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'Sun' set: Movie crew shoots at diner

By JIM LUKSIC *Managing Editor*

GREEN COVE SPRINGS — It was beginning to look a lot like Christmas on April 28.

That's because a movie crew was shooting scenes for a feature film at Sunrise to Sunset diner in Green Cove Springs. The crime drama, titled *Velvet*, is set in December; hence, the panoply of holiday decorations.

For the eatery's Principal Manager Richard Clark, it was a match made in Hollywood.

"They're very cooperative and understanding," said Clark, who welcomed Ocean State Picture Company with open arms, open menus and booths. In fact, the production marked the first time in years the restaurant had its window blinds pulled down.

The filmmakers, namely Director Justen Mann and co-writer Jesse Roberts, chose Sunrise to Sunset because it felt "lived in" and ideal for their purposes.

"It looks real, not over the top," ex-

plained Mann, who graduated from Clay High School in 2004.

It was the crew's first time filming in town, he said, and Clark made it easy. "He is stoked about it and has been very giving. It's been an amazing experience," Mann said

His on-screen inspirations include the Coen brothers' *Fargo* and *Raising Arizona*, plus Paul Thomas Anderson's *Punch-Drunk Love*.

Roberts, who referred to himself as *Velvet's* fourth writer, said the goal was to tell a family tale. "A realistic one, not like a Hallmark Channel movie, but not too dark either," said Roberts, a Florida State University alumnus.

The story at hand: A drug addict named Kevin drifts around Florida, doing whatever is necessary to make it home to his daughter – the "one thing he did right," according to Mann.

The 90-minute movie's theme? Redemption

Velvet is also a buddy "road" picture;

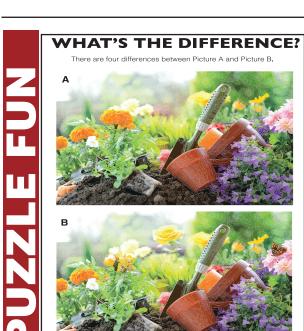
SEE 'SUN' SET, 5



STAFF PHOTO BY JIM LUKSIC

In focus: Director Justen Mann prepares a shot Monday at Sunrise to Sunset diner.



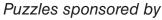


is missing pattern on handle 4 Buttertly on pink flower

GUESS WHO?

I am an actor born in Kentucky on May 6, 1961. In my teens, I tried out for the Cincinnati Reds but didn't make it past the first round of cuts. I've played a pediatrician, Batman, a gangster, and a ship captain in my career. A newer role has been Dad to twins







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46. Automobile
48. Focus a shot
49. The NFL's big game (abbr.)

54. Curved pieces of a horse collar

61. Capuchin monkey genus 62. Cold wind 63. Retired Brazilian NBAer

64. Tropical Old World tree 65. Bulgarian city

66. Speak indistinctly 67. Soviet Socialist Republic

68. Between-meal sustenance

1. Not soft
2. Sharp-pointed dueling

60. Assist in escaping

CLUES ACROSS

1. Two-person German submarine

6. 60-minute intervals (abbr.) 9. Database management system

13. Vertical position

14. American jazz singer Irene

15. Ancient Greek City
16. Former Senate Majority
Leader Harry

17. Japanese seaport 18. Self-immolation by fire

ritual
19. Assigns tasks

21. Beloved type of cigar 22. Discounts 23. Cambodian communist

leader Pot

24. Important football position
25. Kilometers per hour

28. Lentil

29. Extremely angry 31. Yellow-flowered European plant 33. American state

36. Some are made by rabbits 38. Express with a head

movement

41. Cured

44. Youth organization 45. 18-year astronomical

3. Line a roof
4. Greek god of the underworld

sword

CLUES DOWN

period

51. Mouth

52. Infections

56. Shameless

5. Software

6. Large-headed elongated fishes

7. Shag rugs
8. Type of whale
9. Lacking a plan
10. Spill the beans
11. Some is 'heavy'

12. One who has been canonized
14. Indicate times

17. Greeting20. Broadway actor Josh

21. Seashore

23. Indicates before 25. Electrical power unit

26. Destitute

27. Drags forcibly

29. Impropriety
30. Word forms
32. Equal to 10 meters
34. Neither

35. Computer language

37. Practice of aging film or TV characters (abbr.)

40. A woolen cap of Scottish

origin
42. A promise
43. Challenges
47. Official

49. People living in Myanmar

50. Notable tower 52. Type of sword

53. Vaccine developer 55. Listing

56. Summertime insects 57. Concluding passage 58. Guitarist Clapton

59. Damp and musty 61. Central nervous system

65. Against



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Keystone Heights HS band receives \$8K grant



PHOTO COURTESY OF JENN SAMSEL

From left: Justin Coker, Brandon Mullis, Karen Lake, Kim Parker, Shannon Southam and Laurie Burke

By Jenn Samsel For Clay Today

Keystone Heights High School's marching band received an \$8,375 grant from the Lake Area Region Kiwanis Keystone Heights-Melrose on Thursday, April 16, at the Keystone Heights Methodist Church.

Several enthusiastic marching band members, alongside Keystone Heights

High School principal Laurie Burke and their dedicated marching band teacher, proudly accepted the award.

The grant is essential to fulfilling the goal of acquiring new band uniforms. The total investment required for the outfits is \$60.000.

Thus far, the school has secured \$8,375 to move closer to the objective. Each student's uniform costs approximately \$800.

They are committed to raising the remaining funds to ensure every band member has the attire they deserve.

"Well, I am so thankful to the Kiwanis Club and support of our band and our entire school," Burke said. "Also, I'm super-proud of our band students and the accomplishments that they are making, which are just growing bigger and better every day."

Justin Coker, KHHS band director

Justin Coker said: "Three students went from District 1 solo and [then] to perform at the State Solo Ensemble NPA, and two of them got excellence along with one student who plays a grade seven; he got a superior with distinction."

According to Scott Slater, a Kiwanis member, 88.4% of music students achieve or perform better in school than 60.4% of non-musical students.

OPINIONS & VIEWPOINTS

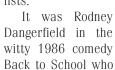
Get caught reading? Don't mind if I do

By JIM LUKSIC

Don't look now, but May is known as among other things – Get Caught Reading Month.

That notion likely sounds dangerous to some who haven't read a book since it was required in their English or literature

class. In this age of limited attention spans and instant gratification, reading a book - or anvthing longer than a social-media post isn't on many bucket lists.



Jim Luksic

said about reading: "Who has time? I see the movie; I'm in and out in two hours."

Although I have an insatiable appetite for the written word, Dangerfield's character had a valid point.

These days, as technological advance-

ments abound, reading a newspaper or magazine has become a tall order for those of us on the move or often attached to our smartphones.

In our slice of Clay County paradise which saw one afternoon of rain over two weeks — staying indoors to read seems like a waste of Mother Nature. Even when you carry a paperback outdoors for some fresh air, temptations exist to fish, cycle, boat, jog, swim, come what may.

Consuming an entire book? For many folks, that would take time that isn't on their side.

Perhaps that's why the Association of American Publishers propelled this month's campaign to create more daily and lifelong readers.

Granted, some of you reading this column likely just want to turn the page. (Don't worry, I won't take it personally.)

Then again, given my profession, it should come as no surprise I remain in the pro-reading camp. As author Stephen King pointed out in his best book, On Writing: To be a writer, you must "read a lot."

Ever since I was a kid (which feels as if it was a century ago), I've been drawn to the written word. Naturally, I played sports and ran around the neighborhood with friends from dusk until dawn. At night, I often watched TV or enjoyed going to - wait for it – drive-in theaters.

But little was more satisfying than reading a book, short stories, The Sporting News or other publications that piqued my

For this bookworm, not much brings a grin to my curmudgeon face like fine writing: Give me a smooth-flowing paragraph with a turn of phrase, and I'm a happy

Among my favorite authors: Truman Capote, Chuck Klosterman and Bill Bryson.

As a Kansas native. I consider Truman Capote's well-thumbed In Cold Blood the gold standard. It hooked me from its haunting opening line: "The village of Holcomb stands on the high wheat plains of western Kansas, a lonesome area that other Kansans call 'out there."

DID YOU

KNOW?

In honor of Law Enforcement Appreciation

Week, May 11-17, our focus is Clay County

The county's first sheriff was Elam J. Daniels

investigated Billy Joe Crab's escape (he crafted a "key" from a spoon) from the Old Jail, which was

constructed in 1894 with 16 cells; the jail, which

was open until 1972, remains the second-oldest of its kind standing in Florida; Sheriff Charles Wilson was killed in the line of duty in 1906; the

county's first officer killed on duty was Josephus Peeler; from 1894 to 1916, there were seven

executions by hanging; an episode of Ghost

Hunters was filmed at the county's Old Jail.

in 1859; the Clay County Sheriff's O

SEE READING, 9



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 Jim Luksic at jim@claytodayonline.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

This Month in History

- **5 years ago** As part of the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels and Air Force's Thunderbirds America Strong campaign of nationwide flyovers, one area doctor had chills run up her spine long before the seven-jet Blue Angels formation made its 30-second run over downtown Jacksonville.
- The town has two options when it comes to fixing the flooding issues at Dudley Branch and Johnson Slough. While both are costly, one is nearly half the cost. The Town of Orange Park has been working toward fixing its decades-long flooding issues that came to a head with 2017
- S. Bryan Jennings Elementary celebrated its teachers with a barbecue meal for the whole family. Assistant principal Debby Chapman said she and her fellow administrators wanted to do something for the school's teachers to show that they were appreciated.
- It was difficult to hear the telephone ring over the playful conversations and derision at A Barber Shop last Tuesday. Customers, make that friends, sat along the walls - each at least six feet apart and wearing masks – as three barbers worked their craft on burly heads that haven't seen scissors in nearly two months.

10 years ago:

• When parents don't have money for food to feed their children, many turn to food pantries, which rely on food drives to stock their shelves.

Last year, the Clothes Closet and Food Pantry in Orange Park received 23.000 pounds of food from the annual National Association of Letter Carriers "Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive.

- How best to fund much-needed road improvements will get a good look over the next several months now that Clay County Commissioners have voted to extend the transportation impact fee moratorium once again
- Van Royal is the new Green Cove Springs mayor. He replaces Felecia Hampshire, who served in the post over the past year. Hampshire thanked fellow Council members for their support of her and for their efforts to work together.

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.

'SUN' SET

from page 1

the character known as Corbin emerges as the proverbial "muscle" and money collector.

Actors Jaron Wallace (starring as Kevin) and Jas Abramowitz (portraying Corbin) shaped the original script's bones years ago.

Wallace, who hails from Jacksonville, said he viewed his main character as a way to "explore and invest in a larger role to the fullest extent."

For his part, Abramowitz – a product of Kansas City – said the role he embodies was a great challenge.

"As an actor, it's a dream playing someone of such depth," was how he described it, noting that Corbin proceeds to have a change of heart.

For Clark, the production brought back memories of his days in New York and Boston, when he was a recruiter and marketer for Time Warner.

Clark also established a cable college while in the Northeast.

On Monday, judging by the movie set's festive décor, it looked as if Santa's elves had arrived months in advance.

It was easy for Clark to put his feelings about the rare opportunity into words: "We're just thrilled."



STAFF PHOTO BY JIM LUKSIC

Meet and greet: Richard Clark, principal manager of Sunrise to Sunset, was all smiles.

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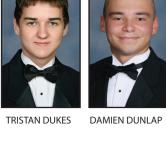




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READING

from page 4

The author's admirers have a treasure trove of novels, short stories and essays to re-read, though we feel short-changed that Capote's talent deserted us at age 59, as he succumbed to liver failure.

Nevertheless, there's no shortage of other quality authors on whose work our eyes may feast.

The question is — on this second goaround living in Florida — will I read more books than I did as a Key West resident? That won't be difficult, because during my two-year stint in the Gonch Republic, the number of books I tried digesting could be counted on one hand.

After hours, I was catching up on sleep or enjoying the Great Outdoors. While inhabiting the Keys, the longest non-work item I read was probably a café menu.

After all, who goes to America's "Southernmost point" to crack open books, rather than a few cold ones? I guess that not many folks stayed holed up with their noses buried in pages.

As a Clay County resident for merely three months, it's time to make amends and return to one of my favorite hobbies.

Indeed, I feel the need to read. When I'm "caught" doing so, the Association of American Publishers would be proud.

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To collect and serve: \$15K raised for Tip-A-Cop



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY CCSO

The team of Clay County Special Olympics athletes, the Clay County Sheriff's Office and the Orange Park Police Department collected \$14,763 at last week's Tip-A-Cop.

By Don Coble don@claytodayonline.com

ORANGE PARK – There was a considerable show of force at Texas Roadhouse from April 16-18 as deputies with the Clay County Sheriff's Office and officers with the Orange Park Police Department served water, bread, soft drinks and iced tea during the annual Tip-A-Cop fundraiser

The three-day haul amounted to a record \$14,763.

"We were more than pleased," said Law Enforcement Torch Run Coordinator Zachary Cox. "Every year, we get more and more donations. The goal is, obviously, to beat the previous year's number. We did that, and more, with this year's Tip-A-Cop. The Clay County community and our citizens are super-generous and have a giving heart."

Law enforcement officials and Clay County Special Olympics athletes greeted guests as they entered the busy steakhouse. They solicited extra "tips" to send athletes to the Florida State Games from May 14 to 18 by helping servers with their duties. Money donated to Tip-A-Cop was separate from tips left for servers.

A year ago, they earned \$13,492 in tips.

"All of our athletes, especially the ones who were there and were helping us out, carrying bread and opening the door when they came in to check in with the hostess – that's their Super Bowl. They love it.

"All the customers at the restaurant loved interacting with them and hearing

their story. It really meant a lot.'

Cox said the reason for the three primary fundraising events is so the athletes "have fun."

The other events were the Torch Run on May 2 and another Tip-A-Cop event at the Longhorn Steakhouse on Fleming Island in the fall.

The Torch Run started from the Hibernia Publix at 9 a.m. Even so, all participants parked at the Plantation Sports Complex at 321 Old Hard Road before

SEE TIP-A-COP, 11







STAFF PHOTO BY DON COBLE

Athletes Dianne and Emily greet Texas Roadhouse diner Josh at the front door.

TIP-A-COP

guests at Texas Roadhouse.

irom nage 10

8:30 a.m. to purchase a Torch Run T-shirt (cotton shirts were \$20; Dry-Fit shirts were \$25) and signed a participation waiver. Then, they were shuttled to Publix for the run, including bicycles and walkers.

The route included leaving Publix, crossing U.S. Highway 17, going north on the Black Creek bike trail and turning west on Village Square Parkway.

The route then moved south on Town Center Boulevard and made a right turn on Old Hard Road before entering the Plantation Sports Complex, where supporters and a group of food vendors greeted them.



STAFF PHOTO BY DON COBLE

CCSO negotiator Jonathon Parales makes his pitch to diners Brett and Linda Perry of Keystone Heights.





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Mud Run lures 1,000 participants



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BOBBY, BRAYDEN AND BAILEY YATES

By Jenn Samsel for Clay Today

The 5K Seamark Ranch held its 12th annual Mud Run on April 26 at the Seamark Ranch in Green Cove Springs. Participants tackled the muddy obstacle course while enjoying a day filled with teamwork and a sense of adventure.

The run featured a series of 26 obstacle courses, each designed to test endurance and agility. Stretching over a rigorous 5K distance, participants navigated through a variety of challenges, including steep

climbs, rugged terrain, and muddy pits that added an extra layer of difficulty and excitement to the race.

More than 1,000 enthusiastic participants gathered at a sprawling 465-acre working ranch.

"We have close to a thousand runners who are coming out today to have some fun and get muddy, but a hundred percent of the proceeds are coming back to the mission here at Seamark Ranch," said Adrienne Tolbert, director of development.

SEE MUD RUN, 15





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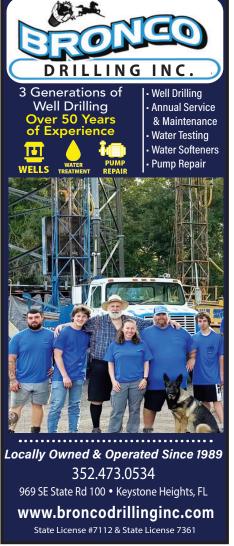
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MUD RUN

"We are very mission-oriented here, and we exist because of donors, corporate partners and people who get involved with our events.

"Whether it's from volunteering your





time or financially contributing through being a donor, we appreciate it because we are exclusively funded through our donors and corporate partners, and we thank everyone who came out."

Some competitors couldn't get enough of the conditions.

"We love the mud! Bring it on!" Amanda

"Seventh year as a family from Land-South Construction, and we enjoy it every

year," the Yates family chimed in.

On May 17, the gates of Seamark Ranch will open at 6 p.m. for the inaugural annual rodeo, which will last until 8 p.m.

Attendees can look forward to barrel racing, daring bronc riding, and the spirited performances of cowboys and cowgirls.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.seamarkranch.com.



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LakeAreaVets.com

Calendar of Events

claytodayonline.com

SJR State celebrates nursing graduates

St. Johns River State College recently held a pinning ceremony to recognize the Associate in Science in Nursing (ASN) students. A continued tradition of Florence Nightingale, the pinning ceremony symbolizes the rite of passage into the nursing profession and the care and devotion nurses provide. Graduates received a pin that serves as a reminder of their purpose to serve the sick

and infirmed.

ASN graduates from the Orange Park and Palatka campus programs include: Shazirali Ali, Christopher Antwine, Jennifer Atehortua, Adina Barnett, Naomi Bigwood, Cheska Boone, Jesse Bowen, Mia Brand, Jaylee Capps, Diana Cardenas, Kristen Carlisle, Chase Chance, Charese Chandler, Gloria Cotton, Miranda Craven, Haley Crosby, Myla DeFord, Dalaina Dotson, Allyson Dyall, Abigale Faulkner, Jeremy Frier, Tessa Garrett, Anna Godwin,

Angelyna Henley, Nevaeh Hester, Shayla Hofstra, Bayley Hunter, Cheyenne Kinghorn, Rebecca Kozlosky, Jodi Ledgister, Elondra Manick, Taylor Pardon, Amanda Parry, Rachel Plyler, Ahmia Ribeiro, Kayla Roddenberry, Kaitlyn Rosenberg, Ashley Rowe, Izabela Schadegg, Lauren Schroeder, Emily Scianna, Marbella Scott, Veronica Solis, Alyssa Taylor, Alexis Verkovod, Karley Vice, Rachael Wallis, Jordan Watts, Ashley Weatherly, Elissa Whitmarsh, Jacqueline Wilcox, A'shanti D'Mya Williams and Jessica Williams.

Lopez among 600 to earn degrees from SJR State College

ORANGE PARK – Sebastian Lopez, a senior at Orange Park High School, graduated with his Associate in Arts degree May 2

from St. Johns River State College. Lopez enrolled in SJR State's early college program as a high school freshman.

Lopez was among the 360 graduates participating in the May 2 ceremony on the Orange Park Campus were 150 dual enrollment/early college program students representing Clay, Putnam and St. Johns counties. In all, more than 600 students from the three campuses earned their AA degrees.

In addition to the rigorous program, Lopez excelled at OPHS academically (ranked second in his class) as well as in his commitments outside of the classroom. Those commitments included the Future Business Leaders of America, captain of the varsity swim team, and more than 500 hours working as a lifeguard.

SEE EVENTS, 17



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CLAYTODAY THERECORDER



EVENTS

from page 16

Lopez is headed to Rollins College in Winter Park this fall where he will major in biological science with the goal of becoming a radiologist.

County partners to host Kids Bike Rodeo

Clay County Parks and Recreation is teaming up with partners from across the area to hold a Kids Bike Rodeo on Friday, May 30, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Clay County Fairgrounds. (Flyers attached).

Kids can learn essential bike safety skills, go through obstacle courses, have a bike hospital checkup, a bike carwash, and more

One of the highlights of the event is a free helmet giveaway, available while supplies last. Helmets are required for participation, and fittings will be done by appointment.

Families can now register online at LetsPlayClay.com to secure their spot and schedule a helmet fitting. The rodeo welcomes both bicycles and scooters, but motorized vehicles are not allowed.

The event is presented in collaboration with the Clay County Parks and Recreation, Clay County Sheriff's Office, Wolfson Children's Hospital, The Players Center for Child Health, and Gordon Chevrolet.

Middleburg-Clay Hill Library hosts book sale May 29-31

MIDDLEBURG -- The Friends of the Middleburg-Clay Hill Library will host a book sale from May 29-31.

Friends Members" may shop early on Wednesday, May 28, from 4 to 8 p.m. The cost to become a member is \$1.

Book sale times are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, May 29; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, May 30; and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 31. The library is at 2245 Aster Ave.

Wolfson Children's Hospital making casts for bass tourney

PALATKA -- Anglers and landlubbers alike are invited to enter a drawing to win a

2025 Bullet bass boat and register for the 36th annual Wolfson Children's Hospital Bass Tournament.

The event from May 15-17 is one of the largest bass tournaments in the Southeast U.S. Last year's tourney attracted more than 1,000 fishermen and raised more than \$385,000 for the hospital dedicated to providing optimal health for children by providing patient- and family-centered care, education, research and child advocacy.

The Lads and Lasses Tournament on May 15 features a team of one man and woman.

The VIP and Friends Tournament will be on May 16, and the main event will leave Palatka City Docks at 3 a.m. May 17. Weigh-ins start at 3 p.m.

The Palatka City Docks are located at 319 River St.

After weigh-in, winners are brought to the stage for awards and cash prizes. More than \$40,000 will be awarded to competi-

tors from across the Southeast.

For a suggested donation of \$20, anyone may enter a drawing for a new Bullet Boat model 21SDC with a trailer, courtesy of Bullet Boats and Mercury. All proceeds from the drawing will help fund new technology for the C. Herman and Mary Virginia Terry Heart Institute at Wolfson Children's Hospital.

To enter the bass boat drawing or for information, visit WolfsonBassTournament.



SPORTS

Keystone Heights



Indians track finishes with Thomas double district champion

Regions: Sheppard 1600, Thomas 3200, Griffin 800, Park Hurdles

STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

Keystone Heights distance runners Hunter Sheppard and Ryder Thomas take off at start of district 1600 meter race that saw Thomas win and Sheppard finish second. Thomas won in 4:43.34.

By Randy Lefko randy@claytodayonline.com

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS - Keystone Heights High distance runners Ryder Thomas and Hunter Sheppard finished with a late-season flurry with Thomas winning district titles in the 1600 and 3200 and both runners getting top 20 finishes at their region championships.

For region 1-2A, Keystone Heights got a 12th in 3200 from James Thomas in 10:14.24; 9th in 100 hurdles from Kaylee

Park in 16.72; 15th in 1600 from Hunter Sheppard in 4:48.92; 18th in 1600 from James Thomas in 4:53.17; 15th in 800 from Olivia Griffin in 2:32.27; 14th in girls 4×400 in 4:27.20.

Thomas' district double titles came via a 4:43.34 split in the 1600 with a 10 second win over teammate Hunter Sheppard while, in the 3200, Thomas was top finisher in 11:06.25 with teammate Jason Parales 10th, Alexander Mahaffey 12th and Oliver Miller 13th.

SEE INDIANS TRACK, 20



Keystone Heights girls 4×100 relay runners, from left, Laila Brinson, Laura Herndon and Ashley McCarthy go through baton exchanges in track 4×100 races at Keystone Heights Invitational. The Keystone Heights 4×400 relay girls team finished 14th in the region 1-2A championships.

FHSAA Softball Regions

Indians' softball survive district final loss

By Randy Lefko

randy@claytodayonline.com

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS - Middleburg, Clay and Oakleaf high schools all earned softball district titles last week with five of the seven high schools; minus Ridgeview and St. Johns Country Day School, all advancing into the FHSAA region playoffs after a week of turbulent district finals games. Keystone Heights and Fleming Island, with losses in their district championship games also advanced to the regions with both teams traveling to their region games;

Keystone Heights on May 7 at Trinity Catholic and Fleming Island on May 8 at Tallahassee Chiles.

In Region 2-2A, Keystone Heights High lost 4-3 to Newberry in their district 5-2A championship game in an eighth inning finale after a thrilling seventh inning comeback fueled by a two run double from Kadence Massey tied Newberry at 3-3. Keystone Heights allowed a bases loaded scenario on starting pitcher Kadence Massey with the game ending on a hit by pitch call by the home plate umpire.

"Tough loss for us," said Keystone Heights coach Jessica Marquart. "I'm proud of the girls for their resilience and toughness to get the two runs in the late innings. You can't give a team like this bases loaded in the eighth inning. We may see them in the regions.";

No. 2 Keystone Heights (9-16) will travel to No. 2 Trinity Catholic (19-8) for their region opener on May 7 with No. 3 Melbourne Central (19-3) hosting No. 6 Windermere Prep (15-5) in the opposite opener.

Keystone Heights opened the game in the first inning with singles from Bella Cumbo and Amberlea Wagner looking like the Lady Indians would score first, but Newberry's defense held with a groundout.

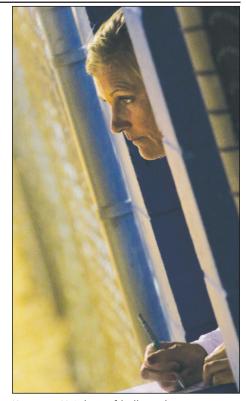
In their at bat, Massey enticed three fly balls; two to shortstop Cumbo and a nifty bunt scoop and throw at third from Cadie Bowles.

In the second inning, Keystone Heights did get the first runs of the game with Massey blasting a double in front of an RBI single from Wagner.

Massey ripped through three strikeouts in the ensuing inning, but Newberry got on the scoreboard with a fourth inning triple and double, then a single to take a 2-1 lead.

Keystone Heights went scoreless in their next two at bats until the sixth with M Glinski on base by a pitch hit and an error on a Taylor Buchanan grounder setting up a two run double from Massey to tie the game 3-3. Massey put the game into an extra inning eighth inning with two strikeouts to end the game.

Up first in the eighth, Keystone Heights, with Wagner on second, a fielders choice grounder by Audry Cisco moved Wagner,



Keystone Heights softball coach Jessica Marquart contemplates next move from district championship game against Newberry.

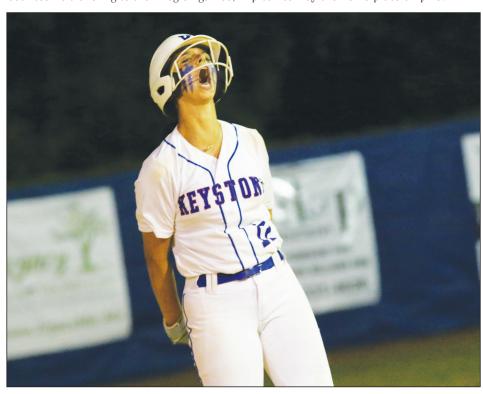
but Bailey Amato popped out to end the inning.

Newberry got their bases loaded scenario off a sacrifice bunt, a walk and a grounder with Massey still on the mound. With a one ball, one strike scenario, Massey hit the next Newberry batter to score the winning run.

"I hated that the game came to that play," said Marquart. "That's a tough way to lose, but our schedule let us be tough for games like this."

With Oakleaf dominating their district 2-6A championship game with a 7-0 win over Buchholz, led by hard hitting from senior Jaydyn Beall, the No. 4 ranked Lady

SEE INDIANS SOFTBALL, 21



Keystone Heights softball got this run scoring double from Kadence Massey in their extra innings 4-3 loss to Newberry in the district championships. Keystone Heights advanced to their region 1-2A playoff opener at Trinity Catholic, but ended their season with a 4-2 loss on Wednesday, May 7.

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INDIANS TRACK

from page 18

Keystone Heights got top five finishes at the district 4-2A meet from Jamari Turner in the high jump with a 5'-9.75" jump and Luke Lewis in the pole vault, fifth at 6'-4.75". Lewis also finished third in javelin at 105'-5" with teammate Tyler Kerner fifth. Turner was seventh in 400 hurdles.

In the long jump, Baylor Ford was fourth at 19'-11.5" with Ford also getting sixth in triple jump at 38'-8.25".

Other finishers included Aaron Wiley, 15th in 100 at 11.37; Aaron Wiley, 13th in 200 at 23.76; Baylor Ford, eighth in 400 at 54.25; Ryeland Wahl, seventh in 800 in 2:13.64 with Hunter Sheppard ninth in 2:19.87; DeShawn Williams, sixth in 100 hurdles in 19.57; Tyler Kerner, 17th in shot put at 9.76 meters and 11th in discus at 10.46 meters.

For the girls at districts, Olivia Griffin took third in the 800 at 2:30.77 with sprinter Kaylee Park third in the 100 hurdles at 16.93. Park was also eighth in the 400 hurdles.

In triple jump, Laura Herndon was fifth at 31'-7.5'' with Xana Briley fifth in discus and javelin with throws of 69-5'' and 73'-5''



Keystone Height hurdler DeShawn Williams battles over hurdle at the district championships with Williams finished sixth in the 110 high hurdles.



The Keystone Heights High girls 4 x 100 relay team at the Keystone Heights Invitational was Laura Herndon, Sophie Moses, Kaylee Park and Alexis Vannordstrand



Keystone Height distance runner Ryder Thomas got two golds at the district championships at Sante Fe with wins in the 1600 and 3200.



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INDIANS SOFTBALL

from nage 19

Knights (11-12) advanced into the region 1-6A bracket to host No. 5 Bartram Trail (15-11) as region playoffs gear up On Wednesday and Thursday, May 7 and May; 1A-4A on May 7, 5A-7A on May 8. Oakleaf won an eighth inning 2-1 match against Tocoi Creek in their district semifinal. Bartram Trail defeated Oakleaf 4-2 in March in their only meeting of the year.

For the rest of the region lineup, Clay, earned their district title in district 4-4A with a riveting 5-4 eighth inning walk win over Pedro Menendez via a double from junior Grace Miller.

"I have said that this team will be tested throughout the season as most of them are very young players with only a little experience at the varsity level and at the high school level, but I am more than excited about the season," said Lewis, in a preseason question as he watched his young squad going through early season drills. "I'm invigorated to coach again because of these kids."

Lewis was uncanny in his prophecy as his team never took the foot off the gas pedal against Menendez, at 10-11, and a senior laden squad, that tested the 15-10 Blue Devils with the first three innings going scoreless behind both pitchers; Sadie Russo for Clay with 10 strikeouts and Madelyn Brown, a senior, for Menendez, with nine strikeouts (four in first two Clay at bats), controling the game's tempo.

In the bottom of the seventh, Clay had a shot to cash in with Amiah Carrubba and Kaitlyn Howell on base, but Brown whiffed Hailie Miera to put the game into overtime.

With Russo still pitching, Menendez upped the pace with the eighth inning overtime format (runner placed at second base to start) with a sacrifice bunt and single giving Menendez the lead at 3-2, the a double adding one more before Clay's defense snagged two fly balls.

Again, with a runner at second base, D'Rheah Watson, Hackett singled off a bunt to move Watson to third with Bailei Jackson hitting a grounder to third that got delayed enough on the throw to keep baserunners in tact before Miller smashed her gamewinner to left field to ice the game.

In Region 1-4A, No. 4 Clay (15-10) will host No. 5 Arnold High (17-8), ironically,

the same lineup for the Clay High baseball team in their region final this week, with No. 1 Baker County (19-4) hosting No. 8 Choctowhatchee (5-18) in the upper bracket region opener.

In Region 1-5A, with Middleburg and Fleming Island battling to a 5-4 win by the Lady Broncos in the district 3-5A championship game, both teams advanced into the region playoffs with No. 3 Middleburg (18-8) hosting No. 6 Milton (14-12) and No. 5 Fleming Island (15-7) traveling to No. 4 Tallahassee Chiles (19-3).

Fleming Island opened in thunderous fashion in their district 3-5A championship game against Middleburg High with a three run homer from Ashlyn Madine with Jolee Rich adding one more with an RBI single to put the Golden Eagles up 4-0 very abruptly

"I think we had a little bit of nervous jitters coming in because they have had a pretty good season," said Middleburg coach Ashley Houston. "We had a lot of new players this season this was a pretty big game not just because of the district title on the line, but it was a county rivalry."

Middleburg, though, answered quickly with two runs in their initial at bats off an equally thunderous triple from Mallory Ficklin that was followed by an RBI double from Cloey Ballinger to put the score at 4-1 that that was followed by an RBI double from Izzy Pifer to score the game 4-2 in what appeared to be an upcoming slugfest for a championship game.

Late inning homers by Madisyn Strickland and Kerra Clarida were the final blows for the Broncos who finished off with a 5-4 win for the District 3-5A championship.

"We came out hot and put runs on the board, but didn't finish," said Fleming Island coach Jennifer Bucklew. "In the later innings, we were still hitting the ball, but they were making good defensive plays on us. We had our opportunities."

In district 2-1A, St. Johns Country Day School won a 12-2 opener over First Coast Christian, but lost in the district championship game 18-3 to No. 1 Christ's Church Academy to end the Spartans season at 4-14.

In district 3-5A, Ridgeview faced off and lost an 8-0 semifinal to Fleming Island to finish their season at 9-15.

Also in district 3-5A, Orange Park lost an 11-0 match to Middleburg to end their season at 4-19.



STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

Keystone Heights softball outfielder Maddie Glinski had plenty of action in Lady Indians district championship game against Newberry with a stolen base and a deep fly ball throw back from the centerfield fence.



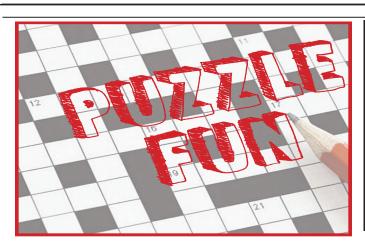
One of three hard charging running backs for Keystone Heights football in 2025 will be fullback Kyle Perkins who will be carrying the rock with Zane Leger and Colton Hollingsworth in three-back power lineup for coach Steve Reynolds.



STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO
Keystone Heights quarterback Ryder Trull lets go
with pass in Indians intrasquad scrimmage on
Thursday. Trull had 25 yard scoring pass to tight
end Trace Wooten in game.



Keystone Heights baseball celebrated college scholarship signing for pitcher Ty Mitzel who is headed to Daytona State College in Daytona Beach next fall. Mitzel was key on the mound for Indians who won district title and advanced to region playoffs in 2025 with final record of 19-9. Mitzel had 1.20 earned runs against average with a 4-2 won loss record and 46 strikeouts for Indians.



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Level: Intermediate



Solve the code to discover words related to photography.

Each number corresponds to a letter.

(Hint: 2 = G)

A. 14 3 18 24 23 17 20

Clue: Star of a photo

B. 18 22 17 16 2 8 9 3 15 7

Clue: Behind the subject of a photo

C. 21 6 2 25 20 6 15 2

Clue: Illumination

D. 10 9 17 3 14

Clue: Attention directed





Answer: Lens

GUESS WHO?

I am a singer born on May 16, 1966 in Indiana. As a young girl, I dreamt of being a jockey, but the family business of singing ultimately had a bigger pull. I became one of the most successful pop artists in history with sales from my fifth album, which bears my first name.

Yuswet: Jauet Jackson



Answers: A. subject B. background C. lighting

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