

Lake Region Monitor

USPS 114-170 – KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FLORIDA

THURSDAY, DEC. 19, 2013

41ST YEAR – 33RD ISSUE – 75 CENTS

Merry Melrose Christmas parade features Furry Friends

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

Rain did not dampen the Merry Melrose Christmas Parade Dec. 14 as 30 entries marched down S.R. 26. The theme of the event was Furry Friends and Greathouse Butterfly Farm won best interpretation of the theme. Cub Scout Pack 109 had the most participants in the parade and JRA Welding won the most original prize. The best overall award went to ELiam Baptist Church. Other participants included the Melrose Volunteer Fire Department, Putnam County Sheriff's Office, Melrose Business and Community Association, the constitutional officers of Putnam County, Keystone Kops of the Keystone Shrine Club, Melrose Beauty Salon, Outlaw Marine, Melrose Library Association, Peter

See PARADE, 5A



ELiam Baptist Church won the best overall entry prize. Pictured on the ELiam float are (l-r) front row: Elaina Rollins, Devan Rollins and Caleb Hesters. Middle row: Elijah Thomas, Derrick Bentley and Youth Minister Van Elmore. Back row: Brittani Carter, Roland Orr and Hunter Duerr.



Greathouse Butterfly Farm won the best interpretation of theme with the float: Florida Skunk Ape. Pictured are Jeremy Gross and Mitch Hammond as the Skunk Ape.

School leaders outline learning initiatives

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

Clay County School District administrators outlined their plans to overhaul the district's instructional approach during a Nov. 19 school board meeting. The initiatives include an emphasis on writing, an eighth grade transitional course and continued development of career academies in the system's seven high schools.

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Diane Kornegay, told board members that from 2011 to 2013, the passing rate for the system's third grade students on the FCAT writing exam dropped from 98 percent to 58 percent. She added that the decline was the sole reason the district lost its A rating.

Kornegay said that by 2011, Clay County elementary schools had more than adequately adapted its instruction to prepare third graders for the writing FCAT.

"We as a district had really mastered the structures of writing which was a major focus of that assessment," she said. "Our kids were very proficient at the five-paragraph essay; writing the standard beginning with the three supporting paragraphs and the closing."

Kornegay said that beginning in 2012, the state changed the focus of the writing exam from assessing structure of students' compositions to content. The district's passing rate fell to 80 percent during that year.

"It moved us away from the structure of writing to thinking of writing," she said of the new test. "It wanted kids to be able to support their opinions, respond to literature and those types of things--- responding to a prompt where they were asked to develop reasons for those responses versus just the structure of writing."

Kornegay said that the following year, the state raised the passing grade for the writing FCAT from a 3.0 score to 3.5. The county's passing rate dropped to 58 percent as a result.

Emily Weiskopf, supervisor of professional development and school improvement, said the district's plans for improving those scores center on new instructional material and more training for teachers.

The new curriculum, Being a Writer from the Developmental Studies Center, develops writing skills and creativity in primary school students.

Weiskopf said administrators and teachers trained for the new material during the summer and into the fall. She added that the training will continue throughout the school year.

She said the district's new instructional model focuses less on materials and more on instruction, and away from the student being the listener and toward the teacher being the listener, getting students to talk, read and write in the classroom.

Weiskopf showed board members examples of elementary students' writing she said illustrated the district's progress in writing instruction.

One sample was from a first grade student who did not know English at the beginning of the school year. The two-sentence composition read, "I love cows because they have milk. I love milk."

"His first writing was basically lines and shapes,"

See SCHOOLS, 5A

Wreaths Across America comes to Keystone Heights

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

Wreaths Across America made its Clay County debut with a Dec. 14 ceremony in Keystone Heights. Around two dozen people purchased memorial laurels for veterans at the cemetery.

Wreaths Across America lays over 200,000 wreaths at over 500 locations each December.

During the Keystone ceremony, a veteran laid one wreath at a memorial for each service branch.

Viet Nam purple heart recipient Cornelius Clayton laid a wreath in honor of US Army veterans. John McClay laid a wreath in honor of US Marines veterans, Lt. Tom McIntyre

See WREATHS, 7A



Bill Ingram, World War II prisoner of war and survivor of the Bataan death march, lays a wreath in honor of POWs and MIAs. Assisting Ingram is (right) Wreath Chair Ursula Wida.



Tom McIntyre lays a wreath in honor of US Navy veterans. Also pictured is Florida Youth Challenge Cadet Douglas Brooks.

Historic Melrose tour highlights former residents

BY JAMES WILLIAMS
Special to the Monitor

Two weekends ago, Dec. 7, the spotlight was on Keystone Heights, with Santa coming to town, the Christmas parade and other events. Last weekend, Dec. 15, it was Melrose's turn to shine. There was a Christmas parade, a dance at the senior center, and then there was the Holiday House tour presented once every three years by Historic Melrose, Inc.

The house tour is a simple idea, but it's always a crowd pleaser. Visitors pay a fee to walk around in Melrose (or drive if they wish) and go from one historic house or building to another. Most of the buildings are decorated for the season, and the owners or others at each location serve refreshments. What's not to like?

David Peffley was swamped with ticket buyers and not enough one dollar bills around 1:30 p.m.; parked cars lined an entire side of Heritage Park. Around 4 p.m., Dr. Mark Barrow said it looked as if 75-80 visitors had taken the tour in the prior three hours, about one visitor every two minutes.

Many visitors chose to walk some or all of the distance, including one spry but elderly woman with a walker.

Some of the stops are a virtual given each year: those include the art galleries, the Baldwin Store and the Vogelbach-McRae Drugstore/ Homemakers Club. Among the older buildings in



The Bonney Farm House predates 1877, when Melrose was first platted. In the early 1900s, Leigh Pearsal bought the house and planted palms along the path down to the lake. The building was also the site of the first Historic Melrose meeting in 1988. The building was also the site of the first Historic Melrose meeting in 1988.

Melrose, the drugstore later became a sort of woman's club (but should not be confused with the official Melrose Woman's Club, which is down the road.) It was in the Homemaker's Club that historic photos and demonstrations of crafts were served with punch and Christmas cookies.

But Melrose's Pearsal family was the focus at this year's tour. Alfred Pearsal moved to Melrose in the mid-1880s; his children drifted into town over

the following years. Among those was son, Leigh, who first came to Melrose in 1900 on his honeymoon. Other children purchased or built homes around the lake and bay, whether for year-round or seasonal use. Leigh stayed in Melrose and acquired swaths of land in the area. He owned or had built a number of homes for his family, his employees and winter guests. Nearing his death in 1964, his

See TOUR, 6A

Clay board approves \$616K spend to fix road



Wall number four of the Henley Road widening project has settled 10 inches. The top arrow in this photo points to the wall cap and the bottom arrow points to a section of the wall that has settled. Photo by Clay County Board of County Commissioners.

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

Clay County Commissioners approved an additional \$616,043 expenditure to repair a wall that is a part of the Henley Road widening project.

The \$15 million job, started

in 2011, expands the road from two to four lanes along a 2.5-mile stretch from C.R. 218 to C.R. 209 in the Lake Asbury-area. It was financed as part of a \$71 million, 2009 infrastructure

See WALL, 4A

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Clay health dept. raises diabetes awareness

The Clay County Health Department is warning residents about what it calls America's fastest growing public health concern.

The agency said that crisis and epidemic are words commonly associated with the growth of diabetes in the United States. It added that health experts predict that without improvements in eating habits and levels of physical activity, one third of Americans will soon be diabetic.

Diabetes significantly contributes to the development of cardiovascular disease, kidney disease, blindness and amputations. A person with diabetes is more likely to experience a premature death and is twice as likely to die on any given day.

Slight changes in lifestyle can reduce the risk of acquiring diabetes or suffering the complications of the disease. A five to seven percent reduction in body weight and weekly moderate physical activity can reduce the risk of acquiring the disease. Physical activity, dietary changes, self-management training, ongoing support and, when necessary, medications can help control the effects of diabetes.

Approximately 7 million Americans have undiagnosed diabetes.

The department listed the following risk factors for the disease: 45 years of age or older, overweight, a parent with diabetes, a sister or brother with diabetes, a family background of African American, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian, Asian American or Pacific Islander, developed diabetes while pregnant (or gave birth to a baby weighing 9 pounds or more) and physically active less than three times a week.

The health department said that individuals with two or more of the risk factors should consider getting a blood test from a health care provider.

Report: Orlando looks to St. Johns, Rodman for water

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

A new report by the Central Florida Water Initiative said Orlando-area water suppliers may need to tap the St. Johns River and Rodman Reservoir to meet growing demand for Orange, Osceola, Polk, Seminole, and southern Lake counties.

The initiative is a joint project of the St. Johns River, South Florida and Southwest Florida water management districts.

According to the report, Central Florida's population will increase by 49 percent over a 25-

year period, from 2.7 million in 2010 to 4.1 million in 2035. Over that same timeframe, the report projects daily water demand in the region to increase from 800 million gallons to 1,100 million gallons, a 40-percent jump.

Now, almost all of the area's freshwater demand is met by aquifer withdrawals. However, hydrologic models indicate the maximum daily withdrawals

aquifers can support is 850 million gallons, leaving a 250 million gallons per day deficit at 2035.

The report said that up to 42 mgd could be saved by conservation efforts. It also identified 139 potential water supply projects that could yield an additional 391 mgd at a cost of nearly \$3 billion.

Brackish groundwater projects

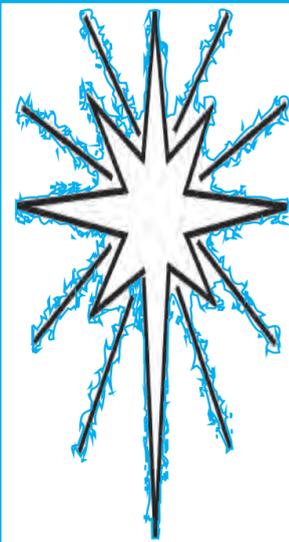
make up 35 of those projects and 86 involve reclaimed water. Three are management strategy projects and 15 draw surface water. Of the 15 surface water projects, four involve the St. Johns River.

Now, the cities of Sanford and Winter Springs draw water either from the river or one of its sources.

In addition, the report said that

based on a St. Johns River Water Management District feasibility study, suppliers could withdraw up to 100 mgd from Rodman Reservoir "without causing unacceptable environmental harm, providing water regulation schedules for upstream lakes did not change; groundwater

See WATER, 3A



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Isaiah 9:2, 6

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Lake Region Monitor

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Clay board to take another look at EZBase in January

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

After listening to a complaint from Middleburg resident and District 3 county commission candidate Steve Johnson, commissioners agreed to take another look at deposits of EZBase around Clay County.

EZBase is a coal ash byproduct of the JEA Northside coal fire generating plant that the utility marketed as a road base.

In 2009, the utility delivered several tons of the material to Johnson's 30-acre property. However, because the Florida Department of Environmental Protection only permitted EZBase for use in roads, the agency demanded Johnson remove it from his land.

In 2010, a St. Johns Water Management District inspector reported that EZBase had been used to cover a filled-in wetland at Camp Blanding.

In July 2012 Doug Conkey, who at that time was chair of the Clay County Commission, sent a letter to JEA, reminding the utility that the only customers who could legally receive the material were customers specifically listed on a Florida Department of Environmental Protection permit.

"These permit conditions do not appear to have eliminated the unlawful use and storage of EZBase on residential property in Clay County, and there is

great concern about the health risks to Clay County citizens," Conkey wrote.

According to Johnson, the utility offered to remove the material at no cost to the property owner. Johnson said he initially refused the offer because in accepting it, he would have had to agree to hold the utility harmless for any damages EZBase caused.

In January 2013, Johnson granted JEA and FDEP access to his property to remove the material. An April FDEP inspection concluded that EZBase had been removed from Johnson's property.

During the Clay County Commission's Dec. 10 meeting, Johnson said that some EZBase still remained on his land. He also said that over 500,000 tons have been delivered to various locations within Clay County. Johnson also said that a county ordinance prohibits the disposal of any solid waste in Clay County unless it was generated within the jurisdiction. He added that since FDEP classifies EZBase as a solid waste, the ordinance prohibits it from entering the county.

Commissioner Ronnie Robinson said the board should send another letter to JEA, telling the utility the county does not want any more of the material within its borders.

"I realize we can't do anything

about Camp Blanding," he said, "if the federal government wants to bring it in. But we can do something about everything else."

"You all know me well enough that I am not an environmentalist," he told fellow commissioners, "but I have a problem with this product at this time."

Commissioner Wendell Davis asked County Attorney Mark Scruby to take another look at EZBase so the board could evaluate its options during its January meeting. Davis said that since commissioners Chereese Stewart and Doug Conkey were not at the Dec. 10 meeting, he would prefer to wait until the next meeting to take action.

Scrubby said he would look at the issue again, but based on his previous research he thought there was little the board could do to prevent EZBase's entry into the county.

"We don't have jurisdiction over the regulation of these materials," he said. "That is just not a local government jurisdiction. Imagine if every local government had the ability to close its borders to materials that it didn't want. It would be chaos, economic chaos for a state to have boarders like that. That is why this type of regulation is reserved to the state of Florida."

KHHS health occupation enrollment up 44 percent



Keystone Heights High School health occupation students meet in McDavid Park for a presentation by ShandsCair. (Left-right) front row: Chris Meiers, Brandon Nicholas, Wyatt Graziano, Josh Knight, Nathan Nelson and Meranda McCarty. Middle row: Ann Roberts, Courtland Singletary, Jailene Garcia, Rachel Wells, Diana Ramos, Rachel Bellman, Katie Dalton, Jessica Garcia and Jessica Hylton. Back Row: Natasha Sudsbury, Dayshia Jenkins, Tiffany Brooks, Santana Wallace, Laura Danis, Shianne Beck, Tara Shobris, Morgan Lord and CJ Rogers.

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

Keystone Heights High School health occupations students took the classroom outdoors on Dec. 6 to meet with flight crews from ShandsCair.

The hospital chopper touched down in McDavid Park, one block north of campus, where flight crews explained their jobs to the students.

Teacher Lynn Dickinson said the presentation by practicing health care professionals is an important part of her program.

She added that the health occupations program at Keystone, which had 18 students last year, now has 26 participants, a 44-percent increase.

Dickinson said the growth has been so rapid, she spent part of her summer obtaining six additional hospital beds, so students could practice nursing procedures in class.

Keystone's health occupations curriculum illustrates the Clay County School District's emphasis on career education with students leaving school with an industry certification.

Dickinson said her students graduate with a Certified Nursing Assistant license, in addition to their high school diplomas.

She also said the CNA designation virtually guarantees her students a job making around \$10 an hour, and also gives them an advantage in applying for more advanced nursing programs like the



ShandsCair Flight Nurse Jenny Knight and Respiratory Therapist Vanessa Larsen explain to KHHS students how they care for infants.

LPNs can take vital signs, administer medications, and communicate patient information to other health care providers.

The registered nurse is the professional nursing designation. RNs take orders from physicians, develop a patient care plan, supervise other nurses and triage patients.

Dickinson said that in order to obtain a state CNA license, students must demonstrate proficiency in 22 skills.

She added that Keystone students have the highest passing rate on the CNA exam than students in any other Clay County High School.

Dickinson said one feature that attracts students to nursing is that after leaving high school with a marketable skill, they can continue their education while at the same time, working in their career field.

KHHS senior Tara Shobris is doing just that.

Shobris now works at the Park of the Palms assisted living facility during afternoons and evenings. She plans to graduate with a CNA certificate and then enroll in an LPN program. She then plans to add more courses to qualify her for an RN license. She said she hopes to remain working at the Park of the Palms while continuing her education.

Shobris added that her

occupations seeing her mother's stethoscope. She said her parents told her that a nursing career was a good idea.

Another student that has family connections in the health care occupations is CJ Rogers, who is studying for a career as a firefighter and paramedic. Rogers has two uncles who work for Alachua County Fire Rescue. He said his relatives have provided important career advice for him.

Rogers, in addition to several other students, said his favorite part of the high school's program is the clinical experience he received at a Starke nursing home.

Dickinson said each year, she takes her students to Bradford Terrace in Starke for clinical experience. The practical training is required for the CNA license and it gives the students a look at the daily tasks they might fulfill as nursing assistants.

"There is nothing more valuable than hands-on experience," she said.

Dickinson said that connecting the students with practicing professionals, like the presentation in McDavid Park, is also critical.

"Even the little things, like seeing the blue flight suits from Shands," she said. "It gives them the vision of, 'This could be me.'"

WATER

Continued from 2A

withdrawals equaled the 2010 predictions; surface water withdrawals upstream from

Rodman Reservoir did not increase; and the existing surface water management plan for Rodman Reservoir was maintained."

According to an investigation by Orlando television station WFTV, the top five water consumers in Orange County are SeaWorld and four golf courses.

Scholarships offered by elections supervisors

Chris Chambless, Clay County supervisor of elections is pleased to announce the opportunity for local college

See COLLEGE, 4A

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Red Cross prepares cookie trays for firefighters



Red Cross volunteers (l-r) Tammy Lockhart, Dave Maranville, Crystal Tenerani and Deborah Thompson prepare cookie trays for area firefighters during the organization's annual Cookie Caper. This is the 12th year local Red Cross volunteers have provided holiday treats to area firefighters.

Melrose safety patrol hosts breakfast with Santa



The Melrose Elementary School safety patrol hosted Breakfast with Santa Dec. 14 in the school's cafeteria. This is the fifth year the patrol has put on the event.

Organizer Laretta Johnston said proceeds from the breakfast will be used to help pay for the group's annual trip to Washington. She said it takes around \$650 to send each student on the trip, so the group performs several fundraising events throughout the year to finance the tour.

Pictured are safety patrol members who served breakfast during the event: (l-r) Elena Jolley, Daranae Donley, Jacob Stewart and Jamie Crouse.

Toys for Kids pick up Dec. 21



Pick up for Toys for Kids is between 8 a.m. and noon, Saturday, Dec. 21. Keystone Heights Jaycees President Erica Bassett said Parents approved for the program should have already been notified by mail. Keystone Building Center/True Value donated eight bicycles for the Toys For Kids program. Pictured are Brian Gassett and Doug Wise of Keystone Building Center and Duke and Aimee Marsh of the Jaycees.

WALL

Continued from 1A

sales tax surcharge revenue bond issue.

Director of Engineering and Public Works, Jeff Beck told commissioners during the board's Dec. 10 meeting that a 15-foot high wall, built where the road passes over John Boy Creek, has settled around 10 inches. He said borings taken after the problem was discovered, disclosed a layer of peat that was the cause of the settling. He said that without remedial action, the wall could sink an additional six inches, possibly destabilizing the road.

Beck said that to prevent further settling, workers will inject grouting into the peat layer. He said the project will take around three months.

Commissioner Ronnie

Robinson said the borings taken before the wall was built should have revealed the peat layer. He also questioned the need for the wall, and complained that it was built only because the St. Johns River Water Management District required it to protect wetlands.

The board approved the \$616,043 expenditure to repair the wall. Commissioner Wendell Davis said the county attorney is reviewing the supplemental project.

Commissioner Diane Hutchings said that of the project's \$15 million total cost, the wall repair amounts to less than 3 percent of that total.

"It is a lot of money," she said. "I'm not saying this is not a lot of money."

"These things happen," she added. "Even if you are remodeling your home, you run into things that you didn't expect."

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (LCMS)

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 Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship Service at 10 a.m.
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Early deadline announced

The offices of the Bradford County Telegraph, Union County Times and Lake Region Monitor will be closed on Wednesday, Dec. 25, and Wednesday, Jan. 1, for the Christmas and New Year's holidays. There will be an early deadline for the Dec. 26 and Jan. 2 papers—Monday, Dec. 23, and Monday, Dec. 30, by noon. Both papers will be published in time to be on the street on Tuesday and in mailboxes on Thursday.

Rotary pecan sales continue

The Keystone Heights Rotary Club has begun its annual fundraising pecan sale. Available now are 12-ounce bags of pecans in four varieties: pecan halves, pecans in pieces for all your holiday baking needs. This year, Rotary also offers praline and chocolate covered pecans. The halves and pieces are \$8 per 12 ounce bag; the covered pecans are \$9 per bag. All pecans are from this year's fresh Georgia crop.

Pecans may be ordered through any Rotary club member, but are also available,

while they last, at the Keystone Heights Brian's Ace Hardware and at the M&S Bank.

Funds raised through the sales go toward various Rotary projects, such as Lake Area Ministries, the Keystone Youth Soccer League and other local youth sports programs and the Clay County Science Fair.

COLLEGE

Continued from 3A

or university students to apply for a \$1,200 scholarship through the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections (FSASE), a statewide, professional organization of the sixty-seven Supervisors of Elections in the state of Florida..

FSASE will award three \$1,200 scholarships this year to political science majors, public or business administration majors or journalism/mass communication majors who have finished two years of junior college or undergraduate work. Applicants must be enrolled or accepted as full-time students in a senior college or university in Florida.



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James 4:12 — There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save.

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Photos from the Merry Melrose Christmas Parade



JRA Welding won the most original entry. Pictured on the JRA float are Mary McCourt and Susan Andrew.



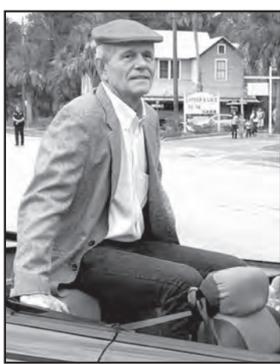
Aboard the Shake Rag Art and Culture Center float are (l-r) Doris Nabors, June Beverly, Glenda Appling, Bill Corth, Bill Coleman, Deborah Coleman, Jennifer Gravelle and Torri Gravelle.



Anna Cook, Melrose Library top summer reader with 102 hours.



Russ Fessenden and brother Paul Fessenden of Lakeside Realty.



Parade Grand Marshal Keith Bollum.



Mariyah Baker riding with Melrose Beauty Salon.



Cub Scout pack 109 had the entry with the most participants. Pictured are (front-back, left-right) Paul Harvey, William Dukes, Logan Sanders and Cole Melvin.

PARADE

Continued from 1A

Atkinson, Melrose Landing Airport, Century 21 Lakeside Realty, Harrell Plastering, The

Humane Society of Northeast Florida, Puppy Hill Farm Animal Rescue, Carter's Music Lessons, St. Johns Missionary Baptist Church, Keystone Heights Animal Hospital, Gold Coast Greyhound Adoptions of Gainesville, Shake Rag Art

and Culture Center, Trinity Episcopal Church, Jeremane Garden Farm, AMVETS, Melrose Bay Art Gallery and Bellamy Road, Karen Newman-Spitzner, The Dancing Fish of Lake Santa Fe and Santa Claus.

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SCHOOLS

Continued from 1A

said Weiskopf. "By the end of the first quarter, with this new instructional model where we are turning it more over to kids, having them write more and the teacher taking on a more facilitative role, we end up with

something like this." "I think it is pretty profound that this child can now state an opinion and give a reason for it," she added.

Kornegay said that junior high school students saw the same drop in FCAT scores that elementary students experienced in 2012 and 2013.

She said that in the junior high

grades, teachers will continue to emphasize writing, but will also underscore science and math skills.

Kathy Schofield, coordinator of Pre-K to 12th grade curriculum, said the strategy is to wrap writing skills around math and science content.

She also said that an eighth grade course to help students transition to high school is a key district initiative.

Schofield said the course will equip eighth-graders with the social and emotional skills they need to succeed in high school. She added that the course will

feature web-based project learning.

Chereese Stewart, the district's director of career and technical education, said the first year of high school is critical because more students fail the ninth grade more than any other grade. She also said the majority of high school dropouts make the decision to leave school in October of their ninth grade year.

"If you go to a high school you can usually pick out the 9th graders," she said. "They are in their own little world most of the

time." Stewart explained the district's continued development of career academies and how school leaders plan to redesign high schools.

She said students in the academies have higher grades, better attendance records and lower discipline referrals than students in the general population. She attributed those results on the academy's small learning community structure.

"It is the piece where kids feel like they are a part of a group," she said. "They belong. They have chosen a path that they are interested in and that helps them to maintain an interest in sitting in that Algebra class or that English class or that Science class, when they see it tie to something that they are interested in."

Kornegay said that throughout the district's instructional plans, technology plays a key role. She emphasized, however, that the primary driver in improving student performance is the professional development of teachers.

"If we improve teacher practice," she said, "we are going to improve student learning."

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Bible Answer: 2 Peter 3: 3-4; 8-10 Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." But beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is long-suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

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TOUR

Continued from 1A

large collection of American Indian artifacts was donated to what became the Florida Museum of Natural History.

Among the Pearsall-related buildings seen on this year's tour were the Pearsall Cottage, built for winter guests, the Pearsall potting garden on Seminole Ridge Road, and Pineview, built in the 1920s for Pearsall's property manager. Also on the list was the Terry Top, a winter residence for Pearsall family member Zoe Terry, and two Pearsall outbuildings. These included a decorated barn, which last Sunday housed one uninterested cat and two horses, one of them under the weather.

A concrete block tool and potting shed built by the Pearsalls in the 1950s has been turned into a small but ethereal family chapel by former Trinity Episcopal Church Vicar Jeff Mackey and his family. It seats nine and is devoted to St. Chrysostom.

But maybe the biggest gift for all seasons left by the Pearsalls has to be the gardens and rows of royal and sago palms that line the streets of Melrose. Those



The palms, sago palms gates and gardens that line Seminole Ridge were the Pearsalls' as well.



The lush gardens and greenery around Melrose is largely due to the Pearsalls. This Seminole Ridge view is the gate to the Pearsall potting garden.

too, were planted by first one and then another of the Pearsall family, especially Alfred and Leigh, some by now 100 years old.

The Pearsall's left the community more than their name on one of its major roads, and for their many contributions they were rightly honored by this year's tour.

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Girl Scouts volunteering at the Wreaths Across America event in Keystone Heights (l-r) front row: Elena Jolley, Sofia Jolley, Darby English, Abigail Bangert, Makala Jones and Caryle Jones. Back row: Isabelle Woodell, Sharon Pass, Lily Dowell, Kaitlyn Bangert, Jillian Pass, Katelyn Hinson, Ann Pettie and Daisy Jones.



Program Chair Joan Jones speaks to the crowd gathered at the Keystone Heights Cemetery.

WREATHS

Continued from 1A

(Ret.) laid a wreath in honor of US Navy veterans. Robert A. Griner laid a wreath in honor of Coast Guard veterans. World War II and Korea veteran Capt. John Gregory (Ret.) laid a wreath in honor of Air Force veterans. Capt. Pamela A. Stoffelbein of Florida Search and Rescue laid a

wreath in honor of US Merchant Marine veterans. Bill Ingram, World War II prisoner of war and Bataan death march survivor laid a wreath in honor of POWs and MIAs.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, family members spread across the cemetery laying wreaths at the graves of veteran family members or other veterans.

LEGALS

LRM Legals 12/19/13

A PROCLAMATION OF THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FLORIDA REGARDING THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MARCH 4, 2014

WHEREAS, the term of office for Council Seat 4 (MAYOR) will expire on April 7, 2014 and an election is required to be held to fill this seat; and, WHEREAS, Section 14 of the City Charter of Keystone Heights, Florida and Section 35.03 of the Code of Ordinances of Keystone Heights, Florida require the Mayor to issue a proclamation containing information regarding the election; now therefore,

BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Mayor of the City Council of the City of Keystone Heights, Florida that:

1. There shall be a municipal election to elect a council member for Council Seat 4 (MAYOR) of the City Coun-

cil of the City of Keystone Heights, Florida on March 4, 2014. The term of Council Seat 4 is three years. The polls shall be open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the Keystone Heights City Hall.

2. Qualifying for Council Seat 4 (MAYOR) shall begin at noon on January 7, 2014 and shall end at noon on February 4, 2014. The City Council shall meet at a City Council meeting on February 6, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. and certify the names of the candidates qualified to be placed on the ballot for the election to be held on March 4, 2014.

3. The City Manager will appoint poll workers to conduct and monitor the municipal election of March 4, 2014. This Proclamation was approved by the Mayor on this 2nd day of December, 2013.

12/19 2tchg 12/26-LRM

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(4) And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

(5) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

(6) And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

(7) And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

(8) And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

(9) And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

(10) And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

(11) For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

(12) And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

(13) And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

(14) Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Luke 2:4-14



MERRY CHRISTMAS

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REGIONAL NEWS

NEWS FROM BRADFORD COUNTY, UNION COUNTY AND THE LAKE REGION

You have the right to have a merry Christmas

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Regional News/Sports Editor
If the Grinch lived in Bradford

County instead of adjacent to Whoville, chances are his heart still would've grown three sizes

if he witnessed the Starke Police Department's annual Shop With a Cop program.

Every year community donations and fundraisers, plus grants from Walmart, allow children identified by their teachers as having a need—but still doing everything that is required of them in school—to participate in a shopping spree at Walmart of Starke. As you would guess by the name, each child is accompanied by a “cop.”

The event began in 2005 with 43 children. This year's event, which was Dec. 17, was made up of 213 children.

“I didn't expect it to be quite this large,” said Union County Sheriff's Office Deputy Mindy Goodwin, who was participating for the first time. “I'm amazed at the number of kids out here.”

Starke Police Department Capt. Barry Warren, who organizes the event, has received so much in donations this year that he has allowed smaller groups of children to participate in shopping sprees outside of the Dec. 17 event, since space limitations prevented Walmart from hosting every single child at once. Next year, though, plans are to have an official two-day event.

Warren said the support he has received makes him proud to be a part of this community.

“You can call this a small county if you want,” Warren said, “but when it comes to heart, there's not a county in this state that compares.”

Starke Police Department Officer Michael Tew, who was participating in the event for the first time, said, “We have a lot of people in the community who look out for the children. That's

Starke Police Department officer Scott Taylor follows Brooker Elementary student Jasmine Mabry in one of Walmart's toy aisles as she looks for something that captures her fancy.



Starke Elementary School student Malik Lucas gets some assistance in selecting a toy from Derrick Sapp of the Corrections Corporation of America.



Starke Elementary School student Anna Hallan and Brandy Roberts of Florida State Prison prepare to check out.

always good.”

Since the event has grown to include so many children, it takes personnel from several agencies to provide a “cop” for each child to shop with. Besides local law-enforcement officers, the event included officers from Gainesville and Alachua, as well as agencies such as the

Florida Highway Patrol, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and CSX.

As usual, the Department of Corrections came through in a big way. Warren said he asked the department for 147 correctional officers, but it was obvious the department sent a lot more than that. The department's involvement meant the event actually had a surplus of “cops.”

“We ran out of kids and

baskets before we ran out of officers,” Warren said. “(DOC officers) come in force. To have them contribute is great.”

Judy Sumpter was one of those correctional officers. She sounded as if she had as much fun as any of the children.

“I really enjoyed it,” she said. “If I can do it again, I'll do it again every year.”

See SHOP, 10B



Brooker Elementary student David Hinds tries on a bicycle helmet as Mark Williams of RMC looks on.

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Bennett: leaving a job, but remaining part of a family

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Regional News/Sports Editor

Community State Bank in Starke has been a part of Sharon Bennett's life for 44 years, and retirement won't change that.

Bennett is set to end a career she began at the age of 17. She went from simply answering the phone to working in lending for 33 years and eventually becoming senior vice president.

"I'm leaving the work part of it, but I don't feel like I'm leaving the family," Bennett said. "I'll still be a part of the Community State Bank family."

Perhaps it was fate that Bennett's parents, Jeff and Maude Prevatt, started banking at Community State Bank when it first opened. She remembers accompanying her parents to the bank as a girl and thinking, "Maybe I'll work at that bank one day."

The Lawtey native, after graduating from Bradford High School, actually applied for a job at both Community State Bank and the old Florida Bank. Reflecting upon it today, Bennett said there weren't many opportunities for a 17-year-old. People didn't want to hire you until you were 18, she said.

Community State Bank did



Sharon Bennett is retiring after a 44-year career at Community State Bank, where she began working as a 17-year-old fresh out of Bradford High School.

hire her, and thus began a lifelong education of the banking world. It was an education Bennett embraced. When quitting time rolled around, she was more apt to stay late and help others with their work.

"I was willing to put in the work that was required to learn the different positions at the bank," Bennett said.

She fondly remembers Margaret Miller, who also encouraged her to learn as much as she could.

"She was the one who really took me under her wing, I guess, and said, 'You're going to learn this,'" Bennett said.

Many people—past and

present—have helped Bennett, but she said the two who probably had the greatest impact on her career were Miller and Ray Norman. In fact, it was because of Norman she wound up working in lending.

"Ray talked me into that one," Bennett said. "He told me I could do it."

Bennett admitted the thought of working in that area intimidated her, but once she got into it, she found she really liked it. She has enjoyed the relationship with her customers, whether they were looking to start a business or purchase a home or vehicle.

"I've been able to help a lot

of people," Bennett said. "I'm going to miss that."

In fact, Bennett said her customers have become her

See BENNETT, 3B

Arc staff: closing thrift store a tough but right, decision

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Regional News/Sports Editor

It has been a great way to interact with the community and, more importantly, an avenue of employment training for its consumers, but the thrift store opened by the Arc of Bradford County in October 2008 will be closing its doors on Friday, Dec. 20.

Sherry Ruskowski, the executive director of the Arc of Bradford, and Tony Sellars, the Arc's operations director, said the decision to close the store has been a sad one for all involved with the Arc, but the

bottom line is the thrift store is a business, and it was one that was losing money.

"We've had many faithful customers," Sellars said, "but the time has come where it doesn't support itself anymore."

Ruskowski said the thrift store was operating at a deficit every month this year, which, of course, made it tough to cover overhead and pay the consumers who worked there.

The decision was put off for months, but eventually the decision to close the store had to be made.

"It's a no-brainer,"

Ruskowski said. "Any responsible business owner would be making this decision."

The mission of the Arc of Bradford County is to provide support such as adult day training, residential services, community employment and supported living services for individuals with varying disabilities. Yet it was getting difficult for the Arc to provide those services and maintain staff cuts in state funding year after year.

"We needed to branch out

See STORE, 7B

What's so special about Christmas?

Christmas brings back fond memories as a child growing up and wondering what was under the Christmas tree.

Special memories and a season of joy and excitement. I still enjoy Christmas with my children and grandchildren.

But as I got older I realized there is a lot more to celebrate. The Bible says "Thanks to God for his indescribable gift" — 2 Cor. 9:15 NIV

So as we celebrate this special season called Christmas, let's really remember the baby born in a manger. Isaiah 9:6 says, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders and He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." This is who we celebrate. What a tremendous encouragement — what a promise of hope.

If ever we needed hope we need it now. So the Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace, gives you and I hope, in spite of our circumstances.

Jesus said in Acts 20:35, it is "more blessed to give than to receive." God gave it all when Jesus was born in the manger. The Savior of the World.

What a gift — what a reason to celebrate Christmas. That's what's so special about Christmas.



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SOCIALS



Corwine treated to surprise 95th birthday party

Ruth Corwine (center) is pictured with daughter Margaret Anderson and son-in-law Win Armstrong during a birthday celebration on Dec. 13.



The Woman's Club of Starke was the location for a surprise 95th birthday luncheon and bridge party for Ruth Corwine on Friday, Dec. 13. The party was hosted by Ruth's daughter, Margaret Anderson and son-in-law, Win Armstrong, Shea Huey (who flew in from Seattle) and Judy Disoso who came in from Austin, Texas. Shea and Judy are Margaret's college buddies. Pictured above are: (seated, l-r) were Muriel Wilson, Virginia Darby, guest of honor Ruth Corwine, Peggy Godwin, (standing, l-r) Joyce Green, Marsha Welch (from Savannah), Mille Haynes, Marty Berry, Joann Rowe, Sonja Anderson, Del Dougherty and Liz Jarmon.

BENNETT

Continued from 2B

friends, but many don't know she's retiring. She admitted she just doesn't have the heart to tell them.

"Some of them have been here as long as I have," Bennett said. "It's kind of hard to say, 'Oh, I won't be here to serve you when you come in again.'"

If you talk to Bennett, you will get the impression that such a caring attitude is—and has been—a part of Community State Bank. She has experienced it under three generations of leadership of the Johns family—founder Charley Johns, his son, Jerome, and Jerome's son, Phillip.

Charley Johns didn't work in the bank as he was busy with his insurance agency, but he did drop in to chat with employees who had the time to do so, Bennett said.

"He always was interested in your family and how you were doing," Bennett said.

She saw the same kind of concern from both Jerome and Phillip Johns. If something tragic ever occurred to a bank employee's family, Bennett said you could count on one of the Johns men to be the first to call you.

"They like to think the people who work for them are family," Bennett said, adding, "Everybody that you work with here is that way. It makes it nice."

Bennett is excited, though, about retirement, which she made up her mind to do in October. She has nothing specifically planned for this next phase of her life, though, other than spending more time with her only grandchild (Madison Bennett). Bennett said she's one of those people who doesn't know what each day holds in store for her until she wakes up

that morning.

"Anybody who knows me knows I don't make plans," she said.

Bennett's husband, Dean, who worked for Plum Creek for 39 years and also did some work as an emergency medical technician, is currently the maintenance director for Bradford County.

"My husband's not going to retire at the present time, so if I decide to go somewhere, I'll leave him a note and let him know where I'm at," Bennett said with a laugh.

Whatever she decides to do, it will make up what she refers to as the next chapter in her life. If it's anything like her life's previous chapter, it should be enjoyable.

"This has been a long chapter, but a good one," Bennett said in regard to her work at Community State Bank. "Hopefully, this next chapter will be a long chapter, too, and a good one."

LETTERS EDITOR@BCTELEGRAPH.COM

Media quick to report wrongdoings in Hampton

Dear Editor:

I find it extremely upsetting over the publicity received concerning the Mayor of Hampton. Any trickle of wrong doing, in Lawtey or Hampton, brings quick media attention from the Gainesville Sun (front page) and the Bradford Telegraph. Even embezzlers to small business and our County receive little to no media coverage. I do not condone Moore's actions, but cannot equate the difference given to a Hampton Mayor and an admitted cocaine using State Legislator by our Governor.

Living in the Hampton vicinity for 55 years, some of Bradford's finest reside in Hampton and its vicinity, along with one of the best schools in our County.

Joe Riddick

Why did BC commissioners turn away Starke animals?

Dear Editor:

In the past few months Bradford County has stopped accepting animals from Starke residents at the Bradford County Animal Control and Adoption Center because of the lack of an interlocal agreement between the City of Starke and Bradford County. The question is WHY? Is it because they think that Starke residents are not citizens of Bradford County? Do they think that Starke residents are not paying taxes to Bradford County already? Why would we need an interlocal agreement before Starke residents would be allowed to take animals to the Bradford County Animal Control and Adoption Center?

Wouldn't Starke residents be just like Brooker, Hampton and

Lawtey residents?

In looking at my tax bill for the current year I was taxed by Bradford County at the same millage rate that someone in the unincorporated parts of the county is taxed by Bradford County. I verified this with the Bradford County Tax Collector just to make sure. As a Starke resident I also have a Bradford County Commissioner who represents me. I verified that with the Supervisor of Elections just to make sure. If we are taxed and represented, shouldn't we be able to take advantage of the services provided by that taxing authority?

If Bradford County knows that Starke residents are citizens of Bradford County then I am confused as to what their reasoning could be. Maybe they wanted to provide other services to the animals with the Animal Control and Adoption Center but couldn't do it with the money they received through taxes already. Maybe the bad economy is making it difficult for them to budget their monies to cover all of the services that they need to provide to ALL the citizens of Bradford County. That is why,

I guess, they wanted to enter into the interlocal agreement. An interlocal agreement allows government agencies in an area to share their budgets to reach a common goal they may be unable to reach separately. What a wonderful concept it is when government agencies work together on issues. But wouldn't we want Brooker, Hampton and Lawtey to participate as well? Wouldn't there need to be a discussion of what the reasoning is for the interlocal agreement is? This is where we look to our elected leaders to provide direction. But it is also where citizens communicate to their elected officials what they feel is important.

My hope is that the animals of Starke and all of Bradford County are important to someone.

While Starke citizens wait to see how this situation will resolve, animals are at risk. How many have been dumped on a country road or worse while this situation continues?

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We will gather out in the cool brisk night air to celebrate the birth of the Savior with family and friends. This year's celebration is themed "Christmas Wonderland Under the Stars". Who knows, there might even be SNOW! All you need to bring is a lawn chair and a friend to enjoy the Christmas story, candlelight, live nativity, communion and lots of carols. The grand finale of our celebration will be the releasing of Christmas lanterns. It's going to be spectacular!

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First United Methodist Church
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Starke, FL
(904) 964-6864

FINS, FUR & TAILS



Wilbur and Matt Waters share the glory with this nice trophy taken during a trip to Llano, Texas—a hunting destination for the family for 28 years.

Deer hunting with the Waters family

There is a bumper sticker that says, "I say we fish five days a week and work two." Unfortunately, many people fail to see the humor in that exaggeration because they fail to realize the passion that surrounds the activities of hunting and fishing. Only those who have experienced the solitude of the woods, rivers and lakes can appreciate how relaxing the hunting and fishing environments can be.

It is probably that same fervent passion that leads so many hunters to take that hunting trip to Texas, Colorado, Montana or some other northern or western state during the winter. It was that noted motivation that led Wilbur Waters and his brother (and fellow Lawtey native), Danny, to join their brother Mike Waters on a yearly trip to Llano, Texas. This same trip is now going on a 28-year tradition.

Hunting by itself would not have attracted Mike Rhoden to join the Waters' Texas Trip, but talk about a great bass fishing lake on the same property was enough for him to join up.

Rusty Davis and Rudy Waters (Danny's son) also frequently make the trip. Norman Dowdy and his son, Derrick Dowdy, have made the trip on a visitors' basis, so it obviously has a lot of appeal to deer hunters.

Florida is a great location for many outdoors activities with its tropical and subtropical climate. It does come up short, however, when compared to many other locations for deer hunting. Deer grow larger in northern and western locations, and they are more plentiful.

Wilbur Waters indicated

that his party of eight hunters brought home 38 deer from their seven-day hunt in Texas this year. When reminded that the conversation was about deer hunting and not dove hunting, he confirmed that his party legally harvested 38 deer. So the entire party filled 38 out of 40 possible tags, and apparently a return trip is planned for the two unfilled tags.

The Waters family does not plan to change its work-week schedule, but there is also no danger of it forgetting when hunting season comes around and where Llano, Texas, is located.

Outdoors outlook

Despite our recent warm weather, the crappie bite remains strong in nearby lakes. T.C. Lloyd, a pan fish guide from Middleburg, reports good catches from Lochloosa and Newnan's, but the catch in

Santa Fe remains moderate to this point.

Joey Tyson of Bald Eagle Bait and Tackle reports good crappie catches from Lowry, and he is building his reserves of shiners for anticipated bass action with the warm weather. Additionally, Tyson indicates that the sunshine bass bite remains strong around the Santa Fe Pass.

David Shannon has made good crappie catches from Camp Blanding lakes that he fishes via Rod and Gun Club contact members.

Both Gulf and east coast guide services provide a diverse picture of the coasts.

Noel Kuhn, a surf-fishing guide from Jacksonville, says to remind our readers to fish the front end of the low-pressure fronts because they are a lot more productive than the back.

Captain Randy Harris has done well with trout and reds, especially during the cooler weather. However, the wind has



Derrick Dowdy displays a nice Texas buck.



Matt Waters shows off a buck full of points.

been difficult.

Do not forget the sheephead around the pilings, oyster bars and rocks.

Squirrel hunters should keep their eyes open for woodcocks during December and January. They will be performing their courtship rituals, but will return north shortly after.

Tight lines and safe hunting until next week.

Outdoors calendar

- Dec. 19, Crosshorn Ministries Christmas banquet, 7 p.m., Starke Golf and Country Club;
- Dec. 14-Jan. 12, second phase of Florida's dove season;
- Jan. 1, deer season ends in north Georgia;
- Jan. 15, deer season ends in south Georgia;
- Jan. 19, antlered deer season ends in Florida's Zone C;
- March 2, squirrel and quail seasons end in Florida's Zone C.

If you have a story, idea or photo to share, please contact Mickey Agner via email at mka@



A trophy buck for Rusty Davis.



Another prize with a full rack, shown off by Rudy Waters.

maoutdoors.com, or by phone at 904-964-1488. Photos may also be submitted in person at the Bradford County Telegraph, Union County Times or Lake Region Monitor.

Merry Christmas to Everyone!

Jesus is the reason for the season!



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by Linda Bryant

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We take trips to the nursing home to sing to the residents. We color pictures with them, we hug

and we love them. That is a precious form of giving.

We as teachers also recognize the importance of make-believe in children's emotional, cognitive and overall social development.

My teachers are allowed to play with our children. We try to teach them the real meaning of Christmas. We let them be little and believe.

Linda Bryant is the owner of Bradford Preschool located at 407 W. Washington St. in Starke, FL. She may be reached at 904-964-4361.

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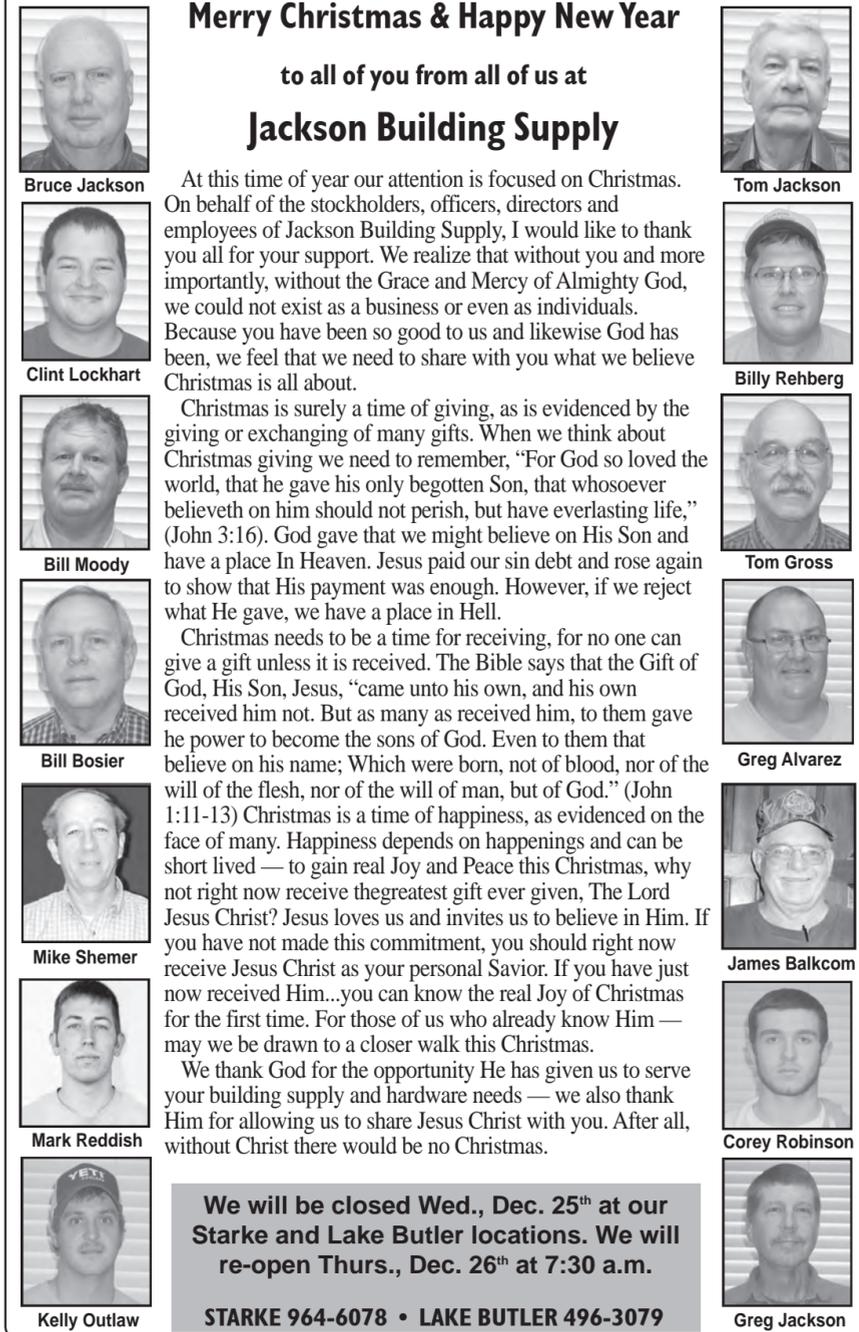
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all of you from all of us at Jackson Building Supply

At this time of year our attention is focused on Christmas. On behalf of the stockholders, officers, directors and employees of Jackson Building Supply, I would like to thank you all for your support. We realize that without you and more importantly, without the Grace and Mercy of Almighty God, we could not exist as a business or even as individuals. Because you have been so good to us and likewise God has been, we feel that we need to share with you what we believe Christmas is all about.

Christmas is surely a time of giving, as is evidenced by the giving or exchanging of many gifts. When we think about Christmas giving we need to remember, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life," (John 3:16). God gave that we might believe on His Son and have a place in Heaven. Jesus paid our sin debt and rose again to show that His payment was enough. However, if we reject what He gave, we have a place in Hell.

Christmas needs to be a time for receiving, for no one can give a gift unless it is received. The Bible says that the Gift of God, His Son, Jesus, "came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God. Even to them that believe on his name; Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (John 1:11-13) Christmas is a time of happiness, as evidenced on the face of many. Happiness depends on happenings and can be short lived — to gain real Joy and Peace this Christmas, why not right now receive the greatest gift ever given, The Lord Jesus Christ? Jesus loves us and invites us to believe in Him. If you have not made this commitment, you should right now receive Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. If you have just now received Him...you can know the real Joy of Christmas for the first time. For those of us who already know Him — may we be drawn to a closer walk this Christmas.

We thank God for the opportunity He has given us to serve your building supply and hardware needs — we also thank Him for allowing us to share Jesus Christ with you. After all, without Christ there would be no Christmas.



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Kelly Outlaw Greg Jackson

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CRIME

Man's drugs end up at school in backpack

Darrick Swafford, 37, of Lake Butler was arrested Dec. 12 by Union deputies after his children unknowingly took drugs and drug paraphernalia to Lake Butler Elementary School in their backpacks.

According to the arrest report, LBES Principal Stacy Rimes called the sheriff's department after the two students came to her and said they needed to contact their father to give him his medicine back. The students told Rimes and the deputy they didn't know what the medicine was, but knew they weren't to touch it, and one said the father had placed it in a backpack before when he would leave home to conceal it. The students said that morning they were running late for school, and that their father must have forgotten it was in the backpack.

Before the deputy contacted Swafford, he and his wife had arrived at school requesting the kids come to the office for early dismissal. A sheriff's

investigator then came and questioned Swafford, who admitted the drugs were his, and that they must have fallen from a shelf in his closet into the child's backpack.

Swafford was then placed under arrest at the school, and it was discovered by the deputy that he had a large fixed-blade knife concealed under his shirt. At his home, deputies also found more marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

Swafford was charged with felony possession of a weapon on school property, possession of marijuana, two possessions of narcotic equipment and child neglect (by placing his children in a position of possible but not great harm).

Stop for no seatbelt leads to arrest for drugs

Amy Nicole Martin, 24, of Jacksonville was arrested Dec. 11 by Bradford deputies after being initially stopped for a seatbelt violation.

According to the arrest report,

a deputy noticed Martin didn't have a seatbelt on at the traffic light at S.R. 16 and U.S. 301 in Starke. After pulling her over, the deputy discovered Martin didn't have a license on her and that she has never had a driver's license. He also noticed a plastic baggy on the front seat, and a further search revealed drug paraphernalia and drugs in the vehicle.

Martin was charged with possession of cocaine, possession of drug equipment and driving without a valid license. Bond was set at \$4,500.

Man arrested after robbing store with pellet gun

Anthony Randall Arnett, 31, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies for armed robbery of the Kangaroo store at the intersection of S.R. 100 and Griffis Loop just outside the Starke city limits.

According to the arrest report, Arnett went into the store Dec. 14 just after midnight, displayed his firearm (later identified as a pellet gun) to the clerk, and took cash from the register. He then fled the store on foot and ran to a nearby house, where he called a friend for a ride.

The friend called the sheriff's office, and deputies were able to locate Arnett at a residence near the store and take him into custody. While searching Arnett, a bag of cocaine weighing approximately 4.5 grams was found in his jacket. He later admitted to the deputy that he had robbed the Kangaroo.

He was charged with robbery with a firearm and possession of cocaine. Bail was set at \$200,000 for the robbery and an additional \$5,000 for the cocaine possession charge.

Burglars caught by Starke Police

An 18-year-old Starke man and a 16-year-old Starke juvenile were arrested by Starke police Dec. 16 for burglary and several other charges after they ransacked a home and stole several weapons and other items.

Lawrence Leon Cleesen, 18, of Starke has been charged with two counts of burglary, two counts of larceny, possession of a weapon during a felony, criminal mischief-property damage and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. The juvenile has been charged with burglary, possession of a weapon during a felony, larceny and criminal mischief-property damage.

The incident occurred on Dec. 15 when the homeowner arrived at his residence and found the rear door open and the screen torn out. He called police, not sure if the suspects were inside, and advised the officer that he has various weapons in the home. The officer didn't find anyone in the home, but noted that every room had been ransacked, with drawers, cabinets, desks, etc., in disarray. Numerous firearms were gone, along with several knives, military style boots, a camo backpack, a camcorder, a laptop computer and other items.

While discussing the missing items, one of the police officers present said he had spoken with the juvenile earlier in the day and had observed him with some of the stolen items. Cleesen was also with the juvenile earlier, and the officers knew he lived only a block from the residence that was broken into.

The officers went to Cleesen's home. After questioning him and finding a bike in his possession that had been stolen a week earlier from the same residence, Cleesen admitted his involvement in the burglary and led the officers to a creek where most of the stolen items were recovered.

The officers also went to the juvenile's home and then questioned him at the police station. The police also obtained a "selfie" from the juvenile's phone with him holding one of the stolen weapons.

Cleesen's bond was set at \$40,000 at the Bradford jail, while the juvenile's detention is being handled by the state department of juvenile justice.

Recent arrests in Bradford, Clay or Union

The following individuals were arrested recently by local law enforcement officers in Bradford, Union or Clay (Keystone Heights area) counties:

Bradford

Eddie John Allen, 19, of Lawtey was arrested Dec. 14 by Bradford deputies for failure to appear.

Bernard Vantaurus Beard, 27, of Starke was arrested Dec. 15 by Starke police for probation violation and by Bradford deputies for failure to appear.

Jason Junior Bratcher, 21, of Graham was arrested Dec. 13 by Bradford deputies for failure to appear.

Nathaniel Kendrick Brown, 44, of Gainesville was arrested Dec. 16 by Bradford deputies for withholding child support.

David Jim Browning, 47, of Jacksonville was arrested Dec. 11 by Starke police for disorderly intoxication, trespassing and resisting an officer.

Anthony P. Burch, 36, of Baldwin was arrested Dec. 10 by Bradford deputies for driving while license suspended or revoked.

Coy Allan Busby, 27, of Starke was arrested Dec. 10 by Bradford deputies for driving while license suspended or revoked.

Jessica Clark, 29, of Lake City was arrested Dec. 10 by Starke police for an out-of-county warrant.

Ryan Edward Davis, 23, of Brooker was arrested Dec. 16 by Bradford deputies for probation violation.

Jennifer Nicole Hazen, 28, of Brooker was arrested Dec. 10 by Starke police for larceny and trespassing at Walmart.

Nanette Michelle Honsberger, 52, of Lawtey was arrested Dec. 14 by Bradford deputies for battery.

Meagan Meleah James, 25, of Wildwood was arrested Dec. 15 by Lawtey police for possession of synthetic narcotics.

Antonio Antwayn Lott, 20, of Starke was arrested Dec. 10 by Bradford deputies for driving without a valid license.

Steven Andrew Nugent, 30, of Starke was arrested Dec. 15 by Starke police for not having vehicle licensed/registered with the state and for driving while license suspended or revoked.

Daniel Paul Pacetti, 39, of Pamona Park was arrested Dec. 15 by Bradford deputies for probation violation.

Enrique Perez-Lopez, 26, of East Palatka was arrested Dec. 12 by Bradford deputies for not having vehicle licensed / registered with the state.

Willie James Perry, 30, of Starke was arrested Dec. 11 by Bradford deputies on two charges of manufacturing cocaine and

two charges of selling cocaine. Bond was set at \$60,000.

Wendy McMaster Pettit, 47, of Middleburg was arrested Dec. 10 by Bradford deputies for driving while license suspended or revoked.

Jennifer Irene Rhoden, 27, of Hampton was arrested Dec. 10 by Bradford deputies for possession of marijuana.

Steven Wade Robbins, 26, of Lawtey was arrested Dec. 10 by Starke police for larceny at Walmart.

Deon Anthony Smith, 37, of Jacksonville was arrested Dec. 10 by Bradford deputies for driving while license suspended or revoked.

Matthew Leon Wilkerson, 29, of Raiford was arrested Dec. 10 by Bradford deputies for driving while license suspended or revoked.

John Patrick Williamson, 47, of Lawtey was arrested Dec. 10 by Bradford deputies for driving while license suspended or revoked.

Keystone/Melrose

Rebecca Bates, 25, of Keystone Heights was arrested Dec. 10 by Putnam deputies for possession of drugs, possession of drug equipment and smuggling contraband into a detention facility.

Tyler James Guay, 19, of Keystone Heights was arrested Dec. 15 by Palatka police for two out-of-county warrants.

Jeffery Wade Raulerson, 47, of Melrose was arrested Dec. 16 by state troopers for DUI.

Thomas Stanton, 25, of Keystone Heights was arrested Dec. 14 by Clay deputies for driving with a suspended license.

Union

Isaac Denorries Johnson, 21, of Lake Butler was arrested Dec. 11 by Union deputies on an out-of-county warrant from Alachua County for lewd and lascivious molestation. Bond was set at \$75,000.

Tony Ervin Paytee, 57, of Lake Butler was arrested Dec. 14 by Union deputies for battery.

Teavon Lee Williams, 23, of High Springs and Patrick Roosevelt Stoutamire, 45, of Lake Butler were arrested Dec. 15 by Union deputies for larceny. They were observed by the deputy taking bottled water and Pepsi products from the front of the Kangaroo store on S.R. 121 in Lake Butler and loading them into their vehicle without paying for them. The deputy was on patrol and sitting across the road at Sprinkle Field when he observed the criminal activity.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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OBITUARIES

Mildred Cherry

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Mrs. Mildred F. Cherry, 83, of Keystone Heights passed away, Friday, Dec. 13, 2013 at the Haven Hospice Robert's Care Center in Palatka. Mrs. Cherry was born Oct. 12, 1930 in Green Cove Springs to the late Henry and Alice (Sweat) Bohannon. She has been a lifelong resident of Clay County and was a homemaker. She was of the Baptist Faith and enjoyed traveling on vacations, and taking care of her puppies.

Mrs. Cherry is survived by her husband of 47 years, Walter L. Cherry; six children, Marchell Gilmore, Tyna Cherry, Nancy Waldrup, Roger Gilmore, Rodney Gilmore, and Mary Garrison; one brother, Glenn Bohannon; five grandchildren, Jessica Cherry, Tessa Searels, Tammy Morton, Charles Waldrup II, and Salina Mannion, along with numerous great and great great grandchildren.

A memorial service for Mrs. Cherry will be held on Thursday, Dec. 19, at 1:00 p.m. in the Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Charlie Hunt officiating. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 340 E. Walker Dr. Keystone Heights, 32656. 352-473-3176. www.jonesgallagherfh.com

PAID OBITUARY



Ann Fountain

Ann Fountain

STARKE—Ann Carol Fountain, age 75, of Starke, passed away at her residence on Dec. 16, 2013. She was born in Cochran, Ga. on April 8, 1938 to the late Alexander Vorndran and Vencille Roberts-Vorndran. Ann was a member of Evergreen Baptist Church in Lawtey and always took a special interest in the needs of the children of the church. Ann was also described as a shoe fanatic, as she owned many pairs of shoes. Ann had a kind spirit and will be missed by all that knew her.

Ann is survived by: her loving husband of 28 years, Gerald Fountain of Lawtey; her daughters, Bambi Lynn Copeland of Deland, Gerri Lynn Bolhuis of Virginia Beach, Va., and Melissa Marie Prochnow of Germany; seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, Dec. 21, 2013 at 11:00 am at Evergreen Baptist Church with Pastor Ben Bryant officiating. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service. In lieu of flowers, the family request that donations be made to the Florida Baptist Children's Home at www.fbchomes.org in Ann's name. Arrangements are under the care and direction of Archie Tanner Funeral Services, Starke, FL. 904-964-5757. Visit archietannerfuneralservices.com to sign the family's guest book.

PAID OBITUARY

Walter Larry

RAIFORD—Walter Lee "Pookie" Larry died Friday, Dec. 13, 2013 at his residence. He was born Aug. 7, 1957 in Raiford to the late James Handy and Elizzabeth Larry. He was a laborer for many years. He is preceded in death by: his brothers John, Wallace, Rufuse, David and James Larry; and sisters, Helen Singatary and Mary Lee Gaines.

He is survived by: daughter,

Latishila (Frederick) Jackson; sons, Lance (Toccura) Larry of St. Mary, Ga., Tavaris Donaldson of Sanderson, and James (Sabrina) Watkins of Mayo; sisters, Frances (Bobby Dean) Majors of Starke, and Bobby Jean Larry of Georgia; brothers, Eddie Kirk and Willie Jean Larry of Georgia; sister-in-law, Edna Mae Singatary of Raiford; and ten grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held Saturday, Dec. 21, at Archer Memorial Chapel, with Gerald Warren officiating. Burial will be at a later date. Archer Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Carmine Lombardi, Jr.

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Carmine Anthony Lombardi, Jr., 82, of Keystone Heights died Sunday, Dec. 15, 2013 at Shands UF Hospital. He was born in Nyack, N.Y. Nov. 19, 1931 to the late Carmine A. and Carmella (Capobianco) Lombardi, Sr., and moved to Keystone Heights from Spokane, Wash. in 1993. United States Air Force retired, he had 33 years of service overseeing Nuclear Missile Maintenance. He was a member of St. William Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus. He was preceded in death by: his former wife, Clara E. Lombardi; a brother, Mario Lombardi; and a step-daughter, Patty Fillmon.

He is survived by: his wife of 20 years, Patsy (Miller) Lombardi; children, Julie A. (Steve) Pangburn, James A. Lombardi and Robert A. Lombardi all of Spokane, Wash., Rhonda (Sandy) Knudsen of Orange Park and Donna (Terry) Lewis of Englis; brother, Richard A. Lombardi of New York City, N.Y.; nine grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.

Funeral Mass will be 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 19 in St. William Catholic Church with Father Mike Williams presiding. Viewing will be held one hour prior to beginning of services. Interment is to follow at Keystone Heights Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the American Cancer Society, 2119 SW 16th Street, Gainesville, FL 32608. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home.

Larry Murphy

RAIFORD—Larry Patrick Murphy, 70, of Raiford died Sunday, Dec. 15, 2013 at his home in Raiford after an extended illness. He was born in Coffeyville, Kan. and lived most of his life there, until he moved to Raiford in 2007. He was the son of the late Joseph and Pauline Murphy, and was a WWII Army-Airforce Veteran. He was preceded in death by his son Sean Murphy.

He is survived by: his wife, Rose Ann Murphy; daughters, Trisha (Al) Parker of Port Richey; Lisa (Mike) Lamb of Pittsburg, Kan.; Mariam Parker of Starke; Jessica (Darrell) Kennington of Raiford; Rebecca (Wes) David of Rivert, Kan.; son, Ben Bradford of Jacksonville; brother, Paul Murphy of Kansas; sister, Sheryl (Don) Gatlia of Okla.; 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Graveside funeral services were held Dec. 17 at the Dekle Cemetery in Lake Butler, under the care of Archer Funeral Home of Lake Butler.

Annette Norman

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Annette Norman, 82, of Keystone Heights died Thursday, Dec. 12, 2013 at Windsor Manor Nursing Home in Starke. She was born in Fort Gaines, Ga., June 15, 1931 to the late Emmett and Tamzy (Hasty) Gill, Sr. Prior to retiring, she ran the soda fountain in a local drug store since 1971. She was a member of Gadara Baptist Church.

She is survived by: her husband of 27 years, Bob Norman; three sons, Dean (Pam) Slocumb, Dale (Alicia) Slocumb, all of Keystone Heights and Harvey (Cindy) Slocumb, of Senoia, Ga.; two stepdaughters, Angelia (Dan) Gardner, of Oviedo and Kim (Phil) Rand, of Ormond

Beach; brother, Earl Gill of Dawson, Ga.; sister, Melba Sands of Dowling Park; and twelve grandchildren.

Funeral services were Dec. 17, in Gadara Baptist Church with her son, Pastor Dean Slocumb and Pastor Sean House officiating. The burial followed at Gadara Cemetery. In lieu of flowers contributions can be made the Gadara Baptist Church, 6779 CR 315C, Keystone Heights, FL 32656. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Keystone Heights.

James Patterson

STARKE—James Lyel "Bennie" Patterson, 90, of the Starke area died Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2013 at the Veterans Medical Center in Lake City. He was born on Sept. 18, 1923 in Trent, Texas to the late James Edward and Inez (Statser) Patterson and was a longtime resident of the Starke and Lake City area. He was a retired farmer, and was of the Baptist faith. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by: his son, Jimmie Patterson and two sisters.

He is survived by: his wife of over 60 years, Vivian (Morris) Patterson of Starke; sons, Frank (Karen) Patterson and Danny (Deborah) Patterson all of Starke; sister, Peggy Ohler of Claremore, Okla.; five grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Funeral services were on Dec. 14, in the Dewitt C. Jones Chapel of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home with Mr. Johnny Frampton officiating. Interment will be private in Crosby Lake Cemetery. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke.

Ettamae Peoples

LAKE BUTLER—Ettamae Josephine Crews Peoples, 75, of Lake Butler died on Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2013 at Suwannee Haven Hospice of Lake City after an extended illness. She was born in Belle Glade and lived in Clewiston before moving to Lake Butler. She worked at the former Andrews Drugs of Lake Butler before retiring. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Lake Butler. She was preceded in death by: her parents, Andrew A. and Mavis M. Thornton Crews; and a brother, James A. Crews.

She is survived by: her former husband, Charles Peoples; daughter, Sheri L. (Don) Fortune; son, Dean A. Peoples; sister, June (Cecil) Ayers; sister-in-law, Carolyn Jarrard; and two grandchildren, all of Lake Butler.

Funeral services were held Dec. 13, in the Chapel of Archer Funeral Home of Lake Butler with Pastor Jason Johns officiating. Burial followed at Dekle Cemetery of Lake Butler. Archer Funeral Home

of Lake Butler is in charge of arrangements.

Patricia Russell

HAWTHORNE—Patricia Ann Russell, 69, of Hawthorne died Dec. 14, 2013 at her residence. She moved to the Hawthorne area from Miami in 1981. She was a past member of the American Legion in Keystone Heights.

She is survived by her husband Thomas Gordon Russell of Hawthorne; daughters, Jacqueline Russell of Hawthorne and Julie Kurowski of Ormond Beach; and six grandchildren.

Arrangements are under the care of Moring Funeral Home of Melrose.



Ola Scott

Ola Scott

STARKE—Ola Beatrice Scott, 87, of Starke died on Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2013 at ET York Haven Hospice Care Center Gainesville. She was born in Lake City on May 6, 1926 moved to Starke in 1943. She was a member of Mt. Pisgah AME Church. She attended the local schools of Bradford County and was a homemaker.

She is survived by: daughter, Janie M. Scott of Daytona; sister-in-law, Luree Jackson of Starke; adopted children; Mamie Artis, Daisy Williams, Cynthia Tyson, all of Starke, Nettie M. Keith of Ft. Lauderdale, and Cynthia Burton of Daytona Beach.

Funeral Services will be 2:00 p.m. on Saturday Dec. 21, in the Mount Pisgah AME Church, Starke with Rev Gary Slaughter Pastor conducting the services and Rev. J. W. Warren Presiding. Interment will be held in Oddfellow Cemetery Starke. Arrangements are under the direction of Haile Funeral Home

Inc. Family hour will be held on Friday Dec. 20, from 4-5:00 p.m. at the Carl D. Haile Memorial Chapel. Friends from 5-7:00 p.m. at the Mount Pisgah AME Church. Visitation will be held 1 hour at the church prior to the service. The Cortege will form at the home of Mrs. Ola B. Scott at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday.



Patsy Silcox

Patsy Silcox

STARKE—Patsy Lee Roberts Silcox, 88, a lifelong resident of Starke, passed away Dec. 16th, 2013, at her son's home in Lake City. Patsy was born February 28th, 1925 in Lawtey, to George W. and Jewel Tatum Roberts. She graduated from Bradford High School in 1942 and married Vernon Silcox that same year. They were happily married for fifty-six years until Vernon's death in 1998.

Patsy was employed for seventeen years in Starke by Dr. J. E. Denmark as a dental assistant. Later she joined her son in business, working twenty-five years at Community Jewelers in

Lake City. Patsy was a consummate people person, and made many friends throughout her work life. What she cherished most about her two careers was helping people, building relationships, and seeing smiling faces. She said many times that she "enjoyed every minute of work." She loved being with friends and family, and maintained many life-long friendships. Her faith and her friends brought her great joy and support throughout the years and she was a model of resilience.

Patsy was a member of the First Baptist Church of Starke for seventy years where she taught Sunday school. She was former member of the Junior Woman's Club of Starke and served as a past president. Patsy was an active member of the Woman's Club and a member of several local bridge clubs.

Survivors are: her brother, George W. (Nancy) Roberts of Starke, her son David (Sheryl) Silcox of Lake City, her grandson, Christopher David Silcox of Gainesville, her granddaughter, Emily Ann (Peter) Gaines of Sarasota and many beloved family members.

The family will receive friends at Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 620 East Nona Street in Starke on Thursday, Dec. 19th from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. A funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 20th at the First Baptist Church, 163 W. Jefferson St., Starke, FL 32091 with a reception immediately following in the fellowship hall. Interment will be at 1:30 p.m. in Crosby Lake Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to The American Cancer Society, 2121 SW 16th St., Gainesville, FL 32608 or The American Heart Association, 3324 W University Ave., #128, Gainesville, FL 32607. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke 904-964-6200. On-line condolences may be left at www.jonesgallagherfh.com.

PAID OBITUARY

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“From the beginning until the end, Jesus will always be with us!!!”

Thank God and our Savior for All the blessings that He has given us throughout the year 2013. Sometimes we neglect in giving Him the praise for all that He does for us. But thank God He is always with us and gives us what we need!

Please remember what Christmas is all about, giving and receiving gifts is fine — but remember, our Savior was born — and died that we all may live!!! And how we live, depends on where we will spend our eternity after we die.

We at Archer Funeral Home want to thank our friends and loved ones for all the prayers, calls, and love to us during our sickness. It means so much to know we are cared for. We hope everyone has a Merry Christmas...and may 2014 be a blessing to all of us.




Doyle, Mary, Family
and our staff

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OBITUARIES

Billy Warren, Sr.

JACKSONVILLE—Billy Warren, Sr., 73, went to be with the Lord on Dec. 11, 2013. Billy was a 1958 graduate of Bradford County High School. He was loved and respected by many and all who

knew him will miss him deeply. He loved to listen to Bluegrass, sing the gospel, garden, paint, fish and play with his dogs, Katie, Kotchi and Kippy. He earned his Associates from FCCJ, Jacksonville. Billy retired from Dixie Tank and Galvanizing in 1975. He was

preceded in death by: his parents, Harvey and Myrtice Warren; his son, Billy Warren, Jr.; three sisters; and six brothers.
Billy is survived by his wife, Joyce; his brother, John Warren; sister-in-law, Margaret; his son, Daniel (Deborah) Warren; his daughters, Julie (Harry) Pickett and Janet (Mark) Ellison; and step-daughter Carol (Dennis) Bailey; and step son, John Chaney; and numerous grandchildren; great-grandchildren; nieces; nephews; and friends. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Community Hospice organization. A special thanks to the loving caregivers that allowed Billy to remain at home as long as possible.

PAID OBITUARY

Kathryn West

LAKE BUTLER—Kathryn J. West, 64, of Lake Butler died Friday, Nov. 29, 2013 at Shands Hospital UF in Gainesville after a brief illness. She was born in Orlando and lived in Lake Butler most of her life. She graduated from Union County High School and was preceded in death by her parents, Sidney West,

Jr. and Lucille Keller West, and sister Charlene B. West. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Lake Butler.
She is survived by her caregiver,

Harriett Maines of Lake Butler. Funeral Services were held Dec. 4 in the chapel of Archer Funeral Home with Pastor Jason Johns officiating. Burial took place in

Woodlawn Cemetery of Ocoee. Archer Funeral Home is in charge of all arrangements.

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STORE

Continued from 2B

and look for other sources of revenue," Ruskowski said. "We saw the thrift store as a means to do that. That's what it was set up for—to replace the government funding that we were losing."

Ruskowski and Sellars said the store enjoyed a successful first couple of years, but it eventually had to compete against a growing number of thrift stores operating in the area.

"All of a sudden, you've got this flooding of thrift stores opening," Ruskowski said. "Bradford County is small. We can't keep up with the growing competition."

The announcement of the store's closing has not been received well by some members of the community. The Dec. 12 issue of the Bradford County Telegraph-Union County Times-Lake Region Monitor featured a letter to the editor by Miriam Blankenship voicing her displeasure at the store's closing and stating that a petition

had been signed by more than 200 people against the store's closing.

The letter also takes issue specifically with the Arc's board of directors for making this decision.

"I know that people have pointed out that the board of directors made this decision," Ruskowski said. "Well, yes, they did, and rightfully so because it's their responsibility to make sure that this agency runs efficiently and effectively. When there are problems, yes, they are charged with the responsibility of making those difficult decisions."

Sellars said, "It's not like they just came in here and said, 'All right, we're going to close the thrift store.' We have talked about this for months. They asked our opinion."

"We had a good run, but we can't compete with everybody else. Just think, if we were one of only three or four (thrift stores in the area), we would probably still be making money."

Ruskowski said she does appreciate the concern and

support of Blankenship and others. Enough can't be said of the support the store received, especially considering the store relied solely upon donated items to sell.

"We want them to know how much we appreciated their support throughout—everybody who came to buy something, everybody who visited, everybody who donated... That's how we survived for as long as we did," Ruskowski said.

Ruskowski and Sellars also wished to thank volunteers Murley Blankenship and Kellie Hagen, who worked in the thrift store for approximately three years.

"Without them, our expenses would've been even greater than they were," Ruskowski said.

Other jobs will be found for the Arc consumers who worked at the store so that they can continue to receive work experience and earn a paycheck.

"That's what we're all about, training those people to be self-sufficient, self-supporting individuals in our community," Ruskowski said.

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BRADFORD-UNION TECHNICAL CENTER Spring Class Schedule 2014

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Christy Reddish - Director
David Harris - Adult Ed Coordinator

DAY CLASSES

Course	Instructor	Early Registration	Course Dates	Day	Hours	Est. Res. Cost
Accounting Operations	Thomas	Dec 11-13, 16-18	Open enrollment beginning 1/7/14	M - F	900	\$ 2,850.00
Administrative Office Specialist	Thomas	Dec 11-13, 16-18	Open enrollment beginning 1/7/14	M - F	1050	\$ 3,234.00
Adult Basic Ed & GED Preparation	Rudoi	Dec 11-13, 16-18	Open enrollment beginning 1/7/14	M - F	8am to Noon	\$ 30.00
Applied Welding Technologies	Geiger	Dec 11-13, 16-18	Open enrollment beginning 1/7/14	M - F	1170	\$ 3,998.00
Automotive Service Technology	Rensberger	Dec 11-13, 16-18	Open enrollment beginning 1/7/14	M - F	1800	\$ 5,846.00
Commercial Vehicle Driving A & B	Abercrombie	Dec 11-13, 16-18	1/13/14-3/6/14, 3/24/14-5/15/14, 5/20/14-7/10/14 (8 wk course)	M - TH	320 & 150	\$ 2,819.00
Computer Systems and Info. Technology	Ledger	Dec 11-13, 16-18	Open enrollment beginning 1/7/14	M - F	900	\$ 3,215.00
Cosmetology	James	Dec 11-13, 16-18	Open enrollment beginning 1/7/14	M - F	1200	\$ 4,276.00
Medium & Heavy Duty Truck/Bus Tech 1(diesel)	Rensberger	Dec 11-13, 16-18	Open enrollment beginning 1/7/14	M - F	1050	\$ 5,775.00
Medium & Heavy Duty Truck/Bus Tech 2(diesel)	Rensberger	Dec 11-13, 16-18	Open enrollment beginning 1/7/14	M - F	750	\$ 5,775.00
Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN)	Pusateri		Info for 14-15 class at www.butc.edu	M - TH	1350	\$ 6,146.00

EVENING CLASSES

Course	Instructor	Early Registration	Date	Day	Hours	Est. Res. Cost
Early Childhood Education	Devalerio	Dec 11-13, 16-18	Enrollment Beginning 1/6/14	M	600	\$ 1,910.00
Child Growth and Development	Devalerio	Dec 11-13, 16-18	January 6, 13, 2014	M	6	\$ 28.50
Behavior, Observation, and Screening	Devalerio	Dec 11-13, 16-18	March 3, 10, 2014	M	6	\$ 28.50
DAP Preschool	Devalerio	Dec 11-13, 16-18	April 7, 14, 21, 28, 2014	M	10	\$ 37.50
Special Needs	Devalerio	Dec 11-13, 16-18	May 5, 12, 17, 2014	M	10	\$ 37.50
DAP Infant/Toddler	Devalerio	Dec 11-13, 16-18	June 2, 9, 10, 2014	M	10	\$ 37.50
Adult Basic Ed & GED Preparation	Harden	Dec 11-13, 16-18	Open enrollment beginning 1/7/14	T / TH	6:00-9:00pm	\$ 30.00
Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN)	Johnson		Course begins March 3, 2014	M-Th	1350	\$ 6,146.00

COMMUNITY EDUCATION CLASSES

Indoor Cycling	Miller	Open	Open Enrollment	M,W	4:00-5:00pm	\$ 3.30
Indoor Cycling	Bridgman	Open	Open Enrollment	T,Th	5:15-6:15pm	\$ 3.30
Pilates/Yoga	Bridgman	Open	Open Enrollment	T,Th	6:15-7:00pm	comp w/spin
Intro to Prezi and PowerPoint	Thomas	Open	Mar. 24, 31, Apr. 7, 14, 21, 28	M	4:00-5:30 pm	\$ 30.00

2014 TESTING DATES

	Time	January	February	March	April	May	
Morning TABE Test	9:00 am	7,8,9,10,13,21,27	6,18,	6,18,27,	1,3,7,8,10,21,	12,29	\$ 20.00
Evening TABE Test	5:00 pm	7,9,16,21,27	6,18	6,18	1,7,8,21	12,29	\$ 20.00
Morning TEAS Test	9:00 am	29	12,26,	26	2,9	N/A	\$ 35.00
Evening TEAS Test	5:00 pm	N/A	N/A	27	3,10	N/A	\$ 35.00
GED Test							Visit www.gedtestingservice.com to schedule

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More money equals less hair

Rising to the challenge of surpassing last year's \$1,500 total, employees at Community State Bank of Starke donated \$5,500 to this year's Starke Police Department Shop With a Cop program. The bank hosted several fundraisers, such as bake sales, to generate an amount that resulted in bank employees James Eison and Brian Woodall losing their beards. The two men pledged to do so if at least \$3,000 was raised. Starke Police Department Capt. Barry Warren, who organizes Shop With a Cop, agreed to have his head shaved if the bank raised at least \$5,000. ABOVE: CSB employees Pamela Roberts, Tammie Woodard, Phillip Johns, Fate Harper, Lezlie Kirkland, Jessica Brown, Angie Phillips, Susan Nicklas, Andrea Bailey, Carolyn Reddish, Joyce Thiemann, Jeff Oody and James Eison, SPD Capt. Barry Warren and CSB employees Sharon Bennett, Eugene Richardson, Wendy Eunice, Sherrie Norman, Sharon Brown, Kaitlynn Derkman and Brian Woodall. LEFT: CSB President Jeff Oody shaves James Eison's beard.



Starke Police Department Capt. Barry Warren gets his head shaved by Hairy Business' Dave Holland, while Starke Police Chief Jeff Johnson gives Warren a little grief.

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McDonald's-Kiwanis hoops tourney starts Dec. 19

The Kiwanis Club of Starke will once again host the annual Lake Area McDonald's Christmas Tournament, which will be played at Bradford High School Thursday through Saturday, Dec. 19-21, and feature seven high school boys'

basketball teams. Besides Bradford, the field will include Keystone Heights, Union County, Broward International, Englewood, P.K. Yonge and Vero Beach. Play begins at 4 p.m. on Dec. 19 with Union taking on

Englewood, while Keystone will play Vero Beach at 6 p.m. Broward International and P.K. Yonge will play at 8 p.m. Bradford will have a bye the first day due to the field consisting of only seven teams. (Lake Wales Vanguard was part

of the field originally before backing out.) A complete tournament bracket detailing matchups on the second and third days was not available at press time. Daily admission is \$5.

BHS gets double-doubles from Davis, Kemp in win over KHHS

Nyasia Davis and Tracey Kemp scored 22 and 15 points, respectively, in the Bradford High School girls' basketball team's 46-32 District 5-4A win over Keystone Heights on Dec. 10 in Keystone.

Davis added 18 rebounds, while Kemp had 12 assists for the Tornados, who improved to 3-2 in district play. It was the third district win in a row for Bradford, which was coming off of 51-26 and 49-37 wins over Interlachen and Fort White, respectively.

Keshanna Ardley scored three points for Bradford, while Mackenzie Gault, Danique Hudson and Meghan Woods each scored two.

Keystone was led by Caiylen Gonzales' 10 points, while Caroline McCormick had nine. Bailey Zinkel scored seven points, with Sierra Moore and Karla Casas adding four and two points, respectively.

KH girls defeat Rams for 2nd straight win

The Keystone Heights High School girls' basketball team won its second straight game, defeating visiting Interlachen 63-39 for a District 5-4A win on Dec. 16.

Keystone (6-9, 2-5 in District 5) outscored the Rams 20-5 in the second quarter to build a 34-14 halftime lead.

Caroline McCormick and Bailey Zinkel led the Indians with 18 and 16 points, respectively, while Alexa Born had 13 points and 13 rebounds. McCormick had eight rebounds.

Sierra Moore scored six points and had nine assists, while Karla Casas, Caiylen Gonzales, Naomi Proctor, Abigail Winters and Kristen Wood each scored two.

Prior to playing Interlachen, the Indians suffered a 62-25 loss against district opponent P.K. Yonge on Dec. 12 in Gainesville. Moore and Born scored six and five points, respectively, to lead the team, while Gonzales and Winters each scored four points. Kristin Loznicka and McCormick scored three and two points, respectively, with Zinkel adding one.

Keystone then stopped what was a two-game losing streak by defeating St. Francis 43-35 on Dec. 13 in Gainesville. The Indians trailed 26-18 at the half, but outscored St. Francis 15-8 in the third quarter and 9-1 in the fourth.

Gonzales scored a game-high 21 points, while Moore and McCormick scored nine and eight, respectively. Born added five points.

The Indians travel to Orange Park to play Ridgeview on Thursday, Dec. 19, at 6 p.m.

KHHS boys keep rolling in soccer with 8-0 district win

Cory Hedding scored two goals, while Juan Grimaldo had three assists in the Keystone Heights High School boys' soccer team's 8-0 win over District 5-2A opponent Newberry on Dec. 16 in Newberry.

The Indians (13-1-1, 10-0 in District 5 prior to Dec. 17) have now won 13 straight matches after opening the season with a tie and a loss.

Zach Holman scored two goals, while Karl Dionisi, Zach Fairbanks, Wyatt Graziano and Nacho Grimaldo each had one. Graziano, Holman and Ray Trimble each had an assist.

Prior to playing Newberry, the Indians defeated Crescent City 6-1 and district opponent Eastside 3-0.

Hedding scored two goals in the Dec. 10 road win over Crescent City. Fairbanks, Graziano, Nacho Grimaldo and Ben Jones each scored one goal. Dionisi and Juan Grimaldo each

had two assists, while Nacho Grimaldo and Zach Hawkins each had one.

The Dec. 13 home match against Eastside was a scoreless affair until the Indians scored three goals in the final 20 minutes. Holman scored first off of a Juan Grimaldo assist before Holman recorded an assist on a goal by Nacho Grimaldo. Brandon Hannah added the final goal, with Nacho Grimaldo getting the assist.

Keystone played district opponent Santa Fe this past Tuesday and will host district opponent Interlachen on Friday, Dec. 20, at 7 p.m.

Lady Indians split district matches

The Keystone Heights High School girls' soccer team suffered just its second District 5-2A loss on Dec. 13, losing 2-1 to visiting Eastside, but bounced back to defeat district opponent Newberry 6-2 on Dec. 16 in Newberry.

Rachel Lee gave the Indians

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40 Notices

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RIGHT: James Molina of Florida State Prison grabs a gift from the top shelf for Starke Elementary student Adam McCaulley. **BELOW:** Starke Elementary student Kaylyn Johnson looks over toys as Crystal Young of Lawtey Correctional follows with a shopping cart.



RIGHT: Southside Elementary student Constance Brogdon shops with Paul Rodgers of the Bradford County Sheriff's Office. **BELOW:** Lawtey Community School student Aden Williams points out what he wants to Chub Johnson of Union Correctional.



ABOVE: Danielle Warren of Florida State Prison helps Lawtey Community School student Angelina Prevatt try on shoes. **LEFT:** Brooker Elementary kindergartener April Albritton gets help selecting the right bike from Carrie Johnson of Florida State Prison.



do a good thing for these kids," Warren said.

"Some of (the children) wouldn't have Christmas, and now they do," Austin said. "It touches your heart."

This was the first Shop With a Cop experienced by Kimberly Austin, who became the manager of Walmart of Starke in February. She described the event as "magical."

Surely, even the grinchiest Grinch couldn't help but be affected.

SHOP

Continued from 1B

Such sentiments are common. Tew said, "I can't wait until next year," while Goodwin said, "I want to do it every year. I wish I had done it before."

Sgt. Tom Bowen of the Florida Highway Patrol was a repeat participant. He remembers being in awe his first year as he witnessed children enjoying the moment.

"They forget about their worries and things, and they just have a good time," Bowen said. "That's what it's about."

It's also awe inspiring to shop alongside children who think of others when it comes to selecting items to buy.

"What a humbling experience for the kids to come out and not want anything for themselves, to only want to shop for other people in their family," Goodwin said. "It's amazing."

Warren said the children, of course, can buy things for their family members, but he also stresses to the officers participating that he wants to make sure the children buy things for themselves.

"When I brief the officers," Warren said, "I tell them,

"You're going to find that these kids want to buy for everybody but themselves, which is fine to an extent, but I'm counting on you to steer them toward themselves."

The amount each child could spend was approximately \$100 when the event first began, but as donations have grown, the average amount has fluctuated between \$100 and \$130, dependent upon how many kids are actually shopping.

Though there is technically a limit, Warren said he factors an overage into the donations made to the program so that a child's shopping total is never below— even by a few cents—whatever

that limit is. Children can still get that one last gift, even though it may technically exceed a given year's limit.

Whatever the amount, it's always a given that officers accompany children who want to buy shoes, socks, underwear and other clothing more than they want to buy toys simply because they have a need of such clothing.

"You just don't know how good you have it until you come out and experience something like this," Goodwin said.

Warren said he has seen the experience bring tears to officers' eyes.

"They get to come here and



Southside Elementary student Alyssa Murphry and her escort, Amanda Wallace of the Bradford County Sheriff's Office, are both enjoying their shopping spree.

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Indians defeat Tigers by 3

Anton Noble scored 10 of his game-high 18 points in the second half, helping the Keystone Heights High School boys' basketball team defeat Union County 49-46 on Dec. 12 in Lake Butler.

The Indians used a 19-1 run—featuring the second of two first-half 3-pointers by Noble and a 4-of-5 showing at the foul line by Tyler Teague—to take a 27-17 lead into the half. Union, though would rally and take the lead, getting six points from Austin Dukes in the third quarter and 3-pointers from Princeton Alexander, Kyle Mosher and Geordyn Green in the fourth quarter. Green's 3-point basket put the Tigers up 41-40 with 3:25 to play.

Union would make it a 43-40 lead when Dukes converted a layup following a steal by Green. The Indians would tie the score on a free throw by Brandon Nicholas and a basket by Noble following his own steal. Nicholas drove the lane for a basket to put Keystone up 45-43, but the Tigers' Daryl Watkins hit a 3-pointer with just under a minute to play to give Union a 46-45 advantage.

Noble drove the length of the court and scored to put Keystone up by one. He then hit a jumper in the lane following a Union turnover to cap the scoring.

Nicholas finished with eight points for Keystone, while Juwan Crum and Buck Shobris each had seven points. Teague scored five points, while Micah Brown and Fletcher Teague each scored two points.

Watkins led the Tigers with 14 points, while Dukes, Green and Mosher each scored eight. Parker Hodgson and Trey Spitze added three and two points, respectively.

Each team was coming off of a loss earlier in the week. The Indians lost 77-27 to District 5-4A opponent Fort White on Dec. 10, while the Tigers lost 70-60 to District 7-1A opponent Chiefland that same night.

Keystone's loss dropped the Indians to 1-3 in district play. Mosher made three 3-pointers and scored 18 points to lead Union in the loss to Chiefland, with Green and Alexander scoring 12 and 11 points, respectively. Alexander also had three 3 pointers, while Green had two.

Dukes added eight points for the Tigers, while Watkins and Larry Collins scored six and five points, respectively.

Indians drop 54-27 game to St. Francis

The Keystone Heights High School boys' basketball team couldn't ride the momentum of a three-point victory on the road against Union County, losing 54-27 to St. Francis on Dec. 13 in Gainesville.

Keystone (2-7), playing its third road game in a four-day span, got 15 points from Buck Shobris. Austin Bass had three points, while Micah Brown, Juwan Crum, C.J. Rogers and Tyler Teague each had two points. Anton Noble had one point.

The Indians will begin play in

the three-day (Dec. 19-21) Lake Area McDonald's-Kiwanis of Starke tournament on Thursday, Dec. 19, against Vero Beach at 6 p.m.

Williston hands Tigers 2nd straight district loss

The Union County High School boys' basketball team was outscored 38-5 in the third quarter of a 71-29 loss to Williston in a District 7-1A matchup on Dec. 13 in Williston.

Austin Dukes had 10 points to lead the Tigers, who were 1-2 in district play prior to Dec. 17.

Princeton Alexander and Daryl Watkins each scored five points, while Geordyn Green scored four. Kyle Mosher and Brennan Clyatt had three and two points, respectively.

The Tigers (2-6 overall) played district opponent Newberry this past Tuesday and will take part in the three-day Lake Area McDonald's-Kiwanis of Starke tournament, which is scheduled for Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 19-21, at Bradford High School in Starke. The Tigers play the first game on Dec. 19 at 4 p.m. against Englewood.

Tornadoes drop 3 straight home games

Bradford High School's boys' basketball team lost all three games of a three-game home

stretch, capped by a 62-26 loss to Ed White on Dec. 16.

Oliver Griffin and Alex Mejias each scored six points for the Tornadoes (3-7) against Ed White, while Caleb Jones and Larry Highsmith had five and four points, respectively. Jozquez Ivey had three points, while Don Jeffers had two.

Highsmith and Jeffers each had five rebounds.

Prior to playing Ed White, the Tornadoes lost 63-50 to District 5-4A opponent P.K. Yonge on Dec. 12 and 60-41 to Palatka on Dec. 13.

Ivey and Mejias scored 17 and 12 points, respectively, in the loss to P.K. Yonge, which dropped Bradford to 2-2 in District 5. Jones had seven points, while Griffin and Kenny Dinkins each scored six. Tyler Wainwright added two points.

Jones finished with eight rebounds, while Ivey and Mejias each had four assists. Ivey also had seven steals.

In the loss to Palatka, Jones was the high scorer with 10 points, while Mejias scored nine points. Jeffers and Griffin scored six and four points, respectively, while Wainwright, Shawn Aaron and Roderick Broomfield each scored three points. Dinkins had two points, while Ivey had one.

Ivey and Mejias had six and four assists, respectively, while Jeffers had six rebounds. Dinkins and Jones each added five rebounds.

Bradford hosts the Lake Area McDonald's-Kiwanis of Starke tournament, beginning Thursday, Dec. 19, and running through Saturday, Dec. 21. The Tornadoes have a bye the first day and will not play until Friday, Dec. 20.

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