



**SCHOOL Y NO MORE**  
 Oakleaf's newest school named.— PAGE 2

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VOL. 2, NO. 4 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2017

# Drop back and punt

## No mayoral applicants

By Eric Cravey  
 KHHERald.com

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – Despite giving residents two more weeks to apply for the interim mayor position, no city residents stepped forward to apply.

“We did not receive any applications by the deadline. The council will address the issue at the meeting on Nov. 20,” stated City Manager Scott Kornegay via email.

The position has been open since Aug. 7 when former mayor Tony Brown announced he was resigning to devote more time to his business. Brown owns a franchise of the Ann Arbor, Mich.-based company Hoodz and has customers in the Florida Panhandle, as far north as Albany, Georgia and southward to Ocala.

After Brown's resignation, council voted to accept mayoral applications for a two-week period up until 4 p.m. on Aug. 25. The city council did not get to consider the two applicants for the mayoral position at its September meeting due to the threat of Hurricane Irma, so the issue was pushed to its October meeting.

At the Oct. 2 council meeting, council member Dan Lewandowski launched a lengthy discussion in which he asked for more time to get more applicants, effectively throwing out



Scott Kornegay

SEE MAYOR, 9



Keystone Heights City officials look to the new trailhead, the planned Streetscape 2020, rejuvenation of the lakes and historic restoration of the beach pavilion as a way to not only revitalize the city, but make it a destination.

## GROUND BREAKING

# Officials break ground on new trailhead for regional bike trail

By Jesse Hollett  
 KHHERald.com

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – It's been six years since the last time the City of Keystone Heights broke ground on a new project – long enough that workers had to spray paint new ceremonial gold shovels.

Keystone Heights council members joined others in a groundbreaking ceremony with those new shovels Oct.

19 at the location of a new trailhead for a bike path that will connect Palatka to Lake Butler.

The \$280,000 trailhead located at 130 West Walker Dr. will contain a park complete with signage, a playground, bathrooms and solar-powered picnic tables for charging cellphones.

Nearly all of the 50 officials in attendance for the morning ceremony lauded

SEE TRAIL, 6

# Delegation fields financial wish lists from officials

By Eric Cravey  
 KHHERald.com

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – City and county officials recently joined with representatives from other organizations, nonprofits and human service agencies to request funding from the Clay County Legislative Delegation.

Delegation Chairman Sen. Rob Bradley (R-Fleming Island), Rep. Travis Cummings (R-Orange Park) and Rep. Bobby Payne (R-Palatka) fielded requests Oct. 18 at the Clay County Administrative Building in preparation for the 2018 Florida Legislature, which opens in January.

Diane Hutchings, vice chairman of the Clay County Board of County Commissioners, asked for state funding for a new Oakleaf fire station, a new bridge on County Road 220 near Henley Road, replacement of the Shands Bridge as part of the First Coast Expressway project and a training center for the Clay County Sheriff's Office. She also asked for continued funding for the Sweat Program for juvenile offenders and a new County Health Department Building.



Rep. Bobby Payne

SEE WISH, 14

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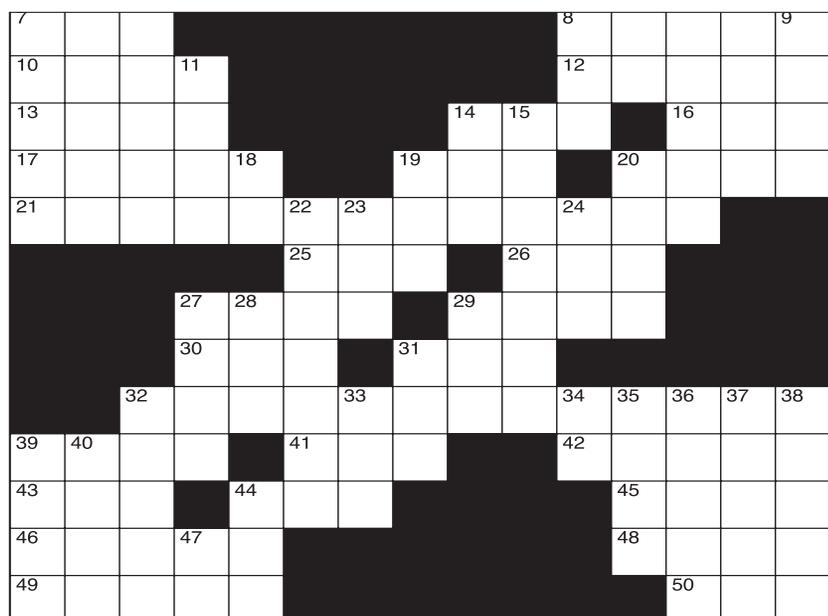
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# Crossword Puzzle

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## Weekly Crossword



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. 'Be back later'
- 4. Zhou dynasty state
- 7. Mineral
- 8. \_\_\_ and gagged
- 10. One of Lebron's former sidekicks
- 12. Ivory Coast village
- 13. Caffeinated beverage
- 14. Without armies
- 16. Intention
- 17. Sulfuric and citric are two
- 19. Supplement with difficulty
- 20. & & &
- 21. George and Weezie
- 25. Liquefied petroleum gas
- 26. Immortal act
- 27. Ancient Greek sophist
- 29. Aids digestion
- 30. Comedy routine
- 31. Actress Thurman
- 32. Adult beverage
- 39. Amounts of time
- 41. An awkward stupid person
- 42. \_\_\_ Walker, 'The Color Purple'

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Comedian Goldthwait
- 2. Worn by women
- 3. Naked Gun actor Nielsen
- 4. Processes fatty acids
- 5. Mortals
- 6. Not invited
- 8. Show \_\_\_; entertainment
- 9. Darkens
- 11. Pilgrimage
- 14. Danish krone
- 15. Savior
- 18. Midway between south and east
- 19. Electroencephalograph

- 20. Henry's wife Boleyn
- 22. Hairstyle
- 23. Frames per second
- 24. Sinclair novel
- 27. Basics
- 28. A person's life story
- 29. Luxury automaker
- 31. Ultrahigh frequency
- 32. Island and antelope are two
- 33. Taxi
- 34. Farm state
- 35. Fence part
- 36. Rwandan capital
- 37. Onomatopoeic
- 38. In a state of turbulence
- 39. Abba \_\_\_ Israeli politician
- 40. Flowering plants
- 44. Inquire too closely
- 47. Sun up in New York



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PHOTO PROVIDED BY PARRISH-MCCALL CONSTRUCTORS INC. OF GAINESVILLE

This aerial photograph was taken by a drone and shows the progress of Discovery Oaks Elementary School in the Eagle Landing section of Oakleaf. The school is on track to open for the start of the 2018-19 school year. Its address is 950 Oakleaf Plantation Parkway.

# School 'Y' no more

## Meet Discovery Oaks Elementary

By Eric Cravey  
KHHerald.com

FLEMING ISLAND – It not only came with a unanimous vote from the school board, but a letter of support from Florida's premier space agency.

The Clay County School Board voted Nov. 2 to named Elementary School "Y" Discovery Oaks Elementary and with that vote, also named the school's mascot, the Voyagers.

"With the next generation's educational voyage beginning in elementary school, what better way to inspire our youth than to name their newest school after one of our nation's most storied and historic vehicles: Space Shuttle OV-103, aka DISCOVERY, and to have as a mascot the name of one of humanity's greatest scientific instruments: the Voyager spacecraft, the only sign of man beyond our Solar System," stated Frank DiBello, president of Space Florida, in his letter of support.

The second name considered was Bear Creek Elementary School where the mascot would have been the Cubs. This name would be an homage to Clay County's Black Bear population, which is labeled as "abundant" by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

The third name considered was Canopy Oaks Elementary School with the mascot being the Cardinals.

School Board Vice Chair Betsy Condon made a motion to name the school Discovery Oaks, while board member Ashley Gilhousen seconded the motion, which was passed 5-0.

Immediately after the vote, former chairman Janice Kerekes asked Superintendent Addison Davis about the timeline to appoint a principal for Discovery Oaks.

He said it was "best practice" to have a seasoned principal open up a new school, while adding he wants to see principal candidates come in with a vision to make this

school the envy of Clay County.

The current vision calls for developing Discovery Oaks as a STEAM school where Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Math are the driving force behind curriculum. Davis said Terri Stahlman, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, and Michael Kemp, assistant superintendent for operations, appointed a committee of teachers and principals who are tasked with creating content areas for Discovery Oaks.

"We had our first kick-off meeting last week and everybody was given their charge. They saw the blueprint of the school, they learned about what has come out of the ground already, what they can influence. Mostly, our decisions are in furniture and equipment decisions," Stahlman said.

She said a team of teachers are going to be traveling the state looking at other STEAM models that are excelling in hopes of duplicating and even improving upon them to implement in Clay County.

"It's fun work. It's a lot of work. Those content teams that Dr. Stahlman put together for the facility planning; it's a huge responsibility. They're representing more than their own wishes, they're representing the content for years to come for what's going to happen inside that facility," Kemp said.

"We were there for an hour-and-a-half and they were still there excited and planning and strategizing, so I think we're going to see a really inviting school choice opportunity for our families in Clay County," Stahlman said.

After Stahlman's comments, Condon asked what was meant by referring to the new school as a school choice opportunity. Davis responded by saying, "It's a theme. It's theme-based."

Condon said she wanted to make sure the district was not creating another concept school much like Orange Park Elementary.

SEE SCHOOL, 8



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# Animal welfare reform starts with shelters

By Jeff Kottkamp  
FloridaPolitics.com

State Sen. Tom Lee has proposed a constitutional amendment, as a member of the state's Constitutional Revision Commission, that would end live greyhound racing and allow all 12 of Florida's greyhound tracks to essentially continue operating as mini-casinos.

It has been suggested that the proposal is an animal welfare proposal. There have been numerous attempts to end live racing in the Legislature over the years. All of those efforts have failed, in large part, because most members of the Legislature oppose the dramatic expansion of gambling that would result from such efforts.



Jeff Kottkamp

The fact is – if live racing is stopped the welfare of over 8,000 majestic racing greyhounds would be put in jeopardy. If you take away the ability of the dog owners to make a living – you also take away the ability of the owners to care for the dogs.

And please don't suggest that we can adopt out 8,000 greyhounds. While we have a robust greyhound adoption program in Florida – it would take many years to adopt out 8,000 greyhounds. When it comes to the welfare of dogs – the biggest problem we have is not greyhound racing – it's the number of dogs killed by animal shelters.

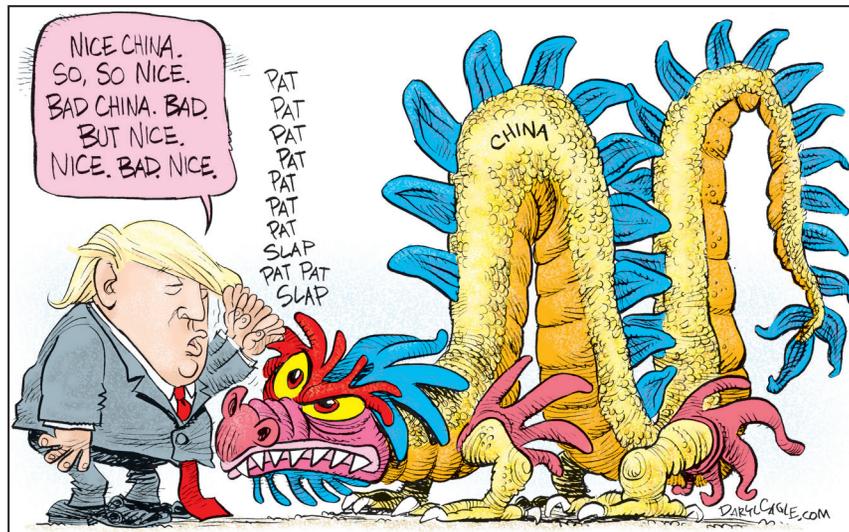
In 2008, the Florida Senate Agricultural Committee sent out 180 surveys to municipal and private animal shelters to help determine the welfare of animals at the shelters. Only 30 shelters responded. Their responses were analyzed by committee staff and the Legislative Office of Economic and Demographic Research. The information provided by the shelters was shocking.

In 2007 alone, the 30 animal shelters that responded to the survey took in 66,513 dogs. During that same year, the responding shelters killed over 37,000 dogs. It was particularly noteworthy that municipal shelters killed more than five times as many dogs as private shelters.

It has been estimated that somewhere between 3 and 8 million animals are killed each year in pet shelters nationwide. It has also been estimated that in Florida 450,000 dogs and cats were killed by shelters just in 2012. According to the Orlando Sentinel, the shelter in Orange County killed 2,232 dogs in 2012. I think those numbers underestimate the problem – but even those numbers are horrific.

As a proud owner of two dogs that have been rescued, I believe that improving the welfare of dogs is a worthy goal. However, ending live greyhound racing would do nothing to achieve that goal. A better approach would be to lead an effort to make

SEE REFORM, 6



## FROM THE EDITOR

# Listen up kids!

## We want to hear from you

I get to see a lot of, shall I say, interesting things when I walk my dog, Nelson in our subdivision.

I see litter people carelessly fling from their vehicles. These days, I see piles and piles of storm debris awaiting pickup. I also see neighbors who speed without regard for the huge influx of little ones who now play outside in their families' yards.

It's great to see kids outside playing and screaming and using up their energy. I even get to see the occasional teen driving a bike while clutching onto a fishing rod heading to his secret hot spot.



Eric Cravey

And then, there are the morning walks when I'll run in to the growing-in-numbers phenomenon of elementary school students whose heads are stuck down glued to a smartphone or other electronic device.

That's always a bummer for Nelson. He knows that kid is not going to be a new friend to make because the kid's head is bent downward with no hope of social interaction; not even a neighborly hello. Nelson is certain that he is the social director of our street.

It's this convergence of smart devices and lack of going outdoors that has me constantly wondering. How can we engage today's children who are inevitably growing up "on" electronic devices while I'm kicking and screaming against this phenomenon? I think I need an "if you can't beat them, join them" type idea.

I'm always on the lookout for the next new idea despite the old adage that "There's nothing new under the sun."

Well, as it turns out, the idea I'm presenting here today is not new either – I'm simply duplicating it – with a twist – from another newspaper.

What if there was a way to create a student-led opportunity for today's kids in K-12 education to publish – in the newspaper – what is going on in their



schools? The goal is to connect today's students with newspapers in a way that may not be going on in the modern home due to the proliferation of social media and screen time.

Introducing Student Dispatches.

Launching January 1, 2018, Student Dispatches will be written by students in grades three through 12 and printed with parents' permission. Each student who submits a dispatch will also submit a permission form along with their writing. Student Dispatches will also be posted on our website so kids can then share their posts via social media, so their friends can see it on their device(s).

Here's what we're asking for. Students in grades 3-12 who attend public, private, charter, home or parochial school will write us and tell us what they are doing in school. Sounds simple, right? Well, it is.

It could be as simple as:

*"On Monday, Oct. 23, my class took a tour of the Museum of Science and History where we got to see a presentation about the Milky Way in the museum's planetarium. If you've never been to the planetarium before, I'd recommend a visit. It's as if you're outside looking at the stars but you're learning because there is narration going on that teaches you a lesson. It also made me want to learn more about Astronomy."*

**Cindy Doe**  
5th grader, Maple Street School

SEE STUDENT, 12



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

**Obstreperous:** An adjective meaning "noisy and difficult to control."

"The boy's obstreperous behavior was numbing to the ears."

## This Month in History

### 5 years ago, 2012

Officials in Keystone Heights announced plans to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Keystone Heights Airpark, which was first built as Crystal Lake Airfield in 1942.

Political newcomer Johnna McKinnon defeated one-term incumbent Frank Farrell in the District 4 race for the Clay County School Board with 52 percent of the vote compared to Farrell's 47 percent. In the District 3 race, retired educator Tina Bullock defeated attorney Joseph Wiggins Sr.

Chief Warrant Officer Michael S. Duskin, 42, of Middleburg, died when he was struck by small arms while on a dismounted patrol during combat operations in Chak District, Wardak Province, Afghanistan.



Clay County School Superintendent Ben Wortham attended his last school board meeting after he was elected in 2008 after going into retirement. He was defeated in the primary by former board member Charlie Van Zant Jr.

### 10 years ago, 2007

Susan Sailor of Keystone Heights, Florida's 1998 Teacher of the Year, was named a finalist for the Principal Achievement Award for Outstanding Leadership.

Roger Fontes, chief executive officer of the Florida Municipal Power Association, presented Green Cove Springs City Council with a plaque to commemorate the city's 100th year of electric utility ownership.

Authorities in Brooklyn, New York captured 28-year-old Ricardo Velazquez, two years after he was named a suspect in kidnapping Jose Flores Torres from a Jacksonville apartment and crashing his

SEE HISTORY, 5

# History

from page 4

car on Wells Road near Orange Park and fleeing the scene. Torres had been shot several times in the back and left in the road for dead.

Bryan Coty Rollyson, 21, of Middleburg died when he was ejected from a 1993 Ford Mustang on U.S. Highway 17 near the Doctors Lake Bridge. The car collided with a culvert, overturned and struck a wall.

## 20 years ago, 1997

Seven months before qualifying would open, Clay County School Board Chairman Richard Fain said he would not seek re-election to a second term. While in office, he advocated for an abstinence-only sex education program.

The Fourth Circuit State Attorney's Office charged Charles "Chuck" Fryer for allegedly discharging improperly treated wastewater into a Fleming Island holding pond. Fryer, an employee of the Clay County Utility Authority, said he was only following orders.

Clay County Commissioner Ron Stotler said he tentatively agreed to an out-of-court settlement involving a 1996 civil rights lawsuit aimed at preventing Clay County Clerk of Court John Keen and other elected officials from using the legal system to punish people who file complaints against them.

The Clay County Sheriff's Office charged John Michael Trice of Middleburg with manslaughter with a firearm in the shooting death of Carol Ann Harpster, 32, also of Middleburg.

## 30 years ago, 1987

The Clay County Sheriff's Office arrested two males, ages 16 and 17, on charges of burglary, grand theft, criminal mischief and trespassing on school property for a break-in at Middleburg High.

Fred Carlton Ward Jr., of Keystone Heights, and Paul Fletcher Sisk, of Melrose, pled no contest to manslaughter and each sentenced to three years in state prison for the June 14, 1987 beating death of John Irvan Stratton, 46, of Keystone Heights. Michael James Fontana, of Keystone Heights, was to be sentenced the following week.

Keystone Heights City Council Chairman Michael Merritt resigned his position citing the need to devote time to his work and family. Council members voted in Archie Green as Merritt's replacement effective Nov. 1.

The Florida Department of Transportation's 10-year plan called for building a \$50 million commuter train system between Green Cove Springs and downtown Jacksonville, as well as a Jacksonville-to-Tampa Turnpike that would interconnect with a widened Branan Field-Chaffee Road.

## 40 years ago, 1977

Clay County Extension Director Jesse

Godbold said there had been a record number of head lice outbreaks in schools that fall.

The Clay Transit Authority asked for Clay County residents to give their opinion of locating a new airport in Clay County, a recommendation that was published in the Florida Airway System Plan. The Plan called for constructing a new airport in Clay County.

Architect Edward Parker told the Clay County Board of Commissioners that the new Agricultural Center under construction on State Road 16 was 70 percent complete

and he expected a June 1978 completion.

W. Raleigh Thompson Jr., M.D. was elected moderator of the board of trustees of the Greater Orange Park Community Hospital.

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## Trail

from page 1

the groundbreaking as a great opportunity for the city to bring in some much needed tourism dollars as well as a serve as a recreational area for residents and guests.

"We're honored to have our own trailhead and we hope it makes a tremendous economic impact for the businesses downtown," said Scott Kornegay, Keystone Heights city manager. "We're excited to be able to offer an outlet for Keystone youth to come out and use the trail and give them additional things to do. We're very excited about it."

"It's going to be a shot in the arm for Keystone businesses, too," said Acting Mayor Steve Hart. "Especially the ones right in the vicinity, but if somebody had a bike shop or something like that, it's going to be a

**"It's going to be a shot in the arm for Keystone businesses, too. Especially the ones right in the vicinity, but if somebody had a bike shop or something like that, it's going to be a ripple effect that we're going to like."**

– Acting Mayor Steve Hart

ripple effect that we're going to like."

The city has divided the trailhead into three phases. Kornegay expects phase one to take roughly three months, but said there's no real timetable on the other two phases considering funding has not yet been allocated.

The city owns the trailhead, but the state will own the trail as part the Rails to Trails program that aims convert unused railroad

lines into bike trails that will eventually crisscross the state.

There are currently more than 700 miles of rail-trails in Florida, and another 431 miles of potential rail-trails.

Though still in construction, the multi-use, paved trail corridor stretches nearly 47 miles west of U.S. Highway 17 in Palatka to State Road 238 in Lake Butler. Along the way, the corridor extends through Putnam,

Clay, Bradford and Union Counties.

Funding comes from the Preservation 2000 program through the Florida Greenways and Trails Acquisition Program. Lawmakers identified the corridor as part of the Florida Greenways and Trails program in 2007. The Florida Department of Transportation will build the trail in segments as funding becomes available.

There are roughly 19 miles of paved trails between Keystone Heights and Putnam County, with an additional 24 miles of trails still planned.

For Keystone Heights residents, the project brings some much-needed recreational space.

"I think it's a good idea," said Ann Eden of Keystone Heights. "Being that I'm on foot, I don't drive, and I'm looking for stuff and a nice place to hang out, ride your bike, have some lunch and bring the kids...I think it'd be a welcome change."

## Reform

from page 4

all animal shelters in Florida "No Kill" shelters. Such an effort would save the lives of thousands of dogs – and save the taxpayers millions of dollars.

One of the first bills I passed as a Member of the Florida House of Representatives was a bill to increase penalties for the intentional cruelty to animals. My wife Cyndie volunteered her time to help me pass the

bill. In fact, without her efforts, the bill probably would not have passed. Thus, I know from personal experience that, with enough commitment and effort, an animal welfare bill can be passed in the Legislature.

In addition, while in the House I sat on the Select Committee on Constitutional Amendments. At the time we were concerned that our State Constitution was being used by special interests to accomplish what they were unable to achieve in the Legislature (the most glaring example was the

pregnant pigs amendment). We looked for ways to prevent the Constitution from being misused in the future.

Apart from the fact that making our shelters "No Kill" shelters is a far better way to improve the welfare of dogs than ending greyhound racing – I do not believe the greyhound issue belongs in the Constitution because it does not involve a fundamental right.

The Constitution should be reserved to set forth our state's founding principles and

fundamental values – not used to circumvent the Legislative process. For that reason, I urge the Constitutional Revision Commission to reject the greyhound proposal.

■  
*Jeff Kottkamp is president of Jeff Kottkamp P.A. He was Florida's Lieutenant Governor from 2007-2011 and served three terms in the Florida House of Representatives. Kottkamp represents the Florida Greyhound Association. His column appears courtesy of FloridaPolitics.com.*

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# School district ramps up classroom tech

By Kile Brewer  
KHHerald.com

MIDDLEBURG – Clay County District Schools are now more connected than ever with almost 3,000 wireless access points throughout the district.

This number is up from just over 1,000 at the beginning of the 2017-18 school year, and the effort is part of a much larger three-month plan to ensure that every core classroom at every school will have the materials necessary to meet the tech needs of their lesson plans.

“We are now a totally wireless school,



STAFF PHOTOS BY KILE BREWER

Clay County District Schools Superintendent Addison Davis talks with a student at Tynes Elementary while touring the school to observe technology improvements implemented by the district.

we have access points in every classroom,” said Laura Fogarty, principal at Tynes Elementary School.

Tynes hosted Superintendent Addison Davis last week after he reached out to the school to serve as a demonstrative model for the district’s recently-completed tech upgrades. The upgrades will allow better access to the OneClay portal as well as the iReady and Achieve 3000 learning applications.

“We’ve got to stay connected and relevant,” Davis said. “The big thing for me is equity for our kids, and to make sure that they have the best tools that they need to compete and to be successful.”

While touring a couple of second grade classrooms at Tynes, the district’s updated

model for education could be seen clearly. Teachers no longer stand in front of a room full of kids reviewing a chapter from a book and assigning a one-page homework assignment from that chapter. Now kids shift between about three stations within a core

SEE TECH, 10



A white box on the ceiling in the second grade classroom of Tynes Elementary School teacher Michelle Cambron. The box is an access point that can be found in every classroom throughout the Clay County district to ensure quick and reliable internet access for every teacher.

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Discovery Oaks Elementary, formerly Elementary School "Y," is being built by Parrish-McCall Constructors Inc. of Gainesville, which also built Oakleaf High that opened in August 2010.

## School

from page 2

Discovery Oaks is under construction in the Eagle Landing area of Oakleaf and is targeted to open the start of the 2018-19 school year. The school is being funded with residential construction impact fees, which prevented the district from having to borrow funds for the estimated \$23 million project. It's the first new school to be built in Clay County since Oakleaf High opened on August 26, 2010 for the 2010-11 school year.

Before the official meeting got underway Nov. 2, Davis opened the meeting and took on an "acting chairman" role to kick off the board's annual reorganization meeting in

which a new chairman and vice chairman are elected.

Outgoing Chairman Kerekes nominated outgoing Vice Chair Carol Studdard to serve as chair, while Ashley Gilhousen nominated Mary Bolla. When the votes were counted, Studdard was named chairman by a vote of 3-2 with Condon, Kerekes and Studdard voting for Studdard and Bolla and Gilhousen voting no.

Kerekes then nominated Condon for vice chair, the sole nominee. When the vote was taken, Condon was elected 5-0.

The next school board meeting will be a special workshop Nov. 9 at 4 p.m. to discuss the rezoning parameters for Discovery Oaks Elementary.

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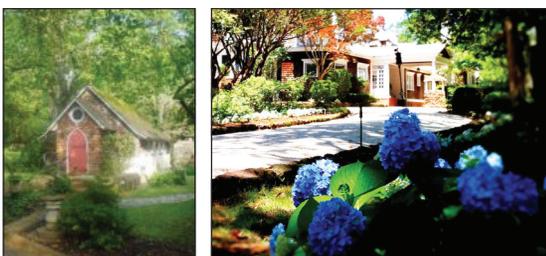
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# Mayor

from page 1

August process and the two residents who applied.

"I'll tell you right now, I'm going to vote no on both candidates," Lewandowski said Oct. 2, referring to Karen Lake and Catherine Southard, the only two residents to apply to fill Brown's seat.

Southard has lived in Keystone Heights a little more than a year, while Lake is a 15-year resident who is actively involved in the community.

At the Oct. 2 meeting, the council went through the motions of interviewing both candidates and then went on to derail the entire process, from which both Southard and Lake withdrew. The meeting ended with council agreeing to extend the second application process until the close of business on Nov. 3.

"I felt it was best to remove myself from the city's process and make a decision in the new year about running for mayor," Lake told the Herald this week.

Meanwhile, Acting Mayor Steve Hart said he is waiting to see what the consensus of the council will be at the Nov. 20 meeting.

"A vacancy will be created if a council member steps forward to become mayor," Hart said.

He said, if that happens, the council will not have to hold a special election and can continue to operate with only four council members.

He said there is a precedent for having functioned with just four council members. Hart said approximately five years ago,

At the Oct. 2 meeting, the council went through the motions of interviewing both candidates and then went on to derail the entire process, from which both Southard and Lake withdrew. The meeting ended with council agreeing to extend the second application process until the close of business on Nov. 3.

when Brown stepped down from his council member seat to run for mayor, council functioned with just four council members.

In April 2018, the city will hold elections as part of the Municipal Super Tuesday election in which Lewandowski and Hart will both be up for re-election if they choose

to run again. Hart said the election would also elect a new mayor who would serve the remaining two years of Brown's term as mayor. Council members' terms are three years each.

At the close of the Aug. 7 meeting, Brown read from a prepared statement, but pref-

aced his remarks by asking his colleagues to "bear with me" because "I don't write speeches."

"It's been an honor to be on the City Council and to serve the people of the city and I was going to wait until October, but with pondering over it over the weekend and waking up at 2- and 3-o'clock in the morning, I don't think I can wait any longer," Brown said.

In his letter, Brown went on to state that he had served for 15 years on City Council "with honor and integrity" and thanked the residents for trusting him throughout the years during his service.

"I didn't want to do this - I shouldn't have ran in the first place in the election, but my business is growing and, fortunately, I'm a small business and I have a lot of responsibility to five employees to make sure they've got a job and for me to have income," Brown said.



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# Tech

from page 7

teacher for that face-to-face traditional style of learning, or in groups with their peers working together to complete a task. More recently another category of learning has emerged – allowing students individualized learning using Chromebooks, which is where iReady and Achieve 3000 come into play.

“We have a blended model and we want to protect a blended model,” Davis said. “The bulk of learning will be [whole group]. This is just a small percentage [that is tied to this technology].”

The programs allow each student to move through education resources that adapt to the learner, slowing down to help some kids, or presenting more difficult challenges to those who breeze through a

lesson. Through the connection to the One-Clay portal, these applications can provide statistics on each student and show teachers areas where students are excelling, or areas where students need improvement.

The use of these platforms will now be available district-wide with the school district providing at least six devices per classroom after the purchase of 6,200 Chromebooks since August, bringing the district total to about 20,700, which will increase by about 500 next year.

In an effort to continue to stay ahead of the tech obsolescence curve, the devices are rented by the district, and will be upgraded on a yearly basis for about the same \$600-700,000 price tag in each year's budget, most of which comes to the district through federal education dollars.

“Most of the money comes out of our E-Rate,” said Sabrina Thomas, the district's Technology Services supervisor. “Also, we



STAFF PHOTO BY KILE BREWER

Students work in a variety of learning situations in Michelle Cambron's second-grade classroom at Tynes Elementary School. With the advent of technology-based learning classes, students rotate in and out of pen and pencil homework, time with the Chromebooks and more traditional lecture style teaching directly from Cambron.

received some help from the facilities team, our technology budget and our Digital Classroom Plan.”

According to Thomas the district is close to meeting its goal for devices, which places one device per two students in grades Kindergarten through second, and one device per child for students in grades three through high school.

Davis is aware that the introduction of technology in the classroom needs to be a gradual process, and is doing what he can

to direct staff to help maintain the ultimate goal, which is to teach the “whole child.”

“We're trying to implement this with high implementation, but couple that with high support,” Davis said. “We want to make sure that we take it slow, that we have high support, and that it's being implemented in an effective manner within our school district, so it's not driven at such a fast pace that we lose the integrity of what we're trying to accomplish.”



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So, for example, consider installing some mobile security software to help protect all your mobile devices from identity thieves seeking to install spyware.

Here's another tip: Use different passwords for each new online shopping site. Even if identity thieves were to grab one of your new passwords, they still couldn't use it for other sites you may visit. And you can find a free online program that can help

you track all your passwords securely.

Also, be suspicious of websites offering extraordinarily low prices on digital devices. They're often fakes, so, before handing over any personal information, investigate the site to determine if it's legitimate.

One last word of caution: Don't give out your Social Security number online. No legitimate retailer needs this number.

Take the proper precautions to reduce the risk of identity theft. The more comfortable you are with your holiday shopping, the more you can enjoy the season.

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# Community Briefs

## Melrose Library collecting oral histories

MELROSE – Do you have roots in Melrose, Florida and some great stories to tell? Did your family have ties in the Melrose business community? Then the UF Samuel Proctor Oral History project wants to hear from you! Hosted by the Melrose Public Library - UF's oral historians will be conducting interviews on Nov. 30 starting at 9:30 a.m. at the library. If you're interested in sharing your family's history, please contact the Melrose Public Library at (352) 475-1237 or come in at 312 Wynnwood Ave. to sign up for a time slot. The oral histories will be archived by both the University of Florida and by Historic Melrose Inc.

The historians are especially interested in receiving stories from the 20th Century and earlier (although the subject matter is not limited to this time period.) Please help us preserve the stories of our lake area for future generations to hear.

## 19 schools recognized for student achievement

TALLAHASSEE – The Florida Department of Education recently recognized 19 Clay County Schools for achieving certain achievement benchmarks during the 2016-17 school year that ended this past June. The District will be awarded more than \$1.5 million through the program.

The Florida Department of Education awards schools with funding through the Florida School Recognition Program. This

year's program award amount is \$100 per full-time student. The distribution of funds will come from lottery funds appropriated for improving school grades. Schools and School Advisory Council committees are required to agree on how all funds are allocated while ensuring alignment with the School Improvement Plan. "This recognition shows that Clay County continues to excel academically. We have nine additional schools eligible to receive the Florida School Recognition Award, which wouldn't be possible without the hard work and commitment of our educators this past school year. This award is directly linked to school improvement and our faculty, teachers, parents, and students have worked extremely hard to move the needle academically in Clay. I am excited about the direction that our county is moving as we strive to become a systemic "A" school district," said Superintendent Addison Davis. Only nine Clay County schools were honored for this achievement in the 2015-16 school year. Here is the list of 2016-17 honorees: Argyle Elementary, Bannerman Learning Center, Coppergate Elementary, Clay Charter, Fleming Island Elementary, Fleming Island High, Green Cove Springs Junior, Keystone Heights Elementary, Lake Asbury Junior High, Lakeside Elementary, Lakeside Junior High, Middleburg High, Orange Park Elementary, Orange Park Junior High, Paterson Elementary, Ridgeview Elementary, S. Bryan Jennings Elementary, Swimming Pen Creek Elementary and Thunderbolt Elementary.

## Department of Health needs your input

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – The Florida Department of Health in Clay County needs the help of residents and partners to understand environmental health in Clay County.

This survey will help the department collect opinions about the environment and quality of life in Clay County. Results will be made available to the public in a written report. The information gathered from responses to this survey will help make Clay County a better place to live. The survey, which is completely online, will close Nov. 30 at midnight. The survey can be completed electronically by visiting <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Clay-EH-Survey>.

## '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 law advice, the Low Bono Program lowers 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.

## Reinhold Foundation accepting applications for 2018 nonprofit leadership training programs

FLEMING ISLAND – The Paul E. and Klare N. Reinhold Foundation Inc. is accepting applications for its 2018 Nonprofit Leadership Development and Capacity Building Training Programs. The 2018 programs will include workshops covering fundraising, marketing and social media, volunteer management, planned giving, leadership transitions and board governance.

The programs are taught by the Rollins College Edyth Bush Institute for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership. All classes are held in Clay County and are scheduled January through March. There is no cost for those organizations selected to attend. All costs are underwritten by the Reinhold Foundation. The Foundation will award graduation bonus grants to eligible organizations completing training programs.



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### Cub Scouts lend a hand

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Upholding their Scout pledge to “help other people at all times,” Cub Scout Pack 832 collected and delivered 550 pounds of food to the Food Pantry of Green Cove Springs last Sunday. After unloading the food, Scouts sorted it and packed family orders for clients.

# Clay teachers earn Governor’s Shine Awards

TALLAHASSEE – Two Clay County teachers are among 18 educators from across Florida who received the Governor’s Shine Award on Tuesday.

During a Nov. 7 meeting of the Florida Cabinet, Gov. Rick Scott recognized teachers and administrators who make significant contributions to the field of education. In recognition of Veterans Day, 15 of the educators honored were veterans and are now teaching in Florida public schools.



Michelle Bily

The two Clay County teachers who were honored are both Clay County Teacher of the year winners. Two-year teaching veteran Michelle Bily, now a teacher at Doctors Inlet Elementary, was the Clay County School District’s 2018 Teacher of the Year

when she taught at Lakeside Elementary.

The second Shine Award recipient was Jessica Ehlinger, a 12-year-veteran and 2017 Clay County Teacher of the Year. Ehlinger currently teaches gifted education at Ridgeview Elementary School and is a Florida Teacher LEAD Network alumnus and a two-time Fishman Prize nominee.



Jessica Ehlinger

“I am proud to present these outstanding educators with the Governor’s Shine Award today. I would like to thank them for their service to our country and for their commitment to ensuring all students reach their full potential. The educators honored today represent Florida’s extraordinary teaching staff who are dedicated to preparing students for success in college and career,” Scott said.

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## Student from page 4

We’re also asking students to send us a photo to go along with their piece as well. The photo could be a group photo or a photo of kids doing stuff, in the case of this example, looking through a telescope.

Parents, here’s where you come in. We have developed a consent form for students under age 18 that parents must sign for the student. The form can be downloaded at [www.claytodayonline.com](http://www.claytodayonline.com), just look for the

logo. Student Dispatches should be emailed to Managing Editor Eric Cravey at [eric@opcfla.com](mailto:eric@opcfla.com). Photos should be high-resolution and in-focus. Be sure to include who, what, where, when and why in each Student Dispatch.

Please help us spread the word. We’re really excited and looking forward to getting kids in print! Who knows, maybe some students will grow up and want to be reporters one day or open a door to some other form of writing.

Regardless, we want to connect with you!

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# Domestic abuse victims have legal advocate

By Jesse Hollett  
KHHerald.com

ORANGE PARK – The first punch came while Jane stood in the doorway to her home.

Prior to the first assault, Jane, whose name is hidden to protect her identity, was skeptical that her husband's abusive tendencies would evolve into physical assault. But they did.

The assault arrived on the heels of years of emotional and sexual assaults that Jane was either unable or unwilling to recognize as warning signs of a narcissist and lifelong abuser.

"The signs were there but I could not fathom that a physical assault could occur, I don't think I wanted to think that something like that would occur and I was believing the best," Jane said.

When her doubts were realized, she knew something had to change. She began a three-year saga to divorce her husband, a gregarious business executive that, on all outward accounts, seemed a settled and loving family man.

This was 2009, and at the time, Jane had no clue where to proceed. She said picking a lawyer to help with her case was like picking a name out of a hat, or, in this case, a phone book.

Jane isn't alone in her experience. The experience is shared among thousands of victims in Florida who struggle to find their first steps out of an abusive relationship.

In many counties, solace can come from the court system. But with often limited information, many victims don't know where to turn to get restraining orders from their abusers while they work out divorces, a time consuming and costly endeavor.

For Clay County, Winnie Eilert is the go-to pro-bono lawyer for restraining orders in these cases. And a year after she arrived in the county, many appear to have taken notice.

"We have had a lot of success with this," Eilert said. "I will say we've helped a lot of people get the help they need, the protection they need from the people they need it from."

Quigley House hired Eilert in May as part of a federal grant through the 1984 Victims of Crime Act, which uses fines from federally-convicted offenders to pay for



Photo by Jesse Hollett

Winnie Eilert is the legal advocate for victims of domestic abuse at Quigley House. Since coming on board, she has helped hundreds of victims weave their way through the court system and gain self-sufficiency. Eilert's services are free because her position is funded by a federal grant.

survivor services on a local level at no cost to victims.

Quigley House renewed the grant Oct. 1, so Eilert is here to stay for at least another year. Appropriately or coincidentally, the grant would be reauthorized in October, which is recognized as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Peggy Payne, Quigley House executive director, said many organizations that received the grant across the country decided not to file for renewal after a year. She said the need in Clay County was just too great to avoid filing again.

"For me, it's like with our domestic violence program, if somebody calls the domestic violence hotline for the first time and tells their deepest darkest secrets for the first time, I'd call that a success," Payne said. "So the fact that we're seeing 30 people a month take advantage of this tells me that it's greatly needed and it is a success."

There is an even distribution of the individuals taking advantage of her services among every economic background. Often,

Payne said, while wealthy families may have money to hire a personal lawyer to litigate or file an injunction, often the abuser controls all of the family money.

Often, this means that even well-off abuse victims can't sit down with an attorney for counsel.

"Winnie can be of value to anyone, whether they have money and means or they don't," Jane said.

For Jane, Eilert became indispensable in placing an injunction for her and her four children after her ex-husband turned his scorn on them, she said. Since 2009, she has gone through four attorneys, and her time through the court system has been marked by demonization.

Often, her abuser presented himself in court as an upstanding citizen, and defense attorneys framed Jane as a woman attempting to take her abuser's children away. The defense exploited every loophole they could, including the second chance Jane gave her ex-husband after the first physical assault, as a way to frame her as a liar.

"I lived with him for almost a year after that – and it did not improve, it got worse," Jane said while tears streamed down her face. "He had threatened to smother me."

Gas lighting the abused in court is a common method for abusers and defense attorneys to frame the abused as incompetent, Payne said.

"We all wear masks when we're out in public," Payne said. "We all have those masks on and we put them up and talk about how great of a day it was... batterers are like that... abusers will often drop that mask for a moment in court and show their true selves."

Payne said one way to counteract the way abusers can manipulate the court system to their advantage is to diligently record abuses.

Jane remarried last year, an action she said was an exercise in trust and forgiveness. He's a genuine man, she said. Her experience with her abuser still sits raw, but she's no longer wounded by it. She can't be, she said, for the sake of her children.



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# Wish

from page 1

The Health Department building in Green Cove Springs is aging and requires some \$100,000-plus in repairs each year.

"I know we're No. 4 on the list, so that's great," Hutchings said.

Orange Park Mayor Scott Land asked lawmakers for funding for a unique project to clean out area waterways that feed into the St. Johns River as a means of reducing flooding during heavy rains or hurricanes.

"As we look to fix this problem, we are realizing that this is a monumental task that is beyond this town's resources," Land said. "This help could be in the way of financial help, relaxation of environmental laws that hinder the town from cleaning out these waterways that restrict the flows or even legislation to give the municipalities greater leeway to clean these waterways when located on private property."

Land also requested a change in state law governing Certificates of Need for ambulance services that would allow the

town to have its own ambulance service. In recent months, there has been an ongoing debate between the Town of Orange and Clay County regarding the service, which the town currently carries out for the county. Town officials argue they are losing money in providing the service, which under state law, the town is carrying out the service under the umbrella of the county's certificate of need.

Land also asked for legislation to decouple greyhound racing from poker rooms. Currently, under state law, the licensing of other forms of gaming at Florida racetracks, such as card games, are tightly tied to greyhound racing. Decoupling will separate greyhound racing from these other forms of gaming and allow venues the option to discontinue live racing with no impact on their other current methods of gaming. A decoupling bill made its way through the 2017 Florida Legislature but did not pass.

"As you know, the town is one of the few remaining [dog] tracks left in the state and though we appreciate all that bestbet has done for the town, we feel that dog racing is becoming a thing of the past. It seems

the only publicity for dog racing is negative publicity, which ultimately reflects on the town," Land said.

Keystone Heights City Manager Scott Kornegay thanked legislators for their work in getting the Black Creek Water Resource Project funded and passed in the 2017 Legislature and went on to discuss one other water-related issue to boost lake water levels in the Lake Region of Clay County.

Kornegay said he would like to see a cost-share project created to fund cleaning out Lake Brooklyn, Lake Geneva and Alligator Creek, which flows southward and feeds into the Etonia Chain of lakes.

"Before the water gets in there, it just makes good common sense to go in and clean out the creek, so the water can flow and also clean out the vegetation that has grown up over the years due to the dry lake bed," Kornegay said.

Kornegay also asked for state funding for the city's proposed Streetscape 2020 project to beautify and improve parking and lighting downtown.

"We'll also need help with the landscaping and the softscape - furnishings, lighting and those sorts of things, so we'd like to have a discussion about that as we go forward," he said.

Irene Toto, executive director of Clay Behavioral Health, asked the delegation for a continued funding resolution for its substance abuse and mental health programs it offers to Clay County residents.

Last year, the center served 4,842 individuals, of which 62 percent were mental health clients, while 25 percent involved substance abuse and another 13 percent were crossover patients who had both men-

tal health and substance abuse concerns.

Toto said Clay Behavioral is getting ready to open an onsite pharmacy at its County Road 220 headquarters, which Toto said, "will greatly improve the odds of our folks getting their medication and taking them."

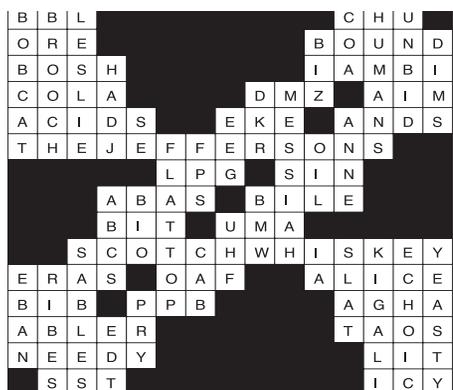
Toto also said Clay Behavioral is preparing to open an office in Putnam County to expand one of its mental health programs for youth. The program will be partially funded by the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Toto said.

Rev. Bill Randall of St. Simon Baptist Church of Orange Park asked the delegation to enact legislation naming the organization One Church, One Child as the grant recipient for the Martin Luther King Jr. Live the Dream license plate sales. He said passing such a measure would create 12 jobs for Clay County as the organization's offices would be based here.

Randall said the license plate proceeds would be used to provide mentor programs for at-risk youth, as well as market the license plate to increase sales of the plate.

"Assume nothing when it comes to the state budget, going forward in terms of whether something is designated as recurring or non-recurring, because everything has to be, as it should be because these are taxpayer dollars, defended, justified and making sure that they are consistent with what we are trying to achieve as a state," Bradley said to the group.

At the meeting's end, lawmakers elected Payne as chairman and Cummings as vice chairman in preparation for the session, which opens in January.



SOLUTION:

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

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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.*

**58-year-old dies in auto crash**

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – A Melrose man was killed in a two-vehicle crash Nov. 9 on State Road 21 near the intersection of County Road 351 north of town.

The Florida Highway Patrol reports that Timothy Curtis Meek, 58, of Melrose, was driving northbound in a 1996 Ford F-150 truck when he veered in the southbound lane and struck a 2007 Pontiac G6 head-on. Meek died at the scene.

FHP said both vehicles collided head-on around 10:20 p.m. on Nov. 9 and came to rest near the area of impact. Meek was not wearing a seatbelt and an investigation is underway to determine whether alcohol was involved in the crash. The driver of the Pontiac, James Craig Osborne, 41, of Middleburg, was wearing a seatbelt and was not injured.

**Pedestrian killed in city**

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – The Florida Highway Patrol reports that a 64-year-old Keystone Heights man was killed Oct. 27 while walking in the eastbound lane of County Road 214. Police said Alfred E. Griggs was pronounced dead at the scene by emergency medical technicians in the crash that took place near the intersection of 5th Avenue.

FHP said Griggs was struck by a 2002 Oldsmobile Aurora driven by Rachel Bellman, 22, also of Keystone Heights.

FHP did not disclose whether charges are pending.

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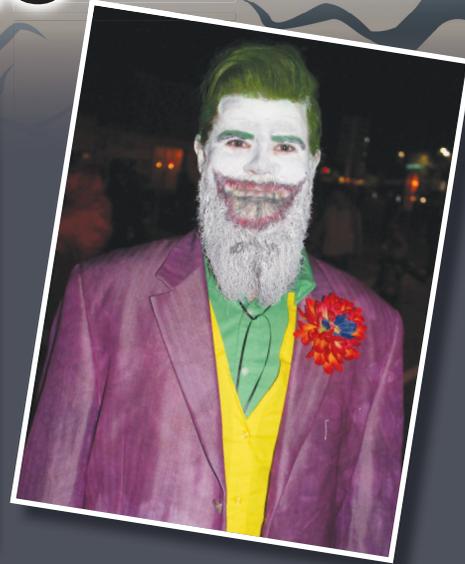


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# Halloween Fun

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This year's Halloween Boo on the Boulevard Event in Keystone Heights, sponsored by the Keystone Lake Region Business Association was a great success. Special Thanks to all the businesses and volunteers for hosting this event and offering a safe, fun and friendly way to trick or treat with families in this Lake Region Area. Over 5,000 were in attendance and the costumes this year were outstanding.

The Scarecrow Strut (Business Decorative Contest) Results, judged by the Keystone Kiwanis kids - Grade 3-6th:  
Grand Prize: Keystone Heights Insurance, Most Creative: Keystone Heights Animal Hospital, Fan Favorite: Abandoned Treasures, Most Representative of their Business: Sandi's Mane Attraction, Best Use of Recycled Material: Superior Painting. The Haunted House was great success again, sponsored by Superior Custom Painting? Music was sponsored by Second Chance.

Thanks to all for attending. For more information on the Keystone Lake Region Business Association go to [www.klrba.com](http://www.klrba.com)

# SPORTS

## KEYSTONE HEIGHTS

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## Indians win big one



CORRESPONDENT PHOTO BY TONYA GIBBS

A handful of Keystone Heights High School tackles maul Taylor High running back in 34-31 win.

By Randy Lefko  
KHHERald.com

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – A standout performance by running back Blake Sanders fueled a 34-31 win over Taylor-Pierson High (7-3) for the Keystone Heights High football team that put the Indians into the Class 4A state playoffs.

“Blake ran for about 136 yards with two scores to get us to the win and the rest of it happened with two other teams losing,” said Keystone Heights head coach Chuck Dickinson. “Mount Dora and Villages both lost and, that, combined with our playing a few top tier teams, got us enough points for the fourth region playoff spot.”

Keystone Heights, finished at 4-5, 2-3 in district play, rumbled behind Sanders legs and his two touchdowns; one for 24 yards, one for 51 yards, as the Indians front line took care of the Taylor defense. Sanders also caught a 26 yard pass and made seven tackles on defense.

“I told them all we could do is control our game and get the win,” said Dickinson. “If it was meant to be, we’ll play one more week.”

Keystone Heights, with losses to unbeaten Wild-

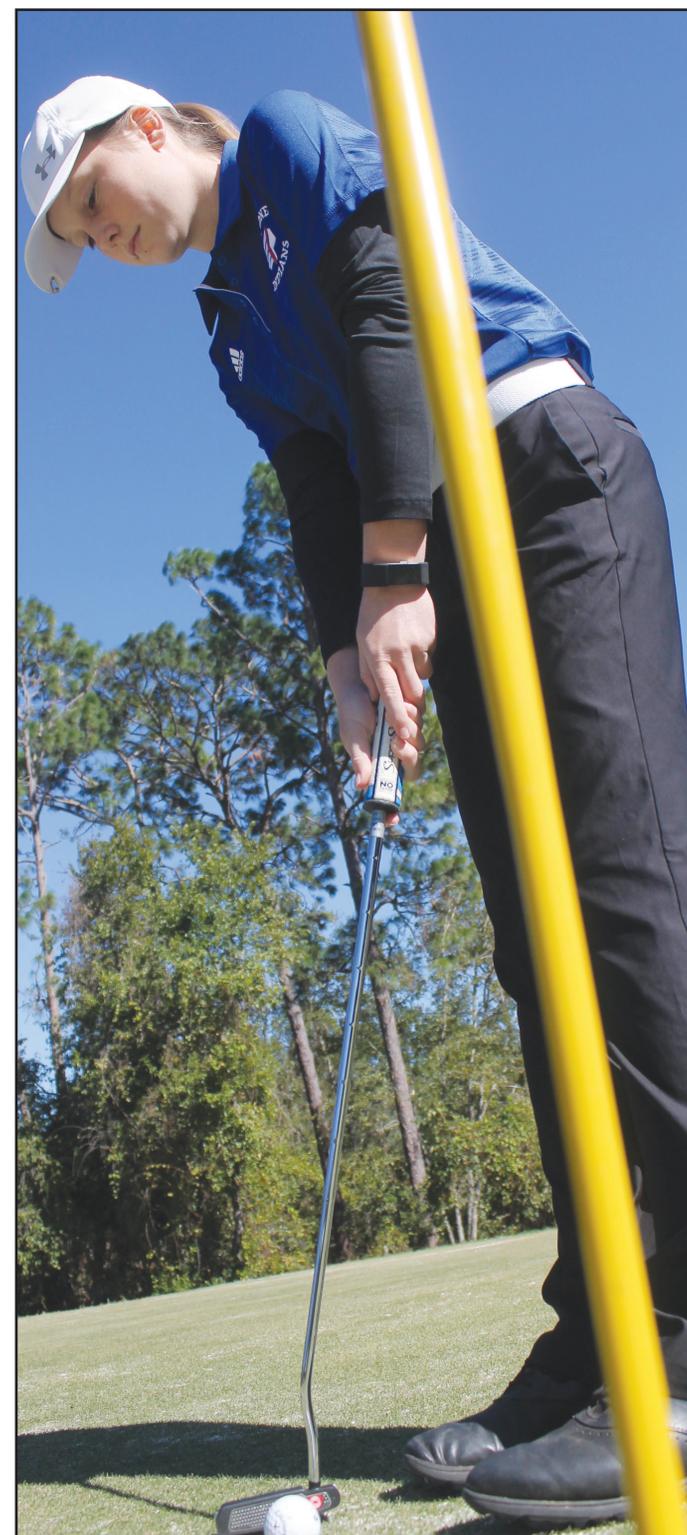
**Region semifinal 2-4A playoff bracket**  
Keystone Heights (4-5) at Bradford (8-2)  
Trenton (8-2) at Dunnellon (7-2)

**Region semifinal 1-4A playoff bracket**  
North Bay Haven (5-4) at Raines (9-1)  
Marianna (5-4) at West Nassau (9-1)

**Winners play region finals November 17**  
**State semifinals November 24**  
**State finals December 7 in Orlando**

wood, Bradford (8-1) and Crescent City (8-2), earned enough playoff points to set up the final game scenario that would give the Indians a chance to enter the playoffs contingent on final games to Mount Dora and Villages. Villages (5-5) lost to The First Academy 49-30 while Mount Dora (6-4) lost to Gateway 33-14.

“The new playoff points system rewards teams for scheduling teams with winning records and we had a few,” said Dickinson. “Now, we go one game at a time.”



STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO

Keystone Heights High freshman Camille Jackson returned to the Class 1A state golf tournament on Nov. 7-8 at Mission Inn Resort in Howey-in-the-Hills for a second consecutive year. Jackson placed 45th out of 93, with scoring rounds of 82 and 81 during the tournament. See story on page 19.



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## CLASS 1A, 2A, 3A REGION CROSS COUNTRY

# Spartan XC teams heading to state

By Randy Lefko  
KHHerald.com

LAKE CITY – St. Johns Country Day School cross country coach Jay Birmingham may very well rate November as his favorite month of the year, despite Christmas in December.

"We had one of the best days of running today," said Birmingham, who watched his young, spry cross country troops battle with the state's top runners while earning a spot at the Class 1A championship race on Saturday in Tallahassee. "We had a lot of personal best efforts with Ben Kailes third place finish one of the best runs of the day."

Birmingham, along with runners from Ridgeview and Orange Park high schools, was on hand at the Class 1A, Class 2A and Class 3A regional championships Saturday at Oaks Equestrian Center in Lake City. St. Johns' girls finished fourth while the boys finished sixth; both advancing to the Class 1A championships on Saturday.

"That's 12 years that we have made it to state and these two teams had a handful of dedicated, hard working young runners who stepped up," said Birmingham.

In the girls Class 1A race, St. Johns, led by eighth grader Evelyn Hanson and seventh grader Juliet Moody, who came in together

at 31st place and 32nd place, combined to push the Lady Spartans to a fourth place team finish and their shot to the state meet.

"We knew we had to run as a pack to have a shot and, on paper, we had a chance for the fourth or fifth spot," said Birmingham. "Our sixth and seventh place girls were the important finishes today as they kept our team score low."

Birmingham pointed out the the Lady Spartans top five finishes; 27, 28 combined with the next three; 30, 34, and 40 got them into position for a strong finish, but it was sixth grader Sofia Conde, in at 53rd, and sophomore Jordan Noble, in at 56th that gave St. Johns the fourth place total of 159 points to edge out Bishop Snyder at 160 and Baker High at 162. Maclay won the team title with 47 points over Providence with 50 with Providence junior Audrey Woods edging teammate Viola Barquilla to win the race in 19:54.03.

"People think cross country is all about running fast and finishing first, but today, those two girls were the difference," said a giddy Birmingham after the race.

Birmingham has been positive throughout the season with his development of the young squad despite the loss of two main runners from last year's state team; Helena Kummings, now at Bolles and finishing



Keystone Heights cross country Runner Alex Guy, pictured here at Clay County cross country championships, finished 36th in just over 18 minutes at the region 2 - 2A championships in Port Orange Nov. 4.

fourth in the region 1-2A race, and Mackenzie Glenn, now at Episcopal and finishing 12th also in the 1-2A race.

"We can only work with the team we have," said Birmingham.

In the boys race, Kailes battled with Bishop Snyder's Aldren Biala a second week in a row; after districts where Kailes finished second and Biala third, as the two chased race winner Sean Snyder of St. Joseph and runnerup Junious Brown of Tallahassee Maclay who both broke away early in the race.

Kailes and Biala ran shoulder to shoulder the entire three miles of the rugged course before Kailes outkicked for his third place spot in 17 minutes, three seconds. Snyder, the district 4-1A champion, won in 16:30.23 with Brown second at 16:47.65.

For the Spartans team, a strong finish from eighth grader Matthew Stratton, in 10th place, pushed the boys team to a sixth place finish and the final spot to the state meet.

"I have had minor injuries since the Daytona meet earlier in the season, but I wanted to get a top 10 and help get us to state," said Stratton. "The rest of the team ran great and we put it all together. One more race!"

St. Johns was sixth with 138 points behind region champion Providence who scored 70 and held off Maclay as runnerup with 88. Behind Stratton, junior David Gonzales finished 32nd, freshman Jacob Kailes finished 52nd, senior Joseph Hale finished 62nd, freshman Cade Zehner finished 70th

and senior Matthew Korahias finished 73rd.

In the region 1-2A boys and girls races, Ridgeview High junior Joel Nesi, 12th at districts a week ago, finished 21st in 17:29.31 to end his season. Bolles junior Charles Hicks won the race in 15:51.51 to lead Bolles to the team title over Bishop Kenny.

In the girls 1-2A race, Ridgeview sophomore Anna Magruder and freshman Marisa Kortright, in the girls race, finished 21st and 27th, respectively, with times of 21:35.07 and 22:02.39, respectively. South Walton freshman Patasha Bryan outsprinted Arnold freshman Marisa Ashley for the win in 19:30.32 to Ashley's 19:46.53. Bolles, with 25 points, won the team title over West Florida.

In the boys and girls region 2-2A races, with Keystone Heights sending both teams, junior Alex Guy was top finish for Indians at 36th in 18:07.30 with eighth grader Tyler Shaw next at 62nd in 19:12.40. In the girls race, freshman Camryn Williams finished 31st in 22:14.40 with teammate Doris Taylor right behind her at 35th in 22:24.90. Keystone Heights boys finished 14th with Trinity Prep the team champs with 34 points over Lake Highland Preps' 67. Montverde won the girls race with 31 points of Trinity Prep's 50.

In the boys region 1-3A race, Orange Park junior John Bear finished 18th in 17:14.84. The top 15 runners advance to state. Michael Phillips of Tallahassee Chiles won the 1-3A race in 15:48.27 to lead Chiles to the team title.

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# Keystone golfer Camille Jackson returns to state

By Randy Lefko  
KHHerald.com

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – For three years prior to entering Keystone Heights High School, freshman Camille Jackson had been home-schooled where she stayed on the family's 53-acre farm reading, writing and studying and throwing in an hour of gold every now and then.

"Camille and her sister, Candace, an eighth grader, both started young following me around when I was a scratch amateur and I just tried to teach them, first, the rules, and then the little techniques to get better," said her father, Billy Jackson, a professional firefighter in Gainesville and in his third year as coach of girls golf at Keystone Heights. "They kind of picked up some of what I was saying and got better and better."

For Camille Jackson, the "better" has been good enough for a second trip to the FHSAA Class 1A state tournament to be held Nov. 7-8 at the Mission Inn and Resort in Howey-in-the-Hill as she tries to best her 41st place finish from last year.

"I've improved my putting a lot since that tournament with, I think, 13 putts the most for a nine hole match this year," said Jackson, who finished first in both her district tournament and as the top individual qualifier with her 78 at the region 2-1A tournament last week at Fleming Island Golf Course.

Jackson, though, almost lost the district title on her ninth hole; the 18th hole at Ironwood Golf Course in Gainesville, when she scored an eight after a series of disastrous hits. Jackson's group started at hole 10 at Ironwood in the 18 hole match.

"I had to hit out of a hazard on the par four, so I had a penalty shot from there," said Jackson. "Dad told me to chip out to the green, but I went for the green."

Jackson successfully hit off the hazard, but landed in front of a sand bunker.

"I duffed into the bunker, then skulled over the green to the other side of the hole," said Jackson. "I chipped up then three putted for the eight."

Coach (and dad) Billy Jackson left the scene prior to the three putts.

"As she was compounding her mistakes, I was watching her mid-course collapse after scoring an even score par to that point,"

said Billy Jackson. "The girl in second, from Oak Hall, birdied for a five shot swing in the score. Camille stayed in the game and pulled it out though with a 78."

Jackson eagled the last hole to finish first at districts with a series of second nine pars with sister Candace coming on strong to tie the scores at 75 before the 18th hole.

"I eagled the final hole and she hit an eight," said Camille Jackson who won at 78 with Candace second at 82. "I knew we were tied. She didn't and she hit first so I knew what I would need to win."

At the region meet, Jackson's 78 was behind four girls; leader Celeste Valinho, a junior at team runnerup Providence who shot a crazy 68; then two 74s; one from Providence, one from team champions Bolles and a 77 from a second Bolles girl.

Ironically, Candace Jackson's worst hole was at regions at Fleming Island where she hit into a sand bunker that was wet from rain.

"It just stuck deep in the sand and I shot an eight," said Candace Jackson.

Billy Jackson noted that Candace Jackson had her best round at districts to be the team's second player at regions before having her worse round at regions.

"It just flows back and forth with them," said Jackson.

"I call it a sniveling rivalry because if one wins, the other snivels."

The Jacksons have the advantage somewhat with their golf-friendly farm having a driving range complete with markers denoting distances, a putting green off the nearby Keystone Heights Golf Club and the remnants of a bunkered former 13th hole that was part of the Keystone Heights course until Jackson bought the land.

"We made the distance markers out of aluminum sheets so we could hear them if they were out here," said Jackson. "Plus, I knew they were hitting straight consistently if I heard the hits because they are all in a line in the field." Jackson sees her game as a short game with her knack for good putting.

"The course at Mission Inn is very hilly and long," said Camille Jackson. "I feel more confident with last year as experience to kind of have a better feel for where I can make up some shots."

Jackson finished 41st last year with a



Younger sister Candace Jackson is just a few strokes off the mark of making the Jackson and Jackson combination a formidable duo for the next four years at Keystone Heights High.

165 total score off rounds of 83 and 82. Lake Mary Prep sophomore Mimi Chen won with a 136 (70-66) score beating out teammate Zihuan Zhou, a senior, at 139 (68-71).

Valinho, the region champion, finished 20th at state last year with a 152 (77-75).

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### Non-Sequitur

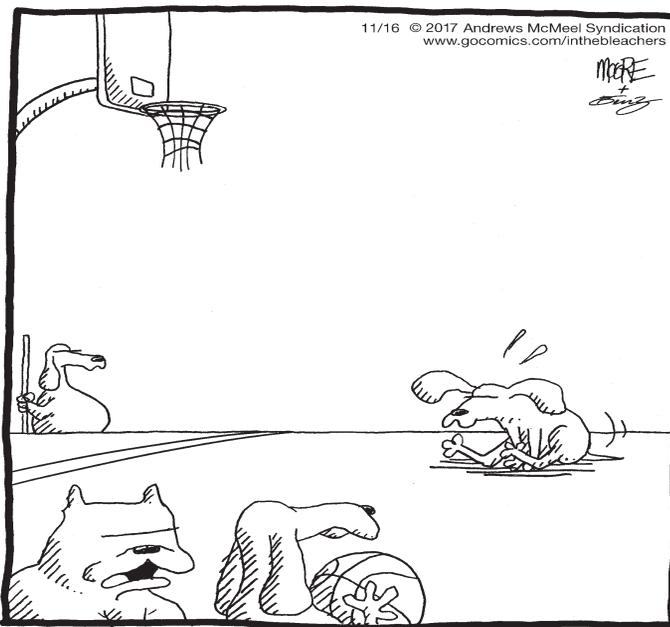


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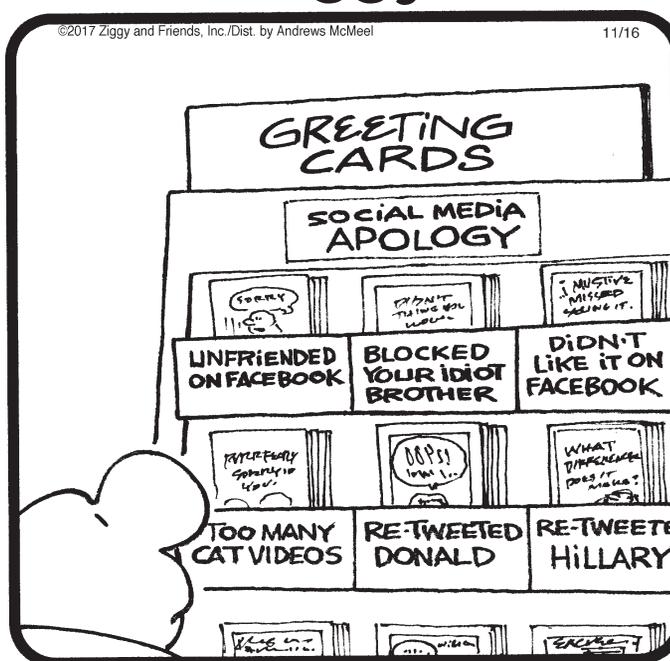
## Real Life Adventures



## In the Bleachers



### Ziggy



## UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆



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.

### Sunday, November 5

Lonnie David Smith, 56, Keystone Heights, Simple Battery

### Tuesday, October 31

Xavier Linnell Siggers, 28, Starke, Sexual Battery

### Monday, October 30

Alysha Kapp, 27, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Petit Theft  
 Travis Reed, 36, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Failing to Report Residence Change

### Saturday, October 28

Randall Jordan, 41, Waldo, CCSO, Simple Battery, Simple Domestic Battery

### Sunday, October 22

Daniel Gessell, 25, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Felony Battery, Domestic Battery, Petit Theft

### Thursday, October 19

Patrick Coleman, 33, Starke, CCSO, Failure to Appear for Court

### Monday, October 16

Zachary Thomas, 19, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Lewd & Lascivious Behavior Victim Age 12-16

### Sunday, October 15

Christopher Teaford, 18, Palatka, OPPD, Drug Equipment Possession, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis

### Saturday, October 14

Jimmy Goodwin, 25, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Driving Without a Valid Driver's License

### Thursday, October 12

Mark Lee, 45, Keystone Heights, FHP, DWLSR

### 20-year-old killed in crash

CLAY HILL – The Florida Highway Patrol reports that a 20-year-old Orange Park man was killed in a two-vehicle accident Nov. 7 in Clay Hill.

Police said Dyllon D. Smith was driving a 2005 Hyundai Sonata heading southbound on U.S. Highway 301 when he came upon a semi-tractor trailer that had stopped in the left turn lane. FHP said the driver of the semi – Ariel Bermudez, 33, of Orlando – failed to yield to oncoming traffic as he traveled out of the left turn lane in front of the Sonata. The front of the Sonata collided with the rear of the semi.

Both vehicles came to rest in the center median, according to the FHP press release. FHP said charges are pending.

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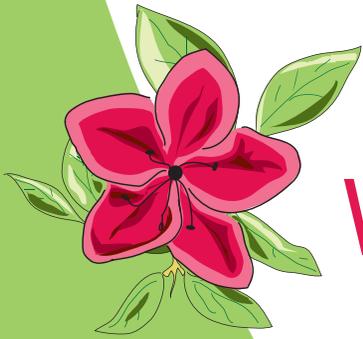
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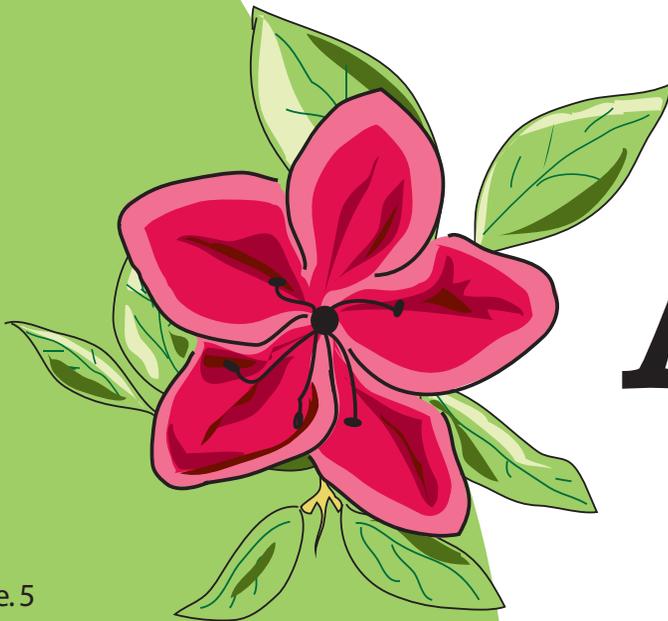
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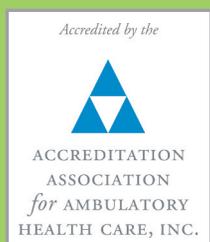
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