

Lake Region Monitor

USPS 114-170 – KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FLORIDA

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Combass wins Miss KHHS crown

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

Moriah Combass won the 50th Miss Keystone Heights High School title, beating out 10 other contestants on March 8 in the school's auditorium.

Abby Darty was first runner up, Caitlin Charrier was second runner up and Jessica Grimaldo was third runner up.

Darty was also elected by her fellow competitors as Miss Congeniality. Ashley Appling won the Interview Award. Hannah Fox won the Patty Clark Scholastic Award. Charrier won the Leadership Award. Darty won the Most Talented Award.

Combass is the daughter of Kathy and Duane Combass of Keystone Heights. She is a member of the girls varsity soccer team and 4-H. She is also raising a steer for the Clay County Fair and is dual-enrolled at Santa Fe College.

During the March 1 talent competition, Combass delivered a monologue called Meg's World, in which she talked about

the world from the eye's of a preschooler.

For the on-stage question during the March 8 pageant, the reigning Miss KHHS Emily Peoples asked Combass about one of her volunteer activities: teaching Boy Scouts to ride horses.

Peoples asked Combass, "What are some of the challenges to teaching horseback riding to children?"

"They don't always understand that horses don't always think like they do," replied Combass, "and that they can't just pitch a fit and have the horse do what they want."

During the street wear competition, each contestant told the audience what decade they would visit if they were given the choice. Combass said she would visit the 1950s.

"I would like to experience life in the '50s because of my love for Elvis, polka dots and poodle skirts," she said.



Outgoing Miss KHHS Emily Peoples crowns her successor, Moriah Combass.

Crash victim was retired JSO officer

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

A Keystone Heights man killed in a traffic crash on SR 26 on March 4 was a 30-year veteran of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office.

Michael Pickering, 52, died when an SUV pulled out in front of his pickup and Pickering hit the other vehicle, according to the Florida Highway Patrol.

Pickering was also the husband of Clay County Sheriff's Office Director of Communications Diane Pickering, according to a press release issued by sheriff's Public Information Coordinator Mary Justino.

Friends and family of Pickering, as well as former co-workers with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office paid their last respects to the retired police officer during March 8 funeral services at St. William Catholic Church and the Keystone Heights Cemetery.

Members of the Clay County Sheriff's Office also attended the services.

"Michael Pickering was well known to many CCSO members because he attended many of our agency functions through the years and supported his wife Diane's activities," Justino wrote.

Justino added that Pickering had just picked up his 10-year-old daughter, Aleece, when the crash occurred. She was released from UF Health in time for her to attend her father's services.

Diane Pickering issued a statement through Justino.

"He was more than a great husband," she said. "He was a great dad, son, brother, grandfather, friend...and an awesome police officer."

Pickering was also well known for surviving an on-duty 2012 heart attack. After returning to duty after his recovery, Pickering became an advocate for CPR training and worked with the American Heart Association to stress the importance of knowing the life-saving procedure.

Brown sworn in as Keystone mayor

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

Tony Brown took the oath of office for the mayor of Keystone Heights at the beginning of the March 6 city council meeting.

Brown's wife Robin held a Bible that belonged to the late father of the new mayor as he repeated the oath read by City Manager Terry Suggs.

Around 30 of Brown's supporters witnessed the ceremony and cheered the city's new leader at the conclusion of the formality.

Brown told the assembly he has been in and out of political campaigns since age 14 and his race for mayor was the most difficult campaign he has experienced.

"I do want to give respect

See BROWN, 2A



Keystone Heights City Manager Terry Suggs swears-in Tony Brown as the city's mayor on March 6. Brown's wife Robin holds the Bible that belonged to Brown's late father.

Hix is KH Elementary teacher of the year



Lauren Hix and three of her students dressed as characters from books during the Keystone Heights Elementary School Literacy Week: (l-r) Bobbie Jo Montford as Junie B. Jones, Layla Morford as a character from the "Little House" series and Jenna Moss as Fancy Nancy. Hix is portraying Katniss Everdeen from "The Hunger Games."

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

Keystone Heights Elementary School faculty chose Lauren Hix as the school's teacher of the year for 2013-2014.

Hix's journey to the classroom began after she started substitute teaching. She returned to college, and earned a degree

See HIX, 4A

Gallery 26 completes move



Gallery 26 President Betty Bennett, artist Darlene Hinkle and Treasurer Leslie Ward during the gallery's grand opening in the Mary Mossman home.

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

Gallery 26 held a grand opening in its new location during the Melrose Art Walk on March 7. The gallery moved from its longtime home, a nondenominational church building built by Annie Harper in the 1920s, to the 1881 Mary Mossman home.

Gallery President Betty Bennett said the move took about three weeks and included painting the interior and installing new lighting.

Bennett also said that while

most observers think the move from the church to the home may have left the gallery with less space to display art, the new venue actually offers more wall space because the house has several rooms while the church building is dominated by one large room.

Bennett also said the 20 artists affiliated with Gallery 26 now just want to focus on art.

She also said her group now is planning further upgrades to the 1881 structure, primarily to make it more handicap-accessible.

2 Harleys collide, Keystone man injured

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

A Keystone Heights man was seriously injured in Flagler County on March 8 when the motorcycle he was driving collided with another bike.

According to a Florida Highway Patrol report, Erick B. Piskator, 61, was driving a 2009 Harley Davidson RD Glider northbound on U.S. 1 at 4:55 p.m. near Bunnell.

Another biker, Robert M. Snyder, 72, of Cape Coral was on Old Dixie Highway aboard a 2003 Harley Davidson II Softail, stopped at the road's intersection.

A trooper wrote in the FHP report that as Piskator approached the crossroads, Snyder accelerated into the path of the Keystone Heights man while attempting to turn left onto U.S. 1. Piskator's bike struck the left side of Snyder's.

Snyder received minor injuries while Piskator was transported to Halifax Medical Center in Daytona Beach. Alice A. Piskator, a passenger on the Keystone Heights man's vehicle, was not injured.

Troopers ticketed Snyder for violation of right of way.

School board affirms termination of teacher

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

The Clay County School Board denied an appeal by a teacher the board fired last May. Oakleaf Junior High School P.E. teacher Michael Joseph Ford was terminated after he allegedly put a student in a choke hold and verbally threatened him. During the board's Feb. 20 meeting, Ford's attorney, Anthony Demma told board members that before the incident, Ford had never been disciplined by the school system. He said his client was only trying to protect

students and that Ford did not receive proper training for dealing with disruptive students. Demma also recommended that the board reduce the penalty imposed by the hearing officer in the case: Board Chair Carol Studdard.

Eric J. Holshouser, outside counsel for the school district, focused on testimony by a witness to the incident in which Ford allegedly threatened the student.

"If I find any paint on my car, I will come looking for you and put you in the hospital," Ford

told the student, according to the witness. "You don't know what I'm capable of."

Board member Tina Bullock, who recommended reducing Ford's punishment to a year's suspension without pay, voted against the teacher's termination.

"I don't believe that Mr. Ford had any malicious intent," Bullock said. "I think he was only thinking of the safety of the students at the time."

Board member Janice Kerekes also voted against terminating Ford.

In other business during its Feb. 20 meeting, the board:

Thanked Orange Park Hotel

District Director of Secondary Education Michael Wingate thanked Becky Schaffer, director of sales at the Hilton Garden Inn of Jacksonville/Orange Park for hosting triannual meetings of the district's 12 athletic directors.

"They not only provide a huge meeting room for us so we can be comfortable," said Wingate, "they also provide a free breakfast. It sets the tone for a great meeting. You may not hear about them, but there are a lot of athletic issues out there and we are trying to address those before they rear their heads."

Appointed negotiating teams

The board appointed five members each to two bargaining teams representing the district in negotiations with the Clay County Educational Association and the Clay Educational Support Personnel Association.

School board member Janice Kerekes noted that each of the 10 members on the teams will earn a supplement of \$1,500 and recommended the board consider lowering the supplement to \$1,000.

Board member Lisa Graham said the current \$1,500 was not enough, given the amount of time the role takes. Board member Johnna McKinnon added that the current supplement was fair. The board approved the appointments with the \$1,500 supplement.

Appointed to the team negotiating with the Clay County Educational Association were Deputy Superintendent Denise Adams, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Toni McCabe, Instructional Personnel Director Michael Henry, Oakleaf High School Principal David Broskie and Keystone Heights High School Principal Susan Sailor.

The board appointed Adams, McCabe, Director of Non-instructional Personnel Linda

Lancaster, Orange Park High School Principal Treasure Pickett and Director of Information Services Carl Hendrick to the team negotiating with the Clay Educational Support Personnel Association.

Approved new allocations

The board approved the following allocations at a total cost of \$188,449: administrative support assistant, \$29,308; accounts payable assistant, \$31,141; internal audit director, \$78,000 and specialist with the multiagency network for students with emotional and behavioral disabilities \$50,000.

Approved 2014-2015 student calendar

The board approved the 2014-2015 student calendar with the following events. Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2014, first day for teachers; Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2014, first day for students; Thursday, Aug. 7, 2014, student holiday and teacher in-service day; Monday, Sept. 1, 2014, student and teacher holiday for Labor Day; Thursday, Oct. 9, 2014, end of first grading period; Friday, Oct. 10, 2014, student holiday and teacher planning day; Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2014, student and teacher holiday for Veterans Day; Monday, Nov. 24 through Friday, Nov. 28, 2014, student and teacher Thanksgiving holiday; Thursday, Dec. 18, end of second grading period; Dec. 19, 2014, student and teacher holiday; Monday, Dec. 22, 2014 through Friday, Jan. 2, 2015, student and teacher Christmas and New Year's holiday; Monday, Jan. 5, 2015, student holiday and teacher planning day; Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2015 student holiday and teacher in-service day; Monday, Jan. 19, 2015, Student and teacher holiday for Martin Luther King Day; Monday, Feb. 16, 2015, student and teacher holiday for Presidents Day; Thursday, March 12, 2015, end of third grading period; Friday, March 13, 2015, student holiday and

teacher planning day; Monday, March 16, 2015 through Friday, March 20, 2015, student and teacher holiday for spring break; Monday, March 23, 2015, students return to school; Friday, April 3, 2015, student and teacher holiday, for Good Friday; Monday, April 6, 2015, student and teacher holiday for Easter, and Fair Day; Monday, May 25, 2015, student and teacher holiday for Memorial Day; Friday, May 29, 2105 graduation ceremonies; Monday, June 3, 2015, end of fourth grading period and last day of school for students; Thursday, June 4, 2015, teacher planning day and last day for teachers.

Approved and revised job descriptions

The board approved new job descriptions for academy coach, director of K-12 academic support services, supervisor of secondary education and supervisor of elementary education.

The board revised job descriptions for deputy superintendent, supervisor of reading and language arts, director of student services, supervisor of instructional support services, supervisor of certified teacher placement, assistant superintendent for human resources and public relations officer.

Awarded contracts for Lake Region Schools

The board awarded a \$163,485 contract to Thomas May Construction Company for replacing a roof at Keystone

BROWN

Continued from 1A
to Mayor Hildreth," he added, referring to former Mayor Mary Lou Hildreth, who Brown defeated in the March 4 election. "She did a good job as mayor, but the people have spoken and it is my job now to go forward and show the leadership that you folks that are here tonight and others in the community have bestowed upon me."

Clay comm. gets update on Big League Dreams project

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

Clay County commissioners, during a March 4 meeting, listened to an update from their lawyer about the county's negotiations for financing a \$19 million recreational sports complex.

Last August, commissioners hired Foley and Lardner to represent them after the Clay County Development Authority requested commissioners loan the authority up to \$19 million for a sports complex near the intersection of Old Jennings Road and Branon Field Road.

Foley and Lardner Managing

Heights Elementary School, awarded a \$236,432 contract to Thomas May Construction Company to replace the roofs on buildings 1,2,3,5,6,20 and 21 at McRae Elementary School and awarded a \$499,000 contract to Shine & Company Inc. for remodeling career and technical education classrooms at Keystone Heights High School.

Other matters

Green Cove Springs Vice Mayor C. Felecia Hampshire and William Randall, pastor of St. Simon Missionary Baptist Church, recognized Michael Henry, the district's director of instructional personnel for enhancing diversity within the district and mentoring.

Career and Technical Education Director, Cheresse Stewart read a proclamation designating February as Career and Technical Education Month.

Partner Kevin Hyde told commissioners during the March 4 meeting that when his firm first looked at the pending deal, four parties had an interest in the transaction: the county, the development authority, the proposed operator Big League Dreams and the landowner BFC Partnership Limited. Hyde added that even though the development authority proposed a contract between all four organizations, he advised that the county deal solely with the development authority.

Hyde also said that in August his firm composed a draft development and funding agreement between the county and the development authority.

He recommended that the county take a staggered approach to the deal, approving a smaller amount of funding to finance a preliminary investigation into the validity of the deal, before committing to the entire \$19 million request. The board told Hyde to continue negotiating under his recommended staggered approach.

Keystone council applies \$16,300 road work surplus to Triest Avenue potholes

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

After learning that they saved \$16,300 on their 2014 road projects, Keystone council members spent the surplus, and up to an additional \$13,700, to fix potholes on Triest Avenue.

City Manager Terry Suggs explained that the city's current year road rehabilitation work, which included resurfacing Nightingale Street west of Orchid Avenue, in addition to Northwest Berea Avenue, Southeast Cypress Avenue and Beasley Lane between Nightingale Street and Cardinal Street, came in under budget and ahead of schedule.

Suggs also said an additional road, not on the city's 2013-2014 capital improvement plan, was in need of repairs. He said that the section of Triest Avenue closest to Commercial Drive, around 350 feet in length, has been plagued with potholes for some time. He said the remaining section of the road has held up well, since the entire avenue was resurfaced about three years ago. He said the city's attempts to fill in the road hazards have been futile, so far.

"Unfortunately, it's that first 350 feet that is not doing well," he said.

Suggs said that with the savings in the current year's roadwork, the city could lay new millings on the damaged portion of Triest Avenue.

A representative from the city's road engineering firm told the council the town's road contractor offered to resurface the damaged portion of Triest for \$14,900 with a six-inch layer of millings.

Council member Brian Wilson, who lives near Triest Avenue, argued that simply replacing milled asphalt with a different layer of milled asphalt would be inadequate.

"I really don't think it's a wise use of money-- in my opinion-- to do millings" he said.

"I don't know what we do on

See TRIEST, 3A

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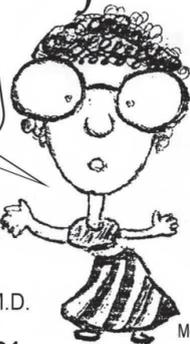
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TRIEST

Continued from 2A
all the other streets," he added. "To my knowledge, most of our streets in the city, if not all of them-- maybe I'm wrong-- are done with regular asphalt, not millings. I don't know why that part of the city has to get any less than any other road in the city gets."

Wilson also said he wanted a warranty with the resurfacing of the road so if potholes later appear, the contractor will have to repair them.

Suggs said that in addition to offering to put a six inch layer of millings on Triest for \$14,900, the contractor said that for an additional \$11,632, the company would add an inch and a half of hot mix asphalt, bringing the total cost to \$26,532. He said that if the council wanted to proceed with the extra work, fees with the engineering firm would also likely increase, driving the cost to nearly \$30,000.

The council voted to authorize Suggs to negotiate with the contractor for the additional work, for up to \$30,000.

Murder, arsonist busted in Starke

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

Local authorities have helped capture an alleged murderer and arsonist sought by Duval County.

The Bradford County Sheriff's Office and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office announced last week that Randal William Wagoner had been arrested.

According to BCSO Capt. Brad Smith, JSO detectives have been working on the case for several months to develop the probable cause necessary to seek an arrest warrant.

They caught up with Wagoner at the Timbuktu Lounge in Starke on the afternoon of March 6. The 45-year-old suspect did not resist being taken into custody, but he refused to answer questions.

Wagoner's arrest report lists his home address as Raiford in Union County.

Wagoner is charged with first-degree arson and the second-degree murder of Kathy Lorraine Johnson, 43.

Firefighters responded to a fire at Greybeard's Tavern on Commonwealth Avenue in Jacksonville on the afternoon of Dec. 1, 2013. After firefighting personnel extinguished the fire, a deceased victim was discovered.

Foul play was not suspected until a medical examiner determined Johnson died prior to the fire of blunt force trauma.

JSO Assistant Chief Chris Butler said Wagoner was the last person seen with the victim. He said Wagoner admitted he was with Johnson, but denied causing her any harm or starting the fire.

A combination of witness testimony and forensic evidence has allegedly proven otherwise, although the exact motive was unclear. Butler said the victim lived above the bar and the she and Wagoner knew each other. There may have been an agreement to exchange sex for drugs, but Butler said they don't believe that actually took place.

Wagoner was in the Bradford County Jail until March 10, when he was extradited to Jacksonville. Bond was set at more than \$500,000.

NC Klan group distributes flyers in Lake Butler

BY VINCENT ALEX BROWN
Union County Times Editor

On March 11, some Lake Butler residents along West Lake Avenue south of SR100, found a bag with treats on the easement in front of their houses. However, inside a zip-closed bag were a couple of mints and a folded flyer with the headline, "Wake up WHITE AMERICA!" from the Loyal White Knights, a Ku Klux Klan group based in Pelham, N.C.

"Although the letter does not contain a specific threat to any one person, the letter is inflammatory and clearly directed as a racial message," the Union County Sheriff's Office said in a statement released later in the day.

In response, UCSO is working with the Florida Department

Keystone culinary students help endurance athletes



(L-r) Dylan Beard, Kyle Richards, Ariana Grebner, Cory Hedding, Brittany Filing, Shelby Harpe, Christen Vencil and Shane Savoy. Photo courtesy of Meri-lin Piantanida.

Culinary students from Keystone Heights High School assisted endurance marathon runners on Feb. 15 during the Iron Horse Endurance Run.

The 100-mile course, laid out between Florahome and Palatka on portions of the Lake Butler-Palatka Trial and the Etoniah State Forest, gave athletes the choice of a 100-mile, 50-mile or 100-kilometer track. The race had a 26-hour time limit.

KHHS Culinary Arts

Instructor Meri-lin Piantanida said this was the fifth year her students manned an aid station near Florahome for the race and prepared food for the athletes.

She said the event gave her students the opportunity to explore the needs of endurance athletes. She said the students prepared peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, bran muffins, boiled, red-skinned potatoes, orange wedges and soup. They also provided bananas, power

drinks, water, M&Ms and salty snacks.

Students also prepared post-race meals which included grilled bratwurst, hamburgers and veggie burgers.

Piantanida said over 120 runners participated in the event, some traveling from Mexico and Canada.

Submitted by Meri-lin Piantanida, Keystone Heights High School.

of Law Enforcement and the Florida Fusion Center, along with the FBI's hate crimes unit.

Lake Butler hasn't been the only Florida community targeted.

The sheriff's office said flyers were also distributed throughout Alachua County and other North

Florida counties.

And WFTV Channel 9 in Central Florida reported in December that for the third time in two months, the group distributed flyers in the area.

The station said that fliers were dropped off just before members

of the state NAACP arrived in Brevard County for an annual meeting.

The flyers were dropped off at Harry T. & Harriette V. Moore Memorial Park, named for a civil rights activist and his wife.

Keystone ag. instructor wins statewide award

A Keystone Heights High School teacher was recognized for leading her students to teach agriculture fundamentals to elementary school students.

Erin Verplanck-Smith was one of four winners of the 2014 Excellence in Teaching About Agriculture Award.

According to the award's sponsor, Florida Agriculture in the Classroom, Verplanck-Smith tied for the middle school-level prize for her efforts in connecting her students with elementary school pupils.

"These younger students visit an agricultural land laboratory and learn about local commodities by visiting different stations manned by Smith's students," said the FAITC, in a press release. "In addition, Smith's students travel to local elementary schools and help the younger students plant school gardens."

KHHS Principal Susan Sailor pointed out that in addition to educating primary school students about agriculture,

Verplanck-Smith's program also helped the older students.

"This program provides an opportunity for the high school students to develop leadership and communication skills and for the elementary students to expand their knowledge of the agriculture industry," Sailor wrote in an email.

The high school-level winner won the overall Excellence in Teaching About Agriculture Award.

Gustavo Junco, an advanced placement chemistry teacher at West Broward High School in Pembroke Pines, led his students to grow sunflowers in a school garden, and then convert oil from the sunflower seeds into biodiesel to fuel go-karts the students built.

The elementary-level winner, Katrina Madok, uses hands-on experiments in which students at Gerald Adams Elementary in Key West germinate seeds from fruits and vegetables they eat in the school's cafeteria. The students then grow more produce from the seeds in a mini hydroponics station.

In addition to Verplanck-Smith, FAITC also recognized middle school-level instructor



Verplanck-Smith

Katie Schlotterbeck, a teacher at St. Michael's Lutheran in Ft. Myers.

Schlotterbeck shows her students how to grow fruits and vegetables in the school garden using different growing techniques. She also invites a local mosquito control entomologist into her classroom to teach students about mosquito control methods.

All four winners will receive an all-expense paid trip to the Agriculture in the Classroom national conference in Hershey, Pa.

Images by Ellen
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HIX

Continued from 1A

from the University of West Florida with a double major in elementary education and exceptional education.

Hix is now in her third year at Keystone. She started in third grade and is teaching second grade now. This year she also took on teaching the literacy block, which consists of instructing students in reading, writing and language arts.

This is the first year the school has grouped its curriculum into two blocks, one for language arts and another for math, science and social studies. Instructors within each grade level teach one section or the other, allowing each to focus on one area of study.

"I can just concentrate on reading and the love of reading and writing," said Hix of the new plan. "I have really enjoyed it."

Hix said she has always wanted to teach younger children.

"They are so moldable, and they still have a love for learning," she said. "They are still into it. They still enjoy school."

Hix added that instilling a joy for reading is another benefit of working with younger students.

"I am able to show them that they can go to new places through reading a book."

She said that by starting her career in the third grade, and then moving down to second, gave her the advantage of knowing what skills an incoming third-grader needs to have. That helps her equip her second-grade students.

Hix lives at Kingsley Lake. Her husband is in the military, and she has a son at Keystone Heights High School and a daughter at the elementary school. Hix's mother also teaches at the elementary school, in the second grade.

Hix said that like herself, her mother returned to college after starting a family. She added that her mother has had a huge influence on her, especially by reading to her at a young age.

Co-op credit on March bill

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

Clay Electric Cooperative said its members will see a credit on their March bills reflecting the co-op's 40th consecutive capital credit.

The annual adjustment, which is a return of the organization's surplus revenues to its members, was approved by Clay Electric's board of trustees in January.

Rainy Burns exhibits at Melrose Senior Center



Rainy Burns with one of her works, "Cornrows."

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

The Melrose Senior Center hosted a reception for Rainy Burns during the town's art walk on March 7.

Burns will be exhibiting her watercolors in the facility throughout the month.

Burns spent over 30 years in Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. She said she moved to Central America in 1984 after her home in the United States burned down.

She said she came to love the pace and simple lifestyle she experienced while living between the Pacific and the Caribbean. Burns said she

strives to maintain what she calls a third world attitude while stateside.

She has been painting for the past nine years, and uses mostly watercolor.

Her exhibition at the senior center displays much of her work from Central America. One prominently displayed piece, "Cornrows," shows a child squatting in the surf at Placencia Beach in Belize. She captured the image during the country's Easter celebration, which she said is huge.

Burns now teaches art in Gainesville and Melrose. She said she tries to help her students find their own style and focus.

Worth Noting

Outreach to homeless and low income families

The Mercy Network of Clay County is sponsoring an outreach to Clay county homeless and low income families from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, March 28 at Pinewood Presbyterian Church in Middleburg.

Free transportation to the event will be provided from Keystone Heights. A bus will leave from the area in front of Dollar General at 8:30 a.m. To register for the bus, call 352-473-2023 with the name and phone number of each rider by March 24.

Free services include clothing, food pantry, toiletries and personal items, hair cuts, blood pressure checks and other items. Participants may also receive free information about adult education, veterans benefits, dental referrals, HIV testing

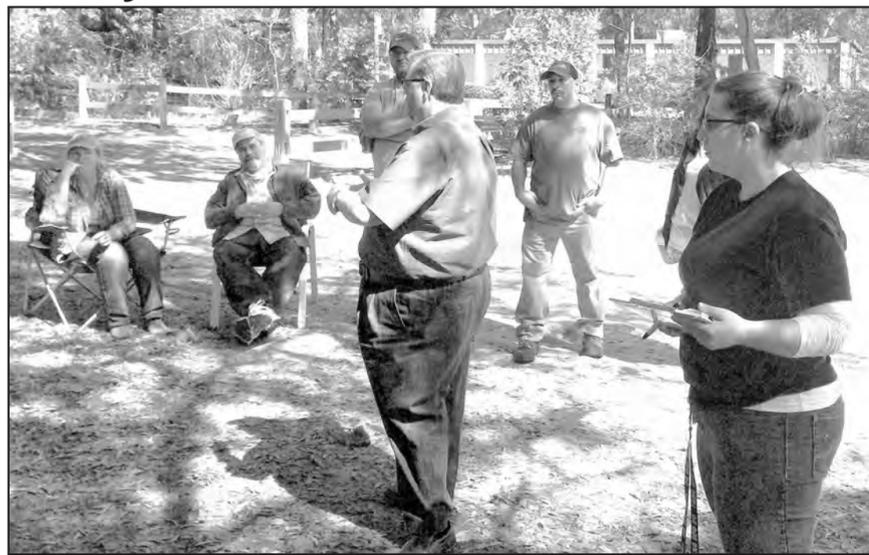
and job placement.

Lenten lunches underway

Lunch is provided each Wednesday during Lent, and is served at noon followed by music from local talent and dynamic messages from local ministers. A freewill offering will be accepted for the meal provided.

March 19: The host church is Community Church of Keystone Heights, the speaker is Brad Williams of Keystone Presbyterian Church and music is by Bound to Soar.

Farmers market vendors offer advice to city



Keystone Heights City Manager Terry Suggs (center) and Interim Farmers Market Manager Lynn Rutkowski (right) talk to vendors about improving the farmers market performance.

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

Vendors of the Keystone Heights Farmers Market offered suggestions to city officials for improving the venue's performance during a March 1 meeting held at Natural Park.

The group overwhelmingly endorsed a suggestion by City Manager Terry Suggs that he change the event's operating hours from 9-1 to 10-2.

However, the group rejected a second recommendation by Suggs. He told vendors that the Orange Park and Green Cove Springs markets do not convene every week, and asked the Keystone vendors if they also would prefer a lighter schedule. The merchants said that a non-weekly schedule like the Orange Park market, which meets on the second and fourth Sunday of each month, might confuse consumers.

The merchants also made recommendations to Suggs and Interim Market Manager Lynn Rutkowski, including creating activities for children, booking entertainment to attract more foot traffic and finding a way for customers to pay with bank cards at the venue.

Rutkowski told the group she is organizing a Kids' Day for March 14.

Suggs told the vendors that vehicular traffic within the park during market hours must stop. The group discussed options to allow vendors to properly set up, while also reducing car and truck movements within the venue between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Suggs also said he is looking for a permanent market manager

and added that to avoid conflicts if interest, he will not hire a vendor for the job.

Several vendors said they wanted Rutkowski to remain on the job permanently. Suggs told them that with her other responsibilities within city hall,

Rutkowski could not also manage the market on a permanent basis.

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Peoples ends year as Miss KHHS

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

Emily Peoples concluded her year as Miss Keystone Heights High School by thanking her supporters, expressing appreciation for the opportunities the title gave her and challenging the next Miss KHHS to embrace the challenges of the position.



Emily Peoples giving her farewell address as Miss KHHS.

Peoples gave her remarks near the conclusion of the 50th Miss KHHS Pageant on March 8.

She said the Keystone Heights event goes far beyond the public's typical view of a pageant.

"This pageant is so unique in the fact that you don't have to be the most beautiful, smart or popular to win," she said. "It is all about who you are inside and becoming the best version of yourself."

Peoples said the pageant transformed her over the last 12 months.

"If you would have met me a little over a year ago, you would have found a girl who was very shy, quiet around those she didn't know and scared to go out of her comfort zone," Peoples continued.

She added that from the first day of pageant practice, she was encouraged to take risks and overcome her natural shyness.

Peoples said the Miss KHHS title also gave her the opportunity to talk about her sister, who was born with Downs Syndrome and later diagnosed with Autism.

"Ever since winning Miss KHHS last year, I have had opportunities to speak out about Dana, she continued, "how our family deals with day-to-day life

with her, and how she is just a normal little girl."

Peoples said her favorite part of her time as Miss KHHS is working with the current year's contestants.

"One of the best parts of the pageant last year wasn't just winning," she said. "It was all the fun I had leading up to it and the growing experiences I had. This year I got to go through that all again, having all the fun and gaining new friendships, this time as a guide."

Peoples thanked Jesus Christ, her parents and friends, as well as Pageant Co-host Bob Kinsey and Pageant Director Lynn Dickinson, for making the last year special for her.

She ended her farewell address with a challenge for the next Miss KHHS.

"It is more than who walks out of here with a crown on her head," Peoples declared. "It is truly about making a difference in our school, our community and being a role model to other students."

"Restored In Christ," a series of services for Lent

Throughout Lent, Christ Lutheran Church of Keystone Heights will offer added worship opportunities each Wednesday evening at 7 p.m.

March 19: "Broken Trust Restored" • Matthew 26:14-25

Judas breaks his trust with Jesus by betraying him; our broken trust is restored through the sacrifice of Christ.

Christ Lutheran, a congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, is located at 3760 SE SR 21 in Keystone Heights and is served by Pastor Richard Schleicher.

Key Club fundraiser

March 15 from 7 to 10 a.m. Eat in or dine out. Funds raised for the Eliminate Project. Tickets sold at the door.

St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef Dinner

Melrose United Methodist Church. Monday, March 17, 5-7 p.m. \$8 a plate. Dine in or carry out.

Veterans Memorial Pathway accepting brick orders

For \$35 you can purchase a brick with engraving on 1-4 lines with 18-21 characters per line. You can also have a medal or logo engraved on the brick for an additional \$10 each. Call Joan at 904-894-8411. The deadline for brick orders is April 15.

First fish fry exceeds expectations

Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Fry organizer Charles Sharpe said he expected to sell around 60 plates for the organization's first fish fry on March 7 at St. William Catholic Church in Keystone Heights. The group sold around 125 dinners for the event, which continues through April 11. The Knights are selling \$8.50 dinners each Friday from 4 to 7:30 p.m. Proceeds benefit Lake Area Ministries and the special education department at Keystone Heights High School.



Pictured are volunteers (l-r) Kenneth Sharpe, Roland Lagassie, Mac, Joe Kozel, Clark Ables, and Larry Cox.



Additional volunteers included Frances Ables, Sandra Ables, Maggie Lagassie and Mary Kozel.

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BSN 36663	9" x 12"	\$6.59 BX
BSN 36666	10" x 15"	\$15.79 BX

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Author of Promise G.A. Teske to Visit the Melrose Public Library

G.A. Teske will visit the Melrose Public Library on Friday, March 28th at 4 p.m. to discuss his fantasy novels in The Soul Sword Chronicles series. For more information call 352-475-1237.

Teske was a district media specialist in Pasco County for twenty-two years. He grew up in North Florida and spent nine years attending school in Melrose. He graduated from Interlachen High in 1970, St. Johns River Jr. College in 1972, and Florida Atlantic University with a BA in Education.

The Gnome in the Tapestry, Racing the Moon, Links to the Past, and MoonFall are his four current novels in The Soul Sword Chronicles series. He has also published an ebook novella, The Last Skunk Ape: Evidence. A novel in progress, Growing Up Yankee in Cracker Florida, set in Melrose of the 1960's, is planned to be completed in 2015. For more information about these novels, visit his website at www.dunnscreekfantasy.com.

Gallery 26 hosting pastel classes

Classes by Kay Deuben. Sessions will be once a week on Tuesdays, March 11 through April 1 from 9 a.m. to noon. Space is limited. For more information call 352-475-2924 or gallery26melrose@gmail.com.

Dance with The Imposters at the Artist Hall in Melrose

301 SR 26, Saturday, March 15 at 8 p.m. \$10 donation at the door. Donations go toward the preservation of the church building as an Art and Culture Center.

The Imposters, a Beatles' tribute band started in 1984, is comprised of some of Gainesville's finest musicians: Mike Boulware, Don David, Michael Derry, Ron Thomas, and Rob Rothschild.

Enjoy these fine spring evenings by dancing to your favorite Beatles tunes.

Pierce Pettis at the Melrose Art and Culture Center

Sunday, at March 16 at 7 p.m. \$10 donation. For more information call 352-475-2924.

Banana mill site tour

Historic Melrose members will tour the mill site at the Banana settlement on Saturday March 29. Banana was the earliest settlement in the Melrose area. The tour group will meet at the side of the Daurer Museum in Heritage Park at 10 a.m. and car pool to the mill site. For additional information contact James Peffley at 352-475-5715.

Kerr City tour

Historic Melrose will conduct a field trip and guided tour to Kerr City near Salt Springs on Sunday March 16. Kerr City is the second-oldest settlement in Marion County, established in 1880.

The tour group will leave from Heritage Park in Melrose at 1 p.m. For additional information, contact Kathy Warren at 352-475-1383.

Lakeside Music Festival

The third annual Lakeside Music Festival will be held on March 15, 2014 in Melrose. This festival was born three years ago when Century 21, Lakeside Realty, sponsored a bluegrass concert featuring the *Stevens Family Bluegrass Band* from Berkeley Springs, West Virginia. The event was a resounding success with about 150 people showing up to Melrose Park for a day of fine bluegrass music. Local band *Wreckless* was the headliner for last year, when the event was moved to the present location, at 882 SR 21, next to the Melrose Diner. This full day of music featured all local bands and drew over 300 people. The event is even bigger and better this year. Still featuring all local bands, the headliner will be the popular band *64 Nickels*, who will be joined by other local bands such as, *No Coincidence*, *Boatright Bluegrass*, *Bubba Can't Dance*, and *Wild Iris*, among others. This year an inflatable "Moon Slide" will be onsite for the kids and delicious food and beverages

will be available from Country Caterers, making this a fun filled family event. Music will start at Noon and go on until 10 PM. Admission is free, courtesy of Century 21 Lakeside Realty.

UF College of Medicine rises three spots in national rankings

For the second year in a row, the University of Florida College of Medicine has risen three spots in U.S. News & World Report's latest rankings of the nation's top research medical schools.

UF is ranked No. 42, up from No. 45 in 2013, according to the publication's annual "Best Graduate Schools" rankings, which were released today, March 11. Among public medical schools, UF now ranks No. 17 nationally and is the highest-ranked medical school in the state of Florida.

"Our goal is to provide the best medical education possible to our students, who are poised to become the next generation of physicians and scientists. We take this responsibility very seriously, and accomplishments such as this reflect the dedication of our faculty and staff toward all of our missions," said Michael L. Good, M.D., dean of the UF College of Medicine.

Each year, U.S. News & World Report ranks the nation's accredited medical schools based on factors such as National Institutes of Health research funding, GPA and the MCAT scores of incoming medical students, faculty-to-student ratios and peer assessments from leaders of other medical schools. When all of these parameters are considered, the publication compiles a list of the top medical schools in the country.

"Over the past several years, our medical school has attracted national attention for recruiting superb scientists and clinician-

investigators, along with our substantial increase in NIH funding at a time of flat funding nationally and building a new medical education facility that embraces small group learning, interprofessional education and novel simulation methods," said David S. Guzik, M.D., Ph.D., senior vice president for health affairs and president of UF Health.

Factors that likely contributed to UF's rise in the rankings during the past two years include increased competitiveness for medical school applicants associated with the college's recent medical curriculum revisions and national recognition of UF's quality, safety and clinical programs, said Joseph C. Fantone, M.D., senior associate dean for educational affairs in the College of Medicine.

Stephen P. Sugrue, Ph.D., senior associate dean for research affairs, noted that it was a difficult and challenging year for research funding in all U.S. medical schools, yet the UF College of Medicine experienced an increase in base funding from the National Institutes of Health for the fourth consecutive year. These increases have resulted in a cumulative 37 percent increase in NIH funding between 2009 and 2013.

"This amazing progress was due to the tremendous hard work by our faculty, our research teams as well as our hospital colleagues, whose efforts greatly support much of this work," Sugrue said.

DEP recognizes national groundwater awareness week

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection joins the nation in recognizing March 9 through 15 as National Groundwater Awareness Week.

The week not only highlights the importance of groundwater, which is the source of 97 percent of the world's fresh, usable water, but allows everyone to examine the challenges and potential solutions that face this essential resource.

Groundwater is water that is stored in the cracks and spaces within soils and rocks below the ground. It is one of Florida's most vital natural resources – the source of drinking water for more than 90 percent of the state's population. Floridians use about 4.6 billion gallons of ground water per day. It provides drinking water to urban and rural communities, supports irrigation and industry, sustains the flow of springs, streams and rivers and maintains riparian and wetland ecosystems.

"Florida's karst geology fosters strong interaction between surface water and groundwater, and regardless of which water it is, water sustains life," said Dr. Jon Arthur, Director of the Department's Florida Geological Survey. "Karstic aquifers are highly vulnerable to contamination, making the work of geoscientists and engineers important toward protection and conservation of these critical resources."

Floridians are fortunate to have a large source of groundwater. Groundwater fills the cracks and pores in sand, soil, and the rocks that lie beneath the surface of the earth, much like water fills a sponge. These water-filled layers of earth are called aquifers, and they are Florida's main source of drinking water. Florida's high rainfall and unique geology makes

our groundwater extremely vulnerable to contamination, which makes protection that much more important.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection is tasked with protecting, conserving and restoring Florida's valuable ground water resources. To accomplish this, the Department, in concert with the Water Management Districts, regulate consumptive water use and well construction, conduct well surveillance programs, test groundwater used for drinking water, conduct research on natural and human influences on groundwater and regulate wastewater systems and toxic chemicals.



LRM Legals 3/13/14

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 Thursday, April 3, 2014 at 9:00 A.M. (EST) at 7101 SR 21, Keystone Heights, Florida 32656.
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REGIONAL NEWS

NEWS FROM BRADFORD COUNTY, UNION COUNTY AND THE LAKE REGION

FEATURES
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EDITORIAL

Community honors Register, supports Boy Scouts

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer

Casey Jones, one of the survivors of the 2009 U.S. Airways flight that crashed into the Hudson River, encouraged the assembled crowd at the Florida National Guard armory in Starke to embrace life and all that it has to offer.

The Feb. 27 Boy Scouts of America-North Florida Council American Values Dinner honored Lennard Register, an individual who has done just that, and in the process embraced the youth in the community by pledging approximately \$14,000 to support local Boy Scouts.

Jones, the event's keynote speaker, certainly has a thrilling, emotional story to tell (see related story), but even he admitted it was hard to follow Register, who was presented with the Boy Scouts' Distinguished Citizen Award.

"It's an honor to be on the same dais as you," Jones told Register, a former Bradford County educator, administrator and coach. "I really do appreciate it. It's truly an honor to hear a man of your accomplishments and to hear what you've done."

He may have been the evening's honoree, but Register's first comment was to thank those in attendance for their support of Boy Scouts—an organization dear to his heart. Register's father was a Scoutmaster for 22 years, with 32 Scouts attaining the rank of Eagle Scout under his leadership.

One of those Eagle Scouts was Register, who was the first-ever Scout for Troop 98 in Jasper to attain that rank.

"I'd like to say thank you for coming and being a part of giving a boost to Scouting," said Register, who also earned a Bronze Palm during his time in the Boy Scouts. "America needs Scouting bad, particularly in this day and time."

Terry Vaughan, one of the dinner's host committee members, spoke at length about Register, who was born in Valdosta, Ga., and grew up in Hamilton County. He played football and basketball at Hamilton High School, as well as playing clarinet in the band.

"Following his graduation, he

traded his Scouting uniform for one provided by Uncle Sam," Vaughan said. "He joined the U.S. Army as a member of the 88th Infantry Division. He was stationed in the Alps in northern Italy and was part of the Army's ski troops."

After his honorable discharge in 1947, Register enrolled at the University of Florida, where he earned a bachelor's degree in education. Then, the start of what Vaughan described as a legendary career in both education and coaching. He was the Bradford

High School head football coach from 1955 through 1961. The team won five straight Keystone Conference championships, had a 32-game winning streak and appeared in two Strawberry Bowl games during that time. Register was selected as the head

coach of the North All-Star team in 1961 and was recognized as the Gainesville Sun's Coach of the Year in three consecutive seasons.

In 1961, Register left Bradford and took the head coaching position at Bay High School in

Panama City. He was successful there as well, leading the team to two Big Five Conference championships during a seven-year period. He was also named as coach of the North All-Star

See HONOR, 2B

Bradford 4-H strawberry auction is Sat.

The Bradford County 4-H Association will be having its annual strawberry auction at the Bradford County Fair on Saturday, March 15, at 6 p.m., immediately following the steer auction in the livestock area.

All proceeds go to support the county 4-H scholarship fund.

Strawberries are donated by local growers.

For more information, please contact the Bradford County Extension Office at 904-966-6224.

Katelyn Sims, fellow 'Ax Men' stars to be at Bradford County Fair

Bradford County native Katelyn Sims, who can currently be seen on the History Channel's "Ax Men," will be at the Bradford County Fair with Dreadknot team members "Kraken" and "Captain Clint" to sign autographs and take pictures on Friday, March 14, from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Admission to the fair, which runs through Sunday, March 16, is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children in grades 1-12. (Children 5 and under are admitted free.) Fair passes, which are good for every day of the fair, are available for \$15 each.

Ride armbands are \$18 through Friday, March 14, \$20 on Saturday, March 15, from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. and \$25 that same day from 5 p.m. until midnight.

Thursday, March 13, is Dollar

See FAIR, 5B

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THIS IS FORD COUNTRY

Hudson River plane crash survivor: Embrace life

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer

Surviving a plane crash would seem like a nightmare that most people would be more than happy to put behind them, but Casey Jones can't ignore the positive effect the crash he survived has had on his life.

Jones had a positive outlook on life before the crash, but his appreciation of life is so much more in the aftermath. If he could take away the anxiety his family and friends suffered during those moments where the outcome was uncertain, Jones said he would go through his own anxiety and fears all over again.

"The outlook that it has given me on life is absolutely unbelievable, and I'd never have had it without having gone through this," Jones said.

Jones, the keynote speaker at the Feb. 27 Boy Scouts of America-North Florida Council

American Values Dinner at the Florida National Guard armory in Starke, was one of the passengers in what has become known as the "Miracle on the Hudson." On Jan. 15, 2009, U.S. Airways Flight 1549 lost both of its engines after striking geese shortly after takeoff from New York City's LaGuardia Airport. Capt. Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger made the decision to bring the plane down into the Hudson, saving the lives of all 155 passengers and crew.

"What I encourage you to do this evening is sit back, relax and embrace for impact," Jones told the crowd before sharing his story.

It was a "typical Thursday" for the Bank of America executive who was used to flying. Jones was traveling back and forth between his home in Jacksonville and New York City three times a month at that time. Passengers boarded the flight at 2:45,



Casey Jones

which was when the plane was scheduled to take off, but Jones said, "In LaGuardia, that's an on-time flight."

Jones described himself as a restless baby in a car seat once he took his seat in 7A. Again, nothing out of the ordinary for the man who said he had flown hundreds of times.

"I could just sit there and relax and eventually fall asleep once we took off," Jones said.

His seat was by the window on

the left side of the plane. It was a seat he always tried to get when flying out of LaGuardia because of the views of Manhattan, Central Park and the Statue of Liberty it offered after takeoff.

Jones described the takeoff as smooth, but as he began to settle in and relax, he heard a sound he described as a "pop." He likened it to being downstairs in a two-story house and hearing someone on the upper floor drop a 50-pound stack of books.

"It was a different sound and a different feel," Jones said. "All those times I had flown before, I heard things and felt things, but this was different."

The plane lost momentum, and Jones noticed the engine right outside his window was making a sound he equated to sneakers in a dryer. As the plane began descending, Jones wondered to himself why the pilot didn't fire the right engine, not knowing at that time what had happened and

that neither engine was working. Passengers eventually heard Sullenberg say, "This is the captain. Embrace for impact."

"I'll tell you this, when you hear those words, an awful lot of stuff starts to go through your mind," Jones said. "Your mind goes into hyperdrive, and that's exactly what mine did that day."

Jones took out his phone so he could call his wife, Judy. She was on another flight with their son, so Jones said he was prepared to leave her an "I love you" message. His fingers were shaking so badly, he couldn't punch in the password to access the phone.

"At that point, I could only hope she knew how much I loved her," Jones said.

Jones assumed crash position as flight attendants repeatedly told passengers to keep their heads down and brace for impact. He looked up periodically, though, to look out the window

to see how close the plane was to the river, while his mind was consumed with thoughts on his family and what the outcome would be.

"I never in my own mind admitted I was about to die," Jones said, "but I knew it was a possibility. I thought about my family. What would life be like for them? What would their future hold? How is all this going to end?"

The impact caused Jones' face to hit his tray table, while the sudden sound of rushing water was comparable to standing at Niagara Falls and removing earplugs.

"It was really loud," Jones said.

Passengers began disembarking in an orderly fashion. Jones said it was reminiscent of lining up for a fire drill in grade school. Passengers

See JONES, 3B

HONOR

Continued from 1B

team again, making him the first coach to have earned that honor twice.

Then, it was time for another change.

"Always willing to follow the path where faith led him, he uprooted his family and moved to Clinton, Miss., in 1968 in order to earn his master's degree in education from Mississippi College," Vaughan said.

Vaughan said it had to have taken courage to do that at the age of 40, but if it made Register nervous, it didn't show. While going through classes at Mississippi College, Register also coached defensive backs for the school's football team and also was the head coach of the baseball team.

As if that wasn't enough, Vaughan added, "The student body also voted him Sexiest Man on Campus."

Once he completed work on his master's Register moved back to Bradford County and worked in the school system. Register served as the principal of Hampton Elementary School (1969-72), the principal of Bradford Middle School (1973-75) and the director of operations in charge of maintenance, transportation and warehousing (1975-90).

Register has been involved with such groups as the Rotary Club of Starke and Community Men's Fellowship, and is a longtime member of First Baptist Church of Starke, where he has served as a deacon. He and his wife of 61 years, Ernestine, have three children—Len, Steve and Chuck—seven grandchildren



Lennard Register (right) says a few words after receiving the Distinguished Citizen Award from dinner chairman Barry Warren (left).

and two great-grandchildren.

"It's a story of a life well lived," Vaughan said. "Along the way, he earned many cherished titles: Eagle Scout, risk-taker, pioneer, educator, husband, father, grandfather, mentor, Christian and patriot."

By the time Register took to the stage to accept the Distinguished Citizen Award following Vaughan's introduction, he joked, "I had a great speech made out and worked on it day and night, but Terry Vaughan took it away from me."

Register thanked his family for being there to support him, mentioning the fact that his son,

Chuck, and his family traveled from North Carolina. Chuck's daughter returned to the U.S. approximately a month ago after a two-year stay in China working with the International Mission Board.

"What a great lady," Register said.

Another great lady, of course, is Register's wife. He thanked her and made light of their long partnership.

"Sixty-one years," Register said. "Can you believe that? Sixty-one years. She told me what to do, and then turned around and told me how to do it."

In all serious, Register said,

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SOCIALS



Mr. and Mrs. Wynn

Wood, Wynn wed on March 1

Sabrina Wood and Brian Wynn were married on March 1, 2014, at Camp Blanding. Sabrina is the daughter of Wayne and Cathy Wood. She graduated from Bradford High School and Santa Fe College

with her RN degree and works at NFRMC. Brian is the son of Jim and Evette Wynn. He graduated from Keystone Heights High School and works at UCI. They will reside in Lawtey.



Mrs. and Mr. Topping

Jenkins, Topping marry

Rev. and Mrs. William R. Topping Jr. of Seminole announce the wedding of their son, Staff Sgt. Timothy J. Topping to Ms. Tiffany A. Jenkins of Live Oak. Ms. Jenkins is the daughter of Mr. Matthew E. Jenkins of Live Oak and Angela Alford of Starke. She is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Jenkins Jr. of Live Oak. She is a graduate of Suwannee High School and Florida State University. She is employed by Quest Inc. in Tampa. Timothy is active with the Florida Army National Guard

and has served in St. Petersburg, Camp Blanding and Tallahassee, and is currently assigned at Lake City. He has served his country in both Afghanistan and Iraq. He attended Tallahassee Community College and is a degree candidate at the University of Florida's extension program, St. Petersburg College. The Toppings will reside in Pinellas County. The wedding was officiated by Rev. William R. Topping Jr., pastor emeritus at Norwood Baptist Church in St. Petersburg.

JONES

Continued from 2B

exited the plane and entered 20-degree temperatures with a wind chill of 11 degrees. The water of the Hudson was 35 degrees.

Jones spent the next 17 minutes on one of the plane's wings.

"We were in the middle of the river in the most populated city in America, and we felt very, very alone," he said.

That was the time to attempt another phone call, knowing it wouldn't take long for news of the crash to air on television, Jones said. His wife was on a plane; his oldest daughter was in the midst of an interview. That left his 20-year-old daughter, who was a student at the University of Central Florida. He called her to let her know he was OK and to pass information along to the rest of the family.

"That was the hardest phone call I've ever had to make in my life," Jones said, "but she did absolutely everything perfectly that day."

Jones then tried to reach his mother, who was 80 and rarely left her home. However, she didn't pick up the phone. Jones was left with making a decision. Should he leave a message on her answering machine? He decided to do just that, saying that in his mind he thought he sounded calm and collected.

Well, Jones tried calling his mother twice after that, leaving messages both times. The third call and message was after he was rescued.

Jones said he was thankful his mother didn't listen to the messages until after his rescue. The "calm and collected" voice he thought he was using was not in existence on either of the first two messages.

"There was utter panic that a mother can see right through," Jones said. "By the time she listened to that third message, she knew I was safe."

Before that third call, Jones had to get off the plane's wing. He wound up being the last person rescued.

When his turn finally came to grab the ladder of a New York Waterway ferry, Jones slipped and fell into the water.

"My life jacket came off over my head," Jones said. "You know when they tell you about that strap around the middle of the life jacket? That's a very important step."

Jones surfaced almost as soon as he plunged into the river, thinking to himself, "I'm not going out like this." As he grabbed the boat ladder a second time, he discovered that his legs didn't want to work. The ladder had ice on it, and it felt like he was trying to climb up it sideways, Jones said. Halfway up, he announced he could go no farther.

Fellow passenger Gerry McNamara reached down and grabbed hold of Jones' belt to help him finish the climb.

"When he grabbed my belt, it gave me the confidence to take that last couple of steps and get up on the desk and be rescued."

"That was the first time I knew I was going to be OK, and it was the first time I acknowledged how cold I was. I hit the deck of that boat, and I shivered for the next four hours."

Upon arrival at Weehawken Terminal, the boat captain removed Jones' shirt and tie. Meanwhile, a deckhand was removing his layers of clothing, which included a hooded sweatshirt had gave to Jones to wear.

"He literally gave me the clothes off his back so I could start to try to get warm," Jones said.

Inside the terminal, New York Waterway employees began grabbing clothes out of

employee lockers to give to the plane passengers. Jones said he was given a shirt that was about a size too small, but it was dry and warm. Then, someone brought him a pair of pants that were too small. A second pair of pants was given to Jones. They were approximately six sizes too big.

Jones still has the pants, which he and his family refer to as the "Jared" pants, in reference to the Subway spokesman. Though too big, he put them on and kept them up with a belt.

From the terminal, Jones was taken to a Red Cross shelter. While watching the TV there, Jones learned that everyone on the plane survived.

"That was a tremendous amount of relief to hear that," he said.

Jones and other passengers were put up in hotels. It was there that Jones looked into the mirror for the first time since the crash. What he saw was a man wearing several articles of clothing that didn't fit him with a cut on his head and hard that went every which way.

"The image that I saw staring back at me was that of a homeless person," Jones said. "It gave me a compassion for the homeless that I never, never, never would've had without seeing that and going through this experience."

"It's one of the many, many gifts I've received because of this."

Before the crash, Jones would wake up every morning and tell himself he was going to have a great day. Now, he said he wakes every morning knowing for sure it's going to be a great day.

"I'll still have trials and tribulations," Jones said, "but every day is a great day."

Jones urged those in attendance at the armory to stop and take note of everything around them. Enjoy the sights and smells of life, and treasure those moments, he said.

More importantly, he said, is to never stop telling your loved ones that you love them.

"You see, it's cliché to say everything we have can end in just a moment," Jones said, "but it's not cliché to make the most of each and every moment each and every day. When you leave tonight, commit to embrace your dreams, embrace your goals, embrace your families and embrace your friends. Embrace every piece of life that is you."

"You see, on Jan. 15, 2009, at 3:31 p.m., Capt. Sullenberger said, 'Brace for impact.' What I'm encouraging you to do tonight is embrace for impact. It'll change your life."

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LETTERS

EDITOR@BCTELEGRAPH.COM

Where's the help for Hampton?

Dear Editor:

I still wonder what state Rep. Van Zant meant when he said that paying his speeding ticket fine from Hampton had nothing to do with the investigation of the city. Would that have happened had he not gotten the ticket?

Several times during the recent legislative meeting at the Bradford courthouse, he stated that one did not have anything to do with the other. Now, is that really the truth? Now, just how many other legislative investigations has he initiated? This is not to say that an investigation was not necessary, but why did he insist that one had nothing to do with the other?

It would seem to this old, county boy that had we had a representative or senator that was worth his salt, they would have stepped in and said we know you need help, and we are going to find it for you.

As big as this state is, one would think that there are enough high-dollar people in government to get three or four that could be spared to get a little, old place like Hampton up and running.

We are supposed to send people to Tallahassee that work with us, not against us.

Malcolm Hill
Morgan Road

People have a voice; get out and vote

Dear Editor:

I would like to answer the question posed by "The Concerned Citizens of Union County." Do the citizens have any say in who fills the position of sheriff? The answer is a resounding YES. The citizens of Union County select their sheriff every four years. For the past 60-plus years, the majority of the citizens selected John H. Whitehead and Jerry Whitehead to serve as our sheriffs.

Due to the untimely passing of Sheriff Jerry Whitehead, the appointment process was used by the governor as directed by statute. The governor can appoint anyone to fill the remainder of a term until the next election. The appointment process is not that different from an election. It appears that, by far, the majority of those calling, writing or emailing the governor supported Brad Whitehead to serve the remainder of his father's term.

The next election will be November of this year, and

everyone can support, work for and vote for the candidate of their choice. I encourage everyone to participate. I would also encourage everyone to be civil in their actions and words. I believe the citizens of Union County can participate in the election process without the use of vile language and the use of negative, unsubstantiated allegations.

Again, get engaged, participate and vote your choice. It's the American way and the Union County way.

Thank You,
Jack Sapp

Story of a little girl who saved a kitten

Dear Editor:

A few weeks ago I received a call on a Saturday evening from a Starke resident whose granddaughter (approximately 2 years old) was hysterical because of a kitten that had followed them home and was injured. The caller told me that the kitten's leg was broken and that you could see bone. Any time I hear a story like that I have to go. I took a carrier with me and went to check on this kitten with every intention of taking the injured kitten to an emergency clinic and ending its suffering. As I got out of the car and walked up to the kitten I saw that it was a Russian Blue. It couldn't have been more than 7 or 8 weeks old. But it was curled up beside a truck tire and I could see the bone and could also smell the infection in the wound. I carefully picked up the kitten and realized that its leg wasn't just broken it was almost completely severed.

I drove to Gainesville to Affiliated Pet Emergency Services to have the kitten examined with the car windows open so that I could stand the smell. As I drove I tried to observe the kitten and noticed that it didn't seem to be bothered by the leg and just calmly laid in the carrier during the whole ride. As I was filling out the paperwork on the kitten I was asked for its name. I didn't know at this time whether it was a boy or girl so I named it Blue.

After a brief exam the Veterinarian told me that he didn't know how the injury occurred but that it was about a week old. That meant that the little kitten was probably out in the bitterly cold, wet weather that we had just had. I knew that the smart and humane thing to do would have been to euthanize the little kitten but she had tried so hard to stay alive that I couldn't do it. The Veterinarian didn't want to do it either. They

cleaned her wound, snipped off the dangling part of the leg and bandaged her up. I had already contacted my Veterinarian about the amputation and was scheduled to take her for that procedure on the following Monday.

Since then Blue has had her leg amputated and she is doing well. She has gone from being happy to be held all of the time to wanting to run around and play. I think how lucky she is that she followed that little girl home. The little girl's intense emotional reaction compelled her parents and grandmother to find someone to help the kitten. I hope that this little girl keeps that ability to feel so strongly compassionate for other living things as she grows up. I hope that she is not changed by a world that doesn't value all life.

Tracy George
Founder/President
Supporters of Sheltered
Animals Inc.

Reader wants property to be stray-cat free

Dear Editor:

Did you know that it will soon be against the law to rid your area of stray cats that hang out on your property? Clay County commissioners have just approved the TNR program which means trap, neuter, and release, and release means back into your area.

This program relieves the county of having to pay for euthanizing the growing number of stray cats, but it does not relieve the individual property owner of having to live with wild stray cats.

One may get into an endless debate with those who support such a movement which is not the purpose of this letter. We all have different opinions about politics, religion, guns, etc. But we still have the freedom to be either Democrat or Republican, Christian or Atheist, own a gun or not own a gun.

I would just like to have the freedom to be able to rid my property of wild stray cats by humanely trapping them

and taking them to the county animal facility without having it returned to my area.

We have county animal control persons who take responsibility for picking up stray dogs. In our nation, thousands of good dogs are euthanized daily. We also have state wildlife control persons who take responsibility for wildlife. Stray wild cats are not native wildlife. They are wild descendants of pet cats.

I was on the board of my county's Animal Rescue League in the state of Ohio for eight years. I have spent a lot of time and money in my lifetime trying to find homes for stray pets. The fact is that there are only so many homes out there open for pets, and of those homes, there are only so many that are willing to care for their pets responsibly. Most "no kill" animal shelters I have contacted tell me that they

are sorry but they have no more room for an extra pet. This is a fact of life.

I am certainly for organizations that encourage and help pet owners spay and neuter their pets, both cats and dogs. Just don't force me to conform to a movement that demands that I live with stray wild cats.

Rosemary Hyslop
Keystone Heights

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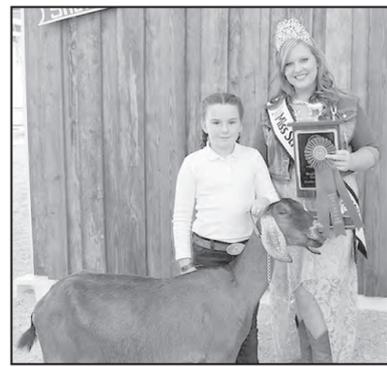
Norm Myers, immediate past president of the Central Florida Chapter Sons of the American Revolution, dressed in 1770-period clothing and presented a program on "Writing Your Memoirs" at the March 3 meeting of the Col. Samuel Elbert Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution meeting. Pictured (l-r) are Myers, special guest Joan Jones, an Australian war bride, and Konnie Beaugard, a local DAR regent.



Members of the Col. Samuel Elbert Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution present two plarn (plastic yarn) mats they made for homeless, female veterans to VetSpace of Alachua County representative Natalie Packnick, who attended the March 3 DAR meeting with her service dog, Diesel. Pictured (l-r) are Ann Lewis, Konnie Beaugard, Diesel, Packnick, Betsy Outten, Martha Swift, Linda Smith and Julie Elbert.



The grand champion at the 4-H goat show is Maudrey Tenly, who is pictured with Strawberry Queen Hannah Tucker and Strawberry Princess Madison Gibson.



The reserve grand champion at the 4-H goat show is Abigail Thrift, who is pictured with Strawberry Queen Hannah Tucker.

Tenly, Thrift earn top awards in goat show

Maudrey Tenly and Abigail Thrift showed the grand champion and reserve grand champion, respectively, at the 4-H goat show, which was held

March 8 at the Bradford County Fairgrounds.

Tenly earned the top trophy with a Boer X goat that earned the meat division championship. The meat division consisted of three classes, with Tenly placing first in Class 2, followed by Thelma Tenly, Kenneth "Doot" Brown, Cassie Acevedo, Brittany Toms, Emily Acevedo, Paige Eaves and Hailey McElhenny.

Thelma Tenly was the division's reserve grand champion.

Cassie Acevedo also showed a first-place goat in Class 1, while Sylvia Toms and Emily Acevedo placed second and third, respectively.

Hunter Williams was the only participant in Class 3, thus earning the first-place award.

All meat goat participants

earned blue ribbons.

Thrift actually placed first in both classes of the dairy division—thus earning the dairy division championship—but it was her Nubian in Class 3 that earned the show's overall reserve grand champion trophy.

Lexi Ray placed second behind Thrift in Class 2, while Angela Flournoy was second in Class 3. Ray also competed in Class 3, placing third.

Ray's Class 2 goat was the division reserve grand champion. All dairy goat participants earned blue ribbons.

The pygmy division featured two participants: Ashley Harris, who earned a blue ribbon and was the grand champion, and Lake Harris, who earned a red ribbon and was the reserve grand champion.

In the wether division, Cassie Acevedo and Emily Acevedo were the grand champion and reserve grand champion, respectively. Kendal Jeffers placed third. All three earned blue ribbons.

See GOATS, 7B



Showmanship winners are Paige Eaves (senior), Emily Acevedo (intermediate) and Abigail Thrift (junior). They are pictured with (back, l-r) Junior Miss Bradford Fest Jaelyn Jackson, Strawberry Princess Madison Gibson, Strawberry Queen Hannah Tucker and Teen Miss Bradford Fest Ashley Harris.

FAIR

Continued from 1B

Day, with all rides requiring just a \$1 ticket, while Sunday, March 16, is Family Day, where a \$10 admission gives you unlimited rides all day.

Hours of operation are 5-11 p.m. through Friday, March 14, 1 p.m.-midnight on Saturday, March 15, and 1-9 p.m. on

Sunday, March 16. (Exhibits will close at 10 p.m. each night.)

Nojoe's Clown Circus will present entertainment every day of the fair by the midway stage. Shows will be 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. through Friday, March 14, 3:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 15, and 3 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 16.

The Second Chance Live Reptile Show will be presented several times in Building 2 by the horticulture exhibit area. Shows are scheduled for 7:30

p.m. Thursday through Saturday, March 13-15, as well as at 2:30 p.m. on March 15.

The Bradford-Union Swine Association's 4-H and FFA swine awards show will be Friday, March 14, at 6 p.m., with the auction to follow.

The Bradford-Union Cattlemen Association's 4-H and FFA steer show is Wednesday March 12, at 6 p.m., followed by the beef breed show on Thursday, March 13, at 7 p.m. The breed and steer awards will be presented on Saturday, March

15, at 5 p.m., with the auction to follow.

Other notable events on Friday, March 14, include the 4-H and FFA livestock judging contest at 8:30 a.m. and the Bradford-Union Swine Association buyers' dinner at 5 p.m.

On Saturday, March 15, the 4-H strawberry pie contest and auction will be held at 12:15 p.m., while the Sunburst Beauty Pageant will be at 1 p.m. The Bradford-Union Cattlemen Association buyers' dinner is at 3 p.m., while the strawberry auction will be held following the breed and steer auction.

For more information on the fair, please visit the website www.bradfordcountyfair.net. This website also includes a link to the fair's Facebook page.

You may also call the fair office at 904-964-5252.

LEGALS

NOTICE

The New River Community Health Center Board of Directors will meet March 19, 2014, at the Union County Library, located at 250 SE 5th Ave, Lake Butler, FL 32054 from 12:30 - 1:30 pm.

3/13 1tchg-B-sect

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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

Alberto I. Alvarez, 22, of Gainesville was arrested March 10 by Starke police for driving while license suspended or revoked. Bond was set at \$1,000.

Raymond Eddie Austin, 43, of Keystone Heights was arrested March 9 by Bradford deputies for possession of marijuana. According to the arrest report, Austin was stopped in Hampton for traffic infractions, and a search of the vehicle turned up a plastic bag of marijuana.

Willie Clarence Baker, 64, of Starke was arrested March 4 by Bradford deputies on a warrant dated Jan. 28, 2014, for selling cocaine and for possession of cocaine.

Barry Alan Bogart, 59, of Starke was arrested March 7 by Bradford deputies for aggravated battery. According to the arrest report, the victim was grading the dirt road that he and Bogart live on after recent rains. While he was grading the road, Bogart turned onto the roadway, then drove on the grass to get to his driveway, yelling at the victim as he went by. The victim went to Bogart's residence to ask him to drive on the road, and while he was at the door, Bogart reached inside and grabbed a cane, striking the victim in the face. Deputies were called, and Bogart was arrested, with bond set at \$25,000.

Carlos Cranton Caine, 42, of Lake Panasoffkee was arrested March 10 by Bradford deputies on an out-of-county warrant. Bond was set at \$1,500.

Cecil Ronnie Carter, 55, of Starke was arrested March 7 by Bradford deputies for probation violation.

Kevin Randal Chavous, 24, of Starke was arrested March 6 by Starke police for possession of marijuana and on a warrant for probation violation for original charge of credit card fraud. According to the arrest report, police were assisting DCF at Whispering Oaks Apartments when Chavous was encountered. The officer knew there was a warrant for Chavous, and during the arrest marijuana was found in his pants pocket.

Carol Marie Dampier, 31, was arrested March 6 on an out-of-county warrant from Union for failure to appear. Bond was set at \$2,500.

Adam Charles Downer, 31, of Orlando was arrested March 4 by Lawtey police for failure to appear. Bond was set at \$250.

Marc Howard Duncan, 21, of Lawtey was arrested March 7 by Bradford deputies for possession of marijuana and possession of marijuana with intent to sell or deliver. According to the arrest report, deputies went to an apartment in Whispering Oaks to serve a civil paper to the resident. Duncan answered the door, and the deputy could smell the odor of marijuana coming from the apartment. The resident then came home, and the deputy asked if he could enter and search for marijuana. The resident signed a consent-to-search form, and marijuana and drug paraphernalia was found. Duncan was arrested, and bond was set at \$15,000.

Jackie Edward Edmond, 64, of Starke was arrested March 10 by Starke police for resisting an officer. Bond was set at \$500.

Ryne Michael Faurote, 26, of Plant City was arrested March 9 by Bradford deputies for possession of marijuana. According to the arrest report, Faurote was stopped for speeding on U.S. 301. The deputy smelled marijuana coming from the vehicle, and Faurote told him there was a container in a book bag in the vehicle with some marijuana in it. He was arrested and transported to jail.

Lucy Foster, 31, of Brooker was arrested March 10 by Starke police for driving while license suspended or revoked.

Everett Laverne Frazier, 49, of Starke was arrested March 8 by Bradford deputies for battery, burglary and trespassing. According to the arrest report, Frazier went to the victim's residence, forced his way into the home, pushed the victim over her flower stand and stated he was staying the night. The victim went outside and called 911, and when deputies arrived, they detained Frazier from leaving, noting he had a strong smell of alcohol coming from him. A check through dispatch revealed Frazier had already been trespassed before from the victim's home, and he was arrested and transported to jail. Bond was set at \$80,000.

Mariette Gallor, 28, of Gainesville was arrested March 10 by Lawtey police for possession of marijuana and possession of drug equipment.

Caleb Raphael Greene, 26, of Putnam Hall was arrested March 8 by Bradford deputies on a warrant for possession of marijuana, for selling marijuana and for public order crimes-keeping a public nuisance structure for drug activity. Bond was set at \$60,000.

Barbara A. Greene, 58, of Starke was arrested March 7 by Starke police on a warrant for possession of cocaine and for trafficking in opium or derivative-within 1,000 feet of a specified area. Bond was set at \$100,000.

George Michael Hammontree, 53, of Starke was arrested March 9 by Bradford deputies for lewd and lascivious behavior-victim 12 years old to 16 years old. According to the arrest report, the victim and several others, including Hammontree, were standing around a campfire at a birthday party. Hammontree then grabbed the victim on the buttocks area while pushing her hair to the side and telling her, "You're too fine." He was arrested the next day after a report was called in to BCSO.

Adrian Antwon Hankerson, 29, of Starke was arrested March 10 by Starke police for resisting an officer. Bond was set at \$500.

Rabinonn Jermaine Hankerson, 35, of Starke was arrested March 10 by Starke police on a warrant for possession of cocaine and for selling cocaine. He was also arrested for driving while license suspended or revoked. No bond was set for the charges.

Taylor B. Henley, 20, of Lawtey was arrested March 5 by Bradford deputies for failure to appear.

Annette Shannell Jackson, 47, of Starke was arrested March 9 by Bradford deputies on a warrant for possession of drugs-controlled substance without a prescription. Bond was set at \$2,500.

Mark Steven Matuszewski,

26, of Starke was arrested March 10 by Starke police for battery and for cruelty toward a child. According to the arrest report, the police were called to a disturbance at the Days Inn in Starke between Matuszewski and his wife. The victim and a witness said the two got into an argument, with Matuszewski pushing her into a door, striking her several times on the legs and throwing her to the ground and attempting to choke her. At some point, he also grabbed the victim's 7-year-old child and threw her to the floor. He was arrested with no bond set.

Amos Brenard Merriweather, 24, of Starke was arrested on March 7 by Starke police for possession of cocaine, possession of marijuana, possession of drug equipment, three charges of possession of a weapon by a convicted felon and resisting an officer.

Kenneth Arnett Merriweather, 26, of Starke was also arrested March 7 by Starke police for four charges of possession of cocaine, three charges of selling cocaine, six charges of public order crimes, two charges of possession of a weapon by a convicted felon, resisting an officer and probation violation.

Nesaw B. Merriweather, 20, of Starke was also arrested March 7 by Starke police for resisting an officer.

According to the arrest reports, police executed a narcotics search warrant on North Thompson Street in Starke and found the drugs, weapons and equipment that led to the above arrests. The weapons found included a 12-gauge shotgun, a Smith and Wesson semi-automatic 9mm handgun, a .380-caliber Cobra semi-automatic handgun, boxes of ammunition and a stungun.

The bond for Amos Merriweather was set at \$46,500. Bond for Kenneth Merriweather was set at \$376,500. Bond for Nesaw Merriweather was set at \$1,500.

Christopher Mark Nicklas, 23, of Lawtey was arrested March 5 by Bradford deputies for disorderly intoxication. According to the arrest report, a deputy was traveling south on U.S. 301 when he spotted a suspicious vehicle at Ceremonial Fireworks north of Starke. The deputy stopped and observed Nicklas standing next to the vehicle, with a strong smell of alcohol coming from him. He was having a hard time standing, was loud and cursing and started stumbling toward the highway as the deputy ordered him to stay by the vehicle. The deputy arrested him for disorderly intoxication.

Heather Wells Peterson, 28, of Gainesville was arrested March 10 by Bradford deputies for

driving while license suspended or revoked. Bond was set at \$500.

August G. Roewe, 40, of Keystone Heights was arrested March 8 by Bradford deputies for possession of marijuana. According to the arrest report, deputies were traveling on S.R. 100 when they saw Roewe on the side of the road, flagging them down. When they pulled over, Roewe had his hands in his pockets, and the deputy asked him if he had a weapon on him. Roewe said he did, and went to retrieve it, but the deputy ordered him to stop. The deputy went to retrieve the weapon, but found only a lighter and a pill bottle with marijuana in Roewe's pocket. He was arrested and bond was set at \$5,000.

Nubbie Wendell Rowan, 30, of Lake Butler was arrested March 6 by Bradford deputies for probation violation.

Gil Santiago, 33, of Starke was arrested March 6 by Starke police for two charges of probation violation. Bond was set at \$50,000.

Joshua Nicholas Skinner, 31, of Orlando was arrested March 4 by Lawtey police for driving while license suspended or revoked. Bond was set at \$500.

Jerry Dwayne Smith, 26, of Jacksonville was arrested March 8 by Lawtey police for not having a license while driving a vehicle. Bond was set at \$2,000.

Shawn Michael Soulsby, 21, of Hampton was arrested March 5 by Bradford deputies for probation violation. Bond was set at \$10,000.

Adrienne Ann Swett, 26, of Starke was arrested March 5 by Bradford deputies on a warrant for probation violation.

David James Teixeira, 27, of Starke was arrested March 10 by Bradford deputies on an out-of-county warrant. Bond was set at \$750.

Roberto F. Torez, 56, of Hampton was arrested March 6 by Bradford deputies for simple assault-threat to do violence. According to the arrest report, Torez was cursing at and threatening several neighbors. He threatened to kill one neighbor that has been a witness for Torez's landlord in an eviction case against Torez. Torez was arrested, and bond was set at \$5,000.

Maurice Ashton Watkins, 24, of Lawtey was arrested March 9 by Starke police for driving while license suspended or revoked.

Gretchen Marie Wilkinson,

35, of Lawtey was arrested March 5 by Starke police on an out-of-county warrant from Union for grand theft. Bond was set at \$2,500.

Stephen Paul Winston Wilson, 51, of Jacksonville was arrested March 7 by Bradford deputies for battery. According to the arrest report, Wilson became angry at a residence where he has family members, yelling and then spitting in the victim's face. He stated he had a gun outside and would take care of the victim. Law enforcement was called, and Wilson, who smelled of alcohol, was arrested. Bond was set at \$10,000.

Cory Earl Wood, 32, of Macclenny was arrested March 5 by Bradford deputies for probation violation.

Edward Kwedwo Yeboah, 23, of Gainesville was arrested March 9 by Bradford deputies for possession of marijuana and for possession of drug equipment. According to the arrest report, Yeboah was stopped on U.S. 301 in Starke for traffic infractions. The deputy smelled marijuana coming from the vehicle, and a search turned up the drugs and drug equipment in the vehicle.

Keystone/Melrose

Michael Paul Hanks, 25, of Melrose was arrested March 6 by Putnam deputies for burglary and larceny.

Deborah Kauffman, 43, of Starke was arrested March 5 by Putnam deputies for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Jacob Loper, 32, of Keystone Heights was arrested March 6 by Clay deputies for retail theft.

Jeannie Piper, 33, of Melrose was arrested March 6 by Clay deputies for leaving the scene of a crash involving property damage.

Amanda Smith, 44, of Keystone Heights was arrested March 4 by Clay deputies for inhaling or ingesting a harmful chemical.

Bruce Strube, 56, of Keystone Heights was arrested March 4 by state agents for unlawful possession of a still, unlawful possession of containers used for packaging alcoholic beverages and unlawful possession of moonshine whiskey.

Jeffery Sydenstricker, 44, of Keystone Heights was arrested March 4 by Clay deputies for contempt of court.

Daniel Walker, 46, of Keystone Heights was arrested March 8 by Clay deputies for battery and resisting a law enforcement

officer.

Tammy Walker, 44, of Keystone Heights was arrested March 8 by Clay deputies for failure to appear.

Shawna Rowe Wolf, 49, of Lake Butler was arrested March 10 by Starke police for disorderly intoxication. According to the arrest report, police were called to the Days Inn motel when Wolf refused to leave several hours after her checkout time. The officer said she appeared to be on some type of drug/narcotic, needed help to leave the building and couldn't answer questions or state how she would leave the motel.

Samantha Wood, 22, of Keystone Heights was arrested March 6 for two probation violations from Bradford County.

Union

Brenda Gail Chandler, 25, of Lake Butler was arrested March 3 by Union deputies for failure to appear.

James Earl Peace, 25, of Lake Butler was arrested March 3 by Union deputies on a warrant for battery issued Oct. 1, 2013. Bond was set at \$25,000.

Luis Alberto Chavarria, 54, of Lake Butler was arrested March 8 by Union deputies for disorderly intoxication and for disturbing the peace. According to the arrest report, deputies were called after Chavarria entered an acquaintance's home without permission, appearing extremely intoxicated, and scarring the occupants of the residence. Deputies encountered Chavarria walking away from the home and arrested him.

Ivan Keith Allen, 61, of Raiford was arrested March 7 by Union deputies on an out-of-county warrant from Osceola for an original charge of attaching tag not assigned to vehicle. Bond was set at \$500.

Brandon Paul Prose, 21, of Lake Butler was arrested March 5 by Union deputies for possession of narcotic equipment.

Francisco Articas, 23, of High Springs was arrested March 7 by Union deputies for operating a motorcycle without a valid drivers license.

Warren Williams, 28, of Palatka was arrested March 10 by Union deputies on a warrant for battery on an officer-firefighter-EMT. Bond was set at \$10,000.

Joshua Terrence Oliver, 22, of Jacksonville was arrested by Union deputies on a warrant for probation violation.

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FINS, FUR & TAILS

Tips on outdoors cooking

Jim Lewis says the most common advice given by good outdoor cooks is to master the elements of time, temperature and smoke. Selecting your wood smoke should be an easy decision if you just decide to use a mild wood like oak until you can get your time and temperature down. Lewis indicates that the real challenge of outdoor cooking is to learn to regulate and vary your time and temperature.

Different types of meat have different demands upon time and temperature. For example, lean meats like steaks require a high temperature and fast cook time. On the other hand, meats with more fat content, like pork

shoulders, should be cooked at low temperatures for a longer time. Low and slow is the common description of the time and temperature necessary for smoking pork.

Despite the necessary variations of time and temperature, all grilled or smoked meats should be initially seared. In other words, they should be browned on all sides with a high temperature. The searing process ensures that the meat will not lose all of its internal moisture.

Lewis says that an "old timer" can look at the meat and tell a lot about it. How far rib meat recedes from the tip of the bones will provide an indicator of how well it is cooked. Some people can also tell how well done a steak or pork butt is by its firmness or softness.

It takes some experience, however, to collect that

knowledge, and until that has occurred, the outdoor cook needs a timer and the right thermometers. Most grills have thermometers mounted on them, and they will provide a good general temperature. Sometimes the temperature on the cooking surface might vary, and there are thermometers that can lie on the cooking surface and provide that information.

Perhaps the most important thermometer, Lewis says, is the meat thermometer—preferably a digital meat thermometer. Because the cooking temperature can vary so much, the internal meat temperature is the most valid and consistent indicator of how well done the meat is. The internal temperature should always be taken at the deepest and thickest point of the cut. Poultry and pork should always reach an internal

temperature of at least 165 degrees Fahrenheit for safety purposes.

Incidentally, if you plan to buy thermometers for smoking and/or grilling and will be frying a turkey, remember to get a thermometer to measure your oil temperature.

Outdoors outlook

Spring is on our doorstep. Frogs will soon be laying eggs that will shortly turn into tadpoles. Youth turkey days (March 8-9) are nearly here, and spring turkey season will follow on March 15. Snakes and other reptiles will soon be crawling. Purple martins and hummingbirds will be returning from Latin and South America. Meanwhile, our winter birds will soon be gone.

Joey Tyson says the crappie

bite is waning, and more people are fishing bass beds in the shallows.

The next month or so will be the best opportunity for trophy bass in North Florida, and no one has to remind Brooks Morrell, who recently entered two fish he caught in Kingsley Lake into the Hall of Fame of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's TrophyCatch program. (See accompanying press release and photo.)

Ed Allen says the bass action in Sampson is also good at this time. Last week, Allen landed a 7-plus-pound bass on a 10-inch Tequila Sunrise Culprit worm. The week prior to that, he and Keith Starling caught approximately 50 bass, including quite a few females. Obviously, most of those were released.

Tight lines until next week.

Outdoors calendar

- March 8-9, youth spring turkey season;
- March 12, Bald Eagle bass tournaments at Lake Santa Fe begin;
- March 15, Murphy's Law Relay for Life Bass Tournament, 5 a.m. at Little Lake Santa Fe boat ramp;
- March 15, spring turkey season begins.

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.

Morrell has 3 TrophyCatch fish

Joseph "Brooks" Morrell recently reported three huge bass that he caught, documented, released and entered in the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's TrophyCatch program.

These included the second and third Hall of Fame entries for the program's second season (Oct. 1, 2013-Sept. 30, 2014). The bass weighed 13 pounds, 12 ounces, and 14 pounds, 9 ounces, and were caught March 1 and 8, respectively.

The third bass he caught on March 9 weighed 11 pounds, 13 ounces.

All three of his trophy bass were caught sight-fishing with a soft, plastic Berkley crawfish bait on Lake Kingsley in Clay County.

Morrell grew up fishing in Florida and then spent six years in the U.S. Air Force security forces prior to returning to Florida to become a law enforcement officer in Bradford County.

On March 1, he located the 13-pounder on a bed guarded by a male. After working the male off the bed, he landed her using the artificial crawfish bait and called the FWC. Conservation officers Jason Bryant and Christiane Larosa were able to help measure the bass and even photographed its successful release, which



Brooks Morrell shows off a 13-pound, 12-ounce bass he caught a week before catching a 14-pound, 9-ounce bass.

this spring," Morrell said. "I'm so glad that I could get these documented and then release the females alive right back on their beds. Next weekend, on March 15, I'm putting on a Relay for Life fishing tournament on Lake Santa Fe to support the fight against cancer, but will be back fishing myself as soon as possible."

TrophyCatch is FWC's premier angler-recognition program that encourages anglers who catch largemouth bass weighing more than 8 pounds to photo-document them on a scale showing the entire fish and its weight. Once documented, a fish must be live-released in the same water system from which it was caught.

In return for documenting and releasing these big female bass that typically are at least 8 years old and relatively rare, the FWC's partners provide valuable rewards. FWC posts the images on the TrophyCatchFlorida.com website and provide a full-color certificate and club decal. Corporate partners provide additional incentives.

For more information, visit www.trophycatchflorida.com and follow www.facebook.com/trophycatchflorida.

allowed it to return to the bed.

A week later, Morrell was back on Kingsley Lake and landed the 14-pounder. It was 27.75 inches long with a 21-inch girth. Various formulas used for estimating bass weights project a bass with those dimensions weighing between 13.5 and 16.2 pounds, further substantiating the catch. This is now the biggest bass of TrophyCatch season two, and we are right in the middle of peak fishing time for big bass—so the challenge is on.

"Fishing has been awesome

Lake Harris tops table-setting contest

Lake Harris impressed the judges with his food selection and décor—perfect for a meal outdoors—in earning the best-overall rosette in the 4-H table-setting contest, which was held March 7 at the Bradford County Fairgrounds.

Harris, competing at the junior level, utilized issues of the Union County Times for his tablecloth, while talking about delicious Southern fare, including mullet dip and Ritz crackers, chicken wings, banana pudding and a gallon of sweet tea.

Ella Dinkins and Natalie Whitaker also competed at



Lake Harris earned the best-overall rosette in the 4-H table-setting contest.

the junior level, with Dinkins presenting a "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" luncheon, and Whitaker presenting a back-to-school theme.

Krislynn Faulkner, a 4-H Cloverbud, earned a participation ribbon for her "Take Me Out to the Softball Game" theme.

GOATS

Continued from 5B

Eaves earned the first-place trophy for showmanship in the senior division, followed by McElhenny, Brittany Toms, Sylvia Toms and Brown.

In the intermediate division of showmanship, Emily Acevedo placed first, followed by Flournoy, Maudrey Tenly, Thelma Tenly, Ashley Harris and Ray.

Thrift placed first in the junior division of showmanship, followed by Lake Harris, Williams and Cassie Acevedo.

The FFA record book winners were Sylvia Toms (Bradford) and Ashley Harris (Union), while the 4-H record book winners were

Flournoy (Bradford) and Jeffers (Union).

Skill-a-thon winners were Matthew Stafford (Little Bits), Lake Harris (junior), Ashley Harris (intermediate) and Brown (senior).

The goat show featured the following Little Bit exhibitors, who are too young to compete, but who receive participation ribbons and gain valuable experience for when they get older: Stafford, August Jefferey, Cason Denson, Kenli Jenkins, Blaine Orton, Ryder Thompson, Elexis Jenkins, Reese Wainwright, Jackson Thames, Kody Stalnaker, Karli Jenkins, MacKenzie Orton, Cody Spratlin, Noah Williams, Tom Jenkins and Kensleigh Lockhart.

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OBITUARIES



Barbara Burbridge

Barbara Burbridge

STARKE—Barbara Jean Burbridge passed away on Thursday March 6, 2014, at Bradford Terrace Nursing Home in Starke.

Barbara, the youngest daughter of seven, was born in Enid, Okla., on Sept. 19, 1925, to Isal and James Michaels.

A memorial service to celebrate her life will be held at 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 16, 2014, at First United Methodist Church in Starke under the leadership of Pastor Michael Moore.

Barbara was a loving and caring wife, mother and grandmother, whose life's passions were her music, cooking and, most of all, to be surrounded by the laughter of her family and friends.

She devoted thousands of hours throughout her entire life in the service of others in all the communities in which she lived. Barbara was a church soloist at Friendship Methodist Church in Colchester, Ill., 4-H leader, served on the McDonough County Home Extension and was Past Worth High Priestess of Queen Ester Shrine in Macomb, Ill.

Barbara was Unit President of Blandinsville and Moline, Ill., American Legion Auxiliary, Past 14 District President, Division President and served as Illinois State President, and National Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, also in service of the American Legion Auxiliary. She was Past Regent of Mary Little Deere's Chapter of the Daughters of American Revolution, and Past President of the Women's Club of East Moline, Ill. She served six years as a volunteer at East Moline State Hospital and as a member of the Circle of Kings Daughters.

Barbara is survived by: her daughter Margaret Nelson; two sons Larry Hicks and Bob Schmidt; grandchildren, Tommy Kallman, Beth Washburn, Adam and Brennan Hicks; great-grandchildren, Josh, Amber and Nina; and great-great grandchildren, Erasmo, Neveah, Robert, Thomas, Elisha, Leroy, and August.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Haven Hospice 4200 NW 90th Blvd. Gainesville, FL 32606. The family wishes to thank from the bottom of our hearts the entire Hospice team and the staff of Bradford Terrace for all the loving care they provided during Barbara's life. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke 904-964-6200.

PAID OBITUARY

William Fishley Sr.

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—William "Bill" L. Fishley, Sr., 60, of Keystone Heights died unexpectedly Wednesday, March 5, 2014. He was born in Pleasanton, Calif. on April 10, 1953 and has been a resident of Keystone Heights for 17 years moving from Ohio. He was a member of the St. William Catholic Church. He was preceded in death by: his mother, Mary Jane (Maire) and two siblings.

Survivors are: his wife of 37 years, Rebecca (Philps); sons, Billy (Nona) Fishley, Jr., Matthew Fishley, all of Keystone Heights; father, William H. Fishley of Willoughby Ohio; and three grandchildren.

The Funeral Mass was on March 11 in the St. William Catholic Church. Father Mike Williams presided and the burial followed at the Keystone Heights Cemetery. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Keystone Heights.

Eva Fox

FT. MCCOY—Eva Arlene Fox, 72, of Ft. McCoy died Tuesday March 4, 2014 at Shands UF in Gainesville following an extended illness. She was born on Jan. 16, 1942 in Graham

to the late Arlie Broughton and Naomi M. Newton. Along with being mainly a homemaker, she also had her PRN license and had worked for Monroe Hospital.

Survivors are: her husband of 53 years, Herbert "Russell" Fox, Sr. of Ft. McCoy; three children, Russell Fox, Jr. of Aiken, S.C., Terri Fox of Ft. McCoy, and Kathy (David) Goff of Pomona Park; two sisters, Margie (David) White of Keystone Heights and Linda (Ron) Spence of Lake Geneva; ten grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on March 10 in the Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home Chapel with the burial following at Eliam cemetery. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Keystone Heights.

John Hilton

LAKE CITY—John Franklin Hilton, 60 of Lake City died at his home from a sudden illness. He was born in Lake City to the late C.L. Hilton and Lois Thomas Hilton. He retired from the United States Army having served 20 years. He was a Guard for the Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger and received many Army decorations while in service. He was preceded in death by his loving wife Laura Bivins Hilton; and two sisters.

He is survived by: son, Michael (Kelly) Hilton of Ocala; daughter, Amber (Brian) Knagge; four grandchildren; brother, Robert (Kathy) Byrd of Lake City; sisters, Mattie Langley of Lake Butler, Betty Dortch of Lake City, and Peggy (Helton) Carter of Lake City.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, March 15, 2014 at 11:00 am at the Chapel in Archer Funeral Home with Rev. Rodney Baker officiating. Burial will follow in Phillippi Cemetery. Visitation is at 10:00 am an hour prior to funeral services. Archer Funeral Home is in charge of funeral arrangements.

Paul Johnson

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Paul Edward Johnson, 67, of Keystone Heights died Tuesday, March 4, 2014 in Starke. He was born in Springfield, Ohio on Jan. 14, 1947 to the late Paul F. and Eloise (Stewart) Johnson. He was a resident of the Starke and Keystone Heights area since 1993 and had retired as a correctional officer from the Florida Department of Corrections. He was a member of Pine Level Baptist Church in Starke.

He is survived by: his wife of 20 years, Jeannette (Taft) of Keystone Heights; children, Rebecca Young of Keystone Heights, Juanita White of Alabama, Ericka Miller of Georgia, Wade Johnson of Ohio, Tracy Cole of Florida, and Robin McGregor of Ohio; brother, Michael Johnson of Ohio; twenty grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at March 10 in the Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home Chapel. The burial will follow at a later date. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Keystone Heights.

Marzie Kinchen

STARKE—Marzie Birty Howard

Kinchen, 93, of Starke died Monday, March 10, 2014 at Haven Hospice Suwannee Valley Care Center in Lake City. She was born on April 2, 1920 in Bradford County to the late Horrie Hardy Ida Ray (Kelly) Howard and moved to Starke from Jacksonville in 1971. She was a homemaker and a member of Hope Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by her husband James T. Kinchen, Sr. and her daughter Marcia Stokes.

Survivors are: sons, Larry (Paula) Kinchen of Lake City, James T. (Carol) Kinchen, Jr. of Keystone Heights; daughter, Tina (Richard) Burns of Fayetteville, Ga.; eight grandsons; and eleven great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends at the Dewitt C. Jones Chapel of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home on Thursday, March 13, from 10:00 am to 11:00 am with funeral services beginning at 11 o'clock. Interment will follow at 2:00 pm in Edgewood Cemetery, 4519 N. Edgewood Drive, Jacksonville. Pastor Joe Butler will officiate. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke.



William Mason

William Mason

GRAHAM—William Wesley "Woody" Mason, 63, of Graham, died Friday March 7, 2014 in Gainesville following an extended illness. He was born in Moultrie, Ga. on April 7, 1950 and following 35 years of service he retired as an electronics technician from the State of Florida. He was also a member of Praise Christian Assembly Church in Graham. He was preceded in death by: his parents, Erskin and Betty Mason; and brother, Edward Mason.

Survivors include: his wife of 40 years, Kay Mason; sons, Eric (Lee Ann) Mason of Theresa and Ryan (Pam) Mason of Raiford; five grandchildren; and father and mother in law, Basil and Betty Davis.

Funeral services were March 11, in the Praise Christian Assembly Church. Officiating were Pastor Jay Jethro and Reverend Jim Kendrick. Interment followed at Rock Cemetery. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke.

Caudie Mullen

ELKHART, IND.—Caudie Hazen

Mullen, 92, of Elkhart died on Tuesday March 4, 2014. She was born on March 29, 1921 to Joseph F. and Martha Alice Dillard Hazen in Lulu. She graduated from Blue Mountain College for Women, Blue Mountain, Miss., New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, La., Baylor University School of Nursing, Dallas, Texas. She did mission work and was an educator and worked many years as a registered nurse before her retirement. She was preceded in death by: her parents; her husband, Philip Mullen; two brothers; and three sisters.

She is survived by: sons, Philip (Teresa) Mullen of Pensacola, Talmadge (Deanna) Mullen of Elkhart, Ind., and Michael (Terezinha) Mullen of Pompano Beach; two grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; brothers, Albert (Barbara) Hazen of Fair Play, S.C., David Hazen and Harley Hazen both of Starke.

A private family service was held at Waterman Westbrook Clouse Funeral Home followed by burial at Olive West Cemetery in Elkhart, Ind.



Austin Norman

Austin Norman

CLAY HILL—Austin Clark Norman, age 18, of Clay Hill, passed away on Sunday March 9, 2014. He was born in Jacksonville on April 2, 1995 to Jack Douglas Norman and Katherine Suzanne Norman. Austin was raised in Clay Hill and graduated from Middleburg High School in 2013. He played the trumpet throughout High School and he was an active band member. Austin was currently attending the St. John's State River College pursuing their Registered Nurse Program. He wanted his career to be in a field that helped others. Austin was employed by Russell's

Feed as a Delivery Driver for the past two years. He loved his family and enjoyed spending time with them and his friends. Austin also enjoyed hunting and fishing. He was preceded in death by his maternal grandfather, Russell Babcock; his maternal great grandmother, Bernice Dowling; and his paternal great grandmother, Clara Brewer.

Austin is survived by: his loving parents, Doug and Suzanne Norman of Clay Hill; his brother, Brandon Norman; his sister, Courtney Norman; his paternal grandparents, Jack and Marsha Norman of Clay Hill; his maternal grandmother, Flo Ann Smith of Middleburg; his maternal great grandfather, Bert and Doris Dowling, Sr. of Switzerland; and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, March 15, at 2:00 pm at Clay Hill Baptist Church with Pastor Rick Crews and Pastor Ken Weaver officiating. Interment will follow in Long Branch Cemetery. The family will receive friends an hour prior to the service at the church. Arrangements are under the care and direction of Archie Tanner Funeral Services, Starke. 904-964-5757. Visit www.archietannerfuneralservices.com to sign the family's guest book.

PAID OBITUARY

Ralph Odom

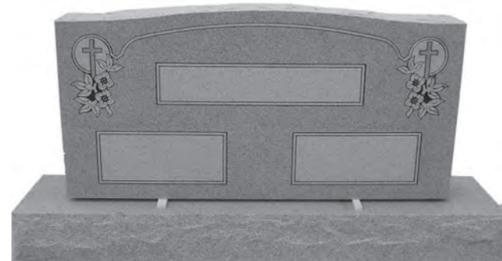
MACCLENNY—Ralph Odom, 92, of Macclenny died Sunday, March 9, 2014 at the Macclenny Nursing and Rehab. He was born on Dec. 31, 1921 in Eastman, Ga. to the late King Solomon Odom and Leoma Taylor Odom. He was an Army veteran and served in the South Pacific. He was a member of the New River New Congregational Methodist Church. He retired from Union Correctional Institute. He was preceded in death his wife, Irene Shadd Odom.

He is survived by: daughter, Sandra Odom of Macclenny; son, Mikell (Cynthia) Odom of Macclenny; and three grandchildren.

The funeral was held March 12 at New River New Congregational Church, with Rev. Randall Griffis and Alvin Griffis officiating. Burial followed at Pinegrove Cemetery. Archer Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

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OBITUARIES

Donald Phillips Sr.

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Donald Ray Phillips, Sr., 71, of Keystone Heights died on Monday, March 10, 2014. He was born on June 7, 1942 in Durham, N.C. to the late Wille Phillips and Eliza Holmes-Phillips. He was a member of Gadara Baptist Church. He served his country as a member of the United States Army and worked as a ship fitter at the Jacksonville ship yard for 32 years after his military service. He was preceded in death by three brothers and three sisters.

He is survived by: his wife of 47 years, Patsy Phillips of Jacksonville; children, Donna Phillips of Wisconsin, Donald Ray Phillips, Jr., Joseph Phillips, and Jessica Phillips all of Keystone Heights, Laura Waxman of Starke, and Mike Phillips of Keystone Heights; brother, Arnold Phillips; and eight grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held, Thursday, March 13, at 4:00 pm at Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home with Brother Mike Stanley officiating. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service. Interment will be held at Jacksonville National Cemetery on Friday, March 14, at 10:30 am. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to assist with funeral expenses. Arrangements are under the care and direction of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Keystone Heights.



Michael Pickering

Michael Pickering

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Officer Michael Pickering, I.D. 5403, of Keystone Heights passed away Tuesday, March 4, 2014 from injuries he sustained in an automobile accident. He was born Nov. 24, 1961 in Fall River, Mass. to the late William and Betty Pickering. Michael had begun his career with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office in 1983 and retired June 2013 following 30 years of service. He

was a member of the St. William Catholic Church where he was also in the Knights of Columbus. He was a Girl Scout Dad and an Eagle Scout, along with being a member of the Sons of the American Legion, F.O.P., P.A.D.I. and the Patriot Guard Riders. Michael enjoyed riding his Harley Davidson and was an excellent cook.

He is survived by: his wife of 13 years, Diane (Denemark) Pickering; three children, Kerri M. Stine of Gainesville, Michael "Robbie" Pickering and Aleece Pickering both of Keystone Heights; three siblings, Karen Wellman and Bryan Pickering both of Middleburg, and Diana Thomas of Jacksonville; mother in law, Suzanne Denemark of Keystone Heights; one grandson, Michael and numerous extended family members and friends. Viewing for Officer Pickering was on Fri. March 7 at the Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home Chapel. Funeral Mass was March 8 at the St. William Catholic Church with Father Mike Williams officiating, and interment followed at Keystone Heights Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Heart Association, 3801 NW 40th Terr. Suite B, Gainesville, FL 32606.

Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home 340 E. Walker Dr. Keystone Heights, FL 32656. 352-473-3176. www.jonesgallagherfh.com.

PAID OBITUARY



Philip Prevatt

Philip Prevatt

LAWTEY—Philip "Foots" Prevatt, age 60, of Lawtey passed away March 4, 2014 at Select Specialty Hospital in Gainesville. Philip was born in Gainesville on Jan. 25, 1954 to the late Rowell Prevatt and Wordna Southerland Prevatt. He has been a lifelong

resident of Lawtey where he attended the Lighthouse Pentecostal Church in Starke for many years. Philip was active in his church by singing bluegrass gospel and being involved with plays. He enjoyed his career as a truck driver where he worked for Tatum Brothers Trucking for many years. Philip loved his family and enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren. He also enjoyed fishing and watching wrestling. He was preceded in death by his sister, Betty Prevatt.

Philip is survived by: his loving wife of 21 years, Paula Prevatt of Lawtey; his children, Lynn Plemmons of Starke, Jeramie (Missy) Plemmons of Starke, and Austin (Selah) Browning of Lawtey; his brothers, Pat Southerland of Washington and Michael (Chris) Southerland of Lake Butler; his sister, Alma Jean Tulino of Lawtey; his grandchildren, Brent, Brady, Bryce, Skylar and Kayden; his great grandchildren, Saylor and Colt; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at Archie Tanner Funeral Services Chapel on March 11 with Pastor Terry E. Qualls officiating. Interment followed at Lawtey Cemetery. In lieu of flowers please make donations to the funeral home to assist with funeral expenses. Arrangements are under the care and direction of Archie Tanner Funeral Services, Starke, FL. 904-964-5757. Visit www.archietannerfuneralservices.com to sign the family's guest book.

PAID OBITUARY



Frances Pudvah

Frances Pudvah

ACWORTH, GA.—Frances K. Dupuis Pudvah, age 93, of Acworth, Ga., passed away Sunday, March 9, 2014. Private family services will be held at a later date. Mrs. Pudvah is preceded in death by her husbands, Arthur H. Dupuis and Raymond I. Pudvah, her parents, John and Victoria Siroweic Piecuch; one

brother, Leo Piecuch; two sisters, Anne Abbott and Wally Schlesinger and grandson, Rusty Bailey.

She is survived by: her sons, Dennis A. Dupuis of Keystone Heights and John (Nancy) Dupuis of Kennesaw, Ga.; step-daughter, Beverly Pudvah Bailey Pybus of Exeter, N.H.; five grandchildren, Lisa Wentworth, David Dupuis, Tad Dupuis, Julie Dupuis, Marcy Rosado; eight great-grandchildren, Mikala Wentworth, Jordan Wentworth, Ethan Dupuis, Adam Dupuis, Allison Dupuis, Coleman Dupuis, Trevor Rosado, Bryson Rosado; one great-great-granddaughter, Raelynn Ann Dupuis and several nieces and nephews.

Born in Franklin, N.H., Mrs. Pudvah received a Bachelor's Degree from Plymouth Teachers College and was a third grade school teacher for the Lebanon School District in New Hampshire for many years. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to WellStar Community Hospice at Kennesaw Mountain. West Cobb Funeral Home and Crematory, Marietta, GA is in charge of the arrangements. Online Guestbook available at www.westcobbfuneralhome.com.

PAID OBITUARY

Faith Richards

STARKE—Faith Lucille Richards, 94, of Starke died Monday, March 10, 2014 at Parkside Assisted Living Facility. She was born on Jan. 21, 1920 in Indiana to the late Dewey and Eva (Cunningham) Egolf. She was a homemaker and spent most of her life in Bradenton and Tampa. She was preceded in death by her husband of over 50 years Alton A. Richards.

Survivors are: her son, James Richards of Keystone Heights; daughter, Madonna (David) Roberts of Bogart, Ga.; four grandchildren; and numerous great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends at the Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home on Monday March 17, from 9:30 am to 10:30 am with funeral services beginning at 10:30. Interment will follow in Florida National Cemetery. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke.

Jesse Sanders Jr.

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Jesse S. Sanders, Jr., 72 of Keystone Heights died Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at Haven Hospice Robert's Care Center in Palatka. He was born in Mason, Tenn. to the late Jesse S. and Gertrude Sanders, Sr. He served in the United States Marine Corps and retired from Sprint as a customer service representative. He was a

member of St. William Catholic Church and the American Legion in Keystone Heights.

Survivors are: his wife of ten years, Ena M. Hayes-Sanders; step son, Michael (Velinda) Roe; three step daughters, Helena Molnar, Hanna DeLaPena, Dr. Harrietta Ceccarelli; five step grandchildren; and one step great-granddaughter.

A memorial mass will be held on Thursday, March 13, at 10:30 a.m. in the St. William Catholic Church Father Mike Williams presiding. The burial will follow at a later date. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Keystone Heights.



F.L. Spires Jr.

F.L. Spires Jr.

LAKE BUTLER—F.L. Spires, Jr., 65 of Lake Butler died on Wednesday, March 5, 2014 with family at his bedside. He was born in Gainesville on Nov. 8, 1948 to the late Fernie and Willie Mae Johnson Spires. He was a lifelong resident of Lake Butler. He was a retired pharmacist and honor graduate of the University Of Florida College Of Pharmacy. He was a lifelong member of Lake Butler Christian Church.

He is survived by: his brother, Tommy (Nancy) Spires; and one sister, Lila (Bob) Mader; aunt, Shirley Reid; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held March 8 with Art Peterson and Richard Harrison officiating. Burial followed at Dekle Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests any contributions to be made to the Lake Butler Christian Academy 475 SW 3rd St. PO Box 127 Lake Butler, FL 32054. Archer Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

William Watson

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—William Davis Watson, 75, of Keystone Heights, died on March 9, 2014 at Shands Starke. He was born on Jan. 27, 1939 in Newton, Ala. to the late Tulley Jefferson Watson and Vassie Lee Dunway-Watson. William worked over 40 years of his life in service to his country, as a 20 year retiree of the United States Navy and 20 years of service with the Department of Defense.

He is survived by: his wife of 54 years, Pat Watson of Keystone Heights; children, Larry Watson of Martinsburg, W.Va., John Watson of Keystone Heights, and Sabrina Watson Markle of Lynchburg, Va.; sister, Louise Lamb of Newton, Ala., seven grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held on Thursday, March 13, at 2:00 pm at Keystone United Methodist Church. Arrangements are under the care and direction of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Keystone Heights.

William Woodard

CABOT, PA.—William Leroy Woodard, 47, died Wednesday March 5, 2014. He was born in Polk County, son of William Osker Woodard and Mary Charlotte Simmons Woodard. He lived in Pennsylvania for the past 15 years. He is preceded in death by his father.

He is survived by: his wife, Karen Durand Woodard; daughter, Amber Woodard; brother, Michael Woodard; and sister, Tammy Woodard.

Services were held March 8, at the Archer Funeral Home Memorial Chapel. Archer Funeral Home is in charge of all arrangements.

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All testing for applicants must be completed by April 10, 2014.

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Going for the gold...and silver, too

Three teams from Bradford County competed in the Special Olympics state-level North Championships in Gainesville in February, with two teams capturing gold medals and one earning a silver medal.

The North Championships were open to qualifying teams from 52 counties.

Bradford's three teams—the Tornado Crimson, Tornado Heat and Tornado Tides—earned the right to compete at state by playing in two county level events in Bradford and Columbia counties and in an area event in Hamilton County.



The master level (23 and up) Tornado Heat won the gold medal in the 3-on-3 competition at the North Championships. Pictured are (l-r) Andy Martinez, Valeido Vassel, Nicholas Hernandez and Roger Crews.



The senior level (16-22) Bradford Tornado Crimson captured a gold medal in team skills at the Special Olympics-Florida North State Championships. Athletes got to meet several University of Florida athletes, some of whom are pictured above. Bradford athletes are: (foreground, l-r) Leroyal Stoutamire, Navea Hall, Brittany Castillo, (background, l-r) Keary Mathews, Daniel Baldwin, Elishia Hamilton and Marissa Allen.



The senior level (16-22) Tornado Tides earned the silver medal in 3-on-3. Pictured (l-r) are RaShay Miller-Hampton, Bruce Carlton, Travis Curtner and Curtis Knights. Not pictured: Christopher Chancey.

Area lifters compete at Highway 100 meet, KHHS places 2nd

Bradford, Keystone Heights and Union County were three of five teams competing at the Highway 100 boys' weightlifting meet in Palatka on March 3, with Keystone finishing in second place.

Columbia, which won six weight classes, won the meet with 80 points. Keystone had a score of 57, which was 20 points better than third-place finisher Palatka.

Union and Bradford were fourth and fifth, respectively, with 32 and 14 points.

Lane Blanton and Chase Musselman each had a first-place finish for Keystone. Blanton won the 139-pound class with a 485 total, while Musselman won the 169 class with a 575 total.

Jarvis DeSue earned Bradford's lone win, topping the 154 class with a 500 total. That put him 10 pounds ahead of Keystone's Brandon Johnson, who finished in second.

Other second-place lifters for Keystone were Dakota Hodge in the 129 class with a 405 total, Dakota Black in the 139 class with a 435 total, Johnnie Fitts in the 199 class with a 515 total and Jacob White in the 238 class with a 480 total.

Keystone's Austin Lester and Jacob Knight each placed third. Lester had a 285 total in the 119 class, while Knight had a 485 total in the 154 class.

John Spencer earned a third-place finish for Bradford in the heavyweight class with a 555 total.

Union had two third-place finishers: Austin Long in the 129 class with a 380 total and Alden McClellon in the 169 class with

a 505 total.

Yowell drives in 4 runs in 11-0 BHS win

Carson Yowell had four RBI, while pitcher Jackson Reddish turned in a strong performance for the Bradford High School baseball team, which defeated host Bishop Snyder 11-0 in five innings on March 10.

Yowell, who hit a double, was one of five players who drove in runs for Bradford (5-6). Reddish, who was 3-for-3, Wyatt Barnes, Wyatt Collins and Jacob Luke each had an RBI.

On the mound, Reddish (1-3) pitched all five innings, giving up three hits and one walk.

Prior to playing Bishop Snyder, the Tornadoes lost 3-2 to visiting Ridgeview on March 7. Yowell and Caleb Polk were 2-for-3 and 3-for-4, respectively, with Yowell hitting a double. Barnes and Zach DeWitt each had an RBI.

Barnes (2-1) suffered his first loss on the mound, despite giving up just four hits and one walk. He had eight strikeouts.

Bradford played Eastside this past Tuesday and will host District 5-4A opponent Keystone Heights on Friday, March 14, at 7 p.m. On Monday, March 17, the Tornadoes host district opponent P.K. Yonge at 7 p.m. before

traveling to play Oakleaf on Tuesday, March 18, at 4:30 p.m.

Tornadoes suffer another 1-run loss to P.K. Yonge

Pitcher Ashton Adkins held host P.K. Yonge hitless through the first six innings, but the Blue Wave scored three runs in the bottom of the seventh to hand the Bradford High School softball team a 3-2 District 5-4A loss on March 7.

It was the second one-run loss to P.K. Yonge in a week for the Tornadoes (7-2, 4-2).

Annie Luke and Lainie Rodgers each had an RBI for Bradford. Rodgers and Adkins each hit a double.

Adkins allowed just two hits and two walks, striking out four.

In a 5-2 win over district opponent Santa Fe on March 4 in Alachua, Adkins gave up four hits and one walk, striking out 10.

Rodgers went 3-for-4 with two doubles and two RBI, while Luke and Taylor Cruce were each 2-for-3. Cruce drove in one run, while Luke drove in two.

Bradford travels to play district opponent Fort White on Tuesday, March 18, at 6 p.m.

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Bradford High's Wiggins to play softball at Webber International

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer

Bradford High School senior Lindsey Wiggins signed a letter of intent on March 5 to play softball at Webber International University in Babson Park.

"It's something I've always wanted to do—get my education and play the sport I love to play," Wiggins said. "It's been a dream of mine since I was little. I'm so glad I've finally accomplished that."

Wiggins, who plays first base, had been looking at several schools, but she said Webber just felt right. She described the people there as down to earth and talked of how the campus had a hometown feel.

"When I went on my visit to Webber, I pulled up, and it was right off a two-lane road," Wiggins said. "It was very small, and everybody there just felt like family almost."

"I looked out in the parking lot, and there were a bunch of pickup trucks. I was like, 'You know what? My truck belongs here, too.'"

Bradford head coach Daniel Davis said Wiggins, who has been a starter since her freshman year, has put in the effort necessary to get better and earn this opportunity.

"She is one of the hardest workers we have," he said. "She's also extremely tough. She's not afraid to get hit by a pitch and do whatever is necessary to get on base to help our team. She's a very unselfish player."

Davis said Wiggins has been a leader as she is one of just three seniors on this year's team.

"I think people see her working hard, and it makes them work hard," Davis said.

Wiggins said that hard work will continue. For example, she subscribes to the belief that in order to become a better hitter, you've got to take 300 swings a day.

Hitting will be one area where she'll have to improve in as the level of pitching a player faces day in and day out is much higher at the collegiate level, Davis said. Wiggins, though, is focused on her overall game.

"There's always room for improvement," she said.

As for stepping onto the field



Bradford High School senior Lindsey Wiggins, seated between parents Stefanie and Lance Wiggins, signs a letter of intent to play softball at Webber International University. Photo by Shelley Rodgers.

for the first time as a Webber player, Wiggins said the moment will be like going back in time.

"(It'll) probably be something to the effect of the way I felt when I stepped onto the high school field my freshman year," Wiggins said. "It's that new feeling of, 'All right, I'm a freshman. I've got to earn my way up here.'"

Davis believes Wiggins has found a school that will be a good fit for her.

"I think she's going to do a great job there," Davis said. "I think they have a good program. She'll have an opportunity to go in and play early and flourish."

Starling drives in 3 runs in 4-0 Indians win

Tristan Starling had a perfect night at the plate and drove in three runs in the Keystone Heights High School baseball team's 4-0 win over District 5-4A opponent P.K. Yonge on March 7 in Gainesville.

Starling, who was 4-for-4 with a double and a triple, drove in two of his runs as part of a three-run first inning.

Kyle Hix drove in a run, while Storm Miller was 2-for-3 with a double.

The Indians (4-4, 2-2) got a complete game from pitcher Morgan Bass, who gave up two hits and struck out eight to earn the win.

Prior to playing P.K. Yonge, the Indians hosted district opponent Fort White on March 4, losing 4-3.

Keystone was held to four hits, with Hix and Blake Richardson each driving in a run.

Dean Dukes pitched the final four innings, giving up just one hit.

The Indians played Buchholz this past Tuesday and will host Williston on Thursday, March 13, at 7 p.m. On Friday, March 14, Keystone will travel to play district opponent Bradford at 7 p.m.

Keystone returns home on Tuesday, March 18, to play P.K. Yonge at 7 p.m.

KHHS gets 1-run win over Fort White

Keystone Heights picked up its second District 5-4A win in softball, defeating host Fort White 8-7 win on March 7.

The Indians (3-6, 2-3) had two three-run innings, including one in which Brooke Tussinger hit a fly ball to right field with the bases loaded. The Fort White fielder lost the ball in the lights, which allowed all three base runners to score.

Taylor Morris and Breanna Wells were 2-for-3 and 2-for-4, respectively. One of Wells' hits was a double, while Kristen Wood hit a triple and scored two runs.

CeCe Buckley and Kaitlan Shepard each scored two runs as well.

Pitcher Brittany Schelpepper earned the win.

Keystone played Clay this past Tuesday and will travel to play Fleming Island on Thursday, March 13, at 4 p.m. On Tuesday, March 18, the Indians travel to play district opponent Santa Fe at 7 p.m.

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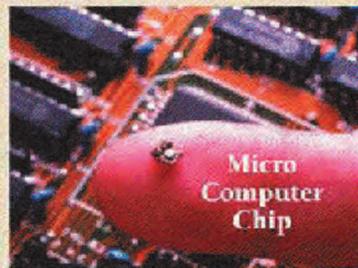
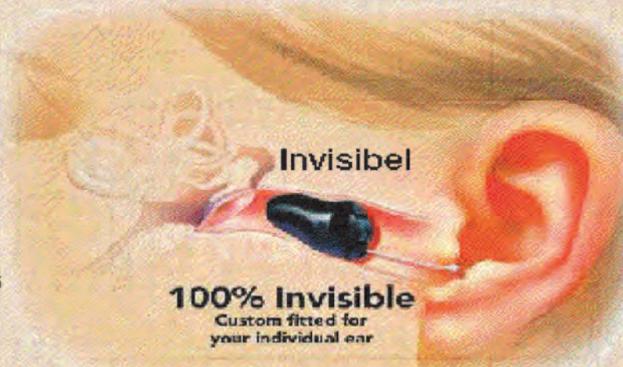
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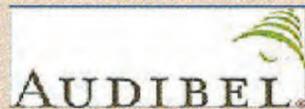
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