptist's Nassau facility.

"In a lot of ways, this is a coming home for Ed," Roark said. "That's super exciting that I can turn it over to someone who has roots in Clay County, knows Clay County, and understands Clay County. It means a lot to me to turn it over to somebody who loves the county as much as I do."

## August

### Spring Park Elementary, 42 other schools welcome students

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Although work continued on County Road 315 as dignitaries met to officially open Spring Park Elementary, the district's 43rd school opened on time, on budget and without debt, according to Superintendent David Broskie.

Spring Park Elementary had 48 classrooms to accommodate as many as 851 students. Principal Tiffany Quitman said the school was prepared for the first day of



school on Aug. 10.

"In this building, memories will be made. Lessons will be learned. The hearts and minds of our most precious resource will be nurtured," Quitman said.

Teachers, parents and students were at the ribbon-cutting ceremony, along with School Board Member Beth Clark, County Commissioner Mike Cella, County Manager Howard Wanamaker, the entire Green Cove Springs City Council and members of the Clay County Schools District and Green Cove Springs police departments.

District-wide, nearly 42,000 students returned to class.

Broskie said the openings were the smoothest in his 37-year education career.

"I would say it's exciting," he said. "When I go to schools, I see young people smiling to be back at school, where they get to see their friends and their teachers. And on a side note, I would say many parents are also happy the children are back in school, which usually brings a little bit of laughter."

### Clay County spared wrath of Tropical Storm Idalia

CLAY COUNTY – Hurricane Idalia was expected to bring between two and three inches of rain and tropical storm winds as it passed over Clay County early on Aug. 30, the National Weather Service and Clay County Emergency Management said.

The storm, which quickly organized into a Tropical Storm off the coast of Mexico, was projected to make a wide swath across the state.

Most of the storm tracks had the storm making landfall north of Tampa before cutting a path across Northeast Florida and exiting into the Atlantic Ocean just north of Jacksonville. That put our county in the storm's crosshairs. At one time, Camp Blanding was under a hurricane watch alert.

However, less than 12 hours before it hit shore, Idalia jogged north and west and struck Keaton Beach, 75 miles southwest of Tallahassee.

Nonetheless the county activated



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its emergency management center and opened shelters at Lake Asbury Junior High, Orange Park High and Keystone Heights Junior/Senior highs. The Lake Asbury location was equipped for people with special needs; Keystone and Orange Park were pet-friendly.

The National Hurricane Center said Idalia was poised to be major hurricane with sustained winds of at least 111 mph.



**Orange Park server wins Miss Hooters International pageant**

ORANGE PARK – Emily Johnson, a long-time Hooters on Wells Road employee, returned to Northeast Florida after a life-changing achievement on the big stage in Las Vegas on Aug. 4.

After working as a server since 2017, she was crowned Miss Hooters International 2023 at the Annual Miss Hooters International Pageant at Caesars Palace.

"It's a dream for anyone that comes to this company. [Hooters] has built me into who I've become today. I never thought I would actually be able to hold this title. When I heard my name, I was overwhelmed and was just very proud of who I am," she said.

The pageant included an interview modeling a swimsuit round, where she impressed hosts and judges like UFC fighter Bobby Green, former Miss Ukraine Natalia Shvachko and Chase Elliott's rear tire changer Chad Avrit. Hooters sponsors Elliott's Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet.

"I just told myself to remember the five points about who I am today because of

the (Hooters) brand. I was able to take that deep breath, let my stress out, and speak from my heart," Johnson said.

With the honor also came with a \$30,000 check. The money will be used for her education. She will return to occupational therapy school.

*September*

**State awards Clay County \$3.5 million for infrastructure projects**

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Gov. Ron DeSantis delivered more than \$3.5 million to the Clay County Board of County Commissioners on Sept. 18 as part of the governor's Florida Job Growth Grant Fund for targeted infrastructure improvements.

Clay County's population grew 35% in the last 10 years. The infrastructure improvements will directly support job growth in the manufacturing sector, creating approximately 170 new high-wage jobs upon completion.

"Florida's freedom-first and business-empowering policies draw manufacturers from across the globe to our state," DeSantis said. "Today's infrastructure award will connect the Clay County community with high-wage jobs, bolster Florida's manufacturing industry, and strengthen the nation's number one economy."

The investment in Clay County builds on more than \$250,000 awarded to the city of Green Cove Springs for electrical line infrastructure upgrades, \$500,000 awarded to the Clay County Development Authority to construct 2.5 miles of asphalt road at the Camp Blanding Joint Training Center and \$700,000 to improve infrastructure in the City of Green Cove Springs.

The award will go toward infrastructure support in Clay County with the construction of a new half-mile section collector road, Pringle Road, and enhancements to a quarter-mile section arterial road, County Road 218.

**Orange Park High finally unveils new football, track stadium**

ORANGE PARK – Orange Park and Clay Highs have met on the football field several times. But the Sept. 8 matchup had a different feel at the newly-refurbished



Hoyt B. Cotney Stadium.

The Raiders were home in their freshly renovated, state-of-the-art version of the stadium, which got its first facelift since the original stadium was built by Clay County Jail inmates in 1962.

Students, fans, alumni and community were eager to take a peek at the Raiders' new crown jewel.

"Generations of people and families from Clay County have attended school at Orange Park. (The stadium opening) is going to be a huge deal for past, present, and future Raiders. We hope to put our best foot forward, and I just can't wait to see everybody at the game," said second-year football head coach Marcus Wimbley.

The stadium now will seat approximately 2,500 fans. Last year, the old stadium, which was 60 years old, could only be described with one word: dilapidated.

"The (old stadium) has been there almost as long as the school has been here. We were one of the only schools that still had an old concrete stadium. It was falling apart. There's only so much glue and paint you can put on it. Even when you put paint on it, you could tell it was old," said Joel Wallace, a retired U.S. Navy veteran and school's track coach.

The new stadium boasts 39 more restroom stalls – an increase from six to 45 – and a new concession stand and press box.

**County wners to pay more in property taxes although millage rates remain stable**

CLAY COUNTY – The good news is the millage rates for county, city, and town property owners either were reduced or stayed the same for fiscal year 2023-24.

The bad news is that since the overall property value increased countywide by

\$1.9 billion, everyone will be paying more taxes.

Rates were finalized at council meetings during the final week of September. The new fiscal budget started on Oct. 1.

The Board of County Commissioners kept the rate at 8.601, but with the increased value of non-exempt property, the county will generate \$729.25 million – a 12.03% increase compared to 2022-23.

Green Cove Springs' rate is 4.7, Keystone Heights' is 4.2901, Orange Park's is 5.7, and Penney Farms' is 4.4535.

Green Cove Springs reduced its rate of 4,5 for 2022-23, but the city will still collect an extra \$3.3 million in revenues.

Orange Park's rate decreased from 5.8781 for 2022-23 because Mayor Randy Anderson said there was a surplus of \$35,700 in the town coffers.

*October*

**"Operation Lightshine" leads to 10 child exploitation arrests**

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Five men left their homes in Jacksonville in August, believing they were meeting a child for sex.

Instead, law enforcement agencies were waiting.

"Operation Lightshine," a four-day undercover operation, was created on Aug. 2 to "identify and apprehend individuals using the internet to sexually exploit children."

The operation led to 10 arrests, including two men from Georgia and one from California. All used apps to message victims they believed to be 13 or 14.

"During 'Operation Lightshine,' investigators and agents went undercover as

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 14**



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13



children online to uncover and capture individuals involved in child sexual exploitation," Cook said on Oct. 18. "During the operation, they successfully identified several suspects engaged in these activities. Once the operation concluded, investigators needed to gather more evidence, some requiring search warrants, to ensure these suspects could be prosecuted and held accountable. This complex process involved a thorough investigation and collaboration between law enforcement agencies at the local and federal levels across the country. As a result of these efforts, 10 individuals attempting to sexually exploit minors were arrested."

The collaborative effort involved various agencies, including the Clay County Sheriff's Office, Homeland Security Investigations, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, States Attorneys' Office, 4th Judicial Circuit, Federal Bureau of Investigations, Naval Criminal Investigative Service, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, Orange Park Police Department and the U.S. Attorney's Office.

CCSO joined forces with seven other law enforcement agencies eight months ago to combat human trafficking and child exploitation. They joined with Operation Lightshine to create the largest task force to fight child exploitation in the country.

**Local Chick-fil-A makes surprise \$100,000 donation to Waste Not Want Not**

ORANGE PARK – Dedicated volunteers packed up 5,000 to 7,000 pounds of food from restaurants, farms, grocery stores and anywhere else, producing surplus food at Waste Not Want Not. The donated surpluses were about to be redistributed

to other nonprofits in 14 counties across the state, matching the specific nutritional needs of each supplier.

Then, representatives from Orange Park Chick-fil-A at 1925 Wells Road arrived with breakfast for the hardworking volunteers on shift.

But after Volunteer Director Linda McKenzie finished her tour guiding Craig Phillips, owner of the Chick-fil-A, she saw employees holding balloons and a Chick-fil-A cow mascot rushed her with a massive check.

McKenzie saw the check reading \$1,000 initially. Then, she realized that she imagined the two trailing decimal points.

The check actually read \$100,000.

McKenzie, Executive Director Sandra Staudt-Killea and the many volunteers realized they had hit the nonprofit lottery. Waste Not Want Not was selected as one of seven nonprofits among 1,200 across the United States and Canada that rescue surplus foods from the national chain restaurant. It was part of Chick-fil-A's \$1 million philanthropic effort to address food insecurity.

**Clay blues band Southern Junction wins spot at international competition**

MIDDLEBURG – A victory at the North Central Florida Blues Society competition on Oct. 16 elevated the status of the six people who make up Southern Junction and earned them a spot at the January International Blues Challenge in Memphis, Tennessee.

The win means the band will a month working on a new setlist.

"I think we were working on a couple of new songs right now, and I'm hoping that we can get at least one of those out before we get to Memphis," said singer Mike Hale. "We've got some stuff that we haven't played in these challenges yet, so we're going to bring that with us."

All six members – singer Mike Hale, bassist Gerry Goyette, drummer Steve Gard, keyboardist Debbie Stokes, guitarist Pops Stokes and harmonicist Dave Hockman – are from Middleburg. They played three original and two cover songs in Gainesville last week to win the regional



competition. And they have plenty of new material they can work into their routine before hitting Beale Street from Jan. 16-20.

"Wow, you've got to be excited about that," said drummer Steve Gard. "We aren't sure what we're going to do for Memphis. We have several originals we didn't play (in Gainesville). We have covers we didn't play. We're going to try to work it down to our four or five best songs."

*November*

**Challenge Enterprise's announces Keating's retirement after 50 years of service**

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Nancy Keating's final day at Challenge Enterprises was Dec. 31. She planned to be on the golf course on New Year's Day.

"There's a Hangover League, and I plan on playing," she said moments after arriving at her retirement party Tuesday night at the Clay Theatre.

She arrived in a 50th-anniversary Chevrolet Camaro, which was fitting because her last day will mark 50 years at the organization she directed to provide skills allowing people with different abilities to lead a productive, active and rewarding life.

In October, Keating earned the Clay Chamber of Commerce's top honor, the Louis Huntley Pacesetter Award.

Keating was the first employee hired in 1973 by Challenge Enterprises in Clay County.

To put that in perspective, she started at the same time the U.S. Supreme Court issued its Roe v. Wade decision; Congress confirmed President Richard Nixon's presidential victory and then he announced the suspension of offensive action in Vietnam; Golden Corral opened its first of what would be 395 locations; the United States mandated screening of all airline passengers; Joe Biden was sworn in for his second term as a U.S. Senator from Delaware; "The Poseidon Adventure" was the No. 1 movie and Stevie Wonder's "Superstition" was the No. 1 song in the United States.



**Rutkowski resigns as Keystone Heights' City Manager**

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – City Manager Lynn Rutkowski submitted her letter of resignation on Nov. 20 at the City Council meeting.

She was hired as a part-time Code Enforcement Officer. She was promoted to the Planning and Zoning Clerk and hired by the council as the City Manager in 2016.

When former Mayor Karen Lake questioned her education, the council voted 4-1 not to accept her resignation in 2022.

Rutkowski told the council during its September meeting she planned to leave city government. Her current contract expired on Dec. 25, but she offered to stay longer so the city can find a replacement and avoid hiring an interim manager.

Councilman Stephen Hart said he wanted her to stay.

"Before we can agree to an extension, we first have to accept your resignation," he 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."

Her resignation letter was brief. It read:

"This letter is to notify Council of my last day. At the Council meeting on September 25, 2023, I publicly informed Council of my resignation. My last day will be Wednesday, January 10, 2024. It has been my honor and a privilege to serve this community since June 28th, 2012."

**BCC, DBCCD reach agreement to build library in Oakleaf**

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – The Board of County Commissioners agreed with the Double Branch Community Development District on Nov. 14 to acquire a critical parcel of land necessary to address the

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long-standing need for a library in Oakleaf Village.

In October, the BCC submitted a request to the DBCDD to acquire the land. Now that it's completed, it can pursue construction.

Alexandra Compere, who represents the Oakleaf area, attended Double Branch's meeting on Monday night when they said they would agree to convey their portion of the property to the county.

The land, located on a small, empty lot at the end of Plantation Oaks Boulevard near Oakleaf Village Elementary, is split nearly in half. The BCC owns a 0.47-acre parcel, and the DBCDD oversees a 0.568-acre parcel.

There are stipulations in the details. The land transfer is contingent upon the construction of a library. A proposed community center was also green-lighted by the CDD, but books will be the main focus. Double Branch is only willing to convey the property if the library is built. If not, it will retain the property.

## December

### State: Clay County schools make the grade – again

CLAY COUNTY – For the fourth consecutive time, the Clay County District Schools earned an "A" rating on Dec. 11 from the Florida Department of Education, and it posted the second-highest scores statewide in social studies and fourth-highest in science.

"I've always said: Clay County is a great place to live. It's a great place to work. And it's a great place for students to go to school," Superintendent David Broskie

said. "We are so proud of how our students performed. It's a testament to the teachers, staff, parents and the community at large."

It was the fourth time Clay schools earned an "A" in five years and ranked among the top 10 in the state. County schools didn't receive a grade for the 2021 school year during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thirteen elementary schools earned an "A" rating: Orange Park, Doctors Inlet, Middleburg, Clay Hill, Lake Asbury, R.M. Paterson, McRae, Fleming Island, Thunderbolt, Rideout, Shadowlawn, Discovery Oaks and Plantation Oaks. Fleming Island extended its streak of being an "A" school to 24 years, dating back to 1999, while Orange Park has been an "A" school for 21 consecutive years.

At the same time, Orange Park, Keystone Heights, Lakeside, R.M. Paterson, Fleming Island, Thunderbolt and Discovery Oaks were recognized as Schools of Excellence.

Green Cove Springs and Lakeside junior highs are Schools of Excellence. They joined Lake Asbury as an "A" school.

Five high schools earned "A" marks: Middleburg, Ridgeview, Fleming Island and Oakleaf. Keystone Heights Junior/Senior High also received an "A."

### Oakleaf Village Elementary's Brown fourth on MasterChef Junior: Home for the Holidays

OAKLEAF – Despite being a fourth-grader, Landon Brown wasn't intimidated by Gordon Ramsay, a celebrity chef with a reputation for his fiery temper.

"Actually, he's pretty nice," he said. "But he will criticize you if you mess up."

Landon should know. He was one of nine contestants picked from more than 12,000 applicants to cook on "MasterChef Junior: Home For The Holidays."

The show was filmed months ago, but he wasn't allowed to talk about it until it was broadcasted on Fox on Dec. 10-11.

Landon wound up fourth.

The incredible journey started with a lengthy and detailed application. The show's producer interviewed Landon on a Zoom call, and he gave the Oakleaf Village



Elementary fourth-grader 30 minutes to cook a meal. Landon prepared blackened salmon with mango salsa and cilantro lime rice. His skills and personality earned him the trip to Hollywood.

After being eliminated, Ramsay had encouraging words for Brown.

"Young man, cooking these tacos was a bold move. The tortilla tastes beautiful. What you did on those things, getting them nice and crispy, that was delicious. But one skirt steak was a little bit rare, and another was a little bit well-done," Ramsay said. "It tastes good, but (the presentation) does not look as good. The salsa is super hot. It just needs a little bit of a cooking-down agent. You nailed the cookies. The cookies were beautiful. Really good job."

### County agrees to manage growth by approving new five-year strategic plan

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – The Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved the county's five-year strategic plan on Dec. 5 during its final meeting of the calendar year. From sticky notes on whiteboards to community workshops, discussions, and implementing feedback from residents and businesses, the blueprint for the county's next five years

has been an undertaking that has been months in the making.

"This is a good quality product," said Commissioner Jim Renninger during his first BCC meeting as chairman.

County Manager Howard Wanamaker was especially proud of what this plan means for the county's future. He is so proud that he wants to send copies to Florida's 67 other counties.

"It shows off our county, what we're up to and what we will achieve," Wanamaker said.

The plan created goals, targets and actions in five categories: community health and safety, economic and community development, good governance and quality of life. The plan is a culmination of a nearly year-long journey that was a collaborative effort between officials and the community, who gathered insightful perspectives through feedback in all six districts.

Some objectives include providing resources for citizens experiencing substance abuse, promoting "high yield recycling," enhancing greater tourism toward the county, fostering greater communication with the community, developing community connectivity and maintaining access to various water-based activities: boating, kayaking, skiing and fishing.



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**Top**  
from page 1

(105 pounds).

Weightlifting, however, is where Clay made its most profound footprint in the prep landscape.

The Keystone Heights boys' team won its third consecutive 1A championship, the Clay High girls won Class 2A and the Fleming Island boys won in Class 2A.

Larry Jeffries (219 pounds) and Brian Overton (169 pounds) won their weight classes for Keystone, while Landon Hovepian (183 pounds) and Reid Begue (139 pounds) were runners-up.

Zach Davis (154) won a gold medal for Fleming Island in boys' Class 2A, while Golden Eagles teammates Gage Isbell (unlimited) and Jered Rhodes (199) finished second. Middleburg's Josh Seneal (169) won a silver medal in 2A.

Emma Heck led the Clay girls in the 129-pound division, and Kyleigh LaFary won in unlimited. Annalee Harbison (183) finished second for the Blue Devils.

Fleming Island's Autumn Leviston (110) won her Class 2A weight class.

Perhaps the Middleburg girls' volleyball

team was the year's biggest surprise. The team was playing its first season following Carrie Prewitt's retirement after 38 years on the sidelines. With first-year coach Meredith Forkum at the helm, Middleburg beat Naples Barron Collier, 3-0, on Nov. 11 to win the Class 5A championship.

But there's more.

On the same day, the Fleming Island boys' golf team won the Class 3A state championship by a staggering 23 shots against Lakewood Ranch. State champion sophomore Tyler Mawhinney led the Eagles with a 4-under-par performance for 36 holes to beat Winter Haven's Anthony Monteleone by three shots.

Jaylen Abbas was fourth for the Eagles fourth, while Emmet Kuhlenkamp was sixth and Ryan Houck was 22nd to for the county's first golf championship.

On an adjacent course, the Fleming Island girls finished sixth

Fleming Island's incredible athletic run finished with Maryn McDade winning the 50- and 100-yard freestyle races in the state finals. Her effort earned her the Class 3A Swimmer of the Year award from the Florida Dairy Farmers High School Sports Awards program.

**School Police to move under direction of Sheriff's Office**

FLEMING ISLAND – The Board of the Clay County School District voted 4-1 on Nov. 7 to enter negotiations that will put its police department under the direction of the Clay County Sheriff's Office for the next three years.

If negotiations are successful, the Clay County District Schools Police Department



and its \$4.8 million operating budget will be overseen by the sheriff's office. CCSO School Resource Officers would start during the next school year.

Superintendent David Broskie will spearhead the negotiations, involving multiple stakeholders, the sheriff's office, the Board of County Commissioners and others.

Broskie and School Board Attorney Jeremiah Blocker stressed the importance of complying with state statutes.

Members agreed to include charter schools and strongly expressed mutual support for transferring the district police department's equipment to the sheriff's to avoid paying duplicate costs.

The sheriff's office would need to make a one-time \$1.7 million payment to switch the equipment back to her agency, Sheriff Michelle Cook said during a workshop on Oct. 24.

Four years ago, amid cost concerns, the district separated from the sheriff's office in 2019. After reassessment, the school board will return to the prior arrangement, citing budgetary constraints and a desire to increase safety and security.

Cook said once an agreement is reached, school resource officers would change their uniforms and continue their basic duties. She also said the sheriff's office would intend to hire as many former district officers as possible for the same positions.

**The Solite saga continues for residents living near former aggregate kiln plant**

LAKE ASBURY – In the 1950s, Solite opened on the north side of County Road 209-A. In 1996, the aggregate kiln company closed.

Solite may have left Clay County, but its effects still haunt some residents.

Since then, neighbors said the plant has caused continual health and quality of life problems 27 years later.

The plant practiced illegal and egregious health and safety practices like using hazardous materials to speed up burn processes while not requiring employees to wear protective gear or warning them of the effects. They were accused of dumping hazardous materials like jet fuel and hospital biohazards and dumping and hiding barrels on the property.

Some residents who have lived near or worked at the former Solite report numer-



ous health defects.

Christine Robertson, a frequent visitor to her brother's property near the plant, swam in, drank water and ate fish from the lake. Her son, born with Spina bifida, died of defect and pain in 1996. She believes that Solite is to blame.

Micheal Zelinka's mother, lived one mile from the plant and had breast cancer. Zelinka, who had a heart attack in his 20s, said that doctors found high arsenic levels in his blood.

A developer wants to build a community on the 900-acre plot, but the county commission said it won't re-zone the land until extensive testing is allowed.

According to Clay County Commissioner Kristen Burke, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection recently conducted testing at selected sites and found two traces of arsenic.

Joan Starnes, a nearby resident, said she wouldn't feel safe until the property, where tests already found arsenic, lead and cyanide in the soil on a 200-acre section of the former plant, undergoes an independent, third-party testing process.

"If any of the chemicals are disturbed in the soil, they could go airborne. We don't feel that it is safe for the property to be (worked on) until it is properly tested," she said.

Starnes isn't the only one who wants to see a third-party agency perform a complete and unbiased test.

"Our concern is that they will put it in names with no funding, take down the trees, disturb the soil with excavation, and then leave after they make money off of that.

Then, the county taxpayers will be left with the burden of dealing with the contaminated property," Burke said.

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## Young entrepreneur reels in a successful business

By Jack Randall  
jack@claytodayonline.com

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – It all starts by heating plastisol to 350 degrees. The molten material is injected into molds. After it cools overnight, the finished product is a batch of multicolored, soft plastic fishing bait that can be scented with grape, garlic or coffee.

Twisted Tackle is 15-year-old Tristan Dowdy's first business venture, which specializes in handcrafted fishing apparel. Tristan has customers buying his signature fishing bait from as far as Texas and Oklahoma. Tournament fishermen buy multiple packs at a time, he said.

"He was fishing before he could talk," said Scott Tristan, his father.

The young entrepreneur got wet in the fishing industry, business finance, accounting, marketing, logistics and taxes. His mother, Robin Tristan, helped him design a logo. He said he has already sold more than



STAFF PHOTOS BY JACK RANDALL  
Tristan Dowdy created Twisted Tackle lures, and they can be found at Hagan Ace Hardware.

2,000 units and reinvested profits into the business.

Tristan was promoting Twisted Tackle Irick at the grand opening of an ACE Hardware store at Callahan when he met David Irick, the Department Head of Hagan Coastal Outfitters. Irick was impressed with his enthusiasm and his product, which helped him add Twisted Tackle baits to the shelves at the Hagan Ace Hardware store.

"The baits are good quality, made locally, and it's a bargain compared to Yamamoto," Irick said.

An eight-pack of Twisted Tackle bait costs \$6. A comparable pack from Yamamoto, an international competitor, is sold for \$10.

Irick generously offered his boat for a fishing trip down Governors Creek. Tristan and Scott took the opportunity to demon-



strate the merchandise in action.

"Nothing like some research and development," said Scott, hooking his line.

They demonstrated how easy it is to hook the soft plastic bait, which captured light with bright colors and glittering finish even in the dark, brackish water.

It was a frigid, windy morning, and the water was 51 degrees. Unfortunately, the brief stint didn't yield any bites. (The only thing I reeled in was a clump of Spanish Moss). But the excursion demonstrated the hardiness of the baits and their illustrious quality in dark, murky water.

"Well, you know what they say: the worst day fishing beats the best day at work," said Scott.

For Tristan, his best days are usually at the same time.

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# New group empowers women with skills, confidence for self-sufficiency

By Kyla Woodard  
For Clay Today

CLAY COUNTY – At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, feelings of loneliness and uncertainty surfaced. A young Rianna Barbary discovered an idea to gain a friendly fellowship and meet a mutual goal.

The goal of everyone involved is to become fully self-sufficient and confident within themselves. With interests and hobbies revolving around homesteading and cultivation, Barbary created a niche Facebook group to find people with a common interest.

And she found an audience.

What started as a small group for local women in 2020 has risen to more than 800 members, and it is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping women become more self-sufficient in their daily lives. As the founder and president of the Northeast Florida Homesteading and Prepping Ladies (NEFLHPL), Barbary continues to make sure that everyone involved can redefine independence for themselves.

“I was tired of feeling like I was the only one that cared about food preservation or gardening,” said Barbary. “And so when I started this group, it was like, ‘Oh, great! We all have things in common: we all like

talking about these things.’ And I think that’s so important because no matter what the subject is, there will always be people with the same interests as you. It’s just about finding them.”

Growing up in Northeast Florida, Barbary has always liked the outdoors. From gardening to food preservation, she was interested in all things cultivation. And, with both of her great grandfathers being farmers, Barbary’s love only blossomed into her passion for homesteading and growing her own food.

In creating NEFLHPL, Barbary wanted to share the knowledge with other women in the area. When looking online, Barbary noticed that most homesteading spaces were predominantly male. In addition, Barbary wanted to beat the common stereotype that women need men to do the work.

“We don’t need a male figure to learn how to do it. We can learn how to do it on our own,” she said.

During the pandemic, Barbary also said she noticed many older women, especially widowed or divorced, in Northeast Florida who struggled with self-sufficiency and learning how to do things themselves. That propelled her to spark a change.

NEFLHPL aims to give women these



Stephanie Sams, left, said her experience with the Northeast Florida Homesteading and Prepping Ladies organization has introduced her to skills necessary to be more self-sufficient. Founder Rianna Barbary said a small niche of followers on Facebook has grown into more than 800 members.

opportunities to achieve self-sufficiency by helping them learn how to partake in homesteading activities such as gardening, hunting, fishing, knitting and sewing. The organization offers many programs with varying topics that women can pick from. For certain activities such as hunting, fishing and self-defense, NEFLHPL partners with other organizations in the community to act as a referral source.

Barbary said it’s important for women to learn these valuable skills to prepare for times of need.

“That’s what my mission started out as. I wanted to help women learn these essential skills that a lot of our ancestors knew. Any day they could do these things, now we’re having to go back to those things,” she said.

The organization also hosts frequent educational meetings where female guest speakers present their expertise. Barbary said in the past, one guest speaker who owned a birth center in Jacksonville prepped the women on doula services and safe water birth techniques.

In addition, Barbary said NEFLHPL also hosts opportunities for women to put a name to face by meeting in person and socializing.

“We want to keep reminding the women that it is about friendship, too. It doesn’t have to be learning all the time,” Barbary said.

Member Stephanie Sams recently joined the group and said it has been an amazing experience. Sams said she’s met women who range in homesteading skills such as writing books, raising animals and hunting. And because of this, Sams said she initially felt like an underachiever.

“These women are young enough to be my daughters. I’m like, ‘This is pretty impressive.’ So that’s how I got involved in it,” Sams said.

Sams said that learning how to garden has been her favorite aspect of the group.

“I have nine rose bushes, three hibiscus

(and a) couple (of) crape myrtles that are still babies but in the process. I am a flower girl,” Sams said.

Sams said because it’s been such a male-dominated world, it’s important for women to learn how to be self-sufficient and confident on their own.

“I’m thinking, ‘Well, if my grandmother could do it, why couldn’t we all these years later?’” Sams said.

Barbary said the opportunities allow women to return to some techniques of the past.

“There’s really not a lot of opportunities like this anymore. I definitely think that, in our day and age, we’ve gotten away from things like food preservation, growing our own food, hunting, fishing, and all those things. So, I think providing a way for women to get back to those things is really essential right now,” Barbary said.

After officially becoming a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Barbary said she has much in store for the organization’s future. Barbary said that next year, the NEFLHPL will be implementing a pilot program that will help disabled and senior women learn specifically about food preservation and health benefits. Barbary said the organization is currently taking public donations.

“By getting donations, we can help fund the program and be able to provide women with their own canning supplies and follow-up,” Barbary said.

Barbary hopes that women in the community continue to get involved with NEFLHPL and become more confident in themselves and their skills, whether that be through volunteering, spreading the word, joining or being a future guest speaker.

“We have a lot of great ideas and programs that we want to launch. So, right now, we’re just asking the community for their support. Help us help the women here in Northeast Florida become more confident in their self-sufficiency and prepping skills,” she said.

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# Residents fear impending development near Shedd Road

Planning and Zoning to address plan for 62 new homes on Jan. 2

By Lee Wardlaw  
lee@claytodayonline.com

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Residents along Shedd Road, where only about 20 homes already exist, are concerned by a potential development that could erase more rural land.

St. Augustine-based developer Matthews DCCM has applied to rezone property along Shedd Road to build as many as 62 homes on a 20-acre stretch currently zoned for four homes.

The planning commission will meet on Jan. 2 at 5 p.m. at the County Commission meeting room at the County Administration Building. If the request is approved, it still needs approval from the Board of County Commission.

Stacey Reape is a longtime resident. She said she and several other residents were at the planning commission meeting on Dec. 5 to oppose the plan. The commission decided to delay a vote until Jan. 2 so they could evaluate the specifications.

"Quite a crowd of us got up and spoke against it. Honestly, I don't think they were prepared for that," she said. "I think they thought it would be just like any other planning and zoning meeting and that it would not be met with opposition."

Ryan and Katie Marcys are neighbors of Reape. They said the development would create more density and trap residents between two neighborhoods. The Willow Springs community already is on one side. Willow Springs Drive ends at Shedd Road, where the pavement meets dirt.

Residents want a balance between rural living and suburban development.

The Marcys said they've lived on Shedd Road for 30 years.

"We live here because of the peace and quiet," Katie Marcys said. "This is pretty much the last little piece of rural area that we have left near Green Cove Springs."

"This was all family land at one point, and now, it's all being sold off to the highest bidder," Ryan Marcys said.

The Marcys and Reape said the development could create a traffic catastrophe.

"Shedd Road used to (connect) U.S. (Highway) 17 to County Road 315 before Willow Springs was built. Now, (those) people are using Shedd Road as a cut-through to get to U.S. 17. These people are cutting through and flying down this dirt road. If we're supposed to create infrastructure before (building) developments, this is the prime example of what not to do," Reape said.

Katie Marcys also said there are additional concerns because the road is prone to flooding because it's between two wetlands.



Where pavement meets the road: residents along Shedd Road, a mile-long dirt road, are concerned a developer wants to change the zoning for a 20-acre plot to allow four residential houses to increase to 62, which would affect traffic in the quiet neighborhood.

"People fly up and down that road. We've seen numerous accidents. It's ridiculous. And if rain (comes down) at any point, that makes (Shedd Road) even more challenging (to navigate)," she said.

They believe an additional 62 homes would increase traffic by nearly 75%.

The wetlands are home to several animals, such as alligators, raccoons, deer, turtles and opossums, Katie Marcys said.

The area also creates potential problems for emergency vehicles.

"I don't think the (proper infrastructure is there), and I don't think the builder has a clue. It could be a heck of a time (dealing) with an (emergency situation)," Ryan Marcys said.

"The flooding and drainage issues we've had to deal with since all of these developments (have been built) like Magnolia

West and Willow Springs has been unbelievable," Reape said. "(The builder) hasn't walked this property personally. He doesn't see the value and the character of these generational, family lands that have been here. And he hasn't seen the water flow and (flooding and drainage issues) that we have on Shedd Road, either. He does not understand what we deal with on a daily basis. And we don't want to be closed off and boxed in besides cookie-cutter homes."

Katie Marcys said growth has become troubling, especially in the Lake Asbury and Green Cove Springs area.

"You have to figure in: if they start changing this area, what will happen down the road in a couple of years? All of Clay County could be changed, and I don't think that our citizens really want that to happen," she said.

## Bow Wow Breakout

Residents can spend days or more with dogs from Animal Ser-

By Lee Wardlaw  
lee@claytodayonline.com

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – In the spirit of the holiday season, residents enjoy new ways to spend quality time outdoors while making a positive difference for furry companions.

Bow Wow Breakouts, a program started more than five years ago at the Clay County Animal Services, connects compassionate residents with shelter dogs for a day of exploration and fun.

"Sometimes, people can't adopt. They're not in the right house or apartment, but they still want to be involved and help that animal and really (forge) that connection," said Shelter Operations Coordinator Courtney Sumner.

Like Big Brother and Big Sister programs, pets can spend a day with a caretaker for walks, playtime and companionship.

"The process is simple to gear up for the big adventure. Just stop by Clay County Animal Services or give us a call," Sumner said. "We set you up with a shelter dog and a backpack full of essentials, and you're ready for your adventure."

The backpack contains a blanket, toy, treats, waste bags, a harness and a leash.

"It's a good time to get out for people, and it's a big relief for the dogs," Sumner said.

"Essentially, it's a way to give them a break from the shelter," said Animal Care Attendant Jett Linn.

"We encourage (people) to explore the county. We have a lot of parks and dog-friendly places," Linn said.

The experience helps dogs adjust to life outside the shelter, Linn said.

"It shows them how a car ride is going to be, and it gives them the human interaction they need that we just can't give them because we're too busy taking care of (their needs)," she said.

The program also allows dogs to spend the night. Sumner said some volunteers enjoy the interaction so much they wind up adopting the pet.

"Maybe they'll decide, (perhaps) we can do a sleep-over and see how the dog (interacts with the family or individual) in the home. Then, they might say, 'You know what, we are ready to (go through) the adoption process,'" Sumner said.

Three factors remain constant: there is no pressure, all are welcome and the final



Blossom is eager to find a new home.

result is consistently positive, no matter how far residents go through the process. "Sometimes, Bow Wow Breakouts turn into other things, but regardless, (the program) is fantastic," she said.

Linn, who has been working at the shelter since March, said the program helps alleviate stress on the shelter and dogs, especially when residents choose to adopt a pet.

"The program has proven we can get dogs out of the shelter. We've got a few dogs 'home.' It gives us 'peace of mind' knowing they have a good home, and they won't have to come back to a place where they don't receive as much love and care," Sumner said.

Like a test drive, the program allows potential owners to evaluate whether they want a dog. The shelter doesn't want any-

one to rush their decision, and volunteers can spend the day with as many animals as they want.

Reaction from residents has been astounding, especially during the holiday season. "People are excited about this because it gives them a (unique) opportunity they (perhaps) wouldn't have at home, where sometimes, they don't have animals. It just gives them something to do, gets people out of the house, and gets people moving. They can explore our parks and the best of what Clay has to offer," Sumner said.

The overnight foster program during the Christmas holidays is gaining popularity. Dogs can leave the shelter for the warm relaxation of play and interaction. The pets might even fall asleep near the warmth of the fire.

Sumner described the program as simply "fantastic." It also said it benefits the mental health of both people and dogs.

"You can't go wrong when snuggling with a pup or taking him out for a walk. It's just calm, relaxing, and a great time," she said.

Bow Wow Breakouts is open to anyone 18 or older. The sessions are available during regular shelter hours at 3984 State Road 16.

If you are interested, you can visit the shelter, call (904) 269-6342 or visit clay-countygov.com/community/animal-services.





## Faith Walk

by Pastor Billy Register  
True Life Church  
Clay County

### A New Year: Embracing Fresh Starts, Hope, and Renewal

2023 is winding down and 2024 is right around the corner. A “New Year” is a time marked by new beginnings, and the prospect of a fresh chapter waiting to be written. It is a moment for reflection, resolution, and a rekindling of aspirations. A time to seek out new opportunities and blessings in the year ahead.

At the core of the New Year lies the concept of new beginnings, a principle intertwined with our faith. The turning of the calendar marks a fresh start, offering the opportunity to leave behind the past and embrace the hope and promise of the future. It echoes these words from 2 Corinthians 5:17, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

New Year is a time for reflection and gratitude, looking forward to the possibilities and blessings of the coming year. It reflects the unity and fellowship encouraged in God’s Word. The turning of the year represents opportunities for growth, change, and the anticipation of what God has in store for the future. We find this in Philippians 3:13 where it says, “Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead”.

The act of setting resolutions during the New Year shows a desire for personal and spiritual growth. Just as individuals set resolutions to better themselves, Christ-Followers may seek to grow in their faith and commitment to God, aspiring to live in accordance with His teachings.

The turning of the year is a reminder that every day is an opportunity for renewal, not just on New Year’s Day. The scriptures encourage us to seek continuous growth and renewal in our spiritual journey, reminding us that God’s mercies are new every morning. “The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning”. (Lamentations 3:22-23)

The New Year symbolizes fresh starts, hope, and the promise of blessings in the upcoming days. It embodies the opportunity for growth, change, and renewal in the journey of faith. May 2024 be a time of great promise for you and your family, filled with hope and a heart full of praise for the God of new beginnings.



### NICU babies get surprise visit from Santa Claus

PHOTOS FROM ORANGE PARK HOSPITAL  
ORANGE PARK – The littlest patients at HCA Florida Orange Park Hospital got much-needed and much-appreciated attention from Neonatal Intensive Care Unit nurses who dressed like Santa Claus. The babies were dressed in Christmas outfits provided by the healthcare workers in the unit.

## New cardiac rehabilitation center opens at Baptist Clay

FLEMING ISLAND – Clay County residents recovering from a heart issue can get the services they need at Baptist Medical Center Clay with the opening of the new Cardiac Rehabilitation Center.

Located adjacent to the hospital at Baptist HealthPlace at Fleming Island, 2310 Village Square Pkwy. in Suite 102B, the rehab center is a 2,400-square-foot center with an array of cardiovascular and strength equipment for heart patients to regain their health.

Baptist Clay’s cardiac rehabilitation program is conducted in a group setting of up to 10 patients. Patients’ heart rate, blood pressure and EKG are monitored continuously during each supervised session. Patients are re-assessed at each session for signs and symptoms of cardiac issues and medication compliance.

Education is a large part of the cardiac rehab program. Patients learn about their personal risk factors for heart disease and deal with the emotional ups and downs of recovery. Physicians, dietitians, nurses and clinical exercise physiologists work together to provide a treatment plan for each patient.

Patients can attend the center with a qualifying diagnosis (such as open-heart surgery, heart failure, peripheral artery disease, or chronic stable angina, among others.) A physician may submit a referral to Baptist Health’s Central Scheduling department at (904) 202-4200. Patients



PHOTO BY BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER CLAY  
The new Cardiac Rehabilitation Center team can assist 10 patients at a time while they recover from heart issues.

are typically seen for 36 visits in 12 weeks. “Local residents no longer have to travel out of the area to get high-quality cardiac rehab services,” said Hospital President Ed Hubel. “Providing this ser-

vice close to home will, hopefully, accelerate patients’ recovery so they can get back to doing what they enjoy.”

For more information, call (904) 516-1710.

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# Lindsay Woods part of Navy's response to Houthi attacks

Orange Park grad aboard USS Carney in Red Sea

By Alvin Plexico  
Navy Office of Community Outreach

Petty Officer 1st Class Lindsay Woods serves aboard the USS Carney, currently deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations.

Woods serves as an operations specialist and was aboard the ship on Oct. 19 when the crew of Carney shot down multiple land attack cruise missiles and unmanned aerial drones launched by Houthi forces in Yemen while the ship was operating in the northern Red Sea. The missiles and drones were believed to be headed toward Israel when Carney intercepted them. Since the 19th, Carney has engaged numerous other unmanned aerial drones.

"As combat information center supervisor, my role is to manage the flow of communication through CIC while recording,

reporting and identifying surface contacts and threats, as well as providing navigation recommendations to the bridge," said Woods.

The engagement lasted several hours and made news worldwide. According to Cmdr. Jeremy Robertson, Carney's commanding officer, crewmembers like Woods made all the difference.

"We could not have done this without all of the preparation and the support from our families back home," Robertson said. "This is what we are meant to do, and on that day, the crew came together and executed the mission seamlessly."

Carney's deployment helps ensure maritime security and stability in the Middle East region.

"Being a part of this mission means that we will stop at nothing to ensure the safety of those at sea and around the world," said Woods.

Arleigh Burke-class destroyers like Carney are outfitted with the world's most



Petty Officer 1st Class Woods, a 2008 Orange Park High graduate, managed communications during the attacks.

sophisticated weaponry systems. They further strengthen the U.S. Navy's contribution to national security by deterring potential adversaries and protecting vital assets.

"I'm extremely proud of the Carney team," Robertson said. "Every member of the crew performed exactly what we have been training to do and kept Carney engaged throughout the fight during this act. We could not have done this without all the preparation and the support from

our families back home. This is what we are meant to do, and on that day, the crew came together and executed the mission seamlessly."

The U.S. Navy is engaged, postured, and ready with credible force to assure, deter, and defend in an increasingly complex security environment. Our primary goal is to contribute to a peaceful, stable, and conflict-free region through our allies' and partners' combined naval power.

## Raises

from page 1

department last Wednesday resulted in both sides moving closer to an agreement.

The Fraternal Order of Police Orange Park Lodge 144 originally wanted an extra \$300,000 for salaries and benefits. The town offered \$160,000.

Town Manager Sarah Campbell said the new request from the union is "somewhere in the middle."



Sarah Campbell

Campbell said she would ask the Town Council to approve the tentative agreement of an additional \$240,000 reached between her and the union at their next meeting on Jan. 9.

"I believe this is a good solution. It's a good, middle-of-the-road approach," Campbell said.

After originally favoring a \$160,000 increase, Campbell said in light of the town's budget restraints, she now supports the \$240,000 ask – \$184,000 in salaries and \$56,000 in benefits.

The details include across-the-board raises, with lower-paid employees getting a higher percentage increase of around 20%, and higher-paid, longer-tenured employees receiving an approximately 10% increase.

"Each employee would receive an increase of about \$7,600 per year to their current salary," Campbell said.



If the council approves the proposal, the plan will be presented to the union for ratification. A final vote for approval from the council could happen as soon as its Jan. 23 meeting.

"I don't see any problems on this (vote) (making it to the finish line), as long as council approves the salary proposal," she said. Campbell said the new salary structure, particularly starting pay, would make the town competitive with a new contract approved for the Clay County Sheriff's Office. She said a starting dispatcher's salary will jump from \$34,700 to \$42,400 a year, while officers will go from \$42,509 to \$50,209.

"This gives us a bit of an edge over Clay County. They are a big organization, and they're still going to have the ability to attract people because of their size, but as far as salary goes, we are going to be very competitive with them," Campbell said.

While the proposed increase is less than the union's original offer of \$300,000, it represents a compromise that balances the town's budget constraints with the union's desire for fair compensation. Campbell remained optimistic about the potential outcome, stressing the positive impact the new deal could have on recruiting and retaining officers.

"I believe this also increases long-term employees and incentivizes them to stay with our organization, so we can continue to recruit and retain," she said.



## Rotarians spread holiday cheer, generosity

For Clay Today

CLAY COUNTY – Members of one small club, the Rotary Club of Northeast Florida, showed their generosity and kindness by giving gifts to various groups in the community during the holiday season. They brought happiness to many residents and some furry friends as well.

The first project involved delivering food to The Food Pantry of Green Cove Springs. The next project was to donate 21 blankets and lots of food and toys to the cats and dogs at Clay County Animal Services. After that, they filled up the Clay County Marine Reserves Toys for Tots box, which was empty when they arrived.

They also gave bags of joy to Pre-K students at Lakeside Elementary and elderly living in assisted living. The last project was to provide comfort and joy to the families at Quigley House. They gave more than 100 items to make sure adults and children had a Merry Christmas.

The Rotary Club of Northeast Florida was very busy this year, buying and delivering gifts to six important projects in the community. They either bought items or gave money to help make many dreams come true. The club members are already looking forward to next year.

For more information about Rotary and its projects, contact Sandra Hartley at (904) 923-9884, sandrainclay@aol.com or nefl.clubexpress.com/.



## Police Briefs claytodayonline.com

Compiled by Don Coble

### Community helps CCSO identify man wanted for armed robberies

CLAY COUNTY – The Clay County Sheriff's Office said the community responded quickly with information after it posted the photo of a man suspected of at least three counts of armed robbery after meeting victims on the LGBTQ+ dating app Grindr.

Adam Tyler Ayers, 18, was arrested Friday, Dec. 22, after the agency said it responded to three separate incidents in three weeks of men who said they met "Larry" for a date at a secluded place before they were robbed at gunpoint.

Ayers was charged with kidnapping while facilitating a felony, armed robbery, aggravated battery with a deadly weapon and attempted armed carjacking after de-



Adam Tyler Ayers



etectives received "numerous" tips shortly after CCSO released a photo from the dating site where the "person of interest" partially concealed his face.

According to Sheriff Michelle Cook, Ayers ordered the men to drive to ATMs and withdraw money.

"A couple days ago, we asked for the public's assistance in identifying a person of interest that had been robbing people, specifically using the social media app Grindr," Cook said. "Thanks to the help of

our community, our detectives received numerous tips about the identity of the wanted subject. These tips helped us identify or suspect, locate arrest and suspect."

Cook said she believes there may be other victims. They can call the sheriff's office at (904) 264-6512 or submit a tip on the SaferWatch app.

"Our investigation is still ongoing, and I'm asking anybody who may have additional information or may be a victim of Mr. Ayers to please reach out to us immediately," Cook said.

"I'd like to thank the detectives for all of their hard work over these past few days, putting a case together and apprehending Mr. Ayers. And I'd like to especially thank our community because once we put that photo up, and within minutes, we started receiving really good information."

Ayers' bond was set at \$250,003. His next court appearance is on Jan. 22.

The sheriff's office said using extreme caution when meeting strangers online is important. If you are meeting a stranger, make sure to let someone know your location and meet in a public location when possible.

### CCSO: Traffic stop for no tag light turned into high-speed chase

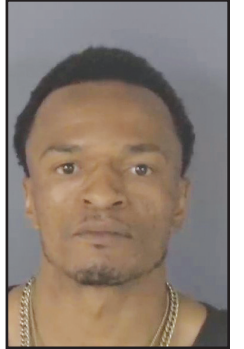
MIDDLEBURG – The Clay County Sheriff's Office said a traffic stop for a man not having a license tag light shortly before midnight on Dec. 20 turned into a high-speed chase ended when a man was caught hiding in a wooded area on Peppergrass Street.

According to the arrest report, Santana China Smith, 29, of Middleburg, was arrested after he fled from a sheriff's office deputy on County Road 218.

After Smith left his car when he reached a dead end, and he ran into the woods. K-9 Cash joined deputies in apprehending him.

Smith was charged with attempting to flee and elude law enforcement while they had their lights and siren active, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, resisting arrest and driving with a suspended license. A deputy spotted a handgun on the front passenger seat of Smith's car. He was convicted in 2018 of possessing molly or ecstasy.

His bond was set at \$57,511.



Santana China Smith

## Arrests & Bookings

Compiled by Don Coble

(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, Dec. 26

Terri G. Oldfield, 58, Fleming Island, DUI  
Cassi R. Demay, 41, Fleming Island, DUI  
Kylie A.R. Lonon, 21, Orange Park, aggravated battery with deadly weapon  
Devin I. Becovic, 25, Orange Park, FTA  
Ashley N. Harnish, 37, Keystone Heights, battery  
Shane A. Pyle, 32, Middleburg, assault/battery during burglary, violation of injunction for protection against domestic violence  
Michael R. Smith, 58, Middleburg, VOP-community control  
Barbara L.E. Cheek, 45, Orange Park, battery on law enforcement officer  
Mohammad S. Ilyasi, 34, Orange Park, DUI

### Monday, Dec. 25

Coleman J. Moulton, 40, Middleburg, possession-methamphetamine  
David M. Cartier, 27, Middleburg, trespassing  
Tradarian T. Holmes, 21, Orange Park, domestic battery

Stephanie M.C. Valenzuela, 29, Green Cove Springs, domestic battery  
Kevin L. Colson, 20, Orange Park, aggravated assault with deadly weapon  
Bradley E. Sanford, 48, Orange Park, trafficking-amphetamine/methamphetamine

### Sunday, Dec. 24

Marcus W. Curry, 37, Green Cove Springs, possession-methamphetamine, trespassing, possession-drug paraphernalia  
Wayne R. Cahal, 72, Green Cove Springs, burglary  
Denzeel A. Turner, 29, Orange Park, DUI  
Maurilio P. Quesada, 43, Fleming Island, DUI with BAL .15 or higher

### Saturday, Dec. 23

Jenny M.D. Santos, 37, Middleburg, battery on person 65 or older  
Christina H. Hall, 34, Middleburg, shoplifting  
Jessica J. Vulcano, 36, Orange Park, two counts FTA, FTA-possession-drug paraphernalia, two counts FTA-DWLSR  
James M. Bell, 44, Orange Park, non-support  
Sarah J. Riley, 34, Orange Park, petit theft  
Ashley R. Lockhart, 23, Middleburg, domestic battery  
John A. Baer, 63, Middleburg, vandalism  
Erik C. Fraser, 41, Middleburg, DUI  
Alexis C. Little, 27, Middleburg, battery on law enforcement/firefighter/EMT, disorderly intoxication  
Huga F.A. Gutierrez, 38, Middleburg, DUI

### Friday, Dec. 22

Adam T. Ayers, 18, Middleburg, kidnapping with facilitating a felony, armed robbery, armed aggravated battery, armed carjacking  
Brittany R. Wink, 23, Green Cove Springs, violation of pretrial release conditions for protection against domestic violence  
A'Niyah N. Carroll, 19, Middleburg, shoplifting  
Izeck Cuevas, 22, Orange Park, possession-marijuana  
Erik K. Blackburn, 45, Orange Park, two counts selling methamphetamine, three counts selling fentanyl  
Kenneth P. Blair, 79, Green Cove Springs, VOP-sexual battery of child, VOP-lewd/lascivious behavior  
Samantha L. Rivera, 30, Orange Park, domestic battery  
John J. Mirack, 37, Middleburg, two counts possession-fentanyl, possession-methamphetamine, possession-drug paraphernalia  
Grady U. Bostic, 61, Keystone Heights, installing tracking device without permission  
James M. Webb, 51, Middleburg, possession-methamphetamine, possession-fentanyl, DWLSR

### Thursday, Nov. 21

Joshua L. Fillingim, 37, Orange Park, battery  
Kerri J. Miller, 53, Orange Park, aggravated battery on pregnant woman  
Kerry L. Miller, 55, Orange Park, aggravated battery on pregnant woman  
Todd A. Killimade, 34, Middleburg, DWLSR  
Razeq D. Lundy, 27, Fleming Island,

shoplifting, possession-marijuana, possession-drug paraphernalia, resist/obstruct/oppose law enforcement, resisting arrest during recovery of property  
Jeffrey L. Ausbon, 59, Green Cove Springs, possession-controlled substance  
Donald J. Meek, 42, Green Cove Springs, possession-marijuana, possession-controlled substance, possession-drug paraphernalia  
Kentoris J. Hodges, 31, Green Cove Springs, battery in jail  
Benjamin F. Andrews, 42, Orange Park, resist/obstruct/oppose law enforcement, loitering/prowling  
Santana C. Smith, 29, possession-ammo/firearm by convicted felon, resist/obstruct/oppose law enforcement, attempting to flee/elude law enforcement with lights/siren active, DWLSR

### Wednesday, Nov 20

Jamie L. Blanchette, 41, Orange Park, possession-marijuana, possession-drug paraphernalia  
Lonnie W. King, 46, Orange Park, DWLSR  
Geniyah O. Durante, 20, Middleburg, shoplifting  
Lance R. Jamison, 37, Middleburg, FTA  
Allen D. Shugart, 36, Green Cove Springs, FTA-firing weapon/missile into dwelling/building/aircraft, FTA-resisting law enforcement, FTA-criminal mischief  
Kenneth P. Blair, 79, Keystone Heights, VOP-sex offender probation  
Nathan A. Rose, 49, Green Cove Springs, violation of pretrial release conditions for protection against domestic violence  
Joshua D. Jenkins, 32, Orange Park, possession-methamphetamine, possession-drug paraphernalia





PHOTO BY ASCENSION ST. VINCENT'S CLAY COUNTY

The Family Birth Place team at Ascension St. Vincent's Clay County helped the hospital earn the Best Hospitals for Maternity Care award by the U.S. News and World Report.

## U.S. News and World Report gives Ascension St. Vincent's Clay top maternal care award

For Clay Today

MIDDLEBURG – The Family Birth Place at Ascension St. Vincent's Clay County has been selected to U.S. News and World Report's Best Hospitals for Maternity Care (Uncomplicated Pregnancy) list, the highest award a hospital can earn.

Hospitals that receive a high-performing designation as part of Best Hospitals for Maternity Care meet a high standard in caring for parents with uncomplicated pregnancies.

"This recognition reflects the commitment of our doctors, nurses and care teams in delivering high-quality, compassionate care to expectant mothers and their newborns," said Sadie Durham, Chief Nursing Officer and Chief Operating Officer. "We are honored to keep serving the moms and families of Clay County and beyond."

To be recognized as high-performing by

U.S. News, hospitals must excel in multiple quality metrics, including C-section rates, newborn complication rates, breast milk feeding rates and early elective delivery rates. Hospitals must have C-section rates that are 26% lower and newborn complication rates that are 37% lower than those of unrecognized hospitals that participated in the survey.

The Family Birth Place at St. Vincent's Clay County is a baby-friendly, GOLD safe-sleep certified organization with nursing staff trained in spinning baby techniques that help babies get into position for birth. The unit also offers infant CPR training and on-site lactation services to ensure our new parents feel prepared to take home their new bundle of joy.

For more information about The Family Birth Place at St. Vincent's Clay County, please visit [Ascension.org/StVincent'sWomens](https://Ascension.org/StVincent'sWomens) or call (904) 602-1004.

## Paranormal experts leading tours of Old Jail and Courthouse

'Haunted Towns' Chris Smith, Mike Goncalves to check for ghosts

For Clay Today

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Join paranormal author and researcher and Ghost Hunt Weekends President Chad Morin and special guest presenter Kyl Cobb, a historian, paranormal author and demonologist, for a ghost hunt at the Old Clay County Jail and Courthouse on Jan. 6. The Travel Channel's "Haunted Towns" hosts Mike Goncalves and Chris Smith will join the search for activity.

One of the oldest jails in the state of Florida, it closed its doors in 1972. It boasts at least five hangings in the courtyard, and it is believed to be a source of significant paranormal activity is a direct result of those deaths and hardships from

life inside this hideous location.

Disembodied voices, cell doors banging and moving independently, and unseen hands are known to grab and touch visitors.

This will be a multiple-location event, including the Old Clay County Jail, the Grounds where the executions took place, the History Museum, Old Rail Road Station and the Old Clay County Courthouse.

The night starts with VIP ticket holders entering early at 5 p.m., while general ticket holders can enter at 6 p.m. The tour starts at 7:30 p.m. and ends at midnight.

For tickets, visit [allevents.in/green%20cove%20springs/p;d-clay-county-jail-ghost-hunt](https://allevents.in/green%20cove%20springs/p;d-clay-county-jail-ghost-hunt).



Ghost Hunt Weekends by the Tennessee Wraith Chasers will make a stop at the Old Clay County Jail and Courthouse on Jan. 6. Team co-founder Steven "Doogie" McDougal has already been through the old jail chronicling the presence of paranormal activity.



PHOTO BY FLEMING ISLAND GARDEN CLUB

Members of the Fleming Island Garden Club admire their decorated tree at the Parade of Trees in Green Cove Springs' Spring Park.

## Fleming Island Garden Club decorates tree at Spring Park

By Rhonda Scoville  
Garden Club of Fleming Island

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Several club members came out on a cold morning and dressed up our Spring Park holiday Parade of Trees in pink: pink ribbon garlands and pink flamingos, along with clear balls with the names of all the club members written on them.

Rather than its normal monthly business meeting with a speaker, we celebrated the holidays with a nice luncheon and exchanged presents at Club Conti-

nental.

During last month's food drive, members donated \$400, 430 pounds of food and three tubs of toys.

The next meeting is at 10 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 8, at the Fleming Island Library Meeting room, 1895 Town Center Blvd.

The Garden Club's program has been changed in January. Our speaker will be our own Carin Ashman, who will present a program on "Starting With Seeds." Meetings are free and open to the public, so we hope to see you there.



# Nothing to hide

Elections Office opens doors to dispel misinformation

By Don Coble  
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*(This is the first in a series of how Clay County conducts elections. There are many misconceptions about the process, especially following the 2000 presidential election when Al Gore claimed some of his votes weren't accepted because of "hanging chads on paper ballots." A recount showed George Bush won the state's 25 Electoral College by a margin of only 537 votes.)*

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – As the county's Supervisor of Elections, Chris Chambless has heard every concern and accusation about the integrity of the voting process:

Dead people can vote.

Ballots can be stuffed.

Outside sources can hack voting machines.

His response is always the same: "We had an elections expo where we invited members of the community, as well as the press, to come and take a look behind the curtain because there's a lot of individuals that are involved in politics but don't necessarily know how the elections are conducted. So, we walked through the process from the beginning to the end, from requesting a vote or registering to vote, requesting to vote by mail ballot, all the way through that process to voting. We even set up a polling location inside the training center and talked about tabulating the vote."

Moreover, Chambless said anyone with questions can stop at the office at 500 North Orange Ave. in Orange Park to get answers.

"If you don't have faith in the system, are you going to participate? Then, what

happens is you become the virus that infects other people from not participating. We have too many people sitting on the sidelines. We need you to get some skin in the game. We're here if anyone wants to see how we do it," he said.

The Presidential Preference Primary election is on March 19, followed by the Municipal Super Tuesday Election on April 9 for local candidates.

Since Florida is a closed primary state, Chambless wanted every registered voter to know they can only cast ballots for candidates in the voter's registered party. That means Republicans can only vote for Republicans; Democrats can only vote for Democrats.

"We are going to face a lot of individuals who aren't registered Republicans, and it hasn't occurred to them that they won't be able to vote in the (Presidential Preference Primary)," Chambless said.

Since the start of the pandemic, the U.S. has seen a mass migration of people moving to new states, and no state is gaining more newcomers than Florida. Many from Democrat-leaning states don't know they can't jump parties during primaries, such as Municipal Super Tuesday and the Primaries on Aug. 20. A voter can change their political affiliation at least 29 days ahead of election days – Feb. 20 for the PPP, March 11 for the MST and July 22 for the primaries.

Anyone can switch back ahead of the general election before Oct. 7, although voters can cast ballots for any candidate, regardless of party, during the General Election on Nov. 5.

Two of the most common pieces of misinformation Chambless hears are dead people casting ballots, and election ma-



Supervisor of Elections Chris Chambless said his office is eager to show voters how it sends, collects and counts each ballot to prove the process has safeguards to protect the integrity of the count.

chines can be hacked from outside sources.

Both are completely false, Chambless said.

"Of course, the first thing we hear is dead people voting," he said. "There is a lot of maintenance in a 90-day period, but we also do it in real-time."

The Florida Department of Health provides names from death certificates weekly. Chambless said his office also gets notifications from family members, clerks of courts and Social Security.

"Why is Social Security a good resource? They want to quit paying you, OK? As soon as they can quit paying you, they want to," Chambless said.

Chambless said voting machines can't be hacked because they aren't connected to the internet.

"Our systems are locked and sealed," he said. "We have a chain of custody. We have a two-person control. We have cameras out of the wazoo. Even if you get into the tab room, where only three people in

the organization have access to that tab room, you would have to have the knowledge to do that.

"Then we have at least three last fall safes – logic and accuracy tests randomly created in the test deck. If you don't know what precinct, test or race is being tested, how can you enter, let's say, a Trojan horse to wherever Candidate A gets a vote and Candidate B gets three votes and Candidate C loses votes? If you didn't know what was being tested, you would not be able to write such a script to be able to do that."

Although Florida only requires selected races and precincts to be verified, Chambless said every vote from every race is confirmed.

The way that we elect people is a democracy, and a democracy can stagnate. We got to figure out a way to make sure it doesn't happen," he said.

"Don't take my word for it. You know, come here and invest yourself into the process."

# Try these wellness tips for a healthier 2024

By StatePoint Media

If your New Year's resolutions list is a mile long, you may feel overwhelmed and unsure where to start. Let these three essential wellness tips set you up for a successful year and give you the power, energy and determination you need to reach all your other goals.

## Make time for breakfast

Many people make the mistake of skipping breakfast, particularly if they are trying to lose weight. But breakfast is essential to your overall health and well-being, giving you the fuel and energy to power the day until lunch. This is important to help kickstart your metabolism and regulate your hunger.

Think you don't have time to prepare a

healthy breakfast? You're not alone. However, many are open to implementing this habit with quicker breakfast options that cut prep time in half. In fact, 51% of consumers agree that frozen breakfast foods are the most convenient option, and 37% said they would eat frozen breakfast foods more often if they were healthier, according to market research from Mintel.

There are efficient ways to enjoy a nutritious breakfast thanks to quick and tasty options like Egghand's Best Frozen Breakfast Bowls, made with hearty ingredients and ready to eat in minutes. Not only do the bowls taste great, but they are made with nutritionally superior Egghand's Best eggs, which contain six times more vitamin D, more than double the Omega-3s and 10 times more vitamin E compared to ordi-



nary eggs, so you can feel confident that you're getting optimal nutrition before taking on the busy day ahead.

The bowls are available in three great tasting flavors, Sausage & Cheese, Salsa, Bacon & Cheese and Loaded Potato Scramble, meaning you certainly won't get bored putting your new breakfast plan into action.

## Practice self-care

Between work, family life and other commitments, carving out time for yourself can seem challenging. But a little self-care goes a long way toward helping you recharge and better manage all your responsibilities and stressors. Whether going for

a run, taking a yoga class, doing arts and crafts or reading a book, be sure to spend some time each week doing something you love that makes you feel your best.

## Prioritize sleep

Prioritizing sleep will improve every aspect of your physical and mental wellness and help you achieve all your other goals. Unfortunately, streaming devices, social media and other distractions make it too easy to stay up later than you intend. Setting an alarm in the evening can be a gentle reminder that it's time to put down devices and start your bedtime routine, helping you create a more consistent sleep schedule. This will also eliminate exposure to blue light late in the evening, an environmental factor that has been proven to make it harder to fall asleep.

Achieving your goals starts with feeling your best. Make that happen in the new year by prioritizing the most essential health and wellness building blocks from sunrise to sundown.



# TODAY'S Sports

Clay Today | December 28, 2023 | claytodayonline.com



## McDade, Mawhinney top performers of 2022-23

By Randy Lefko  
randy@claytodayonline.com

FLEMING ISLAND - With a third straight 50-yard free-style swim state title and a 100 free included to finish her senior season, Fleming Island swim sprint specialist Maryn McDade is the Clay Today high school sports performer of the year.

McDade, a commit to Florida State University next fall and the Class 3A swimmer of the year accomplished the third 50 free titles with little fanfare and dominating performances throughout her regular season and even more during the postseason with lightning-fast finishes at districts and regions.

McDade's 100 gold medal resulted from a two year chase of the event with back-to-back top-five finishes in her sophomore and junior seasons.

"The 100 this year was like 20 minutes after the 50 final," said McDade. "I had it in my mental preparation to put that out of

SEE PERFORMERS, 29



Fleming Island senior swimming sprint specialist Maryn McDade kept her focus for a third consecutive year to win a third 50-yard freestyle Class 3A championship. McDade also earned a first-time 100 freestyle championship after two previous top-five finishes for the event. For her prowess in the water, McDade was selected the Clay Today performer of the year for the high school season from January 2022 to December 2023.



Former Clay High baseball pitcher Dane Dunning was awarded the key to the city of Green Cove Springs from Mayor Connie Butler at a recent ceremony at a city council meeting after Dunning returned to Green Cove Springs after winning a Major League Baseball World Series Championship with the Texas Rangers.

## Dunning wins family's second World Series ring

By Randy Lefko  
randy@claytodayonline.com

GREEN COVE SPRINGS - The City of Green Cove Springs offered up a key to the city to World Series baseball champion Dane Dunning at Thursday's council meeting, but the humble Dunning gave some credit to big brother Jake, also a World Series champion in his early days as a Major League Baseball player.

"I would say it was a big advantage for me to have Jake go through the rig-

ors of college ball, the minor leagues and his two years in the big leagues," said Dunning, 29, who recently earned his first World Series championship ring as a relief pitcher for the Texas Rangers, who defeated the Arizona Diamondbacks in five games (4-1) in November. "Jake never got a key for his ring, but I'm glad he's here to share mine."

Jake Dunning was a San Francisco Giants pitcher in the 2013-2014 seasons, with the Giants winning the World Series

SEE RING, 30

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# Lady Spartans taking on the nation's best

By Randy Lefko  
randy@claytodayonline.com

ORANGE PARK - St. Johns Country Day School girls soccer coach Mike Pickett knows the value of a tough schedule to prepare for the spring championship run and December was the "test" for his attempt to return to state and national prominence.

"We've played a 5-1-1 schedule against five nationally ranked teams since early December," said Pickett, after opening the trial with a 4-0 win over previously unbeaten 7A-Atlantic Coast (8-1-2, ranked 5th in 7A) on December 8 then culminating his gauntlet with a 3-1 win over 4A state champion Bishop Moore on Friday. "We literally left here and drove six hours to play South Walton because the kids here had exams, showed up, warmed up for 20 minutes then played. Then finished, drove an hour to Niceville to find our hotel, then played at 10 a.m. the next day. We had a 1-0 lead on them when they got a penalty kick that I would question."

St. Johns opened the season with a 2-2 tie with Ponte Vedra (ranked 4th in the USA) then 0-0 ties with Gulf Breeze and Toco Creek, a 1-0 win over P.K. Yonge and a 3-1 loss to Tallahassee Chiles.

Pickett noted that offensively, with sophomore Sydney Schmidt leading the Spartans scoring with just nine goals, the Spartans have shifted their attack to concentrate on defense this season with a minimum of goals being scored as opposed to previous seasons.

"We are playing a 3-5-2 set which is the riskiest to play as it leaves just three defenders in front of the goal and more players going forward for offense," said Pickett. "We had 111 goals last year (38 at Christmas break) and we have just 24 so far this year. We had no choice but to go to 3-5-2 to score goals. We don't have the finishers that we've had in the past seasons."

The top goal-getter for Pickett is stand-

## The Spartan Gauntlet

**Dec. 5:** 2-0 win vs. Atlantic Coast (First loss 8-1-2, No. 5 in 7A)

**Dec. 8:** 3-1 win vs. Doral Academy

**Dec. 9:** 2-1 win over American Heritage (5A champions, No. 2 in 4A, 12th in FL, 24th in USA)

**Dec. 13:** 1-0 loss to Bartram Trail (7A champions, No. 3 in 7A, 7th in FL, 15th in USA)

**Dec. 15:** 4-2 win over South Walton (4A region finals, No. 1 in 4A, 6th in FL, 14th in USA)

**Dec. 16:** 1-1 tie with Niceville (No. 4 in 6A, 15th in FL)

**Dec. 20:** 3-1 win over Bishop Moore (4A champions, No. 3 4A)

out sophomore Sydney Schmidt with just nine goals.

"Sydney is by far the best all-around player in the area, no question," said Pickett, noting her selection to the USA U-16 national team. "We've played different approaches to get her free as most teams are doubling and tripling her, but she is so good and doesn't need much space to move."

Against Bishop Moore with a Puerto Rico national team member marking Schmidt, Schmidt took a left side feed, sped to toward the end line, outsprinted the defender and circled back up toward the top of the 18 box before spinning and firing a top-corner goal before landing on her backside to complete the third goal.

"She's magic," said Pickett. "If we get her one on one, she's tough to defend."

One player Pickett credits with vast improvement is sophomore Reygan Roper who has been instrumental in getting the ball deep into enemy territory to set up Pickett's offense.

"She has come a long way from the early part of the year," said Pickett. "Our



STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

Class 4A defending champion Bishop Moore got one last penalty kick in their 3-1 loss to St. Johns Country Day School, but the kick went wide and Spartans completed a 5-1-1 week-long streak against a handful of top USA-ranked teams.

## National Rankings

As of Dec. 24, Maxpreps.com

1. Northwest Rankin (Brandon) MS 13-0-0
2. Montverde Academy FL 9-0-1
3. Clinton MS 9-0-2
4. Ponte Vedra FL 9-1-1
5. Leigh (San Jose, CA) 5-0
6. Punahou (Hawaii) 13-0
7. Maidson Central MS 11-1
8. Lourdes Academy Miami 10-1

9. Mira Costa CA 8-0-2
10. Creekside FL 8-0-2
11. Lake Mary FL 10-0-2
14. South Walton FL 8-1
15. Bartram Trail FL 9-3-1
18. St. Johns Country Day School FL 7-2-4
24. American Heritage FL 6-2-0
28. Niceville FL 10-1-3
31. Chiles FL 9-1-1
39. Atlantic Coast FL 8-1-2



St. Johns Country Day School coach Mike Pickett snarls to make a point during a second-half water break in Spartans' 3-1 win over Bishop Moore. Spartans were up just 2-1 before the break and got a spectacular solo goal from Sydney Schmidt to go to 3-1.

young kids are grinding it out and improving each game. This is the toughest schedule I've ever had. I thought we could go 1-7 against these teams."

Pickett noted that American Heritage was the biggest size-wise team on the slate.

"We are not big anywhere on the field and we rely on our strategy and speed, but that American Heritage team was huge," said Pickett.

Pickett, who gave the team a seven-day break though some players will play a club schedule, implored them to stay sharp with conditioning for his "season three".

"I thought I was going to have my first losing record at the start," said Pickett, 20-2-1 last year with a 2A runner-up finish snapping an 11-title reign. "After the break, I've called that upcoming part of the schedule season three because it's winning time.

We are ranked fourth in the city with the toughest schedule. We get no respect because we are 2A, but we'll be there at the end."

St. Johns returns with 3A-Bolles (1-9-2), 6A-Chiles (9-1-1), 5A-Lincoln (7-1-0), 4A-Stanton (7-4-2) and 7A-Lakewood Ranch (4-1-2).



St. Johns Country Day School junior forward Mia Johnson gets in the mix of loose ball in front of Bishop Moore's goal during second-half action of Spartans 3-1 win on Friday.



## Battle on the Island

# Panthers' streak stops at seven

By Randy Lefko  
randy@claytodayonline.com

FLEMING ISLAND - With a five-game win streak entering the Battle on the Island girls basketball tournament at Fleming Island High School, Ridgeview High's rugged inside game, led by senior Nia Blocton, hit a roadblock against an equally rugged inside game in their championship game loss to Ribault, 55-42, on Saturday.

"We knew coming in about their strong game in the paint and I think my girls were a little tentative about that at first," said Ridgeview coach Gussie Solomon. "Our first quarter was good but they got tough in the second and got a little bit of a lead (28-22) and we were just unable to close that gap."

Ridgeview advanced to the Battle on the Island final with decisive wins over Mandarin (52-40) and Trinity Catholic (55-33) with the Panther defense locking down Trinity with four single-digit quarters and the Panthers having to fight off a third-quarter surge by Mandarin with a 19-11 final stanza for the win.

Against Ribault, the Lady Trojans flexed hard and fast with an opening 11-0 stretch that forced Solomon to wake up her troops.

"I think they were a little overwhelmed with how fast and aggressive Ribault was and we were not slowing them down with our full-court press," said Solomon. "We got them to adjust and slowed them down after that, but they were getting the long breakaway pass to a layup."

With senior Nia Blocton getting inside position, but not being able to land a buck-

et, Ridgeview scratched back with a 10-8 surge to close the first period with Narissa Blocton landing two baskets and center Jamya Davis fighting for a rebound and earning two free throws.

Ridgeview stayed in the 6-10 point gap range with two threes from Nacoya Blocton to go to the half down 28-18.

Ribault kept the gas pedal to the floor and kept their 10-point gap through the third.

In the final stanza, with Narissa and Nacoya challenging the paint defense of Ribault and getting free throws, Solomon's strategy seemed to be wearing on the Trojan lineup but Ridgeview was only banking free throws to end the game.

"We are set to finish out strong after the break," said Solomon, who took over from former coach Tyler Miller, now at St. Johns Country Day School, who lost in the region finals last year with three scorers at 11 points per game; Nia and Nacoya Blocton and guard Paetyn Miller who graduated. "We are getting some good plays from our bench with Jamya Davis and Aniyah Campbell giving us good play underneath. All three Blocton girls; sophomore Narissa, are over 10 points per game."

Ridgeview returns with Keystone Heights on January 9 and University Christian on January 11.

In other games, Oakleaf's girls got the bad draw in their first two games against Ribault (9-2) and Bolles (10-2) before the Knights got their second win against Fleming Island.



Ridgeview forward Jamya Davis goes to the floor for loose ball in Panthers championship game against Ribault.



Ridgeview guard Nacoya Blocton tries to circle around pick from sister Nia Blocton.

## Battle on the Island

# Raiders drop the ball in Game 1, rebound with two wins

By Randy Lefko  
randy@claytodayonline.com

ORANGE PARK - Orange Park High basketball coach Derek Kurnitsky pondered out loud at the halftime break of his eventual blowout win over Auburndale.

"Where was this team yesterday?" pondered Kurnitsky, who saw his team lose his first game; 53-48 to Bolles, of the Battle on the Island tournament sponsored by Fleming Island High School, but with games in the Orange Park Raiderdome due to the size of the field. "We showed we could be resilient and come back to play strong after a loss. I like that."

Orange Park showed some versatility in their lineup with new faces taking on lead positions for scoring and rebounding.

Against Baker County, game two, a 53-52 win, the Raiders got 12 points from Quayshon Blot.



Orange Park coach Derek Kurnitsky tries to persuade referees to make the call in favor of the Raiders in win over Auburndale.



Orange Park center Quayshon Blot readies for rebound against Baker County in Raiders 53-52 win in Battle on the Island Invitational.

With 6:10 to go, the score was at 43-42 with Orange Park up and Baker County making a strong surge to take the lead with a layup at 6:00 taking the lead. Orange Park retook the lead on a Johnnie Johnson follow-up rebound to layup.

With the score knotted at 50-50 with 1:05 to go, an inbounds steal by Terrance Tuggles turned into two free throws to put

Orange Park up by two.

Baker County center Jeremiah Mitchell hit a jumper in the lane to tie the game one more time with 12 seconds left.

Orange Park senior guard Archie Triggs III got fouled under the Raider basket for a throw-in on the baseline and then





Fleming Island center Carson Crawford battles with Creekside defenders for loose ball in thrilling finish; lost in final 0.6 seconds.

## Battle on the Island Eagles get an 'almost' vs. Creekside

By Randy Lefko  
randy@claytodayonline.com

FLEMING ISLAND - With one of the strongest fields in recent history, Fleming Island High basketball coach Traavis Chandler took his lumps over the weekend but relished the competition that his tournament put on the courts of both Fleming Island and Orange Park high schools.

"We knew coming in that this was going to be a very competitive group of teams with Creekside, Ribault, Andrew Jackson and teams from Louisiana and Tennessee," said Chandler, who won his first game; a 54-39 win over 5A-Auburndale, a region semifinalist last year, before a thrilling loss to eventual tournament runnerup 7A-Creekside; 60-58, and a loss to 3A-Santa Fe Catholic, a 9-2 squad from Lakeland, ranked No. 2 in Class 3A and No. 1 in Tampa. Santa Fe Catholic lost in the region finals in 2020 to eventual 3A champion Saint Andrews who beat Andrew Jackson for the title. Andrew Jackson, one of

the strongest programs in Florida, lost to Calvary Christian in the 3A Final in 2022. "I wanted to see how the boys reacted to the competition that was going to be here. Then, me and the coaches could figure a way to be ready for the districts and regions and another Final Four run."

Against Creekside, Fleming Island battled to a 58-57 lead with a Carson Crawford free throw set before the Knights canned a final toss to win the game with 0.6 seconds on the clock.

Against Auburndale, Crawford, a freshman, controlled the pain with 13 points and 10 rebounds with senior guard George Hamm dishing four assists.

"We had such a tough game with Creekside and the guys were kind of moping for the first part of the Santa Fe game," said Chandler. "We have to learn to move on to the next game because the playoffs are win or go home. You can't have a bad game and play worse the next game."



Fleming Island guard George "Gnat" Hamm slides no-look pass to center Carson Crawford for score against Creekside.



Orange Park guard Terrance Tuggles's hair flies in flurry as he cuts past Baker County defenders in Raiders win at Battle on the Island Invitational.



Orange Park guard Dylan Larson puts one heck of a fake on Baker County defender to get him airborne before his jump shot.



Orange Park defenders Johnnie Johnson and Ontario Mallory put the big swat on Baker County shooter.

## Raiders from page 27

hit a layup but the basket came after a foul putting Triggs in position to take the lead off the free throw line; missing the first, but winning on the second with 2.6 seconds on the clock.

Against Auburndale, with Keion Brown hitting two of his five three-

pointers on his first two shots of the fourth quarter, Orange Park cruised through a 34-12 first half to push to 45-16 en route to a 63-38 win. Brown finished with 19 points with Triggs adding 14.

"We needed that Auburndale win, we've been struggling," said Kurnitsky. "Baker County came out firing after our tough loss to Bolles the night before and we had to wake up. We could use this momentum after the break."



## Performers

from page 25

McDade recollected that at her final turn of the 100, she had two competitors on both sides just slightly ahead of her.

"I just put my head down and did not breathe to the finish," said McDade. "That's the one I wanted."



Fleming Island sophomore golfer Tyler Mawhinney blasted away at the Class 3A championship tournament with a hole in one in round one and a championship second round that also secured a team title for the Golden Eagles.

### Tyler Mawhinney

For the boys, Fleming Island sophomore golfer Tyler Mawhinney, had a bit of team controversy before the Class 3A state tournament; mainly him not knowing if he was going solo or if the Golden Eagles team that finished a near-disastrous third at regions with a possible no-show at the state.

"When the team got the at-large bid, I was relieved because the team was coming with me and we would be together," said Mawhinney, who would have competed as an individual if the team was not awarded the ticket. "Having them there made it even better."

"Even better" turned out to be an astounding first-round score with a hole-in-one shot, a spectacular finish in the second round and the bonus of having his team win the team title as well.

For Mawhinney, the golf title was the first individual title for Fleming Island and the first team title in Clay County.

Cody Carroll of Middleburg won the Class 2A title in 2016.

### Middleburg Volleyball

For the team's best performances, it would be hard to not choose, the girls, the Middleburg High volleyball team that rampaged their season, behind Florida Class 5A Player of Year Connor Rahn, en route to the Class 5A title under first-year coach Meredith Forkum.

### Fleming Island Boys Golf

For the boys, the Fleming Island boys golf team overcame a possible no-show at



Middleburg High's volleyball team, led by Class 5A player of year Connor Rahn, sliced through the best competition in the state to win a first-time state title under first year coach Meredith Forkum.

the Class 3A tournament with their aforementioned near-disastrous region third-place finish, but the Golden Eagles got the bid, took the reigns and torched a stellar field to bring Clay County a first-time golf state team title.



Clay High junior weightlifter Emma Heck has dominated the Florida weightlifting scene for her first two years as a Blue Devil and looks to continue her reign for two more years.

### Emma Heck, Clay Autumn Leviston, Fleming Island Cheyenne Cruce, Middleburg

For the girls, others considered were Clay High superweightlifter Emma Heck who blasted records en route to her second consecutive title, Fleming Island



Keystone Heights High's boys weightlifting team had to tango with 2A state champs Suwannee, moved to Class 1A last year, and still grabbed a state weightlifting team title.



Fleming Island senior weightlifter Autumn Leviston earned a state title and state bench press record in her first year of weightlifting.



Middleburg High junior wrestler Cheyenne Cruce ran the table to an undefeated (39-0) season record and a first-ever state wrestling title for the Broncos

weightlifter Autumn Leviston for her state title and a record-setting bench press and Middleburg 190-pound wrestler Cheyenne Cruce who finished unbeaten for the first-ever girls wrestling state title for Clay County.

### Keystone Weightlifting

For the boys, the Keystone Heights and Fleming Island boys weightlifting teams both overcame odds to take state titles in their fields; Indians with a third title in a row with a steal over 2A power, now 1A, Suwannee for the Traditional state title while Suwannee edged Keystone Heights (South Sumter, tied for second) for the

Olympic title.

For Keystone Heights coach Lantz Lowery, it was his third consecutive state title with the Indians.

"We graduated a very talented class the prior season and the men coming in worked their tails off to repeat," said Lowery. "There are a lot of young men on that team that could repeat titles in 2023."

### Kevin Reyes

Fleming Island got a stupendous finish to notch a tie for first in the Traditional Class 2A team title, then got a somewhat bigger surprise state title from Kevin Reyes; with titles to Tyler Beverly and Jered Rhodes, in Olympic lifts to snag a tie with Leesburg in that discipline in the team title count.

Fleming Island also had a state champion wrestler in Jayce Paridon, who now wrestles at Lake Highland Prep.



Fleming Island weightlifter Kevin Reyes emerged in championship time to steal away a state title for the Golden Eagles weightlifting team that secured one of two titles the Golden Eagles won.





Dane Dunning gets a picture with his parents, John, left, and Misu, right, after receiving the key to the city of Green Cove Springs. Dunning stands with his wife, Rachel, and son, Mack Anthony. The entire family tree may be represented in Green Cove Springs after Dane Dunning, a World Series champion pitcher for the Texas Rangers, came home to accept the honor from the city council.

## Ring

from page 25

in 2010, 2012 and 2014. Dunning is listed on the 2014 Giants as a pitcher.

Dane Dunning (Clay High Class of 2013), was with his wife Rachel Castelli, 26, (Ridgeview High Class of 2015) and son Mack Anthony at the Green Cove Springs City Council meeting just a day before Dane's birthday.

"We started dating in 2017, and got married in 2021," said Castelli. "He's just a dad when he comes home. I'm a baseball fan now, but we are about family when he's home."

Also on hand for Dunning were parents John and Misu Dunning plus a large cadre of Clay High baseball fans, including Green Cove Springs Junior High baseball coach Dan Slater.

"We just wanted them to get scholarships, go play in college, get a degree and be successful," said John Dunning. "All this was nice to watch and they both worked their butts off to keep playing. I can't be more proud or to ask for more of my sons."

Dunning, with the Rangers for three seasons, started the 2023 season after an injury and after the Rangers had signed a handful of quality pitchers.

"I felt really good about making the team and I made the team (the 25-team Major League) as a relief pitcher," said Dunning. "I was fortunate enough to make the team, but in a different role. I was the long guy out of the bullpen."



Dane Dunning's key to city of Green Cove Springs

As his season progressed, Dunning got back into a starter's role due to injuries to other guys.

"It wasn't the way I wanted to earn my spot, but that's the nature of the sport and I had to be ready," said Dunning, noting brother Jake had a similar fate with his elbow in his time in the "Big Show."

As his season progressed as a starter, Dunning revamped his daily routine to prepare.

"I had the starting experiences the previous two seasons and I just jumped back into my normal routines," said Dunning. "To be honest, during the whole post-sea-

son run, the entire team kind of supports each other. It was, top to bottom, one of the best team atmospheres to be a part of."

In the World Series itself, Dunning, who did pitch for one inning in game four (a 10-1 Rangers win) recalled that up 3-1 going to game five, the Rangers' starter Nathan Eovaldi was able to avoid a couple of tense innings; first and third innings with Arizona stealing an extra bases hit in the fourth to keep the game locked at 0-0 through five innings. Dunning was pulled in game four after 16 pitches to be ready as a closer if needed in game five.



"I was available to come in and warmed up twice but Eovaldi got out of the jams and the guys kept saying, we were going to win and then we exploded in the seventh with a double to Evan Garter and a run-scoring single from Mitch Garver," said Dunning, 28, 29 the following day. "In the ninth, we scored five off a two-run hit and a two-run homer from Marcus (Semien) and we broke a cardinal rule by lining up in the dugout for the finish which you don't want to jinx things at that point."

From there, Dunning ran out with the team at the finish for the celebration.

"I was actually trying to get guys to make a dog pile, but it didn't happen," said Dunning, who returns to his home in Charlotte to train, play golf and hang out with Mack. "Unfortunately, the dog pile never happened."



Dane Dunning and his baseball teammates, friends and former coaches, Josh Persinger and Daniel Slater, along with Clay administrators Cary Dicks and Matt Lewis get a photo after Dunning, a World Series champion pitcher for Texas Rangers, came home to receive the key to the city of Green Cove Springs.



## Power of Christmas Invitational

# Heck all alone against state's best

By Randy Lefko  
randy@claytodayonline.com

LIVE OAK - Clay High double state weightlifting champion Emma Heck showed that she is ready to three-peat in her specialty with a dominating performance at the Power of Christmas girl's weightlifting invitational held at Suwannee High on December 14.

Heck, who, was the Class 2A Traditional state champion with a 375 total and also the top lifter for the class, lifted a 385 at her 129 weight division to pound-for-pound far outlift her counterparts; all state ranked lifters, with a 380 total from Winter Springs' 154 pounder U'nitee Brown (second in 3A at 154 last year) and a 400 total by Leesburg 199 pounder E'mia Jones, (third in Class 2A last year at 183).

Heck, who dominated her Olympic Snatch and Clean and Jerk, did not get a bench press mark, missing three attempts at 180 pounds.

Winter Springs' 119 lifter Amy Barrelle, with a 320 total in the lighter weight class, was second second-best Olympic lifter. Barrelle was third in 3A last year at 119 in Tradition; and second in Olympic.

Heck also was state champion in the Olympic discipline while winning that best lift honor for Class 2A last year.

In the Traditional team scores, Suwannee a clear champion prospect with their 1A state titles in both Olympic and Traditional last year, was bumped by Navarre's 46 points with the Bulldogs scoring 28 and Winter Springs third at 27.

Top area schools in Traditional were Fleming Island in 10th with Leah Anderson second in 183, Bradi Johnson sixth in 119



Ridgeview's Deja Hill will be formidable lower weight contender for a state medal.

and Kathryn Ward seventh in 139; Clay 13th with Ansley Lyda fourth in 199, and St. Johns Country Day School in 16th tied with Ridgeview. Ridgeview got eighthths at 119 from Ania Haber and Deja Hill at 110.

In Olympic team scores, Navarre battled to a 35-33 win over Leesburg with We-wahitchka third at 26.

Top area schools were Clay in seventh with 10 points from Heck and a fourth in 199 from Ansley Lyda, Ridgeview in 13th with a fifth at 110 from Deja Hill and eighth in 183 from Harper Herring; Fleming Island in 17th with a fifth from Bradi Johnson in 119 and eighth in 101 from Kyla Marshall, and St. Johns Country Day School in 18th.

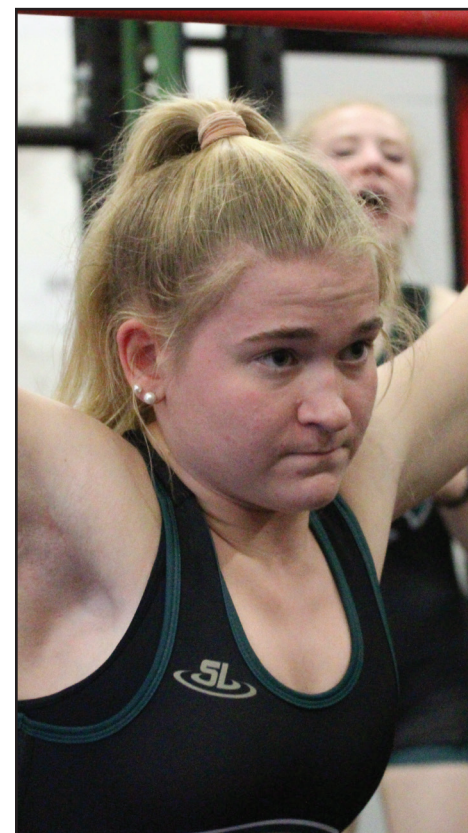
St. Johns got an eighth in 139 Traditional from Gabi Ocegquera.



Clay High's Emma Heck is about 10-20 pounds stronger than last year's dominance.



Clay High's Ansley Lyda is in the league of Blue Devils' legends in the upper weights. Right: Fleming Island's Bradi Johnson could steal a medal for the middle weights.



# Harmony sings to win Hammer Invitational

By Randy Lefko  
randy@claytodayonline.com

OAKLEAF - Harmony High School wrestling, sixth in Class 3A last year, visited Oakleaf High School for the Oakleaf Hammer Invitational and shook the gym with a decisive 242.5 winning team title point total that put Fleming Island in second with 190 points and Oakleaf third at 136.

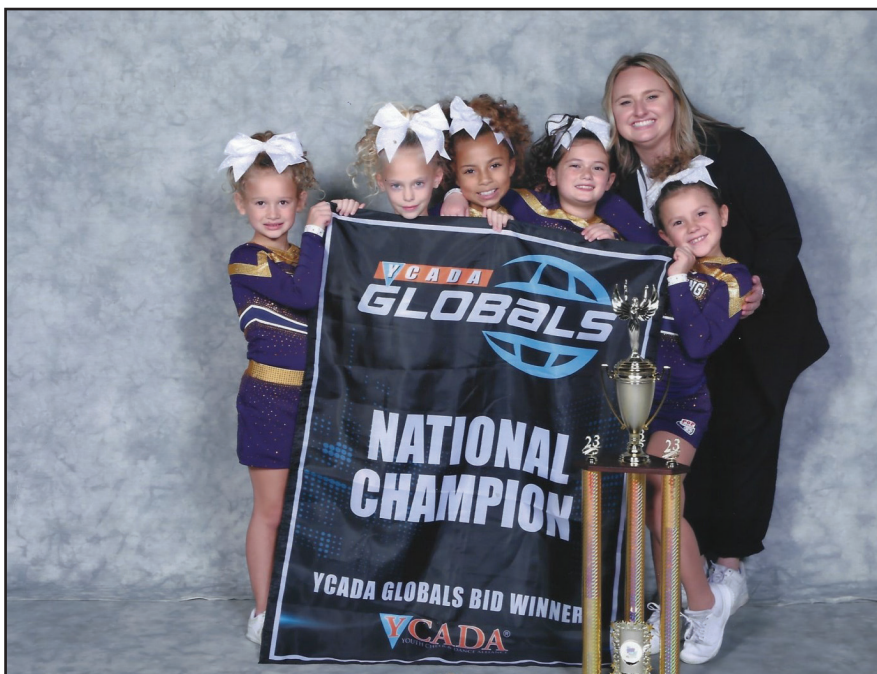
Harmony, with five individual champions, outscored a shrunken Fleming Island lineup with the Golden Eagles and host

**SEE HAMMER, 33**

Oakleaf coach Mark DeToro is making his mark with a shot at more state contenders in 2024. Right: Fleming Island's Chris Chop is following big brother Luke with a return trip to state in 2024.







SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Fleming Island Dreadnaughts Pop Warner cheerleader girls won the Pop Warner National Championship in their division (Mitey Mite Core Cheer Level 1). They scored the 7th highest score over the entire day out of 143 teams. Girls (left to right): Stella Britton, Blakely Eulenfeld, Gemma Paulk, Natalie Britton, Coach Lindsey Zybrick, Ella Segreto, not pictured Coach Katie Wright



## Anderson gets NCAA Div. II spot

FIHS Katy Smith: Sophomore libero

*Courtesy of Anderson University Athletics*

MOON TOWNSHIP, Pa. – Making their first foray into the NCAA National Quarterfinals in the history of the program, the Anderson University (28-6) volleyball team came out swinging and was able to take the first set, but unfortunately dropped the next three sets to the Tritons of Missouri-St. Louis at the UPMC Events Centers in Moon Township,



Katy Smith

Pa. on Thursday, December 7.

"I honestly thought the match went pretty much according to plan, the UMSL coach and I were talking a little pre-match and we both thought that our teams matched up well with each other," said head coach Todd Hay in his post-game press conference.

On the team is sophomore libero Katy Smith, a Fleming Island High graduate, who scored one kill in the final game. Smith played in 32 matches, 252 digs and 412 receives, plus 38 service aces. Smith, whose sister Ally, was a four-year starter at Palm Beach Atlantic University; 2017-2021.

Anderson finishes the season with a 28-6 record, two AVCA and D2 CCA All-Region honorees in Long and Grimm. They were both named AVCA Honorable Mention All-American as well.



The Anderson University womens volleyball team had one of its best seasons with Fleming Island libero Katy Smith, a strong part of the team. Smith follows sister Ally Smith, above, a standout player for Palm Beach Atlantic University through 2021.



## Middleburg High cheers advance to UCA Nationals, February 2024

Middleburg High School's cheerleaders squad, with a seventh-place finish at the UCA Cheerleader Regionals held in Orlando advanced to the UCA Nationals with a host of area teams including Clay, second in Small Varsity Coed Div. I; Fleming Island, third in Medium Varsity Coed Div. I; Ridgeview, third in Varsity Coed Non-Div. I; and Orange Park, seventh in Varsity Coed Non-Tumbling Div. I.







Fleming Island's Jordan Mukaddam has stormed the state with a Danny Byron title and a Keystone Memorial title.



Laird Duhaylungsod and brother Shane will be two locks for state medals in 2024.



Left: Oakleaf sophomore Sebastian Bonachea is one of a handful of young Knights looking to return to the state meet, while, right, former Clay High wrestler Luca Finnaca could return to the state meet as a referee.



## Hammer

from page 31

Knight both scoring four titles. Harmony's team depth; 12 wrestlers in the top three finishers, were the difference in the scoring.

Fleming Island got titles to Matthew Newman at 113 with a 12-4 major decision over Harmony's Tristan Horn; Jordan Mucaddam at 120 with a pin over Landon Davis of Harmony; Laird Duhaylungsod at 138 with a 3-0 win over Cole O'Brien of

Fletcher; and Chris Chop at 175 with a pin over Malik Wilson of Sandalwood.

Oakleaf got titles from Angel Rodriguez at 126 over Harmony's Nascimento, a 9-4 win; Sebastian Bonachea at 132 with a pin over Fleming Island's Joseph Forte; Keon Barrientos at 144 with a pin over Tyler Frein of Fleming Island and Ghais Cooper at 157 with an 11-2 major decision Ridgeview had one individual champion with Raymond Goforth at 215 beat Case Roberts of Harmony 13-9 with thirds to Rayhn Hutchinson at 190 and Daniel Nguyen at 106.

- SAVE THE DATE -

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**SUSAN NEUMAN**  
*Former Assistant Secretary,  
Secondary & Elementary Education*



**VINCENT TAYLOR**  
*Educator & Author*

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## CLAY COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PROBATE DIVISION  
File No. 2023CP000655  
Division D  
IN RE: ESTATE OF  
DANA TARVER TODD  
Deceased.

The administration of the estate of **Dana Tarver Todd**, deceased, whose date of death was **December 3, 2023**, is pending in the Circuit Court for Clay County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 825 North Orange Ave, Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.  
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.  
ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN 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.

The date of first publication of this notice is December 28, 2023.

Attorney for Personal Representative:  
s/ALEXANDER J. HERNANDEZ  
Florida Bar Number: 103048  
Cuello & Hernandez  
2655 S. LeJeune Road, Suite 1008  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
Telephone: (305) 567-0799  
E-Mail: aherandez@probatesfl.com  
Secondary E-Mail: csh@probatesfl.com  
Personal Representative:  
**LYNDA TODD RIMART**  
7748 SW 119 CT  
MIAMI, Florida 33183  
**Legal 95236 Published 12/28/2023 and 1/4/2024 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF ACTION  
- CONSTRUCTIVE  
SERVICE**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA  
GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION  
CASE NO. 2022CA000832  
REVERSE MORTGAGE FUNDING LLC,  
Plaintiff,  
vs.

THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHERS WHO MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE ESTATE OF THERESA ANDREWS, DECEASED, et al.  
Defendant(s).

**TO: STEVEN J. KELLER, JR.,** whose residence is unknown and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property described in the mortgage being foreclosed herein.  
**YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED** that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property:

**A PORTION OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 25, TOWNSHIP 4 SOUTH, RANGE 24 EAST, OF JOHN AND ESTEARAH COLLIER; STARTING AT A POINT ON THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE STATE ROAD S -230-A AS THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE JOHN AND ESTEARAH COLLIER PROPERTY AND RUNNING FORTY (40) FEET NORTH TO SAID CORNER FOR A POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE RUNNING NORTH FOR A DISTANCE OF 380.0 FEET, MORE OR LESS, THENCE WEST A DISTANCE OF 229.66 FEET, MORE OR LESS; THENCE SOUTH A DISTANCE OF 380.3 FEET, MORE OR LESS; THEN EAST, A DISTANCE OF 235.25 FEET MORE OR LESS TO THE 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 counsel for Plaintiff, whose address is 6409 Congress Avenue, Suite 100, Boca Raton, Florida 33487 or on or before (30 days from Date of First Publication of this Notice) and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition filed herein.  
WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court at County, Florida, this 21st day of December, 2023.  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT  
By: Chelsey Mason  
DEPUTY CLERK

**Legal 95158 Published 12/28/2023 and 1/4/2023 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 **LAKE AREA CLIMATE CONTROLLED STOR-**

**AGE** located at 101 Commercial Drive, in the County of Clay County, in the City of Keystone Heights, Florida 32656, intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.  
Dated at Keystone Heights, Florida, this 20th day of December, 2023.  
JMP Holdings FL, LLC, a Florida limited liability company  
**Legal 95135 Published 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC  
SALE**

BURGART ENTERPRISES TOWING INC. gives notice that on 01/12/2024 at 12:00 PM the following vehicle(s) may be sold by public sale at 4360 CR 218 W 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.  
4T1BF18B4XU305292 1999 TOYT  
**Legal 95132 Published 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**Notice of Meeting  
Ridgewood Trails  
Community Development  
District**

The meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Ridgewood Trails Community Development District will be held on **Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Azalea Ridge Amenity Center, 1667 Azalea Ridge Boulevard, Middleburg, Florida 32068.** The meeting is open to the public and will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Florida Law for Community Development Districts. A copy of the agenda for the meeting may be obtained from the District Manager, at 475 West Town Place, Suite 114, St. Augustine, Florida 32092 (and phone (904) 940-5850). The meeting may be continued to a date, time, and place to be specified on the record at the meeting. There may be occasions when one or more Supervisors will participate by telephone.

Any person requiring special accommodations at the meeting because of a disability or physical impairment should contact the District Office at (904) 940-5850 at least two calendar days prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8770, for aid in contacting the District Office.

Each person who decides to appeal any action taken at the meeting is advised that person will need a record of the proceedings and that accordingly, the person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which such appeal is to be based.

Marilee Giles  
District Manager  
**Legal 94989 Published 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**Notice of Meeting South  
Village Community  
Development District**

The regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the South Village Community Development District will be held on **Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Eagle Landing Golf Club, 3989 Eagle Landing Parkway, Orange Park, Florida 32065. The meeting is open to the public and will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Florida Law for Community Development Districts. A copy of the agenda for this meeting may be obtained from the District Manager, at 475 West Town Place, Suite 114, St. Augustine, FL 32092 (and phone (904) 940-5850). This meeting may be continued to a date, time, and place to be specified on the record at the meeting.

Any person requiring special accommodations at this meeting because of a disability or physical impairment should contact the District Office at (904) 940-5850 at least two calendar days prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8770, for aid in contacting the District Office.

Each person who decides to appeal any action taken at these meetings is advised that person will need a record of the proceedings and that accordingly, the person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which such appeal is to be based.

Marilee Giles  
District Manager  
**Legal 94988 Published 12/28/2023 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 **MEMORABLE Creations By Nita**, located at 2095 Heritage Oak Ct, 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 20th

day of December 2023.  
Renita M Stewart & Clifton D Stewart  
**Legal 94974 Published 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**PUBLIC SALE**

SCOTT'S AFFORDABLE TOWING INC gives Notice to sell the following vehicles for towing and storage lien on January 11, 2024, at 10:00 AM at 2909 BLANDING BLVD MIDDLEBURG, FL 32068,  
pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes.  
1999 Harley Davidson  
ID# 1HD1FLW12XY621318  
2004 Buick ID# 3G5DA03E74S526802  
2022 Volvo ID# YV4102PK6N1836577  
**Legal 94869 Published 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF ACTION**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CASE NO.: 2023-CA-1478  
DIVISION:  
TITAN ENTERPRISES OF SPV, LLC, a Florida limited liability company, Plaintiff,  
v.  
TENNILLE LAFUREN MAJOR and GRANARY PARK HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC., a Florida corporation, Defendant.

**TO DEFENDANT TENNILLE LAFUREN MAJOR AND ALL OTHERS WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**  
**YOU ARE NOTIFIED** that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in Clay County, Florida: Lot 23, GRANARY PARK PHASE 1, according to the Map or Plat thereof, as recorded in Plat Book 65, Pages 41 through 66, of the Public Records of Clay County, Florida, has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Katelyn T. Hardwick, the plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 420 S. Lawrence Blvd., Keystone Heights, Florida 32656, on or before 30 days from 1st day of publication, and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on the plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.  
DATED: December 14, 2023.  
TARA S. GREEN  
CLERK OF THE COURT  
By Jennifer Brosky  
Deputy Clerk  
**Legal 94868 Published 12/28/2023 and 1/4/2024 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: 10-2021-DP-000155  
DIVISION: E  
IN THE INTEREST OF:  
C.N.  
MINOR CHILD  
THE STATE OF FLORIDA  
TO:

Ernest Millard, FATHER  
**YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED** that a Petition has been filed in the above-styled Court by the FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES for termination of parental rights and permanent commitment for subsequent adoption of the above named child, C.N., who was born on July 18, 2007. 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 **January 23, 2024 A.D.** You must appear at the hearing on the date and time specified.

**FAILURE TO PERSONALLY APPEAR AT THIS ADVISORY HEARING CONSTITUTES CONSENT TO THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS 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 crntntrp@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 12th day of December, 2023.  
Tara S. Green  
As Clerk of Said Court  
By: Denise Haselwood  
As Deputy Clerk  
**Legal 94867 Published 12/28/2023, 1/4/2024, 1/11/2024 and 1/18/2024 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF AGENCY  
ACTION TAKEN BY THE  
ST. JOHNS RIVER WATER  
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

Notice is given that the following permit was issued on December 14, 2023 Superior Construction 7072 Business Park Blvd. N, Jacksonville, FL 32256-2749 permit # 97858-11. The project is located in Clay County, Section(s) 36, 25 Township 5S Range 25E. The permit authorizes construction and operation of a Stormwater Management System for a 24.45 acre project known as Saratoga Springs Stormwater Ponds as per plans received by the District on December 12, 2023. The receiving water body is Peters Creek.

A person whose substantial interests are or may be affected has the right to request an administrative hearing by filing a written petition with the St. Johns River Water Management District (District). Pursuant to Chapter 28-106 and Rule 40C-1.1007, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), the petition must be filed (received) either by delivery at the office of the District Clerk at District Headquarters, P.O. Box 1429, Palatka FL 32178-1429 (4049 Reid St, Palatka, FL 32177) or by e-mail with the District Clerk at Clerk@sjrwm.com, within twenty-one (21) days of newspaper publication of the notice of District decision (for those persons to whom the District does not mail or email actual notice). A petition must comply with Sections 120.54(5)(b)4. and 120.569(2)(c), Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Chapter 28-106, F.A.C. The District will not accept a petition sent by

facsimile (fax). Mediation pursuant to Section 120.573, F.S., may be available and choosing mediation does not affect your right to an administrative hearing.

A petition for an administrative hearing is deemed filed upon receipt of the complete petition by the District Clerk at the District Headquarters in Palatka, Florida during the District's regular business hours. The District's regular business hours are 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., excluding weekends and District holidays. Petitions received by the District Clerk after the District's regular business hours shall be deemed filed as of 8 a.m. on the District's next regular business day.

The District's acceptance of petitions filed by e-mail is subject to certain conditions set forth in the District's Statement of Agency Organization and Operation (issued pursuant to Rule 28-

101.001, Florida Administrative Code), which is available for viewing at floridaswater.com.

These conditions include, but are not limited to, the petition being in the form of a PDF or TIFF file and being capable of being stored and printed by the District. Further, pursuant to the District's Statement of Agency Organization and Operation, attempting to file a petition by facsimile (fax) is prohibited and shall not constitute filing.

The right to an administrative hearing and the relevant procedures to be followed are governed by Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, Chapter 28-106, Florida Administrative Code, and Rule 40C-1.1007, Florida Administrative Code. Because the administrative hearing process

is designed to formulate final agency action, the filing of a petition means the District's final action may be different from the position taken by it in this notice. **Failure to file a petition for an administrative hearing within the requisite time frame shall constitute a waiver of the right to an administrative hearing. (Rule 28-106.111, F.A.C.)**  
If you wish to do so, please visit [http://floridaswater.com/nor\\_dec/](http://floridaswater.com/nor_dec/) to read the complete Notice of Rights to determine any legal rights you may have concerning the District's decision(s) on the permit application(s) described above. You can also request the Notice of Rights by contacting the Director of Regulatory Support, 4049 Reid St., Palatka, FL 32177-2529, tele. no. (386)329-4570.  
**Legal 94866 Published 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA  
10-2023-CP-000640  
IN RE: THE ESTATE OF  
ROBERT G. STOKES,  
DECEASED.

The formal administration of the estate of ROBERT G. STOKES, who died on October 31, 2023, is pending in the Circuit Court of Clay County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is the Clerk of the Circuit Court, 825 North Orange Avenue, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043. The names and addresses of the PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE and attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the DECEDENT and other persons having claims or demands

**INVITATION TO BID**

**COOK BROTHERS, INC. (CBI)**, FL. GENERAL CONTRACTOR LICENSE NO. CGC-046567, Construction Manager for the following project, is seeking bids from all qualified bidders. Go to the CBI website, [www.cookbrothersinc.com](http://www.cookbrothersinc.com), to view and/or download all project plans, specifications, prequalification forms, insurance requirements, P&P Bond forms, etc. On the left side of home page click on Projects and choose New Projects from the drop-down menu.

**PROJECT:** Camp Blanding Administration Building #3888A, Florida National Guard; Florida Dept. of Military Affairs Project # 12215021, located at 5629 FL-16W, Starke, Florida.

**DESCRIPTION:** All work necessary to provide sitework, infrastructure and construction of a new 6,100 SF metal administration building. Submit QUESTIONS to [bids@cookbrothersinc.com](mailto: bids@cookbrothersinc.com), no later than end of day Jan. 9th, 2024.

**PRE-QUALIFICATION:** All bidders who have not previously been under contract with Cook Brothers, Inc. must pre-qualify for this project. Email Pre-qualification form to [bids@cookbrothersinc.com](mailto: bids@cookbrothersinc.com) no later than Jan. 15, 2024.

**BONDS:** All bids over \$100,000 must include a 5% Bid Bond or a Certified check for the same. All subcontracts of \$100,000 or more will require a P&P Bond, on a Cook Brothers, Inc. Payment and Performance Bond form

**PREBID MEETING DATE:** An on-site pre-bid meeting will be held Thurs. Jan. 4th, 2024 at 2:00 PM, Eastern Time. **SEE THE CBI WEBSITE FOR FURTHER LOCATION AND MEETING DETAILS.**

**SEALED BIDS** are due Thurs. Jan. 18, 2024 2:00 PM, Eastern Time in the office of Cook Brothers, Inc., 1255 Commerce Blvd., Midway, FL 32343. Submit bids via: HAND DELIVER, UPS, FEDEX or other deliverer service to the office of Cook Brothers, Inc. CBI is not responsible for the date/time at which bids are received, so please allow time to accommodate your mode of delivery. **LATE BIDS WILL BE REJECTED.** All bids must be submitted on the CBI Bid Form, which is found in the Bid Package. **E-MAILED BIDS ARE NOT ACCEPTED.**

**BID BONDS AND PERFORMANCE & PAYMENT BONDS:** All bids of \$100,000 or more require a 5% Bid Bond or Cashier's Check. All contracts of \$100,000 or more will require a Performance & Payment Bond.

**PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS** are available for view/downloaded from our website: On the left side of home page click on Projects and choose New Projects from the drop-down menu.

**NOTE:** See the plans Cover sheet page # G000 for Alternate Bid Items.

**The following BID PACKAGES will be posted on the CBI website on or before Jan. 4, 2024.** All bids must be submitted on the Bid Form, which is found in the Bid Package.

2A Sitework	9C ACT Ceilings
3A Concrete	9D Painting and (see Division 7) Joint
4A Masonry	Sealants 10A Specialties, bath compartments, accessories and lockers 13A Metal Building 22A Plumbing 23A Mechanical
6A Architectural Wood Casework/Cabinets	26A Electrical
8A Doors, Frames, Hardware	28A Electronic Safety & Security (controls, intercom and video)
8B Overhead Coiling Doors	
9A Flooring includes tile, carpet and fluid-applied flooring	
9B Framing and Sheetrock	

**E-Verify:** Pursuant to §448.095, Fla. Stat., Contractor must be registered with and use the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's E-Verify system to verify the employment eligibility of all new employees hired by Contractor during the term of this Agreement.

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER:** All contractors and vendors must agree that they will abide by the requirements of 41 CFR 60-1.4(a), 41 CFR 60-300.5(a) and 41 CFR 60-741.5(a), which require that contractors and subcontractors will not discriminate against individuals and businesses due to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, protected veteran status or physical or mental disability.

**COOK BROTHERS, INC., (CBI) is the Construction Manager for this Florida Dept. of Military Affairs (Owner) project. The Owner is not a party to any and all solicitations and submitted quotations or bid proposals which are made to the Construction Manager. Nothing in the bid documents, either expressed or implied, enjoins Owner as a party to the receipt, review or award of bids received by Construction Manager. Award of each trade contract shall be based solely on the best interests of the Project as determined by Construction Manager. Cook Brothers, Inc., as Construction Manager for this project, reserves the right to accept and reject any and all bids and waive informalities in any bid.**



CLAY COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES

against the DECEDENT'S estate on whom a copy of this NOTICE is required to be served must file their claims with this COURT WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.  
All other creditors of the DECEDENT and other persons having claims or demands against the DECEDENT'S estate must file their claims with this COURT WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.  
ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.  
The date of first publication of this NOTICE TO CREDITORS is December 28, 2023.  
MITCHELL ADAM STOKES  
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE  
4832 Saddlehorn Trail  
Middleburg, FL 32068  
VeRonica R. Owens,  
Attorney at Law, P.A.  
By: /s/ VeRonica R. Owens, Esq.  
Fla. Bar No.: 73568  
VeRonica@VeRonicaROwens.org  
189 South Lawrence Boulevard  
Keystone Heights, FL 32656  
2000 Henley Road, Suite B  
Middleburg, FL 32068  
Telephone: (352) 473-5000  
Attorney for PETITIONER  
**Legal 94865 Published 12/28/2023 and 1/4/2024 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: RAJENDRA INC, the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
Certificate No.: 574/2021  
Legal Description: LOTS 1 & 28 BLK 10 HIGHRISE ESTATES AS REC O R 519 PG 679  
Parcel ID No.: 200823-002500-000-00  
Opening Bid Amount: \$1,275.72  
Physical Address: 7221 PEMBROKE ST, KEYSTONE HEIGHTS  
Classification: VACANT RESIDENTIAL NAME IN WHICH ASSESSED: LOWELL A STEWART (HEIRS)  
Said property being in the County of Clay, State of Florida.  
Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder online on the 21st day of February, 2024 at 9:30 A.M. at [www.clay.realtaxdeed.com](http://www.clay.realtaxdeed.com).  
Dated this 18th day of December, 2023  
TARA S. GREEN  
Clay County Clerk & Comptroller  
Clay County, Florida  
By: Christina Spadea  
Deputy Clerk  
**Legal 94780 Published 12/21/2023, 12/28/2023, 1/4/2024 and 1/11/2024 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF ACTION FOR PUBLICATION**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA  
Case No.: 2020-DR-000804  
Division:  
IN RE: The Former Marriage of: DAMARIE NIX N/K/A DAMARIE GRUNAUER, Petitioner/Former Wife, and ROBERT NIX, Respondent/Former Husband.  
TO: Robert Nix A/K/A Robert Glenn Nix, Jr.  
Last known address: 1625 S. 17th Street, Apt. 274  
Wilmington, NC 28401  
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that a Supplemental Petition for Modification for Timesharing and Parenting Plan and a Motion for Civil Contempt/Enforcement and Request for Specific Performance has been filed against you. You are notified that these actions involve the property located at 1321 Elk Court South, Orange Park, FL 32073 and more particularly described as LOT 7 BELLAIR UNIT 7 According to the Plat Thereof as Recorded in Plat Book 9, pages 10 and 11 of the Official Records of Clay County, Florida and a 2017 Jeep Grand Cherokee. You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any to this action on Amber J. Hines, Esq., 1832 East-West Parkway, Suite 1, Fleming Island, FL 32003, e-mail: [amber@ajhineslaw.com](mailto:amber@ajhineslaw.com), Attorney for the former Wife on or before January 26, 2024, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court at Judge William A. Wilkes Judicial Complex, 825 North Orange Avenue, Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043, either before service on the former Wife's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in this petition. A hearing will be held in this matter on February 21, 2024 at 9:45 a.m. with Judge Gary Wilkinson, William A. Wilkes Judicial Complex, 825 North Orange Avenue, 4th Floor, Courtroom to be determined, Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043.  
**Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request.**

**Clay County School Board Public Notice**  
The Clay County School Board will hold its Regular monthly meeting on **Thursday, January 4, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.** in the Teacher Inservice Center located at Fleming Island High School, 2233 Village Square Parkway, Fleming Island, Florida 32003. The meeting is open to the public and all interested persons are invited to attend. Any person requiring special accommodations to attend or participate in public meetings should advise the School District at least 48 hours before the meeting by contacting the Superintendent's Office at (904) 336-6508. If you are hearing or speech impaired, you may contact the District by email addressed to [bonnie.onora@myoneclay.net](mailto:bonnie.onora@myoneclay.net) or by calling (904) 336-6584 (TDD). Copies of the proposed agenda will be available online at [www.oneclay.net](http://www.oneclay.net) or by contacting the Superintendent's Office, 900 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043. If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the meeting, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings

is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.  
**Legal 94779 Published 12/28/2023 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- 00584  
PROBATE DIVISION: D  
IN RE: THE ESTATE OF CAROL DEAN BROWN, 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 CAROL DEAN BROWN, 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 December 15, 2023.  
**TERRANCE A. JONES, ESQUIRE**  
Florida Bar No.: 0454958  
1688 Colonial Drive  
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043  
(904) 333-4400  
[terrance@terrancejoneslaw.com](mailto:terrance@terrancejoneslaw.com)  
Attorney for Personal Representative  
**Terrance A. Jones**  
Personal Representative  
First Published on December 21, 2023.  
**Legal 94637 Published 12/21/2023 and 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF ACTION FOR PUBLICATION**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA  
Case No.: 2020-DR-000804  
Division:  
IN RE: The Former Marriage of: DAMARIE NIX N/K/A DAMARIE GRUNAUER, Petitioner/Former Wife, and ROBERT NIX, Respondent/Former Husband.  
TO: Robert Nix A/K/A Robert Glenn Nix, Jr.  
Last known address: 1625 S. 17th Street, Apt. 274  
Wilmington, NC 28401  
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that a Supplemental Petition for Modification for Timesharing and Parenting Plan and a Motion for Civil Contempt/Enforcement and Request for Specific Performance has been filed against you. You are notified that these actions involve the property located at 1321 Elk Court South, Orange Park, FL 32073 and more particularly described as LOT 7 BELLAIR UNIT 7 According to the Plat Thereof as Recorded in Plat Book 9, pages 10 and 11 of the Official Records of Clay County, Florida and a 2017 Jeep Grand Cherokee. You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any to this action on Amber J. Hines, Esq., 1832 East-West Parkway, Suite 1, Fleming Island, FL 32003, e-mail: [amber@ajhineslaw.com](mailto:amber@ajhineslaw.com), Attorney for the former Wife on or before January 26, 2024, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court at Judge William A. Wilkes Judicial Complex, 825 North Orange Avenue, Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043, either before service on the former Wife's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in this petition. A hearing will be held in this matter on February 21, 2024 at 9:45 a.m. with Judge Gary Wilkinson, William A. Wilkes Judicial Complex, 825 North Orange Avenue, 4th Floor, Courtroom to be determined, Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043.  
**Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request.**

**NOTICE OF ACTION FOR PUBLICATION**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA  
Case No.: 2023-CP-000601  
Division B  
IN RE: ESTATE OF MARJORIE MAE FARRIS, Deceased.  
The administration of the estate of MARJORIE MAE FARRIS, deceased, whose date of death was October 7, 2023, is pending in the Circuit Court for Clay County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Probate Division, 825 North Orange Avenue, Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.  
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.  
All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.  
ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.  
NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.  
The date of first publication of this notice is December 21, 2023.  
Attorney for Personal Representative: GRADY H. WILLIAMS, JR., LL.M.  
Attorney for Petitioner: Florida Bar Number: 887950  
Grady H. Williams, Jr., LL.M.  
Attorneys at Law, P.A.

**NOTICE OF ACTION**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CASE NO. 2023CA001422  
LANDEPOT.COM, LLC Plaintiff,  
vs.  
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, GRANTEEES, DEVISEES, LIENORS, TRUSTEES, AND CREDITORS OF SHAWN ROBERT MCALUM A/K/A SHAWN R. MCALUM, DECEASED, ET AL. Defendants.  
TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, GRANTEEES, DEVISEES, LIENORS, TRUSTEES, AND CREDITORS OF SHAWN ROBERT MCALUM A/K/A SHAWN R. MCALUM, DECEASED  
Current Residence Unknown, but whose last known address was: 3452 BRADLEY CREEK PKWY, GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FL 32043-7050  
**YOU ARE NOTIFIED** that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in Clay County, Florida, to-wit: **LOT 42, CEDAR CREEK AT ROLLING HILLS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK**

**You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Notice of Current Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed to the address on record at the clerk's office.**  
Dated: December 18, 2023  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT  
By: Jennifer Brosky  
Deputy Clerk  
**Legal 94790 Published 12/21/2023, 12/28/2023, 1/4/2024 and 1/11/2024 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 4TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CIVIL DIVISION:  
CASE NO.: 2023-CA-001020-LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC., Plaintiff,  
vs.  
GERALD CORA; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF GERALD CORA; UNKNOWN TENANT IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, Defendants.  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order or Final Judgment entered in the above styled cause now pending in said court and as required by Florida Statute 45.031(2), TARA S. GREEN as the Clerk of the Circuit Court shall sell to the highest and best bidder for cash electronically at <https://clay.realforeclose.com/> at **10:00 AM on the 17 day of January, 2024**, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit:  
**LOT 17, BLOCK 7, BELLAIR, UNIT 2, AS PER PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 6, PAGES 48 AND 49, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA.**  
**PROPERTY ADDRESS: 397 SONORA DR, ORANGE PARK, FL 32073**  
**IF YOU ARE A PERSON CLAIMING A RIGHT TO FUNDS REMAINING AFTER THE SALE, YOU MUST FILE A CLAIM WITH THE CLERK NO LATER THAN THE DATE THAT THE CLERK REPORTS THE FUNDS AS UNCLAIMED. IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A CLAIM, YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO ANY REMAINING FUNDS. AFTER THE FUNDS ARE REPORTED AS UNCLAIMED, ONLY THE OWNER OF RECORD AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MAY CLAIM THE SURPLUS.**  
If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator at [crtrintp@coj.net](mailto:crtrintp@coj.net) or (904) 255-1695 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.  
Dated this 14th day of December, 2023.  
TARA S. GREEN  
Clerk Of The Circuit Court  
By: Chelsey Mason  
Deputy Clerk  
**Legal 94632 Published 12/21/2023 and 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF ACTION FOR PUBLICATION**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA  
Case No.: 2023-CP-000601  
Division B  
IN RE: ESTATE OF MARJORIE MAE FARRIS, Deceased.  
The administration of the estate of MARJORIE MAE FARRIS, deceased, whose date of death was October 7, 2023, is pending in the Circuit Court for Clay County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Probate Division, 825 North Orange Avenue, Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.  
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.  
All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.  
ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.  
NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.  
The date of first publication of this notice is December 21, 2023.  
Attorney for Personal Representative: GRADY H. WILLIAMS, JR., LL.M.  
Attorney for Petitioner: Florida Bar Number: 887950  
Grady H. Williams, Jr., LL.M.  
Attorneys at Law, P.A.

**NOTICE OF ACTION FOR PUBLICATION**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA  
Case No.: 2023-CP-000601  
Division B  
IN RE: ESTATE OF MARJORIE MAE FARRIS, Deceased.  
The administration of the estate of MARJORIE MAE FARRIS, deceased, whose date of death was October 7, 2023, is pending in the Circuit Court for Clay County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Probate Division, 825 North Orange Avenue, Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.  
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.  
All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.  
ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.  
NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.  
The date of first publication of this notice is December 21, 2023.  
Attorney for Personal Representative: GRADY H. WILLIAMS, JR., LL.M.  
Attorney for Petitioner: Florida Bar Number: 887950  
Grady H. Williams, Jr., LL.M.  
Attorneys at Law, P.A.

**NOTICE OF ACTION FOR PUBLICATION**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA  
Case No.: 2023-CP-000601  
Division B  
IN RE: ESTATE OF MARJORIE MAE FARRIS, Deceased.  
The administration of the estate of MARJORIE MAE FARRIS, deceased, whose date of death was October 7, 2023, is pending in the Circuit Court for Clay County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Probate Division, 825 North Orange Avenue, Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.  
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.  
All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.  
ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.  
NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.  
The date of first publication of this notice is December 21, 2023.  
Attorney for Personal Representative: GRADY H. WILLIAMS, JR., LL.M.  
Attorney for Petitioner: Florida Bar Number: 887950  
Grady H. Williams, Jr., LL.M.  
Attorneys at Law, P.A.

**55, PAGE(S) 44 THROUGH 52, INCLUSIVE, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA.**  
has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on eXL Legal, PLLC, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 12425 28th Street North, Suite 200, St. Petersburg, FL 33716, within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this Notice of Action, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court at 825 North Orange Avenue, P.O. Box 698, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043-0698, either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint petition.  
WITNESS my hand and seal of the Court on this 14th day of December, 2023.  
Tara S. Green  
Clerk of the Circuit Court  
By: Gracie Moore  
Deputy Clerk  
**If you are an individual with a disability who needs an accommodation in order to participate in a court proceeding or other court service, program or activity, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. To Request ADA accommodations at the Clay County Courthouse contact: Family Court Services, Room 1035; (904) 255-1695 or 711- Florida Relay Service); [Crtrintp@coj.net](mailto:Crtrintp@coj.net)  
**Legal 94629 Published 12/21/2023 and 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper****

**NOTICE OF ACTION**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 4TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CIVIL DIVISION  
Case No. 2020CA000914  
**The Bank of New York Mellon FKA The Bank of New York, as Trustee for the certificateholders of the CWABS, Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2007-9**  
Plaintiff  
vs.  
**VENTURIA ABRAHAM A/K/A VENTURIA TURNER; CLAY COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER; ET AL.,**  
Defendants  
TO: Venturia Abraham a/k/a Venturia Turner  
Unknown Spouse of Venturia Abraham a/k/a Venturia Turner  
P.O. Box 163192  
Altamonte Springs, FL 32716  
Khan Mullings  
Unknown Spouse of Khan Mullings  
P.O. Box 150194  
Altamonte Springs, FL 32713  
Miguel Torez  
Unknown Spouse of Miguel Torez  
P.O. Box 613192  
Altamonte Springs, FL 32716  
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage has filed against you in Clay County, Florida regarding the subject property with a legal description, to-wit:  
**LOT 13, OF FOXRIDGE, UNIT EIGHT, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 17, PAGES 73, 74 AND 75, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA.**  
you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on **Gary Gassel, Esquire**, of Law Office of Gary Gassel, P.A. the plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 2191 Ringling Boulevard, Sarasota, Florida 34237 and email address is: [Pleadings@Gassellaw.com](mailto:Pleadings@Gassellaw.com), within 30 days from the first date of publication, and file the original with the clerk of this court at 825 N. Orange Avenue, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043, either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.  
Dated on December 8, 2023.  
Tara S. Green  
CLERK OF THE COURT  
By: Gracie Moore  
As Deputy Clerk  
**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator at [crtrintp@coj.net](mailto:crtrintp@coj.net) or (904) 255-1695 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.**  
**Legal 94400 Published 12/21/2023 and 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
Extra Space Storage, on behalf of itself or its affiliates, Life Storage or Storage Express, will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated: 4653 US 17, Fleming Island, FL 32003 January 9, 2024, at 10:00am.  
Heather Goyette  
furniture, boxes, totes, home essentials  
The auction will be listed and advertised on [www.storageexpress.com](http://www.storageexpress.com). Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.  
**Legal 94555 Published 12/21/2023 and 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF ACTION FOR PUBLICATION**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CASE NO. 2023-CP-000601  
Division B  
IN RE: ESTATE OF MARJORIE MAE FARRIS, Deceased.  
The administration of the estate of MARJORIE MAE FARRIS, deceased, whose date of death was October 7, 2023, is pending in the Circuit Court for Clay County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Probate Division, 825 North Orange Avenue, Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.  
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.  
All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.  
ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.  
NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.  
The date of first publication of this notice is December 21, 2023.  
Attorney for Personal Representative: GRADY H. WILLIAMS, JR., LL.M.  
Attorney for Petitioner: Florida Bar Number: 887950  
Grady H. Williams, Jr., LL.M.  
Attorneys at Law, P.A.

**NOTICE OF ACTION FOR PUBLICATION**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CASE NO. 2023-CP-000601  
Division B  
IN RE: ESTATE OF MARJORIE MAE FARRIS, Deceased.  
The administration of the estate of MARJORIE MAE FARRIS, deceased, whose date of death was October 7, 2023, is pending in the Circuit Court for Clay County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Probate Division, 825 North Orange Avenue, Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.  
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.  
All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.  
ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.  
NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.  
The date of first publication of this notice is December 21, 2023.  
Attorney for Personal Representative: GRADY H. WILLIAMS, JR., LL.M.  
Attorney for Petitioner: Florida Bar Number: 887950  
Grady H. Williams, Jr., LL.M.  
Attorneys at Law, P.A.

1543 Kingsley Avenue, Suite 5  
Orange Park, FL 32073  
Telephone: (904) 264-8800  
Fax: (904) 264-0155  
Primary email address: [grady@floridaidler.com](mailto:grady@floridaidler.com)  
Secondary email address: [renee@floridaidler.com](mailto:renee@floridaidler.com)  
Personal Representative:  
DONNA MAROVICH  
506 Daltry Court  
Chalfont, Pennsylvania 18914  
**Legal # 94539 Published 12/21/2023 and 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF ACTION**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 4TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CIVIL DIVISION  
Case No. 2020CA000914  
**The Bank of New York Mellon FKA The Bank of New York, as Trustee for the certificateholders of the CWABS, Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2007-9**  
Plaintiff  
vs.  
**VENTURIA ABRAHAM A/K/A VENTURIA TURNER; CLAY COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER; ET AL.,**  
Defendants  
TO: Venturia Abraham a/k/a Venturia Turner  
Unknown Spouse of Venturia Abraham a/k/a Venturia Turner  
P.O. Box 163192  
Altamonte Springs, FL 32716  
Khan Mullings  
Unknown Spouse of Khan Mullings  
P.O. Box 150194  
Altamonte Springs, FL 32713  
Miguel Torez  
Unknown Spouse of Miguel Torez  
P.O. Box 613192  
Altamonte Springs, FL 32716  
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage has filed against you in Clay County, Florida regarding the subject property with a legal description, to-wit:  
**LOT 13, OF FOXRIDGE, UNIT EIGHT, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 17, PAGES 73, 74 AND 75, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA.**  
you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on **Gary Gassel, Esquire**, of Law Office of Gary Gassel, P.A. the plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 2191 Ringling Boulevard, Sarasota, Florida 34237 and email address is: [Pleadings@Gassellaw.com](mailto:Pleadings@Gassellaw.com), within 30 days from the first date of publication, and file the original with the clerk of this court at 825 N. Orange Avenue, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043, either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.  
Dated on December 8, 2023.  
Tara S. Green  
CLERK OF THE COURT  
By: Gracie Moore  
As Deputy Clerk  
**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator at [crtrintp@coj.net](mailto:crtrintp@coj.net) or (904) 255-1695 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.**  
**Legal 94400 Published 12/21/2023 and 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
Extra Space Storage, on behalf of itself or its affiliates, Life Storage or Storage Express, will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated:  
1709 Blanding Blvd, Middleburg, FL 32068, Tuesday, January 9, 2024 @ 12:00 PM.  
Zakiya Harrigan: Household Goods  
Matthew Smith: Household Goods  
The auction will be listed and advertised on [www.storageexpress.com](http://www.storageexpress.com). Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.  
**Legal 94398 Published 12/21/2023 and 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
Extra Space Storage, on behalf of itself or its affiliates, Life Storage or Storage Express, will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated:  
1939 East West Parkway Fleming Island, FL 32003, January 9, 2024, 10:00am  
Miguel Martinez- Household Goods  
Teresa Baker- Household Goods  
The auction will be listed and advertised on [www.storageexpress.com](http://www.storageexpress.com). Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.  
**Legal 94543 Published 12/21/2023 and 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PROBATE DIVISION  
FILE NUMBER: 2023-CP-000617  
DIVISION: B  
IN RE: ESTATE OF ADELLE KENNEDY LANOUE, a/k/a ADELE K. LANOUE, a/k/a ADELLE K. LANOUE  
Deceased.  
The administration of the estate of ADELLE KENNEDY LANOUE, deceased, whose date of death was August 25, 2023, is pending in the Circuit Court for Clay County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Clay County Circuit Court, Probate Division, 825 North Orange Avenue, Green Cove Springs, Florida, 32043.  
The name and address of the Personal Representative and the Personal Representative's attorney are set forth below.  
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands

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CLAY COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES

against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS AND DEMANDS NOT SO FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of the first publication of this Notice is December 21, 2023. Attorney for Personal Representative: GERALDINE C. HARTIN, Esquire Florida Bar 15201 3168 Highway 17, Suite A Fleming Island, FL 32003 904-278-3888 geraldine.hartin@gmail.com Personal Representative: CAROLINE H. WYNNE 3211 Bellows Court Middleburg, Florida, 32068 **Legal 94323 Published 12/21/2023 and 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**PUBLIC AUCTION**

Extra Space Storage, on behalf of itself or its affiliates, Life Storage or Storage Express, will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated: 3764 Jacobs Xing, Middleburg FL 32068, Tuesday, January 9, 2024 @ 12:00 PM. Jared Mason: Household Goods The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storageexpress.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property. **Legal 94313 Published 12/21/2023 and 12/28/2023 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.: 2023CA001460 PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff, VS. ANGELA M. WESTER; et al., Defendant(s). TO: Angela M. Wester Last Known Residence: 738 River Rd Orange Park, FL 32073 TO: Unknown Spouse of Angela M. Wester Last Known Residence: 738 River Rd Orange Park, FL 32073 **YOU ARE NOTIFIED** that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in CLAY COUNTY, Florida: **A PARCEL OF LAND SITUATED IN LOT 24, SECTION 1, ORANGE PARK, CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA, ACCORDING TO PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 23, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF SAID COUNTY AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: FOR A POINT OF REFERENCE COMMENCE AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE NORTH LINE OF LOT 23 OF SAID SECTION 1 WITH THE EAST LINE OF STATE ROAD NO.15 (SAID POINT BEING 50 FEET FROM THE SURVEY LINE OF SAID ROAD AS MEASURED AT RIGHT ANGLES THERETO); THENCE ON SAID NORTH LINE SOUTH EIGHTY 09 DEGREES 56 MINUTES 40 SECONDS EAST, 792.90 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 3 MINUTES 20 SECONDS WEST, 120 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 07 DEGREES 59 MINUTES 20 SECONDS WEST 110.44 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 48 MINUTES 20 SECONDS EAST, 246.45 FEET TO THE EAST LINE OF SAID LOT 24; THENCE SOUTH 09 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 20 SECONDS WEST, 15.41 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT ON THE EAST LINE OF SAID LOT 24; THENCE SOUTH 06 DEGREES 34 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST, 92.87 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 54 MINUTES WEST, 237.62 FEET; THENCE NORTH 04 DEGREES 11 MINUTES 30 SECONDS WEST, 92.48 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 54 MINUTES WEST, 1.45 FEET; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 10 MINUTES EAST, 14.78 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 48 MINUTES 20 SECONDS EAST, 12.36 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.** TOGETHER WITH THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED AND CONVEYED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 1480, PAGE 1717. **LESS AND EXCEPT ANY PORTION DESCRIBED AND CONVEYED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 1485, PAGE 1673, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA** has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on ALDRIDGE PITE, LLP, Plaintiff's attorney, at 5300 West Atlantic Avenue Suite 303 Delray Beach, FL 33484, on or before 30 days from first day

of publication, and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition. Dated on December 11, 2023. As Clerk of the Court By: Jennifer Brosky As Deputy Clerk **Legal 94312 Published 12/21/2023 and 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF ACTION**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 4TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION: CASE NO.: 2023CA001479 SPECIALIZED LOAN SERVICING LLC, Plaintiff, v. MICHEAL A WERBY, et., al., Defendants. To: **MICHEAL A WERBY** 2986 FOREST OAKS DR ORANGE PARK, FL 32073 **UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF MICHEAL A WERBY** 2986 FOREST OAKS DR ORANGE PARK, FL 32073 **LAST KNOWN ADDRESS:** STATED, **CURRENT ADDRESS:** UNKNOWN **YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED** that an action to foreclose Mortgage covering the following real and personal property described as follows, to-wit: **LOT 20, THE FOREST, ACCORDING TO PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 16, PAGES 52 AND 53 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA.** has been filed against you and you are required to file a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Orlando Deluca, Deluca Law Group, PLLC, 2101 NE 26th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33305 and file the original with the Clerk of the above-styled Court on or before 30 days from the first publication, otherwise a Judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. WITNESS my hand and seal of said Court on the 11th day of December 2023. CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AS Clerk of the Court BY: Chelsey Mason Deputy Clerk **Legal 94311 Published 12/21/2023 and 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA FILE NUMBER: 2023-GA-14 DIVISION: A IN RE: GUARDIANSHIP OF EMILY TAYLOR, Pursuant to Section 744-631(2), Florida Statutes, PATRICIA A. TAYLOR and MICHAEL E. TAYLOR, Plenary Guardian of the Person and Property of EMILY TAYLOR, gives notice of their intention to make application for Authority to Act related to selling the property located at 5400 LaMoya Avenue, Unit 17, Jacksonville, Florida, 32210. The Honorable Judge James E. Kallaher of the Fourth Judicial Circuit, Probate Division, will call up this matter on January 11, 2024, at 9:20 a.m., via Zoom hearing. Join Zoom Meeting, <https://zoom.us/j/7793110365>. Meeting ID: 779 311 0365. GERALDINE C. HARTIN, Esquire HAMILTON & HARTIN, PA Florida Bar: 15201 3168 Highway 17, Suite A Fleming Island, FL 32003 904-278-3888 geraldine.hartin@gmail.com **Legal 94244 Published 12/14/2023, 12/21/2023, 12/28/2023 and 1/4/2024 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**PUBLIC AUCTION**

Extra Space Storage, on behalf of itself or its affiliates, Life Storage or Storage Express, will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated: 918 Blanding Blvd. Orange Park FL, 32065 January 9th, 2024 at 9:30 AM Monica Arroyo Rodriguez- Boxes, Clothes Daniel Harrell- Household Goods/Furniture, TV/Stereo Equipment The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storageexpress.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property. **Legal 94243 Published 12/21/2023 and 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**PUBLIC AUCTION**

Extra Space Storage, on behalf of itself or its affiliates, Life Storage or Storage Express, will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated: 600 Blanding Blvd Orange Park, FL 32073, 01/09/2024 at 10:00AM. Andra Jones Household Goods Opal Dixon Household Goods The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storageexpress.com. Purchases

must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property. **Legal 94242 Published 12/21/2023 and 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**PUBLIC AUCTION**

Extra Space Storage, on behalf of itself or its affiliates, Life Storage or Storage Express, will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated: Extra Space Storage #6162 2406 Hutton Ct. Middleburg FL, 32068. 01-09-2024 10:00 AM. Samuel Furniss-Roe - Household goods Leigh Pecor - Household goods The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storageexpress.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property. **Legal 94241 Published 12/21/2023 and 12/28/2023 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.: 795/2021 Legal Description:** LOTS 21 & 22 BLK 79 HIGHRIDGE ESTATES AS REC O R 3851 PG 239 **Parcel ID No.: 210823-003847-000-00 Opening Bid Amount:** \$1,472.46 **Physical Address:** 6192 HUNTER AVE., KEYSTONE HEIGHTS **Classification:** VACANT RESIDENTIAL **Name in which assessed:** GT MARINE AND OUTDOORS INC Said property being in the County of Clay, State of Florida. Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder online on the 21st day of February, 2024 at 9:30 A.M at [www.clay.realtaxdeed.com](http://www.clay.realtaxdeed.com). **Dated this 11th day of December, 2023** TARA S . GREEN Clay County Clerk & Comptroller Christina Spadea Deputy Clerk **Legal 94240 Published 12/14/2023, 12/21/2023, 12/28/2023 and 1/4/2024 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.: 1309/2021 Legal Description:** PT OF E1/2 S6T5R24 A/K/A LOT 21A PARK PL AS REC O R 2005 PG 1867 **Parcel ID No.: 060524-005947-005-43 Opening Bid Amount:** \$4,059.73 **Physical Address:** 1773 SPARROW CT , MIDDLEBURG **Classification:** MOBILE HOME **Name in which assessed:** CRAIG A KELSEY (ESTATE OF) 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 21st day of February, 2024 at 9:30 A.M at [www.clay.realtaxdeed.com](http://www.clay.realtaxdeed.com). **Dated this 11th day of December, 2023** TARA S . GREEN Clay County Clerk & Comptroller Christina Spadea Deputy Clerk **Legal 94239 Published 12/14/2023, 12/21/2023, 12/28/2023 and 1/4/2024 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.: 1503/2021 Legal Description:** LOT 5 BLK 67 JACKSONVILLE SO UNIT 2 AS REC O R 552 PG 119 **Parcel ID No.: 160524-005954-340-00 Opening Bid Amount:** \$1,924.69 **Physical Address:** 2219 COSMOS AVE., MIDDLEBURG **Classification:** VACANT RESIDENTIAL

**Name in which assessed:** MAXINE ESTELLE DICKERSON P/R ALDA DICKERSON BORDER(ESTATE OF) 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 21st day of February, 2024 at 9:30 A.M at [www.clay.realtaxdeed.com](http://www.clay.realtaxdeed.com). **Dated this 12th day of December, 2023** TARA S . GREEN Clay County Clerk & Comptroller Christina Spadea Deputy Clerk **Legal 94238 Published 12/14/2023, 12/21/2023, 12/28/2023 and 1/4/2024 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** BUFFALO BILL LLC, the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows: **Certificate No.: 488/2017 Legal Description:** LOT 142 SILVER SANDS ESTATES AS REC O R 359 PG 376,636 PG 33,2995 **PG 2008 & 3475 PG 888 Parcel ID No.: 140823-001530-002-00 Opening Bid Amount:** \$2,714.26 **Physical Address:** 5685 SILVER SANDS CIR , KEYSTONE HEIGHTS **Classification:** VACANT RESIDENTIAL **Name in which assessed:** ROBERTA JO ORTON ET AL, ROBERT ORTON, MARY LESLIE RODGERS, AMY JO BENTZ 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 21st day of February, 2024 at 9:30 A.M at [www.clay.realtaxdeed.com](http://www.clay.realtaxdeed.com). **Dated this 11th day of December, 2023** TARA S . GREEN Clay County Clerk & Comptroller Christina Spadea Deputy Clerk **Legal 94237 Published 12/14/2023, 12/21/2023, 12/28/2023 and 1/4/2024 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** BUFFALO BILL LLC, the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows: **Certificate No.: 489/2017 Legal Description:** LOT 143 SILVER SANDS ESTATES AS REC O R 359 PG 376,636 PG 33,2995 **PG 2008 & 3475 PG 888 Parcel ID No.: 140823-001530-003-00 Opening Bid Amount:** \$2,723.97 **Physical Address:** 5683 SILVER SANDS CIR , KEYSTONE HEIGHTS **Classification:** VACANT RESIDENTIAL **Name in which assessed:** ROBERTA JO ORTON ET AL, ROBERT ORTON, MARY LESLIE RODGERS, AMY JO BENTZ 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 21st day of February, 2024 at 9:30 A.M at [www.clay.realtaxdeed.com](http://www.clay.realtaxdeed.com). **Dated this 11th day of December, 2023** TARA S . GREEN Clay County Clerk & Comptroller Christina Spadea Deputy Clerk **Legal 94236 Published 12/14/2023, 12/21/2023, 12/28/2023 and 1/4/2024 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** BUFFALO BILL LLC, the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows: **Certificate No.: 496/2017 Legal Description:** LOT 162 SILVER SANDS ESTATES AS REC O R 359 PG 369,181 PGS 1772-1773,2727 PG 1044,2995 PG 2008 & 3475 PG 888 **Parcel ID No.: 140823-001532-002-00 Opening Bid Amount:** \$2,704.55 **Physical Address:** 5634 E OVERLOOK DR , KEYSTONE HEIGHTS **Classification:** VACANT RESIDENTIAL **Name in which assessed:** ROBERTA JO ORTON ET AL, ROBERT ORTON, MARY LESLIE RODGERS, AMY JO BENTZ 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 21st day of February, 2024 at 9:30 A.M at [www.clay.realtaxdeed.com](http://www.clay.realtaxdeed.com). **Dated this 11th day of December, 2023**

TARA S . GREEN Clay County Clerk & Comptroller Christina Spadea Deputy Clerk **Legal 94235 Published 12/14/2023, 12/21/2023, 12/28/2023 and 1/4/2024 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** BUFFALO BILL LLC, the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows: **Certificate No.: 486/2017 Legal Description:** LOT 140 SILVER SANDS ESTATE AS REC O R 359 PG 369,181 PGS 1772-1773,2727 PG 1044,2995 PG 2008 & 3475 PG 888 **Parcel ID No.: 140823-001530-000-00 Opening Bid Amount:** \$2,694.84 **Physical Address:** 5689 SILVER SANDS CIR , KEYSTONE HEIGHTS **Classification:** VACANT RESIDENTIAL **Name in which assessed:** ROBERTA JO ORTON ETAL, ROBERT ORTON, MARY LESLIE RODGERS, AMY JO BENTZ 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 21st day of February, 2024 at 9:30 A.M at [www.clay.realtaxdeed.com](http://www.clay.realtaxdeed.com). **Dated this 11th day of December, 2023** TARA S . GREEN Clay County Clerk & Comptroller Christina Spadea Deputy Clerk **Legal 94234 Published 12/14/2023, 12/21/2023, 12/28/2023 and 1/4/2024 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** BUFFALO BILL LLC, the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows: **Certificate No.: 487/2017 Legal Description:** LOT 141 SILVER SANDS ESTATES AS REC O R 359 PG 376,636 PG 33,2995 **PG 2008 & 3475 PG 888 Parcel ID No.: 140823-001530-001-00 Opening Bid Amount:** \$2,694.84 **Physical Address:** 5687 SILVER SANDS CIR , KEYSTONE HEIGHTS **Classification:** VACANT RESIDENTIAL **Name in which assessed:** ROBERTA JO ORTON ET AL, ROBERT ORTON, MARY LESLIE RODGERS, AMY JO BENTZ 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 21st day of February, 2024 at 9:30 A.M at [www.clay.realtaxdeed.com](http://www.clay.realtaxdeed.com). **Dated this 11th day of December, 2023** TARA S . GREEN Clay County Clerk & Comptroller Christina Spadea Deputy Clerk **Legal 94233 Published 12/14/2023, 12/21/2023, 12/28/2023 and 1/4/2024 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** BUFFALO BILL LLC, the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows: **Certificate No.: 515/2017 Legal Description:** LOT 274 SILVER SANDS ESTATES AS REC O R 748 PG 303,1606 PG 994 & 2257 PG 325 **Parcel ID No.: 140823-001543-004-00 Opening Bid Amount:** \$2,519.23 **Physical Address:** 5757 W OVERLOOK DR , KEYSTONE HEIGHTS **Classification:** VACANT RESIDENTIAL **Name in which assessed:** ANN SCOTT, LEWIS BURCH 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 21st day of February, 2024 at 9:30 A.M at [www.clay.realtaxdeed.com](http://www.clay.realtaxdeed.com). **Dated this 11th day of December, 2023** TARA S . GREEN Clay County Clerk & Comptroller Christina Spadea Deputy Clerk **Legal 94232 Published 12/14/2023, 12/21/2023, 12/28/2023 and 1/4/2024 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** BUFFALO BILL LLC, the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows: **Certificate No.: 854/2017 Legal Description:** LOT 20 BLK 80 HIGHRIDGE ESTATE AS REC O R 360 PG 505 **Parcel ID No.: 220823-003876-000-00 Opening Bid Amount:** \$1,962.43 **Physical Address:** 6114 HUNTER AVE , KEYSTONE HEIGHTS **Classification:** VACANT RESIDENTIAL **Name in which assessed:** ISADORE MOSCOVITZ, C/O ARLENE SHAIN-BROWN 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 21st day of February, 2024 at 9:30 A.M at [www.clay.realtaxdeed.com](http://www.clay.realtaxdeed.com). **Dated this 11th day of December, 2023** TARA S . GREEN Clay County Clerk & Comptroller Christina Spadea Deputy Clerk **Legal 94231 Published 12/14/2023, 12/21/2023, 12/28/2023 and 1/4/2024 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** BUFFALO BILL LLC, the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows: **Certificate No.: 1521/2019 Legal Description:** LOT 4 BLK 110 JACKSONVILLE SOUTH UNIT 2 AS REC O R 642 PG 278 **Parcel ID No.: 160524-005955-345-00 Opening Bid Amount:** \$3,057.06 **Physical Address:** 2530 COSMOS AVE., MIDDLEBURG **Classification:** VACANT RESIDENTIAL **Name in which assessed:** THOMAS GIGLIO, JEANETTE GIGLIO 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 21st day of February, 2024 at 9:30 A.M at [www.clay.realtaxdeed.com](http://www.clay.realtaxdeed.com). **Dated this 11th day of December, 2023** TARA S . GREEN Clay County Clerk & Comptroller Christina Spadea Deputy Clerk **Legal 94230 Published 12/14/2023, 12/21/2023, 12/28/2023 and 1/4/2024 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**

The online bidding and auction for Storage Rentals of America, 369 Blanding Blvd. will be held online at [lockerfox.com](http://lockerfox.com) through January 18, 2024, at 11:00AM. The entire contents of the following units will be sold to satisfy a lien and other charges according to FL Statutes 83.801. PERSONAL PROPERTY/HOUSEHOLD ITEMS: Unit # Tenant or Business Name D51 JUSTIN TIDWELL E05 RAYMOND VILLA E08 MARTHA CORNWELL H01 VERNON WILLIAMS H20 LUCAS COLON J10 EVELYN ROBINSON J42 ENVINSON PATRIOT, LLC L02 LEGEND LANEAR Total Units: 8 Sale being held to satisfy Landlords' lien. The seller reserves the right to reject any/all bids and to withdraw any unit from sale. CASH ONLY. Contents to be removed within 48 hours. Storage Rentals of America 369 Blanding Blvd. Orange Park, FL 32073 904-977-6400 **Legal 94006 Published 12/28/2023 and 1/4/2024 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**

To satisfy the owner's storage lien, KO Storage LLC will sell at public lien sale on January 17, 2024. The personal property in the below-listed units, which may include but are not limited to: Household goods, boxes/totes/bags, clothing, bedding, tools and toys. The public sale of these items will begin at 10AM on January 10, 2024 and end at 10AM on January 17, 2024. The public sale will take place on [www.storageexpress.com](http://www.storageexpress.com). **KO Storage of Keystone Heights - 1029 State Rte 100, 1029 FL-100, Keystone Heights FL 32656, (952) 314-7121 Time: 10:00AM CST**



CLAY COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES

K059, Mitchell-Adams, Lisa, K066, Matthews, Lisa, K085, Adkison, Tommy, K112, Lawson, Destini, K163, Mitchell-Adams, Lisa  
**KO Storage of Keystone Heights - 7350 State Rte 100, 7350 FL-100, Keystone Heights FL 32656, (952) 314-7121**  
**Time: 10:00AM CST**  
 KM018, Ewing, Rae  
 Public sale terms, rules, and regulations will be made available on www.storage-treasures.com. All sales are subject to cancellation. We reserve the right to refuse any bid. Payment must be by credit/debit card, we do not accept checks or cash. Buyers must secure the units with their own personal locks. To claim tax-exempt status, original RESALE certificates for each space purchased is required. By KO Storage LLC, 10301 Wayzata Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55305. (952)-314-7121.  
**Legal 93843 Published 12/21/2023 and 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**Meeting Dates of the Clay County Utility Authority**

The Board of Supervisors of the Clay County Utility Authority will meet at 2:00 P.M. in Regular Session on the following dates in the Board Room at the Clay County Utility Authority, 3176 Old Jennings Road, Middleburg, Florida.

**January**  
 Tuesday, January 2  
 Tuesday, January 16  
**February**  
 Tuesday, February 6  
 Tuesday, February 20  
**March**  
 Tuesday, March 5  
 Wednesday, March 20  
**April**  
 Tuesday, April 2  
 Tuesday, April 16  
**May**  
 Tuesday, May 7  
 Tuesday, May 21  
**June**  
 Tuesday, June 4  
 Tuesday, June 18  
**July**  
 Tuesday, July 2  
 Tuesday, July 16  
**August**  
 Tuesday, August 6  
 Wednesday, August 21  
**September**  
 Tuesday, September 3  
 Tuesday, September 17  
**October**  
 Tuesday, October 1  
 Tuesday, October 15  
**November**  
 Wednesday, November 6  
 Tuesday, November 19  
**December**  
 Tuesday, December 3  
 Tuesday, December 17  
 \*Conflict with Elections, CCUAs office is a polling place

The Audit/Finance and/or the Personnel Committee of the Clay County Utility Authority will meet at 1:00 P.M. in the Conference or Board Room at the same location on the dates stated above on an as needed basis.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person needing a special accommodation to participate in this matter, should contact the Clay County Utility Authority by mail at 3176 Old Jennings Road, Middleburg, Florida 32068 or by telephone at (904) 213-2464, no later than 7 days prior to the hearing or proceeding for which this notice has been given. Persons requiring auditory assistance may access the foregoing telephone number by contacting the Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8770 (Voice) or 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).

If any person intends to appeal any decision related to this action, such person will need to provide a court reporter at such person's own expense, for a transcript of the proceedings. All interested persons are invited to attend.

For further information, call (904) 213-2464.  
**Legal 93686 Published 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** BUFFALO BILL LLC, the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
**Certificate No.: 1766/2019**  
**Legal Description:** LOT 26 BLK 146 BLACK CREEK PARK UNIT 1 AS REC O R 4123 PG 1368  
**Parcel ID No.:** 320524-006698-466-00  
**Opening Bid Amount:** \$2,185.87  
**Physical Address:** 5287 CHICORY CIR , MIDDLEBURG  
**Classification:** VACANT RESIDENTIAL  
**Name in which assessed:** CODY AUGUSTIN  
 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 21st day of February, 2024 at 9:30 A.M at www.clay.realtaxdeed.com.  
**Dated this 4th day of December, 2023**  
 TARA S . GREEN  
 Clay County Clerk & Comptroller  
 Clay County, Florida  
 By: Christina Spadea  
 Deputy Clerk  
**Legal 93682 Published 12/7/2023, 12/14/2023, 12/21/2023 and 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

Deputy Clerk  
**Legal 93685 Published 12/7/2023, 12/14/2023, 12/21/2023, and 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** BUFFALO BILL LLC, the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
**Certificate No.:** 1647/2018  
**Legal Description:** PT OF SEC 25 & 26 A/K/A LOT 13 B MAGNOLIA WOODS AS REC O R 2085  
**PGS 1222 & 1228 & 2085 PG 1230**  
**Parcel ID No.:** 250524-006593-038-04  
**Opening Bid Amount:** \$6,212.55  
**Physical Address:** SPRING DR , MID-DLEBURG  
**Classification:** VACANT RESIDENTIAL  
**Name in which assessed:** SIIM SITAM  
 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 21st day of February, 2024 at 9:30 A.M at www.clay.realtaxdeed.com.  
**Dated this 4th day of December, 2023**  
 TARA S . GREEN  
 Clay County Clerk & Comptroller  
 Clay County, Florida  
 By: Christina Spadea  
 Deputy Clerk  
**Legal 93684 Published 12/7/2023, 12/14/2023, 12/21/2023 and 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** DEL REY PACHECO, the holder of the following certificate 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.:** 812/2017  
**Legal Description:** LOT 13 BLK 71 HIGHRIDGE ESTATE AS REC O R 1923 PG 1711  
**Parcel ID No.:** 220823-003650-000-00  
**Opening Bid Amount:** \$1,701.38  
**Physical Address:** LEHIGH DR , KEYSTONE HEIGHTS  
**Classification:** VACANT RESIDENTIAL  
**Name in which assessed:** BURGREEN ENTERPRISES INC  
 Said property being in the County of Clay, State of Florida.  
 Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder online on the 21st day of February, 2024 at 9:30 A.M at www.clay.realtaxdeed.com.  
**Dated this 4th day of December, 2023**  
 TARA S . GREEN  
 Clay County Clerk & Comptroller  
 Clay County, Florida  
 By: Christina Spadea  
 Deputy Clerk  
**Legal 93680 Published 12/7/2023, 12/14/2023, 12/21/2023 and 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** BUFFALO BILL LLC, the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
**Certificate No.:** 1890/2018  
**Legal Description:** LOT 345 OAK FOREST AS REC O R 556 PG 671  
**Parcel ID No.:** 100824-006919-424-00  
**Opening Bid Amount:** \$6,953.85  
**Physical Address:** 5523 INDIAN TRL , KEYSTONE HEIGHTS  
**Classification:** VACANT RESIDENTIAL  
**Name in which assessed:** BIENVENIDO D MERCADO  
 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 21st day of February, 2024 at 9:30 A.M at www.clay.realtaxdeed.com.  
**Dated this 4th day of December, 2023**  
 TARA S . GREEN  
 Clay County Clerk & Comptroller  
 Clay County, Florida  
 By: Christina Spadea  
 Deputy Clerk  
**Legal 93683 Published 12/7/2023, 12/14/2023, 12/21/2023 and 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** BLUEBIRD PROPERTY HOLDINGS LLC, the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
**Certificate No.:** 830/2017  
**Legal Description:** LOT 24 BLK 76 HIGHRIDGE ESTATE AS REC O R 3148 PG 1025  
**Parcel ID No.:** 210823-003768-000-00  
**Opening Bid Amount:** \$1,666.40  
**Physical Address:** 6180 HARVARD AVE , KEYSTONE HEIGHTS  
**Classification:** VACANT RESIDENTIAL  
**Name in which assessed:** ELLA III LLC  
 Said property being in the County of Clay, State of Florida.  
 Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder online on the 21st day of February, 2024 at 9:30 A.M at www.clay.realtaxdeed.com.  
**Dated this 4th day of December, 2023**  
 TARA S . GREEN  
 Clay County Clerk & Comptroller  
 Clay County, Florida  
 By: Christina Spadea  
 Deputy Clerk  
**Legal 93679 Published 12/7/2023, 12/14/2023, 12/21/2023 and 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** BUFFALO BILL LLC, the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
**Certificate No.:** 379/2018  
**Legal Description:** LOT 24 BLK 7 BIG TREE LAKES SEC B AS REC O R 890 PG 626  
**Parcel ID No.:** 140823-001437-476-00  
**Opening Bid Amount:** \$2,217.81  
**Physical Address:** 5876 SEQUOIA , KEYSTONE HEIGHTS  
**Classification:** VACANT RESIDENTIAL  
**Name in which assessed:** LINDA L BURCH  
 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 21st day of February, 2024 at 9:30 A.M at www.clay.realtaxdeed.com.  
**Dated this 4th day of December, 2023**  
 TARA S . GREEN  
 Clay County Clerk & Comptroller  
 Clay County, Florida  
 By: Christina Spadea  
 Deputy Clerk  
**Legal 93682 Published 12/7/2023, 12/14/2023, 12/21/2023 and 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** LORI DENES, LD 401 K PLAN & TRUST, 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.:** 3687/2018  
**Legal Description:** LOTS 19 & 20 BLK 31 OF LAKE GENEVA AS REC O R 3550 PG 786  
**Parcel ID No.:** 280823-021917-007-00  
**Opening Bid Amount:** \$11,244.70  
**Physical Address:** 7730 CYPRESS ST , KEYSTONE HEIGHTS  
**Classification:** MOBILE HOME  
**Name in which assessed:** OMAHA 2011 LLC  
 Said property being in the County of Clay, State of Florida.  
 Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder online on the 21st day of February, 2024 at 9:30 A.M at www.clay.realtaxdeed.com.  
**Dated this 4th day of December, 2023**  
 TARA S . GREEN  
 Clay County Clerk & Comptroller  
 Clay County, Florida  
 By: Christina Spadea  
 Deputy Clerk  
**Legal 93678 Published 12/7/2023, 12/14/2023, 12/21/2023 and 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** DEL REY PACHECO, the holder of the following certificate 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.:** 812/2017  
**Legal Description:** LOT 13 BLK 71 HIGHRIDGE ESTATE AS REC O R 1923 PG 1711  
**Parcel ID No.:** 220823-003650-000-00  
**Opening Bid Amount:** \$1,701.38  
**Physical Address:** LEHIGH DR , KEYSTONE HEIGHTS  
**Classification:** VACANT RESIDENTIAL  
**Name in which assessed:** BURGREEN ENTERPRISES INC  
 Said property being in the County of Clay, State of Florida.  
 Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder online on the 21st day of February, 2024 at 9:30 A.M at www.clay.realtaxdeed.com.  
**Dated this 4th day of December, 2023**  
 TARA S . GREEN  
 Clay County Clerk & Comptroller  
 Clay County, Florida  
 By: Christina Spadea  
 Deputy Clerk  
**Legal 93680 Published 12/7/2023, 12/14/2023, 12/21/2023 and 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** BUFFALO BILL LLC, the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
**Certificate No.:** 1890/2018  
**Legal Description:** LOT 345 OAK FOREST AS REC O R 556 PG 671  
**Parcel ID No.:** 100824-006919-424-00  
**Opening Bid Amount:** \$6,953.85  
**Physical Address:** 5523 INDIAN TRL , KEYSTONE HEIGHTS  
**Classification:** VACANT RESIDENTIAL  
**Name in which assessed:** BIENVENIDO D MERCADO  
 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 21st day of February, 2024 at 9:30 A.M at www.clay.realtaxdeed.com.  
**Dated this 4th day of December, 2023**  
 TARA S . GREEN  
 Clay County Clerk & Comptroller  
 Clay County, Florida  
 By: Christina Spadea  
 Deputy Clerk  
**Legal 93683 Published 12/7/2023, 12/14/2023, 12/21/2023 and 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** BLUEBIRD PROPERTY HOLDINGS LLC, the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
**Certificate No.:** 830/2017  
**Legal Description:** LOT 24 BLK 76 HIGHRIDGE ESTATE AS REC O R 3148 PG 1025  
**Parcel ID No.:** 210823-003768-000-00  
**Opening Bid Amount:** \$1,666.40  
**Physical Address:** 6180 HARVARD AVE , KEYSTONE HEIGHTS  
**Classification:** VACANT RESIDENTIAL  
**Name in which assessed:** ELLA III LLC  
 Said property being in the County of Clay, State of Florida.  
 Unless said certificate shall be redeemed according to law, the property described in such certificate shall be sold to the highest bidder online on the 21st day of February, 2024 at 9:30 A.M at www.clay.realtaxdeed.com.  
**Dated this 4th day of December, 2023**  
 TARA S . GREEN  
 Clay County Clerk & Comptroller  
 Clay County, Florida  
 By: Christina Spadea  
 Deputy Clerk  
**Legal 93679 Published 12/7/2023, 12/14/2023, 12/21/2023 and 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** BUFFALO BILL LLC, the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
**Certificate No.:** 1929/2019  
**Legal Description:** PT OF W1/2 A/K/A PRCL 10 AS REC O R 804 PG 10,4091 PG 1399 & 4098 PG 891  
**Parcel ID No.:** 160724-006901-022-00  
**Opening Bid Amount:** \$2,965.33  
**Physical Address:** 5331 STATE ROAD 21 , KEYSTONE HEIGHTS  
**Classification:** VACANT RESIDENTIAL  
**Name in which assessed:** JOAN DAVIS (HEIRS) C/O CANDICE LEE DAVIS P/R  
 Said property being in the County of Clay, State of Florida.

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** BUFFALO BILL LLC, the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property,

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 21st day of February, 2024 at 9:30 A.M at www.clay.realtaxdeed.com.  
**Dated this 4th day of December, 2023**  
 TARA S . GREEN  
 Clay County Clerk & Comptroller  
 Clay County, Florida  
 By: Christina Spadea  
 Deputy Clerk  
**Legal 93678 Published 12/7/2023, 12/14/2023, 12/21/2023 and 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** BUFFALO BILL LLC, the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
**Certificate No.:** 1835/2019  
**Legal Description:** LOT 25 BLK 202 BLACK CREEK PARK UNIT 2 AS REC O R 2855 PG 570  
**Parcel ID No.:** 350524-006699-820-00  
**Opening Bid Amount:** \$2,169.15  
**Physical Address:** 2790 TANSY AVE , MIDDLEBURG  
**Classification:** VACANT RESIDENTIAL  
**Name in which assessed:** JOSEPH M G PRINSTON  
 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 21st day of February, 2024 at 9:30 A.M at www.clay.realtaxdeed.com.  
**Dated this 4th day of December, 2023**  
 TARA S . GREEN  
 Clay County Clerk & Comptroller  
 Clay County, Florida  
 By: Christina Spadea  
 Deputy Clerk  
**Legal 93662 Published 12/7/2023, 12/14/2023, 12/21/2023 and 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** CINDA M WITTMAN, 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.:** 314/2021  
**Legal Description:** LOT 23 BLK 11 BIG TREE LAKES SEC C AS REC O R 872 PG 379  
**Parcel ID No.:** 130823-001437-863-35  
**Opening Bid Amount:** \$2,293.24  
**Physical Address:** 5712 CARIBBEAN CIR , KEYSTONE HEIGHTS  
**Classification:** VACANT RESIDENTIAL  
**W/SPECIAL FEATURES ORYARD ITEM**  
**Name in which assessed:** ALMA JEAN TAYLOR (ESTATE OF), C/O DALE JOHNSON  
 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 21st day of February, 2024 at 9:30 A.M at www.clay.realtaxdeed.com.  
**Dated this 4th day of December, 2023**  
 TARA S . GREEN  
 Clay County Clerk & Comptroller  
 Clay County, Florida  
 By: Christina Spadea  
 Deputy Clerk  
**Legal 93661 Published 12/7/2023, 12/14/2023, 12/21/2023 and 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** CINDA M WITTMAN, 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.:** 314/2021  
**Legal Description:** LOT 23 BLK 11 BIG TREE LAKES SEC C AS REC O R 872 PG 379  
**Parcel ID No.:** 130823-001437-863-35  
**Opening Bid Amount:** \$2,293.24  
**Physical Address:** 5712 CARIBBEAN CIR , KEYSTONE HEIGHTS  
**Classification:** VACANT RESIDENTIAL  
**W/SPECIAL FEATURES ORYARD ITEM**  
**Name in which assessed:** ALMA JEAN TAYLOR (ESTATE OF), C/O DALE JOHNSON  
 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 21st day of February, 2024 at 9:30 A.M at www.clay.realtaxdeed.com.  
**Dated this 4th day of December, 2023**  
 TARA S . GREEN  
 Clay County Clerk & Comptroller  
 Clay County, Florida  
 By: Christina Spadea  
 Deputy Clerk  
**Legal 93661 Published 12/7/2023, 12/14/2023, 12/21/2023 and 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** CITRUS CAPITAL HOLDINGS LLC, the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
**Certificate No.:** 3748/2020  
**Legal Description:** UNIT 1321 & PT OF COMMONS AREA O R 809 PG 632 RAVINES RESORT CONDO CLUSTER 13 AS REC O R 3826 PG 1516  
**Parcel ID No.:** 130524-021388-055-25  
**Opening Bid Amount:** \$2,545.39  
**Physical Address:** 2960 RAVINES RD 1321 , MIDDLEBURG  
**Classification:** CONDO  
**Name in which assessed:** ROY JAMES DODGEN III  
 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 21st day of February, 2024 at 9:30 A.M at www.clay.realtaxdeed.com.  
**Dated this 4th day of December, 2023**  
 TARA S . GREEN  
 Clay County Clerk & Comptroller  
 Clay County, Florida  
 By: Christina Spadea  
 Deputy Clerk

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** BUFFALO BILL LLC, the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
**Certificate No.:** 379/2018  
**Legal Description:** LOT 24 BLK 7 BIG TREE LAKES SEC B AS REC O R 890 PG 626  
**Parcel ID No.:** 140823-001437-476-00  
**Opening Bid Amount:** \$2,217.81  
**Physical Address:** 5876 SEQUOIA , KEYSTONE HEIGHTS  
**Classification:** VACANT RESIDENTIAL  
**Name in which assessed:** LINDA L BURCH  
 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 21st day of February, 2024 at 9:30 A.M at www.clay.realtaxdeed.com.  
**Dated this 4th day of December, 2023**  
 TARA S . GREEN  
 Clay County Clerk & Comptroller  
 Clay County, Florida  
 By: Christina Spadea  
 Deputy Clerk

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:** BUFFALO BILL LLC, the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property,

**Legal 93660 Published 12/7/2023, 12/14/2023, 12/21/2023 and 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA**

The Board of County Commissioners (the Board) of Clay County, Florida, will hold its Regular Meetings for 2024 on the dates listed below. These meetings will be held in the Board's Meeting Room on the fourth floor of the Clay County Administration Building located at 477 Houston Street, Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043. All Regular Meetings of the Board commence at 4:00 P.M., unless otherwise posted.

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

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

**2024 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE**

January 9  
 January 23  
 February 13  
 February 27  
 March 12  
 March 26  
 April 9  
 April 23  
 May 14  
 May 28  
 June 11  
 June 25  
 July 9  
 July 23  
 August 13  
 August 27  
 September 10  
 September 24  
 October 8  
 October 22  
 November 12  
 November 26  
 December 10  
**Legal 94412 Published 12/21/2023 and 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

NCRS gives notice of lien and intent to sell the following vehicles.  
 at 7077 SR 21 Keystone Heights, FL 32656, 904-801-6000 at date and time listed below:

NCRS AUCTION  
 January 25, 2024 @ 10:00 AM  
 2012 FORD VIN# 1FT8W3B76CEB94759  
 2008 CHEV VIN# 2G1W558K989227575  
 2016 ISU VIN# 54DC4J1BXXG802542  
 Pursuant to subsection 713-78 of the FL Statute, NCRS Towing reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.  
**Legal 95478 Published 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**PUBLIC AUCTION**

The following vehicles will be sold at public auction for towing and storage costs, G & M Towing, Inc. reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids.  
 1996 FORD VIN # 1FMDU32P4T-ZA10687  
 2016 MERCEDES VIN # 5SSWF4JB4GU173899  
 Auction will be held at 9:00 AM 01/15/2024.  
 G & M Towing, Inc, located at 4995 Highway 17 S, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043.  
**Legal 95477 Published 12/28/2023 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper**

**NOTICE OF ACTION**

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION  
 CASE NO.: 2022-CC-001793  
 RBC TRAILERS 2, LLC, Plaintiff,  
 vs.  
 JIMMIE LEE MARTIN III, Defendant.  
 TO: JIMMIE LEE MARTIN III  
 8876 A C SKINNER PARKWAY, UNIT 4503, JACKSONVILLE, FL 32256  
 YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for damages for breach of contract relating to a new triple crown dump trailer, has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written





# Classifieds for Clay County

Serving Keystone Heights, Orange Park, Fleming Island, Green Cove Springs, Oakleaf, Penney Farms & Middleburg

**904-579-2154**  
**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 &

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

### Old Vintage Electronics Wanted

### OLD VINTAGE ELECTRONICS

\*Audio Equipment  
\*Ham & Military Radios  
\*Vacuum Tubes  
\*Test Equipment  
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**www.Cash4audio.com**

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DONATE YOUR VEHICLE to fund the SEARCH FOR MISSING CHILDREN. FAST FREE PICKUP. 24 hour response. Running or not. Maximum Tax Deduction and No Emission Test Required! Call 24/7: 866-471-2576

### Home Improvements

NEED NEW WINDOWS? Drafty rooms? Chipped or damaged frames? Need outside noise reduction? New, energy efficient windows may be the answer! Call for a consultation & FREE quote today. 1-888-993-3693. You will be asked for the zip code of the property when connecting.

### Medical Supplies

LOW COST HEALTH INSURANCE. Government subsidies available for families earning \$111,000 or less a year. See if you qualify. Call for your free quote! 1-888-966-2298

ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 844-958-2473.



Call today and receive a **FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF**

**SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB**  
**1-855-417-1306**

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082959 0063445

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PROTECT YOUR HOME from pests safely and affordably. Pest, rodent, termite and mosquito control. Call for a quote or inspection today 888-498-0446

AGING ROOF? NEW HOMEOWNER? STORM DAMAGE? You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work. Fast, free estimate. Financing available. Call 1-888-967-1158 Have zip code of property ready when calling!

PROTECT YOUR HOME from pests safely and affordably. Roaches, Bed Bugs, Rodent, Termite, Spiders and other pests. Locally owned and affordable. Call for a quote or inspection today 1-877-644-9799 Have zip code of property ready.

WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION: A small amount of water can lead to major damage and mold growth in your home. Our professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-866-782-4060 Have zip code.

UPDATE YOUR HOME with Beautiful New Blinds & Shades. FREE in-home estimates make it convenient to shop from home. Professional in-

stallation. Top quality - Made in the USA. Call for free consultation: 866-636-1910. Ask about our specials!

Don't Pay For Covered Home Repairs Again! Our home warranty covers ALL MAJOR SYSTEMS AND APPLIANCES. We stand by our service and if we can't fix it, we'll replace it! Pick the plan that fits your budget! Call: 1-888-521-2793

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See MLB games in Cincinnati, Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Toronto, Boston & New York Yankees  
Visit Baseball, Hockey, Basketball & Pro Football  
Rock & Roll Halls of Fame. Guided Tour of Manhattan

**August 2-12, 2024**

\$3500/person based on double hotel occupancy. Quality motor coach, hotels & game tickets

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**Russell's Feed & Farm**  
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904-291-5725

It's not just a generator.  
It's a power move.

Receive a free 7-year warranty with qualifying purchase\* - valued at \$735.

Call 866-643-0438 to schedule your free quote!

\*Terms and Conditions apply.



**To inquire about placing an ad in this section, call 579-2154**

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Aging Roof? New Homeowner? Got Storm Damage? You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work. Fast, free estimate. Financing available. Call 1-888-878-9091

Water damage cleanup & restoration: A small amount of water can lead to major damage and mold growth in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-888-872-2809 Miscellaneous

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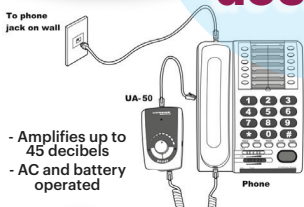
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# Could it be a hernia?

## 8 silent signs

The signs of a hernia are not always obvious. Most common is a bulge in the abdomen, but here are some other symptoms that you may be more likely to ignore:

- Pain in the pelvic area
- Nausea and vomiting
- Fever
- Constipation
- Feeling full and bloated
- Heartburn
- Weakness and muscle fatigue in the upper leg or groin
- Pain when lifting or coughing

If left untreated, your hernia could grow, get more painful, or even become dangerous at some point. And a hernia won't go away on its own. The good news is today's minimally invasive hernia treatment options, including robotic-assisted surgery, can offer you fast recovery.

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