



**BLACK CREEK PROJECT UPDATE**  
 Residents look for water to rise in lakes – PAGE 6

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VOL. 2, NO. 2 • THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2017



Osee Fagan holds his son, Osee IV, who will be two-years-old in November.

## Marine building place to heal, encourage

By Jesse Hollett  
 KHHERald.com

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – When Osee Fagan came home from war in 2013, he understood that one struggle had ended, but what he didn't anticipate was that another struggle had begun.

After 17 years in the U.S. Marine Corps special operations reconnaissance, Fagan came home. He traded his fatigues for slacks and his rifle for a golf shirt and attempted to settle into suburbia.

The transition was an exercise in flexibility. Within a year, post-traumatic stress nightmares, alcoholism and miscommunication

had nearly ruined his marriage. Having gone through the pitfalls of that transition, Fagan knows firsthand the inner battles veterans have when they first return from war.

In May, Fagan and his wife Lauren began Operation Barnabas on a 20-acre plot of land in Keystone Heights to ease both the

SEE HEAL, 8

## Irma destroys homes, but not residents' resolve

By Jesse Hollett  
 KHHERald.com

MIDDLEBURG – April Jones stands at the water's edge, the turnoff to her street.

Further down Byron Road in Middleburg, mailboxes sit almost entirely submerged by the three-and-a-half foot storm surge that accompanied Hurricane Irma's arrival into Northeast Florida early the morning of Sept. 11.

Her husband left on a canoe with a neighbor 45 minutes earlier to check how their home fared during the catastrophic flooding of Black Creek. And while the condition of her home weighs on her conscience, her hope right now is that her husband makes it back safe.

"I just hope my husband comes out OK at this point," she said.

SEE STORM, 13



SWAMPED

This is how Hurricane Irma left the intersection of County Road 218 and Blanding Boulevard the week of Sept. 11. Both the north and south prongs of Black Creek contributed to the flooding. The creek crested the morning of Sept. 12 at 28.5 feet and was not expected to recede below flood stage for three days. The previous cresting record was 24.3 feet, set in 1923.

DRONE PHOTO PROVIDED BY KEVIN GREGORIUS

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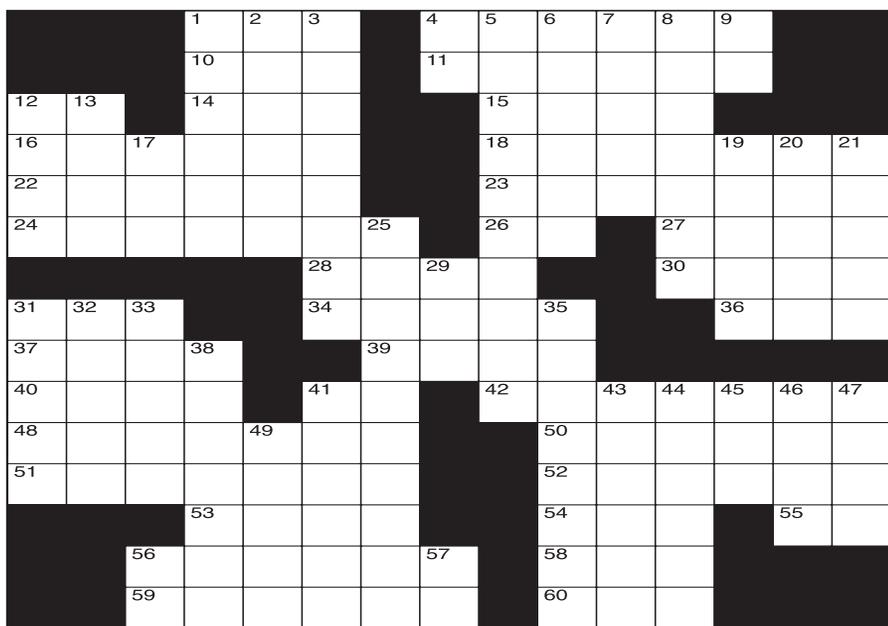
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# Crossword Puzzle

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**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Storage device
- 4. Disagree with
- 10. Political organization
- 11. Playoff appearances
- 12. Collection of cops
- 14. Balkan mountain peak
- 15. Island north of Guam
- 16. Seizure of someone's property
- 18. Repeat
- 22. Beautiful youth
- 23. Bullfighters
- 24. Charges a fare
- 26. Not off
- 27. Where skaters ply their trade
- 28. Meson
- 30. Guru
- 31. Cycles/second
- 34. Alternating turns
- 36. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 37. Mound
- 39. Boxer Amir
- 40. Away from wind
- 41. Exist
- 42. Working man
- 48. British soldier

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Bathing suit
- 2. Poignantly different from what was expected
- 3. A person with the same name as another
- 4. West Siberian river
- 5. Of the membrane lining the abdominal cavity
- 6. Has a positive electric charge
- 7. Fish-eating mammal of the weasel family

- 8. Offerers
- 9. Spanish be
- 12. Chilean province Capitan \_
- 13. Father
- 17. Pestilence
- 19. Songs
- 20. Grilling tools
- 21. Long, winding ridge of sand and gravel
- 25. Court game
- 29. \_kosh, near Lake Winnebago
- 31. Variety of beet
- 32. Caps
- 33. Rides in the snow
- 35. Took without permission
- 38. Tall stand to hold books
- 41. Spanish neighborhood
- 43. Spanish dance
- 44. Countries of Asia
- 45. Make fun of
- 46. Elk Grove High School
- 47. Network of nerves
- 49. Greek apertifs
- 56. Unit of volume
- 57. South Dakota

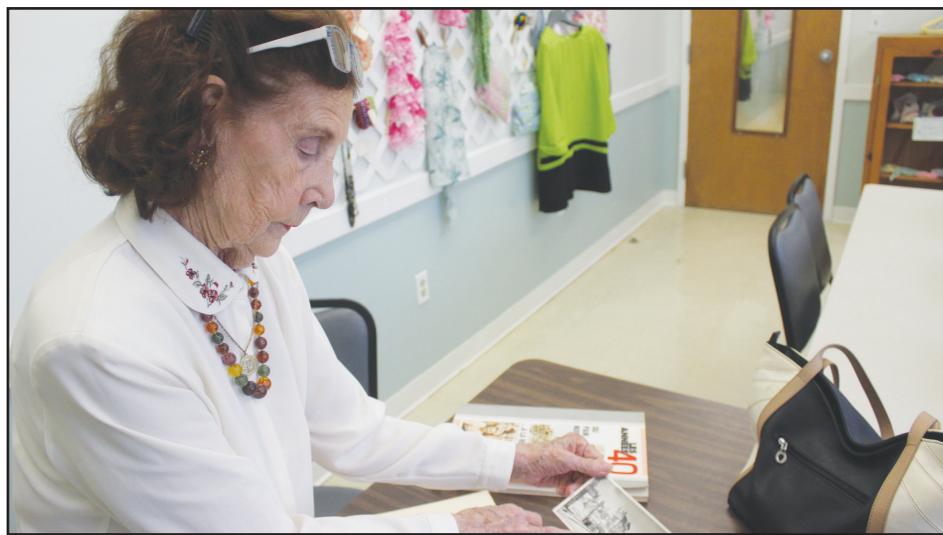


PHOTO BY JESSE HOLLETT

Raymonde Huenink of Keystone Heights points to a photo taken of her when she was just seven years old.

# Recounting the monsters of war

By Jesse Hollett  
KHHerald.com

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – It was a Saturday when the first bomb fell on Vernon, France.

Raymonde Huenink, 86, just seven at the time, and her mother were at the French town's weekend market. Farmer's peddled vegetables and trappers hawked rabbit and chicken.

It was a clear day when the bombs began to whistle, and within seconds buildings cracked into piles.

"The plane going down is horrifying, and the bomb, the bombs whistled. Seconds was all it took," said Huenink, who lives in Keystone Heights. "You are too busy trying to run, trying to go somewhere around the corner or wherever."

In May 1940, German forces began their crawl along Western Europe. Within 6 weeks, German Panzer tanks and militia captured Northern France, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. With little to stop their invasion, the blitzkrieg warfare began and ended in less than a month.

Along the way, Germans trampled over razed French towns and villages filled solely with women and children, as the men had all been mobilized for what would become World War II.

For the next two weeks after the first bombing run, Huenink and her mother traveled south. Their intent was to cross the Loire River, where Huenink's mother believed the German's would halt their invasion.

They never made it. It wasn't the starvation or dehydration that stopped the refugees. France signed an armistice with Germany six weeks after the invasion began. The armistice gave Germany control over Northern France.

Huenink and her mother returned home. A traveling war photographer captured a



In this photo, Raymonde Huenink and her mother walk past the remains of her childhood home after a German bomber destroyed it in 1940.

shot of Huenink and her mother as they walk past their destroyed home the devastation in Vernon. Huenink was wearing shorts and a hooded frock and her mother was wearing a white dress separated at the waist by a ribbon.

"War is hell, no matter who does it," Huenink said.

Until the Allied Powers ended the war in 1945, Huenink stayed in France. She said Vernon was air raided more than 50 times by Germans just before occupation and Allied planes afterwards.

"The fear every morning in your gut. You look up at the sky and you say, oh my god, it's noon, there's no clouds, so if the bombers

SEE MONSTER, 14



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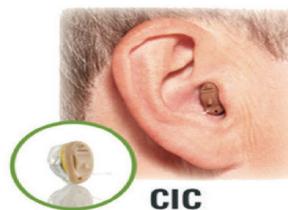
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## Thinking about health

By **Trudy Lieberman**

Rural Health News Service

**H**ospitals may get accredited even with poor, unsafe care. Earlier this year, an Illinois woman sent an email telling me of the poor care her husband received at a large Chicago hospital. After six weeks of fighting for his life, he died.

"I wish you could see his records and all the infections and surgeries he had," she told me. "I've been wanting to do something about the care he got and just didn't know who to go to."

I return to this topic from time to time because everyone is vulnerable to hospital mistakes. Most people think of hospitals as safe, loving places that advertise their miracle cures on TV and build new wings to house the latest technology. How can things go wrong? But they do, and readers of this column have been eager to share their experiences.



Trudy Lieberman

Increasingly, it's becoming clear there are few places patients and their families can turn for help in avoiding bad care and equally important there's almost no guidance from state or the federal regulators. When news outlets try to write about unsafe hospitals, they run into a "veil of secrecy that protects the industry" as one reporter in Michigan put it.

The Wall Street Journal has just published a fine story that begins to lift that veil.

Not many Americans know that the federal government has turned over the task of accrediting most of the nation's hospitals to a private organization called the Joint Commission, which is funded by hospitals and governed by a board of directors some of whom are executives in the health systems it accredits.

Medicare requires hospitals to comply with safety standards, and they can use state inspections or hire a government-approved accrediting body to show they are in compliance. Most have chosen the latter.

Hospitals have a lot of skin in this game paying the Commission an annual fee between \$1,500 and \$37,000 depending on how big they are, the Journal reported. They also pay for the inspections, which in 2015 cost on average \$18,000.

The Joint Commission awards a "Gold Seal of Approval" to those facilities that meet its standards. Maybe you've seen them when you've visited a hospital. It encourages hospitals to use those accreditations in their marketing activities, even providing them with a publicity kit. The Commission has also created a patient brochure with this reassuring message, "Whenever and wherever you receive health care, look for The Joint Commission Gold Seal of Approval."

However, the Journal found that those seals of approval can be misleading. Using information from inspection records, reporters found that in 2014 some 350 hospitals had Joint Commission accreditation even though they were in violation of Medicare

SEE HEALTH, 5



## Stop using the term 'Death Panels' in healthcare reform

By **Matt Swanhart**

**"D**eath Panels" – one of the most bombastic and inflammatory terms that are bandied about when one discusses healthcare reform.

When a politician or legislator wields that terminology, they are sure to stir strong feelings in the public. Using that language causes one to imagine a team of ghoul-like committee members, rubber stamping cases as to who lives and who dies.



Matt Swanhart

As any clear-minded and forward-thinking individual can understand, death is the expected end of our time on this Earth as mortal beings. The fact that our lives will someday end has been a subject of philosophical thought and religious exploration for as far back as recorded time.

All of us would like to have as much say over how our lives end as possible. For the lucky, they will have a peaceful death, surrounded by family and friends, in a setting of their choice while having medical care provided that will ensure their comfort and quality of life.

What is difficult is the time before the actual end of our lives, where many individuals and their families end up utilizing the healthcare system at the highest levels, seeking to increase the number of days they have left. While there are times when it's reasonable and prudent to seek aggressive, invasive medical care in order to prolong life, there are also times when such care does little more than decrease the quality of a person's life. In other words, for some individuals with chronic, end-stage, life-limiting illnesses, repeated hospitalizations and procedures actually become more burdensome than beneficial.

Several well-known studies establish that a small percentage of us (from 5-20 percent) are responsible for most of the healthcare expenditures our country makes in a year (from 50-80 percent depending on the study). It is most likely that these individuals have chronic, end-stage, and life-limiting illnesses – but feel they have no other choice than to access the healthcare system through emergency rooms via ambulance, having healthcare crises that they see as requiring immediate expert medical care.

As medical professionals can attest, many chronic, end-stage, and life-limiting conditions have "management" options but no "curative" options. An individual of advanced age with heart failure, whose heart has weakened to the point of functioning at 10-15 percent, can have excess fluid drained off of them (management option) but are not candidates for heart transplantation or extensive surgery (curative options). Similarly, those with end-stage liver disease, end-stage COPD, and late-stage cancers find very little benefit to their long-term prognosis through repeated hospitalizations.

Currently, these individuals and their families can opt to continue accessing the healthcare system, being readmitted to a healthcare system that can only offer management options – not a cure. These individuals are better served with a form of medicine that focuses on managing their symptoms, establishing goals for how to take care of them based on their wishes, and enhancing their quality of life.

Even more important to the healthcare reform debate is normalizing a form of medicine that reduces hospital admissions and allows people to receive medical care at the setting of their choice. That area of medicine is called palliative care.

Palliative care is currently underutilized in the healthcare system. At any one time, studies show that an average of 4 percent of individuals in an inpatient setting are receiving palliative care. Palliative care can also include hospice services, which are medical services that follow an individual wherever they are,

SEE PANELS, 5



*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.*

**Redolent:** An adjective meaning "aromatic, exuding fragrance."

"The forest was redolent of pine needle and other woody smells."

## This Month in History

### 5 years ago, 2012

Faced with a 25.8 percent drop in property valuations in the wake of the Great Recession, Green Cove Springs City Council considered a 16 percent property tax increase for its 2013 fiscal year budget.

The Clay County Sheriff's Office investigated skeletal remains found in a drainage ditch off Wells Road in Orange Park. A 15-year-old boy who had gone fishing spotted the remains.

Clay County School Board Vice Chairman Janice Kerekes said while the issue of hiring a school superintendent instead of electing one was dead for the moment, the issue will arise in the future.

Clay County School Board Member Janice Kerekes offered an emergency item on the agenda to allow voters to decide whether to elect the school superintendent or have the board hire one in the wake of the August primary in which political rival Charlie Van Zant Jr. was elected.

### 10 years ago, 2007

The Clay County School District filed an updated long-range plan with the Florida Department of Education that called for spending \$8825 million to build 24 new schools through 2027.

Meanwhile, the district braced for a cut in state funds due to a \$1 billion shortfall in states sales tax collections after passing a \$451 million budget that included \$83 million for capital improvements.

After three hours of vocal support and opposition, Orange Park Town Council voted 3-2 to allow a poker room at Orange Park Kennel Club. Opponents said it would lead to crime, while supporters touted high-wage jobs.

The Clay County School Board voted 4-1 to approve a 7.5 percent hike in the salary schedule for district administrators, including \$139,000 for the superintendent and up

SEE HISTORY, 5

# Health

from page 4

safety requirements, and 60 percent of them had safety violations in the preceding three years.

It seems that most patients facing an operation or a hospital stay would want to know that. Dr. Mark Chassin, president and chief executive of the Joint Commission, told the Journal that his organization doesn't routinely withdraw accreditation of hospitals with safety problems because its focus is less on regulating or penalizing and more on preventing problems.

And this brings us back to that age-old problem: Should a government regulate business, including hospitals which have become very big businesses - or should it provide information so buyers, or in this case patients, can compare the offerings and make decent choices? Opponents of regulation argue that providing information is best.

Earlier this year the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services proposed a rule that would have required the Joint Commission to make its inspection records public. The agency cited serious concerns about the Commission's ability to identify safety problems. The Commission opposed the regulation, arguing it would make its work harder. Hospitals opposed it, too.

CMS heard their pleas and withdrew the proposal leaving patients in the same information vacuum they were in before.

Earlier this year Ashish Jha, a professor of health policy at the T. H. Chan School of Public Health at Harvard, told me he had no idea which hospital in New York City had the lowest risk of safety problems. At best he could only make a rough guess. He told the Journal its findings show "accreditation is basically meaningless - it doesn't mean a hospital is safe."

*Write to Trudy at trudy.lieberman@gmail.com. Her column appears courtesy of the Rural Health News Network and the Florida Press Association.*

# Panels

from page 4

and provides equipment and medication as well as a physician, nurse, nurse's aide, social worker and chaplain.

While purveyors of scare tactics and rhetoric will use the term "death panels" to scare individuals into believing that healthcare reform is seeking to bar them from receiving medical care, the truth is that a bipartisan effort to expand palliative care would ease the burden on the healthcare

system and could be a solution for many currently suffering through unnecessary, ineffective medical treatments that destroy their quality of life.

No "death panel" will remove your medical care, but medical care that is focused on what's in a person's best interests for the end of their life should be provided when faced with late- and end-stage conditions.

*Matt Swanhart is a 30-year resident of Clay County, currently serving the community as a licensed clinical social worker at St. Vincent's Clay County and is a graduate of Clay County Public Schools & FSU.*

# History

from page 4

to \$109,569 for school principals.

## 20 years ago, 1997

The Crossings at Fleming Island Community Development District officially turned over operation of its water and sewer system to Clay County Utility Authority.

Actor Peter Fonda and movie director Victor Nunez signed autographs at a gala to officially open the AMC24 movie theater at Orange Park Mall. The theater also hosted a premiere of the film "Ulee's Gold," in which Fonda played the lead role.

The Green Cove Springs Rotary Club named Wynema Lovell "Citizen of the Year" for her work with the Food Pantry of Green Cove Springs.

Although the Medical Examiner's report was not complete, Green Cove Springs Police Chief Gail Russell said it appeared foul play was involved the death of Mildredta Messer, 57, of Green Cove Springs. Messer had been missing for five days when her body was pulled from the St. Johns River.

## 30 years ago, 1987

Clay County Clerk of Court George Carlisle, who also served as the county comptroller, said the Clay County Sheriff's Office investigative fund was not overdrawn after conducting the fund's first-ever audit.

The Clay County School District began classes with a record enrollment of 20,265 students and a new elementary school. Lake Asbury Elementary opened to serve grades five and six.

The Clay County Commission passed an ordinance to hike the gas tax by two cents.

The Clay County Sheriff's Office arrested Ronnie David Smith, George Andrew Smith, and Tony Adam Wills, all of Lake Geneva, for distributing pornography, dealing stolen property and narcotics.

## 40 years ago, 1977

Walnut Street in Green Cove Springs was set to undergo a beautification project after getting awarded \$140,000 from CETA to hire 14 workers on unemployment.

Rep. Frank Williams (D-Starke) said he would like to see the Doctors Inlet Prison shut down and its 75 acres become home to the Clay Campus of St. Johns River Community College.

The Clay County Commission allowed Florida Power & Light to run \$6.3 million worth of electric lines across Clay County in to connect substations for Clay Electric.

Although there was no electricity, no plumbing or telephone service, the Clay County School Superintendent Jesse P. Tynes Jr. swore Montclair Elementary would be ready for students the first day of school on August 22, 1977.



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# Lake Region gets update on Black Creek project

By Jesse Hollett  
KHHerald.com

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – First Baptist Church of Keystone Heights overflowed recently with residents who want to see the water levels reach new heights.

Standing room only, residents crammed into every inch of an events room behind the church to pitch questions to representatives from The St. Johns River Water Management District regarding the Black Creek Water Resource Development Project.

On Aug. 29, representatives addressed concerns related to the multi-million project to pipe water from Black Creek to Keystone Heights. It is the last of two meetings currently scheduled.

Local environmental groups have lauded the project as a positive step to remedying low water levels in Lake Geneva and Lake Brooklyn.

As for concerns – there haven't been many in Keystone Heights.

"I heard rumblings here or there, I do know there are a few people here today with concerns," said Keystone Heights City Manager Scott Kornegay. "I think a lot of the concern is misinformation. This is how we get the correct info out and put people at ease."

As planned, the project would capture excess water along Black Creek about 75

percent of the time and pipe it along State Roads 16 and 21 to Lake Magnolia.

The water would then travel down Alligator Creek where it would flow south to increase the water levels of Lakes Geneva Brooklyn and remedy a decades-old problem for the city.

The yet-to-be constructed pipeline would have a 10 million gallon transmission capacity. The project's main goal is to recharge the upper Floridan Aquifer through the bolstering of Lake Geneva and Lake Brooklyn, which are aquifer recharge areas.

The state appropriated \$13.3 million this year for the project, with a concurrent contribution \$5 million annually over the life of the project.

"I hope some water will come this way," said Carolyn Moody, a member of the Save Our Lakes Organization, an organization formed to lobby area legislators on behalf of the Keystone Lakes Region. "I'm very excited. I've lived on the lake for 50 years and I'll be glad to see some water come back."

Project managers and experts familiar with the plan heard concerns mainly based on region.

Some Keystone Heights residents in attendance voiced concerns that water from Black Creek would be of inadequate quality. Meanwhile, others on Black Creek think pumping water would invite saltwater

SEE PROJECT, 11



Michael Cullum, technical program coordinator with the St. Johns River Water Management District, at right, answers questions Aug. 28 at the second informative community meeting about the Black Creek Water Resource Development Project. The meeting took place at Keystone Heights First Baptist Church.

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## Five Tips for Women Business Owners

On Sept. 22, we celebrate American Business Women's Day. If you're a woman planning to go into business for yourself, keep these five tips in mind:

First, balance your business goals with your personal ones. It can be challenging to expand your business while still saving for retirement. Second, choose an appropriate retirement plan, such as an owner-only 401(k) or a SEP-IRA. These plans offer tax-deferred growth potential and possible deductible contributions. Third, arrange for "backup." If you have extensive family responsibilities, you'll need a trusted person to fill in for you on occasion. Fourth, work with your legal and tax advisors to create a succession plan if you want to keep the business in the family. And, finally, build an emergency fund containing a few months' worth of business expenses. Keep this fund in a liquid, low-risk account.

Running your own business can be rewarding, but it's never going to be an easy road. However, with perseverance and careful planning, you can smooth out some of the bumps along the way — and give yourself reason to celebrate American Business Women's Day.

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By Jesse Hollett  
KHherald.com

FLEMING ISLAND – Just after 10 p.m. on Aug. 4, a 2004 GMC SUV rear-ended a 2006 Taoi Scooter on the Black Creek Bridge and dragged it until it burst into flames more than a mile away.

The driver, 54-year-old Lisa Beverly, drove until she arrived at her home in Green Cove Springs.

Glen McDonald, 39, never arrived home that night and was left in an emergency lane on the bridge. McDonald remained on life support until his death at Orange Park Medical Center.

While the incident left McDonald dead, his death has given four others life. His loved ones say this giving, even in death, is just a continuation of his life, which he spent as a volunteer in his church and other organizations.

“He gave four people that day life,” said Karen Taylor, McDonald’s sister. “Two women came off of dialysis, a man got a heart, and another woman received his liver. He gave life to so many.”

McDonald, who was adopted into Taylor’s family when he was 18 months old, has lived with Taylor for the last 10 years. McDonald assisted her in overcoming the daily challenges of being a single mom.

Ask McDonald’s loved ones and they’ll say the world lost a servant that day.

They’ll say McDonald seemed like he had four arms at his church with the many projects he assisted and the almost boundless energy he brought to even the most menial tasks.

“Glen was always one of the first ones in line [to volunteer] over the period of time that I had a relationship with him,” said Bill Register, pastor of First Assembly Church on Fleming Island, where McDonald worshipped. “We constantly preach that our lives are in God’s hands and if we decide to walk with him he gives us a path to walk. We don’t know when the path we walk on will end. It’s sad that anybody had to die that way, that’s something nobody can explain, but there’s many times when bad things happen to good people, and we don’t have control over those things.”

McDonald is one of nearly 500 individuals to donate organs in Florida this year.



Keystone Heights native Glen McDonald helped others live by choosing to be an organ donor.

However, the number pales in comparison to those in the state currently on a waiting list to receive an organ.

“It’s a tremendous gap,” said Kathleen Giery, director of Donor Program Development for LifeQuest, the organ recovery service that operates between Jacksonville and Pensacola. “An organ transplant is a lifesaving therapy for a lot of conditions – people who have cardiomyopathy, people who have cystic fibrosis... – when the only option for someone is an organ transplant, we know what will save these people’s lives, but it’s not like they can just go to the hospital and immediately get a transplant.”

LifeQuest is one of 58 separate organ transplant companies that operate within Florida. Last year, the companies recovered lifesaving organs from 921 individuals, the most donors since these records have been kept, according to Giery. The significant uptick is due to a combination of effective education both with adults and high school students who are on their way to get their driver’s licenses, and organs recovered from fatalities related to the opioid crisis.

There are currently 5,765 individuals on a waiting list to receive organs in Florida, however. Shortly after McDonald’s death, there were four less on that list. Still, McDonald’s loved ones are grappling with anger after the events surrounding his death. Police are still investigating as to whether alcohol or substance abuse played a role in McDonald’s death.

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## Community Briefs

### Foundation launches mobile audiology service for children

LAKE ASBURY – Sertoma Speech & Hearing Foundation of Florida Inc. will hold a ribbon cutting and presentation for its new mobile audiology services van next week.

The event takes place Sept. 25 from 9-9:30 a.m. at Asbury Learning Center, 2781 Henley Rd. in Lake Asbury. Rep. Travis Cummings (R-Orange Park) will cut the ribbon for mobile audiology services, joined by Sertoma members and local children who are deaf and hard of hearing. The public is invited to attend.

The mobile audiology van will provide hearing screenings and evaluations along with fitting and dispensing hearing aids. The foundation focuses on serving rural and under-served communities. Cummings has been instrumental in helping children who are deaf gain access to appropriate services.

“I was happy to champion this effort to ensure that every child who is deaf or experiencing hearing challenges in the district and beyond has access to all the tools for success in their community,” Cummings said.

The Sertoma Foundation is a part of the Coalition for Spoken Language Options, which provides listening and spoken language intervention for children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Partnering with the foundation locally is Clarke School for

Hearing & Speech headquartered in Jacksonville. Clarke provides early intervention and speech therapy with an educational component via center-based and itinerant services throughout the region.

“This mobile audiology van project was made possible through the dedicated efforts of local legislators such as Representative Cummings and Sertoma Club funders. Private matching funds cover one hundred percent of the cost of the van itself. The audiologist and other professional staffing is financially supported by Department of Health funding, Sertoma clubs throughout Florida and matching grants,” Debra Golinski said Sertoma Foundation executive director.

Hearing Loss is the most common anomaly uncovered in newborn screenings. Early detection and intervention is key for an infant to have the opportunity to access early intervention services including access to speech and other sounds for learning and brain development.

The mission of Sertoma Speech and Hearing Foundation is to enhance individual potential and quality of life through better hearing.

### Tax collector collecting goods for hurricane relief

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – The Clay County Tax Collector’s office is making convenient for Clay County residents to aid in hurricane relief in the aftermath of

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From left, Osee and Lauren Fagan look out on a cross section of their growing farm.



Osee Fagan IV peeks out from his father's truck, emblazoned with the Operation Barnabas logo.

## Heal from page 6

transition to civilian life and post-traumatic stress for veterans locally and nationally. The Fagans named the nonprofit after the biblical character Barnabas whose name is synonymous with having lived a life of sacrifice while encouraging others.

"I've been through the alcohol, the drugs, the PTSD... and of course my wife can give

her side as well, because I've been through some stuff, but she's been right there dealing with what I've thrown at her," Osee said.

Although his plans are still fresh, Fagan and Lauren have big aspirations for the future. They currently own horses, cows and fowl, but they hope within two years they can develop the land into a fully self-sustainable farm complete with lodging facilities for veteran families and a gun range.

The couple has begun throwing barbecues on the first Saturday of every month as an "icebreaker" for the community, but

### Community Event

The Fagans are inviting the community to come tour the property on Oct. 7-8 as they celebrate Fall Festival.

**For more information** on Operation Barnabas, go to its Facebook page at [facebook.com/OperationBarnabasInc](https://facebook.com/OperationBarnabasInc).

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hasn't yet held a full retreat.

"I know there's a need for this because as little as it's publicized, people are still down range getting shot at on a daily basis, that's just bringing more 18- or 19- year-old kids that are confused in life in the first place and then they have to deal with some post-traumatic stress," Osee said.

Since May, the couple have invested \$50,000 into the compound, which includes their home. Although the two have applied for grants, none have been awarded so far.

Osee said the nonprofit has a partnership with Goldhead Branch State Park to let veteran families stay in cabins until the Fagan's can develop on-site lodging for their families.

Lauren said the veterans that have stayed on their property thus far have been their close friends so they can give feedback on how to improve the facility.

"I think as we get going with the programs we'll figure out more of what we want to do [with the property]," Lauren said.

Lauren said she is astounded at how quickly this has all happened. In 2014, the couple was at a very different point in their life.

Years of being a Marine and taking part in direct action raids and firefights had become the norm for Osee before he returned from deployment turned to days of city noise and television droning – the transition into civilian life.

It wasn't long until the wartime nightmares began.

Shortly afterwards began the alcoholism and drug use. Fagan's methods of suppression led to him sleeping in his office away from home, with Lauren and his children left dangling in the middle with a condition he dreaded to name.

His relationship with his wife Lauren deteriorated, and they considered divorce.

Friends arranged an intervention before Osee did irreparable harm to the relationship. They sat him down and "shook" him

"sober," Fagan said.

Fagan sought treatment in Arizona.

"That's when I started to realize, 'OK once I take the drinking out of my life, I have these nightmares... I have these issues I need to face,'" Osee said.

He finally admitted that the nightmares he experienced were due to post-traumatic stress disorder.

Once Osee's alcoholism became manageable, he went on a family retreat to Project Sanctuary, a Colorado-based center that helps families put their lives back together after the military.

Upon his return, it was clear a change of scenery was in order. The retreat helped Osee open up about his troubles. He realized that to make his condition more manageable, he needed to move somewhere tranquil.

A close friend of Osee's founded AHERO, an Alabama-based community driven program that connects veterans with peers and resources.

Osee said mentorship like that has been invaluable to him in the process of both creating his nonprofit and his recovery.

Lauren and Osee have had two children since he returned from deployment. Asla is 2 months old, and Osee IV will be two in November.

"We really never told our story until we moved out to this farm," Lauren said. Some of the details are shameful. The drinking, it's just, when you change so much, and the drinking was excessive, when you change so much, you don't want to think about how you hurt other people. But it's necessary. Nobody is going to listen to you if you don't air those details."

The Fagans are inviting the community to come tour the property on Oct. 7-8 as they celebrate Fall Festival. For more information on Operation Barnabas, go to its Facebook page at [facebook.com/OperationBarnabasInc](https://facebook.com/OperationBarnabasInc).



Sen. Rob Bradley(R-Fleming Island) and Sen. Anitere Flores(R-Miami) were among the state lawmakers honored by the Florida Health Care Association for their work on behalf of Florida's elderly during the 2017 Session. Photo by Phil Sears

## Bradley honored for work on healthcare

By FloridaPolitics.com

TALLAHASSEE – The Florida Health Care Association honored 11 state lawmakers – Senate President Joe Negron, House Speaker Richard Corcoran, Sen Rob Bradley, Sen. Anitere Flores, Sen. Rene Garcia, Sen. Kelli Stargel, Rep. Daisy Baez, Rep. Travis Cummings, Rep. Shawn Harrison, Rep. Alex Miller, and Rep. Frank White as the organization's 2017 Champions of the Elderly.

The lawmakers were chosen because they demonstrated a deep commitment to elders and others who needed the services of long term care centers.

"Florida is fortunate to have so many extraordinary supporters for our long-term care residents and families, from the people who work in our care centers to the legislators who advocate on their behalf," said Emmett Reed, the association's executive director. "This conference is an opportunity to bring together so many people who tirelessly perform work that is challenging but so meaningful."

The lawmakers were recognized during the association's annual conference, which was held at the Rosen Shingle Creek in Orlando.



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## Briefs

from page 7

Hurricane Irma. Residents are being asked to drop off at any of the four tax collector offices in the coming days and weeks in a drive being coordinated with Salvation Army.

The following donations are needed:

Cleaning supplies, bleach, Lysol, rubber and work gloves, paper towels, tools, safety masks and more. Non-perishable foods, canned goods, rice, pasta, soups and snack foods such as granola bars. Hygiene products, such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap and shampoo are also needed.

Tax Collector offices are at 477 Houston St. in Green Cove Springs, 3245 Bear Run Blvd., south of Orange Park, 1518 Park Ave. in Orange Park and 7380 State Rd. 100 Suite 10 in Keystone Heights.

### Legal assistance available for Irma survivors

TALLAHASSEE – A legal aid hotline is now available for Hurricane Irma survivors in Florida who cannot pay for an attorney.

The 1-866-550-2929 hotline operates through a partnership between The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division, the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Voicemail recordings give callers instructions on how to leave a message requesting storm-related legal assistance. Callers will be asked to provide their name, telephone number, county of residence, and a description of their legal problems.

Assistance through this hotline is available to qualified Floridians affected by Hurricane Irma in all Florida counties. Those who qualify will be matched with Florida lawyers who have volunteered to provide free legal help such as securing FEMA and other benefits, making life, medical and property insurance claims, dealing with home repair contractors, replacing wills and other important legal documents destroyed in the hurricane, helping with consumer protection matters, remedies and procedures and counseling on mortgage-foreclosure problems or landlord/tenant issues.

Callers can leave a message on the hotline at any time. Calls will be returned within two business days between 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. There are some limitations. For example, assistance is not available for cases in which fees are paid as part of a settlement or award from a court. Such cases will be referred to a lawyer referral service.

Funding for this hotline comes from FEMA under the authority of Section 415 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency assistance Act (Public Law 100-707). To determine whether an issue qualifies for free legal assistance, individuals should call 800-310-7029.

Three Rivers Legal Services Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation which provides free civil legal services to low-income, eligible clients in 17 counties throughout North Florida is also helping in this partnership. Three Rivers Legal Services has three offices that serve Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Dixie, Duval, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Nassau, St. Johns, Suwannee, Taylor and Union Counties.



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# Project

from page 6

from the St. Johns River to creep further up the creek and harm wildlife and change the natural environment.

To prevent this, a number of residents have banded together under the name "Black Creek Matters" to oppose the project. However, when asked their concerns, no one from the group wanted to go on the record regarding the project.

Some residents in the area also believe that flows in the creek are rarely high enough to pump without undue harm to the water levels of the creek itself.

"Black Creek is a very flashy creek," said Michael Cullum, a technical program coordinator with SJRWMD. "When you get a rainstorm...the flows jump up."

The district has completed a study that was four years in the making that examined the impacts that pumping would have downstream. The study focused on the impact on natural wildlife, namely the Black Creek Crawfish, underwater vegetation, water quality – including salinity – and neighboring wetlands.

The study found pumping would have a "negligible" impact on the four categories.

"The salinity effects caused by the tested withdrawal scenarios are negligible," the report said. "Consequently, the withdrawals will likely not result in any changes to tidal or submerged plant communities at the downstream reach of Black Creek."

Still, saltwater infiltration continues to be a concern, even for those in non-adjacent communities to Black Creek.

"I just don't think it's a well thought out plan," said Cliff Phillips of Melrose who attended the meeting and described himself as undecided on the plan's benefits. "I don't think they have enough evidence and data to back [district claims] up. I just don't want to solve one problem and get more problems...I'm here to save my lakes."

According to Cullum, while he was unable to convince every concerned attendee to abandon their doubts, he said "If I was able to address their specific concerns face-to-face, they walked away more positive and more educated."

# Football player dies after cardiac arrest

JACKSONVILLE – Officials at Wolfson Children's Hospital report that Fleming Island High football and baseball player Ben Johnson passed away Sept. 22 at 11:55 a.m.

Johnson, a sophomore, had cardiac arrest and irreversible brain damage, according to a prepared statement from hospital staff.

"An autopsy will be performed to determine the cause. The family appreciates prayers and asks for time to grieve privately with their close friends and family," stated the news release.

The Johnson family declined to publicly comment on their son's death and instead asked the hospital to share a statement with the community.

"Ben went to be with his Lord and Savior



Ben Johnson

today. While we mourn, we find peace knowing he is with Jesus. We also find hope in Ben's selfless decision to donate his organs. Please pray for healing for our family. Our hearts are broken," stated the Johnson

Family.

Clay County School District spokeswoman Nicole Snyder said Johnson passed out on Sept. 19 while he was working in the weight room during school hours. Emergency rescue crews were called to render aid to Johnson who was transported to Wolfson Children's Hospital where he was in critical condition.

"In the last two weeks, Clay County has suffered a number of scenarios that have impacted our community. We are devastated to hear about the incident involving our student, Ben Johnson. He was known as a kind, caring friend and son, who was a leader inside and outside the classroom. Our thoughts and prayers are with Ben's family," said Addison Davis, Clay County School Superintendent.

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# The graying of Clay County



By **Jesse Hollett**  
KHHerald.com

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – A combination of growth, in-migration and an aging population is projected to inflate Clay County’s population of citizens age 75 and above by about 500 percent by 2040.

The projection, which comes from University of Florida’s Shimberg Center for Housing Studies, shows a dramatic increase projected in a 40-year period between 2000 and 2040 that could dramatically change Clay County’s demographics.

Experts say Clay County is not prepared for what is known as “the silver tsunami” and that the time for planning is now.

“Now’s the time, when you’re talking about those kinds of demographics,” said Linda Levin, chief executive officer of the Jacksonville-based senior resources non-profit ElderSource. “Now’s the time for Clay County to buy into this.”



Linda Levin

It’s no secret Florida has long been a retirement haven for the elderly, which make up about 25 percent of the state’s population. However, Clay County has bucked the 25 percent trend and has main-

tained a 10 percent rate of elderly residents.

However, that percentage is on a slow path of change.

According to the Shimberg study, Clay County’s rate of growth in this age group will be more than four times higher than the state’s senior growth during the same period leading up to 2040.

During that same time period, the percentage growth of the age cohort under 30 years old shows only modest gains. According to population projections, within 20 years, the number of senior citizens in Clay County will grow from just over 10 percent of the population in 2000 to just under 25 percent of the population.

This trend, national as much as it is local, comes as 10,000 U.S. baby boomers cel-

ebate their 65th birthday every day. The age group, which makes up more than a quarter of the U.S. population, will dramatically change the composition of the country.

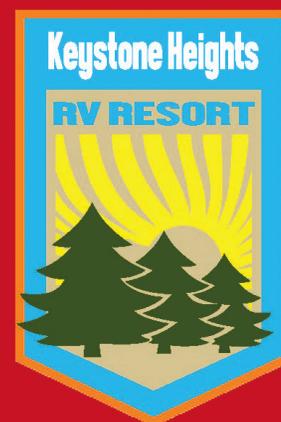
Perhaps nowhere will this be felt more thoroughly than in sunny Florida.

“The first boomers are in their early 70s,” said David Bruns, a Tallahassee-based communications manager for the American Association of Retired Persons. “We’re going to see a very rapid rise in the 70-plus population, and that is going to have transformative effects. One of the issues that people face not so much in their early 70s, but in their later 70s or 80s, is that they want to remain independent as much as they can.”

SEE GRAY, 14

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# Storm

from page 1

The canoe emerges in the distance and floats down the flooded street. April could see her husband's smile from their home, but that doesn't stop her from giving him an earful.

"You've been gone 45 minutes," she yells from the water's edge. "I thought you were dead. I was about to call Clay County rescue."

"There was some people in dire need down there," said Lance, April's husband. "The house is fine."

Lance and his neighbor who owns the canoe, Tim Merritt, dock at the corner of Byron and Henley roads.

Merritt, like the Jones family, lives along Black Creek. Just last week, homes sat quaint and cast their shadows along the creek, which is long-prone to flash floods.

On Sept. 11, however, after the worst of Hurricane Irma had passed, the roofs of homes looked like nothing more than lily pads on the water's surface.

The historic flooding along Black Creek astonished April, whose home sits above the 100-year floodplain. According to Clay County Emergency Management, both the north and south prongs of Black Creek crested Sept. 12 at 28.5 feet and likely will not recede below flood stage until Friday. The previous record was 24.3 feet, set in 1923.

She's never seen anything like it, she said, "never, never. Before, we lived in



PHOTO BY JESSE HOLLETT

John Griffiths has lived on Black Creek since 1976 and wants to live nowhere else.

Lake Asbury when Tropical Storm Debbie came through, and we never saw anything like this."

The Jones family is new to the creek. The flood occurred while they were still embroiled in a home remodeling project.

John Griffiths, who has lived on the creek since 1976, stands on his porch, a cat on his feet, Monday morning shortly after the storm had subsided. The creek he loves has crept up almost up to his front door, suspended several feet above a wheelchair ramp and stone staircase.

As for the water, "I hope that it gets out of here," Griffiths said.

As for the creek - "I'm not leaving," he

said. "I love it out here. Black Creek is one of the most beautiful creeks around."

It's a feeling shared by many of his neighbors.

"This is definitely different, I've been here 25 years and it's never been like this, never," Merritt said.

He spent Sept. 11 during the storm assisting neighbors whose homes drowned, he said, are crushed, but not broken.

"They're miserable, they're miserable," Merritt said. "But that's what you do when you live on the creek. This is part of living on the creek. Nobody likes it and nobody wants it, but that's part of it."

Merritt looked out over the flooded neighborhood and smiled.

The damage is worth living on the creek,

"to me it is," he said. "This is a minor thing compared to the joy you get off this creek."

Rescue efforts continue for those trapped in their homes along Black Creek. On Monday, emergency personnel rescued 173 individuals and 43 pets from homes affected by flooding. Crews rescued an additional 72 people and 18 pets by Tuesday night. On Sept. 13, Florida Gov. Rick Scott toured the creek by boat and surveyed the damage.

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# Gray

from page 12

For individuals to remain independent and inside their homes well after retirement, Bruns said, communities need to consider universal design for new home construction. He said that may include simple additions such as handles for doors in lieu of knobs, wider doors and other small home requirements that can keep aging residents in their homes away from an assisted living facility.

"There are not enough facilities for that population to move into as they grow... So we need to make their homes physically fit for that to happen," Levin said. "That's part of a livable community."

According to AARP, there are 16 "age-friendly communities" in Florida. The classification, awarded by AARP, is not an endorsement necessarily of the current conditions for the elderly in those communities, but rather a declaration by public officials to make their communities more livable for the elderly.

"There's a tremendous amount of work that's already being done by organizations all over the state to prepare for... the 'silver tsunami,'" Bruns said.

So what makes a community livable when it comes to the elderly?

The World Health Organization has developed eight criteria to determine age-friendly communities.

Among them are ratings on how effective a community's transportation system is and the social services and general outlook a population has towards the elderly.

"If you make the community livable for people 50-plus, it's going to be livable for the whole community," said Justine Conley, associate state director for advocacy and outreach for AARP.

Big changes could determine if Clay County weathers the waves of impending change or succumbs to them, experts say. As an aging population, county growth and in-migration lead to an age boom, experts say, Clay County's current transportation, housing and health systems may not be able to withstand the growth spurt.

"Transportation is a big issue for Clay County, but it's also a big issue everywhere," Levin said.

Cursory changes to make roads more age-friendly do not require expensive implementation, Levin said. For example, the county could choose to make wider crosswalks and expand the time that pedestrians have when they attempt to cross a street.

Approximately 12 percent of Clay Transit riders are more than 60 years old. That percentage could grow as Clay County's demographics trend upward.

To house a growing elderly population that is increasingly outliving its retirement savings, the county would likely need to invest more heavily in affordable housing than the 11 units currently within the county.

Levin said, like transportation, a shortage of affordable housing is a strain not exclusive to Clay County.

However, she said, with such a high growth in senior citizens expected within the county, county health officials will likely see a shortage of geriatric services.

"The demand is going to be too great on the system, and we're going to need more," Levin said. "There's not enough resources to begin with, the system can't support it. With the growing number and not enough resources to support them, we need... to help them remain healthier longer, or at least help them manage their health better."

During natural disasters, however, emergency officials would have to be mindful of the changing demographics and plan accordingly.

"I think [an older population] does a multitude of things," said John Ward, Clay

County Emergency Management director. "One, it brings a new population that we need to educate on disaster preparedness, and two, we also would need to increase our sheltering capacities. We have quite a few shelters, but special needs shelters for the electrically and medically needy population, we really need to work on increasing."

Not all issues Clay County could encounter over the next decade wrought from new demographics will be systemic in nature.

Elders statistically involve themselves more in volunteer efforts than their younger demographic groups, so an older population means more volunteers. The county just needs to ensure the new population can find and assist in those volunteer efforts.

"What a great problem to have," Levin said.

According to Levin, in the past 50 years, Florida's number of senior citizens age 75 and older has experienced approximately 650 percent growth. Clay County is projected to have a 488 percent growth in less than half that time.

Now is the time to plan, experts say. "Hopefully they listen and do what they need to do to make their community elderly friendly," Levin said. "An elder friendly community is friendly for everybody."

## Population rate of change

	2000	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	Percentage
<b>Florida</b>									
65-69	726,977	958,533	1,150,086	1,293,025	151,177	1,495,244	1,450,401	1,632,865	125%
70-74	724,459	796,418	908,284	1,118,596	1,249,944	1,581,293	1,449,499	1,460,260	102%
75+	1,355,308	1,531,505	1,675,350	1,965,057	2,372,664	3,304,559	3,802,558	2,798,017	106%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,067,44</b>	<b>3,286,456</b>	<b>3,733,720</b>	<b>3,376,678</b>	<b>3,773,785</b>	<b>6,381,096</b>	<b>6,702,458</b>	<b>5,891,141</b>	
<b>Clay County</b>									
65-69	4,324	7,941	10,151	11,557	13,748	15,726	14,666	14,724	241%
70-74	3,554	5,563	7,052	9,625	10,865	12,824	14,619	13,590	282%
75+	5,894	8,788	10,695	14,293	19,291	24,087	29,236	34,686	488%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,772</b>	<b>22,292</b>	<b>27,898</b>	<b>35,475</b>	<b>43,904</b>	<b>52,637</b>	<b>58,521</b>	<b>63,000</b>	

Source: Shimberg Center for Housing Studies

# Monster

from page 2

came today, would it be for us?" she said.

Food was scarce. She was limited to 100 grams of bread a day. At school, teachers handed out vitamin cookies.

Behind closed doors, teachers also taught students about the Germans. Huenink recalls one older teacher in particular who exclaimed 'Hitler is Attila the Hun!' often.

Because Vernon was occupied by Germany, it was improper to teach anything that

was antithetical to German rhetoric.

Teachers often disregarded this when alone with their students and taught lessons explaining how the Germans were ancestral enemies of the French, she recalled.

"Resistance can sprout behind closed doors," she said.

Living in an occupied state was difficult, she said. The Germans had people give up their radios so they could not listen to anti-German propaganda and messages from Allied Forces. She recalled one man who put a collar and a leash around his radio and dragged it to a commanding officer, pretending it was a dog.

Despite all the suffering she witnessed, she said, she did not hate the German civilians.

"During the war when the bombers came we would pray it was not for us," she said. "When we knew it was not for us and they were going away, we would pray for the civilians in Germany, because we knew they would be air raided. They would. We knew that all of the civilians were women and children," she said.

When Allied Forces ended WWII, she vowed she would go to Germany and not submit to the anti-German rhetoric she was taught as a child.

"I wanted to be a citizen of the world," she said.

She briefly attended a university in Munich before she met her husband, a U.S. Navy man who was on vacation.

She gained U.S. citizenship in May 1960 in Gainesville, and now lives in a modest Keystone Heights home in a quiet neighborhood.

As she ages, she ruminates about the war and about her childhood, and arrives at a literary conclusion to the experience.

"In all of us, there can be monsters," she said.

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# SPORTS

## KEYSTONE HEIGHTS

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### Indians not fazed by storm

By Randy Lefko  
KH Herald.com

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – A hour lightning delay did not deter the Keystone Heights football squad who responded to nature's timeout with 14 second half points to beat P.K. Yonge 28-14 in region 2-4A play on Sept. 1 at Keystone Heights High School.

"The lightning hit some electrical stuff with the lights and we had to wait for them to come back on about an hour or so," said Keystone Heights coach Chuck Dickinson, now 2-0. "The boys came back with some big plays in the second half to keep P.K. Yonge on their heels."

Bradford County, 1-1, won a 33-7 decision over Baldwin on Friday with the Torna-



PHOTO BY TONYA GIBBS  
Keystone Heights running back Blake Sanders flies over blocker.

does, the defending district 5-4A champions, losing 24-7 to Taylor County in their season opener. With the new playoff points system, the two teams are now part of region 2-4A.

In the first quarter, Keystone Heights, with 240 yards on the ground, got a run touchdown from sophomore tailback Ty Friedlin who also caught a fourth quarter scoring pass from quarterback Adrien Ciena. Friedlin led the Indians offense with 139 yards on 20 carries with a score, plus the scoring pass in the fourth.

"Ty has come up big for us so far with Adrien doing a good job," said Dickinson.

SEE INDIANS, 17

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STAFF PHOTO BY RANDY LEFKO

Keystone Heights volleyball team has been led by Madison Heskett at the net, here blocking a shot against Clay High in a September match.

### Broncos fall to Leon County

By Randy Lefko  
Sports Editor

TALLAHASSEE – Nine kills from Mallory Roney was not enough for the Middleburg High volleyball team that fell in three games, 3-0, to 8A-Tallahassee Leon on Fri., Sept. 1 in Tallahassee.

Roney and teammate Jillian Bemis led the Lady Broncos front line with 17 total kills; eight for Bemis, as the Leon Lions

were able to take games with scores of 25-18, 25-16 and 25-19.

Middleburg coach Carrie Prewitt's penchant for tough scheduling continues as her Lady Broncos, now 1-3 overall, but 1-0 in district 3-7A with a win over Englewood last week, head to 8A powerhouse Creekside on Tues., Sept. 5 for a non-district matchup.

Creekside recently lost a 4-0 match to Fleming Island in a district 4-8A showdown

on Tues., Aug. 29. Fleming Island lost in three to Gainesville Buchholz on Tuesday in that very tough district 4-8A.

Back for Middleburg, the most consistent hitter against the unbeaten (3-0) Leon Lions at the net for Prewitt was senior Mia Castelli who scored twice off three hits at the net. Bemis and Roney both hit at a 30-plus percent success ratio at the net as the

SEE VOLLEYBALL, 16



### Hammerhead champ

STAFF PHOTO BY RANDY LEFKO

Massimo Kostl of Austria traveled through Keystone Heights en route to the University of Georgia and won the Hammerhead Olympic Distance Triathlon at Camp Blanding. See story, page 18.



Jessie Yeldell flied for scoring shot in game action for Lady Indians.

STAFF PHOTOS BY RANDY LEFKO



Fleming Island senior Emily Charbonneau has been key player for Golden Eagles who have wins over district leader Bartram Trail, Oakleaf and Creekside and were set to play Gainesville Buchholz for the top spot on September 21.

## Volleyball

from page 15

prime hitters for the Lady Broncos.

Against Englewood, Roney dominated with 11 scoring hits and a 50 percent success rate as Middleburg won in three games; 25-13, 25-17 and 25-19.

Roney and Bemis also hit for four service aces apiece.

On defense, Kalei Myer and Arianna Luzunaria both had three blocks.

After Creekside, Middleburg travels to Ed White for a district contest before heading to 6A power Ponte Vedra High School (3-0).

Fleming Island, also on the road to Jacksonville's Providence High School, fell twice; to Tallahassee Chiles 3-1 and to Providence 3-1 in a tri-match.

Against Chiles, Emily Charbonneau had a hot streak with 14 scoring shots for the Golden Eagles, but with no help as she was the lone hitter in double figures against the 7A strong Timberwolves. Fleming Island lost to Chiles 25-20, 19-25, 25-18 and 25-14.



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Keystone Heights hitter Hannah Jones tries a soft "dink" over a Clay defender in recent game action.

Against Providence, a 3-1 match, Charbonneau again led the net play with 16 scoring shots, but with Lyara Rosario only with seven as the second shooter for coach Amy Walker.

Fleming Island gets back to district play on Tues., Sept. 5 with district leader Bartram Trail (3-1) visiting Fleming Island High School for a key 4-8A contest, Fletcher coming on September 6 and a much-anticipated showdown with an improved and hungry Oakleaf High School team that sits at 4-1 with a lone loss to district 4-8A foe Buchholz (5-0).

In 6A, Clay High opened with a 3-0 record with wins over Keystone Heights, Palatka and Matanzas, but have matches this week with Oakleaf (Sept. 5) and also unbeaten district 5-6A nemesis Ponte Vedra High (Sept. 7). Ponte Vedra, also 3-0, has wins over Nease, Bishop Kenny and Menendez.

In district 4-5A, Keystone Heights opened with a loss to 6A-Clay, but has rattled off three wins in a row with two district wins; Fort White and Bradford County.

Sophomore Madison Heskett leads the Keystone Heights' scoring attack with 34 scoring shots at the net with Hannah Jones behind her at 25. Heskett is impressive with nearly 40 percent success on her kill shots.

Newberry High remains unbeaten at 5-0 in district play with that game set for September 25 at Newberry. Keystone Heights plays Taylor (5-1) on September 5.



CORRESPONDENT PHOTOS BY TONYA GIBBS  
Keystone Heights running back Ty Friedlin has been lead ballcarrier for Indians.



Ty Friedlin takes a break after a tough day in the office for Indians football.



Wideout Sawyer Maxwell gathers in scoring pass in game action.

## Indians

from page 15

Adrien doing a good job," said Dickinson. "We only threw five passes and his lone completion was for the touchdown so that's pretty good."

Keystone Heights pushed to a 14-0 half-time lead off a 65 yard interception returned for a score by safety Sawyer Maxwell who ran untouched with the pick on an out pattern by P.K. Yonge.

After the break, junior running back Blake Sanders scored from three yards out to push the Indians ahead 21-14 after P.K. Yonge scored two quick touchdowns.

Friedlin's fourth quarter scoring pass was from 37 yards out.

Dickinson gave credit to the Indians' running success to his offensive line led by sophomore center Joseph Baxter with Tyler Cumbess, Dan Dodd, Cody Wells and Josh Hughes all being able to open holes for the offense. Hughes leads the Indians defense with 18 tackles.



"They are improving each week and giving our runners enough space to get down-field," said Dickinson. "Joseph Baxter graded out as our highest blocker this week and is doing a good job at the center snap."

On defense, Kaison Harvey also had an interception.

One of top tacklers for the Indians' defense is linebacker Alex Cruz.

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# From Austria, Massimo wins Hammerhead Tri

By Randy Lefko  
KHHerald.com

CAMP BLANDING – With just a week to acclimatize, Austria-born triathlete Massimo Kostl added some time to his usual 10K (6.2 mile) finish en route to a three minute win in the annual Hammerhead Olympic Triathlon held Aug. 27 at Camp Blanding's Kingsley Lake.

"I just arrived a week ago to begin classes at the University of Florida and found the race on the internet," said Kostl, 22. "I was okay with the heat, but the humidity here is like nothing I have ever felt. I said 'Let's do a race 8,000 miles away.'"

Welcome to Florida.

Kostl, a top age group amateur triathlete in his hometown of Vienna, Austria, came to the United States by way of Keystone Heights lawyers James and Mary Sawyer, who were at the race to watch their long-time family friend.

"His mother, Lisa, is a dear friend of ours," said James Sawyer. "She came from Austria and lived with us in 1990 and was our au-perr. She helped us with our children. Now, 20 years later, we get him to visit us."

Kostl is set to live and study economics for six months at Florida.

"As long as he is here, he is our fifth child," said David Taylor.

Koetl overtook early race leader Leo Hobi, 34, of Ponte Vedra, after the second of two laps on the 40K (26 miles) bike segment of the arduous 1.5K (Mile), 40K bike



Austrian triathlete Massimo Kostl heads out after mile swim in Kingsley Lake in first portion of Hammerhead Olympic Triathlon. Kostl won.

and 10K race then cruised through the run for the win in one hour, 53 minutes, 20.5 seconds with Hobi in at 1:56.12.

"I was okay until the run," said Kostl, who has run splits of near 34 minutes for the 10K portion of Olympic distance races in Europe. "About halfway through, I knew I was not going to be close and finished in about 38 minutes."

Behind Hobi, in third place, was veteran James Cardozo of Macclenny who clocked in at 2:12.36.

In the women's Olympic distance race, Christina Mitchell, 45, of Fleming Island,

finished as top master's as well as top overall finisher in 15th place overall in 2:22.24. In second overall for the women in 17th place overall was Bego Lopez, 49, of Deland, in 2:25.09 with Tracey Kuhn, 46, of Jacksonville,



Massimo Kostl hugs Keystone Heights lawyer James Sawyer just before finish.

third overall woman in 18th with a time of 2:26.08.

There were 113 finishers for the Olympic distance race.

Area finishers were Rabi Singh, 45, of Fleming Island, in 48th overall and seventh in his age group in 2:42.31; Douglas Coates, 53, of Fleming Island, in 49th overall, fifth

in 50-54, in 2:42.44; Lynne Mcwatters, 42, of Middleburg, in 66th overall, first in 40-44, in 2:52.03; Bryan Wagner, 36, of Keystone Heights, in 106th overall, seventh in 35-39, in 3:31.03; Rich Coffey, 46, of Orange Park, 109th overall, 12th in 45-49, in 3:37.25; Ruby Garcia, 45, of Fleming Island, 110th overall, 17th in 45-49, in 3:38.23; Melinda Havel, 35, of Orange Park, 112th overall, fifth in 35-39, in 3:44.19 and Kara Coffey, 46, of Orange Park, in 113th overall, 18th in 45-49, in 3:44.19.

## Millsons make sprint triathlon family event

CAMP BLANDING – A 2016 graduate of Fleming Island High School and a standout cross country and track athlete, Abby Millson, 19, battled throughout her high school athletic career with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis almost on a daily basis.

"I was taking shots almost on a daily basis for the pain in my joints and I still manage the pain on bad days," said Millson, who was joined in the Hammerhead Sprint Triathlon (quarter mile swim, 12 mile bike, 3.1 mile run) Sunday at Camp Blanding on Sunday as a return to her athletic endeavors and a family tradition continued. "My dad has always done this race over the years and I always volunteered. I told him about a year ago that I wanted to do the triathlon."

Jay Millson, 47, and a long time area triathlete and ultra-distance runner, was a bit overwhelmed at seeing his daughter progress to being on the course with him.

"I am just hoping she is not faster than me today," said Millson, an Orange Park High graduate and former football kicker. "She has trained hard and we have even trained together a couple of times. I'm old and beat up and she's young and fresh. I hope I can keep up."

For the race, father Millson prevailed with a 12th place overall finish, fourth in 45-49, in 1:03:59 while daughter Abby, in 1:14:36, took 44th overall, but a very impressive second in 15-19, to leave the argument at medal status; Abby with a silver; Jay out of the medals.

"I saw him when I was going out on the run and he was coming in," said Abby Millson, now a student at Florida State Univer-

SEE TRIATHLON, 19





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# Triathlon

from page 18

sity. "He came back and ran a little with me near the finish."

Overall, Kerry Mowlan, 48, of Ponte Vedra Beach, won the sprint title in 57:02.4 with Nick Hochstein, 36, of Jacksonville, second in 58:11.7 and Jeff Provenzano, 43, of Jacksonville, third in 58:27.2.

For the women, Lydia Hochstein, 30, of Jacksonville, was top female in 1:03.58 and 11th overall with master's veteran Kathlenn Kaye, first master's and second overall in 1:08.07. Dee Jansen, 48, of Atlantic Beach, was third in 1:08.32.

Area finishers for the sprint race were Aaron Fulgenzi, 28, of Green Cove Springs, who was sixth overall, first in 25-29 in 1:00:11.5; Michael French, 60, of Orange Park, who was 35th overall, third in 60-64, in Stephen North, 43, of Fleming Island, 52nd overall, seventh in 40-44, in 1:17:14.5; William Saunders, 33, of Orange Park, 62nd overall, seventh in 30-34, in 1:20:29; Evan Amstutz, 22, of Fleming Island, 69th overall, third in 20-24 in 1:21:57.2; Kayleigh McWaters, 13, of Middleburg, 73rd overall, first in 1-14, in 1:22:46; Larry Sage, 54, of Fleming Island, 80th overall, seventh in 50-54, in 1:24:49; Kevin Wagner, 36, of Keystone Heights, 86 overall, seventh in 35-39 in 1:26:30; Scott McLaughlin, 47, of Fleming Island, 91st overall, 10th in 45-49 in 1:28:41; Daniel McWatters, 42, of Middleburg, 95th overall, eighth in 40-44 in 1:30:33; Nancy Strickland, 34, of Orange Park, 97th overall, fourth in 30-34 in 1:30:59; Meredith Forkum, 37, of Orange Park, 103rd overall, fifth in 35-39 in 1:33:30; Marcee Graves, 51, of Middleburg, 112th overall, second in 50-54 in 1:37:08; Robert Lang, 52, 114th overall, 10th in 50-54 in 1:37:25; Christina Callipo, 35, of Orange Park, 116th, sixth in 35-39 in 1:39:09; Charlotte Singletary, 35, of Orange Park, 117th overall, seventh in 35-39 in 1:39:09; Victoria Goulet, 26, of Fleming Island, 124th overall, fourth in 25-29 in 1:44:03; Laura Lang, 50, of Orange Park, 131st overall, fourth in 50-54 in 1:55:09 and Jennifer Conte, 39, of Middleburg, 132nd overall, 10th in 35-39 in 1:55:09.

There were 133 finishers.

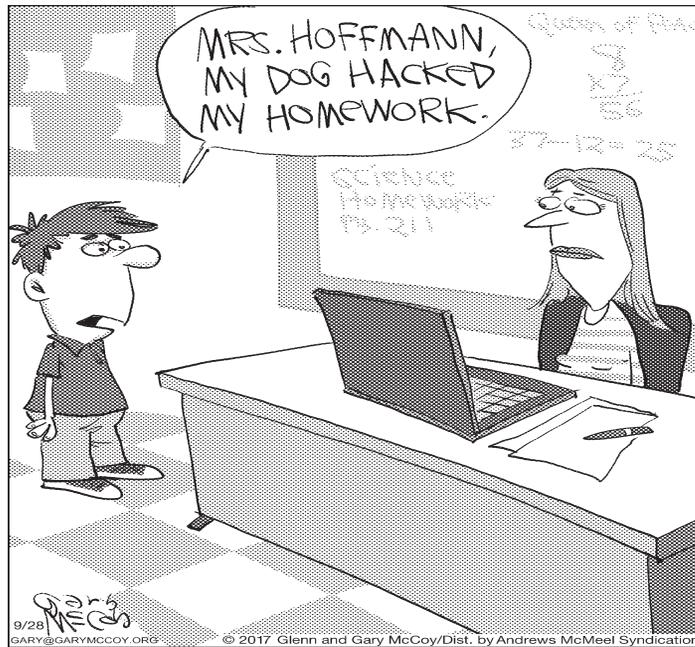
SOLUTION:

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

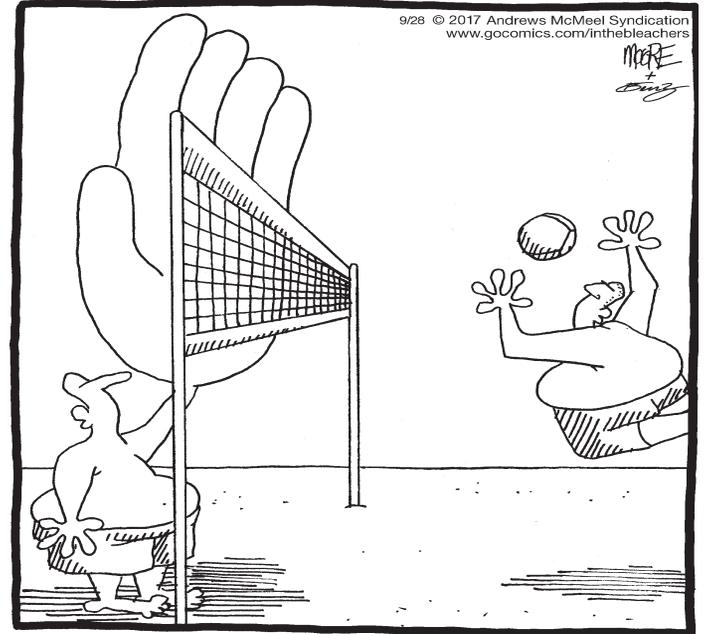
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C	P	S		E	S	S	E	S		S	S	R		
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# Fun AND Humor

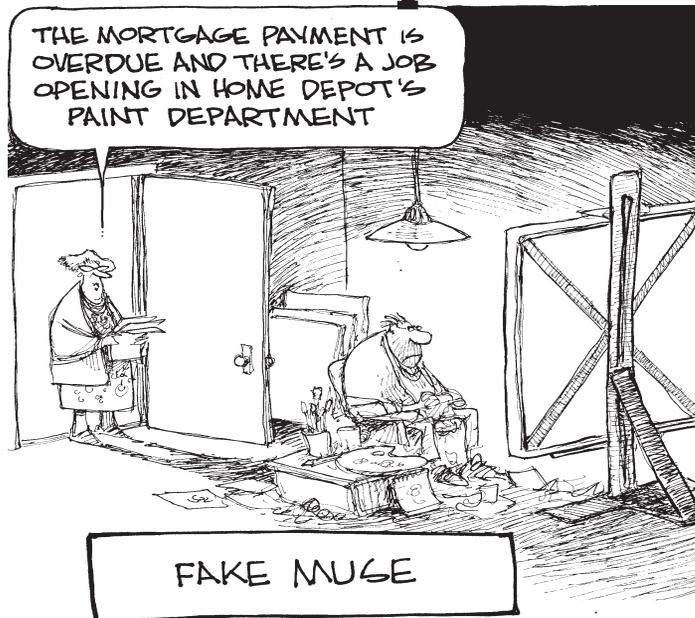
## Flying McCoys



## In The Bleachers



## Non-Sequitur



## Ziggy



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## Real Life Adventures



## UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

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.

#### Tuesday, September 19

Faulkner, Mark, 29, Keystone Heights, CCSO, VOP - No Valid Driver's License

Railey, Brandon, 25, Gainesville, FHP, Possession of Methamphetamine With Intent to Sell, Trafficking Methamphetamine, Selling Synthetic Narcotics, Possession of Synthetic Narcotics With Intent to Sell, Possession of Heroin With Intent to Sell

#### Monday, September 18

Brooker, Johnathan, 26, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Battery on Person 65 or Older, Simple Domestic Battery

Jean, Sarah, 23, Keystone Heights, FWC, Failure to Appear for Court

#### Sunday, September 17

Kruger, Selina, 49, Melrose, CCSO, Domestic Aggravated Assault With a Deadly Weapon

#### Wednesday, September 13

Loomis, Adrian, 45, Satsuma, Fla., CCSO, VOP - Domestic Battery

#### Friday, September 8

Andrea Steward, 35, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Simple Domestic Battery

#### Wednesday, September 6

Underwood, Roger, 36, Keystone Heights, CCSO, DUI With Property Damage, DWLSR

#### Sunday, September 3

Carpenter, Cody, 25, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Trespassing, Introducing or Removing Contraband Into County Jail

#### Saturday, September 2

Ferreira, Skylar, 20, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Two Counts of Domestic Battery

#### Thursday, August 31

Cox, William, 32, Keystone Heights, CCSO, FTA - DWLSR

#### Wednesday, August 30

Fountain, Wesley, 28, Palatka, CCSO, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis

#### Monday, August 28

Fuller, Jammie, 27, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Driving Without a Valid License, Possession of Not More Than 20 g. Cannabis, Drug Equipment Possession

#### Sunday, August 27

Godwin, Robert, 25, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Child Abuse Without Great Bodily Harm, Criminal Mischief

#### Saturday, August 26

Erney, Cameron, 42, Gainesville, CCSO, Simple Domestic Battery

#### Friday, August 25

Cox, Jonathan, 25, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Failing to Report Internet Identifiers

#### Wednesday, August 23

Braun Long, Mary, 45, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Misuse of 911 System

Noble, Jai, 37, Lawtey, CCSO, Failure to Appear in Court

#### Tuesday, August 22

Coleman, Robert, 56, Palatka, CCSO, Grand Theft \$10,000-19,999, Trespassing On Posted Construction Site

Jones, James, 43, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Simple Domestic Battery

Turner, Patricia, 44, Palatka, CCSO, Grand Theft \$10,000-19,999, Trespassing on Posted Construction Site

#### Saturday, August 19

Shaw, Thomas, 38, Gainesville, CCSO, Battery, Adult False Imprisonment, Harassing a Witness, Victim, or Informant

#### Wednesday, August 16

Carter, Cecil, 58, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Fail to Register or Provide Info to Law Enforcement

Johnson, Eric, 26, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Retail Petit

Wilson, Scott, 25, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Violate Probation - Community Control

#### Tuesday, August 15

Madron, Anthony, 31, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Littering More Than 500 Pounds of Commercial Hazardous Material

#### Monday, August 14

Cardenas, John, 54, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Fail to Register or Provide Info to Law Enforcement

#### Sunday, August 13

Braun-Long, Mary, 45, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Simple Battery, Introducing or Removing Contraband into County Jail

#### Friday, August 11

Creasy, Kelly, 32, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Domestic Battery

McWhorter, Kaleb, 19, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Drug Equipment Possession, DUI

Sweeting, Clint, 34, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Possession of a Controlled Substance

#### Sunday, August 6

Browning, David, 51, Starke, CCSO, Trespassing

#### Friday, August 4

Brown, Nicholas, 18, Gainesville, Fla., CCSO, Lewd & Lascivious Battery

Corbet, Pamela, 64, Keystone Heights, FHP, DUI, Possession of a Controlled Substance, Reckless Driving

McCourt, Tracey, 27, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Fugitive from Justice

Tanner, Whitney, 30, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Simple Battery

#### Wednesday, August 2

Brown, Mitchell, 49, Keystone Heights, CCSO, Violate Probation - Community Control

## Elder battery arrest for Keystone man

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – What began as a question about a missing chainsaw ended Monday in an arrest for domestic battery on an elderly person.

The Clay County Sheriff's Office arrested Johnathan Brooker, 26, on Sept. 18 at his home on Carl Brook Road after they found he had punched a 65-year-old man in the face multiple times in front of the victim's wife.

According to the police report, the victim's wife called Brooker to come over to their house because her husband wanted to talk. Police said when Brooker arrived, he punched the man in the face multiple times after the man asked about his missing chainsaw.



Johnathan Brooker

The victim had a 1.5-inch laceration under his left eye, a small laceration on the left side of the bridge of his nose, three hematomas on his face and two broken teeth.

In a separate arrest report, CCSO charged Brooker with striking his live-in girlfriend and mother of a child they have together in the mouth. Police said the girlfriend had a tooth that was broken in half.

At press time, Brooker remained in the Clay County Jail where his bond is set at \$12,505.

## Child abuse charge for Keystone Heights man

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – A Keystone

Heights man is free from the Clay County Jail today after being booked on a count of child abuse without great bodily harm in which witnesses said they saw him pull a male juvenile out of a car window by his legs.

The Clay County Sheriff's arrested Robert Conner Godwin, 25, of Keystone Heights on Aug. 27 at 9:06 p.m. after interviewing him and conducting an investigation.

According to the police report, the child's mother had stopped her car at the intersection of S. Lawrence Boulevard and East Walker Drive when Godwin allegedly got out of his car, walked up to the woman's car and pulled her child out of her car by the legs. The force was so great, it caused the vehicle's window to shatter upon impact, police said.

The report said Godwin struck the juvenile in the face multiple times.

Police said Godwin was driven to the intersection by his girlfriend, Patricia Rodriguez. When the melee happened, she got out of the car and grabbed Godwin and fled the scene.

Rodriguez, police said, knew the adult victim who was driving the juvenile.

Police used a crime database to find Rodriguez's phone number, so they could go to her home and interview her and Godwin. Godwin is also charged with one count of criminal mischief.

According to records from the Clay County Clerk of Court, this is Godwin's first felony arrest. He has two previous arrests for



Robert Godwin

criminal mischief and a third misdemeanor for marijuana possession.

## Underage sex charge for Gainesville man

GAINESVILLE – A man arrested in Gainesville was transported to the Clay County Jail on an outstanding warrant in Clay County.

The Clay County Sheriff's Office detained Nicholas Tyre Brown, 18, Aug. 4 on a warrant that claims the man had sexual intercourse with an underage girl.

According to the warrant, Brown was invited to a 13-year-old girl's house while the girl's mother was at work and the two had sexual intercourse. The warrant was filed in late April of this year and Brown, living in Gainesville, was eventually picked up in Alachua County on the charges.

Brown faces a felony for lewd and lascivious battery and is being held on \$50,000 bond.

## Palatka couple charged with metal theft

GREEN COVE SPRINGS – Two Palatka residents are being charged with grand theft after allegedly stealing construction materials from a roadway project in Clay County.

The Clay County Sheriff's Office arrested Patricia Marie Turner, 44, and Robert Eugene Coleman Jr., 56, Aug. 24 after they were identified by a witness to have stolen 60 steel

beams from the First Coast Expressway construction site off Challenger Drive in Oakleaf.

According to the report, Turner and

Coleman drove a pickup truck into a construction site, loaded 60 steel beams used for creating guard rails into the truck and returned the materials to their home in Palatka. The beams were valued at around \$10,800 in total. According to the arrest warrant, a witness saw the pair stealing the metal on Aug. 10 and contacted the site supervisor who then contacted police.

A photo of the suspects in the truck was shown to Palatka Police officers who recognized them as Turner and Coleman.

The two were arrested and a search warrant was issued which resulted in the retrieval of the 60 stolen beams from their property. Turner and Coleman were then transported to Clay County Jail.

Both suspects face two felonies for the theft, one for grand theft of items valued between \$10,000 and \$19,999, and one for trespassing on a legally posted construction site.

Turner is held on about \$100,000 bond and Coleman is being held on \$20,000.



Patricia Turner



Robert Coleman Jr.

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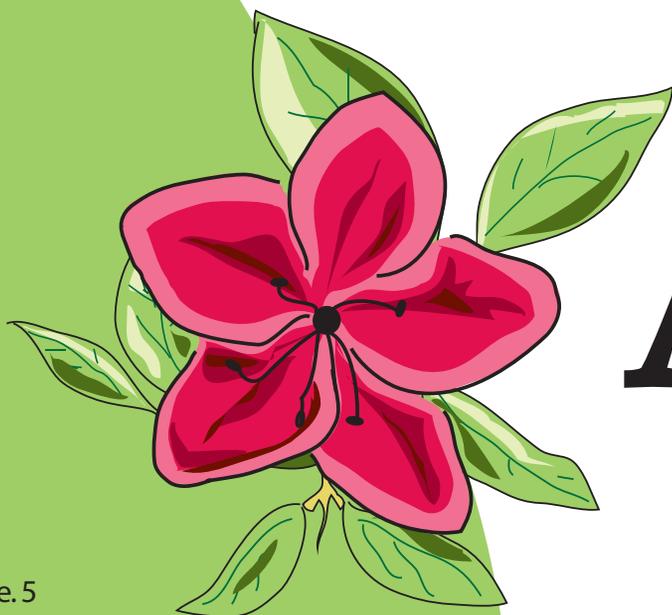
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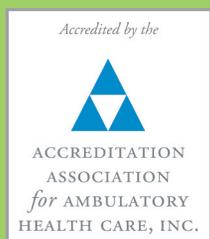
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