



"Tourism Buzz!"

(From The Clay County Tourism Bug)

(Sponsored by Ash Tisdelle VW)



By: Eve Szymanski: *Director of Tourism & Film Development Division*
Clay County Chamber of Commerce



January 2006

The Hunter Jumpers are coming.....

...From everywhere! Get ready for some World Cup qualifying right here in Clay County on the weekends throughout January. (That means they are going for points to be the best you can be! The World Cup will be the highest competition possible in Malaysia in 2006.) The Jumpers will be competing for prizes from \$25,000 all the way up to the \$65,000 Grand Prix on Jan. 15. See the calendar below and at www.claytourism.com for the other Grand Prix competitions. Don't miss this international event right here at our own Clay County Fairgrounds.



The Scots arrive on February 24th! See the Calendar Below!

Gator Bowl Parade - The Clay County Tourism Bug was a part of this year's Gator Bowl Parade, which was televised in 9 southeastern states and 14 million homes. It wore its Scottish Plaid Tam with matching flags to bring up the rear of the procession for the Northeast Scottish Festival coming to the Fairgrounds on February 25th, 2006. Seen here is Gayward Hendry in his kilt and the bug behind the float. The "Walking Scots" handed out flyers along the parade route for the event. One more way to promote Clay County Tourism & Events!



Just in from Florida's First Coast of Golf - The November/December 2005 issue of Travel + Leisure Magazine has named **The Golf Club at Fleming Island** as one of ten courses in Florida "of lesser-known courses worth seeking out if you're in the Sunshine State this winter." Congratulations to Troy and his staff!

TEAMS 2005



We attended the **TEAMS 2005 Sports Conference** in Ft. Lauderdale in November. Eve is seen here with Lisa Furfine, Associate Publisher of Sports Travel Magazine, Dave Wintergrass of the National Football League, and Tim Schneider, Publisher of Sports Travel Magazine. Dave Wintergrass is accepting the Award for Super Bowl XXXIX as the **Best Single Sporting Event for 2005!** (That's like the Academy Award for Sports Events!) Eve was a member of the Jacksonville Host Committee for Super Bowl XXXIX and attended the award luncheon.

Clay County Bed Tax Collections for October were over \$31,000! That's the highest October collections we have ever had! The Tourism Development Advisory Board is hard at work creating three Task Forces to identify even better ways to promote Clay County. Join the Chamber and get involved.

Our Christmas Parades!



**Green Cove Springs
40th Annual Christmas Parade
1st Place Decorated Vehicle!**



Green Cove Springs By Day



Keystone Heights By Night

Two Faces of "The Santa Bug" The Clay County Tourism Bug won First Place in the Decorated Vehicle category as it put on its Santa "Day" Face for the Green Cove Springs Christmas on Walnut Street Parade on December 3rd. After that event, it rolled on down to Keystone Heights for the Lighted Christmas Parade that evening. Lights on or off, it was a lot of fun to do and caused many smiles as it came down the street!

Christmas Tree Promotions



JIA Courtyard



Green Cove Springs Spring Park

Clay County Tourism got into the Christmas spirit by sponsoring 2 Christmas Trees this year. One for a fundraiser at the Jax Intl. Airport for Dreams Come True. The other for the Holiday Parade of Trees in Spring Park in Green Cove Springs. Visitors to the Jax Intl Airport and Spring Park were reminded that tourism is alive and well in Clay County, and funds were raised for a good cause. Both trees were decorated with promotional tourism items from some of our partners in Clay County such as: Club Continental, Holiday Inn Orange Park, Comfort Inn Orange Park, Quality Inn & Conference Center, River Park Inn, Stagecoach Transportation, Thrasher Horne Center, Ravines Club & Lodge, Lee & Cates Glass, and Bug Out Service, Inc.. We hung stress balls as snowballs and pens as icicles.

The Great Clay County Bug Out December Winner!

The Clay Chamber's December 14th Networking Event was at Oregano's in Orange Park. This time the Bug Out Winner was there! Eve Szymanski was very happy to award the \$100 Savings Bond to Gisele Brimo, with Anytime Office Solution, a prospective new chamber member. The Savings Bond is sponsored by Bug Out Service, Inc, just one of our Tourism Partners. Spot the Tourism Bug "out" and you too could win! Fax 904-264-0070 or email eszymanski@claychamber.com with the date, place and time you saw it and your contact info.



Calendar of Upcoming Major Events
Go to www.claytourism for all of January & February.

Harlem Gospel Choir	1/13/2006	Thrasher-Horne Center for the Arts	7:30 PM	\$20, \$15, \$12	Hear the world-famous Harlem Gospel Choir loved for their joyous music. 904-276-6750 or www.thcenter.org
N FL Hunter Jumper Jax Natl Week III	1/18-1/22/2006	Clay County Fairgrounds	8:30-AM-5 PM	Free Spectator Admission	This is a \$25,000 Grand Prix USEF "AA" rated competition. Riders come from all over the country. For more information contact Sue Rindal at rindal@bellsouth.net or call 904-522-0375
N FL Hunter Jumper Jax Winter A to A Week IV.	1/25-1/29/2006	Clay County Fairgrounds	8:00 AM	Free Spectator Admission	Jan. 28th is the \$25,000 Oakleaf Plantation Hunter Classic at 7 PM. The \$35,000 Grand Prix and luncheon are on Jan. 29th and are sponsored by Outback Steakhouse to benefit the Jax Zoo. The drawing for the 2006 Pontiac Torrent will be on Sunday also. For more information contact Sue Rindal at rindal@bellsouth.net or call 904-522-0375
Sing, Sing, Sing	1/29/2006	Thrasher-Horne Center for the Arts	4:00 PM	\$27, \$22, \$17	Appreciate jazz as a true American art form. Hear numbers such as <i>One O'Clock Jump</i> , <i>Stomp in at the Savoy</i> , and the title song. 904-276-6750 or www.thcenter.org
N FL Hunter Jumper Winter Series Jax Finale Week V	2/1-2/5/2006	Clay County Fairgrounds	8:00 AM	Free Spectator Admission	The Series \$25,000 Grand Prix Finale will be held on Sat, Feb. 4th at 7 PM. Come watch the final competitions as the now "seasoned" jumpers prepare to go on to additional shows of the circuit and then on to Malaysia. For more information contact Sue Rindal at rindal@bellsouth.net or call 904-522-0375
Hubbard Street Dance Chicago	2/11/2006	Thrasher-Horne Center for the Arts	7:30 PM	\$22, \$18, \$15	HSDC is among the most original forces in contemporary dance. It's 21 dancers display unparalleled versatility and virtuosity. 904-276-6750 or www.thcenter.org
Southeast Model A Roundup	2/17-2/19/06	Quality Inn & Conference Orange Park	8 AM to 6 PM	Free Spectator Admission	Come see Model A Fords built from 1928 to 1931. Meet the owners and learn about the Club! Or call 904-291-5365 or email modalAlover1@comcast.net
1st Annual Outdoor Sportman Expo	2/18/2006	Clay County Fairgrounds	10 AM - 5 PM	\$10 Adults, \$5 Children, \$8 Seniors & Military with ID.	For those who love hunting, fishing and camping! Bring the whole family for a day of fun including various target shooting, a fishing activity, exhibitors, a silent auction, entertainment, food and much more. Call Susan or DeAnna at 386-328-8875 or visit www.cisputnam.org
NE Florida Scottish Kilted Golf Trnament	2/24/2006	Ravines Club & Lodge, Middleburg	Sign-In 8am Tee Time 10:30am	\$50	Golf Tournament at one of the premiere courses in NE Florida Call (904) 725-5744 or visit www.NEFLGames.com
NE Florida Scottish High Tea	2/24/2006	The Hilltop Club, Orange Park	6:30-7:30	\$15 By Ticket Only	Enjoy tea and scones while hearing a presentation on genealogy by Beth Gay and the influence of the Scots by Dr. John Munro Call (904) 725-5744 or visit www.NEFLGames.com
NE FI Scottish Whisky Tasting	2/24/2006	The Hilltop Club, Orange Park	6:30-7:30pm	\$25.00 / By Ticket Only	Learn the business, history and lore of single-malt scotch with Byron Cassell Call (904) 725-5744 or visit www.NEFLGames.com
All-American Boys Chorus	2/25/2006	Thrasher-Horne Center for the Arts	7:30 PM	\$18, \$15, \$12	Coming from performances all over the world, they bring their world-renown sound to Clay County. 904-276-6750 or www.thcenter.org
Northeast Florida Scottish Games & Festival	2/25/06	Clay County Agricultural Fairgrounds	Gates open at 9 AM. Closes at 5pm	\$10 in advance, \$12 at the gate, or go on line to purchase. Children 10 & under -free.	See and experience all things Scottish: Clans, Athletics, Music & Dancing, Parade of Tartans, Bagpipes, Sheep and Dog Herding, Fencing, Falconry, Reenactments, Genealogy, Food & Vendors. Call (904) 725-5744 or visit www.NEFLGames.com
NE Florida Scottish Musical Evening	2/25/06	Clay County Agricultural Fairgrounds	7:00-10:00pm	Free with Games Admission	Come hear music of Scotland, from bagpipes to fiddles, and folk to rock, in an intimate acoustic setting Call (904) 725-5744 or visit www.NEFLGames.com
NE Florida Scottish Kirkin' of the Tartans	2/26/06	St. Giles Presb. Church, Orange Park	10am	Free	A Scottish church service featuring the Blessing of the Tartans Call (904) 725-5744 or visit www.NEFLGames.com

Keep entering those events on the our website at www.claychamber.com. Clicking on Community Events on the left. Then submit an Event in the upper right hand corner!