

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS HERALD

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Defining Keystone Height's strategic plan now underway

By Jack Randall
jack@claytodayonline.com

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – Recreation is an integral part of the city's culture. The sparkling lakes, sandy beaches and shady live oak trees beckoned the first residents to the area just about a century ago.

With the progress of the Black Creek Restoration Project moving along "swimmingly" and with the eager expectation that the water levels of the lakes will rise to high historic levels, city council has been working ahead to develop a "master plan" for Keystone Heights and for the 22 acres of parks within.

A proposal authored by Manzan Consulting for The Smart City Master Plan looked at ways to improve walkability through the city and the parks, implement technology when pertinent, and improve functionality and aesthetic character for recreational areas.

Some ideas included building a new government building, adding lights around the Moon Tree (an American Sycamore grown from a seed that traveled to the Moon on



Left: Recreation has always been integral to the culture of Keystone Heights. Right: The Keystone Heights Historic Pavilion was once part of the original resort.

Apollo 14), growing native flowering plants in the butterfly garden, building a splash park at Keystone Beach and adding a kayak launch.

Manzan's proposal can be found at key-

stoneheights.us.

During the city council's workshop on Feb. 28, a consultant from Manzan said the proposal's cost falls between \$2-8 million.

"We're going to have to definitely find



someone who can write grants because we don't have the money that other parts of the government do," said Councilman Tony Brown.

SEE KEYSTONE, 9

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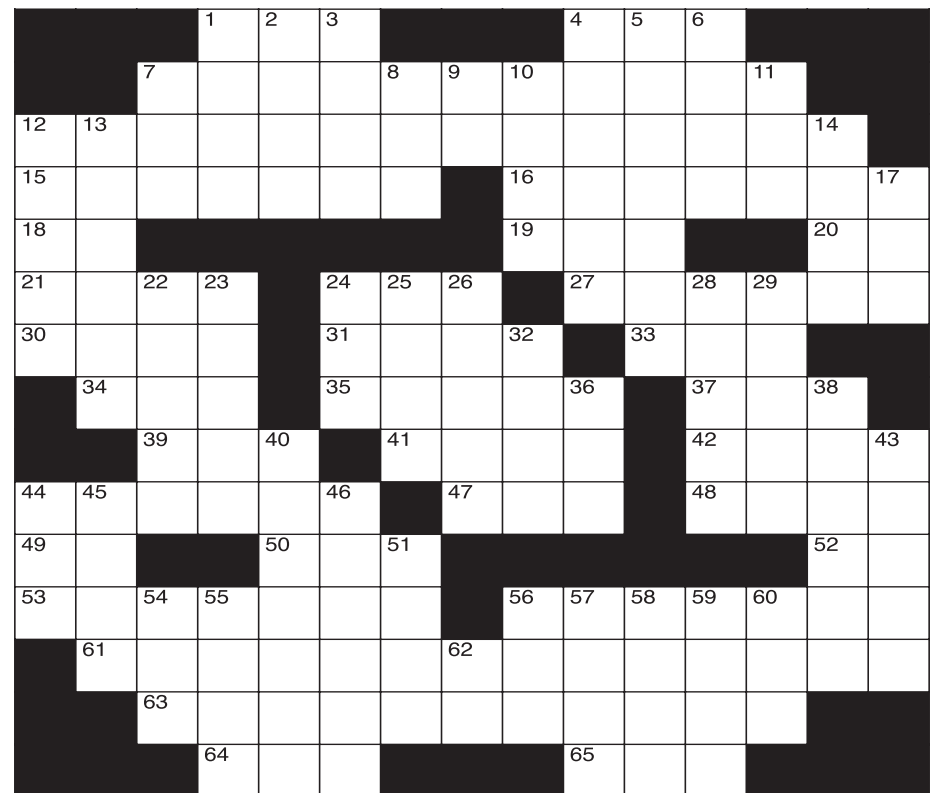


PUZZLE FUN

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.
eh sha niers

Answer: He has Risen



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Helps little firms
- 4. Political action committee
- 7. Allowed
- 12. Olivia Colman played one
- 15. Open
- 16. He had a notable lamp
- 18. Promotional material
- 19. Domesticated animal
- 20. Larry and Curly buddy
- 21. The best ever
- 24. TV network
- 27. Checked for
- 30. Dry or withered
- 31. Expression of annoyance
- 33. Dash
- 34. Fifth note of a major scale
- 35. A secret clique
- 37. Partner to cheese
- 39. ___ school: where to learn healing
- 41. City in ancient Syria
- 42. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- 44. Established practice
- 47. Thanksgiving side dish
- 48. District in Peru
- 49. It's becoming more prevalent
- 50. State in India
- 52. Measure of illumination

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Prevent from seeing
- 2. Czech city
- 3. ___ and Andy, TV show
- 4. A young pig
- 5. Removed surgically
- 6. Covered with
- 7. Expression of (slang)
- 8. Nigerian City
- 9. Midway between south and east
- 10. A way to shut
- 11. Stop playing
- 12. Marshy places
- 13. Takes apart
- 14. Ten cents
- 17. A gesture of assent
- 22. Scent
- 23. Teletypewriter
- 24. General's assistant (abbr.)
- 25. Hillside
- 26. Taxi driver
- 28. Semitic Sun god

- 29. Town in India
- 32. Traditional rhythmic pattern
- 36. Fugitives are on the ___
- 38. Type of dance
- 40. Two letters, one sound
- 43. Having a strong, pleasant taste
- 44. Golf score
- 45. Mayhem
- 46. Drenched
- 51. River in northeastern Asia
- 54. Drug to treat anxiety (abbr.)
- 55. Part-time employee
- 56. A very large body of water
- 57. Aboriginal people of Japan
- 58. Millisecond
- 59. Forearm bone
- 60. Subway dweller
- 62. Royal Mail

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Keystone Heights sixth-grader calmly wins county spelling bee

Jillian Huntley correctly spells 'cauterize' to advance to Northeast Florida Regionals

By Don Coble
don@claytodayonline.com

LAKE ASBURY – Just like she did with her 10 previous words, Jillian Huntley calmly asked three questions about her championship round word at Thursday night's Clay County District Spelling Bee.

Then she stepped up and, without hesitation, answered.

"Cauterize. C-A-U-T-E-R-I-Z-E. Cauterize."
Parents and school officials waited for

two excruciating seconds for judge Amanda Strickland to say "correct" or ring a bell for a wrong answer.

"Correct."

The Keystone Heights sixth-grader flashed a calm, soft smile.

"I've always been a good speller," Jillian said after receiving her first-place trophy – and a trip to the 14-county Northeast Florida Regionals at LaVilla School of the Arts in

SEE BEE, 8



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OPINIONS & VIEWPOINTS

Here's an easy solution to putting the brakes on red-light camera debate

By Don Coble
Managing Editor

We've all been behind the wheel, cruising into an intersection when the light just turns yellow. When we're too close to slam the brakes but not close enough to speed through.



Don Coble

What do we do?

When I was young and dumb, I chose to speed through, promising to stop twice at the next yellow light. Granted, I come from a generation before they had red light cameras.

Maybe I would have gotten a ticket in my

younger days. Maybe not.

But now that I'm older – I just learned I've full retirement age – I'm more like Kathy Bates' character in "Fried Green Tomatoes," Evelyn Couch, when she said, "I'm older and have more insurance."

That may be so, but why use it?

That's why you won't catch me running a yellow light, camera or none.

I know they have a speed camera on U.S. Highway 11 East between Johnson City and Bristol, Tennessee, very close to Pardner's Bar-B-Que in Piney Flats, Tennessee. I knew it was time to slow down when I smelled hickory smoke. (By the way, if you're ever up there to see a race or to see Rocky Top, you've been warned.) Drag racer John Force didn't get the message and got three speeding tickets in the mail after he competed at the Bristol Mo-

tor Dragway.

He also wasn't aware of Waldo's "speed trap." Stopping in Waldo on his way to the Gatornationals, he once told me he got a speeding ticket in the McDonald's drive-thru line. It's no wonder then-Gov. Rick Scott disbanded that corrupt agency in 2014.

That brings us back to red lights. And red-light cameras.

Some vehemently oppose red-light cameras. They argue the camera installations don't directly contribute to fewer fatal accidents. They also claim they can't face their accuser in court.

Actually, they can fight their tickets. They'll have to disprove the video evidence of them passing through a red-light intersection.

SEE CAMERA, 5

How to raise a healthy, active child

StatePointe Media.com
For The Herald

Many factors impact your child or teen's wellness, including where you live, genetics and other influences. According to experts, you can encourage a healthy lifestyle for your child and help prevent obesity and other illnesses that can extend into adulthood.

"Raising a healthy, active child is about much more than nutrition and physical activity," says Natalie D. Muth, a pediatrician and registered dietician. "It also entails adequate sleep, a positive approach to screen use and social-emotional wellness, and the best of your ability, helping ensure your surrounding environment supports healthy routines."

At a time when few children and adolescents meet the recommendations for nutrition and activity, a new clinical report from the American Academy of Pediatrics, "The Role of the Pediatrician in the Promotion of Healthy, Active Living," offers guidance to help optimize a child's health regardless of their weight, as well as strategies based on the best science that can also help prevent obesity at every stage, from infancy through adolescence.

Here are some practical tips from the AAP that you can use to tackle issues within your control:

- Learn about good nutrition. Visit MyPlate.gov for great ways to take a team approach to planning and making meals so kids can actively participate in their eating. The site considers cultural traditions, giving examples of healthy meals with familiar foods.

- Reach for water. Sugary drinks, such as 100% fruit juice, sodas, sports drinks and fruit drinks, account for 24% of added sugar intake in the U.S. diet in people one year and older. Consumption contributes significantly to an increased risk of cardiovascular disease, childhood obesity, type 2 diabetes and other health risks, according to USDA statistics. Ideally, aim for one sugary drink or fewer a week. Bonus: drinking water cleans-

SEE HEALTH, 5



Word OF THE MONTH

Word of the Week is a feature that aims to help readers boost their vocabulary in a meaningful way that has practical application. Each week, our editorial staff presents a word, its definition and its use in a sentence.

Uterior: (ul-TEER-ee-er) an adjective that means things (usually motives, objectives, reasons, agendas, etc.) that are kept hidden in order to achieve a particular result.

"Rory found it hard to not be suspicious of the accountant for offering these services for free; her eagerness to help suggested she has an ulterior motive."

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. We look forward to hearing from you!

Opinions ...

The views and opinions expressed on this page are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Clay Today.

Camera

from page 4

The Green Cove Springs Police Department, which has five cameras, posted a video on its social media page showing a pickup truck running the light at U.S. Highway 17 and State Road 16. The driver claimed if he stopped, he would have been rear-ended. The video showed the light was already red when he approached the interception at 48 mph – 13 mph faster than the speed limit – with no trailing traffic.

Speeding and running red lights frequently go hand in hand.

GCSPD said every red-light camera violation is reviewed before it is submitted for a violation.

In 2011, Green Cove Springs issued 263 red-light camera tickets. Of those, 22

were dismissed, and 63 were found not guilty. In most cases, the winning defense was tickets were issued to car owners, not the actual drivers. However, none of the defendants argued the car didn't run the red light.

The other 166 drivers paid their fines that year.

Since adding cameras in fiscal year 2010-2011, Green Cove has collected almost \$4 million in fines, which doesn't count for the time for law enforcement to monitor the process. Perhaps the residents who oppose the cameras should argue taxes should be increased by that much to pay for additional police officers to patrol the streets instead of relying on cameras.

There are three red-light cameras in Orange Park.

Orange Park resident David Coughlin

received a \$262 red-light camera citation in 2013 for running a red light at U.S. 17 Highway and Loring Avenue in Orange Park and \$262 for running a red light at SR 17 and Ferris Street in 2015. The case in Orange Park was eventually dismissed, but he was found guilty of the Green Cove Springs infraction.

Coughlin adamantly opposes the use of cameras, once telling the Orange Park Town Council, "We expect law enforcement officers to attest in court to the full hemisphere of events and audio as well as make proper identification of the motorist; however, we do not require this of our red light regime."

Here's a different approach that hasn't been discussed:

HOW ABOUT NOT RUNNING THE RED LIGHT!



"The screenshot shows how fast (48 mph in a 30 mph zone) the vehicle was going as it ran the red light. It also shows that the amber light was on for 3.7 seconds before turning red," GCSPD said on its social media.

This Month in History

Five years ago, 2019

- Town attorney Sam Garrison said Orange Park could not ban AirBnB and other short-term rental properties. He said the town can charge a business tax on those property owners, however.

- Sheriff Darryl Daniels pulled his proposal to keep Clay County Sheriff's Office deputies in public schools from the Board of County Commissioners. Subsequently, the county and the school district moved forward to create the CCDS Police Department, which would serve public schools for five years.

- Responding to the recent closure of the Country Club of Orange Park's golf course, tennis courts and other amenities, Clay County commissioners declined to purchase the club's amenities and incorporate them into the county's park system.

10 years ago, 2014

- The Green Cove Springs City Council approves mail-in ballots for amendments to the city charter, but not for elected officials.
- Orange Park businessman Eugene Nix defeated incumbent Marge Hutton, 458-332, in their election for Seat 2 on the town

council.

- Orange Park Medical Center opened a new two-story, 7,000-square-foot atrium lobby, which included a new gift shop, large chapel, additional classrooms and a sandwich and coffee kiosk, as part of its 40th anniversary celebration.

20 years ago, 2004

- Community members celebrated the opening of Moccasin Slough Park, a 255 acre tract off U.S. Highway 17 on Fleming Island that includes two nature trails, a covered pavilion and picnic area. The site was transferred to Clay County after being purchased by the Trust for Public Land.
- Rick Beseler, a retired investigator for the Clay County office of the State Attorney's

Office, announced he was running for Clay County Sheriff. He would win the election and then two subsequent reelections.

30 years ago, 1994

- Orange Park Town Council voted 3-2 to spend \$979,000 on its new town hall building. It awarded the bid to the Devcon Group Inc., which estimated it would take 270 days to complete construction.
- Clay County Sheriff Scott Lancaster warned residents to avoid a phony telephone solicitation campaign by people saying they were seeking donations on behalf of the CCSO, the Police Benevolent Association and the Fraternal Order of Police.

Health

from page 4

es teeth and gums and prevents cavities now while setting the stage for lifelong dental health.

- Limit ultra-processed foods. Avoiding ultra-processed foods altogether may not be realistic, but try to limit their access and help children and adolescents learn the benefits of eating whole foods like fruits and vegetables. You can also talk with them about the health risks of too much "junk food," which is generally loaded with sugar and salt, doesn't

increase feelings of fullness, and prompts overeating.

- Adopt a family media plan. Everyone benefits from sensible screen time limits that make room for healthy activities. Engage kids in creating a plan for the whole family.

- Move more. Getting up and moving more can be challenging, but when you prioritize it, kids benefit. Organized sports aren't the only option. Your family can also enjoy walking, biking, swimming and dancing. Indoors, you can try active gaming or online fitness classes to strengthen muscles,

build coordination and release tension.

- Manage stress. Consider what you can let go if your schedule is jammed with so many commitments that there's no room for healthy downtime. Rest rebuilds the body's systems after the challenges of a tough day or week, so reserve time for it.

- Lean on support. Not all neighborhoods have safe places for children to play and walk to school or offer nutritious and affordable food nearby. Additionally, factors like racism, toxic stress, housing or food insecurity and safety risks can impact your child's health. Creating a safe home environ-

ment and leaning on the support of schools, health care systems and the wider community can create a healthier life for your child. One important resource is your pediatrician. Talk to them about ways to support your child's active, healthy lifestyle.

For more tips and resources, visit healthychildren.org.

"Remember that feeling loved, seen and appreciated is just as central to your child's health as nutrition and exercise. The brain and the body are one system – so when kids feel safe and secure, their bodies function well," said Dr. Muth.

Dan Lewandowski flies in for a second term

By Jack Randall
jack@claytodayonline.com

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – Two seats for the city council were up for grabs this election cycle. Because the deadline to register as a candidate has already passed and because only one candidate registered for each seat, Councilmembers Dan Lewandowski and Elston Kussler won their elections unopposed.

Previously appointed to complete Councilmember Bobby Brown's term when he resigned, this marks Lewandowski's second full term on the city council. His first was from 2015 to 2018.

Lewandowski said Keystone Heights has "three gems" – the lakes, the airport, and

the schools. He says the city's success depends on cultivating these interconnected elements. He shared a profound, unifying theory:

It all starts in Kingsley Lake and the Camp Blanding watershed, where water flows south and collects into Alligator Creek. The water continues through Alligator Creek and fills Lake Brooklyn, then tiny Lake Keystone and then Lake Geneva.



Dan Lewandowski

The city depends on the water cascade through the Etonia Chain of lakes. Lewandowski said that property values are directly proportional to the lake's waterline, and funding for the schools is dependent on the surrounding property values (ad valorem taxes).

Indeed, a "rising tide" lifts all of Keystone Heights.

Lewandowski said the airport has the potential to be an economic focal point since it is the only true public airport in the county.

"It was handed off to the city following World War II, apparently after Starke and Bradford turned it down. All I can say is praise the Lord!" Lewandowski said.

Lewandowski sees the potential of Keystone Heights Airport, especially after serving 29 years in the Air Force with an aerospace engineering background. His military background in aerospace has led to a results-driven mindset. In the same way a post as squadron commander lasts two years, a full term on the city council is only three.

Lewandowski is eager to develop the city's strategic plan, ideally by its centennial next year.

"First, let's just have a plan. So much comes from having a plan – grant funding, public support and long-term goals. Let's get

SEE LEWANDOWSKI, 14

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Elston Kussler rolls onto City Council in April

By Jack Randall
jack@claytodayonline.com

KEystone HEIGHTS – Two seats for the city council were up for grabs this election cycle. Because the deadline to register as a candidate has already passed and because only one candidate registered for each seat, the unopposed elections have already been decided.

Elston “Speedy” Kussler will replace Stephen O. Hart, who decided not to run for his final three-year term.

Additionally, Daniel Lewandowski has

won reelection.

“Stephen Hart wanted me to take his place. Neighbors asked me to run, too,” said Kussler.

“It doesn’t matter what’s on the agenda. (The decisions) will be affecting someone. So, you’ll be seeing me think a lot,” he said.

Kussler has lived in Keystone Heights for three years. Before he moved to the city, he served in the Navy for 20 years. He was stationed in Scotland and in the Middle East during Operation Desert Storm. He shared a fond memory during his career, when he became Senior Chief Petty Officer.



“I’ll always remember the day I made Chief. By then, I had some injuries and it caught up to me. I was 18 years in. When I got to 20 years, I retired,” he said.

Now, he volunteers at the Community Church of Keystone Heights and Lakeside Ministries.

As a council member-elect, Kussler wants to foster greater safety in Keystone Heights. He is concerned with the growing traffic along State Road 100, especially for pedestrians attempting to cross.

“I can’t tell you how many times I try to cross at the crosswalk, hit the button, and the cars don’t stop. They’re racing to go somewhere. It is a safety concern.”

Kussler supports the recent lake renewal and conservation programs. Specifically, he is a supporter of the Black Creek Restoration

SEE KUSSLER, 14

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Bee

from page 3

Jacksonville on March 25. That winner will advance to the Scripps National Spelling Bee at National Harbor, Maryland, on May 28.

The Bee started with 39 contestants from the county's public and private schools. With words like "luciferin," "coccidiosis," "avens,"



A Keystone Heights Elementary third-grade class created this good luck poster before sixth-grader Jillian Huntley left for the Spelling Bee. It proved to be a lucky charm.



Third-place Peyton Holloway of St. Johns Classical Academy-Fleming Island, champion Jillian Huntley of Keystone Heights Elementary and second-place Aidan Watt of Lakeside Junior High join Superintendent David Broskie after Thursday night's Spelling Bee at Lake Asbury Junior High.

STAFF PHOTOS BY DON COBLE

"Pleiades," "pronaos," "retinitis pigmentosa" and "Trinidadian," 34 contestants were eliminated in the first four rounds.

It took eight rounds to pare the field to three – Jillian, Aidan Watt of Lakeside Junior High and Peyton Holloway of St. Johns Clas-

sical Academy-Fleming Island.

Jillian correctly spelled "ficus," Aidan spelled "cataclysmic" and Peyton spelled "Florentine" to move to the 10th round.

When Aidan misspelled "peradventure" and Peyton missed "extraneous," Jillian won with a word that meant "burn the skin or flesh with a heated instrument or caustic substance, typically to stop bleeding or prevent the wound from becoming infected."

Jillian said her favorite subject in school is math, but she spent "15 to 30 minutes a day, when I have time," studying the list of Spelling Bee words.

Some of the other words she correctly spelled were "unscathed," "dissemination," "rhythmically" and "campanology."

Jillian said she's competed in five Bees. She attended Melrose Elementary last year and won the Putnam County Bee. At Keystone, she can keep spelling for two more years since the limits are 16 years or not past eighth grade.

Before she left for Lake Asbury Junior High, Keystone Heights third graders made her a good luck poster that read: "We Bee Lieve in You." Her parents had the sign in the

audience.

In addition to having a knack for remembering words from the hand guide and being a good speller, Jillian said she also relies on "sounding out words."

Principal Elizabeth Turbeville was euphoric about the win. She said she texted teachers and staff throughout the competition to keep them informed.

"I am beyond proud," Turbeville said. "I'm glowing with pride. This is the best part of my job. Being a principal isn't easy, but nights like this make it worth it."

Classmates heard about Jillian during Friday morning's announcements, and the school is expected to further celebrate the victory on Monday.

"She is a sweet, spirited girl," Turbeville said. "You really want to get behind someone like her."

Jillian brought the Spelling Bee trophy home to Keystone Heights for the third consecutive year. Junior/Senior High's Rena Reddish won in 2022 by correctly spelling "dicey." She followed that up by winning with "eradicates" last year.

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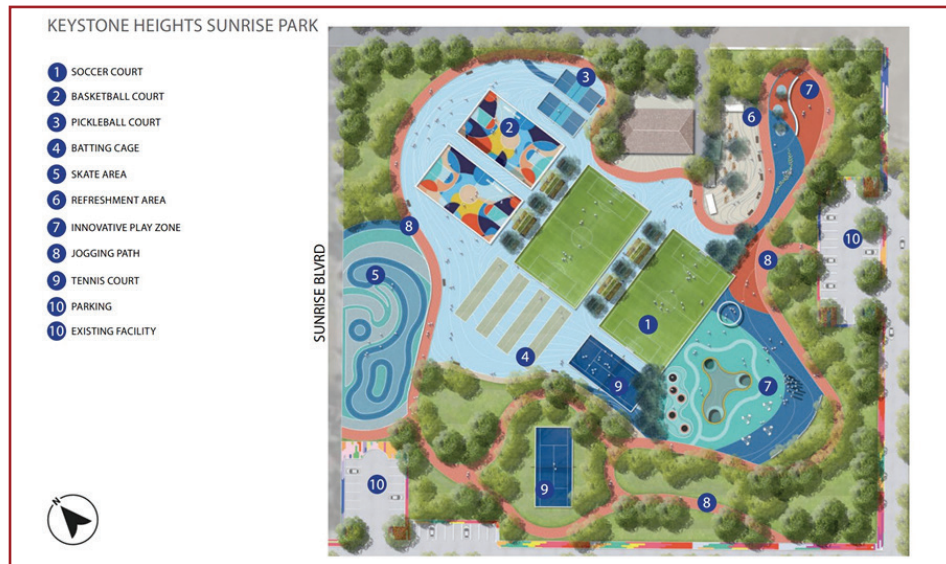
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Getting Started

Keystone Heights can leverage existing infrastructure, capabilities, and resources to achieve the Core Objectives.

For Example: Transportation and accessibility determine the ease with which residents, workers, and visitors can navigate and access the City and its services.

Keystone Heights Essential Services

- 8 medical facilities
- 3 banks
- 3 law offices
- 1 library
- 1 post office
- 1 grocery store
- 2 veterinarians
- 1 fire station
- 2 schools
- 6 churches
- 7 parks

Keystone from page 25

A resident argued the proposal was a waste of time and money.

“It’s easier to have the concept on paper so (the community) can work from that,” said the consultant. “It was a relatively low-cost project. It’s a normal part of the planning process.”

Another resident said whatever steps are taken, the historic charm of the city needs to be preserved. For example, the Keystone Heights Historic Pavilion was once part of the original resort.

During the city council’s workshop, Mayor Nina Rodenroth was finally able to address the repeated acts of vandalism that have maimed the pavilion and surrounding parks.

“We’ve had a ton of things happen in the bathrooms. They have been destroyed twice. I know paper towels are being pulled out and thrown everywhere so nobody can use them,” Rodenroth said.

Councilmember Stephen Hart suggested that the city should have a stricter stance, such as hiring private security. Brown agreed there is merit to having private security or an off-duty deputy patrol the parks.

“When I was mayor, we had one guy actually shimmy up and knock off one of the cameras,” Brown said.

“If you come into this park and mess anything up, you’re going to be liable. Your parents are going to be liable if you’re underage. I think tough love is for the best,” said Vice Mayor Christine Thompson.

Rodenroth is still open to starting a Pavil-



Cover image for the Smart City Master Plan that was presented in January, which will be used as a basis moving forward.

ion Park Task Force to lay out the data and present possible solutions to the public. One idea from the Clay County Sheriff’s Office was to encourage residents to record and report acts of vandalism. She said a volunteer community-led effort would save the city money from hiring additional private security.

“It’s got to be data-driven. Last year, we had 73 incidents in the city of Keystone Heights,” she said.

Rodenroth said a restroom was destroyed at 3 p.m. on a Sunday. Vandalism typically occurs during the day when school is out.

Fostering safe public recreational spaces will be a sizeable portion of the city’s strategic plan, if not the cornerstone. A finalized

Keystone Heights Smart City Master Plan 2024

strategic plan is typically a prerequisite for grant funding and the first step to achieving short- and long-term municipal goals.

The city council must first chart the

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course before the city can be steered in a favorable direction.

A process which will not happen overnight.

Councilmember Dan Lewandowski suggested nine months of writing and three months of review at the March 4 meeting. City Manager Charlie Van Zant Jr. said he would contact Dr. Joe Saviak, someone with experience authoring strategic plans.

The strategic plan will be a working document that will require months to iron out the details and much community input. Hopefully, it will come out shiny and smooth for the city’s centennial next year.

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The bottom line:

Improvements at Tax Collector's Office saving money for residents

By Don Coble
don@claytodayonline.com

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – The first thing you notice in Diane Hutchings' office is her desk, bookcase and conference table. All are regal in both size and influence, each masterfully crafted from wood to command a higher sense of attention.

But they were done on the cheap.

The one thing Hutchings hates most is spending money – especially other people's money.

The conference table was found in a closet at the Tax Collector's Office. Instead of buying a new one, she had it refinished. The desk and bookcase were purchased on Craig's List for pennies on the dollar.

"We're always working on ways to save time and money," Hutchings said. "That way, we can be more efficient, especially as our county grows."

Hutchings was elected in 2020 and immediately moved to automate the office. Clerks got second computer screens, so they didn't have to constantly close one program to move to another. The office added a no-

fee service to accept checks online and a tag renewal kiosk at the Publix Super Market at the Village Shopping Center in Orange Park.

"By adding the second screen, we sometimes reduced the amount of time they were on the phone by an hour, and we kept them from making repetitive keystrokes," she said. "Before, it was just one monitor. They had to close the window, open a window, close a window, close a window. Now they just go."

The main office at the County Administration Building offers a unique service for residents who have difficulty speaking English.

"We have a device called Pocketalk that we can use to set up a language and ask someone what they need, and it will ask them in their language," Hutchings said. "When they respond, the answer is given back in English. It's important for someone to feel comfortable. There's no confusion. It saves time and eliminates mistakes."

Hutchings likened the software to "Blockbuster Video" when she took over. The new software was expensive up front, but she said the time saved on the backside far offset the investment. She found that other Florida



STAFF PHOTO BY JACK RANDALL

Tax Collector Diane Hutchings shows how the Luxer Locker works in the main lobby of the Green Cove Springs office. Car dealers can leave a stack of registration applications in a locker, and when they're completed, they will be notified by cellphone to return to pick them up from the locker. This eliminates the need for the dealership employee to wait for them to be done.

tax offices had saved "millions" over time with the new software, so she bought it.

"It was a no-brainer," she said, "especially when you eliminate keystrokes and save hours of time."

The Green Cove Springs office also uses a machine that opens, separates and cata-

logs checks for deposits. What used to take a half day now takes less than an hour.

After all, time is money.

The offices in Orange Park and Keystone Heights are in transition, too. Hutchings said

SEE TAX, 11

More

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A Tax Collector staff member shows how a machine can open, sort and catalog envelopes with checks to be deposited. The process saves hours of valuable time - and money.

Michelle Reaves, Brooke Davies join leadership roles at Impact Clay

For Clay Today

CLAY COUNTY – Michelle Reaves has joined Impact Clay as its Director of Operations, while Brooke Davies will serve as the organization’s Director of Community Development.

Reaves brings extensive expertise in administrative operations and grant writing to her role as Director of Operations. Her background as Director of Membership for the Jacksonville Lean Consortium and Member Engagement Manager for the Clay Chamber of Commerce showcases her proficiency in member recruitment, engagement and retention and her strong foundation in administrative tasks, strategic planning and management.

Reaves’ previous roles as a Grant Administrator, Continuous Improvement Coordinator and Real Time Crime Center Coordinator for the Clay County Sheriff’s Office demonstrate her capability to enhance organizational processes. Her proven track record in securing public safety grants highlights her resource acquisition skills, positioning her as an asset in achieving Impact Clay’s mission and goals.



Brooke Davies

Michelle Reaves

Armed with Six Sigma Lean Black Belt certifications, Change Management and Lean Facilitation, Reaves is prepared to drive operational excellence at Impact Clay. Her achievements include designing and implementing a Continuous Improvement program that trained more than 600 employees in Lean methodology, implementing an employee Innovation Program and integrating the Disney Institute’s Quality Customer Service model.

Davies is the co-founder of 100+ Women Who Care About Clay County and

SEE IMPACT, 15

Tax from page 10

the Park Central Plaza office will soon be relocated to the Challenge Enterprises Plaza at 500 Kingsley Ave.

“When ACE Hardware opened on Park Avenue, parking can be a little difficult at times,” Hutchings said. “There’s plenty of parking at Challenge, and it’s helping a great organization.”

Rent is also cheaper there.

The Keystone Heights office will soon move from Keystone Village Square on State Road 100 to the Clay County Health Department on Commercial Drive, where the rent is free since the county owns the building.

The Middleburg location has already been moved from Bear Run to the Grande Olde Plaza near the intersection of State Road 21 and County Road 218 to accommodate additional services and residents.

Last year, more than 100,000 residents visited one of the four offices for a transaction, including property taxes, driver’s, hunting and fishing licenses, motor vehicle

registrations, birth certificates and concealed weapon permits. The offices accepted appointments, but walk-ins generally are in and out in less than 30 minutes.

Most of her staff are allowed to wear blue jeans on Friday because they participate in a CARES committee. They voluntarily donate \$4 a month to a fund that’s used to pay for flowers when someone is sick or dies, or it’s used to pay for parties.

“We can’t use public money, so we build a little fund for things we need,” Hutchings said. “It creates an upbeat attitude. You’d be surprised what a big deal it is to be able to wear blue jeans.”

Employees also select a nonprofit to highlight in the lobbies of their offices. Since June 2021, they’ve turned over more than \$31,000 to groups like the Quigley House, American Cancer Society’s Breast Cancer Research, Operation Barnabas, The Vineyard Transitional Center, Safe Animal Shelter, Wolfson’s Children’s Hospital and the Clay County Education Foundation.

“There’s a lot going on here,” Hutchings said.

All with a keen eye on the bottom line.



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Lewandowski

from page 6

input from the community, business leaders and agencies – Clay County Utilities Authority and Clay County Sheriff’s Office.”

He says important long-term goals include planning infrastructure and incorporating septic-to-sewer conversions.

He was an adjunct professor at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, taught dual enrollment at Keystone Heights Junior/Senior High and currently teaches aeronautical science at Q. I. Roberts Junior-Senior High.

It was impossible to pick a favorite plane, so he picked a couple: SR 71 Blackbird, A-10 Thunderbolt II, F-22 Raptor and B-2 Bomber.

He is thankful for the efforts led by Save Our Lakes Organization and he looks upon

the ongoing Black Creek Restoration project with hope. When asked if he would see the water levels return to historic highs, he had this to say:

“I don’t think I will see it in my lifetime, but I think you will.”

Lewandowski appears committed to implementing a plan to not only help the city “take off” but also ensure that it will continue to be cherished by the next generation.



Kussler

from page 7

Project.

“It’s going to help reduce flooding and help raise our lakes. It’s a win-win,” he said.

He expressed concerns about privacy regarding the Smart City Initiative, but he supports the ongoing Parks Plan and improving walkability in the city.

He has two daughters, Tara and Holly, and a grandson, Aidon.

He says he is eager to learn more about the city and what it takes to make it a better place.



Todd D. Shockley, DMD

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Calendar

SMALL QUIET GOOD BY CHANDLER HUBBARD, Thursday, March 21 at 7 p.m. at Rigil Center, Penney Farms. The last work-in-progress reading from Clay & Water 2024, Clamour Theatre Company's Sixth Annual Playwrights' Retreat.

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE will meet on Thursday, March 21 at 10 a.m. in the Planning Department Conference Room, 3rd Floor of the Administration Building, 477 Houston Street Green Cove Springs.

SNOWBIRD AEROBATIC CONTEST returns to Keystone Heights Airport from Thursday, March 21 through Saturday, March 23.

KIDS BOOKS BAG SALE at Middleburg-Clay Hill Library: will be held at the library located at 2245 Aster Ave from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on March 22 and 23. Buy a Book Bag for \$2.00. Fill it for \$5.00.

VIETNAM VETERAN'S DAY CEREMO-

NY: Will be held Saturday, March 23 at 10 a.m. at the TAPS Monument, 915 Walnut St, Green Cove Springs.

BLOOD DRIVE / FISH FRY: will be held March 23 at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. at 421 S. Orange Ave., Green Cove Springs. It'll be at the VFW Post 1988. If donating blood, the dinner is free. Proceeds will go to placing flags on the graves of veterans and first responders.

Impact

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currently serves on the Steering Committee of the grassroots giving circle that supports nonprofit organizations in the county.

Through this organization, she has helped raise more than \$150,000 to support the missions of several nonprofits. Davies is deeply rooted in the Clay County community, serving as a Board Member for Challenge Enterprises, a parent liaison for the Community Partnership School program at Orange Park High and Fleming Island Elementary and a volunteer with school events and local outreach programs.

Davies graduated from the University of North Florida with a Bachelor of Science in Health Administration.

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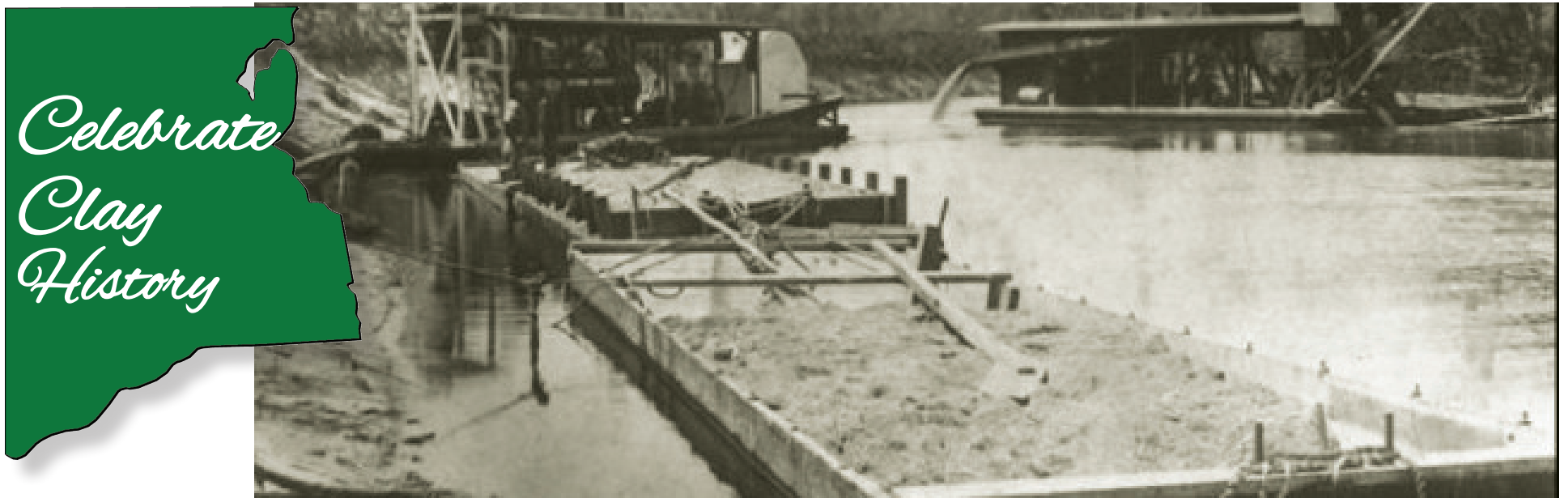
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The Precedent-setting Black River Phosphate Company

By Vishi Garig

Historical Archives Supervisor, A service of Clerk of Courts and Comptroller Tara S. Green

CLAY COUNTY – The Industrial Revolution led to many changes in agriculture. With machines now doing the bulk of the hard work, farmers produced crops on a grander scale. As fertile farmland became scarce after the Civil War, farmers needed a way to increase the yield per acre. Fertilizer was one of the ways to do that, and it resulted in a high demand for both fertilizers and pesticides. One of those fertilizers was phosphate. The 1890s brought the discovery of large phosphate deposits in Florida and industrial-scale mining operations.

Clay County had a phosphate source, which was under the dark, tannic waters of Black Creek. Accumulated eons ago, Florida's phosphate deposits are believed to have originated in a few different ways. In a process called precipitation, some of the phosphate formed when conditions in the seawater caused dissolved phosphorus to solidify. As the solids settled to the bottom of the shallow coastal waters, they became part of the sedimentary layers that eventually formed the sediment that is mined today. Sea life excrement and remains also played a large part in creating the deposits. Bones, teeth, and other fossilized animal remains all contributed to the formation. Phosphate was also reported at other locations in Alachua and Duval counties. The largest deposits were

discovered in Polk, Hillsborough, Manatee and DeSoto counties.

The phosphate at Black Creek was found to be part of the Hawthorne formation and more of a phosphate marl, which is pebbles mixed with lots of silica and clay. The quality of the phosphate was too low for export to Europe, so the mineral was distributed in America.

Investors at that time were interested in ventures that extracted resources from Florida's water and land. One such

prospect was the Black River Phosphate Company based in Jacksonville. Capitalized at \$200,000, it was the only phosphate mining company in Clay County. Between 1891 and 1895, Black River mined approximately 45 tons a day of pebble phosphate from Black Creek.

Black River Phosphate Company used barges, hydraulics, and dredges to mine the creek. Owning the acreage on both sides of the waterway, they built wharves on each bank to support their operation while pumps and barges operated in the middle. The first pumps used to mine the pebbles were installed in dredge boats in the early 1890s. Black River Phosphate Company got theirs in 1892. The 8-inch pump, which ran on steam engines, produced an average daily yield of 35-45 tons of pebble each day.

Dredging went on for 12 hours a day and was hazardous to workers. The inferno-like summer climate of Florida intensified the already tough working conditions. One can imagine the steam and boilers amping up the



already stifling heat. Drowning, gators, and snakes were severe issues for workers, too, as were mosquito-borne diseases. Another hazard was continued exposure to low radioactivity levels, which were emitted as trace elements of uranium from the phosphate marl. Uranium is highly carcinogenic, and inhalation of phosphate dust poses additional dangers to the laborers.

Everything was going smoothly until the State of Florida sued Black River Phosphate (BRP). The 1893 Florida Supreme Court opinion set a nationwide precedent in the area of riparian owners' rights. (Riparian refers to any property relating to or situated on the banks of a river.) The precedent set in *State v. Black River Phosphate*, 13 So. 640 (Fla. 1893) is still being cited and followed. The Court's task was to determine the nature

of the ownership of the state of Florida, which had to land under navigable waterways. BRP was taking phosphate from the bed of Black Creek, which was both tidal and navigable. BRP's claim to the land was based on The Riparian Act of 1856, which granted "title" to riparian owners, giving them the right to build wharves into the state's waters. BRP argued that this "right" applied to the minerals under their land and into the creek bed.

The Court thought otherwise.

The Court stated the Riparian Act must be strictly construed in favor of the state or public, and they held that nothing passed to the riparian owners that weren't denoted in clear and special words. The purpose of the act was found in the phrase "full right and privilege to

SEE PHOSPATE, 17



Phosphate

from page 16

build wharves” and no other rights. In other words, BRP could build wharves and docks ‘til the cows came home, but until the state gave them a permit to mine and they paid the \$1 per ton fee the state demanded, there would be no further mining of the underwater land.

The Court concluded that the navigable waters of the state and the land beneath them are the property of the state and held for the use and enjoyment of all the people of the state. Clay County contributed one of the greatest riparian rights cases to American jurisprudence.

Today, 90% of phosphate production is used for fertilizer to produce food and fiber, and 5% is used for livestock feed supplements, and the other 5% is used for vitamins, soft drinks, toothpaste, film, light bulbs, bone china, flame-resistant fabrics and optical glass. Florida is the world leader in phosphate rock production, annually producing 75% of the U.S. and 25% of the world supply.

Interested in this topic or any other topic related to Clay County history? Visit the Clay County Archives located inside the Old Jail at 21 Gratio Place in Green Cove Springs. The archives is open 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday. Call ahead (904) 371-0027 or visit clayclerk.com.

Sources: Clay County Archives & Florida Industrial and Phosphate Research Institute, <https://fipr.floridapoly.edu/>.

Board shares new policy for challenge books

By Jack Randall
jack@claytodayonline.com

CLAY COUNTY – A school board workshop on Feb. 27 presented the newest draft of the proposed policy to challenge books in Clay County District Schools.

The newest draft is the latest development in the Clay County “book ban” debate, an ongoing endeavor attempting to address the 778 titles that have been challenged and the 284 titles that have been removed from public school libraries according to the district reconsideration list.

As an overview, the process for submitting challenges and accessing material is similar to the policy’s previous draft except for some notable changes.

A point of contention during the open forum was the debate between “opt-in” and “opt-out.” The current 2023-2024 school year has taken the opt-in approach – parents must first sign a permission slip for their children to access the media center. The newest proposal uses a hybrid model based on different tiers of accessibility.



Michelle Hanson



Bruce Friedman

- Unlimited access
 - General access: students can check out books but are not flagged as “mature.”
 - Limited access: parents can limit books for their students that deal with certain themes or concepts
 - No access
- By default, without any parental signature, the newest proposal grants students general access. Parents can “opt-in” their children for unlimited access. Additionally, parents can set specific restrictive parameters on what their children can read – limited access. Parents also have the option to “opt-out” their children from the media center entirely – no access.

The idea is to have the opt-in/opt-out form available on Synergy for the convenience of parents and media specialists.

The newest proposal appears to have moved away from decentralization, which was an idea shared in a workshop in January to answer challenges on a school-by-school basis. Decentralizing the book challenge and appeal process was criticized by media specialists PEN America and Bruce Friedman.

The newest proposal has taken a stab at framing what the district-wide community standards could look like. A detailed rubric showing examples and non-examples will be presented in the near future. Books containing any of the following would be flagged as “mature.”

Profanity

- Elementary - no crude profanity, racial, or religious slurs
- Junior High - limited profanity, racial, or religious slurs
- High - no pervasive use of racial slurs or crude or excessive profanity
- Horror: pervasive gruesome behavior or feelings of extreme fear, shock, disgust

- Violence: intense morbid behavior involving physical force intended to hurt, abuse, damage, torture, kill
- Glorification of weapons – such as a nonmilitary civilian parading a gun around the street
- Glorification of suicide, self-harm, or mental illness – such as a character bragging about cutting their wrist
- Glorification of drug use – such as a minor continuously using illegal drugs
- Gender theory, medical transition

Any other sexual content not defined by FS 847

The compromise to have a hybrid opt-in/opt-out policy was criticized by School Board Member Hanson, who has been the leader in drafting a new policy.

“To say that I am disappointed is an understatement,” Hanson said.

Hanson said the newest draft would not provide sufficient parental consent and not a sufficient acknowledgment of the 284 titles already removed from the district’s libraries, titles that were found to violate FS 847 by being pornographic.

During the school board meeting on March 7, School Board Attorney Jeremiah Blocker appeared to have cleared up that concern.

“Your policy does have informed consent and is consistent with Florida law, I want to assure you,” he said.

If approved, the policy would lift the embargo on buying new books. Newly published titles, new releases in a series, and even new, updated ACT and SAT prep books could once again be purchased if they are consistent with the approved community standards. This would finally end the book purchasing freeze in the school district that has been in place for two years.

It appears the newest draft has struck a

SEE BOOKS, 18

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Books

from page 17

a compromise between the two sides of the debate: opt-in versus opt-out. If approved, media specialists could finally stock new books on their shelves. The policy would significantly affect Bruce Friedman, the concerned parent who has submitted more challenges than any other resident. There were parts he commended and parts he did not. "You are about to review and approve policy changes that include a rubric and a guideline, which is, I recall, what I asked for over a year and a half ago," Friedman said during a school board meeting.

"The truth is out – the libraries are still filled with porn," he said. "The (proposed)

policy does not have a clear mechanism for cleaning up the mess, doesn't have a timeline for it, and opens the gate for future purchases before the old mess is cleaned up."

Hanson appeared to agree with Friedman. "We have a citizen who has been reading books and doing challenges – hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of challenges – and 32 of them were pulled from the shelf last week. So, are we to say that we should not tell parents that we had 32 books, obscene, pornographic books, pulled last week? But it's OK for your kids to go in there? It doesn't make sense to me," Hanson said.

"We don't have clean libraries," Hanson said. "We had a media specialist who had a student bring a book with pornography to her. They're going to find it. If we don't find it, they're going to find it."



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SPORTS

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS

Fleming Island 'bass-man' wins Phoenix Bass League

Courtesy of Major League Fishing

LEESBURG – Boater Ryan Crowley of Fleming Island caught a five-bass limit weighing 21 pounds, 8 ounces, Saturday to win the Phoenix Bass Fishing League (BFL) Presented by T-H Marine on the Harris Chain of Lakes. Hosted by Discover Lake County, the tournament was the third event of the season for the BFL Gator Division. Crowley earned \$4,541 for his victory.

In second place was Parker Stalvey, a second Clay County bass fisherman and former state high school champion from Clay High School, who bagged five bass for a 20-pound, 14-ounce total to earn \$2,270.

Crowley, who has three top-10 finishes with total winnings of \$7,186, came into the tournament with a two-part strategy: bed-fishing for spawning bass in a canal and

fan-casting offshore around eelgrass and peppergrass. While pre-fishing, he located four quality bass on beds and was able to anchor his limit on tournament day with an early 8-pounder. Unfortunately, two of the other bedding bass he'd found were gone, and a 5-pounder he'd hoped to catch refused to bite.

Crowley, who works in construction, was able to catch a few small buck bass before overcast skies and dingy water made sight-fishing too challenging, which forced a move.

"From there I just went offshore and started chunking around a ChatterBait and a Speed Worm," he said. "The water temperature was 72, so I thought maybe they'd hit a (Zara) Spook (topwater). So I threw that

SEE BASS, 20

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PHOTO COURTESY OF MAJOR LEAGUE FISHING
Fleming Island bass fisherman Ryan Crowley shows off two prize bass after winning Phoenix Bass Fishing League event in Leesburg.

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Bass

from page 19

for a while but didn't get any blow-ups on it. I was able to catch one right at 5 (pounds) and one right at 4 on a ChatterBait."

Specifically, Crowley fished a 1/2-ounce Z-Man ChatterBait Jack Hammer with a Gambler Burner Worm trailer on a 7-foot, 4-inch, medium-heavy moderate 13 Fishing Muse rod. He also worked a Burner Worm or Zoom UV Speed Worm through the grass on a 7-foot, 3-inch 13 Fishing Envy rod. Both of his offshore presentations were fished with 17-pound-test Vicious fluorocarbon. While sight-fishing, Crowley used the new Rapala Crush City Cleanup Craw in green pumpkin, and fished on a 7-foot, 6-inch, medium-heavy 13 Fishing Muse rod with 20-pound-test fluorocarbon.

"It was real thick where we were," Crowley said about his best offshore area, which was about 8 feet deep. "I was just looking for more scattered, isolated stuff where, if I wanted to slow down and fish a worm, I could without getting hung up on every cast."

Second place went to another Clay County bass fisherman, Parker Stalvey of Green Cove Springs, who was a Clay High state champion Bass

Chris Heath of Miromar Lakes, Florida, earned the Berkley Big Bass co-angler award of \$330, catching a bass that weighed in at 9 pounds, 1 ounce – the largest co-angler catch of the day.



Left: Ryan Crowley, left, and Dan Weber, of Palm Coast, show off their trophies after Phoenix Bass Fishing League wins in early March.

After three events, Tyler Sheppard of Yulee, Florida, leads the BFL Gator Division Boater Angler of the Year (AOY) race with 717 points, while Evrett Hunter of St. Augustine, Florida, leads the Strike King Co-Angler Division AOY race with 723 points.

The next event for BFL Gator Division anglers will be held on April 20, at Lake Okeechobee in Clewiston, Florida. To register for the event as a boater or a co-angler, visit MajorLeagueFishing.com or call 270-252-1000.

The top 45 boaters and co-anglers in the region based on point standings, along with the five tournament winners of each qualifying event, will qualify for the Oct. 10-12 BFL Regional tournament on Santee Cooper Lakes in Clarendon County, South Carolina. Boaters will fish for a top award of \$60,000, including a new Phoenix 819 Pro with a 200-horsepower Mercury or Suzuki

outboard and \$10,000, while co-anglers will compete for a top award of \$50,000, including a new Phoenix 819 Pro with a 200-horsepower Mercury or Suzuki outboard.

The 2024 Phoenix BFL Presented by T-H Marine is a 24-division circuit devoted to weekend anglers, with 128 events throughout the season, and five qualifying tournaments in each division. The top 45 boaters and Strike King co-anglers from each division, along with the five qualifying event winners, will advance to one of six BFL Regional tournaments where they are competing to finish in the top six, which then qualifies them for one of the longest-running championships in all of competitive bass fishing – the BFL All-American.

Proud sponsors of the 2024 MLF Phoenix Bass Fishing League Presented by T-H Marine include 7Brew, Abu Garcia, B&W Trailer Hitches, Berkley, BUBBA, E3, Epic

Top 10 boaters finished the tournament:

- 1st: Ryan Crowley, Fleming Island, five bass, 21-8, \$4,541
- 2nd Parker Stalvey, Green Cove Springs, five bass, 20-14, \$2,270
- 3rd Lee Stalvey, Palatka, fivebass, 20-6, \$2,174
- 4th Danny Glisson, Auburndale, five bass, 18-14, \$1,060
- 5th: John Viox, Hebron, Ky., five bass, 17-15, \$908
- 6th: John Dial, Winter Haven, five bass, 17-8, \$833
- 7th: Devin van Dalen, Grand Island, five bass, 16-7, \$757
- 8th: Greg Harp, Vero Beach, five bass, 16-5, \$681
- 9th: Bryan Lefefvre, Grand Island, five bass, 16-4, \$605
- 10th: Geoffrey Corah, Tavares, five bass, 15-14, \$530

Complete results can be found at MajorLeagueFishing.com.

Lee Stalvey of Palatka, caught a bass that weighed 10 pounds, 9 ounces, and earned the Berkley Big Bass Boater award of \$660.

Dan Weber of Palm Bay, won the Strike King co-angler division and \$2,270 Saturday, after bringing five bass to the scale that totaled 15 pounds, 8 ounces.

Top 10 Strike King co-anglers finished:

- 1st: Dan Weber, Palm Bay, five bass, 15-8, \$2,270
- 2nd: Chris Heath, Miromar Lakes, five bass, 15-4, \$1,465
- 3rd: Michael Quilatan, Windermere, five bass, 14-14, \$757
- 4th Jordan Elmore, Saint Petersburg, five bass, 14-11, \$530
- 5th John Hicks, Winter Garden, five bass, 14-5, \$454
- 6th Aleksandar Rak, Jacksonville, four bass, 13-12, \$416
- 7th David White, Winter Garden, five bass, 13-5, \$378
- 8th Anthony Hunt, Coconut Creek, five bass, 13-4, \$322
- 8th Jeff Stone, Jackson, Ga., five bass, 13-4, \$322
- 10th Chris Westhelle, Sanford, five bass, 12-2, \$265

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Eagles' flag team still unbeaten

By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

FLEMING ISLAND - Despite a surprising 45-yard scoring run in the first quarter, the first time for the Fleming Island High girl's flag football team to open with a gap in front of them, Golden Eagles quarterback Devyn Dudones calmly worked mid-level passes downfield to tie the game with a 35 yard toss to wideout London Jenkins and a PAT pass to Jenkins to put Fleming Island on top by just one point, 7-6.

Paxon, also unbeaten 5-0 upon arrival, was not going away easy with their retaliatory strike, a 25-yard run play that retook the lead, 12-7.

Need a score; Dudones to Jenkins with a handful of hip twists, ankle break cuts and 25 yards to paydirt. PAT to Daisy Fletcher and Fleming Island goes up 14-12.

Before the half, an interception puts Jenkins on the path to a six-yard scoring run and PAT to go up 21-12.

Jenkins' final salvo was a 62-yard interception returned for a score to the 28-12 final.

At Oakleaf on Friday, in a back-and-forth scoring bonanza, Oakleaf withstood a first half of interceptions; one from Ansley Nicholas returned to the 10-yard line and one by Jada Blanton to the five-yard line, to scores by Orange Park to walk away with an overtime 32-26 win.



Middleburg quarterback Rachel Hansen put up a 45-0 win in rain against Florida Deaf. Middleburg wide receiver Cheyenne Jenkins snatches pass over middle in 45-0 win over Florida Deaf.

Orange Park (3-2) has wins over West Nassau (33-0), Wolfson (31-0), and Bishop Snyder (28-0); losses to Ridgeview (12-6) and Oakleaf (32-26). Next up: March 19 vs. Clay, March 22 vs. Keystone Heights, March 26 vs. Florida Deaf.

Clay, with just two games thus far, is unbeaten with a 7-0 win over Sandalwood



Fleming Island quarterback Devyn Dudones has gone air and ground to keep Golden Eagles offense humming to 6-0 record.

and a 25-0 win over Yulee. The Blue Devils return on March 19 with a road game at Orange Park.

Middleburg, with first-year coach James Black and assistant Rodney Ivey, is getting their mojo together with a four-game win streak; 13-6 over ED White, 30-6 over Keystone Heights, 45-0 over Florida Deaf and 19-6 over Baker County.

Bronco quarterback Rachel Hansen has seven touchdown passes with four to Brooke Cooper and two to Cheyenne Jenkins. The top defensive player is Haven

Lang with nine tags; and four sacks.

Middleburg returns with a slate of Ridgeview, Clay and Oakleaf.

Keystone Heights is on a five-game losing streak with a 13-6 loss to Palatka on March 7. The Indians return with Bartram Trail on March 19, at Orange Park on March 22 and against Palatka on March 26.

Ridgeview is 1-4 with a three-game losing streak to Menendez (6-0), Westside (18-12) and Fleming Island (46-0).

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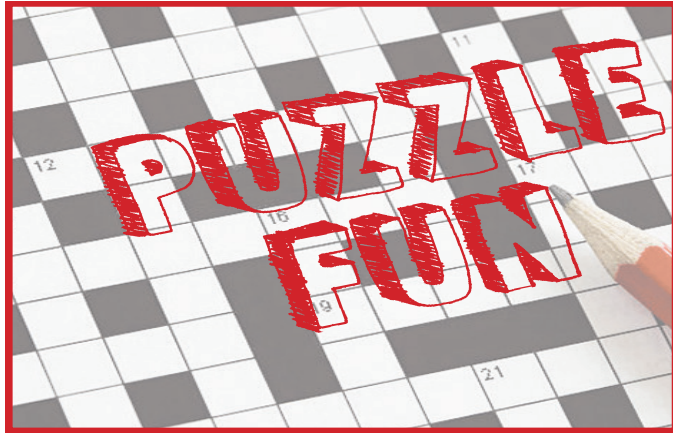
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Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to St. Patrick's Day.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 15 = E)

A. 16 7 12 2 15 22
Clue: Little plant

B. 9 22 15 15 26
Clue: Color associated with nature

C. 17 24 8 26 1
Clue: Holy being

D. 11 24 1 22 12 26
Clue: Someone who supports a cause

Answers: A. clover B. green C. saint D. patron

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to St. Patrick's Day.

LYKCU

--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Lucky

Guess Who?

I am a singer born in California on March 16, 1988. When I was starting my career, people thought I was related to Lil' Fizz. I rose to fame as a singer with the R&B group B2K and on the back of my poetry collection.

Answer: Jhené Aiko

	S	B	A			P	A	C							
Q	P	E	R	M	I	S	S	I	B	L	E				
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6	3	4	9	8	5	1	2	7
9	8	7	1	6	2	4	3	5
7	6	1	2	4	9	3	5	8
5	4	9	3	7	8	2	6	1
8	2	3	6	5	1	9	7	4

ST. PATRICK'S DAY WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

- CELEBRATION
- CELTIC
- CLOVER
- EMERALD
- ERIN
- FORTUNE
- GAELIC
- GOLD
- HARP
- IRELAND
- IRISH
- ISLAND
- JIG
- LEGEND
- LEPRECHAUN
- LUCK
- MAGIC
- MARCH
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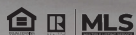
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