

Lake Region Monitor

USPS 114-170 – KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FLORIDA

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Brown resigning from KH council, will challenge Hildreth for mayor post

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

Keystone Heights City Council Member Tony Brown said he plans to resign from the council in order to run for mayor.

Mayor Mary Lou Hildreth has already filed papers to seek a fourth and final term for the job.

Brown said he decided to seek the post after several city residents asked him to run. He added that many residents object

to the incumbent's leadership style.

"This past year, what has been in the paper and the way she is doing things and the way she is treating people, people are tired of it," he said.

"If it was just me saying we need to get Mary Lou out of there, that would not work," Brown added. "There needs to be a change in leadership."

During city council meetings

over the past year, Brown has disagreed with some of the actions by the city's Community Redevelopment Advisory Committee, a panel controlled by Hildreth supporters.

During a telephone interview, he said that overall, the board has accomplished much.

"They just need to calm down a little bit and we need to talk more," he said of the panel's actions.

In July, Brown criticized the mayor for a July 4 argument Hildreth had with farmers' market manager Cheryl Owen. The confrontation led to Owen's resignation. However the council later reinstated the manager.

"It's an embarrassment to this council, what took place," he said during a July council meeting. "It's an embarrassment

See MAYOR, 2A

Keystone city manager applies for Orange Park job

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

Keystone Heights City Manager Terry Suggs has applied for the same position in Orange Park.

Suggs said he hesitated and pondered applying for the Orange Park job for almost two months because he is happy with the situation he has now in Keystone Heights. He added that he appreciates the staff and the working relationship he has with council members.

Nearly four dozen people have applied for the Orange Park job which will pay between \$85,000 and \$110,000 a year. Other applicants include former Clay County Clerk of Courts James Jett, Orange Park Town Clerk Sarah Campbell, former Atlantic Beach City Manager Jim Hanson and Brunswick, Ga. City Manager William Weeks.

In early January, the town council appointed a citizens' committee which, by Jan. 30, will cull the applicants down to 10. However the council may interview applicants who did not make the committee's list.

Last August, Keystone Heights council members gave Suggs a nine-percent raise, boosting his annual salary to over \$57,000.

Suggs said that before applying for the job, he attempted to contact council members, and was able to speak to some of them. He said they supported his decision.

Mayor Mary Lou Hildreth said she first heard of Suggs' Orange Park application when an acquaintance from the St. Johns River Water Management District sent her a copy of a Florida Times-Union story.

She said she understands Suggs' desire to build his career and pointed out that her friend, former Clay County Manager Fritz Behring, made several career stops before finding his current job as city manager of Scottsdale, Ariz.

County lawyer mulling over sex business law

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

Clay County Attorney Mark H. Scruby told commissioners during a Jan. 14 meeting that he is in the final stages of assembling legal opinions about the county's current ban on adult entertainment businesses. He added that he will bring an analysis of the law, along with options for the commission to act on the ordinance, at a future board meeting.

On Nov. 4, the commission's Economic Development Committee discussed replacing the county's ban on adult entertainment businesses with an ordinance that would allow such establishments in certain areas of the county. Scruby told the committee that the county had received a phone call from a potential owner of an adult entertainment business, asking about the law. Scruby told the committee that the county's

See COUNTY, 2A

Save Our Lakes preparing legal challenge to MFL change

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

The president of Save Our Lakes said her organization and the Lake Brooklyn Civic Association are preparing a legal challenge to the St. Johns River Water Management District's anticipated move to lower minimum flows and levels rules for Keystone Heights-area lakes.

Vivian Katz told the Keystone Heights Rotary Club on Jan. 10 that once the district files a Notice of Rule Development, the first step in lowering MFLs, the two groups will protest the proposed rule change by requesting an administrative hearing.

Katz said SOLO is consulting with two legal experts over the pending rule change. One is

Gainesville attorney Jennifer Springfield, a former assistant general counsel for the water management district.

Katz also said that her group is gearing up for a fundraising effort to raise money for the legal challenge and to pay for scientific experts to support the Keystone groups' case.

After the Rotary meeting, Katz said she wants the district to drop plans for lowering the MFLs and focus its efforts on the recovery strategies now currently under development.

"There is other science and modeling that is being produced right now," she said about proper MFLs for the lakes. "Wait for that new science to come out to double check. They seem to be rushing to get this done."



Save Our Lakes President Vivian Katz shows the Keystone Heights Rotary Club what water levels on Lake Brooklyn would look like at Minimum Flows and Levels proposed by the St. Johns Water Management District's staff.

Spelling champs credit siblings for help



McRae Elementary School spelling bee champion Makayla Smith.

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

The winners of the McRae Elementary School and Keystone Heights Junior High School spelling bees both said that last-minute cram sessions with their siblings helped propel them to the wins.

Sixth-grade student Makayla Smith, who won the McRae bee, said her little brother Gage discovered her word list the night before the contest and forced his big sister into a study session.

"I was about to go to sleep," recalled Smith, "and Gage comes in and he says, 'Let's study some words.' And he sits in my favorite chair and says a word with a highlighter in his hand."

Smith said the study session with her brother, who is in the

KHHS culinary students earn national certification



(L-r) front row: Larann Massey, Lianna Norman, Kaitlyn Cline, Marissa Williams, Hailey Turner, Tori Savoy, Kaelyn Marler, Breanna Hepinstall-Ricks and Chef Instructor Meri-lin Piantanida. Back Row: Dakota Mikell, Aidan Margo, Allison Scherer, Eiron McGee, Jared Harrison, Ashlin Harper, Jonathan Collison and Logan Thorson.

Not pictured: Cheyenne Soles, Taylor Acree, Emily Brock-Moore and Amber Munoz. Photo courtesy of Keystone Heights High School.

The Keystone Heights High School Culinary Arts Department recently awarded 21 students with the National Food Protection (ServSafe) Certification. The students passed an 80-question examination to earn the designation.

ServSafe certification third grade, lasted for about an hour.

However Smith said her once-a-week horse riding lessons helped her with the winning word: hackamore, which is a mix between a halter and a bridle, and helps train horses.

Smith said a reading lifestyle also helped her in the contest.

translates to three college credits for students pursuing post-secondary degrees in the culinary and hospitality fields, and assists students with expanded scholarship and job opportunities.

As a reward for passing the exam, Chef Instructor Meri-lin Piantanida accompanied the

Over the 2013 summer break, she read 15 books.

The Keystone Heights Junior High School's spelling bee winner, Brandon Ludwig, said a study session with his sister the day before the bee helped him win his school's contest.

Ludwig said his sixth-grade sibling, Ashton, was not able to

students on a field trip to the Florida Food Service Food Show at the World Golf Village in St. Augustine. Piantanida said she is very proud of her students and hopes they will continue their interest in working in the culinary field.

Submitted by Brittany Filing, Keystone Heights High School.

finish her own homework the night she read off spelling words for her brother.

The eighth-grader's winning word was Shiatsu, a type of Japanese massage.

Ludwig, who won last year's county bee, and said he had to

See SPELL, 3A

MAYOR

Continued from 1A

to the city, what took place. I'm just happy we don't have a TV station down here. It would be all over this thing."

Brown said that although Hildreth's shortcomings played prominently in his decision to run, he planned to campaign on his own strengths and run a positive race.

Hildreth said she plans to run on her record, which includes securing around \$3 million in grants and other funding for the city. She said the funding includes grants for the airport, a community development block grant and, most recently, a \$122,000 appropriation to build a sidewalk between Keystone Heights High School and the Santa Fe College Watson Center.

She said her support of the city's community redevelopment agency resulted in an initial \$70,000 funding boost for downtown redevelopment projects.

Hildreth also emphasized her role in representing the city at Camp Blanding events. She said that at some of the post's ceremonies, she was the only elected official present.

She also pointed to her promotion of Keystone Heights' interests to regional and state decision makers.

She added that her biggest accomplishment is her ongoing advocacy for restoring Keystone Heights-area lakes. Hildreth was a member of the St. Johns River Water Management District's Clay-Putnam Technical Work Group, and its successor, the Implementation Work Group.

She is also a member of the North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership Stakeholder Committee.

"I'm sorry I can't show you a full lake," she said in an interview, "but I am a firm believer that the squeaky wheel gets the grease."

Asked about Brown's claim that some city residents object to her leadership style, Hildreth said that is part of the job.

"Whether you are in politics or in the Garden Club," she said, "some people are going to disagree with you."

Mayor banks over \$7,000 for re-election bid

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

Mayor Mary Lou Hildreth reported \$7,460 in campaign contributions in the first report she filed for the 2014 Keystone Heights mayor's race.

Hildreth contributed \$1,200 to the campaign. Other major contributors include Hildreth's sister, Charlotte Hehn (\$1,000), Keystone Heights business owner Doug Wise (\$1,000) and Keystone Building Center (\$500).

Other notable contributors include Express Air Flight Instruction (\$100), lake advocate Jackie Host (\$125), Therapy Through Massage (\$100), Williams Automotive (\$50), Clay Electric Member Relations Representative, Chris Carson (\$50), insurance agent, Scott Roberts (\$250), attorney VeRonica Owens (\$50), retired Florida National Guard Adjutant General and current St. Johns River Water Management District board member Douglas Burnett (\$300), St. Johns River State College President Joe Pickens (\$100), Lake Area Title Services (\$100), Clay County Planning Board member and

Clay County Fair Association board member Rick Bebout, (\$50), real estate agent, Dean Weaver II (\$50), conservationist, Terry Brant (\$100), Hawthorne Mayor, Matt Surrency (\$35), Putnam County Tax Collector, Linda Myers (\$100), Palatka Mayor, Vernon Myers (\$100), former Jacksonville City Council member, Alberta Hipps (\$50), Keystone Heights business owner, Harold Gilstrap (\$100), Lake Area Ministries Co-Director, Chip Wester (\$50), business owner John Wick (\$50) and retired minister Tom Farmer (\$100).

COUNTY

Continued from 1A

current outright ban on the sexually oriented establishments would likely not survive a court challenge. He added, however, that by using zoning laws, the commission could control aspects of how adult entertainment businesses are run, including the times in which they are open and the manner in which they conduct business.

During the Nov. 12 county commission meeting, around a dozen members of the public, most of them pastors from local churches, said they opposed the change. They urged commissioners to seek additional legal advice.

During a Dec. 10 commission meeting, Scruby said he intended to present his findings to the board then, but was waiting on a constitutional lawyer to respond to his inquiry. He said he expected to present his findings to the commission in January.

During the Jan. 14 commission meeting, Travis Christiansen, a member of the county charter review committee, questioned why the ordinance was not on the agenda.

Christiansen reminded the panel of Scruby's earlier statements that the current ordinance would likely not survive a court challenge. He told commissioners that spending hundreds of thousands of dollars and enforcing an ordinance that codified their own personal preferences was misguided.

Commissioner Ronnie Robinson said he was not convinced the current ban on sex businesses was unconstitutional.

"It's been in place for 35 years and never been challenged," he said of the current ordinance. "The only reason it was brought up was because of a single phone call. So this has nothing to do with the commissioners. This has to do with my legal staff and the county manager bringing this up to the board to start with."

During its Jan. 14 meeting, the commission also:

- Proclaimed March as Clay County History Month,
- Proclaimed Jan. 20 as Dr. Martin Luther King Day,
- Thanked Commissioner Cheresse Stewart for serving as chair during 2012,
- Swore in Fire Rescue Capt. Tom Rodgers as a new battalion chief,
- Heard a statement from David Abramowitz, Florida Department of Children and Families regional director

about the department closing its Fleming Island service center,

- Viewed a presentation by Bruce Ferguson of Work Source about the organization's activities in North Florida,
- Congratulated and commended new Eagle Scouts Scott Cordes, Ryan Heady and Sean Heady. Cordes painted 73 fire hydrants for his community service project.

County collects record bed taxes

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

The director of the Clay County division of tourism and film development said the county collected a record \$490,229 in tourism taxes the year ended Sept. 30, 2013.

The three-percent levy, also known as the bed tax, is collected from hotels and other businesses which rent accommodations for less than six months.

Tourism Director Jackie Slaybaugh told a Jan. 8 meeting of the Tourist Development Council that tourism tax receipts for October and November 2013 were 13 percent above 2012 levels.

In additional news from the Tourist Development Council's Jan. 8 meeting:

- Members approved an additional \$30,000 expenditure to repair the cattleman's arena and make three other repairs at the Clay County Fairgrounds. The appropriation brings the total spent on the arena to \$180,000. Fair Manager Pete Sutton said the total estimate to repair all the deficiencies at the arena are \$230,000 and the fair association has committed \$50,000 to the project.
- Tourism council member and Orange Park Mayor Jim Renninger voted against the \$30,000 expenditure and complained about the council committing additional funds to the repairs before obtaining the exact amount of total repair costs.
- Slaybaugh reported that the North Florida Hunter Jumper Association Winter Series will last three weeks beginning on Jan. 15. The U.S. Equestrian Federation-affiliated event was originally scheduled for four weeks. Some council members said they were concerned that participants in the event were staying at a Duval County Best Western. However, the event's promotional literature lists Orange Park's Hilton Garden Inn as its host hotel and also recommends Fleming Island's Sleep Inn and Suites and Green Cove Springs' River Park Inn as alternative hotels.
- Cindy Stewart, executive director of the Shepherd's Center of Orange Park, gave the council an overview of Clay County History Month. The series of events will be held in March and will coincide with Florida's Heritage Month.
- Slaybaugh said a small independent film entitled "Perfect Love" was recently

filmed in Green Cove Springs and that scenes for a television show will be filmed at the historic courthouse in Green Cove Springs in the coming weeks.

- Council members discussed creating a film development committee with one or two Tourism Development Council members sitting on the new committee. The purpose of the panel would be to foster public-private partnerships and bring more film projects to Clay County.

Beseler against marijuana legalization

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

The spokesperson for Clay County Sheriff Rick Beseler said the sheriff supported a resolution passed by the Florida Sheriff's Association opposing the legalization of marijuana in Florida.

In a Jan. 16 statement, the association said "Florida's sheriffs believe that approving broad exceptions to current state and federal law that would allow doctors to authorize use of marijuana for virtually any reason with little regulation will hurt children and families and lead to a lower quality of life for all."

The statement said a majority of sheriffs supported the resolution. Mary Justino, public information coordinator for Beseler said he supported the resolution.

The association said that the Los Angeles and Denver police departments have reported increased crime rates since their states legalized marijuana. It also said that marijuana use among teens in Colorado is 50-percent higher than the national average.

Former Keystone Council member running for county commission

Former Keystone Heights Council member and current Public Information Officer for the Clay County School District, Gavin Rollins has filed papers to run for the District 4 County Commission seat.

Chereese Stewart is the incumbent for the seat which covers western Clay County, including Keystone Heights, Kingsley Lake, Middleburg and Clay Hill. She is not running for re-election due to term limits.

The five-Republican field also includes McRae resident and retired Clay County Fire Marshal Clu Wright, Clay Hill Elementary School teacher Abbie Andrews, Middleburg business owner Steven R. Johnson and Ronnie Coleman.

Keystone Heights Council member Tony Brown also filed papers to run for the seat last year, but later withdrew.

No Democrats have filed for the seat.

Rollins said he has been thinking about running for the county commission for some time. He added that the fact that the District 4 seat is open had a bearing on his decision. Rollins also said he believes Clay County is on the verge of an economic surge and that he wants to facilitate that growth.

Rollins brings campaign experience to the race. He also said he opened his campaign account with \$20,000.

Keystone planning board passes flood ordinance

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

The Keystone Heights

Planning and Zoning Board approved, during a Jan. 13 meeting, a new flood ordinance to comply with Federal Emergency Management Agency Requirements.

The new law, which regulates construction within FEMA-designated floodplains, now goes to the city council for final approval. The Keystone Heights ordinance is similar to a Clay County law considered by the county commission earlier in January that applies to unincorporated areas of the county.

In other business, the planning and zoning board put off selecting a new chair and vice chair because two board members were not at the Jan. 13 meeting.

March 3 is deadline to apply for Clay property tax exemptions

The Clay County Property Appraiser's office said the statutory deadline to apply for tax exemptions is March 3.

First-time applicants must bring their deed, proof of residency, and provide the Social Security numbers of all applicants. Mobile home owners should also bring the title or registration to the mobile home. Applications may be filed at our main office in Green Cove Springs, located on the second floor of the Administration Building, or at our Orange Park branch office located at 1518 Park Ave.

Once the initial application has been filed and granted, your exemption application will be automatically renewed each January, and a renewal notice will be mailed to you. If you still live in the home, and qualify for the exemption, no action is required; keep the notice as your receipt and continue to enjoy the benefits of lower taxes. It is your responsibility to notify the property appraiser if your

See TAX, 3A

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TAX

Continued from 2A
eligibility for exemptions has changed.

For more information, please visit our website at www.ccpao.com, or contact our office at 904-284-6305 to speak with an exemption specialist.

Lawyer: Clay County cannot regulate EZBase

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

A lawyer for the Clay County Commission told the board that it cannot prohibit the use of EZBase within the county and can neither regulate its use.

Chief Assistant County Attorney Frances J. Moss told commissioners during a Jan. 14 board meeting that state law and Florida Department of Environmental Protection regulations have sole jurisdiction over the use of the coal ash byproduct produced by the Jacksonville Electric Authority's Northside Generating Plant.

Last December, commissioners asked the county's legal department to assess the county's options in controlling the JEA byproduct after Middleburg resident and county commission candidate Steve Johnson complained that the material remained on his property.

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.

The utility subsequently removed the byproduct from the Middleburg property. However, in Dec. 2013, Johnson complained that some of the material remained on his land. He added that thousands of tons of EZBase remained throughout Clay County and that the compound posed a public safety hazard.

In 2012, after Johnson first alerted commissioners to the use of EZBase within the county,

Moss told commissioners that because FDEP permitted EZBase as a limestone substitute in road building, the county could not prohibit its use within the county. She added that when the material is improperly used, resulting in its classification as a solid waste, FDEP retains jurisdiction over the product, even though the county has an ordinance prohibiting the disposal of solid waste within the county that is not generated within the county.

During the Jan. 14 meeting, Moss also said that a bill passed in 2013, and signed into law further relaxes the regulation of coal byproducts produced by electricity generation.

Commissioners asked Moss to write a letter to Clay County representatives in Tallahassee expressing concern over the new law.

Bees by the Bay coming to Melrose

The Lake Area Beekeepers Club and Gallery 26 are sponsoring Bees by the Bay at Gallery 26 in Melrose on Saturday, Feb. 1 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event is free, open to the public and features the following segments: 10:15 a.m. Basics to beekeeping, 11:30 a.m. Honeybee biology, 1:30 p.m. Making honey mead, 2 p.m. Children's story time and 2:45 p.m. Growing wildflowers.

After the event, the Killer B's will be performing at a dance within Gallery 26 from 8 to 11 p.m. Admission for the dance is \$10.

SPELL

Continued from 1A

fight off nervousness during last year's competitions, added that this year he is guarding against the opposite hazard: overconfidence. He also said he has been studying up to four hours a day for the competition.

Both Smith and Ludwig will compete in the county-wide spelling bee on Jan. 23 at Plantation Oaks Elementary School.

Clay school district credit outlook downgraded

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

Fitch ratings downgraded its credit outlook for the Clay County School District from stable to negative because of weakening reserve levels, the rating agency said in a Jan. 17 press release.

The bond rating agency did not change its ratings for the two district debt issues it evaluates, keeping an A+ rating for the district's \$53 million in certificates of participation and a AA- grade for \$2.7 million in state revenue bonds. However, it warned that those evaluations could change.

"Failure to demonstrate the expected continual strengthening of financial reserves to more historical levels over the next couple of years would likely result in a downgrade of the rating," Fitch said.

The bond rating agency said that at the beginning of 2012, the district had a healthy unrestricted general fund balance of \$19.7 million. However, in 2012, with the loss of federal stimulus funds, the district posted an operating deficit of \$9.3 million. The following year, the district recorded another operating deficit of \$6 million due to an unexpected decrease in student enrollment which reduced state educational revenues to the district. Fitch added that the 2013 deficit was also increased by \$3.3 million in additional spending for new hires, a salary step increase for teachers and additional benefit costs.

Fitch said that in spite of low reserve levels, the district's debt ratios remain low, and the county's socioeconomic profile is favorable, with higher than average median family income, a lower than average poverty rate and an unemployment rate lower than state and national levels.

During a Jan. 16 school board meeting, before Fitch released its bond ratings and credit outlook, George Copeland, assistant superintendent for business affairs, told board members that if Fitch downgrades the district's bond rating, the district would pay higher interest rates for future bond issues.

St. Johns Missionary Baptist installs new pastor

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

The St. Johns Missionary Baptist Church installed the Rev. Alvin W. Oliver as its new pastor during a Dec. 12 service.

The church is located on C.R. 219 in Melrose.

Oliver is a resident of Palatka. He and his wife, Phyllis, have two children and two grandchildren.

He has been a member of the Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church in Palatka since 1993. He was ordained as a deacon in 1994, licensed into the gospel ministry in 2003 and ordained as a minister in 2011 under the leadership of the Rev. Clarence Mallory.

Oliver received a certification in theology from the International Theological Center in Atlanta in 2008.

In a note to the congregation,



The Rev. Alvin W. Oliver and his wife Phyllis Oliver. Photo by Cornelius Clayton.

Oliver wrote, "It gives me great pleasure and joy to be able to thank all of you for your support. I am very thankful, most of all, for my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for keeping and blessing

me down through the years. One thing I have learned is to stay humble and remain faithful in all things."

CCSO Pipes and Drums going to Scotland

The Clay County Sheriff's Office Pipes and Drums will be travelling to Scotland in June to participate in the 700th anniversary and reenactment of the Battle of Bannockburn.

The 1314 two-day conflict is a keystone in Scottish history, and led to Scotland's independence from England in 1328. Forces under Robert the Bruce routed an English army under the command of King Edward II.

The June 23-24 reenactment is expected to draw 45,000 visitors. The Pipe and Drums organization is raising money for the trip by selling its 2014 calendar and by collecting donations. Go to <http://ccsopd.com/> for more information.

Woman's Club selling trash and treasure

The Keystone Heights Woman's Club is holding a trash and treasure sale on Friday, Jan. 24, and Saturday, Jan. 25, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The club is located at 6747 Woman's Club Drive.

Melrose Chili Cook Off

The Seventh Annual Melrose Chili Cook Off is Saturday Feb. 1. Free Registration begins at 10 a.m. Judging by public opinion is at 1 p.m. All proceeds benefit the Melrose Public Library.

The cook off will be at Chiappini's Gas Station at the Corner of SR 21 and SR 26. No electricity is available, bring

gas stoves to keep warm and soup scoopers. A 50/50 raffle drawing will be held prior to announcing the winners. For More Information, contact Debbie Ellingham at 352-258-3531. All Chili is available for tasting for \$3.00 a spoon and for sale at \$5.00 a pint.

Faith Presbyterian renovations

The sanctuary of Faith Presbyterian Church at Midway is undergoing renovations. The Sunday morning worship service is being held at 11 a.m. in Neale Hall. Refreshments are served. Call 475-1721 for more information.



LRM Legals 1/23/14

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Florida Self Storage Facility Act Statutes (Section 83.801, 83.809), Lake Area Storage, LLC, will sell the following items to the highest and best bidder on Wednesday, January 29, 2014 at 9:00 A.M. (EST) at 7101 SR 21, Keystone Heights, Florida 32656: Unit# 323, containing misc. household items.
1/16 2tchg 1/23-LRM

VOTER REGISTRATION THE CITY OF KEYSTONE HEIGHTS MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MARCH 4, 2014
City residents who wish to vote in the City of Keystone Heights citywide election on March 4, 2014 must be registered to vote with the Supervisor of Elections Office of Clay County by February 3, 2014. Voters who need to register may contact the Supervisor of Elections Office of Clay County via telephone at (904)-269-6350 or visit their website at www.clayelections.com for more instructions and requirements.
1/23 1tchg-LRM

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Personal property of the following tenants will be sold for cash or otherwise disposed of to satisfy rental liens in accordance with Florida Statutes, Self Storage Facility Act, Sections 83.806-83.807. Auction will be held of Feb. 11, 2014 at 10:30 AM at Melrose Mini Storage, 827 N. SR 21, Melrose, FL 32666. Phone (352) 475-5000. All items may not be available on the date of the sale.
TENANT NAME, Jason O'Berry UNIT #28, DESCRIPTION, Household.
1/23 2tchg 1/30-LRM

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- Living Trusts
- Probate Administration
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Keystone Heights Elementary School straight-A students



Fourth grade (l-r), front row: Christopher Anderson, Ethan Brown, Riley Draney and Lindsay Hovsepian. Middle row: Lucas Horton, Megan Herndon, Liam Kane and Ryan Krahn. Back row: Taylor Korth, Jack Lewandowski and Caleb Moncrief.



Fifth grade (l-r), front row: Evan Andrews, Lisa Strickland, Alyssa Norman and Aidan Perkins. Middle row: Piper Pescara, Luke Van Zant, Colton Tibbetts and Shawn Dukes. Back row: Sam Vorn, Camryn Williams.

Redevelopment adviser: 'everybody wins'

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

The chair of the Keystone Heights Community Redevelopment Advisory Board went over the history of the city's redevelopment agency and outlined some plans for its future, in a speech before the Keystone Lake Area Business Association on Jan. 13.

Deirdre Murphy told the business leaders that the goal of the CRA and its advisory board is to attract visitors to the city and customers to their businesses.

"We are doing this for you," she said. "The whole point is to promote economic growth in the downtown district so that everybody wins."

Murphy said that to attract more visitors to the city, Keystone must distinguish itself from its neighbors and build a unique identity.

"People want the charm of a small town," she said, "but one that takes pride in itself."

Murphy also explained the difference between the CRA, which is made up of city council members, and her group, the advisory council, which makes recommendations to the agency.

She also said the agency's work is based on small, incremental improvements over time, rather than single, major projects.

"It is a layering effect," she said. "Just because we put in a couple new trash receptacles, that's not the 'wow.' It's the trash receptacles, and then new benches, and then flowering planters, and then it's more facade grants or other things that we can do to enhance the community."

Murphy told the group about the Keystone CRA's 2010 president's award from the Florida Redevelopment



Deirdre Murphy, chair of the Keystone Heights Community Redevelopment Advisory Board, points out the boundaries of the city's community redevelopment district to the Keystone Lake Area Business Association on Jan. 13.

Association. She also listed the CRA's projects, including a welcome sign near Keystone Beach, facade upgrades for downtown businesses, new trash receptacles and benches for the downtown area. She also said the agency brought the Our Country

See CRA, 5A



Sixth grade (l-r), front row: Emily Loose, Ashton Ludwig, Sophia Kicklighter and Christopher Resti. Middle row: Kelsei Rehberg, Benjamin Tran, Savannah Wilson and Benjamin Wacha. Back row: Isabelle Woodell, Ashton Ward and William Yeldell.

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LEGAL NOTICE
PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE
FOR THE
MARCH 4, 2014 GENERAL ELECTION
ACTIVITIES OF
THE CITY OF KEYSTONE HEIGHTS CANVASSING BOARD

Notice is hereby given that meetings of City of Keystone Heights Canvassing Board will be conducted at the Keystone Heights City Hall, 555 S. Lawrence Blvd., Keystone Heights, Florida on the following dates and times:

Logic & Accuracy Test
February 28, 2014 10:00 am

Public Inspection of Absentee Ballots
March 4, 2014 4:00 p.m.

Open Absentee Ballots
March 4, 2014 7:00 p.m.

Process and Duplicate Absentee Ballots
March 4, 2014 Immediately following the completion of opening

Canvass of Election Returns and if necessary recount of returns
March 4, 2014 7:00 p.m.

Canvass Provisional Ballots & Final Certification and submission of Official results
March 6, 2014 5:00p.m.

Mandatory Audit of Election and Submission of Audit results
March 6, 2014 Immediately following the canvassing of provisional ballots

Final Submission of Audit Results
March 6, 2014 Immediately following the completion of the Audit of Election

In accordance with the Sunshine Law of Florida, these meetings are open to the public.
Note: Section 286.01105, Florida Statutes, state that if a person decides to appeal any decision by the board, agency, or commission with respects to any matter considered at a meeting or hearing, he or she will need to record the proceedings, and that, for such purposes, her or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

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Keystone Heights Elementary School straight-A students



Third grade (l-r), front row: Jade Budny, Gavin Briscoe, Abigail Corbet and Kendall Carter. Middle row: Rachel Cantrell, Gianna Crosley, Steven Dong and Courtney Dyches. Back row: Kenneth Edsall, Alison Herndon, Arynn James, Haley Kenny and Ian Kruzan.



Third grade (l-r), front row: Caden Lott, Matthew Golden, Shawn Marinello and Garrett McDilda. Middle row: Caleb Mize, Jerremy Miller, Michael Mathews and Emma Moore. Back row: Hunter Sarman, Lillian Paul, Joshua Smith, Kayleigh Stokes and Colton Walls.

CRA

Continued from 4A
Day fireworks display back to downtown Keystone Heights.
Murphy also reminded the group about last fall's Scarecrow Strut, an event promoted by Murphy's group that she said was the brainchild of Mayor Mary Lou Hildreth.

The mayor, who was also at the meeting, told association members that the CRA is considering expanding its boundaries, north on S.R. 21 and west along S.R. 100. She emphasized that the move would not extend the city limits, but only the boundaries of the redevelopment agency, which she said would earmark county property taxes for local redevelopment projects.

VyStar replacing cards for victims of Target breach

VyStar Credit Union said it is replacing bank cards for members whose card numbers and personal identification numbers were compromised in a security breach at Target Stores in November and December. Target said intruders into its network stole the names, mailing addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of 70 million people, and the bank card numbers and personal identification numbers of 40 million customers.



Sixth grade (l-r), front row: Perla Alonzo, Matthew Forshee, Casey DeWitt and Remington Draney. Middle row: Kayla Elliott, Brian Armstrong, Vanessa Kruzan and Courtlin Gentry. Back row: Lauren Hix, Madison Heskett, Tyler Friedlin and Brendan Lee.

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Mark 5: 35-42

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Middleburg KFC sold

Store Master Funding V of Scottsdale, Ariz. purchased the KFC Restaurant in Middleburg for \$929,947 from Chadbury and Hines Chicken of Wethersfield, Conn.

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Child porn charges added after CO's arrest

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

The water has gotten even hotter for a former Bradford County correctional deputy accused of sexual battery.

The sheriff's office has kept details quiet as they work with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to investigate allegations against Robert V. Melton.

Additional charges were said to be likely, and Melton, 59, was rearrested on 12 additional charges Jan. 15.

The sexual battery allegations involve a child victim. Now Melton has been charged with 11 counts of possessing child pornography as well as promoting or distributing sexual performance by a child. His original arrest for sexual battery also involved a child pornography charge, according to court records.

After obtaining a search warrant for Melton's Starke home and a storage shed, investigators recovered computers, a mobile phone and other items. What they found established probable cause for the new charges, said Capt. Brad Smith of the Bradford County Sheriff's Office.

Melton, who had been released after his bond was set at \$85,000, was rearrested at his home without incident on Jan. 15. Booked at the Bradford County Jail, he was transferred to an undisclosed correctional facility for his protection. Smith said he was being held on a total bond of \$1.2 million.

Melton was hired by BCSO in 2007. He submitted a handwritten resignation at the time of his original arrest.

FDLE brought the allegations to the attention of the sheriff's office.

Clay Electric warns members about nationwide email scam

Clay Electric said that utilities around the nation are reporting that some of their customers have received bogus email bill statements.

Although Clay Electric hasn't received reports of members receiving emails that solicit payments or request personal information, the co-op is urging its members to be aware and alert.

"Members should delete any suspicious emails and not click on any links that may accompany the emails," said Derick Thomas, director of Clay Electric's Member & Public Relations Department.

According to Thomas, Clay Electric does not send emails that threaten or require immediate action to provide personal information.

"We urge our members to ignore suspicious requests for personal information such as bank account numbers, credit card numbers, user names and passwords, or Social Security numbers," Thomas said. "We ask our members to delete all suspicious emails that require immediate action to verify or provide personal information."

Recently, Clay Electric has received reports that two commercial accounts it serves in Clay County were the target of attempted scams. The two businesses reported that someone claiming to represent the co-op contacted them about making payment on an overdue bill. In one case, a payment for more than \$2,000 was requested, and the caller wanted the money "wired."

The utility said it encourages the businesses it serves to be very suspicious of anyone who calls and claims he or she represents the co-op and wants to be paid for an overdue bill.

The cooperative does not collect past due amounts in this manner.

"If the caller asks you to wire money or use a prepaid debit card, that's a red flag," said Bruce McHollan, director of Clay's Information and Communication Technology Department. "If you have any doubt at all, hang up and call Clay Electric at 800-224-4917 and confirm if any payment is due. Clay Electric sends a reminder letter and makes an automated reminder call when bills are past due."

Interlachen woman exchanges gunfire with deputy

An Interlachen woman was hospitalized after being shot four times by a Putnam County deputy early Monday morning.

According to the sheriff's office, around 1:30 a.m. Diana Conner, 61, called 911 to report a suspicious person "messing around" with her air conditioner.

A deputy could find no one on the property and Conner refused to make contact with the responding officer.

The sheriff's office said that Conner, who remained in telephone contact with dispatchers, refused to believe that the deputy outside was a law enforcement officer, even after he turned on his emergency lights. The responding deputy left after verifying the residence was safe and there were no prowlers.

At approximately 3:30 a.m., deputies were called back to Conner's residence after neighbors indicated Conner was calling them to complain of possible prowlers around her property.

When deputies again responded to the home at 131 Twin Lake Grove Drive, Conner came outside in the driveway armed with a rifle.

Officers identified themselves and ordered Conner to lay down

the weapon. She instead opened fire with the rifle. Deputy Thomas Burger returned fire, striking Conner four times. The 61-year-old was transported to UF Health in Gainesville where she remains in the intensive care unit.

The sheriff's office said that, in accordance with agency policy, Burger has been placed on administrative leave pending the completion of a Florida Department of Law Enforcement investigation.

CCSO Mourns Death of Detention Deputy

Clay County Sheriff's Office members are mourning the death of a coworker, 46-year-old Detention Deputy Brian Cason. Coworkers became concerned when Cason did not arrive for his Jan. 15 shift at the Clay County Jail. The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office was contacted and a wellness check was conducted at Cason's home in Jacksonville. JSO made entry into the home and discovered Cason deceased in his bed. Preliminary information provided by JSO is that there were no signs of foul play. The Jacksonville Medical Examiner will determine the cause of death.

Detention Deputy Brian Cason was hired by the Clay County Sheriff's Office in July of 2012. His supervisors and coworkers describe him as a hard-working, helpful, quiet man. Prior to joining the CCSO, Cason worked for the Florida State Prison System. He was married with adult children. The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office is the lead agency in regards to the investigation of Cason's death.

Attention All Former Miss KHHS Winners

Plans are underway for the 50th Anniversary of the Miss KHHS Scholarship Pageant for Saturday, March 8 at 7 p.m. in the KHHS Cafeteria. We are inviting all former titleholders to attend this event. There will be a stage presentation of former winners during the program. There will be a reception for former winners at 5:45 p.m. During that time, instructions will be given for the stage presentation and light refreshments will be served.

Please contact Lynn Dickinson at 352-473-1489 or email lmcdickinson@oneclay.net if you are attending so that we can prepare for your participation.

Talent takes the stage this weekend

The Santa Fe College Bradford Fest Talent Showdown will take place this weekend, Saturday, Jan. 25, in the Bradford High School auditorium at 6 p.m.

Up to 20 talented acts will be performing in competition

and a chance to try out for the Suwannee River Jam, and country band Crewsn Myles of Lake Butler will also entertain. The annual event is sponsored by Lake Area McDonald's.

Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for youth 17 and under. Children 5 and under enter for free. Get your tickets at the Santa Fe College Andrews Center, or pay at the door.

The funds raised by Bradford Fest events helps send students to college.

Fifteen acts are currently slated to perform.

"Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it."— Dwight D. Eisenhower

"He that passeth by, and meddeth with strife belonging not to him, is like one that taketh a dog by the ears."— Pr. 26:17



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REGIONAL NEWS

NEWS FROM BRADFORD COUNTY, UNION COUNTY AND THE LAKE REGION

Participating in a Jan. 17 "key exchange" are (l-r) Congressman Ted Yoho, Tracy Hickman, Florida Gateway College's vice president, operational programs, Bradford County Superintendent of Schools Chad Farnsworth and Bradford-Union Technical Center Director Christy Reddish.



B-U Technical Center is proud owner of 2 new trucks

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer

Kirk Abercrombie and Robert Lyons are too old to ask Santa Claus for toy trucks.

How about the real thing, then?

The two men are the instructors for the Bradford-Union Technical Center's commercial vehicle driving program, which received a gift in the form of two semi trucks from Florida Gateway College.

Christmas may have passed, but the timing was perfect for the technical center program. The three trucks students take out on the road each have at least 1 million miles.

"Christmas was a little less than a month ago, but this is truly Christmas in January," Bradford County Superintendent of Schools Chad Farnsworth said during a Jan. 17 reception and

"key exchange."

Added Abercrombie: "It's been a long time coming."

Farnsworth and Bradford-Union Technical Center Director Christy Reddish both thanked Congressman Ted Yoho, who was present, for helping speed up the process. Approval of the transfer of titles had to be gained from the Department of Labor, which funded a grant

Florida Gateway College used to purchase the vehicles. The request wound up sitting on a desk for months, Reddish said.

That's when Yoho stepped in. "He helped them to understand how critical it was—the timeliness of this transfer," Reddish said. "We were towing our trucks in every other week

See TRUCKS, 6B



Lisa Prevatt, Bradford County's assistant superintendent of schools, enjoys a view from behind the wheel.

Santa Fe defeats Keystone for District 5 championship

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer

It was a rematch of last year's District 5-2A championship match, but the Keystone Heights High School girls' soccer team couldn't win its second straight title, losing 3-0 to Santa Fe on Jan. 17 in Gainesville.

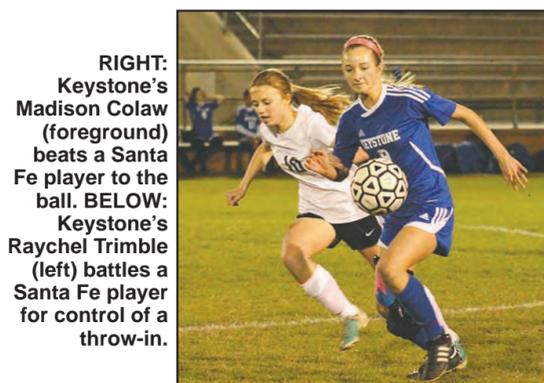
The Raiders (24-1) played a physical match that Keystone head coach Kenny Seneca said was no different from the teams' two regular-season meetings, which Santa Fe won by scores of 4-2 and 2-0.

"They're a very physical team. The other two times we played them, they were physical," Seneca said, adding, "Sometimes it gets in (the Keystone players') heads when it gets physical out there."

Keystone (17-8-1) will have to travel to Ocala to play defending state champion Trinity Catholic in a regional quarterfinal match on Thursday, Jan. 23, at 7 p.m. Trinity Catholic (14-3-1), which earned the right to host by defeating Umatilla 8-0 for the District 6 championship, defeated the Indians 8-0 in last year's regional semifinals.

"We played them last year, so we kind of know what to expect," Seneca said. "It's going to be very challenging."

Keystone and Santa Fe appeared as if they would play a scoreless first half, but the Raiders' Kim Melton was in the right place at the right time, collecting a rebound and scoring after teammate Taylor Martin missed a shot directly in front of the goal. That put the Raiders up 1-0 with approximately



12 minutes remaining until halftime.

"We knew if we went out there and played our game, that we could beat them," Seneca said. "It just didn't go our way tonight. They got a lucky break in the first half on their first goal and kind of got momentum from there. If things had one our way and we had gotten that break, you never know."

The Indians set themselves up

with a good scoring opportunity in the 18th minute, with Julia Osteen and Raychel Trimble passing the ball back and forth down the field. Trimble received the ball inside the box, but was unable to get the ball past the Santa Fe goalie.

Santa Fe had several good looks in the first half, but misfired on some opportunities, with Arzie making several nice

See DISTRICT, 5B

Michael may not recognize Lowyn. But 8 months ago his cooling technique saved her life.

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When Lowyn Yancey was born, a pinched umbilical cord kept her brain from getting oxygen for several minutes. A cooling technique developed by Dr. Michael Weiss at UF Health helped her brain recover, and today she's a healthy little girl. Michael and Lowyn share an important, if invisible, connection – one that helps us move medicine forward.

UF Health and Shands Starke Regional Medical Center, an innovative alliance to enhance our community.

Jolley graduates from Flagler College

Victoria Jolley, of Keystone Heights, was awarded a bachelor of arts degree from Flagler College. Jolley was one of approximately 177 Flagler seniors at the spring commencement ceremony held Dec. 14 on the college campus in St. Augustine.

Kirksey graduates from basic training

Army Pvt. Bruce R. Kirksey Jr. has graduated from Basic Combat Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Waynesville, Mo.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier received instruction in drill and ceremony, weapons, rifle marksmanship qualification, bayonet combat, chemical warfare, field training and tactical exercises, marches, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, and Army history, traditions, and core values.

Kirksey is the son of Pamela Spegal of Keystone Heights. He is a 2012 graduate of Keystone Heights High School.

Destiny? Prevatt's serving food, fun in Starke

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer

Word on the street was the Prevatt family, which owned Prevatt's Sports Bar and Grill in Middleburg, was going to open a restaurant in Starke.

Jackson Prevatt and his son Brandon said they weren't sure how those rumors started, but after hearing them they thought they'd take a ride to Starke and see if there was a location that would suit their purposes.

The result made rumor become reality. The family, which also includes Jackson's son, Jason, opened its second restaurant—located on Call Street in the

former Mama Mia's location—in late November.

"We wanted to expand and take on new responsibilities and challenges," Brandon said.

Brandon said the family kept getting asked all kinds of questions about opening a restaurant in Starke and even closing the restaurant in Middleburg. It was strange as the family had no plans of expanding at that point in time.

"We heard a bunch of different versions of how we were ultimately moving to Starke, and everybody was sure of it," Brandon said. "We didn't want to let anybody down."

Starke was at the top of Jackson Prevatt's list anyway when it came to possible sites for a second restaurant. He was born and raised there.

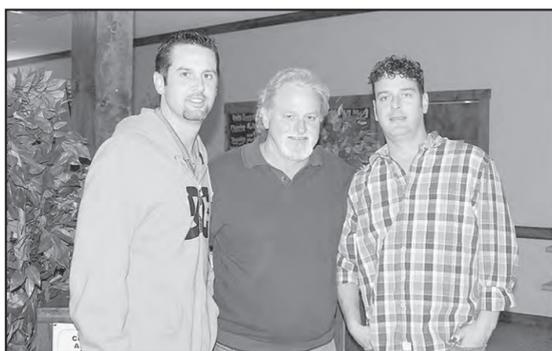
"My dad was a preacher here in town and had a little church called Airpark, right there between the high school and the middle school," Jackson said. "I grew up about a block from there on Collins Street off of Pratt (Street). I walked to every school I've ever been to. I walked to Starke Elementary, walked to the middle school and then walked to the high school.

"I've been here all my life up until I got to be an adult."

It was Middleburg where Jackson's sons primarily grew up. The strip-mall site where the family opened the first Prevatt's had been the site to a couple of different restaurants covering a period of more than 30 years. Brandon said the only reason those previous restaurants closed was health issues with the owners.

"It had proven it was going to do all right," Brandon said.

Brandon said he and his brother used to hang out at the restaurant that preceded Prevatt's, so they were familiar with the locale. The brothers,



ABOVE: Jackson Prevatt (center) is pictured with sons Jason (left) and Brandon. LEFT: Jenny Moss prepares a pitcher of beer.



who had experience in sales, thought opening a restaurant there would be a fun thing to do.

For Jackson, the business seemed like a good way to

reconnect with his sons. His job in sales and marketing for Delta Airlines kept him away from

See PREVATT, 4B



Cory Tennant mans the grill in the kitchen at Prevatt's. All menu items are prepared upon order.

Talent Fest Showdown is Jan. 25

The annual Bradford Fest Talent Fest Showdown is Saturday, Jan. 25, at 6 p.m. at the Bradford High School auditorium.

Admission is \$7 for adults and \$5 for 17 and under. Children 5 and under are admitted free.

All profits will go toward funding Santa Fe College scholarships for Bradford County students.

weaving, which the colonists brought to America.

Visitors are welcome. Any woman 18 years of age or older—regardless of race, religion or ethnic background—who can prove direct descent from a person who aided in achieving American independence between April 19, 1775, and Nov. 26, 1783, is eligible for membership.

Please contact Connie Beauregard at 352-475-1865 for more information.

Deadline to enter Feb. 8 Miss Bradford Fest is Jan. 24

The fourth annual Santa Fe College Miss Bradford Fest is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 8, at the Bradford High School auditorium at 7 p.m.

Contestants will compete in Western wear, talent, party dress, evening wear, photogenic and on-stage question categories in the following age divisions: 4-7 (Little Miss), 8-12 (Junior Miss), 13-17 (Teen Miss) and graduating high school seniors-22 years old (Miss). The winner of the Miss division could win a two-year Santa Fe College scholarship. (Must meet eligibility requirements for college enrollment.)

An orientation will be held

Tuesday, Jan. 28, at 7 p.m. at the Starke Golf and Country Club.

The deadline to enter the pageant is Friday, Jan. 24. Entry forms may be obtained via email. Please send email requests to thorn99@embarqmail.com.

Miss Bradford Fest funds Santa Fe College scholarships for Bradford County students.

For more information, please call Lisa Tatum at 904-966-1514 or Brenda Thornton at 904-364-8266.

Boy Scouts dinner to honor Register, feature Hudson River crash survivor

Lennard Register will be presented with the first-ever Distinguished Citizen Award from Starke at the Boy Scouts of America's American Values Dinner on Thursday, Feb. 27, at the National Guard armory on Edwards Road in Starke.

Casey Jones will be the event's keynote speaker. Jones was a passenger on US Airways Flight 1549 that crashed into the Hudson River in New York on Jan. 15, 2009.

A social is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., followed by the dinner at 7 p.m.

Register, who was a longtime coach in Bradford County schools, earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 1943 and was the first person in Hamilton County to achieve such a rank.

There is no admission, but those interested in attending are asked to consider a \$150 donation to support Scouting in Bradford County.

Please RSVP by calling Barry Warren at 352-494-3326 or Terry Vaughan at 904-966-6266.

River Rats team seeking players

The North Florida River Rats

12U travel baseball team is seeking three to four committed players to complete its spring roster.

Players cannot turn 13 before

May 1.

For more information, please contact Kim Albritton at 386-365-0950.

BHS to host alumni softball game Jan. 25

The 2014 Bradford High School Tornado alumni softball game is this Saturday, Jan. 25, at the high school stadium behind Bradford Middle School and the Bradford-Union Technical Center.

A homerun derby starts the event at 5 p.m., followed by the game at 6 p.m.

Come out and watch BHS players of the past and present.

Archaeology, weaving to be topics at Feb. 3 DAR meeting

Judy Jull, a master weaver and colonial archaeologist, will be featured at the Monday, Feb. 3, meeting of the Col. Samuel Elbert Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, which will be held at IHOP in Starke at 10:30 a.m.

Jull will share her experiences at a dig and talk about the art of

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CRIME

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

Christopher Dewayne Alexander, 41, of Gainesville was arrested Jan. 15 by Bradford deputies for driving while license suspended or revoked. Bond was set at \$500.

Samuel Reese Box, 19, of Starke was arrested Jan. 19 by Starke police for trespassing. Bond was set at \$2,000.

Marcus Kevin Bradley, 57, of Starke was arrested Jan. 19 by Starke police for battery. According to the arrest report, Bradley attacked an acquaintance after accusing him of trying to steal his phone. The victim was in Bradley's home at the time of the incident and started to leave on his bicycle after Bradley had become angry about the phone. Bradley grabbed the victim, pulled him off the bike and kicked him several times in the face with a steel-toe boot, according to the report. He then made several threats to the victim as he rode away, following him for several miles. The police officer later found Bradley at his home and noted in the report he was highly intoxicated and uncooperative during the arrest. Bond was set at \$25,000.

Dameon Daquen Butler, 36, of Starke was arrested Jan. 17 by Bradford deputies on a warrant for eight charges of possession of cocaine. Bond was set at \$100,000.

Aaron Marshall Copeland, 36, of Starke was arrested Jan. 20 by Starke police for trespassing. According to the arrest report, police were called to Walmart after someone wearing a striped shirt was observed walking through the parking lot trying to open car doors. The officer spotted Copeland in the Dickey's BBQ parking lot wearing a striped shirt. Copeland stated he was waiting for a friend to pick him up. After checking system records, the officer found that Copeland had been trespassed from Walmart last February and arrested him for trespassing. Bond was set at \$500.

Kimberly Mae Cornwall, 37, of Lawtey was arrested Jan. 20 by Bradford deputies for driving

while license suspended or revoked.

Ted Bernard Curtis, 34, of Brooker was arrested Jan. 18 by Bradford deputies for driving while license suspended or revoked. Bond was set at \$5,000.

Rebecca Lynn Gerding, 40, of Hampton was arrested Jan. 20 by Starke police for driving while license suspended or revoked.

Janeka Breanne Greene, 24, of Starke was arrested Jan. 13 by Starke police for larceny. According to the arrest report, Greene was observed by a Walmart compliance officer taking a phone case and charger off the shelf, walking around the store and taking the items out of the packaging, and then putting them in her purse. When she walked past the final point of sale, she was detained and police called. Several other stolen items were also found in her purse. Bond was set at \$2,000.

Stephen Louis Heslar, 26, of Lake Butler was arrested Jan. 18 by Bradford deputies for failure to appear.

Lisa Michelle Mackey, 23, of Sanderson was arrested Jan. 18 by Bradford deputies for driving while license suspended or revoked.

Carlis Manning, 48, of Maxville was arrested Jan. 18 by Bradford deputies for possession of marijuana after a traffic stop for a headlight being out on U.S. 301 and Adams Street in Starke.

Therious O. McCloud, 32, of Starke was arrested Jan. 19 by Starke police on a warrant for battery, burglary and obstructing justice. According to the offense report for the warrant, McCloud went to an ex-girlfriend's apartment on Jan. 9 and pushed his way in, demanding she return his phone charger. The victim told McCloud she had thrown it away, but would buy him a new one. McCloud then became angry and started yelling at the victim. He then punched her in the face before leaving the scene. While police were interviewing the victim the same day, McCloud called the victim, asking why she called the police. The victim put the phone on speaker, and they heard McCloud threaten the victim and her family if she didn't do something to get the police to "back off of him." After his arrest, bond was set at \$50,000 for the three charges.

Ronald W. Nugent, 55, of Starke was arrested Jan. 17 by Starke police on a warrant for possession of drugs. The warrant

is from an incident last year on Oct. 26 when Nugent was observed leaving a residence known for drug activity and stopped later by the officer. After questioning, Nugent gave the officer a cigarette pack containing crack, but he was released at the time due to health conditions. Bond was set at \$2,500.

Lakeefia Ke'anna Risby, 25, of Starke was arrested Jan. 15 by Starke police for child neglect. According to the arrest report, police were called to Orangewood Apartments about an unsupervised 4-year-old. The report said the child knocked on a neighbor's apartment door and told the person that answered that she was home alone and scared, and that her mother had left her to go to the store. Risby, the mother, was reached at her place of employment by the police officer and returned to her home. She told the officer she had briefly gone to her workplace to retrieve some paperwork. Risby was arrested and the child was turned over to her aunt for care.

Kevin Laroy Sullivan, 34, of Brooker was arrested Jan. 19 by Bradford deputies for driving under the influence and for driving while license suspended or revoked. Bond was set at \$10,000.

Troy Blaine Tetstone, 25, of Brooker was arrested Jan. 16 by Bradford deputies for possession of drugs. A deputy was called to a residence in the Graham area for a dispute and went to speak with Tetstone, who was seated in a vehicle. The deputy smelled marijuana from the car, and a search turned up a small bag with marijuana residue and two pills that were identified as morphine. Bond was set at \$5,000.

Jardian Darrell Thomas, 23, of Gainesville was arrested Jan. 16 by Bradford deputies on a warrant from Alachua County for grand theft. Bond was set at \$5,000.

Matthew Leon Wilkerson, 29, of Raiford was arrested Jan. 14 by Bradford deputies for probation violation.

Keystone/Melrose

Ernest Dyal, 51, of Keystone Heights was arrested Jan. 20 by Clay deputies for a probation violation.

David Frew, 53, of Keystone Heights was arrested Jan. 14 by Clay deputies for felony battery and resisting arrest without violence.

Cynthia Roberts, 50, of Keystone Heights was arrested Jan. 15 by Clay deputies for an out-of-county warrant.

Hannah Thomas, 18, of Keystone Heights was arrested Jan. 14 by Clay deputies for failure to appear.

Matthew Torrent, 29, of Melrose was arrested Jan. 16 by Clay deputies for contempt of court.

Union

Johnny Lee Thomas Jr., 43, of Douglas, Ga., was arrested Jan. 15 by Union deputies on a warrant for two charges of felony probation violation. Bond was set at \$50,000.

Marquise Rashad Williams, 19, of Lake Butler was arrested Jan. 16 by Union deputies for burglary, battery, trespassing, aggravated battery on law enforcement officer, resisting an officer and criminal mischief-property damage. According

to the arrest report, the charges stem from several incidents that occurred in the past four weeks in Union County. On Dec. 24, deputies were called to investigate a domestic violence call at Santa Fe Mobile Home Park. The victim accused Williams of choking her during an argument. She also said he broke into her home and trashed it, and stole some items from the residence. Also, a person at the mobile home park told deputies he and Williams were arguing outside the victim's home when Williams kicked the person's car, putting a large dent in the side. Williams could not be located at the mobile home park, but deputies did find him several days later near the intersection of S.R. 238 and S.R. 231 in Lake Butler. Williams took off

running when he spotted the deputies, and one deputy was injured during the chase in the dark when he ran into a metal clothesline. Williams escaped again, and on Jan. 12 he showed back up at the female victim's home and slapped her in the face and left. He turned himself in to the sheriff's office Jan. 16 and was arrested.

Dwight Delano Parker, 38, of Lake Butler and Latisha Diane Parker, 38, of Lake Butler were arrested Jan. 14 by Union deputies, and both were charged with battery and disorderly conduct. According to the arrest report, the married couple got into an argument that escalated to a physical fight at the Kangaroo in Lake Butler.

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Important info for 2014 Bradford County Fair

Vendor applications are now being accepted through the end of February for the Bradford County Fair, which is scheduled for March 11-16. (The side gates of the livestock barn will be open on March 8 for the annual 4-H goat show.)

Vendors can apply online by visiting www.bradfordcountyfair.net

Rabbit and poultry entries will be accepted on March 8, while home division and arts and crafts entries will be accepted March 10 from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m.

The theme of this year's fair is "Bradford Big Top." Circus-type shows will be held twice daily and three times on Saturday on the midway.

This year's fair also features a new midway provided by Deggeller Attractions, which

also provides the midway for the Clay County Fair.

For more information on the fair, please visit the aforementioned website, or call the fair office at 904-964-5252.



Katie Collins is ready to serve up a tray of drinks to get your meal started.

PREVATT

Continued from 2B

home.

"It just seemed like a great opportunity for us to be together," Jackson said. "I mean, really, that was my whole goal—just to spend time with them."

The lack of restaurant experience and a bad time to open a business in light of the economy at the time did nothing to deter the family, which opened Prevat's Sports Bar & Grill approximately four years ago.

"We just jumped in like idiots," Brandon said, laughing, with Jackson adding, "Yeah, we're not the smartest group in town. We just decided to go with it."

The start of the restaurant kept Brandon pretty busy.

"When we first opened the restaurant, technically Dad was still working full time for Delta, and my brother was still working full time for a mortgage company," he said. "I ran the restaurant pretty much night and day and lived in it for about a year."

"I don't think we really had time to figure out if we were successful or not. We just kind of rolled with it. There was just a ton of stuff to do all the time."

Now, there's a lot of work involved in trying to get a second restaurant established.

"You constantly have something to do," Brandon said. "There's a lot of responsibility.

Not only that, to have a successful restaurant in these smaller towns, you have to provide the customers with entertainment and things to do. Just coming and eating dinner isn't enough."

Prevat's hosts poker and pool tournaments, for example, and offers cornhole on Tuesday nights.

Live music is also a staple of Prevat's.

"We want you to come in and eat, but we want you to hang out for a little while, too," Brandon said. "Grab a beer, enjoy your friends, watch some sports, play a game."

Offering various activities and entertainment does not mean the Prevat family members do not take pride in the food they serve. Prevat's cuts its own chicken strips and steaks, and makes its own sauces and dressings.

Everything is cooked to order. "We cook everything fresh," Brandon said. "There's nothing under a heat lamp ever."

The menu offers the usual items you would find in any similar restaurant, but there are differences.

"We tried to make it a little different than your typical sports bar that specializes in wings and burgers," Jackson said. "I mean, we have those, and we have very good ones, but we came up with stuffed potatoes, which you don't see in many other places."

Brandon said the common belief is the simpler the menu, the better. Well, that doesn't

Bryant Gay, who was in town from Panama City to undergo training at the Bradford-Union Technical Center's truck-driving range, gives his order to Tammy Cooper.



Gavin Cook (right) of the 8-10-year-old Bobcats chases after Carson Knight's (Panthers) flag.



Incredibles (5-7-year-old division) players (background, l-r) Bryson Huggins, Grayson Jennings and Foster Smith wait for the ball to be hiked by Ryland Rike. Photos courtesy of Patricia Cook.

necessarily work in a small town where some people are apt to eat at a restaurant almost every day.

Therefore, Prevat's offers quite an extensive list of items as well as rotating daily specials.

"We have options," Brandon said. "If you can't find three or four things on our menu you like, you might not like food much."

For the Prevatts, Starke is home; Middleburg is home. They want their restaurants to feel like home. It's why Jackson says employees work "with" the Prevatts instead of "for" the Prevatts.

"I don't really ever look at anybody working 'for' me," Jackson said. "They work 'with' us. We make it more of a family. You're part of it. You're not just an employee; you're part of this place."

The same goes for those who choose to stop and dine. The Prevatts want to chat with you and get to know you if they don't already.

Really, that's what makes the effort required to run a restaurant worth it.

"It's a lot of hard work, but it's fun work," Brandon said. "It's not really hard to get up and go hang out with your friends."

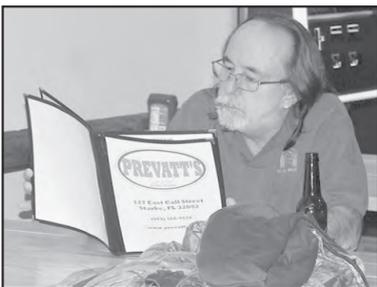
In the end, the Prevat family members want to be more than restaurant owners. They want to become immersed in the communities they serve.

"You don't want to just be a business," Jackson said. "You want to be part of the fabric of what makes the community what it is. To do that, you need to participate. You need to be part of it."

It seems the Prevatts were destined to become a part of the Starke community. They don't know how those rumors of opening a restaurant in Starke began, but they're happy to now be there.

"It's like coming back home," Jackson said.

Al Stefanelli looks the menu over during a trip to Prevat's on Jan. 20.



Jackson Prevat and his girlfriend, Dedra Stone, look over the burger he ordered for dinner.

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Keystone's Brianna Verschaeve puts her foot into it during the Indians' 3-0 loss to Santa Fe in the District 5-2A final. The Indians will travel to play Ocala Trinity Catholic in a regional quarterfinal match on Thursday, Jan. 23.



DISTRICT

Continued from 1B

saves on others. Perhaps Arzie's best play was a deflection of a hard shot up and over the goal in the 21st minute to keep the match scoreless.

Keystone's Hanna Crane had a one-on-one opportunity against the Santa Fe goalie approximately seven minutes into the second half, but couldn't convert.

Arzie made a nice leaping save of one shot in the second half, but the Raiders were able to put two balls into the net in the 11th and 15th minutes.

The Indians earned their 12th regional berth in their 14-year history by first defeating Newberry 9-1 in the district quarterfinals on Jan. 13 and then defeating Eastside 3-2 in the Jan. 16 semifinals.

Crane gave the Indians a 2-0

lead against Eastside, scoring two goals in the first 13 minutes of the second half. (Madison Colaw earned an assist on the second.) The Rams, though, would tie the score, with Emily Lam converting a penalty kick in the 60th minute and Courtney Rouse scoring in the 70th minute.

With approximately six minutes remaining, Crane added her third goal to give the Indians the win.

"They fought through and didn't give up," Seneca said.

The winner of the Keystone-Trinity Catholic regional quarterfinal match will play the winner between Santa Fe and Umatilla in a regional semifinal match on Tuesday, Jan. 28, at 7 p.m. If Keystone wins, it would have to travel to play either team.

Visit www.starkejournal.com to view more photos. (Membership required.)

KHHS hosts annual weightlifting invitational

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer



Haley Sweat competes in the clean and jerk for Bradford.

Keystone Heights High School welcomed 11 other schools to the 15th annual KHHS Girls' Weightlifting Invitational, which saw Bradford High School earn six medals and the host school earning one.

Gainesville, which was last year's runner-up, topped the team standings with a score of 63. Ocala Vanguard, which placed third last year, was this year's runner-up with a score of 40.

Individuals earned medals for placing first through sixth. Bradford, which was fifth in the team standings with a score of 19, had two lifters earn second-place medals. Luci Hamm was the runner-up in the 101 class with a 205-pound total (100 bench, 105 clean and jerk), while Christin Hopkins was the

runner-up in the 119 class with a 235 total (110, 125).

Karen Clark and Autumn Rodgers each placed fourth for the Tornadoes, with Clark compiling a 210 total (100, 110) in the 110 class and Rodgers compiling a 225 total (90, 135) in the 129 class.

Haley Sweat earned a fifth-place medal for Bradford with a 280 total (135, 145) in the unlimited class, while Jordan Davis earned a sixth-place medal in the 139 class with a 225 total (110, 115).

Keystone's medal came courtesy of Rachael "Shelly" Schammert, who placed fifth in the 183 class with a 260 total (130, 130).

Other results for Bradford, including exhibition lifters, were: Kierston Boatwright 200

See LIFT, 8B



Bradford's Autumn Rodgers (above) earned a medal, along with teammates Karen Clark, Jordan Davis, Luci Hamm, Christin Hopkins and Haley Sweat.



Rachael "Shelly" Schammert won Keystone's lone medal with a fifth-place finish.

KHHS boys advance to district soccer semifinals

Juan Grimaldo scored two

goals, while Nacho Grimaldo had three assists in Keystone Heights High School's 7-0 win over Fort White in the quarterfinals of the District 5-2A tournament on Jan. 20 in Gainesville.

The top-seeded Indians were scheduled to play either fourth

seed Crescent City or fifth seed P.K. Yonge in a semifinal match on Wednesday, Jan. 22, at 7 p.m. If Keystone wins that matchup, it will play for the championship on Friday, Jan. 24, at 7 p.m.

All matches are at Citizens Field in Gainesville.

In the win over eighth seed

Fort White, the Indians also got a goal each from Dylan Beard, Zac Fairbanks, Wyatt Graziano, Zac Hawkins and Cory Hedding.

Graziano, Hedding, Karl Dionisi and Juan Grimaldo each had an assist.

Prior to the start of the District 5 tournament, Keystone hosted defending Class 2A champion Bolles on Jan. 17, losing 3-1. Graziano had the lone goal.

BHS girls lose 2 of 3 district games

P.K. Yonge handed the Bradford High School girls' basketball team its second District 5-4A loss of the week, defeating the Tornadoes 60-24 on Jan. 17 in Gainesville.

Bradford (12-8, 6-4 in District 5) got nine and six points from Nyasia Davis and Tracey Kemp, respectively. Keshanna Ardley and Meghan Woods scored four and three points, respectively, while Mackenzie Gault had two points.

The Tornadoes started off the

week with a 63-23 district win over visiting Interlachen on Jan. 14. Kemp scored 21 points and had eight assists, while Davis had 18 points and 12 rebounds. Ardley and Woods scored nine and eight points, respectively, while Gault had four points. Danique Hudson added another three points.

On Jan. 16, the Tornadoes traveled to Alachua to play district opponent Santa Fe, losing 61-52. Bradford outscored the Raiders in every quarter but the second, in which the Tornadoes were outscored 19-7.

Davis and Kemp each had 22 points, with Davis grabbing 12 rebounds and Kemp dishing out eight assists. Ardley and Hudson had four and two points, respectively, while Woods and Faith Anderson each had one point.

Bradford will travel to play Fleming Island on Thursday, Jan. 23, at 7:30 p.m. The Tornadoes travel to play Gainesville on Friday, Jan. 24, at 7:30 p.m.

School girls' basketball team suffered District 7-1A losses against Chiefland on Jan. 14 and Williston on Jan. 17.

Keyambre Cobb scored 15 points and had six rebounds and five steals in the 36-26 loss to Chiefland. Qushawn Smith and Nancy Slocum had five and four points, respectively, with Smith adding six rebounds and four steals and Slocum adding four rebounds and four steals. Madison McClellan had two points, while Jordan Howe grabbed nine rebounds.

In a 50-28 loss to Williston, Cobb and McClellan scored 13 and nine points, respectively. Smith, who had six rebounds, scored four points, while Slocum had two.

The Tigers (3-14) played Interlachen this past Tuesday and will travel to play Baker County on Thursday, Jan. 23, at 6 p.m. Union travels to play Trenton on Friday, Jan. 24, at 6 p.m.

Keystone girls edge Fort White for district win

Bailey Zinkel posted a double-double as the Keystone Heights High School girls' basketball team defeated District 5-4A opponent 38-33 on Jan. 14 in Keystone.

Zinkel scored 12 points and had 11 rebounds for the Indians (9-13, 3-6 in District 5). Caiylen Gonzales and Karla Casas scored 10 and seven points, respectively, while Alexa Born and Caroline McCormick scored six and three points.

McCormick added four assists. Keystone hosts St. Francis on Thursday, Jan. 23, at 6 p.m. The Indians then host West Nassau on Friday, Jan. 24, at 7 p.m.

UC girls drop 2 in district

The Union County High

Union boys fall to Crescent City

Visiting Crescent City handed the Union County High School boys' basketball team a 60-40 loss on Jan. 18.

Parker Hodgson led the Tigers (6-14) with 18 points and seven rebounds, while Trey Spitze had 11 points. Larry Collins and Daryl Watkins each had four points, while Austin Dukes had three points.

Watkins also had five assists. The Tigers, who began the week with a 65-54 loss to district opponent Chiefland on Jan. 14, fell to 3-6 in District 7-1A with a 65-35 loss to Williston on Jan. 17 in Lake Butler.

Dukes and Geordyn Green scored 10 and nine points, respectively, with Dukes adding seven rebounds. Kyle Mosher had seven points, while Spitze and Hodgson had four and three points, respectively. Watkins added two points.

Union travels to play Trenton on Friday, Jan. 24, at 7:30 p.m.

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OBITUARIES

Michael Hintz

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Michael K. Hintz, 60, of Keystone Heights, went to be with the Lord on Saturday, Jan. 18, 2014, at home surrounded by his family.

He was born on Sept. 21, 1953, in Leer, Germany, the son of Herbert Hintz and the late Marga Hintz. He was the oldest of three siblings, who include Rita (Hintz) Newnan and Frank Hintz.

He attended C.W. Post College in Long Island, N.Y., and later graduated from the University of Florida College of Pharmacy in 1996. He married his wife, Christine Hintz, on Oct. 9, 1976.

Some of Michael's favorite hobbies were golfing with friends at Keystone Golf and Country Club, hiking, traveling and spending time with his family.

He is survived by: his wife, Christy; daughter and son-in-law, Kimberly and Nathan McKnight; son and daughter-in-law, Matthew and Amalia Hintz and sons Mark Hintz and Kyle Hintz; grandson Leo Hintz; siblings Rita (Hintz) Newnan and Frank Hintz; nephews and niece Jim and Joe Schueller and Lilia and William Hintz; and father, Herbert Hintz.

A celebration of life service will be held at Keystone United

Methodist Church on Thursday, Jan. 23, 2014, at 3 p.m. Arrangements in the care of Countryside Funeral Home of Anthony.

PAID OBITUARY

William Hofmann

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—William Frank "Bill" Hofmann, 90, of Keystone Heights died in Starke Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2014. He was born July 24, 1923, in Chicago to the late William and Florence (Gillispie) Hofmann and had been a resident of Keystone for the past four years. He served in the United States Army during 1943-1946, and prior to retirement, he was an inspector for AT&T. He attended St. William Catholic Church in Keystone Heights.

He is survived by: his wife of 65 years, Glennette "Glenn"; children Debbie (Bill) Pransky of Elmhurst, Ill., Denise (Bill) Teeter of Keystone Heights, Gary (Cindi) Hofmann of Algonquin, Ill., and Rick (Karen) Hofmann of Crystal Lake, Ill.; and five grandchildren.

A funeral mass was held Jan. 17, at St. William Catholic Church, with Father Mike Williams officiating. Burial for Mr. Hofmann will be at later date. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral

Home of Keystone Heights.



Jeannette Mundell

Jeannette Mundell

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Mrs. Jeannette Mary Mundell, 71, of Keystone Heights passed away Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2014, at E.T. York Care Center in Gainesville. She was born Dec. 30, 1942, in Daytona Beach to the late George

and Theresa (Ahrends) Meyers and has been a resident of the Keystone Heights area for the past 43 years. Prior to her retiring, she was an administrative assistant for Mid-Florida Area Agency on Aging. She was also a homemaker, member of Freedom Baptist Church and was an avid reader. She enjoyed shopping and watching movies, but most of all, she enjoyed spending time with her family. Mrs. Mundell was preceded in death by her grandson, Justin Curtis Disharoon.

Survivors are: her husband of 53 years, George H. Mundell; and their three children, Heather (Len) Bilton of Savannah, Ga., Shawn Mundell of Alpine, Tenn., and Tiffany (Kevin) Crowe of Roswell, Ga. Also left behind are five grandchildren, who knew her as "Memom," Austin Disharoon of Savannah, Ga., Nicolas Mundell and Tyler Mundell, both of Alpine, Tenn., and Errin Crowe and Payton Crowe, both of Roswell, Ga.

Funeral services were on Jan. 18 at Freedom Baptist Church, with Pastor Ken Herring officiating. The burial followed at Keystone Heights Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested contributions to be made to Radical Life Missions, P.O. Box 1248, Keystone Heights, FL 32656. Arrangements are under the care of

Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Keystone Heights.

PAID OBITUARY

Rodney Skaggs

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Rodney L. Skaggs, 83, of Keystone Heights died Dec. 29, 2013, in Palatka. He served in the United States Air Force and was a member of AMVETS Post 86 in Keystone Heights and a lifetime member of the Moose Lodge. Prior to retirement, he owned and operated Skaggs Landscaping in Jacksonville.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 26, at Keystone Heights AMVETS Post 86. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Haven Hospice, Robert's Care Center, 6400 St. Johns Ave., Palatka, FL 32177. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Keystone Heights.

Roger Skelton

MELROSE—Roger Franklin Skelton, 82, of Melrose died Friday, Jan. 17, 2014, at Haven Hospice Custeard Care Center in Orange Park. He was born in Remerton, Ga., June 29, 1931, to the late James and Edna (McGurty) Skelton and had been a truck driver for Roadway before retiring. He was a longtime resident of the area and was a member of Keystone United Methodist Church, Melrose Masonic Lodge and the Keystone Shrine Club. He was preceded in death by his first wife of 50 years, Margaret Katherine; and his daughter, Vickie Hester.

He is survived by: his wife of 12 years, Margaret Nelson; children Theresa (Charles) Cooley of Jacksonville and Joylynn (James G.) Lane of Middleburg; stepsons Larry (Dawn) Pullo of Bostwick and Randy Pullo of Ponte Vedra; son-in-law, Randy Hester of Green Cove Springs; sisters Margaret Lewis of Claxton, Ga., and Jackie Vincent of Alabama, Ga.; five grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 23, at Keystone United Methodist Church, with Dr. Tom Farmer officiating. Burial will follow at 2 p.m. at Jacksonville Memory Gardens. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to L.A.M.B., P.O. Box 1385, Keystone Heights, FL 32656, or Shriner's Hospitals for Children, Office of Development, 2900 Rocky Point Drive, Tampa, FL 33607. Arrangements are under the care of

Card of Thanks



Jerry Whitehead

Dear Union County Friends,
Only one month ago, my children and I lost my husband and their father, Jerry Whitehead. It has been a devastating personal loss to us. Our focus has been solely on grieving his loss and adjusting to life without the genuine love we all felt from and for him.

But this community has been there for us. You can't imagine how much you have helped us get through this extremely painful experience. We can't thank you all enough for the outpouring of love and support you have shown our family. You calls, visits, prayers and caring hearts have helped us survive. There is no way we could or can make it without you.

I know Jerry is looking down with deep gratitude for all you have done for us in our grief. How he loved the people of Union County!

With truly grateful hearts,
Tammy, Chelsea, Jake, Jack-Henry and Presley Whitehead

TRUCKS

Continued from 1B

to be repaired. I'm telling you, those repairs were not cheap. They were definitely on their last legs.

"Congressman Yoho made contact with the Department of Labor and told them of our predicament. He encouraged them to make a timely approval and transfer. The very next week, we had the go-ahead."

Added Farnsworth: "I want to thank him for his efforts in facilitating this transfer and help everyone understand this guy is truly dedicated to Bradford County."

For his part, Yoho said he was "excited to be able to partake in the transfer of the keys. This is an awesome thing." However, he deflected a lot of the credit to Clay Martin, his district director.

"Clay's one of those guys who sits in the background," Yoho said. "You don't hear much from him, but he's a worker. He does a lot of work. He gets things done. He knows how to work stuff through the system."

Reddish said thanks also go to Florida Gateway College's Tracy Hickman (vice president, operational programs), who was also present for the Jan. 17 key exchange.

Florida Gateway College once offered a truck-driving program, but it was last offered approximately two years ago, Reddish said. The two trucks the Bradford-Union Technical Center received from the college are 2008 models and each has approximately 21,000 miles on it. (The three road trucks the center has been using are 2000 models.)

"They're not really broken in until about 100,000 miles, so they're brand new to us," Abercrombie said. "They still smell new inside."

Now, the three trucks the Bradford-Union Technical Center was taking out on the road can be utilized strictly for training at the school's driving range.

"It worked out good because I don't know if the other ones could've made it on the road for another class," Abercrombie said. "Every student gets 1,000 miles (on the road). Right now, we have 12 students."

Farnsworth and Yoho both took an opportunity to look at the big picture. Farnsworth said the Bradford-Union Technical Center's commercial vehicle driving program has a graduation percentage in the high 90s and an employment rate of 100 percent, with many students getting



Robert Lyons, one of the Bradford-Union Technical Center's commercial vehicle driving instructors, looks on as somebody checks out the inside of one of the new vehicles.

hired prior to the program's completion.

"What our community will thrive on is putting people to work and helping people get behind the wheels of these trucks," Farnsworth said. "Currently, there are over 500,000 jobs across the United States in truck driving."

"For our community to be able to tap into those opportunities—it's just immeasurable the impact that can have."

Yoho said the commercial vehicle driving program is part

of the backbone of this country and is key to making this part of the state "recession proof."

"Has anybody here ever bought anything? We go to a store, right? That stuff just doesn't show up there," Yoho said. "It's got to be driven there. The freight line and the truckers are the backbone of getting product around this country. Yeah, the rails are out there, too, and they do a fantastic job, but it's got to go from the rail to the store. If it wasn't for the truckers of this great country of ours and our road system, we

wouldn't have the convenience and the products we have on our shelves.

"These programs are so important. It creates jobs. It makes this community stronger. Our goal is to make North Central Florida—the Third Congressional District of Florida—the economic driver, not just for the state, but for the Southeast."

The commercial vehicle driving program at the Bradford-Union Technical Center has been helping supply drivers toward that end since the 1970s.

"It was the first truck-driving program in the state of Florida," Farnsworth said. "That's saying a lot. The fact that we're honoring this program with two beautiful, new trucks is just a great thing to see."

It was an event to match the a child's excitement of waking up on Dec. 25.

"Like the superintendent said, it's like Christmas all over again," Reddish said. "We couldn't believe it. We were pinching ourselves on (Jan. 15) when we actually transferred the titles."

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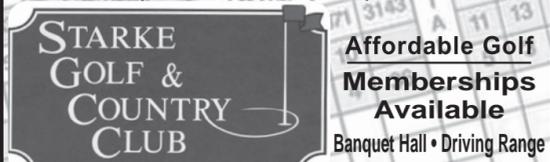
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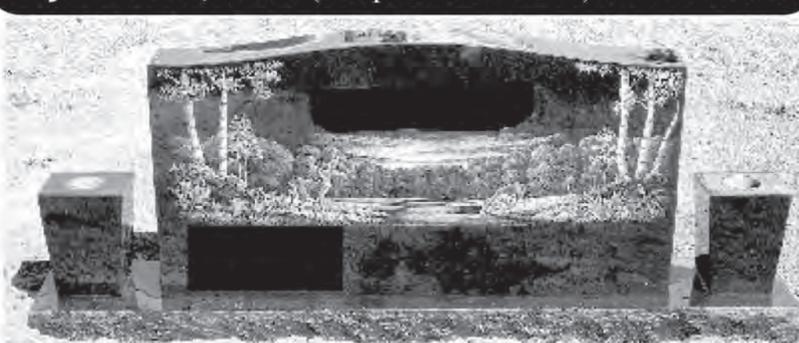
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YARD SALE BENEFIT FOR LAURA CROFT Family, friends and Palestine Hunting Club is sponsoring a Yard Sale, Cake Auction & Chicken Pilau Dinner sale at the Lulu Community center on February 1st. at 8:00 am. Cake Auction to begin @ 11am. If you would like to reserve a table or donate items, contact Connie Davis @ 496-3058 or 496-3062.

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TEMPORARY FARM LABORERS: Tricon II, Shaw, MS, has 3 positions grain & oilseed crops; 3 mo. experience required for duties listed; must be able to obtain driver's license within 30 days; tools, equipment, housing and daily trans provided for employees who can't return home daily; trans & subsistence expenses reimbursed. \$9.87/hr; three-fourths work period guaranteed from 3/1/14 - 11/1/14. Apply at nearest FL Workforce Office with Job Order MS88429 or call 850-245-7105.

M&S Bank Full-time and part-time teller positions available at Hawthorne branch, 1-2 years teller experience preferred; heavy cash handling experience required. Apply at any M&S Bank location. EEO/

AA/H/V. EXPERIENCED HEALTH CARE WORKER to care for Elderly female at her residence. Weekend Work. 912-200-5072.

TOWN CLERK POSITION The Town Of LaCrosse is seeking a town clerk to work 8-10 hrs per week plus one nightly meeting per month at \$12-\$14 per/hr. Applicant must be computer literate with knowledge of Microsoft Office programs. A resume must be submitted on or before Thursday February 6, 2014 either by mail, email, or fax to: Town of LaCrosse, P.O. Drawer D, LaCrosse, FL 32658. Fax 386-462-5905, email lacrosse386@windstream.net. If you have any questions concerning this position you can call the Town Hall @ 386-462-2784.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THE CITY OF STARKE will be accepting applications for the position of Cashier. This is a non-exempt position, which involves a highly skilled individual who can multi-task in various functions. The position is responsible for taking daily payments from customers, opening accounts, transfers, garbage complaints, customer files and applications, monthly reports, assisting in mailing customer bills, prepare warrants. This position reports to the Finance Director under the City Clerk. The starting salary will depend on the level of experience. Do Not contact the City of Starke directly. For additional information, view the job description and complete an application contact Florida Works, 819 S. Walnut Street, Starke, FL (904) 964-8092.

LOOKING FOR POSITIVE, HIGH energy, dependable staff to work in Starke area with individuals with Developmental Disabilities. Must possess a High School Diploma/GED, 1 year experience or related field, DL, vehicle, and ability to pass Level II background screening. PT \$8.00/hr. to start. 904-964-7767.

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ABOVE: Luci Hamm gets a successful lift for Bradford. **RIGHT:** Bradford's Jordan Davis competes in the bench press.



(105, 70) in the 129 class; Jolene Miller 190 total (95, 95) in the 139 class; Rachael Maddox 140 total (75, 65) in the 154 class; Tylyn Davis 220 total (110, 110) in the 183 class; and Victoria Gilio 210 total (100, 110), Ashlee Smith 210 total (105, 105) and Ciera Conley 195 total (110, 85) in the unlimited class.

The team standings from third place through 12th place were: Fleming Island (28), Lecanto (20), Bradford (19), Ridgeview (17), Interlachen (11), Belleview (6), Bishop Snyder (4), Keystone (2), Forest (2) and Santa Fe (1).

Visit www.starkejournal.com for more photos. (Membership required.)

Tornadoes took perfect record into invitational

Bradford High School had a 5-0 record in girls' weightlifting for the first time in school



Ashlee Smith gets a good lift in for Keystone, which was hosting an invitational for the 15th straight year.



ABOVE: Julia Sorano competes in the clean and jerk for Keystone. **LEFT:** Keystone's Jolene Miller is pictured during the bench press.



Bradford's Brittany Broome gets a successful clean-and-jerk attempt as teammate Janie Perry looks on.



LIFT

Continued from 5B

total (95, 105) in the 110 class; Olivia Archer 190 total (199, 90), Lauryn Hill 180 total (90, 90), Taylyn Jackson 180 total (80, 100) and Amanda Young 170 total (85, 85) in the 119 class; Leah Bryant 205 total (90, 115) and Kayla Johns 160 total (75, 85) in the 129 class; Carson Elder 180 total (80, 100) in the 139 class; Brittany Broome 160 total (65, 95) and Janie Perry 145 total (70, 75) in the 154 class; Ryann Clemons 205 total (95, 110) and Sydnie

Davis 200 total (105, 95) in the 169 class; Courtney Stanton 215 total (115, 100) and Shannon Mikell 185 total (90, 95) in the 183 class; Brooke Shireman 225 total (105, 120) in the 199 class; and Ashleigh Williams 235 total (130, 105) and Morneca Campbell 200 total (110, 90) in the unlimited class.

Keystone's results were as follows: Juliana Kraemer 100 total (50, 50) in the 101 class; Julia Sorano 195 total (115, 80), Blair Graff 125 total (60, 65) and Rebecca West 120 total (60, 60) in the 110 class; Kayla Baker 175 total (85, 90) in the 119 class; Alyssa Sorano 175 total

FINS, FUR & TAILS

Fulfilling a passion for the outdoors

Ever since the age of 12, Jeff Fitts has been a resident of Keystone Heights and an avid outdoorsman. Fitts' wife is a teacher in Gainesville, and his two daughters are attending the University of Florida. Also, his son is a junior at Keystone Heights High School.

"Well diversified, but solid outdoors" seems to be a good description of Fitts. Even his self-employment work of removing unwanted vegetation like lake grass is easily scheduled around his guide trips and fishing tournaments.

During the winter, he likes

Jeff Fitts displays a tournament catch. Fitts is a competitive fisherman throughout the year.



to hunt and guide for turkey. Throughout the year, he is a competitive bass fisherman with the Rayovac FLW professional series.

As if that wasn't enough, he guides and hunts alligators during the summer.

If he had to choose between those activities, he would probably be in trouble, but he

admitted that he has a really strong passion for bass fishing.

When prodded about other outdoors activities, Fitts indicated that he had worked with Shaw Grigsby and Kim Stricker on some television programs. Apparently, Fitts provides information and equipment for their camera crews.

In looking for ideas that would

be helpful for the nonprofessional fisherman, Fitts indicated that, foremost, you have to know the water you are fishing. According to Fitts, professionals will gather as much information about the target water from people who have firsthand experience along with information like strategic features that can be gathered from the Internet. Lastly, all good professionals will try to pre-fish the target water prior to the tournament.

Another suggestion Fitts gives fishermen and hunters is to fish and hunt according to the solunar charts. He emphatically stresses that one can surely see more game activity during the major and minor feeding times. When asked about a correlation between cattle grazing and fish/game activity, he was careful not to dismiss it, but he did say that he thought wild game and birds would be a better indicator than domestic cattle.

Fitts is an honest outdoorsman who truly knows his business, and he works hard at making the activities he is passionate about into a living. If you ever want some assistance or want to entertain a friend with turkey hunting, bass fishing, crappie fishing or alligator hunting, this man can help.

Coyotes are the talk at

Crosshorn meeting

Lauren Watine, a biologist with the University of Florida, was the guest speaker at the Jan. 17 Crosshorn Ministries meeting. Watine covered the results of a two-year study on the impact of coyote predation on the local wildlife population. The study leaves little doubt that the coyote is having no good influence on our native wildlife.

Fifty years ago, coyotes did not venture east of the Mississippi, but today they inhabit the United States from the west coast to the east coast. The expanded population is due primarily to foxhunters importing the canines to be used by hunters to chase with deerhounds. Unfortunately, the coyotes, having escaped or been released, are now an apex predator that can decimate native wildlife such as deer, turkeys and quail.

The presentation was very informative, and the next Crosshorn Ministries meeting will be on March 27 at 7 p.m. at the Starke Golf and Country Club.

Outdoors outlook

Springtime is just around the corner. Many of our small wildlife are already getting romantic or will be in the next month.

Watch out on the roads at night for foxes, bobcats, raccoons and

skunks. They are like teenage humans at this time of the year and somewhat irrational.

Likewise, many of the songbirds will also become territorial. Woodpeckers will start drumming their amorous tunes on trees, posts and even housing metal.

The crappie spawn will soon be over, and bass will soon be fanning.

For just a little longer, the crappie bite will maintain its number-one spot in the freshwater fishing world—at least until the bass start fanning. Appropriately so, the professional USA Crappie Tournament was held on Jan 18 at Crescent Lake near Palatka. T.C. Lloyd, a local crappie resource and guide from Middleburg who fished the tournament, tells us that the crappie spawn is still delayed this year due to the cold, and he names Newnans Lake as the best performing crappie lake in our area.

If you are interested in bow fishing or freshwater sight fishing, this is a great time of the year. Mullet and tilapia are attracted to the relatively warm water of the spring runs that eventually connect to the east and west coasts. The two fish are easily seen, and the tilapia are easily hit with a fishing bow. The mullet are much harder to target with arrows, but they readily bite small, natural baits and small flies. Once hooked, they provide a great fight.

Tight lines and safe hunting until next week.

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

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