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VOLUME 52, NO. 47 75¢

ROUND 2

Legal counsel question lingers for School Board

By Wesley LeBlanc
Staff Writer

GREEN COVE SPRINGS — A recent discussion about legal services for the Clay County School Board has brought to the surface old wounds that seemingly haven't yet healed among board members.

During the Nov. 26 agenda workshop with Superintendent Addison Davis in Green Cove Springs, school board member Janice Kerekes threw out the idea of re-hiring former School Board Attorney Bruce Bickner, who resigned in the fall of 2013 after being threatened with termination by then-Superintendent Charlie Van Zant Jr.

Last week's discussion is the second on the topic since school board Attorney David D'Agata penned a resignation letter saying Dec. 21 would be his last day. Since the letter, the school board has worked to develop a plan on how to fill the legal void D'Agata will leave behind.

"I'd like us to reach out to Mr. Bickner, who knows school board law, who was the school board attorney here for 14-plus years, who when we interviewed, had an application with the most experience," Kerekes said.

School board chair Carol Studdard — who was voted in as chairman Dec. 20 — agreed with Kerekes and said Bickner's exit was handled unfairly.

"What was done to Mr. Bickner...was almost inhumane," Studdard said. "He was a good attorney and he did nothing wrong;

SEE SCHOOL, 12



Future leaders of Keystone Heights

Meet the Keystone Heights Mayor's Youth Advisory Council. From left, Wyatt Thomas, Karsyn Starling, Karlibeth Leitheiser, Natalie Gilstrap, Brylee Hawkins. See story on page 7.

Transit program cuts service, sets new course

By Nick Blank
Staff Writer

GREEN COVE SPRINGS — The Clay County Council of Aging's transportation woes are much clearer than they were a month ago. Leadership has changed, finances are in the open and the Council's board has a plan for stability.

The county commission and staff, which subsidizes funding for the Council's Clay Transit program, favored cutting bus

routes as a means of continuing to lose money.

County Auditor Mike Price said the Council's losses totaled \$238,912 in 2017 on the public transportation lines, though the transportation disadvantaged side of funding, individual trips with no schedule with four times the ridership compared to flex line routes, had a profit of \$13,220.

Council officials presented two options. The first would slash Flex Lines

altogether to save more than \$250,000, and the second would reduce the number of Flex Lines from five to two. The council recommended reducing the Flex Lines. Changing the routes would require multiple public hearings, but officials said the change would reduce expenses by about \$280,000 though it would lower the number of trips and services offered.

"What it would do is combine as many

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Clay County Memories



By Mary Jo McTammany tamctammany@comcast.net

Early Decembers in Clay County

In December of the early 1830s, naturalist John James Audubon began his travels in Florida by visiting with live oak cutters recently arrived on the west bank of the St. Johns River. They sat around a campfire in the area of a vigorous natural spring in what is now known as Green Cove Springs.

In December of 1885, locals were celebrating the new bridge over Governor's Creek between Green Cove Springs and Magnolia. It was expensive at \$999 but horses, wagons and men had been falling through it on a regular basis and that was becoming costly too.

December 1931 saw the return of dog racing to Orange Park when the state legislature legalized gambling and the Clay County Kennel Club opened for business. The first attempt, the Seminole Kennel Club, ended abruptly the night it began when Sheriff Elam Weeks arrested the employees, herded the crowd out in the parking lot and padlocked the doors.

On December 2, 1941, Orange Park's air raid siren arrived at the train station. That night at the commission meeting it was voted to reimburse the stationmaster,

Mr. Johns \$1.16 for personally paying the freight. Of course, that started a fuss because money was so tight that many had argued against buying the siren in the first place.

All that changed when, five days later, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and Henry Howard had more help than he needed that night when he mounted the siren on a pole in front of town hall at the southeast corner of Reed Street and Kingsley Avenue.

In December of 1951, Boy Scout leaders found themselves leading a never-ending caravan of vehicles loaded down with rootless conifer trees from the railroad siding off Beaver Street in Jacksonville back to town for Orange Park's first Christmas Tree Sale.

Some say it was a service project that probably saved lives because of all the newcomers in town who might try to go out in the nearby woods, cut a tree and end up catching a load of buckshot. Making moonshine was still a popular side business in certain parts of the county.

December 1999 saw the end of a gracious Penney Farms landmark for over 60

years when the Colonial Inn was burned to the ground as a training exercise for Clay County firefighters.

On a December in the 1950s, there began what became an annual event for many years when Moosehaven created a giant Christmas tree by draping strings of lights from its flagpole on Park Avenue. The first night they turned them on it not only stopped traffic it attracted traffic. Little two-lane U.S. Highway 17 was, in a matter of minutes, jammed with vehicles and a few horse wagons.

In those days, when it got good dark it was really dark along U.S. 17. Little grocery stores closed up, service stations and motels just had lights mostly on the buildings and they closed early. Much of the land along the road was woods or residences. The town had just installed the stop and go light at U.S. 17 and Kingsley. They turned it to blink at night.

After the first night of frantic but congenial chaos it turned into a bit of a Christmas miracle. Orange Park was growing so rapidly that folks didn't know each other and the tree changed everything. People would come early, sometimes bringing a



In the 1950s, as a special gift to the community, Moosehaven draped lights from its flagpole and unintentionally gave the town its first traffic jam.

picnic supper, to be there when the tree was turned on. The volunteer firemen wrangled the traffic, new friends were made and a good time was had by all.

Airpark Authority appealed denied in 10-year battle

By Nick Blank
Staff Writer

TALLAHASSEE – The First District Court of Appeal denied an appeal from The Keystone Airpark Authority Tuesday that challenged a May ruling against an aviation consulting engineering firm.

According to court documents, the airpark authority disagreed with the partial summary judgment from May that ruled that damages related to work Passero Associates performed on hangars and taxiways in 2008 were consequential.

The airpark claimed that Passero, "failed to properly supervise construction work," when Starke-based contractor

Pipeline Contractors Inc. performed the work at the airpark 10 years ago.

Pipeline Contractors used a building material called EZBase underneath the asphalt and buildings. The material is alleged to be toxic and unpredictable and was banned by the Clay County Board of County Commissioners in 2013.

Clay Judge Don Lester found the use of the substance was not necessary, was not inspected or approved by an engineer and was not handled according to the prescribed instructions when using the product at a construction site. Lester ruled Pipeline breached its contract with the airpark.

In May, Lester ordered Pipeline Contractors Inc to pay \$35,400 in estimated lost rent and \$2,053,570.31 for remediation to the airport for a combined \$2,088,970.31. The Hanover Insurance Company, which took out a bond based on Pipeline's completion of the deal with the airport, also had to pay the Keystone Airpark Authority \$1,128,691.50.

Passero countered that the airpark could not recover engineering costs because the damages were not general or direct damages.

The airpark argued Passero was liable due to a "failure to supervise." The appeals court sided with the origi-

nal ruling that Passero was not liable and the damages were consequential. "... the damages were not a direct or necessary consequence of Passero's alleged failure to properly supervise construction work. The contractor could have completed the job correctly without Passero's supervision," the appeals court wrote. "Instead the need for repair stemmed from loss incurred by the airpark in its dealings with the third party contractor. While these damages were 'reasonably foreseeable,' they are consequential and not general or direct damages."

The court, however, certified the issue as a question for a higher court.

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Department of Health: Do no harm

By Peter Schorsch
FloridaPolitics.com

Consider this column an “open letter” of sorts to the Florida Department of Health. First, do no harm. Got that?

Though those words are not actually printed in the Hippocratic Oath, but it's still an important medical axiom.

Here's the deal.

The feds recently passed a new law known as “Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patients and Communities Act” to address the opioid crisis. Good. But as with all large bills, there are some not-so-good parts.



Peter Schorsch

Exceptio probat regulam, this is not.

Included in the sprawling, bipartisan bill is some language that could easily be misinterpreted in a former pill-mill state such as Florida. And, if misinterpreted, that language could end up taking lives rather than saving them.

A bit of background: There are special doctors known as “DATA 2000” physicians who have special training in dealing with drug addiction treatment and can prescribe some pretty serious stuff in order to help afflicted patients. It takes some extra training to join the ranks, and not every doctor takes those steps.

The few who go the extra mile to become DATA 2000 docs offer Medication Assisted Treatment, or MAT, and that includes prescribing power for what are essentially specialized narcotics. A new version of these narcotics may only be administered to a patient in person, either by injection or implant.

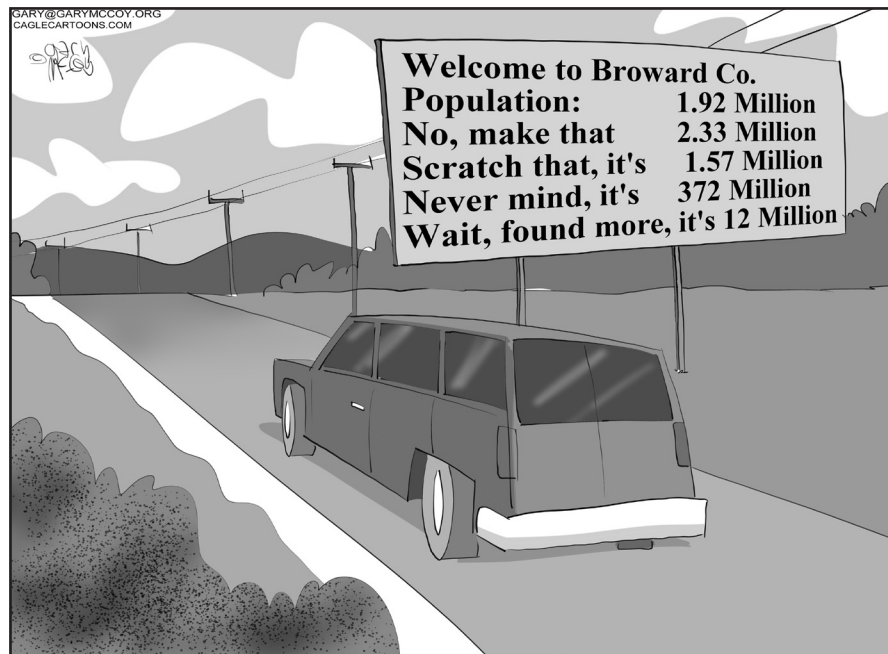
These aren't take-home drugs. These aren't “take two and call me in the morning” drugs. These are powerful controlled substances that are diligently tracked by the by U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

The new federal law allows states – if they so choose – to let DATA 2000 docs prescribe MAT drugs, but for the first time, it also allows non-DATA 2000 docs to administer them.

This bears repeating. These are

SEE HARM, 5

OPINIONS



Black Friday, I hardly knew ye

By Wesley LeBlanc

Last year, I wrote a column about how Thanksgiving is one of the worst holidays. Today, I'm here to report to you that my feelings have changed. Today, I write to tell you that Thanksgiving is no longer one of the worst holidays, but that it is, in fact, the worst holiday.

The reason for the shift from “one of the worst” to “the worst” is because of one thing: Christmas. This year, my wife decided that we wouldn't put up Christmas decorations until Thanksgiving had passed and like the smart man I am, I agreed. But boy did I hate not having my Christmas tree up on Nov. 1.

If Thanksgiving wasn't a holiday, I would be able to have my Christmas decorations up significantly sooner. Thanksgiving is a buffer holiday that gets in the way of the best holiday. It's also a buffer between me and my second-favorite holiday – Black Friday.

Sadly, though, after years and years of loving the famed and sometimes sadly deadly holiday – stop tramping people for that TV sale that if you had done even just the slightest bit of research, you'd have realized it's not even a TV worth buying, even at that price – I must admit that it has lost a lot of its luster.

I used to adore Black Friday. And



Wesley LeBlanc

before you tell me how bad it is for employees, I know. I worked many Black Fridays in my time, so I feel I've earned the right to shop on that day.

But yes, I love shopping late into the hours of the night, finding deals on things I don't need and watching people do the same. This year, though, I spent less than \$20. On top of that, the only thing that really brought a smile to my face on Black Friday was the eggnog latte I drank while shopping (basic, I know).

As fate would have it, I read a lot about the implications behind Black Friday this year in testimonials on Reddit, op-eds in papers, statistics in online articles and more and man, was it depressing.

I learned that more and more items saw their prices rise days before Black Friday, only to go on sale for the price they were originally sold for just a week earlier. I learned how many of my favorite stores failed to give employees holiday pay. I learned how that stores opened earlier than ever this year, too.

One of my favorite stores, Game-Stop, opened at 3 p.m. I love a good 8 p.m. opening on Black Friday. I don't even mind a 5 p.m. opening here and there, but for the love of god, 3 p.m.? Seriously? I hadn't even finished eating my lunch by 3 p.m., let alone my Thanksgiving dinner.

To make matters worse, they closed at 10 p.m., which is the normal time they close and quite early for Black Friday. Why not open at a normal Black Friday time and close later? At least then, employees would be able to enjoy some of Thanksgiving (although again,

SEE FRIDAY, 5

Word OF THE WEEK

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

Circumspect: A adjective meaning “wary and unwilling to take risks.”

“The officials were very circumspect in their statements.”

This Week in History

5 years ago, 2013

Former state senator and education commissioner Jim Horne of Fleming Island attended a meeting of the Clay County School Board where he admonished the board as being dysfunctional due to recent infighting.

FFA member William Donaghy of Middleburg brought home the bronze award in the FFA's National Creed recitation contest at the organization's national convention held in Louisville, Ky.

With the goal of reducing the cost of conducting municipal elections, Clay County Supervisor of Elections Chris Chambless held a meeting with leaders from Keystone Heights, Green Cove Springs and Orange Town to go over his proposed idea of a Super Tuesday Municipal Election in Clay County.

10 years ago, 2008

The Council on Aging of Clay County welcomed Al Rizer as its new executive director.

Circuit Court Judge William A. Wilkes administered the oath of office to Travis Cummings, Ronnie Robinson and Wendell Davis so they could take their new seats on the Clay Board of County Commissioners.

The Clay County Sheriff's Office

SEE HISTORY, 5

Send us a letter ...

We'd like to hear from you. Perhaps you are concerned about the county commission, the school board or your city council or commission, sit down and take a few moments to write us a letter.

All we ask is that you keep it civil, no name-calling and write

no more than 600 words. All we ask is that you stick to local issues, be clear and make a point. We reserve the right to edit for AP Stylebook errors, grammar and spelling. In your email, type Letter to the Editor in your subject and send it to Managing Editor Eric Cravey at eric@opcfla.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

Opinions

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

Friday

from page 4

it's a d-list holiday at best).

I guess these realizations have always been there and I've just failed to pay attention to it. Perhaps I've come to the realization that just because I struggled through the torment of a Black Friday shift, doesn't mean I've earned the right to fuel the machine that causes others to endure shifts on this day.

I'm not really sure which one it was, and it very well could be a culmination of all of this, but I don't think Black Friday is for me anymore.

That's OK though because I've got Cyber Monday to find deals on all of the things I don't need. And even better, most of my Cyber Monday money goes to

But yes, I love shopping late into the hours of the night, finding deals on things I don't need and watching people do the same. This year, though, I spent less than \$20. On top of that, the only thing that really brought a smile to my face on Black Friday was the eggnog latte I drank while shopping (basic, I know).

Amazon which totally isn't going to take over the shopping ecosystem in the United States, and then the arms trade not unlike Stark Industries in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, and then the nation and maybe the world.

But hey, if that happens and Papa Jeff Bezos rules the world, maybe I'll finally have same-day Amazon Prime shipping available to my home address.

with addiction, doesn't show up. Ruh Roh! Now Doc B – he's the one without the DATA 2000 training, remember – is now in possession of a narcotic with no patient in sight.

The pharmacy does not take back drug which, as stated, is worth its weight in gold on the street. Who is responsible for making sure these narcotics don't sprout legs and waltz out the door? What, exactly, happens here? Hint: Only bad things at this point.

See the problem(s)?

There are many, many problems with this provision of the SUPPORT Act, not the least of which relates to tracking each patient's use and whether these high-potency, high-value drugs are where they're supposed to be.

These are just two of a myriad number of nightmare scenarios this new law could cause. To be clear: This isn't a "scope" issue. This is a liability issue.

This isn't saying don't let doctors prescribe, that would be nuts. This is a "wait a sec, lets develop some guidelines here before someone gets killed" type scenario.

But Florida doesn't have to settle for taking the good with the bad, and here's why: State laws are not overruled by the SUPPORT Act. However, Florida needs to take the time to comb through the statutes and regulations on the books and decide how to implement these changes.

Here is my earnest plea to the Florida Department of Health: Please let the DATA 2000 docs know that they should not start prescribing MAT drugs like candy or start passing the buck (or the patient) on administering them. Let them know that unless and until you say so, there is no change in the current rules governing these medications.

We have enough people dying from opioids every day in Florida. Let's not make it worse.

Primum non nocere. Placere!

Peter Schorsch, president of Extensive Enterprise, appears courtesy of FloridaPolitics.com.

History

from page 4

investigated the theft of a section of a 350-pound solid black granite bench from the Fleming Island Veterans Memorial on Town Center Parkway on Fleming Island.

20 years ago, 1998

About 1,000 attendees turned out at the Clay High cafetorium to attend the funeral for David Lee "Bumbo" Evans Jr. and John Tito Smith who were killed in an auto accident along with Cameron Sharone Hines and George G. Battle Jr. at the intersection of State Roads 21 and 16 in Clay County.

Green Cove Springs Police Chief Gail Russell commended four members of the police force who disregarded their own safety to enter a home at 439 S. Vermont St. to rescue two occupants who were deemed "close to death" from carbon monoxide gas due to a portable gasoline generator left running inside the home.

Motorcycle officer, Clay County Sheriff's Deputy Doug Brace, was airlifted to University Hospital in Jacksonville where he had surgery for multiple fractures he received while responding to a robbery at Mr. Sun's Restaurant at 189 Blanding Blvd.

30 Years ago, 1988

Attendees in a standing-room only room meeting in Keystone Heights heard Florida Department of Transportation officials explain that the dead-

line had been extended for a Tampa to Jacksonville Toll Road that would cut through the McRae area.

Clay County Administrator Robert Taylor said the attorneys representing Clay Utility Company who said they want to cancel the sale of the water and sewer company's assets.

In Keystone Heights, voters would go to the polls to choose between incumbent City Council Member Susan Fraser and former City Council Member Louise Bates.

40 years ago, 1978

The Blanding Business Council of the Clay County Chamber of Commerce kicked off the Christmas season with its annual Christmas Parade down Blanding Boulevard complete with floats and marching bands.

Green Cove Springs Police arrested two juveniles for shooting a Seaboard Coastline train passenger between the eyes with a BB gun as it passed through town. H. Bagwell of Sanford, Fla. called police and described the kids, who were arrested within minutes. Bagwell had the BB removed "further down state."

Joe Bushel of Aquarius Road near Orange Park was named Emergency Coordinator for the Amateur Radio Emergency Corps, in a press release from the American Radio Relay League, an organization made up of ham radio operators.

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City Charter Amendments get green light for Keystone

By Nick Blank
Staff Writer

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – In next year’s Super Tuesday primary elections, Keystone Heights voters will decide four ballot amendments to alter language in the city’s charter, which were approved by council members Monday night.

The city’s Charter Review Commission approved amendments for the ballot in mid-November.

Two amendments address council vacancies. The first calls for appointees to the city council, if a vacancy occurs, to meet residency requirements, such as living one year within city limits. Another amendment would allow the temporary transfer of duties to the vice mayor; if the mayor’s seat was vacant.

An amendment to section 14 of the charter would allow voters to file absentee ballots at the Supervisor of Elections office in Green Cove Springs, where votes are counted. City Attorney Rich Komando said the potential change would give city staff some flexibility.

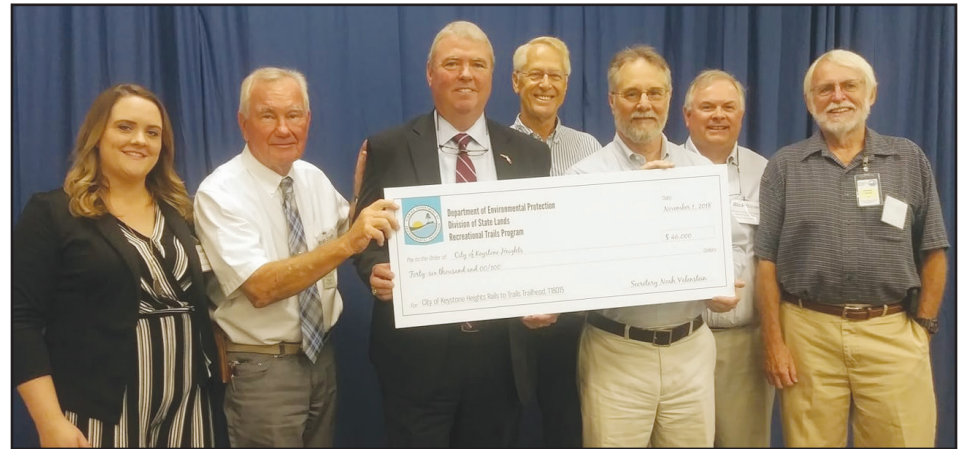
“What happens is, the polls close at 7 p.m. here in Keystone Heights,” Komando said. “If an absentee ballot comes in, it requires city staff to drive from here to

Green Cove Springs where the results are tabulated.”

The last amendment would rebrand the Keystone Airpark as the Keystone Heights Airport.

If passed, the effective date of the amendment changes is Jan. 1, 2020.

In other business, council members discussed a possible pickleball court. However, City Manager Scott Kornegay said it was better to wait for state funds in the form of a Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program grant rather than dip into the city’s general fund for a pickleball court and dog park. He said he received a quote from a contractor about converting a cracked and dented concrete slab that needs to be restored, washed



City Manager Scott Kornegay, third from left, and Councilman Larry Peoples Sr., third from right, recently accepted the \$46,000 ceremonial check from Florida DEP for the next phase in the Keystone Heights Rails to Trails Trailhead project.

and painted.

“It just makes more sense to go that way,” Kornegay said. Council members also approved food trucks at Keystone Beach, effectively expanding the reach of the city’s food truck ordinance that was adopted in September.

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Meet your city council of the future

Mayor's Youth Advisory Council holds first meeting

By Nick Blank
Staff Writer

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – Five high school seniors learned the basics of local government Monday at the first Mayor's Youth Advisory Council meeting.

The students learned about Florida's Sunshine Law and staff duties, received a copy of Robert's Rules of Order and were guided on how to hold an effective meeting.

Youth advisory councils, which exist in several cities statewide, are aimed at educating students about how government works and gives them a platform to talk about community issues. The meeting was a trial run for the advisory council, but topics for the future were discussed, such as curbing underage drinking and picking up trash.

Mayor Karen Lake came to council members with the idea in September and said the youth advisory council was a worthwhile addition. She said it's important to trust youth.

Mayor Karen Lake came to council members with the idea in September and said the youth advisory council was a worthwhile addition. She said it's important to trust youth.



Karen Lake



PHOTO BY CITY OF KEYSTONE HEIGHTS

Mayor Karen Lake administers the oath of office to the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council meeting Nov. 26 while fellow council and city staff hold Bibles for them.

"It's a good group," Lake said. "I think youth can make good decisions and that's what I see this group growing into."

All five seniors, who will meet once a month, attend Sante Fe College's Dual-Enrollment Program where Lake works as an advisor. Brylee Hawkins said she wants to

major in neuroscience at the University of Florida. The decision to join the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council was easy for her.

"I love government and things like that," Hawkins said. "When [Lake] asked me to do it, I said 'Oh my gosh, yeah.' I like leading."

"I love government and things like that. When [Lake] asked me to do it, I said 'Oh my gosh, yeah.' I like leading."

– Brylee Hawkins

It's still early, but Wyatt Thomas is eyeing law school and Karsyn Starling wants to be a nurse practitioner. They said serving on the youth advisory council was a chance to be involved and assist the city.

"It's just looking to benefit the community," Thomas said.

"[Lake] pulled us aside and asked if we wanted to be a part of it," Starling said. "We'll get more involved as it goes on."

Lake said the meeting was a good start and she was excited to watch the initiative grow.

"I really feel that now that they get the framework and what we're trying to do, they will have a greater understanding in the second and the third meetings," Lake said. "They will get used to the idea that collectively they're going to be making decisions for themselves."

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MM1481

New housing development debate short-lived

By Wesley LeBlanc
Staff Writer

GREEN COVE SPRING – A would-be controversy about the future of Shedd Road found itself resolved by residents and an incoming developer's lawyer just 20 minutes before the Nov. 27 Board of County Commissioners meeting.

Shedd Road, which is all dirt, is used by less than 100 residents, but for hundreds of other drivers, it's a speedy shortcut from U.S. Highway 17 to County Road 315C. The road – the site of accidents and speeding tickets – has an s-shaped curve that draws young drivers and would-be thrill seekers. However, under a new compromise agreed upon Nov. 27, the road will be getting signs warning drivers of a dead end and a new gate erected to prevent future shortcuts and shenanigans.

"Just prior to our hearing tonight, there are a number of Shedd Road residents here and we had a good meeting outside and we've come up with something that we think satisfies them, is fine with us, and we hope the county will go along with it," said Frank Miller, a lawyer for home-builder D.R. Horton, which is developing a 403-home community on land that touches Shedd Road.

"What we're proposing it, rather than making that little strip there a public road, is that it simply be a piece that we will convey to an association created



Mike Cella

by the Shedd Road folks," Miller said. "They will own it...the developer will put a farm gate across it which will mean that the folks on Shedd Road will have a key to cross through that gate to go west, but the people in the subdivision and the folks on 315...will not be able to go east on Shedd Road to 17."

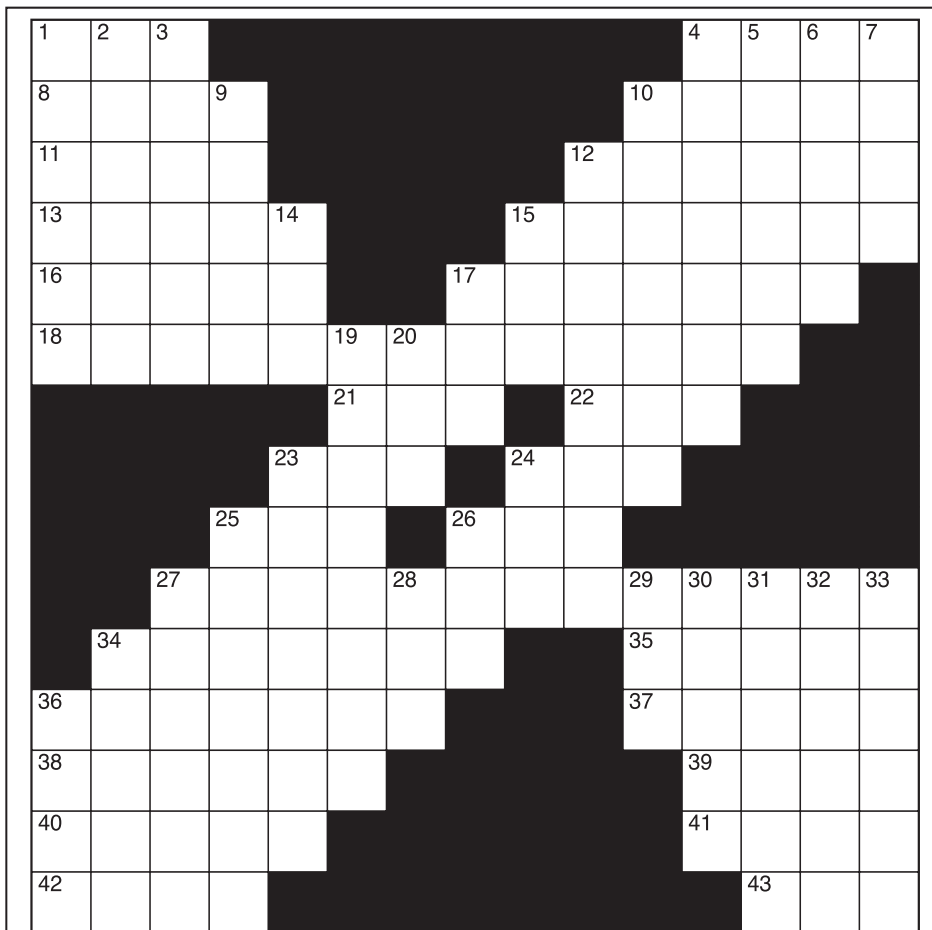
According to Katie Marcyes, a Shedd Road resident who spoke on behalf of the other residents, without this gate, Shedd Road would see itself further deteriorated beyond its current state. She said already that it is one of the worst dirt roads in Clay County with just the residents driving on it and that if the potential 400-plus drivers coming from the incoming housing development, which will be known as Willow Springs, used the road, it could fall into disrepair.

The Board of County Commissioners

agreed to the gate solution, but Chairman Mike Cella was concerned with the number of exits that would be left by closing off Shedd Road. With the gate stopping Willow Springs residents from getting to U.S. 17 via Shedd Road, they'll only have one exit, which is what Cella found himself concerned with. According to Miller though, Willow Springs will not hit the threshold that requires more than one exit.

Marcyes said that although the gate serves as a great solution, Shedd Road residents are still unhappy about Willow Springs but understand that at this point, there is nothing they can do about it.

When it came time for a motion, the BCC approved a motion to rezone the Willow Springs' Planned Urban Development from rural residential to rural fringe with the private fence for Shedd Road residents with a 5-0 vote.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. A great lunch
- 4. German composer
- 8. Expresses pleasure
- 10. Unit of energy
- 11. Genus of beetles
- 12. Type of respect
- 13. City in Netherlands
- 15. Showing lack of skill
- 16. Irish surname
- 17. Exaggerated or affected sentiment
- 18. Diversion
- 21. Journalist Tarbell
- 22. Wrath
- 23. Current unit
- 24. Sixers' Simmons
- 25. Makes honey
- 26. Tributary of the Rhine
- 27. Once home to a notorious wall
- 34. Gets back

- 35. She was beheaded in France
- 36. Cheer
- 37. Tropical Asian palm
- 38. Darker
- 39. Figures
- 40. Old World trees
- 41. Protects a broken bone
- 42. Dried-up
- 43. An enclosure for swine

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Blab
- 2. ___ Bacall, actress
- 3. Declaration of an intention to inflict harm
- 4. The most direct route
- 5. Affirm to be true or correct
- 6. Rift
- 7. Oil company
- 9. Alphanumeric character
- 10. Large marsh bird

- 12. Hollywood event
- 14. Scottish port
- 15. French river
- 17. Something frustrating (abbr.)
- 19. More in time
- 20. Payroll company
- 23. Pokes holes in
- 24. A way to steal
- 25. Blacken with dirt
- 26. Autonomic nervous system
- 27. A lab tech's tool
- 28. A place to stay
- 29. UK school
- 30. Moroccan
- 31. Where rockers work
- 32. Most friendly
- 33. In a state of turbulence
- 34. Bridget Jones' actress
- 36. Hebrew liquid units



STAFF PHOTO BY WESLEY LEBLANC

Todd Falconer, senior program manager with MHD Rockland Services, takes off his reflective safety gear after successfully guiding this P3 Orion at the Keystone Heights Airpark Nov. 19.

2 out of 5 ain't bad

Second P3 lands in Keystone

By Wesley LeBlanc
Staff Writer

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – Clay county officials gathered with excitement recently at the Keystone Heights Airpark as they watched a P3 Orion land on its runway.

The plane, the second of five purchased by MHD Rockland Services, will be used to train pilots and mechanics from around the world here in Clay County.

MHD Rockland Services is investing hundreds of millions of dollars to train military from foreign countries on airplane flight and maintenance.

While the project is slowly developing, MHD Rockland Services and the Keystone Heights Airpark are still working through details of their contracts. As such, the dollars attached to these contracts are not yet known.

"It's a significant investment and it's tricky because we're not operating on a

high profit margin," Todd Falconer, senior program manager with MHD Rockland Services told Clay Today last year.

On Monday, Nov. 19, Falconer reflected those same sentiments. He also said that while there is nothing new at this time, he believes all five planes will arrive from Australia and in Keystone Heights by the first quarter of next year. It's then that MHD Rockland Services will be happy to report the numbers and specifics of these contracts, according to Falconer.

While there aren't too many specifics to announce yet, Maria Gall, the airport office manager, said she and the airport are just as excited as they were on day one.

"We're excited about the prospective new jobs and new types of businesses that this brings into the area, but I think also, we're all excited about the

Obituaries

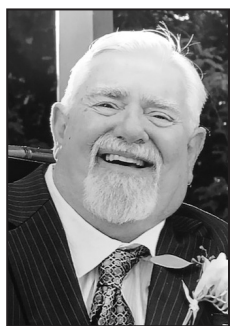
Donald 'Don' C. Klein

Donald "Don" C. Klein, 81, of Orange Park passed away Nov. 14, 2018 at Orange Park Medical Center. Don was born on April 16, 1937 in Oak Park, Ill. to the late William and Mildred Klein.



Don graduated from York Community High School, Elmhurst, Ill. in 1955 and continued his education at the University of Miami where he received a Bachelor's of Business Administration in 1960.

He was a proud veteran of the United States Navy where he was a naval aviator and retired as a Commander with 20 years honorable service (P-3 maritime patrol aircraft pilot). Don enjoyed playing bridge, Texas hold 'em, classic cars, playing guitar, friends & family, and traveling (especially cruises.)



Donald C. Klein

Don lives on in the hearts of his wife of nearly 60 years, Carol; children, Kerrie and Jason Bernardo, Lindsay and Chris Henderson, Craig Klein, Ken (predeceased) and Sandy Klein, 10 grandchildren and 3 and 1/2 great-grandchildren and sister, Shirley Hoover.

A Celebration of Don's life will be at 11 a.m. on Dec. 28, 2018 at the Jacksonville National Cemetery, 4083 Lannie Rd., Jacksonville.

A reception will follow (Fleming Island, Fla. location TBD) In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the City Rescue Mission (426 McDuff Ave. South, Jacksonville, Fla. 32254) or Quigley House (P.O. Box 142, Orange Park, Fla. 32067-0142).

Donald E. Wagner

Donald E. Wagner, 68, departed on his final bike ride, destination Heaven, on November 17, 2018 in Orange Park, Fla. A devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, brother-in-law and friend.

Don was born on May 5, 1950 in Allegan, Michigan, the son of Roger Wagner and Norma (Post) Wagner. Don graduated from Eaton Rapides High School, Class of 1968. Following graduation, Don served in the United States Navy for 21 years as an

Air Traffic Controller before his retirement in 1990 at Naval Air Station Jacksonville,



where he spent most of his service time aboard aircraft carriers. He went on to work for the United States Postal Service,

where he retired as a vehicle mechanic.

Don was an avid motorcycle rider and spent almost 50 years on Harleys except for the occasional Gold Wing, cherishing the time he spent with other riders in Savannah, Ga., Jacksonville, Fla., Daytona Beach, Fla. and numerous other places and rallies around the country. Don was active in military and civilian organizations where he lived, particularly in the Orange Park and Savannah, Ga. communities.

He was an active member of American Legion Post 250, Middleburg, Fla., and the George Wagner American Legion Post, Dorr, Mich. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Fleet Reserve Association, Disabled American Veterans, the National Rifle Association, and the American Legion Riders. Don frequently volunteered to cook and serve food at American Legion fundraisers and hardly ever missed a "Poker Run" or "Toys for Tots" charitable motorcycle event.

Don is survived by his wife of 24 years, Mary McGrath Wagner, Commander, USN, (Retired, Navy Nurse Corps). He is also survived by his two children, Brandon Wagner of Gainesville, Fla. and Ashley Wagner Feit of Cary, N.C. three grandchildren, Alan, Abbie, and Mandy Wagner of Gainesville, Fla. and four siblings, Bonnie Wagner Heintzelman of Pensacola, Fla., Ron Wagner, Rick Wagner and Debbie Wagner of Eaton Rapids, Mich.

A visitation, Service of Remembrance and full military honors were rendered on Nov. 23, 2018. In lieu of flowers, those who wish to remember Don in a special way may make gifts in his memory to the "Toys for Tots" at <https://jacksonville-fl.toysfortots.org/local-coordinator-sites>. Services entrusted to Aaron and Burney Bivens Funeral Home, 529 Kingsley Ave., Orange Park, Fla., 904-264-1233.



Mable Elizabeth Henson Jett-Roberts

Mable Elizabeth Henson Jett-Roberts, 85, lover of the Lord, family, friends, a good clean joke, turnip greens and cornbread and just about anything that was long-simmered with salt pork.

Elizabeth was born in Maury County, Tenn. on June 23, 1933 and went to her heavenly home on

November 25. She was a long-time resident of Green Cove Springs, Fla. and a member in very good standing of First Baptist Church of Green Cove Springs, where she offered to others her love, support and comfort for

many years. When she saw a need in the community, she tried to fill it. She coached girls softball in Green Cove Springs for many years and was an assistant girls softball coach in Middleburg.

Elizabeth worked tirelessly and retired from the Clay Memorial Hospital in Green Cove Springs. Many cried when she left because they were going to miss her and some because they were going to have to do a lot more work without her. Elizabeth was preceded in death by her parents, Tommy Henson and Mable Thomason Henson of Maury County, Tenn., infant son, Gary Jett, four brothers, Oscar Henson of Lewisburg, Tenn., Ernest Henson of Arrington, Tenn., Andrew Henson and Granville Henson of Lewisburg, Tenn.. She is survived by two sisters, Lois Stewart, and Jewel Lowe of Lewisburg, Tenn. and one brother Jehovah Henson of Lewisburg, Tenn.. Elizabeth is also survived by four sons, whom she credits with teaching her the value of a sense-of-humor, Charles Jett (Tracey) of Green Cove Springs, Fla., James (Jimmy) Jett (Rhonda) of Fleming Island, Fla., Donald Jett (Sue) of Port St. Lucie, Fla., and Joey Jett (Tammy) of Orange Park, Fla., 20 Grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. Pallbearers are Dustin Jett, Tyler Jett, Nathan Jett, Joey Jett, Cody Jett and Donald Jett.

Honorary Pallbearers are Darren



Mable Henson Jett-Roberts

Jett, Daniel DeVault, Travis Shepherd and Zachary Potter. The family will receive friends at 10 a.m. on Saturday, December 1, 2018 at the First Baptist Church of Green Cove Springs. Funeral Services will start at 11 a.m. with Pastor Sam Castano officiating. Interment will follow at Hickory Grove Cemetery. Elizabeth will be mourned and missed by many. In lieu of flowers, Elizabeth wanted all donations made to the First Baptist Church of Green Cove Springs, 215 Walnut St., Green Cove Springs, Fla. 32043.

Leeanne Marie Hall Acevedo

Sunrise October 10, 1980 - Sunset November 10, 2018.

Leeanne was survived by her mother Lisa Hall, father Chris Hall, brother Todd, sister Brittany, 6 children Aliena, Justice, Malachi, Zacharia, Steven and Joshua. She was a good mother and a friend to many. Services will be Sat. December 1, at 2 p.m., New Beginnings Church, 7020 Ramona Blvd., Jacksonville Fla. 32205.



Leeanne Acevedo

Patrick James Richmond

In memory of Patrick James Richmond. October 15, 1957 - September 28, 2018. Born to William and Laura Richmond, Patrick was one of seven siblings, Michael and five sisters; Linda, Nancy, Susan, Peggy and Sherri.

Patrick is survived by his wife Lynn and three daughters, Miranda, Lauren and Emily. We all love you, Patrick.

Wanda Lee Etheridge

Wanda Lee Etheridge, 86, of Middleburg, Fla., passed away November 24, 2018.

Broadus Raines Funeral Home, 501 Spring St., Green Cove Springs, Fla. (904) 284-4000.



SEE OBITUARIES, 10

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Obituaries

from page 9

Robert L. Thornton

Robert L. Thornton, Sr., 67, of Middleburg, Fla., passed away November 22, 2018.

Broadus Raines Funeral Home, 501 Spring St., Green Cove Springs, Fla. (904) 284-4000.



William Marvin Stahl

William Marvin Stahl, 90, of Penney Farms, Fla., passed away Nov. 14, 2018

Broadus Raines Funeral Home, 501 Spring St., Green Cove Springs, Fla. (904) 284-4000.



Timmy Proffitt

Timmy Proffitt, 64, of Green Cove Springs, Fla., passed away November 18, 2018.

Broadus Raines Funeral Home, 501 Spring St., Green Cove Springs, Fla. (904) 284-4000



Mary Ellen Legge

Mary Ellen Legge, 74, of Green Cove Springs, Fla. passed away November 19, 2018

Russell Haven of Rest Cemetery, Funeral Home and Cremation Center, 2335 Sandridge Rd., Green Cove Springs, Fla. 32043. 904-284-7720 www.RHRFH.com



Paul W. Sherman Jr.

Paul W. Sherman Jr. passed away on November 23, 2018.

Aaron and Burney Bivens Funeral Home, 529 Kingsley Ave., Orange Park, Fla. 32073, (904) 264-1233.



William West Kennedy III

William West Kennedy III of Green Cove Springs, Fla. passed away November 20, 2018.

Russell Haven of Rest Cemetery, Funeral Home and Cremation Center 2335 Sandridge Road Green Cove Springs, FL 32043 904-284-7720 www.RHRFH.com.



Ruth I. Myers

Ruth I. Myers, 74, of Green Cove Springs, Fla. passed away November 19, 2018.

Russell Haven of Rest Cemetery, Funeral Home and Cremation Center 2335 Sandridge Rd., Green Cove Springs, Fla. 32043. 904-284-7720 www.RHRFH.com.



Ellen L. McGahee

Ellen L. McGahee passed away on November 17, 2018.

Aaron and Burney Bivens Funeral Home, 529 Kingsley Ave., Orange Park, Fla. 32073, (904) 264-1233.



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Transit

from page 1

riders as possible," said Renee Knight, interim Council executive director.

Council Board Vice President Wendell Davis said by Jan. 30, the board's goal was to retain an attorney for the board, hire an executive director and director of finance, and add new financial software. The Teal Line, which takes about 45 riders per month from Keystone Heights to Black Creek, was discontinued Nov. 21.

A hitch for county commissioners was an expectation that the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged would reduce funding for the Clay program next summer. County Commissioner Wayne Bolla directly asked Price which option he would choose.

"I would select option A (cutting all Flex Lines)," Price said, though he added the transportation disadvantaged side could still fail.

He said the county commission had an important decision to make, since commissioners provide a large chunk of the council's funding. With option B, he said the county may have to prop up the Council with an additional \$200,000 and, from a financial standpoint, it presented a significant risk. The Council also has about \$300,000 in debt and the county agreed last month to provide an extra \$45,000 a month for fuel and services.

"I'm not an enemy of public transportation. I believe in public transportation, but public transportation needs to be heavily subsidized," Price said. "Now it becomes a value judgment for the Board of County Commissioners, because (the board) are the ones that have to subsidize this."

Price cited numerous personnel changes and complexities of the organization's accounting were other reasons to recommend the cancellation of Flex

Lines.

"It's an uphill battle," Price said.

ElderSource is a state agency that provides funding and services for seniors in seven counties including Clay. Linda Levin, ElderSource's CEO, said her organization only found out of Council's financial woes recently when the organization struggled to fulfill its payroll obligations. Knight, who once served as the Clay Council's executive director, is ElderSource's Director of Community Services and was also "loaned" back to the council after the firing of Al Rizer.

"Our hope has been we can help the Council on Aging be successful, because if they're successful, your seniors are getting what they need," Lovett said. "If that's not possible, however, we at ElderSource have an emergency procurement procedure that we will contract with another nonprofit who will deliver the services under those contracts, and your seniors will continue to get the services they need in this county."

Commission Chairman Mike Cella said the Council should focus on the transportation disadvantaged and senior services rather than Flex Lines. He said it seemed the Council requested more from the county in each meeting. "It seems like we never get to the bottom of the well," Cella said.

Davis, as a former county commissioner, said he understands the problem facing the commission and the chance they were taking. He said the Council's board had taken steps to right the ship and needed a few more months and a serious cash infusion to become stable.

"The mess is bigger than anyone knew," Davis said.

Commissioner Gavin Rollins said it wasn't the county's role to micromanage nonprofits, but the council should have dealt with its problem a year ago. While Cella and Bolla were open to the council cutting Flex Lines immediately, Rollins and commissioner Diane Hutchings, who both agreed with option A, asked for the commissioners to wait until December for the Council to make a decision and to gather more information.

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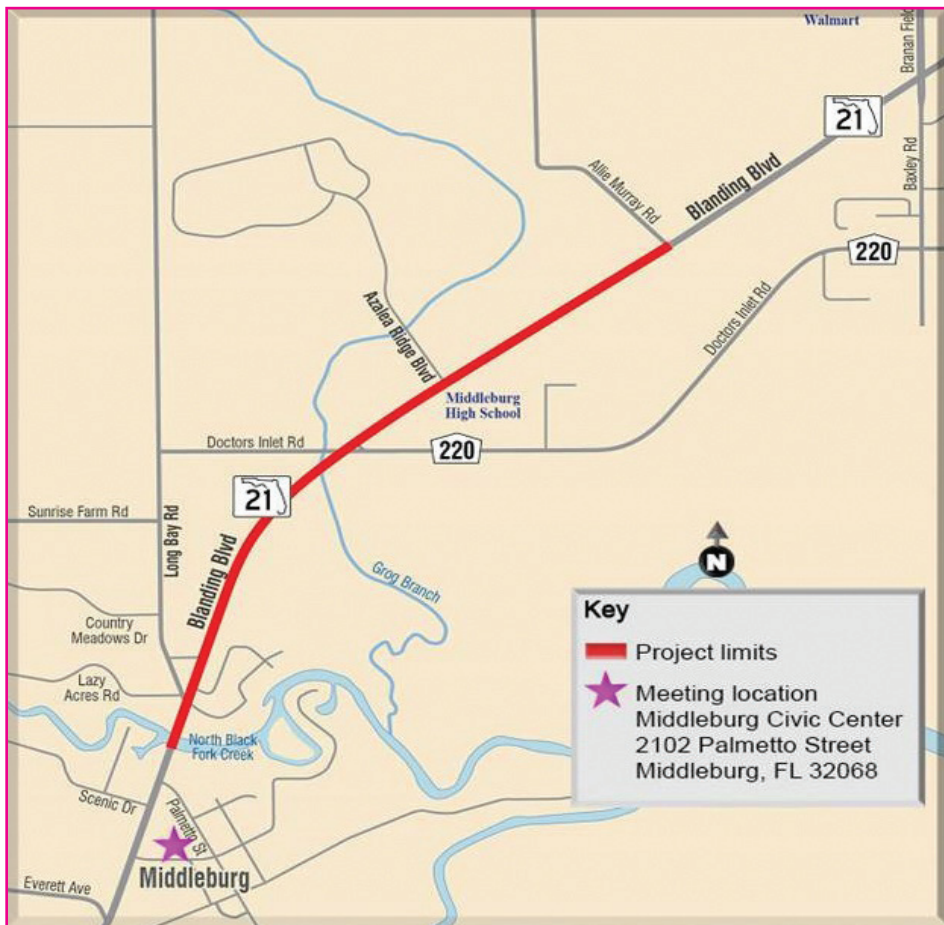
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Blanding Boulevard widening project Open House next month

MIDDLEBURG – The public is invited to learn about and ask questions about a planned \$19.1 million Blanding Boulevard upgrade on Dec. 10.

Florida Department of Transportation officials will be on hand at the Middleburg Civic Association at 2102 Palmetto St. to answer questions about the widening project that will run from Allie Murray Road to Long Bay Road in Middleburg.

The open house will be a meet and greet style with no formal canned presentation and will run from 4:30-6:30 p.m. with FDOT staff and consultants on-site to answer questions about the project.

Project improvements include widening

the roadway to six lanes, adding four-foot wide bike lanes and six-foot wide sidewalks in both directions, replacing traffic signals and street lighting, constructing a new drainage system and realigning the Blanding Boulevard and County Road 220 and Blanding Boulevard and Long Bay Road intersections.

FDOT named R.B. Baker Construction as the project contractor and work is scheduled to begin in January 2019 and be completed by spring 2021, weather and schedule permitting.

For more information, contact FDOT toll-free at 800-749-2967.

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From left, Michael Kerekes administers the oath of office to District 3 board member Tina Bullock, as her son Chris, holds the Bible for Bullock, at right, at the Nov. 20 reorganizational meeting of the Clay County School Board.



From left, Diane Hutchings looks on as her daughter, Ashley Gilhousen, is sworn in as the District 5 board member at the Nov. 20 reorganizational meeting at the Clay County School Board. To Gilhousen's right are her husband, Adam, and County Judge Kristina Mobley, who administered the oath of office.

RIGHT: From left, Michael Kerekes administers the oath of office to his mother, District 1 board member Janice Kerekes, while her son David Kerekes holds the microphone and her husband Mike Kerekes holds the Bible at the Nov. 20 reorganizational meeting of the Clay County School Board.

School

from page 1

he just happened to have a conflict with the Superintendent [Charlie Van Zant Jr.]"

Since D'Agata's announcement, the board has grappled with hiring an attorney to handle board business and a separate attorney or contracted law firm to handle all other district legal matters.

Kerekes suggested re-hiring Bickner would save time and would be a turnkey process.

"I think we should offer Mr. Bickner the contract that he had," Kerekes said. "\$154,000 and it was a three-year contract."

While Studdard seemed to agree that Bickner should be offered the job once more, she disagreed with the salary Kerekes recommended. Studdard said nobody should make more than the Superintendent.

Newly-elected member, Tina Bullock, said she preferred to hire a single attorney for the school board as she feels it is more personal and serves the board better to do so. She did not comment on the prospect of Bickner, however.

School board member Ashley Gilhousen said that above everything, she wants the board to work together as a cohesive unit. She also said she sees the potential hiring of Bickner as divisive and, instead recommended hiring an outside firm.

"Like we said, there's a lot of water under the bridge, so in my humble opinion, I think hiring an outside firm removes some of that opportunity for accusations of bias

or, 'someone's got his ear and someone doesn't,'" Gilhousen said. "It takes the opportunity for even the appearance of impropriety away and it levels the playing field so nobody feels like they're being mistreated and so nobody feels like they're not getting the same fair shake as anyone else and that's all I'm asking for is fairness."

School board member Mary Bolla said she would like to see the board put out a bid for both attorneys and law firms to handle the board's legal services.

D'Agata reiterated his stance and said both the Superintendent and his staff, and the school board, should have full-time legal counsel at their disposal. He said this could be met with solo attorneys or law firms, but that regardless of which route the parties go, the hired legal service should be full-time.

When D'Agata originally filed his letter of resignation, it was because he had taken a job with the Florida Department of Education. Now, however, he has declined that job and will go into practice civil litigation as a partner in the Jacksonville office of Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer. Because this position will see him remaining nearby in Jacksonville, and not hundreds of miles away in Tallahassee, which is where the DOE job would have taken him, D'Agata said he can provide some cushion support to the school board following his official departure on Dec. 21.

Because this was a school board agenda workshop, and not a regular school board meeting, the board was not able to make any official motion. Further discussion surrounding the board's legal service support after D'Agata leaves will take place during the Dec. 6 regular school board meeting.



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Wednesday-Sunday 12pm-5pm | www.safeanimalshelter.com

Calendar

TAI CHI FOR ARTHRITIS: Thru Nov. 27 from 11 a.m.-Noon, Middleburg Senior Center, 3916 Section St., Middleburg. Participants learn balance skills, good body alignment, and coordinated fluid movements to increase flexibility and strength, reduce falls and improve fitness. Must be 60 years and up to join. Sherri Cheshire, Northeast Florida AHEC, (904) 482-0189. FREE.

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE: Meets Nov. 15 and Nov. 29 at 10 a.m. in the Zoning Department Conference Room, third floor of the Administration Building, 477 Houston St., Green Cove Springs. Open to the public.

TDC PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE: Meets Nov. 16 at 8:30 a.m., in the Thrasher-Horne Center Conference Room, 283 College Dr., Orange Park. The meeting is open to the public.

BINGO NIGHT: To benefit Waste Not Want Not food gleaning nonprofit. Third Tuesday each month, Talons Restaurant, Eagle Harbor on Fleming Island. Registration from 5:30-6 p.m. followed by buffet from 6-7 and bingo until 9 p.m. \$25 per person with \$15 donated to Waste Not Want Not. Power Bingo, Cash Prizes, Food & Fun. RSVP at (904) 215-2910.

FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE: Meets Nov. 20 at 3:30 p.m. in the BCC Meeting Room, fourth floor, Administration Building, 477 Houston St., Green Cove Springs. Open to the public.

TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL: Meets Nov. 28 at 3:30 p.m., in the Clay County Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room, fourth floor, Administration Building, 477 Houston St., Green Cove Springs. Open to the public.

Visit claytodayonline.com for complete list of events in Clay County.

Plane from page 8

supporting companies that will come," Gall said. "This is one of the first types of purchases like this that has been done so there are a lot of hoops to jump through to make it happen, but for this company to pick Keystone Heights Airport, to be based here, it's very, very exciting for us." "It gives the airport a whole new opportunity in terms of fuel sales and just overall expansion of our business," Gall continued.

Clay County Economic Development Corp. President J.J. Harris was one of the local officials who participated in the "field trip" top witness the P3's arrival. He is confident in the business MHD Rockland Services will bring to Keystone Heights and the greater area.

"This huge investment...just showcases Keystone Heights and Clay County as an aerospace hub," Harris said. "We can do a lot of logistics operations here and maintenance repairs. We've got some flight facilities. We've really got a great airport here."

"There's definitely an opportunity for more business here and we definitely support MHD Rockland and their investment in Keystone Heights," Harris said.

Not only will this business deal between MHD Rockland and Keystone Heights bring jobs to Keystone Heights, it will also bring an expanded hangar to the airport so that the P3s can be housed appropriately. Rather than building a new hangar, Gall said MHD Rockland will be retrofitting and upgrading a current hangar while expanding its overall size to accommodate the large P3 aircraft.

Again, because contracts have not yet been completely worked through, the cost of this expansion is unknown.



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SJR STATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Bryan Johnson

By Penny Powell

At the age of 17, Bryan Johnson joined the Marine Corps. “I saw combat in the ground invasion in 2003, and in Fallujah from 2004 to 2005,” he said. “After getting out of the Marine Corps, I was diagnosed with [Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder] and a traumatic brain injury.”

Johnson describes the next few years after completing his military service as “extremely difficult.” He didn’t feel like he fit in with anyone until he connected with the Wounded Warrior Project that supports veterans in his situation.

“After almost two years of therapy and working on myself, I found my calling,” Johnson said. “I now mentor and volunteer with several organizations to help combat veterans regain their resiliency and psychological well-being.”

He said he turned to St. Johns River State College like a stepping stone. He plans to graduate in May with an associate in arts degree and then transfer to a university to work on his bachelor’s degree in social work.

“My end goal is to work with veterans, the homeless, addicts, or a combination of

them all,” he said.

Johnson attends classes at St. Johns River State College with his service dog Roxy and is grateful for the acceptance and help he also receives from faculty, staff and students.

“Professor Meyer has been a tremendous help. She has honestly bent over backward to help anytime I have had an issue,” Johnson said. “The professors have always been willing to help with any issue I’ve had. As a whole, the students and staff at SJR State are all very helpful and welcoming.”

While Johnson lists psychology and environmental science as the SJR State classes that have been most beneficial and enjoyable to him, he believes “there is something applicable to life to be learned in every class” he has taken. He also enjoys the small class sizes the College offers. As Johnson continues to press on, working on himself while also helping others, what is his best advice to other veterans and students? “Take it all in, be resilient and utilize the helpful resources available,” he said. For more information about financial aid options for veterans, including the GI Bill, visit www.sjrstate.edu/veteransbenefits.html.



‘Bundled’ constitutional amendments targeted in new bill

By A.G. Gancarski
FloridaPolitics.com

FLEMING ISLAND – The days of “bundled” constitutional amendments would end under a bill filed by Sen. Rob Bradley (R-Fleming Island).

The measure – Senate Bill 74 – offers a single-subject limitation for the Constitution Revision Commission, a legislative fix for the grouping together of unrelated measures into the same amendment.

Bradley, a Fleming Island Republican who last chaired the Senate Appropriations Committee, noted that Amendment 10 was detrimental to his home county of Clay.

“Amendment 10 results in fundamental change to the structure of Clay County government,” Bradley said. “In the 1990s, the voters of Clay County reformed their county government after a grand jury identified structural deficiencies. Those reforms, which brought Clay government into the 21st century, were somewhat nullified” by the amendment.

According to the ballot summary, it requires a state department of veterans’ affairs and an office of domestic security and counterterrorism within the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. It also requires election of sheriffs, property ap-

praisers, supervisors of elections, tax collectors, and clerks of court in all counties.

“This fundamental change, which also affected communities other than Clay, was bundled with popular language about veterans affairs and counterterrorism in order to improve the odds of passage,” Bradley said, describing bundling as a “terrible way to amend the constitution” and “unfair to the voters who are asked to consider these changes.”

Of course, Amendment 10 was not the only bundled measure on the ballot. One that also passed this month elicited consternation from the media and observers but passed anyway.

Amendment 9, which banned offshore drilling and vaping in indoor workplaces, was another of the many odd combinations from the CRC. Nearly 69 percent of voters approved that amendment, as editorial boards and others wondered why the two bans were yoked together.

A Florida Today analysis of editorial pages noted that many recommended a “no” vote based on the bundling. Time magazine noted that bundling made people “confused.”

“It makes no sense to the average voter why they were put together,” said Susan MacManus, University of South Florida political science professor.

The CRC won’t meet again till 2038, which certainly will give the body’s next iteration time to process the changes proposed in the current bill – should it become law.



Sen. Rob Bradley (R)

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE



**Tentative Five - Year Work Program
Florida Department of Transportation
District Two & Florida’s Turnpike Enterprise**

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will conduct a public hearing pursuant to Section 339.135(4)(c), Florida Statutes, to consider the Department’s (District Two and Florida’s Turnpike Enterprise) Tentative Five-Year Work Program for Fiscal Years 2019/2020 - 2023/2024, and to consider the necessity of making any changes to the Work Program. All persons are invited to attend and be heard.

**Public Hearing - Thursday, December 6, 2018
Open House: 4:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.M.
Video Presentation: 6:00 P.M.
FDOT District Two Urban Office - Training Facility
2198 Edison Avenue, Jacksonville, FL**

This meeting will serve as the official public hearing for the Tentative Five-Year Work Program. There will be a brief work program development video presentation at 6:00 p.m., followed by a public comment period. Department staff will be on hand to answer questions or concerns for all projects in District Two.

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact James Driggers, Jr at (800) 749-2967 ext. 3722 at least 7 days before the hearing.

All proposed documents are available for review on-line at www.d2wpph.com. If you would like to submit written comments, you may submit them at the hearing or our website at www.d2wpph.com or by mail/email. All written comments need to be received by the Department no later than **December 28, 2018** to be documented as part of the public hearing transcript.

Written comments should be addressed to:

Mr. Greg Evans, FDOT District Two Secretary
1109 S. Marion Avenue, Mail Station 2000
Lake City, FL 32025-5874
(386) 758-3700 or (800) 749-2967
Email: greg.evans@dot.state.fl.us

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Legal 42895 published November 15, 2018 & November 29, 2018 in Clay County’s Clay Today newspaper

Community Briefs

Community invited to Chanukah Celebration

ORANGE PARK – The 8th Annual Public Chanukah Celebration at the Town Hall of Orange Park's front yard this year will be on Dec. 5 at 5p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

Also known as The Festival of Lights, Chanukah for many brings back fond memories of childhood years and serves to renew sense of identity among the Jewish people. The Chanukah lights provide a warmth, joy, strength and inspiration. Such is the purpose of a community-wide celebration to be held at Orange Park Town Hall Park. Chabad of Clay County invites the community to celebrate the Festival of Lights at a public Menorah lighting ceremony. The grand Chanukah celebration will include with the lighting of Clay County's largest Menorah.

Following the kindling, the program will feature Magician Matt Durham – one of Florida's most popular entertainers. Participants will enjoy hot latkes, fresh doughnuts, drinks and of lively Chanukah music. Special Chanukah crafts will be available for children. In addition, a drawing will be held for a free grand raffle.

Chanukah, a celebration for all time, is highlighted by the kindling of the Menorah each night of the holiday.

"It is a holiday that enriches our lives with the light of tradition," said Rabbi Shmuly Feldman, director of the Chabad of Clay County. "In ancient times our ancestors rededicated the Temple in Jerusalem with the Menorah. Today, we rededicate ourselves to making this world a better and brighter place."

Chanukah also propagates the universal message that ultimately good will prevail over evil, freedom over oppression and light over darkness. Join the Clay County community at a public display of unity at this exciting Menorah Lighting Ceremony. Bring the kids and make this your special Chanukah celebration.

Writers group launches anthology

ORANGE PARK – About 80 attendees celebrated the launch of the newest book about Clay County last week.

The Clay County Writers Group of the Florida Writers Association has published its book titled "Embedded in Clay," an anthology that includes everything from poetry to historical writing.

Lynn Harlin, who edited the anthology, praised the five-years project that was managed by Maureen Jung and the writers.

"I learned so much from each piece in the anthology," Harlin said at the Nov. 14 event.

Maude Burroughs of Middleburg, who was profiled by Jung, discussed her history at The Hill Top Community in Middleburg and her family's role in the turpentine industry. "One of the things that helped to shape my life was what my Daddy would tell us – 'Don't let anyone else define you. You

define yourself, and what you want out of life.' We learned so much. We learned about love and respect," Burroughs said.

Book contributor Beth Eifert wrote a tribute to Frank Towers about his work at the Camp Blanding Military Museum, his service in World War Two and his efforts to rescue Jewish concentration camp survivors.

Writing professor and writer Tim Gilmore of Jacksonville read from his chapter on the old Orange Park Monkey Farm and how researchers there tried to "humanize" apes. Diane Shepard read from "Dispatches of A Water Dog, Stories From the [Black] Creek," and Brian Pitchford shared his poem, "Brothers Procession," about the spirits of warriors from years past gathering in the mists to march together. Paula Hilton spoke of the life and work of Green Cove Springs sculptor Augusta Savage.

Marshall Lenne revealed the past of Green Cove Springs Senior Center – formerly an ice plant –

then, a bottling facility, and later, a Coca-Cola plant. Nancy Moore discussed difficulties J.C. Penney faced during the Great Depression when his fortunes and his health both failed.

The community of Penney Farms he founded was left to find its way through dark financial times, but with help, has flourished up to the present.

Other writers who attended and were on hand to sign books were Inez Holger, who wrote about the movie and TV industry in Clay County and Joan Warren, who wrote about the women who helped form Clay County history. "Embedded in Clay" is available through Amazon, The Florida Writers' Association and contributing writers.

Place a wreath in honor of a veteran

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – Clay County families are invited to take part in the 7th Annual Wreaths Across America program on Dec. 15 at Keystone Heights Memory Gardens at Noon.

Each branch of the U.S. military will be honored in the celebration which culminates with families placing holiday wreaths on the gravesite of those who served.

Wreaths Across America is a national nonprofit that coordinates wreath-laying ceremonies at more than 1,400 locations across the U.S. Family members place holiday wreaths on gravesites of beloved family members who served in America's Armed Forces as a reminder they are thinking of them during the holidays.

National Wreaths Across America Day is set aside to carry out the organization's mission of "Remember, Honor, Teach," so each generation will understand the sacrifices America's military makes to preserve freedom.

Holiday event to help raise funds for school

FLEMING ISLAND – Clay County resi-

dents are invited to Watson Realty's Fleming Island office at 4729 U.S. Highway 17 to take part in its annual Jingle Jam. The event, which will be held Dec. 1 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., will benefit AMI Kids and Toys for Tots.

There will be bounce houses, face painting, train rides, Clay County Cruzers Classic Cars, a craft fair and food trucks. Teens are invited to dress up as characters, meet other kids and take pictures. There is no admission fee other than the cost of food at the food trucks and purchases from the craft fair.

Chorus coming to Penney Memorial Church

PENNEY FARMS – Sweet Adeline's Harmony Chorus brings its high-quality a cappella barbershop music to Penney Farms Memorial Church on Dec. 2 at 7 p.m.

The concert is free and will be held at Penney Memorial Church at 4465 Poling Blvd. This core group of the Jacksonville-based Sweet Adeline's is comprised of 40-50 singers who range from age 13 to 80-plus.

Performing mainly in Duval and St. Johns counties, under the direction of Kim Higdon, they strive to provide high quality a cappella, barbershop style music covering a wide range of difficulty. They will be traveling to New Orleans for the 2019 International Competition.

Free HIV testing available Friday

ORANGE PARK – In preparation for World AIDS Day, which is Dec. 1, the Florida Department of Health in Clay County is teaming up with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. to offer free HIV testing.

The tests are confidential, and the results are available on site. Testing takes place Nov. 30 from 6-8 p.m. inside Orange Park Mall, between Dick's Sporting Goods and JCPenney's.

For residents who cannot make it to the event, the health department offers HIV testing year-round at its Bear Run Clinic at 3229 Bear Run Blvd. between Orange Park and Middleburg. The test is confidential and rapid results are provided on-site.



Dr. William P. Register
First Assembly Fleming Island

Faith Walk

Service or servitude?

Service or servitude? There is a big difference.

Service is what you choose to offer others. Servitude is the condition of having to serve or obey another person. Service is freely given; servitude is a requirement.

Jesus taught us to serve others in every way and to do it willingly. For example, He said if you are required to carry another's load for a mile, do not stop there. Go beyond requirements and gladly carry the load a second mile.

Servitude puts a burden of compliance upon us. It leaves no options or choices.

But serving others in obedience to the Lord means we are really serving Him. We do it because we choose to do it. There is great joy in freely and truly serving others.

Recently I spent a week in the Great Smoky Mountains as a guest of individuals who offer this retreat to ministers and missionaries as a gift. It is a calling God has put on their hearts to serve those who are called to constantly serve. What a blessing it is to have those who are willing to offer such a sacrificial service!

If you are required to serve others, it may produce no joy unless you do it with a true desire to serve. If you serve by your own choice, the reward is joy and satisfaction.

We have the choice to follow the teaching of Jesus and serve others. He said this is the path to true greatness. That may not be recognized by this world, but servants are accorded the highest level of greatness in the Kingdom of God.

And serving others is definitely a choice. "He that would be greatest among you, let him become the servant of all," is what Jesus said. (Mark 10:44) When you believe the true reward is in serving others, it is a simple choice.

Serve! You will gain more by giving than you will ever lose.

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TRY IT AGAIN ...



Recruit and retain volunteers who work

By Brad Burbaugh

Director UF/IFAS Clay County

Since my arrival in Clay County I have been amazed by the number of community members who give back to our community through volunteerism. We are blessed to have a strong network of volunteers who are willing to give their time and energy to help strengthen our local organizations, events and schools.

As a nonprofit leader, who relies on volunteers, I am always interested in the latest research on this topic. As I have read about these topics there are some common themes related to volunteer motivation, retention and engagement that



Brad Burbaugh

continually emerge. In this article I wanted to share my synthesis of the scientific literature and explain why people volunteer, why they quit and the best practices for retaining volunteers.

Developing a strong volunteer network requires intentional effort, and, if done correctly, can strengthen the impact of your organization. The first step in this intentional process is understanding why people volunteer. Individuals engage because they 1) have a desire to serve others and improve their community, 2) they desire meaningful service, 3) they've had prior positive experiences with your organization, and 4) the organization's mission aligns with their values.

Volunteers often have valid reasons for quitting. As I mentioned above, volunteers want to make a difference and if they do not feel they are needed, accomplishing anything meaningful, or have inadequate opportunities to be involved in decision-making they are more likely to quit your organization. Most volunteers will rise to your level of expectations, so try to understand their valuable and specialized skills and use those professional talents to strengthen your organization.

Deploying the right volunteer retention strategies can keep volunteers coming back. The best ways to retain volunteers is to provide meaningful engagement opportunities, offer training opportunities to develop their knowledge and skills, appreciate and recognize their service, and respect their time and input.

Many volunteers feel underappreciated; therefore, it is imperative to publicly recognize their contributions to your organization.

Volunteers are often an afterthought, but if we want to continue to be one of the strongest communities in Northeast Florida we need to improve engagement with our volunteer networks.

We can do this by providing volunteers with meaningful opportunities to serve,



value their input, develop their leadership skills and recognize them for their contributions.

An easy first step in the volunteer de-

velopment process is to change the way we ask volunteers to join our organization. We often find interested people and tell them what we need them to do rather than explaining why we need their help. Volunteers want to make a difference, so using this approach will help them make the connection between their efforts and the purpose of our organizations.

When we can recruit and retain volunteers who really want to make a difference, the entire community will grow and become stronger for it.

If you would like assistance developing and delivering a volunteer training program, contact Brad Burbaugh at (904) 284-6355 or brad784@ufl.edu.

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Police Briefs

Melrose man facing 2 auto theft charges

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – A Melrose man faces two counts of grand theft auto after one case revealed his involvement in a second case.

The Clay County Sheriff's Office arrested Kenneth Austin Baldinelli, 19, on Nov. 26 for one count of grand theft auto but it was later found that he was involved in another case.



Kenneth Baldinelli

According to the arrest report, the victim contacted the CCSO to report his 2012 white Ford Fusion stolen from a Circle K gas station from the 200 block of North Lawrence Boulevard in Keystone Heights.

The victim told the responding officers that his vehicle has a GPS installed but due to the time of night the officers were unable to contact the GPS company.

The following day, the victim contacted the GPS company and the company told him that his vehicle was located on the 6000 block of Reed Drive.

Officers went to the location and found the vehicle and made contact with Baldinelli and another man.

The victim also arrived and confirmed the vehicle was his and Baldinelli was transported to the Clay County Jail.

While in custody, it was discovered that Baldinelli was involved in another case of grand theft auto this time involving a 2002 white and blue Yamaha dirt bike.

The victim in this case said that she allowed her son to borrow the bike to go to a friend's house. When the son returned, he told the victim that the bike was stolen by someone he knew as "Austin Noble," a known alias of Baldinelli.

At press time, Baldinelli is being held in Clay County Jail on \$102,508 bond.

Jax woman facing meth trafficking charge

MIDDLEBURG – What started as an officer simply checking to see if the driver of a car was alright, ended in drug charges last week for a Jacksonville woman.



Destinie Smith

The Clay County Sheriff's Office arrested Destinie Nichole Smith, 28, on Nov. 25 at the Shell gas station at 5105 County Rd. 218 around 11:30 p.m. after conducting a brief investigation.

According to the police report, the offi-

cer found Smith "slumped over in her car" so he walked over to determine whether she needed medical attention.

When Smith opened her car, the officer said a strong odor of marijuana was coming from the vehicle.

"When I shined my light in the vehicle I observed in plain sight, a plastic bag which contained a green leafy substance located in the center console of the vehicle, I believed from my training and experience, that this substance was marijuana," according to the report.

The officer also said he saw a large amount of methamphetamine and a scale inside Smith's purse.

While the heavily redacted report did not state the amount of methamphetamine, Smith faces one count of trafficking meth, which under Florida law, is the charge given when more than 14 grams of meth are seized from an individual.

Smith also faces misdemeanor charges of marijuana possession charge and drug equipment possession.

At press time, Smith remained in the Clay County Jail with bond set at \$110,007.

Swift action leads to end of carjacking spree

OAKLEAF – What started as a call to the Clay County Sheriff's Office about three men allegedly walking through the area "checking door handles" ended in arrests last weekend.

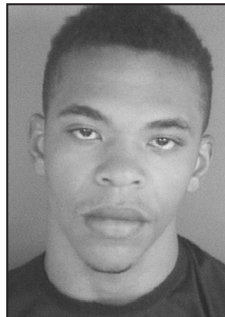
Police arrested Jacksonville residents Xavier Zyrrell Deon Matthews and Jonathan Sumpter, both 18, on Nov. 24 in the Oakleaf community.

According to the police report, a CCSO officer spotted Matthews as a passenger in a Chevrolet Impala leaving 785 Oakleaf Plantation Parkway just minutes after the call to the CCSO communications department.

The officer said the Impala was being followed by a Chevrolet Equinox that had just been reported stolen from 573 Oakleaf Plantation Parkway. Police later identified Sumpter as the driver of the Equinox. Both vehicles were then spotted pulling into the Speedway gas station at 9651 Argyle Forest Blvd.

Police also identified the driver of the Impala as Raequan Grier, whom police described as a co-defendant.

According to the police report, all



Xavier Matthews



Jonathan Sumpter

three men came to Oakleaf in the Impala "for the purpose of committing crimes and would indicate all of their involvement in the theft of the listed vehicle."

Both Sumpter and Matthews are charged with grand theft auto. At press time, Sumpter is free on bond and Matthews remains in jail with bond set at \$25,003.

House party ends in arrest

MIDDLEBURG – A Middleburg woman faces a misdemeanor charge of hosting an open house party where alcohol was available to teenagers.

The Clay County Sheriff's Office arrested Alena Bond Farmer, 39, on Nov. 24 at 2:27 a.m. at her home in the 4000 block of Honeysuckle Circle.

According to the police report, about 20 vehicles were at the home when officers arrived after receiving a complaint about a party with loud music.

"I walked into the residence and I observed alcohol throughout the residence," according to the police report.

"I observed juveniles running out the back door when they observed me. I advised them to stop and some stopped as other[sic] continued to flee the residence."

According to the report, party attendees ranged in age from 16-20, while the legal drinking age is 21.

Farmer was transported to the Clay County Jail for booking but has since been released on bond.

Suspicious vehicle report ends in drug arrests

ORANGE PARK – A couple faces drug charges after a brief investigation by the Clay County Sheriff's Office.

Police arrested Heather Ann Kaminsky, 36, of Orange Park, and Chad Edward Knox, 38, on Nov. 23 after what began as a call about a suspicious vehicle at the Circle K at Old Jennings Road and College Drive around 2:30 p.m.

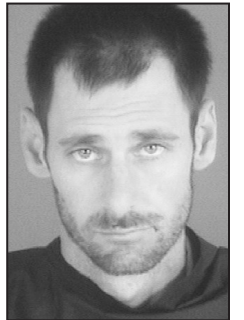
When the CCSO officer arrived at the scene, he ran a check of the license plate of the vehicle Kaminsky was driving and it came back as having been reported stolen.

During the investigation, officers seized undisclosed amounts of heroin and methamphetamine, as well as syringes and other drug paraphernalia from the

vehicle, which was returned to its owner the same day as the couple's arrest.

Both Kaminsky and Knox face identical charges of possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute, possession of heroin with intent to distribute and drug equipment possession.

At press time, Kaminsky remains in the Clay County Jail with bond set at \$55,008, while Knox's bond is set at \$105,008.



Chad Knox

Biker dies in accident

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – A 23-year-old Keystone Heights man is dead after a motorcycle accident on State Road 21, according to the Florida Highway Patrol.

FHP said Matthew McKean was traveling southbound on SR 21 south of Chataqua Way on Nov. 22 at 12:37 a.m. when his 1992 Honda motorcycle traveled off the roadway onto the east shoulder of the road.

Police said McKean was thrown from the motorcycle and came to rest on the shoulder, but his bike continued for a short distance and came to rest the south of the driver on the east shoulder.

He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Woman charged with jewelry theft

MIDDLEBURG – A St. Augustine woman faces charges of stealing more than \$20,000 worth of jewelry from a Middleburg woman.

The Clay County Sheriff's Office arrested Edit Horvath, 40, on Nov. 21 and charged her with grand theft valued between \$20,000 and \$99,999.

According to the heavily redacted police report, Horvath took the jewelry from the victim's home in the 4100 block of Dowling Road on Nov. 14. The victim told police it had to be Horvath because she was the only person who had been in her home other than her family. Police, however, did not indicate the relationship between Horvath and the victim.

According to the CCSO, Horvath "suddenly had money" after the victim's jewelry was found missing.

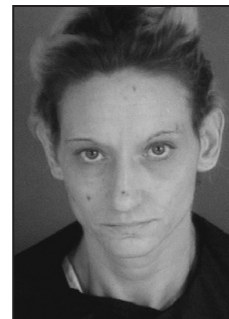
After detectives interviewed Horvath at the CCSO Orange Park sub-station, they took steps to arrest and charge her. She is now out of jail on bond.



Edit Horvath



Alena Farmer



Heather Kaminsky

Arrests & Bookings

Tuesday, November 27

Ethan Summers, 28, Green Cove Springs, Failure to Appear for Court

Amber Burkes, 27, Green Cove Springs, FTA-Fraudulent Use of Credit Card

Jamie Jackson, 30, Green Cove Springs, VOP-Fleeing and Eluding Law Enforcement

Matthew Kerr, 23, Orange Park, Dealing Stolen Property

Albert Joves, 37, Green Cove Springs, Failure to Appear for Court

Joshua Sego, 30, Green Cove Springs, Violating Certain Computer Transmissions Via Online Services, Using a Computer to Solicit a Minor for Unlawful Sexual Activity, Using a 2-Way Communication Device to Facilitate a Felony

Matthew Kerr, 23, Orange Park, Grand Theft \$300-4,999

Dale Bell, 71, Green Cove Springs, Two Counts of FTA-DWLSR

Kyle Benes, 26, Green Cove Springs, Robbery-Unarmed, Grand Theft Auto

Brandi Lee Pannell, 24, Green Cove Springs, VOP-Domestic Battery

Jorge Farias, 50, Green Cove Springs, Failure to Appear for Court

Henry Flynn, 39, Green Cove Springs, Non-Support

Michael Libby, 40, Green Cove Springs, FTA-DWLSR

Justin Lawrence, 23, Orange Park, Resisting an Officer, Trespassing After Warning

Marissa Deciccio, 32, Orange Park, Trespassing

Kahala Johnson, 40, Green Cove Springs, Grand Theft

Reginald Harris, 27, Fleming Island, Possession of More Than 20 g. Cannabis, Drug Equipment Possession

Demetrius Bryant, 39, Orange Park, Petit Theft

Heather Koehler, 27, Keystone Heights, Simple Battery

a Vehicle, Resisting an Officer

Heather Koehler, 27, Keystone Heights, Simple Battery

Sunday, November 25

Roquandra Braswell, 34, Orange Park, Giving False Name or ID, DWLSR

Eddy Castillo, 41, Middleburg, Driving Without a Valid License

Vivienne Velilla, 54, Middleburg, Public Assistance Fraud

Kenneth Hall, 34, Keystone Heights, Felony Battery, Domestic Battery by Strangulation

Robyn Rivenbark, 31, Orange Park, Simple Domestic Battery

Jocelyn Perez, 32, Orange Park, Simple Domestic Battery

Jacob Carter, 23, Middleburg, Violate Probation-Community Control

Christine Phillips, 29, Middleburg, Domestic Battery

Toni Holman, 28, Orange Park, Simple Battery

Bailyn Vinson, 21, Middleburg, Violate Probation-Community Control, Heroin Possession, Introducing Contraband Into County Detention Facility

Jess Walther, 42, Middleburg, Simple Battery

Lori Holman, 51, Orange Park, Simple Domestic Battery

Alphonso Morris, 32, Oakleaf, Habitual Traffic Offender-DWLSR

Eduardo Valenzuela, 39, Middleburg, Resisting an Officer

Destinie Smith, 28, Middleburg, Trafficking Amphetamine, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis, Drug Equipment Possession

Brad Baldrige, 41, Middleburg, DUI

Alena Farmer, 39, Middleburg, Allowing a Minor to Have Alcohol or Drug Open House Party

Xavier Matthews, 18, Oakleaf, Grand Theft Auto

Jonathan Sumpter, 18, Oakleaf, Grand Theft Auto

William Lilliston, 40, Keystone Heights, Disorderly Intoxication, Resisting an Officer

Lawrence Rhodes, 28, Middleburg, Non-Support

Tatyana Gede, 20, Oakleaf, Violence on an Officer Firefighter or EMT

Tijuan Clayton, 21, Oakleaf, Resisting an Officer

Makensy Gede, 29, Oakleaf, Aggravated Assault With a Deadly Weapon

Heather Kaminsky, 36, Orange Park, Possession of Methamphetamine With Intent to Sell, Possession of Heroin With Intent to Sell, Drug Equipment Possession

Bobby Willis, 28, Orange Park, Grand Theft \$300-4,999, Drug Paraphernalia, Resisting an Officer

Chad Knox, 38, Orange Park, Posses-

sion of Methamphetamine With Intent to Sell, Possession of Heroin With Intent to Sell, Drug Equipment Possession

Nicholas Dehaan, 24, Orange Park, Trespassing

Shakia Richardson, 26, Orange Park, Petit Theft, Unlicensed Firearm, Resisting an Officer

Shawn Richardson, 18, Orange Park, Petit Theft, Resisting an Officer

Robert Poccia, 50, Fleming Island, Violating Injunction for Protection

Thursday, November 22

Restricted Arrest, DUI

Pete Ward, 30, Middleburg, Failure to Appear for Court

Jeannette Taylor, 24, Middleburg, Domestic Battery

Lori Lewandowski, 37, Fleming Island, Petit Theft

Trophy Martin, 57, Middleburg, DUI .15 or Higher or With Person Under 18

Julie Thornton, 48, Orange Park, Simple Battery

Rahman Seyal, 20, Lake Asbury, Aggravated Battery With a Deadly Weapon, Leaving the Scene of Crash Involving Property Damage

Bryanna Hollis, 26, Orange Park, Disorderly Intoxication

Donald Wall, 63, Fleming Island, Out of State Warrant

Chad Zingarelli, 25, Orange Park, Domestic Battery

Edit Horvath, 40, Middleburg, Grand Theft \$20,000-99,999

Kristy Sauls, 35, Keystone Heights, Petit Theft

Lacy Patten, 25, Green Cove Springs, Aggravated Battery, Vandalism \$1,000+

Michael Stevens, 42, Orange Park, Trespassing After Warning

Allen Sprague, 49, Middleburg, Simple Domestic Battery

Merrie Pritchett, 74, Middleburg, Domestic Battery

Sean Tucker, 32, Middleburg, Resisting an Officer

Shawna Orłowski, 24, Orange Park, DUI With Property Damage

Scott Smith, 20, Oakleaf, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis

Sarah Drawdy, 23, Keystone Heights, Driving Without a Valid License

David Johns, 24, Orange Park, Resisting an Officer

Jeremy Agan, 30, Keystone Heights, Violate Probation-Community Control

Ashley Nims, 22, Orange Park, Simple Domestic Battery

Vernon Cheek, 39, Green Cove Springs, VOP-Trafficking Cocaine

Christopher Greshaw, 33, Green Cove Springs, FTA-DWLSR, FTA-No Vehicle Registration

Sergio Rivera, 46, Green Cove Springs,

VOP-Child Abuse

Kyle Terrill, 37, Green Cove Springs, Non-Support

Ashley Nuxoll, 25, Green Cove Springs, VOP-Battery

Mark Hinkle, 43, Green Cove Springs, Non-Support

Tara May, 33, Green Cove Springs, VOP-Cocaine Possession

Ross Wilson, 30, Green Cove Springs, Two Counts of Dealing Stolen Property

Alex Motley, 33, Orange Park, Grand Theft \$300-4,999

Kendal Newman, 34, Middleburg, Two Counts of Possession of a Firearm or Ammunition by a Convicted Felon, Methamphetamine Possession, Drug Equipment Possession, Possession of a Controlled Substance

Joshua Vance, 30, Middleburg, Non-Support

Sirena Smith, 32, Orange Park, Aggravated Assault With a Deadly Weapon, Simple Battery

William Chase, 19, Fleming Island, Drug Equipment Possession

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— Angie Toelle

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NCAA DIVISION II FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

Bell, Bull, Patterson part of Valdosta playoff path

By Randy Lefko
 Sports Editor

VALDOSTA, Ga. – Valdosta State University's football team continued its unbeaten streak with a dominating 66-16 playoff win over fourth-ranked Bowie State on Nov. 24 at Valdosta's Bazemore-Hyder Stadium in the NCAA Division II second round of playoffs.

Valdosta won NCAA Division II titles in 2004, 2007 and 2012.

The Blazers, coached by father/son Kerwin Bell and assistant Kade Bell, a former Fleming Island High School quarterback, will host an NCAA Division II quarterfinal on Sat., Dec. 1 against third-seed Lenoir-Rhyne (12-1) with a 1 p.m. kickoff. Lenoir-Rhyne lost their season opener 36-32 to West Alabama then proceeded to win 12

straight games to get to Saturday's game. Lenoir-Rhyne beat Florida Tech 43-21 in their first round playoff game then beat Wingate 21-17 last week to advance. Valdosta, the top seed, had a first round bye.

Kade Bell, the quarterbacks coach for Valdosta, has the Blazer offense percolating at a 53.45 points per game average with the Blazer defense holding opponents to just 20.36 points per game. Bolstering the high point total is an offense generating over 500 yards per game; 266 via air, 270 on the ground. Just three of the Blazers' 11 games have ended with less than 50 points.

Two area athletes contributing to the now 11-0 season record for the Blazers are former Ridgeview High running back Qhahlin Patterson, a junior, and former Fleming Island High linebacker Jackson Bull, a



STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

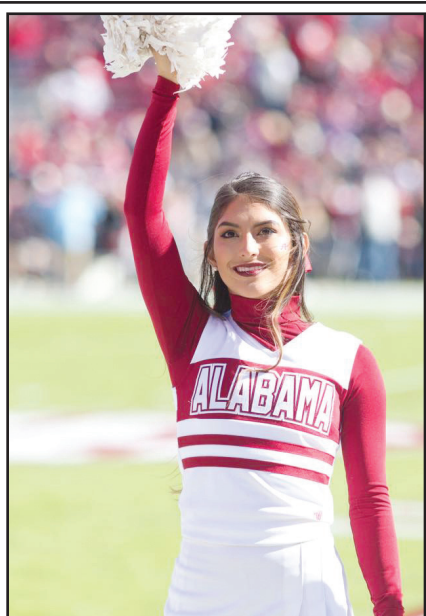
Former Fleming Island High School quarterback Kade Bell, now an assistant offense and quarterbacks coach at Valdosta State University, has the Blazers' offense cooking up 53 points per game as the unbeaten Blazers host an NCAA Div. II regional playoff game on Dec. 1.

freshman.

Patterson has played in 10 games for Valdosta with 249 rush yards on 43 carries with a 57 yard run against Delta State his longest run of the season.

Bull, a linebacker and special teams player, has 14 total tackles on the season with seven solo plus one tackle for a loss.

SEE PLAYOFF, 26



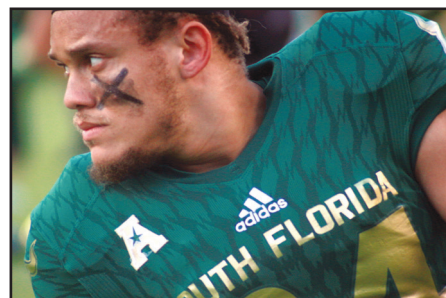
Former Ridgeview High cheerleader Nydia Ceron-Miranda, now a University of Alabama football cheerleader, will be on the sidelines as the unbeaten Tide rolls to yet another title shot.

Roberts gets first quarter pick in 'War on I-4'

By Randy Lefko with excerpts from Gousfbulls.com

TAMPA – The University of South Florida answered a first quarter interception by the University of Central Florida defense with their own pick just three plays later, but the steal produced no points for the Bulls who lost a 38-10 decision to the unbeaten Knights in the annual War on I-4 football classic held Friday at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa.

Central Florida, ranked ninth in most college football polls, came in to Tampa determined to test the secondary of the Bulls' defense with their strong pass game, but, in the first quarter, it was Bulls' redshirt freshman Nick Roberts, an Oakleaf High graduate and a Clay Today defensive player of the year selection as a senior at Oakleaf, swiped a pass from



Oakleaf High alum Nick Roberts, a freshman safety at USF, snagged a first quarter interception against UCF.

Knights' quarterback McKenzie Milton at the Central Florida 42 yard line on a second and four play for the Knights.

Roberts gathered up some blockers from his defensive teammates and was escorted to the Knights' 12 yard line where he was bumped out of bounds.

For the Bulls, though, the steal gave

the South Florida offense prime field position, but a fourth and one run play at the Central Florida three yard line was stuffed to leave the score at 0-0.

Central Florida took over on downs after the defensive stop and drove the length of the field to score first.

For the night, Roberts finished with just two tackles and one more pass break-up as the Knights' offense kept an eye of the cat-quick safety and avoided any passes on whatever side of the field Roberts was manning.

For the year, Roberts finished the regular season as the top pass-stealer for the Bulls with three interceptions after earning the starting slot in game three against Illinois. Roberts had an interception with a 61 yard return against the University of

SEE WAR, 26



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Bird gets call to Rays' 40-man roster

By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

TAMPA – Clay High graduate and baseball ace Kyle Bird, a strong-armed left handed pitcher, got the first of hopefully two career-changing calls from Major League Baseball as the Tampa Bay Rays called Bird up from his winter league team in Mexico to join the Rays' 40-man roster for the upcoming spring season.

"It's the next step to being in the Major Leagues," said Bird, in a phone interview on Sunday. "This is the call that Tampa Bay is putting me on their 40-man roster which is usually the first step to getting on to the 25-man roster which is the Tampa Bay Rays you watch on television. It's pretty exciting."

Bird, 25, joins the Rays as part of a five-player call up after the Rays finished at 90 wins and 72 losses last year and finished just out of playoff contention by 10 games behind the New York Yankees. Two more pitchers; a left hander and a right hander join Bird in the five man call with two outfielders joining the group.

Bird, who toys with pitch speeds in the 92-95 miles per hour range, can possibly

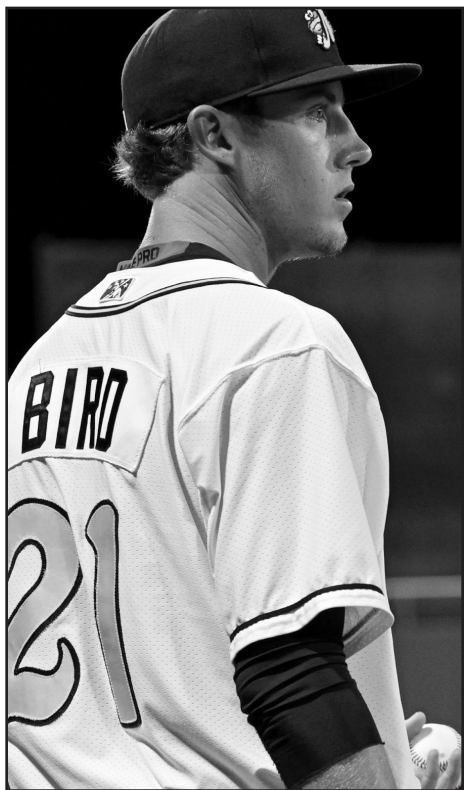


PHOTO BY EARNEST DE MIRACULOUS

Clay High graduate Kyle Bird started as a Blue Devil and has had minor stints with the Montgomery Biscuits, the Durham Bulls and Mexico's Yaquis de Obregon team.

join Rays' starter Blake Snell, the American League Cy Young award winner, as the Rays look to improve their sixth in the league earned runs average of 3.74.

"Teams put guys like me on the 40-man roster because, I hope, they see that I have performed well enough that they think they have a need for my pitching at some point," said Bird. "I'm coming into this as a bullpen pitcher; a reliever, but the Rays also use relievers as openers to ball games that let the starter come in in like the second or third inning to keep his arm fresh."

Bird worked a 1.94 ERA with 65 strikeouts in 55.2 innings of pitching for the Triple-A Durham minor league team last year after being moved from Double-A Montgomery in May.

"I've been to the spring trainings with the Rays the past few years as the whole organization usually participates in the spring training," said Bird, who got a non-roster invite last year and was active just until the final week of spring training. "The difference is that, now that I'm on the 40-man roster, they are now aware of what I have done and will be watching maybe a little closer. It makes it a little easier to get the call to the 25-man roster. I'm not in the Majors just yet though."

With the Triple-A Durham Bulls in September, Bird pitched two innings in the Governors Cup championship game won by Durham over Scranton/Wilkes-Barre 6-2 in Moosic, PA. The win was the second consecutive Governor's Cup title for the Durham team; sixth in the team's history. The



PHOTO COURTESY OF YAQUIS DE OREGON

Former Clay High pitcher Kyle Bird, pictured on the mound in Mexico for the Yaquis de Obregon team will join the Tampa Bay Rays spring training roster with shot at making the 25-man roster and spot on the Rays' roster.

Governor's Cup is given to the champion of the International League; one of two Triple-A minor leagues of Major League Baseball.

Most recently, in Mexico with the Yaquis de Obregon team, Bird was 1-0 with a 2.00 ERA in 18 relief outings.

"To go to Mexico was my choice mainly because I needed the money with a new baby and all that, but it also is a way to get some exposure against some very good players," said Bird. "The Tampa Bay Rays gave me some restrictions to protect me like no more than 25 innings of pitching and, if I pitch two days in a row, I get the next day completely off."

For his five seasons of minor league play, Bird is 15-7 with a 2.64 ERA in 185 games. His batting average against his pitching was just .198 with 88 strikeouts

and a 10.51 strikeout mark per nine innings ratio. Bird allowed just 108 walks in 307 minor league innings.

Bird graduated from Clay High in 2011 where he earned a scholarship to Florida State, but eventually transferred for his final season at Flagler College in St. Augustine.

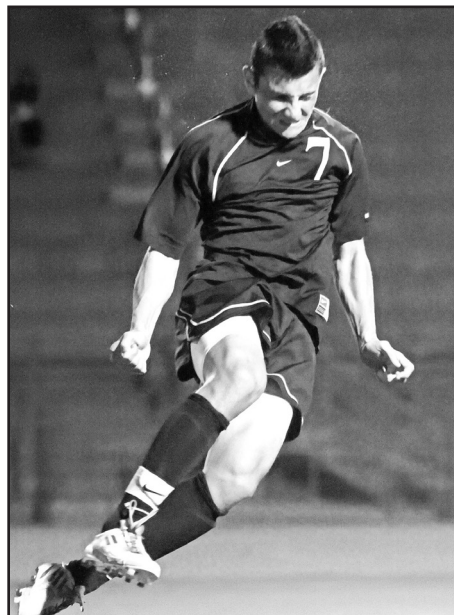
"It's ironic how I was mainly a reliever for FSU, a starting pitcher for Flagler, and now am coming in as a reliever from the minors," said Bird. "My goal is to just keeping work hard and hope the next call is the big one. I'm not quite at the 'Big Show' yet, but I'm a little closer."

In 2014, Bird was drafted in the 35th round by Tampa Bay. He is married to wife Lauren with daughter Emory, now seven months old.

Prestridge and Rams head to national soccer tournament

By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

KISSIMMEE – Former Ridgeview High soccer standout Ricky Prestridge, who took a major step in his soccer career a year ago by returning to college soccer after toying with a pro soccer career in Jacksonville and Orlando, will get a chance to play for a national college soccer championship as his Columbia International University (SC) soccer team heads to Kissimmee for the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) national tournament on Mon., Nov. 26-Sat., Dec. 1. "I mainly wanted to return to college to finish my education when I left the pro game with an injury, but this experience of being among a group of younger guys who want to learn the game of soccer has been quite an experience for me as well," said Prestridge, who is a sophomore forward for Columbia with five goals for the regular season. "Hopefully, the loss in the conference championship, a game we should have won, will push the team to get their head straight and play hard this week."



STAFF PHOTO BY RANDY LEFKO

Ridgeview High soccer standout Ricky Prestridge got an assist in Columbia International University 4-2 loss to Grace College.

Second seeded in the south region tournament, Columbia (11-8), suffered a tough

2-0 loss to top seed Warner University (12-5-1) on November 17, but was awarded an At-Large bid for the national tournament just one day after the loss. The invite was the first in the history of the Rams soccer program and put Columbia in as the eighth seed in a bracket with second-seed Grace College (IN) (13-3-4 and the Crossroads League champion and region champion with two goals in the final five minutes to beat Lancaster Bible 3-2) and fifth-seed Ottawa University -Arizona (11-5-1, 3.35 goals per game). Columbia will play Grace on Mon., Nov. 26 in Kissimmee. Twenty four hours later, Columbia must play Ottawa on Tuesday at 5 p.m. Note: Columbia lost a 4-2 match to Grace on Monday with Prestridge assisting on the Rams first goal.

The three pool winners, along with the second-place team that wins the tiebreakers, will advance to the semifinals on November 30. The championship game is on December 1 at 7:30 p.m. / 5:30 p.m. All the tournament games will be played at the Austin-Tindall Soccer Complex in Kissimmee.

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DISTRICT 4-8A BOYS BASKETBALL

Eagles full tilt pace wins two

By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

JACKSONVILLE — With a frenetic front court pressing defense that seemed on the verge of disaster, the Fleming Island High boys basketball team blew up their first two preseason matches with wins over Ed White and Ribault, a 6A region finalist last year, in the Raines High Preseason Classic held Tues., Nov. 21 and Wed., Nov. 22 in Jacksonville.

"We're excited about the level of pace we will be pushing this season," said Fleming Island coach Traavis Chandler. "We did well with it over the summer and I think we have the depth to pull it off."

In game one, against Ed White, the Eagles got a 25 point effort from senior guard Gianfranco Grafals who pushed the Eagles to a 63-38 win.

Against White, the Eagles blasted the basket with stanzas of 15 and 16 points to go into the lockers up 31-14.

"We tried to slow it down in the third then got some great play in the fourth from our younger kids," said Chandler as White held the score in check with a 10-7 third quarter scoring advantage before Chandler unloaded with a 25-14 fourth quarter.

Against Ribault the next night, the Eagles got halfcourt defensive dominance in their frenetic attack with junior Sebastian Astor taking the point position for 21 points to lead the Eagles. Also, from the outside senior guard Khalid Pogue got hot from the three-point stripe with four buckets from downtown part of his 14 total points. Grafals finished with just nine points in limited court time.

The first half of the Ribault game saw disastrous free throw shooting from Fleming Island with nine of 22 shots falling.

"I told them to take a deep breath when they got out there in the second half," said Chandler. "We hit those free throws, we score 90 points. It'll come. I want to keep the pace very high and they have to learn to just slow themselves down at the free throw line."

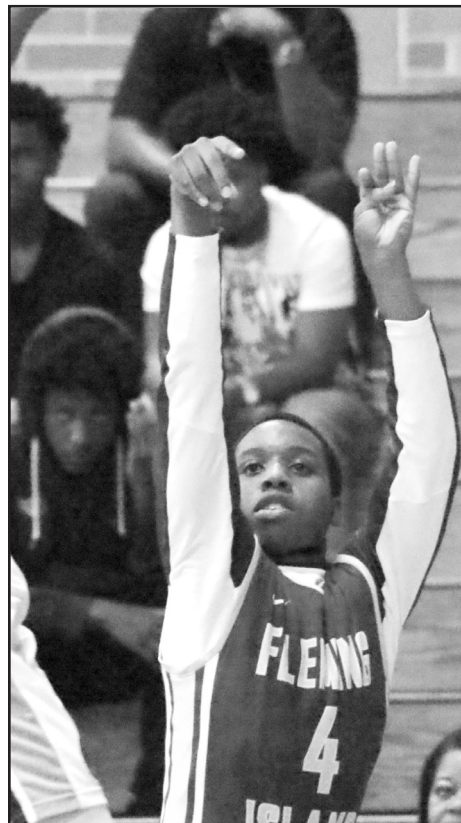
Against Ribault, Fleming Island opened a lightning-fast 6-0 lead with Logan Cotton hitting his first jumper and Pogue bagging his first three pointer in the first 30 seconds of play.

Ribault kept pace to tie the game at 12-12 before taking the lead, 16-12, as the first quarter ended.

After a timeout by Chandler, it was Jordan Miles responding with rebounds and a key assist to Steele Perry for a three pointer that put the Golden Eagles up 21-20.

"We stole the momentum there," said Chandler.

From there, Fleming Island surged to a 26-20 lead into the lockers with Grafals and Pogue swiping in bound passes by Ribault and converting with layups.



STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

Fleming Island guard Khalid Pogue hits key three-pointer here that sparked third quarter scoring run for Eagles in win over Ribault.

Six foot, four inch center Elias Martin finished with 10 rebounds to lead Fleming Island.

After the break, another Pogue steal fed Perry for a jumper to 28-22 with Miles again pulling in an offensive rebound for a layup to put 30 on the scoreboard.

Astor, with six steals on the night, put up six points in a two minute span off free throws and a steal to layup as Fleming Island pushed to a 37-28 lead.

"Our depth is going to be key when he hit our elite team schedule," said Chandler. "We have to be more consistent in our steals to layups to make our pressure defense work."

With Fleming Island meeting Ribault with three defenders at the half court stripe and maneuvering for two-man traps, Ribault had no answer as the score flew to 55-36 into the fourth quarter.

Fleming Island opens regular season play at Ridgeview on November 29 with the Golden Eagles traveling to the Jackie Simmons Classic at Andrew Jackson High School on December 1 to take on 8A region finalist Tallahassee Lincoln. The first week of December has district foes Bartram Trail, Buchholz and Oakleaf on the Fleming Island docket.

Creekside, with nine senior players graduated, was the district 4-8A champion over Bartram Trail last year before finishing as Class 8A runnerup to Blanche Ely. Creekside beat Lincoln in the region 1-8A championship last year.

Oakleaf opens regular season play at Ponte Vedra on Wed., Nov. 28.

PANTHERS PRESEASON BASKETBALL



Ridgeview High power forward Adam Ashley-Wyche powers to basket against Middleburg defender Engard Enriquez in Panthers preseason win over Broncos in Keystone Heights.

Whitaker nails four threes in Panther win

By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — Flying from downtown, Ridgeview High guard Parker Whitaker's four three-pointers pushed the rejuvenated Panthers to a 62-50 preseason win over Middleburg High in the final night of the Keystone Heights Preseason Basketball Invitational held Nov. 21. Ridgeview beat Keystone Heights 64-45 in the tournament opener.

"We are going to surprise some people this year," said Ridgeview coach Jerome Clyburn, who begins his second year at the helm after a 1-25 first year. "We have guys coming back that learned my style last year and struggled through the transition. Now, we are on the same page."

On the Middleburg side, it was six foot, six inch forward Layton Veon who led the Broncos with the game-opening three pointer en route to his own four three-pointers on the night to go with his 16 points on the night.

"On paper, we have a pretty good looking team," said Middleburg coach Travis Tipton, in his second season of coaching for the Broncos. "We have to execute."

Middleburg, 2-24 last year, opened up a quick 5-2 lead on the Panthers behind Whitaker's shot and a Devon Moody layup as the Broncos showed off some tenacious defense in the early going with Jordan Robinson getting two steals in the first three minutes of play.

Whitaker answered a 7-5 Bronco lead with two of his three pointers pushing the Panthers up 11-9 in a flash.

Ridgeview took the first stanza 15-14 off a late jumper from forward John Ashley-Wyche who finished as top stat guy for Clyburn with 17 points, four rebounds and an assist. Ridgeview surged in the second

period to a 23-16 lead behind a Ashley-Wyche layup and another Whitaker three-pointer, but Middleburg came back on a Britan Bussey jumper and a steal and layup from Veon to close the gap to 23-22 for Ridgeview.

A three-pointer from Ashley-Wyche sealed a 26-22 halftime lead for the Panthers.

Two more threes from Veon in the third got Middleburg a fleeting 30-29 lead before Clyburn called time out to reset his troops.

The time out was effective as the Panthers surged to a 36-30 lead off inside play from Ashley-Wyche and a sweet thrilling layup from Moise Balanger.

In the fourth, Whitaker again took the lead with another three-pointer putting the Panthers jup 39-32 and Ashley-Wyche hitting a layup with a free throw for another three-point play and a 42-37 lead with five minutes to go.

Ridgeview got some timely free throw shooting; five straight, to counter the Broncos fouling tactic to keep the clock from ticking off.

Veon got a dunk and three pointer to close the score to 49-44 with 2:52, but Ridgeview blasted away with Balanger and Cameron Rockett both hitting three pointer on top of eight straight free throws; five from Augustin Kinzambe, to the final 62-50 score.

Middleburg got 10 points and five rebounds from Keith Littles.

Ridgeview opens regular season play with Camden County High visiting the Panther Den on Mon. Nov. 26 and Fleming Island making the trek on November 29. Middleburg opens at home with Orange Park on Tues., Nov. 27 and Clay on Thurs., Nov. 29.



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Raiders add height to 'Chuck 'n Duck'



STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

Orange Park 6'-4" forward D'Marre Craddock and 6'-5" center Kenneth Banks add a new inside dimension to Raiders fast-paced attack.

By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

JACKSONVILLE – Orange Park High boys basketball coach Derek Kurnitsky has a new look; not the bright, orange shirt he wore at the Episcopal High preseason tournament that featured two wins for the Raiders, but it was his two guys playing the paint that measured above six feet. Orange Park beat Episcopal in game one 68-58 and then beat Ponte Vedra 59-54 in game two.

"We've got two legit down low guys that can get rebounds, play post and get the ball downcourt," said Kurnitsky, who returns to the sidelines of the Raider Dome hoping to get an unprecedented third district title in 2018.

"We add another dimension to our 'Chuck n Duck' running game with some backboard presence. It will be interesting."

With Clay Today player of year John Abate playing point man for Kurnitsky, the Raiders, with Abate's wingman Ty McBride

graduated, now offer an attack of outside shooting from Kadin Elmore, driving prowess from Abate, defensive scatness from Diallo Bryant and baseline defense from returner D'Marre Craddock and newcomer Kenneth Banks; both 6'-3" plus post players. Banks is a senior transfer from Mandarin High School. Kurnitsky lost two double figure scorers to graduation: McBride and center DaVontai Crutch. Crutch is playing at NCAA Div. III Wells College in New York where he scored eight points and had two assists in his college opener; a 67-48 loss to D'Youville College. Wells is 0-3. One other former Raider, Anthony Abate is a senior guard at Elmira College in New York.

"Ty was our leader to start the transitions," said John Abate, who led the Raiders with 22 points. "We got Diallo and Kadin working to be that wing man kind of player; with Diallo a defensive guy and Kadin a shooter."

Abate opened the Episcopal game by pushing the Raiders to a quick 8-0 lead off

the usual Raider frenetic pace and opportunistic defense. With Elmore hitting two three pointers, Orange Park bumped the score to 18-8 before Episcopal would regroup and chop that lead down to a 27-27 tie.

"We kind of got loose with our attack and things got chaotic out there," said Kurnitsky, noting Elmore with 19 points and Banks with 18. "We just have to still play our game and stay in the flow. Kenneth took some time to get used to our game, then adjusted to become part of it. He's going to be a force inside."

Orange Park, 18-10 last year and unbeaten in five district 4-6A contests, opens at 7A-Middleburg on Tues., Nov. 27 with Bolles coming to the Raider Dome Nov. 30.

The Raiders lost in the region quarterfinals in a thrilling last second full court shot from Ribault that won the game 63-60. Ribault eventually lost in the region final to 6A runnerup Tallahassee Rickards. In 2017, Orange Park lost to Terry Parker in the region opener.



Keystone Heights High center Eddie Thomas dominate inside and outside for Indians but the Menendez High Falcons came back to win with less than 10 seconds in preseason play.

Indians fall at :07.6

By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – A three point shot with 27 seconds on the clock from Jeremy Bauer put the Keystone Heights High boys basketball team within a point of upsetting Menendez High in the second game of the Keystone Heights High preseason classic on Wed., Nov. 21, but two late turnovers foiled the comeback as the Indians lost a thrilling 60-58 game in the tournament's closing game.

Keystone Heights, returning to the courts after a 13-12 season last year and with a new coach, Jay Schofield, was led by returning center Eddie Thomas who hit for 18 points.

Bauer finished with 16 points with four three pointers and two assists. Garrett

Stanley added three three pointers in his 11 points with three assists and two steals as the Indians showed off some tenacious defense as well as timely shooting.

Keystone Heights blasted to an 18-11 lead in the first quarter with forward Ben Miller controlling the backboard with four early rebounds and Stanley hitting two threes.

The Indians got stuck at 18 points through the second quarter as Menendez took the lead at 21-18 with 4:23 to the half as the Falcons employed a full court press defense that seemed to stymie the Keystone Heights attack.

Keystone Heights regrouped to the end the first half tied at 30-30 with Thomas exerting his prowess in the paint with a six points in the final two minutes.

In the third, a jumper from Bauer and a layup from Miller gave the Indians a four point cushion that kept Menendez at bay for much of the third as the Indians ended the third period with a 45-42 lead.

In the final quarter, Menendez starting finding the range from three points and took a quick 48-45 lead with Keystone Heights getting to 54-52 off two Bauer three-pointers.

Menendez tried to slow the game down with a four-corner offense but Miller hit

a three pointer with a minute left in the game to score the game 58-55 Menendez.

Bauer's final three-pointer with 27 seconds left on the clock got the Indians to 59-58 but a Stanley steal and feed to Dylan Thomas went out of bounds and a Biller bounced his dribble off his foot as the buzzer sounded to end the game at 60-58.

Keystone Heights lost to Ridgeview, 64-45, in the tournament opener.

Keystone Heights opens on the road at Union County on Tues., Nov. 27.

Dreadnaughts Super Bowl bound



The Fleming Island Dreadnaughts Junior PeeWees, led by Jack Wilkening, No. 3, and Charlie Hilton, will join the Dreadnaughts PeeWees team, coached by Chase Nichols, as both teams earned wild card berths in the Pop Warner Super Bowl tournament Dec. 1-8 in Orlando.



Area harriers take on nation's best

Runners from Clay County, Matthew Stratton, left photo in center, of St. Johns Country Day School, plus, on right, John Bear, of Orange Park; Joel Nesi, of Ridgeview, Dylan Nelson of Oakleaf, and Will Livesay of Fleming Island competed in the Foot Locker South Region championships in Charlotte, N.C., hoping to get a coveted top-10 elite finish for a berth in the Foot Locker National Championship race in Balboa Park in San Diego. Bear and Nesi both ran in the elite race. Livesay and Nelson both ran in the Junior race. Stratton took third in the freshman race.

Stratton places third at Foot Locker South Region XC

Nelson, Bear, Nesi also compete

By Randy Lefko
Sports Editor

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — St. Johns Country Day School freshman cross country runner

Matthew Stratton, fresh off a medal-winning eighth place finish in Class 1A a week ago, took a sloppy, wet third place overall in the Foot Locker South Regional Freshman boys cross country championships held Sat., Nov. 23 in Charlotte, NC.

In the Foot Locker South Regional Junior boys race, won in 15 minutes, 59 seconds, Oakleaf High junior Dylan Nelson finished 13th in 16:33. Fleming Island High's Will Livesay finished 80th in 17:35.

In the seeded boys race, won in 15:04,

Orange Park High senior John Bear was 120th in 16:38 with Ridgeview High's Joel Nesi 186th in 17:06.

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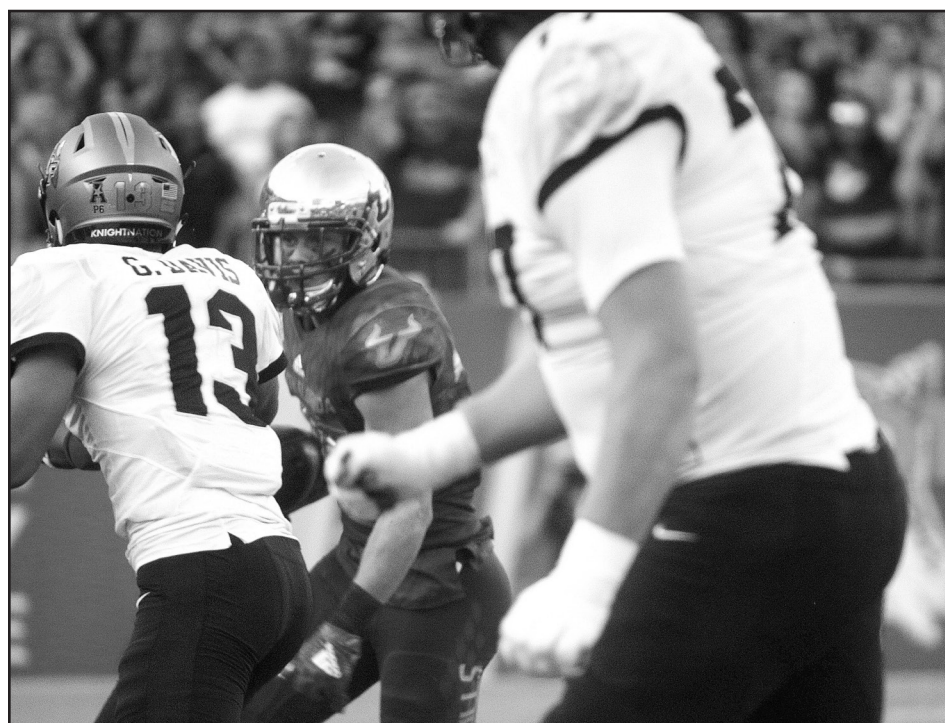
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STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO
Former Oakleaf High football standout Nick Roberts, left No. 24, now a freshman safety at the University of South Florida, eyeballs Central Florida ball carrier in second half action of War on I-4 rivalry game won by UCF Friday night in Tampa.



Oakleaf High graduate Nick Roberts, in center, heads to end zone after first quarter interception against the University of Central Florida. Roberts stepped out of bounds at the Knights' 12 yard line to open play in the annual War on I-4 game between the two schools. UCF won 38-10.

War

from page 21

Connecticut.

Roberts finishes regular season play with 65 tackles; 47 solo, with two tackles for losses, three pass breakups and one quarterback hurry.

Against Central Florida, South Florida freshman tailback Johnny Ford rushed for 120 yards and caught a 34-yard touchdown pass that got the Bulls as close as seven points late in the third quarter.

South Florida falls to 7-5 overall, 3-5 in the American Athletic Conference after

opening the season with seven straight wins. Central Florida finishes a second consecutive unbeaten season at 11-0, 8-0 in AAC, and also a second straight win in the War on I-4 series.

Ford, from Miami, averaged 7.5 yards on 16 carries in his third 100-yard rushing game of the season. His first career touchdown reception came on a pass by sophomore starter Chris Oladokun of Tampa with 1:15 left in the third quarter before UCF responded with 21 straight points.

Defensively, USF stayed within striking distance most of the way by forcing six punts, including four in the second half. Linebacker Khalid McGee (Miami) made a game-high 13 tackles, becoming the 15th

player in program history to record 100 stops in a season, after he and 17 other seniors were honored in their final regular season game at Raymond James Stadium.

UCF extended its advantage to 10-0 four minutes into the second quarter, but lost Milton to a devastating leg injury that caused both teams to surround him with support.

Trailing 17-0, USF chipped away at its deficit with a 25-yard field goal by Coby Weiss (Gainesville, Fla.) with 3:09 remaining in the half.

The second half opened with five straight punts before Ford caught his 34-yard touchdown with 1:15 left in the third quarter. It marked Ford's first career

touchdown reception and his third explosive play of 20-plus yards in the game helped cut the deficit to 17-10.

UCF responded with a touchdown on the next drive and capped off the scoring with 14 more points in the fourth quarter.

USF now leads the War on I-4 series, 6-4.

Prior to kickoff, USF honored 18 seniors that have been a part of the most successful era in program history, including a record 36 wins in the past four seasons.

Up Next

USF awaits its destination for the program's fourth straight bowl game appearance (10th overall).

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Playoffs

from page 21

Also in the NCAA Division II playoffs was Fort Hays State University, featuring Orange Park High quarterback Jacob Mezera, who lost in the first round 38-27 to Indianapolis.

Kade Bell, who quarterbacked Fleming Island High before playing under his dad, Kerwin, at Jacksonville University, has been a quarterback coach for the Blazers since his dad arrived in Valdosta in 2016. Bell coached Jacksonville to the Pioneer Football League title in 2010 with a 42.2 points per game average.

Trent Turknnett, an offensive analyst for the Blazers, is also a Fleming Island grad.

STAFF PHOTO BY RANDY LEFKO
Ridgeview High running back Qhahlin Patterson, left, and Fleming Island linebacker Jackson Bull are part of Valdosta State football team heading to NCAA second round playoffs with unbeaten 11-0 Blazers.



Run

from page 25

race are invited to the national championship race to put the best 40 runners nationwide in one location for the grand finale.

Stratton ran a 16:44 split to finish just two seconds away from second place and 22 seconds from the freshman title.

At the FHSAA Class 1A race, Stratton topped all Clay County runners with a 16:19.95 time with Spartan teammate Benjamin Kailes, the district champion and region runnerup, finishing 12th in 16:38.69.

The freshman race was won by Joshua Edwards of Morgantown, WV, with a time of 16:22 with Kaden Keller of Knoxville, TN, second in 16:42.

Also in the top 10 were runners from North Carolina, Virginia, Tampa, Kentucky and, in ninth place, Jesse Benavides, a freshman at Creekside High who was 35th in Class 3A with a 16:44.95 time. The 10th place time was 17:03.

Ironically, finishing 11th was Providence freshman Steven Kartwright in 17:08. Kartwright finished ahead of Stratton in the district and region races before Stratton outdueled Kartwright at the state meet.

In the midwest region championship race in Kenosha, WI, the winning time in the combined frosh/soph race was freshman Isaiah Steury of Indiana, who ran a 17:01 with the 10th place time at 17:45.

West and North regionals splits were not available.

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In the Bleachers



Non-Sequitur



Ziggy



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

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Real Life Adventures



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		7		5			2	1
				1	9		4	
		6			3	4	8	
		1		8		5		
	9	4	2			3		
	3		4	9				
9	5		3		8			
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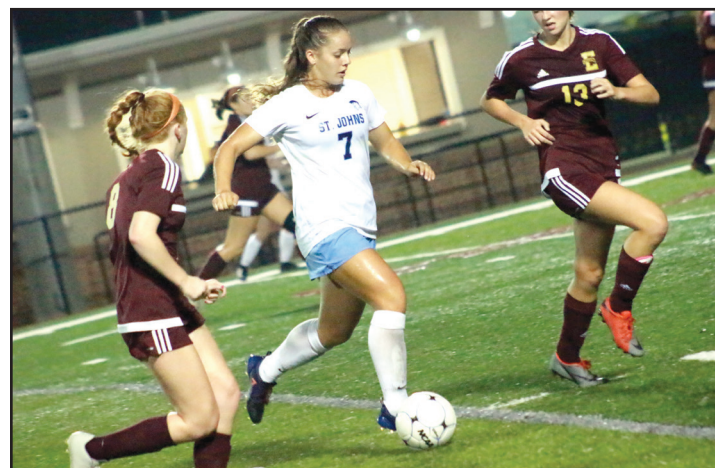
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STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

Clay High forward Lynette Quinones, center, moves ball between two Duval Charter defenders in Blue Devil 3-2 loss in season opener. Blue Devils, with a win over Orange Park (6-0) lost a 2-0 match to Oakleaf on Nov. 26.

Fleming Island High forward Maryssa Kosman, right, stands ready for incoming ball in Golden Eagles opener against Bolles; a 2-1 loss. Golden Eagles have a 3-2 loss to Nease and a 1-1 tie with Tallahassee Leon.



St. Johns Country Day School forward Kamy Loustau moves between Episcopal defenders for one of two goals she scored in Spartans' 4-0 win at Episcopal. Spartans (2-0) also won 7-2 against St. Joseph's in season opener.

Keystone Heights High forward Shoshona Fernandez, in blue, breaks from two Santa Fe defenders in Lady Indians' 7-0 season opening loss at Twin Lakes Park in Keystone Heights. Lady Indians have losses to P.K.Yonge (8-0) and Middleburg (8-1).



Clay High's Sophie Fogg, in white, pushes ball downfield against Oakleaf High's Aurora Marcelo in Knight's 2-0 win Monday night at Oakleaf High School. Oakleaf has a 4-3 win over Middleburg and a 6-0 loss to Creekside.

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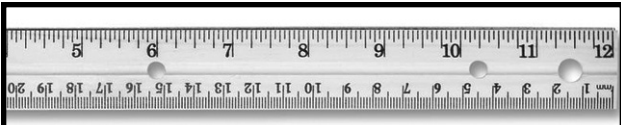
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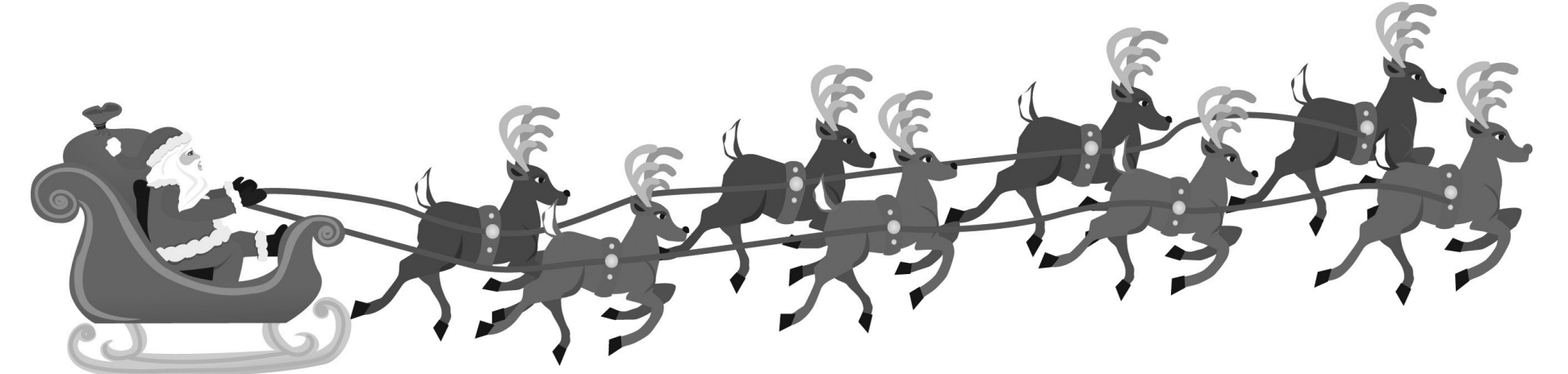
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Notice of Sale

known to be dead or alive, whether said Unknown Parties may claim an interest as Spouse, Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, or Other Claimants; Unknown Parties may claim an interest as Spouse, Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, or Other Claimants; Unknown Parties in Possession #2, If living, and all Unknown Parties claiming by, through, under and against the above named Defendant(s) who are not known to be dead or alive, whether said Unknown Parties may claim an interest as Spouse, Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, or Other Claimants Defendant(s).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to order rescheduling foreclosure sale or Final Judgement, entered in Civil Case No. 2017-CA-001141 of the Circuit Court of the 4th Judicial Circuit in and for Clay County, Florida, wherein U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Harborview Mortgage Loan Trust 2005-3, Mortgage Loan Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2005-3, Plaintiff and Stephen D. Nye a/k/a Stephen Nye are defendant(s), I, Clerk of Court, Tara S. Green, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash using the following method: <http://www.clay.realforeclose.com>, beginning AT 10:00 A.M. on March 07, 2019, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit:

LOT 55, RIVER HILLS RESERVE UNIT TWO, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 38, PAGE 77 THROUGH 81, INCLUSIVE, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA.

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator; 330 East Bay Street, Suite 507-C, Jacksonville, Florida 32202; (904) 630-1897 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification of the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

(SEAL)

Tara S Green
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
Clay County, Florida

Rebecca Crews
DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT
Legal 42941 published Nov 22 and Nov 29, 2018 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper 17-309567

NOTICE OF SALE

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

CIVIL DIVISION
Case #: 2010-CA-000307

Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC
Plaintiff,

-vs.-
Nickolas Atilano a/k/a Nickolas J. ATILANO a/k/a Nickolas Jesus Atilano; Leesa Atilano a/k/a Leesa Atillarro a/k/a Leesa K. Atilano a/k/a Leesa Kim Atilano; any and all Unknown Parties claiming by, through, under, and against the herein named individual defendant(s) who are not known to be dead or alive, whether said unknown parties may claim an interest as spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees or other claimants; John Doe AND Jane Doe as Unknown Tenants in possession.

Defendant(s).
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to order rescheduling foreclosure sale or Final Judgement, entered in Civil Case No. 2010-CA-000307 of the Circuit Court of the 4th Judicial Circuit in and for Clay County, Florida, wherein Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, Plaintiff and Nickolas Atilano are defendant(s), I, Clerk of Court, Tara S. Green, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash using the following method: <http://www.clay.realforeclose.com>, beginning AT 10:00 A.M. on January 10, 2019, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit:

LOTS 27 & 28, BLOCK 79, HIGHLAND ESTATES SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 8, PAGES 38 - 44 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Notice of Sale

TOGETHER WITH THAT CERTAIN 2007 CAVALIER MODEL 08E5369 28 X 62 BEARING IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS BL07GA0214006AB. SAID UNIT IS ATTACHED TO THE LAND IN A PERMANENT MANNER SO AS TO BE RENDERED AN INVIOVABEE Faiuu AND AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY WHICH SHALL PASS WITH THE REALTY. TITLES ARE TO BE RETIRED PURSUANT TO F.S. 319.261.

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator; 330 East Bay Street, Suite 507-C, Jacksonville, Florida 32202; (904) 630-1897 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification of the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

Dated: 11/7/2018

(SEAL)

Tara S Green
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
Clay County, Florida

Taylor Solomon
DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT
Legal 42937 published Nov 22 and Nov 29, 2018 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper 15-286109

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

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

GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION

CASE NO: 2015-CA-000458

HSBC BANK USA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR ACE SECURITIES CORP. HOME EQUITY LOAN TRUST, SERIES 2006-OP2

Plaintiff,

vs.
MARK HOLMES, YVONNE L HOLMES, AND PAUL L. HOLMES, et al.

Defendant(s).
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated April 26, 2016, and entered in 2015-CA-000458 of the Circuit Court of the FOURTH Judicial Circuit in and for CLAY County, Florida, wherein HSBC BANK USA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR ACE SECURITIES CORP. HOME EQUITY LOAN TRUST, SERIES 2006-OP2 is the Plaintiff and MARK HOLMES, AS TO A 1/3 INTEREST, AS JOINT TENANT WITH RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP AND NOT AS TENANTS IN COMMON; YVONNE L. HOLMES, AS TO 1/3 INTEREST, AS JOINT TENANT WITH RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP AND NOT AS TENANTS IN COMMON; PAUL L. HOLMES, AS TO A 1/3 INTEREST, AS JOINT TENANT WITH RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP AND NOT AS TENANTS IN COMMON; SAND

Notice of Sale

CANYON CORPORATION F/K/A OPTION ONE MORTGAGE CORPORATION; ARAVA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.; STATE OF FLORIDA, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE are the Defendant(s). Tara S. Green as the Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at www.clay.realforeclose.com, at 10:00 AM, on December 20, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 35, ARAVA UNIT FIVE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 42, PAGES 37, 38 AND 39, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Property Address: 3664 ARAVA DR, GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FL 32043

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. Dated this 15th day of November, 2018.

(seal)

Tara S. Green
As Clerk of the Court
by Stacie Towns
As Deputy Clerk

IMPORTANT

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. 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 crintrin@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.

Legal 42982 published Nov 29 and Dec 6, 2018, in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper 14-42430

NOTICE OF SALE

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

CIVIL DIVISION
Case #: 2015-CA-000424

Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC
Plaintiff,

-vs.-

Brian Keith Schmidt a/k/a Brian K. Schmidt a/k/a Brian Schmidt; Terri Nathiel Schmidt a/k/a Terri N. Schmidt a/k/a Terri Schmidt; Unknown Spouse of Terri Nathiel Schmidt; Garry McIntyre; Unknown Parties in Possession #1, If living, and all Unknown Parties claiming by, through, under and against the above named Defendant(s) who are not known to be dead or alive, whether said Unknown Parties may claim an interest as Spouse, Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, or Other Claimants; Unknown Parties in Possession #2, If living, and all Unknown Parties claiming by, through, under and against the above named Defendant(s) who are not known to be dead or alive, whether said Unknown Parties may claim an interest as Spouse, Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, or Other Claimants

Notice of Sale

Defendant(s).
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to order rescheduling foreclosure sale or Final Judgement, entered in Civil Case No. 2015-CA-000424 of the Circuit Court of the 4th Judicial Circuit in and for Clay County, Florida, wherein Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, Plaintiff and Brian Keith Schmidt a/k/a Brian K. Schmidt a/k/a Brian Schmidt are defendant(s), I, Clerk of Court, Tara S. Green, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash using the following method: <http://www.clay.realforeclose.com>, beginning AT 10:00 A.M. on January 4, 2019, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit: **LOT 17, 18, AND 19, BLOCK 5A,**

Notice of Sale

FLEMING ISLAND ESTATES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 63, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA.

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact

Notice of Sale

the ADA Coordinator; 330 East Bay Street, Suite 507-C, Jacksonville, Florida 32202; (904) 630-1897 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification of the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

(SEAL)

Tara S Green
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
Clay County, Florida

Taylor Solomon
DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT
Legal 42953 published Nov 22 and Nov 29, 2018 in Clay County's Clay Today newspaper 18-314150

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