



“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**

October, 2005

The Southern Monster Truck Showdown was a blast! Literally! I’m not usually one for noisy events, (I wear earplugs at Daytona), but I liked the low, rumble of these engines! All that power pushing them straight up just took your breath away. And watching the kids at the “Pit Party” before the event started was fun too! Power, a parade, and racing lawnmowers put the icing on the cake. Put it on your calendar for the same weekend next year, because they are coming back!



The CC Tourism Bug led the way for the Saturday Night Parade into the Cattleman’s Arena.



Gunslinger revs its engine as it goes “UP & Over”!



At the “Pit Party” for a treasured autograph from Bennet Clark, driver of the Clydesdale Truck

Our own Lee Sacket was the September 19th winner at the Cypress Club for our **Great Clay County Bug Out** contest! It’s always great to win a \$100 Saving Bond, just for remembering whenever you see the Clay County Tourism Bug! We even had a couple of sightings from the Monster Truck Showdown! The Great Clay County Bug Out is brought to you by none other than **BUG OUT SERVICE, Inc.** Good news for us. Bad News for Bugs! The Clay County Tourism Bug is made possible by **Ash Tisdelle VW.** Remember, whenever you see the CC Tourism Bug, fax 264-0070 or email: eszymanski@claychamber.com with the date, actual location and time to be eligible for the monthly drawing at the Chamber After Hours event.



Lee Sacket of Carpe Diem wins the \$100 Savings Bond
at Clay County After Hours at The Cypress Club.

And of course, coming up is our own **New First Coast Ham Jam** returning to Clay County on November 3rd thru the 6th! If you haven't been to our newest venue, you need to check it out. Nestled on the point looking across the St. Johns River to Green Cove Springs across the cove. (It's where those big cruise ships are docked). It's green, has a riverwalk and palm trees. The gates open at 5 each night and there are carnival rides, entertainment and Bar-B-Cue! Go to <http://www.hamjam.org/events.htm> for more info.



Tracy Lawrence headlines
Friday with live entertainment
starting at 6:30 PM.



Lorrie Morgan comes on at 8 PM,
but the show starts at 6:30 on Sat, 10/5

Get ready for another new and wonderful event coming to Clay County. We are, of course, talking about the new **First Coast Winter Lights** coming to Reynolds Park Yacht Center on Dec. 2nd thru the 4th, Dec 9th thru the 11th and then Dec. 14th through New Year's. Drive thru 2 miles of fabulous lighted Christmas displays in the comfort of your car and then stop for some ice skating! That's right, I said ice skating..... in Florida! We'll have more for you in the next issue, but in the meantime you can go to www.firstcoastwinterlights.com or call for information and sponsorships. And start strengthening exercises on those ankles!



September brings the Tourism & Film Development Division to the close of the fiscal year. We have been "wrapping it up" for another wonderful year promoting our county and its resources. In addition to a Visitor's Guide and Meeting Planner's Kit, we now have an Event Planner's Kit with TDC applications, special event signage info, street banner info and more. Next month we will let you know how we came out for the year, but it's looking good! We attended meetings for our FL's First Coast of Golf, the N FL Scots, the N FL Regional Alliance, the FL Association of CVB's, Florida's Festivals & Events Assoc. and many of our own events and festivities, as shown above. See you next month.

See the calendar below for days and times of many Clay County events. Go to www.claytourism.com, www.claychamber.org or call (904)394-7401 or email eszymanski@claychamber.com for more information.

October-November Calendar of Events:

10/8	Middleburg Community Block Party	Middleburg
10/14-16	St. Catherine's Annual Bazaar	Orange Park
10/15-16	Town of Orange Park Fall Festival	Orange Park
10/21	I Love You, You're Perfect	THCA (Thrasher-Horne)
10/22-23	FL Sun Cats Show	CCFG (CC Fairgrounds)
10/29	N. FL Dressage Assn. Horse Show	CCFG
10/26-29	Florida Georgia Game	Alltel Stadium
10/28-29	Prescription: Murder	OPCT (OP Comm. Thtre)
10/29	N. FL Dressage Assn. Fall Series	CCFG
10/29	Soulfood Festival & Parade of Pride	GCS(Vera Francis Hall Pk)
10/29-31	Haunted Hospital & Halloween Carnival	CC Humane Society
11/3-6	New First Coast Ham Jam	RPYC (Reynlds Park Yacht Cntr)
11/4-6	Prescription: Murder	OPCT (OP Comm. Thtre)
11/11-13	Prescription: Murder	OPCT (OP Comm. Thtre)
11/14	US Army Field Band	THCA
11/12-13	N FL Hunter Jumper Horse Show	CCFG
11/17-19	Prescription: Murder	OPCT (OP Comm. Thtre)
11/19-20	FL Equestrian Celebration 2005	Jax Equest. Center
11/19	St. Johns River Pony Club	CCFG
11/26-27	Paws & Pals Agility Dog Show	CCFG
11/26	1st Cst Hunter Jumper Assoc Hrse of Yr.	CCFG

www.claytourism.com (Calendar of Events) for more!

New Procedure to Add Events

To add an event to our calendar, go to www.claychamber.com. Go to the left side column and click on Community Events. Then go to the upper left side of the calendar and click on "Submit An Event". Then follow the drop down boxes. Don't forget to put the time and cost of admission. Please recheck in a couple of days to see if it appears. If not, please contact me at; eszymanski@claychamber.com or 904-394-7401.