



Caring for feral cats

- Page 9

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# Community session drums up old memories

By Jesse Hollett  
 KHHERald.com

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – When he was a teenager, Keystone Heights Mayor Tony Brown spent entire summers at the city’s pavilion playing ping-pong, billiards, listening to concerts and, when it got hot, jumping straight from the dock into the water.

Things are different now. The lake levels in Lake Geneva, which makes up the shore of Keystone Beach, today extends far beyond the pavilion.

“I don’t think the younger generation,

the teenagers of today understand what this used to be,” Brown said. “My generation and up and some of the younger ones that are in their 40s – we remember the water, we remember all the activities we had here.”

While the lake levels have changed, the pavilion has also changed over the years.

City officials and residents are currently pushing to undergo a major restoration to the pavilion. Residents want to restore the pavilion to the way it looked and functioned in 1921, complete with its original bandshell.

Residents shared memories and sug-

**SEE PAVILION, 2**



The shore of Lake Geneva used to be so high that beachgoers at Keystone Beach could jump off of the deck at the pavilion. The Heritage Commission recently held a visioning session to gauge public input on restoring the pavilion.

# Rooterville an Eden for animals

By Jesse Hollett  
 KHHERald.com

MELROSE – Like every good idea, Rooterville Sanctuary started with 33 fully-grown hogs.

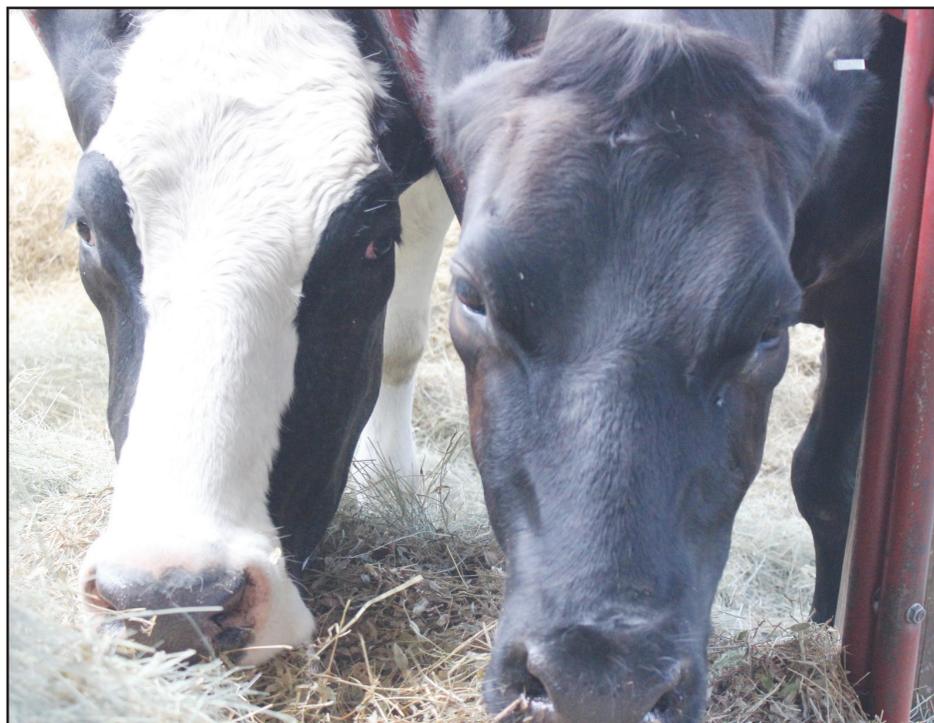
Cause and effect took over from there.

As founder Elaine West describes, “It just happened; God has a sense of humor.”

In 2004, West had already been rescuing unwanted pigs, neutering them and finding them homes. After a few big rescues, she quickly realized the hog halfway house model she had setup was no longer adequate.

She decided she had to do something.

**SEE ANIMALS, 8**



Rooterville workers rescued Tinsel, left, and Holly from a New York auction when the calves were just days old.

# Artist’s work helps promote public broadcasting

By Nick Blank  
 KHHERald.com

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – Echo Saunders, 27, has been painting and drawing her whole life as a hobby, so she never expected something she would do for fun would thrust her in the spotlight.

The Keystone Heights resident’s name was recently broadcast all over the airwaves of Public Radio station WJCT 89.9 FM for having submitted and designed the winning entry for the station’s 45th anniversary t-shirt contest.

She spent most of her life watching PBS whether it was children’s programming such as “Mr. Roger’s Neighborhood” and “Arthur” or radio programs such as “Car Talk” and

**SEE ART, 2**

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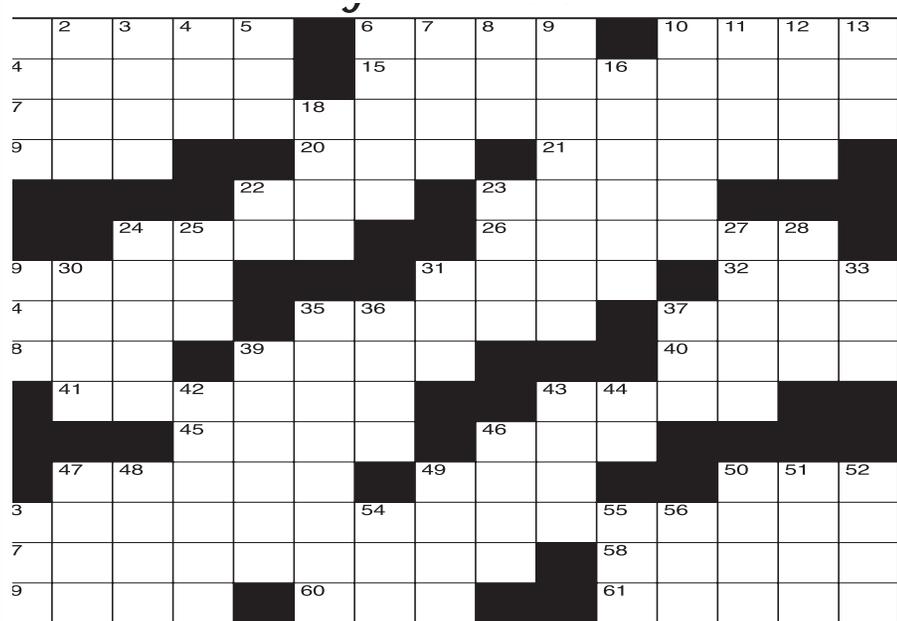
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# Crossword Puzzle

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 1. Icanic craters  
 2. Makes nervous  
 3. Long strip of cloth  
 4. Impressions of surprise  
 5. Reception  
 6. 1916 World Series  
 7. Inner-up  
 8. Former Communist power  
 9. Consume  
 10. Cytos  
 11. Regulator gene  
 12. Hard game  
 13. Omen (French)  
 14. Late capital  
 15. Ursemaid  
 16. Surface opening  
 17. Second sight  
 18. Beloved Mexican dish  
 19. Discounts  
 20. Ceremonial staff  
 21. Support with difficulty  
 22. Reluctant to share  
 23. Formation  
 24. Song  
 25. Relating to songbirds  
 26. Conductance units  
 27. Peezed through  
 28. Supervises flying

47. Chemical ring  
 49. Swiss river  
 50. Not happy  
 53. Surgery (slang)  
 57. Let go  
 58. Take effect  
 59. \_\_\_ and greet  
 60. Male offspring  
 61. Notes

**CLUES DOWN**  
 1. Vertebrate oncogenes  
 2. Troubles  
 3. Imitator  
 4. Increase motor speed  
 5. Midway between south and southeast  
 6. Sir \_\_\_ Newton  
 7. Penny  
 8. Ultimate  
 9. Gummed labels  
 10. Quiet and dull  
 11. Cuckooes  
 12. Dishonest scheme  
 13. Adult female chicken  
 16. Breathe in  
 18. Pieces of land  
 22. Of I  
 23. Type of footwear

24. Heavy clubs  
 25. Conductance unit  
 27. Approaches  
 28. Fungi cells  
 29. Devoured  
 30. Type of shark  
 31. Work steady at one's trade  
 33. Vegetable  
 35. Sound-mindedness  
 36. Matured  
 37. Chinese communist revolutionary  
 39. Large insect  
 42. Transportation tickets book  
 43. Female horse  
 44. Expresses surprise  
 46. Saudi Arabian king  
 47. Unleavened bread  
 48. Christmas  
 49. Deity of monotheistic cult  
 50. Flowering plant genus  
 51. Hairstyle  
 52. Radio personality Rick  
 53. Something you chew  
 54. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet  
 55. \_\_\_ Basinger, actress  
 56. Midway between north and northeast

## Pavilion

from page 1

gestions at an April 6 visioning session held within the pavilion itself. Some residents stood in the back because of the packed house while members of the Keystone Heights Heritage Commission unveiled early conceptual plans for the pavilion restoration.

Architect and Heritage Commission member Don Morgan revealed his vision for a pavilion that would draw others from outside the community. The new pavilion would feature air conditioning, a small kitchen and restrooms while removing old changing rooms that largely have remained unused.

"It will be quite a long time before we make any formal presentation to the state," Morgan said. "So we've got quite a bit of planning time to work with."

The pavilion represents the heart of the community with its central location and, more importantly, the memories the residents still carry of summer days in their childhood.

The city tapped Morgan, 85, for pro-bono design work for the project's initial stages. The Heritage Commission will begin looking for potential grants to fund the pavilion restoration. Last fall, Keystone Heights was named the 71st Certified Local Government in Florida, a new status that gives it eligibility for grant money under the Florida Department of State. The city hopes to use state funding plus other grants and donations to save the landmark building.

Once the city has a better idea on what it plans to spend, the restoration will go out for bid.

However, the city must remain realistic about its expectations. There is no current projection on what the landmark project could even remotely cost the city.

"We have no idea what we're looking at in terms of overall cost for the project," said City Manager Scott Kornegay. "We know it's going to be sizable. It's going to be a big project. This is a historical structure, and anything we can do to bring it back to its original use and function and bring it back to where it used to be and start having more events and gatherings down here would be super."

The town hopes to have the remodel completed before the city marks its centennial anniversary in 2025.

During the visioning meeting, residents punctuated the opportunity the city has to restore such a historical structure.

"The signature of this place in a way was water," said resident Richard Bloodgood. "People came from all over...it wasn't just the water, the water was great, but it was the atmosphere. The pavilion, the lights, the ping-pong table, the billiard table and all that other stuff. We have a golden opportunity here...I feel so good about this, just looking out there and seeing all that beautiful water and landscape."

The redesign would also reattach the pavilion's bandshell, which was removed in the 1980s. At that time, the bandshell was essentially a semi-circular metal dome. Morgan hopes to replace it with the less costly

**SEE PAVILION, 19**

## Art

from page 1

"Science Friday."

"I'm grateful for how much I learned from PBS, how much interesting culture and art and new ideas I was exposed to," Saunders said.

In her design, Saunders forms an earth with the words, knowledge, wonder and life. Saunders said she derived knowledge from watching and listening PBS, wonder from various cultures and environments in documentaries and life from things about the world around her that have shaped her life.

Although Saunders describes herself as a "hobby artist," she grew up in an artistic family and has been drawing and painting her whole life. She took some art classes in college, so when she heard about the contest, she didn't think she would win.

"Frankly I didn't think I'd be one of the finalists, let alone win," Saunders said.

Now Saunders is looking to go back to school to become an art therapist so she can use art to help children who have suffered

trauma express themselves through drawing and painting. Saunders said she hopes to work with autistic children.

"I would help the autistic people communicate better with the outside world and help them to relate to people and things better," Saunders said.

In the spirit of giving back, Saunders is also involved with the St. Augustine-based company, Rulon international, where she paints wooden toy guitar covers which Rulon gives them to kids in hospitals. These "cigar box guitars," according to the Rulon website, are given to children with bags of various stickers and adhesive letters so that a child can personalize their own guitar to their liking.

"I've always been good at helping people and I've always had an interest in art. And I think [art therapy] combines the two in a way that I think I would be good at," Saunders said.

She said she wants to help children express their feelings they have experienced due to trauma by drawing pictures that speak to their mental condition. Saunders knows a friend's father had a stroke and art therapy helped in his recovery.



Echo Saunders



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## Medical marijuana implementation for the 29, 48 ... or 71%?

Majority Leader Ray Rodrigues claims to have polled Floridians on whether they want marijuana legalized.

They do not.

Undisclosed interests hired a political consultant, who then hired Donald Trump's pollster to ask the same question.

They got the same answer: 48 percent oppose legalization, while 46 percent support it.

I have two questions that don't necessitate public opinion research to answer:

- Who cares?
- Why are we even talking about this?



Ben Pollara

Medical marijuana has now twice been before Florida voters. In 2014, it garnered a substantial majority of 58 percent, albeit not enough to pass.

Two years later, 71 percent of Floridians voted "yes," placing Article X, Section 29, "Use of marijuana for debilitating medical conditions," in our state's constitution.

In both campaigns, opponents argued that medical marijuana was merely a ruse - "wolf in sheep's clothing," was a favorite metaphor - for recreational marijuana.

That cynical argument - that voters were tricked into something they didn't want - ultimately lost, and badly. Voters were smarter than opponents gave them credit for, and in November, overwhelmingly approved medical marijuana.

So why is the Majority Leader still parroting the talking points of Mel and Betty Sembler? Why is his implementing legislation seemingly written for the less than 29 percent who voted "no," rather than the super-majority who put this law into our Constitution?

Florida for Care, which I lead, has been for almost three years, educating and advocating Floridians your Wednesday thread for reasonable, responsible medical marijuana legislation in Tallahassee. That is and has always been our only scope.

As such, it is extraordinarily frustrating, and more than a little insulting, to even be engaging in these conversations about legalization. But I'm just an advocate. It is exponentially more hair-pullingly vexing for sick and suffering patients, who have been waiting desperately for medical marijuana, to see their concerns cast aside for a debate that is neither here nor there.

Legislators talk from both sides of their mouth when they claim in one breath not to be able to adjudicate voters' intent when implementing medical marijuana, and in the next cite polling data on legalization to interpret that same purpose.

Here's what I believe the voters' intent was in passing Amendment 2: they wanted to legalize medical marijuana in Florida like had been done in two dozen states prior, and unlike the existing, overly restrictive, low-THC cannabis statute that had been on the books for nearly two years before the

SEE MARIJUANA, 5



## FROM THE EDITOR

### A decade of mist and fog

It's Tuesday and I'm sitting here looking at the blank page wondering what to write. It's not the first time this has happened, but today it's particularly difficult, almost painful.

Today marks 10 years to the date and exact day of the week that my dear mama breathed her last breath.

The anxiety, pain, odd feelings, what have you, leading up to today began probably in November. And that day, it was not so much the knowing that I would have to recall the night I walked into her bedroom and saw her lying there so peacefully, but it was the realization that I would wonder where did the last 10 years really go. Was I standing still? Did I make a difference anywhere? What happened in my life the last 10 years and the more I thought about it, I looked back over a quilt of mist and fog.

Sure, I completed a master's degree, helped our son graduate from high school and college, saw my mother-in-law pass away, came to work at Clay Today, but what about the plans I had?

Is it unfair to look back and wonder if I really got anything accomplished? Is it unfair to ponder whether I was as disconnected each day during the past 10 years as I feel this very moment? Or is it simply how I've looked back over the past 10 years to realize - and finally honor - what my mother meant to me and so many people.

I recall the stories she was finally able to tell me about the care she gave us while raising nine children. How I'd vaguely recall her rocking me to sleep at night and the story she told me as an adult of her doing that very thing. Appar-

ently, I was a night owl and I still am.

"I used to rock you and Frank (my older brother) to sleep in front of the fireplace," she told me two months before her passing. "Y'all would fall asleep in my lap and I'd slide one of you onto the floor and go put the other one to bed."

And then, there were the stories my sisters and I would tell two nights later outside around a fire ring. My sister Laurie told us about the prized red dress mama had when she was a newlywed and how Daddy took the dress and cut it into little pieces.

"He said he didn't ever want another man to look at her because she was so beautiful," Laurie said, holding back tears.

While I was shocked to hear such a story, I really wasn't at the same time. Having nine children ends up as a recipe for nine separate sets of nine separate unique memories.

I looked into the fire and around the circle at my family's glowing faces and love enveloped us all. Mama's dog Happy - who seemed to carry her same loving spirit - walked around the fire ring ensuring we were all safe wanting to steal a pat on the head where he could. (Happy would, weeks later, come to live here with us.)

My nephew Mark, who was almost like a younger brother, shared stories of his Gramma and how much he loved her. There was an irony around the fire that night at the family farm and the home I'd grown up in. We were doing two things that had always been prohibited - imbibing in adult beverages and starting a fire. Daddy, who said I was always a pyromaniac, was asleep in the house as we fellowshipped outside on the edge of the yard and field.

And as I glimpsed upward at the crisp April night sky, I knew in my heart we were making a memory that would last a lifetime, despite my own personal mist and fog.

## Letters to the Editor

### School board ignoring building maintenance

There are some hard realities that our school district needs to face. Consider that we currently have 43 fewer custodians than what is recommended by the state. You already know of the critical bus driver shortage. All along the line on the support side of the house you see chronic failure to address these shortages. Some of it has to do with the toxic work environments maintained by some of the senior administrators and some of it is the non-competitive salary structure in the district. Both of these combined have decimated the ranks of the people that maintain and repair our facilities.

I used the term "decimate" purposely. In the Roman Legion decimation was the practice of punishing a large group of soldiers by dividing them into groups of 10. Then each group would draw lots where one in every 10 soldiers would be executed by the other nine. When you look back at what has been endured by our support staff over the last decade, then you understand that decimation is the only logical term to be used.

We are at a critical point in Clay County. Two years back I fought for making the superintendent an appointed position versus an elected position. My reasoning was simple, the Clay County School District has

SEE LETTER, 5

## This Month in History

### 5 years ago, 2012

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

Orange Park Town Council members Jim "J.B." Renninger and Marge Hutton filed paperwork to run for the same seat on the Clay County Board of Commissioners, while Town Attorney Rob Bradley filed papers to run for the Florida Senate.

The Board of County Commissioners approved spending \$495,400 to upgrade a list of eight priority roads in the county.

A coalition of Clay County business owners began a petition drive to allow voters a chance to decide on expanding Sunday liquor sales.

### 10 years ago, 2007

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

Enterprise Florida and the Florida Defense Alliance announced a \$500,000 grant had been made to renovate the single-story 1950s-era 10,000 square-foot Moody Hall on

SEE HISTORY, 11

# Letter

from page 4

grown too large to be effectively managed by someone who's primary qualification is winning a popularity contest. Clay County Schools are the single largest employer in the county and our school board members need to approach it as a corporation and not just a local PTA on steroids.

For years, I have pointed out the brick wall the district has been headed for. For years, our school board has exacerbated the problem by implementing the misguided thinking that all they had to do was spend more money in the classroom. They never considered that they actually needed to spend money on the classroom as well.

We need to focus our efforts on rebuilding the personnel and programs that maintain our facilities. We as citizens need to scream and shout at our elected officials every time they try to nickel and dime a facilities maintenance program. One thing I learned as the leading Fire Control Technician onboard the Cutter Mohawk is that it is always more expensive to repair than to maintain. It is time for us to impart this lesson to our school board. It is time that we rebuild our capacity to maintain our facilities and to adequately cover the services outside the classroom that lead to a better learning environment for our children inside the classroom.

**Keith Nichols**  
Lake Asbury

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

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

for fiscal year 2018.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yet for an extremely effective and cost-efficient form of national security, the Peace Corps is terribly underutilized. Each year, approximately 24,000 Americans apply for roughly 3,800 positions, meaning thousands of qualified applicants are turned away from

serving their country and the world.

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

There are currently 7,200 Peace Corps Volunteers serving in 63 countries, including Ukraine, Colombia and Myanmar. Are these not countries where we want more Peace Corps Volunteers? And if America doesn't demonstrate a commitment to these

countries, who will? And what will those commitments be?

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

**Richard Lipsey**  
Middleburg

# Marijuana

from page 4

election.

It doesn't take a psychic or a statewide poll to determine that the 71 percent vote was a vote for a broader medical marijuana law, or that it was a message that the existing laws were simply not good enough.

All the Senate proposals have built upon existing law (except for Jeff Brandes' "repeal and replace" bill, which starts anew), in an attempt to fulfill that voter mandate and respect the Constitution. Rodrigues' House bill restricts medical marijuana even further than the existing statute.

It is both a truism and a cliché in politics that, "the only poll that matters is Election Day."

We had an election on medical marijuana. Two, actually.

The "only poll that matters" came down firmly for medical marijuana.

Almost every week since December, I've left my wife and two young children in Miami so I could be in Tallahassee, advocating for the implementation of this law.

I only wish the House actually wanted to talk about it, instead of debating an issue that has neither a popular, nor constitutional, imperative.

*Ben Pollara is the executive director of Florida for Care. He managed the 2014 and 2016 campaigns for Amendment 2 and was one of the primary authors of both amendments. His column appears courtesy of FloridaPolitics.com.*

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Also, if you keep your investments at least a year before selling them, you'll be taxed at the more favorable long-term capital gains rate.

You might consider investing in municipal bonds, if they are suitable for your needs. The interest payments are generally exempt from federal taxes, and possibly state and local taxes, as well. However, some municipal bonds are subject to the alternative minimum tax.

When charting your investment strategy, consider your risk tolerance, time horizon, family situation and so on. But investment-related taxes should also be in your strategic mix – so look for opportunities to keep these taxes under control.

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## My winning season

# Livestock auction teaches students discipline, care

By **Kile Brewer**  
KHHerald.com

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

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

hope to get a return on their investment.

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

For the auction, pigs and cattle take center stage.

SEE AUCTION, 19



STAFF PHOTO BY KILE BREWER

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

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# Frustrations, partisan schism deepen at Yoho town hall

By Jesse Hollett  
KHHerald.com

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

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

supporters to heckle him.

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

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

SEE TOWN, 10



STAFF PHOTO BY JESSE HOLLETT

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

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## Non-Sequitur



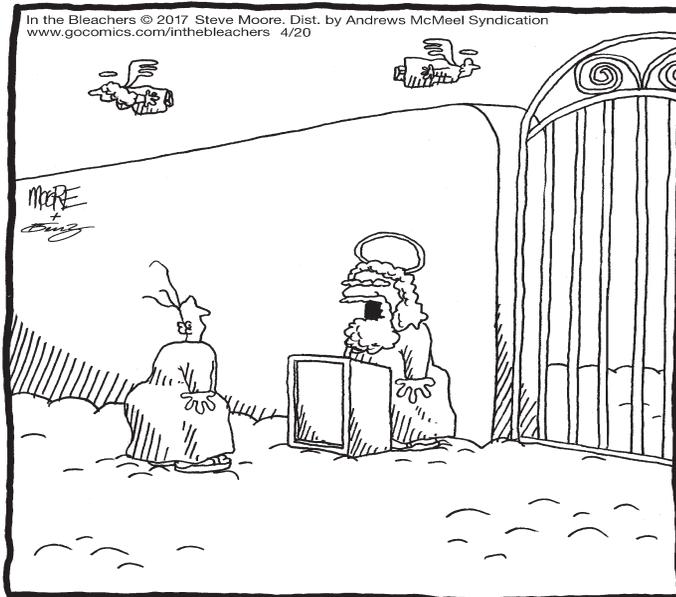
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## Real Life Adventures



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## In The Bleachers



"No, you can't take a mulligan."

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

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

## Animals

from page 1

More than 13 years later, Rooterville has grown to house more than 300 animals on a 30-acre farm near Melrose. But today, Rooterville is not just a sanctuary for unwanted and forgotten hogs. It also provides a safe haven for cows, chickens, turkeys, dogs, cats, goats and bees.

On any given day, the hogs roam free on the property chewing on peanut hay and rolling around in mud holes to cool down.

Each has the dignity of a name, and the burden of a story. On hot days, you'll find Temple and Lulu laying on each other in the shade.

Lulu, a 400-plus pound farm pig was discovered roaming the streets of Tampa by wildlife authorities. At the time, she was only a farm piglet, a fraction of the size she would grow to be. When she arrived at Rooterville, the other hogs shunned and bullied her.

Temple, the Australian cattle dog adopted by the sanctuary, shielded Lulu from the abuse, which has made them inseparable ever since.

Rooterville workers focus on ensuring the animals' time at the sanctuary is different from their pasts. It's part of the reason why nearly every worker is either a vegetarian or vegan.

"My main reason was the welfare of the animals, how they've been treated on factory farms, where over 95 percent of the meat in grocery stores come from," West said. "When I saw that I knew that was something I could not morally and ethically support, so I stopped."

West has lived meat free for 22 years, and uses the sanctuary to help educate others about living vegetarian or vegan as well.

Some animals from Rooterville come from factory farms, so the workers see firsthand the after effects it can have on the animals.

Stella, the 400-pound farm pig, likely was a breeding sow in a factory farm. She lived her first five years in a cage.

In 2006, Stella fell off the back of a truck on the way to a slaughterhouse. She collapsed in a family's driveway on the brink of death. When she was brought to the sanctuary, workers realized she would live with partial paralysis for the rest of her life from her mistreatment. While she has since died, Rooterville uses Stella's story to advocate against the horrors of factory farms.

Rooterville often brings in pigs whose former owners were simply duped into thinking they bought a "teacup pig," which does not exist as a breed. When their buyer realizes the pig is not a teacup, they seek to abandon it somewhere.

"There's just such a need for it," said Chloe Dercks, an intern living at the sanctuary for two months. "There's all these animals that don't have homes and there's just not enough sanctuaries in the country in order to house all of them - especially pigs."

Pigs are expensive to care for, especially when it comes to medical care. Pigs are prone to foot infections, for instance, that can erode the bones in their feet.

Rooterville is looking at moving to a new location as they are currently near overcapacity and are eyeing acreage near the Orlando area. When they find it, they'll begin a massive donation drive to help fund the move.

# Volunteers care for feral cat colonies

By Jesse Hollett  
KHHerald.com

ORANGE PARK – An all-volunteer nonprofit organization formed to care for and sterilize growing feline colonies finally has its fangs.

After incorporating in November, Community Critter Care of Clay County – otherwise known as 5C – has officially begun larger scale operations to trap, sterilize and release feral and abandoned cats and educate area residents on how to live in symbiosis with them.

And although they've only sterilized approximately two dozen cats so far, the overall goal of the group of about a dozen is to stop colony growth so the cats can die out naturally.

"We're trying to blend the community, and community cats, so that each exists in a balanced way," said Jane Hawley, 5C secretary. "If the cats are bothering the people... we deter that and help the residents learn how to effectively live with the wildlife."

They've got their work cut out for them. Currently, it's kitten season, so it should come as no surprise that colonies that aren't sterilized will have a few new additions soon. The group is based primarily out of Orange Park, where the group has its roots, but it has begun to extend into other areas, such as Middleburg.

The group formed in 2014 after an eventually tabled Orange Park Town Council ordinance that would have made it illegal for colony caretakers and residents to feed feral



STAFF PHOTO BY JESSE HOLLETT

Jane Hawley is one of many volunteers with Community Critter Care of Clay County, a nonprofit that traps, neuters and releases feral cats.

colonies drew fierce criticism from animal lovers throughout the town.

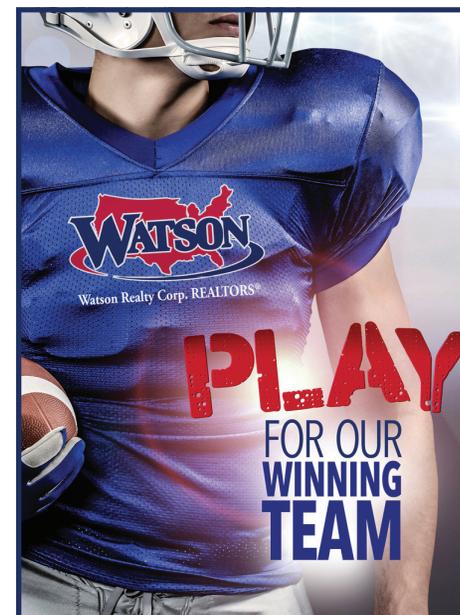
Eventually, a number of those most vocally against the ordinance banded together to form the nonprofit.

The group meets monthly to identify new areas to trap. However, Hawley tends to keep those locations secret so those who wish to do the cats harm can't find them as easily.

She said there are those who believe the best method for controlling cat populations is to kill feral cats. She said, however, when the cats are killed, other cats move in to fill the vacuum.

By sterilizing entire populations, the cats

SEE CATS, 12



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# Town

from page 7

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

"I don't foresee that happening, and our goal is to stop that from happening," he said. "Our goal is to change that, so it moves more like a business," Yoho said, referring to President Donald Trump's vision of government, having come into power from his previous role as a real estate mogul.

President Trump hopes to pay for a wall across the U.S.-Mexico border, in part, by trimming and otherwise cutting domestic programs, many of which have broad bipartisan support. Democrats also appear unlikely to fund a \$54 billion increase in military spending.

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

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

"As a devout Christian, I am very much for Planned Parenthood because I want contraceptives. You, as a veterinarian, ought to want women to have breast checks, cervical and cancer checks. Will you vote to fund

Planned Parenthood?" said Carolyn Williamson, who was in the audience.

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

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

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

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

"I am a woman, and I think besides birth control - no, I'm not going to sit down - this is important. This woman asked a very important question. You should give her an answer," Mallane said.

Yoho went on to say that he, and the voters who elected him, don't want taxpayer dollars going to a center that performs abortions. Half the room cheered while the other half booed.

Some in the group that booed Yoho were part of the grassroots protest group Indivisible. Indivisible, and its Clay County affiliate, are a growing nationwide network of activists who have vowed to attend congressional town hall meetings to oppose Trump's agenda and what they see as unacceptable changes in government.

Former staffers for President Obama created the Indivisible protest guide using the Tea Party's playbook. The Tea Party is a similar group of guerilla-citizen protesters that formed in the summer of 2009 to oppose President Obama's health care and stimulus packages. The group espoused right-wing beliefs.

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

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

Indivisible had roughly 60 members present at the April 8 town hall.

Citizens asked Yoho about his stance on Syria. Two weeks ago, President Trump ordered 59 Tomahawk missiles fired at the government-controlled Shayrat Air Base near Homs without congressional approval. The strike was meant to rebuke President Bashar al-Assad's use of chemical weapons on his own people.

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

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

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

When the crowd began to heckle him, he said, "Where in the constitution does it say we should respond to humanitarian" crises.

The crowd responded for him: "The Bible," three people yelled.

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

Party dogma largely colored the atmosphere of the town hall. Trump supporters largely found the town hall informative, while opponents found it somewhat frustrating.

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

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

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

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

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



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# History

from page 4

the campus of Camp Blanding. Plans called for transforming it into a conference center.

Clay County Farm Bureau and the Clay County Cattlemen's Association led local officials and the media on a seven-site tour that showcased the county's agricultural economy.

The Clay County School Board voted to cease paying \$3,000 a month in lobbyist fees to former Florida House Speaker John Thrasher who had represented the board since November 2003.

## 20 years ago, 1997

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

The campus at Clay High played host to 200 bicyclists who were taking part in the coast-to-coast event known as Bike Florida.

B.J. Winchester, president of the multi-racial social group Unity, presented the Orange Park Library with 100 books about diversity. The books were bought with grant funds donated by Delores Barr Weaver – wife of Jacksonville Jaguars owner Wayne Weaver – who attended the event and read one of the books to children.

Sheriff Scott Lancaster eliminated four mid-level management positions, reassigned five mid-level supervisors, added two new divisions and created the Public Integrity Unit citing the need to run as efficiently as possible.

## 30 years ago, 1987

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

Disgraced former Clay County Sheriff's Office deputy Henry Lee Hines III was sentenced to six months in jail after allegedly snorting cocaine from evidence bags in agency custody.

Gov. Bob Martinez pledged at a meeting of the Clay County Committee of 100 that his administration will aggressively pursue new industries and build the roads that will move their products to market.

The Clay County Board of Adjustment voted that the animals kept at the Florida Reptile Ranch in Middleburg were not live-stock after neighbors complained about the ranch harboring jaguars, leopards and lions.

## 40 years ago, 1977

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

## Keystone Heights & Lake Region Area Church Directory

**Abundant Life Church**  
6865 North State Rd 21 • Keystone  
Sunday service 10:30am  
Wed. 7:00pm

**The Church Courageous**  
205 SW Magnolia • Keystone  
904-263-3613  
Sunday service 10:30am

**Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
3760 S.E. State Rd 21 • Keystone  
Sunday service 11:00am

**Community Church of Keystone Heights**  
345 SE Palmetto • Keystone  
352-473-4182  
Sunday service 10:00 am

**Faith Presbyterian Church**  
2738 S.E. State Rd 21 • Keystone  
Sunday service 11:00am

**First Baptist Church of Keystone Heights**  
550 E. Walker Dr. • Keystone  
352-473-7201  
Sunday service 10:30 am  
Wed. 6:30pm

**Freedom Baptist Church**  
7207 State Rd 21 • Keystone  
352-473-2778  
Sunday service 10:00 am • Wed. 7:00pm

**Fresh Start Fellowship**  
7191 State Rd 21 • Keystone  
352-473-6550  
Sunday service 10:00 am & 6:00pm  
Wed 6:00pm

**Friendship Bible Church**  
1155 Orchid Ave. • Keystone  
352-473-2713  
Sunday service 10:30am & 6:00pm

**Gadara Baptist Church**  
6779 County Road 315C • Keystone  
352-473-3615  
Sunday service 11:00am & 6:00pm  
Wed. service 6:30pm

**Hope Baptist Church**  
3900 S.E. State Road 100 • Starke  
352-473-4188  
Sunday service 10:45am

**Keystone Heights Christian Church**  
3528 SE State Rd 21 • Keystone  
352-473-0620  
Sunday service 10:30am • Wed. 6:30pm

**Keystone Heights First Assembly of God**  
8025 Hwy 100 • Keystone  
352-473-3432  
Sunday service 10:30am • Wed. 7:00pm

**Keystone Heights Presbyterian Church**  
4002 State Rd 100 • Keystone  
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**Keystone United Methodist Church**  
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**Lake Hill Baptist Church**  
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**St. William Catholic Church**  
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**Trinity Baptist Church**  
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**Cross Point Church**  
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Sunday service 10:40am

**Trinity Episcopal**  
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Wed. 6:00pm

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# MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Meet Your Neighbor is a monthly feature of the Keystone Heights Herald. These are some of the people that make Keystone Heights the special place it is. They work or live in the Keystone Heights and Lake region area.

**NAME:** Mike Fletcher  
**BORN:** Detroit, Michigan  
**JOB:** Farm Bureau Insurance Agent  
**SONG:** Old Rugged Cross  
**MOVIE:** Quiet Man(John Wayne)  
**HOBBY:** Reading  
**PASTTIME:** Prospecting  
**VAC SPOT:** Lake Sinclair  
**QUOTE:** Honor The Fallen By Helping The Living



**Mike Fletcher**

**NAME:** Graylyn Tanner-Rice & Haley  
**BORN:** Rocky Mount, North Carolina  
**JOB:** Santa Fe Electronics & Cellular, Owner  
**SONG:** Does Anybody Really Know What Time It Is? Chicago (I've requested to be late to my own funeral)  
**MOVIE:** Toy Story  
**HOBBY:** Traveling  
**PASTTIME:** Family & Walking with Haley  
**VAC SPOT:** Anywhere beautiful around the World  
**QUOTE:** "Of all the things I've lost, I miss my mind the most." LOL



**Graylyn Tanner-Rice & Haley**

**NAME:** Lindsey Reddish  
**BORN:** Lake Butler, Florida  
**JOB:** Capital City Bank, Administrative Assistant  
**SONG:** I Will Stand, Kenny Chesney  
**MOVIE:** Something To Talk About  
**HOBBY:** Water Activities  
**PASTTIME:** Rodeo  
**VAC SPOT:** Palm Coast & Crystal Lake  
**QUOTE:** "You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream"



**Lindsey Reddish**

**NAME:** LuAnn B. Davis  
**BORN:** Hancock, New York  
**JOB:** Cosmetologist  
**SONG:** Walk this way by Aerosmith  
**MOVIE:** Dirty Dancing  
**HOBBY:** Cooking & Spending time with my grandson Jaxson  
**PASTTIME:** Jaxson Time  
**VAC SPOT:** St. Augustine  
**QUOTE:** I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me- Philippians 4:13



**LuAnn B. Davis**

**NAME:** Darlene Rivera, C.V.T  
**BORN:** Johnstown, Pennsylvania  
**JOB:** Practice Manager at Keystone Heights Animal Hospital  
**SONG:** Shape of You by Ed Sheeran  
**MOVIE:** Dirty Dancing  
**HOBBY:** Photography  
**PASTTIME:** Family Time with my hubby & 2 daughters- Kids Cheerleading - Fitness  
**VAC SPOT:** St. Pete Beach, FL  
**QUOTE:** No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted



**Darlene Rivera, C.V.T**

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## Cats

from page 9

inhabit the same area and die off naturally.

"We find that trap neuter and release is the best way to go in fighting an overpopulation, and we have an over population in Clay County, but unlike other people that want to annihilate them, we're trying to fix the situation all over Clay County," Hawley said.

The group goes trapping on Tuesday evenings. Hawley takes the trapped cats home and cares for them until the next day when she can take them to the nonprofit low-cost clinic at Clay Humane, which does free sterilization on Wednesdays. As part of the vet clinic visit to be spayed or neutered, the feral cats also receive a cut to the tip of their left ear. This identifying "tipping" is a universal sign in the TNR – trap, neuter, release – community that shows the cat has been fixed and is under the care of a colony manager.

The Town of Orange Park lists 5C on its website as a resource for residents who



need information on managing an active cat colony.

The town also rents out humane traps to assist in their work. Previously, former code enforcement officers used those traps to catch and subsequently neuter feral cats.

Because that program was run off grant money and therefore was not sustainable, Town Manager Jim Hanson said 5C fills a niche in the community that otherwise would be vacant.

"In the long run, the management of the colonies requires a constant presence from community and volunteers that understand how to work with those cats," he said.

As the group gains more traction in the community, they hope to expand their efforts further into Green Cove Springs and other areas in Clay County and ramp up their trapping and community education efforts.

"I think more public education, the [trap and release] team is kind of on a roll, and they're going to get busier and busier and educating the public that spaying and neutering is the right way to go and helping them to do that," Hawley said. "It's just educating them to be responsible for their animals."

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# SPORTS

## KEYSTONE HEIGHTS

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### Weightlifting state championships



STAFF PHOTO BY RANDY LEFKO

Keystone Heights' 129 pound weightlifter, Taylor Beall, grimaces under 255 pounds in his final lift at the Class 1A championships held April 8 at Deland High School. Beall finished third as the Indians finished third in team points behind Madison County and Baker County.

## Indians lift to third in state

By Randy Lefko  
KHHERald.com

DELAND – Keystone Heights 129 pound weightlifter Taylor Beall lurked and waited for his shot to steal the Class 1A 129 pound title on one lift. With Keystone Heights sitting in third behind overall champion

Madison County and runner-up Baker County, with team totals of 22 and 21, the Indians, at 14, had one final shot for the seven first place points to tie Baker County.

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

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

“I didn’t do as well in the bench because at 210 I felt terrible and then I missed at 220 and 230,” said Beall. “I was confident still because my clean and jerk best, 250, was

SEE STATE, 16

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## Big bats fuel romp of Broncos

By Randy Lefko  
KHHERald.com

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – Gage Hall hit a bases loaded triple deep to centerfield to put three Keystone Heights runs on the board in the third inning and pitcher Connor O'Steen whiffed 12 batters as the Indians beat Middleburg 10-0 at home on April 11.

Neither team could generate serious scoring threats in the first two innings, but Middleburg pitcher Sam Higginbotham walked three Keystone Heights batters to load the bases for Hall's bomb in the third.

Keystone Heights, now 12-2 overall with a March 31 18-3 blowout of Palatka, got an RBI grounder before Higginbotham ended the barrage with a strikeout to Nate Gagnon.

Cameron Faucett got to third base in the fourth, but failed to score for Middleburg.

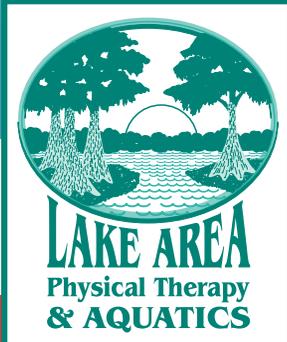
SEE BASEBALL, 14

## Lady Indians top spot in District 5-5A

By Randy Lefko  
KHHERald.com

MIDDLEBURG – A 4-0 non-district win over Middleburg on March 29 could very well be the catalyst to a strong district and region run by the Lady Indians of Keystone Heights High School who have stormed to the top spot of district 5-5A softball. Two days later, on March 31, Keystone Heights defeated district 5-5A's Bradford County 5-3 behind

SEE SOFTBALL, 14



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Keystone Heights pitcher Connor O'Steen fires up in Indians' win over Middleburg. Keystone Heights is now 12-6 overall and 5-1 in district 5-5A with rival Santa Fe at 6-1. Santa Fe will visit Keystone Heights April 21 to determine the district top seed. Districts are set for May 1 at Santa Fe.

## Baseball

from page 13

A single, an error and two wild pitches in the fifth inning scored four more runs in the fifth inning.

In the sixth, singles by Daelen Brown and Hall set up a two run single from Gagnon for the final two runs.

Against Palatka, Keystone Heights had 18 runs on 18 hits with Pierson Lewis, Dalen Brown and Tyler Keaton all getting four hits apiece with Keaton and Gage Hall, with a homer, both hitting for 4 RBIs. Keaton and Brown both hit doubles. Austin Bass got the start on the mound and whiffed five batters with Josh Sheppard finishing the two final innings.

Keystone Heights has an away game at P.K. Yonge set for April 4 with a visit from Forsyth (Georgia) on April 6.

# Newton earns second player of year

ORANGE PARK – With a sixth straight Class 1A soccer title, St. Johns Country Day School junior Abbey Newton not only has a shot at a record seventh team title in a row during her career, but more impressively, she has the opportunity to become a three-time Clay Today girls soccer Player of the Year.

Newton, with her 25 goals and 22 assists for coach Mike Pickett's high-flying offense, was the Clay Today girls soccer player of the year for her courageous return and her leadership in taking the reigns late in the season in the Lady Spartans' state run push in 2016. Without missing a step, Newton again is the Clay Today girls soccer player of the year in 2017 for taking the Lady Spartans to their record-setting sixth title.

Now, couple that with her status as just a junior at St. Johns and there is a real possibility for a first-ever third player of year award next year and also a seventh championship ring.

Newton has already earned the Florida Dairy Farmer's Class 1A player of year award while finishing fifth in the Florida Dairy Farmer's all-classes player of year count.

Not a bad season.

Joining Newton will be a handful of her teammates on the Clay Today First Team All County, but up front in the scoring position are teammates Payton Crews on one side and Kamy Loustau on the other with Clay High shredders Brooke Green and Lissy Stoffel adding to an impressive scoring machine that would light up scoreboards if an opportunity put them on the same team. Crews, a junior also, has been on Newton's side or nearby throughout both girls careers and finished with 25 goals and 21 assists with her primary scoring angle com-

### Forwards

Payton Crews, SJCDs, Jr.  
Brooke Green, CHS, Sr.  
Kamy Loustau, SJCDs, Soph.  
Lissy Stoffel, CHS, Sr.

### Midfielders

Alisa Detlefsen, SJCDs, Jr.  
Liz Fogarty, CHS, Jr.  
Sade Adamolekun, FIHS, Jr.  
Michelle Kanaskie, OHS, Jr.

### Defenders

Zoe Perez, OHS, Jr.  
Anna Nesi, RHS, Sr.  
Olivia Schultz, SJCDs, Sr.

### Goalie

Cassidy Wasdin, SJCDs, Jr.

### Second team

#### Forwards

Kirsten Pavlisko, SJCDs, Jr.  
Autumn Woodard, RHS, Jr.  
Katie Berlin, OPHS, Sr.  
Maryssa Kosman, FIHS, Soph

#### Midfielders

DeeDee Taylor, KHHS, Soph.  
Nicolette Conte, OHS, Sr.  
Lea Plante, CHS, Jr.  
Kyleigh Reedy, RHS, Jr.

#### Defenders

Jacie Ankrom, OPHS, Jr.  
Micaela French, OHS, Jr.  
Paige Crews, SJCDs, 8th

#### Goalie

Taylor Hosek, CHS, Jr.

### Honorable Mention

**FIHS:** Faith Ray, GK; Callie Larson  
**MHS:** Kendall Meeks, Casey Ran-geo, Morgan Green, Kaylee Satcher, Holly Barnhouse  
**OHS:** Tabitha Weldon, Alyssa Farmer, Meredith Baumann  
**CHS:** Jenna Hill  
**RHS:** Anya Alecca, Hanna Koziolok, Emily Learn, Emily Cabrera, Genevieve Olah, Isabella Calalang-Boyer, Danielle Fletcher  
**OPHS:** Sara Romero, Lillian Adriano, Karen Spivey  
**SJCDs:** Lauren Weiss, Maddie Wilkes, Ellie Rosenau, Lexi Drummer, Anna Carrico  
**KHHS:** Lekan Jones, Rebecca Trimble, Rachel Garvey, Maura Tran

ing left to right in front of enemy goals.

Loustau, a sophomore, has established herself on the opposite side, as a similar slasher as Crews with her strong, inside game putting 31 goals on the board with 12 assists.

Green, who has the speed to break downfield quickly in a Blue Devil offensive assault, also has the bulk strength to battle in front of the net for her county leading 37 goals and 26 assists. Green surpassed the 100 career goals mark before the end of the 2017 season and led Clay to a region play-off berth in her span while the Blue Devils had to contend in district play to perennial power Ponte Vedra High School.

Stoffel, as adept at maneuvering in front of the goal as Green with her own 28 goals and 28 assists, offered coach Stephanie Waugh a double shotgun of scoring prow-

ess with her own 100 goal career in four years.

At the midfield stripe, St. Johns puts junior Alisa Detlefsen at the controls of pushing the ball downfield to where Newton, Crews and Loustau might be for scoring opportunities with her 27 assists leading the Spartans.

Joining Detlefsen as the quarterback of their respective teams are Liz Fogarty of Clay, a junior with 17 goals, 18 assists, who matched up well with her aggressive play style and cannon-powered leg for strong strikes from afar and junior Sade Adamolekun, of Fleming Island, who transferred in in 2017 and immediately became the impact player for coach Darrell Ivey with 22 goals and 12 assists. Finally, probably one of the fastest players in the county, Oakleaf

**SEE PLAYER, 16**

## Softball

from page 13

three runs batted in by Kaitlyn Cline.

With a key district game scheduled for April 4 against Santa Fe (16-3, 5-1), the Lady Indians (11-4, 6-1), coached by Jessica Marquart and Jennifer Fender, are readying themselves for a strong playoff run with a gauntlet of teams in their final two weeks of regular season play that put the Indians up against the best of 6A (Clay), 7A (Gainesville and Middleburg) with 6A Orange Park the final challenge.

Against Middleburg on March 29, the Lady Indians struck first and fast with a first inning 2-0 lead coming from a Molly Crawford triple and a Bre Wells single. An error on a Skylar Rollins grounder set up the first run for Crawford before Wells' single.

With pitcher Megan Moncrief controlling the mound for Keystone Heights with a strikeout and two grounders, the Lady Indians invaded Bronco-ville with a chip on their shoulder attitude of getting runs quick and attacking on defense with vengeance.

Middleburg had flown off to a fast start in the early part of their season with coach Karl Smeltzer and newly-appointed assistant Alan Burnsed, the Bronco baseball architect of a handful of district titles in recent years, pushing the pace of the Lady Bronco attack



Left: Keystone Heights shortstop Molly Crawford makes tenuous save of ground ball in Lady Indians win over Middleburg while pitcher Megan Moncrief fires down a pitch. Lady Indians are 14-8 overall and 7-1 in district 5-5A. The Lady Indians sit atop the district with Santa Fe at 6-2 and Bradford at 5-3. Keystone Heights has three remaining non-district games before hosting the district tournament April 24-27.

for seven wins in nine games after a season-opening 7-2 loss to Oakleaf. Unfortunately for Middleburg, two of the top 7A teams in Florida, Gainesville and Columbia, are in the Broncos district with Ocala Vanguard the fourth team. Middleburg has two losses to Gainesville; 4-0 and 5-0, and with a 1-1



record against Columbia; a 5-3 win and a 13-0 loss, the Broncos will need a bit more firepower to give Smeltzer a second region playoff berth in his second sport. Smeltzer guided the Bronco football team to a region playoff berth in the fall. Part of the reason – injuries. "We lost our best hitter when she

stepped into a hole and injured her ankle," said Smeltzer.

After building the 2-0 lead, Keystone Heights and Middleburg stayed at a three batters apiece pace until the sixth inning when Keystone Heights struck for two more runs from a bunt from Ashleigh Jennings, an error to a Story grounder and a groundout RBI to Rollins. Crawford pushed the fourth run across with a groundout for the final run.

Middleburg threatened in the bottom of the sixth, but a single became a tossed out at second by catcher Bailey Story on a steal attempt. In the seventh, one more great defensive play by Keystone Heights with centerfield Ashleigh Jennings rifling down a Bronco baserunner at home plate ended the game. Against Bradford County, Keystone Heights again scores first with Jennings scoring off a Crawford sacrifice to put the Indians up 1-0 in the first inning.

Bradford would go ahead 3-1 in the second inning 3-1, but Keystone Heights responded three singles; Story, Rollins and Crawford getting the score to 3-2 before Kline grounds out but gets Rollins across home plate before Moncrief grounds out to end the inning tied 3-3.

In their final at-bat, Keystone Heights got the win with an error putt Story at first, a single to Rollins and Wells before Cline cashed in with a 2RBI single to centerfield won the game.

# State

from page 13

going to be the difference. I almost got the 215."

With numbers one and two – D'Marques Johnson of Cedar Creek and Alex Smith of Anclote – both probably knowing that Beall's clean and jerk, a 250 best, was going to be the difference maker, Beall waited as Johnson finished with a 235 clean and jerk and Smith finished with a 220 to total out at 465 and 460, respectively.

With his 210 bench, Beall, who had cleaned 225 easily on his first attempt then missed his second attempt check-in, calculated a best-ever 255 to be the winning attempt for his shot at gold. Before his final lift, third place was locked in.

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

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

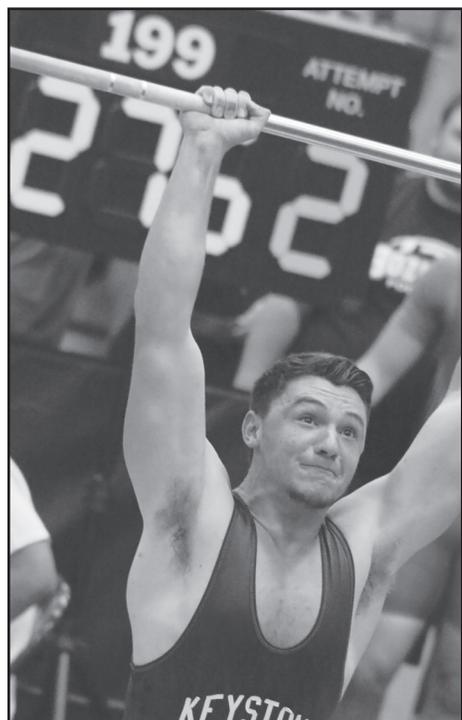
"He's a tough, courageous kid," said Dickinson. "He was going to go for it. He had third locked up and didn't want the tie for first."

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

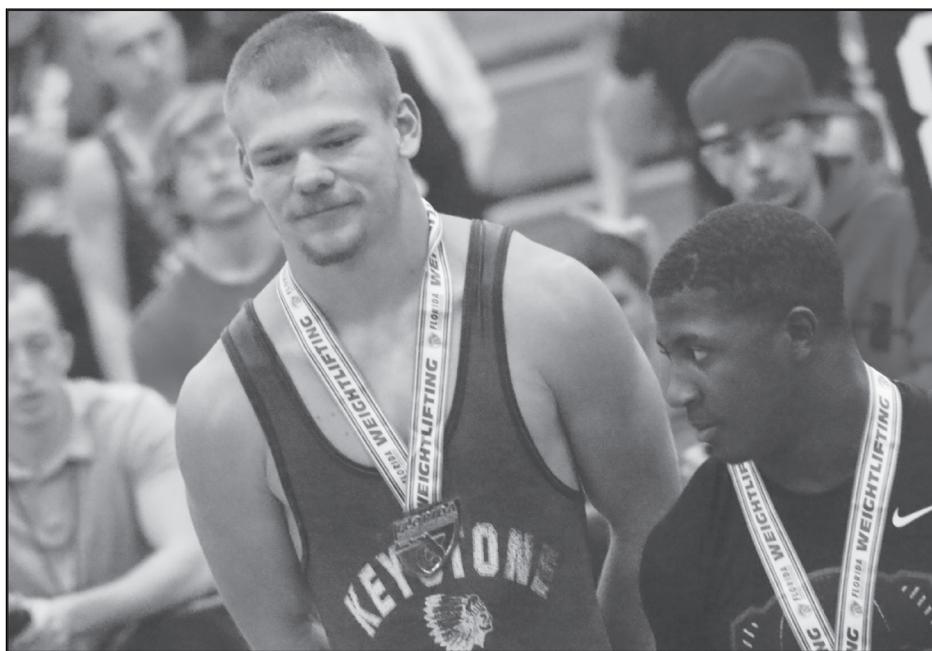
"When I got it up to chest, I actually felt like it was going to happen," said Beall. "When I started my press up, the bar rolled a bit forward and I kind of lost control of it as it went forward and up. I wanted badly to stand on top of the podium but it wasn't going to happen."

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

"Taylor messed up on the bench, but it's nice to have a bad day and still get third," said Lowery. "Staley had a chance at the title in his division. Justin had a nice finish at third. This is a hard day to have to have your best day, but getting third overall against the



Keystone Heights senior Rian Prieto pushes up 275 pounds in the 199 pound division. Prieto finished ninth.



Keystone Heights senior Justin Raysin had a tough battle in the Class 1A 183 pound weight class and came out with a third place medal.

Below: Keystone Heights' Brandon Spivey had the top finish for the Indians with his second place finish.



likes of Madison County and Baker County is not bad."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Keystone Heights' finished with 14 team points to join Madison County and Baker County as the only three teams with double digit team points in the 70 team field.

Also in Class 1A, Clay High senior Marcus Jones finished fifth in 219 with a 635 total with a 690 total from Madison County's Diante Hartsfield. Clay also had Gabe Nealy at 139 who finished eighth with a 425 total.

"It was crazy, I improved from last year, but it was a battle," said Jones, a football linebacker and fullback at Clay High and heading to University of Central Florida for competitive cheerleading. "I just love watching guys compete and get after it. My bench

was a big improvement."

For Clay High coach Rodney Keller, who produced two state titles for the girls weightlifting team, said the boys had a tough road ahead with the immense state wide talent.

"The classes were crazy tight with five pounds here or there the difference," said Keller. "Our plan was to get five out of six lifts and then figure where we were and go for it. Gabe lifted well in his first state meet."

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

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

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

"My bench was not what I wanted; 370, and I had the second best clean of the class at 330," said Bizzell. "The Baker County guy lifted a 350 to tie me at 700, but he weighed in less and got the third."

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

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

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

"I was pretty nervous out there, but now it's time to get ready for football," said Grey.

In Class 2A, Fleming Island's Tyler Nguyen was top finisher with his second place in the 154 pound division with a 605 total behind winner Justin Scott of Choctawhatchee's 670. Middleburg's Tyler Braswell finished fourth at 119 with a 400 total behind winner Andy Montalvo, of Columbia, who totaled 465. Montalvo was also the region champion.

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

Also for Middleburg was Brent Caviness at 238, 18th at 595.

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

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Keystone Heights midfielder DeeDee Taylor was the top scoring threat for the Lady Indians soccer team.

## Player

from page 14

High junior Michelle Kanaskie, with her 16 goals, completes the midfield foursome.

On the defensive end of the field, St. Johns senior Olivia Schultz parlayed some experience from watching big sister Maddie Schultz' years of play in front her (Now at Air Force Academy) into being a stalwart for Pickett in front of goal. Oakleaf junior Zoe Perez was coach Bret Rountree's wall on de-

fense that usually marked up the top scoring threat from opposing teams while Ridgeview High senior Anna Nesi has been a mainstay for coach Trevor Clark.

In the goalie spot, though Spartan senior Cassidy Wasdin may not have the huge saves numbers of others, she was not found asleep at the wheel when her number was called upon in those rare moments an enemy imposed some offense past Schultz and the Spartan defenders. Wasdin answered huge with two magnificent shutout-saving saves; one off a penalty kick, in the Spartans' 2-0 title win.



Keystone Heights midfielder Ciao Carvalho was one of top assist makers in county with his passes adding to forward Jesus Perez' 45 goals for the year. Carvalho was a Clay Today All County first team selection.



Keystone Heights forward Jesus Perez was top threat in county once in front of enemy goals with his 45 goals for the season. Perez was a Clay Today All County first team selection. See full team at [www.claytodayonline.com](http://www.claytodayonline.com)

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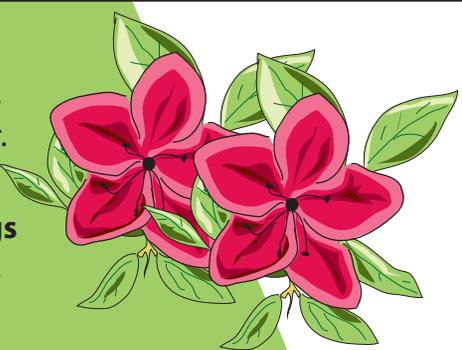
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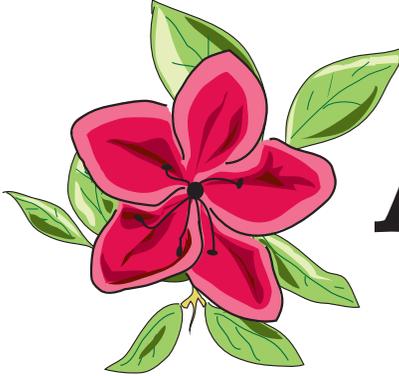
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*The Beat is a look at some of the crime activity reported to the Clay County Sheriff's Office in the previous month. Included here are arrests, police briefs and crimes reported by and involving Lake Area residents in the past 30 days until press time.*

**Wednesday, April 12**

Brandi Hall, 25, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Attempting to Defraud Financial Institution By Schemes  
Joy Johnson, 60, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Three Felony Warrants

**Tuesday, April 11**

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

**Monday, April 10**

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

**Friday, April 7**

Daniel Holder, 29, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Resisting an Officer, DWLSR, Grand Theft Auto

**Thursday, April 6**

Joseph Mitchell, 48, Starke, CCSO, DWLSR

**Tuesday, April 4**

Dustin Johns, 33, Palatka, CCSO, Two Counts of Retail Theft \$300+  
Kirstia Johns, 26, Hollister, Fla., CCSO, Two Counts of Retail Theft \$300+  
Benjamin Sylvestre, 27, Palatka, CCSO, Failure to Appear for Court

**Saturday, April 1**

James Cook, 71, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Simple Battery  
Dwayne Tennant, 39, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Simple Battery, Resisting an Officer, Disorderly Conduct

**Friday, March 31**

Stephanie Kapp, 27, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Knowingly Give False Info to a Law Enforcement Officer

**Thursday, March 30**

Lee Bourgois, 58, Starke, CCSO, FTA - DWLSR

**Tuesday, March 28**

Samuel Holloway, 40, Florahome, CCSO, DWLSR  
Jacob Murrhee, 27, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Fleeing and Eluding Police With Lights and Siren Active  
Daniel Spivey, 28, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Habitual Traffic Offender

**Monday, March 27**

Thomas Robinson, 23, Hampton, CCSO, Domestic Battery

**Friday, March 24**

Deedee Montague, 27, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Violate Probation - Community Control

**Thursday, March 23**

Levy McCloud, 37, Starke, CCSO, Petit Theft  
Heather Wells, 25, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Burglary, Grand Theft \$300-4,999

**Tuesday, March 21**

Wells, Heather, 25, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Petit Theft

**Saturday, March 18**

Kenneth Stanford, 37, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Violate Probation - Community Control  
Katrina Williams, 35, Melrose, CCSO, Domestic Battery

**Friday, March 17**

James Adler, 57, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Criminal Mischief  
Lori Deramus, 41, Interlachen, CCSO, Grand Theft Auto, Two Counts of Burglary

**Man faces additional felonies after February arrest**

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



Daniel Holder

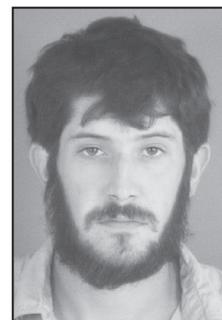
The Bradford County Sheriff's Office arrested Daniel Arlon J. Holder, 29, on February 9 after he was discovered to be driving a stolen vehicle from Pasco County. Bradford County officers contacted the Clay County Sheriff's Office after finding several power tools and a shotgun in the vehicle.

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

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

**High-speed chase ends in 6-month jail sentence**

BELMORE – A Keystone Heights man was sentenced to six months in the Clay County Jail on March 27 for one count of driving under the influence and fleeing and eluding law enforcement in a high-speed chase that occurred September 25, 2016.



Jacob Murrhee

Judge Michael Sharrit handed down the sentence after Jacob Daniel Murrhee, 26, of Keystone Heights entered a plea agreement.

The case began as a would-be traffic stop after a Clay County Sheriff's Office deputy witnessed Murrhee weaving in and out of his lane while driving a Dodge truck on State Road 21 South of State Road 16 heading south. According to the arrest warrant, Murrhee continued to the intersection of Blanding Boulevard and Hall and Boree Road, but was driving south in the northbound lane for approximately 300 yards. The officer turned on the patrol car siren and lights and began following Murrhee who then slowed down to 5-10 miles per hour, stuck his hand out of the car and waved at the officer and then accelerated "at a high rate of speed." During the chase, officers said, "a large amount of trash flew from the truck bed and struck Lt. [Dan] Mahla's patrol vehicle, to include beer cans and an empty beer box."

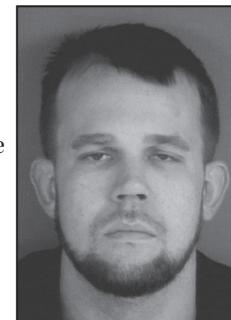
Murrhee turned left on to Belmore Road eventually ending up on Jones Creek Road where officers said he drove through a dry lake bed, at which point, they stopped the chase.

Murrhee has a list of 17 traffic infractions on his record dating to 2007, as well as an armed burglary conviction for which he was sentenced to two years in prison from 2009.

**Lake Asbury man charged in driveway shooting**

MIDDLEBURG – A Lake Asbury man was arrested April 3 after allegedly following a vehicle to a home and shooting at passengers in a car with a gun.

The Clay County Sheriff's Office said Justin Lee Croy, 27, was following his friend, who was on his way to Croy's house to pick up his vehicle.



Justin Croy

Police said when Croy's friend arrived to Croy's driveway, he and the others in the car noticed a vehicle that had been following them parked 50 feet behind them. Croy then stepped out of this vehicle with a gun in hand and fired a single shot in his friend's direction. Croy's friend, police said, attempted to drive away. Croy followed, according to the police report.

A traffic stop uncovered two handguns and 57 rounds of ammunition, Hydrocodone and Oxycodone, police said. Croy was arrested and charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon without intent to kill, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and controlled substance drug possession without a prescription, say police.

At press time, Croy remained in the Clay County Jail with a bond set at \$350,009.00.

**Arrest made in 2-year-old DUI manslaughter**

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – A man wanted in a 2015 motorcycle accident death is free on bond after turning himself in to authorities.

The Clay County Sheriff's Office reports that former Lawtey resident Christopher Wayne Gowens, 39, who had been living in Key West, turned himself in at the Clay County Jail on March 22. He is charged with one count each of DUI manslaughter and reckless driving in connection with the July 11, 2015 crash that occurred near the intersection of Black Creek Drive and County Road 218 in Middleburg.



Christopher Gowens

According to the Florida Highway Patrol investigation, Gowens was travelling on CR 218 with his wife, Shane' Griffin Gowens, riding as a passenger. Corporal J. Tolman states in the arrest warrant that Gowens was driving too fast when he approached a curve and "that he willfully and wantonly disregarded safety which resulted in collision and caused the death of Mrs. Shane' Griffin Gowens."

Gowens' motorcycle traveled off the road into a culvert embankment that caused both Gowens and his wife to be thrown from the bike. Shane' Griffin Gowens was pronounced dead at 2835 Black Creek Dr.,

# Police

from page 17

while Christopher Gowens was transported to Shands Hospital in Gainesville. At the hospital, a DUI blood test showed his blood-alcohol content was .21 percent, almost three times the legal limit of .08 percent.

The crash investigation showed Gowens was traveling approximately 53 miles per hour in a 35-mph zone in the curve, which has posted caution signs of 25 miles per hour.

Gowens is free from the Clay County Jail after posting \$76,006 bond.

## Police charge expectant father with beating wife

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – A Keystone Heights man was arrested February 27, after allegedly attempting to strangle his pregnant wife to death.

Police said Carl Leslie Bryce, 28, was at home with his wife when, according to the victim, an argument about him and his wife's relationship occurred. The argument led to Bryce become angry and pushed his pregnant wife to the ground.

Bryce began to strangle the victim while telling her that he wanted her to die. Bryce's wife begged him to stop while screaming loud enough for their neighbor to hear, according to the Clay County Sheriff's Office report. Bryce did not stop and told his wife that he will kill their unborn child, at which point, he began shoving his knee into her stomach.

The victim eventually escaped, ran out of



Carl Bryce

the house and called the police. When police arrived, Bryce was nowhere to be found. Police eventually saw Bryce pull his vehicle back up to the front of the house where they arrested him.

Bryce denied the fight with his wife had occurred. While in transport, Bryce told police he was having a heart attack. Bryce was faking the heart attack and after he realized the police knew he was faking, he asked the police to shoot him because he didn't want to live anymore, according to the police report.

Bryce was arrested and charged with aggravated battery on a pregnant female and domestic battery by strangulation. He is currently free on bond.

## Alleged truck thief charged

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – An Interlachen woman was arrested March 17, after allegedly stealing a truck and some of the possessions in the truck.

The Clay County Sheriff's Office responded to a call from the victim who told police that his blue Dodge truck was missing on March 17. The victim also told police that there was an unfamiliar black Ford truck in his driveway when he got home. While talking with the victim, dispatch informed police of a vehicle that matched the description of the victim's missing vehicle found nearby, according to the police report.

Police relocated to where the missing vehicle was reportedly seen. Once there, the police conducted a search and found the truck in question. Police approached the camper on the site in search of who might be



Lori Deramus

responsible for stealing the truck. Eventually, after attempting to conceal herself under a blanket, Lori Ann Deramus, 41, of Interlachen, exited the camper.

Police discovered multiple items from the stolen truck on her person including blank checks and insurance cards. Deramus refused to speak to police. Soon after, the victim arrived at the scene and confirmed that the vehicle and stolen possessions were his.

Deramus was arrested and is charged with burglary and grand theft auto. At press time, she remained in the Clay County Jail with a bond amount set at \$65,009.

## Man charged with felony illegal dumping

MIDDLEBURG – Police say a Middleburg turned himself in to the Clay County Sheriff's Office March 16 after he learned there was a warrant for his arrest.

CCSO charged Joseph Russell Patterson III, 20, with one felony count of littering more than 500 pounds of commercial or hazardous waste after conducting an investigation.

According to the arrest warrant, a property owner in the 2000 block of Mosley Road had contracted with Patterson to remove and properly haul away solid waste debris, such as yard waste, old



Joseph Patterson III

tires, concrete, bricks and other debris.

Police said the property owner had given Patterson a partial payment – including landfill disposal fees – to start the cleanup project. However, on Feb. 27, the property owner met with Patterson where he saw that Patterson had a utility trailer full of debris in tow.

According to police, "The debris was later illegally dumped on a County roadway located at the 5100 block of Hogarth Rd."

During the investigation, CCSO environmental crimes investigators found Patterson had illegally dumped a total of 12,360 pounds of waste and left it in the open roadway.

Patterson was booked on the charges after posting a \$1,003 bond.

## Melrose man dies in solo crash

HAWTHORNE – The Florida Highway Patrol reports that a Melrose man died in a one-vehicle accident near the intersection of State Road 20 and Gordon Chapel Road just east of Hawthorne.

Police said Aaron Moore, 40, of Melrose, was driving a 2006 Buick Rendezvous westbound on SR 20 when it crossed into the eastbound lane, went off the roadway and struck a tree. Police said the Buick caught on fire upon impact and Moore was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident.

Police said he was not wearing a safety belt when the crash occurred March 21 at 11:10 a.m.

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## Auction

from page 6

Clay High senior Everett Mulford, who has been raising pigs his whole life, showed his first hog at the fair this year. The hog, named Double Stuff for her Oreo cookie coloration, not to mention her heft, was a standout among the other pigs he's raised, he said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Another first-timer at this year's fair was 10-year-old Hunter Russell who attends St. Johns Christian Day School. Russell, who has helped out his friend Ashlee Hughes, a senior at Middleburg High School before, is a hog show prodigy. This year, Hughes' hog earned reserve grand champion, while Russell took home the top prize with his pig She-Bacon.

"I loved watching her grow, feeding her, watering her, giving her baths," Russell said.

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

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

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

## Pavilion

from page 2

yet durable fiberglass.

The bandshell became an essential centerpiece to city concerts. Now, however, with amplification devices so common in music, the bandshell wouldn't become so much a necessity, but draw others to the community.

The restoration is as much for the community as it for others outside the community. As the levels of Lake Geneva disappeared, so did much of Keystone Heights' tourism. A redesigned pavilion would help guide new tourism,

but a restored shoreline would drive it.

A new bill seeks to allocate money to do just that. Senate Bill 234, introduced by Fleming Island Republican Rob Bradley, would pipe water from Black Creek near State Road 16 and Penney Farms to Lake Magnolia on Camp Blanding property.

The project calls for the construction of a pipeline that would have a 10-million-gallon transmission capacity. Current estimates put a \$41 million price tag on the project with completion slated for June 2023. It would be paid for using funds from Amendment 1, which was approved by Florida voters in 2014.

Senate Bill 234 sailed through the senate without question, while its house com-

panion, House Bill 847, is currently dead in the water without so much as a hearing scheduled yet.

Reconstruction for the pavilion would follow the same timeline as the proposed water project.

The city council restored the pavilion's facade and interior in the 90s, but the new proposal would be a more dramatic restoration.

The restoration comes at a time when Keystone Heights is trying to plan for the future.

"It's like everything, it takes time," Brown said. "We're pushing forward to do what we can for the lakes and keep a positive attitude."

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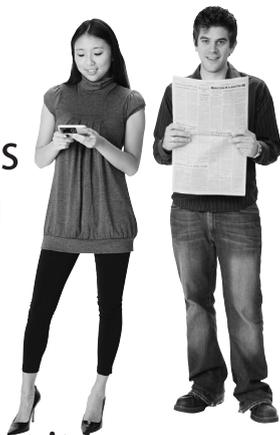


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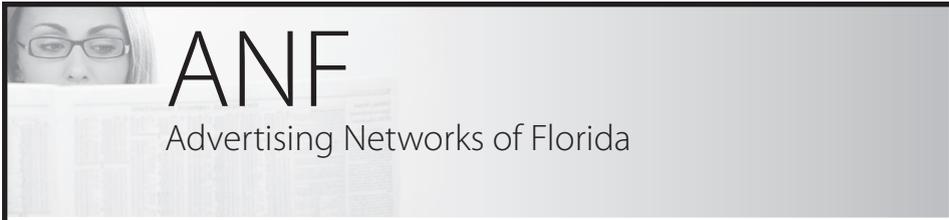
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