

THE CLAY PIPER

First Coast Highlanders Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 2

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AUG 2020

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This quarter The Clay Piper would like to highlight its president Evan Brown. Evan has been First Coast Highlanders president for the past three years. Evan is a quiet, gentle giant that can wake you up with meticulous guidance of the operations of this band.



NAME: Evan Brown

WHERE ARE YOU FROM? Malone, New York

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR A LIVING?

Special education teacher for the Florida Department of Corrections

CURRENT FAMILY:

Wife, Heidi, one daughter, two sons, a grandson, and another grandchild on the way.

DO YOU HAVE A SCOTTISH / IRISH CLAN?

I am related to the Murrays, the Morrisons and McLeod's of Lewis Island.

WHEN DID YOU START PLAYING BAGPIPES OR DRUMS?

Started playing the snare drum when I was 15. A few years later, life intervened and I didn't play again until about 10 years ago.

WHAT / HOW DID YOU COME TO First Coast Highlanders?

As a child I attended the highland games in Maxville, Ontario. I was impressed by the pipe bands and had a dream of someday being part of one. At the NEFL games in 2011 I found out there was a local pipe band (now called First Coast Highlanders), and joined them shortly after.

WHAT HAVE YOUR LIFE ACHIEVEMENTS BEEN?

First and foremost are my children and grandchildren. In terms of music, becoming competent enough to play in a pipe band and teach students to play the snare drum.

WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE GOALS?

One goal is to take part in teaching a new generation of pipe band snare drummers who will carry on when my arthritic fingers can no longer pick up the sticks.

Pipe Majors Music Stand

Wow! What a spring and summer we have had. I trust that this newsletter is finding everyone maintaining a safe and healthy condition from the dreaded COVID-19 Pandemic. As always, I want to thank our First Coast Highlanders performing members and students who continue to practice and improve their performance in this difficult time. With the social distancing requirements and wearing a face mask, band members attempt every effort to get together under adverse conditions to practice. I Thank You all for your dedicated focus to improve. As we all wait with anticipation for our practice location to open, we continue to practice our bagpipes and drums with pride in our private settings. *Pipe & Drum On ~RCS* Let's rejoice with the sacred psalm of our creed:

"Yea, though I walk in the band beneath the darkness of drummers, I will fear no evil,
for my bag of hide, reeds of cane shall comfort me.
Thou gavest me hemp, and I sinned with Nylon.
Thou gavest me Hide, and I sinned with Gortex.
Though gavest me Cane, and I sinned with Plastic.

I shall cast into darkness these abominations; spurn them with devoutness and surely richness of tone shall follow me all
the days of my life"

Excerpts from [North American Academy of piping drumming](#) Apostle Brian's First Epistle to Valle Crucians by Ed Neigh.

Band Camp Report

Four students of First Coast Highlanders participated in a week of intense higher learning of The Great Highland Bagpipes. They traveled to Valle Crucis, North Carolina and attended the "North American Academy of Piping and Drumming." Marcia Winnard, Alyson Rios, Brooklyn Harrell, Baden Nickelson along with Art Tenney had a grand time and have submitted the following report.

Upon arrival in the mountains of North Carolina, all of us were in Awe of the beauty, the cool temperatures and great weather during our week long experience. There was a creek and small water fall running beside the mission house, of which we resided. This was our refuge place to regroup from the intense bagpipe instruction we received. It was also a great place to practice our pipes. We all learned the importance to emphasis and perfect our embellishments. The instructors (Nick Hudson, Jim Dillahey, and Dan Lyden) quickly realized that all of us needed work on several of the embellishments that we are required to play within our tunes. It wasn't that we couldn't play them, it was that we weren't playing them correctly. So, the fix is on. We were provided with pipe maintenance and not

to be afraid of the octopus under our arm. As beginner pipers, we were introduced to tuning our pipes. Now we can play in-tune with each other. We were also introduced to a little piobaireachd, which might come in a couple of years. Allyson and Brooklynn enjoyed playing the piano in the Mission house sitting room. All of us came back much better pipers from this experience and want to thank everyone who provided assistance and allowed us to participate in this grand experience. Baden said the academy taught him the importance of the GDE Gracenote pattern. He liked the mountains because it felt like the Great Highland Bagpipes belonged there in North Carolina.

==== *Marcia, Alyson, Brooklyn & Baden.*

"It does not mater how slowly you go as long as you don't stop" Confucius



Thank you, Blanca Ríos, for the pictures

A Bagpipe Wedding

Bagpipes have been popular at weddings for many years. In 1732, a very merry wedding, with seven bagpipes was recorded in the English newspapers, at Preston in Lancashire. 1750, Wolfgang Mozart's father, Leopold Mozart, wrote, "A Peasant's Wedding," for strings, oboes, bassoon, horns, hurdy-gurdy, and bagpipes.

It is a privilege, and an expression of friendship to be called to play at a wedding. Especially one who may be a close friend. Playing the bagpipes at a wedding is more like a tribute to marriage than simply just playing. It can be a humbling experience.

Playing the appropriate music for a wedding is important not only for the Bride and Groom but also for the piper, to evaluate his or her own life and marriage and represent all who are in attendance. A bagpiper and musette player are involved in what is considered a sacred occasion; the selling of indulgences by the Catholic Church. A medley of hymns, will be in the finest tradition of the Highlands of Scotland; a wonderful tribute to any Highland lassie on her wedding day. The music of our ancient instrument could realistically suggest to an imaginative person, the screeching, whining and wailing sounds emitted by those lost souls.

The most popular wedding march today, with which to pipe the bride and groom from the church is, "The Highland Wedding March,": This tune was written specifically for the bagpipes. Other pipe tunes written for this occasion are, "Mari's Wedding," (a traditional tune), and "Rab's Wedding."

Mary's Wedding (Mairi" Wedding)

1. Over hillways up and down,
Myrtle green and bracken brown,
Past the shielings, through the town;
All for sake o' Mairi.

2. Red her cheeks as rowans are,
Bright her eyes as any star,
Fairest o' them a' by far
Is our darlin' Mairi.

Chorus

Step we gaily, on we go,
Heel for heel and toe for toe,
Arm iin arm and row on row,
All for Mairi's wedding.

3. Plenty herring, plenty meal,
Plenty peat to fill her creel,
Plenty bonnie bairns as weel;
That's the toast for Mairi.

"Play well my fellow pipers. Play strong and Proud."

PAST EVENT Military Recognition @ Military Museum Green Cove Springs

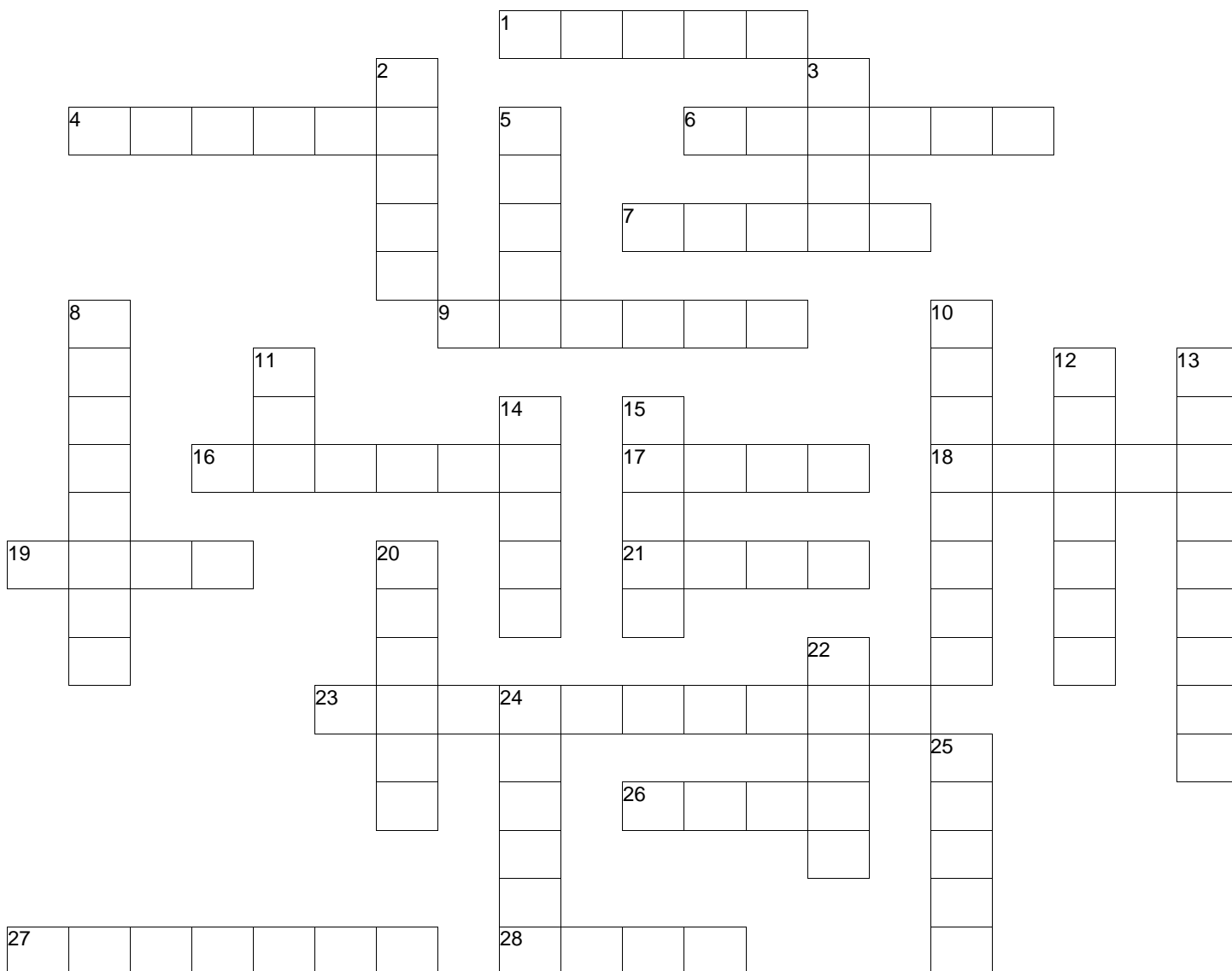


Up-Coming Events All of our events will be subject to change until the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. Stay in touch by logging into our website where you can find our calendar of events. Currently, the band continues with Thursday evening practices. If you would like to join us for practice shoot us a text on Facebook, we would love to have you join us.

Sunday – Oct. 11th – 12 Noon **Kilted Golf Tournament** Marsh Landing Golf Club Ponte Vedra FL
Saturday – Nov. 7th – 9am-3:00pm **FCH Annual Car Show** Military Museum, Green Cove Springs, FL
Sunday – Nov. 8th, 12- 5:00pm **Mount Dora Scottish Festival.** Mount Dora Central Park, FL

FUN AND GAMES

Bagpipe Music X Word



Across

1. How many parts to a note
4. Lowland bagpipes
6. Pressure
7. A one part note
9. Two note movement punctuated with G and D gracenotes
16. A dotted note
17. What are the notes in the space
18. Low G to High A
19. Part to a note
21. The important notes of a grip
23. Little notes
26. To hold tight
27. To toss a D
28. How many notes are in bagpipe music

Down

2. highland bagpipes
3. Dance Tune
5. What are the notes on the lines
8. Run of three
10. Upper hand to lower hand error
11. Tenor
12. Simple time lower number equivalent
13. To practice is to perform
14. Bass
15. They are on a gracenote
20. None written
22. A steady beat
24. 4/4 Time
25. 466

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FOR \$25 YOU CAN BECOME A MEMBER OF OUR BOOSTER CLUB, and receive the newsletter by email.

For more information about hiring a piper or the band, or becoming a sponsor, call Art Tenney at (904) 368-8177.

Please complete the coupon below and mail with your check to the **First Coast Highlanders, 9703 NW 219th Street, Starke, FL 32091**. We are registered under s.496 405, Florida Statutes, the Solicitation of Contributions Act, registration number CH36692, expiration date June 15, 2021, and we are a 501 (c)(3) non-profit charitable organization and all donations are tax deductible.

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