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THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 2016

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Brewing up controversy

Despite an influx of negative reviews in a case of mistaken identity, the coffee continues to flow at The Urban Bean Coffeehouse Café on Park Avenue in Orange Park. Donald Trump supporters have barraged the local shops in recent weeks mistaking it for a shop of the same name in Minnesota.

Orange Park coffee shop victim of mistaken identity

By **Kenneth Detwyler Jr.**
Staff Writer

ORANGE PARK – As the election season heats up, so does the tension between the candidates and their supporters.

A popular local hangout, the Urban Bean Coffeehouse Café, on Park Avenue is facing undue backlash from Donald Trump supporters following a national news story about a coffeehouse of the

same name. Another “Urban Bean” coffee shop – not affiliated with the Orange Park establishment of the same name – located in Minneapolis, Minnesota, made headlines for instituting a “Trump ban,” in which the shop has vowed to refuse service to anyone who supports the presumptive Republican presidential nominee.

“If you support this moron, do not

‘like’ ‘follow’ or spend money in our stores. At the very least, consider what your support of ‘this moron’ means to the future of our country,” the Minnesota Urban Bean said in their initial Facebook posting.

“Urban Bean recently found themselves in the middle of America’s con-

SEE COFFEE, 26

Tales of motel demise 'greatly exaggerated'

By **Jesse Hollett**
Staff Writer

ORANGE PARK – On July 1, the motel at the epicenter of law enforcement scrutiny after multiple drug and prostitution arrests and at least one murder has been ordered by the courts to shut its doors. However, none of the precariously housed residents trapped in the motel’s gravity have heard anything about the impending shut down from motel staff.

Joe Lockwood and his grandmother have lived at the Parkway Inn, formerly the Rode-way Inn, at 300 Park Ave. off and on since last September, but staff or management never once informed them on the motel’s imminent closure.

The motel continues to welcome new guests and has started charging long-term residents daily instead of \$40 a week.

“They keep telling me they’re not closing down, they keep coming up with excuses that they filed an appeal and not to believe everything a judge tells you,” Lockwood said. “It’s not the city of Orange Park, it’s the whole Clay County that wants this shut down. They’re running this like a, excuse my French, warehouse.”

Lockwood and his grandmother have a fixed income and therefore do not have the financial means to pay for security deposits at an apartment or home. He said would benefit from assistance from the charity services vying to reach out to the families

SEE PARKWAY, 26

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Sheriff's candidates face off in forum

By Jesse Hollett
Staff Writer

FLEMING ISLAND – The four Republican candidates vying to become Sheriff were given the chance to make their case as to why they should be elected Clay County's top cop.

Candidates took turns standing from their plastic chairs to their soapboxes in the Fleming Island High School cafeteria June 23 to talk about initiatives they would spearhead against the growing problems of low officer morale, rampant drug use and mass shootings.

The passion the candidates showed throughout the debate was refreshing, considering for the first time in 12 years, voters will herald in a new Sheriff since incumbent Rick Beseler retires this year after his fourth term.

Candidates led off the debate with their qualifications for Sheriff and their main points of focus once elected. Harold Rutledge waved around a written plan he will enact "day one" as sheriff, while James Jett focused on district specific policing and mentioned he promised his wife he would be "nicer" during this debate.

He later broke that promise.

Perhaps disappointing to the crowd who came popcorn-ready for gossip, candidates were able to go most of the debate without attacking each other and outline key strategies they will use to reform current policing standards.

The audience reacted favorably when current Clay County Sheriff's Office Undersheriff Craig Aldrich explained how a 28-day program for first time simple drug possession would clean up addicts, but perhaps fearing public rejection, he tapered his bravado toward the tail end of his comments on marijuana enforcement.

"I think that is the best way to address the heroin issue," he said. "So many misdemeanor small amount of marijuana, I think we need to start issuing citations for some of that stuff, because we are putting a lot of people in jail costing you the taxpayers a large amount of money for a very small amount of marijuana."

Darryl Daniel's stance on drug crime stood stark against Aldrich's vision of more preventive measures.

Daniels said drug problems are prevalent throughout the United States, not just Clay County "Hey, what's there to do," he said, then explained how his background in narcotics enforcement kicking in doors helps him deal with the drug issue.

Perhaps because of an oversight on



STAFF PHOTO BY JESSE HOLETT

Republican candidates, from left, Craig Aldrich, Darryl Daniels, James Jett and Harold Rutledge squared off in the Fleming Island High School cafeteria June 23.

Daniel's part, he offered a commitment to fix the problem in lieu of a specific solution.

"You have my commitment as the next Sheriff to have a firm and hard line narcotics guys are going to be real real busy, real real busy," he said.

Later in the debate, Rutledge was able to rouse the crowd when he explained the measures citizens themselves could take to prevent mass shootings such as the June 12 Orlando Pulse Nightclub shooting that resulted in the deaths of 49 people.

"They used to tell you to run hide and fight, but I don't think you can hide anymore," Rutledge said. "If I'm elected Sheriff we're going to create a program for citizens where they can learn to defend themselves. If you can carry a concealed weapon with a permit, carry. You could be the one to prevent the next shooter."

Jett agreed with Rutledge but failed to add any substantial policies or initiatives he would institute. Instead, he used his allotted time to tell the audience if they find

themselves in a mass shooting to either run or "fight, fight, fight."

Jett continued his habit of touching an issue without offering an initiative to remedy it when he was asked how he would raise police morale, despite being directly asked to mention a specific policy.

"I think everyone would agree that we've got major problems in the Clay County Sheriff's Office today," Jett said. "We have a high turnover rate – morale is in a ditch ... I believe if we treat our employees fair, if we treat them with respect, then they respect you as a leader and morale will go up."

Rutledge said he would start a program where he would sit down with employees and help them create a plan for their career.

Despite productive beginnings, the debate eventually devolved at the end to gossip during the closing comments when Jett and Aldrich turned to gossip bordering on slander.

"I think we would all agree that the best indicator of future performance is history,"

Aldrich said. "Look and see which one of them has been arrested several times, who has been arrested for selling alcohol to a minor ... Look at who was investigated by the Orange Park Police Department for lying to a victim and it was recommended that he be terminated ... One person ready to lead to keep you safe and secure like you are now, and that's Craig Aldrich, ready to lead from day one."

The audience roared with applause.

Daniels, in closing, said that all the gossip was "unnecessary" and instead attempted to bring the crowd together in solidarity.

"There's a lot of good folks in Clay County, I'm looking at them," he said. "And yeah, sometimes you pick sides, you wear red shirts you wear green shirts, you wear blue shirts, but you know what? We're all from Clay County, this is our home ... We're not as different as you think we are."

The audience erupted with applause.

Jett approached the center of the stage – more comedian than candidate – then retaliated against Aldrich's comments.

"When you stop telling lies about me, I'll stop telling the truth about you."

The cafeteria exploded with laughter, whistles and claps.

Voters will decide Aug. 30 on who becomes sheriff as there is no runoff provision in this race.

**Voters will decide
Aug. 30 on who
becomes sheriff as
there is no runoff
provision in this race.**

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STAFF PHOTO BY KENNETH DETWYLER JR.

Construction begins on senior housing community

FLEMING ISLAND – Local officials joined with officials from Sage Development Group June 23 to conduct a groundbreaking ceremony for the company’s new assisted living facility on East West Parkway on Fleming Island. The Seagrass Village started construction this month and is expected to be complete in the fall of 2017. The facility will provide jobs for more than 75 employees. The 125,000 square feet, 125-unit property will offer a mix of 46 Independent Living, 64 Assisted Living and 25 Memory Care units. It sits on approximately seven acres. The facility will have 135 units, including private rooms with varying floor plan options. Sage Development Group is based in Panama City Beach, Fla.

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How Marco Rubio might get Hillary Clinton elected

By Jac VerSteeg

Marco Rubio says he decided to run for re-election because it will be imperative to have people like him in the U.S. Senate if Hillary Clinton is elected president.

"There's [a] role for the Senate that could end up being its most important in the years to come: The Constitutional power to act as a check and balance on the excesses of a president."

But it is worth asking: Does Rubio's decision to run make it more likely Clinton will become president?



Jac VerSteeg

It's easy to envision a scenario in which it does. Eagerness to drive a political stake through Rubio's heart could increase Democratic turnout in Florida, throwing the most important swing state – and therefore the election – to Clinton.

Think about it. Democrats hardly would be whipped into a frenzy by a desire to defeat, say, Carlos Lopez-Cantera. Most voters probably still are fuzzy at best on who, exactly, Lopez-Cantera is. But Rubio? He's become a high-profile target.

The wish to stick it to Rubio also plausibly would be a better election-day mobilizer than any positive feeling toward either Rep. Patrick Murphy or Rep. Alan Grayson, who are battling it out to be the Democratic senatorial nominee.

Rubio's insinuation that the Orlando massacre influenced his decision to seek re-election only heightens Democratic anger toward him. Before, the biggest knock on Rubio was that he was a slacker who couldn't be bothered to show up to work in the Senate. Damaging, yes, but not something to make Democrats get out and vote.

Now, though, Rubio is the hypocrite who steadfastly has opposed LGBT equality and commonsense gun control yet has the gall to imply he's running in response to the assault-weapon massacre perpetrated at a gay night club?

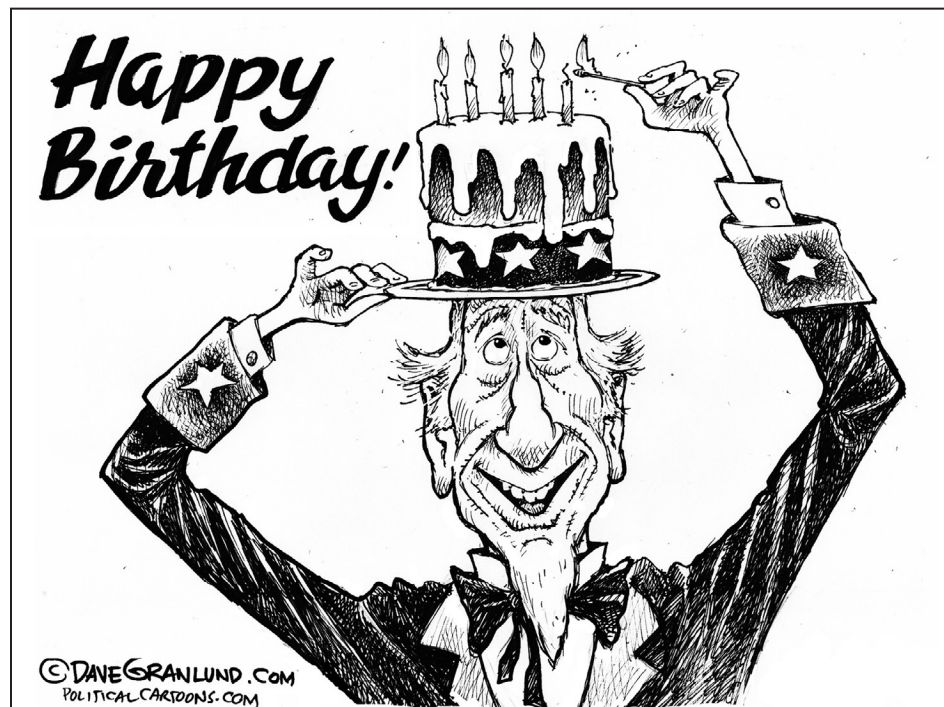
How epically self-serving.

Rubio's anti-LGBT record is exactly the kind of issue that could motivate young Democrats and independents who otherwise might have stayed home to make the effort to vote. As a group, they might not even have been that enamored of Clinton. But if they take the trouble to vote against Rubio in remembrance of Orlando, they might just vote for Clinton while they're at it.

For Clinton to win in November, she'll need a big turnout of Democrats in the Orlando area – precisely the area that ought to be most offended by Rubio's decision to use the Pulse horror as his excuse to run. Democratic turnout in South Florida also is a key, and that's also an LGBT-friendly venue.

Plus, Rubio's flip-flop on immigration

SEE RUBIO, 5



From the editor

Be careful of what they tell you

By Eric Cravey
Managing Editor

With offices in St. Petersburg, Fla. and Washington, D.C., Politifact has earned a reputation for being the journalistic entity that calls out the fibbers and the half-truth tellers.

A sister company to the Tampa Bay Times – formerly the St. Petersburg Times – Politifact does not always get it right, but it strives to hold those in elected positions accountable for their actions and the things they say.

Politifact has also grown in stature and has a work product that has garnered the prestigious Pulitzer Award for its past work.

If you were to surf over to the Politifact website this week, you'd be able to read stories where their writers and researchers are fact-checking everyone from Stephen Colbert to Donald Trump. It's a global potpourri of research and accountability, which is why journalism exists – to serve as a watchdog to those in power or those seeking power.

However, the one thing Politifact is not, is that it's not local. So, last week after sitting through the candidate forum for those seeking to be Clay County's top cop, I couldn't click over to the Politifact website to check on something. The site is not quite that robust yet.

In the forum held at Fleming Island High, candidates Craig Aldrich, Darryl Daniels, James Jett and Harold Rutledge fielded questions from WJTX TV's Kent Justice in the forum sponsored by the Republican Men's Club of Clay County.

There's a time-honored saying in political circles – "There are lies and then there are damned lies." And that's the way in which my body reacted after one of the



Eric Cravey

candidates said something to the effect of "No Clay County Sheriff has ever walked the neighborhoods of Clay County."

Well, having been a resident of Clay County since 1994, I vigorously know this to be wrong. If I were Politifact, Darryl Daniels' comment would receive one of those cool "False" meters on it.

I doubly know that both Sheriff Scott Lancaster and Sheriff Rick Beseler have walked neighborhoods because I see stories of such actions each week when I pore over the archives of Clay Today. However, I am but a speck.

Being the imperfect human I am, I felt a need to dig deeper. So, last Friday after the forum, I called the Clay County Sheriff's Office public information officer to see if the agency had any archival photos of sheriffs walking the neighborhoods of Clay County. Within 30 minutes, if not fewer, I received 10 photos from throughout the years of both Lancaster and Beseler doing exactly what I knew I had read about and/or witnessed myself.

Regardless, there is zero empirical data to show that walking a neighborhood reduces crime.

The sheriff's race is rather important as Clay County is on the cusp of amazing change. If you've been paying attention, this county is about to experience another boom. A colleague told me last week that residential homebuilding permits are up back to the 2006 level, the peak year Clay County had \$650 million worth of new construction. With such growth comes humans and more humans mean more stress on the infrastructure – roads, schools, water and sewer and power – and can result in more problems. Problems come in various shapes – crime, poverty, commercial sprawl.

When voters go to the polls on Aug. 30, search your hearts deeply. Just because someone says something over and over does

SEE EDITOR, 6

Letters to the Editor

Van Zant responds to editor column

Mr. Cravey began his June 22 column by admitting there is no physical evidence to substantiate the anecdote he uses to draw parallels to the business of the Clay County School District at our June meeting. More importantly, he also fails to provide any evidence to support his account of the meeting itself.

I made my phone call to parents of children enrolled in Clay County schools on May 16 because the school district received an unprecedented number of phone calls and emails demanding to know what our district's response would be to the federal government's directive on transgender bathroom and locker-room access in schools.

As superintendent, I have a responsibility under Florida law to lead the district in providing adequate educational opportunities for all children in the district. I made it clear in my original message to parents that we would not falter from that mission, and that we would apply common sense solutions that protect the safety and privacy of all students. We don't need a directive from the federal Department of Justice or Education to achieve that.

At our recent board meeting, I read from the Declaration of Independence to make clear the precepts which guide my decisions on this matter. These philosophies have endured across our nation and at every level of government for almost two and a half centuries and they carry great weight with me as I fulfill my responsibilities as a constitutional officer. They

SEE VAN ZANT, 5

Reader defending superintendent

After reading your article concerning a post in the paper "Let Them Eat Cake," I am compelled to respond.

First, I note that you added quite a bit to the original article.

You stated, "Charlie Van Zant Jr. continues to carry out his role in a fashion that appears to be out of sync with the people who are paying his extravagant salary..." I am one of those who pays his salary, he is not "out of sync" with me nor is he out of sync with everyone I know personally. Further, we back his courageous stance against the political correctness tearing our country – and now our county – apart.

"Extravagant?" This is the same salary that was paid to former Superintendent Ben Wortham. I don't recall you calling it "extravagant" then.

Reading on, the article makes reference to President Obama's guidelines on "giving transgender students dignity and access to restrooms." Clay County has provided bathrooms that either gender can use for their safety and dignity, as well as just-girls and just-boys restrooms. Everyone's dignity is being preserved.

SEE READER, 5

VanZant

from page 4

are the philosophies which guided the creation of our Constitution, which I took an oath to support, protect, and defend when I entered the military, and each time Clay County voters elected me.

It is wrong to suggest that rejecting this directive because of its overreach is a sign of indifference to the needs of our students.

I appreciate the trust every parent with a child in Clay County schools places in us by enrolling their child in our schools and, along with our teachers, administrators, and staff, I strive to be worthy of that trust every day. All of us were shocked and disappointed in the student who chose to make violent threats on Twitter following the tragedy in Orlando, and where Mr. Cravey wrongly accuses the district of failing to take action, it should be noted the initial school administrators who were made aware of the threats took rightful steps to notify law enforcement in accordance with district protocol.

Our teachers and administrators deserve praise for how they apply their collective professional experience, judgment, and discretion to meet the needs of our students.

I have personally met with the parent and student who commented on this issue at the June meeting, and I will continue to assure parents and students in Clay County schools that we are committed to providing a learning environment that values safety, discipline, and civility. I stand firmly by our abilities as a school district to respond to the needs of our students without the interference of unlawful directives from the federal government. "We the people" gave certain enumerated powers to the President of the United States in the U.S. Constitution. Bathroom and locker-room access in schools was not one of them. As long as I am Superintendent of Schools, we will handle that at the local level in a manner that supports traditional American family values.

*Charlie Van Zant Jr.
Keystone Heights
Superintendent of Schools*

Kicking the can

I frequently read in your editorials about how important history is on an issue and how citizen involvement is critical to the outcome. I couldn't agree more. This is especially true when one looks at the BCC wanting us to add another 20 years to the future obligation of our grandchildren.

The current 1 cent sales tax which was passed in 1990 was due to mandates from the State in the "Growth Management Plan" (Comp. Plan) rule 9J-5 requiring a funding source to pay for growth. I think an honest look at the history of the Plan and the many changes made, as well as the previous extensions of the tax and what was promised would be a great service to the voters by your publication. The archives of the Clay Today, Clay County Crescent and The Leader should contain a good history

of both the Growth Management Plan and the 1 cent sales tax.

One element of the plan was a capitol budget promising what the money was to be used for to get the voters support. The 5 and 10-year budget in many ways does not represent what was actually done with the money. As an example the complete 4-laning of County Road 218, from Middleburg to U.S. 301, and the 4-laning of County Road 220, from Knight Boxx Road to Blanding Boulevard, were in the first 5-year budget and funded but not completed. The history of the BCC failing to keep its word is worth taking a look at.

I am totally in favor of the 1 cent sales tax, but not a 40-year commitment obligating my Grandchildren to pay off loans on equipment purchased today that might be

worn out and gone before the bonds are paid. This means the debt obligation will extend from the year 2029 to 2049.

The current BCC will be spending the revenue stream of many future BCC Boards.

The current BCC and several past boards, who claim to be conservative Republicans, are kicking the can down the road like a Washington Democrat. How much does a voter want to pay to provide for people who are yet to locate here?

I think the voters would rather pay a 1 to 2 cent additional gas tax earmarked solely for existing road maintenance and improvements.

*Ron Stotler
Green Cove Springs*

Reader

from page 4

Mr Van Zant's statement was Robo-called to all households involved in Clay County Schools because the info in the Obama directive caused many parents to contact the Superintendent's office in a panic. The Robo-call was the most efficient/effective way to answer their concerns.

You forget, this was not only about bathrooms: also locker rooms, changing areas, and showers. He assured parents that transgender students were already being protected, and there would be no further changes concerning the directive that did not have the "force of law" - a detail lost on many, one of whom is apparently you.

Lastly I take issue with your statement that Van Zant "outed" a Fleming Island High student's sexual orientation. I watched the whole exchange, and when she came to speak, she made no secret about it. Further, it was her sister who spoke after the father that left no doubt of her sexual orientation when she commented on how Van Zant's call had made her feel her "safe space" was violated. She brought unfair accusations against Van Zant, including that he was teaching "hate" and "how dare him act like he was compassionate towards the victims and families of the terror attack in Orlando."

Not liking or agreeing with what your grown child is doing does not mean you hate them and have no love or compassion!

Why is it some think calling those who think like I do a "hater" or a "bigot" is effective dialogue?

Sorry to inform, but name calling doesn't equate to a mature discussion regardless of the age of the name caller. Not agreeing with someone's lifestyle because it goes against what my God says in His Word does not make me, or those who agree with me, either of those names.

As to caring about those who go against His Word, I have great compassion for them. But make sure you understand this: their right to an opinion does not negate my right to mine. It's time those on the Political Correctness side of this (and every) issue learn that. Superintendent Van Zant's actions were teaching that very lesson.

*Mike Trudell
Orange Park*

Rubio

from page 4

is a double-whammy in those two regions. Not only does it anger Hispanics who feel he stabbed them in the back by abandoning immigration reform, it angers those who remember that gay Hispanics were targeted in the Pulse attack.

Current polls show Rubio beating either Murphy or Grayson. But if Democrats exploit Rubio's Pulse hypocrisy with skill, Rubio might just help them beat Trump.

Jac Wilder VerSteege is a columnist for The South Florida Sun Sentinel and former deputy editorial page editor for The Palm Beach Post.



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Starting on July 19, Tuesday Bridge from 1:30-3:30 p.m. is at the Orange Park Presbyterian Church
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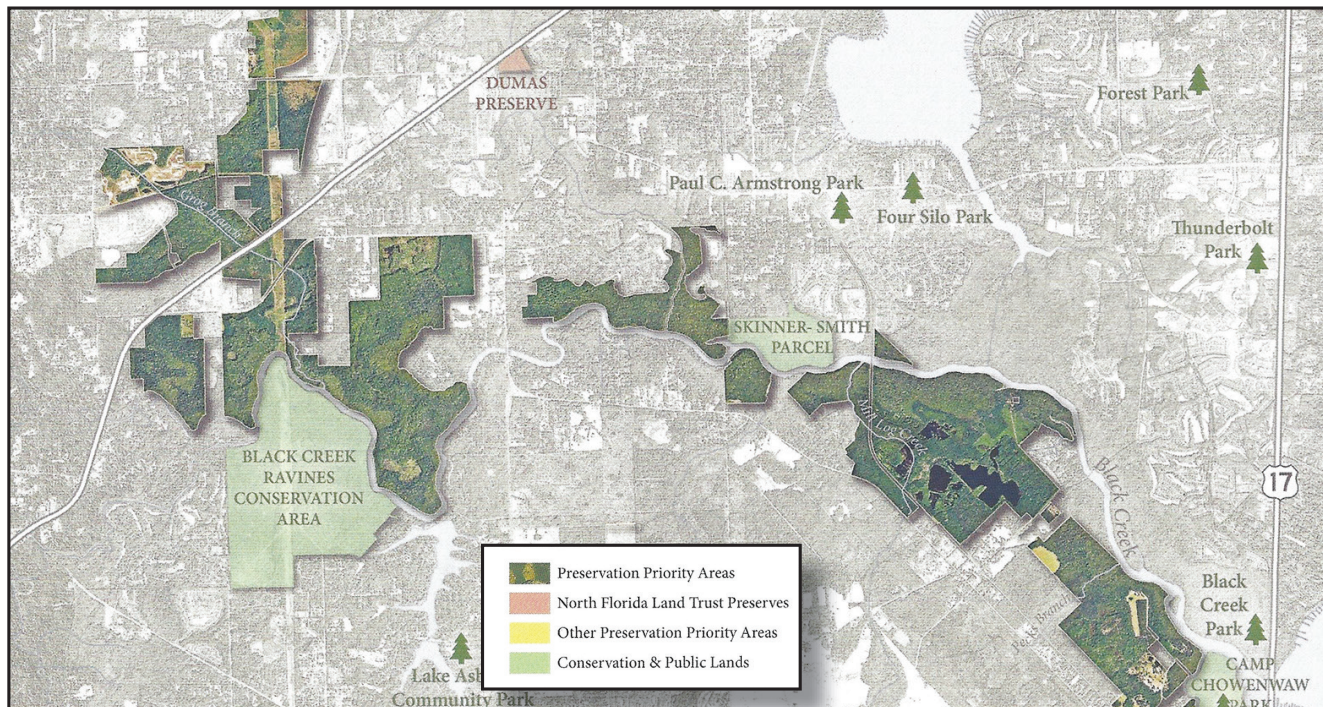
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Editor
from page 4

not make it true.

And remember, every party gets to vote in the sheriff's race because none of the candidates' political consultants rigged a write-in candidate like they did in the state attorney's and the school superintendent's races, which shuts out Democrats and Independents from voting in those two races.

And, regardless of which sheriff walks future neighborhoods, crime will always be with us. After all, humans are involved and we're anything from perfect.

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Clay lands on tap for preservation?

Nonprofit hopes so

By **Harrison Dinsbeer**
Staff Writer

MIDDLEBURG – Five-thousand acres of land alongside Black Creek running from U.S. Highway 17 to just west of Blanding Boulevard have been identified for conservation because human interference has made the creek vulnerable to flooding.

The North Florida Land Trust's new Preservation Portfolio also identifies parcels of land west of Moccasin Slough and north of Middleburg along Grog Branch as ecologically significant areas that need to be conserved.

Putting houses too close to the creek eliminates marshes that hold back floodwaters, so developers are putting the community at risk, according to Jim McCarthy, executive director of the North Florida Land Trust.

"If you do not preserve that wetland, the city or county could be required to build a wastewater or stormwater treatment plant. Our Preservation Portfolio shows how conserving that wetland could actually save the taxpayers money," Mc-

Carthy said.

The Preservation Portfolio estimates that the Black Creek property will return \$26 million in "ecosystem benefits" every year. The North Florida Land Trust defines ecosystem benefits as "services provided by the natural environment that we would otherwise pay for."

"Preserving the land reduces or eliminates the need for storm water drainage or sewage treatment facilities, prevents or reduces flooding, offers needed recreational areas, provides fisheries and even creates areas for wildlife viewing – a \$4.9 billion a year industry in Florida," states a Land Trust press release.

The Land Trust estimates that the land will cost around \$25 million to acquire. The value of ecosystem benefits will be greater than the estimated cost of acquiring the land in just one year, so investing in the land is, for the Land Trust, viewed as an easy victory. Land trusts can use various strategies to acquire land – they can buy it, receive a donated easement from the owner or buy an easement.

Land trusts use easements because

SEE TAP, 20

Chris CHAMBLESS
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

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**TOWN OF ORANGE PARK, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2015**

	General	Sales Tax	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues				
Taxes	\$ 4,187,034	\$ 1,425,635	\$ 295,876	\$ 5,908,545
Permits, Fees, and Assessments	1,013,866	0	0	1,013,866
Intergovernmental	1,045,213	22,040	0	1,067,253
Charges for Services	645,978	0	450	646,428
Fines and Forfeitures	499,568	0	9,853	509,421
Investment Income	2,164	10,088	511	12,763
Miscellaneous	96,687	0	0	96,687
Total Revenues	7,490,510	1,457,763	306,690	9,254,963
Expenditures				
Current:				
General Government	2,163,028	0	0	2,163,028
Public Safety	4,989,720	0	11,583	5,001,303
Public Works	687,789	50,738	0	738,527
Culture and Recreation	118,029	0	0	118,029
Capital Outlay	27,532	1,421,959	0	1,449,491
(Total Expenditures)	(7,986,098)	(1,472,697)	(11,583)	(9,470,378)
(Deficiency) Excess of Revenues (Under) Over Expenditures	(495,588)	(14,934)	295,107	(215,415)
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Transfers in	669,400	427,453	0	1,096,853
Transfers (out)	(427,453)	0	(285,400)	(712,853)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	241,947	427,453	(285,400)	384,000
Net Changes in Fund Balance	(253,641)	412,519	9,707	168,585
Fund Balances, Beginning of Year	5,123,794	2,784,793	426,869	8,335,456
Fund Balances, End of Year	\$ 4,870,153	\$ 3,197,312	\$ 436,576	\$ 8,504,041

**TOWN OF ORANGE PARK, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND
CHANGES IN FUND NET POSITION
PROPRIETARY FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2015**

	Business-type Activities - Enterprise Funds		
	Water and Sewer	Sanitation	Total
Operating Revenues			
Charges for Services	\$ 4,831,633	\$ 542,795	\$ 5,374,428
Miscellaneous	0	1,250	1,250
Total Operating Revenues	4,831,633	544,045	5,375,678
Operating Expenses			
Personnel Services	985,814	27,425	1,013,239
Utilities	291,664	0	291,664
Supplies, Materials, and Other	202,331	116	202,447
Professional and Contractual Services	98,571	415,520	514,091
General and Administrative	428,000	109,000	537,000
Depreciation and Amortization	902,933	2,461	905,394
Repairs and Maintenance	267,459	57	267,516
Insurance	62,970	0	62,970
(Total Operating Expenses)	(3,239,742)	(554,579)	(3,794,321)
Operating Income	1,591,891	(10,534)	1,581,357
Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)			
Investment Revenue	26,887	5,681	32,568
Interest/Amortization Expense	(93,834)	(5)	(93,839)
Loss on Disposal of Capital Assets	(501)	0	(501)
Total Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)	(67,448)	5,676	(61,772)
Income Before Capital Contributions and Transfers	1,524,443	(4,858)	1,519,585
Transfers (out)	(384,000)	0	(384,000)
Change in Net Position	1,140,443	(4,858)	1,135,585
Net Position, Beginning of Year	23,621,133	1,612,215	25,233,348
Prior Period Adjustments	(968,043)	(25,369)	(993,412)
Net Position, Beginning of Year, as Restated	22,653,090	1,586,846	24,239,936
Net Position, End of Year	\$ 23,793,533	\$ 1,581,988	\$ 25,375,521

Copies of the Town's September 30, 2015, Audited Financial Statements are available for inspection in the office of the Town Clerk, Monday-Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Legal 37465 published June 30 and July 7, 2016 in Clay County's ClayToday newspaper

This Week *in History*

5 Years Ago, 2011

• Orange Park Town Council unanimously passed a five-year, \$8.3 million capital improvement plan outlining road paving and other infrastructure projects in the town.

• Clay County Fire Rescue Chief Lorin Mock said a burn ban was to be extended to June 24 and possibly beyond likely prohibiting planned Independence Day fireworks in Keystone Heights, Orange Park and Green Cove Springs.

• The Florida Youth Challenge Academy at Camp Blanding celebrated its 10th year of helping troubled youth from around Florida by graduating Class No. 20 at the Thrasher-Horne Center for the Arts.

10 Years Ago, 2006

• After months of negotiations with homebuilder LandMar, the Clay County School Board voted to accept \$2.5 million in fees that will be used to build new schools needed by the buildout of Saratoga Springs, a 4,300-home planned community.

• The Charter Review Commission voted to pass on to the County Board of Commissioners four ballot questions changing the county charter. One item, if approved, would have expanded the BCC to seven seats from its current five.

• The St. Johns River Water Management District installed a 2,500-foot deep well on property inside the Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park north of Keystone Heights. The well monitored the Floridan Aquifer, the region's primary source of water.

20 Years Ago, 1996

• The Green Cove Springs Fire Department's hazmat team joined local law enforcement and state officials to close off a section of U.S. Highway 17 after a tanker truck spilled approximately 2,000 gallons of diesel fuel on the roadway.

• Walter Brock, director of instructional

services for the Clay County School District, said \$1.3 million in federal funds would help support Title I programs at six Clay elementary schools.

• The Clay County School District's Citizen Advisory Committee, chaired by Gayward Hendry, approved a proposal to move the district to block scheduling after hearing presentations from Keystone Heights High Principal Tina Bullock and Orange Park High Principal Sam Ward.

30 Years Ago, 1986

• James B. Jett, 33, chairman of the Clay Board of County Commissioners, announced he would seek a second term as a Democrat.

• Lenore M. McCullagh of Orange Park received a \$1,000 award for being named 1986 recipient of the Feinstone Environmental Award presented by the State University of New York's College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

• Doloris Dolan of Keystone Heights received internal bleeding after being dragged by her car and pinned against an above-ground swimming pool after her 20-month-old grandson found a way to start the car.

40 Years Ago, 1976

• Orange Park Town Attorney Claude Mullis filed 18 separate civil actions against 16 town residents in order to collect a total of \$1,181 in past due water and sewer bills.

• Clay County teachers and school district officials prepared to re-start contract negotiations with the help of a federal mediator after reaching an impasse. Teachers had lowered their pay hike request from 30 percent to 25 percent.

• Entrepreneur William B. Cook of Jacksonville broke ground for his company's second Mister Donut location at the corner of Park and Kingsley Avenues in Orange Park.



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For more info, volunteer or donations call 282-7888



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Charity is our 3 year old chocolate lab mix -- I don't know why we still have her at the shelter. She's an amazing dog, loves adults and children, is house broken, loves attention, going for walks and rides, or just sitting with you, soaking in your love. Charity is spayed, up to date on shots, heart worm negative and on Heartgard, micro chipped, and on monthly flea and tick preventative. She is the perfect dog for a family, a single person, a couple, to be your running friend, your welcome home friend, the dog that's all about her people, and unconditional love. Email info@animalrescuemovement.org for more information, or check our website, <http://www.animalrescuemovement.org> to see her and our other dogs and cats. Call the shelter also, and leave a message -- we'll get back to you as soon as possible -- at (904)282-7888. Charity is just waiting for you to discover her!

If you are interested in adopting a pet, please fill out our online application at www.animalrescuemovement.org. (Click on the adoptions tab to the left.)



CLAY TODAY FILE PHOTO

Volunteers from Save Our Lakes converged on Alligator Creek in 2014 to kick off the county's involvement in the Alligator Creek Enhancement Strategy, which has now hit a snag.

Alligator Creek project denied

By **Jesse Hollett**
Staff Writer

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – Camp Blanding will not participate in a project designed to increase the water flow of Alligator Creek through a troubled chain of lakes, effectively ending the plan's only chance of success.

The Alligator Creek Enhancement Strategy involved installing a pipeline in Lowry Lake located on Camp Blanding property to drain water down into Alligator Creek and through the Etonia Chain of Lakes, which are known for fluctuating water levels.

Approval from Camp Blanding remained the only barrier in the final stages of full implementation of the St. Johns River Water Management District's \$250,000 project.

Camp Blanding nixed the project over growing concerns that the plan could lower the water levels of Lowry Lake and interrupt waterborne military training operations.

"It seemed like too much of a risk and I feel like Camp Blanding has made a good faith effort to increase flow through Alligator Creek over the years," said Col. Matt Johnson, post commander at Camp Blanding.

As designed, ACES would force water downstream in times of low hydration in Alligator Creek and extend Lowry Lake's

hydroperiod – the length of time water naturally drains from Lowry Lake into Alligator Creek. Currently, SJRWMD measures Lowry's hydroperiod at 200 million gallons in an 80-day period.

For decades, water levels have fluctuated in the Etonia Chain. Water levels have remained mostly the same in Lowry, however other lakes in the chain are more unpredictable when rainfall is low.

Lake Geneva and Lake Brooklyn – both part of the Etonia Chain – recharge the Floridan Aquifer as water naturally drains into the sinkholes below the rock bed. As a result, water levels in those lakes have been consistently low. Rehydrating Alligator Creek could have helped remedy some of the water levels in the Etonia Chain and in tandem the aquifer.

"The project itself requires Camp Blanding's approval, so that project at this point is not moving forward," said John Fitzgerald with SJRWMD. "We do have an ongoing regional effort. That process is coming along and we should have a direct plan out later this summer, there is a bunch of ongoing work in this region."

As for other projects related to Alligator Creek, officials from SJRWMD will soon pick from a list championed by the Save Our Lakes Organization.

Save Our Lakes spearheads many initiatives in support for the Keystone Heights region's lakes, with their overall goal being

SEE CREEK, 20

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Clay County Board of County Commissioners to Consider a Petition to Establish Armstrong Community Development District

DATE: July 12, 2016

TIME: 2:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as may be heard

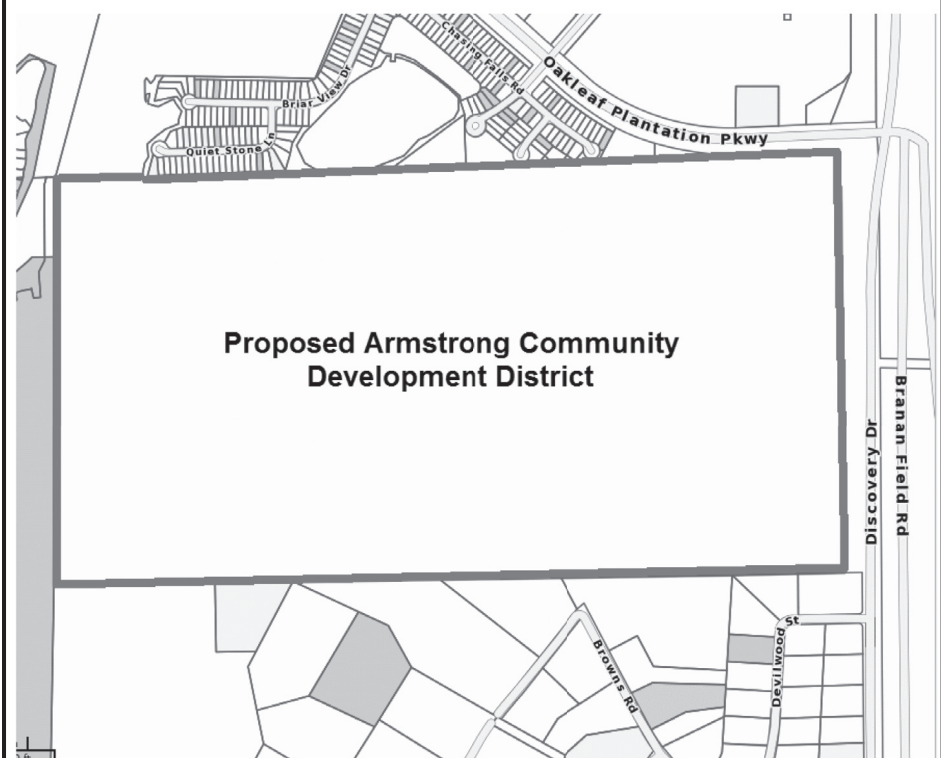
LOCATION: Clay County Administration Building
BCC Meeting Room, Fourth Floor
477 Houston Street
Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043

In compliance with the provisions of Chapter 190, Florida Statutes, a public hearing will be held by the Clay County Board of County Commissioners on the 12th day of July, 2016 at 2:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as may be heard at the BCC Meeting Room, Fourth Floor, Clay County Administration Building, 477 Houston Street, Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043, to consider an ordinance to grant a petition to establish the Armstrong Community Development District. The proposed Armstrong Community Development District is comprised of 322.28 acres, generally located south of Oakleaf Plantation Parkway, east of the South Village Community Development District and west of Branan Field Road. The petitioner has proposed to establish the Armstrong Community Development District to plan, finance, acquire, construct, operate and maintain infrastructure and community facilities which may be authorized by such district under Florida law, including but not limited to: stormwater management system, roadway improvements, water and sewer systems, recreation improvements and other infrastructure.

Copies of the petition and the proposed ordinance are open to public inspection at the Clay County County Attorney's Office, 2d floor, Clay County Administration Building, 477 Houston Street, Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043, (904) 284-6376.

All interested persons and affected units of general-purpose government shall be given an opportunity to appear at the hearing and present oral or written comments on the petition. Any persons or affected unit of general-purpose local government, who wish to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at this public hearing will need a record of the proceedings. For that purpose the person or unit of general-purpose local government may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made that includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Within five working days of receipt of this notice, please contact the Clay County ADA Coordinator by mail at Post Office Box 1366, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043, or by telephone at number (904) 269-6347.



CITY OFFICES CLOSED FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

Offices of the City of Green Cove Springs will be closed on Monday, July 4, 2016 in honor of Independence Day.

In case of an emergency, please call 297-7300.

There will be **NO GARBAGE OR YARD WASTE PICK-UP ON MONDAY, JULY 4, 2016.**

Garbage and Yard Waste collection will resume on your next scheduled day.



City of Green Cove Springs, Florida

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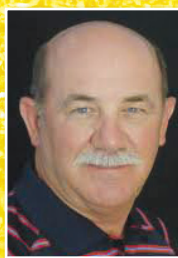
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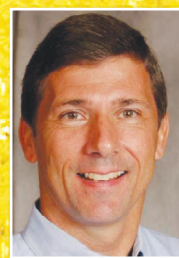
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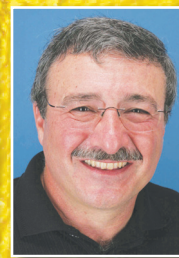
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Concrete plan on FCX investment ‘miles closer’

By Jesse Hollett
Staff Writer

ORANGE PARK – The future completion of the First Coast Expressway places Clay County in the driver’s seat of significant growth over the next 25 years. With so much riding on the forthcoming roadway, business leaders naturally place importance on community dialogue.

Last Thursday, the Thrasher-Horne Conference Center was home to what economic development leaders dubbed a Stakeholder Summit, the first of multiple planned public conversations involving business insiders and elected officials. Leaders are trying to maintain discussions about such issues as current land use designations and what amendments – if any – may be needed to county regulations in order to maximize the development potential of the corridor that makes its way through Clay County. When complete, the Expressway will connect Interstate 10 in Duval County to Interstate 95 in St. Johns County.

The northern section from Blanding Boulevard to I-10 in Duval County is currently under construction with completion anticipated this summer.

The area around U.S. Highway 17 and I-295 is already largely developed. The FCX will do the same for the western and southern areas of Clay County where development is slower.

Since businesses prefer to locate next to established transportation hubs, where visibility and accessibility meet, it’s a shared goal between business leaders to foster high wage job growth along the eight FCX interchanges scheduled to snake through Clay County.

“At those interchanges we planned for what we call activity centers, which can accommodate your light industrial, your commercial, professional offices – specifically high end jobs,” said Holly Parrish, director of Clay County Economic and Development Services.

Similar development is already visible in places like Branan Field Road where businesses, such as St. Vincent’s Medical Center Clay County provide a good “indication on how some of the other interchanges will grow,” Parrish said.

For the Clay Economic Development Corp., the FCX stands as a pendulum of potential energy, however further planning is in order.

The summit coincides with Clay County’s Evaluation and Appraisal Report, a chance all Florida counties get every seven years to amend their land use regulations stipulated in their state mandated 2025 Comprehensive Plan.

Rotary Meets Every Tuesday at NOON, Wells Road Holiday Inn

School News

Clay students honored at national workforce competition

LOUISVILLE, Ky. – Two Middleburg residents were among more than 6,000 students who recently competed at the 2016 SkillsUSA Championships in Louisville, Kentucky June 22-23.

Hunter B. Lee, from Middleburg and a student at Middleburg High School was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in carpentry, while Jose Solis, from Middleburg and a student at Southwestern Michigan College in Dowagiac, Michigan was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in criminal justice.

The SkillsUSA Championships is the largest skill competition in the world and covers 1.2 million square feet, equivalent to 19 football fields or 25 acres.

Students were invited to the event to demonstrate their technical skills, workplace skills and personal skills in 100 hands-on occupational and leadership competitions including robotics, automotive technology, drafting, criminal justice, aviation maintenance and public speaking.

Industry leaders from 600 businesses, corporations, trade associations and unions planned and evaluated the contestants against their standards for entry-level workers. Industry support of the SkillsUSA Championships is valued at more than \$36 million in donated time, equipment, cash and material.

Clay students graduate from Washington and Lee

LEXINGTON, Va. – Two Clay students recently graduated from Washington and Lee

University.

Commencement ceremonies for 444 Washington and Lee seniors were held May 26 on the university's historic front lawn.

Benjamin Burns Bayles of Fleming Island, received a B.A.C. degree. Bayles majored in economics. John Lucius Kirby III of Orange Park received a bachelor of science in physics-engineering.

The nation's ninth oldest institution of higher education, Washington and Lee University provides a liberal arts education that develops students' capacity to think freely, critically and humanely and to conduct themselves with honor, integrity and civility.

Brianna Jhanai Lafontant named tog '16 Dean's List

SPARTANBURG, S.C. – Dr. Dennis M. Wiseman, provost of Wofford College, has announced Dean's List students for the Spring 2016 Semester, including:

Brianna Jhanai Lafontant of Green Cove Springs.

To be named to the Dean's List, a student must be enrolled for at least 12 semester hours of graded courses and attain a semester grade point average of 3.6 or higher.

Wofford College, established in 1854, is a four-year, residential liberal arts college located in Spartanburg, South Carolina. It offers 25 major fields of study to a student body of 1,650 undergraduates.

Stolow graduates from Tulane University

NEW ORLEANS, La. – Tulane University awarded degrees to nearly 3,000 graduates on May 14, 2016 at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome in New Orleans.

Local student, Jeni Stolow of Middleburg graduated from the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine with a master of pub-

lic health.

The ceremony's keynote speaker was Hoda Kotb, co-host of NBC's "Today" show who also received a Tulane President's Medal.

Tulane University is one of the nation's leading educational and research institutions. Founded in 1834 in New Orleans, Tulane has 10 schools and colleges offering degrees in architecture, business, law, liberal arts, medicine, public health and tropical medicine, the sciences and engineering, and social work.

Stamets named to spring 2016 Dean's List

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. – Margaret Stamets of Green Cove Springs excelled during the Spring 2016 semester, achieving a grade point average of at least 3.5 to earn a spot on the Dean's List.

Hofstra University is a nationally-ranked private university just 25 miles from New York City and all its cultural, recreational and professional opportunities. Named to the 2014 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, Hofstra University is a dynamic community of more than 11,000 students known for civic engagement and public service.

Gladstone earns degree from the University of Vermont

BURLINGTON, Vt. – Some 2,329 students were awarded bachelor's degrees during the University of Vermont's 215th commencement ceremonies on May 22. Approximately 502 advanced degrees were awarded by the UVM Graduate College, and 106 took the oath of Hippocrates following the awarding of their M.D. degrees at ceremonies of the UVM College of Medicine.

Katrina Gladstone of Orange Park graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree in psychology.

Chartered in 1791, has 9,958 undergraduates in seven schools and colleges, 1,371 graduate students and 459 medical students.

Cohen named to Dean's List

ATLANTA, Ga. – Marc Cohen of Fleming Island made the Dean's List for the Spring 2016 semester at the Georgia Institute of Technology. This designation is awarded to undergraduate students who have a 3.0 or higher academic average for the semester.

One of the nation's leading research universities, the Georgia Institute of Technology has more than 24,000 undergraduate and graduate students enrolled.

Molina named to spring 2016 President's List

AKRON, Ohio – A Clay County student was among the nearly 800 students at the University of Akron who made the President's List.

Callie Molina, of Orange Park, a full-time undergraduate student majoring in intervention Moderate/Intensive, earned a perfect 4.0 semester grade point average for spring 2016.

With nearly 26,000 students and more than 300 associate, bachelor's, master's, doctorate and law degree programs, the University of Akron is the region's most influential public research university.

Markel graduates from BSC in Spring 2016

BISMARCK, North Dakota – Matthew Markel of Keystone Heights graduated from Bismarck State College with an Associate in Applied Science in Electric Power Technology during the college's 76th commencement ceremony on May 13 at the Bismarck Event Center.

The 2016 commencement speaker was retired Maj. Gen. David A. Sprynczynatyk, who served as the adjutant general for the North Dakota National Guard from 2006-2015.

Bismarck State College, an innovative community college in Bismarck, North Dakota, offers high quality education, workforce training, and enrichment programs reaching local and global communities.

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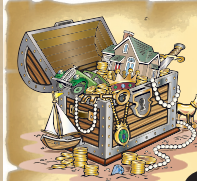
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Summer heat can impact pets, too

With the Jacksonville area already hitting record high temperatures in mid-June, it's important to keep your dogs in mind when it comes to keeping cool.

Many of these summer safety tips for pets apply to us as well, but the thing to remember is that dogs don't sweat, but instead cool off by panting, so pet owners need to keep an eye out for signs of dehydration.

An overheated dog will drool excessively, or could become lethargic. Other signs include bloodshot eyes or a pale appearance.

If you think your dog is dehydrated, lift its skin: it will take longer than usual for the skin to fall back into place.

Rather than having to put your dog at risk for heat exhaustion, and at worst case stroke, pet owners should keep these tips in mind throughout the summer months.

Avoid the peak sun and high-heat times of the day, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Avoid strenuous activity in the heat, either seeking out shaded areas or limiting activity to cooler times of day.

When going out, bring plenty of water for you and your pet. Avoid hot surfaces such as asphalt – heat rises from the ground, especially on surfaces like cement and asphalt, and dogs absorb and release heat through their feet.

If you can't avoid walking your dog during the mid-day, consider getting some dog boots at your local pet store. They prevent the dog from absorbing the heat in the summer, and also isolate the cold in the winter.

Do not leave your dog alone outside, even in a safe yard, during the heat of the day. Do not leave in the car, even for just a couple of minutes. Signs of heat stroke are excessive panting, lethargy/weakness, vomiting, bright red membranes or tongue, high body temperature and seizures.

Senior pets, overweight pets, large breed pets, furry pets are at-risk of heat stroke.

Again, the best way to ensure your dog doesn't get heat stroke is to exercise or walk your pet early in the morning or late at night. This will make the walk more

comfortable for both you and your dog. While I'm a runner, and a believer in vigorous exercise for healthy dogs, this is the time of year to back off on exercise intensity – especially for your dog.

Since we live in Northeast Florida, the summer heat is the perfect excuse to swim more – and that applies to your dog, too. So instead of walking the dog, take the dog on a swim. If you have a pool, holding on and allowing your dog to take you around the pool can be a great bonding experience.

Also, while it seems obvious, make special efforts to keep your dog hydrated in the summer months. Different dogs have different needs when battling the heat, so keep in mind that darker coats absorb more heat than lighter coats. Either carry a bottle of water when going on a walk with your dog, or better yet have your dog carry it for you in a backpack or a vest, which will keep the dog cooler.

It bears noting that dogs and cats, like their owners, can get skin cancer.

To help your pet avoid sun damage, you can even supply special sunscreen available to your pet store. Sunscreen should be applied to belly area, or you can have your pet wear a shirt or other protective covering if you're outside for extended periods.

At-risk breeds for sun burn or sun-induced cancers include white haired pets, pets with very little fur and pets who love to sunbathe.

Finally, while not directly related to the heat, keep in mind that fleas, ticks, and mosquitos are at highest populations during the warm months. That said, make sure to keep your pets on preventatives for heartworm and parasites.

Summer is certainly the time to go out with your pet and enjoy the weather, but make sure to take the same precautions with them as you would your children... and yourself...to avoid heat exhaustion.

Zachary Neumann is a medical oncologist with Southeast Veterinary Oncology and Internal Medicine with clinics off Wells Road in Orange Park.

Community Briefs

Flag raising ceremony at Penney Retirement Community

PENNEY FARMS – Penney Retirement Community and the Town of Penney Farms will celebrate Independence Day on July 4 with a traditional flag raising ceremony.

The ceremony begins at 7:30 a.m., at the flag pole at Penney's front entrance at State Road 16 and County Road 218.

The Parade of Flags will be on display, and the Penney Community Band, under the direction of Helen Stephens, will play at 7:15 a.m. A special ceremonial American Flag will be raised by a contingent of Penney Veterans, followed by the National Anthem. Guest vocalist, Danielle Barrie, winner of the vocal contest for the 2016 Concert on the Green, will lead everyone in this and other patriotic music.

Accompanied by the Penney Community Band, attendees will have the opportunity to sing along with a number of patriotic songs. Guests are encouraged to bring their own chairs.

Penney Retirement Community is an active, 55-plus, Christian, continuing care retirement community founded in 1926 that has 470 residents, 380 of which live independent lives.

Warren elected to Fair Board

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – The Clay County Fair Association recently held its annual membership meeting and elected a new member to the Fair Board.

On June 21, Stevie Warren was elected to serve a three-year term with the Fair Association where he will be responsible for trams and parking.

"We're very excited to have Stevie's passion for the fair and many years of experience volunteering at the fair on our board," said Tasha Hyder, general manager of the Clay County Agricultural Fair.

The membership also renewed second three-year terms for Sheryl Hartzog, Rick Rivers and Robin Huskey.

Haven Hospice Attic Resale Store to hold customer appreciation event

ORANGE PARK – Haven Hospice Attic Resale Store celebrates its fifth anniversary with a customer appreciation day on July 1 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with door prizes, food and fun.

Located at 1801 Wells Rd., the shop will offer special customer appreciation sales all day as part of the celebration.

Shopping, donating or volunteering at the Haven Attic Resale Store, supports unreimbursed programs and services that Haven provides for patients, families and members of the Clay County community.

Some of the Haven programs include Healing Hearts – grief support for those in the community who are grieving – Camp Safe Haven, which offers children opportunities to heal, teens and families who lost a loved one; the We Honor Veterans program, recognizing those patients who have served in the military; and Transitions, providing connections to community resources for those not yet ready for hospice care.

Hearing-impaired accommodation offered at hunter safety course

TALLAHASSEE – The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is offering a free hunter safety internet-completion course with hearing-impaired accommodation July 16 in Gainesville. An interpreter will be provided at the field day for this course.

Students who have taken the online course and wish to complete the classroom portion must bring the online-completion report with them. All firearms, ammunition and materials are provided free of charge. Students should bring a pen or pencil and paper. An adult must accompany children younger than 16 at all times.

Anyone born on or after June 1, 1975, must pass an approved hunter safety course and have a hunting license to hunt unsupervised. The FWC course satisfies hunter-safety training requirements for all other states and Canadian provinces.

The specific location for this course will be given to those who register in advance by calling the regional FWC office in Lake City at (386) 758-0525 or going to MyFWC.com/HunterSafety.

Persons requesting the hearing-impaired accommodation should contact Karen Little at (386) 754-1654 or via email at Karen.Little@MyFWC.com to register. You may also call Florida's Relay Service for Persons with Speech or Hearing Impairments: (850) 955-8771 (T) 1 800-955-8770 (V).

Those interested in attending a course can register online and obtain information about future hunter safety classes at MyFWC.com/HunterSafety or by calling the FWC's Lake City office at (386) 758-0525.

"Christmas in July" toy drive begins tomorrow

JACKSONVILLE – Clay County families have a chance to help children have Christmas in July with an upcoming toy drive.

It's the fifth annual "Christmas in July Toy and Donation Drive and Donation Drive" to benefit Wolfson Children's Hospital. Toys are part of the healing process at the children's hospital and patients rely on donations to help them provide com-



Country Caterers of Keystone Heights Sets a High Bar

If you spend a few minutes talking to the business owners of Clay County, Florida about why they chose Clay for their various endeavors, you will quickly start to hear a consistent theme – “the PEOPLE!” **While the business leaders of the greater metropolitan areas may complain of generations coming up who don’t understand the value of hard work, dedication, customer service, and loyalty; the business leaders of Clay understand what a unique resource still exists in their community’s workforce.** A great example of a company exhibiting these core principles is Country Caterers, headquartered in Keystone Heights of Clay County, Florida and a food service provider to Camp Blanding Joint Training Center.

Tom and Cathy Perryman started their business during



the late 1970’s. They focused on preparing all meals on site to ensure quality and freshness. Eventually Tom’s favorite motto (“large or small . . . we cook them all”) would define the company’s vision. Tom and Cathy worked diligently to develop the company with integrity, ethics, value and service. Their vision to provide the same customer service to large events and small events proved to be a foundation in the company.

The company expanded from just great BBQ to formal cuisine and it quickly grew from a small private caterer into a full-service “turnkey” catering company. During the ‘80s, Country Caterers began providing rental equipment such as tents, tables, chairs, generators, moon walks, slides, and amusement rides. Country Caterers’ core business is corporate catering in the

North Florida area. The foundation set by Tom and Cathy during the 80’s gave them enormous name recognition and sustainability among their customers.

In the early ‘90s, Tom and Cathy performed their first large government exercise, feeding troops as they were being deployed into war. It was at this point they expanded

into providing food service to the government to include: base camp, life support and disaster response. Having the ability to be completely mobile provided the aptitude to partake in many different types of events to include: corporate, organizational, backyard, formal, banquets, weddings, government as well as emergency response and gave Country Caterers an edge on their competitors. To meet these demands for diversity, Tom and Cathy began building an extensive network of resources and suppliers.

Along the way Tom and Cathy started providing emergency meal service for disaster response. This new market entailed many power companies as well as state and local governments. Instead of a few hundred or a few thousand meals at a time, Tom and Cathy were now supporting thousands of meals at a time over extended time periods. In addition to meal services came equipment

rentals and just about anything else their clients needed. By the time the storms of 2004 hit, Tom and Cathy’s crews were seasoned and established leaders in disaster emergency response. During that particular hurricane season, Tom and Cathy traveled all over Florida for three months moving from one hurricane to another. You can begin to imagine the fatigue their staff tirelessly fights through to serve the needs of their patrons with dedication and pride!

With the knowledge of food service, event management, and turnkey production, Country Caterers began focusing in the government contracting area via the open market system and the GSA contracting avenue. Country Caterers became a GSA (General Service Administration) contractor in the later part of 2008. Since then Tom, Cathy and the crew have traveled all over the US providing meals, life support and base camp resources.

Now with over 50 employees, Country Caterers has grown into three distinct areas of business: corporate, formal and government. Tom and Cathy see these areas as defining who they have become as a company. Having the ability to provide a variety of services gives the company different platforms

from which to operate and conduct food service.

The presence of Camp Blanding Joint Training Center (CBJTC) in Clay County allows area businesses a unique market opportunity to expand their offerings. In April of 2015, Country Caterers was awarded a 5-Year Contract

for Services to provide food service at the Moody Hall Conference Center Restaurant, the dining facility located on Kingsley Lake at CBJTC. As demand dictates, the facility can be staffed and operational 7 days a week, 365 days a year providing up to 3 meals a day. In addition to providing dining services, Country Caterers provides mobile food trucks on base. The trucks are used to serve soldiers in the “field”

by offering a fresh option to the alternative of MREs (Meals Ready to Eat).

Camp Blanding Joint Training Center is essentially a small town with many different groups utilizing the base facilities

throughout the year. Anticipating demand based on base traffic fluctuation due to troop training cycles, recreational amenity users, and special state and federal agencies is no small task. Teresa Perryman Sass is the Director of Operations at the Conference Center Restaurant and she leads a team of 17+ employees who work tirelessly to meet the ever-changing needs of base personnel traffic. She and the staff take considerable pride in the honor of caring for the people who are ensuring freedom for us all. Country Caterers is proud of the partnership they and the state have created to provide the diversity of services to the base. Tom

Perryman is a former service member himself and a true patriot to his country and community.

Country Caterers can also boast that many employees have remained with the company for decades. By establishing and maintaining Country Caterers in Keystone Heights of Clay County, Tom and Cathy have been able to give back to their community by employing local workers,

purchasing local resources, patronizing other small businesses and giving to the surrounding small town communities for over 35 years. They are true stewards to the small business community. Their mission statement:

“We will maintain integrity in everything we do, continue to grow and expand to meet the demands of our customers, excel through industry leadership, be competitive, surpass expectations, and develop long-lasting relationships with suppliers and customers to sustain growth” sets an incredibly high-bar! However, it is a bar that they continue to reach (and raise) making them a proud example of the types of hard working and dedicated business professionals who call Clay County, Florida home.



Colonel Daniel (Matt) Johnson is a “citizen-soldier,” currently serving as Commander, Camp Blanding Joint Training Center. He graduated from Orange Park High School in 1984 and enlisted in the Florida Army National



Guard in February 1986 as a Single Channel Radio Operator. He then attended Officer Candidate School at the Florida National Guard Military Academy, receiving his commission as second lieutenant in August 1988.

He served on staff at Deerlake Middle School in Leon County from 1992-1999, teaching sixth graders World Geography and teaching eighth graders U.S. History. He also served as Dean of Students for the school during the 1998-1999 school year.

He served in various Army positions such as Platoon Leader, Company Commander, Battalion Executive Officer, and Battalion Commander. Colonel Johnson also served as Chief Information Officer for the Florida Army National Guard. He deployed to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in 1991 in support of Operation Desert Storm and deployed to Iraq in 2008, serving as Commander, 146th Expeditionary Signal Battalion.

He graduated from Florida State University in 1991 with Bachelor of Arts degrees in Political Science and Social Studies Education. In 1998, he earned his Master of Science degree in Educational Administration and Leadership from Florida State University and earned his Master’s degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College in 2013.

COL Johnson and his family are residents of Clay County. They are all active members of Hibernia Baptist Church in Fleming Island. Colonel Johnson also serves as President, First Militia Chapter - Association of the United States Army.



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To learn more about the Clay EDC visit our website www.ChooseClay.com



Lake Asbury development hits snag at BCC

By Debra W. Buehn
Correspondent

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Clay County commissioners Tuesday narrowly approved a fair share agreement consisting of about \$1.3 million in connection with a proposed housing development that could eventually include more than 800 single family homes east of Henley Road in the Lake Asbury area.

The 3-2 vote, however, became essentially a moot point before it was even taken as the representative for the housing development's applicant – RLF Wisteria Properties LLC – told the Board of County Commissioners the approval of any kind of agreement besides the one already put before them would result in the applicant's signature being withdrawn.

The problem includes the \$1.3 million fair share payment and the possibility of impact fees being levied on the project as well, with no provision for fair share credits, said Susan Fraser, principal of SLF Consulting Inc., a Jacksonville-based representative for Wisteria.

"We cannot sign an agreement where we do not get impact fee credits. We have submitted an application that is signed that gives us credit under the fair share program for impact fees," she said. "In other words, the change you are making is not the agreement we have before you that is signed."

Fraser also hinted at the possibility of legal action.

"We actually have followed your fair share ordinance and your process to the letter. So I can't tell you we will not be back and I can't tell you I won't be back seeking approval with somebody else next to me," she said.

While the county approved an impact fee ordinance in 2008, due to the collapse of the economy soon thereafter, moratoriums were put in place concerning the fees in 2009. Currently, the moratorium exists through December 2016.

Some believe the impact fees will be reinstated, which could leave Wisteria in "double jeopardy" because the option approved by the BCC on Tuesday to deal with where the fair share money goes – and which would affect Wisteria – "does not allow credit for fair share dollars expended on roadway improvements not listed in the county's impact fee ordinance," according to a staff report.

In other words, the possibility existed that Wisteria would pay its fair share agreement but still be subject to the possibility of having to pay impact fees as well.

The issue first came up at the June 14 meeting of the BCC when Vice Chairman Ronnie Robinson, in whose district the Wisteria project would be, said he believed the \$1.3 million fair share dollars connected with the project should be spent on County Road 739B/Sandridge Road, which is next to the proposed development. As it stood at the time, the money would have been used for improvements to County Road 220 between Knight Boxx Road and

County Road 209/Henley Road, which has been impacted greatly by growth, according to staff.

Sandridge Road could not be included for the fair share funds because it is not on the current list of Designated County Roads. At the June 14 meeting, Robinson said he didn't agree with that, and said he believed money collected as a fair share because of a deficiency should be used on that deficiency – in this case, Sandridge.

Wisteria's story begins back on Dec. 29, 2015, when a concurrency application was submitted to the county. The project would consist of 847 single family homes and would be built on some 393 acres located on the south side of Sandridge Road about 1.8 miles east of Henley Road.

The application was denied at the time because there wouldn't be enough capacity on Sandridge to accommodate the proposed development.

At the June 14 BCC meeting, Wisteria brought a fair share agreement to the board for \$1,392,406 (the amount was computed by county staff) that would allow plans for the development to continue by sharing in the cost of improving the deficiency. Even though staff proposed accepting the fair share agreement, Robinson disagreed, citing his belief that the money should be used on the potential problem, in this case Sandridge. A vote on the fair share agree-

ment with Wisteria was tabled until staff could study the situation and come up with information for the this week's meeting.

The staff came up with several different options, and discussed them with Robinson prior to the meeting. At the June 28 meeting, he said his preference was Option 2, which would allow for Sandridge to be put on the Designated County Road list and thereby be open to money from a fair share agreement. It does not, however, allow for credit for the fair share dollars expended on roadway improvements not listed in the county's impact fee ordinance.

That, said Commission Chairwoman Diane Hutchings, created a problem.

"I can't support No. 2 and it's just for the reason that Ms. Fraser outlined. You are taking away the opportunity, if that road doesn't end up on (the list) and you are asking them to trust you, that if that road does not end up on the list, they get no credits and if impact fees are in place, that's double jeopardy for them. They've paid the fair share and now they have to pay an impact fee. So I'm not sure there's any fairness in that," she said.

In the end, both Hutchings and Commissioner Wayne Bolla voted against the motion to accept Option 2 for the agreement with Wisteria. Bolla said he would prefer other of the options presented by staff which would allow for more flexibility.

Community Calendar

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE: Meets June 30 at 10 a.m. in the Zoning Department Conference Room, 3rd Floor of the Administration Building, 477 Houston St., Green Cove Springs. The meeting is open to the public.

TEEN COURT: Meets June 30 at 5:30 p.m., Clay County Historical Courthouse, 915 Walnut St., Green Cove Springs. Teens can earn volunteer community service hours. Find dress code requirements at www.clayclerk.com. Info, Debbie Mueller, (904) 278-3602.

INDEPENDENCE DAY: July 4 ceremony begins at 7:30 a.m. at the flag pole at Penney Farms' front entrance at State Road 16 and County Road 218. The Parade of Flags will be on display, and the Penney Community Band, under the direction of Helen Stephens, will play gathering music at 7:15 a.m.

PLANNING COMMISSION: Meets July 5 at 7 p.m., in the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room, Fourth Floor, Administration Building, 477 Houston St., Green Cove Springs. Open to the public.

SPECIAL MAGISTRATE HEARING: Clay County Code Enforcement will hold a special magistrate hearing July 7 at 9:30 a.m. in the Board of County Commissioners' Meeting Room, 4th Floor, Administration Building, 477 Houston St., Green Cove Springs. Open to the public.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: Orange Park Presbyterian Church, 1905 Park Ave., July 5-8 for children age 3 (potty trained) thru fifth grade. \$10 per child,

register at orangeparkpres.org

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE: meets July 7, July 14, July 21 and July 28 at 10 a.m. in the Zoning Department Conference Room, 3rd Floor of the Administration Building, 477 Houston St., Green Cove Springs. Meetings are open to the public.

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT: Holds its regular monthly meeting July 8 at 9 a.m. at the Clay County Extension office, 2463 State Rd. 16 West., Green Cove Springs. Open to the public.

ST. JOHNS RIVER AND THE HOMEOWNER: July 11, the Garden Club of Fleming Island hosts Riverkeeper Lisa Rinaman to discuss the many problems threatening the health and future of the River and how the public can be part of the solution. The presentation will be geared to what home gardeners can do to help solve these problems. 10:15 a.m., Meeting Room, Fleming Island Library, 1895 Town Center Blvd. Free and open to the public, (904) 264-3986.

CANDIDATE FORUM: Come learn the issues in the race for Clay County School Superintendent, School Board and Fourth Circuit State Attorney in this forum on July 14 at 6 p.m. in the Fleming Island High Cafetorium.

SMOKING CESSATION CLASS: The Area Health Education Center of Northeast Florida is offering free stop smoking classes from July 11-Aug. 15 at St.



Gas company breaks ground on service lines

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – The city took another step to bolster economic growth in the community by breaking ground on a 23-mile natural gas pipeline on June 29. Tampa-based TECO Peoples Gas will work with SeaCoast Gas Transmission to provide natural gas service to the businesses and residents in Green Cove Springs and surrounding areas. The multi-million dollar project will begin by serving larger customers in 2016 and will begin servicing small commercial customers in 2017. Residential customers will be serviced in the next few years. From left are Green Cove City Council Members Steven Kelley and Mitch Timberlake, Clay County Commission Chairman Diane Hutchings, TECO President Gordon L. Gillette and another TECO official, City Council Member Van Royal, Mayor Pam Lewis and Steven Richardson, aid to Sen. Rob Bradley (R-Fleming Island).

Vision turns into mission to brighten military days

By Nate Erby
Correspondent

DOCTORS INLET – Kathy Signorile recalls receiving what she describes as a vision she had in early 2010.

She awoke one morning with a full-time mission to help members of the U.S. armed forces by starting a nonprofit organization that would provide services to deployed service men and women and veterans.

She said God gave her specific instructions for raising startup funds, a full business model, even the logo. The future founder and president of St. Michael's Soldiers admits she had doubts about explaining the vision to her husband, so she prayed for a sign. Later, finding her husband washing dishes, she was convinced.

"I was expecting a small sign, not a full blown miracle," she said.

Signorile and her husband, Jim, began the foundation in June 2010, operating out of their home and since then have become a beloved part of the Clay community.

Four years later, in the desert of Bahrain almost two hundred Navy sailors were 6,000 miles from home during the Christmas holiday. According to Lt Cmdr. Christian Cruz, "Conditions are always harsh, but morale is lowest during the holiday season."

Cruz described the day he, as well as every single man in the unit, received a care package from St. Michael's Soldiers as a moment of joy he will remember for the rest of his life.

Basic items from home such as letters from family, a candy bar or even a pair of brand new socks can be a huge boost in morale.

"What St. Michael's Soldiers does for our troops is simply incredible. Their support allows us to continue our mission without missing a beat," Cruz said.

Cruz, a veteran of 28 years, previously encountered Signorile and her nonprofit organization in 2011 when he began volunteering for St. Michael's Soldiers on the weekends building "Home Sweet Home" packages to be sent overseas. Little did he know that years later he would receive a package of his own.

Cruz is just one of many members of the armed forces whose lives have been positively impacted by the agency. In addition to the "Home Sweet Home" boxes received by service members such as Cruz, St. Michael's Soldiers also helps with funding for transportation to doctor appointments, organizes community events such as "Hero's Welcome Home" celebrations and sports and entertainment opportunities.

Through the hard work of Signorile and St. Michael's Soldier's coalition of volunteers, the lives of soldiers at home and overseas have been made better.

Since its inception in 2010, the foundation has flourished with support from the



Volunteers for St. Michael's Soldiers work to stuff "Home Sweet Home" boxes for U.S. military personnel stationed overseas. For a \$20 donation, the Clay County nonprofit lets residents adopt a box for troops complete with personal message from the adopter.

Clay County community, so much so that Signorile and her volunteers opened a new, larger facility this year at 1635 Farm Way, Suite 409 near the Silos off County Road 220.

All donations are welcomed by the organization. Signorile believes that people want to help but may not know exactly

how. She considers St. Michael's Soldiers, "a facilitator of that help the troops feeling."

"People need to know, there are many different ways to help," she said.

To find out more St. Michael's Soldiers, visit SMS.com or call (904) 599-7855.



Faith Walk

Dr. William P. Register
First Assembly Fleming Island

Words

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer." (Psalm 19:14) David wrote these words as a prayer to keep his words and thoughts pure with God.

That is a noble aspiration. God's word admonishes us to be clean in our words and thoughts. In fact, Jesus and the Apostle Paul were very direct about our spiritual quality of our speech as well as personal thoughts.

Jesus said, "A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart." Luke 6:45 NLT

Your words are the outward expression of what is in your heart – or, that is, your innermost being. So your words reveal who you really are! Think about that as you determine the words you will speak.

Your words can be destructive or uplifting. They can be positive or negative. They can be harmful or helpful. You decide every word you speak. Therefore, you determine what the power and effect of your words will be.

I will give you the best direction I can on speaking spiritually. In fact, I will let another give you this information better than I can. Read this aloud and listen carefully to your voice as you do: "Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. (Ephesians 4:29 NLT) This message was given by the Holy Spirit to the Apostle Paul to put in His word to us.

He also said, "But now rid yourselves completely of all these things: anger, rage, malice, slander, and obscene (abusive, filthy, vulgar) language from your mouth." (Colossians 3:8 AMP)

This is a standard for truly committed believers who want to walk with the Lord and glorify Him in everything in their lives.

Let your words glorify and honor your Savior. It may be the best testimony you can give to others.

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Threatening friends – helpful but scary scorpions

By Wayne Hobbs
Environmental Horticulture Agent
 Clay County

Part of the services offered by the University of Florida/IFAS Extension in Clay County is insect identification and we often receive questions about unknown, threatening looking invertebrates found in the landscape and home. However, sometimes these “creepy crawlies” are actually some of the best friends of the gardener and homeowner. One of these common beneficial insects is the scorpion.

Yes, Florida does have scorpions but these creatures should be welcomed into your landscape as they eat many pests and will not harm humans unless provoked. In Florida, there are three species of scorpions ranging from one to four inches long with two species being found in Clay County, the smaller Hentz Striped Scorpion and the larger Florida bark scorpion.

While the “claws,” actually a structure called pedipalp and stinger may seem dangerous, none of the species are fatal to humans and often feel like a bee sting. In fact, of all 90 species of scorpion in the United States, only one is capable of delivering a fatal sting to humans and it is found in the desert southwest.

The stings of the Florida scorpions can cause some irritation but usually only oc-

cur if the animal gets trapped between you and a solid object. This can be an issue as scorpions tend to seek out tight spaces in the home such as between sheets and shoes.

Around the home, you will often find scorpions under the home or in mulch, basically any dark cool place to hide that may contain their prey of insects, worms and other small animal life. This means that scorpions will target pests such as termites, roaches and other creatures potentially harmful to your home and landscape.

Scorpions can enter the home to seek cool and dark areas through any small opening due to their ability to almost completely flatten their bodies, so it is a good idea to caulk and seal all areas of the home if you do not want intruders. A good way to find places you may want to seal is to turn on all lights in your home at night and look around and under your home for light that is escaping.

A favorite place to enter the home is often around any place a hole is cut for plumbing and some scorpions may enter the home from the roof if they are able to get up there using a tree branch. Once on the roof they can enter vents and find their way into plumbing and the ceiling. To prevent this, you can also put screen over any open pipes or chimneys on your roof and remove tree branches contacting or hang-



ing over your roof.

If found in the house, carefully trap the animal and place it back into the environment. A chemical barrier spray of pyrethroid can be effective in keeping the creatures out of your home but the creatures should not be killed as they will help destroy more harmful pests.

There is also a cousin of the scorpion known as the whip scorpion. While not technically a true scorpion, the whip scorpion looks the part with its large pedipalp, resembling those of a scorpion, that can pinch. They also have a long, whip-like flagellum or tail that extends from the back that gives them their name. If threatened, these creatures release a blast of concen-

trated acetic acid, which is also the main ingredient in vinegar that gives them a distinctive smell. Like their cousins, they also eat many invertebrate pests.


Want someone to answer a specific plant question for you? Go online to <http://clay.ifas.ufl.edu> and under the heading “Horticulture” (left hand side of page) left click on “Ask a Master Gardener” and a reply will be sent plus a hyperlink to the appropriate University of Florida Fact Sheets. Please send us a digital picture of the problem. To read past articles that might help you with seasonal problems and to learn about upcoming Extension Programming in our area go to our website at UF/IFAS Clay County Extension.

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FCX

from page 10

Opportune as the timing is, EDC President Bill Garrison aims to brush up the county plans with the expressway in mind, so the county can tailor its zoning around the FCX corridor to support business growth.

According to Garrison, the state has funded the purchase of the Expressway land in the right of way budget, so now leaders will look to fund the infrastructure leading to the infrastructure, the roads leading to the roads, the pathways to the Expressway.

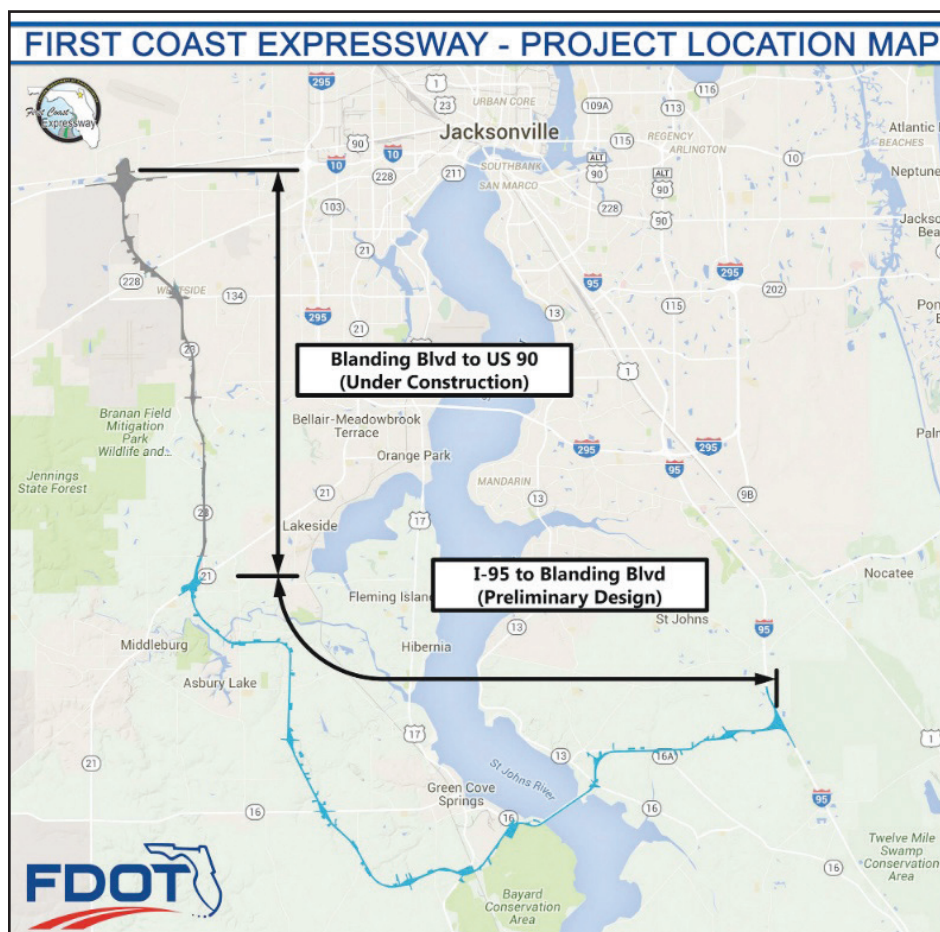
In part, that will come from the one-cent sales tax, but other funds must be identified prior to the building the segment of the Expressway that runs from Blanding Boulevard south and eastward toward Green Cove Springs.

The FCX connects Clay County to the job centers along I-95 and I-10. Business leaders hope to take advantage of the travel access provided to improve the tax base of Clay County with new business growth.

"Ultimately we'll have large job centers in Clay County," said Hugh Mathews, president and chief executive officer of Jacksonville-based England-Thims & Miller engineering company. "We've already got some if you look at what St. Vincent's is doing, but when you talk about what the [Department of Transportation] is bringing to this region ... it's just a tremendous opportunity for us."

To facilitate the metamorphosis, the EDC has already begun similar conversations with commercial real estate brokers from sister counties. When the development comes, it's often easier to be proactive rather than reactive, according to Garrison.

Largely, the county is proactive with its economic development already and has cooperated fully to help tailor plans such as the EDC's 5-year plan to drive high wage



jobs into Clay County.

The plan stresses public education on the Expressway and relies on teamwork that Garrison said has made planning efforts so successful in the past.

"I'm happy that all the private sector people, the businesses the engineers, commercial real estate brokers, we're all

working with the county government to make sure the planning is done properly," Garrison said. "[The 5-year] plan kind of pulled those groups together. Those groups that used to not work together are now working together and we're working off that momentum."

Reader wants to start new tradition

ORANGE PARK – Last year, Clay Today reader Craig Seaton stated how disturbed he was each year to see the aftermath of the fireworks celebration along River Road in Orange Park.

He is keeping his word and asking other residents to pitch in and show some community pride by cleaning up along the riverfront thoroughfare. "So, please feel free to join me beginning in 2016 on the morning of July 5th at 7 a.m. at the south end of River Road in Orange Park. No coffee or donuts, just bring some heavy-duty trash bags and gloves, and we'll have a nice community walk and clean up after these injudicious revelers." Seaton writes.

Together, we can clean up the mess.

Briefs

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fort and joy to the infants, kids and teens in their care.

Child Life staff and volunteers with Wolfson Children's Hospital and Baptist Health will collect new, unwrapped toys, art supplies and financial donations to purchase developmentally appropriate toys for kids with special needs during the Christmas in July Toy and Donation Drive.

Clay County residents wishing to help out can donate toys at the Baptist Clay Medical Campus, Medical Office Building Entrance and Emergency Center from July 1-25.

But the big day takes place on July 25 when vehicles of all kinds will be pulling into the Wolfson Children's Hospital Circular Driveway in Jacksonville and dropping off toys.

Would-be donors can check out a detailed gift list complete with price ranges and an online giving option at the website ChristmasJuly.com.

Wolfson Children's Hospital treats more than 80,000 children each year in the North Florida and South Georgia region, using toys and art supplies to help soothe, distract and ease the anxieties of children of all ages during treatment for illness and injuries. Our Child Life specialists use these items to help ease fears by encouraging children to engage in normal activities to make their hospital stay less overwhelming.

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Obituaries

Ronald E. Strader

Ronald E. Strader, 70, passed away on June 19, 2016. He was born in Tucson, Arizona and retired from the U.S. Navy (1963-1983).

Mr. Strader also retired from Ridgeview High School in 2011. He loved the Gators.

Survivors include his daughters: Louisa (Steve Gilbert) Pletz and Terri (Carlos Jr.) Moreton; 2 brothers: Bob (Barbara) Strader and Rev. Jim Strader; sister, Sherill Strawn; 4 grandchildren: Gabriella, Daniel, Anthony and Juan Carlos Moreton.

Family received friends 5-7 PM on Friday and funeral services were held 11 a.m., Saturday, June 25, 2016 at Hardage-Giddens Holly Hill Funeral Home, 3601 Old Jennings Rd, Middleburg, FL with Chaplain Phil White officiating. Burial followed in Holly Hill Memorial Park. A reception followed the burial at the VFW Post 8255, Middleburg, FL. Please post words of comfort at www.hollyhillfunerals.com.

Dr. Charles Allan Jones

Dr. Charles Allan Jones, 74, of Green Cove Springs, passed away Thursday, June 23, 2016. He was a graduate of the University of Florida and worked as a School Psychologist for the Clay County School Board for 30 years.

A Master Mason, he was a member of the Cabul Lodge #116 for over 20 years. He enjoyed woodworking and making Useful Things, mostly as gifts for others, in his garage. Charlie was an avid sportsman and loved to hunt and fish. He spent many happy days enjoying the outdoors in Centralia, IL, San Saba, TX, and Lake Delancy, FL.

Survivors include his beloved wife Deb, sons Tom and Gabe, daughters Erica and Charlotte, sons-in-law Bill and Joe, three grandchildren, his treasured rat terrier Fiona, and many other family and friends.

Charlie was a quiet and amiable companion, devoted to those he loved, especially Fiona. Honoring his wishes, a private memorial service is planned for this autumn in Centralia. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Charity of your choice".

Grace Eileen Kramer

Grace Eileen Kramer passed peacefully from this life on June 21, 2016 in Savannah, GA at the age of 95. Her husband of 68 years, Carl F. Kramer, preceded her in death by one year, nearly to the day.

Surviving are her daughter, Patricia Pritchard (Bob) of Savannah; her sister, Leah J. Castle of Fort Myers, FL; and many nieces and nephews.

Grace was born in Dennison, OH and met the love of her life at Vermilion-on-the-Lake, dancing to the sound of the big bands. Grace and Carl married in 1947 and spent their early years together in the paradise that was Hawaii.

They settled in Orange Park, FL in the 1960s, and Grace devoted herself to her daughter's school clubs and cheerleading. A whirlwind of activity and spunk, Grace ran the Girl Scout cookie drive, became a skilled bowler and was the spark of the Orange Park Mall Walkers.

The family is arranging to have Grace and Carl interred at Jacksonville National Cemetery. Grace had asked in her later years that when she passed, we not mourn but remember her with a smile, which her family kindly requests of all who knew her.

Barbara Lou Courier

Barbara Lou Courier, 82 of Orange Park, FL, passed away June 27, 2016. Russell Haven of Rest Cemetery, Funeral Home and Cremation Center, 2335 Sandridge Road, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043. 904-284-7720 www.RHRFH.com



Grace Eileen Kramer

Michael C. Valarinos

Michael C. Valarinos passed away on Tuesday, June 21, 2016. Aaron and Burney Bivens Funeral Home, 529 Kingsley Avenue, Orange Park, FL 32073, (904) 264-1233.



Joyce May Lindsay

Joyce May Lindsay, 85 of Green Cove Springs, FL, passed away June 25, 2016. Russell Haven of Rest Cemetery, Funeral Home and Cremation Center, 2335 Sandridge Road, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043. 904-284-7720 www.RHRFH.com



Vance Redding Edwards

Vance Redding Edwards, 25 of Middleburg, FL passed away June 27, 2016. Russell Haven of Rest Cemetery, Funeral Home and Cremation Center, 2335 Sandridge Road, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043. 904-284-7720 www.RHRFH.com



Dorothy Elaine Bierhorst

Dorothy Elaine Bierhorst, 88, of Orange Park, FL passed away June 21, 2016

Please sign the family's online guestbook at www.broadusraines.com. Broadus-Raines Funeral Home, 501 Spring St., Green Cove Springs, FL (904) 284-4000



Tap from page 6

they allow the owner of the land to own it and to use it – in ways that do not hinder conservation – but never develop it. Easements give a land trust the right to conserve the land in perpetuity without actually owning the land.

"The landowner, if they were to donate an easement to us, could benefit because they could reduce their adjusted gross income by up to 100 percent with a carry-forward of 15 years," McCarthy said.

In other words, landowners who donate easements do not have to pay any taxes on the land for 15 years.

In addition, a company could buy some of the land for the Land Trust in order to reduce its overall carbon footprint.

"One of the companies interested in lowering its carbon footprint could be somebody like Georgia-Pacific," McCarthy said, "though it could be anybody. Koch Brothers, their parent company, has been a leader in the area of doing some environmental restoration, and here's a case where they could reduce their carbon footprint by investing in acquiring that property."

Easements give tax benefits to landowners, allow companies to reduce their carbon footprints and let trusts save tax revenue for the local community.

Creek from page 9

a restoration of the lakes to natural stability.

"I've had some conversations with the Camp Blanding folks, we were OK with their decision," same Vivian Katz, president of Save Our Lakes. "Camp Blanding has worked with us before, and we believe they will be able to work with us again."

One solution Katz has put forward to rehydrate the Etonia Chain in the absence of the Alligator Creek Enhancement Strategy was to store water on Camp Blanding property and use fine sands created from an old DuPont mining operation to filter the water. From there, Katz said, the water can flow

into the Etonia Chain or even into the Sante Fe Wetlands for the Suwanee River.

Johnson said Camp Blanding has always been "a good neighbor," and will continue to do everything he can to ensure the future health of the Etonia Chain when it doesn't come at a loss to waterborne training operations.

Katz and Fitzgerald will continue to work with Camp Blanding to find a mutually beneficial solution to a problem with a regional reach.

"Things can be done now, things can be setup for the future, small level projects to big level projects," Katz said. "It's using the area, that's the concept, use the area for the benefit of the creek, for the benefit everybody."

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Police Briefs

Solo vehicle crash leaves one dead

MIDDLEBURG – A single vehicle accident shortly after midnight June 27 has claimed one life and left other passengers injured.

The Florida Highway Patrol reports that Vance Reddy Edwards, 25, of Middleburg, was driving a 1999 Ford Explorer near Indigo Avenue and Wheat Court around 12:13 a.m. when he lost control of the SUV and traveled off of the east shoulder while heading southbound.

According to a press release from FHP, the SUV rotated and overturned causing Edwards to eject along with passenger Nicholas Roberts, 24, also of Middleburg. Police said both men were not wearing seat belts and Roberts received serious injuries and was transported to Orange Park Medical Center for treatment.

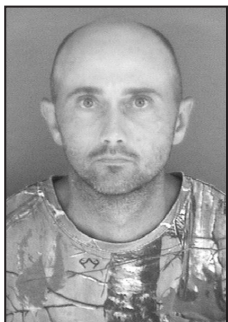
Edwards was pronounced dead at the scene.

One passenger sustained minor injuries and remained at the scene. It is currently unknown at this time whether alcohol is a factor in this crash. FHP continues to investigate the crash.

Gun waving incident ends in assault charges

MIDDLEBURG – Authorities have charged a Middleburg man with two counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon after he allegedly pointed a handgun at the chests of two men.

The Clay County Sheriff's Office arrested Carl Jason Kelsey, 36, on June 25 at 2:17 a.m. after going to a home in the 4000 block of Bamboo Street.



Carl Kelsey

One of the victims told investigators that Kelsey threatened to shoot him and another man minutes after Kelsey had left the residence.

"No less than 5 minutes later, the defendant returned cussing and yelling at everyone at the residence," states the report.

Witnesses said Kelsey "drew a firearm from a holster on his right hip, with his right hand" and apparently threatened the men.

They also told police that Kelsey went outside and placed the firearm back in his vehicle when he was told that police had been called.

Along with the aggravated assault charges, Kelsey was charged with one count of simple battery. He has been released from jail on bond.

Joy ride ends in arrest

FLEMING ISLAND – A Fleming Island man faces charges of shooting a handgun

Sheriff's office needs help identifying suspect

ORANGE PARK – Investigators with the Clay County Sheriff's Office are asking the public to help identify two men who were caught on tape this week during the break-in at a cell phone store.

Around 2 a.m. on June 25, two men – one pictured here wearing a white hoodie, jeans and gray tennis shoes and appearing clean shaven – used an object to shatter the glass door at the Sprint Store located at 1939-1 Wells Rd. near Orange Park.

Police said they stole numerous cell phones and a Samsung tablet. The second suspect wore a gray stocking cap, black muscle shirt, gray shorts and white tennis shoes. A CCSO police dog tracked the Sprint store burglary suspect to the nearby location Carsmetics, which fronts Blanding Boulevard.

"A burglary occurred at this same lo-

cation on 3/30/16 and similar burglaries have occurred in surrounding counties," states a release from the CCSO.

Residents with any information regarding this burglary contact are asked to contact Detective Tenbusch by calling the CCSO at (904) 264-6512.

from the car while traveling down U.S. Highway 17 on June 24.

The Clay County Sheriff's Office arrested Robert John View II, 25, at 11:53 p.m. after finally locating the white Honda sedan at the Walmart parking lot on County Road 220. Officers first located the car in the parking lot of a Kangaroo station at Pine Avenue and U.S. 17 and followed to the Walmart where it questioned View and two other adults.

According to the police report, when approached by the officer View and his friends "started putting their hands in their pockets," an indication they wanted to hide possible gunshot residue from their hands.

The investigation began when a witness told police she saw a man fire three or four shots "from out of a white Honda four door vehicle."

While interviewing View, police uncovered a handgun concealed in View's pants waistband along with 15.4 grams of marijuana. Police also stated View resisted officers "in an aggressive posture."

View faces one count each of violating concealed firearms laws, discharging a firearm from a vehicle within 1,000 feet of a person and possession of not more than 20 grams of marijuana.

At press time, he remained in the Clay County Jail with his bond set at \$132,510.

Melrose man killed in crash

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – The Florida Highway Patrol reports that a Melrose man was killed in a two-vehicle crash in Bradford County last weekend.

Police said Walter Donley Jr., 87, of Melrose, was pronounced dead at the



scene of the crash that occurred June 24 at 6:40 p.m. on State Road 21, south of Keystone Heights.

FHP said Donley was driving a Dodge pickup southbound on State Road 21 when he struck the rear of a 2008 Honda Accord driven by Audrey Rinehart, 79, of Gainesville. Upon impact, Donley's truck continued traveling and went off the right shoulder of the road into the grass ditch.

Bradford County EMS transported Rinehart to UF Health hospital in Gainesville where she was treated for minor injuries.

FHP said alcohol was not a factor in the crash and both drivers were wearing their safety belts.

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FHP said alcohol was not a factor in the crash and both drivers were wearing their safety belts.

Motorcycle crash claims Middleburg man

DOCTORS INLET – The Florida Highway Patrol continues to investigate a June 24 crash that claimed the life of a motorcyclist.

Police said the crash happened at 11:50 a.m. on County Road 220 and Harmony Hall Road.

Police said Sean David Parke, 20, of Middleburg, died at Orange Park Medical Center from injuries he received in the crash. He was traveling westbound on CR 220 on his Honda motorcycle in the left lane when he lost control, veered left onto the grass median and was thrown from the bike.

Police said Parke struck a Do Not Enter sign that was facing west in the median.

Park's body came to final rest in the center grass median next to the sign, while the motorcycle traveled west on its right side where it came to final rest in the intersection, approximately five feet from the end of the grass median on its right side facing southeast.

Witnesses at the scene said Parke passed them at a high rate of speed on CR 220 just prior to the crash.

FHP said Parke was wearing a helmet and alcohol was not a factor in the accident.

Fraud charges for Orange Park woman

ORANGE PARK – An Orange Park woman faces charges of insurance fraud in connection with an ongoing statewide investigation by the Florida Department of Financial Services and its Division of Insurance Fraud.

The Clay County Sheriff's Office executed a warrant on June 23 to arrest and charge Rafaela Ashant Medina, 36, on charges of insurance fraud less than \$20,000 and knowingly participating in an intentional vehicle crash. According to the warrant documents, the incidents occurred between July 8, 2012 and October 16, 2012.

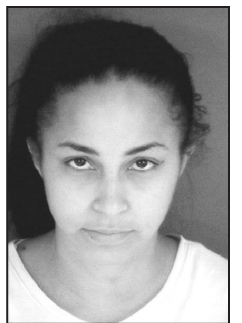
State investigator Jason Clark stated in the warrant documents that Medina staged a fraudulent car accident on July 8, 2012 at Blanding Boulevard and Arora Boulevard with her three minor children in the car. No injuries were reported, however, Medina was able to file documents with her insurance company that paid out \$33,257 "for treatment that Medina and her children allegedly received."

In his two years investigating the fraud ring, Clark found that the ring was so organized that there was a hierarchy to the organization, "including unnamed or silent clinic owners, managers, billing persons, licensed massage therapists, staged accident recruiters, and staged accident participants."

He said the insurance companies would then, in turn, pay fraudulent claims for personal injury protection to the fraudulent clinics. He said the schemes are so orchestrated that many clinic managers have identified cities in which to move and set up shop without previously having any connection to these communities.

"All of them had owners who operated clinics in either Miami or Tampa," states the warrant. "The investigation revealed that many of these owners had little ties to Jacksonville prior to moving here to open the clinics. The opening of these clinics also coincided with the cities of Miami or Tampa cracking down on rampant PIP fraud there."

Clark said, generally, the clinic owners and managers would pay the organizers and recruiters to find drivers to cause the



Rafaela Medina

Police

from page 21

In Medina's case, the other vehicle driver in the 2012 accident did not seek treatment, however, that driver's insurance company paid settlements for Medina and one of her children – \$5,000 for Medina and \$4,500 for Victor Medina.

Officials began investigating Medina's case on May 10, 2016 when another staged crash – this time in Duval County – drew suspicion from officials in the state attorney's office. Three days later, investigators interviewed Medina at her Clay County home and were able to determine the 2012 crash was a fraud. Medina was booked into the Clay County Jail upon execution of the warrant, but has since been released on an undisclosed bond.

Palatka man charged with kidnapping, more

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – The Clay County Sheriff's Office has extradited a Palatka man to Clay County to face charges of kidnapping and armed robbery relating to an incident that took place here in February.

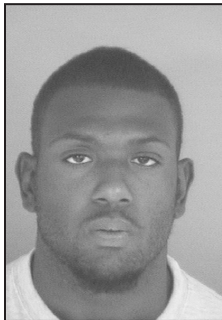
Xavier Rashad Wesley, 28, at press time, remained in the Clay County Jail with his bond set at \$600,012. Meanwhile, a second suspect, Dequan Lutrell Paul,

25, of Satsuma, Fla., remains in the Putnam County Jail awaiting extradition to Clay County to be charged as a co-defendant in the same case, according to arrest warrant documents for Wesley.

According to the warrant, Wesley and Paul allegedly went to a home at 248 Pringle Circle in Green Cove Springs on Feb. 10, wearing masks with one man wielding a shotgun and one holding a handgun. While there, Wesley and Paul approached a white Cadillac driven by William Woods.

Police said Wesley and Paul demanded that Woods, Annie Richardson and Rashod Kirkland get in the Cadillac and they fled the scene. However, police did not indicate who was driving the car, they said Woods and Kirkland had been bound with zip ties and placed in the trunk of the car, while Richardson was placed in the back seat of the Cadillac.

Police got involved in the case around



Xavier Wesley



Dequan Paul

11:08 p.m. on Feb. 20, 2016 when CCSO received a call that someone had fired gunshots from the window of a Cadillac heading toward County Road 209.

Two CCSO officers in the area were able to identify the Cadillac and witnessed the car turn onto River Drive West "where the vehicle lost control and crashed into a ditch." Police found Richardson had been shot in her right hand with a shotgun and found Woods and Kirkland in the trunk with their hands zip tied behind them.

Meanwhile, when the car crashed, both Wesley and Paul fled on foot. Deputies later captured Wesley and Paul around 6 a.m. the next morning from the Garber Auto Mall where they found him "extremely dirty with mud on his pants up to his knees," states the warrant. "[Wesley] did not have any shoes on as if he lost them in deep mud as his socks were extremely muddy as well."

Wesley also faces one count of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon as he has a lengthy criminal record in Putnam County.

Suspect in officer-involved shooting charged

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Bond has been set at \$410,012 for the Jacksonville man shot by a Clay County Sheriff's Office deputy last month. His next court appearance is scheduled for July 13 as his case makes its way through the courts.

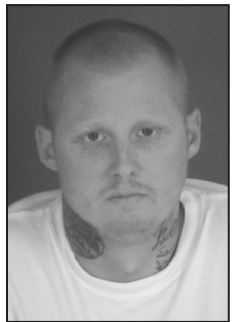
Police charged Timothy Van Griffin, 33, on June 7 with attempted felony murder of a law enforcement officer, possession of cocaine with intent to distribute, possession of marijuana with intent to distribute and trafficking methamphetamine in connection with a May 29 incident off County Road 215 in Middleburg.

A CCSO stopped Griffin after an officer saw Griffin weaving and make "several erratic turns." The officer finally stopped Griffin in the driveway of a home at 2590 Primrose Circle.

At some point during the traffic stop, Griffin put his vehicle into reverse and began backing into Lt. Shawn Gordon's direction. In order to keep from being pinned between his police cruiser and Griffin's truck door, Gordon climbed onto the back of Griffin's truck and fired at Griffin who was still behind the wheel of his truck.

In the arrest report, a witness at the scene told police that Griffin said he attempted to flee the scene because he knew he had drugs in his truck and that would lead to him being sent back to prison.

During a search of Griffin's truck, police seized 115 grams of marijuana, 50 grams of methamphetamine and 25 grams of powder cocaine.



Timothy Griffin

Arrests & Bookings

Tuesday, June 28

Arnold, Vernon, 18, Orange Park, CCSO, Two Counts of Burglary, Grand Theft \$300-4,999

Brumfield, Derick, 36, Orange Park, CCSO, DWLSR, Reckless Driving, Resisting an Officer Cummings, Jeremy, 36, Green Cove Springs, CCSO, VOP - Petit Theft

Garner, Toby, 35, Holly Hill, Fla., CCSO, Fugitive From Justice

Hampton, Tyrek, 18, Orange Park, CCSO, Two Counts of Burglary, Grand Theft \$300-4,999

Prescott, Donald, 50, Middleburg, CCSO, DWLSR

Verwey, John, 55, Green Cove Springs, CCSO, Insurance Fraud

Washington, Peter, 38, Orange Park, CCSO, Felony Petit Theft

Whiteside, Kimberly, 47, Green Cove Springs, CCSO, Petit Theft

Wright, Ashley, 20, Fleming Island, CCSO, False Report of the Commission of a Crime

Monday, June 27

Andrews, Julie, 27, Yulee, Fla., CCSO, Domestic Battery

Avila Irias, Theresa, 30, Green Cove Springs, Two Counts of Burglary, Two Counts of Theft

Bobo, Hunter, 29, Orange Park, CCSO, FTA - DWLSR

Clark, Bridget, 54, Middleburg, CCSO, Disturbing a School or Religious Assembly, Violence On an Officer Firefighter or EMT

Colon, Pete, 30, Green Cove Springs,

CCSO, Simple Domestic Battery

Crawford, Michael, 24, CCSO, Petit Theft Edwards, Robert, 26, Orange Park, CCSO, Simple Domestic Battery, Vandalism

Gaskell, Kirk, 18, Middleburg, CCSO, Resisting an Officer

Roewe, August, 43, Middleburg, CCSO, Non-Support

Smith, Jason, 39, Jacksonville, CCSO, FTA - DWLSR

Sunday, June 26

Birtz, Daniela, 41, Orange Park, CCSO,

Simple Domestic Battery

Burnett, Melissa, 28, Orange Park, CCSO, Petit Theft

Cechak, April, 46, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Domestic Battery

Coleman, Charles, 46, Orange Park, CCSO, DUI

Dasher, Patrina, 26, Jacksonville, CCSO,

Failing to Redeliver Hired or Leased Vehicle Duke, Jamie, 39, Interlachen, Fla., GCSPD,

Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia

Garland, Shane, 20, Fleming Island, CCSO, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis

Jahadi, Sina, 21, Jacksonville, CCSO, Tampering With or Fabricating Physical Evidence, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis,

Possession of Drug Paraphernalia

Kirtsey, Jucauzi, 18, Jacksonville, CCSO, Burglary

Ramirez, Jacqueline, 41, Orange Park, CCSO, FTA - No Valid Driver's License

Scott, Nicholas, 20, Sierra Vista, Ariz., CCSO,

Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis, Smith, Shelby, 24, Middleburg, CCSO, Simple Domestic Battery

Soto-Marrero, Rey, 29, Orange Park, CCSO, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis

Whitted, Oscar, 32, Jacksonville, CCSO, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis

Saturday, June 25

Allen, Brian, 22, Jacksonville, CCSO, Concealed Firearm

Allen, Derrall, 26, Jacksonville, CCSO, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis

Bushey, Christopher, 24, Orange Park, CCSO, Failure to Obey Written Promise

Griffis, Adriene, 27, Orange Park, OPPD, Habitual Traffic Offender

Haunty, Matthew, 37, Orange Park, CCSO, Child Abuse Without Great Harm, Harassing a Witness Victim or Informant, Simple Battery

Kelsey, Carl, 36, Middleburg, CCSO, Two Counts of Aggravated Assault With a Deadly Weapon, Simple Battery

Krokum, Andrew, 18, Jacksonville, CCSO, Violating an Injunction for Protection

Lee, Tommy, 37, Green Cove Springs, CCSO, Domestic Aggravated Assault, Simple Stalking, Possession of a Firearm by Felon

Milton, Jennifer, 40, Jacksonville, CCSO, Domestic Battery

Simo, Yisenia, 20, Orange Park, CCSO, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis,

Possession of Drug Paraphernalia

Friday, June 24

Bierer, Christopher, 24, Fleming Island,

CCSO, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis Bruhl, Robert, 20, Middleburg, DOC, VOP - Battery

Church, Zachary, 19, Fleming Island, CCSO, Two Counts of Burglary

Coker, Roger, 35, Green Cove Springs, GCSPD, DWLSR

Coleman, Jordan, 20, Green Cove Springs, GCSPD, Shoplifting

Crossman, Jeffrey, 55, Orange Park, OPPD, Felony Battery

Duffy, Kenneth, 33, Orange Park, CCSO, Simple Battery, Witness Tampering

Eddy, Eric, 38, Middleburg, CCSO, Burglary, Vandalism \$1,000

Ekhlassi, Ethan, 25, Orange Park, CCSO, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis,

Possession of Drug Paraphernalia

Fitch, Jamesha, 25, Jacksonville, CCSO, Failure to Appear for Court

Hargrove, Janice, 56, Green Cove Springs, CCSO, FTA - DWLSR

Jasarevic, Nidal, 21, Jacksonville, CCSO, Possession of Less Than 20 g. Cannabis

Jenkins, Sarah, 20, Orange Park, CCSO, Petit Theft

Monroe, Dennis, 48, Orange Park, CCSO, Simple Battery

Reynoso, Roy, 26, Middleburg, CCSO, VOP - Domestic Violence

Sneller, Lori, 37, Orange Park, CCSO, VOP - Failure to Redeliver Hired or Leased Vehicle

Spann, Tavaris, 29, Jacksonville, CCSO, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis

Testani, Garth, 24, Middleburg, CCSO,

SEE ARRESTS, 23

CRIME WATCH

This is a weekly collection of crime reports from the Clay County Sheriff's Office Community Relations Unit meant to inform, educate and generate community feedback. To receive these alerts via email, go online to www.claysheriff.com, click on the Sharing Tree logo and follow the instructions.

CCSO Contact Numbers

Main: 264-6512

Emergency: 911

Community Relations: 213-6114

Thefts

6/28 miscellaneous personal items were stolen from a package that was delivered to a home on Golfview Drive on Fleming Island.

6/28 a wallet left unattended was stolen from a locker room at Clay High School on State Road 16 West in Green Cove Springs.

6/27 a ladder was stolen from of a home on Foxtail Drive in Middleburg.

6/27 accessory equipment and miscellaneous personal items were stolen from a vehicle at a home on Aba Drive near Orange Park.

6/27 an unlocked bicycle was stolen from the vicinity of Sears in the Orange Park Mall on Wells Road.

6/26 a vehicle left unlocked with the key inside was stolen from a home on Lookout Landing on Fleming Island.

6/26 fishing equipment was stolen from a boat in the driveway at a home on Goldenrod Avenue in Middleburg.

6/25 an unlocked vehicle was stolen

from a home on Mary Beth Drive in Doctors Inlet.

6/25 a vehicle was stolen from the Rehab Saloon on U.S. Highway 17 in Green Cove Springs.

6/24 a bicycle was stolen from a home on Beloit Avenue in Keystone Heights.

6/24 a motorcycle was stolen from a home on Burwick Avenue in Orange Park.

6/24 a motorcycle was stolen from a home on Crossing Boulevard in Orange Park.

6/24 gas was stolen from a vehicle at a home on Hardwood Street in the Ridgecrest area near Orange Park.

6/24 a motorcycle was stolen from a home on Burwick Avenue in Orange Park.

6/23 construction items were stolen from a Henley Road construction site for Boondocks restaurant in Lake Asbury.

6/23 construction items were stolen from a Branan Field Road highway construction site north of Middleburg.

6/23 miscellaneous delivered items

Reed, Brandon, 24, Orange Park, CCSO, Battery on a Disabled Person, Vandalism
Scheer, Christopher, 56, Orange Park, CCSO, DUI

Trancynger, Walter, 29, Middleburg, CCSO, FTA - DWLSR

Wolter, John, 66, Orange Park, CCSO, DUI .15 or Higher

Wednesday, June 22

Burkett, Dana, 28, Middleburg, CCSO, Giving False Ownership Info to a Pawn Broker, Dealing Stolen Property

Christie, Terrell, 29, Orange Park, CCSO, Domestic Battery

Fields, William, 26, Green Cove Springs, CCSO, DWLSR

Lee, Jammie, 22, Orange Park, CCSO, Petit Theft

McCullough, Derrick, 26, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Grand Theft \$300-4,999

Moore, Dewey, 30, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Committing Burglary While Structure Occupied, Grand Theft \$300-4,999

Morales, Tonya, 37, Jacksonville, OPPD, Giving False Name or ID

Robinson, Trentin, 32, Jacksonville, CCSO, Two Counts of Failing to Appear for Sentencing Grand Theft

Sanders, Cameron, 19, Orange Park, CCSO, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia

Selke, Jullian, 19, Orange Park, CCSO, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis

Shaffer, John, 24, Orange Park, CCSO, Failure to Appear for Court

Taylor, Brittany, 25, Middleburg, CCSO, Two Counts of Violate Probation - Community Control, Battery- Domestic Violence

Terrio, Nicholas, 26, Hawthorne, Fla., GC-SPD, Driving Without a License

Worley, Christina, 36, Orange Park, OPPD, Breach of Peace

were stolen from a residence on County Road 214 in Middleburg.

6/22 wooden pallets were stolen from the rear loading dock area at St Vincent's Medical Center Clay County north of Middleburg.

6/22 An ATV was stolen from the backyard at a residence on Westwood Road South in Maxville.

Burglary to Structures

6/28 air conditioning equipment was stolen from a vacant home on Raleigh Road in Keystone Heights.

6/28 there was damage to a vending machine adjacent to the gymnasium of Ridgeview High School near Orange Park.

6/28 miscellaneous business supply items were stolen from a detached home garage on Marsh Hawk Lane on Fleming Island.

6/28 power yard tools were stolen from a shed at a home on John Boy Road Creek Road in Green Cove Springs.

6/27 a firearm was stolen from a home on Indian Trail in Keystone Heights.

6/27 miscellaneous items were stolen from a Shell Gas Station on Blanding Boulevard near Orange Park.

6/26 the dog door was damaged in a burglary attempt at a home on Sharron Road in Green Cove Springs.

6/26 firearms were stolen from a home on John Hart Circle in the Heritage Hills community near Orange Park.

6/24 landscaping equipment was stolen from a shed behind a home on Live Oak Lane on Fleming Island.

6/23 miscellaneous appliances and personal items were stolen from an unoccupied residence on Pebble Brooke Circle in Oakleaf Plantation.

6/23 miscellaneous personal and electronics items were stolen from a residence on Barrel Springs Drive in Argyle.

6/22 a utility trailer was stolen from a residence on Hall Lake Road in Keystone Heights.

Burglary to Autos

6/28 there were items scattered throughout a vehicle at a home on Evergreen Road in Doctors Inlet. Nothing was reported missing at this time.

6/28 miscellaneous personal and electronics items were stolen from various vehicles at homes along Evergreen Lane,

Blackwood Drive and Pearwood Circle West in Doctors Inlet. There were items stolen from some vehicles and nothing stolen from others.

6/28 unlocked vehicles were ransacked along Harbour Town Drive and Green Pine Circle inside Eagle Landing in Oakleaf Plantation. There were items stolen from some vehicles and nothing stolen from others.

6/26 personal and other items were stolen from seven vehicles at six homes along Pickwick Place on Fleming Island.

6/26 personal and other items were stolen from an unlocked vehicle a home on Sugarpine Drive in the Branan Field Road area north of Middleburg.

6/26 personal and other items were stolen from four vehicles at four homes on Lookout Landing on Fleming Island.

6/26 personal and electronics items were stolen from a vehicle at a home on Country Walk Drive on Fleming Island.

6/26 personal and other items were stolen from two vehicles at a home on Bur Oak Place in Middleburg.

6/25 miscellaneous personal items were stolen from a vehicle at a home on Pinewood Boulevard East in Doctors Inlet.

6/25 miscellaneous personal items were stolen from an unlocked and ransacked vehicle at a home on Plankton Avenue in Middleburg.

6/24 miscellaneous personal and electronics items were stolen from an unlocked and ransacked vehicle at a home on Chatham Village Drive on Fleming Island.

6/24 miscellaneous personal and electronics items were stolen from a ransacked vehicle at a home on Evergreen Lane in Doctors Inlet.

6/24 miscellaneous electronics items were stolen from a vehicle at a home on Palmwood Court in Doctors Inlet.

6/22 personal items were stolen from two unlocked vehicles at a home on Camp Ridge Lane north of Middleburg.

Criminal Mischief

6/26 yellow paint was splattered on the cover of a boat in the driveway at a home on Kevin Drive near Orange Park.

6/23 there was window damage to a residence on Joan Avenue in Middleburg.

6/23 a vehicles' tires were damaged on a vehicle parked at a residence on Martini Court on Fleming Island.

Arrests

from page 22

Possession of a Controlled Substance, Simple Battery, Possession of Drug Equipment

View, Robert, 25, Fleming Island, CCSO, Discharging Firearm From Vehicle, Concealed Firearm, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis, Resisting an Officer

Williams, Kristin, 32, Middleburg, CCSO, Simple Battery

Thursday, June 23

Bercich, Trevor, 22, Jacksonville, CCSO, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis
Bielik, Louise, 43, Middleburg, CCSO, Petit Theft, Battery on a Law Enforcement Officer

Butler, Israel, 40, Middleburg, CCSO, Possession of Cocaine, Possession of a Controlled Substance, Possession of Drug Equipment

Enzenbacher, Stephen, 21, Middleburg, CCSO, Simple Domestic Battery

Griggs, Luke, 27, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Possession of Drug Equipment, Possession of Marijuana With Intent to Sell or Manufacture, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis
Hale, Richard, 35, Orange Park, OPPD, DUI, Refusal to Submit to Balance Test

Letchworth, Alvin, 39, Middleburg, CCSO, Petit Theft

Miller, Micheal, 33, Jacksonville, CCSO, Possession of a Controlled Substance, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis, Possession of Heroin

Pedersen, Monica, 43, Orange Park, CCSO, Possession of Cocaine, Possession of Heroin, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis, Possession of Drug Equipment

Perez, Johanna, 41, Orange Park, CCSO, Aggravated Battery On Child

Pyles, Ronald, 45, Green Cove Springs, GCSPD, DWLSR

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Jim's Car Care Tip Of The Week:
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 THE FAMILY BIRTH PLACE
St. Vincent's Clay County

Parkway

from page 1

at the Parkway Inn, of which Lockwood counts about 50.

He was astonished to learn the motel has not cooperated with the nonprofits that serve the homeless either.

Last Friday, staff and volunteers with the nonprofit Changing Homelessness arrived at the motel to get a head count of the number of residents who would need their help. After a 45-minute wait, motel staff told the group that they didn't want them on their property.

"My guess, if I was going to bet on this, is it's about to get really ugly and really messy, and that's what I think the owner is going for," said Dawn Gillman, president of Changing Homelessness.

According to Parkway Inn's attorney Daniel Copeland, the motel has filed "things" that could change the court's decision, but would not go into specifics as to

what it was he filed. His filings were not available at press time.

"We have other actions pending ... We're in a wait and see position," Copeland said.

The Town of Orange Park via its Nuisance Abatement Board has consistently admonished the Parkway Inn for months for creating a primordial soup of meth labs and prostitution. Because of the \$250 a week cost, underserved families are sandwiched in the middle of the firefight between the motel and the town.

The town declared the motel a public nuisance, and came under the jurisdiction of the Nuisance Abatement Board on February 2, 2015. Ultimately, none of the potential fixes the town enforced ever worked and the motel continued as the town's largest criminal hot spot.

Judge Michael Sharrit's ruling to enforce the town's petition of closure was undoubtedly a relief for the town. The motel would close on July 1 and reopen Dec.

31, granted the motel remedies itself of the criminal element, fire hazards and safety hazards pervasive in the motel.

If Parkway Inn does not shut its doors come midnight on June 30, then the town's attorney Sam Garrison will file a motion for contempt of enforcement with the court. Town Clerk Sarah Campbell said a similar outcome is likely based on the motel's "past track record."

"From every indication we have, the management doesn't seem to be open to closing by July 1st, they seem to be telling people that they're going to remain open," Campbell said. "It's a challenge from the perspective that we're trying to help people and if they're in denial about the closure it's hard and confusing because those residents are still stuck."

Communication from the motel to the town has been scarce and likewise from the motel to its residents. Lockwood has gone as far as to go door to door himself

to inform the residents of the updates with the hotel because of the misinformation fed to him from motel staff.

With families dangling in the balance, the town is working with Changing Homelessness to setup alternate options to reach out to the residents of Parkway Inn, but nothing is currently set.

In the meantime, Lockwood and his grandmother continue their search for a home within their price range. Undoubtedly, financial assistance from charity organizations would help, but the motel continues to stand in the way of that.

"I find it ridiculous that they're doing that, they should at least try to help," Lockwood said. "We actually asked them what we're supposed to do and they're like: 'it's not our problem that people can't find somewhere to go.' You're trying to get all the money you can get, because you know you're up the creek without a paddle."

Coffee

from page 1

conversation about the series of hateful and bigoted statements from presidential hopeful, Donald Trump. Months after banning 'The Donald' from its Minneapolis stores, Urban Bean instructed supporters not to like or follow the shop on social media. Urban Bean has always focused on the community," an official statement from the Urban Bean of Minnesota said. "Urban Bean seeks to create a community free from the hate and bigotry that has been a mainstay in the media through this election. The backlash that created this controversy has come almost exclusively through online threats and one star ratings from out of state Trump supporters. The response from Trump's street team reinforces the original message from Urban Bean that coffee and community should trump hate."

Those sentiments have created a whirlwind of anger among Trump supporters, anger which has found its way, 1,500 miles down south, to Clay County.

"It started by getting emails to our account, they were pretty nasty emails," said DuWayne Hegel, co-owner of the Orange

Park Urban Bean. "People created a fake email address, one of them was from adolf.hitler@gmail.com, condemning us for our beliefs; which it wasn't us, it's a different coffeehouse."

Almost overnight, the Orange Park Urban Bean was flooded with emails, phone calls and negative reviews on the Internet, all from actions that didn't even come from them.

"Once we figured out what was going on, we started reaching out, one comment at a time and one bad review at time," said Pam Hegel, co-owner. "This is not us, you're looking for a coffeehouse in Minneapolis, not our coffeehouse."

DuWayne and Pam Hegel spent hours going through the complaints, but they continued to pour in at alarming rates. At that point, the Orange Park Urban Bean posted a message on its website and Facebook page, about the issue.

"If you are here because of reports about political statements made as reported in the news, that is not us. We are an independently owned and operated coffeehouse and restaurant in Orange Park, Florida," their message said. "The politically charged statements were made by a coffee shop in Minneapolis, Minnesota. We are not associated with them in any way

and do not agree with the way they conduct their business."

The Orange Park coffeehouse wasn't the only "Urban Bean" affected. The Urban Bean Company of Detroit, was also targeted by angry Trump supporters. When reached for comment, employees quickly disassociated themselves with the Minnesota Urban Bean.

This recent case of mistaken identity is one that is noteworthy, because it was completely avoidable.

"If you are going to write a bad review about a place, especially a bad one, it would really behoove you to investigate who it really is," DuWayne Hegel said. "It says on anybody's Facebook page what city you are from, don't slam a place before you know if it's the right place. It can be damaging for a small, up start business like ourselves."

Fortunately, the Orange Park Urban Bean did not suffer lasting negative impacts from the Trump debacle. They instead received an outpouring of support from customers and even some former critics.

"Most of our costumers know us, we would never say anything like that or do anything like that," Pam Hegel said. "It prompted our amazing customers to come

on and review our site, all of the people had never given us a review before."

Over time, complaints subsided and negative comments were taken down. As people began to realize their mistakes, apologies and good reviews began to flood in to Orange Park from across the country.

"I actually had one message from someone in Minneapolis who apologized for the mix up," DuWayne Hegel said. "He said 'I'm going to be in your area sometime in the near future, and I plan to stop in and support your business, because I'm not supporting that one [Urban Bean Minnesota].'"

Even as the situation appears to be resolving itself, the owners of the Orange Park Urban Bean want to reassure the public that their establishment won't join the other "Urban Bean" in a similar ban.

"We have our own beliefs, spiritually, and our own political beliefs," Pam Hegel said. "We built this place for our community, we built it to be a gathering place, and we welcome people with all different kinds of thoughts and views on life, and a coffeehouse, especially should be a place where you can come and have a great discussion, and share your beliefs and disagree with each other. We would never ever refuse service to anyone."

Calendar

from page 16

Vincent's Medical Center Clay County. Includes free nicotine replacement therapy. Mondays, 1-2 p.m. Register, (904) 482-0189.

HEALTH SEMINAR: Health to You presents Craig Dolven, M.D. speaking on "Men's Health," July 14 at 5 p.m., Thrasher-Horne Conference Center, 283 College Dr., Orange Park. Free for h2U members, \$5 for non-members. RSVP for the light buffet, 800-899-3627.

FAMILY TO FAMILY EDUCATION: Sponsored by NAMI, 12-week course for families and friends of individuals with

brain disorders called mental illness beginning Aug. 22 through Nov. 14 from 6-8:30 p.m., Orange Park Medical Center. Limited to 25 with required pre-registration. (904) 264-6402.

PEDIATRIC COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Aug. 23 at 8:30 a.m., Classroom 7, Orange Park Medical Center, 2001 Kingsley Ave., Orange Park with guest speaker Heather Huffman, Florida Department of Health in Clay County, discussing Clay County Infant Mortality Data Assessment Summary Findings and Zika Virus Update.

UNTAPPED: Aug. 25 from 5-8 p.m., Thrasher-Horne Conference Center, \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Taste foods from

top local restaurants and caterers and pair them with craft and domestic beer and wine. Call the Clay County Chamber at (904) 264-2651 to order tickets.

HEROES GALA: Sponsored by Clay County Chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America to benefit the Fallen Warriors Memorial Monument planned for the Historical Triangle in Green Cove Springs. Sept. 16 from 6-9 p.m., Sullivan Hall. \$650 tables, \$50 individual tickets, tax deductible. Gary Newman, (904) 269-1857.

YARD SALE: to benefit Waste Not Want Not, Oct 1 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Orange Park Town Hall. Save the date to shop for great bargains or rent a 15'x15' space for \$30 to sell your treasures. For details, www.

wastenotflorida.com.

FOOD PANTRY GALA: "For I was hungry and you gave me food" Gala to benefit the Food Pantry of Green Cove Springs, Nov. 4, Sullivan Center, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, U.S. 17, Fleming Island. Sponsorships available. Wynema Lovel, (904) 284-5789.

CORKS & FORKS: To benefit St. Vincent's Healthcare Foundation, Nov. 11 at 7 p.m., Club Continental, 2143 Astor St., Orange Park. Celebrate with a masquerade party and fine wine and foods. Info, (904) 308-7338.

TODAY'S Sports

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Four to battle for Olympic team spots

Dressel, Dressel, Heath, Neidigh

By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

OMAHA, Neb. – The media buzz for this week's U.S. Olympic Swim Trials to be held in Omaha June 24-July 3 is whether or not Clay High alum and Florida Gator swimmer Caeleb Dressel can unseat a three-time gold medalist from the top of the sprint swim ranks. Nearly 1,750 athletes were set to start competing with Trials events beginning June 26.

The next three Clay County-based swimmers to trek to Omaha are Dressel's older sister Kaitlyn, a 50 meter free entry; Grady Heath, a 200 meter free entry and the son of Olympic gold medalist Mike Heath, and Orange Park resident Ashley Neidigh, 200 and 400 individual medley entry as well as the 400 and 800 free events. Neidigh swam for the Bolles School in Jacksonville.

Dressel, a sophomore at the University of Florida has twice earned the Southeastern Conference's best sprinter title as a two-time 50 and 100 free champion and also is an NCAA champion twice in the 50 and, in 2016, the 100 freestyle. He is entered in the 50 and 100 free events, plus a handful of other events for the Trials, and Dressel has been quietly building up for what many believe will be his unveiling of the next generation of swimming. By most standards, and if comparing finish times between Dressel and main adversary Nathan Adrian, who won gold in London 2012 in the 100 free by just .01 seconds over Australian James Magnussen, age and wisdom will battle youth and vigor.

Prelims (10 a.m. CDT, Finals 6:45 p.m. CDT)

100 free: Prelims Wed., June 29, Semi-finals Wed, June 29, Final Thurs., June 30

With the release of the U.S. Olympic Swim Trials final psyche sheets, the collection of all the qualifiers and their times,

SEE SWIM, 28



PHOTO COURTESY OF LARRY NEIDIGH

Orange Park swimmer Ashley Neidigh looks for her name on the digital scoreboard at the U.S. Olympic Swim Trials as she finishes her 400 Individual Medley heat race in first place.

Watch the preliminaries

Day	TV Time (EDT)*	Event	Network
June 30	6:30 p.m.	Olympic Trials - Qualifying Heats	NBC Sports Net.
	8:00 p.m.	Olympic Trials - Finals	NBC
July 1	6:00 p.m.	Olympic Trials - Qualifying Heats	NBC Sports Net.
	8:00 p.m.	Olympic Trials - Finals	NBC
July 2	5:00 p.m.	Olympic Trials - Qualifying Heats	NBC Sports Net.
	8:00 p.m.	Olympic Trials - Finals	NBC Sports Net.
July 3	7:00 p.m.	Olympic Trials - Finals	NBC

*Times listed are Eastern Daylight Time only. Please check provider listings for time and channel in your area.

Dressel on Dressel

Big brother Tyler in Caeleb's Olympic corner

By Tyler Dressel
Special Correspondent

OMAHA, Neb – My younger brother's name is Caeleb Dressel and, I think, anyone who follows international swimming is aware of him. Throughout his career as a swimmer, Caeleb has earned several records as well as college titles. He has three swimming siblings, including myself, Tyler Dressel, 24, Kaitlyn, 23, and Sherridon, 18. Each of us have competed in the Florida state championships, two of us; Caeleb (with UF) and Kaitlyn (with FSU) have been to the NCAA championships and one of us is about to embark on college swimming; Sherridon at Florida. Three

SEE DRESSEL, 29



Tyler Dressel, right, set for a Clay High prom, gets a picture with little brother Caeleb.

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Swim

from page 27

California's Nathan Adrian, 27, a three-time Olympic gold medalist for the 100 free and two American relays, sits atop of the 100 free field with his recent 48.00 split achieved in May. Number two is 30 year old Michael Phelps, who has 11 Olympic golds, on a comeback tour to his record-setting medal reign, at 48.45 followed by Anthony Ervin, 35, of North Carolina, the 50 free gold medalist in a tie (21.98 seconds) with American Gary Hall, Jr., at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, at 48.71. Ervin, who has stayed competitive for nearly a decade, finished fifth in the 50 free in London 2012 and has made it clear that he is on a comeback trek since 2011 for Rio 2016. Phelps' medal count is mainly for butterfly and medley events with most of his freestyle medals as part of relays.

Dressel, just 19, sits in number four at 48.74, a split he achieved just weeks ago. With Dressel, as the young upstarts of the 100 free, are Maxime Rooney, 18, at 48.87 and Michael Chadwick, 21, of Missouri, at seventh also at 48.87.

In the top 10 forecasted swimmers, four are over 30 years old, four are over 20 and just two are under 20; Dressel and Rooney.



STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

Caeleb Dressel, Florida Garo swimmer and Clay High alum battles in the fastest swims this week competing in the 50 and 100 free.

50 Free: Prelims Fri., July 1; Semifinals Fri., July 1; Final Sat., July 2

In the 50 free, which will be the Super Bowl of swimming for most American swim fans, there is a logjam of blinding speed in the top five prospects with Dressel sitting a hair behind Adrian at 21.53. Adrian clocked at 21.37 to have the top time, but Ervin is at three in 21.55, Josh Schneider, 28, is at four in 21.80 and 2012 London 50 free silver medalist Cullen Jones, 32, is at number five in 21.83. Jones was the winner of the 2012 Olympic Trials 50 free and finished second in the 100 free.

The difference in all of those times is a split-second decision on numerous factors; reaction time to starters gun, length



Left: Grady Heath, a Clay High alum, now a University of Florida freshman, followed his father Mike's footsteps to the U.S. Olympic Trials on June 27 to compete in the 200 freestyle. Mike Heath, above center forward, listens to the National Anthem with gold medal winning 4 x 100 free relay team at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. Mike Heath was a silver medal winner in the 200 free in Los Angeles.

of time underwater after the start, first breath after start; ability to hold underwater strokes in final 25 meters, and final stroke before the finish wall, all in less than 21 seconds.

Dressel has hinted that he has qualified in numerous other events, but has yet to definitely commit to any of the others, but his name is on the psyche sheet roster for the 200 individual medley (76th), 100 breaststroke (41st in 1:02.26); 200 free (15th in 1:48.19); 100 backstroke (79th in 56.54) and 100 butterfly (20th in 52.96).

Note: Caeleb Dressel swam in the 200 free preliminaries on Monday, but finished a distant ninth in his heat in 1:49.93 with top times in the 1:45-1:46 range. Dressel, eliminated from the top 16 semifinalists, opened with the third fastest first 50 meters (25.06) before dropping drastically with 50s of 27.94, 28.38 and 28.55 to finish out of the top 16.

Whether Dressel used the first 50 and the 200 event as a tuneup for his upcoming 100 meters on Wednesday and 50 meters on Friday is to be determined in those heats.

100 Free: Prelims Wed., June 29; Semifinals Wed., June 29; Final Thurs, June 30

Two teammates of Dressel at Clay High; sister Kaitlyn Dressel and 200 free specialist Grady Heath are also listed on the psyche sheets as well as Bolles Sharks teammate Ashley Niedigh.

50 Free (Womens): Prelims Sat., July 2; Semifinals Sat., July 2; Final Sun., July 3

Kaitlyn Dressel, 23, a strong sprinter in her own right and a record holder for Florida State University, had her 50 free qualifying time set years ago, a 26.01 split for a 101st ranking. Dressel, who was an accomplished breaststroker in high school, has only recently continued hard training after graduating from FSU last year. Dressel also has taken a teaching job at Tallahassee Maclay High School and was named the head swim coach for Maclay.

Heath, a teammate of Dressel at Clay as well as the Bolles Sharks Swim Club



Florida State University and Clay High graduate Kaitlyn Dressel will make her second trip to Omaha to compete in Saturday's 50 free.

and now a freshman at the University of Florida, achieved his 200 free Olympic Trials qualifying time of 1:51.62 a week ago to get his first Olympic Trials invite. Heath entered as the 89th athlete in the 200 free psyche sheet. Heath, third in the 100 free and fifth in 2014 in the Class 2A 200 free, was part of the record-setting Clay High 4 x 100 relay team that featured Dressel, Dakota Mahaffey and Matt Bonna. Ironically, Heath's father, Mike Heath, now a law enforcement officer in north Florida, was the gold medal anchor man for the USA 400 medley relay team in Los Angeles, but also earned a silver medal in the 200 free and placed fourth in the 100 free. at Los Angeles. Both Mike Heath and wife Sherri-Lee Schricker, a Class 3A 200 IM state champion in 1983 at Lakewood High School, were both University of Florida All-American swimmers. Mike Heath, 19 times an All-American, was part of the Gators 1983 and 1984 NCAA championship teams being part of the winning 400, 800 and 200 free relay teams. Heath was inducted into the Florida Athletic Hall of Fame as a "Gator Great" in 1996.

"I can't be more proud of Grady getting here," said Mike Heath, in Omaha with wife Sherri to watch Grady achieve a family milestone. "Sherri and I try not to talk about the comparisons because we want Grady to get whatever glory he gets on his own. It's awesome enough to just be here to watch him."

Mike Heath later won the 100 and 200 free events at the 1984 U.S. Olympic Tri-

als where he later won three golds at the 1984 Summer Olympics, all in free relay events; 200, 400 free relays and then the 400 medley relay.

Note: On Monday, Grady Heath finished seventh in his preliminary heat in 1:52.37.

"I think I got myself a little intimidated by the guys in the waiting room before the start," said Heath, after his race. "The first 150 I felt pretty good, maybe used my legs a little too much. The last 50 were pretty bad, I knew I had to just finish. This pool is so cool to to swim in."

200 Individual Medley (Women): Prelims, Tues., June 28; Semifinals Tues., June 28; Final Wed., June 29

800 Free (Women): Prelims Fri., July 1; Final Sat., July 2

Neidigh, a Bolles distance specialist now at Auburn University, who also achieved her Olympic qualifying times within the past month, is ranked 58th in the 400 individual medley in 4:51.04, 83rd in the 400 free in 4:17.00, 95th in the 200 individual medley in 2:18.11 and 87th in the 800 free in 8:49.87. Neidigh finished third as a junior for Bolles in the Class 1A 200 IM and 500 free in 2011. As a senior for Bolles, Neidigh took fourth in the 500 free and fifth in the 100 breaststroke for Bolles.

At Auburn, Neidigh has swam in the NCAA championships for the Tigers distance group in the 400 IM, the 500 free and the 1,650 free. Neidigh also finished fifth in the SEC 1,650 free, 23rd in the SEC 500 free in 2016, 25th in the SEC 400 IM,

Note: In Sunday's preliminary round of the 400 individual medley, Neidigh swam her best overall time of 4:48.76 to win her heat, but was disqualified for a backstroke violation. Twelve other swimmers were also disqualified in prelims. Neidigh's time was five seconds faster than her best previous time. On Monday, Neidigh also swam a personal best time of 4:16.27 in the 400 free to finished 38th with defending Olympic gold medalist and world record holder Katie Ledecky posting the top time of 4:02.62. Ledecky's world record is 3:58.37.

Dressel

from page 27

(Not me) have won a lot of state gold medals. Growing up as the eldest of four has granted me with a front row seat for the separate progressions of my brother and two sisters in relation to the sport of competitive swimming.

As a swimmer at Clay High School (10th in Class 2A 50 free, 12th in 100 free in 2010 as a senior), I have experienced the physical and mental toll of the sport, but I have also witnessed the beneficial consequences that it has had on each of my siblings. As a proud brother, I could go off on a rant about my younger sisters, but for the sake of relevance to the nearing of the 2016 Olympic Games, I am going to focus on my "little" brother, Caeleb Dressel, and his acknowledgeable growth both in and outside of the pool over these past years. By the way, sister Kaitlyn will compete in the 50 free at the Trials.

Swim trial update

Editors note: In the 100 free preliminary heats on Tuesday, June 28, Caeleb Dressel clocked a fastest of the day speed of 48.69 seconds with an opening 50 of 22.90.

Dressel will advance to the semifinals Wednesday night with the 100 final on Thursday.

At an early age, Caeleb displayed raw talent and a natural sense for the water at Clay High School as he replaced all of my senior swimming records with those of his own as an incoming freshman. However, replacing my records did not come as a surprise just the quickness that he did it. As his prowess grew over the next six years, titles, such as Junior World Champion, NCAA All American and National Age Group Record Holder, were significant milestones for Caeleb that promoted his recognition among the world of competitive swimming. It's not that I "expected" him to accomplish what he did or that anyone necessarily pressured him into establishing himself as a recognizable swimmer worldwide, however, I can't say that I did not see it coming. Caeleb achieved what he did alongside the training of his coaches and with the support from those that were close to him. But at the end of the day, he simply did it.

To the surprise of many people, swimming was not an overly dominant factor of Caeleb's early life. As a senior in high school with unending scholarships and college offers at hand, Caeleb spent months out of the water and took up track and



SPECIAL TO CLAY TODAY

Dressel Olympic hopefuls Caeleb, left, and Kaitlyn mug for picture with Olympic gold medal winner Ryan Lochte in photo taken early in Dressel swim career.

field, rugby, soccer and even football. To this day, the back of his truck is filled with sports equipment due to the years of accumulation.

In terms of athletics, my brother's skill set was sound; strong, flexible, great ball-eye coordination, etc., and, in my opinion, he would have excelled in anything he dedicated himself to. Competitiveness was not lost in our family.

Nevertheless, there was something about his way in the water that he could not deny. Despite these months spent without practice or conditioning, Caeleb returned to the pool and delivered results that would fool his extended absence.

Right: Tyler Dressel was a powerful butterfly and sprint swimmer in his own right at Clay High School.

Below: Kaitlyn, left, and Tyler Dressel had unique opportunity to swim as teammates at Florida state meet.



On the separate occasions that I spoke to Caeleb about going off to college, he made it clear that he was eager to begin school at the University of Florida but I was aware that some apprehension existed.

I believe that Caeleb began to finally embrace his personal value as a swimmer. His worth as an addition to a college level team, much like his staying at Clay High School rather than attend Bolles where he excelled at the club level, became apparent as he began to accept his capacity to swim professionally and aspire to one day honor and represent the country that he loves.

In my eyes, Caeleb's recent progression in swimming at the college level is considered a coming of age experience. The same headstrong attitude that he carried throughout his youth is now noticeable within his adulthood which he channels to prioritizing his life and achieving his goals.

I am honored to call Caeleb family and unashamed to say that as he once looked up to me, I now look up to him. Caeleb had previously received an introduction to the competition considering his visit to the Olympic Trials 2012 at the age of 15. Now, four years later and at the peak of his athletic conditioning, I am passionate about my brother's success and will enjoy watching him compete with the world's best swimmers.



Merlot

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STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

Above: Orange Park High quarterback Demarae Byrd looks for an open receiver at Matanzas High School FHS Region 7 on 7 tournament.

Below: Clay High defender Raequan Williams gets last minute interception.



CORRESPONDENT PHOTOS BY RAY DIMONDA

Above: Middleburg wideout Jeremiah Everett catches pass in front of Oakleaf sideline.

Below: Oakleaf High defender Kwame Clark snags interception in front of Broncos wide out Terron Allen.



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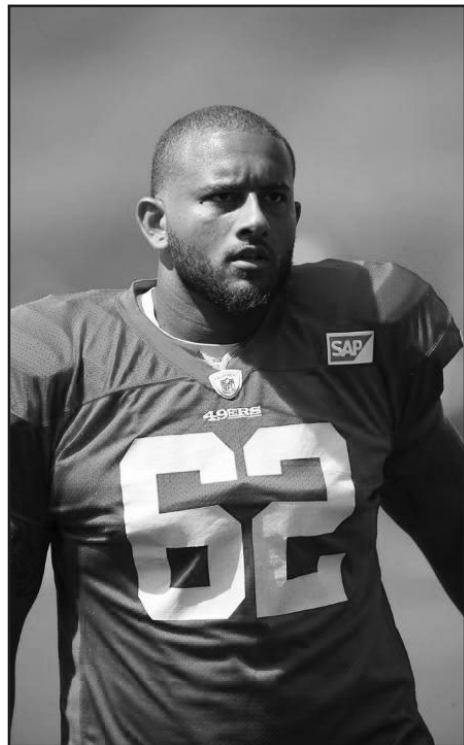
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Ian Silberman returns to Fleming Island as a 49er



By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

FLEMING ISLAND – As big as Ian Silberman is listed on the San Francisco 49ers roster, he is still one of the smallest guys on the offensive line.

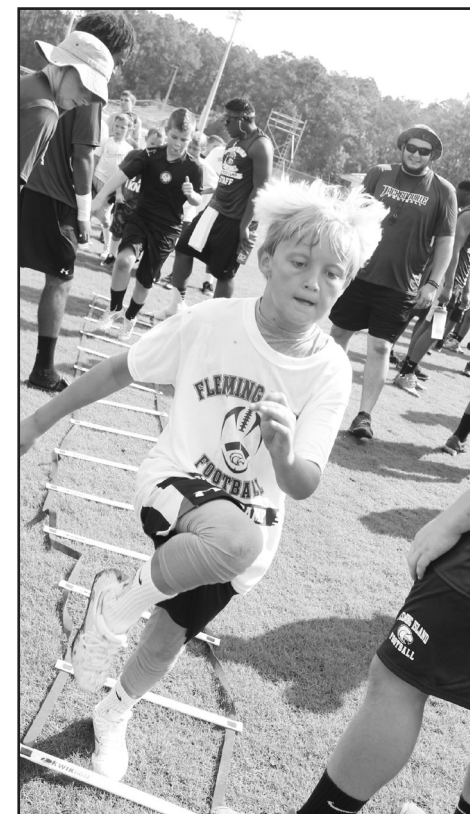
“One of the first things I noticed was not only were the NFL guys bigger, but the athleticism was unreal,” said Silberman, a stout 6-5, 306 pounds. “Our 10 year veteran, Joe Staley, at 6-5, 315 pounds, got into a passing drill with a defender, caught a short pass over the middle and ran 50 yards downfield before he was caught. That was crazy.”

Silberman will return to Clay County to attend the Fleming Island High School Youth Football camp on June 27-30 and then is scheduled to return in July for his own camp. The Fleming Island High camp, where Silberman will be a guest speaker, is a pay camp with proceeds going back to

the Golden Eagle football program while Silberman thinks his July camp will be free.

“I owe a lot to the coaches, friends and families of the Fleming Island High football community and I want to give back something to the program by adding to the high school’s camp,” said Silberman. “Coach Damenyum Springs means the world to me and I know the program has gone through some rough times the past couple of years.”

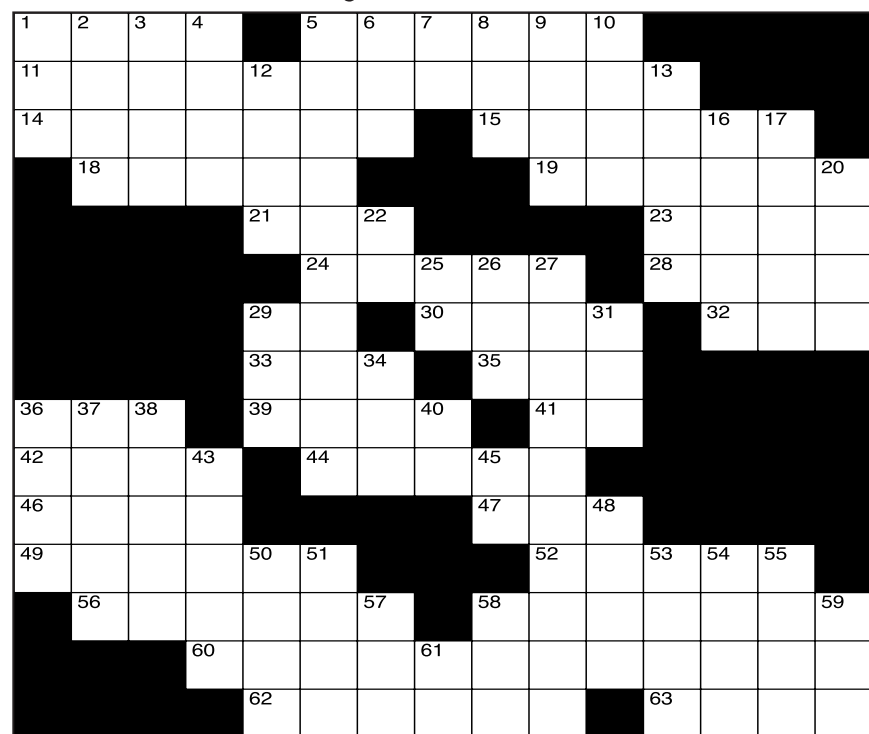
Silberman, drafted as the 190th pick of the 2015 NFL draft out of Boston College, has created his own opportunity to at least be a part of the draft by staying with football after leaving the University of Florida and finishing his final year at Boston College. In 20 games at Florida, Silberman started just seven times with frequent special teams appearances. At Boston College, under former Gator coach Steve Addazio who recruited Silberman to Florida, Silberman started 12 games and earned third-team All-Atlantic Coast Conference honors while solidifying his stature as a strong run blocker at this tackle position



Football camper Reed Hyans, does ladder leg drills at Fleming Island High youth football camp.

SEE SILBERMAN, 33

Weekly Crossword



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Branch of Islam
- 5. Spookier
- 11. April holiday day
- 14. Assumed authorship
- 15. Skewered foods
- 18. Mails
- 19. A millionth of a meter
- 21. Intentionally so written
- 23. New Zealand parrot
- 24. A light splash
- 28. Appear to be true
- 29. Of I
- 30. 17th Greek letters
- 32. Point midway between S and SE
- 33. Stallone nickname
- 35. NW German river
- 36. Possessed
- 39. Common seasoning
- 41. Integrated circuit
- 42. Hebrew unit of measurement
- 44. Take without consent
- 46. Enlarge a hole
- 47. 9th month (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

- 1. A large body of water
- 2. Belongs to “2001” computer
- 3. A small island
- 4. Egyptian sun god
- 5. Saint Anthony’s fire
- 6. Election Stock Market
- 7. Atomic #44
- 8. Writing liquid
- 9. Mild Dutch cheese
- 10. Am. Nobel physicist Isodor
- 12. Am. football wings
- 13. Boisterous laughs (slang)
- 16. Hillside
- 17. Lordship’s rights of holding court
- 20. Entity designation
- 22. Gable’s wife’s initials

- 25. Atomic #18
- 26. The woman
- 27. The art of preaching
- 29. Manuscripts (abbr.)
- 31. No. Canton, OH college
- 34. ’63 NFL MVP QB initials
- 36. German title
- 37. Nautical vertical position
- 38. Abu __, UAE capital
- 40. Initials of GE founder
- 43. Anabaptist sect
- 45. Equally
- 48. Course of action
- 50. Discharge
- 51. Psychic medium
- 53. Solo vocal piece
- 54. Open threadwork
- 55. Heavenly body
- 57. Attempt
- 58. Early TV tube
- 59. NYSE for Callaway Golf Co.
- 61. Atomic #33



Fleming Island High graduate Ian Silberman, left, watches football camper traverse through ladder drills at Monday’s Fleming Island High School youth football camp. Silberman was drafted out of Boston College last year by the NFL’s San Francisco 49ers.

Silberman

from page 32

Proof of Silberman's power as a run blocker was that Boston College running back Andre Williams led the NCAA in rushing and earned the Doak Walker Award as the best running back in the nation.

"I see myself as a second teamer right now as a rookie, but I'm working to get fitter to play a guard position," said Silberman. "There were two very different types of game plans between Florida and Boston with Boston a stronger up-front running game that worked with my skill set."

Silberman spoke from a conditioning camp in Atlanta about his transition from the college game to the NFL.

"I picked up the playbook pretty quickly and just want to improve my consistency," said Silberman, who still thinks he has a 4.9 second 40 in his extra large frame. "I need to show them that, on every down, I can be a reliable player either at guard or tackle."

Silberman sees the NFL offensive line scheme as more speed and strength to power.

"All these guys are athletic beyond normal," said Silberman. "The biggest shock I had was that in college, you had guys who were crazy athletes, but not as high on football IQ. The football IQ of the NFL guys plus the athleticism is what is crazy. Players are smart through the roof in the NFL."

Silberman's outlook for the upcoming preseason is to keep pushing to crack the starting lineup.

"I've gotten into my best shape in about two months up here in Atlanta," said Silberman. "I have learned a lot from Joe Staley because he's a Hall of Fame level player. I like his work ethic and how he attacks each and every day to be a little bit better when he is preparing for the season."

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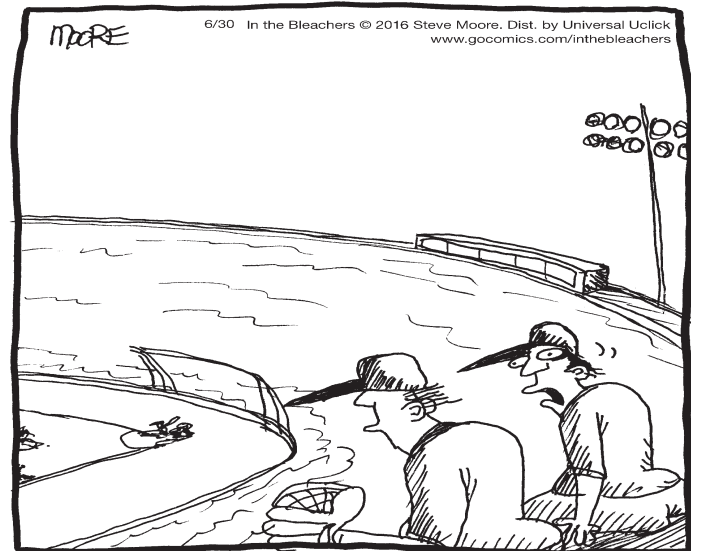
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Fun AND Humor

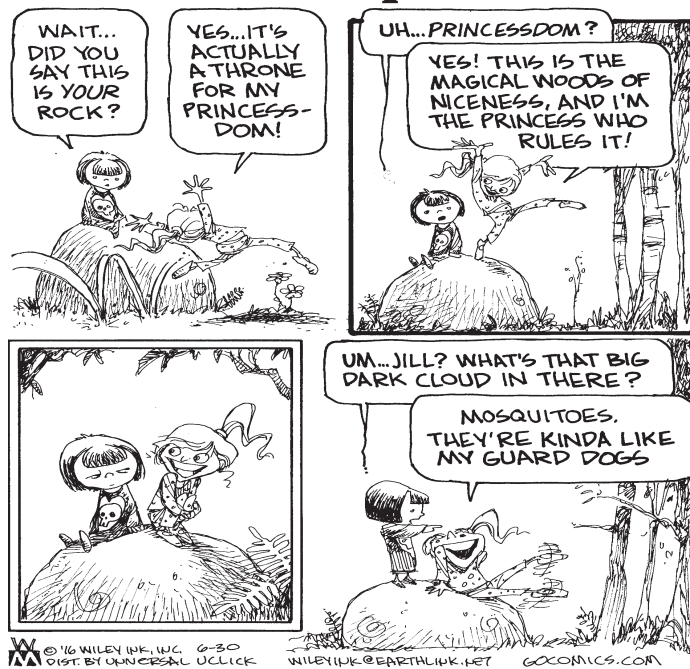
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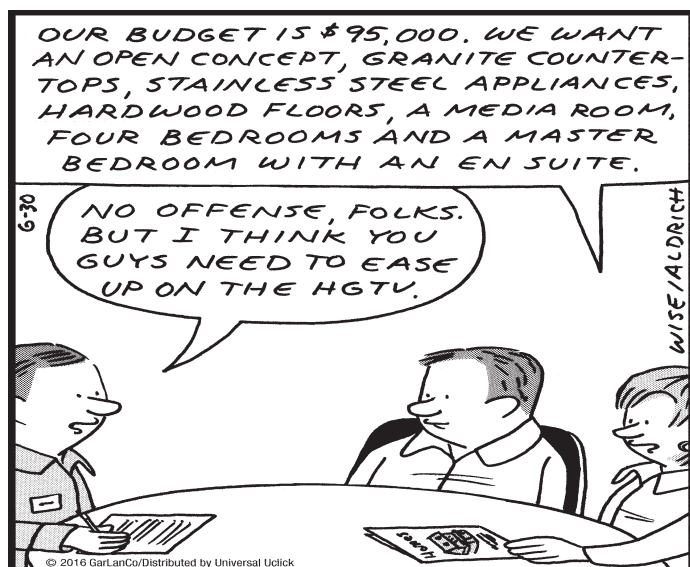
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Cliff Avril Youth Football Camp
Cliff Avril comes back to Clay High School



Former Clay High Blue Devil standout Cliff Avril does some high-stepping in warm-up drills at the Cliff Avril Youth Football Camp held June 25.

TV Channel 7.1 (Comcast 8, 440)

SUNDAYS, 8 PM

Dancing on the Edge
 Chiwetel Ejiofor and John Goodman star in this British mystery series about a black jazz band's experiences in 1930s London. The band achieves success and secures record deals, but a chain of tragic events threaten the band's survival.

TV Channel 7.1 (Comcast 8, 440)

SUNDAYS, 9 PM

Endeavour — Season 3
 Shaun Evans returns as Endeavour Morse in this Masterpiece series. *Endeavour* follows the young detective before acquiring his signature red Jaguar but with his deductive powers already running in high gear. Season ends July 10.

TV Channel 7.1 (Comcast 8, 440)

SUNDAYS, 10:30 PM

The Tunnel
 In this ten-part British crime series, detectives Karl Roebuck and Elise Wassermann investigate on behalf of their respective countries when a French politician's body is found on the border between the UK and France. Airs through August 21.



Seattle Seahawk Cliff Avril, center in white, sits with NFLers' Nolan Carroll, left, of the Philadelphia Eagles and Kawaan Short, of the Carolina Panthers before taking the field at Clay High School for the Cliff Avril Youth Football Camp held Saturday.

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STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO
 Campers at Cliff Avril's Youth Football Camp at Clay High School on June 25 worked hard through drills to better their football skills.



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Proven and successful furniture sales experience. Ability to work flexible hours, including weekends and evenings. Bi-lingual communicator a plus. A flair for design and style/color coordination.

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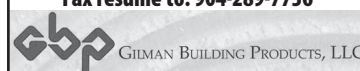
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MUST pass Criminal Background Check, Must pass Drug Screen, Valid driver license and Clean MVR. Driver will drive and operate a Vaccon Truck and do labor work to help assist in cleaning out Storm and Sewer Pipes. Laborer will drive work vehicle to and from job sites and be willing to work and assist others in all necessary steps to perform the cleaning and tv inspection among other tests etc. to storm and sewer pipes. Must be Dependable!! Will Train.
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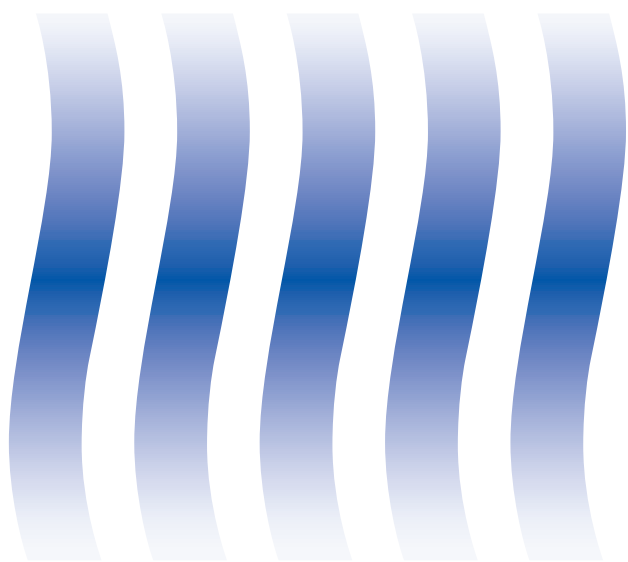
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 - 1 Week \$14.50 2 Weeks \$24.50
 - 3 Weeks \$32.50 4 Weeks \$39.00
- Commercial (Rentals, Cars, Advertise your business.)**
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 - 3 Weeks - \$57 4 Weeks - \$72
- Garage Sales**
\$21 - 4 lines of text (20-25 characters per line)

Ad Copy One Letter, Number, Punctuation Mark or Space Per Box

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25

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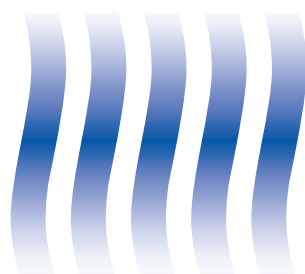
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