

CLAY TODAY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2024

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– INSERT

VOLUME 62, NO. 1 \$1.00

Clay County redefines which recyclables will be accepted


Glass, some plastics, paper won't be collected curbside or at convenience centers

By Don Coble
don@claytodayonline.com

CLAY COUNTY – Faced with passing the increasing costs of recycling materials to residents or scrapping the program, the Board of County Commissioners worked up a compromise.

Starting immediately, the county's En-

RECYCLE THAT TREE



Christmas is over and you need to get rid of your tree, where to take it.

– Page 11

vironmental Services will continue to collect some recyclables with their weekly curbside pickup, and at its convenience centers, there are new guidelines for what is acceptable.

According to the Director of Environment Services Milton Towns, materials like glass, some plastics, plastic bags, Styro-foam, loose paper and food containers are now prohibited.

Corrugated cardboard, water, soft drinks, milk, laundry bottles and metal

SEE RECYCLE, 11



STAFF PHOTO BY DON COBLE

Waste Management's Fabian Billett will continue to collect high-value recyclables. His team will leave tags on recycling bins containing prohibitive items to inform homeowners that these items should not be thrown out.



Vice Mayor Susana Thompson and Orange Park Councilman Daniel Cobreiro

Town of Orange Park

Vice Mayor Thompson, Councilman Cobreiro resign

By Lee Wardlaw
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ORANGE PARK – The new year has brought new problems for Orange Park Town Hall after Two town council members said they will not continue their terms into 2024.

Vice Mayor Susana Thompson and Councilman Daniel Cobreiro tendered their resignations for personal and financial reasons, respectively.

Cobreiro resigned specifically in response to Form 6, a new law that went into effect on Jan. 1. "This level of personal financial information required to be

publicly disclosed under this law poses significant concerns for me, particularly regarding privacy and personal security," he wrote in his letter, signed Dec. 27.

Form 6 requires local elected councils and mayors to detail net worth, assets such as bank balances and vehicles, liabilities like loans and credit card balances, and any income sources exceeding \$1,000. As a result, dozens of council members have resigned throughout Florida.

Cobreiro was appointed to Seat 3 in May. In his resignation letter, he said it

SEE RESIGN, 13

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GCS City Council hits the new year ground running

Harbor Road Wastewater expansion project finally put back on track

By Jack Randall
jack@claytodayonline.com

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – A contractor employed by the city to complete the Harbor Road Wastewater Treatment Plant suddenly disappeared last year before the work was done. The staff struggled to get a hold of the contractor, a Williams Industrial Service Group provider and grappled with what to do with the half-finished, half-funded construction site.

“The contractor walked off the site,” said City Attorney L.J. Arnold. “Never in my 50 years of experience have I seen a contractor go belly up like that. It’s really unheard of. So far, (the project) has been a slow process. It’s been pulling teeth slowly.”

Williams Industrial Services Group filed for bankruptcy and sold the remainder of its assets to EnergySolutions for \$60 million.

However, EnergySolutions opted not to acquire the operations connected to Williams’ water contracts in Florida and Texas. This put the city council in an awkward position. Should the city hold out hope that



Vice Mayor Steven Kelley led a proclamation that commemorated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for his “nonviolent leadership, vision for quality for all and desire to serve his fellow man.” Martin Luther King Day will be celebrated on Jan. 15, his birthday.

operations will resume? Should the city start from scratch?

Last Tuesday, the city council voted in favor of a takeover agreement between Green Cove Springs and Somp



STAFF PHOTOS BY JACK RANDALL

The Harbor Road Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion project has been an ongoing endeavor that was originally expected to be completed in 2023 last year.

tional Companies, the surety of the wastewater treatment plant’s expansion project.

As the surety for the project, Somp has pledged assets to financially reimburse any damages or disrepair due to the expansion project’s unexpected hiatus.

The takeover agreement funded by the surety has two phases. First, a contractor will be hired to assess the construction site and discern what is salvageable and what steps need to be taken to finish the expansion project. Next, a contractor will be hired to follow those steps to finish the job.

City Council Member Ed Gaw expressed

concern the city would be paying more than it needed to through this agreement. City Attorney Jim Arnold said the city is as legally protected as possible. With the approval of the takeover Agreement, Somp can begin the process of hiring a contractor to assess the construction site.

This marks the city’s first concrete steps to getting the Harbor Road plant expansion project back on track, and not a moment too soon. Millions of dollars of grant funding are on the line.

SEE GREEN COVE, 18



By Jack Randall
claytodayonline.com

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Keith Gross, a challenger against Sen. Rick Scott, made his pitch for why Clay County should vote for him in the Republican Senate Primary on Aug. 20.

Gross recently bounced around Florida in a state-wide tour. On the way from Jacksonville to Miami, he first stopped for coffee at the Urban Bean in Orange Park. Then, he swung by Green Cove Springs, the



Keith Gross

Keith Gross mounts challenge for Rick Scott’s Senate seat

county seat, for an interview with Clay Today.

“You’ve got to be everywhere,” Gross said, referring to his senate campaign.

“Clay County is one of the fastest growing counties for a reason. Low crime. Low taxes. Great schools. Great scenery. Republicans run it, and I don’t think that’s by coincidence.”

He understands that he’s fighting an uphill battle. Scott has been a household name for many Floridians for many years.

“For better or worse,” he said. “We cannot continue to allow establishment politicians to line their pockets and spend recklessly. This will be a decline that we cannot afford.”

Gross argues that he has the conviction to put conservative principles into practice. He cited his background in business, military and law. And he pointed to his character and background.

“I have lived the American dream. Now, it is my time to give back. I was raised

by a single mom. We came from nothing, and yet I was able to escape poverty. The American dream is slipping away. Freedom makes the American dream possible. The bigger the federal government is, the more spending, the more inflation, the less freedom.”

Gross criticized Scott’s 11-point plan, namely his decision to “sunset” federal programs. Which, he argues, would realistically cut them. Medicare and Social Security are federal programs that theoretically could have been placed on the chopping block.

Gross said he would be committed to cutting federal programs but do it more sustainably.

“I would address the duplicative agencies such as the Department of Education at the federal level. Education is better left to the states and best left to the parents,” Gross said.

Gross once was a Democrat who ran for a local office. Now, he’s running as a

Republican.

“Ronald Reagan and Donald Trump were once Democrats,” he said.

He said recent political developments have guided a gradual change in his affiliation. He pointed to the Supreme Court decision in the “District of Columbia v. Heller” case as one of many turning points.

He supported the court’s ruling that upheld 2nd Amendment rights. He was especially against what Hillary Clinton said during her 2016 presidential campaign: “The police should have weapons, but private citizens should not.”

“It’s time to send someone to Washington to actually promote freedom. I mean, the legislature is a nursing home at this point,” he said.

“I’m not backed by any PAC (political action committee). Therefore, my allegiance is solely to the Floridian people. I have a single, 1-point plan: keep Washington the hell out of our lives.”

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New year means new laws on the books

Move over for emergencies refined; local elected officials now must declare assets of \$1,000 or more

By Don Coble
don@claytodayonline.com

CLAY COUNTY – Not only did residents turn the calendar to 2024 on Jan. 1, but law enforcement has new laws to enforce.

The most prominent law in the wide-ranging transportation bill was the expansion of the “move over” law that requires drivers to move out of lanes next to stopped emergency vehicles.

The new law (HB 425) now mandates drivers either slow or move over a full lane for disabled cars, sanitation and tow trucks, and utility vehicles displaying emergency flashers, flares or signs. If it's not possible to move over one lane, you must drive 20 mph slower than the posted speed limit; if the speed limit is 20 mph, you must travel 5 mph.

The ticket for not moving over is \$158.

Also, mayors and other elected council officials must disclose detailed financial information of each income, asset and liability of \$1,000 or more. They must also provide their most recent federal income tax returns when they qualify for an election.



The governor, lieutenant governor, cabinet and legislative members, state attorneys, public defenders, clerks of circuit courts, tax collectors, property appraisers, supervisors of elections, county commissioners, school superintendents, school board members, judges and expressway authority members were already required to list any asset of \$1,000 or more. The new bill now compels local government officials.

Last year, local officials were required to report their incomes and all assets worth \$10,000 or more before the Dec. 31 deadline. Many council members have called the bill an “overreach.”

Jacksonville Beach City Councilman For Nichols resigned last Saturday instead of meeting the Dec. 31 deadline. The Naples Vice Mayor, four city St. Pete Beach, McIntosh and Belleair Beach council

MOVE OVER LAW

Florida law requires you to move over for law enforcement, emergency, sanitation, utility service, and tow trucks.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024

It is now mandatory for you to move over or slow down when passing a disabled vehicle that is displaying warning or hazard lights, flares, emergency signs, or if one or more persons are visible.

YOU ARE REQUIRED TO...

Move over a full lane.
If you can't move over, slow down to 20 mph under the posted speed limit.

GREEN COVE SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Motorists must move over or slow down when approaching emergency, service or disabled vehicles. If not, they can be ticketed for \$158.

members, three North Palm Beach Village council members, the mayor and a council member in Dunnellon and two Daytona Beach Shores city council members are among the growing group of officials who have resigned.

Here in Clay County, the Town of Orange Park received two letters of resignation. Vice Mayor Susana Thompson quit for personal reasons, and Councilmember Daniel Cobreiro opted to step down instead

SEE LAWS, 10

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How to be a philanthropist when money is tight

By StatePoint Media
For Clay Today

While contributing to a worthwhile cause is a common aspiration, doing so right now may feel unrealistic if you're struggling with your finances.

According to an April 2023 Gallup study, 61% of U.S. adults said recent price increases have caused financial hardship for their household – this is up from 55% in November 2022, and the highest since Gallup's first reading on the measure in November 2021.

"With so many people financially challenged, one may assume that being philanthropic is reserved solely for the wealthy," says Stephanie Buckley, Head of Trust Philanthropic Services for Wells Fargo's Wealth and Investment Management division. "Yet, financial support is just one way of being charitable. If you reframe what philanthropy is, you'll realize you don't have to be ultra-wealthy to give in a meaningful way."

According to Buckley, just about anyone can give one of the Five Ts of Philanthropy, which she explains further here:

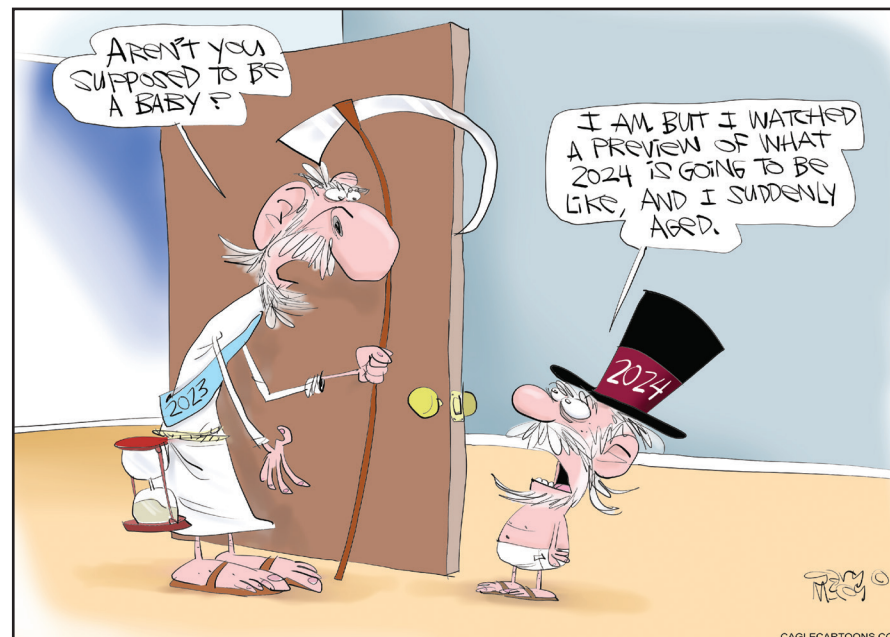
1. Time: volunteer hours, mentoring.
2. Talent: professional, leadership skills.
3. Treasure: donating goods to a non-profit organization.
4. Ties: leveraging your relationships to help others.
5. Testimony: being an advocate of a charity.

No matter how you go about giving back, you can help maximize your impact with these tips from Buckley:

- Share your experiences: did you have a great experience volunteering? Is there a cause that's particularly meaningful to you? Tell your friends and family. Whether you're on a coffee date or at your child's soccer game, spreading the word face-to-face is an effective way of advocating for a charity.
- Comb your closet: you likely have more possessions than you actually need or want. Do a thorough clean-out of your home and donate the items or the profits from the sale of the items to a local non-profit. Not only are you contributing to a worthy cause, but you may gain a tax benefit that doesn't involve opening your wallet. Just be sure to ask for a receipt.
- Pass it on: children will always remember time spent with their family helping others. From planting trees to participating in a walkathon, there are plenty of family-friendly ways to instill the habit of giving back.

SEE MONEY, 5

OPINIONS



Misinformation, disinformation is nothing more than a lie

By Don Coble
Managing Editor

People who knowingly spread misinformation and disinformation are liars.

I've said it before, but my mother always said anyone who tells a half-truth is really telling a complete lie. Those words have never been more accurate.

I had to fact-check a claim this week made by White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre that "Bidenomics" is working because the unemployment rates for Blacks and Hispanics are lower now than when President Joe Biden took office.



Don Coble

That's barely true – and totally misleading if you know the whole story.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the current unemployment rate for Blacks is 5.8% and 4.6% for Hispanics. Those are good numbers, so why did the press secretary play with the facts?

The third quarter unemployment rates in 2019 were a record low, 5.5% for Blacks and 3.9% for Hispanics. That was three months before Donald Trump left office. It was also the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic when millions of workers were laid off, furloughed or died.

Those jobless rates swelled to 11.4% for Blacks and 10.4% for Hispanics in 2020 during the height of the pandemic.

The White House often forgets that 18.1 million people were unemployed in June 2020 by the pandemic. They also don't tell you 158.6 million people had jobs before the pandemic, and 134.63 are working today. When the current administration claims to have created more than 14 million jobs, they should also admit nearly 24 million fewer people are working now than before COVID-19.

That's also the year Biden took office.

So yes, the rates were higher in the final three months of Trump's presidency than they are at present, but only because of COVID-19.

The White House often forgets that 18.1 million people were unemployed in June 2020 by the pandemic. They also don't remind you 158.6 million people had jobs before the pandemic, and 134.63 are working today. When the current administration claims to have created more than 14 million jobs, they should also admit nearly 24 million fewer people are working now than before COVID-19.

None of this is a political comment. It's merely about the truth.

Misinformation isn't always intended to deceive, but the facts can be twisted to change public opinion.

There is a lot of misinformation about our elections. I didn't know that you can only get a mail-in ballot in Florida if you

SEE MISINFORMATION, 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.

Incipient: (in-SIP-ee-unt) an adjective used to describe things that are beginning to come into being or which are to become apparent.

"The study clearly needs to be extended because the most recent data suggest incipient changes in the trends we identified."

This Week in History

Five years ago, 2019

- Keystone Heights joined the passport program of the Florida Trail Association. Hikers passing through could show their passport booklet at the city hall for a stamp, which would grant discounts throughout the city.
- The North Florida Land Trust purchased 465 acres of land surrounding Keystone Heights and Gold Head State Park to preserve longleaf pine sandhills and other endangered ecosystems.

10 years ago, 2014

- The Green Cove Dragway "starts its engine" as a popular racing complex for drag racing, drifting and mud bogging. Due to noise complaints, its lease at Reynolds Park was not renewed, and the track would host its last event in 2017.
- The Islamic Center of Orange Park found a new home for worship on College Drive. Before settling into their new center, they held their Friday prayers at St. Giles Presbyterian Church, which opened its doors to its new Islamic neighbors.

20 years ago, 2004

- Following through on a four-year-old pledge, the Board of County Commissioners handed St. Johns River Community College President Robert L. McClendon a check for \$1.7 million for the construction of the Thrasher-Horne Center for the Arts.
- A grand theft investigation off Jones Creek Road in Keystone Heights led the Clay County Sheriff's Office to uncover a dogfighting ring. Officials found around three dozen pit bulls chained to barrels

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.

Misinformation

from page 4

request one. And when it's returned, the signature on the ballot must match the voter registration card. If it doesn't match, the elections office will call the voter.

Did you know there are no loose ballots in Clay County? I didn't. They're only printed when one is requested for mail-in voting or when the polls are open. That also ensures there aren't more votes than ballots printed.

It was more challenging to misinform people before the advent of the internet and social media. It's too easy to use your cellphone to get your news. The problem is that you don't know if it's fake or credible. What's more alarming is few check the facts.

There's also disinformation used to convince people on purpose. They are hoaxes and lies to increase business or create a distraction.

One of the most memorable and funniest examples of disinformation examples came when San Francisco's KTVU news

thought it got credible information from NTSB on the pilots of Asiana Flight 214 that crashed on approach to San Francisco in 2013. The anchorwoman identified some of the crew as "Captain Sum Ting Wong," "Wi Tu Lo" and "Bang Ding Ow."

Another case of disinformation that suckered millions in 2022 when TikTok video reported Walt Disney World had lowered its drinking age to 18 as part of its ongoing dispute with Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis. The story was repeated during a local newscast.

It was a total ruse.

According to statista.com, 38.2% of Americans have shared fake news, believing the story was true. Also, 67% said misinformation campaigns have caused them confusion, mistrust and doubt of the media.

A story from science.org reported fake news spreads faster than accurate news on X. In fact, 70% of the site users admitted to sharing fake stories.

Be suspicious of imposters. Check your facts. Question everything and rely on your instincts. Evaluate the motives behind gossip or an online post. If the story sounds too bizarre, discount it until you research the facts.

Petco Love gives Clay County Animal Services \$50,000 grant

For Clay Today



GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Clay County Animal Services will receive a \$50,000 grant investment from national nonprofit Petco Love in support of their lifesaving work for pets in Clay County. This lifesaving investment will help CCAS build a new animal shelter.

Petco Love is a national nonprofit leading change for pets by harnessing the power of love to make communities and pet families closer, stronger, and healthier. Since its founding in 1999, Petco Love has invested \$375 million in adoption and other lifesaving efforts. And Petco Love helps find loving homes for pets in partnership with Petco and more than 4,000 organizations – like ours – across North America, with 6.75 million pets adopted and counting.

"Our investment in Clay County Animal Services is part of more than \$15M in investments recently announced by Petco Love to power local organizations

across the country as part of our commitment to create a future in which no pet is unnecessarily euthanized," said Susanne Kogut, president of Petco Love. "Our local investments are only part of our strategy to empower animal lovers to drive life-saving change right alongside us. We launched Petco Love Lost, a national lost and found database that uses patented image-recognition technology to simplify the search for lost pets."

"We are incredibly grateful for this generous lifesaving investment from Petco Love to Clay County Animal Services," said Clay County Animal Services Director Ernest Hagan. "This grant will help make our new animal shelter a reality, which will in turn increase our capacity and our resources so we can help save

SEE ANIMAL, 18

History

from page 25

scattered over the 10-acre property.

30 years ago, 1994

- Police searched for a Palatka man who was allegedly posing as the Sheriff of Clay County so he could cash a check.
- BCC Vice Chairman Pat McGovern sought support from fellow BCC members to ask the county's legislative delegation for more funding for the Clay County

School District as the 1994 Florida Legislature got underway.

40 years ago, 1984

- Clay County Public Safety officials worked to evacuate two families who lived along Black Creek after a flash flood resulted in the creek's water level jumping more than 10 feet.
- Nelson Smith, a history teacher at Orange Park High, announced his candidacy for Orange Park Town Council. He went on to win the election.

Money

from page 4

- Be creative: if your days are busy, creatively build giving back into your current schedule. For example, if you're teaching your teen to drive, incorporate delivering meals to the elderly or infirm into their practice hours on the road. If you're providing professional advice or tutoring, build video conference meetings into your lunch hour once a week.
- Create an estate plan: incorporate philanthropy into your legacy through your estate plan in a tax-advantaged way. One smart way to do so, whether you have significant wealth or not, is through your retirement assets. An added benefit from this giving tactic is that nonprofit organizations do not pay taxes on gifts sourced from a pre-tax retirement plan, as your family would. Consider gifting your heir's other assets, such as stock or real estate, instead.

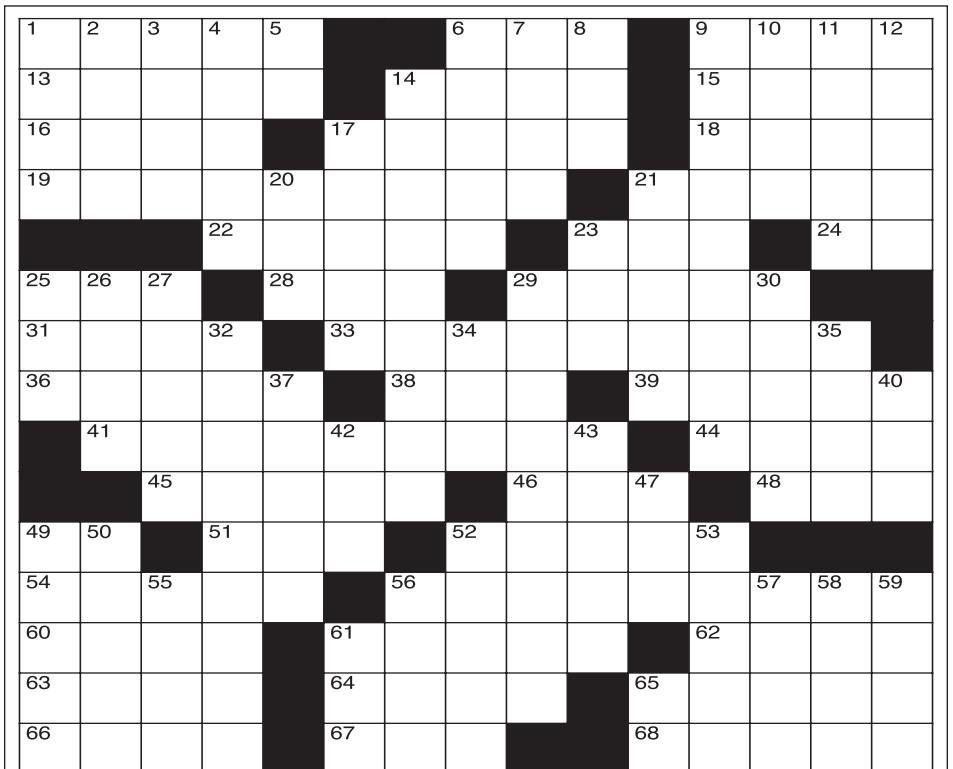
For additional resources, visit wells-fargo.com.

"Nonprofits need more than cash to operate," says Buckley. "When a financial contribution is out of the question, consider making a meaningful difference by sharing your time and talents instead."

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CLUES ACROSS

- Bleated
- Snakelike fish
- Database management system
- Russian-American violinist
- Wendy's founder Thomas
- Ancient Italian-Greek colony
- Negatives
- Rescued
- Self-immolation by fire ritual
- Assigns tasks to
- Island nation native
- Trade
- Detergent brand
- Famed NY Giant
- Before
- Split pulses
- Extremely angry; highly incensed
- Body part
- American state
- David __, US playwright
- Move one's head slightly
- Secret rendezvous
- Improved
- A place to exercise
- 18-year astronomical period
- Automobile
- You can take it
- A radio band
- Jaws of an animal

- Short-billed rails
- Chinese province
- Shameless and undisguised
- Horizontal passage into a mine
- Adult males
- Fail to entertain
- Dried-up
- City in north-central Utah
- Southern U.S.
- German river
- Oxygen
- Make law

CLUES DOWN

- Curved segment
- Wings
- From pentane (Chemistry)
- Gradually gets into
- Commercial document (abbr.)
- Overhang
- Christmas and New Year's have them
- Type of bulb
- Lacking a plan
- Tattle
- Rockers like it "heavy"
- One who's been canonized
- Indicate time and place
- Nobel Prize winner in physics
- The voice of Olaf

- Fragmented rock
- They __
- Master of Philosophy
- Backside
- Landmark house in L.A.
- An act of undue intimacy
- From which a later word is derived
- Equal to 10 meters
- Neither
- Computer language
- Sacred book of Judaism
- A woolen cap of Scottish origin
- A way to dedicate
- Challenges
- British Air Aces
- Large, influential bank
- Portended
- Cavalry-sword
- Vaccine developer
- Napoleonic Wars general
- Italian Seaport
- Hip joint
- __ Clapton, musician
- Insect repellent
- Decorative scarf
- Delaware

Putting Clay County on the map:

Film extras needed for new tourism promotional

By Jack Randall
jack@claytodayonline.com

CLAY COUNTY – Cast a fishing line off a dock at Whitey’s Fish Camp. Descend a ravine to reach the bubbling brook in Mike Roess Gold Head State Park. Take a stroll down River Road, curving along the bank of the St. Johns River. Dip your toes in a spring-fed swimming pool at Springs Park. Kick a kayak from the shores of Keystone Beach.

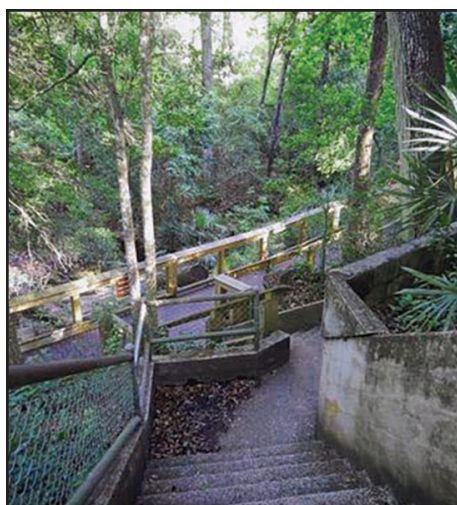
There’s plenty of adventure in Clay County. The problem is not enough people know. Kimberly Morgan of the Clay County Tourism Department is working on the solution by filming a promotional video to advertise the many wonders of the county.

Filming will take place at various locations. The Tourist Development Council’s newest outreach initiative needs you and your family to participate in the production.

All interested volunteers can email Morgan at Kimberly.Morgan@claycounty-gov.com, or call her at (904) 278-3734 to schedule the best time and location.

“It’s not well known, but tourism to Clay County brings a lot of value to the county’s residents,” she said.

If everyone suddenly stopped visiting, dining, shopping and spending their money in the county, she said residents would have to pay \$300 extra in taxes. The pro-



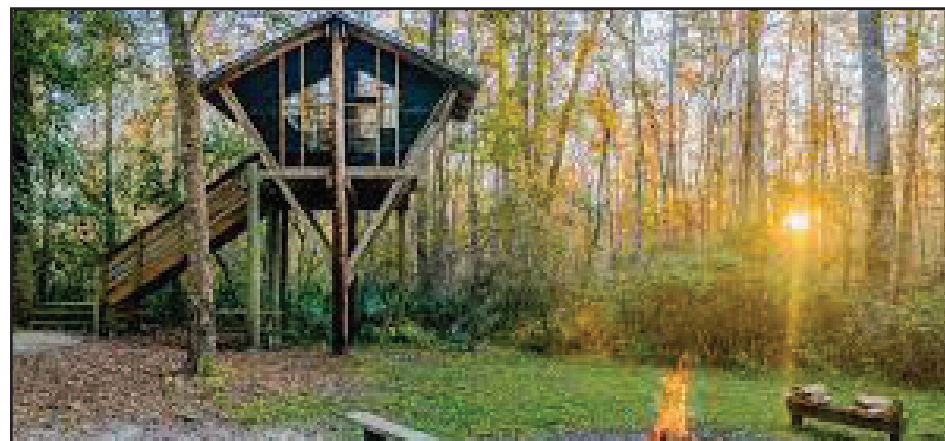
PHOTOS FROM TOURISM DEPARTMENT

The promotional will highlight some of the tourism draws to Clay County, like biking trails, Camp Chowenwaw, boating and kayaking along Black Creek and the St. Johns River, exploring Mike Roess Gold Head State Park and fishing.

motional material will also serve as a resource for new and existing residents.

“Clay County has received an influx of new residents because it’s a great place to start a family. We’re convenient to Jacksonville. We have great schools and a great quality of life,” she said.

The goal is to show new and existing residents they don’t have to travel across county lines to Jacksonville, St. Augustine or Gainesville for a fine dining or quality



SEE FILM, 13



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Seasonal and Local

Treat your tastebuds to Healthy & Healing Flavors • Pure Quality in Every Plate!
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3075 US Route 17 | Green Cove Springs

Thigpen adds 4-H State Council Presidency to his duties

By Lee Wardlaw
lee@claytodayonline.com

ORANGE PARK – Taylor Thigpen is not your average high school senior. The successful entrepreneur has a licensed small business, PlantKingUSA, where he ships aroids, foliage, succulents and carnivores from Clay County to all 50 states.

Thigpen recently stepped onto the world stage in October, where he served as a Youth Delegate for the United States at the World Food Forum to address global food insecurity, which was streamed virtually on Zoom.

But his passion for food security and other vital issues began locally nine years ago in the 4-H program. Those community values run deep, and they helped him get elected as the Florida 4-H State Council president.

There are more than 230,000 4-H members. In addition to his duties as the president of the youth organization, he stays busy running his online plant service, PlantKingUSA, writing grants for nonprofits, serving as a National Hunger Ambassador, and applying for scholarships and college admission.

Thigpen said his role with 4-H was “super exciting.”

What drives his passion for the role?

“Just being able to give that leadership back to those youth and help grow them



During the pandemic, Taylor Thigpen started his online plant business, PlantKingUSA, in 2020. Now a St. Johns Country Day School senior, Thigpen has parlayed his love and experience for agribusiness into being selected as the Florida 4-H State Council President.

into being leaders. Just doing something positive for the community. I was honored to be elected by my fellow peers,” he

said. “We’ve been doing a lot this year.”

One of his biggest accomplishments is a \$3.5 million campaign for Camp Cherry Lake, which has been closed for facility repairs since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The camp, located on the central northern border of the state, is a critical recreational and learning space for the youth of 27 Florida counties.

Thigpen said he has worked closely with Rep. Allison Tant (D-District 9) and Sen. Keith Perry (R-District 9). They filed a bill to allocate \$900,000 in funding for the camp.

Youth from the southern portion of the state attend Camp Cloverleaf in Highlands County, and children in the western part of the state go to Camp Timpooshee in Okaloosa County. When those camps are full, members from the north have nowhere to go.

“I’m super excited and hopeful this will pass, so we can get these youth, including right here in Clay County, back to camp,” Thigpen said.

Thigpen is also working to redesign 4-H executive board committees. Made up of 80 to 100 youth, the committees design curriculum and organize events statewide. To reimagine the committees, one of the things Thigpen wants to focus on is partnerships between youth and adults.

“Youth and adults work in conjunction

with each other, not over one another. We’ve actually redefined what that looks like and given youth an increased voice. (Children) aren’t just picking things like T-shirt colors. We’re designing the full program, which will serve youth and adults across Florida,” he said.

When he was young, he attended the 4-H camp at Camp Cherry Lake. Now, he’s a confident teen entrepreneur competing in the 4-H Gator Pit, an entrepreneur funding competition akin to Shark Tank. The program serves 6.5 million around the country.

“I always loved going to camp down at Cherry Lake, just meeting a lot of new friends and being able to (have) opportunities to (pursue) educational opportunities in the outdoors,” he said.

His work in the past two years as the president of the county’s 4-H Teen Leadership Council, where he mentored other children and led community service projects, proved to be a springboard for his presidency.

“Clay County is my home, and I do a lot here. It’s an honor to be able to bring that knowledge from a state level back to the county to give our youth something more, and we just want to continue working to build our county to have the best 4-H organization in the state. That is important to me,” Thigpen said.

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Obituaries claytodayonline.com

Judith Alice Pinkava

Judith Alice Pinkava (nee Nelson), a Registered Nurse and resident of Fleming Island, FL, passed unexpectedly on December 4, 2023, at the age of 62, while at home.

Judith is survived by her husband of 39 years, Christopher Pinkava; her children, Nicholas Anthony and Shannon Marie; her brothers, Stephen, Douglas and Brian Nelson; as well as her brothers-in-law, Michael, Stephen, John and Daniel Pinkava. She was predeceased by her twin sister, Laurel Ericson.



Judith Alice Pinkava

Judith was born in South Weymouth, MA, on May 20, 1961, to Roy V. Nelson and Dorothy Nelson. She graduated from New England Baptist School of Nursing in 1983 with her Registered Nursing degree and worked at Faulkner Hospital in Boston. In June of 1984, she married Christopher Pinkava, an Electronic Technician working for the US Navy. In April 1986, they welcomed their son Nicholas and in September 1991, their daughter, Shannon Marie. In 1992, work took the family to Oahu, HI, where Judith and Christopher continued their careers. In 1996, the family moved to Fleming Island, FL, where they continue to reside.

Judith was a devoted mother and nurse. She enjoyed skiing, tennis, reading and gardening. Jude volunteered for many years as a builder for Habitat for Humanity in the Clay County area. She was a talented pianist, as well. While the family resided in Hawaii, Judith worked at various private duty nursing agencies and traveled to both Hawaii and Maui for private duty cases. Judith loved to vacation and the family visited Bali, Indonesia and Chiang Mai, Thailand while living in Hawaii. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her.



David Morris Bland, Sr.

A man who wore many hats, David served in the Air Force, was a Christian missionary to the Navajo, a milkman, a school bus driver, a skilled auto mechanic, and ultimately, was employed by Northrop Grumman, where he would eventually retire. He sometimes worked three jobs to support his wife and seven children.

David took night classes to secure a diploma since he was unable to finish school before joining the Air Force. His free time was spent either tending his thriving vegetable garden or visiting with his family; but he also made time to volunteer in his church, Hickory Grove Baptist, where he was a beloved deacon, and bus driver to children who had no means to get to church.

David was a man of deep faith who loved the Lord and was a good Samaritan to his core. If he came across anyone stopped on the side of the road with car trouble, he would pull over and offer to help, towing them home, or pushing them out of a ditch. He was your friend whether he knew you or not, and he gave of himself easily, and without hesitation. He was the embodiment of brotherly and fatherly love.

He is survived by his wife, Ellie Bland, his children, Angela Albrecht (Tim Albrecht), Ouida Howell (Andrew Howell), Beth Brandt (David Brandt), David Bland, Jr. (Karen Bland), Rob Bland (Laura Bland), Jessica Hanson (Mike Hanson) and Stephen Bland, along with his siblings, Helen Lamson (Cliff Lamson), Charles Bland, Richard Bland (Rose Bland), Victor Bland (Sylvia Bland), Bill Bland, Roger Bland and Gloria Muenzmayer (Paul Muenzmayer), as well as his step-children, Jeff Graham (Renee Graham), Terry Graham and Holly Davis (Brian Davis), and finally his 23 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren, all of whom he loved so dearly.



David Bland

Calendar

CLAY COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD: will meet on Jan. 4 at 6 p.m. at the Teacher Training Center at Fleming Island High, 2233 Village Square Pkwy.

FOOD AND FRIENDS WEEKLY FAMILY-STYLE MEAL: will be served on Jan. 4 from 5-6:30 p.m. for families needing nourishment at River Christian Church, 5900 U.S. Highway 17 on Fleming Island. For more information, call (904) 458-4809.

CLAY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE: will meet on Jan. 4 at 10 a.m. at the Planning Department Conference Room, third floor, of the Administration Building, 477 Houston St. in Green Cove Springs.

ORANGE PARK ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: will meet on Jan. 4 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Town Hall Council Chambers, 2042 Park Ave.

DONNA THE BUFFALO: will play on Jan. 4 at 8 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, 1050 A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach. For tickets, visit the box office or ticketmaster.com.

EDWIN MCCAIN: will play on Jan. 4 at 8 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, 1050 A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach. For tickets, visit the box office or ticketmaster.com.

CLAY COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COUNCIL: we will meet on Jan. 5 from 10-11 a.m. at the BCC meeting room at the County Administration Building, fourth floor, 477 Houston St. in Green Cove Springs.

JACKSONVILLE ICEMEN VS. SAVANNAH GHOST PIRATES: hockey game will be Jan 5 at 7 p.m. at the VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena, 300 A. Philip Randolph Blvd. in Jacksonville. Tickets are available at ticketmaster.com.

38 SPECIAL AND THE CURT TOWNE BAND: will perform on Jan. 6 at 8 p.m. at The Florida Theatre, 128 E. Forsyth St. in Jacksonville. Tickets, which start at \$45, are available at ticketmaster.com.

MARKET DAY AT NAKAMA: will be on Jan. 7 from 1-5 p.m. at Nakama Anime Bard, 1540 Wells Road in Orange Park. Shop for homemade items, stickers, figures and pushies.

PENNEY FARMS CONCERT SERIES: will feature Professor of V Voice Nicholas Martinez on Jan. 7 at 7 p.m. at the Penney Memorial Church, 4465 Poling Blvd. The concert and parking are free.

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL: will meet on Jan 8 at 3 p.m. at City Hall, 555 S. Lawrence Blvd.

CLAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS: will meet on Jan. 9 at 4 p.m. at the BCC meeting room, fourth floor, at Administration Building, 477 Houston St. in Green Cove Springs.

ORANGE PARK TOWN COUNCIL: will meet on Jan. 9 at 7 p.m. at Town Hall Council Chambers, 2042 Park Ave.

CLAY COUNTY TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL: will meet on Jan. 10 at 3:30 p.m. at the BCC meeting room, fourth floor, at Administration Building, 477 Houston St. in Green Cove Springs.

SEE CALENDAR, 26

Ralph Edward Galbreath

Ralph Edward Galbreath, 92, of Green Cove Springs, FL, passed away December 30, 2023

Please sign the family's online guestbook at www.broadusraines.com

Arrangements are under the care of Broadus-Raines Funeral Home, 501 Spring

St., Green Cove Springs, FL 32043. (904) 284-4000.



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'I would consider it a victory with the way the economy is now'

Despite higher costs, local retailers satisfied with Christmas sales

By Lee Wardlaw
lee@claytodayonline.com

ORANGE PARK – Vintage 1 Furniture and Decor and Wood You Furniture, a hybrid retail space that leases storefronts to local vendors as well as furniture and antique dealers, found relative financial success during the Christmas holiday season. The establishment's unique approach to retail, coupled with uncompromising resilience, defied economic headwinds.

"Traffic was really good. Early on, it was a bit softer, but as we got closer to the end of Christmas, sales were picking up, and our traffic was there. I was pleased with the end of the month, the new store and our dealers," said owner Brett Blankenship.

Blankenship said business for his dealers was a little down compared to 2022.

"I'd say we're down, but not down by double digits," he said. "If you can get ahead of the wave and the economy, you can have success, and we did."

Blankenship said he saw more of a difference in "per-ticket" purchases.

"We track and measure just about everything. The average ticket is down, but the overall dollar is strong, which means



Wood You salesman Andrew Van Hook was ready to ring up a sale or answer questions from a curious shopper.

we have more customers, and we're selling more products with more turns," he said.

One of the store's draws is the unfinished furniture in the back from Wood You. Blankenship's dealers provide unique, specialty, small gifts that are hard to find elsewhere, which helped drive sales during the holiday season. According to salesman Andrew Van Hook, "Christmas sales were pretty good. People were buying a lot of small gifts."

Southern Grace Manor of Keystone Heights rented space to sell homemade jams, pickles and salsa. Cindy Jenkins, a Dixie Belle paint supplier, offered furniture painting services, craft items, décor and other unique products to the community. Layla Bouswaa sold handmade luxury soaps. Other vendors sold a wide variety of goods such as jewelry, artwork, textiles, and snacks.

The dynamic approach led to a solid

Christmas season.

"This Christmas, we're up over last year," Blankenship said, despite rising costs.

"Absolutely, our costs have risen," Blankenship said. "Our raw materials are easily up 50% from last year."

He's one of many business owners and customers who said they feel the effects of a sluggish economy. A big part of that is due to the supply chain. Blankenship gets raw materials from suppliers in countries like China, Mexico, Malaysia, India, and Indonesia.

Maria Newkirk rents a booth at Vintage 1 Furniture and Decor and Wood You Furniture, and she said sales benefited from so many local businesses under one roof.

"Christmas sales in this particular shop have been amazing. It's been better than some of the booths I've worked in for the last five to six years," she said.

Newkirk's line includes vintage collectibles and antiques, which comprise 80% of her products, and contemporary, vintage artworks hanging on the walls. The vintage collectibles, highlighted by Christmas ornaments, comprised most of her holiday sales.

"I sold a lot of my vintage ornaments," she said.

SEE VICTORY, 14

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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Laws

from page 3

assets.

However, Thompson's letter of resignation, signed on Dec. 26, cited "continued intimidation, harassment, and false and defamatory misrepresentation intended to damage (her name and her family's quality of life" as her reasoning. She did not mention the new law in her letter.

Cobreiro's letter of resignation, signed on Dec. 27, cited the new law specifically. "This level of personal financial information required to be publicly disclosed under

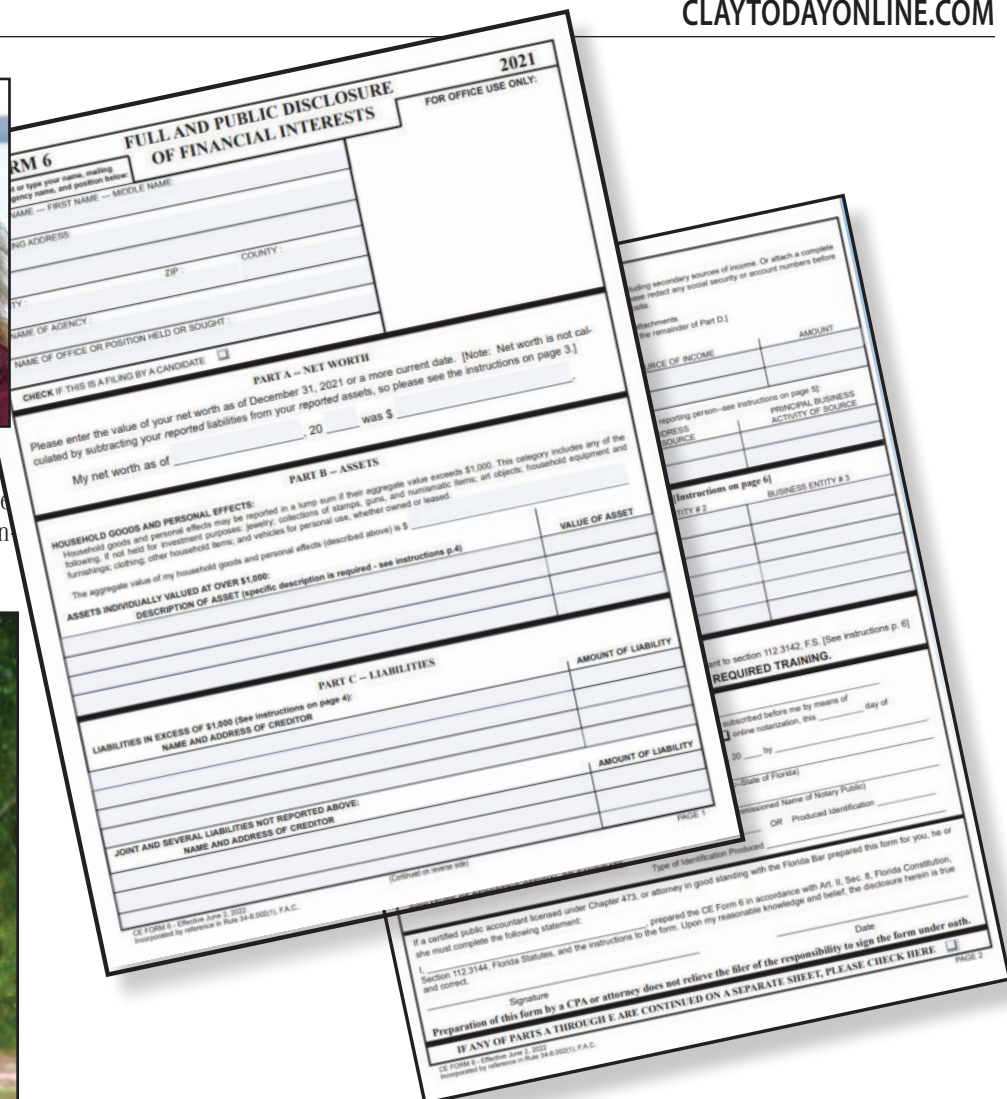


Daniel Cobreiro



Susana Thompson

this law poses significant concerns for me, particularly regarding privacy and personal security," he wrote in his letter.



Form 6 now requires local elected officials to declare any asset worth \$1,000 or more, prompting a rash of statewide resignations.



Florida residents can now reserve a cabin like this at Mike Roess Gold Head State Park in Keystone Heights 11 months in advance.

The state will also expand its list of "scrutinized companies" that can't invest in Iran-related projects. The federal government employed sanctions against Iran after 66 hostages were taken from the U.S. Embassy in 1979. Florida started a list of "scrutinized companies" in 2007 for businesses with links to Iran's petroleum commerce. The Florida State Board of Administration will divest from any business on the "scrutinized companies" list.

Other laws now in effect are:

- Floridians can reserve campsites and cabins at state parks like Mike Roess Gold Head in Keystone Heights 11 months in advance, while out-of-state visitors can reserve a space 10 months in advance.

- Florida businesses will get an overall 15.1% decrease in workman's compensation insurance rates.
- County courthouses are required to provide lactation spaces. Tara Green, the Clerk and Comptroller of Court, already created a lactation space last year in Clay County.
- A back-to-school tax holiday will last until Jan. 14. Shoppers are exempt from sales tax for clothing less than \$100, school supplies of \$50 or less, computers of \$1,500 or less and learning aids of \$30 or less.
- Credits paid by the state for motorists who use toll roads like the First Coast Expressway will end.

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The Solid Waste Fund mandates Clay County's recycling program must pay for itself, so the Board of County Commissioners decided to target high-value items like specific plastics and clean cardboard and, therefore, eliminate glass, loose paper and some plastics to avoid passing the higher costs to residents.

Recycle

from page 1

cans are acceptable. The only plastic allowed has 1 (PET) and 2 (HDPE) stamp logos.

The reason is simple – money. The county currently gets \$6 a ton for processed recyclables but must pay \$85 a ton to process it. Taxpayers must make up the difference. The county will earn as much as \$15 a ton by concentrating on high-value recyclables like plastic bottles and clean cardboard. That's a savings of \$232,489 a year in expenses.

The two closest processing centers are in Jacksonville and Daytona Beach.

"We have been watching the markets," Towns said. "Over the years, we continue to do that. We have watched the value of

our material. We're trying to economically keep our recycling costs in line to make them feasible for us to continue."

Corrugated cardboard must be clean and cut into 3-foot by 3-foot sections. Items like newspapers, notebook paper, flat, non-corrugated boxes like ones for kitty litter, greeting card and shoe boxes, and pizza and cereal boxes aren't allowed.

"Eliminating glass is the biggest change," Towns said. "Our processors have been asking us to eliminate glass for several years. Glass is such a contaminant to all of the good recycled glass. Once it's mixed, it really has no value. So, even the processors have to pay to take the glass from the recycling processor because there's just no value in that glass. It's so much cheaper to put heat to sand and create new glass."

Recycling is still important to protect

RETHINK. RESET. RECYCLE.

Recycle only these high-value items:

✓

Clean flat cardboard up to 3'x3'
(NO PIZZA OR CEREAL BOXES)

✓

#1 and #2 plastic bottles and jugs
(e.g. water and soda bottles, milk and laundry jugs, etc.) and metal cans

#1 and #2 plastics will have these symbols on the container

Do not place any other items such as GLASS, PLASTIC BAGS/CONTAINERS/WRAP in the bins.
When in doubt, throw it out!

the environment. It reduces the amount of natural resources used to make new materials and the amount of waste in landfills.

According to the EPA, 75% of all waste is recyclable, and the average American produces about 4.51 pounds of trash daily – 3.4 pounds a person.

But some recyclables aren't cost-effective. Polk County and the City of Pensacola have stopped accepting all recyclables because more than 50% were contaminated and rejected by the processing plants and taken to landfills.

"We're trying to get ahead of the curve and adapt to changing markets and cost so that we're not in a position with having to stop our recycling program on a more per-

manent basis," Towns said. "It was painful enough to suspend our program for the year we did through the labor shortages (during the COVID-19 pandemic)."

Clay's recycling program is funded by the Solid Waste Fund, which requires the program to be self-funded. An increase in the Solid Waste Assessment would reflect any cost increases or income reductions.

If residents don't comply, the processor will charge a higher rate and taxpayers must pay higher assessments. For now, collectors won't take a bin if it contains non-compliant items, and they will leave a tag with a list of allowable items.

"We're telling everyone, when in doubt, throw it out," Towns said.

Fresh Christmas trees can be left curbside for pickup

County collecting discarded Christmas trees on yard debris pickup days

By Don Coble
don@claytodayonline.com

CLAY COUNTY – Taking down Christmas decorations isn't as much fun as putting them up, but Clay County Environmental Services took the hassle out of getting rid of your fresh tree. Instead of dropping them off at a designated area, residents only need to put them at the curb on regularly scheduled yard debris pick days.

"Residents should remove all the ornaments and tinsel, and then they can place it curbside with their yard trash on their yard trash collection day," said Environmental Services Director Milton Towns. "It'll be picked up with other yard trash and processed as we do all our yard trash.

It will eventually be ground into a mulch, and then it'll be reused."

Trees can also be dropped off at any of the county's collection locations that accept yard trash – Rosemary Hill Solid Waste Management Facility at 3545 Rosemary Hill Road in Green Cove Springs, Doctors Inlet Environmental Convenience Center at 288 Sleepy Hollow Road in Middleburg and Keystone Heights Environmental Convenience Center at 5505 County Road 214.

Rosemary Hill is open 6:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. every day except Sunday, while Doctors Inlet and Keystone Heights are open Thursday through Saturday from 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Towns said letting the garbage company do the work is easier.

"This makes it really easy for everybody," he said. "It couldn't be more convenient."



STAFF PHOTOS BY DON COBLE

Getting rid of fresh Christmas trees will be much easier than tying them to the roof of your car and driving home. Clay County Environmental Services said trees can be left curbside for pickup on scheduled trash debris days. Right: Jim Wheeler disposes of his tree at Doctors Inlet Environmental Convenience Center.



Resign

from page 1

called his short time on the board an “im-mense honor.”

“Making this decision has been incred-ibly difficult. During my short tenure, I have been deeply honored to serve our commu-nity, striving to make positive contributions and decisions for the betterment of our town and all its residents,” he wrote.

Cobreiro told Clay Today he’s concerned about balancing dedication to public service and protecting his family’s financial privacy.

The former councilman was aware the law was about to be enacted, but he was often busy dealing with town business and unaware of the full implications.

“I was somewhat aware of (Form 6), but I was (blindsided) (by the law) a little bit. I didn’t know the details or how it worked. I’m not a politician,” he said. Cobreiro said town attorney Jody Lane Brooks gave him more clarity in mid-December.

“That’s when she told me exactly what the requirements are and how the law

works,” he said.

“To be honest, I (originally) hadn’t en-gaged with what was fully required. I was busy trying to do town work to the best of my ability, and I wasn’t focused on what the form required. I was thankful that the town attorney brought it to my attention,” he said.

Cobreiro said Form 6 legislation was ap-proved by the Florida legislation and signed into law by Gov. Ron DeSantis days after his appointment. He called the law a “bit of an overreach.”

“Town council members earn \$500 a month. (Serving on council) is almost volun-tary. It’s (a labor of love). But I respect the law and the reasons it was enacted,” Co-breiro said. He’s concerned the new legisla-tion could affect the pool of candidates in Orange Park, especially since many council members run unopposed.

“My worry is that a lack of people could be interested in running to begin with be-cause of the rule. My only hope is this re-quirement doesn’t exacerbate the issue in the town. It has caused a lot of resignations

across the state,” he said.

“(The seat) was almost taken out of my hands by a law I didn’t agree with, and re-spectfully, I resigned from the position.”

Thompson, however, cited a wide list of personal grievances such as “continued intimidation, harassment, and false and defamatory misrepresentation intended to damage (her name and her family’s quality of life)” in her letter of resignation, signed on Dec. 26.

She did not mention the new law in her letter.

“I want to express my (utmost) gratitude to the Constituents who voted me in and I sincerely apologize for my departure. It was not an easy decision to make, but I am con-fident that it is the right one for me and my family.” Thompson wrote in her letter. She

sent a single, large text message elaborat-ing on her decision and conveying her sense of isolation serving the town council.

The text message mentioned “eye roll-ing” and a dismissive attitude that Thomp-son felt was directed toward her personally.

“They are all involved in a cocktail party and are attempting to hide the things that have occurred since 2012,” Thompson wrote in her text message.

“In April 2021 I was approached by a previous councilmembers who told me to watch my back... that there were staff, councilmembers, a past senator, commu-nity and members in the county working against me,” the text message mentioned.

She was not available for follow-up questions.

Film

from page 6

shopping experience.

“Instead of fighting traffic for 45 min-utes or more, shop local! Local businesses love doing business with local residents. It’s not just a transaction to them,” she said.

The schedule is tentative, but the plan is to film volunteers showcasing shops on Walnut Street in Green Cove Springs on Jan. 9 at 4:15 p.m.

On Jan. 11, they will be at Mike Roess Gold Head State Park from 8-10 a.m.; Ge-neva Jungle/Keystone Beach Pavilion from 10:30-11:15 a.m.; the JC Penney Statue in Penney Farms from 1:45-2:15 p.m.; Flem-ing Island’s Junque in the Trunk, Bold Soul Boutique and Pepper’s from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

On Jan. 12, filming will continue at Jen-nings State Forest from 8-9:30 a.m., Ron-nie Van Zant Park from 10:45-11:30 a.m. and the Historic Triangle in Green Cove Springs from 2-3:15 p.m.

“We’re all in this together. We (would be thrilled) to have residents come out and be a part of the process as they enjoy their recreational or dining experience. Just, please, call me ahead of time so we can best prepare,” she said.

“Volunteers will receive a copy of the promotional film and the bragging rights that come with it.”

Clay County enjoys a premier location in the triangle between the bustling Jack-sonville metropolitan area, historical St. Augustine and the University of Florida in Gainesville. Morgan’s mission with the Tourist Development Council is to show how Clay County is a premier location of its own.

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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 Orange Park Presbyterian Church, 1905 Park Ave, Orange Park, Reservations Required

THURSDAY CLASSES January 11 - February 29

Crossroad Lutheran Church, 5101 Lakeshore Dr. W, Fleming Island

Beginning Tai Chi	Family History/Genealogy	Watercolors*
Bridge Instruction*	Movement and Exercise	Yoga
Chess Tournament*	Pennies From Heaven	Zentangle Workshop*

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Island Girl Cigar Bar General Manager Liz Miller said she enjoyed brisk sales at her Fleming Island location.

Victory

from page 9

While her sales were down compared to last year, she said she had more sales in Clay County than the malls in Jacksonville.

"I know the economy is not good, so you just have to put a lot of energy into what you're doing, and the good thing for me is that I love what I'm doing," she said.

Blankenship said most retailers don't feel the optimism of an improving economy.

"I would consider that a victory, with the way the economy is now. The current

recession is being hidden underneath all of the bonds and yields, but we're in a full-fledged 1981-1982 recession," Blankenship said.

Island Girl Cigars, a local cigar bar on Fleming Island with six locations throughout the area, also reported positive results.

Rick Jester said the store sold more than \$2,000 before 6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 30.

"All sales within the store are up," said general manager Liz Miller. "You can't buy the cigars too early for the holidays, or they will dry out. The wives like to come get them for the men for Christmas (at the last minute)."



Brett Blankenship, the owner of Vintage 1 Furniture and Décor and Wood You Furniture, said business picked up in the final week of Christmas shopping.



Maria Newkirk rents a booth at Vintage 1 Furniture and Decor and Wood You Furniture, and she said sales benefited from so many local businesses under one roof.

Community Briefs

claytodayonline.com

Hellcat races running at Historic Lee Field on Jan. 13

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Lee Field, home of the U.S. Navy's World War II F6F Hellcat fighter and F4U Corsair, will host Hellcat races at Reynolds Industrial Park on Jan. 13.

Runners can pick between 5-k, 10-k or 50-k races on paved and dirt roads around the old airfield base near the North Florida Military Museum, 1 Bunker Ave.

The time limit is eight hours for the 50-kilometer race, and it starts at 7 a.m. The 5-k and 10-k runs, which start at 8 a.m., will have a two-hour limit.

Participants will receive a technical T-shirt and a medal.

To register, visit hellcatrace.com or contact race director Chris Rodatz at (904) 655-6511 at crodatz@bellsouth.net.

Impact Clay needs volunteers for MLK Day of Service

CLAY COUNTY – The United Way of Northeast Florida, in collaboration with Impact Clay, the Town of Orange Park, the City of Green Cove Springs, the Clay County Ministerial Alliance, community leaders and dedicated volunteers, proudly announces the Clay County MLK Day of Service on Jan. 13 and invite everyone to join us in honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy by tackling basic needs, promoting racial equity or fostering financial well-being in this beautiful county.

By participating in MLK Day of Service, you're not just volunteering; you're contributing to the creation of a stronger, more resilient Clay County. Dr. King's vision of a community where dignity, equality and freedom flourish becomes a reality when we join hands in service.

Mark your calendar, and let's make the new year memorable by creating lasting change. Sign up today to be a part of a collective effort that will positively impact Clay. There are two locations of service – Town of Orange Park and City of Green Cove Springs.

For more information or to sign up, visit uwnfl.galaxydigital.com/need/index?s=1&need_init_id=10142.

Clay Day joins residents, businesses, elected officials promote county

TALLAHASSEE – Clay Day will be celebrated at the Florida Capitol on Jan. 16-17.

Clay Day aims to create a forum for citizens, elected officials and business professionals to work together to highlight our business-friendly environment, attract new visitors and present Clay County's specific legislative needs to

elected officials in Tallahassee.

As a Clay Day sponsor, guests will receive brand exposure and recognition for your business. Special sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information, contact George Biastre by email at George.Biastre@ClayCounty-Gov.com or call (904) 837-5653.

The theme for the event is Southern Rock and Roll. Rock out in your blue and green to show county support. Dress is business attire.

Garden Club of Orange Park joins statewide Arbor Day celebration

ORANGE PARK – The Garden Club of Orange Park will celebrate Florida Arbor Day with a tree-planting ceremony at 11 a.m. on Friday, Jan. at the garden center, 1820 Smith St.

The event will kick off a year-long celebration of the Florida Federation of Garden Club's 100th anniversary. All garden clubs in Florida will participate by planting a tree simultaneously.

The club will join the statewide celebration by planting a native Dahoon Holly tree. Local dignitaries and the public are invited to celebrate the tree planting that began in 1872 when the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture planted 1 million trees across the state.

Although National Arbor Day is celebrated in April, Florida celebrates in January when the early planting season begins.

Grants from the Duke Energy Foundation and the National Wildlife Federation support this year's Arbor Day festivities in honor of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs' birthday. The Duke Energy Foundation provides more than \$30 million annually in philanthropic support to meet the needs of communities where Duke Energy customers live and work. Duke Energy shareholders fund the foundation.

Bridal Spectacular Expo renews its vows at Thrasher-Horne Center

ORANGE PARK – The Sixth Annual Bridal Spectacular will return to the Thrasher-Horne Center on Feb. 11 from 1-4 p.m.

The event includes a host of vendors who can elevate any wedding. A big selection of wedding professionals will help find the perfect gown, decor, photographer, music, menu, etc.

The entry fee includes a chance in a random drawing to win a Diamond Wedding Package or other prizes.

Vendors already registered include, Anthony's Catering, Artistic Florals By Celia, Berkshire Hathaway HomeSer-



Friends of Green Cove Springs Library host magic show, raffle quilt for children's programs

PHOTOS BY FRIENDS OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS LIBRARY

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – The primary purpose of the Friends of the Green Cove Springs Library is to raise money for children's programs, and one of the ways we do this is through a quilt raffle. One of our members, Gidget Guice, made a beautiful quilt, and then we spent several months selling raffle tickets. This year's quilt had a wild animal design, and the winner was Phil Ketner of Green Cove Springs. One of the children's programs we helped with was the Holiday Magic Show featuring magician Mark Allan on Dec. 22. It was such an entertaining show with plenty of laughs for children and parents, and children left with either a book or a gift bag provided by the Friends of GCS Library.



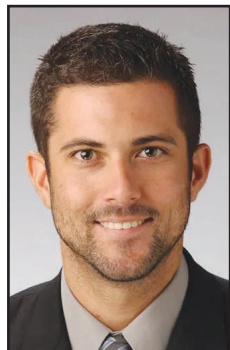
WGI's Mike Madison to update work of new Shands Bridge

For Clay Today

FLEMING ISLAND – WGI Designer Project Manager for the First Coast Expressway Mike Madison will share an update on the new Shand's Bridge construction during the Clay Chamber's Bridge to Bridge council at the Baptist Medical Center Clay, 1771 Baptist Clay Dr., meeting on Jan. 10 at 11:30 a.m.

Madison is a local Ridgeview High graduate and Florida State University graduate.

He is a highly skilled project manager



Mike Madison

and engineer at WGI with extensive experience in management and design across Florida. He currently serves as the Designer Project Manager for the First Coast Expressway's Shands Bridge Design Build project, a nearly \$600 million transportation project.

He has played a crucial role in ensuring the success of multiple conventional and design-build projects. Mike's expertise encompasses project management, roadway design, traffic control, drainage analysis, and utility coordination.

He consistently delivers timely submittals and error-free deliverables, making him an invaluable asset to any project.

To register for the council meeting, visit claychamberofcommerce.com and click Events.

Katie Root selected Director of Marketing for bestbet

For Clay Today

ORANGE PARK – Entertainment marketing veteran Katie Root has joined bestbet's executive team as its new Director of Marketing.

Root will spearhead strategic marketing and business development efforts across the company's three locations in Orange Park, Jacksonville and St. Augustine. Katie brings more than 15 years of experience in entertainment marketing, including leadership roles with The Atlanta Hawks and State Farm Arena, as well as

The St. Augustine Amphitheatre and Ponte Vedra Concert Hall. Her extensive experience positions her as a seasoned professional in entertainment marketing, supported by her deep insights into consumer behavior and market trends. Her track record reflects her ability to contribute effectively to this dynamic industry. Katie can be reached at KatieR@bestbetjax.com.



Katie Root

NOTICE OF ELECTION 2024 SUPER TUESDAY MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS City of Keystone Heights Town of Orange Park

Pursuant to Section 100.021 of the Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the 2024 Super Tuesday Municipal Elections will be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at each respective Municipality.

City of Keystone Heights

555 S. Lawrence Blvd., Keystone Heights, FL 32656

Seats Three (3) and Five (5) for a three (3) year term of office on the Keystone Heights City Council.

Town of Orange Park

2042 Park Ave., Orange Park, FL 32073

Seat Three (3) for a three (3) year term of office on the Orange Park Town Council.

Qualifying for all seats will open Monday, January 29th at NOON and remain open until Friday, February 2nd at NOON at the Clay County Supervisor of Elections Office.

Those interested in qualifying for Seats on the aforementioned City or Town Councils must be a qualified elector, a citizen of the United States and meet all other qualifying requirements as outlined in each respective Municipal Charter.

A Run-off Election, if necessary for any Municipality will be held on the 2nd Tuesday of May.

For further information, please contact the Clay County Supervisor of Elections Office at (904) 269-6350.

In accordance with the Sunshine Law of Florida, this meeting is open to the public.

Note: Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, states that if a person decides to appeal any decision by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at a meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purposes, 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.

AVISO DE ELECCION ELECCIONES MUNICIPALES DEL SÚPER MARTES 2024 Ciudad de Keystone Heights Ciudad de Orange Park

De conformidad con la Sección 100.021 de los Estatutos de Florida, se notifica que las Elecciones Municipales del Súper Martes 2024 se llevarán a cabo el martes 9 de abril de 2024, de 7:00 a.m. a 7:00 p.m. en cada Municipio respectivo.

Ciudad de Keystone Heights

555 S. Lawrence Blvd., Keystone Heights, FL 32656

Asientos Tres (3) y Cinco (5) por un período de tres (3) años en el Consejo de la Ciudad de Keystone Heights.

Ciudad de Orange Park

2042 Park Ave., Orange Park, FL 32073

Asiento Tres (3) por un período de tres (3) años en el Consejo Municipal de Orange Park.

La calificación para los asientos se abrirá el lunes 29 de enero a mediodía y permanecerá abierta hasta el mediodía del viernes 2 de febrero en la Oficina del Supervisor de Elecciones del Condado de Clay.

Aquellos interesados en calificar para Asientos en los Consejos Municipales o Municipales mencionados anteriormente debe ser un elector calificado, un ciudadano de los Estados Unidos y cumplir con todos los demás requisitos de calificación como se detalla en cada Carta Municipal respectiva.

Una segunda vuelta electoral, si es necesario para cualquier municipio, se llevará a cabo el segundo martes de mayo.

Para obtener más información, comuníquese con la oficina del Supervisor de Elecciones del Condado de Clay, (904) 269-6350.

De acuerdo con la Ley Sunshine de Florida, esta reunión está abierta al público.

Nota: La Sección 286.0105, Estatutos de la Florida, establece que si una persona decide apelar cualquier decisión de la junta, agencia o comisión con respecto a cualquier asunto considerado en una reunión o audiencia, necesitará un registro de los procedimientos, y que, para tales fines, él o ella puede necesitar asegurarse de que se haga un registro literal de los procedimientos, el cual incluye el testimonio y la evidencia sobre los cuales se basará la apelación.



Legislative efforts to reduce wastewater runoff keep the waterways around the Doctors Lake Marina in Orange Park clean and clear.

Clean water legislation vital to keeping county waterways healthy

By Jack Randall
jack@claytodayonline.com

CLAY COUNTY – The St. Johns River is the artery of the county. The river is the longest in Florida and perhaps the most vital. It is the source of major wetlands throughout the state as it flows to the Atlantic Ocean.

However, in 2008, the St. Johns River was listed as the No. 6 most endangered river in the United States.

Rep. Bobby Payne will be serving his last year as a state representative in 2024 before being term-limited. One of his greatest legislative legacies was the 2020 Clean Waterways Act, which he co-sponsored and spearheaded in the Florida House of Representatives. The legislation, in which St. Johns River is a substantial beneficiary, was authored to ensure Florida's rivers, lakes and springs are clean and clear for the next generation.

The Clean Waterways Act aimed to stop septic tank runoff, make sanitary sewage disposal more accountable, ensure compliance with fertilizer use in agriculture, and improve the performance of stormwater systems statewide.

The legislation gave the Department of Environmental Protection greater oversight regarding municipal sewage and wastewater, the runoff of which often contributed to toxic algae blooms.

The Clay County Utility Authority was ahead of the curve, having already implemented many new procedures.

"The Clean Waterways Act aims to reduce the number and volumes of discharges of untreated wastewater," said Dennis Ragosta from CUA. "Year after year, CUA successfully and safely collects and transmits (nearly all) of the wastewater from our customers."

The CUA was spurred by the legislation to assess and replace infrastructure before the event of a system failure. The utility company uses Advanced Wastewater Treatment to remove nutrients in

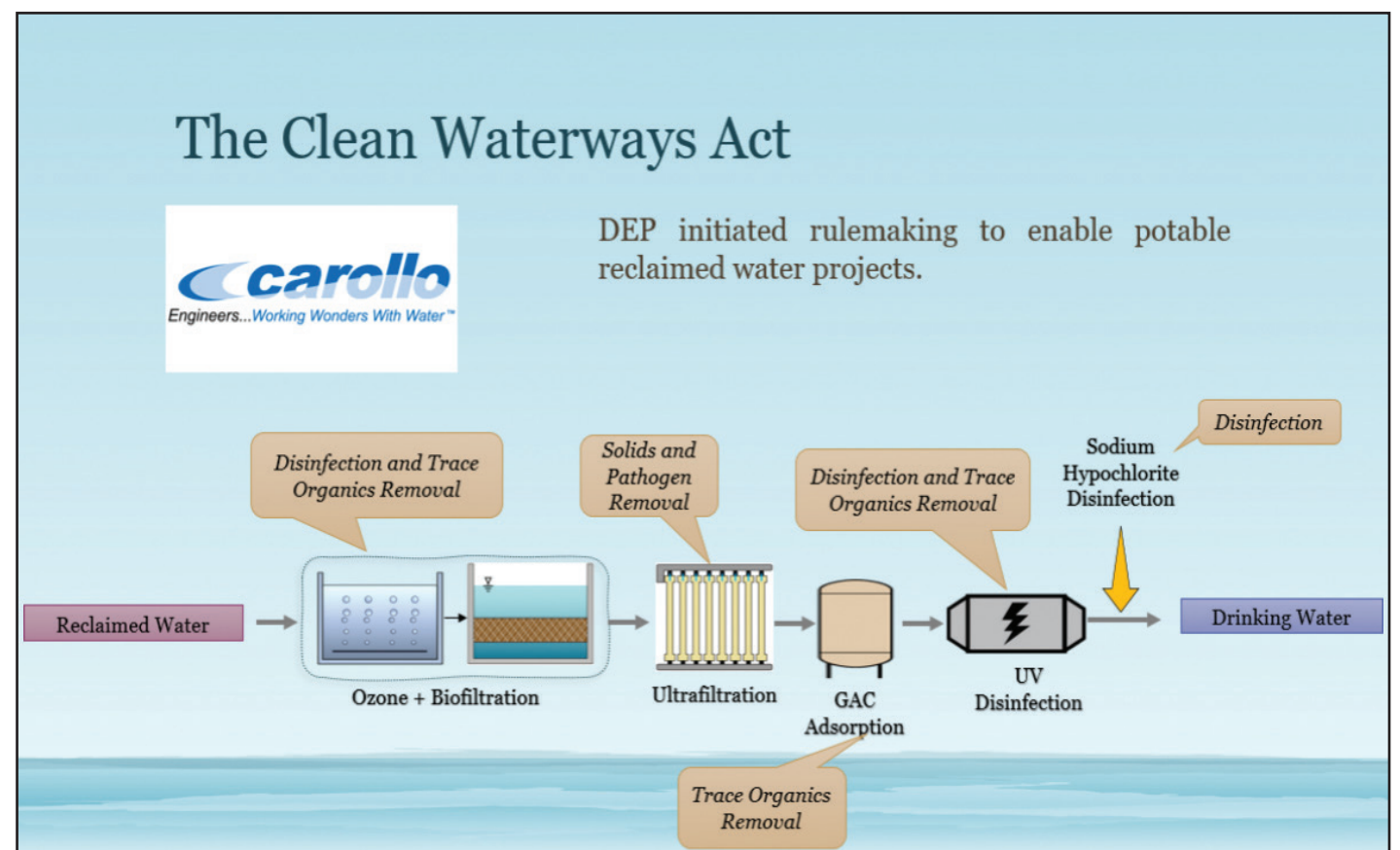


Diagram illustrating the potable reclaimed water project at Clay County Utility Authority. Water is filtered and disinfected for personal use.

PHOTOS BY CLAY COUNTY UTILITY AUTHORITY

wastewater that is high in nitrogen and phosphorous concentrations.

"The Clean Waterways Act included stricter regulations related to biosolids disposal. All water reclamation processes produce biosolids. Many areas in the State of Florida produce what is referred to as Class B biosolids, which allows for the rapid release of (nitrogen) and (phosphorous). However, CUA began investing in technology in 2006 to produce Class AA biosolids," Ragosta said.

"These biosolids can be sold as a fertilizer you can purchase at a store. The investment in the Class AA biosolids process represents another way CUA provides long-term value for our customers while

protecting the environment," he said.

Homes connected to a centralized sewer system release less nutrient runoff in the environment than using a septic tank, Ragosta said. CUA led a campaign along Doctors Lake that connected 68 homes to a central sewer system to prevent as much runoff as economically possible.

"The Clean Waterways Act directed the FDEP to initiate rulemaking for potable reclaimed water projects," he said. "We see Potable Reclaimed Water as diversifying the water supply portfolio so CUA can continue to sustainably serve our customers well into the future."

The 2021 Reclaimed Water Act was a unanimously ratified piece of legisla-

tion that built upon the Clean Waterways Act's "biosolid" provision. Reclaimed Water would prohibit nonbeneficial sewage or other untreated wastewater discharges to natural waterways by no later than 2032. CUA is already in compliance, Ragosta said.

Compliance with the 2021 Reclaimed Water Act and other statewide environmental ordinances spurred environmental infrastructure in Green Cove Springs, namely the new stormwater and ongoing wastewater treatment plant projects.

The projects came attached with multimillion-dollar price tags, but any effort ensuring the health of the St. Johns River for future generations is priceless.



Katie Marcys has lived on Shedd Road for 30 years said traffic is already busy and the new development would overwhelm the community. "My family does not want to be closed in (on both sides) surrounded by cookie-cutter homes," she said.

Planning Commission denies rezoning for Shedd Road

By Lee Wardlaw
lee@claytodayonline.com

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – The Planning Commission denied two motions for a proposed new development with 62 homes that could erase more rural land on Shedd Road.

The commission denied an amendment to the Small-Scale Comprehensive Plan to change one parcel of land from Rural Residential to Rural Fringe and another to rezone a property from Agricultural and Agricultural Residential to Planned Unit Development. Both motions failed, 6-1.

The development will still be brought before the Board of County Commission on Jan. 9. Still, the volunteer commission will recommend not approving the applications filed by the developer, St. Augustine-based Matthews DCCM.

Residents convinced the commission that new homes on the 20-acre property, currently zoned for four houses, could increase traffic by 75%.

Matthews DCCM Senior Planner Autumn Martinage described the project and provided blueprints. She said the development would allow for three units an acre with its Rural Fringe zoning if ultimately approved by the BCC.

The zoning would be similar in density to bordering neighborhoods, such as the Preserve at Magnolia West, which allows for 3.68 units an acre, and Willow Springs and Sherwood Springs, each slated for three units an acre.

The county staff said the proposal met the criteria for approval, and it recommended its approval. However, several factors were considered, including the public pleas of several residents who defended the longtime, historic feel of the area.

The development would be bordered by wetlands home to several animals, like alligators, raccoons, deer, turtles and opossums. The area is prone to flooding, which citizens recalled in moving personal ac-



STAFF PHOTOS BY LEE WARDLAW

Autumn Martinage, Senior Planner with Matthews DCCM said the blueprints for the project met the county's criteria, and it was recommended for approval by staff.

counts, suggesting the problem has only worsened by additional development.

They said several cars speed down the skinny road, and traffic is already bad. Additional traffic would threaten children who may play near the street. The new area could also create problems for emergency vehicles.

Ralph Puckhaber said Matthews DCCM's pitch was a "good project in the wrong place. You don't improve a neighborhood by destroying an existing one," he said.

Pete Davis, who spent two hours walking the site, provided details on water issues, wetlands and potential flooding concerns. He argued against the development because he said it would adversely affect the watershed.

Bill Garrison said the project met goals and objectives during an extensive, deliberative process. He appreciated the developer but emphasized the importance of responsible, smart growth, suggesting the proposal falls short in considering long-range land use plans.

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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



SUSAN NEUMAN

Former Assistant Secretary,
Secondary & Elementary Education



VINCENT TAYLOR

Educator & Author

HOSTED BY


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Faith Walk

by Pastor Billy Register
True Life Church
Clay County

Abraham: The Father of Faith

As we begin 2024, please join me as we begin a look at “Heroes of the Faith”. Look for things each week you can apply to your life in 2024.

The story of Abraham is a remarkable testament to faith, obedience, and the fulfillment of God’s promises. Often referred to as the “father of faith,” Abraham’s journey is the story of God’s covenant with humanity. Abraham’s journey begins with a divine call from God. In a time when idolatry was widespread, God chose Abraham to be the father of a great nation, setting him apart for a special purpose. His faith was evident when he obeyed God’s call to leave his homeland, his family, and his way of life to journey to a land that God would show him.

One of the most pivotal moments in Abraham’s story is the promise of a son, even though he and his wife Sarah were well beyond childbearing age. Genesis 15:6 emphasizes Abraham’s faith: “And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.” This verse emphasizes that it was Abraham’s faith, rather than his actions, that made him righteous in God’s eyes. Abraham’s faith led to the establishment of a covenant with God. This covenant included the promise we see in Genesis 26:4, “I will cause your descendants to become as numerous as the stars of the sky”, as well as the gift of the Promised Land. The covenant was not just for Abraham but for all his descendants. God’s faithfulness in keeping this covenant is seen throughout the scriptures.

Abraham’s story teaches us the importance of faith as a foundation for a relationship with God. It demonstrates that God’s promises are reliable and enduring, even when circumstances seem impossible. Abraham’s journey from a distant land to becoming the father of many nations highlights the potential for divine intervention and the profound impact of faith.

Today, Abraham’s legacy lives on as a source of inspiration for those who seek to walk in faith. His story reminds us that faith, obedience, and trust in God’s promises can lead to blessings beyond measure. Like Abraham, we can become people of faith and participate in God’s unfolding plan for humanity.

Thrasher-Horne claytodayonline.com



Piano men to play vast collection of musical nuances on Jan. 12

ORANGE PARK – The electrifying production, *The Greatest Piano Men*, celebrates the world’s greatest pianists and showmen, including Elton John, Billy Joel, Stevie Wonder, Ray Charles, Jerry Lee Lewis, Little Richard and all the way to Beethoven and Liberace.

The show will be at the Thrasher-Horne Center on Jan. 12 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets, which start at \$29, are available at the box office or thcenter.org.

The Piano Men are: Donnie Kehr, who’s appeared in movies, television shows and Broadway; America’s Got Talent finalist, singer, actor, dancer, comic, impressionist and multi-instrumentalist and literature and songwriter Pete Peterkin; Bill Connors, who’s won awards for portraying Sir Elton John; and, award winning musical director, pianist and accomplished actor David K. Maiocco.

Shen Yun to perform 5,000-year journey of Chinese culture on Jan. 19

ORANGE PARK – Shen Yun will take the audience an extraordinary journey through 5,000 years of divinely inspired culture on Jan. 16 at the Thrasher-Horne Center. The show starts at 7:30 p.m.

Enjoy a show that features Chinese culture before Communism. It’s filled with courage and wisdom, light and hope. Exquisite beauty from the heavens, profound wisdom from dynasties past, timeless legends and ethnic traditions all spring to life through classical Chinese dance, enchanting live orchestral music, authentic costumes, and patented interactive stage and backdrop integration.

Revisit a time when scholars and artists sought harmony with the Tao, the “Way” of the universe, and when divine beings walked upon the earth to inspire humanity. Be prepared for a theatrical experience that will take your breath away.

Tickets start at \$80 and are available at the box office or thcenter.org. To learn more about Shen Yun, visit shenyun.com/fl.

Children’s ‘The Magic School Bus: Lost in the Solar System’ coming Jan. 22

ORANGE PARK – When the class gets lost on the way to the planetarium, Ms. Frizzle saves the day by blasting into outer space for an epic interplanetary field trip! But when both old and new rivalries threaten to tear the students apart, our young heroes must learn to pull together or risk losing forever in the solar system. Hop on the Magic School Bus for a ride in this new musical adaptation by Theater

Works USA based on the original book series published by Scholastic.

The production will be at the Thrasher-Horne Center on Jan. 22 at 10:30 a.m. Tickets start at \$19 and are available at the box office or thcenter.org. Groups of 10 or more are \$10 each by calling (904) 276-6815.

Lorrie Morgan to perform many of her iconic hits on Feb. 2

ORANGE PARK – Lorrie Morgan is a Nashville native and the daughter of Country Music Hall of Fame member George Morgan. She debuted on the Grand Ole Opry stage at age 13, singing “Paper Roses.”

Morgan married fellow country singer Keith Whitley in 1986. She was signed to RCA Records in 1987, and her onslaught of hits began the following year. Whitley’s tragic death of an alcohol overdose in 1989 left her a widowed working mother. Their duet “Til a Tear Becomes a Rose” earned her a 1990 CMA award.

She will appear at the Thrasher-Horne Center on Feb. 2 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$29 and are available at the box office or thcenter.org.

Her first three albums, *Leave the Light On* (1989), *Something in Red* (1991) and *Watch Me* (1992), all earned Platinum Record awards. Her Greatest Hits collection (1999) is also Platinum. *War Paint* (1994), *Greater Need* (1996) and *Shakin’ Things Up* (1997) are all Gold Record winners.

She sang “The Sad Cafe” on *Common Threads: Songs of the Eagles*, which was named the CMA Album of the Year in 1994. Fans voted Lorrie Morgan their TNN/Music City News Female Vocalist of the Year in 1994, 1996, 1997 and 1998.

Green Cove

from page 2

The city has until the end of the year to finish the expansion projects and all relevant renovations to qualify for a multimillion-dollar grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

“The plant needs to be online. DEP is looking for us to have the project completely closed by then,” said Mayor Con-

nie Butler. “We need to get moving.”

In other news, the city is preparing to construct a boat ramp on the St. Johns River for the Green Cove Springs Police Department’s marine unit. The ramp’s completion in the coming weeks would be a first for law enforcement agencies in Clay County. Police Chief E.J. Guzman was enthused about the project and the opportunity to cooperate with the sheriff’s office. The city council expressed optimism for the new year.

“As we turn the calendar over to a new year, let’s take action. I am excited and anticipated for the upcoming and much-needed changes,” said Vice Mayor Steven Kelley.

“This year, we will be celebrating our 150th anniversary as a municipality, and we are very excited about that. We encourage you to watch and see what will be taking place. It is going to be an epic year. It is going to be over the top,” said Butler.

Animal

from page 5

more lives.”

Clay County Animal Services is a non-profit organization that provides temporary housing and care for dogs and cats, including owner-relinquished pets in Clay County. Since the 1960’s, CCAS has provided lifesaving services for pets through its small team of dedicated professionals and the resources available. The growth

that has happened since then in Clay County underscores the urgency of this new facility. The team members at CCAS, made up of both paid and volunteers, go all out to do the best that they can with what they currently have every day, to ensure that the pets in their care receive the best care possible.

Some of CCAS’ accomplishments are winning the FACA Outstanding Cooperative Team Achievement Award in 2022 when they conducted a joint investigation

and large-scale seizure of 266 animals from an animal cruelty case. They also provided sterilization surgery, vaccinations, and microchips for 333 dogs. These accomplishments were achieved on top of the shelter requirements that this team conducts daily.

For more information about Clay County Animal Services, visit ClayCountyGov.com. Learn more about Petco Love at petcolove.org.

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HAPPENINGS FROM OUR CLAY COUNTY SCHOOLS

JANUARY 2024

Phoenix Suns' Nassir Little returns to Oakleaf Junior

Basketball player encourages students to dream big

By Lee Wardlaw
lee@claytodayonline.com

OAKLEAF – Eighth-grade students at Oakleaf Junior High attended a motivational pep rally on Wednesday, Dec. 20, led by the Nassir S. Little Foundation. Nassir was a student at the school, and now the 6-foot-6 small forward is in his fifth NBA season with the Phoenix Suns.

The foundation's mission is to sup-

port youth who need financial assistance with money and support for exceptionally talented children with sports, education, performing and visual arts. That message was a prominent theme of the pep rally.

The big ticket event also saluted the school's sports teams before students left for the Christmas holiday break.

Nassir, a consensus five-star recruit and standout performer in the McDonald's All-American game in 2018, went to Oakleaf Junior High before transferring to Orlando Christian Prep before heading to the University of North Carolina. After one year in Chapel Hill, where he led the Tar Heels to the Sweet 16, Little spent four seasons with the Portland Trail Blazers before joining the Suns this year.

His journey from Oakleaf to Phoenix had come full circle.

His father, Harold Little, represented the organization at the school, and Superintendent David Broskie and Principal Wilnitra Dixon shared some words of affirmation. Both shared a similar message, reminding students they can accomplish anything if they set their minds to it.

"When they asked me to come here, I said, 'There is no way I will miss this event because this is a



STAFF PHOTOS BY LEE WARDLAW

Oakleaf Junior High students attended a motivational pep rally hosted by the Nassir S. Little Foundation, which was founded by the 23-year-old former student. The fifth-year player, now with the Phoenix Suns, was traveling with the team during the pep rally, but he sent a pre-recorded message and provided gift bags.

great example of someone that sat in the very seat you were sitting in. (My) message to you is very simple: From Oakleaf Junior High, you can do anything you want in life," Broskie said.

Harold reflected on the impact the school had on his son, who had never played organized basketball before attending Oakleaf. That's because Harold had active military duties overseas. Nassir's life changed when Coach John Conley asked him to try out with the Yellow Jackets

"Just like you, Nassir walked these halls. (Oakleaf) was the catalyst that served his dreams of reaching the NBA. (The school) played a crucial role in his personal journey, providing impactful support. He wants you to know that you, too, can

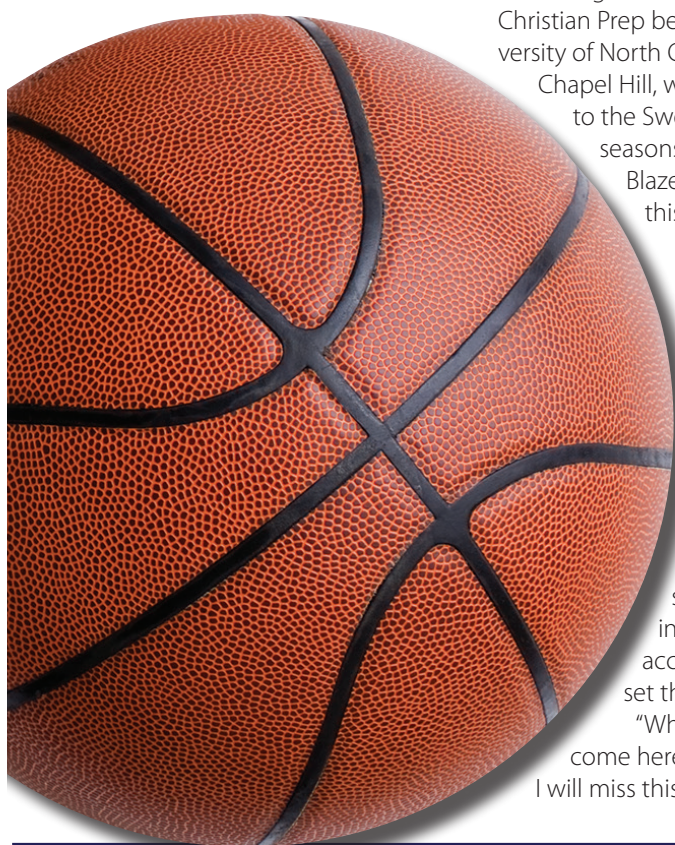
achieve your dreams (by leaning on teachers and school staff) and (committing) dedication to your education, passions and dreams," the father said.

Then, a projector played a taped video from Little on the gym wall. He told them he was "away on business," but wanted them to know his journey started at Oakleaf.

Hundreds cheered.

"I just wanted to let you know that Oakleaf Junior High was one of the starting points of my journey. I loved my time (here). (This place) was very special to me. (Oakleaf) is what fueled me to chase my dreams of becoming an NBA player. It's also why (I started the foundation), to

SEE LITTLE, 21



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Oakleaf's Landon Brown finishes fourth at MasterChef Junior competition

9-year-old one of 12,000 applicants for "Home for the Holidays" special

By Lee Wardlaw
lee@claytodayonline.com

OAKLEAF – Oakleaf Village Elementary's Landon Brown put his young culinary skills on the international stage with a fourth-place finish on Gordon Ramsay's "MasterChef Junior: Home for the Holidays" special on Fox.

Brown, just 9, was one of 12,000 applicants for the show. He completed a video interview and was selected to

compete with eight other aspiring chefs for \$25,000, a trip to Mexico and other prizes.

The finals started with a one-hour show on Sunday and a pair of one-hour shows on Monday. A group of friends, classmates, and family met at Jimmy Hula's on Monday night for a watch party. Since the show was taped nearly nine months ago, Brown and his family were the only ones who knew how it turned out.

Brown told his classmates he was "away on business" for a month in February. He was prevented contractually from talking about the show. Two weeks ago, the show allowed the contestants to say they were part of the show but couldn't discuss the finish.



STAFF PHOTO BY LEE WARDLAW

Brown, second from left, enjoyed his big-ticket watch party at Jimmy Hula's alongside friends and family on Sunday night as he made a taped appearance on Fox.



STAFF PHOTOS BY LEE WARDLAW

Three MasterChef Junior celebrities – eventual winner Rae, Gordon Ramsay and Landon Brown – take a break to sip on hot chocolate on the balcony between taping sessions of "MasterChef Junior: Home for the Holidays." Rae and Landon advanced to the semifinals.

Landon and his friends stayed well past bedtime to take in the huge moment. Sunday Night Football, step aside.

Sitting with a close friend, Chris Perotta Jr., 9, Landon sported his classic cooking apron from the show. The group looked on in awe and laughed along as Brown cracked jokes, smiled and cooked hard-to-master dishes against the clock, along with the scrutiny of Ramsay, his daughter, Tilly Ramsay, and celebrity judges Daphne Oz and Aaron Sanchez.

"I'm just so proud of him," Perotta said.

"We're really excited about it. A lot of people are (posting about it) on (Facebook and social media), saying, 'Congratulations, Landon, and 'that's so exciting,'" his mother, Ashley Brown, said. "They are saying he is going to own his own restaurant one day."

"It's really nice to see Chris's good friend up there on TV, just for the world to see. It's pretty cool," said Chris Perotta, Chris Jr.'s father.

Throughout the competition, Brown's warming, affectionate persona seemed to warm Ramsay, much to the approval of the Oakleaf community. Brown advanced to the semifinal round after cooking a winning holiday pie with teammate Rae, a skilled 11-year-old chef from Oakville, Texas, in the partner round.

During the show, the pair enjoyed a cup of hot cocoa on the balcony with Ramsay, taking a breather and relaxing as other contestants scrambled to the finish line. With his trademark personality on

SEE CHEF, 22

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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
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DISTRICT Highlights

- ★ Graduation rate is 95% for the District's seven traditional high schools.
- ★ School Resource Officer at every school and increased security measures to keep students and staff safe.
- ★ Named 2022 Academically High Performing School District by the Florida Department of Education.
- ★ CCDS offers 34+ Career and Technical Education programs.
- ★ Ranked 5th Best School District in Florida by Niche in 2023.
- ★ Expanded School Choice options including Montessori and Pre-AICE programs.
- ★ All students have digital access through Chromebooks and Wi-Fi at every school.
- ★ All high schools have accelerated programs.
- ★ Opened 43rd school, Spring Park Elementary in August 2023.
- ★ Fleming Island Elementary recognized as a 2022-2023 Purple Star of Distinction school for supporting our military families.



STAY CONNECTED

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Little

from page 19

support kids who want to chase a dream of their own," Nassir said.

Nassir thanked Adidas, the NBA, the Phoenix Suns and, most importantly, his junior high and the community.

"I had so much pride wearing Yellow Jackets across my chest," he said.

What a win for the school and the community.

Each student received a gift bag, including an Adidas beanie, a personally autographed photo – a live-action shot of the hometown hero playing ball – snacks and a water bottle.

"The gift bag you have received is a token of my belief in all of you, as well as a gift for the holidays," he said.

Harold Little told students about the potentially life-altering "Hold On To Your Dreams Grant." He encouraged them to apply.

The grant is only available to Clay, Duval and Orange counties students. It already has provided \$150,000 of impact

to youth.

To apply for the grant, students should visit nslyf.org/grants.

John "Jay" Stilianou, Clay County School District Athletic Director, reminded students of the importance of staying dedicated, trusting in the process and never quitting under any circumstances to pursue their goals.

"Only 0.03% of (high school basketball players) reach the NBA. When you leave here today, I want you to remember that," Stilianou said.

The Nassir S. Little Foundation will return to Oakleaf.

"We are hoping to do this every year, and we are hoping it continues to grow every year," Little's father said.

"The impact of this event is immeasurable, (even if) students don't realize (the significance of this) right now. It is going to (hold great value) in the future. There will be a time when they pursue something they're passionate about in the future, and (students) will remember Nassir and what this day meant to them. They will say, 'I can do this, too.'"



Principal Wilnitra Dixon shared a powerful message with her students, telling them they can accomplish anything if they set their minds to it.

Clay Today Creative Arts Contest

By Jack Randall
jack@claytodayonline.com

Are you creative in writing, storytelling or designing? Are you a high school student excited to get a jumpstart in developing a published portfolio? Do you have a big imagination and a deep desire to share your passion with your community?

How about winning \$100 for your creative work?

All students living or enrolled in Clay County are invited to participate in the Clay Today Creative Arts Contest, which will be running throughout the year. Finalists for each category will be chosen on a rolling acceptance basis throughout the year, and their creative work will be published on our website and in "School News."

At the end of the year, Clay County will vote for the best work of fiction, poetry, photography and digital artwork for 2024.

Submission guidelines are posted on our website. Send your submissions with your cover letter and work attached to jack@claytodayonline.com

Reach out with any questions. Let your voice be heard. Leave your mark on the world. Best of luck to our contestants!



Digital Artwork

Name: Alexis Foster

Grade: 12

School: Ridgeview High

Title: Przewalski's Wild Horse

"When I saw that I could share my creativity with my community, I decided to draw this artwork of a Przewalski's wild horse in MS Paint. I chose MS Paint because of how this older app has an airbrush tool in which you can create a pixelated and very aesthetically appealing piece. As a result of using this app, I see that this drawing can give a feeling of being nostalgic. I chose a horse as the animal that I drew because they mean devotion. I connect with the term devotion because it shows how loyal I am to my loved ones."

SEE CONTEST, 24



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Chef

from page 20

display, Brown laughed and joked with the international celebrity and his teammate.

In Monday's final, he got a mystery box containing items the judges randomly selected. Brown was required to cook a challenging street steak taco, with thick steak to cut into small strips and grilled. He knew he could have been eliminated if he overcooked the steak by the thinnest of margins. Additional ingredients were a spicy cricket salsa with chili peppers and tomatoes, salt, pepper, guacamole and garlic powder.

Landon also made Jewish-inspired cookies with blue sprinkles.

He barely missed the final cut.

"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



Nine-year-old Landon Brown of Oakleaf shares an embrace with international celebrity chef and show judge, Gordon Ramsay. The pair formed a close bond through the Master Chef Junior competition.

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," Ramsay said.

Landon also had to create a dish with crickets, which earned a compliment from Tilly Ramsay.

The journey included room and board, three meals daily, home-schooling, an on-site tutor and a game room. He also took trips to world-famous Los Angeles landmarks like the Hollywood sign, the Los Angeles Zoo and others.

Landon said he considers other contestants Colbie, Rae and Elijah as good friends.

"It doesn't matter if you get eliminated

or not. You're still a good chef," Elijah said as he hugged Landon before leaving the show.

Ramsay put the strong relationship he and Landon formed on the center stage. He congratulated Brown, one of his favorites, for an epic performance and admirable personality.

"Young man, you did amazing. Honestly, me personally, I'm going to miss you. I love your spirit. Give credit to your parents and, most importantly, yourself. Come on up here," Ramsay said.

After the two embraced, Brown walked out of the studio to begin his 2,100-mile journey home.

On Monday, Brown was back at his favorite place – the kitchen.

Contest

from page 23

Poetry

Name: Jackson Willis

Grade: 11

School: Ridgeview High

Title: echoes of absence

I was inspired because it has been a full year since I last saw him, and during this time, I've deeply felt his absence, longing for my dad and the eventual chance to be reunited.

In the stillness of each passing night,
A void persists, an absence in sight,
Nearly a year, apart we've been,
My heartache, a silent, constant din.
Your laughter's echo, a distant hum,
I yearn for the times when we were one,
Memories now wrapped in tear-

drops' mist,
Your presence, sorely, greatly missed.
Your wisdom's whispers, a guiding

light,
Moments shared, now a bittersweet

plight,
Each day without your comforting

hand,
Leaves a void I can't understand.

The scent of home, your favorite

chair,
Echoes of love that still linger there,
In the spaces where you used to be,

Longing for your company.
Time marches forward, yet stands

still,
Yearning for your embrace, I will,

Distance, a relentless, vast space,
Yearning to see your familiar face.

For now, I'll cherish memories true,
Holding you close in thoughts anew,
Until that moment we're side by

side,
My missing piece, my dad, my pride.

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Erica Simmons
OP Campus Director



Ms. Christine Lopez
Middleburg Campus Director

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*Celebrate
Clay
History*

Winter in the Spring



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CLAY COUNTY ARCHIVES OFFICE

Tourists crossing the spring run. The Schulz House is seen in the background – a home that still stands today across from the spring.

By Archives Specialist Vishi Garig
*Service of Clerk of Court and Comptroller
Tara S. Green*

CLAY COUNTY – The winds of the Civil War had barely died when tourists began flocking to Green Cove Springs. The feel of the relatively warm spring waters beckoned them.

At first, they came for the “water cure.” Normally, spring water feels frigid to Floridians in the summer, but when the air is colder than the water temperature, the spring feels warm, and tourists loved it.

The townspeople even changed their name to beckon tourists to the spring, hence the name Green Cove Springs. Dr. Joseph Applegate built the Clarendon Hotel near the Spring Boil around 1872. Today, City Hall sits where the hotel once stood.

The good doctor was from Indiana and was assigned to Florida in 1867 after the Civil War. He worked at the Freedmen’s Bureau when it was at the nearby Magnolia Hotel during Reconstruction. He later collaborated with John H. Harris to coordinate the Clarendon Hotel’s operations. While Harris managed the bottled water business from New York, Dr. Applegate lectured to those who sought the “cure” on the benefits of sulphur water. The “Water Cure Company” flourished thanks to Dr. Applegate’s lectures, prescribing, dispensing and shipping sulphur water from the spring in Green Cove to New York. Applegate and his wife, Jenny, resided in Cottage A of the hotel until his death in 1919. Cottage A is now the River Park House, a bed and breakfast next to City Hall.

When the Clarendon Hotel was destroyed by fire on April 3, 1904, the hotel was replaced by the Qui-Si-Sana Hotel. It stood from 1906 until the modern city hall was built. Several other hoteliers discovered the spring and our great Florida winter weather.

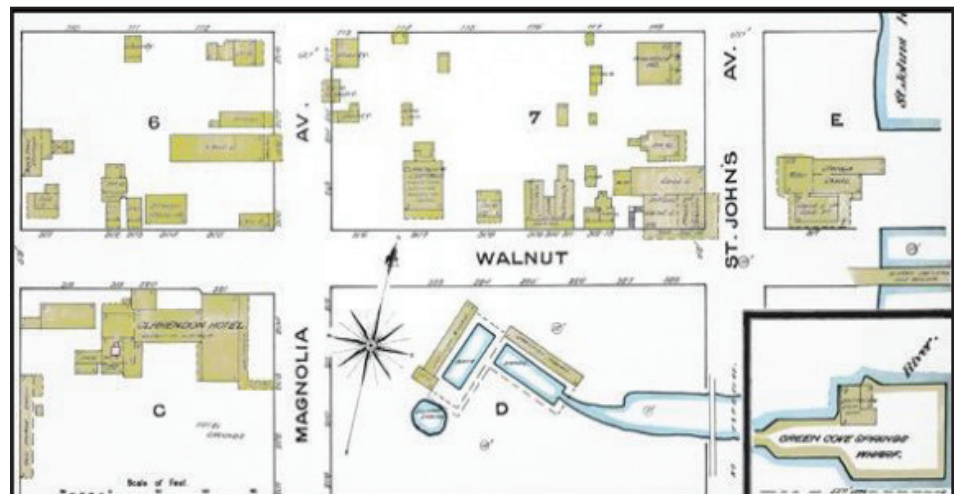
They built a dozen hotels and boarding houses surrounding the springs.



The 1889 Penelope Borden’s home on Walnut Street. Dr. Applegate’s house circa 1950. Today, this home is the River Park House B&B. Right: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing the original configuration of the spring boiler and pools. The Clarendon and the spring, Thaddeus David’s winter home, Marion Borden Park and St David’s Path, as drawn for an advertisement.

But sadly, and for various reasons, those buildings don’t exist anymore. Wintering in Green Cove Springs became quite popular with wealthy northerners from places like Massachusetts, Philadelphia and New York.

One of the more prominent of these visitors was the Borden Family of Borden’s Condensed Milk fame. The family owned several houses in the city and purchased a dairy out in the countryside. Penelope Borden’s home is still standing on Walnut Street and is the school district’s Profes-



sional Development Center.

When it came time for the county to build a new jail and courthouse, the Borden family donated the land those buildings stand on today (915 Walnut Street and 21 Gratio Place, at the Historic Triangle site). The 1890 Courthouse and 1894 Old County Jail are now decorated for the holidays, so stop by to see the lights in the oak trees if you drive through the city before Jan. 3.

The visiting women of the northern families who were here for the entire season formed the Village Improvement Association, the oldest women’s club in Florida. Their clubhouse is located at 17

Palmetto Ave. and remains the home of the VIA, where dozens of modern-day women continue to meet and promote community improvement projects and events.

The men of these same visiting families played golf, hunting and fishing. Both groups enjoyed the nature excursions the hotels offered, an early example of the beginnings of eco-tourism in our county. Some visitors loved it so much they retired here, just as they do today.

The spring pool isn’t open in the winter, but it was in those days. Now, the only winter visitor in the spring is the occasional juvenile manatee.

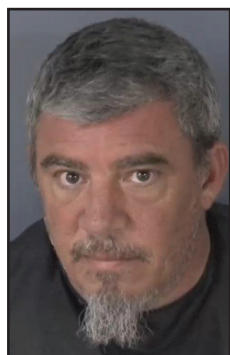
Police Briefs claytodayonline.com

Compiled by Don Coble

Man arrested in undercover operation targeting child exploitation

EUSTIS – According to the Clay County Sheriff's Office, a man was caught in an undercover operation that targeted suspects using the internet to exploit children.

The Internet Crimes Against Children's unit said Leslie John Smith, 47, of Eustis, used his computer to solicit a child, transmitted obscene material to minors and used a two-way communication device to facilitate a felony.



Leslie John Smith

He was arrested on Dec. 29, and his bond was set at \$200,009.

According to the affidavit for the arrest report, Smith is suspected of using the internet to find children for sexual conduct between Aug. 2-5. CCSO deputies pretended to be a 13-year-old girl, and they were approached through a mobile app by a man with the username John Smith.

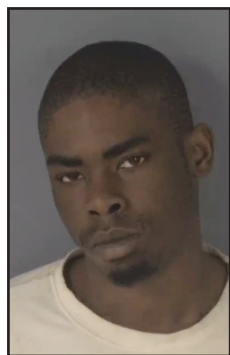
After they exchanged several messages through the app, CCSO provided Smith with a cellphone number. Both sides continued to communicate until Oct. 11. The sheriff's office linked his phone number to a traffic ticket issued to Leslie John Smith in Jacksonville last January.

Smith requested photos of the "girl," but none were sent, CCSO said.

Man behind bars after break-ins of five cars in July

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – A 23-year-old man was arrested on Dec. 28 in connection with a rash of car break-ins reported in the downtown area on July 16.

Kyandre Jamorie Cain, of Green Cove Springs, was charged with two counts of armed burglary, two counts of burglary and one count of attempted burglary after several cars in the Cove Subdivision were robbed.



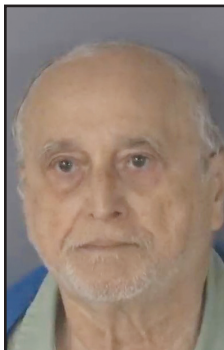
Kyandre J. Cain

At least two of the cars were unlocked. The Green Cove Springs Police Department posted a photograph of the suspect on its Facebook page and on July 21 a resident identified Cain. A warrant was issued for his arrest on July 27.

Cain's bond was set at \$375,015.

80-year-old man charged with sexual battery of girl

MIDDLEBURG – After getting a call from Ascension St. Vincent's Clay County, the Clay County Sheriff's Office arrested an 80-year-old man on Dec. 28 for at least three instances of sexual battery of a child.



Armando Amelis

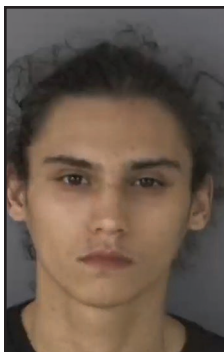
Armando Amelis, of Oakleaf, was charged with two counts of sexual battery of a girl between 12-18 and lewd and lascivious molestation of a child after the girl was taken to St. Vincent's. An examination determined she had been molested.

The sheriff's office conducted several forensic interviews where it determined the girl had been battered at least three times. Amelis refused to submit a DNA sample.

His bond was set at \$500,006.

Video shows man being tackled, arrested following lengthy chase

MIDDLEBURG – A 20-year-old man from Jacksonville was tackled in a backyard along Doctors Lake following a chase that started on State Road 21, turned onto County Road 218, down Henley Road to County Road 220 and ended at Swimming Pen Drive when the driver and passenger attempted to run from the scene.



Andre Munoz

Clay County Sheriff's Office deputies and a patrolman from the Florida Highway Patrol chased the driver, Andre Christopher Munoz, of Jacksonville, until he was tackled on a dock by FHP. The entire incident was recorded by a customer across the creek at Whitey's Fish Camp. The video was then posted on the sheriff's office's social media pages.



Michael Collin White

The passenger was caught after he jumped from the car. Munoz was charged with stealing the car in Jacksonville, aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer, attempting to flee and elude law enforcement with emer-



gency lights and sirens active, reckless driving, driving without a valid license, resisting arrest and trespassing.

Munoz's bond was set at \$121,017.

The passenger, Michael Collin White, 18, of Jacksonville, was charged with grand theft auto, trespassing and resisting arrest. His bond was set at \$35,007.

FHP attempted a precision immobilization technique (PIT) on the speeding car on Henley Road, but it wasn't successful.

CCSO warns of scam about missing court dates

CLAY COUNTY – The Clay County Sheriff's Office said people are spoofing its non-emergency number (904) 264-6512 and telling people they missed their court dates.

The impersonator will tell you to send money to avoid having an arrest warrant issued.

CCSO said this is a scam. Warn your friends and family to hang up if you receive a call like this. If you have a question and want to determine if the call was legitimate, call (904) 264-6512.

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Call Toll Free:

1-866-845-TIPS (8477)

Submit a tip online:

www.fccrimestoppers.com

PD BY CSTF

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, Jan. 2

Christopher M. Boetcker, 64, Orange Park, VOP-community control, possession-methamphetamine, possession-drug paraphernalia

John D. Powell, 57, Orange Park, resist/obstruct/oppose law enforcement, obstruction by disguised person

Aaron J. Stelly, 37, Middleburg, domestic battery, resist/obstruct/oppose law enforcement

Gilbert G. Salcido, 31, Green Cove Springs, FTA-trespassing on school grounds

Sierra M. Curtis, 29, Orange Park, larceny

Jeremy D. Post, 54, Orange Park, sex offender-failure to report vacancy, sex offender-failure to report email/internet account

Julio V. Blanco, 69, Green Cove Springs, VOP-DUI

Monday, Jan. 1

Zane A. Sublett, 30, Middleburg, battery of person 65 or older

Nestor D. Myer, 24, Middleburg, felony domestic battery by strangulation, vandalism, hinder communication with law enforcement, violation of injunction for protection against domestic violence

Joshua L. Pierson, 32, Middleburg, battery

Jeffrey D. Poole, 48, Orange Park, fugitive from justice

Malik M.D. Edmondson, 36, Orange Park, DWLSR, leaving scene of accident with property damage

Ryan R. McGee, 42, Green Cove Springs, possession-methamphetamine, possession-drug paraphernalia

Khorydel D. Molihan, 26, Keystone Heights, DUI

Jessica L. Rager, 29, Middleburg, domestic battery

Lila J. Woodstuff, 19, Middleburg, DUI with BAL .15 or greater

Camille A.J. Haile, 30, Middleburg, domestic battery

Sunday, Dec. 31

Daniel R. Cleavland, 23, Middleburg, DUI with property damage, refusal to submit to BAL test, DWLSR

Diamond S. Johnson, 22, Orange Park, doing bodily harm

Samantha A. Truman, 47, child abuse

Justin N. May, 26, Fleming Island, leaving scene of accident with property damage

Maria R. Gann, 61, Orange Park, illegally obtaining property

Trivuhn Q. Bush, 34, Green Cove Springs, DUI

Dakhari O. Wilder, 24, Orange Park, disorderly intoxication, indecent exposure in public

Isaias A. Huacache, 18, Middleburg, DUI with passenger younger than 18

Saturday, Dec. 30

Aldo E. Lezcano, 35, Middleburg, driving without valid license

Andrew S. Wiczorek, 37, Orange Park, child neglect, DUI with passenger younger than 18, FTA-no license tag

Douglas B. Morgan, 52, Middleburg, possession-methamphetamine, possession-drug paraphernalia, DWLSR

Austin T. Koepfer, 27, Middleburg, DWLSR

Jessie L. Poss, 45, Middleburg, possession-controlled substance, possession-drug paraphernalia

Ray A. Richter, 45, Middleburg, possession-cocaine, possession-drug paraphernalia

Christi L. Patterson, 38, Middleburg, DUI

Friday, Dec. 29

Nikita N. Leon, 36, Middleburg, trespassing

Cody E. McClure, 29, Middleburg, domestic battery

Andrea R. Newton, 34, Fleming Island, petit theft

Rena J. Huge, 42, Orange Park, shoplifting

Heather R. Lash, 37, Orange Park, grand theft

Leslie J. Smith, 47, use of computer to seduce/lure child, transmit harmful information to minors, use of two-way communication device to facilitate felony

Mathew A. McDonald, 47, Green Cove Springs, VOP-battery

Yelson D.R. Duarte, 20, Middleburg, driving without valid license

Larry T. Burke, 24, Green Cove Springs, burglary, petit theft, introduce/remove contraband into jail, possession-controlled substance

Malaquia F. Guillermo, 29, Fleming Island, possession-marijuana, driving without valid license, failure to register vehicle, driving without insurance

Thursday, Dec. 28

Dean A. Janda, 42, Green Cove Springs, felony domestic battery by strangulation

Donteris D. Bracy, 31, Orange Park, domestic battery

Armando Amelis, 80, Oakleaf, sexual battery of child younger than 16, attempted sexual battery or child younger than 16, lewd/lascivious behavior of child younger than 16

Mitch A. Clotaire, 28, Oakleaf, FTA

Kristen L. Smith, 42, Orange Park, larceny

Kyandre J. Cain, 23, Green Cove Springs, three counts armed burglary, two counts

burglary

David L.J. Hodges, 48, Green Cove Springs, FTA-domestic battery

Shaun A. Thornton, 43, Middleburg, DWLSR

Ashlee E. Mosher, 41, Middleburg, child abuse, resist/obstruct/oppose law enforcement, misuse of 911 system

La'Re L. Johnson, 33, Middleburg, DUI

Wednesday, Dec. 27

Andre C. Munoz, 20, Middleburg, aggravated assault on law enforcement/firefighter/EMT, grand theft auto, trespassing, attempting to flee/elude law enforcement with lights/sire active, reckless driving, driving without valid license

Kaleb J. Callipo, 20, Orange Park, battery on law enforcement/firefighter/EMT, resisting law enforcement with violence, disorderly intoxication

Jeremy D. Bell, 31, Orange Park, domestic battery

Steven O. Foster, 45, Middleburg, DUI with BAL .15 or higher with passenger younger than 18

Rebecca K. Witt, 36, Fleming Island, illegally obtaining property

James B. Williams, 41, Orange Park, FTA-hit and run, FTA-DWLSR

Joey L. Bell, 51, Middleburg, resist/obstruct/oppose law enforcement, DWLSR

Cynthia A. Stratton, 35, Green Cove Springs, VOP-domestic battery

Christopher R. Brick, 40, Middleburg, possession-cocaine, two counts possession-fentanyl, possession-drug paraphernalia

Denwill J. Diaz-Mendez, 37, Orange Park, driving without valid license

Robert J. Shoemaker, 30, Orange Park, resist/obstruct/oppose law enforcement, DWLSR

Kyle A. Milligan, 34, Green Cove Springs, domestic battery

Adam T. Ayers, 18, Fleming Island, uttering forged instrument

Ronald N. Evans, 41, Middleburg, resist/obstruct/oppose law enforcement, DUI

Briefs

from page 14

vices Florida Network Realty, Century 21 Integra, Coastal Coordinating, Dance Center International, Divine Dessert by Tamara, Dream Makers Events and Rentals, Dream Walking Entertainment, Estory Videos, FEBUS Soaps, Florida Wedding Supplies, Holiday Inn Fleming/Hampton Inn Middleburg, Jewelry by Mr. G, Karen's Catering, Kawili Photography, Kingsley Chiropractic, Mary Elle Weddings, Mary Kay, Music By Vince, Orange Park Woman's Club, Pompy Portraits, Professional Concessions, Pure Life Living, Severine Photography, The Buzz Mobile Bartending, Thrasher-Horne Center and the Town Hall Event Center. Tickets are \$5 in advance online at thcenter.org or \$10 at the door.

UF/IFAS Master Gardeners collecting surplus fruit

CLAY COUNTY – It's winter, and the temperatures are dropping and citrus across the state is ripening on the trees.



Have you ever noticed your backyard orange trees produce just too much fruit for you to eat? If that's the case, consider having the UF/IFAS Clay County Master Gardeners help by gleaning your extra fruit and giving it to charity.

All you have to do is contact our office, and we will have a Master Gardener contact you to schedule a date and time that works for you. UF/IFAS Clay County Master Gardeners get their picking poles and

baskets and go into the community to glean citrus for local charities.

Oranges, grapefruits and tangerines – anything will work, just as long as you have extra that you are willing to share. The gardeners we are willing to pick it and distribute it.

If you are interested and a resident of Clay County, contact the UF/IFAS Extension Clay County Office at (904) 284-6355 or email mdalters@ufl.edu.

DAR accepting applications \$1,000 scholarship

CLAY COUNTY – Graduating high school seniors are encouraged to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship sponsored by the Sophia Fleming Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

Applicants must graduate this year from the Clay County Public School System, St. Johns Country Day School or be home-schooled in Clay County. Students are eligible if they attend any post-secondary program of study, including colleges, universities or vocational/technical

schools. No GPA information is required.

Points will be awarded from an essay, awards, recognitions, community service, and school and community letters of recommendation.

The instruction sheet and application form is available at all public high school guidance offices in Clay County and St. Johns Country Day School.

They are also available by clicking on Sophia Fleming Scholarship at sophiaflemingchapter.org.

Applications are due Feb.16, and the winning recipient will be notified the week of March 23. Applications need not be hand delivered or mailed by certified or registered mail.

Each applicant will receive an email or telephone call saying his/her application has been received. The applications must be received on or before the deadline date to be eligible.

Completed applications are to be printed or typed and mailed to Terrece Hurley, Scholarship Chair, 1912 Moorings Cr., Middleburg, 32068.

Calendar

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CLAY CHAMBER'S BRIDGE TO BRIDGE: will include guest speaker Mike Madison, WGI Designer Project Manager for the First Coast Expressway, particularly the Shands Bridge, on Jan. 10 from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Baptist Medical Center Clay, 1771 Baptist Clay Drive on Fleming Island. To register, visit claycountychamberofcommerce.growthzoneapp.com.

AEW DYNAMITE AND RAMPAGE: will be on Jan. 10 at 7 p.m. at Daily's Place, 1 Daily's Place adjacent to EveryBank Stadium, Jacksonville. For tickets, visit al-lelitewrestling.com.

FOOD AND FRIENDS WEEKLY FAMILY-STYLE MEAL: will be served on Jan. 11 from 5-6:30 p.m. for families needing nourishment at River Christian Church, 5900 U.S. Highway 17 on Fleming Island. For more information, call (904) 458-4809.

CLAY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE: will meet on Jan. 11 at 10 a.m. at the Planning Department Conference Room, third floor, of the Administration Building, 477 Houston St. in Green Cove Springs.

ORANGE PARK ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD: will meet on Jan. 11 at 4 p.m. in town council chambers, 2042 Park Ave.

ORANGE PARK PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD: will meet on Jan. 11 at 6 p.m. in town council chambers, 2042 Park Ave.

KARLA BONOFF: will play on Jan. 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, 1050 A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach. For tickets, visit the box office or ticketmaster.com.

GREATEST PIANO MEN: featuring Pete Peterkin, Bill Connors, David K. Maiocco and Donnie Kehr will play at the Thrasher-Horne Center, 283 College Dr. in Orange Park, on Jan. 12 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$29 and are available at thcenter.org.

MIDDLEBURG GARDEN CLUB: will host its monthly meeting on Jan. 12 from 9:30-11 a.m. at the Watson Realty Building, 2239 Blanding Blvd. Light refreshments, a raffle, educational demonstrations and resources, gardening tips, plant trades, sales, and civic projects will be featured. For more information, call (904) 343-8235 or email gardenclubofmiddleburg@hotmail.com.

MASON JENNINGS: will play on Jan. 12 at 8 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, 1050 A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach. For tickets, visit the box office or ticketmaster.com.

JACKSONVILLE ICEMEN VS. SOUTH CAROLINA STINGRAYS: hockey game will be Jan. 12 at 7 p.m. at the VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena, 300 A. Philip Randolph Blvd. in Jacksonville. Tickets are available at ticketmaster.com.

HELLCAT 5K, 10K, 50K RUNS: will be on Jan. 13 on a paved and dirt road course at historic Lee Field at the North Florida Military Museum, 1 Bunker Ave. in Green

Cove Springs. The 50k run starts at 7 a.m., while the 5k and 10k runs take the green flag at 8 a.m. To register, visit hellcatrace.com, call Chris Rodatz at (904) 655-6511 or email crodatz@bellsouth.net.

JACKSONVILLE ICEMEN VS. GREENVILLE SWAMP RABBITS: hockey game will be Jan. 13 at 7 p.m. at the VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena, 300 A. Philip Randolph Blvd. in Jacksonville. Tickets are available at ticketmaster.com.

CLARKE HOUSE TOURS: will be on Jan. 14 from 2-4 p.m. at Clarke House Park, 1039 Kingsley Ave. in Orange Park. The house was built in 1912 and guests are invited to tour the house.

WINTER JAM: featuring Crowder, Lecrae, Cain, Katy Nichole, Seventh Day Slumber, Newsong, Josph O'Brien, Zane Black, Seu Worship, John Wesley and Lin D will be at the VyStar Veteran's Memorial Arena, 300 A. Philip Randolph Blvd., Jacksonville, on Jan. 14 at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and available at the door. For more information, visit jamtour.com.

HOME INSTEAD CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP: will host its Alzheimer's and Dementia meeting on Jan. 16 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Asbury United Methodist Church, 16 College Dr. in Orange Park. Families needing information on dealing with the disorders are encouraged to attend the free event.

WOLFSON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL: will welcome Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak on Jan. 17 during its Florida Forum Speaker Series at the Center for Per-

forming Arts, 300 Water St., in Jacksonville. The session starts at 7 p.m. For tickets and subscriptions, visit thefloridaforum.com.

FLORIDA REP. BOBBY PAYNE: will hold office hours on Jan. 18 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Keystone Heights City Hall, 555 S. Lawrence Blvd. For more information, contact Tammy Still at (352) 732-1244 or tammy.still@myfloridahouse.gov.

CLAY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE: will meet on Jan. 18 at 10 a.m. at the Planning Department Conference Room, third floor, of the Administration Building, 477 Houston St. in Green Cove Springs.

FOOD AND FRIENDS WEEKLY FAMILY-STYLE MEAL: will be served on Jan. 18 from 5-6:30 p.m. for families needing nourishment at River Christian Church, 5900 U.S. Highway 17 on Fleming Island. For more information, call (904) 458-4809.

ARBOR DAY: will be recognized on Jan. 19 at 3 p.m. by the Garden Club of Keystone Heights at Keystone Heights Elementary, 335 SW Pecan St. The event is part of the 100th anniversary of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs. For more information, call (352) 603-5442.

GARDEN CLUB OF ORANGE PARK: will celebrate Arbor Day on Jan. 19 at 11 a.m. at its clubhouse at 1820 Smith St. The club will plant a tree to mark the 100th anniversary of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs. Light refreshments will be served following the planting.

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TODAY'S Sports

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PHOTO BY SAMANTHA KEITH/COUNTRYSIDEHS

St. Johns Country Day School eighth-grade forward Camden Cooper led the Spartans to a 3-0 record over the Christmas holiday with one win coming off a buzzer-beater three-pointer while leading his team to a 10-3 regular season record.

'Share the Sugar' slogan pushes Spartans to 10 wins

Mamea's fullcourt pass to Cooper leads to 74-73 OT win at

By Randy Lefko
randy@claytodayonline.com

ORANGE PARK - Christmas has been good for St. Johns Country Day School's boys basketball team with coach Ian Gibson employing a few slogans and philosophies to motivate his boys.

"I know that with a marquis player like we have in Camden Cooper, teams will be looking to double and triple him up," said Gibson, now sitting with a 10 win three loss regular season record with a three-game win streak over the Christmas break. "We like to say 'Share the Sugar' which means everyone contributes a little each game; gets to touch the ball and is required to play tough defense."

Cooper, just an eighth grader, but scoring at nearly a 20 points a game average, opened up the Spartans' Saturday afternoon game with Countryside Christian with three straight three-pointers; the first one in just six seconds, putting St. Johns up quickly 9-0; 11-0 with a jumper off a rebound and layup from junior Grayson Moody.

Beyond Cooper's exploits, Gibson, in his third season, has seen a rise in the interest of Spartan basketball after a few lean years.

"I saw the banners on the wall for 1,000 point scorers here at this school and we

SEE SPARTANS, 31

SJCDS' Taliah Scott rocking SEC hoops

By Randy Lefko
randy@claytodayonline.com
with excerpts from Kylie Magar
Arkansas Athletics

FAYETTEVILLE – University of Arkansas freshman point guard Taliah Scott has been tabbed SEC Freshman of the Week for the fifth time in the last six weeks, which ties a school record for the most weekly freshman honors in Arkansas women's basketball history.

Scott is a graduate of St. Johns Country Day School in Orange Park and also a former player in her previous two years at Oakleaf High. At both schools, Scott led those programs to Final Four finishes. At St. Johns, Scott was named Florida Gatorade Player of the Year, a Florida Dairy Farmers Miss Basketball and also earned a McDonalds All-American selection.

At Arkansas, after leading the Hogs to a 2-0 week in her home state at the

SEE SCOTT, 34



PHOTO BY ARKANSASATHLETICS/NOAH SOUTHARD

Former St. Johns Country Day School basketball player Taliah Scott, now a freshman at the University of Arkansas, has been awarded a fifth Southeastern Conference freshman player of the week. Her collegiate career has skyrocketed with a two-game series with a 17-point effort and a 26 point effort in two Razorback tournament wins in Florida. Scott is ranked number two in total points nationwide.



Triggs with game-winner

Orange Park High senior guard Archieve Triggs III, joined St. Johns Country Day School's Camden Cooper with a game-winning buzzer-beater after he scored a final layup with 2.8 seconds on the clock to lead the Raiders to a 42-41 tournament win over 3A ninth-ranked Marianna High School at Marianna's Milton Johnson Invitational.

See more Christmas break tournament hoops action, on page 30.



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College updates

RHS Miller 'pick-six' pumps Maryland bowl win

By Maryland Athletics

NASHVILLE, TN – With a scintillating "Pick-Six" interception return for a touchdown on a first down pass in the second half by defensive back Glendon Miller, Maryland won its third bowl in a row – marking the first time in school history the Terps won bowls in three consecutive seasons – beating Auburn, 31-13, at the TransPerfect Music City Bowl at Nissan Stadium on Saturday.

Miller, a redshirt junior who played wide receiver and safety at Ridgeview High School in Orange Park, FL under coach Matt Knauss, is a redshirt junior secondary specialist with one start in seven games last year and a full season of starts in 2023, returned a first down pass in the second offensive series of the third quarter by Auburn quarterback Payton Thorne 44 yards to paydirt to put Maryland up 31-7 after Maryland blasted away with a 21-0 first quarter. The 21-0 opening stanza was the best start in Maryland bowl history. Miller also had three tackles for the game.

The Terps, 8-5, conclude the year at 8-5 for the second year in a row, marking three consecutive winning seasons for the Terps for the first time since 2001-03 and back-



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARYLAND ATHLETICS
Former Ridgeview High football standout Glendon Miller heads to end zone with third quarter interception against Auburn in Maryland's 31-13 win in the TransPerfect Music City Bowl in Nashville.

to-back eight-win seasons for the first time since 2002-03. Auburn finishes their season at 6-7.

Both Terp quarterbacks had solid days. Starter Billy Edwards Jr., who was named the game's MVP, threw for 126 yards and a touchdown, along with his seventh rushing score of the season to go along with 50 yards on the ground. He became the first Maryland quarterback with a passing and rushing touchdown in a bowl game since Scott McBrien in the 2004 Gator Bowl.

FIHS LB Wright snags 'Cane's interception

By Rutgers Athletics

BRONX, N.Y. – Rutgers football (7-6) defeated Miami (7-6), 31-24, on Thursday at the 2023 Bad Boy Mowers Pinstripe Bowl. It marked the program's seventh bowl championship, sixth under head coach Greg Schiano and second victory in the Pinstripe Bowl, as the Scarlet Knights secured their first winning season since 2014.

In the second quarter, freshman linebacker Abram Wright, a Fleming Island High School graduate in Orange Park, FL, intercepted his first pass in college off a third down and nine passes at the Miami 36-yard line. The interception led to a Rutgers touchdown and a 14-0 lead.

Also in the game, for Miami, were former Oakleaf High standouts Jalen Rivers, an offensive lineman, and Chantz Williams, a defensive end.

Down 17-14 with just over 10 minutes left in the third quarter, RU scored 17 unanswered points to collect the win over the Hurricanes.

DB Trevor Yeboah-Kodie blocked a punt at Miami's one-yard line, which was recovered by DB Timmy Ward in the end zone for a touchdown, while QB Gavin Wimsatt's second rushing score of the day and a 35-yard field goal from PK Jai Patel helped Rutgers to the come-from-behind victory.

Running back Kyle Monangai earned the game's MVP trophy after he finished with 25 carries for 163 yards and a touch-



PHOTO COURTESY OF RUTGERS ATHLETICS
Former Fleming Island High linebacker Abram Wright snagged an interception with a three-yard return in Rutgers's 31-24 win over Miami Hurricanes in Bad Boy Mowers Pinstripe Bowl in Yankee Stadium on Saturday.

down. It was the seventh 100-yard rushing game for Monangai, who finished the season with 1,262 yards on the ground.

Linebacker Deion Jennings led the defense with nine tackles and one for loss, LB Mohamed Toure added eight tackles, two tackles-for-loss and a sack, while freshman LB Abram Wright recorded his first career interception.

OHS Rivers named All-ACC second team

By Miami Athletics

CORAL GABLES, Fla. – Thirteen Miami Hurricanes were among those to be recognized with end-of-season all-conference football honors, the Atlantic Coast Conference announced Tuesday.

Headlined by three members of the team who earned nods to the All-ACC First Team, Miami was one of the most represented programs from the ACC on the 2023 honoree list.

Wide Receiver Xavier Restrepo, defensive back Kamren Kitchens and kicker Andres Borregales were those student-athletes to earn first-team All-ACC honors.

Offensive linemen Jalen Rivers, an Oakleaf High School graduate in Orange Park, FL, and Matt Lee, linebacker Francisco Mauigoa and SP Brashard Smith were selected to the All-ACC Second Team.

Miami, on December 28, lost 31-24 to Rutgers in the Bad Boy Mowers Pinstripe Bowl in Yankee Stadium.

Rivers, in a statement on December 18 in an article from Brian Smith of FanNation, gave notice that he would



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIAMI ATHLETICS
Former Oakleaf High football and track standout Jalen Rivers first earned a second-team All-ACC (Atlantic Coast Conference) selection and, second gave notice that he will return for his senior season at Miami.

be skipping the NFL draft and returning to Miami to play a final season.

"I talk to coach Mario Cristobal and see where the program is going and I wanted to be part of it," said Rivers, in a radio interview on InsideTheU. "I was thinking about it for a couple of weeks before the end of the season to my people. I just want to hone my skills more and be better at my craft."



OHS Turner at Alabama A & M

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALABAMA AM ATHLETICS

Former Oakleaf High guard Kaylah Turner, a freshman point guard for the Alabama A & M women's basketball team, has five games with double-figure scoring with a high of 21 against Auburn and 18 against North Alabama. Turner is a top playmaker for the Bulldogs with two games with four assists and four games with three assists. Alabama A & M is now 5-7 with a 4-1 record on their home court but is 0-4 on the road. Alabama A & M visits Florida with a road game at Bethune Cookman in Daytona Beach on Sat., Feb. 24 at 1 p.m., a Southwest Athletic Conference clash with a Mon., Feb. 26 game at FAMU at 4:30 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCNEESE STATE ATHLETICS
Former Middleburg High football standout Cole Leclair added one more honor to his 2023 season with an LSWA (Louisiana Sports Writers Association) All-Louisiana second-team selection. Leclair was selected last week as a second-team All-Southland Conference offensive lineman.

MHS Leclair gets another honor

By Matthew Bonnette
Senior Associate AD/Athletic
Communications McNeese State

LAKE CHARLES, La. – The awards keep mounting for McNeese linebacker Micah Davey when on Friday, he was named to the Walter Camp FCS All-America Team, and on Saturday, the 2023 LSWA All-Louisiana First Team along with offensive lineman Cole Leclair who was named to the second team.

Note: LSWA is the Louisiana Sports Writers Association All-Louisiana college football team.

Leclair, a junior from Middleburg, Florida who just wrapped up his second season with the Cowboys, started all 10 games and played 599 snaps on the season. He also earned All-SLC second-team honors on the year.

Leclair is a Middleburg High graduate.

Davey's All-American honor marks the sixth of the season for the outgoing sophomore from Baton Rouge. He's already earned first-team honors by the AFCA and second-team by the AP, Sports Perform, Phil Steele and FCS Football Central.

A first-team All-Southland Conference selection and seventh-place finish in the voting for the Buck Buchanan Award as the top defensive player in the nation, Davey led the FCS in three different statistical categories in 2023 – total tackles (153), tackles per game (15.3) and solo tackles per game (8.3). His 15.3 per game average set a new McNeese record while his 153 total stops rank as the sixth-most in school history in a single season.

An outgoing sophomore from Baton Rouge, Davey recorded double-digits in tackles in all 10 games on the season and became the first player in school history to collect 20 or more tackles in back-to-back games (20 vs. HCU; 21 at Lamar). The 21 tackles at Lamar were the second-most in a game in school history and ninth-most in Southland history.

The team was voted on by an LSWA panel of football media along with the sports communications/media relations staff members of the state colleges and universities. The nominations were submitted by each school and the only voting restriction was that the football communications staff member voting could not vote for their nominees.

Christmas hoops update



Oakleaf High made the road trip to the Gus Gibbs Memorial Tournament at Deland High School and came home with two wins and a loss. Pictured are, left, guard Tyler Owens with an overhead pass in win over Spruce Creek with forward Jelani Wright power flying to layup.



Oakleaf forward Sam Merrill concentrates on fourth quarter free throw against Spruce Creek.

COMPILED BY RANDY LEFKO

Gus Gibbs Memorial Invitational at Deland HS, Dec. 26-28

Oakleaf

Oakleaf (8-4) opened with a loss to Leesburg then regrouped for a win over Spruce Creek and Deland on the final day.



Left: Oakleaf center Jalen Munoz gets set for dunk attempt against Spruce Creek. Right: Fleming Island guard George Hamm elevates for running hook against Orlando Boone.

Against Deland, a 50-41 win, Oakleaf was led by Aaron Rivers with 13 points and eight steals with four assists with Jelani Wright adding 10 points. Tyler Owens also had four assists. Rivers was named an All-Tournament selection.

Against Spruce Creek, a resounding 76-39 win, coach Jason Price was able to utilize his bench through most of the second half with power forward Austin Davenport leading the scoring with 20 points from around the paint. Jalen Munoz added 10 points with five rebounds, with Rivers canning nine points and five assists.

In their opener against Leesburg (8-2), a 64-57 battle, Oakleaf was led by Rivers again with 19 points with Travis Knox adding 15.

Eustis (12-2) would win the tournament title with a 61-41 win over McKeel Academy with wins over Spruce Creek and Leesburg. Leesburg finished with a 64-41 win over Seabreeze.

Oakleaf returns home to open January with St. Augustine on the road on January 5, then Gibbs (11-1), Bartram Trail and Clay to 12. Gibbs is a 5 p.m. start on Sat., Jan. 6.

Barracuda Classic at New Smyrna Beach HS Dec. 26-28

Fleming Island

Fleming Island was looking to roll into the New Year with a tournament win, but tired legs from a rugged Battle on the Island tournament in their home gym proved fateful as the Golden Eagles lost three of three games in New Smyrna Beach.

"We were a little fatigued, I think, from our tournament, but the guys have to know what it feels like to go back to back with tough games if we want to be successful in the second half of the season," said Fleming Island coach Traavis Chandler, before taking on Boone High out of Orlando on Friday, a 58-50 loss. "We now know about where we are as far as tournament play and can prepare better for the second half of the season."

The Golden Eagles, now 8-7 with a five-game losing streak in their pocket, traveled to New Smyrna Beach after a tough 60-58 loss to Creekside and a rugged 69-47 loss to Santa Fe Catholic,

SEE HOOPS, 30



Hoops

from page 29

9-2, and a top 3A school, ranked 15th in Florida, second in 3A.

Fleming Island opened with a tough Lake Howell (6-6) squad that finished with a loss to NSU University High (11-2) before finishing with a 53-32 win over New Smyrna Beach (10-2) in the power-packed lineup in New Smyrna.

Fleming Island gets little rest as the January season sets in with Orange Park visiting on January 5 and Creekside on the schedule again on January 12.

Milton Johnson Invitational At Marianna HS

Orange Park

Orange Park came home with two thrilling victories on the road with a last-second 42-41 win over Marianna High, 12-2, ninth-ranked in 3A, with a layup at 2.8 seconds from senior Archieve Triggs III. The Raider win snapped a three-game win streak for Marianna.

In game two, Orange Park improved to 7-5 with a 48-38 win over 4A-Rutherford High (8-6) led by Triggs with 19 points and Jacob Henson with nine more.

Orange Park returns home to face off at Fleming Island on January 5.

Around the county

Middleburg

Middleburg ends 2023 with a 76-51 win over Baldwin to go to 10-1. Broncos return with Yulee on Thurs., Jan. 4 and Trinity Christian on Fri., Jan. 5.

Ridgeview

Ridgeview, 1-9, returns Fri., Jan. 5 with 7A-Jupiter (9-2) in town for a test of won/loss records and an away game at Matanzas on Saturday.

Clay

Clay, 6-3, returns with a road trip on Fri., Jan. 5 to Nease (7-6) after back-to-back losses before the break; 46-40 to Oakleaf and 68-56 to Beachside. Clay returns home for a January 9 against Menendez then a county rivalry super matchup with Middleburg, now 10-1, on January 11 followed by Oakleaf on January 12.

Keystone Heights

Keystone Heights, 6-7, returns with a three-game win streak ending 2023 with Old Plank on January 8 and Interlachen on the road on January 9. The Indians are getting a balanced attack with five players near 10 points per game led by senior Andru Seimur at 8.9 points per game. Seimur led Keystone Heights with 21 points in a 70-34 win over Tavares in the second game of the win streak.



Fleming Island guard Michael Hayward, Jr., left, eyes loose ball under basket in Barracuda Invite game against Orlando Boone. Right: Fleming Island forward Luke Frisbee lets loose with three pointer against Orlando Boone.



Orange Park went west to Marianna for the Milton Johnson Invite and came home with three wins with center Johnnie Jones becoming a dominate paint player for Raiders; left, Jones with tomahawk dunk attempt and, right, Jones, with steal to layup breakaway.



Middleburg High coach Sean Sweeney holds a 10-1 record through 2023 and will be a target in 2024 with a revigorated Broncos boys basketball team.



St. Johns Country Day School's 10-3 record comes from a total team commit from Spartans, freshman guard Elliot Graham; top left, freshman forward Dylan Reach, top right; 6-foot-5 freshman center Erik Williams, bottom left; junior forward Grayson Moody and freshman forward Luke Holcomb, bottom right.



Spartans

from page 27

want to get one of our own in my tenure," said Gibson. "The girl's soccer team is a prime example of the advantage of getting players out here early and developing them. Our other top scorer is another eighth grader, Elliot Graham, who is hitting about 10 points per game."

Gibson's second philosophical ploy for motivation is a pre-game poker chip contribution.

"What we do before the game is each player has a poker chip," said Gibson. "In our pregame meeting, they have to physically put the chip in a bucket we have and make the commit to be 'All in'. I tell them not to put the chip in if they are not intending to be all in. It's a mental commitment to

doing what the team needs to win."

Graham entered the Countryside game near the three minutes to go in the first quarter and hit his first three with freshman Dylan Reach netting one on the next run down the court for the Spartans to put the score at 21-9 en route to a 29-10 first quarter lead.

Before Countryside, which became a 77-42 win for the Spartans, St. Johns scored wins of 83-49 over Faith Christian Academy and a nifty last-second shot 74-73 overtime win over Global Outreach Charter Academy (8-5). Global, up 27-23 at the half, offered up three six-foot-plus inside players; two at 6'-5", to thwart the Spartans attack. Global had two seniors that challenged the Spartan defense; both shooting at nearly 20 points per game before the St. Johns game.

St. Johns wound up closing the game

36-34 before Moody hit a three-pointer with 4:18 on the clock to put the Spartans up 37-36. The game would be tied at 60-60 at the end of regulation time. At 1:21 to go, with St. Johns up 68-67, freshman Logan Reese hit a fall-away jumper to 70-67 with:55 on the clock. Global missed two three attempts from the corner to the 28-second mark before a steal and third three hits to put that game at 70-70 with 7.5 seconds. Global got two free throws but made just one to go up 71-70. Cooper tied the game 71-71 with his free throw with 5.4 seconds to with Global getting the ball under the St. Johns basket. Global hit one of two more free throws to go up 72-71, then got two more; hitting one to lead 73-71 with 0.9 seconds to go. A long-inbounds Joe Montana-like pass from Mamea to Cooper down the left sideline in front of the Spartan bench got one step and a

left-hand toss that swished the nets for the final 74-73 win.

"We had to have a good, balanced team effort to slow them down and the team responded," said Gibson. "Camden had 20, Mamea had 14 and sophomore Logan Reese added 13. A total team effort and a highlight of our Share the Sugar mentality."

Gibson also acknowledged the success of the Spartans girls basketball team; 10-1 before the break and 11-3 after a road trip to Charleston SC for a three-day tournament.

"We support them and they are doing the same thing with Mary Kate Kent, Kendall Proffitt and Sophia Mejia; all in the 10-15 points a game range, doing the same sharing as our boys," said Gibson. "Wouldn't it be interesting if we both made a Final Four run?"

Area wrestlers in top five for Region 2A

By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

FLEMING ISLAND - Fleming Island's team depth is paying off dividends as the room with the most state ranked teammates can only maintain a high level of excellence in state rankings as the second half of wrestling season begins in January.

Ironically, many of Clay County's best guys have faced off against eventual state

finalists in their own quest for the gold medal.

With seniors Kaden Schaefer and Chris Chop probably the most hardened veterans on the team; both multiple state meets under their belts, Fleming Island coach P.J. Cobbert, second in Class 2A last year, only has to keep his fighter jets fueled up for maximum points as wrestlers look forward to some of the more power-struck invitations on top of district and region duals



Benjamin Mitts, at 106, is young but tough competitor, in blue, for coach Jim Reape looking to upend Fleming Island in district to state duals to start in January.



Clay High's Jaden Bell is state meet qualifier in 2023 and will be key to Blue Devils improving their state rankings.

championship tournaments.

With Schaefer; who lost to Lake Gibson state champion Hayden Whiddon in semifinal before finishing third, at number two in 150 pounds, according to Kabra Wrestling's weekly rankings, and Chop at No. 3 in 175, Cobbert's troops have to push to get into those top five ranks to put a scare into the likes of Lake Gibson, 2A team champions, and Tampa Jesuit, 2A fourth, both seasoned power programs with Jesuit fielding five number ones and Lake Gibson just one number one; 152 champion Gianni Maldonado at 157, but with a bevy of number twos. Middleburg has junior Wyatt Leduc at fifth in the class and Leduc is a fierce battler that can surprise.

Oakleaf and Clay, looking to make some

noise at the region duals meet with Middleburg staying busy over the holiday, has Clay's Joseph Bucci at number two at 113; Fleming Island rival Matthew Newman at six, behind Jesuit's Malachi Ortiz and Oakleaf's Sebastian Bonachea at 126 behind Mariner's top ranked Camren French, the 113 runnerup last year, a transfer from Countryside.

Ironically, Bucci lost to 106 champion while Newman lost to 106 runnerup last year; both in semifinals with Bucci beating Newman for third place.

The 126 division is chock full of talent with Clay's Rylan Herrera at seven, Fleming Island's Shane Duhaylungsod at 11 and

SEE WRESTLERS, 33

Holiday results

Beast of the Beach Invite, Dec. 30

1. Tallassee
2. Collierville
3. Harris County
13. Middleburg

Middleburg ran three wins in pool play; 60-16 over Mosley, 60-9 over Liberty County, 45-29 over Niceville, 75-0 over Ft Walton Beach.

In championship round, Middleburg lost to Smiths Station (AL) 42-40, Harris County (GA) 42-37; beat Port Charlotte 47-23; Harris County finished third, Mosley eighth, Fort Walton Beach ninth.

Knockout Christmas Classic Kissimmee, FL Dec. 22-23

1. Cleveland (TN)
2. South Dade
3. Buford (GA)
4. Jesuit
5. Mill Creek (GA)
42. Clay

St. Johns Super 8 Creekside HS Dec. 15-16

Clay goes 5-0; wins over Pedro Menendez (66-12), Episcopal (60-15), Nease (72-6), Bishop Kenny (75-6) and Creekside (53-24). Creekside match was for tournament

title. Three Clay wrestlers Ben Mitts, Vonte Burke, Jackson Hornbeck, Rylan Herrera, Drew Holmquist and Jadon Bell all unbeaten.

Oakleaf wins district duals title

Oakleaf gets wins over Ed White, Ridgeview and Middleburg (45-28) for the district 3-2A duals title, a first for coach Mark Detoro.

Middleburg had wins over Riverside and Beachside to get to the Oakleaf final. Oakleaf will host region event January 11.

Boys Districts

District 3-2A, Region 1

Middleburg, Oakleaf, Orange Park, Ridgeview

District 4-2A, Region 1

Clay, Fleming Island
Region 1 Duals championship at Clay HS, Feb. 23-24

District 4-1A, Region 1

Keystone Heights, St. Johns Country Day School

Region 1 Duals championship at Wewahitchka Feb. 23-24

Girls Districts

District 2-1A, Region 1

Oakleaf, Orange Park

District 3-1A, Region 1

Clay, Fleming Island, Keystone Heights, Middleburg, Ridgeview

Upcoming Matches

Thurs., Jan. 4: District 4-2A Duals at Fleming Island 11:30 start

Fri.-Sat., Jan. 5-6: Joe Bees Memorial Battle of the Border, Yulee HS. Middleburg, Friday noon start, Saturday 8 a.m.

Sat., Jan. 6: Marine Corps Invitational, Riverside HS, Keystone Heights. 9:30 am start.

Fri.-Sat., Jan. 12-13: Billy Saylor Duals, Suwannee HS. Fleming Island, Friday 12:30 p.m., Sat., 9:30 a.m..

Cousins-Milton-Winter Memorial, St. Cloud HS, Middleburg. Fri., 5 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m.

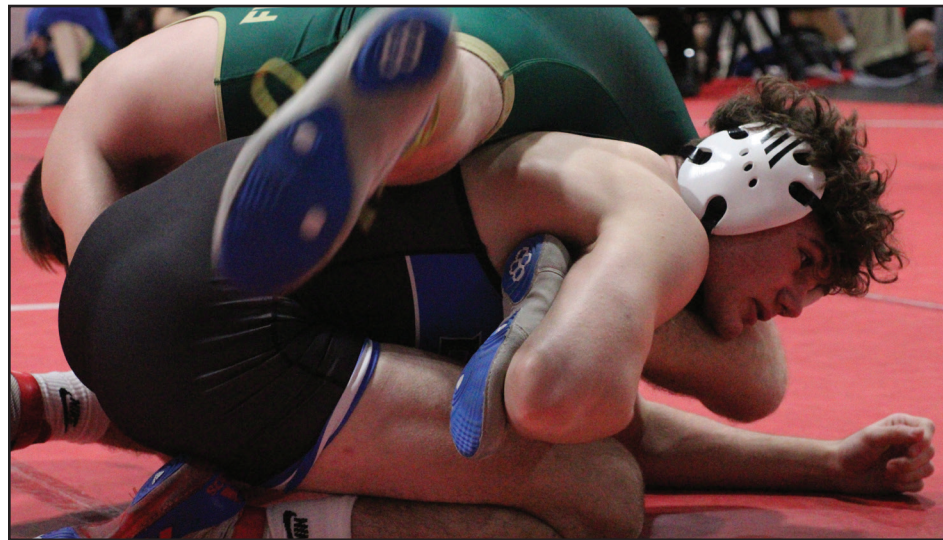
Gator Brawl, Wewahitchka HS, Ridgeview, Friday noon, Sat., 10 a.m.

Sat., Jan. 13: Rusted Jade Ladies Classic, Hernando HS, Middleburg.

Sat., Jan. 13: Trojan Invitational, Lincoln HS, Clay, 10:30 a.m. start

Sat., Jan. 13: Wolfpack IBT Challenge: Wolfson HS, Keystone Heights. 9:30 a.m. start

Wed. Jan. 17: Raider Duals at OPHS



Two key young wrestlers from two powerhouse programs; Fleming Island's Dylan Beck, under Valdosta opponent in Keystone Memorial semifinals, and, right, Drew Loveland for Clay.



From left, Clay High veteran Hayden Mesaroz, one of just three seniors on Blue Devils roster, is key battler for young Blue Devils. Center, Middleburg has David Hall in middle weights as brash, athletic competitor with plenty of mat firepower while, right, Oakleaf High team won their district dual title for first title for second year coach Mark Detoro.



Middleburg High girls wrestling, coach by Coll Robertson, left, has Riley Toomey as tough soccer athlete on the mat, while, right, Lilly Bradshaw will try to follow graduate sister Gracie with a ticket to the state meet.

Wrestlers

from page 32

Oakleaf's Angel Rodriguez at 14. Rodriguez and Bonachea will have to sort out weight classes to maximize points for coach Mark Detoro who looks to keep his district title run in tact.

In 2023, Duhaylungsod lost to 113 champion Roman Lermer of Jesuit in his

second match with Clay's freshman Drew Holmquist losing to 113 runnerup Camren French in his first match.

Middleburg has a surprise freshman, Gavin Fisher, 23-1 at 106, who is making waves as a sixth seed in that group includes Oakleaf's Connor Barnes at 11 and Ridgeview's Daniel Nguyen at 20.

Two guys with a tough row to hoe will be Middleburg's Grady Woodard, Fleming Island's Jordan Mukaddam and Oakleaf's

Ian Hortinela all at 120 in a division that features a 1-2-3 top of Jesuit, Gibson and Jesuit with a Charlotte at four.

In 2023 at 120, Woodard lost to Jesuit champion Christian Fretwell in his second match.

One guy who may be in his more suitable weight class due to Middleburg increase in team size is senior Tucker Cody, now 12-1, who got to state as a small 285er last year, but looks more agreeable

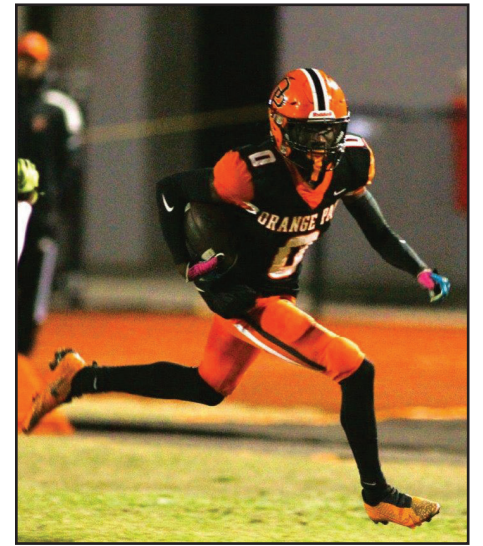
at 215 where he sits at sixth with unbeaten Matanzas Jordan Mills (12-0) on top. Also in 215's top 20 are Fleming Island's Walter Poe at eight, Jayshawn Mcloud of Clay at 11, Raymond Goforth of Ridgeview at 14 and Oakleaf's Evan Brown at 17.

The last guy to talk about is Fleming Island's 285 Kevin Reyes, a state weightlift champion, who is only ranked 20, but has a Georgia state runnerup on his hit list highlighting his potential.



Through the lens

OF SPORTS CORRESPONDENT RAY DIMONDA



CLAY COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES

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. 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 crlntrp@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

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 76 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, 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,

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 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

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, 01/23/2024 10:00 AM Sonja Chapman Household goods Antoniette Martinez Household goods, Holiday decor 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 94793 Published 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 76 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, 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. 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 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 HIGHLRIDGE 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. 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

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 January 23, 2024, 10:00 AM. Jessica Carson Household goods Samuel Lynn Johnson Household goods Cynthia Mott Johnson 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 94775 Published 1/4/2024 and 1/11/2024 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. Kallahaer 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

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 HIGHLRIDGE 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. Dated this 11th day of December, 2023 TARA S . GREEN Clay County Clerk & Comptroller Clay County, Florida By: 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. Dated this 11th day of December, 2023 TARA S . GREEN Clay County Clerk & Comptroller Clay County, Florida By: 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. Dated this 12th day of December, 2023 TARA S . GREEN Clay County Clerk & Comptroller Clay County, Florida By: 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.: 468/2017 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: ROBERT 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. Dated this 11th day of December, 2023 TARA S . GREEN Clay County Clerk & Comptroller Clay County, Florida By: 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. Dated this 11th day of December, 2023 TARA S . GREEN Clay County Clerk & Comptroller Clay County, Florida By: 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 369,1811 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 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. Dated this 11th day of December, 2023 TARA S . GREEN Clay County Clerk & Comptroller Clay County, Florida By: 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.: 466/2017 Legal Description: LOT 140 SILVER SANDS ESTATE AS REC O R 359 PG 369,1811 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. Dated this 11th day of December, 2023 TARA S . GREEN Clay County Clerk & Comptroller Clay County, Florida By: 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. Dated this 11th day of December, 2023 TARA S . GREEN Clay County Clerk & Comptroller Clay County, Florida By: 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.: 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. Dated this 11th day of December, 2023 TARA S . GREEN Clay County Clerk & Comptroller Clay County, Florida By: 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



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CLAY COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES

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.**
Dated this 11th day of December, 2023
 TARA S. GREEN
 Clay County Clerk & Comptroller
 Clay County, Florida
 By: 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.: 220823-003878-000-00
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.**
Dated this 11th day of December, 2023
 TARA S. GREEN
 Clay County Clerk & Comptroller
 Clay County, Florida
 By: 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.**
Dated this 11th day of December, 2023
 TARA S. GREEN
 Clay County Clerk & Comptroller
 Clay County, Florida
 By: 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 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 ENVISON 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 TO CREDITORS

(Full Administration)
 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
 Case No.: 2023 CP 000164
 Division:
 IN RE: ESTATE OF DONALD GODBOLD, Deceased.
 The administration of the estate of **DONALD GODBOLD**, deceased, whose date of death was December 26, 2022, is pending in the Circuit Court for Clay County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Clay County Court-house, 825 North Orange Avenue, Green Cove Springs, Florida. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the estate of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against the 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 the 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 PERIOD 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 January 4, 2024.
 PETITIONER
TERESA GODBOLD
 Petitioner
 ATTORNEY FOR THE PETITIONER
THE DAVIE LAW FIRM, P.A.
WILLIAM H. DAVIE, II
 Fla. Bar. No.: 634387
 733 N. Palmetto Avenue
 Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043
 (904) 276-5344-Phone
 (904) 284-8725-Fax
 BDavie@DavieLawFirm.com-Primary
 Service@DavieLawFirm.com-Secondary
 Attorney for Petitioner
Legal 96089 Published 1/4/2024 and 1/11/2024 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

PUBLIC NOTICE

Clay County Towing gives notice of lien and intent to sell the following vehicles at 2864 Blanding Blvd, Middleburg, FL 32068 at date and time listed below.
CLAY COUNTY TOWING & RECOVERY AUCTION: January 30, 2024 @ 10:00 AM
 2016 DODGE. VIN# 2C3CDXCT4GH186586
 Pursuant to subsection 713-78 of the FL Statute, Clay County Towing reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.
Legal 96088 Published 1/4/2024 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

FICTITIOUS NAME

Notice Is Hereby Given that M & G RESTORE FLEMING ISLAND LLC, 12 Manor Rd, Old Greenwich, CT 06870, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of **RESTORE HYPER WELLNESS FLEMING ISLAND**, with its principal place of business in the State of Florida in the County of Clay, intends to file an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name with the Florida Department of State.
Legal 96087 Published 1/4/2024 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

NOTICE OF SALE

IN THE 4th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA
 Case No. 2023CA001229
 Division: B
 21ST MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Plaintiff,

vs. **LESLEY CLARK WILFORD; UNKNOWN LESLEY CLARK WILFORD; SHANNON WILFORD; and UNKNOWN TENANT Defendant.**
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment dated November 30, 2023, entered in Case No.: 2023CA001229 of the Circuit Court in and for Clay County, Florida, wherein **LESLEY CLARK WILFORD and SHANNON WILFORD**, are the Defendants, that Tara S. Green will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, on **February 07, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.**, at the Clerk of the Circuit Court, online at www.clay.realforeclose.com, the following described real property as set forth in the Final Judgment: **SEE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A" TOGETHER WITH A 2020 LIVE OAK 28X56 MANUFACTURED HOME BEARING SERIAL NO.'S: LOHGA2203560A AND LOHGA2203560B.**
NOTICE 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.
 Dated this 28th day of December, 2023
 Clerk of the Circuit Court
 By: Jennifer Brosky
 As Deputy Clerk

NOTICE
 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, PERSONS NEEDING SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS FUNCTION SHOULD CONTACT COUNTY CIVIL NOT LATER THAN ONE (1) DAY PRIOR TO THE FUNCTION 904-630-2028; if you are hearing impaired, call 1-800-955-8771; if you are voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8770.
Exhibit "A"
Lot 25 Goldhead Estates
 A parcel of land situated in the Southwest 1/4 of Section 32, Township 7 South, Range 24 East, Clay County, Florida, and being Lot 25 of Goldhead Estates an unrecorded map of a survey by Joseph G. Knapp, Surveyor; said parcel being more particularly described as follows: Commence at the Southwest corner of said Section 32 and run North 00 degrees 13 minutes 31 seconds East, along the West line of said Section 32 a distance of 220.01 feet to the centerline of a 60 foot easement for utilities and general road purposes; thence run North 89 degrees 23 minutes 55 seconds East, along centerline 203.18 feet; thence run South 00 degrees 07 minutes 44 seconds East, 220.00 feet to the South line of said Section 32; thence run South 89 degrees 23 minutes 55 seconds West, along said South line, 203.18 feet; thence run North 00 degrees 07 minutes 44 seconds West, 220.00 feet to the point of beginning.
Legal 96086 Published 1/4/2024 and 1/11/2024 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 in Regular Session at 2:00 P.M. on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, in the Board Room at the Clay County Utility Authority, 3176 Old Jennings Road, Middleburg, Florida.
 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 96085 Published 1/4/2024 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

BURGART ENTERPRISES TOWING INC. gives notice that on 01/19/2024 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.
 1D8GT58627W680374 2007 DODG
 1J4GL48X7W500509 2007 JEEP
 3GNCJLSB4FL208623 2015 CHEV
Legal 96084 Published 1/4/2024 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

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