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## Honoring the cathedral builders

By Eric Cravey  
Managing Editor

ORANGE PARK – Paul E. Reinhold used to share an age-old anecdote about how a man asked three construction workers what they were doing while working on a building.

The first man said, “I’m cutting stone,” the second man said, “I’m making a wage,” the third man said, “I’m making a cathedral,” which are for many, things of solace, beauty and warmth.

On Tuesday, Clay Countians came together to celebrate what the Paul E. and Klare Reinhold Foundation honors each

year as the local cathedral builders – non-profit organizations that provide various services to the community.

Seamark Ranch was awarded the \$10,000 Paul E. Reinhold Outstanding Community Service Award at the event held at the Thrasher-Horne Conference Center at St. Johns River State College.

Seamark Executive Director Fred Meiners was not able to attend the breakfast Tuesday morning but said Wednesday that he was humbled with the honor.

“This is our 10th year and we’re looking at all our highlights and certainly for our 10th year celebration, this is going to be

SEE BUILDERS, 16



STAFF PHOTO BY JESSE HOLLETT

### Superheroes descend on Baptist Clay

FLEMING ISLAND – Superheroes spent Tuesday in the sky, but they weren’t quite saving the world, they were washing windows. Workers from A1 Orange pressure washing company donned superhero garb the morning of April 24 and greeted kids on their way into the Baptist Clay Medical Campus. The exercise is a way to make children less anxious on their way to see the physician and is also an exciting way to introduce youngsters to the hospital before they get a checkup or go in for treatment. A1 Orange runs the program extensively in Orlando, and recently moved the program north. “This is something we’ve been doing for children’s hospitals for about three years now,” said Lindsey Bergdoll with A1 Orange. “So far it’s been such a positive response.” From left, Mike Nobles, Charles Hurst and Gammy Velazquez help Cooper Dean of Fleming Island flex his muscles.



PHOTO BY BRIAN SMALE, MICROSOFT

From left, the team of Chandani Doshi, Jessica “Jialin” Shi, Chen “Bonnie” Wang, Charlene Xia, Tania Yu and Grace Li developed the Tactile, a real time, pocket-sized text-to-braille computer that uses a refreshable display of dots to translate blocks of texts into streams of braille letters for the blind and visually impaired.

### Innovating for good

## OP grad wins award at MIT

By Jesse Hollett  
Staff Writer

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – An Orange Park High graduate is one of five winners of a prestigious competition for pragmatic innovation for work she and her team did in creating a real time, pocket-sized text-to-braille converter.

Charlene Xia, 22, is part of a six-woman team of Massachusetts Institute of

Technology students to win \$10,000 as the winners of the 2017 Lemelson-MIT Student Prize.

The competition is a national collegiate invention prize program supported by The Lemelson Foundation, which celebrates young inventors that have designed and built prototypes of inventions to solve social problems.

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# Clay County Memories



By Mary Jo McTammany tamctammany@comcast.net

## In 1920s, electricity and Moosehaven came to Orange Park

Since the back to back hard freezes of the mid-1890s, Orange Park had been in a slow but steady decline. Affluent winter residents with their mini-mansions that graced River Boulevard moved on to flee harsh northern winters on Mediterranean cruises or just traveled further south to Miami. The stately homes attracted hobos and termites and periodically erupted into flames that bucket brigades failed to even slow.

Orange Fever and the dream of instant, easy riches were gone and many settlers simply went economically belly up and were forced to move back home to family and friends and try to survive.

The decade of the twenties promised hope of a change for the better. There were no raccoon coats or flappers but, the pace of life gradually picked up.

The Loyal Order of Moose, electricity, telephones, and the first fire engine came to town along with “the bob” haircut, syn-copated rhythms, mah-jongg gaming and a wayward flagpole sitter (immediately discouraged by Deputy Marshall Alan Harrington).

The absolute biggest event of the decade was the coming of electricity. Woman’s Club members enthusiastically went door to door enlisting guaranteed subscribers to satisfy the minimum required by the City of Jacksonville Electric Co. The required number would never have been reached had new arrival, Moosehaven not committed to purchase over half the re-

quired number of kilowatt hours.

It was a big deal. Everyone – man, woman and child – had something to do in preparation for the big day, February 28, 1924. After weeks of preparation, the festivities began at 2 P.M. on the Moosehaven grounds with speeches by visiting dignitaries including Mayor Alsop, representing the City of Jacksonville. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts demonstrated their skills in athletics.

After sunset, Mrs. Marson, widow of a former councilman and deemed to be the longest resident of Orange Park, pressed the switch to bring electricity to Orange Park and, with the street lamps lighting the way, the crowd adjourned to the town hall for an oyster supper with all the trimmings and dancing into the night.

Buildings were built during the twenties instead of just occasionally burning down. Miro Rio, a Mediterranean Revival mansion started the decade’s building boom. It was followed by a new town hall, a new jail on the southeast corner of Reed and McIntosh, a fire station and the beginnings of the Woman’s Club building.

In 1921, Caleb Johnson retired as president of Palmolive Soap Company and selected property on the St. Johns River adjacent to his sister, Karrie Ferguson, to build the fabulous Miro Rio. Grand in proportion and opulent in furnishings, it was the perfect setting to entertain their wealthy and influential friends. Locals vicariously lived the real “Roaring Twenties”



The first property purchased by the Loyal Order of Moose in Orange Park was the Hotel Marion at the intersection of River Boulevard and Kingsley Avenue. Her dainty Victorian gingerbread decked porches were rebuilt with sturdy stone blocks and her clapboard siding was coated with a mortar and pebble concoction treatment known as slap and dash.

through their observations of the “goings on” at the Johnson’s estate.

The other big time newcomers in town, The Loyal Order of Moose, caused just as much stir but were far more restrained. Arriving in the early twenties, representatives of this powerful group of northern movers and shakers purchased the Marion Hotel complex on the river, the entire southwest corner at Kingsley and Park Av-

enue – then known as Barrett Street – and continued to collect assorted other parcels. The large buildings on these properties were remodeled to become retirement homes for members of the Moose organization and their wives.

Sadly, by the end of the decade, residents would again be revisited by hard times but this time they would be joined by the entire country.

## Draft ‘tiny homes’ ordinance in works

By Jesse Hollett  
Staff Writer



GREEN COVE SPRINGS – As interest mounts for the home building fad known as ‘tiny homes,’ pressure has mounted on local officials on how best to zone them.

The Clay County Board of County Commissioners voted unanimously Tuesday to direct planning and zoning staff to make a recommendation on how best to regulate and zone the spread of tiny homes.

There’s a problem, however. There’s no one concrete definition of what makes a tiny home a tiny home.

A structure that is under 500 square

feet is generally accepted as a tiny home. There’s been a significant uptick in interest among those hoping to live a cheaper and minimalist lifestyle through the issue of tiny homes in recent years. The tiny house movement has spawned books, websites and the television series “Tiny House Hunting,” which was launched in December 2014 on the FYI cable network.

The interest conflicts with zoning regulations in many counties that have arbitrary rules on development that, generally, attempt to keep property values high.

In 1995, the county passed an ordinance that would force house construction to be at least 750 square feet or larger.

“I’d imagine they thought [anything less] would drive down the price of adjacent houses,” said Ed Lehmen, director of the Planning and Zoning Division for Clay County. “We’re going to have to look at everything” in the land development code, “we’re going to have to go through it with a fine tooth comb.”

Currently, zoning for tiny homes in the county is nonexistent. Would-be homeowners who want to buy a parcel of land and build a tiny home must apply for a Planned Unit Development rezoning – but “I’d be hesitant to grant a PUD for one parcel,” Lehman said.

SEE HOMES 9

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**Bringing home the hardware**

LAKE ASBURY – The Future Business Leaders of America chapter at Lake Asbury Junior High recently came home from its state leadership conference with a large piece of hardware. The chapter was honored for having the “Largest Percent of Increase in Membership, Middle School” at the FBLA conference held March 23-26 in Orlando. Students worked hard to increase membership this year to 40 members up from its 11 members in the previous school year, a whopping 263 percent increase. For next year, chapter members have set a goal of tripling membership when they begin classes in the fall.

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## House just made life a lot more difficult for public school boards, teachers

By Joe Henderson  
FloridaPolitics.com

It's a good thing the Florida House of Representatives wasn't in session when Columbus wanted to sail the ocean blue.

Lawmakers would have passed a bill prohibiting the trip because science hadn't yet proven that the earth was round. Oh, there were those crackpots who said it was, but the representatives of the day would have known better than to let those poor sailors float right off the edge of the flat planet into oblivion.

Alas, the House is in session now and voted 94-25 Thursday in favor of a bill that has been called a science denier's dream. HB 989 has



Joe Henderson

been pitched as a way for parents to challenge those terrible things in their children's textbooks, like, you know – reality.

The language of the bill requires that textbooks "be research-based and proven to be effective" along with being "accurate and factual." It allows residents – not just parents of school kids – to challenge what is being taught in public classrooms.

What's wrong with that?

That depends whether you embrace fact-based facts or, as someone once said, alternative facts. And that's the landmine in this bill.

Supporters of the bill, introduced by Rep. Byron Donalds, a Naples Republican, say this will make it easier for parents to weed out objectionable material. They say local school boards will still have the final say over what textbooks are used.

However, you can expect those boards to spend time dealing with issues like the one reported by the Orlando Sentinel. It told of an affidavit filed by Lynda Daniel of Martin County, who was peeved about a textbook used in an Advanced Placement course.

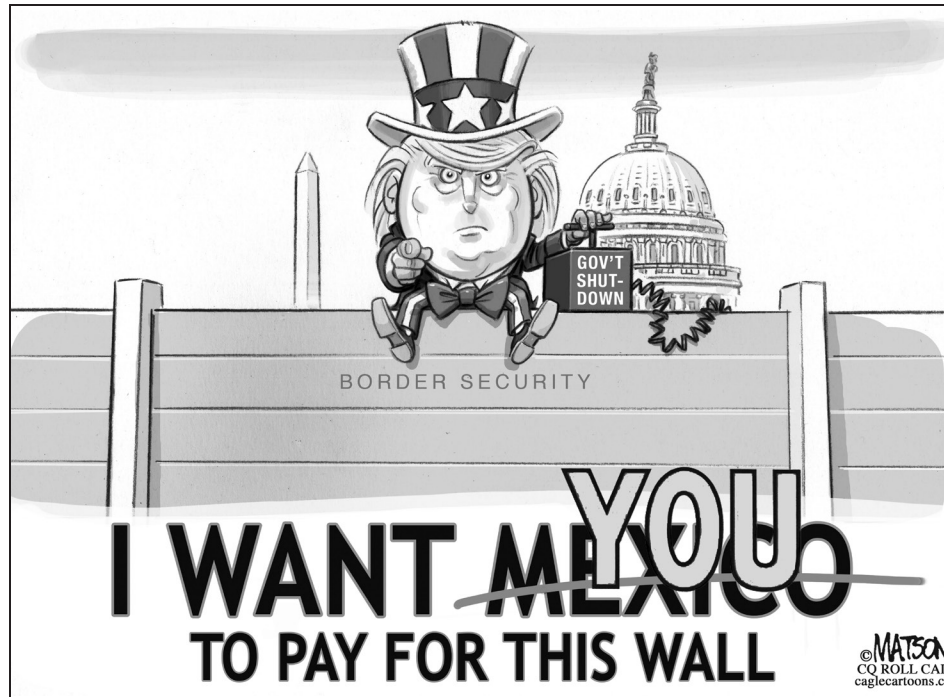
She wrote that she was opposed to: "Presentation of evolution as fact ... The vast majority of Americans believe that the world and the beings living on it were created by God as revealed in the Bible."

Actually, a 2014 poll by Pew Research said that 65 percent of Americans believe in evolution, although 24 percent of that number believe it was guided by a supreme being. But what's a fact among friends, right?

There are already plenty of alternatives for parents who don't like what they see in public schools. They can home school. The number of charter schools is expanding.

My goodness, if they live in Southwest Florida their children could attend the Mason Classical Academy – the charter school which Byron Donalds helped found.

SEE TEACHERS, 5



## MEET Kile Brewer

For as long as I can remember I wanted to live by the beach.

Growing up in Northern Missouri I helped out on both sides of the family, farming row crops, raising livestock, working hay; I did it all. I spent summers mowing and riding a tractor hooked up to a sprayer and swimming in the muddy lake next door to my parents' country home. I'd wander out to the pasture in my child-sized Wranglers and attempt to ride my bottle calf bareback. I was a farm kid.



Kile Brewer

As I grew older I began to develop my own interests. In high school I got into 1960s-70s rock music and, with the help of the internet, fell in love with the idea of surfing – something I had never been exposed to in the landlocked Midwest. This was when I began planning hypothetical trips to California where I would set off in a \$500 van and never look back. I never did it, but I was eager to explore the world outside the farming community I had known since birth.

Entertaining the idea of attending law school, becoming an attorney, and fighting for the environment, I enrolled at the University of Missouri to study Science and Agricultural Journalism as a stepping stone.

I had no idea that Mizzou was such a prestigious journalism school, and after a little time there I began to subscribe to the idea that through journalism, I could help people more than I could with a law degree. I fell in love with writing, and telling the stories of people that would otherwise go untold. I always knew my love for history wouldn't get me much more than a teaching job, but with journalism I felt like I was writing history. Then my uncle gave me my first DSLR camera.

Since I got that first camera I sort of

put a pause on the writing in order to master this new medium. Telling a whole story in one photograph became an obsession. What used to take me a couple hours and 1,000 words to say could now, with instinct and a little luck, be said in 1/1000 of a second. After my first semester of photo classes, I committed myself to complete the Photojournalism program.

Journalism has taken me so many places. My first internship was in Skagway, Alaska, where I lived on a cot in the back of the newsroom at a bi-weekly paper in one of the original boomtowns from the Alaskan Gold Rush. I climbed mountains, walked on glaciers, ate fresh salmon and made lifelong friends.

I worked as a photographer at a daily paper in Eastern North Dakota, travelling across the state to cover the oil boom in Williston. This was a truly great story for a history buff – Williston is about the closest to the wild west that you can get in the modern era.

I've also worked at several papers and magazines throughout Missouri, and did some freelance photo work for the New York Times following massive flooding in St. Louis. Then, after applying on both coasts, I got a call. I took a photo job in Sebring, in Central Florida.

I made the trek from Missouri to Florida in February 2016, escaping a whiteout blizzard in the Uhaul truck and arriving to a sunny 70 degrees. My fiancée Leah and I visited different beaches every weekend for most of our first year in Florida. Of all those beaches, we fell in love with Jacksonville, we're even getting married just south at a beach house near Ponte Vedra.

I worked with some great people in Sebring, but, after two buyouts in about six months and some major changes at the paper, Leah and I started applying to jobs in and around Jacksonville. Within a couple months Leah got hired, and about a week after that I got a call from a weekly paper called Clay Today. I would be reporting in

SEE BREWER, 5

## This Week *in History*

### Five years ago, 2012

- Four suspects, including a mother and son, were charged in the murder of Clay County Sheriff's Office Det. David White who was killed during a narcotics team raid of a suspected methamphetamine lab in Middleburg. White was later honored by CCSO when they renamed its administration building to the David A. White Memorial Headquarters.

- The Board of County Commissioners voted 4-1 to accept a \$500,000 donation from Green Cove Springs businessman Clayton Revels to renovate the Council on Aging's senior center despite contention that the acceptance could incur a lawsuit from Revels' family.

- The St. Johns River Water Management District's Governing Board approved a project to evaluate the effects of introducing additional water on water quality and hydrology into a southwest Clay County watershed, with the eventual goal of finding sustainable ways to replenish the aquifer.

### Ten years ago, 2007

- Controversy arose surrounding the Clay County School Board's plan to convert the failing Orange Park Elementary School into a magnet school for gifted children throughout the county, alienating children living nearby from going to a neighborhood school.

- Camp Chowenwaw officially opened as a county park after the county bought the property from the Girl Scouts of Gateway Council for \$5.8 million.

- Ground was broken on Oakleaf's Elementary School W, later renamed Oakleaf Village Elementary school, which was scheduled to open in the fall of 2008. The 30-acre site cost \$23 million to build, and would be the only elementary school east of Branan Field-Chafee Road.

### Twenty Years ago, 1997

- The Animal Rights Federation marched on Blanding Boulevard and Wells Road in protest of the use of kittens for dissection in Middleburg High School science classes. Many Clay County residents were mortified by the potentially traumatizing practice, while others regarded the dissections as a useful learning experience.

- Unexpected heavy rains occurred in the middle of dry season and forced many Middleburg residents from their homes when Black Creek water levels rose 17.5 feet as reported by the National Weather Service.

- Green Cove Spring's city manager Eric S. Meserve had a busy first day on the job when he sat in on multiple meetings throughout the day regarding the city's new ordinance regulating solid waste disposal and damages to the pool deck in Spring Park.

- The Naval Aviation Depot, Jackson-

SEE HISTORY, 5

# Brewer

from page 4

addition to shooting photos, so I've dusted off my keyboard and am slowly adjusting to covering stories with words again. I've had nothing but good interactions with the people in Clay County.

I hope that once I am more settled I can start meeting more of you, covering issues that I find the most interesting and important like conservation, agriculture, and anything related to improving the lives of abandoned animals. Outside of my work at the newspaper, Leah and I have settled into our new condo on the Southside, about ten minutes from the beach – we finally made it.

We are getting married in late May after four years together.

Leah and I have two cats, Reggie and Judy. In my free time I play and build gui-

tars, and collect vinyl records with Leah. We almost have every record worth listening to, but somehow are always finding more to add to the collection. We also frequent Jax Beach and Neptune Beach on the weekends, as well as events and shops in Riverside. If you see me out in the community I would be happy to talk with you about photography, Alaska, the Grateful Dead (or other, less interesting, music), the Chicago Cubs, woodworking, surfing, history (especially military history), agriculture or anything you think might make a good feature story. I hope I can serve the readers through my work here at Clay Today and tell your stories accurately and effectively. If you have story ideas, don't hesitate to email kile@opcfla.com, or call my office phone at (904) 579-2159. You can also check out some of my photography on my website at www.kilebrewer.com.



**DEVELOPMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE:** Meets April 27 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.

**BOOK SALE:** Friends Library Book Sale, Middleburg Clay Hill Library, 2245 Aster Ave. at County Road 218, April 27 from 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. with special shopping hours for Friends Members from 9 a.m. - 11 p.m. Shop April 28-29 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Special hours for Friends Members from 9 a.m. - 10 p.m. Shop early for best selection. Saturday, fill a library Book Bag for only \$5. For information or to donate books, call

(904) 254-7891.

**ART SHOW:** 29th Annual Clay County Student Art Show, April 28 at 10 a.m. to April 30 at 6 p.m., 1910 Wells Rd. featuring elementary student artwork exhibited in front of Belk and secondary student artwork exhibited in front of JC Penney.

**MUSEUM FUNDRAISER BREAKFAST:** "All-You-Can-Eat" Pancake Breakfast, April 29, from 8:30-10:30 a.m., Kohler Park on Clark Avenue in Penney Farms. A donation of \$10 for adults and \$5 for youngsters (10 and under) to raise money for the planned Penney Farms museum. Sponsored by the

SEE CALENDAR, 23

# History

from page 4

ville Humanitarian Award was given to NADEP JAX Quality Assurance Specialist Raymond R. Dreyer to recognize his unselfish dedication after he prevented Johnna McKinnon from falling backward into a TF34 engine pit, saving her life.

## Thirty Years ago, 1987

- After a year and a half of work put

into the project, Clay County implemented an emergency telephone system that allowed residents to reach help quickly in the event of an emergency by simply dialing 911.

- Wal-Mart announced that it would open an 85,000-square foot store on Blanding Boulevard on Bolton Road, along with five other stores in the Jacksonville area.

- After buying an IBM computer with a 60-megabyte storage capacity in 1983, the Green Cove Springs city council considered

purchasing a memory upgrade for \$12,400 that would increase storage space to 200 megabytes, and would pay for the upgrade by delaying the purchase of automated meter reading equipment.

## 40 years ago, 1977

- Dr. Norbert Herman, the German Ambassador to Peru, was awarded honorary citizenship in Orange Park by Mayor Hance Bruce during their two-month visit to the area as guests of Dr. and Mrs. Edwin

Heinrich.

- The Orange Park Town Council and the Board of County Commissioners voted to pledge \$2,500 to begin an effort to purchase 36 acres of land in Montclair for a new park.

- City Commissioner Joe W. Love was sworn as Green Cove Springs' first black mayor in the town's nearly 100-year history.

— Compiled by Kaelyn Cassidy

# Teachers

from page 4

But no.

Since this bill would widen the pool of potential objectors to what is being taught, how long until someone shows up demanding that the Civil War be henceforth called The War of Northern Aggression?

How long until they try to force teachers to say it wasn't about slavery, when all anyone has to do is look at the various articles of secession by southern states to prove that it was?

Literature could become an endangered species. I mean, Romeo and Juliet promoted teen suicide and defiance of parents, didn't it?

And forget about presenting Muslims as human beings entitled to the freedom of religion guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

Supporters of this bill will tell you none of that will happen. They say this is

legitimate oversight. All I know is, life is about to get more difficult for public school teachers, administrators and board members. That's a fact.

*Joe Henderson had a 45-year career in newspapers, including the last nearly 42 years at The Tampa Tribune in which he won numerous local, state and national writing awards. His column appears courtesy of FloridaPolitics.com*



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# Braille

from page 1

The competition awarded four undergraduate teams and five graduate inventors a total of \$115,000 for their ideas, according to an April 19 announcement. The money will go to further fund research.

Xia's invention, dubbed Tactile, translates printed words into braille by translating a block of text onto a refreshable display of moveable dots the user can run their fingers over to turn any pamphlet, menu, or book into a readable form.

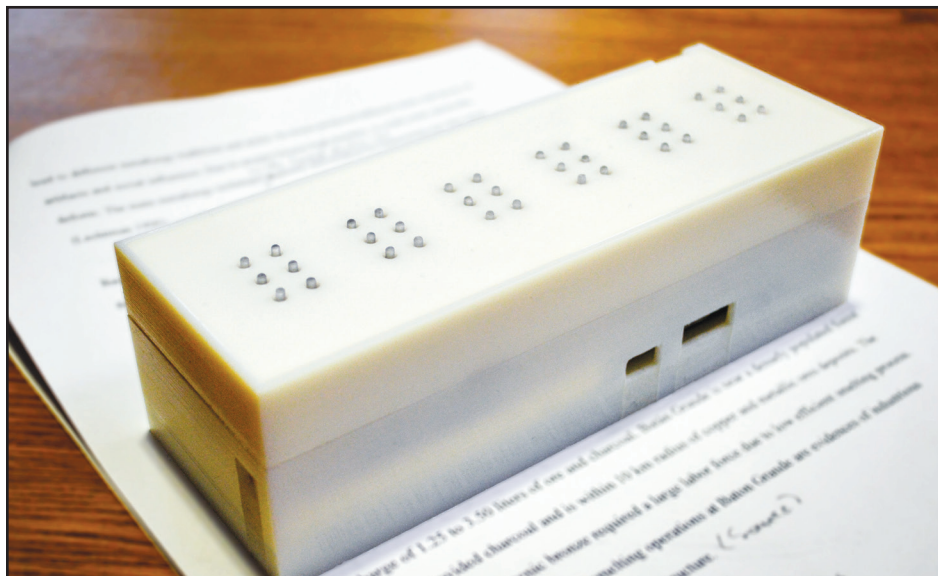
"We all believe that this would be amazing to help the visually impaired community have access to information that we have every day," Xia said.

Tactile won the competition's "Use It!" category for their invention.

"It is so important to have people who have the capacity to solve social problems and to invent novel solutions," said Stephanie Couch, executive director of the Lemelson-MIT Program. "We want to celebrate the tremendous accomplishments of the Tactile team and Charlene and these other student prize winners, because it is creative and inventive mindset that has made America great."

Couch said additionally, Xia's team is a role model for women in an industry overpopulated by men.

"We have a real diversity challenge," Couch said. Only "10 percent [of innovators] are female, 90 percent are male, so there are some real gender issues."



Orange Park high alum Charlene Xia, 22, is part of a six-woman team of Massachusetts Institute of Technology students that won a \$10,000 2017 Lemelson-MIT Student Prize for creating the Tactile, a text-to-braille converter, shown here.

Xia, a graduate of Orange Park High's engineering academy, developed the design with her team last February during a hackathon, a marathon for software developers and techies. The team was provided with materials and mentorship during a 15-hour period until they had finished their first prototype.

Since then, the team has gone through multiple iterations of the device until they were able to refine it into a size slightly larger than a smart phone for portability.

There are no real-time translators of this kind currently on the market that will translate braille directly from paper. Many translators will only translate online documents, and often those devices can run a

user thousands of dollars.

Xia and her team hope to take Tactile and put it on the market for a fraction of that cost. Current estimates put manufacturing costs for the device around \$100. The team hopes to make Tactile much more affordable than other similar devices.

Growing up in Shanghai, China, Xia more or less stumbled upon her love of hands-on design work when custom remote control car construction was the prevalent fad of the day.

"In my neighborhood it was popular enough that they built a racetrack that you could race against your friends," Xia said.

She took the enjoyment she got from building her custom racers into a class-

room setting when she moved to America in 2005. Those who remember Xia recall her as an extremely motivated and engaged mainstay of extracurricular activities who absorbed every opportunity for community involvement and lifelong learning.

"She's very smart, very interested in making society better and very interested in helping others – she was a great role model for any student that crossed her path," said Paul Parker, who served as director of Career and Technical Education for the Clay County School District the year Xia was a senior, witnessing her work at the OPHS engineering academy.

"She took all the extra courses that could be taken," he said. "I wish every student had her drive. They would be very successful without her brains if they just had her drive."

Xia said the Tactile team is currently in a waiting period while their patent is reviewed. When approved, the team hopes to market and sell the device to consumers who, otherwise, would be stuck with braille translated books or nothing at all.


Xia said they've already received great reviews from device testers, who are blind.

"Ideally, we want to see our invention come to life, one thing that we believe that this device will fill an unmet need," Xia said. "We do want to get it commercialized within the next two years if everything goes well."

Until then, the team is still involved in shrinking down the braille converter to an even smaller portable size.

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# The winners of the 2017 Celebrate Clay awards

The Paul E. & Klare N. Reinhold Foundation Inc., held its annual "Celebrate Clay" community service awards breakfast on April 25, during which the Foundation distributed \$75,000 and 48 community service awards to nonprofit organizations that provide services to Clay County residents.

A panel of five judges including three independent volunteers from the community and two Reinhold family representa-

tives voted on the best projects of 2016 to determine the winners of the \$75,000 in cash awards. This year's judges were: Daphne David, chief operations officer of Orange Park Medical Center; Brian Knight, founder and chief executive officer of Pragmatic Works; Anna Lebesch, vice president for workforce development and executive director Orange Park Campus at St. Johns River State College; and Josh Bryan and Robert Baptist, representatives of the Reinhold family.

Applications were open to all nonprofit groups active in the First Coast Area that provided services to Clay County residents in 2016. The 48 winners included Clay County and regionally based nonprofits, churches, and school programs.

Applications were open to all nonprofit groups active in the First Coast Area that provided services to Clay County residents in 2016. The 48 winners included Clay County and regionally based nonprofits, churches, and school programs.

**Paul E. Reinhold Community Service Award (\$10,000):**  
Seamark Ranch

**Judges' Choice Program Awards (\$5,000 each):**  
Waste Not Want Not  
PACE Center for Girls Clay

**Extraordinary Executive Director\* (\$5,000):**  
Peggy Payne, Executive Director, Quigley House

**Peggy Bryan Volunteer of the Year Award\* (\$5,000):**  
André Van Heerden, Mercy Support Services

**Judges' Choice Volunteer Awards\* (\$2,500 each):**  
Susan Bleecker, The Way Free Medical Clinic  
Mike Woods, Good Samaritan Ministry of Orange Park United Methodist Church

*\*Note: Volunteer and executive director awards recognize outstanding individuals for their community service. The cash awards are provided to the nominating nonprofit organization that they serve.*

**Best New Organization (\$2,500):**  
Black Creek Bowl Association of Middleburg

**Special Judges' Awards (\$1,500 each):**  
Clay County Habitat for Humanity  
Food Bridge of Middleburg United Methodist Church  
Good Samaritan Ministry of Orange Park United Methodist Church  
Hope Therapy  
J.P. Hall Children's Charities  
The James Boys of Orange Park United Methodist Church  
Mercy Support Services  
Orange Park Outfitters of Orange Park High School  
Quigley House  
The Way Free Medical Clinic

**Category Awards (\$750 each):**  
**Arts & Culture**  
Clay County Schools All County Elementary Music Program  
Orange Park Community Theatre  
**Civic Programs**  
Justice Coalition  
Military Museum of North Florida  
**Community Programs**  
Clay County Special Olympics  
The Clothes Closet of Church Women's Christian Ministries  
Dignity U Wear  
Food Pantry of Green Cove Springs  
Lake Area Ministries  
Miriam's Basket  
Magnolia Point Women's Club Charities  
**Education & Literacy**  
Project REACH Kids, Clay County

**NOTICE** DR-529  
R. 12/09  
**TAX IMPACT OF VALUE ADJUSTMENT BOARD** Rule 12D-16.002  
Florida Administrative Code

Clay County Tax Year 2016

Members of the Board		
Honorable	Diane Hutchings	Board of County Commissioners, District No. 3
Honorable	Gavin Rollins	Board of County Commissioners, District No. 4
Honorable	Janice Kerekes	School Board, District No. 1
Citizen Member	Scott Roberts	Business owner within the school district
Citizen Member	John O'Connor	Homestead property owner

The Value Adjustment Board (VAB) meets each year to hear petitions and make decisions relating to property tax assessments, exemptions, classifications, and tax deferrals.

Summary of Year's Actions							
Type of Property	Number of Parcels					Reduction in County Taxable Value Due to Board Actions	Shift in Taxes Due to Board Actions
	Exemptions		Assessments*		Both		
	Granted	Requested	Reduced	Requested	Withdrawn or settled		
Residential	0	14	0	137	138	\$0	\$0
Commercial			0	55	55	\$0	\$0
Industrial and miscellaneous							
Agricultural or classified use	0	1				\$0	\$0
High-water recharge							
Historic commercial or nonprofit	0	1			1	\$0	\$0
Business machinery and equipment			0	17	17	\$0	\$0
Vacant lots and acreage							
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

All values should be county taxable values. School and other taxing authority values may differ.

\*Includes transfer of assessment difference (portability) requests.

If you have a question about these actions, contact the Chair or the Clerk of the Value Adjustment Board.	
Chair's name Diane Hutchings	Phone 904-269-6300
Clerk's name Cindy Atkinson	Phone 904-269-6334



## Winners

from page 8

School District

### Environment & Ecology

CJ Acres Animal Rescue Farm  
Clay County Humane Society

### Health & Human Services

BASCA  
Challenge Enterprises of North Florida  
Clay Behavioral Health Center  
First Coast Women's Services

### Senior Citizens' Accomplishments

Clay County Council on Aging  
Mobility Worldwide (f/k/a PET FL –  
Penney Farms)  
Shepherd's Center of Orange Park

### Church Service Programs

Church of the Good Samaritan Anglican  
A Heart for Homes Ministry of High-  
Point Community Church  
Salvation Army of Clay County

### Accomplishments by Youth

Clay County 4-H Foundation  
Teen Court of Clay County

### Service to Youth & Families

Big Brothers Big Sisters of NE FL  
Clay County Police Athletic League  
Kids First of Florida  
Take Stock in Children of Clay County

The grant programs of The Paul E. &  
Klare N. Reinhold Foundation, Inc. support  
philanthropic and charitable organizations  
that work to improve the quality of life for  
Clay County residents.

## Homes

from page 1

A developer, however, could apply for a PUD for a housing development that would include homes at different sizes – including tiny homes – and, technically, have his request granted. However there has been nothing of the sort in the county as of yet.

This leaves those looking to develop tiny homes rather frustrated.

"I truly believe that we need to come to a solution for this, we have all this housing and people don't want to live in big spaces anymore, the cost of living is enough," said Scott Pike of Fleming Island, who spoke at the April 25 BCC meeting.

Pike runs a Meetup Group of 26 Clay County tiny home enthusiasts who have been advocating for regulations that would allow tiny home construction in Clay County. Pike spoke at a BCC meeting nearly a year ago, but got little action.

This time, however, during commissioner comments, Mike Cella, district one commissioner, proposed the motion to have staff go ahead and research a recommendation.

"Tiny houses are here to stay, some of the communities around us have had a great deal of interest," Cella said. "I would really like to see us move forward on something in that regard."

At the beginning of the month, Tampa had a sold out venue for tiny home enthusiasts and vendors, so the interest is there, Cella said.

Cella said tiny homes could become a viable alternative to affordable housing, which the county will soon have to confront

more aggressively as the county's population continues to balloon.

Part of the draw of tiny homes comes from cost. Where a home built in a housing development can easily cost upwards of \$100,000, a tiny home can cost anywhere from \$10,000 to \$20,000 if the owner also acts as their own contractor.

Tiny homes are also cheaper to maintain and offer mobility because, often, the homes are placed on wheels to provide for travel.

Because tiny homes are a rather new development in home building, some counties have yet to keep up with the progress. There is, however, significant precedent in Northeast Florida. In St. Johns County, for example, there are no construction standards for development built on a parcel as long as it meets inspection. That does not extend to premade homes.

Cella said the county could follow the lead of other regulations in surrounding counties that have already provided, in some way, for the construction of tiny homes.

A formal recommendation could come to Planning and Zoning Commission as early as June. However, because county zoning officials are currently in the middle of updating the county's comprehensive plan, it's more likely a formal tiny house recommendation will come in October. Once approved, it will go to the BCC for final approval.

"I think they can be provided within Clay County, there's been sufficient interest," Lehman said. "We have had inquiries from several sources from people that are interested in living in them, it seems to be an uptick."

## Calling all ministers

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Most denominational churches have some sort of arm or separate agency that responds to natural disasters.

For example, there is the United Methodist Committee and Catholic Relief Services, but what happens on the local level after a disaster?

That's the question Clay County Emergency Management officials will discuss in a meeting planned for May 25 from 9-11 a.m.

"We are working with Clay SafetyNet Alliance (formally known as the Mercy Network) to help bolster community resources available to assist citizens with unmet needs post event. As the county's clearinghouse of faith based and charitable organizations, Clay SafetyNet serves in our Emergency Operations Center as the coordinating entity for volunteers and donations during and after an emergency," John Ward, director of emergency management for Clay County.

## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE GREEN COVE SPRINGS CITY CODE AND THE LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS SECOND AND FINAL READING

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA, AMENDING CITY CODE SECTION 110-5. "EXEMPT SIGNS", TO EXEMPT CERTAIN CITY COUNCIL APPROVED MURALS FROM THE OPERATION OF THE SIGN REGULATIONS AND LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE; PROVIDING FOR REPEALER, SEVERABILITY AND SETTING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The City of Green Cove Springs proposes to adopt the above described Ordinances at the following scheduled public hearing to be held in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 321 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs, Florida at the time stated herein or shortly thereafter:

**City Council: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. or shortly thereafter  
(Second and Final Reading of the Ordinance by Title Only)**

The public is invited to attend this public hearing to offer comments for or against the proposed change to the City Code. A copy of the proposed Ordinance is available for inspection at City Hall, 321 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs, Florida, during normal working hours of 7:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Written comments may also be submitted.

Please be advised that if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at this scheduled public meeting, they will need to ensure that a verbatim transcript of the proceeding is made, which record includes testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person needing a special accommodation to participate in this matter should contact the City Clerk's Office by U.S. Mail addressed to 321 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043, or by telephone at 904-297-7500, no later than three (3) days prior to the hearing or proceeding for which this notice has been given. Hearing impaired persons may access through (904)284-4849 (TDD).

All interested individuals are invited to attend this public hearing.

By: Janis K. Fleet, AICP, Development Services Director  
Danielle J. Judd, City Manager  
City of Green Cove Springs  
321 Walnut Street  
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043



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# Orange Park woman celebrates 100th birthday

By **Kile Brewer**  
Staff Writer

ORANGE PARK – A person can accomplish a lot in 100 years, and that is the case for Clay County's most recent centenarian, Hazel Cavanaugh, who turned 100 last week.

Cavanaugh, a resident at Oak View Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center on Kingsley Avenue, celebrated the day with her family, drawing five generations of her lineage, including her three-year-old great-great-grandson, Aiden Bennetheun.

Her son, James Cavanaugh, 77, reminisced with his mother about their time in California when he was a boy. The family had about 20 horses and Hazel was so good with the animals that she spent some time training actor James Arness star of the television show Gunsmoke.

Hazel also served her country during World War II as a ship welder at Panama City Beach, evoking the image of Rosie the Riveter but in a much smaller, more delicate frame. She was tough – so tough that she was once named honorary Sheriff in Lady Lake, Florida after she was approached by the city to fill the position.

"We would go visit her in Monticello where she had a garden," remembers her granddaughter Diane Bennetheun. "She was a floral designer and was always making these beautiful arrangements out of real

and silk flowers."

Hazel was a woman of many talents, but on her 100th birthday, her main concern was getting a piece of cake and sipping a cup of coffee in her regular seat in the Oak View cafeteria. She is a regular at the facility's activities, and "Bingo is her thing!," according to Patty Mangafreda, activities director at Oak View. In addition to bingo, Hazel is known as a prolific counter, spotting every red car that travels in front of the cafeteria's windows each day, Diane said Hazel has counted as many as 500 cars in a day.

Hazel can't offer any advice as to how she made it to 100, but it must be, at least partially, due to her family's history of aging gracefully. Her mother Nadine made it to 99 and her three sisters all lived into their 90s.



PHOTO BY KILE BREWER

Hazel Cavanaugh celebrates her 100th birthday party with five generations of her family present including herself at Oak View Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center where she lives.

## 'Super Tuesday' mail ballot request deadline

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Orange Park voters planning to cast ballots in the May 9 Municipal Super Tuesday Run-Off Election have until May 3 to request a ballot be mailed to them for voting.

Voters are advised to allow at least five days for their ballot to be returned by mail to the Supervisor of Elections office. However, voters can drop off their completed ballots 24 hours a day by delivering their

ballots to the Mail Ballot Drop Box located at the front entrance of the Supervisor of Elections Office in Green Cove Springs. Voted mail ballots must be received by 7 p.m. on Election Day.

Meanwhile, the polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Orange Park Town Hall at 2042 Park Ave.

Voters will choose between Larry Nichols and Ron Raymond for Council Seat 1

as neither candidate received 50 percent of the vote plus one vote to win the race outright on April 11.

Raymond received 463 votes, 49.26 percent, while Nichols received 311 votes for 33.09 percent.

For more information, go to [www.Clay-Elections.com](http://www.Clay-Elections.com) or call (904) 269-6350 for assistance.

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# Obituaries

## Charles L. Rieks

Charles L. Rieks, 74, of Greeneville, Tenn. and Orange Park, Fla. passed away Thursday, April 20, 2017. He was born July 6, 1942 in Warsaw, N.Y. to the late Harvey and Edith Brower Rieks.



Charles L. Rieks

Mr. Rieks graduated from Pavilion Central School. He worked at Caledonia Bean Plant, Rochester Telephone Company and retired from Amtote International of Hunt Valley, Md.

He worked in Buffalo, Batavia and Canandaigua before transferring to Jacksonville/Orange Park.

Charles was a life member of Pavilion Fire Department and was instrumental in helping to establish the Pavilion Rescue Squad.

He was also an American Legion member.

He was a veteran of the US Army having served from 1961-1967.

Mr. Rieks is survived by his wife of 54 years, Nancy (Smith) Rieks of Greeneville, Tenn.; son Daniel (Lisa) Rieks of Batavia, NY; daughters, Roseann (Doug) Harris of Greeneville, Tenn., and Kelly (Daniel) Cordell of Stafford, N.Y.; 6 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; sister, Shirley Cotton of Greenville, Texas; sisters-in-law, Lorraine (J.E.) Rieks of Silver Spring, MD, Judy (Nick) Cecci of Corning, N.Y. and Patricia (Robert) Murphy of Wyoming, N.Y.; brother-in-law, Gary Phillips of Attica, N.Y, step-brothers, Robert and Donald Hammond of Rochester, N.Y.; many nieces and nephews; and a very special family friend, Brad Skwirsk.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, John Edgar (Ed) Rieks. Services will be held at a later date at East Bethany Rural Cemetery in East Bethany, N.Y.

Memorial contributions can be made to Pavilion Fire Department, P.O. Box 156; Pavilion, New York 14525. Condolences may be shared with the family online at [www.doughty-stevens.com](http://www.doughty-stevens.com)

## Linda Lou O'Brien

Linda Lou O'Brien, 66 of Green Cove Springs, Fla. passed away April 18, 2017. Russell Haven of Rest Cemetery, Funeral Home and Cremation Center, 2335 Sandridge Road, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043. 904-284-7720. [www.RHRFH.com](http://www.RHRFH.com)



## Catherine Holcomb Sweatland Gibson Graham

Catherine Holcomb Sweatland Gibson Graham, 93, of Green Cove Springs, Fla., passed away on Monday, April 17, 2017. She was born in Granby, Conn. on July 21, 1923, to Chester and Rebecca (Phelps) Holcomb.

She later married Robert (Sonny) Sweatland, Sr. and together they had six sons before his death in 1960. In 1964 she married Howard Gibson II, and moved to Virginia Beach, Va.. They had one more son. She was widowed twice and for over 35 years she has resided in Florida.

She was pre-deceased by two brothers, Carlton and Drayton Holcomb and one sister, Edith Gibson, and is survived by one brother, George (Grace) Holcomb of Forth Worth, Texas.

A homemaker most of her life, she always made visitors welcome in her home. Catherine spent her final years and last days with many visits from her loving family.

She leaves seven sons, Chester Daniel (Danny) Sweatland (Gale) of Vero Beach, Fla.; Andrew Wayne Sweatland (Carol) of Vero Beach, Fla.; Robert (Bob) Sweatland, Jr (Rose) of Green Cove Springs, Fla.; Gordon (Gordy) Sweatland (Nancy) of Green Cove Springs, Fla.; Dale Sweatland (Home) of Greenacres, Fla.; Terry Sweatland of Hertford, N.C.; and Howard (Howie) Gibson III of Green Cove Springs, Fla. She has over 50 Grandchildren, Great-Grandchildren, and Great-Great-Grandchildren and loved them all dearly. She also leaves behind many cousins, nieces and nephews and a special friend, James (Jim) Graham of Naples, Fla. Catherine was a member of Faith Baptist Church in Green Cove Springs, Fla.

She left her body to UF for study and the family will have a private memorial at a later date, as was her request. Special thanks to the staff at Haven Hospice, 745 Blanding Blvd. Orange Park, FL 32065, who provided loving care during her final days, and memorial may be made to them.

## Willard L. White

Willard L. White, 89, of Orange Park, Fla., passed away April 22, 2017. Please sign the family's online guestbook at [www.broadusraines.com](http://www.broadusraines.com). Broadus-Raines Funeral Home, 501 Spring St. Green Cove Springs, FL 32043 (904) 284-4000



## Albrey Lavern Felder, Sr.

Albrey Lavern Felder, Sr. was born on October 26, 1969 to Marie Preston and the late Jimmie Felder.

He leaves to cherish his memory his loving and devoted wife of 25 years, Audrey Felder; children, Maurtice, Albrey Jr (Erica), Travis and Telesha; granddaughter, Danyelle Felder; brothers, Dondrell (Marilyn) and Oscar (Carolyn) Felder; sisters, Terree, Tiffany and Shayron Felder; father and mother-in-law, Bishop A.L. Jones, Sr. and Evangelist Murria M. Jones.

A visitation will be held on Friday, April 28, 2017 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and funeral service on Saturday, April 29, 2017 at 10:00 a.m., both at Aaron and Burney Bivens Funeral Home, 529 Kingsley Avenue, Orange Park, FL 32073, (904) 264-1233.



## Jerry Lee Woodcock, Sr.

Jerry Lee Woodcock, Sr., 71, of Live Oak, Fla., passed away April 23, 2017. Please sign the family's online guestbook at [www.broadusraines.com](http://www.broadusraines.com). Broadus-Raines Funeral Home, 501 Spring St. Green Cove Springs, FL 32043 (904) 284-4000



## Robert E. Gagne

Robert E. Gagne passed away on April 19, 2017. Aaron and Burney Bivens Funeral Home, 529 Kingsley Avenue Orange Park, Florida 32073, (904) 264-1233.



## Bernadine Robinson Scott

Bernadine Robinson Scott, 79 of Orange Park, Fla. passed away April 24, 2017. Russell Haven of Rest Cemetery, Funeral Home and Cremation Center, 2335 Sandridge Road, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043. 904-284-7720. [www.RHRFH.com](http://www.RHRFH.com)



## Harriet V. Riker

Harriet V. Riker, 96, of Jacksonville, FL passed away on April 12, 2017. Arrangements under the care of Broadus-Raines Funeral Home, 501 Spring St. Green Cove Springs, FL 32043 (904) 284-4000



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For additional information please email [Martha@opcfla.com](mailto:Martha@opcfla.com).

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# Getting muddy to get fit

By **Bernie Berania**

## FitLife

I just got muddy and burned plenty of calories doing it! This past Saturday, April 22, the Seamark Ranch held its 4th annual mud run and it was quite a mess.



Bernie Berania

In a good way. With perfect conditions, hundreds of clean participants started their day with a running plunge into a murky lake and then some.

"The muddiest part for me is Alligator Alley because you're in waist-deep water and it's easy to trip and fall face first. Oh and lose a shoe or two," said a three-year participant who looked exhausted after completing the 100 yard water-filled trench and 18 previous obstacles.

The 468-acre working ranch off of State Road 16 hosts the annual Seamark Mudder, an all-natural course covering 3.1 miles and 26 challenging obstacles. Co-founder and race director Trip Gillander says the course layout accommodates those who

want to have fun, or friendly competition. "We designed the course for everyone to enjoy, in a family atmosphere, and to create some challenges along the way."

Sitting at dinner with his family, Gillander, his brother, and mom were discussing ways to raise money for the ranch. Three days later, the Seamark Mudder was approved and established.

All proceeds benefit the ranch, a Christian home for kids without families and in need of a stable life. It one of the largest fundraisers of the year in Clay County with close to \$120,000 in proceeds.

The event has grown from just 350 mudders in the first year to over 900 mudders in 2017. Though it is not the only mud run in Northeast Florida, it is different from the national mudders.

"We, of course, raise money for an awesome cause and the ultimate goal is to have fun," Gillander says. Mudders can compete if they want, some come back year after year to improve their time, but in the end, we impact and help the ranch kids while having fun doing it.

### 26 Reasons to Do the Seamark Mudder

Because there are 26 awesome ob-



stacles like plunging into a lake and other water challenges, climbing hills with ropes or tires or slippery mud, jumping into iced water, crawling through a forest of webs, and traversing a cargo net, both up and down.

How about overcoming a fear, feeling strong, working as a team, having fun with the entire family, and of course, supporting a very good cause, right here in Clay County.

You can choose from nine different waves from: "I plan to run as fast as I can" to "I'm just here to have fun" or "I'm stopping for obstacle pics, 25 times." There is even a one-mile fun run for the little ones. Just wear disposable or old clothing, and shoes you do not mind losing or tossing out when you are done.

And when you do finish, here is what you get: a complimentary breakfast, plenty

of water and bananas, a finisher's t-shirt, unique dog tags, tattoos, photos to download, memories for life, and about 500 calories left in the mud!

### Plan to Get Dirty in 2018

Be on the lookout for next year's race which should be in April. Follow Seamark Mudder's Facebook page for time and date, or check out their website for more information and registration, [www.seamark-mudder.com](http://www.seamark-mudder.com)

Share your own FitLife story here. Email or contact me at [bernie.rom828@gmail.com](mailto:bernie.rom828@gmail.com). Facebook: Clay Today Newspaper. Instagram @berni3trirun @claytodaynewspaper #claytoday #claytodayfitlife #fitlife



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# ARTS

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STAFF PHOTOS BY KILE BREWER

The finalists for the Concert on the Green student music competition pose for a photo April 24 at Grace Anglican Church after their performances.

## Competition helps build community via music

By Kile Brewer  
Staff Writer

FLEMING ISLAND – Various sounds echoed through the vaulted ceilings as six different instruments and a handful of singers performed checks in the sanctuary at Grace Anglican Church Monday evening.

Students were awaiting the judges' ar-

rival for the final audition for the annual Concert on the Green student music competition.

One of the last to test his sound was Ridgeview High senior Michael Houde, who rolled a large wheeled structure into the church. After reaching the front of the pews, he removed two large blankets

SEE MUSIC, 14



First-place instrumental finisher Michael Houde performs a piece on the vibraphone Monday evening during the final tryout to perform with the Jacksonville Symphony at the annual Concert on the Green.

## ADRIFT IN SPACE

### Painter strives to 'create energy on the wall'

By Kile Brewer  
Staff Writer

ORANGE PARK – Margaret Schnebly Hodge imagines herself a particle floating through the universe, observing the swirling colors and lights of the cosmos. When she does this, the Ormond Beach-based artist is capable of venturing to places that no human being has ever travelled and sees unfathomable sights that exceed the beauty of landscapes here on Earth.

Hodge has used this mindset for the past seven years while creating her newest body of work "Dark Energy, Dark Matter."

"A few years ago, I saw images from the Hubble Space Telescope in Daytona

Beach," Hodge said. "My intent was not to paint the Hubble images, but to feel like I was there. I am not a scientist at all, and I don't claim to be. I am inspired by the natural phenomenon [of the cosmos]."

Now Hodge brings her body of work to Clay County's Thrasher-Horne Center for the Arts Galleries April 26 through June 20 on the campus of St. Johns River State College.

"I really think art is inherent in my person," Hodges said. "I was born with it and I have slowly come to acknowledge how important it is over time."

SEE SPACE, 15



STAFF PHOTO BY KILE BREWER

Artist Margaret Schnebly Hodge installs her series "Dark Matter, Dark Energy" at the Thrasher-Horne Center for the Arts at St. Johns River State College prior to the shows opening on April 25.

# Art Briefs

## 29th Annual Clay County Student Art Show

ORANGE PARK – For almost three decades, Clay County art students have been given a platform to show their work in the annual student art show.

The show runs Friday, April 28 at 10 a.m. to Sunday, April 30 at 6 p.m. at Orange Park Mall, 1910 Wells Rd.

Elementary student artwork will be exhibited in front of Belk, while secondary student artwork will be exhibited in front of JCPenney.

The elementary reception will be from 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 28 in front of Belk, while the secondary student reception will be held from 4:30-5:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 15.

## SHREK The MUSICAL

### OPCT to hold auditions

ORANGE PARK – Upcoming auditions for “Shrek The Musical,” will be held at Orange Park Community Theatre on April 30 and May 1 at 7pm.

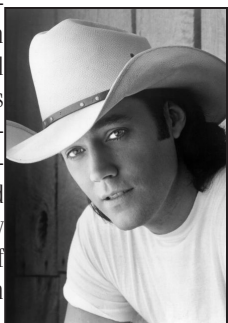
Production dates run Aug. 11-Sept. 3. Would-be actors are required to bring in cut CD containing a prepared 16-24 bars of a song to perform for the audition. A cappella and live accompaniment are prohibited.

Actors should be prepared to perform cold readings from the script and undergo a dance audition as well. Details about the characters are available at [OPCT.info/get-involved](http://OPCT.info/get-involved). Contact director Tricia Williams at [hamlet551@gmail.com](mailto:hamlet551@gmail.com) for further inquiries.

### Murphy to headline Freedom Fest

ORANGE PARK – Country music singer and songwriter David Lee Murphy will be the headline entertainment for this year’s Freedom Festival, the Orange Park Mall’s annual Fourth of July celebration to be held June 24.

The free patriotic tribute, now in its seventh year, will honor the sacrifices of the men and women who serve our nation – from the armed forces, particularly those based out of Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Naval Station Mayport and Camp Blanding to local first responders.



David Lee Murphy

SEE BRIEFS, 15

## Music

from page 13

from the instrument and unwrapped what turned out to be the keys for his vibraphone, which is similar to a marimba, but with metal keys instead of wood. It’s a large percussion instrument, even larger than the harp already positioned at the front of the room, and this was the first time a student has played one in this contest.

“I heard this song and I was like



STAFF PHOTOS BY KILE BREWER

First-place senior vocal performer Isabella Scott performs “Willow Song” by Douglass Moore April 24 at Grace Anglican Church during the final tryout to perform with the Jacksonville Symphony at the Concert on the Green this May.

“I’m going to do that,” Houde said about the piece he played, “Concerto for Vibraphone” by Nathan Daughtrey.

Houde, however, is no stranger to large mallet percussion. In last year’s contest, he placed third overall with a marimba piece. This year he went with the vibes, and it paid off – he won.

Houde’s performance, as is typical of accomplished mallet percussionists, involved the use of four mallets in two hands. The technique takes a lot of coordination and practice to master.

“It’s easy after the first six months when you get the coordination down,” Houde said. “It feels like I have two extra arms that I don’t know what to do with half the time.”

Houde will perform with the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra at the Concert on the Green, which is held this year on May 28 at St. Johns Country Day School. Also performing with the orchestra is the first-place senior division vocalist Isabella Scott, who performed “Willow Song” by Douglass Moore, and “Practically Perfect” by Stiles/Drew from Mary Poppins.

This was Scott’s fifth year competing. Previously, she has won the junior



Junior division champion Ainsley Elgin performs on her flute Monday evening during the finals for the annual Concert on the Green student music contest held at Grace Anglican Church.

division as a vocalist, received an honorable mention, a third place, and a second place finish on the harp, and this year she won a senior division category with her voice.

“As a junior in high school this makes me feel very honored,” Scott said. “This year especially because there was such a talented group [competing].”

The senior division also awards a second and third place overall finisher among both the vocal and instrumental categories. Douglas Anderson School of the Arts senior clarinetist Ashlie Santiago took home second for her performance of “Concerto for Clarinet in A Major” by Mozart, and homeschooled singer Brenna Rodriguez, a junior, took home third after performing “Quia Respexit” from Magnificat by Bach and “How Could I Ever Know” by Norman/Kosarin. In the junior division, there were three competitors this year. There is only one award for the junior division, first place, which was awarded to Bishop Snyder Catholic High School freshman Ainsley Elgin for her flute performance of “Romance” by Philippe Gaubert.

In total, 11 students competed for these awards, with Scott competing in both the senior vocal category and instrumental with her harp. These 11 students were chosen after an audition April 22 that brought out about 25 students for the initial round of judging.

The annual event provides scholarships to the winners, which are generated through ticket sales for Concert on the Green. In its 30 years of operation, this contest has provided \$350,000 in scholarships for students and grants for schools’ art and music programs, according to Concert on the Green President Lauren Hoffman.

“This is a really rich tradition in our

county,” Hoffman said. “The event itself brings the community together. This is the only time the Jacksonville Symphony performs in our county.”

Through all 30 years of the competition’s history, the contest’s director Diane Combs has been involved for over 15 of those years. This year was her last.

Combs taught in the Clay County School District for 39 of her 43 years of teaching. She currently teaches elementary music at St. Johns Country Day School. Over the years, Combs said she has seen some changes in the competition, but noted that it still brings out the best of the best of Clay County’s young musicians.

“I’m very proud of the kids [this year], this is one of the best groups we’ve had,” Combs said. “Music is important in the education process. The arts are so important.”

Combs has worked in physical education and music education and thinks kids test better and perform better in school when they are well-rounded, and that includes both exercise and music.

After years of service, Combs was honored with a special gift from Hoffman and a reception with cake and punch following this year’s contest.

Concert on the Green will start at 4 p.m. on May 28, with food trucks and live music, then the Jacksonville Symphony takes the stage at 8 p.m. along with the two winning students performing solos with the symphony. Following their performance there will be a fireworks show. Tickets are available online at [www.concertonthegreen.com](http://www.concertonthegreen.com).

“Live music brings people together,” Hoffman said. “It doesn’t matter who you voted for for president, it doesn’t matter what church you go to. Everybody sits down together and listens.”

# Space

from page 15

Hodge has worked the more commercial side of art, creating realistic images with the goal of selling paintings, but there was a point in her career when she decided to paint less for her audience and more for herself.

"Landscape is just an image that you know thoroughly at a moment's glance," Hodge said. "If you're an artist, you've got to find your own way."

After this realization, her work has changed drastically. She began experimenting with more abstract painting, moving away from form and figures, and then she discovered those Hubble images and finally found her voice, creating, for the first time, a unified body of work that represents what she considers her true artistic voice.

"I am interested in painting in a way that will create energy on the wall," Hodge said. "I had never really done a theme



A closeup shows the details of a painting from Margaret Schnebly Hodge's series "Dark Matter, Dark Energy" which will be in the Thrasher-Horne Center for the Arts at St. Johns State College from April 26 until June 20.

show, so I took a challenge and did multiple paintings with a singular topic."

As she completes these multi-step paintings, she noted that there is a natural birth and death process that takes place. While adding multiple layers of paint with rags, sponges, brushes and her hands,

some paint gets covered up, or "dies" in her words, while the paint on the top is experiencing its "birth." The thin coats go on first, followed by progressively thicker coats to the point of becoming almost three-dimensional textures near the last layers of paint that go onto the canvas. As viewers walk by her finished paintings she hopes that some parts of the painting seem to live, while other parts have died.

"In this work, there is a natural movement forward from the beginning to the end, every painting is a process of life and death," Hodge said. "When you paint like this it's always a learning process."

The Thrasher-Horne Center for the Arts Galleries are open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., with admission free to the public. Following her show at Thrasher-Horne, Hodge will wrap up a multiple-stop tour of the Northeast and central parts of the state with this exhibit and head back to the studio.

"There are times I get intense and my husband says 'You need to paint,' Hodges said. "I need to spend more time in the studio just painting. [Painting] is my lifeline, I would say it is what keeps me sane."



# Briefs

from page 14

## St. Augustine Community Chorus Annual Masterworks performance

ST. AUGUSTINE – The St. Augustine Community Chorus, under the direction of Michael Sanfilippo, will present its celebrated Masterworks concert featuring "Two Glorias: Vivaldi and Poulenc." This program features Shannon McKay, organ, chamber orchestra, and soloists Hannah J Mazur, soprano, and Regina Torres, mezzo-soprano.

The soaring, soul stirring majesty of these works are perfectly suited to the

beautiful and historical Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine where the chorus will perform on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14th at 2:00 p.m. Vivaldi's Gloria, written in the early 18th century, contrasts greatly with Poulenc's setting, which premiered some 250 years later in 1961. Listeners will discover both abundant contrast as well as some commonalities in these two choral masterworks which are dynamic standards in the choral repertoire. This premier concert is a culminating event of St. Augustine's Romanza Festival of the Arts.

Concert tickets are \$15 for adults in advance and \$20 at the door, children 12 & under, students & military with ID are \$5 in advance and at the door. More info at [www.staugustinecommunitychorus.org](http://www.staugustinecommunitychorus.org).



Artist Margaret Schnebly Hodge, right, installs her series "Dark Matter, Dark Energy" with her husband Larry Hodge at the Thrasher-Horne Center for the Arts at St. Johns River State College.

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# Military Family Resource Center gives transient families respite

By Jesse Hollett  
Staff Writer

ORANGE PARK – Tina Baker has been there.

She knows the toll being a military parent can have on children with the constant moving and deployment, loneliness and frenzy of finding new schools – a new life.

Baker, now the Clay County School District's military student project specialist, will work at a new Clay County office that serves as a one-stop-shop for the academic, emotional and mental needs of both parents and students with military connections.

Administrators held a ribbon cutting ceremony last Thursday on the new facil-

ity, which was previously an underused building adjacent to Orange Park High's main office buildings.

Both academic and mental health counselors will be on staff to help newly-relocated military families settle in locally. Counselors essentially have two weeks to help give newly settled families all the knowledge and resources they need.

That support is something Baker, a 23-year navy veteran, never had when she came to Clay County.

"My husband was killed on active duty during an aircraft mishap in '97, and I had two small children at that time," Baker said. "We did not have this [support], I had to go through hospice to get grief counseling – there was nothing in place for mili-



Onlookers watch robots roll around at one of the facilities' robotic tables.

tary children in Clay County."

Things have changed.

Since the war in Afghanistan began and military casualties mounted, the U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity

began to award grants to school districts that have schools with more than 15 percent military-connected children.

Clay County meets, and in some cases,

**SEE CENTER, 18**

## Builders

from page 1

one of our highlights, absolutely," Meiners said.

Meiners said it's too soon to even think about how the Christian home for children will use the funds despite being in the midst of trying to build two new homes that would allow the ranch to double its capacity to 32 children.

"I'd say it's a great great honor because there are so many other programs here that are doing great things. Clay County's nonprofit sector is one of the strengths of our community and to be honored with that award is definitely humbling," Meiners said.

In total, at the April 25 event, the Reinhold Foundation awarded \$75,000 and 48 community service awards to nonprofit organizations that provide services to Clay County residents. The Foundation has awarded more than \$615,000 to Celebrate Clay award recipients in the past nine years.

"You furthered your causes with the help of more than 12,000 volunteers, you collected \$4million in in-kind donations, you secured \$30 million in grants and contributions and you earned \$2.4 million through fundraising efforts, and finally, you provided more than \$333 million in direct program delivery to those you served. Together, you are the cathedral builders," said Amy Parker, Reinhold Foundation executive director.

Long-time volunteer supporter André Van Heerden of the Clay SafetyNet Alliance was awarded the 2017 Peggy Bryan Volunteer of the Year Award, which carries

with it a \$5,000 prize. He said winning the award caught him off guard.

"The celebration here today just shows how ordinary, everyday individuals can have a huge impact and if that message got out to our community at large, and more people realized that they could make a difference, I think we'd have a lot more people doing these things," Van Heerden said.

He said the nonprofits need a voice that would continually educate the community at large about the needs of Clay County. That voice, he said, would help generate more volunteers for local causes.

"Every person has a different passion for a different cause and that's what makes it so beautiful. Some people have a passion for animals, some people have a passion for kids, some have a passion for seniors, some have a passion for disaster relief and that's like a patchwork blanket with all those different little pieces and I think communication sews it all together or otherwise, we are all isolated in our silos," Van Heerden said.

Peggy Payne, executive director of Quigley House, was as equally caught off-guard as Van Heerden when her name was announced as the winner of the 2017 Extraordinary Executive Director Award and another \$5,000 prize.

"It takes a village to do what we do – it's not just me. It's the people that work with me, it's this community that is committed to supporting organizations like ours," Payne said, referring to the organization and the services it provides to victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault each year.

Payne said the work of the nonprofits honored at the event are proof that charities enhance the quality of life in Clay County.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PAUL E. AND KLARE REINHOLD FOUNDATION

Reinhold Corp. Chairman George Egan gives a celebratory hug to Carleen Haney, community relations director at Seamark Ranch, on April 25 as she accepts the \$10,000 Paul E. Reinhold Community Service Award during the 2017 Celebrate Clay Awards.

St. Johns River State College Campus Director Anna Lebesch, one of this year's five judges, echoes Payne's thoughts on the quality of life.

"I think what's heartwarming is the fact that any of these organizations have been with the community a long time and they continue to serve and look for creative ways to expand those services and work with each other, so it's a community within a community in many ways," Lebesch said.

"I think Clay County has a wonderful quality of life and I think this demonstrates the heart of the community, a community that's willing to take care of their own."

Peggy Bryan and her brother Jack Myers originally launched Celebrate Clay as the Reinhold Community Service Awards some 23 years ago as a means of honoring their grandfather Paul E. Reinhold. Bryan

said they wanted to honor his legacy of being a "go-getter" but not through "bricks and mortar."

"This is a way to celebrate what we think is very unique. Clay County has an amazing depth of volunteerism and this is kind of a sprinkle effect. This way, we celebrate the beauty of all their work and community services and, the best part, is from this award program, initiating and going on, they've started networking moreso and so it's a win-win," Bryan said.

The Celebrate Clay awards are not grants that come with requirements to fulfill. The money awarded Tuesday simply allows the winning nonprofit to "celebrate what you do," Bryan said.



# Community Briefs

## Asdot named acting police chief

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – The City of Green Cove Springs has appointed Derek S. Asdot as its Acting Police Chief.

The move comes nine weeks after former chief of police Robert Musco retired suddenly after an investigation revealed he had made racially-charged comments to a black officer in January while planning for the city's Rev. Martin Luther King Day celebration.



Derek S. Asdot

Asdot began his career with the Green Cove Springs Police Department as a patrolman in 2002. During his tenure here, he has also served in the department's Street Crimes Unit, a Clay County and DEA Task Force Narcotics detective, a patrol sergeant and lieutenant before taking the new position. Prior to entering law enforcement, Asdot also served as an airborne infantryman in the U.S. Army where he attained the rank of specialist upon his honorable discharge in 1996.

Asdot will serve as acting police chief through the end of this fiscal year and is scheduled to attend the FBI National Academy for further training, according to a news release from the city.

## Canterfield of Clay County names executive director

ATLANTA – Medical Development Corp., developer and owner of Canterfield Senior Living Communities, has named D. Brent Montgomery executive director of Canterfield of Clay County.



Brent Montgomery

A graduate of Mississippi State University, Montgomery has a bachelor's degree in business administration, marketing. He has been a licensed nursing home administrator since 1993.

Prior to joining Canterfield, Montgomery served in numerous administrator positions, including skilled nursing and assisted living facilities as well as home health care agencies.

"Brent Montgomery brings a wealth of knowledge to our Executive Director position," said Winston A. Porter, president of Atlanta-based Medical Development Corp. "Not only does he have a deep understanding of the elder care field, but he also exhibits a strong personal passion for its inherent mission. These traits, coupled with his in-depth working knowledge of the business aspects of his position in addition to his robust team building and leadership

skills, made Brent our logical choice to fill the critical position of executive director at Canterfield of Clay County, our newest Canterfield campus."

Canterfield enables residents to age in place with Independent Living, Assisted Living and Memory Care services.

## Land Trust to hold 6th Annual Fish Fry

JACKSONVILLE – North Florida Land Trust is hosting its 6th Annual Fish Fry at Big Talbot Island on May 20. The family-friendly event will be from noon until 5 p.m. at Talbot House on Big Talbot Island, 12134 Houston Ave. in Jacksonville. There will be live music, marsh views, food, local beers, lawn games and more.

"This fundraising event is so much fun for all ages," said Jim McCarthy, executive director of North Florida Land Trust. "It is a great opportunity for everyone to spend some time out at Big Talbot Island, partake in a nature hike and learn more about why Big Talbot Island is such a special place. It is a great example of why we at North Florida Land Trust do what we do."

A Florida Master Naturalist will be there to take people on a free guided nature hike. The hike is 1.5 miles and hikers will learn about all the natural plants and wildlife that can be seen on Big Talbot Island. The hikes will leave at 12:30 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Space is limited and guests can sign up for the preferred time when purchasing tickets.

Guests are encouraged to BYOC or bring your own chair, sit on the lawn and

enjoy live music from some local favorites. Junco Royals will be playing traditional old time jazz and LPT will perform their Afro-Cuban beats. Bold City Brewery will bring the beer and Beer 30: San Marco is providing cider. Safe Harbor and Indulge Food Truck will be serving up the food for the fish fry. Vegan and gluten-free options will also be available.

Tickets are \$30 in advance or \$40 at the door and include entry and a meal. Kids under 12 are \$10 in advance or \$20 at the door and students with ID are \$15 in advance and \$25 at the door. Tickets can be purchased at [www.northfloridalandtrust.org/events/fishfry/](http://www.northfloridalandtrust.org/events/fishfry/). For more information, contact [gletcher@northfloridalandtrust.org](mailto:gletcher@northfloridalandtrust.org) or call (904) 479-1962. Tickets are rain or shine. No refunds.

Founded in 1999, North Florida Land Trust is a nonprofit organization who serves as a champion of land conservation primarily in Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, and St. Johns counties.

## Landscaping database saves homeowners time, money and water

PALATKA – An online resource is saving time, money and water for homeowners who are looking for landscaping ideas. The St. Johns River Water Management District's waterwise plant database can help landscapers and do-it-yourselfers research the right plants for their yards' specific growing conditions.

SEE BRIEFS, 20



Dr. William P. Register  
First Assembly Fleming Island

## Faith Walk

### God's time for you

*God has planned a time for every person to meet Him. It is a time of His choice. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation." (2 Cor. 6:2)*

Jesus made it clear. "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him." (John 6:44) Listen to His voice in your heart.

God's chosen time for you will be the time for your decision of destiny. This does not mean that there is only one time in a lifetime, when you have opportunity to meet God. The sooner you heed His call, the sooner you will find order in your life.

If you reject Him, and continue to reject Him when He calls, He will finally leave you alone.

This is what J. A. Alexander wrote about in his great old hymn with such powerful meaning:

*There is a time, we know not when,  
A point we know not where,  
That marks the destiny of men  
To glory or despair.  
There is a line by us unseen,  
That crosses every path;  
The hidden boundary between  
God's patience and his wrath.*

In one of the saddest verses in the Bible, Jeremiah, the weeping prophet, said, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." (Jer. 8:20 KJV)

There is a time to meet God. And that time must not be missed. Take the first opportunity the Lord offers you to meet Him. If you accept the first opportunity to meet Him, you will never have to worry about missing His last opportunity.

Today may be your day!

[www.firstagcc.org](http://www.firstagcc.org)

Write the Pastor at [PastorBill@firstagcc.org](mailto:PastorBill@firstagcc.org)

# EVANGELtemple

## ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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# Center

from page 16

exceeds that stipulation by up to 10 percent in some schools.

All the while, DoDEA advocated for the adoption of resource centers for the transient families left behind when an officer is deployed or moved from station to station.

"There's parents out there that are just shell shocked because it's not uncommon for them to move after six months," Baker said.

In 2011, the Clay County School District began to use these grants to provide resources for military-connected families for their children out of a small office in

Green Cove Springs. Now, Baker works out of an office in a main thoroughfare in a centralized location, so the office is easier to find and easier to operate out of.

They're "navigating through all these different school systems, and we realize that and just want everything to go smoothly for them," Baker said. "It's about connecting them to their schools, connecting them to their peers within two weeks."

The facility doubles as a robotics and STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics – playground for current and new students coming to the district.

The hope is that while parents learn what to do next to get themselves setup in the school district, and in their new location, that children will go and work with

current students on robotics, thereby providing a pathway for the new children to make new friends. The county has also used DoDEA dollars to fund its robotics programs in recent years.

"We put the socio-emotional needs in with the academic needs and we find that by finding programs that could address both of those things, we were handling transition issues and struggles just from the dynamics of moving," said Kathleen Schofield, former county STEM supervisor, who originally helped start the DoDEA grant application process.

"We wanted them to be able to interact with kids who were well-grounded in the community and welcome them in, so we figured robotics was good because it gives them academics and social emotional" support.

Before schools began to shift to realizing that military deployment contributed to result in discipline problems and tardiness in school, teachers did not ask or know that students may have a family member on deployment.



Tina Baker speaks to a group last Thursday about the importance of services that support military-connected families.

With awareness has come understanding on the situation military-connected families can be facing. The military resource center at Orange Park High is just another front combatting the issue.

"Now they know to ask these questions," Baker said.



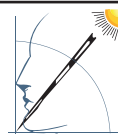
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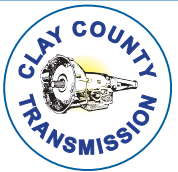
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PUBLICATION DATE: Thursday, June 22

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# Briefs

from page 17

"Among the district's greatest priorities is promoting water conservation," said Ann Shortelle, SJRWMD executive director. "Because one of the biggest uses of water is lawn and landscape irrigation at our homes and businesses, using water wisely in our landscapes is an important personal responsibility. Florida-friendly landscaping is easy – plus, saving water saves homeowners money!"

To date, rainfall during 2017 has been below average with future predictions for similar rainfall trends. If a landscape's sunlight and soil conditions are assessed correctly, well-chosen plants will need little to no supplemental irrigation once established.

The district's waterwise landscaping webpages provide information on how to design a water-conserving landscape and

how to group plants according to their needs, such as planting region, sunlight and soil conditions.

The database, which is found at [www.sjrwmd.com/waterwiselandscapes](http://www.sjrwmd.com/waterwiselandscapes), is searchable by scientific name, common name, size, color of flowers, hardiness zone, soil moisture needs, light and shade requirements, salt tolerance, and more. It also offers information on hundreds of plant species and allows users to compare information about different plants to determine if they are suitable to plant together and to help the user better plan planting areas. The database works on smartphones and other mobile devices, so can conveniently be taken along when shopping at a garden center.

April is Water Conservation Month, a designation intended to heighten public awareness about the variety of ways to reduce our water use. For additional water conservation tips to help you save money around the home, visit [www.sjrwmd.com/waterconservation](http://www.sjrwmd.com/waterconservation).

# College update

## Clay students inducted into Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, La. – Four college students from Clay County recently joined the more than 30,000 members of the prestigious honor society Phi Kappa Phi.

Lynn Phillips of Fleming Island and Joseph Hansknecht of Green Cove Springs were initiated at Florida State University; Charles Christ of Orange Park was initiated at State University of New York at Oswego and Pia Badger of Orange Park was initiated at University of Alabama at Birmingham.

The nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society, Phi Kappa Phi membership is through invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved schol-



arly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 300 campuses in the United States and the Philippines.

## Caton honored at Mary Baldwin convocation

STAUNTON, Va.– Students, faculty, staff and friends of Mary Baldwin University gathered inside Francis Auditorium on March 30 for Honors Convocation, a ceremony to recognize student academic achievement.

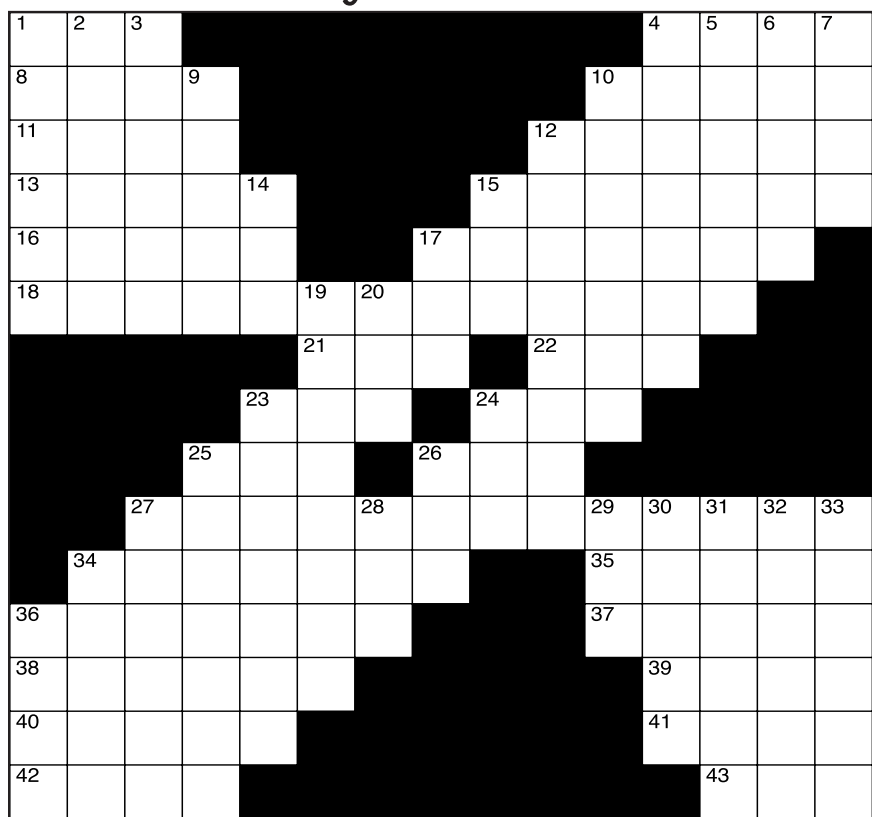
Hailey Caton of Orange Park earned an award at the honors ceremony.

Mary Baldwin University, founded in 1842, is a deliberately small, coeducational university with the foresight to see possibility, the courage to act and a profound commitment to community. Offering a range of degree programs from bachelors to doctoral, it serves a diverse student population on its main campus in Staunton, Virginia, at



its nearby health sciences campus in Augusta County, online, and through regional advising centers throughout Virginia. All programs are coeducational except the Mary Baldwin College for Women. Throughout 2016-17, MBU is celebrating its 175th anniversary.

# Weekly Crossword



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Computer security philosophy (abbr.)
- 4. 'Antman' actor Paul
- 8. Region
- 10. Heart veins \_\_ cavae
- 11. Stem
- 12. Public house
- 13. Outdated monetary units
- 15. Experiences again
- 16. Took possession of (Brit.)
- 17. Absolved
- 18. 'His Airness'
- 21. Unhappy
- 22. The entirety
- 23. Meds without prescription
- 24. James Bond is one
- 25. Signal
- 26. Midwife
- 27. 'The Who' guitarist

- 34. 'Independence Day' actor
- 35. East Asian territory
- 36. Moved slowly
- 37. God of Assyria
- 38. Highland
- 39. Photographers' requests
- 40. Makes tractors
- 41. Witnesses
- 42. Not beginnings
- 43. Prosecutors

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Prejudice
- 2. Known for its sultans
- 3. Boston hoopster
- 4. An evangelistic meeting
- 5. Inconsistent
- 6. Challenged
- 7. Hideaways
- 9. Members of Mennonite sect
- 10. Cogently
- 12. Univ. of Maryland mascot
- 14. The Caspian is one
- 15. Greek letter
- 17. Law degree
- 19. Respected
- 20. Resin-like substance
- 23. A basis for
- 24. Popular horror movie franchise
- 25. Basements
- 26. Boxing promoter King
- 27. Plucked
- 28. Small amount
- 29. Shape-memory alloy
- 30. Metal plates
- 31. Resonated
- 32. Sickness
- 33. Coercion
- 34. Franz van \_\_, German diplomat
- 36. Type of ranch

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# Police Briefs

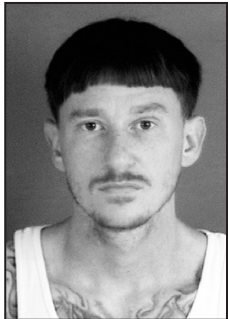
## Man arrested on warrant after exposing himself near pool party last year

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – A Tennessee man was arrested on a warrant issued in Clay County in October of 2016.

The Clay County Sheriff's Office arrested Jesse T. Henson, 29, on April 25 after he was transported from the Christian County Jail in Kentucky to Clay County to fulfill an active warrant for his arrest.

In May of 2016 Henson was seen pleasuring himself on a public balcony while watching a kids' pool party. In October, a warrant was issued for his arrest, and he was eventually picked up by local law enforcement in Kentucky.

Following transport from Kentucky, Henson was booked into Clay County Jail where he remains on a \$7,500 bond. Henson faces a misdemeanor charge for exposure of sexual organs, his first court appearance was held Wednesday, April 26.



Jesse Henson

## Drug fraud charges for Jax man

ORANGE PARK – A Jacksonville man with a history of obtaining prescription drugs through fraudulent means was arrested Monday by the Clay County Sheriff's Office.

Police transported Francis Eugene Reynolds, 49, on April 24 at 11:45 a.m. from the Duval County Pre-Trial Facility where he had been detained.

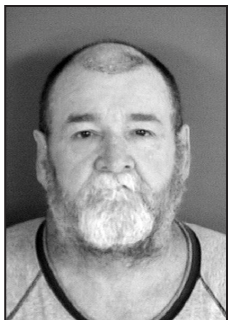
According to the arrest warrant, officers with the CCSO Narcotics Unit found that Reynolds "has gone to Orange Park Medical Center several times between August, 2016 and October, 2016 and provided false name, date of birth, and social security number to receive medical treatment and/or controlled medications.

"Investigation has revealed that the defendant has done this at several hospitals in Duval County as well."

Police said Reynolds received several medications using the false identification he provided medical staff. The CCSO investigation began October 11, 2016 when a charge nurse called police about the suspicious activity.

A check of Duval County court records show that at least on two different occasions, Reynolds has been sentenced to 26 days and 28 days in the Duval County jail for two separate arrests for the lesser charge of fraudulently obtaining services.

The CCSO arrest warrant is redacted to exclude the type of drug Reynolds obtained



Francis Reynolds

from Orange Park Medical Center.

At press time, he remained behind bars with bond set at \$50,006.

## Police search for shooting suspect

ARGYLE – Detectives with the Clay County Sheriff's Office report that the Jacksonville man who was the prime suspect in a domestic-related homicide that took place last weekend has been captured.

Police said the shooting happened early the afternoon of April 23 in the 400 block of Heron Nest Point in the Argyle area.

Authorities in Jacksonville arrested Kenneth Leonard Poythress Jr., 36, on Wednesday morning in connection with killing his wife, Curtishia Jovan Poythress, 34, and injuring another woman who received life-threatening injuries and a juvenile who has minor injuries. At press time, both are recovering and in stable condition.

According to a press release, Poythress was last seen in a 2008 red or maroon four-door Honda Accord with Florida license plate number, 037LSE. He was wearing jeans, a dark colored shirt, an orange construction-type vest and a camouflage cap. Anyone with any information about the suspect or his location, is asked to call the Clay County Sheriff's Office at (904) 264-6512.

## Weekend shooting leaves 19-year-old in critical condition

ORANGE PARK – The Clay County Sheriff's Office said a 19-year-old man was in critical condition after a shooting on the night of April 21.

Officers said the shooting happened shortly before 9 p.m. at the Parkland Apartments in the 1800 block of Wells Road near Orange Park.

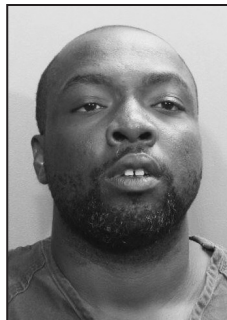
Residents with any information are asked to call the Clay County Sheriff's Office at (904) 264-6512.

## FHP charges Georgia man in 2015 traffic death

JACKSONVILLE – The Florida Highway Patrol has arrested a Stone Mountain, Ga. man for one count of vehicular homicide after a lengthy investigation into a 2015 crash on Interstate 10.

Police arrested Julius Earl Williams, 30, on Thursday night after obtaining a warrant for his arrest. Williams is charged with causing the death of Louis Parada, 76, of Orange Park.

The investigation found Williams was driving a Toyota Camry eastbound on I-10



Kenneth Poythress

near Chaffee Road around 6:20 p.m. on Nov. 19, 2015, when the sedan veered into another lane.

Police said Williams' Camry hit Parada's 2002 Freightliner truck. The crash caused the semi to overturn, spin around and slam into a guardrail. Rescue personnel pronounced Parada dead at the scene. He was wearing a seat belt.

## Crime spree ends in arrest, second suspect sought

OAKLEAF – A Westside man faces three counts of burglary to an occupied residence and one count each of grand theft valued between \$300 and 4,999, burglary to an occupied residence and criminal mischief following an investigation by the Clay County Sheriff's Office.

Police arrested Mason Rex Deal, 18, on April 19 shortly before 5 p.m. after detectives obtained an arrest warrant on April 10.

According to the arrest warrants, Deal and a second male suspect stole different items from two homes in the Oakleaf area. The investigation began shortly after April 1 when a homeowner told police that Deal and his accomplice went into a garage at the home in the 700 block of Charter Oaks Boulevard, as well as two unlocked vehicles in the driveway and removed approximately \$1,082 in property.

From there, police said Deal and his accomplice went to a home in the 3800 block of Arbor Mill Drive and cut a back porch screen to gain entry into a patio causing approximately \$1,000 damage. However, police said, the two men fled the patio when a small child walked into the living room.

In the meantime, the victim of the first break-in came outside and saw either Deal or the other suspect sitting in a car, which shortly after fled the subdivision. An off-duty officer was able to locate the car and ended up in a high-speed chase northward into Duval County on Oakleaf Plantation Parkway where the officer abandoned the chase.

Police interviewed Deal on April 5 and then obtained warrants for his arrest. At press time, Deal remained held in the Clay County Jail where his bond is set at \$130,018.

## Green Cove woman arrested for theft, drugs

FLEMING ISLAND – A Green Cove Springs woman was arrested on April 19 for theft of clothing items and drug possession.

The Clay County Sheriff's Office said

31-year-old Rebecca Lynn Rigsby went into the Kohl's department store on County Road 220 on April 19 walked around the store shortly after 5 p.m., and selected a few items of clothing.

According to the police report, Rigsby stole \$194.99 worth of merchandise, including a pair of shoes, two purses and some jewelry, then she went to the dressing room and put the items in her purse and walked out of the store.

The police report stated the store employees checked the dressing room after Rigsby walked out and found the items she picked off the racks were gone. A Loss Prevention Officer met with Rigsby outside of the store where Rigsby was then arrested her the alleged theft of the items.

While in custody, officers found Rigsby in possession of two lip balm containers – one of which contained 3.5 grams of methamphetamine and a second contained .4 grams of heroin.

At press time, Rigsby remained in Clay County Jail with bond set at \$80,010.00.

## Woman faces several felonies after pawning her sister's jewelry

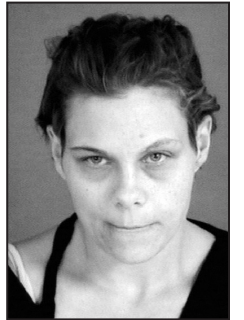
FLEMING ISLAND – A Fleming Island woman was arrested after allegedly selling stolen jewelry to a local pawn shop.

The Clay County Sheriff's Office arrested Jennifer Lauren Curtis, 31, on April 20 after her sister located stolen jewelry at a local pawn shop and contacted deputies on the suspicion that Curtis had pawned the items.

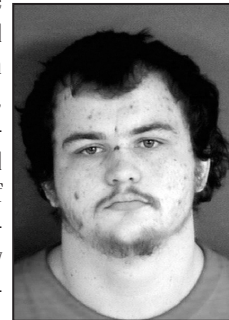
After living with her sister for a couple weeks, Curtis allegedly stole three pieces of jewelry, a ring, a set of earrings, and a necklace given to the victim by her mother.

According to the CCSO report, after reporting the items as missing, deputies ran a pawn search and found three transactions by Curtis on April 2-4 at the same pawn shop. The victim went to that shop and confirmed that her missing jewelry was all on display at the shop. According to the report, Curtis suffers from drug addiction, and has stolen items from family members in the past.

Following her arrest, Curtis was transported to Clay County Jail where she remains on a \$17,000 bond. She faces seven



Rebecca Rigsby



Mason Deal



Jennifer Curtis

## Police

from page 21

felony charges including three counts of dealing stolen property and three counts of giving false information to a pawnbroker, in addition to felony theft. Her first court appearance is set for May 24.

### 22-year sentence in child death

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – A Port Orange man is in the Clay County Jail awaiting transfer to a state prison following his recent sentencing on one count each of aggravated manslaughter of a child and child neglect with great bodily harm that took place in Orange Park.

Judge Michael S. Sharrit sentenced Mathew David Hamrysky, 27, to 22 years in state prison on April 4 after he pled guilty to both charges. Sharrit also handed Hamrysky a concurrent 15-year sentence for the charge of child neglect with great bodily harm.

The conviction stems from a February 4, 2016 investigation into the incident, which took place on Feb. 4 at the infant's mother's Orange Park home. Hamrysky had been watching nine-month-old Charli

Smith and her two-year-old sibling for their mother, Ashley Smith, Hamrysky's girlfriend.

According to the arrest warrant, Hamrysky is accused of dropping baby Charli in a Pack and Play and then recording two separate videos of the child while she was in trauma. One video, according to the warrant, showed the baby lying down struggling to breathe, while the second video shows the little girl "having a possible seizure."

"During that time Mathew clearly notices the victim is injured, observes several changes in her behavior, takes two separate videos of the victim's change in behavior, and does not tell Ashley about the incident when she calls to check on the children," states the warrant.

The child was pronounced dead at Orange Park Medical Center at 11:08 p.m. after efforts to save her failed.

Police said Smith called 911 after she got home from her job at a fast food restaurant and Hamrysky attempted CPR on the infant. However, as the investigation unfolded, police found that the infant was injured between 5 and 6 p.m., but Hamrysky did not phone Smith at work until 7:15 p.m.

A review of the infant's autopsy, records from OPMC, the child's pediatrician and Hamrysky's videos by a member of the First Coast Child Protection Team led officials to conclude that the infant could have been saved.

"Dr. Pena advised that based on review

of the timelines and the above records, it can be determined with a high degree of medical certainty that if emergent medical intervention had been sought immediately after the victim sustained injuries identified in the autopsy, more likely than not, these measures would have prolonged and/or saved the victim's life," states the arrest warrant.

Pena went on to state that, based on the videos, the trauma the child received would not have caused much pain.

"However, Dr. Pena notes that it is important to recognize that the incident that led to the victim's injuries would have been very painful just prior to losing consciousness," states the warrant.

## Arrests & Bookings

### Tuesday, April 25

Blank, Varden, 32, Orange Park, CCSO, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis, DWLSR

Bunt, Brittany, 27, Green Cove Springs, CCSO, Dui With Property Damage

Cononie, Daniel, 18, Jacksonville, OPPD, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis, Drug Equipment Possession

Giles, Sonya, 46, Middleburg, CCSO, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis, Drug Equipment Possession

Grams, Cullen, 28, Fleming Island, CCSO, Domestic Battery

Harmon, Jeffery, 26, Orange Park, CCSO, Two Counts of Grand Theft \$300-4,999, Dealing Stolen Property

Henson, Jesse, 29, Nashville, Tenn., CCSO, Exposure of Sexual Organs

Herr, Craig, 60, Middleburg, CCSO, VOP - Attempted Sexual Battery Upon Child

Hunnicut, Carmen, 55, Orange Park, CCSO, Dui With Property Damage

Johnson, Phillip, 40, Green Cove Springs, CCSO, DUI

Jones, Julius, 29, Orange Park, CCSO, Burglary

Ruppee, Sean, 26, Jacksonville, CCSO, Disorderly Intoxication

Sanders, Robert, 31, Macclenny, Fla., CCSO, Non-Support

Taylor, Demaurio, 35, Orange Park, CCSO, Simple Domestic Battery

Thigpen, Tamela, 38, Orange Park, CCSO, Resisting an Officer, Trespassing

Thompson, Thomas, 33, Green Cove Springs, CCSO, VOP - DWLSR

### Monday, April 24

Armstrong, Timothy, 54, Homeless, CCSO, VOP - DWLSR, VOP - Fleeing or Eluding Police

Bailey, Jeffery, 20, Jacksonville, CCSO, Possession of Marijuana With Intent to Sell, DWLSR, Drug Equipment Possession, Possession of More Than 20 g. Cannabis

Baker, Robert, 28, Fort Wayne, Ind., CCSO, Burglary of Occupied Conveyance, Grand Theft \$300-4,999, Fraudulent Use of Credit Card

Church, Zachary, 19, Fleming Island, CCSO, Two Counts of Violate Probation - Community Control

Coates, Clay, 30, Orange Park, CCSO, Cocaine Distribution

Connell, Gregory, 34, Jacksonville, CCSO, Non-Support

Copeland, Hilton, 28, Jacksonville, CCSO, Petit Theft, Giving False Name or ID

Delacruz, Andrew, 35, Jacksonville, CCSO, Uttering a Forged Check

Fleming, Amy, 39, Orange Park, CCSO, Cocaine Distribution

Garner, Tabatha, 38, Orange Park, CCSO, Dealing Stolen Property, Giving Second-hand Dealer False Verification of Ownership, Burglary

Gee, Quintin, 24, Middleburg, CCSO, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis, Resisting an Officer

Guy, Floyd, 43, Orange Park, CCSO, Aggravated Domestic Battery

Harrison, Devin, 19, Middleburg, CCSO, Two Counts of Sale and Delivery of Marijuana

Johnson, Kyle, 26, Jacksonville, CCSO, Petit Theft

Mincey, Londrell, 19, Jacksonville, CCSO, FTA - No Valid Driver's License

Minton, Shannon, 37, Jacksonville, CCSO, Fugitive From Justice

Newmans, Marcus, 25, Jacksonville, CCSO, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis, Drug Equipment

Padgett, Jesse, 53, Middleburg, CCSO, Fugitive From Justice

Patterson, Jeffrey, 23, Orange Park, CCSO, Violate Probation - Community Control

Phillips, Robert, 39, Green Cove Springs, CCSO, DWLSR

Pickard, Edward, 36, Green Cove Springs, CCSO, FTA - Petit Theft

Reynolds, Francis, 49, Jacksonville, CCSO, Schemes to Defraud, Criminal Use of Personal Identification

Salameh, Dalton, 21, Jacksonville, CCSO, FTA - No Valid Driver's License

Snyder, Samuel, 52, Orange Park, CCSO, Two Counts of Failure to Appear for Court

Wiley, James, 20, Jacksonville, CCSO, Failure to Appear for Court

Wilson, Timothy, 19, Jacksonville, CCSO, Grand Theft \$300-4,999

### Sunday, April 23

Delaney, Colton, 21, Jacksonville, FMP, Boating Under the Influence

Grooms, Daniel, 40, Orange Park, CCSO, Contempt of Court - Not Answering Summons

Hines, Tevin, 24, Jacksonville, CCSO, Possession of Marijuana With Intent to Sell, Marijuana Possession, Drug Equipment Possession

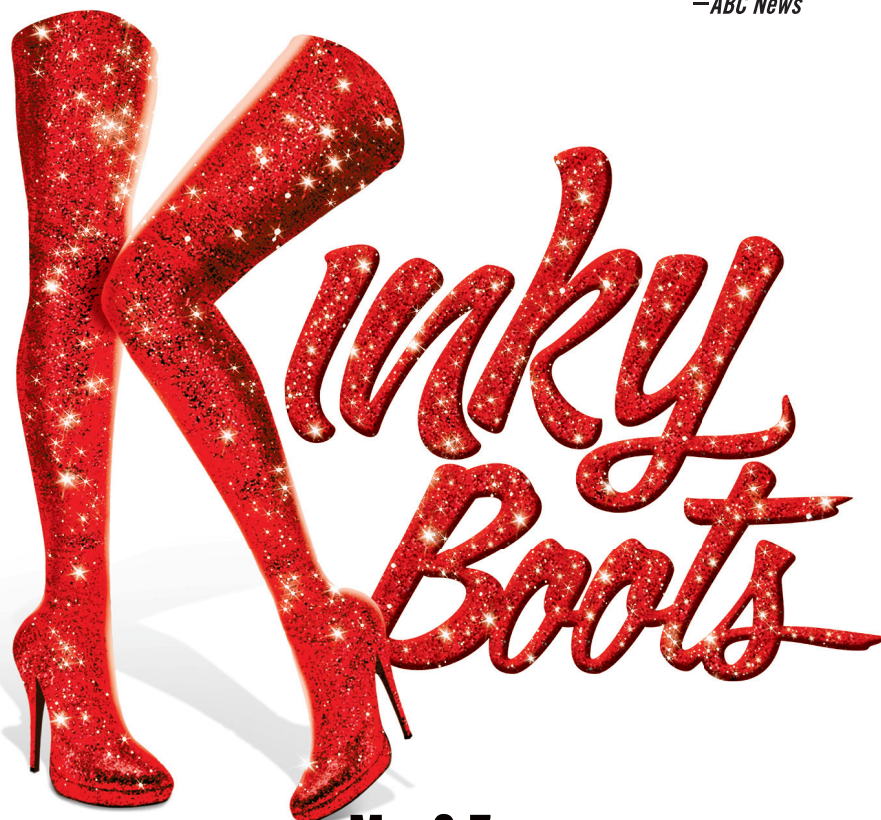
Kish, Monique, 30, Jacksonville, OPPD,

SEE ARRESTS, 23



Mathew Hamrysky

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May 2-7  
Times-Union Center

# Arrests

from page 22

Cocaine Possession, Two Counts of Possession of a Controlled Substance, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis, Drug Equipment Possession

Perry, Harvey, 45, Jacksonville, CCSO, Petit Theft, Resisting an Officer

Smith, Keila, 22, Orange Park, OPPD, Simple Domestic Battery

Windle, William, 40, Middleburg, CCSO, Drug Equipment Possession, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis

## Saturday, April 22

Amaya Marquez, Hugo, 24, Green Cove Springs, CCSO, Disorderly Intoxication

Carpenter, Christopher, 37, Orange Park, CCSO, Simple Battery Domestic

Gasbarro, Selena, 36, Fleming Island, CCSO, Petit Theft

Hollis, Aaron, 20, Jacksonville, OPPD, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis

Marrero, Bianca, 25, Green Cove Springs, CCSO, Two Counts of Petit Theft

McGrath, Travis, 24, Middleburg, CCSO, Driving Without a Valid License, No Vehicle Registration Required, Non-Support

Perez, Ramiro, 28, Green Cove Springs, CCSO, DUI, Driving Without a Valid License

Polite, Mason, 20, Jacksonville, CCSO, Resisting an Officer

Wright, Devon, 19, Jacksonville, CCSO, Resisting an Officer, DWLSR

## Friday, April 21

Baumgartner, John, 42, Green Cove Springs, CCSO, Depriving Another of Access to 911, Violating Injunction With Unlawful Threat, Word, or Act of Violence, Domestic Battery

Costa, Robert, 35, Middleburg, CCSO, DWLSR

Depalma, Vincent, 22, Middleburg, CCSO, Selling Cocaine

O'Neill, Jacob, 22, Jacksonville, CCSO, Two Counts of FTA - Burglary, Five Counts of FTA-Grand Theft, FTA - Dealing Stolen Property, VOP - Dealing Stolen Property

Rosa, Frank, 26, Fleming Island, CCSO, Failure to Appear for Court

Shaw, Stephanie, 36, Jacksonville, CCSO, Giving False Info to Pawn Broker

Thompson, Walter, 38, Jacksonville, CCSO, FTA - DWLSR

Woodson, Tyrell, 21, Orange Park, CCSO, Simple Domestic Battery, Assault and Battery During Burglary

## Thursday, April 20

Adams, George, 40, Orange Park, CCSO, Non-Support

Calley, Raymond, 30, Green Cove Springs, CCSO, Failure to Appear for Court

Curtis, Jennifer, 31, Fleming Island, CCSO, Grand Theft \$300-4,999, Three Counts of Dealing Stolen Property, Three Counts of Giving False Info to a Pawn Broker

Dixon, Whitney, 25, Green Cove Springs, CCSO, Simple Domestic Battery

Fulford, Daniel, 26, Middleburg, CCSO, FTA - DWLSR

Griffin, Gereal, 58, Jacksonville, CCSO, Grand Theft \$300-4,999

Herr, Craig, 60, Middleburg, CCSO, Violate Probation - Community Control

Long, Jasper, 39, Orange Park, CCSO, Possession of a Controlled Substance

Lopez, Edwin, 31, Jacksonville, CCSO, No Valid Driver's License

Mangrum, Larry, 61, Orange Park, CCSO, DUI, DWLSR

Muschamp, Joseph, 42, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Vandalism \$201-999

Olive, Bryen, 28, Fleming Island, OPPD, Giving False Info to a Pawn Broker

Pitts, Carllis, 25, Jacksonville, CCSO, FTA - DWLSR

Sigmon, Buddy, 44, Middleburg, CCSO, Aggravated Battery

## Wednesday, April 19

Barnes, Jessica, 31, Green Cove Springs, CCSO, Petit Theft

Davis, Katie, 29, Jacksonville, CCSO, Petit Theft, Giving False Name or ID, Drug Equipment Possession

Davis, Katie, 31, Jacksonville, CCSO, Drug Equipment Possession, Petit Theft, Two Counts of Giving False Name or ID

Deal, Mason, 18, Jacksonville, CCSO, Three Counts of Burglary to Occupied Residence, Grand Theft \$300-4,999, Burglary to an Occupied Residence, Criminal Mischief

Horvath, Matthew, 33, Orange Park, CCSO, Failure to Report Name or Residence Change, Failure to Report Vacating Permanent Residence

King, Shannon, 50, Middleburg, CCSO, Violate Probation - Community Control, VOP - Possession of a Controlled Substance

McCann, Kristie, 36, Jacksonville Beach, CCSO, Non-Support

Mikell, Jacob, 24, Orange Park, CCSO, Simple Battery

Mitchell, Randra, 27, Jacksonville, CCSO, VOP - Medicaid Fraud

Perry, Larneshia, 25, Palatka, Fla., CCSO, Petit Theft

Phillips, Brian, 46, Orange Park, CCSO, Non-Support

Porter, George, 44, Jacksonville, CCSO, Petit Theft

Rigsby, Rebecca, 31, Green Cove Springs, CCSO, Heroin Possession, Methamphetamine Possession, Petit Theft, Drug Equipment Possession

Selph, Cheryl, 35, Middleburg, CCSO, Simple Battery, Aggravated Battery

Smith, Justin, 29, Orange Park, CCSO, Non-Support

# Calendar

from page 23

J.C. Penney Memorial Scenic Highway Inc., a 501(c)3 nonprofit.

**FAMILY FUN DAY:** to benefit veterans' programs at VFW Chapter No. 8255, Middleburg, April 29 from noon-6 p.m. Annual BBQ Cook off and Family Fun Day, 2296 Aster Ave. Free bounce houses, kids' games, live music.

**PLANT SALE:** April 29 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Garden of Green Cove Springs holds its 10th Annual Plant Sale at Sacred Heart Church, 207 S. Palmetto Ave., Green Cove Springs, adjacent to the library on State Road 16. Will also include garage sale items (excluding clothing.) Info at Gardenclubofgreencovesprings.org

**MEMBERSHIP DINE & DANCE:** Blues and BBQ Membership for Lake Region Kiwanis Club, April 29 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Keystone United Methodist Church, 4004 State Road 21, featuring great food and music by the band Bubba Can't Dance. More info, contact Darby Ann at Darbyannroberts@yahoo.com.

**FREE CONCERT:** First Coast Wind Symphony performs April 30 at 7 p.m., Barrows Hall, Penney Retirement Community in Penney Farms as part of the 2017 Commemorative Concert Series. The concert and parking are free.

**A MATTER OF BALANCE:** Do you have concerns about falling? The "A Matter Of Balance" class is an award-winning program designed to manage falls and increase activity levels.

This free workshop for those 60 years and older will be held at Orange Park Senior Center from May 1-May 26 from 1-3 p.m. for 4 weeks. Register at Northeast Florida AHEC (904) 482-0189, extension 111.

**FUNDRAISER:** May 2 from 3-7 p.m., Tropical Smoothie Café at 1782 Blanding Blvd. just north of Middleburg will host a fundraiser the Middleburg-based Black Creek Lions Club. Ten percent of all sales during those hours will go to the club to help children in Middleburg attend summer camp. Info, call (904) 553-9947.

**FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE:** Meets May 2 at 3 p.m. and May 16 at 3 p.m. in the BCC Meeting Room, fourth floor, Administration Building, 477 Houston St., Green Cove Springs. The meeting is open to the public.

**PLANNING COMMISSION:** Meets May 2 at 7 p.m., in the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room, fourth floor, Administration Building, 477 Houston St., Green Cove Springs. The meeting is open to the public.

**FREE CONCERT:** Ernie & Debi Evans, radio hosts and musicians, will be performing at the Fleming Island Library, 1895 Town Center Blvd., May 3 at 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Concert promotes bluegrass and acoustic music and is open to all ages. No tickets required.

**SPECIAL MAGISTRATE:** The Clay County Code Enforcement Special Magistrate Hearing will be May 4, beginning 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.

**DEVELOPMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE:** Meets May 4, May 11, May 18 and May

25 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.

**BUTTERFLY GARDEN:** Join the Garden Club of Fleming Island as its members help children 10 and under release more than 300 butterflies during its Annual Butterfly Garden Celebration, May 6, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Fleming Island Library, 1895 Town Center Blvd.

**BOOK CLUB:** May 6 from 10 a.m.-noon discussing "Not Carved in Stone" by Craig Shier. Trouble descends on a quiet medieval village when a new abbey church collapses during construction and two men die. All are welcome. Fleming Island Library, 1895 Town Center Blvd. (904) 278-3722.

**BOOK SALE:** May 6 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., sponsored by the Friends of the Green Cove Springs Library, will be held under tents on the front lawn of the Library at 403 Ferris St./State Road 16. A wide variety of books will be available plus a few gift baskets. Proceeds go to fund library projects, including refurbishing the Children's Room and the summer reading programs. Info, (904) 284-6315.

**BOOK SALE:** May 18-20, to benefit the programs at Orange Park Public Library, 2054 Plainfield, rooms A & B. May 18, noon to 7 p.m.; May 19, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; May 20, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Select from thousands of gently used best sellers at low prices, as well romance books, children's and young adult, cookbooks, gardening, health & wellness, sports, history, art, and photography.

**SHOWCASE:** to benefit BASCA, May 19 with 6 p.m. appetizers, 7 p.m. program, Club Continental, 2143 Astor St., Orange Park. Space is limited, tickets are \$25 each with special guest WJXT TV-4 News Anchor Mary Baer.

**ARMED FORCES DAY:** May 20 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Military Museum of North Florida, 1 Bunker Ave., Green Cove Springs. Including a car show, military vehicle show, military flea market, parachutists, classic plane fly in and more. Free admission.

**LANDSCAPING CLASS:** May 22 from 6-8 p.m., Clay County Extension office, 2463 State Rd. 16, Green Cove Springs. Learn how to plant the "Right Plant/Right Place" in your landscape. Visit clayextension.eventbrite.com for more details.

**HANDBELL CONCERT:** May 22 from 6:30-7:30 p.m., Orange Park United Methodist Church Handbell Choir "Spring Concert," Fleming Island Public Library, 1895 Town Center Blvd. All welcome. No tickets required.

**FIRST COAST CARD CLUB:** May 24 at 1:30 p.m., Fleming Island Public Library, 1895 Town Center Blvd. We meet more interested card players in our community each month. Please call Lea at (904) 829-0643 for more information and verification.

**MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE:** The public is invited to attend the Town of Orange Park's annual Memorial Day Service, May 29 at 11 a.m., Magnolia Cemetery, 1040 Kingsley Ave. Info, (904) 264-3411.

**FREE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** First Presbyterian & St. Mary's Episcopal Churches invite all 4 year olds through completed 6th graders to join us for "HERO CENTRAL" VBS. June 12-16 from 9 a.m.-noon, Monday-Friday. VBS will be held at First Presbyterian Church, 300 Gum St., Green Cove Springs.

Register at: 2017.cokesburyvbs.com/firstpresgcsfl. If you have any question, please call (904) 284-9261.



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\*\*Available only to qualified customers through Mercedes-Benz Financial Services at participating dealers through April 30, 2017. Not everyone will qualify. Advertised 36 months lease payment based on MSRP of \$53,075 less the suggested dealer contribution resulting in a total gross capitalized cost of \$48,594. Dealer contribution may vary and could affect your actual lease payment. Includes Destination Charge and Premium 1 Package. Excludes title, taxes, registration, license fees, insurance, dealer prep and additional options. Total monthly payments equal \$19,764. Cash due at signing includes \$3,699 capitalized cost reduction, \$795 acquisition fee and first month's lease payment of \$549. No security deposit required. Total payments equal \$24,258. At lease end, lessee pays for any amounts due under the lease, any official fees and taxes related to the scheduled termination, excess wear and use plus \$0.25/mile over 30,000 miles, and \$595 vehicle turn-in fee. Purchase option at lease end for \$32,907 plus taxes (and any other fees and charges due under the applicable lease agreement) in example shown. Subject to credit approval. Specific vehicles are subject to availability and may have to be ordered. See participating dealer for details. Please always wear your seat belt, drive safely and obey speed limits.

# Gardening with kids

By Wayne Hobbs

UF/IFAS Environmental Horticulture Agent

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – From my experiences interacting with people throughout the county, gardening and horticulture is an extremely popular hobby. From the UF/IFAS Master Gardeners to garden clubs to just the person passionate about their roses, almost everyone gets their hands dirty in their lawn and landscape. However, there is one group often overlooked who can benefit a lot from time in the garden – kids.



Wayne Hobbs  
UF/IFAS Environmental Horticulture Agent

As a child, some of my fondest memories were helping my mom-mom in her garden, weeding and fertilizing the pole beans or picking hundreds of Colorado potato beetles off of the sweet potatoes. These experiences instilled in me a love of plants and nature and the conversations we had were irreplaceable teaching moments. Gardening with kids can help increase their knowledge of plants and the natural world, give them pride in their work, allow them to exercise, and allows them a wealth of opportunities to use their creativity and

imagination.

When working with youth, there are some great ways to get them involved with horticulture. First of all, if a garden or landscape is not a possibility, visit local botanical gardens, parks, or natural areas to take walks and learn about the plants there. Many of these locations may also offer classes and activities for kids. Some of my personal favorite locations include Camp Chowenwaw, Gold Head State Park, and if you're willing to take a bit of a drive, the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville.

Our UF/IFAS Extension Clay County Extension service also offers 4-H Club, which can be a great way to get a kid involved with plants, agriculture, STEM, or many other topics and there are even summer day camps available. If interested, call or email our office or visit [clayextension.eventbrite.com](http://clayextension.eventbrite.com) to see a listing of camps and activities.

If you do have the space for a garden or landscape, you have many options but there are some tips that could make things more successful. First of all, engagement with the child is key.

Let them help in the planning, planting, and maintenance of the area as much as possible. They may make some mistakes but they are just opportunities to learn. Also, make sure to choose plants and practices that will allow for success. Make sure what you plant can thrive in our area and you maintain the garden or landscape properly. If you need help in decisions, do not hesitate to contact us at the UF/IFAS Extension office.

Some keys in plant selection for a children's garden would be plants that grow fast with simple maintenance. Also, some plants can be very dynamic and eye-



catching. Anything with showy flowers, has edible parts, or out of the ordinary, such as multicolored carrots, can be excellent. However, make sure to teach the kids that they should not eat any part of the plant without permission and stay away from species that are poisonous such as oleander and angel's trumpet.

Pest management should also be considered with a children's garden but if you try to emphasize hand pulling of weeds and killing of insects and follow the instructions found on the label of chemicals you utilize, you should be fine.

Finally, as you work with the child, talk with them about what they are doing and why, as well as their day and interests.

These conversations are a powerful educational tool that will stick with the kid for a lifetime.

If you have any questions about the Master Gardener program, landscape and garden topics, or need plant or pest materials identified, contact the University of Florida/IFAS Extension Office online at <http://www.clay.ifas.ufl.edu>, follow us on Facebook, or call by phone at (904) 284-6355.



Tilly is our longest resident here at SAFE Animal Shelter ... she has been here since April 2014 and we think it's past time she finds her forever loving home!! She is a Longhaired Norwegian Forest cat and she is one of those cats that only wants loving when SHE wants loving ... so kinda temperamental. If you just leave her be then she is more likely to come up and be a lap cat and purr her head off. We believe she'd prefer to be an only cat but she does get along with others and we think once she gets out of the shelter into her new home her personality will shine!! Just don't give up on her ... patience is the key with this one. Her adoption fee is just \$85 and that includes all her vaccinations, her spay, her microchip and the first year of microchip service.

Meet Bellflower, our longest resident!! Bell transferred to us from Clay County Animal Control in September 2012. She was adopted and somehow ended back with us in 2015. She is so much fun and loves people and children but needs to be an only pet. She would also need to be on a leash when outside of her home or yard ... and really should have a fenced in backyard ... she really doesn't like other dogs very well sadly. But she has LOADS of energy and even more LOVE for the right family ... she's a shelter and a volunteer favorite. Her adoption fee is \$125 and that includes all her vaccinations, her spay, her microchip and the first year of microchip service ... she is also heartworm negative!!



**Safe Animal Shelter**  
2913 County Road 220 Middleburg  
904-276-7233  
Wednesday-Sunday 12pm-5pm  
[www.safeanimalshelter.com](http://www.safeanimalshelter.com)



## 10-year-old steps up to help foster kids

MIDDLEBURG – 10-year-old Charlotte Googin was moved so deeply after her mom, Tiffany, took her to a presentation of the Broadway Show "Annie" that she sought out the local agency that handles foster care and adoption services in Clay County. The actors who portrayed the orphans in the musical opened Charlotte's eyes regarding some of the challenges that many real-life children face. Charlotte decided that she wanted to do something to help area kids who aren't in the best possible family situations. When she invited friends to her 10th birthday party, she requested they bring gifts – not for her – but for some of the kids in the community who were still hoping to find a loving home. Her birthday guests listened and donated toys, games and birthday money to the party that Charlotte then delivered to Kids First of Florida. Charlotte is shown here, in center, in front of Kids First executive director Irene Toto and, at right, community liaison Ernie Cohen.

# TODAY'S Sports

Clay Today | Thursday, April 27, 2017 | claytodayonline.com

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## Fleming Island boys tennis heads to state



STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

Fleming Island High freshman Logan Zapp blasted through an overtime tennis singles match to fuel a Golden Eagle win and advance the entire team to the Class 4A state championship tournament in Orlando.

## Freshman Zapp tops state returner

By Randy Lefko  
 Sports Editor

FLEMING ISLAND – After a tennis-worthy blowout of 5-0 over Seminole High in the region first round playoffs last week, the Fleming Island High boys tennis team faced off on April 20 and beat handily Lake Mary High in the second round to emerge as the region champion. Lake Mary has won the region title the past two years with state titles in 1992 and 1999.

The two wins propels the Fleming

Island boys team to a first-ever team berth in the Class 4A championships to start play on Wed., April 26 at Sandalco Park in Altamonte Springs.

“This is a special team,” said Fleming Island coach Chip Chadwell. “I think the girls did this a couple of years ago, but this is the first for the boys to go to state as a team.”

Fleming Island High’s girls teams had region round one teams from 2009-2013, but none advanced through to the state meet.

In 2016 in the boys region brackets, Seminole defeated Fleming Island last year 4-3 to end the Golden Eagles’ team aspirations with singles and doubles partners David Burns and Mark Suhrer, both seniors now, advancing individually to the state tournament. Lake Mary eventually defeated Semi-

nole in the region final to advance in last year’s state tournament, but lost in round one to Olympia High. Lake Mary was also the 2015 region champion.

Against Lake Mary, a team with a handful of state titles, state runnerups, individual champions and a coach on hand since 1989, Fleming Island coach Chip Chadwell had history against him.

“These guys came in as the pedigree team in Florida for tennis,” said Chadwell. “Our job is to not give them points and not make mistakes. We have to attack our game.”

In 2016, Burns, the district 1-4A champion, would win his round of 128 match, but lose in the quarterfinals of singles. The doubles team of Burns and Suhrer would win in their round of 32

SEE TENNIS, 33

## Area tracksters head to regions

By Randy Lefko  
 Sports Editor

ORANGE PARK – Clay County track athletes covering the gamut of expertise from jumpers to distance runners will head out this week for region track championships bringing the shot at a top four finish and a trip to the state meet to be staged at the IMG Academy in Bradenton May 4-5.

In the Class 4A ranks, at region 1-4A at Flagler Palm Coast on April 27, Fleming Island senior 800 meter runner Cameron Dill responded to a season long battle with nagging injuries and much anticipation for his breakout race by blasting one of his best times of the season, a 1:58.43, to put himself in the company of three sub-two minute runners from the other districts in region 1-4A with a 1:57.19 the top time of the region.

“He (Dill) has had his eye on the 800 all season and Coach Chris Otero and I agree it is his stronger event heading into the state series,” said Fleming Island distance coach Karen Moritz, who in her first year has produced a handful of probable region and state meet qualifiers. “He has looked strong all week at practice and he’s hungry to PR and make it to the State meet.”

SEE TRACK, 29



St. Johns Country Day School sprinter Kendall Sage blasts to finish in 100 meters at the Spring Break Open at UNF. Sage has the top time in region 1-1A for the April 25 region championship at Bishop Snyder.



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# Softball heads to district tournaments

## Oakleaf, Keystone Heights, Clay top seeds

By Randy Lefko  
Sports Editor

GLEN ST. MARY – Oakleaf High softball continued its need to play the best in the



Oakleaf High latest big bat has become Katie Kistler who adds her name to long list of big batting averages for Knights.

area with a three-run first inning homer from Angela Agurkis spurring an 8-3 non-district win over 5A-power Baker County Friday night at Baker County High School. Baker County is the 2015 5A champions.

Oakleaf enters the district 2-8A tournament seemingly hitting on all cylinders with another revamping of the batting lineup having Katie Kristler as leadoff and Agurkis as the cleanup batter forcing enemy pitchers guessing on the where the power is going to come from.

Kristler, Alex Acevedo, Rebecca Koskey and Agurkis offers a formidable opening salvo with Haley Willis, Baylee Goddard and Mika Garcia presenting the second round of power bats for coach Christina Thompson.

Oakleaf has had a torrid second half schedule, but the Knights have responded with hammerings of Atlantic Coast (10-0), Fleming Island (5-1) and the Baker County game, but 4A-Trinity Christian offered just a 1-0 win and Mandarin flexed some early muscle on the third of Oakleaf's pitchers, Cambria Arturo, before having to score four run in the sixth for the 6-5 Oakleaf win. Reliever Madi Davis finished out the final two innings for Oakleaf. Davis and senior Kelsey Sweatt have been mowing down batters since the Knights' Kissimmee Klassic tournament win and will continue to do so through regions as the Knights' have 15 shutouts on the season.

Fleming Island, also in district 2-8A, has the batting firepower to score runs quickly, but the Golden Eagles, who took Atlantic Coast to a 1-0 game into the sixth inning, have to pace their attack through the game with pitcher Jordan Rosette the

only threat on the mound. Madi Lanoux, Tiffany Steczo and Jordan Hunt lead the attack with third baseman Morgan Grimm being a vacuum on the hot corner. Maya Littles has transitioned into a fine second baseman after a season in centerfield with Sammy Dill putting speed to work tracking flyballs in centerfield.

## District 2-8A

At Atlantic Coast

**Teams (by seed):** Oakleaf, Atlantic Coast, First Coast, Fletcher, Fleming Island, Lee

2-8A results: First Coast 15, Lee 0; Oakleaf 4 Fletcher 0; Atlantic Coast 4, First Coast 13  
Championship: Atlantic Coast vs. Oakleaf (6 p.m., Thurs., April 27)



Keystone Heights' Ashleigh Jennings is fiery and fast baserunner for Indians.

## Lady Indians rolling at right time

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – Led by a set of quick legs on the basepaths, the Lady Indians softball of Keystone Heights (16-9) enters the district 5-5A championship as top seeds after late wins over district challenger Santa Fe (in 10 innings), 1A-power Union County (a 3-2 win) and a win over 7A-Middleburg (7-6) in their season finale with five seventh inning run yielding the victory.

Ashleigh Jennings, Molly Crawford, Megan Moncrief and Bri Wells have been the main pushers of the pace for coach Jessica Marquart who will be looking to get past a probable Santa Fe showdown in the district final followed by a deep region run. Wells hit the game-winning double against Middleburg that scored the two winning runs.

Keystone Heights' only losses in the final week of play were to 6A-Clay (4-3) the top seed in district 4-6A and 7A-Gainesville (7-2), the top seed in 3-7A and also the defending 7A champions.

## District 5-5A

At Keystone Heights

**Teams (by seed):** Keystone Heights, Santa Fe, Bradford, Gainesville PKYonge, Palatka

5-5A results: Santa Fe 7, Bradford 6; Keystone Heights 10, PKYonge 0  
Championship: Keystone Heights vs. Santa Fe (7 p.m., Thurs., April 27)



Clay High senior Allison Byrd has been steady force for Lady Blue Devils with her baserunning skills a scoring weapon for Clay.

## Lady Blue Devils hope home field advantage gets edge against Ponte Vedra

GREEN COVE SPRINGS - Clay High softball coach Matt Lewis used to fret his matchups with Ponte Vedra High in past year just because that was the clash that was determining who moved on and who stayed home. Clay won the district title last year, but lost a week later in the region semifinal with Ponte Vedra the opponent in both games.

In 2017, Lewis' friend and former assistant coach Roger Harvey, now at Ridgeview High, has emerged as that wild card threat in the shadows with a cadre of girls simply tired of being the losing team.

On Tues., April 25, the two friends will meet in the district 4-6A semifinal at Clay High after Ridgeview defeated Menendez in Monday's opening round game.

Clay (14-8, 7-1) and Ponte Vedra (16-7, 7-1) have had their usual clashes (2-1 Clay win, 1-0 Ponte Vedra win) and thus the coin flip to Clay for the top seed, but Lewis is quick to mention Harvey's ability to urge his team to a higher plane of playing.

Clay hiccuped against 5A-Baker County (6-0) and 9A-Mandarin (10-9) in April and Lewis has a cadre of playmakers surrounding power pitcher Morgan Crutcher led by second baseman Allison Byrd, a four-year starter for Lewis, daughter Sydney Lewis who has emerged as a gamer in the at-bat box and baserunning flash Jessica Powell

giving Clay plenty of ways to move baserunners to scoring position. When they do that, Clay is hard to beat.

Ridgeview relies on big hits from freshman Chloe Chambers and senior leadership to keep games within striking distance. Unfortunately for Harvey, his only recent losses were to Ponte Vedra and Clay with nine wins surrounding them.

If Harvey can turn up the heat just a notch, he may get a bounce against either team.

## District 4-6A

At Clay

**Teams (by seed):** Clay, Ponte Vedra, Orange Park, Ridgeview, Menendez

4-6A results: Ponte Vedra 13, Orange Park 3; Ridgeview 2, Clay 1  
Championship: Ridgeview vs. Ponte Vedra (7 p.m., Thurs., April 27)

## District 2-3A

At Gainesville Oak Hall

**Teams (by seed):** Oak Hall, St. Johns Country Day, University Christian, St. Joseph, Gainesville St. Francis

2-3A results: SJCDs 16, University Christian 9; Oak Hall 15, St. Joseph 0  
Championship: SJCDs vs. Oak Hall (4 p.m., Thurs., April 27)

## District 3-7A

At Middleburg

**Teams (by seed):** Gainesville, Columbia, Middleburg, Ocala Vanguard

3-7A results: Columbia 6, MHS 0  
Championship: Columbia vs. Gainesville (7 p.m., Thurs., April 27)



Middleburg High outfielder Samantha Whitley is strong fielder for Broncos in very competitive district.

# Track

from page 27

Dill moved to the 800 comes after his 13th place finish in last year's Class 4A championships in 50.76. Ten runners bested two minutes in last year's 4A 800 final with 1:52.91 the top time. Fourth place at last year's 800 region final was 1:55.18, eventual state champion Justin Pacifico of Flagler Palm Coast who raced to the state title with his 1:52.91. Of the top 10 800 region finalists, eight have graduated.

Fleming Island's second region top draw is the boys 4 x 400 relay squad that has Dill teaming with Spencer Shaw, Felipe Fernandez and Paris Williams to one of two teams with the top time of the region, a 3:22.89 split. Evans High of Orlando also ran 3:22.89 to win district 3-4A.

"All four of those men are competitors," said Moritz. "They have been improving consistently each week and I think without a doubt they are capable of a sub 3:20 performance."

Fleming Island has two top four district 400 runners in Fernandez and Shaw; third and fourth in the 400, respectively with splits of 50.34 and 50.52. Dill adds a third 50-second split with Paris Williams hitting 51.00 in the district final. Fleming Island will need at least two of the runners to break 50 seconds with the top four region finishers under 3:20 and the top six finishers at the state meet last year under 3:20. Fleming Island, with three of the four runners returning; Joshua Beckles being replaced with Williams, issued a 3:25.47 for sixth at regions last year.

Also heading to region 1-4A, Oakleaf High's jump squads; both girls and boys, will be among the top leapers in the region led by Melvin Briley in the triple jump. Briley has triple jumped precariously close to the 50-foot mark that will probably be necessary to win a state title with his 46'-10" district jump the best jump of the region.

In 2016, Briley only jumped 43'-10" in the region final round to finish seventh. The winning jump was 47'.25" from senior Emanuel Foster of Seminole. The state title was won in 4A last year at 46'-4.5" with the fourth place jump at 44'-2.5".

In the high jump, multi-talented Anthony Norris comes in as high jump district champ and a state meet athlete from 2016 (fifth at 6'-4"), and can very easily make the top four in two events; high jump and long jump. Though Norris has been hampered with a banged up heel, he has improved steadily with that and kept up his jumping prowess. His 6'-0.75" winning high jump at districts is far below his capabilities, but he bested his long jump distance to finish third in that event to rank fifth in the region. Norris has the fifth best high jump for region 1-4A with his district jump, but his best puts him right in the mix for a trip to the state meet. Six-foot-six won the state meet in 2016.

In the 1-4A shot put, Oakleaf's Jeff Allen threw the third best in the district; fifth ranked in the region with a 123'-7" with a 142'-6" the target distance.



Middleburg High high jumper Bryce Quiett extended his personal best to 6'-6.75" to take the district 4-3A title and enter the region 1-3A championships in Tallahassee as a top four candidate.



Hurdlers; left to right, Khalif Copeland of Oakleaf, Glenn Rodgers of Ridgeview and Joaquin Castro of Ridgeview will all be competing at region championship meets this week with shot at top four sending them to the state championships in Bradenton on May 4-5.

In Class 3A, set for Tallahassee Chiles also on Thurs., April 27, Middleburg High has two top draws in sprinter Marcus Floyd and high jumper Bryce Quiett. Floyd, who ran in the state 400 as a freshman with a ninth in the 400 in 49.65 has clamped on to fast times in the 100 and 200 with a dominant triple jump offering three tickets to the state meet.

At the district 4-3A meet, Floyd won the triple jump on his only jump, a 45'-3" effort, that was the best jump of the region. In the sprints, Floyd topped the 100 with a best time in the region of 10.94 and the 200 in 22.25 for the fifth best time of the region with two sprinters under 22 seconds. Class 3A was won with a 10.92 in the 100 last year with 21.31 winning the 200.

In the high jump, Quiett soared to a personal best of 6'-6.75" to win handily, but a 6'-7.5" height won district 3-3A.

"My coaches; April and Craig Martin, have been closing in on the little things that make a high jump work," said Quiett. "Each step has a purpose and we are getting close to a perfect jump. That one felt pretty close."

Quiett's female counter, teammate Kaley Petrosky, won her second district title also with a personal best at 5'-5" with one

jumper at 5'-6" inches making Petrosky's jump second best in the region.

"She has great technique and is very smooth in her approach," said April Martin. "She is a good athlete in whatever event she enters, but we have her aiming to get to state in the high jump."

In the shot put, Orange Park's Shawn Bizzell nearly got a district title with his 47'-0.25" throw just two inches off the top throw and behind just four throwers. A good day and Bizzell heads to state.

In the long jump, Orange Park's Keanan Restall had the third best leap of the region, 21'-5.5", to win the district title.

At the district 3-2A track meet, Ridgeview senior Devon Fertil got his talents in the top four of the triple jump; second at 44'-0.50", the discus, third at 127'-7", and the 400 third at 53.21.

"Devon has been signed up to all four events for the last two seasons," said Ridgeview coach Al Nesi, Jr. "Bolles spreads out the time frame for regional just like Districts. Devon is healthy and ready to go, just like all the other athletes at Ridgeview."

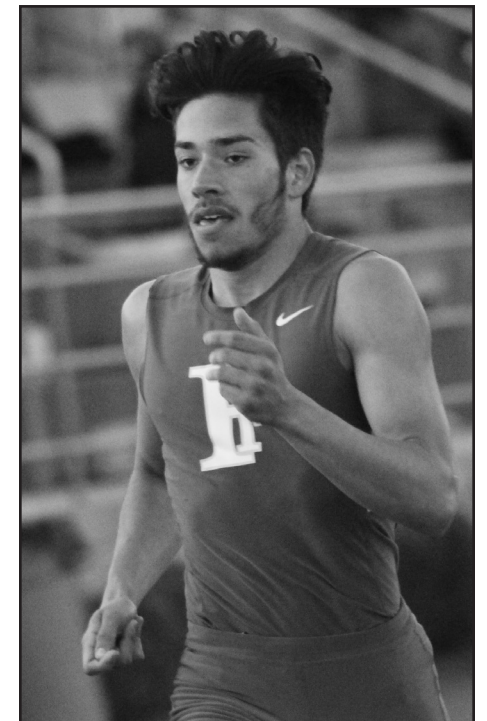
In the triple jump, Fertil is ranked second in the region. In the discus, Fertil is

ranked sixth. In the 400, Fertil is 12th ranked.

For the 2A sprints, Clay High's Erykah Murray is within a half second of a state meet berth with her second place 12.62 100 meters being fourth ranked in the region. Murray also ran a fourth place 26.27 in the 200 which ranks 10th in the region.

Ridgeview sophomore hurdler Glenn Rodgers won a district title in the 110 hurdles in 15.80 which ranks him fourth in the region.

Clay and Ridgeview report to Bolles on Tues, April 25 for the region 1-2A championship meet.



Fleming Island High distance runner Cameron Dill won the district 1-4A 800 meters race and heads to region 1-4A with the third fastest time in the region. Dill went to state last year in the 400.

In district 5-2A, where Keystone Heights competes, miler Alex Guy won his district title in 4:45.21 and could break into the top four where 4:34.42, 4:37.32 and 4:38.38 won district titles within the region.

Keystone Heights travels to Lake Highland Prep for the region 2-2A championships on Thurs., April 27.

In district 4-1A, St. Johns Country Day School freshman Kendall Sage won her district in the 100 with a 13.07 split and is ranked number two in region 1-1A with a 12.76 the best time of the region.

In the 400, Jett Isley is second ranked with his 52.16 with the district 4-1A champion's 52.12 split just ahead of Isley. Isley had the fourth best seed time of the district final, but went two seconds faster and nearly took caught winner Tyre Singleton of the Florida School of Deaf and Blind.

Sage's twin sister, Courtney, is within reach of the top four at region with her third place in 17.11 in the 100 hurdles the fourth best finish of the region with 15.68 and 15.76 the top two splits.

The Spartans return to Bishop Snyder on Tues, April 25 for the region 1-1A championship meet.

STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO



### Wes Whiddon Scholarship Golf Tournament action

STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

Area golfers got to show off some golf skills while raising money for the Wes Whiddon Foundation Sunday at the Fleming Island Golf Course. Left are the Whiddons; Seth, Wes, Angela and Heath; right, Neal Goldblatt blasts a bunker; below left to right, golf gals Beth Brantz, Mary Michaels, Amanda Vanderbeebe and Diane Spera; Bill Ballou tees off at three and Tyler "T-Rex" Robison urges close putt to drop.

More photos online at [claytodayonline.com](http://claytodayonline.com)



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# Fleming Island, Orange Park, Clay in flag rankings

## JOE PINKOS' POWER RATINGS Florida High School Girls Flag Football

### The Florida Flag Football Class 2A Power 20

1. Martin County (Stuart) (11-0) 83.9
2. Plant (Tampa) (10-2) 81.6
3. Seminole Ridge (Loxahatchee) (10-0) 81.0
4. Hialeah (9-0) 78.4
5. Dr. Phillips (Orlando) (11-0) 78.3
6. Park Vista (Lake Worth) (9-0) 76.6
7. William T. Dwyer (Palm Beach Gardens) (7-2) 76.1
8. Alonzo (Tampa) (8-3) 73.0
9. Wharton (Tampa) (9-2) 72.9
10. Apopka (9-1) 72.0
11. East Bay (Gibsonton) (10-2) 71.7
12. Cooper City (10-0) 70.8
13. South Broward (Hollywood) (7-1) 70.2
14. Western (Davie) (7-2) 69.7
15. Coral Gables (7-0) 69.3
16. Plant City (5-3) 69.1
17. Bloomingdale (8-3) (Valrico) 68.4
18. Palm Harbor University (10-0) 66.0
19. Dr. Krop (Miami) 65.9
20. Fleming Island (Orange Park) (4-1) 65.8

### The Florida Flag Football Class 1A Power 20

1. Robinson (Tampa) (11-0) 96.5
2. Godby (Tallahassee) (9-1) 80.4
3. Chiles (Tallahassee) (9-2) 79.4
4. Miami Edison (7-1) 76.8
5. Pembroke Pines Charter (10-0) 76.5
6. Clay (Green Cove Springs) (9-0) 76.4
7. Choctawhatchee (Fort Walton Beach) (9-0) 75.2
8. FAMU DRS (Tallahassee) (8-4) 74.2
9. Lincoln (Tallahassee) (7-4) 72.6
10. Terry Parker (Jacksonville) (7-0) 72.4
11. Miami Jackson (7-1) 71.5
12. Rickards (Tallahassee) (6-4) 71.3
13. Orange Park (7-3) 70.7
14. Archbishop McCarthy (Southwest Ranches) (10-1) 70.3
15. Glades Central (7-3) 70.1
16. Mainland (Daytona Beach) (9-0) 68.8
17. Osceola Fundamental (9-1) 68.6
18. Fort Pierce Westwood (3-2) 67.6
19. Booker T. Washington (Miami) (6-1) 67.3
20. Harmony (8-1) 66.9

**About the rankings:** Joe Pinkos' Power Ratings are calculated using a formula based on strength of opposition and margin of victory. To determine the forecasted margin of victory between any two teams, simply figure the difference in the respective power ratings.

### District Tournament Schedules/Venues

#### District 1-2A (region 1)

Fleming Island, Oakleaf, Mandarin, Atlantic Coast, Fletcher, Lee, Sandalwood  
Districts hosted by Mandarin High School, May 2 (Games start 4:30, final 7:30 p.m.)

#### District 4-1A (region 1)

Baldwin, Clay, White, Middleburg, Orange Park, Ridgeview, Westside  
Districts hosted by Baldwin, May 2-3 (Games start 6 p.m., final May 3, 7 p.m.)

#### District 5-1A (region 2)

Keystone Heights, Belleview, Citrus, Crystal River, Lecanto, Leesburg, Palatka, Trinity Catholic, Vanguard, West Port  
Districts hosted by Vanguard (Booster Stadium) May 2 (Games start 5 p.m., final 8 p.m.)



STAFF PHOTOS BY  
RANDY LEFKO

Fleming Island quarterback Hope Rozier, left, and Orange Park quarterback Harlee Sharp will be on opposite ends of the field on April 25 as the Golden Eagles, ranked 20th statewide in Class 2A, host the Raiders, ranked 13th in Class 1A. Orange Park beat Fleming Island 12-0.

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# Devils take No. 1 from Panthers

## Escher: Gamewinning HR

By Randy Lefko  
Sports Editor

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – As district baseball tournaments loom in a week, the Clay High School baseball team got scintillating defense and timely hitting to thwart the prospect of a three-way tie for the district 4-6A top spot as the Blue Devils went two for two for wins over the Ponte Vedra Sharks; 11-4 and 2-1, with back-to-back games Wed., April 19 and Thurs., April 20. Clay (17th), Ponte Vedra (10th) and Ridgeview (9th), all ranked in the top 20 in 6A are all in district 4-6A.

“We started out at one win and seven losses and that was tough,” said Clay coach Josh Persinger. “My coaches kept urging the boys to stay focused on the prize which is what we captured today; the district top seed. This district is so tough at

the top that it was going to take an intense effort to succeed and I think we did the last two days.”

In game two, with a loss causing the coin flip for number one, Ponte Vedra looked primed to rebound from the 11-4 loss on Wednesday with a quick 1-0 lead in the first inning coming from three errors by Clay and a hit batter by pitcher Austin Burke.

“We had some jitters I think mainly because of them being Ponte Vedra,” said Persinger. “We just had to settle.”

With the bases loaded and the Ponte Vedra dugout erupting in anticipation of a big inning, it was shortstop Connor Solomon and second baseman Cole Escher executing a nifty double play grounder to squash the intensity. It was the fourth double play of the series with Escher combining with Burke at shortstop to finish off two in game one.

“The double play is like the slam



Clay High second baseman Cole Escher runs home in front of Ponte Vedra dugout after blasting game winning homer in fifth inning of Blue Devils' 2-1 win that secured top seed in district 4-6A.



STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

Clay baserunner Chase Holman rounds second base in game one against Ponte Vedra won by Blue Devils 11-4.

dunk of baseball,” said Solomon. “It’s a gamechanger.”

Clay answered with their high-charged defensive effort with a double for Escher in the ensuing inning that turned into a run with Tyler Spence bashing an RBI single over second base to tie the score at 1-1. Josh Lemen would strikeout, but Solomon would single before Chase Holman grounded out to end the inning.

“We have been very good at taking adversity and using it to our advantage,” said Persinger. “You can say we need to get mad before we get going.”

With Burke getting a strikeout and two flyouts in the top of the second, Clay looked to add to their run total with Burke getting to third base off a field error and single from Jacob Owens and Andrew Yarbrough getting hit with a pitch, but Ponte Vedra’s defense stymied the setup with Escher striking out and Spence getting a line drive stolen at third base as the Sharks’ defense braked Clay’s momentum.

A pickoff play at second base squelched a Ponte Vedra scoring opportunity as Burke was limiting the Sharks to just three batters.

In the fifth inning, with the score at 1-1, Escher answered with a missile-launch home run ball that quickly made it to the other side of the outfield fence to up the game to 2-1 for Clay. Lemen was hit with a pitch, but Solomon struck out and Chase Holman grounded out to limit the lead to 2-1.

“What can I say about hitting the game-winner,” said Escher. “The double plays are just one of the little things we work on all the time in practice for games like this.”

In the Sharks’ final at-bat, Solomon and Escher combined for a double play to end the game.

In game one, on a strikingly sunny night at Ponte Vedra, Clay High baseball infielders Austin Burke and Cole Escher executed three critical double plays to push the Blue

Devils to an 11-4 win to set up the game two dramatics.

In the first inning, Clay jumped all over Ponte Vedra starting pitcher Kevin Faulkner with Escher walking and Tyler Spence and Josh Lemen both singling to set up an RBI single from Connor Solomon that scored the game 2-0. A strikeout to Chase Holman and a grounder to Ken Burke ended the quick strike, but the Blue Devils built a bit of momentum.

Ponte Vedra, facing Solomon on the mound for the Blue Devils, got three walks to load the bases before Burke to Escher to Andy Yarbrough at first displayed the first double play of the night though a run scored off the effort.

In the third, Ponte Vedra opened with a solo homer to Quenton Brahm then added three singles off Solomon to load the bases before centerfielder Jacob Owens lost a flyball that allowed one more runs and a flyball scoring another to push the Sharks into a 4-2 lead.

In the fifth, Clay’s bats woke up with Holman and Ken Burke opening with hard singles and Austin Burke loading the bases with a bunt to setup an RBI single by Escher that was aided by a shortstop error. Jackson launched an RBI single to score two more runs with Escher singling to load the bases one more time with the score now 6-4 for Clay.

In the Sharks’ fifth, Yarbrough opened with a strikeout and a single to right field, but Burke to Escher to Solomon now at first finished off a dramatic second double play to end the inning.

The defensive highlight ignited the Clay dugout that seemed to shake Roca as Holman opened with a single, Ken Burke walked and Austin Burke walked to load the bases with one out. Owens started the avalanche of runs with a run scoring single with Escher and Lemen singling around a



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# Gettin' dirty at Seamark Mudder

## Annual fundraiser brings 3,000

Athletes of all sizes raced the 3.1 miles with 26 obstacles of the annual Seamark Mudder race Saturday three miles west of Penney Farms with some mud-slinging, wall-climbing, swamp-swimming and slippy-sliding going on all with a goal of raising money for the Christian-based youth home.

STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO



## Tennis

from page 27

match, but lost in the semifinals.

For Lake Mary, and also for Fleming Island on Tuesday, the advancement of the team does not allow for an individual candidate in the Class 4A singles tournament.

In 2017, fortunately for Chadwell, a freshman named Logan Zapp came along and put some "ice" into the Golden Eagle system.

"He shows very little emotion out there for a guy that young," said Chadwell. "He even talks to himself after bad plays and it may appear that he is coming unhinged out there, then he blasts a bunch of shots and wins his match. Incredible."

Zapp, who had been tabbed as the number one singles for most of the season with Burns at number two and Suhrer at number three, was facing off against Lake Mary junior David Gorshein, the district 2-4A champion and a much bigger physically player than the slight build of the younger Zapp.

"He looks like he could overpower Logan out there and run him into the ground, but Logan is a human backboard off the baseline," said Chadwell. "He just keeps returning balls and wears guys down."

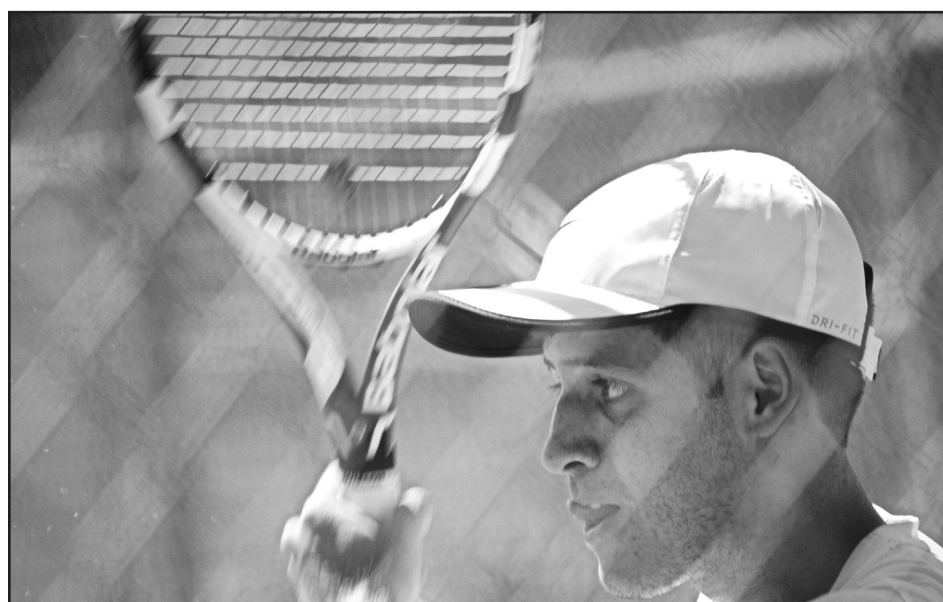
In the singles number one match, Zapp

had to finish off an overtime set against Gorshein to keep the match intact before winning the match. Zapp went toe-to-toe with Gorshein to a 6-6 first set with Zapp breaking Gorshein's service for the fifth point. In the tiebreaker, Zapp surged to a 7-2 win then followed with a 6-3 gamewinner. In the final game, Zapp took a 3-0 early lead with two service breaks on Gorshein, but Gorshein rebounded to tie at 3-3 with his own service break on Zapp. Zapp would recover and break Gorshein one more time for the 6-3 final.

"He was tough," said Zapp, after the two hour marathon match. "I have to hydrate and stay loose for the doubles now."

In the numbers two and three singles, Burns and Suhrer took care of business in those matches decisively with scores of 6-6, 6-1 for Burns and 6-4, 6-3 for Suhrer to set up a 3-2 team score after individual matches were done. Fleming Island lost in the four and five singles matches; Riley Dixon and Evan Maier for the Golden Eagles, and were forced to put Suhrer and Dixon on the court to push the match point with a win in their doubles match ending the competition at 5-2. In tennis team scoring, the first team to four is considered the winner; with Fleming Island winning all five individual matches against Seminole to end the match without doubles.

Suhrer and Dixon pushed the pace in



Fleming Island High senior Mark Suhrer, the tennis number three singles player for the Golden Eagles, has unique opportunity to earn second state title medal with a team win in Orlando. Suhrer earned a state title with the Fleming Island boys soccer team.

the doubles, but Chadwell was cognizant of Lake Mary's prowess and eventually put Zapp and Burns on the court about midway through the Suhrer/Dixon match just in case. Suhrer and Dixon won 7-5, 6-2.

"Our lineup is very strong mainly because Burns is a number one caliber guy here for a long time and is playing number two guys on other teams," said Chadwell. "Mark Suhrer is a state champion soccer player now with a chance to get a state

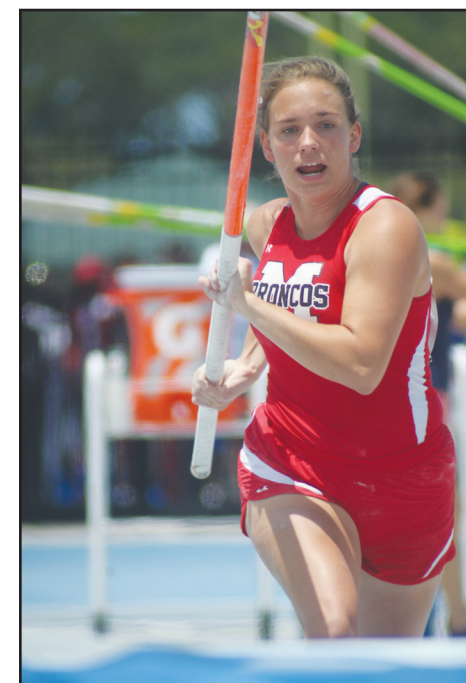
champion tennis ring. He will not be unnerved on the court."

Suhrer was a key player for the Class 4A champion Fleming Island High boys soccer team that won a 4-0 title match over Doral Academy a month ago in Deland.

Suhrer and Dixon, eventually won their doubles match as Burns and Zapp were beginning their match and ended the competition with Fleming Island earning their state ticket.

**Kindle earns service award**

Fleming Island High School graduate Jalen Kindle, second from left, now a linebacker at the University of Delaware, was honored with a Jefferson Award for National Service for Young Americans. With Kindle, left to right, are Delaware football coach Danny Rocco, Delaware Director of Athletics and Recreation Services Chrissi Rawak and Delaware Associate Director of Athletics for Football Administration Jerry Oravitz.



STAFF PHOTO BY RANDY LEFKO

Middleburg High's first track gold medalist, pole vaulter Samantha Stelmaszek, won gold in 2016 and is now progressing as all region freshman at Southern Wesleyan University.

**MHS Stelmaszek gets All-Region track**

By Barbara Boxleitner  
*Special to Clay Today*

CENTRAL, S.C. – Samantha Stelmaszek has been a valuable addition to the Southern Wesleyan University women's track and field team.

The freshman won the pole vault with a mark of 10 feet, 2 inches at the Conference Carolinas indoor championship, where the team was runner-up in its first appearance at the championship.

Because of her feat, the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association recognized the Middleburg High School graduate on the Division II All-Region team. She was named to the all-conference first team.

In other events at the championship, Stelmaszek just missed scoring after finishing ninth in the triple jump. She was 14th in the long jump.

She won the pole vault in the outdoor season opener. Her effort was 10-4 1/4 inches. Most recently, she placed second in the pole vault at the Lenoir-Rhyne Southside Power and Fitness Invitational.

**Softball**

Pitcher Shelby Griffis had a 0-0 record and 4.20 earned run average in five appearances for Chowan University. The Clay High graduate, who also has played in the outfield and been a designated hitter, batted .185 with two RBIs.

Previously at Middleburg, senior Julianne Leduc started all of the 20 games she played for University of South Carolina-Aiken. She hit .255 with four RBIs and had a .950 fielding percentage in 60 chances.

**Baseball**

Freshman pitcher Zach Blankenship had a 2-1 record and 2.25 ERA in 10 appearances for St. Johns River State College. The left-hander is out of Fleming Island High.

LADIES NIGHT:  
**Mammos & Mimosas**

Make getting your mammogram fun and join us for a night that's all about the ladies.  
Get pampered and learn about breast health.

Free robes for the first 20 RSVPs. Mammograms available during event or by appointment following event. RSVP at **OPMCLadiesNight.com** or **(800) 889-3627**.

**Thursday, May 11**  
4:00pm to 7:00pm



2001 Kingsley Avenue, Orange Park, FL 32073  
**OrangeParkMedical.com**



\* Registration required for mammograms during Ladies Night Event. Standard rates apply for mammogram service. Insurance is accepted.

# Devils

from page 32

walk to Spence to score the 11-4 game as Persinger was content to keep the bases loaded and let his batting lineup methodically move baserunners into scoring position.

Around the county, Oakleaf (16-5, 4th-ranked in 8A) lost a 5-3 match to 5A-Baker County on Fri., April 21 despite a homer from Justin Wagers. Oakleaf also lost a 2-1 decision to 3A-St. Johns Country Day School. Oakleaf finishes with Bartram Trail at Bartram Trail April 26 and home against Englewood April 27.

In district 2-8A, where Oakleaf, Atlantic Coast and Fletcher are ranked in top 10 of 8A, Fleming Island (12-9, 3-2), holds out as the dangerous team of the district with a strong batting lineup and big arms in Billy Schopp and Cory Solomon. Fleming Island lost a tough 2-0 game to top-ranked 4A-Providence (18-5, fourth ranked in Florida, No.1 in 4A) then beat Buchholz 9-5 in a slugfest. Earlier in April, Fleming Island snuck past Creekside 3-2 in 10 innings then won 8-3 over Atlantic Coast in district play. A 6-5 lost to Bishop Kenny (20-2, 8th-ranked in Florida, 2nd -ranked in 5A) fueled some inspiration as the Golden Eagles won two over district foe First Coast.

In district 2-3A, St. Johns (14-8, 21st in 3A), after an 8-1 district loss to top seed University Christian (14-7, 5th ranked 3A), has a five game win streak going with wins over St. Joseph, Oak Hall, Oakleaf, Ridgeview and Orange Park with a Monday game against Christ's Church and Eagles View on April 27.

Ridgeview (16-5) finishes at Keystone Heights April 24, with Creekside April 26 and with Columbia April 27.

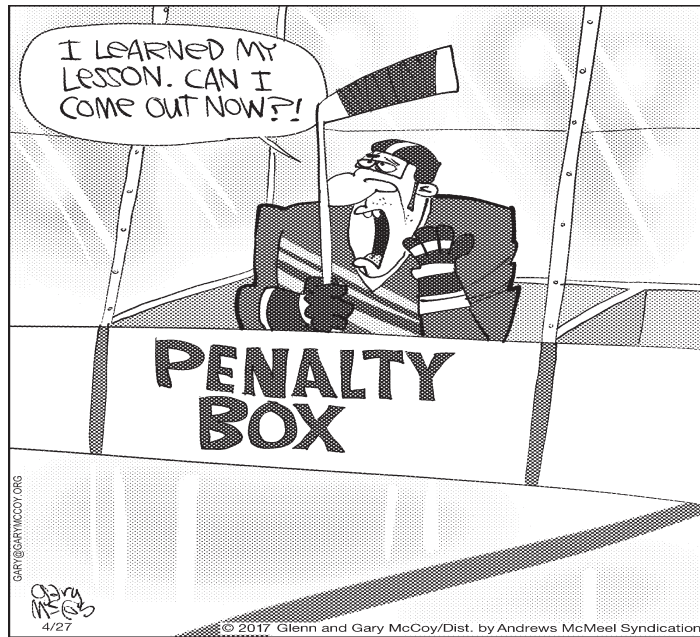
Keystone Heights (14-6, 6-1, 17th-ranked in 5A) and the district 5-5A top seed over Santa Fe, finishes with Ridgeview and at Clay April 26.

Middleburg, (7-16, 0-6) in a strong district 3-7A, finishes at Columbia on May 2.

Orange Park, (1-21) closes its season at St. Augustine April 24 and with Baldwin April 27.

# Fun AND Humor

## Flying McCoys

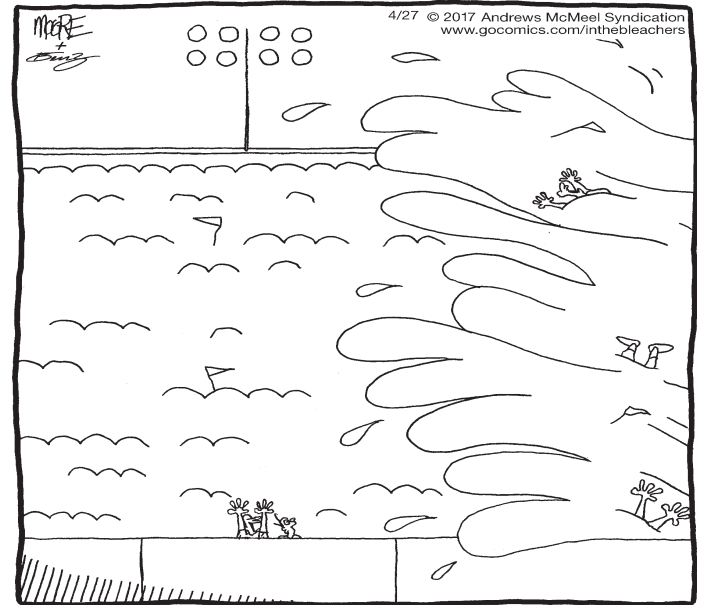


## Non-Sequitur



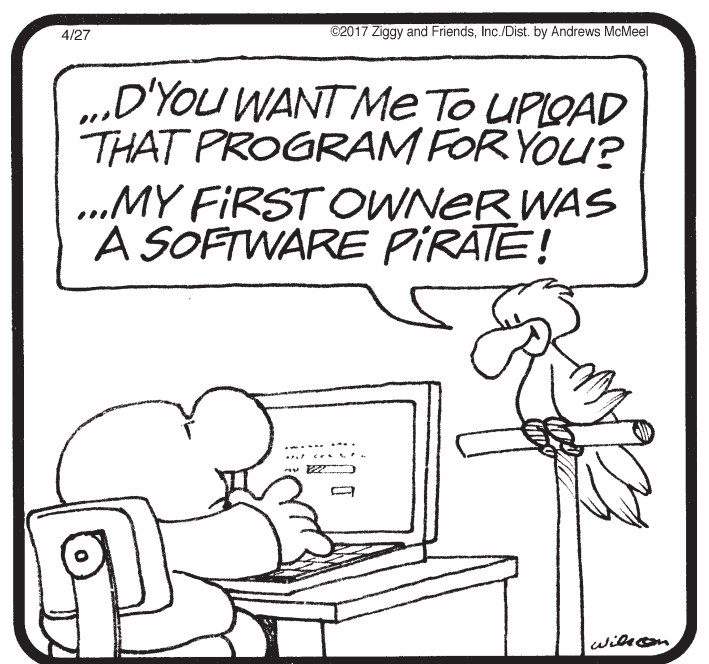
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## In The Bleachers



"Here comes the wave!"

## Ziggy



R	B	C					R	U	D	D						
A	R	E	A				V	E	N	A	E					
C	U	L	M				T	A	V	E	R	N				
I	N	T	I	S			S	R	E	L	I	V	E	S		
S	E	I	S	E			S	H	R	I	V	E	D			
M	I	C	H	A	E	L	J	O	R	D	A	N				
				S	A	D		A	L	L						
				O	T	C		S	P	Y						
				C	U	E		D	A	I						
				P	E	T	E	T	O	W	N	S	H	E	N	D
				P	U	L	L	M	A	N		M	A	C	A	U
				D	A	L	L	I	E	D		A	S	H	U	R
				U	P	L	A	N	D			P	O	S	E	
				D	E	E	R	E				S	E	E	S	
				E	N	D	S					D	A	S		

SOLUTION:

6	1	3	4	2	9	7	8	5
9	2	8	6	7	5	4	1	3
7	4	5	8	1	3	2	6	9
4	7	2	5	9	6	8	3	1
8	9	1	3	4	7	5	2	6
5	3	6	2	8	1	9	7	4
3	6	9	7	5	8	1	4	2
2	5	7	1	3	4	6	9	8
1	8	4	9	6	2	3	5	7

## Real Life Adventures



## UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

	1		4		9			
	2		6	7			1	3
7	4							9
8			3	4	7		8	3
	3	6						
3							4	2
2	5			3	4		9	
			9		2		5	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

**wjct** this week your community, your world



**TV** WJCT-TV 7.1 (Comcast 8, 440)

**Victorian Slum House — Tuesday, May 2, 8 PM**  
 FOLLOW MODERN FAMILIES AS THEY EXPERIENCE THE CHALLENGING CONDITIONS THEIR 1800s ANCESTORS ONCE DID IN BRITISH SLUMS



**TV** Channel 7.1 (Comcast 8, 440)

WED, MAY 3, 8 PM

**Dolphins: Spy in the Pod**  
 The camera eyes of 13 ingenious Spy Creatures, including Spy Dolphin, Spy Nautilus, and Spy Turtle, capture the dolphin's "superpod" behavior never filmed before. Infiltrate the social world of dolphins from strange gatherings to gang rivalries.



**TV** Channel 7.1 (Comcast 8, 440)

WED, MAY 3, 10 PM

**Plants Behaving Badly**  
 This new series examines the extraordinary behavior of carnivorous plants, which have been a feature of many a sci-fi film over the years. Tune in to find out why reality turns out to be far stranger than the fiction.



**TV** Channel 7.1 (Comcast 8, 440)

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 9 PM

**Home Fires: The Final Episode**  
*Home Fires* tells the story of a rural English town on the verge of World War II. As two powerful women struggle to put aside their differences in The Women's Institute, a community learns to unite amidst the chaos and uncertainty of wartime.

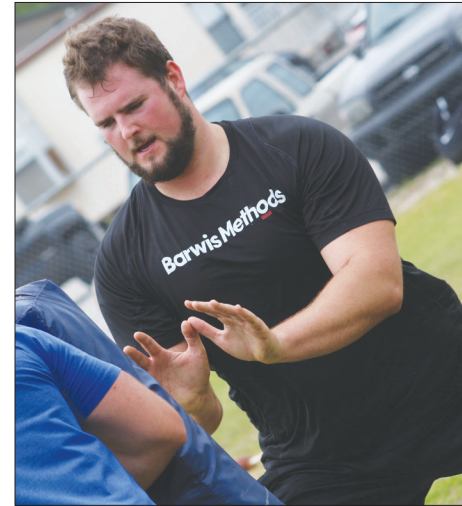


**TV** Channel 7.1 (Comcast 8, 440)

TUESDAY, MAY 9, 9 PM

**American Experience: Bonnie and Clyde**  
 Discover the true story of the most famous outlaw couple in US history. Though their exploits were romanticized, the Barrow gang was believed responsible for robberies, kidnappings and at least 13 murders.

*Listen up!* Get the latest news! WJCT's **What's On This Week** e-newsletter comes to your inbox on Monday afternoons, bringing you information on the week's top TV and radio programs. Sign up at [wjct.org](http://wjct.org).



**Time for football**

Area football teams opened up their spring seasons with drills and conditioning with pads and live hitting set for the weekend. At Clay, top left, quarterback Caleb "Gunslinger" Eason looked sharp, top right, Clay graduate Will Holden, a Vanderbilt graduate, preps for the NFL draft and, below, Orange Park linemen practice blocking drills.



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Independently owned with over 30 years experience  
**VOTED BEST VACUUM STORE**  
 In Clay County by Customers!

**TIM'S VACUUM CLINIC** 278-8300 | 920 Blanding Blvd. Orange Park

Blanding & College Blvd. (Across from Walmart)  
 Mon-Fri 9AM-5PM  
 Sat 9AM-4PM

**CLASSIFIED DEADLINE**  
Monday  
12:00 p.m.

**TO REACH OUR OFFICE CALL:**  
**579-2154**  
Visit us at:  
3513 U.S. Hwy. 17  
Fleming Island, FL 32003

**MESSAGE TO ADVERTISERS:**  
All ads are non-refundable. Please check your ad copy the first week of publication. We will only apply credit for the first run and credits are subject to approval by the Publisher. If ad is cancelled prior to the first insertion, cancellation must be made by the classified deadline of Monday by 12p.m. Ads must comply with Federal, State or local laws. We are not responsible for ad content. Ads are subject to approval by the publisher.

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Starting At  
**\$1450/WK**  
NON-REFUNDABLE  
Call 579-2154

**GARAGE SALE**  
Starting At  
**\$21<sup>00</sup>**  
Both Clay Today & Clay County Leader & online now!

**AUTOMOTIVE NETWORK**  
4 Lines - 3 Weeks  
Starting At  
**\$29<sup>95</sup>** 218,000 readers in Clay, Duval & St. Johns Counties  
Must mention the special Clay Today price!

**COMPLETE MARKET COVERAGE...**  
from 89,000 readers in Orange Park, Keystone Heights, Middleburg, Green Cove Springs, Fleming Island and Penney Farms! It's easy, convenient and it works.  
**CALL TODAY 579-2154**

# Clay COUNTY CLASSIFIED

Serving Keystone Heights, Orange Park, Fleming Island, Green Cove Springs, Penney Farms & Middleburg



## Classified Rates 2017

All Line Ads are 4 Lines, 20 to 25 Characters Per Line.  
\*Additional Lines May Be Purchased.  
\*All Rates Are NET.

**Private Party Line Rates:**  
\$14.50 1 wk, \$24.50 2 wks,  
\$32.50 3 wks, \$39.00 4 wks  
  
(Couches, T.V's, Beds, Household Items, Etc.)

**Commercial Line Rates:**  
\$23.00 1 wk, \$40.00 2 wks,  
\$57.00 3 wks, \$72.00 4 wks  
(Cars, Renting or Selling Real Estate or Advertise Your Business or Service)

**Employment Spotlight:**  
(2" Minimum)  
**1 Week: \$25.50 Per Inch**  
  
**Garage Sale**  
**1 Week: \$21.00**

**Business & Svc. Directory:**  
1.5" x 2" \$77.00/4 Weeks  
1.5" x 3" \$154/4 Weeks

**RATE GUIDE FOR:**  
**CLAY LEADER TODAY** claytodayonline.com

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Call 1-800-994-5789

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Stop smoking with TBX-FREE! Clinically proven. More effective than patch or gum! Fast acting? No Side Effects. 88% success rate! Just \$1.67 per day with 1 month supply. CALL 1-800-317-0953

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HughesNet Satellite Internet. High-Speed. Avail Anywhere. Speeds to 15 mbps. Starting at \$59.99/mo. Call for Limited Time Price 1-800-958-6917

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Got Knee Pain? Back Pain? Shoulder Pain?  
Get a pain-relieving brace at little or NO cost to you. Medicare Patients  
Call Health Hotline Now! 1- 800-752-2108

Stop OVERPAYING for your prescriptions! SAVE! Call our licensed Canadian and International pharmacy, compare prices and get \$25.00 OFF your first prescription! CALL 1-800-749-6515 Promo Code CDC201625

#### Health, Beauty & / Fitness Aids

CPAP/BIPAP supplies at little or no cost from Allied Medical Supply Network! Fresh supplies delivered right to your door. Insurance may cover all costs. 800-665-0718

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**TWO OVERSIZED ELECTRIC RECLINERS**  
SUEDE  
\$600  
CALL  
904-272-6499

**PRIVATE PARTY**  
Starting At  
**\$1450/WK**  
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Call 579-2154

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### ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY

Full time Newspaper display outside sales representative opportunity. 40 hours per week, base plus commission & benefits. Reliable car and insurance necessary. Newspaper or media experience wanted but not necessary as we will train. Looking for motivated and dependable person.  
**Send cover letter and resume to jon@opcfla.com**

EOE

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Small Assisted Living Facility Seeking Reliable Care Giver for Flexible shifts.

**Call 904-272-2609**

### Full Charge Bookkeeper

- Part or Full-Time
  - Permanent Position
  - Mature/ Organized
  - Sage / ADP experience helpful
  - Office Products Proficient
- supportresume@gmail.com**  
Business located in Orange Park, Fl.

### NOW HIRING

28 year established contracting firm with full benefits is now accepting applications for qualified applicants. Gateway Contracting, Inc. not only offers health insurance, vacation, paid holidays and 401k benefits, but also provides stability, training, and growth for our employees. We are growing and have the need to fill the following positions. If you are interested and qualify, please apply online at [www.gatewaycontractinginc.com](http://www.gatewaycontractinginc.com).

#### THREE FULL-TIME POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

- JOURNEYMAN PLUMBER  
Experienced in commercial and industrial work.
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Qualified applicants must have good driving record and pass background check. DFWP Call 904-388-4799



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Join us at a job fair in one of these cities:  
Destin, Fort Walton Beach, Orange Beach, Panama City Beach, Sandestin, Santa Rosa Beach, St. Augustine

For event details and to start your application, or to schedule an appointment, visit

**Publix.Jobs/StoreEvent**

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**All ads appear online. Call Martha 579-2154**

**Garage, Yard & Estate Sales**

Black Creek at Eagle Harbor Community located on Canova/Old Hard road between 220 and Town Center Dr. will be holding our annual Garage sale on Saturday, April 29 from 7 AM to 1 PM. Terrific deals on toys, furniture, electronics, and clothes can be found at the individual homes. Plenty of street parking. Don't miss the great deals! Look for our signs and balloons!

**CLASSIFIED DEADLINE**  
Monday  
12:00 p.m.

**CLAY TODAY CLASSIFIEDS**  
YOUR SOURCE FOR A **QUICK SALE!**  
3513 US Highway 17  
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**Garage, Yard & Estate Sales**

**\*\*GARAGE SALE\*\***  
APRIL 29TH  
SAT. 9-2  
445 WYNFIELD CIRCLE  
FLEMING ISLAND  
HARLEY DAVIDSON ITEMS,  
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GLASS BAR,  
TOO MANY ITEMS  
TO MENTION

**Garage, Yard & Estate Sales**

Simmons Estate Sales is Hosting the Argyle Fabulous estate Sale April 29th, 30th & May 1st Saturday 9-4 Sunday 9-3 Monday 9-2  
488 Summit Dr  
Furniture for every room  
TV's, Tools, Jewelry  
Women's Clothing, Artwork  
Home wares  
Kitchen Wares, Books  
To Much to List - A Must See - Something for Everyone

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**\*\*RENT BASED ON INCOME\*\***  
NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS  
FOR 1, 2 & 3 BEDROOMS  
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**CLAY TODAY LEADER**  
CLAY COUNTY THE LEADER IN LOCAL NEWS

**OAKLEAF HERALD**  
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Mail this form with payment to:  
3513 U.S. Highway 17  
Fleming Island, FL. 32003  
Or drop it by the office.  
We are open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Monday -Friday  
Call: 269-2999  
Fax: 269-6958

**Classified ads**  
Classified ads are 4 lines of text (20-25 characters per line)  
Payment must be made before ad will be published.  
We accept Cash, Check, Major Credit & Debit Cards.

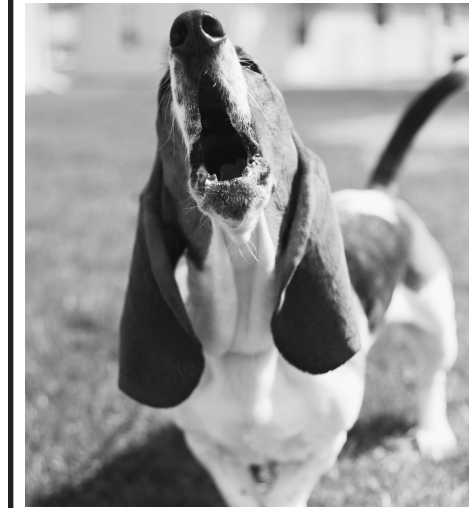
- Type of Ad**
- Private Party (TVs, Sofas, Household, etc.)**
    - 1 Week \$14.50       2 Weeks \$24.50
    - 3 Weeks \$32.50       4 Weeks \$39.00
  - Commercial (Rentals, Cars, Advertise your business.)**
    - 1 Week - \$23       2 Weeks - \$40
    - 3 Weeks - \$57       4 Weeks - \$72
  - Garage 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

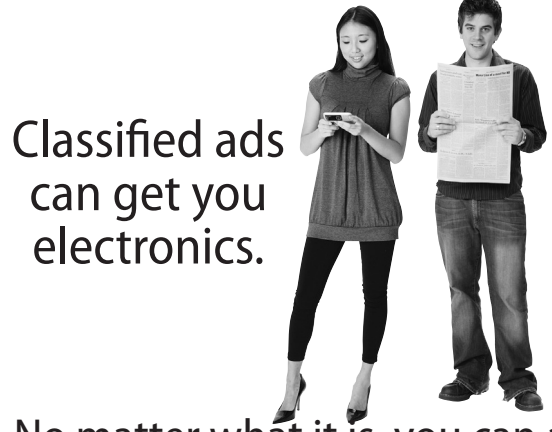
Additional Lines are \$2.15 each.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_



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Classified ads put home-seekers on solid ground.



Classified ads can get you electronics.

Classified ads making finding a job practically no work at all.

No matter what it is, you can always buy it, sell it or find it with Classified ads.  
For information or to place an ad call 579-2154.

# CLAY TODAY

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\$25,000.00 y más par Manutencion Ayudanos, No Podemos Tener Hijos. Llama a Nuestra Abogada. 561-674-6857 Fl. Bar #307084

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To Carry Our Baby! Generous Compensation and Expenses Paid. Call Attorney Charlotte Danciu 1-800-395-5449 [www.adoption-surr-ogacy.com](http://www.adoption-surr-ogacy.com) FL Bar #307084

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**SURROGATE MOTHER NEEDED**  
To Carry Our Baby! Generous Compensation and Expenses Paid. Call Attorney Charlotte Danciu 1-800-395-5449 [www.adoption-surr-ogacy.com](http://www.adoption-surr-ogacy.com) FL Bar #307084

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### Schools / Instructional

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#### Mobile Home Rentals

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---

Middleburg  
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### RECREATION

---

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**Miscellaneous**

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**Miscellaneous**

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**Miscellaneous**  
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**Notice of Sale**

Middleburg, FL 32068  
**ATTENTION: PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES** (Clay County)  
 If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator at crtintrp@coj.net or (904) 255-1695 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing impaired or voice impaired, call 711. Witness my hand and seal of this court on 13th of April, 2017.

(seal)  
 Tara S. Green  
 Clerk of the Circuit Court  
 By: Melissa Wilder  
 Deputy Clerk  
 Legal 39376 published April 20 and April 27, 2017 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper.

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE**  
 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 4TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA  
 CIVIL DIVISION  
 CASE NO: 2016-CA-001007  
**FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION ("FANNIE MAE"), A CORPORATION ORGANIZED AND EXISTING UNDER THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**  
 Plaintiff,  
 Vs.  
**RICHARD C. JOHNSON; TABITHA JOHNSON; FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION; OAKLEAF PLANTATION PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY;**  
 Defendant(s)  
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated April 12, 2017, and entered in Case No. 2016-CA-001007, of the Circuit Court of the 4th Judicial Circuit in and for CLAY COUNTY, Florida, wherein FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION ("FANNIE MAE"), A CORPORATION ORGANIZED AND EXISTING UNDER THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA is Plaintiff, and RICHARD C. JOHNSON; TABITHA JOHNSON; UNKNOWN PERSON(S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY; FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION; OAKLEAF PLANTATION PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.; are defendants. TARA S. GREEN, the Clerk of the Circuit Court, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash BY ELECTRONIC SALE AT: WWW.CLAY.REALFORECLOSE.COM, at 10:00 AM, on the 12th day of June, 2017, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit:  
**LOT 122, WAVERLY AT OAKLEAF PLANTATION, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 40, PAGE(S) 12 THROUGH 21, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA.**  
 A person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.  
 DATED this 12th day of April, 2017.

(seal)  
 TARA S. GREEN  
 As Clerk of Said Court  
 By Marla Albert  
 As Deputy Clerk  
 Legal 39381 published April 20 and April 27, 2017, in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper.

**Notice of Sale**

**NOTICE OF SALE**  
 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA  
 CIVIL DIVISION  
 Case #: 2016-CA-000815  
 DIVISION: A

**JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association**  
 Plaintiff,  
 vs.  
**Jason Michael Quinten Gross a/k/a Jason Gross; April Marie Gross a/k/a April Gross; Arava Homeowners Association, Inc.; Unknown Parties in Possession #1, If living, and all Unknown Parties claiming by, through, under and against the above named Defendant(s) who are not known to be dead or alive, whether said Unknown Parties may claim an interest as Spouse, Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, or Other Claimants**  
 Defendant(s).  
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to order rescheduling foreclosure sale or Final Judgement, entered in Civil Case No. 2016-CA-000815 of the Circuit Court of the 4th Judicial Circuit in and for Clay County, Florida, wherein JPMorgan Chase bank, National Association, Plaintiff and Jason Michael Quinten Gross a/k/a Jason Gross are defendant(s), I, Clerk of Court, Tara S. Green, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash using the following method: <http://www.clay.realforeclose.com>, beginning AT 10:00 A.M. on August 10, 2017, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit:  
**LOT 13, ARAVA UNIT TWO, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 33, PAGES 59, 60, 61 AND 62, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA.**  
 ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.  
 If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator; 330 East Bay Street, Suite 507-C, Jacksonville, Florida 32202; (904) 630-1897 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification of the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

(SEAL)  
 Tara S Green  
 CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT  
 Clay County, Florida  
 Jaimie Pippin  
 DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT  
 Legal 39393 published April 27 and May 4, 2017 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper. 16-301941

**NOTICE OF SALE**  
 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA  
 CIVIL DIVISION  
 Case #: 2017-CA-000003  
 DIVISION: A

**PNC Bank, National Association**  
 Plaintiff,  
 vs.  
**Daniel Linn Tanner a/k/a Daniel L. Tanner a/k/a Daniel Tanner;**  
 Defendant(s).

**Notice of Sale**

**Defendant(s).**  
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to order rescheduling foreclosure sale or Final Judgement, entered in Civil Case No. 2017-CA-000003 of the Circuit Court of the 4th Judicial Circuit in and for Clay County, Florida, wherein PNC Bank, National Association, Plaintiff and Daniel Linn Tanner a/k/a Daniel L. Tanner a/k/a Daniel Tanner are defendant(s), I, Clerk of Court, Tara S. Green, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash using the following method: <http://www.clay.realforeclose.com>, beginning AT 10:00 A.M. on July 11, 2017, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit:  
**LOT 24, BLOCK 5, GREEN COVE HEIGHTS, ACCORDING TO PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 19, PAGE 58 THROUGH 60, PUBLIC RECORDS OF CLAY**

**Notice of Sale**

**NOTICE OF SALE**  
 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA  
 CIVIL DIVISION  
 Case #: 2016-CA-000815  
 DIVISION: A

**JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association**  
 Plaintiff,  
 vs.  
**Jason Michael Quinten Gross a/k/a Jason Gross; April Marie Gross a/k/a April Gross; Arava Homeowners Association, Inc.; Unknown Parties in Possession #1, If living, and all Unknown Parties claiming by, through, under and against the above named Defendant(s) who are not known to be dead or alive, whether said Unknown Parties may claim an interest as Spouse, Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, or Other Claimants**  
 Defendant(s).  
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to order rescheduling foreclosure sale or Final Judgement, entered in Civil Case No. 2016-CA-000815 of the Circuit Court of the 4th Judicial Circuit in and for Clay County, Florida, wherein JPMorgan Chase bank, National Association, Plaintiff and Jason Michael Quinten Gross a/k/a Jason Gross are defendant(s), I, Clerk of Court, Tara S. Green, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash using the following method: <http://www.clay.realforeclose.com>, beginning AT 10:00 A.M. on August 10, 2017, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit:  
**LOT 13, ARAVA UNIT TWO, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 33, PAGES 59, 60, 61 AND 62, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA.**  
 ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.  
 If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator; 330 East Bay Street, Suite 507-C, Jacksonville, Florida 32202; (904) 630-1897 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification of the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

**Notice of Sale**

**COUNTY, FLORIDA.**  
 ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.  
 If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator; 330 East Bay Street, Suite 507-C, Jacksonville, Florida 32202; (904) 630-1897 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification of the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days. If you are hearing or

**Notice of Sale**

voice impaired, call 711.

(SEAL)  
 Tara S Green  
 CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT  
 Clay County, Florida  
 Stacie Towns  
 DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT  
 Legal 39392 published April 27 and May 4, 2017 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper. 16-304903

subscribe today

## 2017 Municipal Super Tuesday Runoff Election

### Tuesday, May 9, 2017

### 7 A.M. to 7 P.M.

**LEGAL NOTICE  
PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE  
CANVASSING BOARD EVENTS**

Notice is hereby given that meetings for the Town of Orange Park Municipal Super Tuesday Runoff Election Canvassing Board will be held on the following dates:

- May 5, 2017**  
9:00 a.m. Logic and Accuracy Test
- May 8, 2017**  
1:00 p.m. Opening of Mail Ballots
- May 9, 2017**  
1:30 p.m. Process and duplication of Mail Ballots  
6:00 p.m. Opening of Mail Ballots  
7:00 p.m. Canvass of Election Returns/Questionable Mail Ballots/Cured Provisionals, Totals Report, Audit Selection (if possible)
- May 11, 2017**  
5:00 p.m. Canvass Provisional Ballots (if applicable), Totals Report, Audit Selection (if applicable), Audit (if applicable)
- May 12, 2017**  
3:00 p.m. Logic & Accuracy Test for Recount (if applicable), Recount (if applicable), Totals Report, Audit Selection (if applicable)
- May 15, 2017**  
1:30 p.m. Audit of Election (if applicable)

In accordance with the Sunshine Law of Florida, this meeting is open to the public.  
 Note: Section 286.01105, Florida Statutes, states that if a person decides to appeal any decision by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at a meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purposes, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

**Orange Park Town Hall**  
2042 Park Ave., Orange Park, FL 32073

Official Municipal Runoff Election Ballot  
May 09, 2017  
Orange Park, Florida

206C0

\* Instructions: To vote, fill in the oval (●) completely next to your choice. Use only the marker provided or a black or blue pen.  
 \* If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot. Do not cross out or your vote may not count.

Town Council Seat 1 (Vote for 1)	
○ Larry M. Nichols	Sample Ballot
○ Ron Raymond	

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