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Thursday, October 26, 2017

Vol. 4 • No. 10



STAFF PHOTO BY KILE BREWER

NAS Jacksonville sailor Jeremy Weldon hugs his son Joshua after returning from deployment last Thursday.

VP-26 returns from first P-8 deployment

By Kile Brewer
The Oakleaf

JACKSONVILLE – Hundreds gathered Oct. 13 at a 1940s-era hangar on the Naval Air Station Jacksonville

runway to welcome home about 200 members of the VP-26 Tridents from a six-month deployment to the Western Pacific.

During the trip, the men spent

time in Japan, and met members of foreign navies from Australia, Japan, South Korea and a variety of south-east Asian countries. They showed

SEE HOME, 6

Report: Irma debris cleanup slow

By Jesse Hollett
The Oakleaf

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Clay County residents and officials are still carrying out recovery efforts a month after Hurricane Irma ripped through Florida.

Multiple natural disasters across the country and the widespread destruction from Hurricane Irma in September is overtaxing local government recovery efforts.

Countywide, 42 families are currently receiving Federal Emergency Management Agency transitional shelter assistance, which provides temporary housing to families whose homes received substantial damage.

Clay County Emergency Management Director John Ward gave the Board of County Commissioners an update on cleanup and recovery efforts at the commission's Oct. 10 meeting. He said roughly 450 homes in the county are either completely destroyed having sustained substantial damage from flooding and winds.

Current estimates place Clay County's share of damage from the storm at more than \$1 million.

Meanwhile, water levels along the North and South prongs of Black Creek remain two feet above normal levels. He said homes along the creek are now in danger due to

SEE DEBRIS, 7



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State of river report gives mixed review

By Jesse Hollett
The Oakleaf

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – An annual report shows the health of the St. Johns River and its tributaries has improved while other aspects continue to worsen.

The 10th annual State of the River Report published in September by researchers from the University of North Florida, Jacksonville University, Florida Southern College and Valdosta State University shows mixed results regarding the health of the St. Johns River and its tributaries that show the need for continued testing.

Trends from the latest report show lower nitrogen and phosphorus levels from years prior. High nutrient levels in waterbodies can contribute to the growth of toxic algae blooms, which harm marine wildlife.

“Our summary of 10-year findings shows long-term drops in both nitrogen and phosphorus, which is good news about an important indicator that regional organizations have worked to improve. But algal blooms, which come from high

nitrogen and phosphorus, haven’t decreased yet,” said Radha Pyati,



Gerry Pinto, associate research scientist at the Jacksonville University Marine Science Research Institute, along with other researchers recently released a 10-year report on the health of the St. Johns River. There is a growing concern over non-native species, such as the Lionfish, which has not natural predator and the Cuban tree frog.

chair and professor of chemistry at the University of North Florida.

Chlorophyll-a levels in the river, however, have remained largely unchanged over a 10-year timeframe and show no indication of decreasing soon, according to the report. Chlo-

rophyll a is the type of chlorophyll found in cyanobacteria – the bacteria that causes toxic algae blooms. Researchers monitor the density of chlorophyll-a in a waterbody to gauge the likelihood that toxic algae blooms will grow there.

Dissolved oxygen levels within the St. Johns River has improved overall. However, researchers said, oxygen levels in most tributaries remain unsatisfactory and worsening. Researchers said the lowest oxygen levels recorded occur in the summer months.

Many tributaries continue to sustain unhealthy levels of fecal coliform bacteria. Researchers often use the bacteria, which is ubiquitous in mammal feces, as an indicator of the presence of dangerous pathogens in the water.

Fecal coliform levels in St. Johns River tributaries have been rated unsatisfactory for all 10 years of the report series due to levels persistently higher than water quality criteria. Despite concerted efforts to identify remedies to these contaminations, sometimes referred to as Basin Management Action Plans, “this stubborn problem of fecal coliform bacteria persists in some tributaries,” Pyati said. “It’s getting better, although it’s not below water quality standards, in some tributaries, but in some

SEE RIVER, 11

Wanted: Your transportation ideas for the future

By Jesse Hollett
The Oakleaf

ORANGE PARK — The North Florida Transportation Planning Organization is giving every Northeast Florida resident the chance to shape future transportation projects simply by journaling.

The TPO and the Florida Department of Transportation are sponsoring a survey to get a better grasp of when, where and how people travel. The goal is to get a better picture of travel patterns of motorists in Clay, Baker, Nassau, Putnam, Duval and St. Johns Counties.

Residents who sign up will record the transportation habits of their entire household for a day.

The survey should be taken by a household that is willing to commit to the time of the survey and record

accurate answers.

Residents who participate will contribute data that, once aggregated, will give FDOT and the TPO a look at how residents travel, where they go, how long it takes and what residents do when they arrive.

“This is really that very, very first step,” said Jeff Sheffield, TPO executive director. “So, this is that input that begins to develop sort of that long term big picture for the region, and as projects begin to come out of that progress, then you get into even more public input as the very specific projects begin to take shape. We begin to go out into the public where those projects are affecting.”

Along with the knowledge of having shaped the future of transportation in Northeast Florida, residents can also win a bevy of prizes includ-

ing an iPhone X and Amazon gift cards for their participation.

Sheffield said the last time the TPO held a travel survey similar to this was 15 years ago, when the TPO was still in the habit of collecting this data using roadside surveys.

With the widespread proliferation of the internet, however, FDOT has been able to put the survey process online.

Still, Sheffield said, it’s not easy to get a resident to take time out of their days for transportation, especially if it’s for data that will be used for projects that are “not in their back yards.”

“It’s hard for the public to understand how hard it is in the early planning stages unless [the project] is right next to them,” Sheffield said.

Once authorities aggregate the

travel data, they will use the data to shape and then seek possible funding for an unmeasurable number of projects. Data such as this helps transportation authorities plan roads more efficiently and, when there are state or federal dollars on available, prove a need exists for one project or another.

Sheffield hopes to attract 4,000 households throughout the region. He said if 4,000 households answer the survey honestly, then it would represent an accurate and diverse cross section of residents within the region.

Transportation authorities hope to finish the study by November if they can drum up enough support and hit their 4,000 household target.

To take the survey, visit www.NorthFloridaTravelSurvey.com.



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Who ya' gonna' call ?

By Kile Brewer
The Oakleaf

MIDDLEBURG – As the Halloween season approaches, the Ghostbusters of Middleburg are gearing up for their favorite month of the year.

While they actually don't fight any ghosts or evil spirits that might be stirred up during the spookiest time of year, they usually schedule the bulk of their yearly engagements in the weeks leading up to Halloween.

The group started about five years ago when member Adam Edens decided to build his very own Ecto-mobile replica with parts he had on hand at the time.

"I had an '86 Pontiac sitting in my yard," Edens said. "I decided to finally do something with it. So, I set it up and started taking it to car shows."

After the car was finished, Edens began taking the car throughout the state to shows, and eventually met other Ghostbusters fans. After talking with one another, they assembled their jumpsuits and proton packs, and as of 2015, the Ghostbusters of

Middleburg were born.

The group travels throughout the state, mostly in and around Clay County and Jacksonville, to cosplay conventions, birthday parties and Halloween events. They also make regular appearances in parades.

The members include Edens, Alan Wittkamp, and Matt Blocker, all of Middleburg. Jeffrey Minigh, Wittkamp's younger brother, is a recent addition to the team. Minigh, a student at the Seamark Ranch school just west of Penney Farms, serves the group as a ghostbusting apprentice.

Often the Middleburg group will meet up with St. Augustine-based Ghostbuster couple Cameron and Teresa Fisher, who make up the two-person Ancient City Ghostbusters, complete with their own pickup truck Ectomobile. The pair met the Middleburg Ghostbusters at an event and the groups have maintained contact since, making up two of the area's most official Ghostbuster

SEE GHOSTBUSTERS, 8



STAFF PHOTO BY KILE BREWER

Clay County resident Alan Wittkamp demonstrates his PKE meter and Ectogoggles props Oct. 15 at Jax Maker Con in downtown Jacksonville. Wittkamp was at the event with other members of the Ghostbusters of Middleburg.

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Initiative gives cash for good grades

By Kile Brewer
The Oakleaf

MIDDLEBURG – About 20 students lined up on the football field Oct. 6 evening at Middleburg High School, but they weren't playing football, or performing in the marching band. They were being celebrated for academic achievement and some handed checks for as much as \$200.

The students received cash incentives provided by a grant from the National Math and Science Initiative, an organization that funded a college preparatory program in the Clay County School District at just over \$4 million to be used during the course of three years. The program urges students to enroll in Advanced Placement courses, and upon passing those courses, awards the student \$100 for each class they make it through with a GPA of 3.0 or above. Teachers are paid \$100 for each of their student who makes it through an AP course. Though the cash incentives help entice kids to enroll in upper-level classes, they aren't the

only thing the grant provides.

"The ultimate goal is to encourage STEM related AP classes," said Justin Williams Middleburg High vice principal and NMSI coordinator. "They set out to achieve that goal by providing training for teachers and students. They also provide money to schools to fulfill the needs that need to be met in order to properly host AP courses."

Middleburg received about \$8,200 of the \$4 million total this year for materials and cash incentives, which paid out about 70 students at the school, according to Williams.

The grant is in its second year, with the 2018-2019 school year being the last chance for students and teachers to take advantage of the funding, but the district saw results after the inaugural year.

Superintendent Addison Davis said that in the first year, 772 students enrolled in AP courses district-wide. That was an increase of about 70 students from the previous year. This year he expects that number to go



STAFF PHOTO BY KILE BREWER

Middleburg High School students celebrate their cash incentives provided by the National Math and Science Initiative for passing Advance Placement courses with a 3.0 GPA or above.

up even more. Davis said that while the program gets results with cash incentives, the ultimate goal is what makes the program so attractive at the district level.

"They've done this in other counties throughout the nation and see significant lifts in the number of students who are prepared to pass AP exams. They provide extensive professional development to AP teachers throughout the year to increase content knowledge," he said. "But there's no harm in incentivizing, it's attractive to the kids and it encourages them to succeed."

Middleburg senior Kaley Petrosky, 17, stood on the track at the edge of the football field talking with friends, holding a big check in her hands

made out to her for \$100.

"There was never money before, but the college credit was worth it," said Petrosky. "But with [NMSI] you get a little extra."

After graduating, Petrosky plans to attend Florida State University to study business administration.

Standing with his students just before the group was welcomed onto the field at the start of halftime, Middleburg High Principal Roger Dailey spoke about the group of students behind him, checks in hand, fresh out of last semester's AP courses.

"I'll support any added incentive to motivate kids to focus on things that are long term and beneficial – we need that," Dailey said. "It validates their hard work."

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Walking for Alicia

By Jesse Hollett
The Oakleaf

ORANGE PARK – On April 19, 2013, a Dodge Charger stopped Alicia and David Gladden's life.



David Gladden

The charger, driven by a U.S. Navy officer under the influence of alcohol, flew into oncoming traffic on Roosevelt Boulevard near Interstate 10 and crashed the 27-year old's Saturn, kill-

ing her instantly.

The wisdom of time and distance has muddled his hostility towards the sailor who killed his daughter. Instead of anger, he replaced it with a sense of understanding and forgiveness that was originally foreign.

"I don't want to give him a pass because of what he did, but I give him a pass," David said. "Because I think as individuals – he had people with him. He had friends that were with him, and they went with him. They got in the car with him, they followed him, none of them thought to say, "hey, you're not driving."

It wasn't long after the crash that David came into contact with Texas-based advocacy group Mother's Against Drunk Driving. The non-

SEE ALICIA, 10



David Gladden's daughter Alicia was killed four years ago after a drunk driver lost control of his vehicle and slammed into her Saturn.



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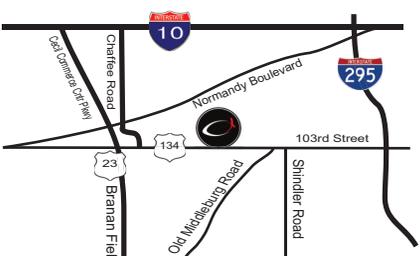
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FINANCIAL FOCUS:

Required Withdrawals from Retirement Plans: What Should You Know?

You may spend decades contributing to your IRA and 401(k). But, eventually, you'll need to use this money. Before that day arrives, you'll want to be familiar with the rules governing withdrawals – and you'll want to know just how much you should take out.

To begin with, withdrawals from traditional employer-sponsored retirement plans like these fall under the Internal Revenue Service's "required minimum distributions" (RMD) guidelines. (You aren't required to take these distributions from a Roth IRA.) Here are some of the key RMD points to keep in mind:

You need to take distributions by age 70-1/2. You generally should begin taking RMDs in the year in which you turn 70-1/2. If you don't take your first RMD during that year, you must take it no later than April 1 of the following year. If you do put it off until April 1, you must take two distributions in one year.

If you don't take your RMDs on time, you may have to pay the IRS a 50 percent penalty tax on the taxable portion of your uncollected distribution — so make sure you know your dates.

You can take more than the minimum. You can withdraw more than the RMD, but, as the word "required" suggests, you can't withdraw less.

You may be able to delay RMDs in an employer's retirement plan if you're still working. If your employer's retirement plan permits it, you may not have to take RMDs if you are still working and you are 70-1/2 or older. However, this exception won't apply if you own 5 percent or more of your company.

and who is more than 10 years younger. Your tax advisor can help you make this selection.

So, now that you know the basic rules of RMDs, you'll need to consider their impact on your retirement income. As mentioned above, you can certainly take out more than the RMD, but should you?

If you need the extra money, then you'll have to take it. However, when determining how much you should take beyond your RMDs, you'll need to weigh some other factors.

For one thing, if you can delay taking Social Security, you'll get bigger checks, so you might be able to lower the amounts you take from your 401(k) and IRA.

Another factor to consider is the size and composition of your investment portfolio held outside your retirement accounts. If you have a sizable amount of investments, with some of them providing regular income, you may be able to afford to take out only your RMDs, or perhaps just slightly more. On the other hand, if your 401(k) and IRA make up the vast majority of your investment holdings, you might need to rely on them much more heavily.

In any case, though, you will need to establish an appropriate withdrawal rate for all your investments to ensure you won't outlive your money. A financial professional can help you calculate this rate. Do whatever it takes to maximize your benefits from your IRA and 401(k). They're valuable assets – so use them wisely.

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To determine your RMD, you'll need to use either the Uniform Lifetime Table, which is based on your life expectancy, or the Joint Life Table, if you have a spouse who is the sole beneficiary



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STAFF PHOTO BY KILE BREWER

The Weldon family, of Oakleaf, wait outside the hangar Oct. 13 as Jeremy Weldon made his way from the P-8A Poseidon aircraft that carried him home after a six-month deployment to the western Pacific.

Home

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off their skills to foreign audiences during air shows and other events, but spent the majority of their time perfecting their skills on the P-8A Poseidon aircraft.

Though other commands at NAS Jax have already made the switch to the P-8, this deployment was the first for the Tridents on the updated version of the tried-and-true P-3C Orion aircraft.

The group spent about a year training on the new plane before being deployed, something Commanding Officer Cmdr. Andrew Klosterman said was key to their success on this particular deployment.

“The first [deployment] is always more challenging,” Klosterman said. “I could not have asked for our crew to perform any better than they did.”

According to Klosterman, the P-8 comes with a steep learning curve. The plane features a lot of new technology which he described as being much more advanced than what they are used to. With the aircrew operating as a team to complete missions, everyone has to remain constantly aware and know all of the minute details of their job to ensure things run smoothly without error. Klosterman said his men and women didn't bat an eye during their trip.

“Overall how we operate as a crew doesn't change a lot [on the new aircraft],” Klosterman said. “The P-8 requires a crew of nine instead

of 11, but every person has a job and the jobs don't change much.”

The crews tallied about 4,000 total flight hours during the deployment, with about 11,000 hours of maintenance being completed to keep the planes in top form between outings. This trip was a welcomed success for all members of VP-26 as they are now fully transitioned away from the P-3.

The men returned in three separate planes. First came two P-8s, each holding the air crew, pilots and officers. The last plane looked more



Sailors and families wait in a hangar at Naval Air Station Jacksonville on Oct. 13 as three airplanes carrying about 200 sailors approached the base following a six-month deployment.

like a jumbo jet used for trans-Pacific passenger flights, which carried more than 100 members of the maintenance crew.

The first P-8 to arrive held Oakleaf resident Jeremy Weldon.

“I usually get pretty emotional,” said Weldon's wife Jennifer as she stood with her children just before the first two planes arrived. “When he's gone, I get to play the role of both parents. I get to juggle all the carpooling and sporting events.”

At the front of the group was Weldon's son Joshua. As officials got word from the approaching planes and announced the arrival estimate: “Two minutes!” Joshua began to hop around, getting ready to hug his dad for the first time in a half a year. The family readied themselves to run out to meet Jeremy.

“[Joshua] usually beats me to him,” Jennifer said. “He's quicker than I am in my heels.”

As Jeremy made his way down the stairs and toward his family, Joshua broke free and sprinted to his dad, flying into the sailor's arms. The two stood there hugging as the rest of the family joined.

This was Jeremy's fourth deployment since being stationed at NAS Jax about five years ago. His kids are older than they were when Jeremy had to leave them for the first time, but things haven't changed much in his head.

“You get used to it a little bit, but every time it's the same emotions,” he said. “You still have to leave your family.”

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Debris

from page 1

record-setting tide levels.

“We’re going to be dealing with that for about another week,” Ward said.

Ward said those tidal levels will more than likely return in November. According to Ward, more than 4,000 volunteers from numerous organizations – largely organized by the nonprofit coordinator Clay SafetyNet Alliance – put in 40,374 volunteer hours on 735 projects, which includes anything from “muck out” services – meaning flood cleanup – to tree work.

“Our volunteers are pumped,” Ward said. “These guys have been doing a phenomenal job.”

According to Ward, nearly 19,000 residents have taken part in Florida disaster food assistance through the Department of Children and Families and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Lines for food assistance Saturday and Sunday at the Clay County Fairgrounds lasted hours and attracted thousands.

Meanwhile, residents who must detour and get around the closed County Road 218 Bridge that was hit during Irma, might soon get relief from the endeavor. Officials issued

an emergency repair contract for the bridge. Building materials should arrive before the end of the week and work will begin shortly after. Officials expect the construction to be completed no later than Dec. 3.

Water velocity scoured dirt surrounded the bridge’s support beams during the hurricane. County officials became concerned for driver safety and the bridge’s structural integrity after divers discovered the issue.

Ironically, officials slated the bridge for restoration in three years as part of a four-lane widening project to be carried out by the Florida Department of Transportation in conjunction with a Blanding Boulevard widening project.

Commissioners raised concerns over the timeliness of trash pickups after the hurricane. A month after winds subsided, much of the county still has pieces of their trees and even homes on their lawns waiting for pickup.

Representatives with Advanced Disposal – the county’s garbage company – said the combination of overtaxed staff and a tremendous backlog is to blame for the slow debris pickup.

“What would take us normally a day to accomplish one of our yard waste routes is now taking several days. Our trucks can only take so



much material, then they’ve to go back to the landfill,” said Greg Huntington, Florida municipal marketing and government affairs manager for Advanced Disposal.

According to Huntington, in a normal route, one out of every four homes typically has yard debris that typically weighs an average of 12 pounds.

After Irma, nearly Clay County every resident has some sort of yard waste on their curb that weighs, on average, 86 pounds.

Huntington said since the hur-

ricane, the company has completed Monday and Tuesday’s yard waste routes. They finished Tuesday’s yard waste route on Saturday. He expects workers to finish Thursday’s route by Oct. 13 and expects normal operations should resume on Oct. 23.

County staff, Advanced Disposal and contractors have removed 98,000 cubic yards of debris, and Ward said officials aren’t even a quarter of the way done with cleanup.

Officials said workers removed 110,000 cubic yards of debris after last year’s Hurricane Matthew.



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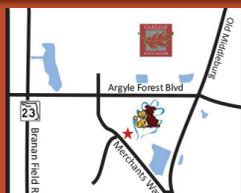
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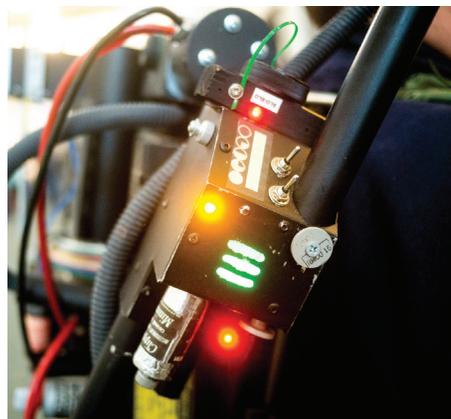
Ghostbusters

from page 3

teams. Though the guys don't hold Ph.D.'s in Parapsychology, they play the part well. They are so convincing that they received a request from a spooked Clay County resident following an appearance in last year's Middleburg Fourth of July parade.

"We got a detailed email on our Facebook page, they wanted us to come check it out," Edens said. "I told them that we just do the movie stuff, then reworded the about section on our page after that."

After making the necessary changes to their Facebook page, Edens said they hope people understand now that they are simply a



Ghostbusters of Middleburg member Alan Wittkamp's proton pack features many of the decals and lights used on the original props in the 1984 movie.

cosplay group and not serious paranormal investigators. He did say they are happy to act as a referral service for any reports of ghosts they hear, and typically pass along information for a St. Augustine-based paranormal investigation group.

Wherever the groups go they typically draw a crowd – not surprising as four men dressed in full blown Ghostbusters costumes walk side-by-side away from an Ectomobile, recreating an iconic image straight from the films. Countless children swarmed the men as they stood in the doorway of the Jacksonville Pub-



STAFF PHOTOS BY KILE BREWER

A replica of the Ghostbusters Ectomobile sits outside the library in downtown Jacksonville last weekend during the library's Maker Con. The car is owned by Middleburg resident Adam Edens who operates the Ghostbusters of Middleburg with some friends and fellow cosplayers.



The Ghostbusters of Middleburg brought their Ectomobile to the downtown branch of the Jacksonville Public Library system Oct. 14 while making an appearance at the Jax Maker Con hosted by the library.

lic Library Maker Con Oct. 14 at the library's downtown branch. However, nostalgia for their 1980's-era childhood helps to attract plenty of attention from adults, too.

Adults passing by could be heard saying things to the group like "I'm glad someone still remembers those

movies." The members of the group will point out that several recent events have helped to bring focus back to the hit movie.

With the 2016 release of the series' first motion picture since Ghostbusters II in 1989, the series was delivered to a new generation of fans

with a feminine spin on the classic four-person team, with a cast made up of SNL alumnae and current cast members Melissa McCarthy, Kate McKinnon, Kristen Wiig and Leslie Jones. In addition to this revival, Netflix recently released the Ghostbusters cartoon that was a hit with kids in the 80's and 90's. Finally, the soon-to-be-released Season 2 of the Netflix original show Stranger Things will feature heavy use of Ghostbusters costumes and equipment as a group of four boys in Halloween costumes fight monsters in a paranormal alternate universe.

As part of the series reboot, Sony Pictures restarted an old campaign to find Ghostbusters groups around the country and provide them certificates to make them official members of Ghost Corps. The certificates come hand-signed by Director Ivan Reitman, and is included with a bag of pins for all the members of their groups.

"I'm not sure how official it makes us," Cameron Fisher said, "but it meant a lot to us as a group."

Since receiving the certificate, the Ancient City group made copies of the document and began passing them out to kids at birthday parties, announcing the guest of honor as an official Ghost Cadet, something Teresa said has become very popular with young fans.

The group will have a series of events leading up to Halloween, all of which will be posted on their Facebook page Ghostbusters of Middleburg. To catch a glimpse of Clay County's own Ghostbusters on their home turf, catch them at the Orange Park Trunk or Treat at the First Christian Church of Orange Park on Oct. 27 at 6:30 p.m., or Moosehaven's Heart of the Community Trick or Treat event beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Halloween.

"What we do is very fun for us," Wittkamp said. "But our favorite part is seeing people smile and knowing we made someone's day a little bit brighter."

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Community Briefs

Oakleaf High joins PBS journalism initiative

OAKLEAF – Oakleaf High School joins five other Florida schools to participate in the PBS NewsHour Student Reporting Labs program, a national journalism initiative “connects middle and high school students with public media stations to produce, original, youth-focused news reports.”

In total, there are around 120 schools participating in the program nationwide with 40 local partner PBS stations.

Bernice Young, Oakleaf High School’s television production teacher, directed the application process last semester. Young’s students recently completed their first assignment of the year with the program, which surrounded conversations about the role of quality journalism and misinformation.

“I am thrilled about Oakleaf High School’s participation in this powerful, nationally recognized program! PBS NewsHour Student Reporting Labs provide hands-on experience

that allows students the opportunity to become college and career ready. I am honored to have teachers and staff who are passionate and determined to see students succeed,” said Addison Davis, Clay County school superintendent.

Students will have the opportunity to create content for the national NewsHour site and the nightly broadcast, which reaches more than 1 million viewers nightly. Teachers will help program leaders develop curriculum to engage students in news and public affairs, and ensure the youth voice is active in conversations about critical issues facing the nation.

“Passionate educators are the glue that hold this program together,” said Leah Clapman, PBS’ lab program founder. “Every year we discover new ways to expand and improve SRL, with the most innovative and effective ideas coming straight from the teachers on the front lines.”

‘Low Bono’ program reaches out to Clay County residents

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Clay County Clerk of the Circuit Court Tara S. Green is continuing her office’s Low Bono Program.

While not free legal advice, the Low Bono Program lower the barriers that usually prevent people with moderate

financial means from accessing legal services, specifically those involved in family law cases.

The program is available to Clay County residents involving Clay County family law cases only, with a focus on clients representing themselves, a practice referred to as pro se.

“Low bono is the principle of increasing access to law-related services for people of moderate means who do not qualify for pro bono (free) assistance, but cannot afford the fees private attorneys typically charge,” Green said. “When family law matters are involved it is especially important that we help citizens navigate the process as efficiently as possible for the sake of everyone involved.”

Individuals wishing to participate, should contact the Clerk’s Office to schedule an appointment with these local, licensed Florida attorneys at a rate of \$1 per minute. The minimum appointment time is 30 minutes. Clerks require the following information: client name, name of adverse party, client’s contact phone number, client email address. Individuals are responsible for bringing full payment to their scheduled appointment time (cash only) along with all relevant documents.

Appointments are held at the Clay County Courthouse in Green Cove

Springs at 825 N. Orange Ave.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (904) 269-6363.

Ameris Bank launches 8th annual food drive

JACKSONVILLE – All Ameris Bank locations in Northeast Florida are collecting non-perishable food items to donate to local food banks as part of a company-wide initiative, the 8th Annual Helping Fight Hunger.

Clay County residents can donate non-perishable food items at the Ameris branch at 1775 Eagle Harbor Parkway on Fleming Island or 485 Blanding Blvd. near Orange Park.

A food bank in every town with an Ameris Bank location will receive the donation of goods collected at the local Ameris Bank office, plus a monetary donation from Ameris Bancorp. Last year, Ameris Bank collectively donated more than 825,000 non-perishable food items and a total of \$100,000 to local food banks.

Since the program was launched in 2010, Helping Fight Hunger has donated more than 3.4 million non-perishable food items donated to local food banks and more than \$555,000 in monetary donations given through Ameris Bancorp.

SEE BRIEFS, 12



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Alicia

from page 5

advocates and raises funds for victims of drivers under the influence while driving and helps create policy towards stiffer punishments for offenders. MADD will hold its annual Clay County Walk Like MADD 5K fundraising and awareness event Saturday, Nov. 4 at 8.30 a.m. at the corner of River Road and Wells Road on bestbet property.

An Orange Park resident, David has attended the last three events and plans to attend the November fundraiser as well. He said the companionship helps him recall the good times with his daughter that are divorced from the accident.

“Those events help. Anytime you can make people aware of the impact and how the everyday person like me can be affected, it’s not just the other person, it could actually be you,” David said. “The more I talk

about it, the better I feel.”

He remembers her as a woman driven to help influence young students through sports the same way her mentors did during her youth. He said she never got the chance to fulfill her dream.

The night of her death, Alicia was traveling back from a coaching engagement.

An Orange Park High graduate, Alicia dominated the basketball court and hoped to transition that passion from playing to coaching. She attended Florida State University for sports management and was a stand-out player for the Lady Seminoles. After FSU, she played for a professional women’s league in Europe for five years. Last November, Orange Park High retired her jersey in the RaiderDome.

MADD Program Specialist Judy Cotton said the 5K walk is more than just a fundraiser, it’s an awareness generator. “A lot of people think that

we’re a bunch of crazy old ladies that are out to shut down the alcohol industry,” she said. “We’re not – we just don’t want people to drink and drive...We’re out here for [victims], that’s what we’re trying to raise funds and awareness for. We want no more victims. We want it to stop.”

Between Oct. 10, 2016 and Oct 10, 2017, the Florida Highway Patrol recorded 158 DUIs in Clay County alone, a sobering reminder of a dangerous problem.

Cotton said the problem has evolved in the past years to include more than just alcohol. Due to the opioid crisis, more and more officers in Florida are finding traffic accidents caused not by alcohol, but by impairment due to prescription painkillers or heroin.

“We had one of our DUI officers in Clay County that told me a few months ago he was called to a crash on Kingsley [Avenue] and Blanding [Boulevard] on a Friday afternoon...

it was a fender bender and the lady who had apparently caused it was impaired, and when he went to her car he tried to awaken her. He discovered that she still had the straw in her nose from where she was snorting heroin at the stop light,” Cotton said. “That’s what’s going on up there, so if you don’t think the opioid crisis affects you – it does.”

As the crisis develops, more are likely to be affected.

Gladden said he also a sense of guilt that accompanies what happened to his daughter. A military man himself, David has had more than one experience in driving under the influence.

He said when he was younger, he never thought he could kill someone by driving under the influence, doubtless part of the invincibility of youth.

He said both maturity and experience has provided him perspective.

David has tried to put the incident behind him, but admits thoughts of his daughter come flooding back to him whenever he sees a Dodge Charger or anything that reminds him of her.



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River

from page 2

tributaries – it’s not getting better, and it’s actually getting worse...it’s been a very stubborn problem.”

Other indicators have worsened as well. River salinity has risen gradually over the last two decades, threatening native marine species and vegetation.

“There are a lot of different activities in the Lower St. Johns River Basin that are going to affect salinity,” Pyati said. “I think the region has to balance all of the important concerns and get the very best information that it can.” Of concern among environmental groups is a \$704.5 million project to dredge the St. Johns River to enable the newest class of large cargo ships to travel to Jacksonville’s port. The Army Corps of Engineers expects the first phase of the project to begin in December, despite a federal lawsuit filed by the St. Johns Riverkeeper. The Riverkeeper maintains the dredging project would harm the health of the river and increase salinity. According to the river report, improvement has been made in conditions for the bald eagle, wood stork and the Florida manatee. Manatees, in particular, are susceptible to major salinity increases, which can kill off waterbed grasses – therefore, the report maintains that while conditions for these animals are improving, it is important to continue to monitor water conditions.

“Salinity continues to increase from a variety of factors, some of which are natural and some caused by human actions. Ever since the river has been modified by humans, particularly by digging it deeper and removing fresh water, the increase in salinity has been exacerbated,” said Gerry Pinto, associate research scientist at the Jacksonville University Marine Science Research Institute.

“The cumulative effects of increasing salinity stress the system, creating unfavorable conditions for habitat and what it supports. Of particular concern in this regard are the grass beds that prefer to grow in fresher conditions and provide food for manatees and shelter for juvenile fish,” Pinto said. Among other development in the river is that nonnative species infiltration rose from 56 total in 2008 to 80 this year, according to the report. The lionfish continues to hold the limelight in dangerous non-native species for their threat to the native ecosystem.

The State of the River Report doesn’t attempt to draw causal links from one piece of data to another, but rather draws from collected data by local and state agencies as well as researchers to form an easily accessible report for the public.

To read the report, visit sjrreport.com.

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Paws to Read

When story time comes with hugs

By Eric Cravey
The Oakleaf

MELROSE – Clyde the Wonder Dog has coloring much like a German Shepherd, has been mistaken for a giant bear and brings smiles to the faces of people of all ages.

One Saturday a month, Kathy Morse, 74, of Bostwick, her husband Bill and Clyde head to the Melrose Public Library to take part in the library's Paws to Read program. Clyde, a trained therapy dog, sits on the floor while children adoringly pet him while a library volunteer reads books to the group in the children's room.

"They really love Clyde, especially kids. They like to pet him and play with him," said volunteer Mike Mason, 62, who works with Clyde each month and reads to the group.

Kathy Morse said the atmosphere in the room usually changes when Clyde enters. Weighing in at 150 pounds and almost three feet tall, Clyde has a presence. But it's his laid-

back demeanor that makes him a fast friend.

"He usually greets every person and when we have a room full of kids, he'll greet each one as they walk in, even the little tiny kids," Morse said.

After a few minutes, Clyde reaches out his paw for a handshake, seeming to crave constant affection.

"He'd rather be in your lap," she said.

Morse said her husband often take Clyde with them while shopping and other trips. And on more than one occasion, Clyde has been mistaken for a bear.

"One time, we went to a rehab facility and this couple came running out and said, 'We have to see what's in your car; it looked like a bear,'" Morse said.

Along with monthly trips to the Melrose Library, such as the recent Oct. 14 visit, Clyde has warmed

SEE PAWS, 20



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC CRAVEY

From left, Kelsi Baatz, 6, of Keystone Heights, Jordan Johnnry, 7, Crista Johnnry, 5, both of Melrose, snuggle with Clyde the Wonder Dog on Oct. 14 during Paws to Read at the Melrose Public Library. Also from left are Bill Morse, Library volunteer Mike Mason and Kathy Morse.

Briefs

from page 9

For more information, go to Amerisbank.com/HelpFightHunger.

Petco Foundation to aid SAFE Animal Shelter

DOCTORS INLET – The Petco Foundation has pledged to match dollar for dollar all donations made to the SAFE Animal Shelter as it attempts to clean up and rebuild after Hurricane Irma.

The Foundation will match up to \$10,000 to help the no-kill shelter reopen and repair its building infrastructure that was damaged by Irma and to refurbish the interior to make it safe to house homeless pets again.

Safe Animal Shelter is a nonprofit organization and Clay County's oldest no-kill animal shelter. The organization recently celebrated its 26th anniversary as a temporary home for abandoned pets, and during that time they have saved the lives of more than 15,500 homeless cats and dogs.

Due to 3-4 feet of flooding caused by Hurricane Irma, just about everything inside the shelter needs to be repaired or replaced before the shelter can safely house animals.

"Our wonderful community stepped forward with donations of food, bedding, supplies and their volunteer service" said Sherry Mansfield, executive director of Safe Animal Shelter. "The Petco Foundation investment will provide us with funds needed to repair appliances that can be repaired and replace those things that can't be repaired.

That means we can open our doors faster, saving animals in the community that might be at risk of euthanasia due to lack of space to house

them."

For a current list of organizations supported by the Petco Foundation and for more information about the Foundation's response, visit <http://www.petcofoundation.org/irma>.

Group names Davis 'Superintendent to Watch'

ROCKVILLE, Md. – Addison Davis, Clay County superintendent of schools and Oakleaf resident, is among a group of 26 school superintendents nationwide recently honored by the National School Public Relations Association.

Davis and his colleagues made the list of "2017-2018 Superintendent to Watch" for his innovative and effective ways he uses communication technology.

Davis was also recognized for his dynamic, fast-paced leadership and strong communication skills. NSPRA chose Davis because he "engages and informs his school community with new communication technology tools combined with tried-and-true techniques." As a new superintendent, NSPRA commends Davis' efforts to expand two-way communication and outreach efforts throughout Clay County Schools.

"As I near the completion of my first year as superintendent, I am honored and humbled by this national recognition. I believe communication is key to the function and success of our organization. I work hard every day to integrate new technology into our communication platforms while keeping traditional forms of communication to make sure we reach all audiences, internally and externally. I will continue to look for innovative and effective ways to lead Clay County Schools," Davis said.

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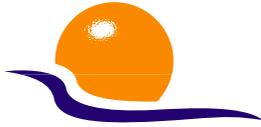
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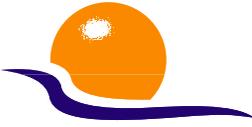
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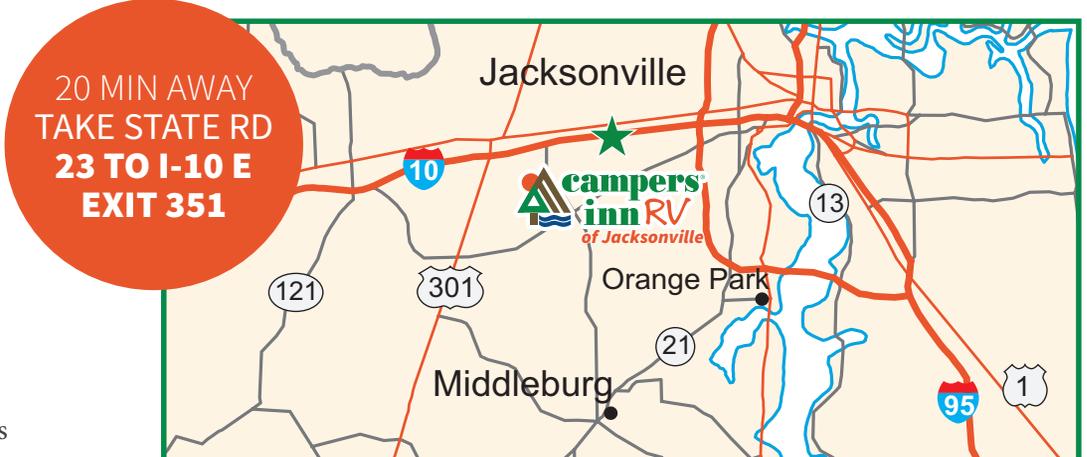


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 Sept. 22 Clay (L) 42-35
 Sept. 29 Fleming Island (L) 13-7

Oct. 6 Bartram Trail (L) 48-14
 Oct. 13 Raines (L) 41-3
 Oct. 20 Buchholz (L) 25-2
 Oct. 27: @ 7A Creekside*
 Nov. 3: 6A Vanguard

Lewis top runner for Oakleaf at Bronco Bob XC

By Randy Lefko
 The Oakleaf

MIDDLEBURG – Fleming Island High senior cross country runner Andrew Miller blitzed the first mile of the Bronco Bob Cross Country Invitational course then continued his assault on the field with a decisive 16 minute, 41.10 second winning time over a handful of stalwart runners all getting amped for next week's district race weekend.

Miller, a Class 4A state meet finisher last year, has been putting himself in meets some of the states best runners with recent finishes at the Race of Champions in Lakeland and the FSU Invitational Pre-State Meet in Tallahassee with his finishes and times near the top of the heap in Class 4A.

Regionally, Lyman High out of Orlando seems to be the top challenger for the Golden Eagles to continue

SEE RUN, 18



Oakleaf high senior Lewis Williams is number two runner for Knights.



Oakleaf high wide receiver Jakari Williams stretches fingertips for ball in near-miss play against Bartram Trail High School.

Knights fold to Bartram Bears

By Randy Lefko
 The Oakleaf

BARTRAM TRAIL – The first two minutes of the Oakleaf High School football clash on a super sappy turn at district 3-7A foe Bartram Trail High School looked like a Knights' upset was in the making with a fumble recovery leading to a 62 yard touchdown run, but the score was nullified by a flag and the Knights fortunes became misfortunes in a 48-14 loss Friday night.

The loss, coupled with a district loss to unbeaten Fleming Island earlier in the season, all but eliminates an Oakleaf playoff shot in 2017. Fleming Island (7-0, 2-0) is

on top of district 3-7A with a showdown on Friday against Bartram Trail (4-2, 2-0) set to determine the district champions. Buchholz (2-4, 0-1), Creekside (5-3, 0-1) and Oakleaf (1-5, 0-2) finish the district lineup.

Oakleaf hosts the 4A-Jacksonville Raines (5-1, third ranked in 4A) Vikings on Friday in a non-district clash with Creekside and Buchholz remaining on the Knights' district slate. 6A-Ocala Vanguard, undefeated at 6-0 and fifth ranked in 6A, is Oakleaf's season ender at home.

After the opening kickoff with

SEE KNIGHTS, 17



CORRESPONDENT PHOTO BY RAY DIMONDA

Despite two long touchdowns from tailback Keshawn King, the Oakleaf High football team lost a squeaker to Gainesville Buchholz in Friday night's key district 3-7A contest at Oakleaf. Buchholz won in overtime 25-22.

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Oakleaf Junior High flag football coach Machele Crowley gets set to accept Northeast Florida Athletic Conference championship trophy from Wilkinson Junior High Athletic Director Miranda Knox after Yellow Jackets won 13-6 title game Wednesday at Wilkinson.

Yellow Jackets 'D' scores championship win

By Randy Lefko
The Oakleaf

CLAY HILL – Oakleaf Junior High School's girls flag football team jolted for two long scoring plays to score a 13-6 win over Wilkinson Junior High in the Northeast Florida Athletic Conference championship Wednesday night at Wilkinson Junior High School.

First strike for Oakleaf, with Wilkinson up 6-0, was a 45 yard interception returned for a touchdown from defensive specialist Kaylah Turner. Turner stepped in front of a slant pass route for Wilkinson quarterback Gracie Willemsen, who double pumped to her right before turning to throw without seeing Turner lurking on the corner. Turner snagged the ball and sprinted untouched to paydirt to tie the game.

After the half, with the scored locked at 6-6, Oakleaf Junior High tailback Arianna Eason went left sweep, got past the corner then made a juke move on pursuit defender Lauren Palagi to complete a 60 yard



Oakleaf Junior High defender Kaylah Turner took an interception 40 yards for a touchdown to get the Yellow Jackets on the board in the first half.

touchdown sprint on the first series of the third quarter. Palagi's score would hold to the final whistle with Oakleaf, coached by Machele Crowley, winning 13-6.



Oakleaf Junior High tailback Arianna Eason breaks down the sideline ahead of Wilkinson defender Lauren Palagi to finish 60 yard gamewinning touchdown in second half of Yellow Jackets' 13-6 win for the Northeast Florida Athletic Conference title.

Knights

from page 14

Bartram Trail, Oakleaf quarterback Tre Simmons, victimized throughout the night by inopportune dropped passes, let a snap slip out of his grasp and into the hands of Bartram Trail defender John Amell, but Knight's safety Tristan Brown, who had a fistful of tackles on the night, scooped up a Bears fumble on the next play to put the Oakleaf offense back on the field.

With tailback Keshawn King's swift feet somewhat neutralized by the disgustingly unkept field which had pockets of muddied footprints and divots throughout the 100 yards of playing field, Oakleaf's offensive line, centered by senior Mitch Romig and bookended by gigantic tackles Allen Adams and Jalen Rivers; both 6-5 and over 300 pounds, seemed able to negotiate through the muck to keep King moving forward. From the Oakleaf 47, King blasted behind Adams for 15, but slid out on the next handoff before racing 62 yards off a screen pass to paydirt.

A penalty flag simmered the Oakleaf sideline.

Two errant passes forced a punt back at the 47.

Bartram Trail quarterback Joey



Oakleaf defenders chase Raines quarterback in Knights' 42-3 loss in game seven.

Gatewood entered the lineup, but Brown was on his outside game and upended a sideline pass attempt to Bears wideout Xavier Hutchinson.

On third and seven, Gatewood dance his wat to a first down at the Bears 44 before Bears tailback Devin Ellison took a direct straight route to the end zone from the Oakleaf 29 to put the game at 6-0. Oakleaf's defense crushed the point after kick with linebacker Kenneth Davis sticking his facemask on the kick to sling the ball in reverse.

Oakleaf got a roughing the punter call near midfield that led to two King runs to the 30 and a leaping, two-handed snare of a pass from wideout Jakari Williams for a score

from the Bears 24 that put Oakleaf up 7-6 with a good PAT kick with 2:09 in the first quarter.

A short kickoff put Bartram Trail at their own 33 with Ellison finding a seam and sprinting 56 yards to put the Bears up 13-7 with 1:42 still in the first quarter.

Bartram Trail was intent on not letting King get a shot at a kickoff return and pooched their kick to the Oakleaf 45 where Simmons had two passes dropped to foil the prime field start.

Ellison again roughed up the Knights' defense with a second and seven run for 18 yards to the Oakleaf 45 leading to a Gatewood scramble and stretch touchdown from eight

yards out putting the score at 20-8 with 10:02 to halftime.

Oakleaf's offense went nowhere on the ensuing drive and a punt put Bartram Trail at midfield where the Bears second quarterback, Riley Smith, combined with tailback Griffin Helm on a double pass scoring throw to score the game 27-7.

Oakleaf attempted on unbalanced offensive line with Adams and Rivers side by side to thwart the Bears defensive penetration and the move seemed to work until a fumbled snap stopped Oakleaf at the Bears 38 yard line. Two plays later, Gatewood scored again to put the game at 34-7 with 4:02 to halftime.

Oakleaf had a final opportunity before the half when Bartram Trail muffed a punt and Oakleaf recovered near midfield with 2:10 to go. A sack of Simmons and a dropped pass ended the drive in four plays.

In the third quarter, Gatewood scored again to put Bartram Trail up 41-7, but King answered with a 63 yard scoring blast to put the game at 41-14.

Oakleaf continued to give King the ball despite Bartram Trail's defense having his number clearly imprinted on their brains and the Bears scored the final touchdown with 11:05 left in the game.

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Mussante edges Franzoni at Bronco XC

By Randy Lefko
The Oakleaf

MIDDLEBURG – Middleburg High freshman cross country runner Emma Mussante was the lone red singlet amidst a sea of Creekside, Bartram Trail and Matanzas shirts as she battled to a tops-in-area 14th place finish at the Bronco Bob Cross

Country Invitational held Saturday at Middleburg High School.

Mussante, who finished in 21 minutes, 15.40 seconds, was ahead of Fleming Island High senior Julie Franzoni, who took 17th in 21:24.20 as Creekside won top team honors ahead of Matanzas Nease and Bartram Trail. Creekside's Claire

Openshaw sizzled the course with a 18:45.30 winning time; more than a minute ahead of runnerup Naila Etique of Nease's 19:50.60.

Fleming Island finished sixth in team points with Ridgeview eighth with Anna MaGruder 25th and Marisa Kortright 27th for Lady Panthers.



Middleburg freshman Emma mussante takes peek near finish of Bronco Bob invite.



Oakleaf high's Dylan Nelson could be a state meet hopeful in upcoming district and region races.

Run from page 14

their season into the state meet in two weeks.

At Middleburg, Miller topped Bartram Trail's Sean Popik by nine seconds with Creekside's Matt Ortiz third in 16:51.20. Bishop Snyder's Aldren Biala, Columbia's Yassin Raffay, who ran shoulder-to-shoulder with Miller to the first mile mark, and Nease's Justin Tackling all finished under 17 minutes in the fast first pack of runners. Creekside is the defending Class 3A champion while Bartram Trail finished sixth.

Fleming Island's Evan Fuller, also a Class 4A state meet finisher last year, outsprinted Orange Park's John Bear for the seventh place with Fuller at 17:01.50 and Bear in with a best of season 17:03.10. Fuller has dipped into the 16 minutes-plus range during the season.

Also finished with his best time of the season was Ridgeview junior Joel Nesi who took 13th in 17:21.60.

In the all-important team finishes, Fleming Island, with junior Gage West improving to a 17:46 split for 24th place took third behind Creekside and Bartram Trail. Orange Park was ninth with Ridgeview 11th and Oakleaf 12th. Oakleaf's top finisher

was sophomore Dylan Nelson at 21st in 17:38.60.

District championship races

Mon.-Sat., Oct. 23-28

District 1-4A: Santa Fe College, October 28 (Girls 8:30 a.m., Boys 9 a.m.) Fleming Island, Oakleaf

Region 1-4A at Flagler County Fairgrounds, Nov. 3 (Girls 7:45 a.m., Boys 8:15 a.m.)

District 4-3A: Ponte Vedra, October 28 (Girls 7:45 a.m., Boys 8:15 a.m.) Middleburg, Orange Park

Region 1-3A at Alligator Lake Park, Lake City, November 4 (Girls 8 a.m., Boys 8:45 a.m.)

District 4-2A: Ridgeview, October 25 (Girls 5 p.m., Boys 6:30 p.m.) Clay, Ridgeview
Region 1-2A at Alligator Lake Park, Lake City, Nov. 4 (Girls 9:10 a.m., Boys 9:50 a.m.)

District 5-2A: Oak Equestrian Center, October 26 (Girls 3:30 p.m., Boys 4 p.m.) Keystone Heights
Region 2-2A at Atlantic High (Port Orange, Nov. 4 (Girls 8:30 a.m., Boys 9 a.m.)

District 4-1A: New World Disc Center (Cecil Field) (Girls 9 a.m., Boys 9:45 a.m.) St. Johns Country Day School
Region 1-1A at Alligator Lake Park, Lake City, Nov. 4 (Girls 8:20 a.m., Boys (9:30 a.m.)

Junior high football goes to six-way tie

By Randy Lefko
The Oakleaf

OAKLEAF – Two upsets in the junior high football ranks on Thursday; an 18-0 win by Bradford County over Wilkinson and a 20-19 win by Oakleaf over Green Cove Springs created a three-way tie in both divisions; South and North, of the Northeast Florida Athletic Conference. Oakleaf, coached by Merlin Smith, is the defending county champion.

Green Cove Springs and Wilkinson both had 2-0 records prior to Thursday's game and could have been the championship game teams with a win.

With the Wilkinson loss, three teams; Wilkinson, Bradford and Lake Asbury all tied up with 2-1 conference records.

With the Green Cove Springs loss, three teams; Green Cove Springs, Oakleaf and Orange Park (winner over Lakeside) all tied up at 2-1 also.

Coaches were to determine the criteria format to figure out a championship game set for October 24.

In the Green Cove Springs, Oakleaf game, a 7-6 Oakleaf halftime lead was reversed with a fumble recovered on the Oakleaf kick return and Cougar fullback Ricky Joseph, all of 215 pounds of thrust, pounded in from 30 yards out for the touchdown and a 13-7 Cougar lead at 4:19 of the third period.

On the ensuing drive, Oakleaf tailback Donovan Shannon rumbled 44 yards to paydirt to tie the game at 13-13 as the fourth quarter started.

Green Cove Springs quarterback Donnie McClain got stripped of the ball at the Cougar 10 by Oakleaf defender Harold Stubbs for the second touchdown of the half for Shannon as Oakleaf went up 20-13 with 6:03 left.

Green Cove Springs got two untimely penalties that pushed the Cougars backward from the Oakleaf 18 to near midfield, but McClain scrambled to paydirt to put the score at 20-19. Cougar kicker Aaron Montoya's PAT kick was blocked by Jonathan Goddard to end the scoring.



Oakleaf junior high running back Donovan Shannon scored twice in Yellow Jackets' win over Green Cove Springs.

THE BLOTTER



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Oakleaf man charged in carjacking

OAKLEAF – An Orange Park man area is in jail today after authorities obtained a warrant for his arrest in an armed carjacking case.

The Clay County Sheriff's Office arrested Tyler Lamar Davis, 20, on Oct. 17 after deputies placed a warrant for his arrest for his alleged involvement in an Orange Park armed carjacking that was reported on Oct. 6.



Tyler Davis

Surveillance video of the event shows a man exiting a Nissan Sentra with what appears to be a handgun in his pants. Shortly thereafter, the suspect pointed his gun at the driver and unlocked the passenger side door in the 3000 block of Hawthorn Way.

Davis allegedly pilfered the victim's belongings and allegedly stole a cell phone and a wallet. When the victim reached for the suspect's gun, the man cocked his gun and caused a bullet to fall to the ground.

According to the police report, Davis stole the victim's vehicle and fled to the Oakleaf community. Deputies found the Nissan Sentra and discovered that it allegedly belonged to Davis. According to the report, authorities later found the victim's vehicle at a church parking lot located in Duval County.

In it, deputies discovered the bullet that the victim alleged had fallen to the floor when Davis had cocked his gun, according to the report.

Deputies arrested Davis and transported him to the Clay County Jail, where he remained at press time.

Middleburg man pleads guilty to child porn production

JACKSONVILLE – Acting United States Attorney W. Stephen Muldrow announced Oct. 10 that Andrew Ryan Leslie, 22, of Middleburg pleaded guilty to two federal charges that he sexually abused an infant and a toddler, and used them to produce images and videos of child pornography.

Leslie faces a mandatory minimum penalty of 15 years, up to 60 years, in federal prison and a potential life term of supervision. A sentencing

date has not yet been set. Leslie has been in federal custody since his arrest on October 18, 2016.

According to court documents, in 2015, agents with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations began an investigation into websites known to host images and videos depicting child pornography. In 2016, Leslie was positively identified as a member of one of these websites. On October 18, 2016, HSI agents and other law enforcement officers executed a federal search warrant at Leslie's residence in Middleburg.

When they entered Leslie's residence, Leslie emerged from the master bedroom where he said a toddler had been in bed with him when agents arrived.

During the search, agents located a digital camera next to Leslie's bed in the master bedroom. Within the camera was a micro SD card containing a series of pornographic images depicting Leslie with two different minor children. In several of the images, the same toddler – approximately two years old – was depicted. Other images depicted a different infant less than a year old. These images depicted Leslie sexually abusing both children.

Agents also seized several laptop computers, computer hard disk drives, tablets, cell phones and cameras from Leslie's residence. A forensic analysis of these items revealed that Leslie had produced, received, distributed and possessed numerous images and videos depicting child pornography. Recovered logs of online conversations between Leslie and other individuals showed that Leslie had discussed engaging in sexual activity with several minor children.

This case was investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations and the Clay County Sheriff's Office.

Argument ends in knife attack, arrest

ORANGE PARK – An Orange Park area man faces a felony charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon after a verbal argument got out of control and ended with a knife attack.

The Clay County Sheriff's Office arrested Christopher Joseph Miller,

SEE CRIME, 20

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This Thanksgiving on WJCT-TV, a new holiday special follows the continued adventures of Anne Shirley and other beloved characters from L.M. Montgomery's classic novel "Anne of Green Gables".



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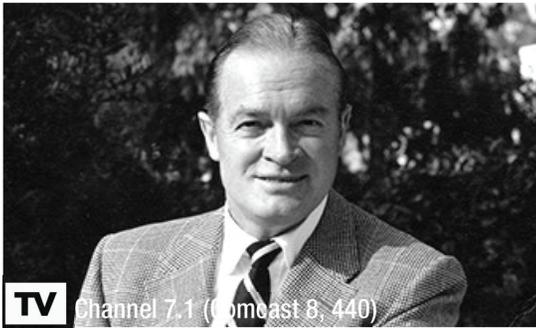


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The Beatles: Eight Days a Week — The Touring Years

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TUE, NOVEMBER 28, 8 PM

American Masters: This is Bob Hope

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Paws

from page 12

hearts at such venues as the Fleming Island Public Library and the Isle Health and Rehabilitation Center on Fleming Island.

"The therapy is bringing smiles to peoples' faces and, I think, hope. I lot of the people who live in institutions, had dogs before and they can't have them now and so, it takes their mind off their situation, even if it's only for a few minutes," she said.

The Morses have been sharing Clyde with the Melrose Public Library for three of his 8 years. Before he was certified as a therapy dog, Clyde went through a rigorous assessment that involved three evaluations.

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handle their dogs. They make an assessment of the overall personality. They have to be good with other dogs, good with other people," she said.

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According to the American Kennel Club, the Leonberger is "bright, patient, loving, and family oriented," good traits Morse verifies Clyde has.

"It's just nice to bring joy to other peoples' lives," she said.

Mason agrees with Morse. He said Clyde has a way of making people feel better.

"The first thing that comes to mind, is if a child is going through something, they can spend time with Clyde and hug him and it all gets better," Mason said. "It's a good time for the children."



Crime

from page 19

45, on Sept. 30 at 1:35 a.m. after a brief investigation.

According to the police report, Miller got into an argument with the victim after the victim allegedly broke the stove in the house. To calm down, police said, the victim walked

outside, but when he returned he found Miller urinating on the floor.



Christopher Miller

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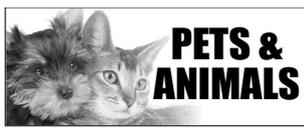
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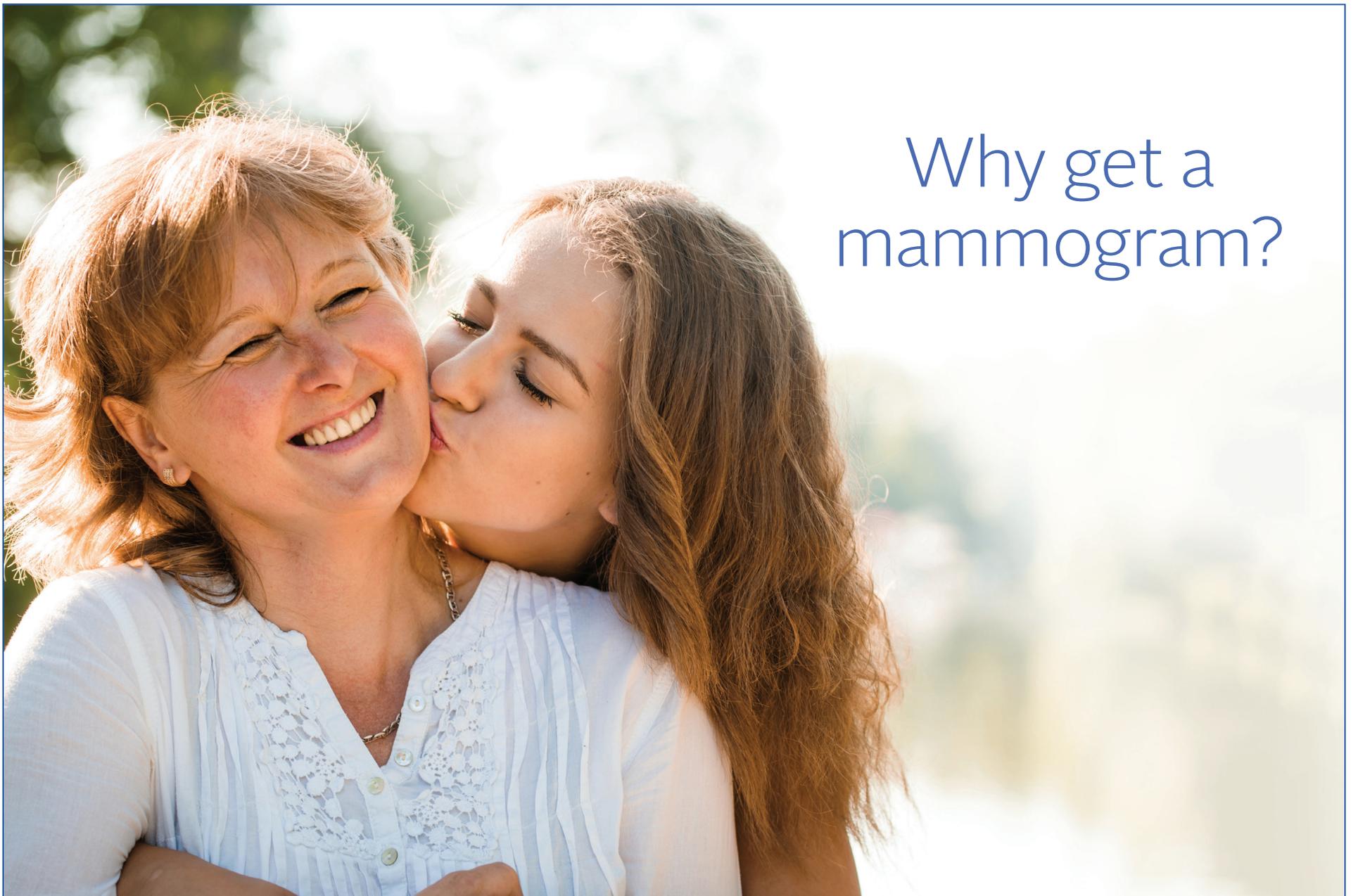
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