

CLAY TODAY

HAPPY EASTER

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Frustrations, partisan schism deepen at Yoho town hall

By Jesse Hollett
Staff Writer

ORANGE PARK – For weeks after the GOP proposed a replacement to the Affordable Care Act, constituent town halls became no more than boxing rings and representatives their punching bags.

The abuse grew so severe, Senator Marco Rubio refused to hold town hall meetings, saying to reporters he believed liberal activists were going to marshal a

garrison of supporters to heckle him.

Though the new but failed health care plan dust has settled, animus lingers, as Congressmen Ted Yoho (R-3) discovered April 9 at a town hall meeting he hosted at Ridgeview



Ted Yoho

High School.

Liberals and conservatives shuffled in en masse, roughly 150 in total. It would be a long day, the first of three meetings scheduled for Saturday alone. And he faced some tough questions.

When asked the likelihood of a government shutdown in the event Congress does not agree on a budget up, Yoho appeared optimistic.

“I don’t foresee that happening, and

our goal is to stop that from happening,” he said. “Our goal is to change that, so it moves more like a business,” Yoho said, referring to President Donald Trump’s vision of government, having come into power from his previous role as a real estate mogul.

President Trump hopes to pay for a wall across the U.S.-Mexico border, in part, by

SEE TOWN, 26



Welcome home!

Master Chief Ervin Byrd hugs his wife LaShonda, while his daughter Tamara, left, waits to hug her dad, after he returned Saturday to Naval Air Station Jacksonville from Europe where he had been deployed since August. See story page 17.

STAFF PHOTO BY KILE BREWER

Sheriff presents plan to get officers into schools

By Debra W. Buehn
Correspondent

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – There’s a new sheriff in town and he’s looking for some more employees to help him make Clay County as safe as it can be.

Clay County Sheriff Darryl Daniels appeared before the Board of County Commissioners at its April 11 meeting to request permission to apply for a grant that would allow him to add some 15 new positions to the sheriff’s roster, including resource officers for the county’s junior high schools.

The commissioners unanimously approved the idea of applying for the grant, but declined to commit any specific amount of funding connected with it, saying they would revisit the subject if the grant is actually awarded.

Daniels, who was elected last November, said the funding necessary for the new positions would total \$871,965 a year, with a 75 percent- 25 percent match. That means that \$653,974 would come from the grant with \$217,991 making up the 25

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Clay County Memories



By Mary Jo McTammany tamctammany@comcast.net

Early roots of drag racing grew in the Fleming Island pine woods

Thunderbolt, Clay County's late 1950s and 60s drag racing track on Fleming Island was aptly named. The roar of finely tuned powerful engines shook the ground and echoed for miles around. On moonless nights, a hazy dome of light glowing on the horizon could be seen from anywhere in the county.

Organizers, Burch Stump, Ed Taylor and Ben Zellner, loved cars and kids and were concerned for the future of the area with the eminent loss of the U.S. Navy Base in Green Cove Springs. The economy of the county was sure to take a hit meaning among other things fewer jobs and more "lay about time" for teenage boys to get up to mischief like drag racing on the roads.

Their goal was to have a track that ranked at the top of the rural facilities popping up all over the southeast in small towns in Georgia, South and North Carolina. They put their money where their mouths were.

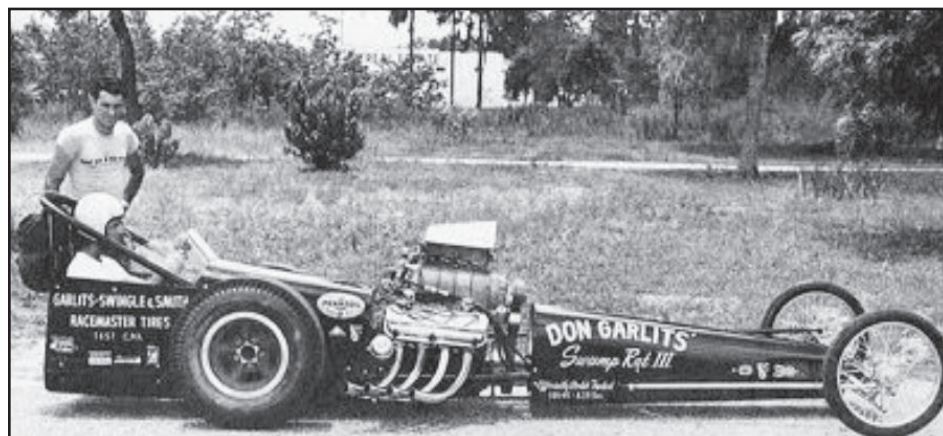
The availability of a deserted World War II airfield just south of State Road 220 with miles of paved surface and convenient water supply put them leagues ahead of the competition. Some tracks provided dangerously little stopping space, with narrow, pothole pitted tracks. Drivers were required to haul water in scrounged demijugs intended for moonshine.

Thunderbolt boasted a top of the line "Christmas Tree," a technically sophisticated starting system. Every car was checked by a certified mechanic for safety and classified to assure the fairness of each contest. Almost immediately, challenges usually settled on the back roads with two competitors roaring side by side down narrow Clay County roads and sending citizens and livestock into the ditches for safety, were "taken to the track."

Teenage shade tree mechanics made challenges that were reconciled with official standards and under adult supervision. Newspapers published race results and radio station WAPE announced live from the track.

The quality of the operation brought the big names and events. Vehicles stretched bumper to bumper down the then narrow, two-lane U.S. Highway 17 past the Big Ape radio station and turned west into the woods at the towering steel thunderbolt piercing the ground.

Fans rubbed shoulders in the pits with the greats of the sport and watched the big dogs of drag racing like Connie Kalitta, Chris Karamesines, Don Prudhomme and Pete Robinson begin and soar into legends. Art Arfons lit the skies over the island twice when he demonstrated his jet engine powered car streaking a quarter mile in



Big Daddy Don Garlits in his third generation Swamp Rat. In the early days, the granddaddy of this model had to be fished out of the woods at Thunderbolt Raceway on Fleming Island.

about five seconds.

Big Daddy Don Garlits was a real crowd pleaser. He had them all collectively holding their breaths the night he took a wild ride into the high brush. His Swamp Rat I blew an engine in the timing lights, skidded on its own oil and went backwards through a fence and back out into a field. It was pitch black dark but they found him quickly because he was pitching a very vocal fit.

In those days, Garlits traveled to races with the car on an open flatbed truck followed by a pick-up truck or a sedan with tools and parts in the trunk. He could build

a car and actually challenge the champions for \$1,500 to \$2,000. To make a run these days costs \$10,000 and a crash means the loss of a quarter million dollar car.

Garlits broke the magical 170 mile per hour barrier in the quarter mile in 1957 at Brooksville, Florida and proved the California gurus of drag – who said it couldn't be done – wrong. He was the hero of every rural southern man or boy.

Local ladies swore that if someone could mix up cologne for men that smelled like burning nitro, they would make a fortune.

Super Tuesday deemed a success

Nix out, Raymond, Nichols in runoff

By Kile Brewer
Staff Writer

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Green Cove Springs voters opted to re-elect their incumbent councilors, while Orange Park saw their mayor defeated while one seat will be decided in a May 9 runoff.

For Orange Park Town Council Seat 1, Larry Nichols and Ron Raymond will face each other again after neither candidate received the required 50 percent plus one vote required in a three-way race to avoid the runoff election. Raymond received 463 votes, 49.26 percent, while Nichols tallied 311 votes which equals 33.09 percent of voters. Their opponent, Eddie Henley, re-

ceived 17.66 percent of the vote with 166 total ballots in his favor.

For Seat 2 in Orange Park, challenger Alan Watt narrowly defeated current Orange Park Mayor Eugene Nix by a seven-vote margin. Watt received 477 votes, 50.37 percent, while Nix won 470 votes at 49.63 percent.

In Green Cove Springs, Mayor Pam Lewis and Vice Mayor Mitch Timberlake were both seeking reelection, with both facing a single challenger. After a relatively quiet campaign, both won by a large margin.

Lewis earned 514 votes or 63.61 percent, while her challenger Michelle Sweatland managed 294 votes at 36.39 percent

SEE ELECTION, 16



STAFF PHOTO BY KILE BREWER

Candidates and members of the public watch election results roll in Tuesday evening at the Clay County Supervisor of Elections office in Green Cove Springs.

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Advance care planning can be a gift to your loved ones

By Gayle Mattson

If a serious accident or illness should happen to you, what happens next? This is a question that most of us do not like to think about; however, delaying advance care planning discussions until a medical crisis occurs can result in decisions being made about your healthcare and/or end-of-life care that you never intended.

National Healthcare Decisions Day on April 16 is intended



Gayle Mattson

to promote advance care planning by helping people understand the importance of planning and encouraging them to plan before a medical crisis occurs. Advance Care Planning includes filling out a legal document, otherwise known as a living will; as importantly, it is also about choosing an agent who will make decisions if one can no longer speak for oneself, and having conversations with that agent about healthcare values and goals to make wishes known.

Unfortunately, when a medical crisis occurs, many families are left to make difficult decisions about their loved one's care at the end of life because they are unresponsive or cannot speak for themselves. This doesn't just happen to us when we are elderly, this could occur at any juncture in our lives or at any age. Having those important discussions with family and documenting wishes using advance directives is an ideal way to lift the burden from those around us if we are unable to speak for ourselves. Many times, while working as a nurse in various clinical and hospital settings, I have seen families struggle to make decisions without knowing what their loved one truly intended for themselves. Some families are left wondering if they did the right thing.

All members of the community who are over the age of 18 should consider completing an advance directive tool to name a health care proxy and make their wishes about end-of-life care known. NHDD is a perfect opportunity to have these important conversations. Using an advance directive can be a gift to those around you. Family members and friends will not have to guess what you want if you cannot speak for yourself during a medical crisis. They won't have to make those hard choices, because they will understand your wishes in advance.

I would like to let members of the community know that there are resources out there for them such as the Five Wishes, an advance directive tool offered by Haven Hospice to let their wishes be known.

During the month of April, Haven joins with other community organizations to provide education and resources on healthcare decision-making and how to

SEE CARE PLAN, 5



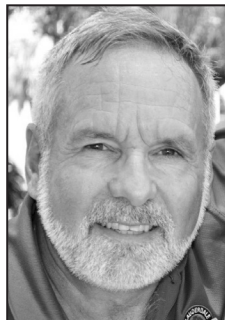
Guest Column

The City Council is defective; here's how to fix it

By Peter Swanson

Having a grievance taught me a lot about how the City Council is viewed by citizens of Green Cove Springs. As I talked with strangers and people I barely knew, a pattern emerged.

Hearing my grievance, some agreed with me. Some disagreed. Most were indifferent. But because there was a City Council angle to my cause, nearly everyone volunteered an opinion about the council, and they were remarkably consistent: "They just do whatever they want." If I heard it once, I heard it a dozen times.



Peter Swanson

We know that about 65 percent of all Americans disapprove of the job that Congress is doing because scientific polling measures our attitudes toward Congress on a regular basis. No such measurement exists for tiny Green Cove Springs, but my anecdotal experience suggests our governing body is equally unpopular.

To me the reason is clear, and it cannot be attributed solely to the failings of individual council members. The Green Cove Springs City Council is defective by design. It is hard-wired to alienate its citizens.

As a newspaper reporter, I covered city councils in three states. No two councils were exactly alike, but all of them shared a design feature lacking here. They all had council members who represented individual districts or neighborhoods. In Green Cove Springs, every one of the five council members runs "at large," which means each represents the entire city. All the successful small cities I have covered have councils that are a mix of district and at-large representatives.

Think of it this way: District council members are like congresspeople in the

House of Representatives and at-large members are like senators. In general, district council members look out for their neighborhoods and the people in them. The at-large members are meant to take a broader view. The mixture of these two types of reps provides checks and balances that Green Cove now lacks, hence the growing sense of alienation among many homeowners and business people.

The notion that "they just do whatever they want" is reinforced by the fact that nearly every vote by the Green Cove council is unanimous—5-0, 5-0, 5-0. The old reporter in me would suspect that the council is deciding issues ahead of time in secret, and then engaging in some cursory discussion during the official meeting—call it "legislative theater"—before making another 5-0 decision.

At this point, let's note the elephant in the room — our own Magnolia Point gated community. Nothing against my Magnolia Point friends, but its existence creates the potential for a further political distortion. With 1,500 potential voters in a town of — 7,277 people as per the U.S. Census Bureau's 2016 estimate — it is theoretically possible that all five council seats could be filled by Pointers. Now there happen to be two.

The potential for Magnolia Point dominance is particularly noxious because a major source of tension between citizens and government revolves around land use. People who live in places like Magnolia Point accept the fact that there are numerous restrictions on what they can do with their property.

Florida has plenty of deed restricted communities, so when the rest of choose to live outside the gates, we do so because we *really, really* don't want to live like that. In recent years, it would seem that there is a gradual but concerted effort to retrofit the organic neighborhoods of Green Cove with

SEE COUNCIL, 8

Letters to the Editor

Bus driver speaks out about GPS system

After the School Board Meeting Thursday, April 6, I was outside talking to Tommy Fitzpatrick and Lynn Sparks.

Tommy was relating the way the GPS system scores drivers. He mentioned that Lynn had the best score of all the drivers, but also remarked that I may well be right up there with her if it wasn't for the fact that I always speed on one section of road, this being Country Side Drive behind Thunderbolt Elementary.

I stated that I didn't speed there and he told me that I was consistently going 25 to 30 miles per hour in there and the speed limit is just 15 mph. I corrected him and told him it was 25 and he said "No, here let me prove it to you." He then went to Google Maps on his smartphone and displayed a picture on Country Side Drive that plainly showed a 15-mph speed limit sign.

I took four snapshots this very afternoon on Country Side Drive of four distinct 25 mph speed signs. I actually could have taken more, but I think these four will get my point across. Incidentally, the Google Maps photo used for the segment he showed was taken in January of 2008.

There are so many lessons to be learned here. The first being that you can't properly lead an organization from behind a desk. It's easy to get fascinated with technology, to think it can make your life easier, but you end up putting blind faith in individuals you will never know. That is why I have said previously and will reaffirm my opinion

SEE GPS, 5

Open letter to U.S. Rep. Ted Yoho(R-3)

As a former Peace Corps volunteer in Sarawak, Borneo from 1963 to 1965 and living in Clay County for years, I hope that Congressman Yoho will give strong consideration to supporting at least level funding of \$410 million for the Peace Corps and \$60 billion for the International Affairs Budget for fiscal year 2018.

The Peace Corps — just 0.01 percent of the federal budget — and the development and diplomacy programs in International Affairs — just nine-tenths of 1 percent of the federal budget — are needed now more than ever to continue to contribute to America's national security.

"National security?" some readers might say. That's right, national security.

More than 120 retired three and four-star generals agree. In a recent letter to Congressional leadership, these generals wrote:

"The State Department, USAID, Millennium Challenge Corporation, Peace Corps and other development agencies are critical to preventing conflict and reducing the need to put our men and women in uniform in harm's way." Four of the 121 signatures

SEE YOHO, 4

GPS

from page 4

that the Area Manager position should be mobile. They shouldn't sit in their office waiting for something to transpire. They should be driving their area and proactively managing it.

Second point, it was apparent that my GPS data had been enthusiastically reviewed. The fact that it showed a consistent discrepancy should have been noted and investigated properly before a senior administrator applied egg to his face. Make no mistake, it should have been investigated. Considering that this data was the sole factor used for performance evaluations in lieu of behind the wheel evaluations, it begs the question

of fairness to our employees. This is just one example of where leadership failed to exercise due diligence in executing their responsibilities. Trust, but verify or as I like to say dig deeper.

Third, and this follows on with the second point. When you rely so completely on technology, you better make sure the technology is spot on. We addressed this point previously during the presentations before we purchased the GPS.

We asked what guarantee did we have of the accuracy of the system? Consider this, just today my GPS system decided somewhere in the middle of my afternoon runs that it was going to just randomly kick my monitor and myself out of the system. Got back in to the compound and went to do my post trip inspection and I was logged

out. So, if it was the sole input for our payroll and I hadn't noticed, I would have lost who knows how many hours. I guess if you want to trim your payroll, this is one way to do it.

Fourth, another affect this could have on fair evaluations. This had been noted and could have been a factor in my evaluations. So, why was Thursday night the first time I heard of it. The idea that it wasn't considered a problem and didn't reflect negatively on my overall evaluation is a moot point. It had to have been reviewed and, regardless of whether it was determined to rise to a level requiring a poor performance review, it should have been discussed with me. I should have been given the information and had a chance to correct my actions if this had been a valid

observation. The fact that it was never discussed with me is disturbing. If we are going to effectively utilize the GPS we have to be transparent with the data. As Dr. Kemp says, it shouldn't be a gotcha.

Right now, my view of the GPS is that it is like being handcuffed to a pig. No matter how much you try your going to get dirty, but the cleaner you can keep the pig the less you're going to smell. Honestly, if I had a bachelor's degree, I'd be applying for the directors' position and saving you about \$31,500 in the process. I'm so scared that the district will once again overpay for mediocrity.

*Keith Nichols
Lake Asbury*

Yoho

from page 4

include four former Admirals who live in near St. Augustine.

And as Defense Secretary James Mattis said while Commander of U.S. Central Command, "If you don't fund the State Department fully, then I need to buy more ammunition."

Yet the Peace Corps and International Affairs are under threat of deep cuts from the administration's budget proposal. If we can't take America's military leaders at their word, who can we?

Additionally, Peace Corps Volunteers are America's grassroots ambassadors,

implementing democratic ideals 24/7/365 in remote, isolated communities in 63 countries around the world. Indeed, many beneficiaries of Peace Corps Volunteers have gone on to become leaders of their nation and champions of American principles.

President of Afghanistan Ashraf Ghani has said, "Peace Corps Volunteers taught at my school. I learned English, fair play and the meaning of democracy."

Yet for an extremely effective and cost-efficient form of national security, the Peace Corps is terribly underutilized. Each year, approximately 24,000 Americans

apply for roughly 3,800 positions, meaning thousands of qualified applicants are turned away from serving their country and the world.

As retired Gen. Stanley McChrystal has said, "This gap represents democratic energy wasted and a generation of patriotism needlessly squandered." And demand for the Peace Corps remains high: 20 countries consistently request more Peace Corps Volunteers.

There are currently 7,200 Peace Corps Volunteers serving in 63 countries, including Ukraine, Colombia and Myanmar. Are these not countries where we want more

Peace Corps Volunteers? And if America doesn't demonstrate a commitment to these countries, who will? And what will those commitments be?

Congressman Yoho, we thank you for your service to Florida's 3rd District, and hope that you will champion the Peace Corps and International Affairs. As the generals conclude in their letter to Congress, "Now is not the time to retreat."

*Dr. Richard Lipsey
Middleburg*

Care Plan

from page 4

start these vital conversations in the counties we serve. In Orange Park, Haven will host an Advance Directive presentation on April 19 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Haven Hospice Custead Care Center on Blanding Boulevard near Orange Park that is free and open to the public.

Gayle Mattson is president of Haven Hospice.

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4936 Ortega Blvd, Jacksonville




COUNTRY GOURMET KITCHEN \$240,000
 Two story 4/2.5, corner lot, completely fenced, master suite, 1 bedroom downstairs, open patio off master suite. Home features vertical blinds through-out, gourmet kitchen with cook island, loads of cabinets and counter space for the cook in you. Nice size pantry closet, ceramic tile in kitchen. Living room has wood burning stone fireplace with mantle. Security system, termite bond, 2 car attached garage, roof 5 years old with architectural shingles, HVAC 4yrs old, detached shed, pump house with electric with aerator, 2 pump system with separate irrigation. Below ground septic system. Screened patio off dining/kitchen area. Beautiful and serene coy pond, perfect for relaxing. No HOA, there is \$249/yr. Asphalt Milling Rd maintenance fee.
2667 Apache Ct., Middleburg



ROOM TO GROW \$179,000
 2.6 acres, brick construction building with 3/2, living room, bonus room, kitchen. Live in home while operating your business, or make all rooms into private offices. Fully fenced with new roof and windows. Covered porches, sheds. Building has laminate floors. Property is high and dry. Zoned BA-1/BA-2.
5433 County Road 218 West, Middleburg



DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY \$259,000
 8.26 acres the front 300 ft. zoned BB and the remainder of the property zoned AR. Can be developed with 1 structure per acre. The property has multiple buildings and a huge RV garage with concrete pad. Multiple out buildings. Deep well and two light poles. Fruit trees and grape vines planted on property.
5465 County Road 218, Middleburg




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Council

from page 4

the types of restrictions normally associated with the Magnolia Points of the world.

Writing from Green Cove's old riverfront neighborhood, I'm reasonably confident that a district council member would have resisted some of these changes. Carports, an old Florida tradition, come to mind because the resentment over the city's carport ban continues to simmer and sizzle.

One of our neighbors, a county employee named Pete Gomes, became embittered a couple years ago because the city denied him permission to install a shelter for his RV *even before the council voted to ban carports*. In other words, he applied for his permit when carports were still legal. He was denied, he says, because the city officials told him the ban was about to pass. Two things: 1. That's just plain wrong, and 2. How could city officials know for certain that the ban was going to pass, unless the old reporter in me is correct and the system is rigged. ("They just do whatever they want.")

I guarantee that if Gomes had lived in a district represented by the late Charlie Medeiros, Ward 5 city councilor of Westfield, Massachusetts, his RV would be parked in the shade today. Medeiros would have screamed bloody murder in defense of his constituent. He would have prodded and politicked until Gomes got his permit and probably would have gone on to see

the carport ban defeated.

In another example, the city council "prosecuted" a poor woman who had made the mistake of converting her garage into a "Florida room," another Green Cove pet peeve. I'll not mention her name to spare her the embarrassment all over again. She owns a very modest home on a crappy street in a crappy neighborhood. Working two jobs and dazed by responsibility, she also made the mistake of not responding to municipal citations. She says she only learned of the issue when she applied for bank refinancing and discovered a lien.

Leading the prosecution, as the poor woman stood at the lectern in front of an audience, were the mayor (Magnolia Point) and the next mayor (waterfront property), who used their bully pulpit to openly deride her. Gawd, was it painful! As I watched, I could only imagine Charlie Medeiros back from the dead and serving as her district rep.

I can hear him now: "Ms. Mayor-to-be, if code enforcement is so vital to our city..." He then would have cited the occasions in which the city had winked at violations committed by more privileged folk. In fact, it never would have gotten that far because he would have let his strategy be known in advance and forced the city to forgive much of the \$4,000-plus fine, levied because of a \$700 garage enclosure.

Next year is a charter-change year. Let's fix our defective city council. Here are three potential districts that could elect their own representatives to the council:

District One: from the river to the railroad tracks; District Two: Magnolia Point, and District Three: everywhere else. In addition to these, two councilors would serve at-large as they do now. Under this system, we could still have three council members from Magnolia Point but never more than three.

This change would result in true debate on important issues. The 5-0 votes might become 4-1 votes, or maybe that "one" would convince two others, and the vote would go 3-2 the other way. That's the way democracy is supposed to work. Otherwise what we will continue to have is a quasi-oligarchy that "does whatever it wants."

This Week in History

5 years ago, 2012

- Jacksonville-based Baptist Health announced it would invest \$39 million to build a new set of pediatric and adult subspecialty and emergency care facilities on a 32-acre tract at U.S. Highway 17 and Village Square Parkway on Fleming Island.

- Orange Park Town Council members joined Deina Thompson and her son Samuel to dedicate Somer's Sunshine Park at the corner of DeBarry and Gano Avenues. The park honors the memory of her daughter, 9-year-old Somer Thompson, who was abducted near the park and killed.

- Clay County School Superintendent Ben Wortham appointed Thomas Pittman, vice principal at Fleming Island High, to become the school's new principal after the retirement of Principal Sam Ward.

10 years ago, 2007

- The Clay Board of County Commissioners discussed whether to allow Atlas Hovercraft of Green Cove Springs to have an easement through Moccasin Slough where it wanted to build a facility to house boats that would provide river transportation in conjunction with the Jacksonville Transportation Authority.

- Clay County commissioners and other elected officials held a ceremony marking the cupola being lowered atop the new \$29 million Clay County Courthouse expansion.

- Looking to raise capital to purchase land on which it could build a new city police department headquarters building, the

Green Cove Springs City Council considered selling the "Old Gymnasium" at 310 S. Orange Ave., which was appraised at \$210,000.

20 years ago, 1997

- The Clay Board of County Commissioners voted to seek competitive bids to replace Carl Post as the county's film commissioner in the aftermath of palm trees having been cut down during the filming of an HBO documentary that riled Green Cove Springs City Council and business owners. Commissioner Buddy Griffin said Post did not deserve the treatment he was getting.

- MBK Construction said the new 24-screen, 100,000 square foot AMC Theater at Orange Park Mall was on track to be completed in August.

- Steak N Shake on Wells Road celebrated its second week in business.

30 years ago, 1987

- A committee of educators from the Bradford County School District visited Charles E. Bennett Elementary in Green Cove Springs to observe the school's Developmental Kindergarten Program with plans of creating a similar program there.

- Friends of Orange Park Library announced plans for the 13th Annual Concert Under the Stars with the Jacksonville Symphony Pops Orchestra, a fundraiser to be held at Club Continental.

- Despite a recommendation from a special master brought in after mediation failed, members of the Orange Park Police Department's union, Northeast Florida Public Employees Union Local No. 630 and the Coastal Florida Police Benevolent Association, were rejected a requested 4 percent raise.

40 years ago, 1977

- Orange Park Mayor Hance Bruce accused Town Manager Richard Fellows of overstepping his authority in allocating funds and hiring employees without council approval.

- After meeting in a cottage since 1972, the First Church of God of Middleburg opened its new sanctuary during Easter weekend.

- E.C. Kenyon Construction company chugged along building the new Pine Tree Shopping Center at the intersection of Kingsley Avenue and Blanding Boulevard where \$1.5 million structure would be home to a new Big Star grocery store.



The Clay County Sheriff's Office invites you to "Building Community, Building Hope"

"Pinwheels for Prevention Truck Tour"



Date: Thursday, April 13, 2017
Time: 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Location: 327 N. Orange Avenue
Green Cove Springs

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Join the Clay County Sheriff's office bring awareness to the problem of child abuse. Plan to attend this family event to have fun with your children and learn more about how to prevent child abuse.



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Parkway motel buyout confirmed for separate store

Wawa breaks ground on Orange Park area store

By Jesse Hollett
Staff Writer

ORANGE PARK – Officials with the Pennsylvania-based convenience store chain Wawa unveiled plans for their coming Clay County expansion on April 6 with a ceremonial groundbreaking bash at the site of their first local store.

With shovels and hard hats in hand, company and Clay County leaders broke ground at a site at the corner of Filmore Street and Blanding Boulevard for one of the three coming Wawa locations slated for construction within the next year and a half.

And one of those locations happens to intersect with the beleaguered Parkway Inn motel on Park Avenue in Orange Park.

Come the summer of 2018, Wawa will have three stores open in Clay County. The store at the corner of Blanding Boulevard and Filmore Street will open first, while the store at the corner of Blanding Boulevard and Henley Road is scheduled for Spring 2018 and the third, at the corner of Park Avenue and Wells Road – the Parkway Inn site – is scheduled to open in the summer of 2018.

These new stores are part of the chain's infiltration into a previously untapped market – metro Jacksonville. Wawa currently has stores operating in South and Central Florida, but has yet to jam themselves into the Northeast Florida market until now.

The openings are good news for people who love a quick cup of coffee while they're pumping gas in the morning, and it's equally good news for people who enjoy a quick sandwich on the run.

Along with all the sales tax the new businesses will draw in, each Wawa represents a roughly \$5 million investment in each community.

Each Wawa hires 40 workers including managers. Starting pay for an associate

is \$10 an hour. Although buyout numbers weren't made public, Wawa officials confirmed they will lease the property for 50 years from the land's developer at Filmore and Blanding. To do that, however, developers had to first request a variance for Wawa to be housed so close to another similar business. There are two gas stations close to Wawa, but developers made the case that because Wawa sells primarily coffee and subs, that the Wawa would fill a different niche in the community. Wawa will also house a second business behind the gas station, essentially splitting the parcel in two.

Town of Orange Park officials granted Wawa a variance last month on the condition that developers would completely and totally demolish the Parkway Inn.

Parkway Inn, better known under its former name the Rodeway Inn, has been a lightning rod of crime incidents, and more recently, litigation. The 200-bed, \$44-a-night motel shuttered in July 1 under court order, and was set to return on Jan. 1, but did not due to delinquent city water bills and multiple fire code violations.

The Town of Orange Park is currently embroiled in a lawsuit regarding the motel's closure. Motel attorneys assert that closing the property infringed on the owner's right to equal protection under the 14th Amendment after the business was declared a public nuisance in February 2015.

It is unclear where the lawsuit will go considering Wawa is purchasing the land. The value of Parkway Inn itself has depreciated by more than half since 2015, but the price of the land has gone up by roughly \$200,000 since last year, according to the Clay County Property Appraiser's website.

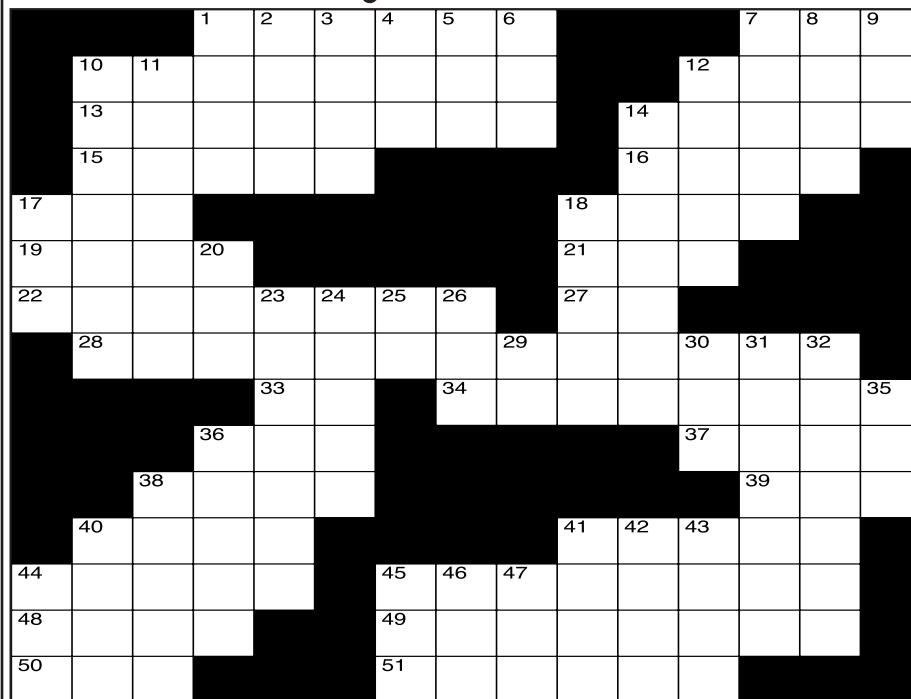
Since expanding into Florida in 2012, Wawa has opened more than 115 stores in the Sunshine State.



STAFF PHOTO BY JESSE HOLLETT

From left, Wally the Goose, the Wawa mascot, hams it up with Diane Hutchings, county commission vice chairman, Connie Thomas, Orange Park Town Council, Wawa Chief Executive Officer Chris Gheysens, Wayne Bolla, county commission chairman, Eugene Nix, mayor of Orange Park, and Clay County School Board members Mary Bolla and Betsy Condon throw a ceremonial shovel of dirt in the air on April 6 groundbreaking.

Weekly Crossword



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Winter melon
- 7. Solar energy particles (abbr.)
- 10. Requiring fewer resources
- 12. Nest
- 13. Name
- 14. Actress Vergara
- 15. Very near in space or time
- 16. Authorized program analysis report
- 17. Spoken in Vietnam
- 18. Brews
- 19. Drops
- 21. Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series
- 22. Congo capital
- 27. Soldier
- 28. Bronx Bomber
- 33. Argon
- 34. Open
- 36. Popular sandwich
- 37. Protect from danger
- 38. Goddess of spring
- 39. Large hole
- 40. Vegetarians won't touch it
- 41. Actress Neal

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Italian Lake
- 2. Cuckoos
- 3. Sound unit
- 4. Doctors' group
- 5. The cutting part of a drill
- 6. A team's best hurler
- 7. Couches
- 8. Muslim ruler
- 9. Round globular seed
- 10. A way to confine
- 11. Men wear it
- 12. Chinese province
- 14. Soup cracker
- 17. Expression of disappointment
- 18. West Chadid languages
- 20. Midway between south and southwest
- 23. An opal

- 24. Main artery
- 25. Junior's father
- 26. Sierra Leone dialect
- 29. Cyrillic letter
- 30. Native American tribe
- 31. Passes
- 32. Most unnatural
- 35. Insecticide
- 36. Blatted
- 38. Actress Fox
- 40. Actresses Kate and Rooney
- 41. Outside
- 42. The habitat of wild animals
- 43. Days falling in the middle of the month
- 44. Radioactivity unit
- 45. Certified public accountant
- 46. Swiss river
- 47. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)



Wawa's standard design for a Florida location features a centralized food line, which makes it stand out from other gas stations.

Town gives historic road new honorary name after living resident

Jesse Hollett
Staff Writer

ORANGE PARK – Annie Lee Keys, 84, has made many memories on Railroad Avenue.

And soon, the road will be named after her following a vote April 3 by Orange Park Town Council.

It will be an honorary name, meaning residents can keep their addresses. The change will come with the addition of a new nameplate above Railroad Avenue markers that bear Keys' name.

Council members unanimously voted to approve the change to Annie Lee Keys Boulevard after an impassioned speech and presentation by Keys' grandson, Edward Lorenzo Keys, 44.

"The downtown community in the heart of Orange Park has produced great names that are listed on the streets that they

lived," Edward said. "Names like Miller Street, Filmore Lane, Floyd Circle... These are some of the first families to occupy this land. I am speaking to you today about one lady who still lives in this community and has shown a lifetime commitment to it and the rest of Clay County."

Growing up, Keys attended and later taught at T.C. Miller Learning Center, a segregated, one room school on McIntosh Avenue. Keys worked as a schoolteacher for 27 years with a specialty in special education.

She also provides rental housing for low-income citizens in the town.

"I've known Ms. Keys for many, many... years, and the one thing I always liked about her was that smile she gave every time you greeted her," said Mayor Eugene Nix.

When council members finalized their vote to name the road after her, Keys fell into a friend's arms and began to cry.

"There's absolutely no question that this resident has made a significant contribution to not only our town, but our entire community," said Council member Gary Meeks.

She remained humble after the announcement. "I feel really good, and yet I



STAFF PHOTOS BY JESSE HOLLETT

Holly Point resident Barbara Davis, left in cap, congratulates Annie Lee Keys after the April 3 Town Council vote to name a street after her. Behind Keys is her grandson Edward Keys who spoke on her behalf and presented the idea to the town.

feel like they shouldn't have named it after me," Keys said.

Town officials hope to have the marker in place before Keys' birthday in June. An honorary street name is a first for the Town of Orange Park. Although many streets in the town are named after past residents who contributed to the area in some way, it's uncommon for the street to be named after a living resident.

Keys' grandson Edward Keys establishes computer networks for the Professional

Golfers Association Tour. He said traveling all over the country and seeing the ways others were honored gave him the idea to ask the town to name a street after his grandmother.

"Being to other places and just getting the idea to other people being honored, I said well she deserves it just as much as some of the other people I've seen," he said. "I also thought it would be an inspiration to our neighborhood."



Annie Lee Keys turns to a friend and cries tears of joy after Orange Park Town Council voted April 4 to rename the street where she lives in her honor.

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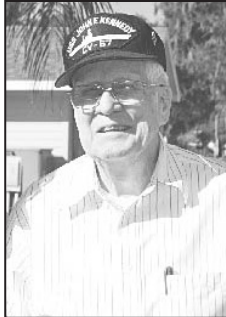
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Obituaries

Robert "Bob" Eugene Mikesell, Lt. Cmdr., USN (Ret.)

Bob passed away peacefully on April 3, 2017 surrounded by his loving family in the Moosehaven Life Care Center at the age of 84. He was born in North Lima, Ohio, in November 1932 to parents Robert Clayton Mikesell and Mary Margaret (Price) Mikesell.

Bob graduated from Springfield High School in Petersburg, Ohio in 1950. He married Mary Ann "Rusty" Withers in 1952 in St. James Episcopal Church, Boardman, Ohio. He is survived by his devoted wife, daughters Stephanie Leigh Mikesell



Robert Eugene "Bob" Mikesell

(Terry McFaul) of Madison, Wisc. and Sally Mikesell Crosby (Jim) of Orange Park, Fla., grandsons Alexander Galen Crosby (Hayleigh) and Gregory Robert Crosby of Orange Park, Fla. He is also survived by his sister Sandra Mikesell Davis (Jim) of Hanoverton, Ohio.

He served his country honorably, enlisting in the United States Navy in 1951

and retiring after 24 years of service in 1975. Bob was a Korean and Vietnam War veteran and also served in other duty stations in the United States. Following his retirement from the United States Navy, Bob served as a defense contractor assisting the Hellenic Air Force until 1992.

He became affiliated with the Loyal Order of Moose on August 7, 2012 when he joined Lake Shore #2020 in Orange Park Florida. Bob came to Moosehaven with his wife Rusty on February 11, 2015 where he resided for the past 2 years.

A memorial service with full military honors (USN) will be held on Thursday, May 11th, 2017, at 2:00 p.m. in the Moosehaven Chapel with Reverend Helen Taylor officiating. Private Interment of his cremains will be at a later date in the Jacksonville National Cemetery.

Bob's family will always be grateful for the loving care they have received from the entire Moosehaven family. We are especially thankful for the staff of the Life Care Center and Katherine Smith Hall who provided such compassionate care for Bob and his family in his final months. The family would also like to thank Community Hospice of Northeast Florida for their

exemplary care for all of us in his final days.

The family would welcome memorial gifts in Bob's name to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society NAS JAX P.O. Box 48 Jacksonville, FL 32212, Community Hospice of Northeast Florida 4266 Sunbeam Road Jacksonville, FL 32257, or Moosehaven, 1701 Park Avenue Orange Park, FL 32073.

Please sign the family's online guestbook at www.broadusraines.com Arrangements under the care of Broadus-Raines Funeral Home 501 Spring St. Green Cove Springs, FL 32043 (904) 284-4000



Judith A. Visconti

Judith A. Visconti passed away on Thursday, April 6, 2017. Aaron and Burney Bivens Funeral Home, 529 Kingsley Avenue, Orange Park, FL 32073, (904) 264-1233.



Steve Ramey

Steve Ramey, 55, of Middleburg, Fla. passed away April 3, 2017. Please sign the family's online guestbook at www.broadusraines.com. Arrangements under the care of Broadus-Raines Funeral Home, 501 Spring St. Green Cove Springs, FL 32043 (904) 284-4000



Ethel Linton Lewis

Ethel Linton Lewis, 91, of Middleburg, Fla. passed away on April 8, 2017. Please sign the family's online guestbook at www.broadusraines.com. Arrangements under the care of Broadus-Raines Funeral Home, 501 Spring St. Green Cove Springs, FL 32043 (904) 284-4000



Ralph Edward Garrison

Ralph Edward Garrison, 77, of Green Cove Springs, Fla. passed away April 8, 2017. Please sign the family's online guestbook at www.broadusraines.com. Broadus-Raines Funeral Home, 501 Spring St., Green Cove Springs, FL (904) 284-4000



Ida Mae Ihle

Ida Mae Ihle, 76, of Orange Park, Fla. passed away April 6, 2017. Please sign the family's online guestbook at www.broadusraines.com. Arrangements under the care of Broadus-Raines Funeral Home, 501 Spring St. Green Cove Springs, FL 32043 (904) 284-4000



Helen M. Keller

Helen M. Keller, 89, of Penney Farms, FL, passed away April 9, 2017. Broadus-Raines Funeral Home, 501 Spring St., Green Cove Springs, FL (904) 284-4000



Jennifer Susan Nye

Jennifer Susan Nye, 54, of Jacksonville, Fla. passed away April 6, 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



Denise Marie Myers

Denise Marie Myers, 47, of St. Augustine, Fla. passed away April 8, 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



Paul "Curtis" Salazar

Paul "Curtis" Salazar, 74, of Green Cove Springs, Fla. passed away April 7, 2017. Please sign the family's online guestbook at www.broadusraines.com. Arrangements under the care of Broadus-Raines Funeral Home, 501 Spring St. Green Cove Springs, FL 32043 (904) 284-4000



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Designing a future

By **Jesse Hollett**
Staff Writer

ORANGE PARK – Orange Park High’s crack team of teenage engineers have another accolade to add to their paint spackled walls.

The school’s national engineering team won second place in the open space design category last month as part of the 2017 Architecture, Construction and Engineering National Design and Construction Competition.

The annual competition, now in its eleventh year, pits the best and brightest of budding high school architects and engineers against each other for dominance.

The team of eight won for a community park design they proposed. The team’s concept called for transforming the underused Confederate Park south of the Springfield

area in Jacksonville into a thriving, sustainable destination with access to bike trails and water resources along Hogan Creek.

“When we were going through our early design process, we wanted to incorporate buildings into the open space,” said Camden Dean, a student member of the national team. “One of our early ideas involved too much of a building and not enough open space.”

Making a decision on what ultimate design path they wanted to follow was the largest challenge this year. “Some people wanted more modern designs, some people wanted more traditional designs. That was one of the big disputes that we had this year,” he said.

The Hogan Creek Community Plaza is designed using recycled materials and so-



STAFF PHOTO BY JESSE HOLLETT

From left, ACE program mentor Joe DeMarco and student OPHS Camden Dean review their work from the last two years.

lar powered lights, as well as an amphitheater for musical performances.

As part of the competition, students respond to design proposals created by the ACE mentoring organization annually.

ACE students begin these projects in September every school year, but they’re not alone in the task. Inching them along the way are teachers and outside professionals in their fields – two to three of them every year assist in every aspect from the project’s conception to its budgetary and buildout timeline constraints.

“This is a real hands-on type of program where the students get to not just learn but do,” said engineering mentor Joe DeMarco of Orange Park. “Our goal as mentors is to really take them through the phases of the project from initial concept

to final design.”

DeMarco and fellow mentors from local industry professional firms meet with students for two hours once a week for 16 weeks. And the work paid off handsomely again this year. Students won a \$1,000 cash prize for their participation that will go to their local ACE national affiliate, benefitting the mentoring program.

They had more regional competition this year. This year, there are two new national teams in Northeast Florida, including one organized by home-schoolers. ACE National recommends not doing the same presentation as another team in the region, so before planning began on the project early on in the school year, the students had to coordinate with other teams in the region, including a start up program at Middleburg High.

In the Northeast Florida region alone, ACE National’s affiliate office lists 41 separate mentors to split across five ACE groups.

Orange Park High’s program has seen immense success in the past. Last year, their team took home third best project overall in the nation for their design of “Unity Bridge.” The unique design featured 10 travel lanes with two for public transit and a separate spiral path for walking and

SEE FUTURE, 17



Students designed the Hogan Creek Community Plaza to turn an underutilized Jacksonville park in into a thriving social hub.

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In Spirit

Clay Today | April 13, 2017

What does Easter mean to you?



Clergy share what Easter means to them

By Eric Cravey
Managing Editor

FLEMING ISLAND – To many in the Christian tradition, Easter is the time to celebrate the beginning of spring, but to others, Easter is a day to remember deliverance and celebrate new life in Christ.

Pastor Jerry Nordiesk of Advent Lutheran Church on Loch Rane Boulevard near Orange Park said Easter is everything to him, especially this year after the recent deaths of three loved ones.

“My father died October 22nd. My precious wife, Carol, died November 3rd following a long battle with stage 4 cancer. My mother-in-law died four days later on November 7th. Because of Easter, I am able to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in the midst of my grief, knowing my loved ones are at peace with our Lord. Because of Easter I can sing ‘I Will Rise’ and know, through my tears, that we will be reunited. Because of Easter, I know there is more to come (which is why I prefer a “comma” in place of a “dash” between the date of our birth and earthly death),” Nordiesk said.

According to Nordiesk, Jesus’ victory over death was an amazing feat for the world to behold.

“Easter is everything! Easter is the

“Easter is everything! Easter is the day God rocked our world and won salvation for all who believe. Easter is the foundation upon which our faith is built. And this faith isn’t based on an empty tomb - but rather - a living Savior who suffered and died for the sake of the world so that we might have eternal life. ...”

– Jerry Nordiesk

day God rocked our world and won salvation for all who believe. Easter is the foundation upon which our faith is built. And this faith isn’t based on an empty tomb - but rather - a living Savior who suffered and died for the sake of the world so that we might have eternal life. Easter is the day God transformed Good Friday grief into a joy that is everlasting. Joy that our world so desperately needs,” Nordiesk said.

Much like Nordiesk, Dr. Bobby Lewis Jr., senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Middleburg, said Easter 2017 will carry him through a time of grief as he also lost a loved one – his father.

“Easter means hope beyond this world and a heavenly homecoming on the horizon for all who have a relationship with God by grace through faith in Christ alone. This current Easter season has even greater meaning for me as my Dad passed away just a few months ago,” Lewis said.

And just as the disciples met Christ on the road to Emmaus after the resurrection, Lewis said he has faith knowing he will see his father again in the future.

“Because he had trusted in Jesus as His personal Lord and Savior many years ago, I now have a perfect peace that I will see my earthly father again one

day when my Heavenly Father calls me home. Death has been defeated and the grave has lost its sting. Fear has been conquered through faith in Christ. Even through the bitter pain of loss and temporary separation, Easter reminds me that death does not have the final word. Eternal and abundant life is available to everyone through Jesus – God’s perfect Son and our living Savior!” Lewis said.

And like the disciples who put down their worldly treasures and followed Jesus, Pastor Kevin Collison of Island View Baptist Church in Orange Park, said the concept of following Jesus is a key facet of Christianity.

“Easter is a big deal to followers of Jesus. In fact; it’s the whole reason Christians talk about ‘following’ Jesus instead of merely remembering him or being devoted to him. As strange as it seems to



Bobby Lewis Jr.

Every one of us, a butterfly

I have always wondered why the celebration of Christmas is so much bigger than the celebration of Easter. Christmas is about new birth, while Easter is about rebirth. Both are miracles, but Easter gives me the greater sense of hope. While some of my greatest joys have been the birth of my children and grandchildren, I have felt the presence of God most fully during the dark times.

One spring afternoon a few years ago, my husband told me that he had met someone else and he was leaving at the end of the week. I was devastated. The life we were building together was instantly destroyed. The feelings of loss and abandonment were overwhelming. I felt completely unloved and cast aside. At the time, I was teaching high school and I wandered through the end of the school year in a dense fog. Somewhere in this darkness, I knew that God was with me, but I felt that the joy had been sucked out of my life.

As I was wallowing in my grief, wondering if my broken heart would ever heal, a former student, who had just received a summer internship working for JetBlue Airlines, offered me his buddy pass – an opportunity to fly free for the whole summer. This was without a doubt the nicest thing a student has ever done for me. I traveled to Boston, New York and Seattle. I climbed the Rocky Mountains, rode a bicycle in Martha’s Vineyard, experienced the beauty of Yosemite and visited the wine country in Sonoma.

My first leg of the journey was to Washington, D.C. In a bookstore, I saw a coffee cup that said, “Just when the caterpillar thought that life was over, it became a butterfly.”

Throughout the summer, I hiked and I prayed. I gravitated to the national parks, where I felt God with me in a powerful way. That summer, I became a butterfly. I came home in between trips to find that my divorce was final. Instead of being another devastating blow, something about it was freeing. When I returned to my teaching job that fall, I had new joy, new life, and was ready to walk more fully in my life of following Jesus.

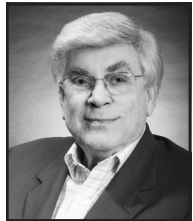
In September, I heard a sermon about taking up your cross and following Jesus. While



Heather Harding

SEE EASTER, 15

SEE BUTTERFLY, 14



Faith Walk

Dr. William P. Register
First Assembly Fleming Island

Settle Your Doubts

He is often called, "Doubting Thomas." He was one of the 12 apostles chosen by Jesus. The pejorative title was given to him because of his reaction when he heard the news that Jesus had risen from the dead.

He did not actually doubt any more than the rest of the apostles. None of them believed the first report of the resurrection that was delivered to them.

Thomas missed the first meeting of the apostles after the resurrection. It was at that meeting when Jesus appeared to prove to them that He was alive. Now they believed He had left the tomb of the dead and that He was alive. When they told Thomas that they had seen the Lord, he said, "I won't believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side." Just like the other apostles, Thomas wanted personal proof before he would believe that Jesus of Nazareth had risen from the grave of death.

At the next meeting of the apostles, Thomas was present. Jesus appeared again. He spoke directly to Thomas saying, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Stop doubting and believe!"

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

These men doubted so that we would not have to doubt. Jesus proved His resurrection with "many infallible proofs," as the Bible states. We are blessed, today, to have the evidence that was presented to weak, doubting, questioning men that enables us to believe.

We are honored by Him to be able to walk "by faith not by sight" since we have been given new life in Christ. We were dead, too. In sins and trespasses. But now, in Christ Jesus, we have been brought out of the death of sin into the life of His resurrection. Doubt no longer, Thomas; by faith, see and believe!

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Christian radio station expands to 103.3 FM

LAKE ASBURY – Clay County-based Christian radio station WAYR AM 550 recently began simulcasting on 103.3 FM, effectively its reach to all of Clay County and much of the southwest portion of Jacksonville. WAY Radio airs Christian teaching and talk from national authors, pastors and teachers during weekdays and a variety of national and local programs on the weekends. From midnight until 6 a.m., WAY Radio plays light contemporary Christian music.

"We are excited to be on FM for the first time since our inception in 1960," said Luke Stephens, general manager of WAYR. "AM 550 was the vision and calling of our founder, Dan Richardson, back in 1960 when WAYR was located on Blanding Boulevard where the current Academy Sports is today.

"At that time, WAYR was one of the very first full-time Christian stations in the southeast U.S. Almost 60 years later, we are thrilled to still be broadcasting only the top, conservative Christian teachers and preachers out there. Same message, even better means of communicating."



WAYR Radio in Lake Asbury recently began simulcasting on the FM dial at 103.3 FM in tandem with its tried and true WAYR AM 550 frequency. Here, station general manager Luke Stephens, a far right, is shown with a group from Memphis, Tenn.-based Love Worth Finding Ministries With Adrian Rogers, which presented the station with its 2011 Radio Station of the Year award.

WAY Radio is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit radio station and operates solely on donations from the public.

"Our budget is tight and lean and we are blessed to say that we operate debt-free, even with this new 103.3 FM transmitter. Our goal is to eventually purchase a full-power FM station that would cover the entire First Coast. That cost is in the

millions, so we trust we can eventually see that to fruition. But we are thankful for the donations up to this point that have enabled this ministry to grow to include our first FM station in this area," Stephens said. WAY Radio can be heard on AM 550, 103.3 FM or online at www.wayradio.org, and through the station's free smartphone app.

In Spirit Brief

Parenting classes registration underway

FLEMING ISLAND – Active Parenting of Teens offers a proven approach to working with adolescents. These engaging sessions combine video and discussion with practical advice from the author, Michael Popkin, Ph.D., and an experienced leader. In each session, parent will learn about how to talk with your teen about violence, sex, alcohol, and drugs; current teen issues; solving problems together;

reinforcing your teen's courage and inner strength; building your teen's sense of responsibility; communicating effectively (with or without your teen's assistance) and how to discipline teens.

Classes will be held Sundays from 6-8 p.m. at Fleming Island United Methodist Church, 7170 U.S. Highway 17 South, beginning April 23 and ending May 21.

And for those who cannot make Sundays, the church is offering another parenting class on Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. from April 19 through May 24.

Active Parenting Now offers a proven approach to raising your children ages 5-12 to be responsible, creative and prepared to meet the challenges of the teen years.

The six sessions combine video and

discussion with practical advice from the author, Michael Popkin, Ph.D.

In each session, you will learn about what your children need to succeed; handling problems together; building a relationship with your child based on cooperation and respect; enhancing your child's sense of responsibility; understanding why children misbehave; communicating effectively with your child; stimulating your child's independence and understanding the power of encouragement.

Both classes will feature a dinner the first and last night of each class. Both classes use a curriculum from the Hanley Center Foundation.

To register or ask questions, contact Tiffany Googin at (904) 613-7071 or email tiffany@hanleyfoundation.org.

Butterfly

from page 14

this was a passage I had heard preached many times, it struck me in a new way. I

told the pastor that I wanted to follow Jesus more fully, and asked him how I could determine what my cross was to bear. I would pick it up and follow if I knew what I was supposed to do. He told me to draw close to God in prayer and to be obedient

to how I felt God calling.

The first nudges I felt in my heart were to forgive my ex-husband. I forgave him and continued to listen to God's calling. A few weeks later, sitting in church, I experienced a powerful sense of calling within my heart to go into full-time ministry. In following this calling God has given me purpose, community and joy. I have experienced new life.

Easter is all about this journey from death to new life. Each of us can experience this new life by opening our hearts to what God is speaking into our hearts. Our sins and losses die with the death of Jesus. The hopes and dreams that God has for us are alive in the resurrection. At Easter, every one of us can become a butterfly.

Heather Harding is pastor of Fleming Island United Methodist Church.

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TRY IT AGAIN ...



Easter

from page 13

others, we really do believe Jesus is alive and we experience his ongoing presence as a surprising and undeserved gift. We follow Jesus because he is out ahead of us in the resurrection life God desires for the whole creation," Collison said.



Kevin Collison

Many Christians view Easter as a time to begin again, much like how new flowers sprout in the springtime. Pastor Mark Hults of First Presbyterian Church of Green Cove Springs refers to this aspect as 'a resetting.'

"On Easter Sunday, the church gathers across the world to retell our most sacred story – the story of Jesus Christ's resurrection. As we hear this story, for the first time or the seventeenth or the seventieth, we readjust. We place renewed hope in the one that defeated the greatest enemies. We shed more and more of the emphasis on ourselves.



Mark Hults

We let go of more of the valueless, trivial things that occupy our attention and refocus ourselves on God and God's purposes in the world," Hults said.

Hults said God uses the story of Easter as part of our transformation.

"I gather with that church, I tell and hear that story, I see and experience more of that transformation, and I leave in a better condition to be involved what God is doing locally and internationally. God resets us through the Easter story. That's what Easter means to me," Hults said.

Pastor Adam Smithyman of Freedom Destiny Church south of Orange Park said Jesus' resurrection is the most significant human event the world has ever witnessed.



Adam Smithyman

"Without the story of the Resurrection we have no hope of eternal life. He died, was buried and rose again so that all who believe in Him might live eternally with Him. It is so hard with our limited understanding to comprehend that the Creator of the Universe limited Himself from His deity to become a man even though He was still fully God. Jesus took on this assignment so that the dead things in our lives can stay buried and we can walk in newness of life," Smithyman said.

Smithyman said because of the power

of the Holy Spirit, we can start everyday fresh and new. "We should hunger and thirst for Him every day so that we can experience more of Him and this will overflow to family, friends, community and the world. He gave us newness of life and it is what all people want, to be fresh and clean and new every day. The resurrection makes it possible that we can know Jesus' love personally and intimately and be reconciled to God so we can live eternally with Him and others who believe in His Son Jesus," Smithyman said.

To Pastor John Diller of Orange Park Presbyterian Church, Easter itself is a breath of fresh air. "An appropriate metaphor considering the stale air inside a tomb, or so I imagine. When Jesus emerged from the tomb and offered the first words of greetings and mission (Matt. 28:9-10), he filled the earth with new breath; the earth



John Diller

may now speak of life that overcomes death," Diller said.

Diller said earth longs to hear the words of life, especially where death was all that had been known before for so long.

"Our congregation is forging relationships with refugees in their mid-20's who have only known life in refugee camps. How stale was that air; how lifeless was their sense of hope? Now the children see life in their parents that they never saw before. I believe this is the air we were given to breathe. Once Jesus showed us the extent of God's love in his death and resurrection, we must be Easter people; we must witness to the fresh air of God's love," Diller said.

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Super Mario takes on the Town of Orange Park

By Jesse Hollett
Staff Writer

ORANGE PARK — A videogame shop owner is on a mission to save an iconic Italian plumber.

Scott Fisher, the owner of the retro and contemporary videogame store Gone Broke Gaming, has taken the fight for his 9-foot Super Mario inflatable to the U.S. district court's Middle District of Florida.

The inflatable stood in front of Fisher's business on Kingsley Avenue as a friendly marker to find his shop, which is sandwiched in a hard-to-spot strip mall.

Fisher, along with pro-bono help from the Virginia-based nonprofit law firm Institute for Justice, have started a 'new game' to revive the famous videogame hero. Town officials last summer informed Fisher his inflatable did not meet the town's sign ordinance codes and he would be fined \$100 for every day he left it up if he did not deflate it.

The town considers inflatables as portable signs and prohibits certain kinds of inflatables. The town allows holiday inflatables, however. The town bans displaying any inflatable that relates specifically to a business.

The lawsuit alleges that by allowing some kinds of inflatables, but not others, and controlling certain kinds of speech, but not all, the town has committed both "content" and "speaker" based discrimination.



The suit alleges the town's sign ordinance infringes on Fisher's rights under the First Amendment.

"A business could display the same exact inflatable Mario that Gone Broke Gaming was displaying, so long as the business was not selling Mario-related products," according to the lawsuit filed April 6.

Fisher said he has seen a downturn in traffic since the town forced him to take down his inflatable Mario.

The lawsuit seeks to prove the sign ordinance is unconstitutional on its face and makes Fisher immune to its effects. The lawsuit also seeks \$1 in monetary relief and attorney fees for Fisher's damages. Fisher said he's not looking for money out of the lawsuit, he just wants to breathe life into Mario again.

"We want to keep it with the task on hand," Fisher said. "We don't want a settlement. We just want our rights to be what they're supposed to be. I just want to be able to put Mario back out front"

"The First Amendment does not play favorites. It protects everyone's right to speak out, including small businesses," said Robert Frommer, an Institute for Justice senior attorney, in a press release. "We are confident that the courts will reaffirm Scott's right to power up his business with Mario."

However, there's an issue with the lawsuit.

The town's land development regulations, which control zoning and, more importantly, sign regulations, were more than 10 years old when attorney's began the process of filing the lawsuit. The town had already been begun a complete rewrite of the land development regulations rules for months prior to the suit filing. The town finalized those rules in October, but the lawsuit no longer reflects the current laws surrounding the inflatable ban.

The town still bans the same kinds of inflatables on the same kinds of properties it has just been rewritten.

Because of this, Fisher's attorneys must amend the lawsuit. While IJ did not respond for comment before press time, Fisher said his attorneys are aware of the technicality.

"Their lawsuit seeks to have a law declared unconstitutional that's no longer a law," said Town of Orange Park Attorney Sam Garrison. "Without addressing that issue, it's hard for me to respond to issues they may or may not have. These are good folks and we want all our businesses in the town to succeed and thrive, and this doesn't change that."

Fisher took the fight to the town's special magistrate in September, but the magistrate ruled against him.

Because the Mario did not display text, Fisher thought he could fight the town because the sign did not specifically advertise his business. The magistrate argued the inflatable used shape and form to attract business, however, and his complaint was dismissed.

"I basically just don't like my rights violated," Fisher said. "I'm kind of a constitutionalist when it comes to being an American, and being censored by my local government, especially on something they're not supposed to censor, rubbed me the wrong way."

Election

from page 2

of voters. Timberlake won with 486 votes or 60.15 percent, while challenger Dale Garlinghouse pulled in 322 votes, giving him 39.85 percent of the votes.

Both Orange Park and Green Cove Springs passed charter amendments as well, all of which dealt with the way municipal elections are run. All amendments passed in landslides, making way for election reform in both municipalities.

In Orange Park Charter Amendment 1, voters agreed to adopt the Florida Election Code and authorize the county supervisor of elections to handle the town's election. Voters approved the measure 801 to 106. Amendment 2 extends the time for candidate qualifying when there is a Town Council vacancy. Voters passed the measure 864 to 70.

Tow Clerk Sarah Campbell said the current charter states if there is a vacancy on the council within 45 days of an election, the vacancy must be placed on that election's ballot. However, by that point, the election process is well underway and does not allow time for mailing ballots out of state and overseas. Amendment 3 throws out the old runoff election rules of having to hold a runoff one week after the regular election. The amendment, which passed

840 to 89, also eliminates the mandate for a second runoff if the first runoff was a tie vote. All three Orange Park amendments go into effect immediately.

Two charter amendments were also approved in Green Cove Springs. Passed 527 to 231, Amendment 1 permits City Council to appoint an alternate canvassing board made up of no less than three members who shall be elected officials of Clay County so the county supervisor of elections can help the city hold elections.

Green Cove Amendment gives City Council flexibility to set dates, times and methods by which a successful council candidate is declared elected. The measure passed 558 to 214.

For Clay County Supervisor of Elections Chris Chambless, Tuesday night was more than a decade in the making.

Chambless has been working to simplify municipal elections in Clay County since sometime between 2004-06, and after some initial pushback, he finally arranged the county's first Municipal Super Tuesday on April 11.

"All entities that are involved are individuals, and they like that individuality," Chambless said. "We were asking them to share and give up some control."

Aside from Keystone Heights only having one seat open, for which incumbent mayor Tony Brown ran unopposed, and therefore, did not hold an election, this

was the first time that Orange Park, Green Cove Springs, and Keystone Heights' elections were to be scheduled on the same day.

"The whole idea behind municipal Super Tuesdays is savings and consolidation," Chambless said. "Now with one election, the municipalities can share the ballot fees and election fees."

Before, voting machines were delivered to each municipality on their individual election days, but now there is only one rented truck that delivers all the voting machines on the same morning, allowing municipalities to split the costs associated with running their own elections.

In addition to these savings, Chambless' office is now printing on-demand ballots that are tailored for each individual voter. So, instead of printing more ballots than they need before the election to make sure everyone gets a ballot, they are now printed for each voter that shows up, contributing to even more savings.

When all the elections are on the same day, the supervisor's office can run one ad for all the elections, and provide sample ballots in the newspaper and on the municipalities' websites before the election, with a hope that this will generate higher turnouts.

"We believe that there is more exposure [doing elections this way], and that's why we call it 'Super'," Chambless said.

Aside from the benefits of holding these elections on one day, the supervisor's office has also assumed some of the duties that city and town clerks were tasked with before, including overseeing and mailing absentee ballots.

"We perform elections frequently," Chambless said. "To a city clerk it's an additional duty, it's an aside. We are poised to perform elections."

This includes the use of his office's stuffing machine which can stuff mail-in voter packages much quicker than stuffing envelopes by hand, as well as the savings that the supervisor gets on mailing out ballots as opposed to putting stamps on each packet.

"This year the absentee process has been different," Campbell said. "It is usually a time-consuming process, but this year [the supervisor's] office handled that."

With the passing of charter amendments Tuesday in both Orange Park and Green Cove Springs, the supervisor's office, Chambless will be given the freedom to expand the Super Tuesday election even more in the future, with his intent staying on saving costs and time for the municipalities themselves.

"We are trying to save some money, and make the process more efficient," Chambless said. "In the end we hope to increase public awareness and get voter turnouts higher."

P-8A squadron returns from Italy

By **Kile Brewer**
Staff Writer

JACKSONVILLE – The roar of a P-8A Poseidon aircraft's twin jet engines greeted dozens of friends and family at a hangar on the Naval Air Station Jacksonville Sunday as the final plane from Patrol Squadron 45 returned home from a seven-and-a-half month deployment in Italy.

As the plane taxied up to the hangar, eventually coming to a halt, families rushed to the plane, roses in hand, looking through the crowd for the faces that had been on their minds for more than a half a year.

The PS-45 Pelicans, a squadron that totals 274 personnel, left NAS Jacksonville in late August for a support mission in Italy. This was the first trip for the group in the new P-8 planes, which feature jet engines, as opposed to their former transportation, the propeller-driven P-3.

"We were the first squadron to take the P-8 over there," said Commanding Officer Ryan Lilley. "This has been my longest deployment, and a lot of things have changed since we left. My daughter has grown two-and-a-half inches. It's good to be home."

Working the runway was Middleburg resident Dakota Kinkton, a member of the Pelicans squadron who returned a couple weeks back and was working Sunday to flag down the incoming aircraft, helping it taxi its way to the hangar. He looked around at all the families waiting on the final P-8 to return.

"This was us two weeks ago," Kinkton said.

Before the plane arrived, Kinkton's son Levi, 2, tried on his helmet while his wife Morgan, who is pregnant with their second child, stood by smiling. The young family was happy to share in the joy of the families there waiting on their sailors to return home.

Among those waiting for a loved one was the Byrd family of Lake Asbury.

LaShonda Byrd sat with her daughters Tamara, 21, and Tiara, 18. The three sat anxiously in the white plastic chairs filling the hangar as plane after plane landed on the runway, none of which sported the signature pelican graphic on the tail that would signify that Master Chief Ervin Byrd was finally home.



Dakota Kinkton, left, places his helmet on his two-year-old son Levi at NAS Jacksonville while Dakota waited for the return of the last plane from his squadron that had been stationed in Italy since August.

Byrd has been deployed 11 times since the girls were young and, according to Tamara, it doesn't get any easier. She equates his time away to about five years of her life in which he hasn't been there.

"When I was younger it was a lot harder, before we could cry and cry and cry as we watched the plane leave," Tamara said. "Now, it's still hard, we still miss him in the same way, but we've gotten better at understanding that he has to leave. Before we would ask, 'Why?' But now it's 'Daddy's gone, Daddy's working.'"

As the plane finally approached, the three Byrd women burst from their seats and rushed to the edge of the tarmac cheering as the plane did a fly by, "now he's just teasing us," LaShonda said through laughter.

"I'm kinda' nervous a little bit, I just haven't seen him in so long," LaShonda said. "I miss him so much, everything – I just miss his presence."

The plane arrived, dropped the ramp and the Byrds watched as sailor after sailor reunited with their families, eventually, second-to-last, there was Ervin Byrd, who, though reserved, couldn't sustain his emotions as he felt the love of his family for the first time in months.

"It's a moment you can't repeat, each one is a different rush of everything," he



From left, LaShonda Byrd, and her daughters Tiara, 18, and Tamara, 21, smile as the final plane from the Pelican squadron out of NAS Jacksonville did a fly-by before landing Sunday afternoon. The trio were waiting to see Ervin Byrd who had been stationed in Italy since August.

said while hugging his family. "I got off the plane second-to-last. My priority is to get everyone else back home, then I start looking for my family."

Instead of revisiting a favorite restaurant or favorite place in Clay County, Byrd

was headed straight home to get to work on all the things that have broken while he was gone. "He's a jack of all trades, he does it all," LaShonda said.

"And a master of none," Ervin joked.



STAFF PHOTOS BY KILE BREWER

Friends and family of the Pelican squadron out of NAS Jacksonville watch as the group's final plane returns to NAS Jax Sunday.

Future from page 12

biking in Jacksonville's urban core.

Orange Park's national team is bolstered by the Clay County Academies, which provide each high school with different trade classes. Orange Park High has

the engineering academy.

"In regular schools what happens is... they hold the meetings at an architectural firm or an engineering firm," DeMarco said. "We have the space and the teachers and the environment setup. That's worked really well for us in Clay County."

With the competition behind them, the national team members are busy applying

for scholarships and colleges as they're on their way out of high school. The ACE National program gives them a leg up on both college applications and scholarships. ACE National itself provides many partial and full scholarships.

Dean said he now wants to go to college to study aeronautics, but he's still not decided as to where. He said the program has

given him a deeper understanding of what career path to choose, and what to specialize in. It's something DeMarco agrees with.

"The program offers a lot of exposure to the students of real life careers because they get to walk into a professional office and learn what architects and engineers do on a daily basis," DeMarco said.

Protecting the 'Four Corners'

MELROSE – The community of Melrose gets some special attention from its unique geography. While predominantly in Putnam County, parts of Melrose are in Alachua, Clay and Bradford Counties as well. Four counties come together there and split the city, therefore, Alachua, Bradford, Clay and Putnam Counties all have a part of the jurisdiction when it comes to law enforcement. This overlay of jurisdictions in one city used to present jurisdictional issues for the four sheriff's offices involved, but on March 24, 2008, the first Memorandum of Understanding allowing collaboration between law enforcement agencies was signed. The original MOU that ran through April 15, 2009, allowed deputies from one agency to pursue a violent felony offender across county lines into another agency's jurisdiction. The first MOU was called the "Four Corners Cops Without Borders." On April 10, shown from left, Putnam County Sheriff Homer "Gator" Deloach, Daniels, Bradford County Sheriff Gordon Smith and Alachua County Sheriff Sadie Darnell met to renew the agreement for the fifth time. "This is collaborative law enforcement where the bad guys have no jurisdictional boundaries and have no place to rest in these four corners," said Clay County Sheriff Darryl Daniels. The signing took place April 10 at Mossman Hall, 301 State Rd. 26 in Melrose.



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Publix chips in for Habitat

MIDDLEBURG – More than 40 employees, from seven Clay County stores and two in Jacksonville, braved the April 4 storm to help Clay County Habitat for Humanity put the finishing touches on the future home of Tabitha Teeters, who is pictured on the right in a white shirt. The home is located at 4861 Timothy St. in Middleburg. Set aside as “Publix Serves Day 2017,” this day of community service marks the third year in which Publix associates from seven states join together to volunteer within their communities. In addition to helping this deserving family get closer to moving into their new home, the employees’ volunteer service created an enjoyable opportunity to do some team building. Publix also pledged to stock Teeters’ pantry with \$500 worth of food after she moves in.

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Livestock auction teaches students discipline, care of others

By **Kile Brewer**
Staff Writer

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – While fair guests bought corndogs, chugged lemonade and rode carnival rides, there was a totally different atmosphere in the livestock barn.

There, students dressed in blue corduroy rushed around throughout the week showing the animals they spent the year raising, all leading up to the Clay County Agricultural Fair. Ribbons were awarded to grand and reserve grand champion animals, followed by the annual livestock auction, where they hope to get a return on their investment.

“Tonight is about the buyers helping kids out,” said Jeff Hendricks, president of the Clay County Cattlemen’s Corp. “They have to make a profit to be able to do this again next year. Some kids do have some help from their parents and put their money toward college. It teaches kids tremendous responsibility, and they are rewarded tonight for that hard work and dedication.”

For the auction, pigs and cattle take center stage.

Clay High senior Everett Mulford, who has been raising pigs his whole life, showed his first hog at the fair this year. The hog, named Double Stuff for her Oreo cookie coloration, not to mention her heft,

was a standout among the other pigs he’s raised, he said.

“This year I learned that every hog is different, and you definitely can’t get attached because, at some point, they gotta go,” Mulford said. “She helped me get into a routine, and taught me to get stuff done every day, on time.”

On the opposite side of the barn, another first-timer at the livestock show and auction Keystone Heights senior Anna Wilkes sat with her grand champion steer Sheriff. Wilkes, who grew up helping tend about 50 head of Brangus, opted out of showing steers in previous years as it conflicted with her volleyball schedule, but this year, she decided to give it a try.

“I did it for fun, but I did end up winning,” Wilkes said shyly. “I love the people here. It’s been fun spending time at the fair, getting to know everyone else. They all have the same interests I do.”

The eager Wilkes, who has applied to the University of Florida, hopes to start during the upcoming summer session, using the profits from her grand champion steer for tuition and books. While her ultimate goal is to become a large animal veterinarian, she is keeping an open mind about other career paths.

At the helm of the auction is veteran auctioneer Bill Elrod. Elrod has been talking fast and selling livestock for 23 years now, with the Clay County Agricultural Fair being one of the first events he worked more than two decades ago.

“I’m seeing kids coming through now whose parents’ animals I’ve sold,” Elrod said. “The buyers are not here to buy animals, their intent is investing in some young person’s future.”

Elrod’s three daughters all paid their way through college showing animals in school, so he has seen this system from every side and knows it works.

Another first-timer at this year’s fair was 10-year-old Hunter Russell who attends St. Johns Christian Day School. Russell, who has helped out his friend Ashlee Hughes, a senior at Middleburg High School before, is a hog show prodigy. This year, Hughes’ hog earned reserve grand



STAFF PHOTOS BY KILE BREWER

Anna Wilkes, a senior at Keystone Heights High School, leads her grand champion steer Sheriff into the ring April 7 during the Clay County Agricultural Fair livestock auction.



Clay High senior Everett Mulford pets his hog Double Stuff before the April 7 Clay County Agricultural Fair livestock auction where Mulford would sell the pig to the highest bidder after a year of hard work.

champion, while Russell took home the top prize with his pig She-Bacon.

“I loved watching her grow, feeding her,

watering her, giving her baths,” Russell said.

Russell said he will continue to show pigs until he graduates from high school and hopes to repeat his victory every year from now on. He already has big plans for the future, with this year’s winnings going directly into the fourth-grader’s college fund.

Once Elrod starts taking bids, there is a tension in the room as kids, as young as Russell and all the way up to high school seniors, grab their lead ropes and get ready to take their beloved animals on one final trip around the ring before giving up their projects and preparing for next year.

“There’s a lot of good being done by a lot of folks here,” Elrod said. “What we see tonight is the result of a lot of hard work. It adds value to the community. I do some other fairs around [the area] and this is far stronger in parental and community involvement.”

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<p>At the end of a lease, smoke-free units require</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">LESS</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">TURNOVER TIME due to fewer preparation and repainting needs.</p>	<p>You may save money with</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">INSURANCE DISCOUNTS</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">that many property insurance companies offer to buildings with no-smoking policies.</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">TOBACCO SMOKE CAN MOVE</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">along air ducts and electrical and plumbing lines, through elevator shafts, and cracks in walls and floors.</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Tobacco smoke contains</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">7,000 CHEMICALS,</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">hundreds that are toxic and 69 proven to cause cancer.</p>

For More Information Contact:

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Police Briefs

Middleburg man faces felony lewd and lascivious charge

MIDDLEBURG — A Middleburg man was arrested after his father drove him to the Orange Park substation of the Clay County Sheriff's Office to face charges of lewd and lascivious behavior with a victim older than 12 but younger than 16.

The Clay County Sheriff's Office arrested Ismael Duret, 20, on April 5 after officers received a complaint from the victim on March 27.

After meeting at a high school basketball game, Duret and the victim had exchanged naked photos and engaged in sexual intercourse in January 2017, according to the report.

Following interrogation, Duret was transported to the Clay County Jail. He has since been released on bond.

Man faces additional felonies after February arrest

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — A Keystone Heights man was arrested while driving a stolen vehicle, then charged with the theft of several power tools and a shotgun from an unoccupied Keystone Heights home.

The Bradford County Sheriff's Office arrested Daniel Arlon J. Holder, 29, on February 9 after he was discovered to be driving a stolen vehicle from Pasco County. Bradford County officers contacted the Clay County Sheriff's Office after finding several power tools and a shotgun in the vehicle.

After the investigation, officers determined that the items had been stolen from a Keystone Heights residence prior to Holder's arrest and the items matched the description from the victims of things that were stolen.

Holder was already being held at the Clay County Jail for grand theft auto, and will now face additional felony charges for armed robbery, grand theft of a firearm, and grand theft, with bond set at just over \$129,000. His next court sdate is slated for May 17.

Two arrested for drug trafficking, child neglect

ORANGE PARK — Two people who were arrested after officers discovered large amounts of heroin and marijuana in their Orange Park apartment.

The Clay County Sheriff's Office arrest-

ed Robert Eugene-Rusty Shull, 38, and Jesamone Nikole Caro, 25, on April 11 after officers observed Shull selling heroin outside his apartment.

After an undercover buy, officers discovered that Shull was selling fentanyl as heroin from his apartment on Blanding Boulevard. Officers then observed Shull walking out of his apartment to a pickup truck in the parking lot where he handed a small plastic baggie to the driver of the truck. Officers then approached the truck and arrested Shull and the driver.

Deputies then went inside the apartment where they discovered Caro and small children inside. The officer found pill bottles, pills, small plastic baggies, uncapped needles, 20.1 grams of heroin and 48.3 grams of marijuana in the apartment, all of which was accessible to the children. Shull, a convicted felon, was also found in possession of a firearm during the investigation.

Following the arrest, Shull and Caro were transported to the Clay County Jail where they remain. Shull is facing felonies for child neglect without great bodily harm, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, marijuana possession with the intent to sell, and heroin trafficking. Caro faces felony charges for child neglect without great bodily harm, marijuana possession, and heroin trafficking. Shull is being held on a \$200,000 bond, with his first hearing being held Wednesday. Caro is being held on a \$175,000 bond also appearing before a judge Wednesday. The children were turned over to the Florida Department of Children and Families.

Middleburg woman allegedly assaults family members

MIDDLEBURG — A Middleburg woman was arrested after attacking her brother and daughter in a belligerent rampage.

The Clay County Sheriff's Office arrested Nichole Lynn McKellip, 35, on April 10 after receiving a 911 call from her brother after she allegedly assaulted him at his home.

McKellip arrived at her brother's house,



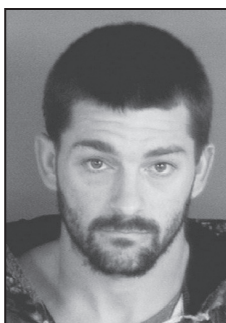
Robert Shull



Jesamone Caro



Ismael Duret



Daniel Holder



Nicole McKellip

parked her car outside, with a child seated inside the car, and began repeatedly honking the horn. After her brother woke up from a nap and walked outside, McKellip allegedly attacked him, punching him in the head several times. The man fled to the garage where she followed him, striking him several more times until a witness was able to pull McKellip off. Her brother then escaped the garage and called 911.

After officers spoke with the man, they went to McKellip's home where they found her yelling at her adult daughter after pulling the woman's hair and attempting to punch her in the head. The victim was able to fight off her mother and avoid any serious injuries. Officers were able to determine McKellip was under the influence of alcohol throughout the incidents.

After the arrest, McKellip was transported to Clay County Jail. McKellip faces felony charges for neglecting a child without great bodily harm, and abusing a child without great bodily harm, in addition to a misdemeanor assault charge. She has since been released.

Traffic stop yields 38 grams of crack cocaine

FLEMING ISLAND — A Jacksonville man was arrested April 10 after a routine traffic stop, and an immediate police

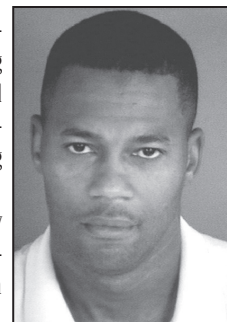
dog search, allegedly revealed drug paraphernalia and contraband equivalent to trafficking charges.

The Clay County Sheriff's Office arrested Jervaughn Reynard Keye, 38, Monday afternoon after he allegedly

ran four different stoplights on Fleming Island. Deputies pulled Keye over after he allegedly failed to yield to oncoming traffic just west of Forest Park Drive by doing a u-turn and pulling in front of another vehicle. The oncoming driver had to lock up his brakes to avoid a crash.

Upon arriving at the vehicle, a separate deputy arrived with the drug-sniffing dog unit. The police dog alerted the officer to suspected contraband in the vehicle.

A search of the vehicle revealed a clear plastic bag containing 38.6 grams of crack cocaine and seven individual packaged foil packs containing fentanyl, according to the report. Deputies also allegedly discovered drug paraphernalia, the report said. He is charged with one count each of trafficking cocaine, possession of fentanyl with intent



Jervaughn Keye

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KIDS SUMMER FUN GUIDE

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Arrests & Bookings

Tuesday, April 11

Asbell, Casha, 18, Green Cove Springs, CCSO, Possession of a Controlled Substance, Introducing Contraband Into County Jail

Bailen, Max, 26, Ponte Vedra Beach, CCSO, Possession of a Controlled Substance

Barton, Rodney, 28, Jacksonville, CCSO, Non-Support

Bell, Enrique, 34, Jacksonville, OPPD, Cruelty Toward a Child

Caro, Jesamone, 25, Orange Park, CCSO, Trafficking Heroin, Possession of Marijuana, Child Neglect Without Great Bodily Harm

Carter, Malik, 19, Green Cove Springs, CCSO, Drug Equipment Possession, Driving Without a Valid License, No Vehicle Registration

Chen, Vic, 32, Orange Park, CCSO, Simple Battery

Evans, Cierra, 20, Jacksonville, CCSO, Simple Battery

Frattini, Kimberly, 22, Middleburg, CCSO, VOP - Burglary

Gingras, Jessica, 31, Middleburg, CCSO, VOP - Tampering With Witness

Hernandez, Micheal, 22, Jacksonville, CCSO, Possession of Marijuana With Intent to Sell Higginbotham, Andrea, 38, Orange Park, CCSO, DUI, Leaving An Accident Involving Damage to Vehicle

Parker, William, 21, Melrose, CCSO, Simple Domestic Battery

Pickering, Joshua, 20, Middleburg, CCSO, Armed Robbery - Other Than Firearm

Reyes, Darla, 36, Green Cove Springs, GCSPD, Petit Theft

Shull, Robert, 38, Orange Park, CCSO, Heroin Trafficking, Possession of Marijuana With Intent to Sell, Child Neglect Without Great Bodily Harm, Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon

Taylor, Timothy, 33, Orange Park, CCSO, FTA - DWLSR

Monday, April 10

Byrd, David, 18, Orange Park, CCSO, Two Counts of Failure to Appear for Court

Carter, Keenan, 34, Green Cove Springs, CCSO, VOP - Domestic Battery

Foster, Steven, 39, Cooper City, Fla., CCSO, DUI With Damage

Holder, Daniel, 29, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Grand Theft of Firearm, Grand Theft \$300-4,999, Burglary

Hodge, Curtisha, 22, Orange Park, CCSO, FTA - Criminal Mischief, FTA - Battery

Keye, Jervaughn, 38, Fleming Island, CCSO, Trafficking Cocaine, Possession of Fentanyl With Intent to Distribute, Drug Equipment Possession

Love, Corey, 22, Orange Park, CCSO, DWLSR

McKellip, Nichole, 35, Middleburg, CCSO, Two Counts of Simple Domestic Battery, Child Neglect Without Great Bodily Harm, Child Abuse Without Great Bodily

Harm

Sublett, Zane, 23, Middleburg, CCSO, Possession of a Controlled Substance, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis, Selling Marijuana, Possession or Sale of Opium, Two Counts of Selling Cocaine

Taylor, Wesley, 44, Green Cove Springs, CCSO, Non-Support

Villegas, Hector, 37, Jacksonville, OPPD, DWLSR

Weyandt, Timothy, 35, Green Cove Springs, CCSO, Domestic Battery

Williams, Marion, 31, Green Cove Springs, GCSPD, Simple Battery, Violate Injunction For Protection

Willoughby, Jeremy, 35, Middleburg, CCSO, Violate Probation - Community Control

Sunday, April 9

Archambault, Philip, 29, Orange Park, OPPD, Trespassing

Felker, Christopher, 22, St. Augustine, Fla., GCSPD, Possession of Cocaine With Intent to Sell, Drug Equipment Possession, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis, Reckless Driving

Kile, Candice, 35, Orange Park, CCSO, Domestic Battery

Lewallen, Cecelia, 32, Jacksonville, GCSPD, DWLSR

Usecicz, Jeremy, 41, Middleburg, CCSO, Drug Equipment Possession

Warren, Robert, 40, Ruskin, Fla., OPPD, DUI

Williamson, Jason, 35, Middleburg, CCSO, FTA - Drinking In Public

Saturday, April 8

Foster, Candi, DUI With Property Damage

Giddens, Christopher, DUI With Property Damage

Jones, Timothy, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis

Meszaros, Marissa, Roadway Solicitation

Williams, Benjamin, Grand Theft \$300-4,999

Friday, April 7

Barnett, Cristina, Acquiring a Controlled Substance by Misrepresentation

Beaufort, Renatta, Marijuana-Possession-Not More Than 20 Grams

Catledge, Minor, VOP - Leaving the Scene of a Crash Involving Other Than Serious Injury

Christopher, Debra, Failure to Appear for Court

Franswick, Timothy, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis

Halls, Haslyn, FTA - DWLSR

Hansen, Michelle, Petit Theft Less Than \$100

Herdt, Darrell, Failure to Redeliver Hired Vehicle

Holder, Daniel, Grand Theft Auto

Holtzlander, Christopher, FTA - Possession of Less Than 20 g. Cannabis

Jenkins, Frank, FTA - First Degree

DWLSR

Jones, Alett, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis

Mitchell, Devin, Burglary of a Dwelling Structure or Conveyance Armed

Nichols, Jamie, Failure to Appear for Court

Seedorf, Ashley, FTA - Possession of Clonazepam Without a Valid Prescription

Serianni, Sean, Violating Injunction - Date Violence

Rivera, Evodio, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis

Williams, Trenton, FTA - DWLSR

Thursday, April 6

Adams, Szontel, 24, Orange Park, CCSO, Domestic Aggravated Battery On Pregnant Female

Babcock, Johnathan, 33, Middleburg, CCSO, Contempt of Court - Child Support

Barnette, Zachary, 19, St. Augustine, CCSO, Three Counts of Domestic Battery

Blackmon, Lisa, 51, Green Cove Springs, GCSPD, FTA - DWLSR

Browning, Nicole, 23, Orange Park, CCSO, Aggravated Battery

Bryant, Christina, 20, Jacksonville, CCSO, Petit Theft

Bryant, Robert, 25, Jacksonville, CCSO, Violate Probation - Community Control

Bryson, Ryan, 20, Orange Park, OPPD, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis, Drug Equipment Possession

Chapman, Hubert, 20, Callahan, CCSO, Robbery-Armed (Other Than Firearm)

Crowder, Keith, 24, Jacksonville, CCSO, VOP

Gates, Jeremy, 27, Trenton, New Jersey, CCSO, Two Counts of Lewd and Lascivious Behavior on a Victim Age 12-16, Interfering With Custody of a Child Traveling To Meet a Minor for Sex, Using a 2 Way Communication Device to Facilitate a Felony

Gray, Jarrett, 31, Jacksonville, CCSO, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis Case, Drug Equipment Possession

Jarvis, Roger, 27, Jacksonville, CCSO, Failure to Appear for Court

Jennette, Jason, 41, Orange Park, CCSO, FTA - DWLSR

Mitchell, Joseph, 48, Starke, Fla., CCSO, DWLSR

Redmond, William, 29, Middleburg, CCSO, DUI, Two Counts of Introducing Contraband Into County Jail

Slaughter, Demitrasse, 36, Orange Park, CCSO, Simple Domestic Battery

Zeigler, Rosemary, 38, Green Cove Springs, CCSO, Domestic-Battery

Wednesday, April 5

Berge, Jessica, 23, Middleburg, CCSO, Two Counts of Possession Marijuana With Intent to Sell, Possession of a Controlled Substance

Boyd, Joan, 37, Orange Park, CCSO, Possession of a Controlled Substance, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis

Brooker, Angelia, 51, Green Cove

Springs, CCSO, Failure to Appear for Court

Crain, Jay, 30, Orange Park, CCSO, Fugitive From Justice

Duret, Ismael, 20, Middleburg, CCSO, Lewd and Lascivious Behavior Victim Age 12-16, Transmitting Harmful Material to Minor Using Electronic Device

Gonzalez, Nico, 24, Jacksonville, CCSO, Habitual Traffic Offender, No Vehicle Registration

Griffin, Joseph, 45, Middleburg, CCSO, Felony Petit Theft

Hellmund, Christopher, 48, Orange Park, CCSO, Fugitive From Justice

Luten, Joseph, 55, Fleming Island, CCSO, Marijuana Possession, Drug Equipment Possession

Marrero, Michael, 28, Jacksonville, CCSO, Dealing Stolen Property, False Verification of Ownership

Marshall, Valerie, 47, Beech Island, S.C., CCSO, VOP - DUI

Osorio-Gonzalez, Nestor, 28, Orange Park, CCSO, Fleeing and Eluding Law Enforcement With Lights and Siren Active, No Vehicle Registration

Padgett, Alvin, 45, Maxville, CCSO, Petit Theft

Robinson, Desaree, 25, Green Cove Springs, GCSPD, Child Abuse Without Great Bodily Harm

Wilson, Jennifer, 37, Orange Park, CCSO, Violence on Officer Firefighter or EMT

Police

from page 21

to distribute, drug equipment possession

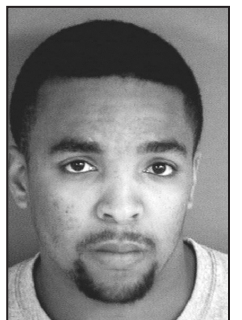
Deputies transported Keye to the Clay County Jail, where he remained at press time on a \$280,008 bond.

Jacksonville man arrested for October burglary

ORANGE PARK – Police said a Jacksonville man broke into an Orange Park house, stole more than \$100,000 worth of jewelry, firearms and clothing, then allegedly committed more than \$1,000 in value of vandalism, according to the report.

The Clay County Sheriff's Office arrested Devin Jarell Mitchell, 21, April 7 after he was positively identified by police as having a warrant out for his arrest.

In late October, while the state of Florida was embroiled in a state of emergency due to Hurricane Matthew, the report said Mitchell allegedly broke into a house at the



Devin Mitchell

Officers

from page 1

match required. Where that amount would come from is what concerned commissioners the most.

The grant, called the Community Oriented Policing Services Hiring Program Grant, or COPS for short, would begin Oct. 1, if awarded. It would be in place for three years.

The positions the grant would fund would include eight deputies in the COPS unit, six school resource officers for the county's junior high schools and one person to "enhance the footprint" of the Police Athletic League, particularly in Keystone Heights, where such a presence is sorely needed to help kids there find a good after-school experience, Daniels said.

The eight deputies in the COPS unit would help Daniels in his effort to "enhance the community engagement piece of his administration," which he said is one of his major focuses. School resource officers would help with young people, he said.

"The underlying thought is to break down barriers of mistrust between law enforcement and these children, but also to give our personnel a foot in the door to, one, endorse the relationships but also do some mentoring and tutoring, kind of showing these young men and young women what it takes to be a productive man or woman in society through some volunteerism from the Clay County Sheriff's Office," he said.

Currently, resource officers are only present at the county's high schools. But Betsy Condon, who serves on the Clay County School Board for District 3 and also as the school board delegate to the county commission, appeared at the county commission meeting and said the school superintendent and the district are "very much"

in support of the plan to place resource officers in the junior high schools. The seventh and eighth graders who attend those schools are showing more and more of a need for officers on site, she said.

While in the past, those grades have mostly had problems with such things as fights, that is changing, she said.

"We're starting to see more than just fights," she said. "We're starting to see some things that are a little more alarming."

Condon mentioned drugs, alcohol, student threats to themselves or others and social media issues as problems in those grades.

While the county commissioners backed the idea of adding the new positions to the sheriff's office, especially the school resource officers, they expressed concern as to finding the \$217,991 required for the 25 percent match to fund their part of the grant, and suggested they would like to see the school district add more to the pot than they currently do.

Vice Chairwoman Diane Hutchings said she thought the school district should do as much as possible.

"My biggest concern has to do with the school district stepping up. They're responsible for the children. They should be paying for the crossing guards and they should be paying for the officers in the high schools and junior highs," she said.

Chairman Wayne Bolla said he was particularly concerned about increasing the sheriff's budget at this point – and for the next three years and beyond – when the state legislature is seriously looking at upping the Homestead Exemption from \$50,000 to \$75,000.

"We'll get about \$7 million less," he said.

Daniels said the school district contributes about \$450,000 to the CCSO at this

point, and while they have a cap, he thought they might have a bit of wiggle room to do more and would continue discussions.

He also said he hoped that over the next three years, through natural attrition and such things as retirement, which could lower the amount of salaries paid out by the sheriff's office because new employees' salaries are lower than long-term employees, much of the match money could be made up and the 15 new positions could be continued past the three years.

Commissioners also indicated that perhaps the sheriff could find other places in his coming budgets to make up some of the match money.

Daniels also said that while chances look good for the grant to be awarded, sometimes only part of what is requested is granted. If that were the case, the school resource officers would be the priority for funding, he said.

While the county commission voted to back Daniels' applying for the COPS grant, it still has to vote to accept it, if it is awarded. That should take place in August. The Board of County Commissioners will also have to look at funding at that point. In the meantime, Condon said she would relate the budget discussion to the school district's assistant finance superintendent.

In other business, commissioners conducted the first public hearing of two for the addition of community gardens as a conditional use to the PS-2 (public services) zoning district.

The issue came about because the staff was approached by an outreach ministry that wanted to have a community garden in the High Ridge Estates area of Keystone Heights.

According to a memo from county staff concerning community gardens, anyone desiring to have a garden would have to rezone their property which would "provide

due public notice to the surrounding area in case there was opposition."

The ordinance would also include regulations for hours of operation, setbacks, parking and "best management practices."

A community garden is defined as "a parcel of land that is managed and maintained by people to grow and harvest food crops and non-food ornamental crops such as flowers, for personal or group use, consumption, donation or limited sale."

Commissioners expressed support for the idea, but won't vote on it until the second public hearing, which is scheduled for April 25.

The commission also reviewed the planning and zoning department's 2017 proposed project priority list for the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization. As its top priority, the county lists widening County Road 220 to four lanes from State Road 21/Blanding Boulevard to Knight Boxx Road. Other top priorities, in order, include: widening County Road 218 to four lanes from Astor Street and Pine Tree to Cosmos; widening County Road 209 to four lanes from U.S. Highway 17 to Sandridge Road; new construction for State Road 23 frontage/access roads; widening County Road 218 to four lanes from Cosmos to U.S. Highway 301; new construction for Cheswick Oaks from Challenger Drive to Savannah Glen and widening County Road 220 to six lanes from College Drive to U.S. Highway 17. The last proposed priority project is operational improvements to Blanding at Wells Road.

A final piece of business the commission took care of at its April 11 meeting was to unanimously approve appointing Victor Berrios to serve as the District 4 representative to the Clay County Historic Preservation Board. His term is effective immediately and will last through July 1, 2021.

Police

from page 11

2600 block of River Place Lane in Orange Park.

There, the report said he stole multiple items and smashed a box containing fifty Tiffin gold inlaid crystals, which are valued at approximately \$37,500.

Police discovered latent prints on scene.

Later, police discovered many of the items stolen had been pawned at different pawnshops across Jacksonville.

The victim positively identified all of the reported items. Police put out a warrant for Mitchell's arrest after attempts to confront him at his home proved unsuccessful. However, on April 7, deputies discovered him at his home in the 2000 block of Patou Drive East in Jacksonville, arrested him and transported him to the CCSO substation on Blanding Boulevard for questioning.

Deputies transferred him to the Clay County Jail, where, at press time, he remained held on a \$365,009 bond.

Drug charges for Middleburg man

MIDDLEBURG – A Middleburg man sits in jail today on two felony counts of cocaine and marijuana distribution.

The Clay County Sheriff's Office arrested Zane Angus Sublett, 23, April 10 after a deputy received a call that he wanted to turn himself into police.

A judge granted a warrant for his arrest after an undercover informant allegedly purchased cocaine and marijuana from him at his home on the 2000 block of Cricket Road, according to the report. During the undercover drug buy, police gave their informant \$80 to purchase drugs from Sublett. According to the warrant, the informant purchased a clear baggie of marijuana and two smaller baggies containing cocaine.

At press time, Sublett is in Clay County



Zane Sublett

Jail on a \$25,006 bond.

Man pleads guilty to kidnapping, sexual battery, robbery charges

JACKSONVILLE – State Attorney Melissa Nelson announced April 6 that Brian Eugene Fogarty, 41, of Middleburg, pleaded guilty to a nine-count information involving three counts of kidnapping, two counts of sexual battery, one count of home invasion robbery, one count of grand theft auto, and two counts of armed robbery.

Pursuant to the plea agreement, Fogarty was sentenced by the Honorable Judge Mark Borello to 45 years in Florida State Prison.

On July 24, 2016, Fogarty entered a Jacksonville Beach real estate office and sexually assaulted and kidnapped the agent on duty. Fogarty proceeded to then



Brian Fogarty

drive the victim to her home and kidnap her family. From there, he took the agent and her family to area ATMs, withdrew the family's funds and drove them around Jacksonville before fleeing the car and leaving the family Downtown.

The next day, Fogarty forced entry into a female's residence on Jacksonville's Westside, forced her into her vehicle and tied her up in the backseat. He then drove the victim to various Jacksonville ATMs and forced her to withdraw funds so he could purchase drugs from area dealers. After, he drove the victim to Clay County, sexually assaulted her and left her on a dirt road.

He was arrested the following day through the collective effort of multiple law enforcement agencies.

The case was investigated by Jacksonville Beach Police Department and prosecuted by Assistant State Attorneys Rachel Meyers Algee and Adair Newman.

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What is wrong with my plant?

By Wayne Hobbs
UF/IFAS Environmental Horticulture Agent

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – On a daily basis, the question is raised to extension agents nationwide of “What is happening to my plants?” With each of these questions, there is often a mystery to solve and just like any good detective, it is important to collect clues to make finding a plausible answer possible. These are some quick tips so that you can either work to find your own answer or provide some information to the extension agent or Master Gardener to make finding a solution easier.



Wayne Hobbs



Where is the plant located?

Simply put, if you place a plant in an area where it is not happy, it will not grow properly and it will have issues. This can be as simple as camellias having sun scald from being planted out of the shade or turfgrass dying under your oak tree from lack of sun. Knowing the needs of your plants can help you locate them properly and prevent many diseases and growth issues.

In addition to location, how the specimen was planted is important in diagnosis. Any tree or shrub planted too low or high or damaged heavily during transport or planting will have issues.

Are you fertilizing?

Different plants have different fertility needs and knowing how much to fertilize is vital as too much or too little fertilizer can lead to nutrient deficiencies, plant damage or death. Always follow UF/IFAS recommendations and fertilizer manufacturer specifications to ensure proper fertility.

Are you irrigating?

Knowing when and how much you are irrigating is helpful as either too much or too little water can damage your plants. Research the needs of your plants and only irrigate when needed and usually in the morning. For example, by cutting out evening irrigation, you can limit the spread of some bacterial and fungal plant diseases. With turfgrass, follow the regulations set forth by the St. Johns River Water Management District.


What is your soil like?

While much of our area is sandy, there is some variation in soil that could cause some issues with plant growth. Sandy soils can bring about nutrient deficiencies and drought damage but those that have denser, black soils will usually have excess water, plant disease and weeds. If soil is the

SEE PLANT, 26

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Town

from page 1

trimming and otherwise cutting domestic programs, many of which have broad bipartisan support. Democrats also appear unlikely to fund a \$54 billion increase in military spending.

Additionally, the two parties seem to be heading towards another battle on Planned Parenthood funding this year.

Yoho had a battle of his own about Planned Parenthood funding Saturday when he was asked if he would vote to fund it.

"As a devout Christian, I am very much for Planned Parenthood because I want contraceptives. You, as a veterinarian, ought to want women to have breast checks, cervical and cancer checks. Will you vote to fund Planned Parenthood?" said Carolyn Williamson, who was in the audience.

"No," Yoho said. Claps rang out from the audience, followed soon after by members of the audience holding their arms up in an 'X' to signal their disdain.

"I believe life begins at conception," he said.

Sheri Mallane of Fleming Island stood from the audience out of turn and said, "That has nothing to do with Planned Parenthood, she just – I had a biopsy yesterday, OK, where am I going to go?"

Yoho's chief of staff urged Mallane to sit down. Nevertheless, she persisted.

"I am a woman, and I think besides birth control – no, I'm not going to sit down

– this is important. This woman asked a very important question. You should give her an answer," Mallane said.

Yoho went on to say that he, and the voters who elected him, don't want taxpayer dollars going to a center that performs abortions. Half the room cheered while the other half booed. Some in the group that booed Yoho were part of the grassroots protest group Indivisible. Indivisible, and its Clay County affiliate, are a growing nationwide network of activists who have vowed to attend congressional town hall meetings to oppose Trump's agenda and what they see as unacceptable changes in government. Former staffers for President Obama created the Indivisible protest guide using the Tea Party's playbook. The Tea Party is a similar group of guerilla-citizen protesters that formed in the summer of 2009 to oppose President Obama's health care and stimulus packages. The group espoused right-wing beliefs.

Indivisible Clay formed on President Trump's inauguration day and has grown to about 150 activists since. Indivisible Clay is the smallest cadre in Northeast Florida.

Indivisible Organizer Jeff Allstadt of Fleming Island said the organization has approximately 4,600 members currently in Northeast Florida, and that the Clay affiliate has been joining with others more frequently to stage protests and rallies.

Indivisible had roughly 60 members present at the Saturday town hall.

Citizens asked Yoho about his stance on Syria. Just last week, President Trump fired 59 Tomahawk missiles at the government-controlled Shayrat Air Base near



STAFF PHOTO BY JESSE HOLLETT

Sheri Mullane, standing in white, argues with Republican Congressman Ted Yoho(R-3) regarding his vote on Planned Parenthood during a town hall-style meeting held April 9 at Ridgeview High.

Homs without congressional approval. The strike was meant as a rebuke to President Bashar al-Assad's use of chemical weapons on his own people.

Response to the attack remained mostly mixed in Congress as some supported the strike while others seemed to question President Trump's decision.

"I can't commit to an actual war," Yoho said. "But a surgical bombing" is something he supports.

When asked why Yoho voted not to support President Obama's campaign to overthrow Assad, Yoho said it wasn't the right time to get involved, but now there has been "five more years of slaughter."

When the crowd began to heckle him, he said, "Where in the constitution does it say we should respond to humanitarian crises. The crowd responded for him: "The Bible," three people yelled.

His view of America staying out of global humanitarian needs extended to its involvement in health care and education. He said the Department of Education has become a "federal bureaucracy." "Get government out of health care and education," he said.

Party dogma largely colored the atmo-

sphere of the town hall. Trump supporters largely found the town hall informative, while opponents found it somewhat frustrating.

Audience member Ken Marrow stood in the back of the Ridgeview High cafeteria wearing a hat with a Donald Trump pin on it. He said the town hall was informative and much better organized than previous town halls he had attended. He rebuked Indivisible members, however.


"The people from Indivisible dominate every meeting, that's their whole intent," Marrow said.

Speakers were chosen at random so everyone would have a fair chance to ask their questions. At this particular meeting, Marrow said the Indivisible members had enough bodies in the room to ask more questions than others.

Come the end of the one-hour town hall, Mallane remained rather frustrated about Yoho's answers. Mallane is not an Indivisible member, rather just a resident of Fleming Island who is concerned.

"All of these people asked very good questions and we did not get very good answers," she said.

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Plant

from page 25

root cause of your issue, you can address some conditions with soil amendments, such as lime or compost. Soil testing, like that offered by the University of Florida, can go a long way in making sure your soil has all of the nutrients your plants may need.

What damage are you seeing?

The signs or symptoms a plant presents can give a lot of clues as to what issues could be occurring. Changes in leaf color could point to nutrient deficiency, insect damage, or disease so a proper diagnosis is very important in determining a course of action. Compare issues to images provided in resource books and University of Florida/IFAS fact sheets to narrow down possibilities but contacting your local UF/IFAS Extension Office by phone, email, or in person is always an option. This process

is much easier if you bring in samples or email images to whhobbs@ufl.edu with some plant information for assistance.

With any plant issue, it is important to understand that the answer may not be as simple as finding an insect or disease, spraying a chemical, and having the problem go away and it may even take time and resources to find out what is happening. If you utilize your local UF/IFAS Extension Office, the agents or Master Gardeners there can help throughout the process and can reach out to colleagues on campus in Gainesville or around the state for assistance. 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.

TODAY'S Sports

Clay Today | Thursday, April 13, 2017 | claytodayonline.com



Weightlifting state championships

Indians third at State lift

2A: FIHS' Nguyen second, FIHS 10th

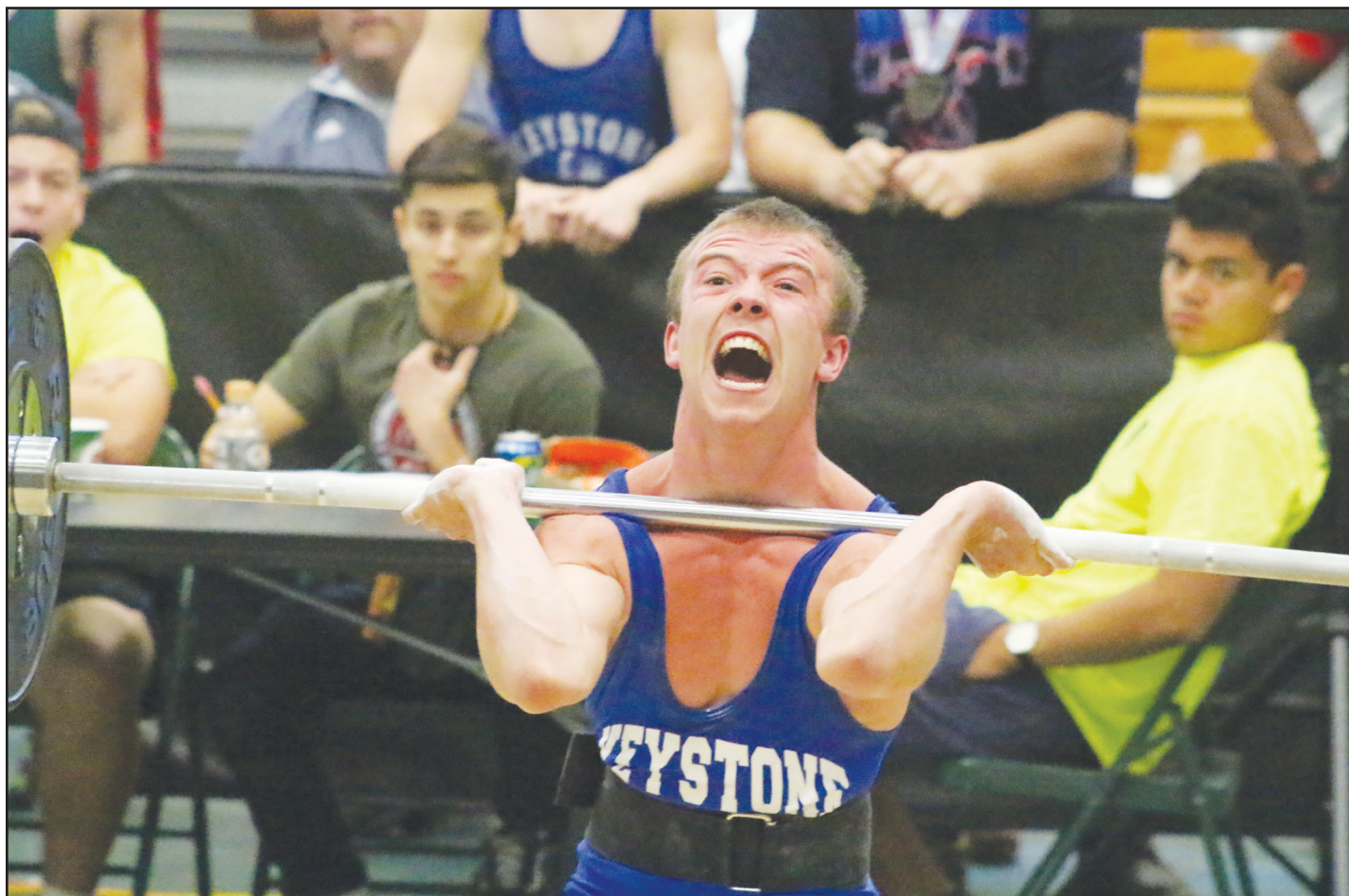
By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

DELAND – Keystone Heights 129 pound weightlifter Taylor Beall lurked and waited for his shot to steal the Class 1A 129 pound title on one lift. With Keystone Heights sitting in third behind overall champion Madison County and runnerup Baker County, with team totals of 22 and 21, the Indians, at 14, had one final shot for the seven first place points to tie Baker County.

“You might call it a “Hail Mary” because we were going to go for one shot at the title on our last lift,” said Beall, who was third in 2016. “Go big or go home.”

Beall, who had a subpar bench press of just 210, knew that the clean and jerk was going to be his move.

“I didn’t do as well in the bench because at 210 I felt terrible and then I missed at 220 and 230,” said Beall. “I was confident



Keystone Heights’ 129 pound weightlifter Taylor Beall grimaces under 255 pounds in his final lift at the Class 1A championships held Saturday at Deland High School. Beall finished third as Indians finished third in team points behind Madison County and Baker County.

STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

still because my clean and jerk best, 250, was going to be the difference. I almost got the 215.”

With numbers one and two; D’Marques Johnson of Cedar Creek and Alex Smith of

Anclote, both probably knowing that Beall’s clean and jerk, a 250 best, was going to be the difference maker, Beall waited as Johnson finished with a 235 clean and jerk and Smith finished with a 220 to total out

at 465 and 460, respectively.

With his 210 bench, Beall, who had cleaned 225 easily on his first attempt

SEE STATE, 29

Davis’ wrestling toughness derived from ‘journey’

By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

FLEMING ISLAND – Two significant pieces of the Jason Davis puzzle defined the type of athlete that persevered for nearly 18 years to become the first state wrestling champion out of Fleming Island High School.

Davis, the Class 3A champion at 182 pounds for the Golden Eagles, had his first obstacle to that pinnacle at birth.

“Jason was born with a vocal cords defect that forced us to pray a lot and hope he would be able to breathe throughout the first six weeks of his life,” said Mike Davis, Jason’s father. “We thought it was asthma, but the doctors said he would have a tracheostomy (breathing tube) for a minimum of three years up to life and that any stress or physical exertion may trigger his inability to inhale. Any excessive weight gain or

SEE JOURNEY, 33



Fleming Island High senior wrestler Jason Davis shows off some of the hardware he has earned along the way to being the first state champion for the Golden Eagles in 2017.

Lady Knights win Kissimmee Klassic softball title

By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

KISSIMMEE – With a “Texas Tie-Breaker” used to determine the tournament champion, the Oakleaf High Lady Knights softball team cemented a 1-0 win over Kentucky state champions Scott County High to top the Blue bracket of the prestigious Kissimmee Klassic softball invitational on Friday and Saturday, April 7-8 in Kissimmee.

The Texas Tie Breaker is a unique tool used in softball that comes into play after a game ends tied after seven innings. A baserunner is put at second base and the teams get shots to score from there.

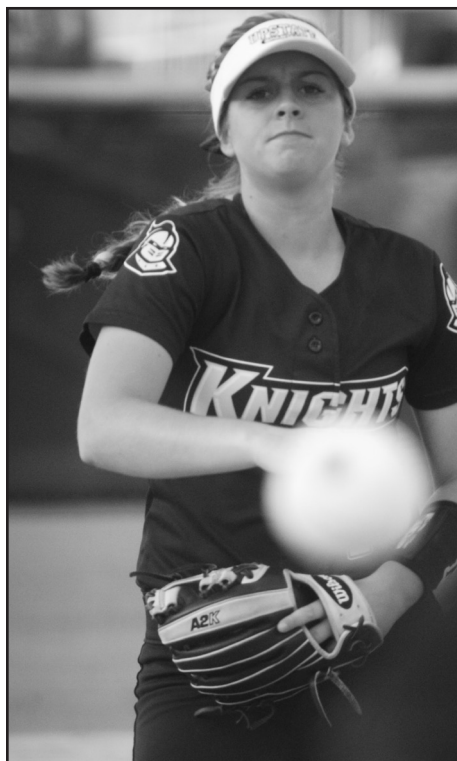
For Oakleaf, Tracy Ferguson became the hero for the weekend successes with her run-scoring single in the bottom of the eighth inning scoring Kaylee Lambrecht, a pinch runner for catcher Haley Willis who was placed at second base to start the overtime inning. Jenna Curtis bunted Willis to third to set up Ferguson’s gamewinner.

For the tournament, Oakleaf High senior pitcher Kelsey Sweatt was named the Most Outstanding Player while teammate Angela Agurkis was named the offensive player of the tournament.

“Kelsey is a gamer, she thrives on competition,” said Oakleaf coach Christina Thompson. “Angela has one of the prettiest swings I have ever seen. Her addition has been a blessing.”

Oakleaf, after a 4-1 win over 5A-West Nassau (14-4) on April 4, traveled to Kissimmee as the top seed in the Blue Bracket that featured such stellar teams as Winter Springs, Viera, Aucilla Christian, Bartow, Timber Creek and Gainesville high schools. Kentucky’s Scott County (14-2) was the second seed for the tournament. Both teams have flirted with top 10 rankings nationally by numerous polls.

“West Nassau was a great precursor



STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

Oakleaf High pitcher Kelsey Sweatt delivered a sterling performance to earn Most Valuable Player honor at Kissimmee Klassic.

before heading to Kissimmee,” said Thompson.

Oakleaf (18-2) opened the tournament with a 1-0 win over Winter Springs, an 8A power at 15-5 overall, with Agurkis bashing the lone RBI for the night with Katie Kirstler doubling to lead off the inning and Alex Acevedo successfully bunting Kirstler to third before Agurkis’ blast.

In the fifth, Winter Springs threatened with two baserunners reaching third, but Sweatt held and the Knights’ defense stiffened with a pick off play and a flyout. In the seventh, Oakleaf registered a game-ending double play to end the game.

In game two, against 9A-Timber Creek



Oakleaf High outfielder Tracy Ferguson had the key hit; a bunt attempt on a suicide squeeze attempt for the Knights, in the eighth inning of the Kissimmee Klassic championship game against Kentucky state champion Scott County High School.

(11-2, region finalist), a 3-0 win, Oakleaf got runs in the third, fourth and sixth inning off seven hits; two RBIs from Acevedo and one from Kistler. Sweatt pitched for seven strikeouts.

In game three, Oakleaf survived a 3-1 third inning deficit into the seventh inning before scoring three runs off a barrage of hits including a Willis single, a Rebecca Marks fielder’s choice single, an error to Ferguson that set up RBI hits from Acevedo and Agurkis to beat 7A-Viera (18-3, region finalist). Agurkis hit a two-run double. Madi Davis pitched for three strikeouts against six hits.

In the Gold division, Clay High opened with a 6-1 loss to Bishop Moore as the Hornets hit for three seventh inning runs against Morgan Crutcher who had nine strikeouts. Clay left nine baserunners on

base.

Clay lost a 6-4 game to Tampa Plant in round two with Blue Devils’ coach Matt Lewis utilizing three pitchers; Charlotte DeNapoli, Morgan Silvis and Crutcher in relief to try and stop the Panthers’ batting lineup.

Tampa opened a 6-0 lead into the fourth where Clay scored two runs in the fourth off errors and two more in the fifth off a two-run single from DeLaney Anfinson to close the gap.

In game three, Clay knocked out a familiar foe, Columbia Lake City, 7-3 in a game highlighted by two RBIs from Hailey Stone and one each from Allison Byrd and Charlotte DeNapoli.

Clay finished with an 11-3 win over Riverview with 13 hits and five strikeouts from Crutcher.

Lady Broncos miscues costly in ninth inning

By Ray DiMonda
Correspondent

MIDDLEBURG – The Middleburg Lady Broncos hosted the Episcopal Eagles Thursday night in what should have been a tune up for the District Tournament as the season draws to a close. The Broncos went down two runs in the top of the first and battled back to tie Episcopal. The tie would go through eight innings of play before the Broncos would make some crucial mistakes that allowed the Eagles to score two runs. The Broncos couldn’t recover and lost 5-3 in nine innings.

“It was frustrating,” said Middleburg coach Karl Smeltzer. “We had three mis-

played balls that really hurt us. At the plate, I thought we executed well... until the seventh inning. In the seventh inning, you’ve got runners on and you can’t move them and get them in scoring position. But that’s over with.”

Getting to that seventh inning was a chore. The Broncos would get their first run in the bottom of the second inning when Haleigh Wright got on base, and was brought around by Tori Gardner. With the score 2-1, Middleburg played good defense in the third with Episcopal going three up, three out. When the Broncos returned to bat, they had a spark. Emily Bach got on first and Hunter Padgett followed with



CORRESPONDENT PHOTO BY RAY DIMONDA

Middleburg High infielder Hunter Padgett awaits throw in front of Episcopal baserunner in Broncos non-district loss on Thursday.

a single that drove Bach to third. When Sam Whitley came up, on the first pitch she showed a bunt and pulled back. When

the players on the bases pulled in to play

State

from page 27

then missed his second attempt check-in, calculated a best-ever 255 to be the winning attempt for his shot at gold. Before his final lift, third place was locked in.

"My 250 would have tied for first, but I wasn't going to be happy with that," said Beall. "I knew I had the best clean and jerk on the list."

For coaches Lantz Lowery and Chuck Dickinson, the choice to go five pounds up was almost a no-brainer.

"He's a tough, courageous kid," said Dickinson. "He was going to go for it. He had third locked up and didn't want the tie for first."

As Beall approached the bar for that final lift, the Deland gym quieted.

"When I got it up to chest, I actually felt like it was going to happen," said Beall. "When I started my press up, the bar rolled a bit forward and I kind of lost control of it as it went forward and up. I wanted badly to stand on top of the podium but it wasn't going to happen."

Beall and teammates Brandon Staley at 139 and Justin Raysin at 183 all medaled for Lowery, who made his return to the Indians' weight room after a brief stint at rival Interlachen High School.

"Taylor messed up on the bench, but it's nice to have a bad day and still get third," said Lowery. "Staley had a chance at the title in his division. Justin had a nice finish at third. This is a hard day to have to have your best day, but getting third overall against the likes of Madison County and Baker County is not bad."

Lowery, who was part of Keystone Heights' 2014 state title (shared with Baker County), said the program itself is feeding off the success of that 2014 team.

"There are more kids coming out that understand that the bar is high in our room," said Lowery. "We have a bunch of young guys for next year so we'll be around a while."

Spivey, at 139, had to contend with a 25 pound deficit after his 245 pound bench was short of eventual champion Michael Hensley of Wewahatchka's 270. In the clean and jerk, Spivey recouped just five of the 25 pounds; 225, to fall short by 20 pounds.

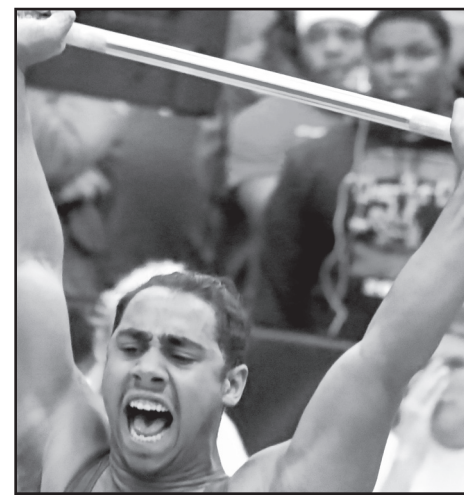
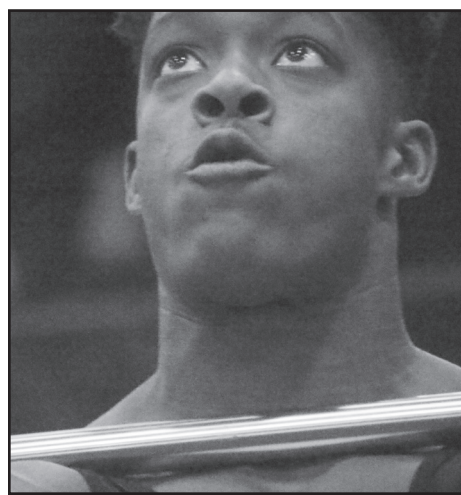
"He went for it too on the clean and jerk," said Lowery. "We work on the technique there and we have better lifts there."

Raysin, a linebacker for Dickinson's football Indians, had his first foray into the state meet chaos and came in with eyes opened by the intensity.

Again, Raysin, as his Indians' teammate did before him, bested the field in the clean and jerk with a class best 290 pounds, but fell short by 55 pounds for his third place.

"We work a lot on the clean and jerk and probably have the best technique there," said Raysin. "Coach Lowery pushes us there. We figure we are not going to win on bench, so the clean and jerk is more technique than power and we can get back there."

Keystone Heights' finished with 14 team points to join Madison County and



STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

Above left: Clay High's Shane Ballesta finished eighth in Class 1A 129 division with 395 total; just 10 pounds off sixth place's 405 total; above center: Ridgeview freshman Rolando Grey at 129 finished 14th; Above right: Clay senior Marcus Jones finished fifth in 219 with 635 total; Bottom left: Keystone Heights' Brandon Spivey finished second in 139 with 470 total; Bottom center: Orange Park's Alex Bailes took sixth in 238; Bottom right: Orange Park's Shawn Bizzell finished fourth in Unlimited for second top six medal in two years.



Baker County as the only three teams with double digit team points in the 70 team field.

Also in Class 1A, Clay High senior Marcus Jones finished fifth in 219 with a 635 total with a 690 total from Madison County's Diante Hartsfield. Clay also had Gabe Nealy at 139 who finished eighth with a 425 total. "It was crazy, I improved from last year, but it was a battle," said Jones, a football linebacker and fullback at Clay High and heading to University of Central Florida for competitive cheerleading. "I just love watching guys compete and get after it. My bench was a big improvement."

For Clay High coach Rodney Keller, who produced two state titles for the girls weightlifting team, said the boys had a tough road ahead with the immense state wide talent. "The classes were crazy tight with five pounds here or there the difference," said Keller. "Our plan was to get five out of six lifts and then figure where we were and go for it. Gabe lifted well in his first state meet."

Clay also had Shane Ballesta, at 129, finishing eighth at 395.

Keystone Heights finished with David Tisdale at 139, 17th at 395; Zachary Blalock at 169, seventh at 545; Hunter Collins at 183, 16th at 510; Nolin Robertson at 219, eighth at 600, and Matt White at Unlimited, sixth at 675.

For Orange Park, Alex Bailes and Shawn Bizzell both earned medals with Bailes, at 238, taking sixth at 610 and Bizzell, at Unlimited, taking fourth at 700 with winner Joel Makatura of Interlachen at 740.

"My bench was not what I wanted; 370,

and I had the second best clean of the class at 330," said Bizzell. "The Baker County guy lifted a 350 to tie me at 700, but he weighed in less and got the third."

For Bailes, who earned a district and region title en route to his state meet ticket, said his Olympic weightlifting training over the summer improved his clean and jerk.

"I trained and competed in some Olympic weightlifting camps and that got my technique there a lot better," said Bailes.

Ridgeview High had two lifters; freshman Rolando Grey and senior Jonathan McDow, with McDow taking seventh behind Bailes at 239 with a 600 total. Grey, in 129, finished 14th at 365.

"I was pretty nervous out there, but now it's time to get ready for football," said Grey. In Class 2A, staged on Friday, Fleming Island's Tyler Nguyen was top finisher

with his second place in the 154 pound division with a 605 total behind winner Justin Scott of Choctawhatchee's 670. Middleburg's Tyler Braswell finished fourth at 119 with a 400 total behind winner Andy Montalvo, of Columbia, who totaled 465. Montalvo was also the region champion.

Also for Fleming Island, 10th in team points, were Franco Bello, sixth at 169 at 575, and Jason Manalo, at 199, finished fifth at 620 behind winner Kamario Bell of Columbia's 720 total.

Also for Middleburg was Brent Gavi-ness at 238, 18th at 595.

For Oakleaf, Jakobie Baker took fourth at 183 with a 640 total to winner Josh Piasecki of St. Cloud's 710 winning total. Knights' teammates Eric Rand took 16th at 610 in 238 with Anthony Laskowski getting seventh at 183 with a 615 total.



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Davis named Florida Dairy Farmer's player of year

Reed Davis looks to next year

By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

FLEMING ISLAND – Remember one thing. Reed Davis, Fleming Island High School's 50-goal scoring forward is only a junior.

That means he's back next year.

On Monday, Davis received his Florida Dairy Farmer's all classes player of the year plaque in front of teammates, family and coaches at Fleming Island High School.

"I thank my teammates for his honor," said Davis. "Having Marcus (Murphy) and Mark (Suhrrer) up front with me made my

job easy. It was all about getting the ball up front and one of us would finish."

Davis not only was chosen as the Florida boys soccer player of year, but also was a state champion team captain, a Florida Dairy Farmer's Class 4A player of year and the Clay Today player of the year, as well as his name is in the hopper for the Gatorade National Player of Year award to be selected in June.

"I have great teammates and a great coach," said Davis, who finished up his penultimate high school year with a hand-



Fleming Island High junior soccer forward Reed Davis, center, was awarded the Florida Dairy Farmers' player of year plaque Monday with friends, coaches and family sharing event.

ful of accolades normally given to a senior player. "We lose some key seniors; Mark Suhrrer, Alex Cruz, Trevor Broadridge, Andrew Labelle and others, but we also will

have a bunch of young guys coming to fill the gaps."

During the season, as Fleming Island rolled to what appeared to be an unprecedented undefeated regular season, the Golden Eagles suffered a blow at the hands of Tallahassee Leon to leave the season record blemished with a solo loss.

"That loss woke us up and told us we were not going to be given anything as the playoffs came upon us," said Davis. "We regrouped in that week of practice and worked harder to be around in the final minutes of the second half of games."

That final week; with a grueling schedule of Bolles, Ponte Vedra and Leon in the span of five days, prior to the district tournament put the playoffs in perspective for Davis.

"It brought us together for the playoffs," said Davis. "Coach Pontore kind of told us that no one cares about your record from now on. We just go for wins."

In their historic region and state run, with four of the five games being decided with exciting final minute goals, Davis commented that doubt never came into the halftime huddles.

"Of course, coach Pontore would tell us how bad we played in those first halves, but we made adjustments, sucked it up and played out game in the second halves," said Davis. "He was right most of the time though."

Pontore enthusiastically thought Davis returning will bring a certain change of scheme for next year's attack as opposing defenses will know that he is the Golden Eagle's go-to guy.

"By about mid-season this year, most defenses had two guys behind him and one in front of him; three near him at all times, but Reed is such a tough competitor for the entire game, there were not too many defenses that could wrap him up for the whole game," said Pontore, who had Davis as a midfielder defender as a sophomore.

Davis, verbally committed to Jacksonville University, called his best goal a gamewinner against Creekside in the region semifinal.

"Marcus hit me with a great pass and I finished for the win," said Davis. "It was the golden goal for the win."

For Pontore, Davis' prettiest goal of year was his gamewinner against Leon, a 3-2 region final win.

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Ridgeview High senior Tyler "T-Rex" Robison gets greeted at home plate after hitting two-run homer against district 4-6A rival Ponte Vedra in Panthers' 9-4 win.

Panthers bump Sharks; Blue Devils on tap

By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

ORANGE PARK – Ridgeview High baseball has had a topsy turvy ride under the tutelage of coach John Sgromolo with a district 4-6A title last year and all the trappings that come from being a defending champion the following year.

So far, Sgromolo and his Panther team have responded to the challenge to the tune of a 9-4 district win over Ponte Vedra High on Friday, one of the nemesis to both Ridgeview and also to the previous top dog in the district, Clay High School.

In the recent Clay High Final Four runs, Ponte Vedra has stuck its nose in the Blue Devil plans and been a thorn in the side of former coach Rob Thompson, now an assistant coach with daughter Christina at Oakleaf High School.

On Wed., April 12 and again on Thurs., April 13, the rivalry could reach a fever pitch in Clay County as both teams will be battling for the coveted top spot in district 4-6A.

Ridgeview's ride, with a record of 13-3 and a 5-1 district slate, comes by way of a two-game series with those pesky Sharks who beat Ridgeview 5-0 in game one on April 6.

Ridgeview came back the following day at home with a hard-fought 9-4 win the next day with senior Tyler Robison blasting for five runs batted in with a two run homer and a smattering of hits in the late innings.

"After a tough loss vs a very good pitcher on Thursday night, I am proud of the grit and the fight our team showed to bounce back and even the series on Friday," said Sgromolo about the Ponte Vedra series. "We are in a very tough district and to make a deep playoff run, you are going to have to have that kind of grit and resiliency, and I'm proud of them for that."

Clay High comes in with two crushing blowouts of Pedro Menendez High; 10-2 and 18-0 on April 5 and April 6 and some momentum at the plate, but not against

one of the two top teams in the districts.

In the first Ponte Vedra game, Ridgeview gave up three first inning runs to force a fight to come back that never happened as the Sharks defense was up to that task.

In the second game, Ponte Vedra smacked around pitcher Nick Frascello early with a two run homer in the third scoring the game 2-1.

"It is tough to pinpoint just a few guys who have been helping this season, Nick Frascello has been stellar on the mound, he is currently 5-0, was leading the city in pitching for a few weeks," said Sgromolo. "Robison has done well as a starter as well and has had some power with the bat as of late, he has 17 RBI in 16 games."

Ridgeview returned fire with Robison's blast in the bottom of the third coupling up with an RBI double from Tyler Turner that put Ridgeview up 4-2. Turner put Ridgeview up in the first inning after following a Garrett Barfield single with his first RBI double of the game scoring the game 1-0.

Ridgeview took advantage of Ponte Vedra pitching woes and field errors to score two more to put the game at 6-4 into the fifth inning.

In the fifth, walks to T.J. Oliveira and Barfield set up a two-RBI single by Robison that put the game at 8-3. A Duas single scored the final Panther run.

Jones entered to pitch and got two seventh inning strikeouts to end the game.

Clay warms up for Ridgeview with two district blowouts

By Ray DiMonda
Correspondent

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – The afternoon district game between the Clay Blue Devils and the visiting Menendez Falcons got off to a wild start when the winds in excess of 20 miles per hour would help Menendez score a two-run home run in the top of the first inning. Clay pulled out all the stops and said enough. The Blue Devils' defense held the Falcons to those two scores for the next six innings as they went onto beat the Falcons 10-2. Clay played their second game against Menendez on Thursday and won 18-0.

Clay has a two-game series with defending district 4-6A champion Ridgeview set for Wed., April 12 and Thurs., April 13.

After the home run, Clay looked like they were poised to strike right back, but left two men on base coming into the second inning. Menendez went three up, three out with Clay pitcher Conner Solomon getting his first of eight strikeouts on the night, one walk, and going five innings.

When the Clay fielders made a major miscue with three fielders going for the ball, Clay Head Coach Josh Persinger huddled his team before Clay went to bat.

"I know what makes them tick and who to yell at," said Persinger. "I know how to get inside (their head) and let them know we're serious and just get them back in focus."

The counseling session had a positive effect as the Clay bats came to life. Tyler Spence led off with a shot down the first base line for a stand-up double. Austin Burke followed him with a bunt which was picked up by the pitcher. The bunt moved Spence to second and Menendez should have had an easy out. The ball was wildly overthrown and Spence took off for home as Burke logged a standup triple off a bunt! When the Falcons reset, a wild pitch scored Burke.

In the fifth inning, Connor Solomon and Austin Burke would both get drove home to bring the score to 8-2. Clay never let off in the bottom of the sixth inning as Cole Escher took full advantage of a very fast Falcon side-arm pitcher. Escher took the first pitch all the way to the right field fence, made his way to second, stole third base and watched the Falcons miscue once again when they tried to pickoff Jacob Owens at first base. Escher took off for home for score number nine.

Persinger wrapped up the game.

"It's our third district game. We started out kind of slow; slow pitcher, lots of wind, pop-flies, that's kind of been our M.O. the whole time. Conner (Pitcher Connor Solomon), probably our number one, didn't have his best stuff, but settled in. We got better as the game went on. Good teams find a way. It was a weird day, the rain (yesterday), the game was at a different time, the wind."



CORRESPONDENT PHOTO BY RAY DIMONDA

Clay High's Cole Escher slides safe at home in the Blue Devils' district win over Menendez.

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Don Hall Track

Area teams ramp up for districts

OP's Bear, FIHS Miller, RHS Nesi battle for distance titles

By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

ORANGE PARK – Orange Park High sophomore John Bear and Fleming Island High junior Andrew Miller both entered the annual Don Hall Track Invitational at Orange Park High School with expectations of strong runs in the distance events; the 800, the 1600 and the 3200 meter runs in anticipation of next week's district meets.

With Miller being the dominant veteran of the area distance aces, Bear and Ridgeview High sophomore Joel Nesi all ran strong races Friday to reverse a trend in recent years of not-so-impressive track performances from county runners in recent years.

With a blustery wind in their faces on the homestretches of all three races; Miller and Bear struck a battle up in the 1600 with Bear taking a short-lived lead into the third lap while Miller held his ground enough to outsprint Bear in the final 100 meters. Miller's winning time of four minutes, 34.10 seconds is off of his previous 4:28 splits, but the wind was a factor. Bear finished second in 4:38.27 with Columbia runner Yassin Raffay third in 4:40.14.

In the next five finishers was a handful of Clay County milers; Fleming Island's Evan Fuller, Nesi, Clay's Benjamin Hathaway and Keystone Heights' Alex Guy all finishing with sub-five minute splits and all capable of strong district runs in a week.

In the 800, Bear took the lead from the

District meets

(Top four advance to regions)

1-4A: FIHS, OHS at Flagler Palm Coast April 18

4-3A: MHS, OPHS at St. Augustine April 18

4-2A: CHS, RHS at Bolles April 12

5-2A: KHHS at Eastside April 21

4-1A: SJCDS at Bishop Snyder April 11

gun and cruised to a 2:03.74 winning split ahead of Fleming Island's Felipe Fernandez' 2:04.71. Bear has dipped under the two minute barrier along with Clay High's Oliver West who did not compete at the Don Hall.

In the 2A 800 final, 11 runners were under two minutes.

Fleming Island's duo of Cameron Dill and Spencer Shaw are two more 800 meter specialists on the district front with Oakleaf's Tony Stallworth also in district 1-4A with Fleming Island. All have teetered in the two minutes range for the season. Dill, a state meet qualifier last year, ran a 52.75 split for the Don Hall 400. Of the 16 4A 800 finalists, just four were not seniors offering a new face for the 2017 title with three of those five being under two minutes.

In the 3200, where Miller set the Fleming Island school records with two sub-10 minute times; one at Flagler, the other at the FSU invite, Nesi has crept up to the 10 minutes barrier with a 10:19 split earlier in the year. At the Don Hall, Nesi and teammate Keith Kelley finished 1-2 with Nesi in at 10:33.74. In the 4A 3200 final, the top six were seniors all under 9:41.58.



Fleming Island High's Andrew Miller will be top contender in upcoming district 1-4A meet with Orange Park's John Bear, second to Miller, a top 3A contender for Raiders.



STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

Clay High's Tiana Nichols puts the shot for Don Hall win Friday at Orange Park High School.



Orange Park's Destiny Basden got to within an inch and half of Clay's Tiana Nichols to finish second in Don Hall shot put.

For the girls distance ranks, Fleming Island's Julie Franzoni is the veteran of a young group of runners in the county with experience from the 800 to the 3200 with teammate Adriana Neilen, a 400 meter ace last year, taking on the 800 at the Don Hall and finishing in 2:36.31. Neilen has strong sub-60 second 400 meter leg-speed and could factor in the two-lapper for coach Karen Moritz at districts. Franzoni was second to Nease's Jennifer Kirsch in the 800 with a 2:35.43 split. Kirsch won in 2:34.74. St. Johns Country Day School's Mackenzie Glenn was third in 2:35.78. In the 1A 800 final last year, 2:35.72 was the 16th place time.

Fleming Island has a handful of middle distance runners with Halie Bourre a gritty finisher and freshman Madelyn Stevenson a strong pacer. Stevenson won the Don Hall 3200 in 12:34.71 ahead of Middleburg freshman Priscilla Fietze who ran 12:59.18.

In the girls 1600, Keystone Heights

eighth grader Camryn Williams ran 6:03.91 to take second behind Columbia ace Bridget Morse, a top cross country competitor, who won in 5:13.01.

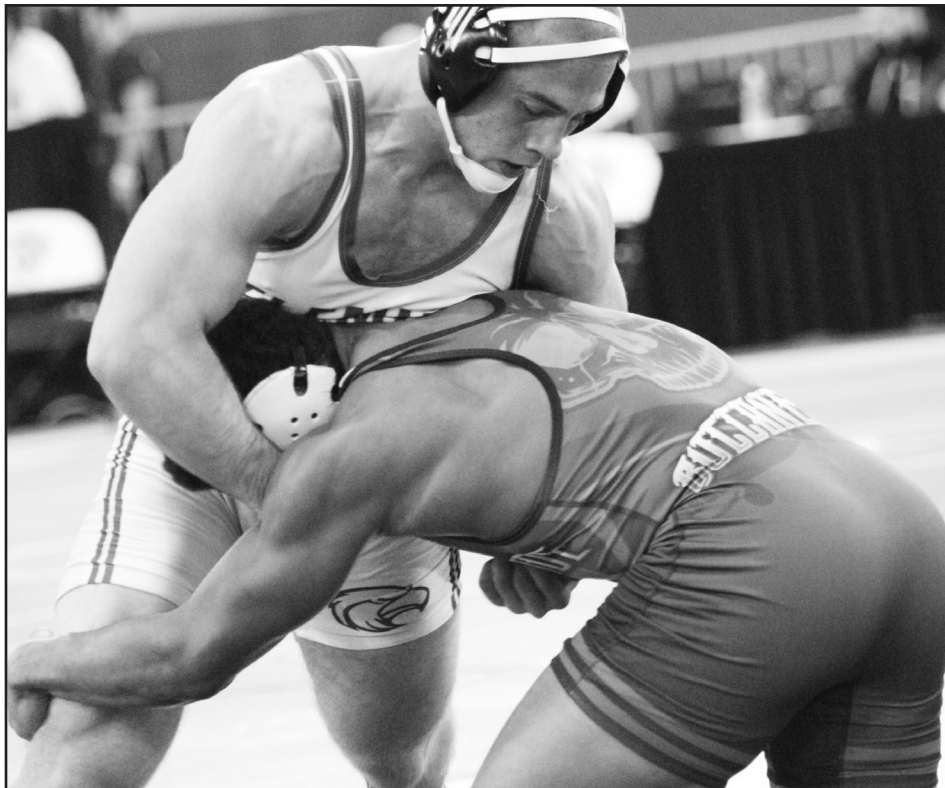
For the sprints, Middleburg High's Marcus Floyd flexed a little speed muscle for the Don Hall fans with a win in the triple jump at 45'-5" over Jacolbi Sampson of Ridgeview's 42'-10.75" and a win in the 100 meters in 10.62 as a strong tailwind put three runners under 11 seconds. Floyd bested Palatka's Steven Simmons who ran 10.79 and was fourth in the 2A state meet last year at 10.89. Floyd ran a legit 10.68 at the Clay County Championships last week.

In the 200, where Floyd could score points at districts, Fleming Island's Anfernee McCaskill took third behind two Palatka speedsters; Simmons again who was fourth in 2A 200 last year in 21.96, who clocked 22.24 and 22.51 with McCaskill in at 22.76. The trio were the only sub-23 second 200 meter finishers. The ninth qualifier at last year's 4A 200 final was at 22.54.

Floyd would finish second in the 400 in 50.66 to Palatka's Robert Passmore's 50.63. Floyd had a seed time of 48.37. Floyd ran 49.65 in last year's 4A 400 and finished ninth out of the championship final by .22. Fleming Island's Cameron Dill ran 50.76 to finish 13th in last year's 4A 400 with winner Tyrese Cooper of American going 46.34.

For the girls, sprinting was dominated by Palatka's 2A 100 champion Ka'Tia Seymour, who moved from Oakleaf High last year. Seymour won over Clay's Erykah Murray in the 100 with her 12.01 split with Murray in at 12.78. Ridgeview also had Aniya Marshall in at fourth in 12.99 to offer a strong contingency in the sprints for coach Al Nesi.

Seymour and Murray would repeat their finishes in the 200 with Seymour in at 24.72 and Murray in at 27.13.



STAFF PHOTO BY RANDY LEFKO

Fleming Island's Jason Davis had South Dade two time champion Chei Hill, pictured here in 2016 semifinal win over Davis, as his best competitor in Class 3A.



CORRESPONDENT PHOTO BY TERI BRIGGS

Jason Davis' journey to the Class 3A title in 2017, pictured after winning 3-1 in finals match, was achieved amidst an 18 year battle with obstacles both on and off the mat.

Journey

from page 27

weight gain or inactivity could accelerate the defect as well."

Davis recalled a home run Jason hit during Little League that not only created a high physical stress situation as he ran the bases with excitement, but got an ambulance ride because he couldn't breathe.

"The EMTs had no clue what was going on so we had to kind of clue them in," said Mike Davis. "He was okay once we explained what he was going through."

Jason Davis' second obstacle, after overcoming and pretty much defeating the first obstacle with his innate physical conditioning and athleticism, was a seventh grade wrestling practice, his first at Oakleaf Junior High School with coaxing from football coach Skip Yearty.

"He was convinced that wrestling would be good for his football and wanted to give it a try," said Mike Davis. "After the first practice, he told me he wanted to quit."

Davis noted that his conversation with Jason centered around total support by himself and wife Kim for any activity that any of the kids were interested in under one condition; you have to finish; no quitting. "I thought about Jason telling me he wanted to quit wrestling that day after the first practice and simply told him he could, but he had to walk over to coach Yearty and tell him face-to-face," said Davis. "He didn't."

And from that day, Jason Davis' journey through wrestling at both Oakleaf and Fleming Island high schools led to two third place finishes; one in Class 2A for Oakleaf in his sophomore year and one in Class 3A in his junior year at Fleming Island, and the state title at 182 this year.

"I always remembered that feeling of winning on the wrestling mat when I won the North Florida title in eighth grade only

because I was terrible in seventh grade because I was fat," said Davis. "Then, I met coach P.J. Cobbert at Fleming Island. Then, I got better."

Davis was on a wrestling team that featured the likes of Shaquille Quarterman, now starting middle linebacker at the University of Miami; Deandre Steelman, and Keylan Brown, all buddies from his football days at OPAA. "Those were all great athletes on that team and at OPAA," said Davis. "They set the tone for being as good as we could get and it just stayed with us into high school. Jonathan Bryant, a great basketball player at Oakleaf High now, was on that OPAA football team."

Still, as a freshman at Fleming Island High School, Davis was still toying with both football and wrestling, but quickly found out through practicing with the likes of John Martorana, David Detwiler and Austin Smenda that life on the wrestling mat was not going to be easy.

"Those guys beat the snot out of me every practice, it was rough," said Davis. "But, funny as it sounds, I was beginning to love the sport and I loved coach P.J."

Davis, third at districts and fifth at regions, did not make state his freshman year and also was forced to go back to Oakleaf because his ride from Oakleaf to Fleming Island; Heath Whiddon, graduated and moved on to college.

"I was a match away from going to state and the guy who beat me wound up fourth and went to state," said Davis. "I was so close to going to state. I knew I had to learn from it and I was in the room a week later preparing for next season."

Back at Oakleaf, Davis rumbled through the season en route to his first third place medal at 182 with just three losses.

"I made a mental mistake in the semifinal and the guy wound up state runnerup," said Davis. "I lost off a stalling point. Seeing that now and knowing what I have learned, it would be different."

"I just kept seeing the referee holding my hand up when it was over. I was going to get on the top of that podium no matter what."

— Jason Davis

In his junior year, able to drive now, Davis returned to Cobbert and the Fleming Island High wrestling room to better his medal grab; this time at 195. One name popped up twice, Chei Hill of South Dade, a state runnerup and twice state champion; once at 195 in Davis' junior year after beating Davis in the semifinals and, in 2017, at 220.

"That semifinal in my junior year he beat me twice; once at Lyman, then in the semifinals," said Davis. "The semifinal he caught me with my feet together and that was it. It was 0-0 after the first period."

Davis recovered to place third again at 195 in Class 3A. "P.J. kept telling me that I have to believe that I could win a state title," said Davis. "After gaining All-American at nationals at Disney, I started seeing the big picture."

For his senior season, Cobbert and Davis agreed on 182 as his weight to compete at despite weighing a whopping 235 prior to the season.

"A lot of people can say I should have went to the same weight as Chei Hill, but we looked at the what the team needed and Ryan Smenda was going to be the 195 and I didn't think I would look good at 220," said Davis. "I cut through the off season but it cost me in the first three weeks of the season because I was so weak and depleted. It was horrible and I had plenty of doubts."

Davis lost to Lake Highland Prep's Bryce Rogers, the eventual 1A champion and top-ranked nationally, at Lyman High School's invitational.

"I almost quit my senior year because of that weight cut," said Davis. "I wanted to tell P.J. but he said if I don't make 182, I won't wrestle. He was serious."

Davis lost a second time to Rogers just two weeks later.

"That's when I kicked my mind into gear and stopped feeling sorry for myself," said Davis. "I told myself I was not going to lose any more. My weight started to stabilize and I was getting my strength back. I did the running and paid the price."

From that day, Davis tore through his 3A ranks and got to the state finals with little fanfare.

"I had no doubt I was making the finals at state," said Davis. "My semifinal guy just blocked everything I did, but I got to him and won."

In the final, Davis felt cleared to the title into the third period and Cobbert told him to focus and do what he knew.

"P.J. actually told me to slow my warmup because the finals started at 6 p.m. and I was wrestling at 9:30-ish," said Davis. "I had a 103 degree fever and was throwing up. I felt like crap. I weighed in at 179 at districts then got strep throat for regions."

Davis remembered Cobbert telling him he had won one of his four state titles while sick and that he just had to go out and battle for six minutes.

"I just kept seeing the referee holding my hand up when it was over," said Davis, who won 3-1. "I was going to get on the top of that podium no matter what."

After the state meet, Davis got invited to the National High School Wrestling Championship in Virginia Beach, but a shoulder injury prevented that. In May, Davis is planning on wrestling with an Indiana club team in the National High School Wrestling Duals Championships. Davis will wrestle at Southeastern University in Lakeland next year.

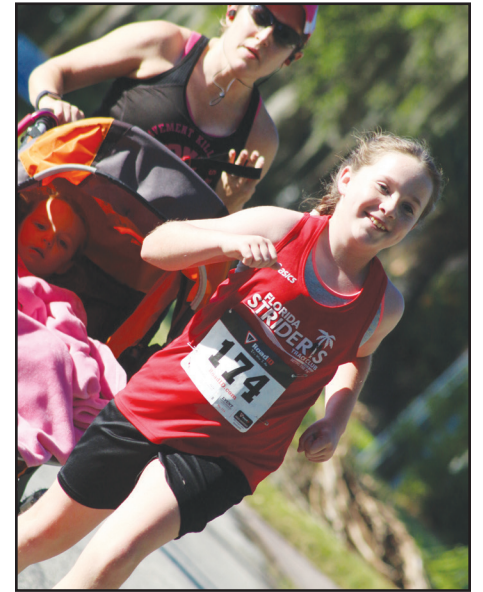
"I want to become the first national champion at Southeastern, an NAIA school and the only Florida college with wrestling," said Davis. "I want to make Fleming Island proud again."



Run to the Sun 8K action

Staff photos by Randy Lefko

Overall winner Julie Stackhouse, left, is just ahead of second place finisher Gene Reale, but off the back of Clay County Sheriff's Lt. Ken Wagner patrol car as she heads toward finish of Florida Striders' Run to the Sun 8K title in 28 minutes, 44.2 seconds. On right, smiling runner Rebecca Stratton leads the way for Kristi Mathern-Schneider and baby Bella as the trio passes three mile mark of Run to the Sun 8K on Saturday.



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Broncos

from page 28

bunt, both Middleburg runners took off, scoring Bach and moving Padgett to second. Sam Whitley took a full swing and earned a single RBI, bringing Padgett home to go ahead 3-2.

In the top of the fourth, Middleburg gave up one run as Episcopal tied the game 3-3. Through the fifth, sixth, and top of the seventh, each team would go three up, three out.

In the bottom of the seventh is where Smelter's frustration set in. Tori Gardner got on base, and the Broncos couldn't find a way to get it done and bring her home. Going into extra innings, the Bronco defense made a stand when the Eagles got the go-ahead runner on base with a bunt, then got her out at second on the next play and caught two pop-ups to end the inning still tied.

In the bottom of the eighth, Sam Whitley would once again find herself stranded on base as the Bronco bats couldn't get her home.

In the top of the ninth inning, Middleburg gave up a double, made an error at third base, and when an Eagle attempted to steal, the throw was made to second base and no one recovered to cover the base. The outfielder came up with the ball, but not before Episcopal scored a run and advance the girls on base. When the top of the inning was over, Episcopal score two runs on Middleburg errors.

Back at bat when it had to count, Middleburg's Emily Stewart got on first with a bunt. When Tori Gardner followed her, she ripped a screamer toward the shortstop. Stewart thought as everyone else did, that the shortstop couldn't make the play. When she jumped, and made the catch, she threw back to first base before Stewart could retreat and got the double play. With two outs, Olivia Wilber got a single and would be left abandoned there as the Broncos got the third out and closed out the game with one on.

Fun AND Humor

Flying McCoys



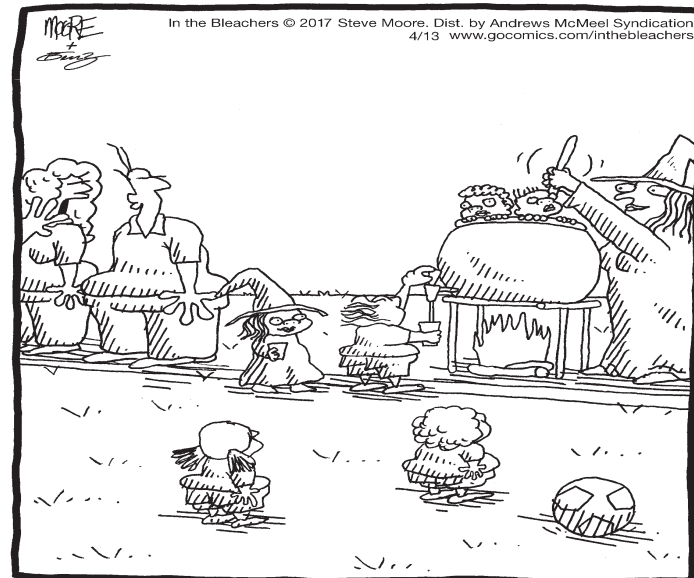
Non-Sequitur



Real Life Adventures

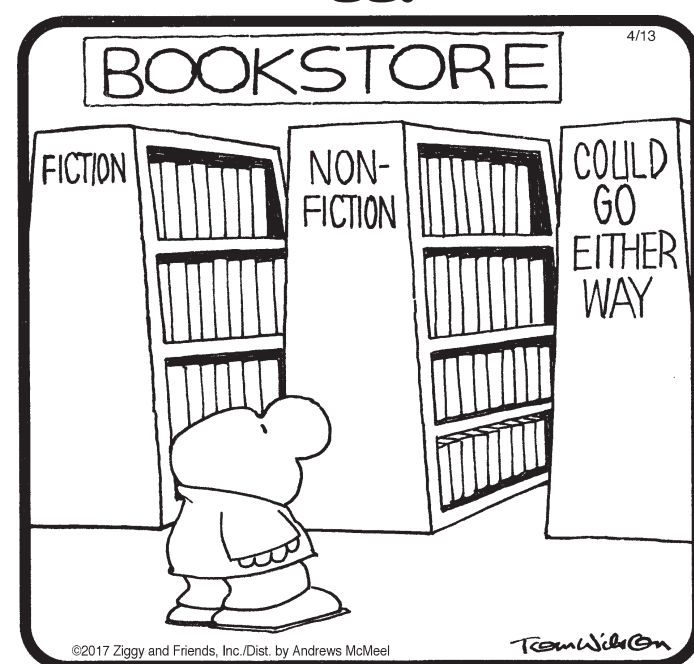


In The Bleachers



"Let's not ask Gruntilda's mom to bring snacks again."

Ziggy



SOLUTION:

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

Word search grid with solutions:

C A S A B A
E C O N O M I C
N O M I N A T E
C L O S E
T H O
S A G S
K I N S H A S K A
N E W Y O R K Y
A R
M A I A
M E A T
R A G E E
D A N


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

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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


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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆



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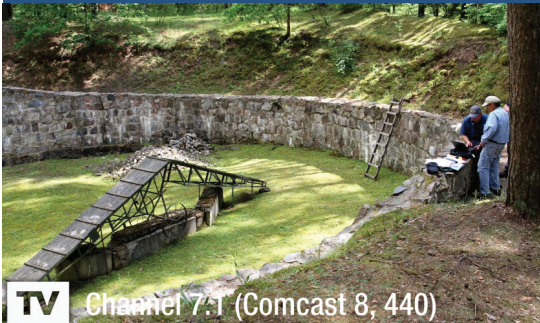
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WED, APRIL 19, 9 PM

NOVA: Holocaust Escape Tunnel

At the height of WWII, the Nazis murdered the Jews of Vilnius, Lithuania. Now, *NOVA* follows Hartford Professor of Jewish History and archaeologist Richard Freund as he returns to Vilnius to uncover long-hidden secrets and stories from WWII.



FRIDAYS, 7 PM

PBS Kids Family Movie Night

Starting April 21, tune in to WJCT's 24/7 PBS Kids channel every Friday from 7-9 p.m. to enjoy movies or special marathons for the whole family! Viewers in WJCT's broadcast area with TV antenna can re-scan today to access this new channel.

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.

Track

from page 32

Middleburg's Kaley Petrosky took third in 27.27.

In the 400, Fleming Island senior Ashley Nelson, a track veteran, finished second in 1:00.92, just a hair off winner Bernita Brown of Columbia's 1:00.90.

In the field event weight throws, Orange Park senior Shawn Bizzell won the shot put with a state-ranked 47'-4.5" put with Middleburg High's Alex Barfield taking third in the discus at 136'-03".

For the girls, Clay High's Tiana Nichols won the shot by an inch and a half over Orange Park's Destiny Basden with Nichols putting 33'-6.5". In the discus, Clay won again with Kelley Catlett throwing 112'-6" for the gold with Middleburg's duo of Dakota Peppard and Paige Novatasky finishing third and fourth.

In the high jump, Middleburg took titles with personal best jumps in both the boys and girls events with Bryce Quiett winning at 6'-4" over Ridgeview's Jaden Roy's 6'-2" while Kaley Petrosky, the district champion, winning at 5'-4".

In long jump, Orange Park senior Katie Berlin won at 15'-2" for the girls with Keanan Restall of Orange Park the boys winner in 20'-5.5". Berlin was also third

District 1-4A Returning top four FIHS finishers 2016: McCaskill (2nd 100, 11.14); Ashley Nelson (1st 100, 25.45); Adriana Neilen (4th 400, 1:02.41); Cameron Dill (1st 400, 50.22); Kayla Armstrong (4th 300 hurdles, 51.19);

District 1-4A Returning top four OHS finishers 2016: Nia Anthony (3rd HJ 5'-0"); Anthony Norris (1st HJ 6'-2", 2nd LJ 20'-5.5", 1st TJ 42'-11.25"); Rontrez Morgan (2nd HJ 6'-0"); Jaeger Henderson (1st PV 10'-6"); Tony Stallworth (2nd PV 10'-0"); Loren Johnson (3rd LJ 16'-5", 4th TJ 34'-7"); Jaqueline Thomas (2nd TJ 35'-2"); Melvin Briley (2nd TJ 42'-6"); Darius Perry (3rd TJ 41'-4"); Khalif Copeland (4th 41'-2")

District 4-3A Returning top four MHS finishers 2016: Marcus Floyd (2nd 100, 11.22, 2nd 400 49.62, 2nd TJ 44'-1"); Kaley Petrosky (1st HJ 5'-2"); Terron Allen (4th TJ 41'-6"); Dakota Peppard (1st Discus 113'-1"); Alex Barfield (4th Discus 128'-10")

District 4-3A Returning top four OPHS finishers 2016: Shawn Bizzell (4th Shotput 43'-4"); Keanan Restall (4th LJ 20'-6")

District 4-2A Returning top four CHS finishers 2016: Erykah Murray (3rd 200 26.84); Katie James (4th 400 1:03.49); Zachary Alvarado (2nd 110 H 17.16); Preston Weik (3rd 110H 17.36, 4th 300 H 45.68); Kehera Crumpton (4th TJ 32'-2.25"); Kelley Catlett (3rd Discus 99'-10");

District 4-2A Returning top four RHS finishers 2016: Glenn Rodgers (4th 110H 17.42); Jaden Roy (3rd HJ 5'-8"); Jacolbi Sampson (3rd LJ 19'-11.25", 4th TJ 42'-1.5"); Devon Fertil (3rd TJ 42'-6", 3rd Discus 131'-4")

District 5-2A Returning top four KHHS finishers 2016: Victoria Bannon (4th 300 H 54.32); Delaney Grantham (4th 800 2:47.46); Alex Guy (4th 1600 5:02.53); Tim Searle (3rd 3200 11:49.29); Marcus McGruder (4th LJ 19'-9")

District 4-1A Returning top four SJCDs finishers 2016: Courtney Sage (4th 300 H 49.02); Mackenzie Glenn (3rd 3200 12:25.43); Helena Kummings (4th 3200 12:25.47)

in the 100 hurdles with Ridgeview's Glenn Rodgers winning the boys 110 hurdles over Fleming Island's Luc Larson. Larson beat Orange Park's John Abate in the 300 hurdles with a strong 41.43 split.



Hurdlers, left to right, Connor Hale of St. Johns Country Day School; Glenn Rodgers of Ridgeview High and Luc Larson of Fleming Island battle in 110 high hurdles at Don Hall Track Invitational on Friday at Orange Park High School.

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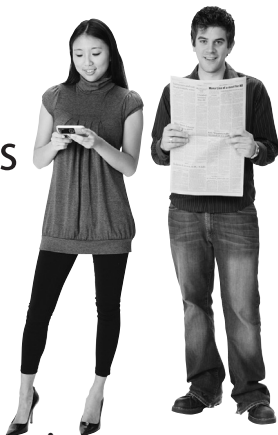


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Notice of Sale

LOT 29, PINE EAGLE ESTATES, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 49, PAGE(S) 24-29 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 30th day of March, 2017.

(seal)
TARA S. GREEN
As Clerk of Said Court
By Alissa Demay
As Deputy Clerk

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 certinpr@coj.net or (904) 630-2564 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

Legal 39304 published April 6 and April 13, 2017 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper.

AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA.

CASE NO. 10-2016-CA-000733

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO WELLS FARGO HOME MORTGAGE, INC.
Plaintiff,
v.

EVELYN KAY NELSON A/K/A EVELYN K. NELSON; ELLEN M. BECKHAM A/K/A MINNIE ELLEN BECKHAM; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF EVELYN NELSON A/K/A EVELYN K. NELSON; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ELLEN M. BECKHAM A/K/A MINNIE ELLEN BECKHAM; UNKNOWN TENANT 1; UNKNOWN TENANT 2; CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA; FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION
Defendants.

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on March 15, 2017, in this cause, in the Circuit Court of Clay County, Florida, the clerk will sell the property situated in Clay County, Florida, described as:

LOTS 26, BLOCK 12A, BELLAIR UNIT 4, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 7, PAGES 12 AND 13, OF THE CURRENT PUBLIC RECORDS OF CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA.

a/k/a 461 SIGSBEE CT, ORANGE PARK, FL 32073-3408

at public sale, to the highest and best bidder, for cash, to the highest and best bidder, for cash, online at www.clay.realforeclose.com, on May 1, 2017 beginning at 10:00 AM.

If you are a person claiming a right to funds remaining after the sale, you must file a claim with the clerk no later than 60 days after the sale. If you fail to file a claim you will not be entitled to any remaining funds.

Dated this 23rd day of March, 2017.

(seal)
Tara S. Green
Clerk of the Circuit Court
By: Taylor Solomon
Deputy Clerk

NOTICE TO PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY: IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH DISABILITY WHO NEEDS ANY ACCOMMODATION IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCEEDING YOU ARE ENTITLED, AT NO COST TO YOU, TO THE PROVISION OF CERTAIN ASSISTANCE. PLEASE CONTACT THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE AT (904) 630-2564 WITHIN TWO WORKING DAYS OF YOUR RECEIPT OF THIS NOTICE. IF YOU ARE HEARING IMPAIRED, CALL 1-800-955-8771.

Legal 39282 published April 6 and April 13, 2017 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper. 888160555

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 4TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA

CIVIL DIVISION:
CASE NO. 2016-CA-000648
FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION ("FRANNIE ME"),
Plaintiff
VS

Notice of Sale

SHAUN L. TAYMAN A/K/A SHAUN LEE TAYMAN; JENNINGS POINT CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC.; OAKLEAF PLANTATION WEST PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.; UNKNOWN TENANT; IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY.

Defendant(s)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated the 5th day of April, 2017, and entered in Case No. 2016-CA-000648-, of the Circuit Court of the 4TH Judicial Circuit in and for Clay County, Florida, wherein

FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION ("FANNIE MAE") is the Plaintiff and SHAUN L. TAYMAN A/K/A SHAUN LEE TAYMAN JENNINGS POINT CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC.; and OAKLEAF PLANTATION WEST PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC. UNKNOWN TENANT IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY are defendants. TARA S. GREEN as the Clerk of the Circuit Court shall sell to the highest and best bidder for cash electronically at <https://clay.realforeclose.com/> at 10:00 AM on the 5th day of June, 2017, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

CONDOMINIUM UNIT 515, JENNINGS POINT, A CONDOMINIUM, ACCORDING TO THE DECLARATION OF CONDOMINIUM THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 2833, PAGE(S) 641 THROUGH 843, AND ANY AMENDMENTS AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATIONS THERETO, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA, TOGETHER WITH AN UNDIVIDED INTEREST IN THE COMMON ELEMENTS 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 OWNERS 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 at certinpr@coj.net or (904) 630-2564 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

Dated this 17th day of April, 2017.

(seal)
TARA S. GREEN
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Maria Albert
Deputy Clerk

Legal 39337 published April 13 and April 20, 2017 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

AMENDED NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA

CIVIL ACTION
CASE NO.: 2016-CA-000933
FIRST GUARANTY MORTGAGE CORPORATION
Plaintiff,

v.
KIMY S. MOWER; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF KIMY S. MOWER; UNKNOWN PARTY IN POSSESSION 1; UNKNOWN PARTY IN POSSESSION 2; HAMILTON GLEN AT OAKLEAF PLANTATION HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.; OAKLEAF PLANTATION WEST PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.,

Notice of Sale

Defendant(s).
NOTICE is hereby given that Tara S. Green, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Clay County, Florida, will on the 15th day of May, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. ET, www.clay.realforeclose.com in accordance with Chapter 45, F.S. offer for sale and sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the following described property situated in Clay County, Florida, to wit:

Lot 3, Hamilton Glen at Oakleaf Plantation, according to the map or plat thereof, as recorded in Plat Book 50, Page(s) 52, of the Public Records of Clay County, Florida.

Property Address: 3782 Chasing Falls Road, Orange Park, FL 32065 pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered in a case pending in said Court, the style and case number of which is set forth above.

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 at certinpr@coj.net or (904) 255-1695 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

WITNESS my hand and official seal of this Honorable Court, this 10th day of April, 2017.

(seal)
TARA S. GREEN
Clerk of the Circuit Court
By: Jaimie Pippin
Deputy Clerk

Legal 39332 published April 13 and April 20, 2017 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA

2016-CA-001068
DITECH FINANCIAL LLC F/K/A GREEN TREE SERVICING LLC,
Plaintiff,

Vs.
ISRAEL JACQUES; MOVLETTE JACQUES;
Defendant(s).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sale will be made pursuant to an Order of Final Judgment. Final Judgment was awarded on April 5, 2017 in Civil Case No. 2016-CA-001068, of the Circuit Court of the FOURTH Judicial Circuit in and for Clay County, Florida, wherein, DITECH FINANCIAL LLC F/K/A GREEN TREE SERVICING LLC is the Plaintiff, and ISRAEL JACQUES; MOVLETTE JACQUES; EAGLE LANDING AT OAKLEAF PLANTATION HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.; are Defendants.

The Clerk of the Court, Tara S. Green will sell to the highest bidder for cash at www.clay.realforeclose.com on May 22, 2017 at 10:00 AM EST the following described real property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 33, EAGLE LANDING AT OAKLEAF PLANTATION, PHASE ONE, ACCORDING TO PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 46, PAGES 71 THROUGH 93, 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

Notice of Sale

WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.
WITNESS my hand and the seal of the court on April 6, 2017.

(seal)
Tara S Green
CLERK OF THE COURT
Alissa Demay
Deputy Clerk

IMPORTANT
AMERICANS WITH DIABILITIES ACT: If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to

Notice of Sale

participate in this proceeding, you are entitled at no cost you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator for the circuit court system at

Notice of Sale

certinpr@coj.net or (904) 630-2564 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time fore the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

Legal 39345 published April 13 and April 20, 2017 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper. 1382-1149B

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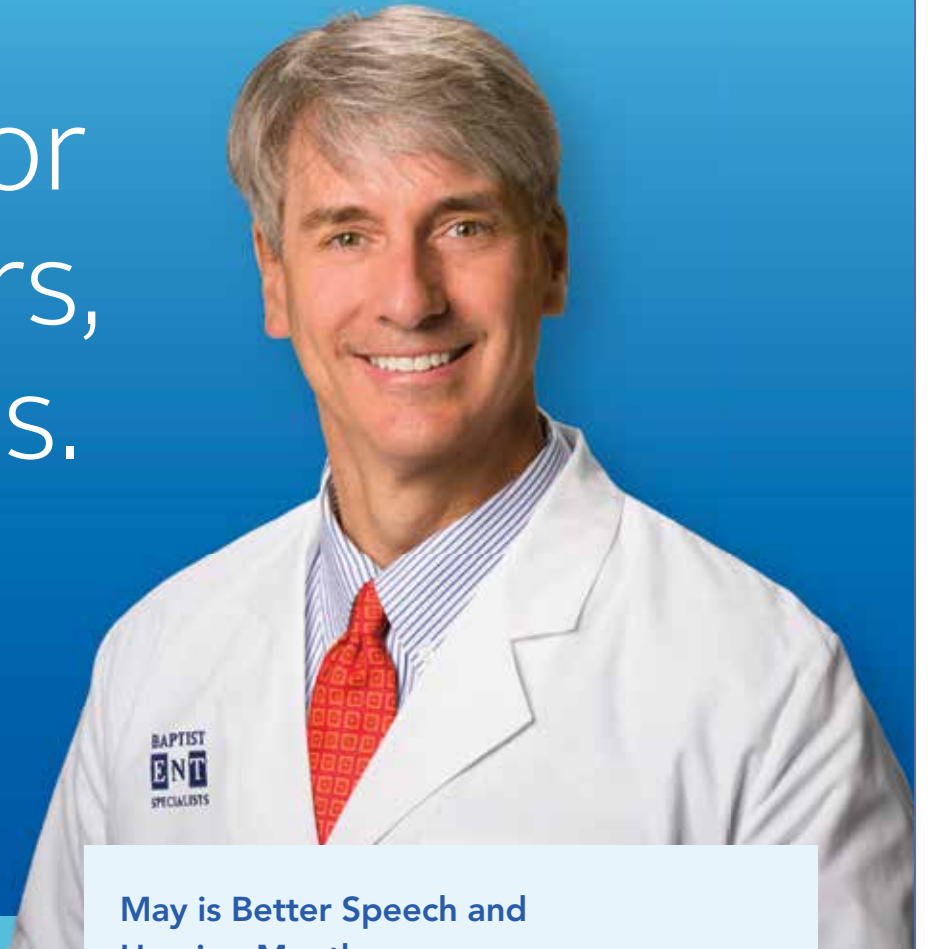
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Paul Walker, MD**

When: 12 pm – 1 pm

Lunch will be provided.

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