

Lake Region Monitor

USPS 114-170 - KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FLORIDA

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2014

41ST YEAR - 48TH ISSUE - 75 CENTS

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Florida tax collectors are warning vehicle owners not to use the optional two-year renewal for tags.

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Religion

Retired minister Tom Farmer created an acrostic from the word Lent to explain the religious observance during the second of seven Lake Region Lent lunches.

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Missionaries from two West Africa countries shared their experiences during Friendship Bible Church's annual missions conference.

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Public safety

An Orange Park man drove himself to a hospital after he was shot during a robbery. Deputies said an accomplice to the crime was a woman the victim met through an online dating service.

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Law enforcement officials arrested a man who was camping at the Orange Park Kennel Club for a 2009 murder in Sac City, Iowa.

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Clay County deputies arrested a man they said committed lewd acts on three girls in a Middleburg Walmart on March 25.

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Tami Jo Price, 33, of Keystone Heights was transported to UF Health in Jacksonville with critical injuries after the car she was in struck another vehicle south of East Palatka Friday night.

(Story on page 1A)

Between Feb. 3 and March 19, the Clay County Sheriff's Office said 19 property crimes were reported in the Keystone Heights-area.

(Story on page 4A)

New Eagle Scouts honored

BY WILLIAM BECK
Scoutmaster, Troop 146

Eagle Scouts Logan M. Curtis and Lake W. Beck were honored on March 30 during a ceremony at Keystone United Methodist Church.

Beck passed his Eagle board of review on Dec. 20 and Curtis passed his board of review on Jan. 6.

Troop 146 honored the new Eagle scouts together with a luncheon and Eagle advancement ceremony attended by more than 70 leaders, friends and family.

Both Scouts earned their Arrow of Light award as Cub Scouts of Pack 146. Curtis crossed over to the Boy Scout Troop in March of 2007 and Beck crossed over in February of 2009.

As Boy Scouts, they progressed through the ranks of Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle.

Both earned well over 30 merit badges and all Eagle-required badges, as well as other awards.

Both scouts have attended Camp Shands, Camp Francis, the Salvation Army Camp, Camp Echokotee, Camp Woodruff, Camp Rainey Mountain and other camps the troop arranged for summer scouting activities.

During their years in Troop 146, both held leadership positions as patrol leaders.

For their Eagle Scout projects, both scouts completed projects that benefited Historic Melrose Inc.

Curtis cleared brush and unwanted plants from the Historic Homemakers Club in Melrose, transplanted and



Lake Beck and Logan Curtis

planted new shrubs, built a new white picket fence, provided picnic tables and painted the front door and railings.

Beck cleaned up the historic grist mill site of Banana, just south of Melrose. He cleared trees and brush, moved a large sago palm, removed 21 semi-truck tires and other debris buried in the creek, built a shelter to protect the remaining remnants of the historic grist

mill and placed picnic tables for others to enjoy the site.

Both projects required fundraising for materials and supplies and included donations of labor planned and coordinated by the Eagle Scouts to carry out the projects.

Both Beck and Curtis are members of the Order of the Arrow, Outina Chapter of Echokotee Lodge 200.

Keystone woman critical after Putnam crash

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

A Keystone Heights woman was transported to UF Health in Jacksonville with critical injuries after the car she was in struck another vehicle south of East Palatka Friday night, according to a Florida Highway Patrol Report.

Tami Jo Price, 33, was a passenger in a 1996 Ford Mustang driven by David Lloyd Price, 35, of Keystone Heights.

The Mustang was traveling in the inside northbound lane of US 17 near Theater Road when a 1998 Chrysler Cirrus pulled in front of the Ford.

The Chrysler, driven by 89-year-old Wilma Peters Kuhn of Crescent City, was stopped at a stop sign on Theater Road, and pulled in front of the Mustang in an attempt to cross the intersection.

Kuhn was transported to Putnam Community Hospital with serious injuries.

The driver of the Mustang received minor injuries.

According to the FHP report, the crash occurred around 7:45 p.m. David Price and Kuhn were wearing seatbelts while Tami Jo Price was not. Charges are pending.

Sheriff's office: Online date leads to gunshot, robbery

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

The Keystone Heights City Council will discuss resurfacing one road and closing another during its April 3 meeting, according to its agenda.

In March the council deliberated over a section of Triest Avenue which has been plagued by potholes. Council members authorized City Manager Terry Suggs to spend up to \$30,000 to resurface the road section. During the April 3 meeting, council members will go over proposals for the work.

The council will also consider vacating Southwest Orange Avenue between Southwest Jasmine Avenue and Southwest Nightingale Street.

Although platted, the road along Keystone's western city limit was never built and is now a pedestrian path used mostly by students walking to school.

According to city documents, the proposed action would clear the way for an adjacent property owner to create an additional residential lot. It would also close the pedestrian pathway.

Keystone special election to be set

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

A special election to fill the seat of Keystone Heights City Council Seat 5 will be scheduled during the city council's April 3 meeting.

Under a mayoral proclamation on the April 3 agenda, the election will take place on May 6. Qualifying will be from April 7 to April 21.

Tony Brown resigned from the seat earlier this year in order to run for mayor.

See ROBBERY, 4A

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County cuts ties with chamber's economic development council

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

Clay County commissioners voted to terminate the county's economic development agreement with the Clay County Chamber of Commerce's Economic Development Council and pledged to support a new, independent organization.

Commissioners took the action after Jerry Agresti, the former chair of the chamber subsidiary, and Van Royal, a board member, recommended the action.

Agresti told commissioners he agreed to serve on the board at their request. He also said the Clay Chamber of Commerce's two-year-old reorganization effort has succeeded. However, he added that the current structure of the county's economic development efforts, with the council operating as a unit of the chamber is not as efficient as he hoped.

"I am recommending that there be a separate nonprofit formed," he said.

Agresti added the new organization would work more closely with county staff members to bring new businesses to the area.

"The new organization will be able to start its efforts without any prior baggage and have the greatest amount of neutrality necessary for gaining general political support for economic development efforts," he added. "The new organization would not be politically affiliated with the chamber of commerce or elected officials, thereby insulating it from accusations of having a specific political agenda."

He also said an independent organization, solely focused on

economic development, could act quickly to attend trade fairs, set up marketing campaigns and engage in other efforts to attract employers to Clay County.

Royal told commissioners he agreed with Agresti's assessment.

"I do feel like, after working 18 months, that it would work much easier and simpler and, probably, in the long run allow us to focus on our missions which may or may not be absolutely the same."

Commissioner Diane Hutchings said that as a former board member of both the economic development council and the chamber, she has been concerned about the very issues Agresti and Royal cited.

"I do think sometimes for clarity of purpose, it's better to be a silo than to be mingled and have crossover," she said.

Hutchings added that the construction of the First Coast Expressway will bring opportunities for the county to attract new jobs, and she wants the county's economic development operation to be ready to take advantage of those opportunities.

Prior to the commission's March 25 meeting, the county had a \$50,000-a-year contract with the chamber's economic development council. Under the terms of the agreement the council acted as the lead agency for the county's economic development efforts, maintaining an inventory of available buildings for business use and marketing the county to potential employers.

Over the past year, the council has attracted Hi-Liner Fishing Gear and Tackle from Pompano

Beach to Green Cove Springs. It also landed the regional headquarters of R.J. Corman Signaling for Orange Park.

However, Hutchings said it appears the council has lost some of its momentum.

"My sense is that there is a waning right now of people not knowing where things stand," she said.

Later in the commission meeting, the council voted 3-0 to cut ties with the chamber subsidiary and pledged \$50,000 a year to a new organization Agresti is organizing. Commissioner Cheree Stewart joined Ronnie Robinson and Hutchings in supporting the measure. Doug Conkey did not vote because of a conflict of interest. He is the president of the chamber. Commission Chair Wendell Davis was not at the meeting. He was on a chamber of commerce trip to Scotland.

Robinson reminded his colleagues he voted against the original contract with the economic development council. He also said he believed Agresti's proposal was a step in the right direction.

Hutchings said of the commission's vote to cut ties with the chamber subsidiary, "Sometimes you have to rip the Band-Aid off and start over."

She then turned to Robinson and acknowledged his previous opposition to the contract with the council.

"Ronnie," she said, "sometimes I have to look at you and say, 'You were right.'"

YMCA for the nonprofit to rent a Camp Chowenaw building and operate a camp this summer from the venue.

During its March 25 meeting, commissioners also:

Approved rezoning for a north Fleming Island parcel

The application was for a planned commercial development at Creighton Road and US 17 at the north end of Fleming Island.

The rezoning allows developers to add a bank drive-through to one of the three buildings in the development.

Approved two hazard mitigation grant applications

In February 2013, Clay County Emergency Management applied for the two grants with the Florida Department of Emergency Management to

mitigate flooding hazards on Wells Road and on Richards Road at Indigo Branch.

High school drama club presents "Anything Goes"



The cast of "Anything Goes:" (L-r) Front row: Joleen Miller and Ashlyn Wallace. Back row: Conner McCormick, Christopher Toombs, Curtis Jones, Addison Mosher, Elizabeth Williams and Aidan Margo. Photo by Brandon Ogg.

BY CAITLIN CHARRIER

Keystone Heights High School

For the seventh year, members of the Keystone Heights High School Drama Club will be performing their spring musical next week. This year's production is Cole Porter's "Anything Goes."

This musical is about insane love triangles and avid dance numbers aboard the S.S. American as it makes its journey across the ocean.

Billy Crocker, a young stockbroker is a man who stows away on the cruise liner in hopes of winning the love of Hope, a young woman who is engaged to be married to Lord Evelyn Oakridge on the cruise.

Meanwhile, Reno Sweeney, an evangelist singer, boards the ship with her "Angels," and Reno helps Billy by setting up a

trap to make Lord Evelyn look unfaithful.

During the musical, Hope realizes that she still loves Billy, and in a turn of events, Lord Evelyn has started to fall in love with Reno. Throughout this musical of mixed emotions, memorable songs such as "You're the Top," "I Get a Kick out of you," and "Anything Goes" are sung to express the feelings of these complex characters.

"Anything Goes" has been rewritten four times in the last decade. The show has earned Best Revival of a Musical in 1939, 1960, 2003 and 2011. Cole Porter's greatest work,

"Anything Goes" is a Tony Award-winning song that has

been used in over 10 different movies including "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom."

The KHS Drama Club

has put on different shows such as "Wizard of Oz" and "Oklahoma."

"Anything Goes" stars Caitlin ChARRIER, Conner McCormick, Christopher Toombs, Rachael Bush and a host of other drama club members.

Show times are at 6 p.m. on April 10, 11 and 12. Tickets are \$6 at the door.

On the 12th, there will be a matinee at 2 p.m.

There is also a dinner theater on the 11th at 6 p.m. for \$17.50.

The dinner menu will include garden salad, maple-bourbon-glazed salmon with rice pilaf and roasted vegetables, and strawberry cheesecake.

Dinner show tickets must be preordered. Please call 352-473-1457 to order tickets.

Clay Commissioners Proclaim April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month

In the proclamation, commissioners reaffirmed their support for Quigley House, Clay County's domestic violence and sexual assault shelter.

Quigley House Executive Director Peggy Payne told commissioners domestic and sexual violence is a communitywide problem that affects everyone. She said according to one report, over 60 percent of Americans have experienced or know someone who has been a victim of sexual assault or domestic violence.

"If you have daughters or sons, you need to raise their awareness," she said to the audience at the meeting, "because with awareness we can protect our children. Because then they know that that's a topic that is safe to come to you and talk about, if someone approaches them or does something to them that makes them feel uncomfortable."

"We talk to our children everyday about stranger danger," Payne added, "but we also need to talk to them about people in their lives who may not make them feel comfortable. Make your home a place that children can come to you and say, 'This has happened and I need your help in deciding what to do.'"

County approves a contract for managing the Camp Chowenaw pool

The \$38,570 renewal is with the YMCA of Florida's First Coast to manage the pool at Camp Chowenaw Park for the 2014 season.

Camp Chowenaw Park is a 150-acre campsite off US 17, about seven miles north of Green Cove Springs.

For over 70 years, until selling the facility to the county in 2006, the Gateway Council Girl Scouts operated the camp.

Hutchings said the 2014 swimming season begins on May 3 and ends Sept. 28.

County Finance Director Don Moore said that under the agreement, the county agrees to reimburse the YMCA for labor and other costs and the YMCA will offset those costs with revenues collected from pool use fees.

"We remit to them the difference," Moore said, "and we anticipate that to be around \$38,000 this year."

County Manager Stephanie Kopelousos said that even though the pool was not used last year, it is in good enough condition to defer repair costs until next year, when the county will have to overhaul its pumps and resurface the bottom of the pool.

Kopelousos said she is also working on a deal with the

YMCA for the nonprofit to rent a Camp Chowenaw building and operate a camp this summer from the venue.

During its March 25 meeting, commissioners also:

Approved rezoning for a north Fleming Island parcel

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Approved two hazard mitigation grant applications

In February 2013, Clay County Emergency Management applied for the two grants with the Florida Department of Emergency Management to

CRAB

Continued from 1A

"I hope they can put it (the election) behind them and we can all work together for the betterment of the city."

The city council has scheduled an hour-long Community Redevelopment Agency meeting before its regular meeting on April 3. During the CRA session, Brown said he wants the council and advisory board members to go over CRAB bylaws that were drafted in 2006.

He said that by agreeing to the ground rules under which the advisory board will operate, he hopes to provide the panel with additional direction.

Brown said that in recent months, a lack of communication between the city council (acting

as the CRA) and the advisory board has pulled the two groups in different directions.

"It's not that we weren't on the same page," he said of the city council and advisory board, "we weren't even in the same book."

A consulting proposal is also on the agenda for the April 3 CRA meeting. SLF Consulting Inc. is offering to look over the 2006 CRAB bylaws and update the document for a fee of \$800. Brown said the proposal came about through discussions between the consulting firm's principal, Susan Fraser, and City Manager Terry Suggs. Brown said he is not yet convinced the city should spend \$800 to rewrite the seven-page document.

Fraser is also proposing to draft a sign grant program for the CRA at a cost of \$4,800.



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See COUNTY, 3A



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Johnny & Valerie Mason, owners of Johnny's BBQ catering of Keystone are helping support the 11th annual NEFAR Bass

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to benefit Haven Hospice. Like so many of us in the community, Johnny and Valerie have been helped by Haven Hospice as well as many Associates with CB Isaac Realty.

Local resident Deborah C. Strickland, MHS, CMC is the Administrator of Haven Hospice in Palatka.

There will be:

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Bradley's bill revises penalties for painkiller possession

BY DAN HILDEBRAN

Monitor Editor

A bill authored by Sen. Rob Bradley and passed by the Senate on March 26 increases the threshold for minimum mandatory sentences for possession of painkillers.

Under current law, a conviction for possession of four grams or more of oxycodone or hydrocodone carries a minimum mandatory sentence of three years.

Under Bradley's bill, the three-year sentence would not apply unless a defendant is convicted of possessing seven grams or more of oxycodone or 14 grams

or more of hydrocodone.

In a Senate committee hearing, Bradley noted that possession of 28 grams of cocaine triggers the three-year sentence for that substance.

He also said a government accountability report recommended the sentencing change and stated that if implemented, the update would result in 465 fewer prison beds over the next five years, resulting in savings of around \$43 million.

"This is a common-sense solution to what I would consider a flaw in our current statutory scheme," he said.

Sen. Greg Evers, who co-

sponsored the bill, said he has been working on such a measure for several years.

"So many of the folks that we have need treatment and we don't need them in prison," he said.

Bradley also introduced Senate Bill 526 which, imposed a 50-year mandatory, minimum sentence for anyone convicted of raping or torturing children, seniors, or disabled individuals. Gov. Rick Scott signed the measure into law on April 1. An analysis by legislative staff stated the law would increase costs by \$41 million over the next five years.

Tax collectors: Don't use tag renewal

BY DAN HILDEBRAN

Monitor Editor

Florida tax collectors are warning vehicle owners that if they use the optional two-year tag renewal between now and Sept. 1, they will lose a fee reduction that Gov. Rick Scott is expected to sign into law soon.

The new law, pushed by the governor and passed by the legislature, reduces tag renewals by \$25 a year. However, the new fee schedule will not go into effect until Sept. 1, so vehicle owners renewing their tags before then will not see the fee reduction.

Owners renewing their tags between now and Sept. 1 will lose the \$25 discount for this year and owners using the optional two-year renewal will lose \$50 over the next two years.

In addition, the 750,000-plus Florida vehicle owners who have purchased two-year tag renewals since July 1 will not see the fee reduction until they renew again after July 1, 2015.

Hillsborough County Tax Collector Doug Belden said he has eliminated the two-year renewal option on his website.

"It is part of my fiduciary responsibility to save taxpayers money when possible," Belden said in a press release. "Having the option of renewing biennially removed, will save taxpayers from paying more when renewing their registrations. Our goal is to promote awareness and ensure our customers benefit from not having to pay the higher rate on a two-year registration."

WWII gunner, POW dies in Orange Park

Erskine H. Stubbs, a World War II gunner and former prisoner of war, died on March 17 in Orange Park. He was 93.

A 60-year resident of Albuquerque N.M., he was in the care of a nephew in Orange Park.

Stubbs joined the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1942 and earned the rank of staff sergeant. He was the right waist gunner on a B-24 Liberator with the 44th Bomber Group (H) 66th Squadron of the 8th Air Force based in England.

Following a mission on Feb. 24, 1944, Stubbs' B-24 was shot down over Gotha, Germany.

After bailing out, he landed in a snow-covered forest, where he suffered a cracked neck and back.

He and the pilot, Lt. Harold

Etheridge, were captured by armed villagers who threatened to kill the pair with pitchforks until a German World War I veteran saved the two Americans.

Over the next 18 months he was imprisoned at Stalag Luft IV Gross Tuchow in Prussia and the Wobbelin Bei Lundwigsburg concentration camp.

In the final months of the war, Stubbs and his fellow POWs were forced to march over 600 miles in extreme winter conditions to prevent them from being liberated by advancing allied armies. He was repatriated on July 7, 1945.

After retiring from the U.S. Air Force in 1963, he served with the Federal Aviation Administration in Albuquerque.

Clay County improves in health rankings

BY DAN HILDEBRAN

Monitor Editor

Clay County climbed three places for health factors in the fifth annual County Health Rankings & Roadmaps Report released by the University of Wisconsin and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The report ranked Clay County 13th in Florida for health factors, up from 16th last year.

Winnie Holland, the county's health officer, said the survey shows that Clay County's community health improvement plan is working. Initiatives in the document include addressing obesity and overweight among the population, improving health literacy and reducing the misuse and abuse of prescription medication.

"This is a reflection of the work the health department and our community partners have done at addressing issues such as adult smoking, obesity and teen births," Holland said.

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Council holds senior appreciation event



The Lake Area Elder Council held a senior appreciation event on March 28 at the Keystone Heights Senior Center. Organizers treated participants to a free lunch as well as numerous giveaways. About 15 organizations explained their services to attendees. Pictured here are Park of the Palms Director of Operations Denise Cribbs and event attendee Lenore Wilson.

Cloudbusters president explains model aircraft to fly-in group

BY DAN HILDEBRAN

Monitor Editor

The president of Keystone Heights' remote control model aircraft club gave participants in the March 1 Wings of Dreams fly-in an overview of remote control model aircraft.

Mike Mullins said model aircraft have been around as long as aviation itself.

He also said the hobby has overcome difficulties, including an overcrowded radio frequency spectrum and, more recently pending regulations over drones.

He also said advances in technology have revolutionized the hobby in recent years.

"There is always something new coming out," he said of the avocation. "There is always something neat and different to try, and that's what keeps me interested."

The 27-year auto mechanic said he has applied some of the lessons from remote control aircraft to his trade, particularly in the electronics area.

After his presentation, Mullins said some members of the Cloudbusters R/C Club have been flying model aircraft for over 70 years.

He said that hobbyists have been launching models from the Keystone Airport for around 20 years. However, in 2007 new FAA regulations forced the group to stop until they could form a sanctioned organization.

The club now has over 40 members from the Lake Region in addition to Gainesville, Middleburg and other areas.

Alachua County had 3rd-lowest Feb. unemployment rate

BY DAN HILDEBRAN

Monitor Editor

Alachua County's five-percent unemployment rate was the third-lowest in Florida in February, following only Monroe County's 3.8 percent and Walton's 4.2 percent. Okaloosa County also had a five-percent February unemployment rate.

Bradford County tied with St. Johns with the fifth-lowest rate at 5.2 percent.

Health factors include high school graduation rates, smoking and access to health care and nutritious foods.

In the health outcomes rankings, researchers measured teen births, life expectancy, obesity rates, low birth weight and other public health statistics. The county ranked seventh in the state for health outcomes, the same place it held the previous year.

St. Johns County placed first in Florida for both factors and outcomes in the report.

Alachua County ranked second in health factors and 17th in health outcomes. Bradford County ranked 45th in health factors and 59th in health outcomes. Putnam County ranked 67th in health factors and 65th in health outcomes.

COUNTY

Continued from 2A

It applied for money under an appropriation made for damages caused by Tropical Storm Debbie. The two grants were not approved by the state due to intense competition for grant funding in the Tropical Storm Debbie grant cycle.

During the March 25 county commission meeting, the county's emergency management department sought board approval to resubmit the same applications under a different grant cycle pertaining to 2013 flooding in Holmes, Walton and Washington counties. Under the disaster declaration, only entities in the affected counties could apply for public assistance, but any Florida county could apply for mitigation grants.

Retained a law firm to represent the county in Henley Road Wall 4 costs

In March 2013 the wall, supporting the widened Henley Road and built to protect underlying wetlands, had settled

over 10 inches. The county subsequently discovered a layer of peat beneath the wall and so far has spent over \$616,000 to repair the structure.

According to a memorandum from the county's director of engineering and public works to commissioners, county staff members believe the architecture, engineering and consulting firm of RS&H is financially liable for all or a portion of the additional costs.

Commissioners retained the law firm of St. Denis and Davey to represent them in the matter at costs ranging from \$250 to \$300 an hour.

Approved a supplement for Wall 4 of the Henley Road project.

The additional \$62,000 is for a special grout a geotechnical firm said is necessary to stabilize the wall.

VeRonica R. Owens Attorney at Law

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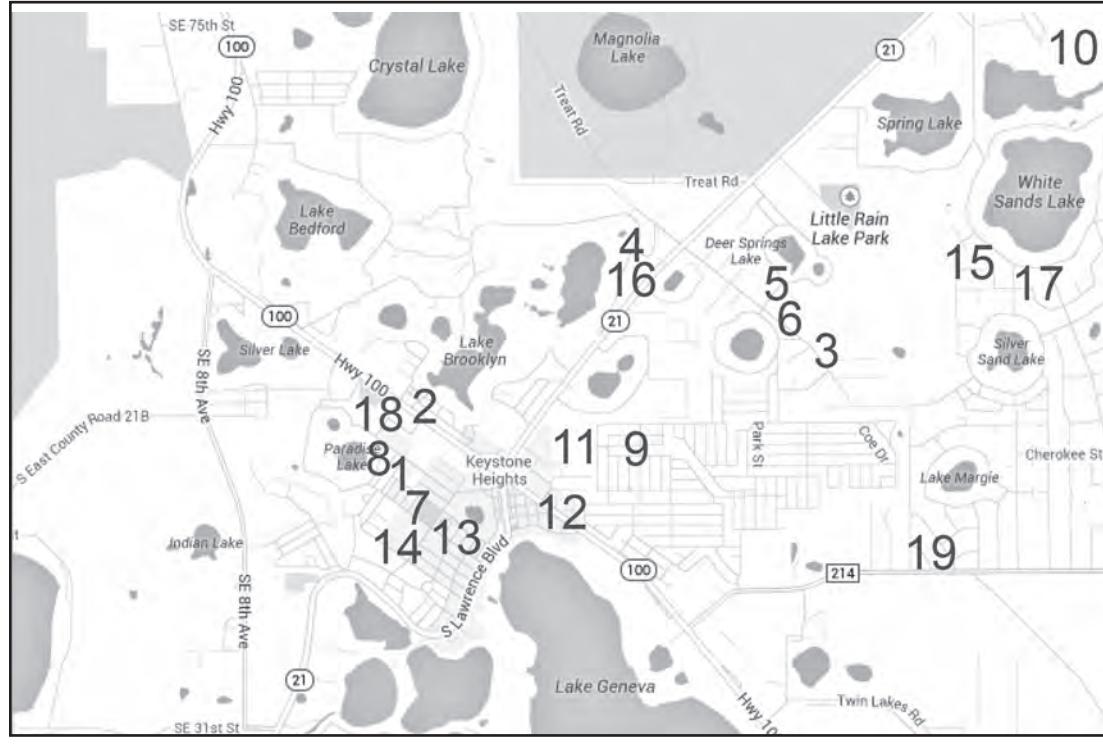
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Keystone-area property crimes



1. On Feb. 3, a combination television and DVD player and jewelry were stolen from a residence on Hilltop Street. There were no signs of forced entry.

2. On Feb. 11, a bullet hole was found in a pickup truck parked in the front yard at a residence on SR 100.

3. On Feb. 16, items were stolen from three unlocked vehicles parked in the yard at a residence on Gas Line Road.

4. On Feb. 16, an air compressor was stolen from a shop at a residence on Immokalee Road.

5. On Feb. 19, hand tools were stolen from an unlocked vehicle at a residence on Oakhill Road.

6. On Feb. 19, a handgun, wallet, and other items were stolen from a second vehicle parked at a residence on Oakhill Road.

7. On Feb. 24, an ATV was stolen from the front porch at a residence on Southwest Susan Avenue.

8. On Feb. 24, a dirt bike was stolen from the back patio at a residence on Paradise Drive.

9. On Feb. 26, items were stolen from a vacation home on Amherst Avenue. Entry was made by prying open the front door.

10. On March 1, the passenger side rear window was found shattered and a wallet was stolen from the center console of a vehicle parked at a residence on Indian Trail.

11. On March 3, a washer, dryer and jewelry were stolen from a residence on Linwood Drive.

12. On March 3, a cell phone left unattended was stolen from next to the fence that surrounds a basketball court behind City Hall on Lawrence Boulevard.

13. On March 3, an unlocked bicycle was stolen from Keystone Heights Elementary School on Southwest Pecan Street.

14. On March 3, money was stolen from a drink machine in the gym building at Keystone Heights High School on Orchid Avenue. It appears the drink machine may have been left unlocked.

15. On March 16, a Florida license plate decal was stolen from a vehicle parked overnight at a residence on Appomattox Avenue.

16. On March 21, a Johnson outboard boat motor and a 8000 KW generator were stolen from the back yard of a residence on Immokalee Road.

17. On March 21, the air conditioner unit was stolen from a residence on Acadia Street.

18. On March 22, 15 to 20 used tires were stolen from behind Riviere Tire on Sunrise Boulevard.

19. On March 26, a commercial carpet cleaner, drying fan, connection hoses, and an inline filter were stolen from an unlocked trailer parked in a carport in the rear of a residence on C.R. 214.

Santa Fe Audubon issues annual report

Santa Fe Audubon reviewed its outreach and conservation efforts, in addition to the status of its finances and membership during its March 11 annual meeting.

Over the past year the organization held eight public meetings and hosted seven field trips, participated in a meeting with the Jacksonville Electric Authority about water conservation, organized the local Christmas Bird Count, coordinated the Breeding Bird Atlas project for Bradford and Putnam counties, began organizing a kestrel box monitoring project with Gold Head Branch State Park and

opposed the cutting of pine trees at Keystone Heights Golf and Country Club, in addition to other accomplishments.

The organization ended its fiscal year in a positive cash position with revenues from membership dues, a silent auction, a Christmas tree sale, raffles at meetings and a donation to cover website costs. Major expenditures for the year included insurance, occupancy, costs for constructing a chapter display and cost for a website.

The chapter has 24 members and its 2013-2014 board included Laura Berkelman, treasurer; Bob Bird, community relations; Bill Chitty, website;

Joyce King, president; Sandy McGee, vice president; Jill McGuire, conservation; Anne Pierce, membership; Betty Rosenblatt, secretary; Carol Sallette, special events; John Sloane, breeding bird atlas and Mel Sunquist, conservation.

During the group's April 8 meeting, Dick Franz, who worked for nearly 40 years at the Florida Museum of Natural History will talk about snakes that live in the sand hill country of north central Florida.

Santa Fe Audubon meets at the Melrose Senior and Community Center at 6:45 p.m.

Friendship Bible Church hosts missions conference

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

Friendship Bible Church completed its 2014 missions conference on March 22. Pastor Paul Coleman said the annual event usually features two missionary families from different parts of the world. However, this year both households came from posts in western Africa.

The Toby Hull family serves in Burkina Faso, a former French colony of 15 million on the northeast border of the Ivory Coast.

The Brian Lindsay family was stationed in Guinea West Africa, also known as French Guinea. The country of 10 million with an 85 percent Muslim population lies on the West African coast between

Senegal and Sierra Leone.

The Lindsays are transferring to Bangkok, Thailand.

Coleman said that while in Guinea, the Lindsays biggest challenge was working within the country's dominant Muslim population.

"You get a Muslim to receive Christ," said Coleman, "and that person is not only ostracized, but they are really persecuted and sometimes killed."

Coleman said that in different parts of the world, missions focus on different areas.

"Sometimes it's education," he said. "Sometimes it's in the bush. Sometimes it's more medical and sometimes we are dealing with the slave trade: prostitution and that kind of stuff."

Coleman said his denomination, the Christian and Missionary Alliance has a well-established organization in Burkina Faso.

"They are actually sending missionaries back to the states and to Canada," he said.

During the weeklong conference, the church hosted an international dinner featuring foods from the two countries and an international fair with clothing, music and food from around the world.

The Christian and Missionary Alliance supports over 800 missionaries around the world.

ROBBERY

Continued from 1A

and weighed between 160 and 180 pounds.

The sheriff's office asked that anyone with information about the crime to call 904-264-6512.

Iowa murder suspect caught in Orange Park

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

Law enforcement officials arrested a man who was camping at the Orange Park Kennel Club for a 2009 murder in Sac City, Iowa.

Clay deputies, Florida Department of Law Enforcement agents and Sac City Police arrested John David Green, 54, of Blairsville, Ga. on March 25.

Mark Koster, 58, was found dead in his basement in 2012. Investigators believe Green killed the victim in 2009, then hid the body in the home.

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"A Stop Sign for Lent"

9:15am Contemporary Worship in our MMC

11:00am Traditional Worship in our Sanctuary

Dr. Craig Moore, preaching on

"Fickle Faith"

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5:30pm Dinner Served — Ham & fixins (Call 352-473-3829 for reservations)

6:30pm Bible Study by Dr. Tom Farmer, Jr.

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Historic Melrose tours Banana



Members of Historic Melrose at the Banana site grist mill. (L-r) Jan Bolte, Rosemary Daurer, Bill Bolte, Eli Peffley, Al Runyon, Kris Davis, Lake Beck, James Peffley and Bill Beck. Photo by Carol Beck.

BY JAMES PEFFLEY

Historic Melrose Inc.

Members of Historic Melrose Inc. toured the former settlement of Banana on March 29.

Banana is south of Melrose and once had a post office, general store, well and grist mill along Etoniah Creek.

The old Orange Springs-to-Starke road passed through

Banana and the bridge abutments at Etoniah creek still remain.

Also nearby are tall pines once used for turpentine production. The V-shaped cuts on the pines were called catfaces for their resemblance to a cat's whiskers.

The few buildings at Banana disappeared during World War II in the early 1940s.

Historic Melrose owns the

Banana site and it is maintained by volunteers including Pat Warren of Melrose.

Eagle Scout Lake Beck of Troop 146 recently organized a creek cleanup at the site, constructed a protective covering for the iron grist mill, and removed fallen trees and debris.

Historic Melrose owns the

RATES

Continued from 3A

Florida, tied with Madison and Hernando counties. However, that was down from 10.6 percent in February 2013.

Hendry County, southwest of Lake Okeechobee, had the state's highest rate at 9.8 percent, followed by Flagler (9.4) and Hamilton (9).

2 appointed to water district

Gov. Rick Scott announced two appointments to the St. Johns River Water Management District's governing board on March 28.

Scott reappointed governing board Chair John A. Miklos of Orlando to an at-large seat for a four-year term ending March 1, 2018. Miklos is president and senior project manager of Bio-Tech Consulting Inc., an Orlando-based environmental consulting firm. Miklos has been on the board since March 2010.

Scott also appointed Carla Yetter of Fernandina Beach to a four-year term representing Nassau and Baker counties and portions of northern Duval County. Yetter is vice president of environmental affairs for Rayonier in Jacksonville. Her term will expire on March 1, 2018, and she replaces Leonard Wood, who has served on the governing board since April 2005.

Both appointments are subject to confirmation by the Florida Senate.

The other governing board members are Vice Chair Maryam H. Ghyabi of Ormond Beach, Treasurer George W. Robbins of Jacksonville, Secretary Fred N. Roberts Jr. of Ocala, Douglas C. Bourque

of Vero Beach, Douglas Burnett of St. Augustine, Lad Daniels of Jacksonville and Charles Drake of Orlando.

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L is for listen: Speaker explains meaning of Lent

BY DAN HILDEBRAN

Monitor Editor

Tom Farmer created an acrostic from the word Lent to explain the religious observance during the second of seven Lake Region Lent lunches.

Trinity Baptist Church hosted the March 12 midday event.

Farmer, the retired minister of Keystone United Methodist Church, said Lent is a time for followers of Jesus to turn away from the things that separate them from Christ.

"Lent is a time for placing ourselves, in total, in honest evaluation before God," he said, "asking God to highlight in our lives the things that are unacceptable to Him."

Farmer then took each of the four letters that make up the title for the season to further explain its meaning.

"L is for listen," Farmer told the audience.

He said that many voices clamor for the attention of Christians.

"Lent is a time to separate ourselves from those voices,"

he said, "and to listen to the one voice that matters most of all: the voice of God."

Farmer said the only way to listen to God is through prayer, stillness and solitude.

He said that the E in Lent represents Christians eliminating and emptying themselves from anything that would separate them from the amazing love, mercy and grace of God.

"We clutter our lives with so much that has no eternal significance whatsoever," he said. "We need Lent to really analyze what takes up our time and what takes up the gifts God has given to us."

He added that believers should closely examine their calendars, pocketbooks and conversations to see what needs to be eliminated to draw them closer to God.

Farmer said the N in Lent is for the nourishment of the soul.

"Our souls are what the Bible talks about when it says God made us in His own image," Farmer told the audience. "That's our spiritual

DNA."

He also said that during Lent, Christians should allow God to awaken their souls so that they can better follow their Savior.

Farmer said the concept represented by the T in Lent is the key to the other three ideas.

"We must trust God," he said, "really trust him with everything that we have in our being. That is the only way we can receive the blessings God wants to give us all."

He then quoted Proverbs 3:5-6 to illustrate the importance of trust.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths," he said.

"Lent can be a time of redemption, renewal and resurrection for every one of us," he concluded, "if we would just listen, eliminate, nourish and trust the God who put us together in our mothers' wombs."

Man commits lewd acts on girls in Middleburg Walmart

BY DAN HILDEBRAN

Monitor Editor

Clay County deputies arrested a man they say committed a lewd act on two girls and grabbed a third victim in a Middleburg Walmart on March 25.

Marco Evora, 55, of Jacksonville was arrested on March 28 for two counts of lewd and lascivious conduct and one count of battery.

According to a sheriff's office report, around 4 p.m. two girls were in the cosmetics aisle of the Branan Field Road store when a man approached them and told them they did not need makeup because they were beautiful. He then tried to entice the girls to his home, promising ice cream,



Evora

pizza and movies. When the girls refused, the man approached one victim, lifted up her shirt and kissed her in the lower abdomen area. After she pushed him away, he cornered the second girl

and repeated the act on her.

A deputy corroborated the girls' account of the incident by viewing store video. The recording showed the suspect later returning merchandise, buying bananas and encountering another female in the store's toy department. He left the property on foot, walking toward Branan Field Road.

The third female and her parents later contacted the sheriff's office. She told deputies Evora grabbed her within the store. She also picked the suspect out of a photo lineup.

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.

April 9: The host church is First Baptist Church, the speaker is Buster Appling of Keystone Christian Church and music is by Julie Rund Brubaker.

Lenten Fish Fries

The Knights of Columbus will be holding their sixth annual Lenten fish fries at St. William Catholic Church from 4 to 7:30 p.m. every Friday from March 7 through April 11. Eat in or take out. Proceeds benefit the Lake Area Ministries food bank and the special education department at Keystone Heights High School. The church is located at 210 Peach St. in Keystone Heights. \$8.50 per plate.

Deadline for ordering veterans' bricks: April 15

Organizers of the Veterans Memorial Pathway are 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.

Friendship Bible Church blood drive

Friendship Bible Church is having a Mobile Blood Drive on Saturday, April 12 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Location: 1155 Orchid Ave, Keystone Heights. Office number is 352-473-2713.

Oil painting classes at Gallery 26

Classes begin April 21 and run for four weeks from 1 to 4 p.m. The instructor is Patrick Rausch.

Cost is \$80 and the class is limited to 10 students. Call 352-475-2924 for more information.

Jacoby Brothers Band at Mossman Foundation's Artists Hall

Saturday, April 5, from 8 to 11 p.m. Tickets \$10. 301 S.R. 26, Melrose.

Bellamy Road presents Eve Fleishman in concert

Friday, April 4, from 8 to 10 p.m. Original songs and jazz standards accompanied by a baby grand piano. Tickets are \$10-\$20 at the door. 301 S.R. 26 at the Artists Hall in Melrose.

Three cheers for Kiwanis benefit breakfast

Saturday, April 5, from 7 to 9:30 a.m. Come enjoy a hot cup of coffee, breakfast and cheer at Johnny's Barbecue in Keystone Heights. Your time and donation will help Kiwanis of the Lake Region fund programs like K-Kids, Builder's Club, Key Club, Terrific Kids, senior scholarships, annual parades and other civic functions.

Community Church Rummage Sale

April 3 - 5, regular shopping Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission. Early-bird shopping Thursday April 3, from 4 to 7 p.m. Admission is \$5. Saturday Dollar a bag Day from 9 a.m. to noon. Many Easter items are available. Proceeds benefit worthy causes.

Faith Presbyterian Sanctuary re-dedication

Sunday, April 6, at 11 a.m. Luncheon follows.

Classes begin April 21 and run for four weeks from 1 to 4 p.m. The instructor is Patrick Rausch.

Miss KHHS pageant accepting donations of prom dresses

The Miss KHHS Scholarship Pageant is accepting donations of prom dresses and accessories, including shoes and jewelry for the first annual Prom Expo, scheduled for Friday, May 2, 7 pm in the KHHS cafeteria. This event will offer free prom wear to girls needing a dress to wear to the KHHS Prom, scheduled for May 17. Please donate any used and in good condition prom dresses, evening shoes and jewelry. Donations may be left at the front desk of the high school. Please contact Lynn Dickinson at 352-473-1489 with any questions.

McRae Elementary Spring Book Fair

April 7 - 11, 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. Family shopping daily 8 -8:45 a.m.

Students may visit during their scheduled media resource time. We have online shopping available to all from March 31 to April 14. The link is available on our McRae Homepage and Destiny-Library.

Freedom Baptist Church installation service

The Pastoral Staff of Freedom Baptist Church, 7207 SR 21, Keystone Heights, cordially invites the community to attend the installation service of our new senior pastor, Jason B. Stephens, Sunday, April 13 at 2:30 p.m., in the church auditorium.

Lake Area Passion Play

The music ministry of Trinity Baptist Church invites you to attend its passion play. All performances are at 7 p.m. on Friday April 11, Saturday April 12 and Palm Sunday April 13. Admission is free and seating is on a first come basis. Doors open at 6 p.m.

District offers water-saving tips for Water Conservation Month

April is Water Conservation Month in Florida, and the St. Johns River Water Management District is joining dozens of agencies and local governments to promote the importance of water conservation.

April has been formally recognized as Water Conservation Month in Florida for the past 16 years, as April is typically a dry month when water demands are higher due to springtime planting.

Lawn and landscape irrigation accounts for more than half of all residential water use. Districtwide lawn watering rules are designed to ensure the efficient use of water for landscape irrigation and specify the days when residents and businesses may water. These days depend on whether the property has an odd or even numbered address.

Irrigate lawns and landscapes up to two days a week, before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m., from March to November, and up to one day a week during the cooler months of Eastern Standard Time.

Watering wisely year-round promotes healthier lawns and landscapes and can save thousands of gallons of water per month, as well as save homeowners money. Overwatering a lawn can promote weeds and insect pests, as well as weakened grass roots. Watch the weather - if it looks like it is going to rain, don't water your lawn.

Outdoor conservation tips include:

Water lawns during the early morning or early evening hours when temperature and wind speed are lowest. This reduces losses from evaporation and wind that can occur during the middle of the day.

Use a broom to clean leaves and other debris from sidewalks and driveways rather than a hose.

Using a hose to clean a driveway can use hundreds of gallons of water.

Outfit your hose with a spray nozzle that can be adjusted so water flows only as needed. When finished, turn it off at the faucet instead of at the nozzle to avoid water loss from leaks. Without a spray nozzle, an unattended garden hose can pour out 8 to 12 gallons each minute, or hundreds of gallons of water in an hour.

Collect rainwater to use to water plants. It is free and is better for plants because it doesn't contain hard minerals.

Inside the home, a leaky toilet or faucet can waste thousands of gallons of water each month. Installing low-flow toilets and showerheads can dramatically reduce indoor water consumption without reduced performance.

Other indoor tips include:

Insulate water pipes to get hot water faster and avoid wasting water while it heats up.

Never put water down the drain when there may be another use for it, such as watering a plant or cleaning.

Store drinking water in the refrigerator instead of letting the tap run while waiting for cool water to flow.

Water conservation is among the District's highest priorities, and nearly every aspect of the District's work, from consumptive use permitting to cooperative funding to water supply planning, has a water conservation component. Since 2010, the District and local governments, utilities and other partners have invested nearly \$7 million in cost-share projects to improve water conservation.

Mulberry of San Mateo.

Mulberry was shot to death at approximately 12:30 am on the morning of March 30 on Augusta Road in Palatka in what investigators believe to have been a drug deal turned robbery attempt.

After being interviewed, Hicks and Nunley were placed under arrest and transported to the Putnam County Jail where they were each booked on charges of homicide and robbery. Hicks and Nunley are currently being held without bond.

Sheriff Jeff Hardy said "Fast action, quick thinking and sound detective work led to the arrest of these violent criminals. I am very proud of all of the detectives and staff involved in bringing this murder investigation to a swift conclusion".

Man Accused of Defrauding More Than 270 Floridians

Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater today announced the arrest of David Glincher, 47, of Weston on charges of theft, white collar crime and fraud for allegedly filing car insurance claims on behalf of consumers who were either unaware of the filings or never received claim payouts. The Department of Financial Services' Division of Insurance Fraud worked alongside the Broward County State Attorney to reveal an elaborate scheme targeting more than 270 victims.

Glincher allegedly sent letters to victims of traffic accidents and encouraged them to file claims through his company, Auto Loss Claims Consultants, LLC. Regardless of whether the victim completed the claim form or discarded it, claims were still filed and funds were paid to ALCC by various insurance companies without the knowledge of the victims.

2 charged in Putnam County murder

On March 31, detectives with the Putnam County Sheriff's Office major crimes unit interviewed 21 year old Rebecca Hicks and 27 year old Brandon Nunley in connection with the murder of 28 year old Antonio L.

Thank You Mary Lou!

For 8 years of dedicated service to Keystone Heights



**Mayor of Keystone Heights
2006 - 2014**

Other Accomplishments by Mary Lou as Mayor

- Worked tirelessly to preserve and protect our Lakes.
- City Representative for Lake Recovery Projects.
- Strongly objected to the lowering of Lake Levels (MFL).
- Phase out of County Interlocal Agreement, saving \$500,000.
- Brought National Environmental Program to Keystone.
- Obtained over \$3,000,000 in grants and funding for various City Improvement Projects.
- Re-established the Community Redevelopment Area for local businesses, and obtained over \$100,000 in additional revenue.
- Working with Keystone Heights High School to establish a Youth Advisory Council.
- By being fiscally conservative, reduced the City Annual Budget by over \$300,000.
- Served on four Water Management District Stakeholder Committees.
- A member of the Florida League of Cities Energy and Environmental Committee developing statewide legislative policy for aquifer protection.
- Served on the Board of Directors of the Northeast League of Cities.
- On the Executive Committee, and Past President of the Florida Urban Forestry Council.
- Served on the Board of Directors of the Keystone Lake Region Business Association.
- A graduate of the National League of Cities Leadership Training Institute.
- Obtained an Advanced Certificate from the Florida League of Cities Institute for Municipal Officials.
- Established strong working relationships with Local, County, and State Elected Officials, and Agencies.

Testimonies for Mary Lou Hildreth as Mayor

- General Burdett – Respected by the soldiers, as she was there when they were deployed as well as when they returned.
- Bob Oehl & Susan King – Her unwavering support and personal involvement, as well as being an ardent supporter and champion for Wings of Dreams is appreciated.
- Scott Roberts – Whether you agree or disagree with her, you never doubt her commitment to the community of Keystone Heights.
- Dr. Tom Farmer – An excellent leader for the LAM Building Fund, and continues to strongly support LAM's ongoing activities.
- Chris Carson – She is truly an asset to the community.
- Harold Gilstrap – We are a better place because she was the Mayor of Keystone Heights.
- Chip Wester – Your efforts resulted in many improvements that cost the taxpayers nothing: your leadership will be sorely missed.
- LAM Co-Directors – Thank you for your outstanding support of the outreach program to help feed the less fortunate.
- Chris Wester – Instrumental in developing Keystone's next generation of leaders thru her efforts to help create a Youth Advisory Council at KHHS.
- Maria Gall – People appreciate all of the little things she does for the community; she always has been a hard working advocate for Keystone.
- Deirdre Murphy – You embraced our people, our lakes, and our uniqueness; your passion for our community has shown since the day you were elected!
- Doug Wise – She has been a strong leader in championing our lakes, promoting the community and local businesses. Has accomplished much for Keystone as its Mayor.
- And countless grateful citizens concur.

In Our Hearts Always, You Will Never be Forgotten!!!!

REGIONAL NEWS

NEWS FROM BRADFORD COUNTY, UNION COUNTY AND THE LAKE REGION

FEATURES
CRIME
SOCIALS
OBITUARIES
EDITORIAL

Bradford woman earns medals for equestrian dressage

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer

Meridith Babnick and her horse Yoshi are a team. Whatever success they achieve in the sport of dressage cannot be attained

without one or the other.

Therefore, as proud as Babnick is of the United States Dressage Federation bronze and silver medals she has earned, she is quick to give credit where credit is due.



Meridith Babnick is pictured riding Yoshi during a dressage event. (Photo by Michael F. Bradtke Photography.)

"I do have to give the horse most of the credit," she said. "He is just my rock. If I'm feeling nervous, he helps me out. We're a really good team."

Babnick, who is the owner of Euphoria Stables in Bradford County, has been competing in dressage events for seven years. The word "dressage" is derived from the French word for "training." Dressage tests are held in arenas that consist of different stations denoted by letters of the alphabet. At each station, the horse and rider are expected to execute pre-defined moves.

Judges are evaluating such things as the horse's flexibility, responsiveness to its rider and balance.

"It's like ballet with your horse," Babnick said.

The horse's performance should seem effortless, with little effort exerted by the rider as well. Babnick said riders use natural aids (legs, rear end) and artificial aids (whip, spurs) to get

the horse to perform.

"Essentially, you do as much as you can with your natural aids while being invisible," Babnick said. "You just increase the degree of (body) pressure to get what you want from the horse."

Dressage tests, which change after a number of years, are composed of levels. Riders can apply for medals after achieving the necessary scores within designated levels.

There is no set time frame in which one can achieve scores and apply for medals.

"You can get scores throughout your whole lifetime," Babnick said. "Usually, the sport takes until you're about 70 to master."

Babnick, who is 34, earned her bronze medal after competing for five years. Two years later, she earned her silver medal.

"I think only 800 people in the U.S. have their silver medal," Babnick said. "It's really tough to get."

As she competes at higher levels in hopes of achieving a

Meridith Babnick poses with Junior, a horse that's younger than Yoshi, the horse she earned her USDF silver medal with. Junior has some show experience and could be Babnick's main dressage horse when Yoshi is retired.



gold medal, Babnick will be among more international and Olympic-level riders.

"To get your silver medal, it's kind of denoting that you've made the leap from being a U.S.-level rider to riding with the big boys," Babnick said.

The sport of dressage is European in origin. Europeans

have been breeding for dressage for so long that their horses tend to be better than horses bred in the U.S., though Babnick said, "The U.S. is creating some really fantastic horses and slowly and surely getting better breeding programs, but it's a long process."

Yoshi is from Germany and

See MEDALS, 5B

Swine sell for average of \$4.80 per pound at Bradford Fair

This year's Bradford-Union Swine Associate sale at the Bradford County Fair consisted of 99 animals that brought an average ring price of \$4.80 per pound, with Kenny "Doot" Brown's grand champion selling for \$27.50 per pound and Brooklyn Williams' reserve champion selling for \$19.25 per pound.

Camee Morrow's Bradford Middle FFA homegrown reserve champion sold for \$5 per pound.

The remaining exhibitors and

the price per pound their animals sold for were as follows: Chelsey Collins \$5.75, Ashlee Walker \$5, Sierra Graham \$6, Fayln Rimes \$4.25, Hunter Jenkins \$5.50, Lauren Cromwell \$4, Harley Seay \$4.25, Reed Thames \$3, Randa Wilkins \$3, Corey Robinson \$8.50, Cody Wray \$3, Maci Whitehead \$4, Bradford Jr. FFA-Aaron Henderson \$4, Bradford Sr. FFA-Dustin Orton \$5, Noah Wright \$3.50, Miranda Merritt \$4, Lindsey Tucker \$4; Kara Hoilman \$5, Witt Thomas

\$6, Paige Eaves \$7, Lake Butler FFA Alumni-McKenzie Mobley \$6.50, Eli Rimes \$3.75, Maycee Barnes \$4.25, Taylor Reddish \$3, Wyatt Lugenebel \$4.25, Amanda Bertine \$3, Taylor Barnes \$5, Kaylee Page \$3, Datein Croft \$5, Kinedy Johnson \$9, Savannah Hardee \$4, Taylor Crosby \$4.25, Richard Crews \$5.25, Bradford FFA Alumni-Kennedy Elder \$5, Bailey Bishop \$6, Chelsey Thomas \$4, Ashley Harris \$4; Luke Griffis \$3, William Devin Powell \$3.50, Hunter Thomas

\$4.25, Bradford 4-H Foundation-Kashon McCallum \$3.25, Erica Faulkner \$3, Mackenzie Gault \$7, Garrett Mosley \$6, Teigan Rengering \$4.25, Austin Lester \$5.25, Hunter Williams \$5.25, Lake Harris \$4, Macey Fulgham \$4, Cassidy Spratlin \$3.50, Lauren Sellers \$3, Karsyn Jenkins \$4.25, Amanda Blanton \$4.25, Lane Reddish \$4, Kelly Denson \$4, Skyler Shatto \$4.50, Blake McKenzie \$4; Shelbey Spratlin \$3.50, Alisha Lester \$5.25, Alexis Shealey

\$4, Kaylie Whitehead \$3.50, Jonathan Traver \$4.50, Amberlie Roach \$3, Zachary McKinney \$3, Conner Coleman \$3, Hayden Thompson \$4, Jordan Marshall \$4, Lainie Rodgers \$3, Bailey Griffis \$4.25, Garrett Williams \$4, Krysten Paige Jenkins \$5.50, Brett Blanton \$3.25, Grant Gillenwaters \$4; Brooklyn Gay \$3.50, Shelby Skelly \$4.50, Kayla Moss \$5.25, Karly Shatto \$4.50, Bailey Riggs \$5, Lane Griffis \$3.50, Choe Duncan \$9, Corey

Hersey \$4.25, Kyler Herndon \$4, Kayla Andrews \$4, Brandon Page \$3, Hailey McElhenney \$4, Allyson McElhenney \$4, Makayla Carlton \$4, Bailee Crews \$5.50, Kayla Shay Williams \$3.25, Jacob Ricks \$4.50, James Noah Tallman \$4.75, Case Croft \$4, Garrett Hersey \$4.25 and Dakota Mathews \$4.25.

Buyers at this year's sale included: JFC Service, Billa

See SWINE, 4B

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Max has been trained in UCI's ROCK Hounds program.

Max needs a forever home

Union Correctional Institution is looking for a forever home for one dog that has been trained by the ROCK Hounds (Rehabilitation of Castaway K-9s) program.

Max is a male rat terrier mix that stands less than knee high. He is very smart and knows several tricks, including jumping through a hoop and saying his evening prayers. His trainers describe him as a very intelligent dog.

Max was adopted after graduating from the training program, but his new family can't keep him. They had to return him to the program.

The dogs in the ROCK Hounds program are all former strays rescued from a kill shelter. The dogs are trained by UCI inmates, ensuring they are fully housebroken, trained to walk on a leash and obey voice commands, and trained to behave themselves around other dogs and people they don't know. The dogs are trained to sleep in a crate/kennel at night.

Cost to adopt a dog is \$50, which includes spaying or neutering and all needed shots.

If you are interested in adopting Max, contact 386-431-4090 and ask for Re-entry Officer Rachelle Parrish (during work hours).

Starke Kiwanis golf tournament is Good Friday

The 11th annual Kiwanis of Starke golf tournament will be held Friday, April 18, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Starke Golf and Country Club.

Cash prizes will be awarded to the first-, second- and third-place teams.

The entry fee is \$50 per player/\$200 per four-person team. That includes cart, lunch and goody bag.

Applications are available at the Starke Golf and Country Club clubhouse.

Contact Cheryl Canova (cheryl.canova@sfcoll.edu or 904-964-5382) or Barry Warren at (352-494-3326) for more information.

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A tip of the hat to those who surveyed Bradford Co.

BY JAMES WILLIAMS
Special to the Telegraph-Times-Monitor

Patrick Welch keeps an office between the courthouse and a pizza restaurant, but much of his work is done outdoors in fields, forests, marshes, swamps, roads and homesteads all over the county.

Welch is actually the 21st century model of an important figure that has been around—or passed through here—before there was a county. Welch is a surveyor.

As early as the Continental Congress, an act called for all U.S. land to be surveyed. Secretary of State John Quincy Adams signed the Florida Purchase Treaty in 1819, which officially took Florida from Spain and gave it to the fledgling United States. Formal U.S. occupation began in 1821; Gen. Andrew Jackson, a hero of the 1812 War, was appointed Florida's military governor. Florida officially became a U.S. territory in 1822.

The Spanish, British and others had drawn maps of the peninsula for more than 200 years. Great swaths of land, fairly accurately but generally described, had been given away in land grants to political hangers-on of European potentates. But it wasn't until Florida became a U.S. territory in 1822 that Florida began to be surveyed in earnest. That would be important, since Spanish land grants were still in effect till landowners were told otherwise. The U.S. government immediately instituted a program to settle the new territory by giving away 40-acre plots to any daring pioneer who would homestead. This would require surveyors.

Florida's earliest surveyors had to have been brave men, for just as Florida became a territory, the Seminole Wars began. Alone or in small groups of two or three, the surveyors' work took them into the deepest, most uninhabited woods, forests and swamps, where they worked alone with no particular protection other than their own guns, instruments and supplies.

A number of early surveyors were killed by marauding Indians. Several times, surveyors called off their work and retreated to the nearest forts or sizeable towns until native unrest died down.

Still, slowly but surely, the work was done. An 1844 drawing on file in the state archives shows that less than half of the state had been surveyed, and most of that was above present-day Orlando. Broad sections and ranges had been drawn in, but not necessarily numbered, including lands around what became Bradford County. A few fingers reached down as far south as Leesburg, but the area we know today as the Ocala National Forest hadn't

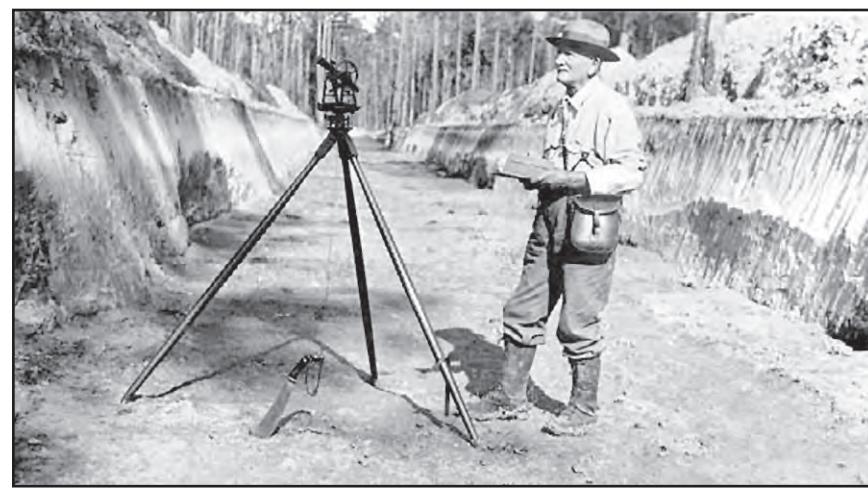
yet been fully described. The southwestern portion of the state, around today's Tampa and St. Petersburg, had been surveyed, but the middle and southeastern areas were open, empty maps, with fanciful drawings of flora and waters around Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades.

Welch inherited some of Bradford County's earliest survey maps, including an area map surveyed and drawn by esteemed government surveyor A.M. Randolph. That map was completed in 1853, four years before Starke was established with its own post office, and five years before the Third Seminole War ended. (By then, fighting



This lightern—or lightwood stake—used to mark metes, bounds and corners as much as 100 years ago. The stakes were marked with an x to distinguish them from ordinary roadside rubble.

H.E. Lagergren surveys a canal between Sampson and Crosby Lakes.
Photo courtesy of Florida State Archives.



was centered in South Florida.) Randolph's map shows a broad overview of the general terrain and water bodies in Northeast Florida, and divides the region into townships and ranges.

Readers may recall that a globe or map has latitudinal and longitudinal lines, which intersect to form a series of squares. Surveyors refer to a selected or prime north/south meridian as a base line. The area between any two such lines includes four 24-mile vertical ranges numbered west to east.

Latitudinal lines running east to west intersect with meridian lines. Inside the squares formed by those intersections, four 6-mile townships are numbered south to north. However, finding Township 3 does you no good; there could be hundreds of Township 3s on a survey map.

If you select a line designated as a principal meridian—the base line—you can more easily

find areas like the northeast quarter of the southwestern quarter of section 28, township 6, range 22 east. And that would put you right in the middle of present-day downtown Starke, between Church and Adams streets running east and west, and between Jackson and South streets running north to south.

That area, in fact, is one of the earliest survey maps of Starke Welch. The map was first surveyed and drawn by a man named Coachman in 1881, but Welch's map is apparently an exact, redrawn copy, done by H.E. Lagergren in 1892. Not much is known about Coachman.

Hjalmer Edward Lagergren, however, was a Swedish immigrant who came to Bradford County in 1872. He began to practice his craft right away and served as a principal county surveyor until his death in 1938. Lagergren had little formal education, but was a self-taught

surveyor, learning his trade from textbooks and magazines. The first instruments he used in the field he made himself. A versatile renaissance man, he also worked as a writer and business manager at the Bradford County Telegraph.

Given that Starke's streets were already laid out and named, with blocks and lots already numbered by the time Coachman did his survey, it's unlikely that

See SURVEY, 3B

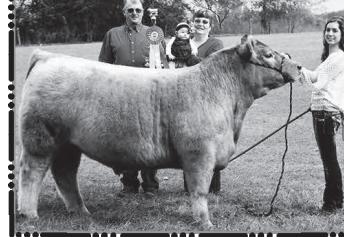
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Please contact Konnie Beauregard at 352-475-1865 or copnurse1999@windstream.net for more information.

Means, Collins to wed Sept. 6

Krystal Gail Means of Starke and Joseph Holland Collins IV of Starke announce their engagement.

Krystal is the daughter of Laura Compton of Graham and Scott Means of Orange Park. She is a graduate of Bradford High School and is employed by Windsor Manor.

Joseph is the son of Tammy Huff of Melrose and Joseph Collins III of Hawthorne. He is a graduate of Bradford High School and is employed by Sewell and Adams Trucking.

The wedding date is Sept. 6, 2014 at 6 pm at Spirit of the Suwannee River Music Park in Live Oak. Invitations have been sent out.

Navy Relief director to speak at April 7 DAR meeting

Monica Woods, director of Navy Relief in Jacksonville, will be the guest speaker at the Monday, April 7, meeting of the Col. Samuel Elbert Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution at 10:30 a.m. at IHOP in Starke. Guests are welcome.

Any woman 18 years of age or older, regardless of race, religion or ethnic background, who can prove direct descent from a person who aided in achieving American independence during



Larry and Laura Finley

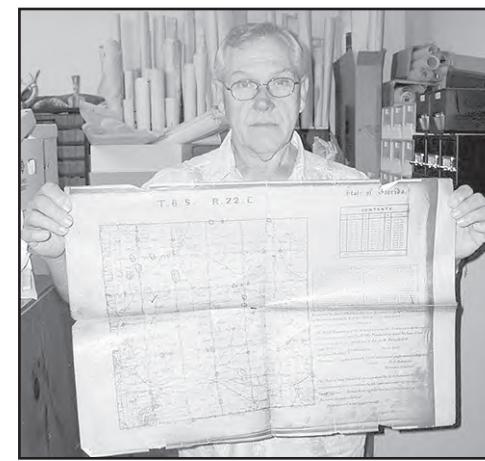
Northside Baptist pastor leaving after 17 years

Brother Larry and Mrs. Laura Finley have been a part of the Bradford County community for over 17 years, ministering through Northside Baptist Church.

During the Finley's time at Northside they were involved in seeing it grow and added many ministries.

After 17 years of dedicated service to the members of Northside Baptist Church, Brother Larry and Mrs. Laura will be leaving. Brother Larry has been called as pastor of Henderson Baptist Church in Perry, Ga.

Brother Larry's last message at Northside will be on Sunday, April 6. Please join us that day as we say farewell to our longtime pastor and friend with a special service and lunch afterwards.



Surveyor Patrick Welch "inherited" a number of early Bradford maps, like this one by esteemed government surveyor A.M. Randolph.

SURVEY
Continued from 2B

Coachman's 1881 survey map was the first survey of the town, but it may be the first such survey map that still exists.

On a 1928 survey map, Lagergren wrote an extensive note on one of Bradford's boondoggles. Simon J. Temple, timber and lumber man turned housing developer, had a large tract surveyed for a subdivision for lot resale and home building.

Temple's subdivision had been planned in 1888 by William Lake, and stakes were set when land sales required them. "The initial point was set in the railway track," Lagergren wrote. "The system was good and convenient. But the fact was overlooked that already lands in the territory had been sold as fractions of 'forties,' according to the government survey."

Lagergren added, "Furthermore, about 1896, through a sheriff's sale, Truby, Sternberg and Co. acquired all the lands in the subdivision still owned by S.J. Temple...The two survey systems in the same territory has been a source of

much trouble to surveyors, tax assessors and title abstractors and deeds to lands in the territory frequently saw incongruous descriptions."

Subdivision corner stakes (usually crudely shaped "lightwood stakes") were mistaken for "forty" corners and vice versa. There were overlaps and spots called gores that could not be legally claimed by anybody. In an especially accomplished feat, Lagergren drew a survey map juxtaposing both surveys on top of each other to illustrate the difference.

Welch said recently that he knew of the problems brought up by these and other surveys—or lack of surveys—over the years, but he thought that by now, most of the errors had been corrected.

The changing nature of survey instruments required surveyors to make other adjustments. Surveyors had to have some familiarity with coordinating the positions of stars and land, since that is a basis of latitude and longitude; knowledge of a sextant was required. Other tools varied, including something as simple as a chain of 100 links, producing a land unit called, appropriately enough, a chain.

Andrews Center offers personal conflict class

A "Resolving Personal Conflict" community education class will be held at the Santa Fe College Andrews Center, starting Tuesday, April 15.

The class is a biblical guide to resolving personal conflict using lessons from scripture. It meets from 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. on Tuesdays for eight weeks.

The fee is \$24, with the Peaceful Ministries workbook "Resolving Everyday Conflict" being provided by the instructor.

Register online at www.sfcoll.edu/communityed. You may also call 352-395-5193 or drop by the Andrews Center for assistance.

Heliotropes employed mirrors, which reflected light, sometimes across distances of 100 miles or more. In the 1800s, instruments known as alidades and transits were used, but were actually variations on earlier tools for navigation and mapping the earth's surface. Twentieth-century innovations included the Geodimeter, introduced in the early 1950s, and which used laser beams. "Total stations" combined transits and theodolites, but had to be readjusted for accuracy from time to time.

These days, Welch said, it's all done by GPS. "I can do in an hour what used to take me a day," he said. It also helps that the information can be transferred from field instruments to a computer; survey maps are now drawn with CAD or computer aided design software.

Like Lagergren, Welch was not formally trained for surveying before he took up the skill. Welch was born and raised in Madison County, but was looking for a job. Bradford resident Leroy Jackson invited him to come to Starke and work in his Suwanee Grocery on West Call Street while the young man

found his moorings.

One Sunday, Welch was minding the store and chatting with a passing survey crew that came in for sodas and supplies. One of the men suggested he talk to their supervisor about a job. The man Welch spoke with was Merrill G. McMillan, the grandson of H.E. Lagergren. Welch was hired and trained over time and has been surveying ever since.

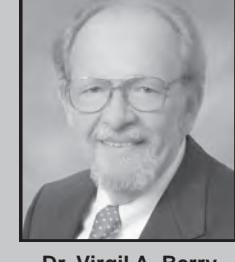
Still fit and hardy from all that outdoor living, Welch said he's not even thinking about retiring or slowing down.

Just as Native Americans caused problems because they were wary of losing their territory, modern landowners are also defensive. Welch said that one Bradford property owner told him in dark tones there was no county road running through his property. Every map Welch had seen had a county road running through the site, and as Welch stood at the property, he could see where a county road had been laid out.

Welch said the landowner still insisted, "There isn't a county road on this property."

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LETTERS

EDITOR@BCTELEGRAPH.COM

Thanks to all who made Trail Ridge Festival a success

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the Lawtey Trail Ridge Organization, please allow us to thank the many, many people who helped make the 2014 Lawtey Trail Ridge Festival a big success. Our sponsors, as always, were very generous in their support of our community and we appreciate their continued support. Sheriff Gordon Smith, Chief Shane Bennett, our City Council, our City Clerk, the Recreation Department, the constitutional elected officials, Lawtey Community School, the Florida Youth ChalleNGe Academy, the Bradford County Telegraph, radio station WEAG, other businesses in Lawtey and Starke, and all factions of our community joined us in support of this annual event.

Although we are small, we feel our community deserves an opportunity to enjoy a day of fun with family and friends and that is why, in 2004, we began this annual tradition. Each year we work together to plan and provide a pleasant and an enjoyable event for all. One that Lawtey can be proud to present.

Our sincerest thanks to ALL of our gold, silver, and bronze sponsors, our patrons, volunteers, entertainers, participants, vendors, visitors and EVERYONE for a spectacular day! Our hope is that each year we will be able to show our community pride in bringing forth this event as we continue to work together to convert the old "Depot Building" into the Lawtey Museum!

Again, we say thank you for your help and look forward to next year when we come together for another opportunity to celebrate our community.

Jimmie L. Scott, President
Lawtey Trail Ridge Organization

Time for a change

Dear Editor:

Mr. Sapp, I will gladly sign my letters of facts. Yes, the election will decide the right "man" as sheriff. As for me, I say it's time for a change. I am tired of the good ol' boy system, and the family business.

The people who live in the county that pays their taxes do not get protection as they should, a complaint call takes about 20 to 30 minutes. Then the L.E.O. just drives by, because complaint is over. If L.E.O. stops, It will make a report. Is this supposed to solve the problem?

Also our tax money is paying for protection of Lake Butler for that is where the L.E.O. says. I get out on the county roads (SR 121, SR 100) and drive the speed limit, and other vehicles will run over me and pass on double yellow and curves to get around me. I get to town and who is at the red light? The vehicle that just blew by me driving at 70-80 m.p.h.

John and Jerry were good men in their own way, but I think it started to decline with Jerry. Yes brother, I am for a change for law enforcement. Not fancy vehicles.

Willie Busby
Union County

Support true definition of marriage

Dear Editor:

There are many people in this country who believe that the definition of marriage as "one man, one woman, for life" should be replaced. Most of them appear to be of the so-called "progressive" persuasion (those who used to call themselves "liberal").

Unfortunately, even though in a minority, too many of these individuals are in positions of power and/or influence, such as politicians, mass media types and the wealthy. As a result, it appears that there is a nationwide move to actually change this important definition.

Even though believers in such a travesty are not in the majority, it's still possible that they can prevail. It wouldn't be the first time that a minority of people took control of a situation. For example, Germany was taken over by the Nazi party, in spite of their small numbers.

To insure that these people lose this battle, those who do believe in "God's marriage" had better take action. Legislators at all levels need to be contacted; organizations fighting for traditional marriage should be supported; pastors would be wise to urge their congregations to become heavily involved in this fight.

And to anyone who encounters someone who spouts all kinds of reasons why we need to change the meaning of marriage, simply ask this question. "If marriage is not between one man and one woman for life, what is the definition of marriage?" I have yet to hear a cogent answer to this question—from anyone.

Leonard C. Young
Keystone Heights

What's wrong with this picture?

Dear Editor:

As a property owner, we help pay for the new library, and we still pay for the new library through our taxes. I as a property owner went up and used the fax machine and was charged \$1.00 per sheet to do a research paper.

Willie Busby
Union County

Vets should consider VFW, American Legion membership

Dear Editor:

Over the years thousands of Bradford citizens were summoned by the government to go overseas and battle what the government considered to be enemies of democracy. We went and served without complaining, well not a lot, anyway.

When we returned some of us felt that we might be able to do a little more so we became members of the VFW and/or the American Legion. Unfortunately a great number of those who returned did not become members. In fact over 3000 of us chose not to participate.

I would like to ask each and every veteran to reconsider this decision. I believe that your involvement can make a difference, just like it did when you stepped up to help the government. Regardless of where you served before, your service to our county can be a satisfying contribution.

Will you visit the local VFW or the American Legion soon and find out what you can do for these local organizations. Although the VFW membership requires overseas duty the American Legion does not. Both of these organizations want and need your participation and support.

I would hope that each and every veteran who lives in Bradford County would look into one or both of these fine organizations and consider being a part of one or both of them.

You can learn more about them or call Bob Lawry about the VFW at 904-368-0404. The VFW hall is located on North Bay Street behind the Library. The American Legion is located on Edwards Road across from the National Guard Armory. You

can learn more by talking to Bill Dampier at 352-235-1591. Or if you wish you can call me. My number is in the book.

Thank You
Malcolm Hill
Morgan Road

location of the majority of death-row inmates as well as a large number of psychological status-confinement inmates, it also houses 1200 inmates over the age of 50 in an "elderly" general population. Now the "Rock" in "Rock Hounds" is an acronym for "Rehabilitation of Castaway K-9s". Dogs that were abused, neglected, or abandoned are taken from animal shelters and placed in a 12 week long program designed to help them become well-adjusted, housebroken pets with basic command training in order to succeed in their adoptive homes. The Rock Hounds is sponsored by First Coast No More Homeless Pets (FCNMHP). The training program we use was designed by Jay King's Dog Academy. A lot of hard work and dedication was required from Warden Diane Andrews, Assistant Warden over programs Mr. S.B. Rossiter, and program supervisor Officer Parrish. Without their belief in and support of this program, it wouldn't exist here. The dogs we receive have sometimes been, among other things, tied to a tree and starved, kicked, beaten cruelly, yelled at, had their bones broken, and sometimes afraid, uncertain and untrusting. Only through loving care, patience, positive-reinforcement and attention can they be reached. In my case, I have been in prison over 26 years. Others in the program have been in this long or longer, truly hard men. Yet we still have a well of love and kindness inside us and these dogs bring it out. We help to save them and in the process, we receive a form of redemption ourselves. We also reach out to the extended community that is our family and loved ones in society to help find permanent homes for these rehabilitated dogs. Please spread the word about the ROCK Hounds and if you know anyone who would like to adopt a housebroken, trained truly special dog, please have them contact officer Parrish at the prison.

Inmate asks community to support ROCK Hounds program

Dear Editor:

My name is Jan Thompson, I live in Bradford County, my husband is an inmate at UCI. He recently was given a job with the ROCK Hounds program and was so excited that he sent me the following letter wanting me to share with the local community and surrounding area about this very unique and promising program with man's best friend and some inmates who want to make a difference in the lives of some people who take a chance with these dogs who were on death row. If you wish to connect with me or learn more about the program, please feel free to contact me at this email address or you can contact Ms. Parrish at Union Correctional Institution 368-431-2000. I sincerely hope you print this as a human interest piece, in our world today with so much trouble, killings and crime going on, it's nice to hear of a positive story.

Sincerely,
Jan Thompson

Dear Jan:

I want to tell you about a program I have been allowed to join. A Dog Training program called the "ROCK Hounds". As you know, Union Correctional Institution is located in Raiford, Florida and is known as "The Rock". It is the Alcatraz of Florida, housing the toughest, most violent inmates in the state. Once home of the original death-house and still the

Historic Downtown Starke

SWINE

Continued from 1B

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26 lifters from BHS, KHHS, UCHS earn right to move on at sub-sectional meet

Keystone Heights High School hosted a sub-sectional boys' weightlifting meet on March 24, with the host school and Union County having a combined total of 23 lifters earning the right to advance to the April 10 Class 1A state-qualifying meet.

Keystone had five lifters win their weight classes and a total of 13 who earned top-four finishes and the right to move on to the state-qualifying meet, which will be held at Warner Christian Academy in South Daytona. Union had 10 lifters place in the top four, while Bradford had three.

Placing first for Keystone were Dakota Hodge (129-pound

class) with a 415-pound total, Lane Blanton (139) with a 505 total, Josh Knight (154) with a 515 total, Chase Musselman (169) with a 580 total and Darein Gilio (199) with a 565 total.

Second-place finishers for Keystone were Austin Lester (119) with a 285 total, Steve Beverly (129) with a 415 total, Dakota Black (139) with a 435 total and Brandon Johnson (154) with a 510 total.

Keystone had three lifters place third: Matt West (183) with a 183 total, Nate Pate (199) with a 510 total and Dalton Watts (219) with a 505 total. J.J. Schofield (169) placed fourth with a 455 total.

Austin Long (129) and Alden McClellon (169) placed third for Union with 385 and 515 totals, respectively. Placing fourth for the Tigers were: Dylan Bass (129) with a 360 total, Darian Robinson (154) with a 485 total, Andrew Jones (183) with a 495 total, Peyton Powell (199) with a

480 total, Jonathan Besso (219) with a 470 total and Josh Smith (heavyweight) with a 570 total.

Bradford had two lifters place third in Jarvis DeSue (154) and Markel Parks (heavyweight) with 505 and 690 totals, respectively. Zach Windle (119) placed fourth for the Tornadoes with a 260 total.

Bradford hosted another qualifying meet on March 28. Dequan Blackshear (154) earned the right to compete in the April 10 state qualifier by lifting a 435 total.

Keystone had two lifters at the March 28 meet who earned the right to advance: Johnnie Fitts (183) and Joe Pace (238).

Union had some notable accomplishments leading up to the sub-sectional meet, including a win over Cedar Creek Christian in which the Tigers won nine classes. Smith, a sophomore, tied the school's clean and jerk record of 285 pounds.

After defeating Cedar Creek, the Tigers traveled to Coffee County High School in Douglas, Ga., and competed in an invitational that featured more than 300 lifters. Union, the only Class 1A school in attendance, placed sixth out of 10 schools. Jones tied for second in the 183 class and was 5 pounds from winning it. Lillie, McClellon and Princeton Alexander each earned a top-four finish.

Tigers Dukes, Green to continue playing careers

Union County High School seniors Austin Dukes and Geordyn Green will continue playing football after graduation, signing letters of intent on March 26 to play at Atlanta Sports Academy, with eyes on getting the chance to move on to Division I schools.

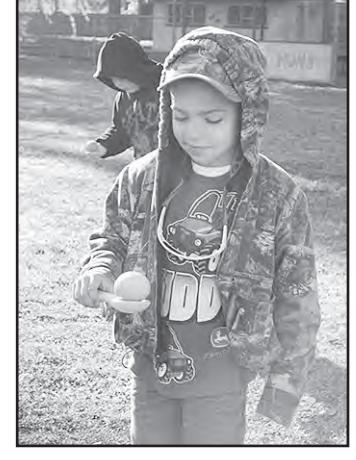
Dukes earned first-team all-state honors this past season at linebacker, while Green earned second-team honors at defensive back.

The Telegraph-Times-Monitor will publish a more in-depth story on these two student-athletes in next week's issue.



Fun-filled field day

The morning of Feb. 28 was a crisp 34 degrees, but Brooker Elementary School students warmed up with activities such as running, throwing and dribbling during the annual field day competition. ABOVE: Gavin Cook crosses the 60-yard dash finish line a tad ahead of Bryson Huggins and Elijah Williams. LEFT: Fourth-grader Blake Kendrick works hard in the shotput event. BOTTOM RIGHT: Kindergarteners got in on the field day activities with the egg/spoon relay race. Caleb Godwin concentrates on not dropping his egg. (All photos by Patricia Cook.)



MEDALS

Continued from 1B

was quite the find for Babnick, who bought him at a farm in Virginia after seeing an advertisement online.

"I feel like the luckiest kid on the planet with him," Babnick said, adding, "He and I are just best friends."

That friendship got off to a rocky start. Babnick said the first time she met Yoshi at the Virginia farm, he bit her every time she touched his head.

She was sold, though, after riding him. Every single thing she wanted Yoshi to do, he did.

"He and I just got each other," Babnick said.

There was one excitable moment as the two were still forming their bond. They were at a show when something spooked Yoshi, causing him to run out of the arena. Babnick said she couldn't think of what to do to make him slow down and pay attention to her again. What popped into Babnick's mind was to start singing the Beatles' "Yellow Submarine."

"I couldn't think of what else to do except to get him listening," Babnick said.

Yoshi responded to the song, which is now part of his show

routine. As Babnick and Yoshi circle the arena prior to the start of competition, she hums "Yellow Submarine."

"He loves it," Babnick said. "It's just been our thing ever since."

Horses that are performing well on dressage tests usually range in age from 10 to 14, Babnick said, adding that they retire in their late teens.

Yoshi is 21 and was retired from competition when Babnick bought him. However, reentering the arena seems to have given him a new life. Babnick said you can see it in Yoshi's eyes every time he exits his trailer.

"He just marches like a 6-year-old," Babnick said. "It takes 10 years off his life every time he goes to a show."

Still, Babnick knows Yoshi's competition days are numbered. That's why she treasures every show they're at.

"Every ride's a gift," Babnick said. "I would hope we could get through another season for his sake because he enjoys it so much."

Babnick has a younger horse named Junior who could follow in Yoshi's footprints. Junior, who is almost 12 and has participated in some shows with Babnick,

has fantastic breeding and is a "super cool horse," Babnick said.

However, he still gets a little nervous entering the arena.

That's why even though Junior achieved some good scores at a show in Atlanta, Babnick is still taking it slow with him.

"He did wonderfully," Babnick said in regard to Junior's performance in Atlanta. "On paper, there wasn't a reason to say, 'Let's wait and work harder at home,' but I could feel it. He did beautifully, but I could just feel it. We rode at night. There was music. There were lights on.

"You could just feel him (thinking), 'I don't know if I'm really OK.'"

Whether it's Junior or another horse, Babnick cannot earn another bronze or silver medal. Earning a particular medal is a one-time achievement, though Babnick said she will still aim medal-qualifying scores for each horse she rides just because it's fun.

Since it is fun, Babnick has no intentions of quitting dressage any time soon. She said she may be 90 and in a wheelchair one day, but someone will be pushing her up to a mounting block because she can't imagine not being on the back of a horse.

"It's so good for a person's mind," Babnick said. "For my mind, there's nothing else like it."

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FINS, FUR & TAILS

Fitts talks fishing at Crosshorn meeting

Jeff Fitts of Keystone Heights fishes and guides professionally and was the guest speaker at the March 27 Crosshorn Ministries meeting. Fitts talked and answered numerous questions about bass fishing issues for most of his presentation.

Much of his initial discussion was related to the different types of fishing lines available and their advantages and disadvantages. Fitts indicated that fluorocarbon line has little give, but is almost invisible under water. Fluorocarbon will also sink and, consequently, is a more effective line for underwater lures.

Conversely, monofilament line provides some stretch and will float. As such, it is a better line to use with top-water lures.

Braided line provides much more strength with no additional diameter size, and therefore is much better to use in thick cover.

Fitts also talked about flipping and pitching fishing techniques and where and when they are advantageous. Both techniques are underhanded casts that are used to pinpoint short casts that are usually into thick cover. Both of the presentations are effective in water that has a heavy growth of hydrilla such as Rowell and Sampson lakes. The thick hydrilla growth typically provides a heavy cover mat at the water surface that attracts a lot of bait, which in turn attracts bass. Fitts described the types of lures and best rigs that would allow the fisherman to punch through the surface mat and make an effective presentation to the bass that typically hover



Jeff Fitts illustrates a cushion that fits the butt of a fishing rod to protect one's side when setting a hook.



Jeff Fitts provides a lure gift to Landon Hall, who at his young age is an avid fisherman.

below.

Fitts provided some tips, too, on how to hook soft plastics so that rough action will not wear and tear the plastic where the hooks enter. Since the detail is too much to address in this article, ask someone who attended the meeting how to use a swivel to prevent soft plastic wear and tear.

Outdoors outlook

When the weather dips into the high 30s during the latter part of March, the spring bass bite is going to be impacted. Unfortunately, that is exactly what happened this week.

Not only was the temperature change significant, but also the wind was just as bad.

Joey Tyson called some of the regulars of the Bald Eagle tournaments and called off the weekly event, but some will usually miss the message and others will brave the elements anyway. Most of those who challenged the weather on March 26 will admit that it was a wasted effort. The effects of the front should have worn off by March 30, and the bass spawn should resume.

By the next full moon, which is on April 30, the best of the bass spawn will be over.

Jeff Fitts, at the March 27 Crosshorn Ministries meeting, told us that the post-spawn period for bass marks the beginning of the yearly calendar that will produce the hottest top-water action of the year. There probably is no more exciting fishing action than a largemouth bass crushing a top-water lure.

With the exception of last week's cold front, the trend

toward warmer weather should do nothing but encourage trout and reds to occupy the inshore flats. Both coasts are providing good reports of strong sheepshead bite. This time of the year will produce some of the largest samples of the banded fish to be caught all year. They are typically taken with jigs supplemented with shrimp and fiddler crabs.

Spring always brings a host of large fish into the inland waters. Not the least of these will be the king mackerel that will soon be lurking around the coastal waters.

What is heating up pretty good right now on the east coast is the black drum bite. These fish are caught in many of the same locations a sheepshead, but they have a tendency to occupy slightly deeper water. These are large fish and will easily top 50 pounds.

Tight lines until next week.

Outdoors calendar

- April 3-6, Florida State Championship in shooting clays, Bradford Sportsmen's Farm;

- April 26, Haven Hospice-NEFAR Bass Tournament, Palatka City Dock, safe light until 3 p.m.

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.

Reddish helps BHS earn 4-1 win over KHHS

Bradford High School pitcher Jackson Reddish gave up one run and struck out nine to help the Tornadoes defeat visiting Keystone Heights 4-1 in a District 5-4A baseball game on March 25.

Reddish (2-3), who allowed four hits and one walk in a complete-game effort, also went 2-for-3 at the plate.

The Tornadoes (10-7) took advantage of four walks and a couple of errors to score their first two runs. Three walks to load the bases set up an RBI single by Matt Stanwix-Hay, while Wyatt Barnes drove in the final run with a sacrifice fly.

Keystone pitchers Tristan Starling, Dean Dukes, Austin Bass and Kyle Hix combined to allow three hits, but walked eight batters.

Starling drove in the Indians' lone run with an RBI double.

Prior to playing Keystone, the Tornadoes defeated district opponent Interlachen 10-0 on March 21. Wyatt Collins hit a triple and drove in four runs, while Barnes and David Hall each drove in two runs.

Reddish and Carson Yowell each hit a double and were 2-for-4 and 3-for-4, respectively. Jacob Luke went 3-for-3 with an RBI, while Stanwix-Hay added an RBI.

Barnes earned the win, giving up four hits and two walks in 5.2 innings. He had seven strikeouts.

Bradford added two more wins after defeating Keystone, including a 6-1 win over P.K. Yonge on March 26 that improved the Tornadoes' district record to 5-2.

Starting pitcher Luke (2-1) threw six innings, giving up three hits and two walks, while striking out 13.

Yowell and Cody Tillman each had an RBI.

The Tornadoes played non-district opponent Williston on March 27, getting an RBI each from Hall, Stanwix-Hay, Alex Mejias and Caleb Polk in a 5-4 win.

Hall was 2-for-2, while Mejias and Polk were 2-for-3 and 2-for-4, respectively. Barnes and Luke each hit a double, with Luke going 2-for-4.

Barnes threw six innings and improved his pitching record to

4-2.

The Tornadoes played district opponent Fort White this past Tuesday and will host Ridgeview on Thursday, April 3, at 6:30 p.m. On Friday, April 4, Bradford travels to play P.K. Yonge at 7 p.m. before returning home to play Eastside on Tuesday, April 8, at 7 p.m.

had four strikeouts.

Glover, Jordan Bryant and T.J. Rogers combined to allow four hits in four innings of relief.

Prior to playing Bell, Union fell to 1-3 in District 7-1A with an 11-2 loss to Williston on March 21 in Williston.

Trey Owen went 2-for-4, while Corey Hersey drove in the team's lone run.

The Tigers were held to four hits.

Union played Hamilton County and district opponent Dixie County this past Monday and Tuesday and will host district opponent Chiefland on Thursday, April 3, at 4 p.m. On Monday, April 7, the Tigers travel to play Chiefland at 5 p.m. They then travel to play Fort White on Tuesday, April 8, at 6 p.m. before a Wednesday, April 9, road game against St. Francis Catholic in Gainesville at 4 p.m.

KHHS has 4 top-10 finishes at county meet

Sabriya Bacote led the Keystone Heights High School track and field teams, earning a seventh-place finish at the Clay County Championships on March 20 in Middleburg.

Bacote's top-10 finish came in the 400m, which she finished with a time of 1:06.65. It was one of three top-10 finishes for the girls' team. Naomi Proctor was 10th in the 400m with a time of 1:07.96 and 10th in the 300m hurdles with a time of 58.24.

Boys' team member Joel Michel earned a top-10 finish as well, placing 10th in the 1600m with a time of 5:02.

Other girls' results for Keystone were: Jessica Yeldell 14.90 in the 100m, 32.09 in the 200m and 1:02.11 in the 300m hurdles; Victoria Bannon 32.27 in the 200m and 1:01.91 in the 300m hurdles; Farrah Hicks 1:08.63 in the 400m; Jennie Getz 6:40 in the 1600m; and Cheyenne Singletary 58.33 in the 300m hurdles.

Keystone's other boys' results were: Spenser Echevarria 12.86 in the 100m; Phillip Grimaldo 13.10 in the 100m; Dylan Stack 26.97 in the 200m and 19.46 in the 110m hurdles; Tyler Cumbus 32.83 in the 200m; Matthew Echevarria 5:27 in the 1600m; and Conner Getz 6:05 in the 1600m.

Union defeats Bell 10-3

Chris Starling drove in three runs for the Union County High School baseball team, which defeated Bell 10-3 on March 27.

Starling went 2-for-4 with a double as the Tigers improved to 7-4.

Josh Glover, Austin Green and Cole Kite each went 2-for-3, with Green and Kite each driving in a run.

Ty Cook (2-0) earned the win, giving up one run on three hits and one walk in three innings. He

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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

Kristy Nicole Alvarez, 26, of Keystone Heights was arrested March 31 by Bradford deputies on a warrant for misbranded drugs-sell in lieu of schedule I, II, III, IV controlled substances. Bond was set at \$25,000.

Jeffery Christopher Andrews, 28, of Starke was arrested March 31 by Bradford deputies for

failure to appear. Bond was set at \$2,000.

Angela Gayle Bedwell, 36, of Starke was arrested March 29 by Bradford deputies for possession of and producing marijuana, for possession of drug equipment and for child neglect. According to the arrest report, deputies went to serve a Duval County warrant on Bedwell's boyfriend when they spotted drug paraphernalia and several firearms in the residence. After she consented to a search, five marijuana plants were also found growing in the residence, all within reach of two juveniles living there. The boyfriend—Kenneth Richard Birch—fled the home when he saw the deputy pull into the driveway, but returned and admitted the firearm was his. He was arrested and charged with

possession of and producing marijuana, possession of drug equipment, possession of a weapon and resisting an officer. Bond for Bedwell was set at \$40,000, while bond for Birch was set at \$75,000.

James Stephen Belflower, 40, of Starke was arrested March 25 by Bradford deputies for two charges of possession of opium or derivative. Bond was set at \$15,000.

Shelby Lynn Binczak, 21, of Lawtey was arrested March 28 by Bradford deputies on two warrants for felony probation violation. No bond was allowed for Binczak.

Robin Suzanne Black, 43, of Keystone Heights was arrested March 31 by Bradford deputies for reckless driving—damage to property and for resisting an officer—fleeing and eluding law enforcement. According to the arrest report, deputies were called to a home in the Crystal Lake area about a suspicious vehicle. The homeowner called after Black ran over some landscape timbers and pulled up into the yard, asking him to help her find a man she had met earlier. The homeowner stated she seemed disoriented and confused, and he texted his mom to call the police while he was speaking with her. When the officer arrived, Black took off through the yard of the home and eventually made it to S.R. 100 heading south. The deputy

stated Black reached speeds over 120 mph before crashing into a power pole and flipping the vehicle over. She was okay, and arrested by the deputy. Bond was set at \$16,000.

Tyrel William Bowers, 30, of Fernandina Beach was arrested March 29 by Bradford deputies for possession of marijuana. Bowers was arrested when the deputy was serving a warrant and noticed drug activity among several people standing around outside the residence on C.R. 229 several miles west of Starke. Bond was set at \$1,000.

Robert Dwayne Bowman, 36, of Starke was arrested March 27 on a warrant by Bradford deputies for possession of cocaine and for selling cocaine within 1,000 feet of a specified area. Bond was set at \$100,000.

Marcus Kevin Bradley, 57, of Starke was arrested March 28 by Starke police on a warrant for possession of marijuana and for selling marijuana within 1,000 feet of a specified area. Bond was set at \$40,000.

Ezekiel Brown, 58, of Starke was arrested March 27 by Starke police for indecent exposure, criminal mischief-property damage and for disturbing the peace. According to the arrest report, Brown walked into the Subway located inside Walmart, went to the back part of the restaurant and urinated on the floor and some Subway products. He told the officer he was looking for a bathroom, couldn't hold it anymore and knew he "messed up" as the officer arrested him.

Ronald Leroy Brown, 48, of Starke was arrested March 27 by Starke police for burglary, two charges of larceny, two criminal mischief-property damage charges and for possession of burglary tools. According to the arrest report, Brown was observed on video riding a tricycle into the car wash in Starke at Walnut Street and U.S. 301. He then proceeded to take a pair of bolt cutters and break open the change machine, a vending machine and the coin-operated vacuums, stealing all the coins in them. He then left

the property, but was arrested several days later after police watched the video.

John Brown, 35, of Lawtey was arrested March 26 by Bradford deputies on two warrants for possession of cocaine and for selling cocaine within 1,000 feet of a specified area. Bond was set at \$200,000 for the charges.

Jessie Baryon Cornwall, 57, of Lawtey was arrested March 31 by Bradford deputies for resisting an officer—obstructing without violence. According to the arrest report, a deputy went to a residence to serve a warrant on another person, and Cornwall stated the person wasn't in the home at the time, when in fact he was there. Cornwall's bond was set at \$500.

Albert Cecil Covington, 33, of Starke and Velma Jene Covington, 57, of Starke were arrested March 28 by Bradford deputies on warrants for possession of cocaine and marijuana, for manufacturing and trafficking cocaine and for possession of drug equipment. Bond for Albert Covington was set at \$210,000, while bond for Velma Covington was set at \$110,000.

John Joseph Danella, 25, of Keystone Heights was arrested March 25 by Bradford deputies for probation violation.

Oscar Davis, 34, of Starke was arrested March 26 by Bradford deputies for possession of drugs and for possession of drug equipment. According to the arrest report, a deputy pulled Davis over on C.R. 227 after he was almost run off the road by the suspect, who was driving erratically and in excess of 80 mph. Once the deputy pulled Davis over, he found a syringe that the suspect said was filled with Roxicodone. Davis later stated he had injected his hand with Roxicodone several hours previously and had refilled the syringe before leaving his home in the vehicle. Bond was set at \$11,000.

James Tyrone Davy, 40, of Starke was arrested March 25 by Bradford deputies for two charges of possession of cocaine, two charges of selling cocaine and possession of opium or derivative. Bond was set at \$125,000.

Jonathan Mark Deese, 32, of Hampton was arrested March 30 by Bradford deputies for

battery. According to the arrest report, deputies were called about an assault that Deese committed against the mother of his daughter. The victim stated that they were arguing when Deese pushed her several times, once while she was holding their daughter, and afterward, pushing her down to the ground, where he then head butted her. He also slapped her in the face, scratching her lip.

Tina Marie Ettman, 45, of Lawtey was arrested March 2 by Bradford deputies for failure to appear. Bond was set at \$4,000.

Angel Garrison, 40, of Starke was arrested March 25 by Bradford deputies for possession of opium or derivative. Bond was set at \$15,000.

Vernon Richard Goodwin, 41, of Starke was arrested March 25 by Bradford deputies for possession of opium or derivative.

Monica Lynn Gribble, 34, of Lake Butler was arrested March 29 by the Florida Highway Patrol on an out-of-county warrant. Bond was set at \$2,500.

Cornelius Charles Griffin, 59, of Starke was arrested March 29 by Starke police for possession of cocaine and resisting an officer. According to the arrest report, an officer attempted to stop Griffin on his bicycle on S.R. 16 as he was riding at night without any type of light. Griffin fled the officer for several blocks before he was blocked by the patrol car. When he got off his bike, the officer ordered him to get on the ground or he would be "Tased." Griffin refused and was hit in the chest with a Taser. The officer observed Griffin throw something to the ground while fleeing on his bike. He retrieved a folded-up lottery ticket, which contained cocaine inside. Bond was set at \$10,000.

Brittany Nicole Griffis, 23, of Starke was arrested March 30 by Bradford deputies for driving under the influence. According to the arrest report, Griffis was driving east on S.R. 16 about 4 miles west of Starke when she apparently left the roadway, traveled approximately 50 feet, hit a culvert and then traveled another 10 feet before coming to rest on another culvert. She was still in the vehicle when the deputy arrived, and was arrested after failing the field sobriety test.



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OBITUARIES

William

Finley Sr.

RAIFORD—William Melton Finley Sr., 62, of Raiford, died March 29, 2014. He is the son of the late Albert Finley and Geneva Dees Finley. He worked most his life at a nursery for plants. He was born in Raiford on Oct. 9, 1951 and later moved to Macclenny.

He is survived by: sons, Bobby Finley, William (Julie) Finley, Albert Finley, Eugene Finley, William Travis, Justen Finley; daughters, Angela (Jason) Davis, Savannah Finley; brothers, Anthony Finley, Albert Finley; sisters, Doris Elixson, Deloris Griffis, Carolyn Swindell, Charlotte Henderson, 28 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Services will be held at a later date. Archer Funeral Home is in charge of all arrangements.

Kyle Gouin

GREEN COVE SPRINGS—Kyle Rene Gouin, 40, of Green Cove Springs, passed away Saturday, March 29, 2014. Mr. Gouin and his wife Shari moved to Clay County from Tallahassee in 2008. Kyle grew up in Keystone Heights and graduated from Keystone Heights High School in 1991. He loved water skiing, University of Florida football, and was a multiple sport athlete. Kyle graduated with a degree in Criminal Justice from Florida State University. He worked with TSA at the Tallahassee Airport and then in the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol. The true joy in his life came from his wife Shari of 15 years, his children Micah 13, Maylee 13, and Fletcher 6, his many friends, and family. Kyle was a great, but gentle man, who touched the lives of many people. He will be greatly missed by all.

Survivors include: his wife Shari Gouin; children Micah, Maylee, and Fletcher; father Raymond Gouin; mother Elaine Gouin; brothers Kevin (Teresa) Gouin, Keith (Lieba) Gouin, Kris (Jennifer) Gouin; plus nieces and nephews Kacee, Korey,

Cade, Rio, Amei, Sarelle, Bryn, Katherine, Karoline and Kimberly plus beloved aunts, uncles, and cousins.

In lieu of flowers, the family wishes that memorials be made on behalf of Shari and the children. Please contact the Funeral Home for details.

A Memorial Gathering will be held 11:00 am, Saturday April 5, at Lake Swan Camp in Melrose, where Kyle worked for a number of years as Director of Waterfront. The family will be welcoming friends on Friday April 4, from 5pm-7pm at Russell Haven of Rest Funeral Home.

Arrangements are under the care of Russell Haven of Rest Cemetery, Funeral Home and Cremation Center, 2335 Sandridge Road, Green Cove Springs. Family and friends may share their condolences at: www.RHRfh.com 904-284-7720

PAID OBITUARY



Cora Hilliard

Cora Hilliard

NEWBERRY—Cora Stokes Hilliard, 96, of Newberry, died Saturday, March 29, 2014, in the Shands Hospital, following a long illness.

Mrs. Hilliard was born on May 11, 1917, in Bradford County, to the

late James W. and Creasie Sweat Padgett. She lived for many years in Gainesville, married to the late Elmer Eugene Stokes, until his death in 1962. Mrs. Hilliard worked as a "nurses' aide" for Sunland Training Center, a school bus driver, and as a homemaker. She was later married to Clyde Hilliard, who also preceded her in death, with whom she traveled the world, following her retirement. Mrs. Hilliard lived for many years in Hawthorne, where she was a member of the 1st Baptist Church of Hawthorne. She enjoyed gardening, fishing and all things about the Florida Gators! Mrs. Hilliard was preceded in death by two children, Naomi Scott and Richard Stokes.

She is survived by: three daughters, June (Alvin) Davis, of Hawthorne, Judy (Sonny) Hunter, of Gainesville, and Gloria (Denny) Scofield, of Newberry; one son, Dwight (Kim) Stokes, of Alachua; one sister, Virginia Bleasdale, of Keystone Heights; along with many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, April 2, at 11:00 a.m., in the Chapel of Williams-Thomas Funeral Home Westarea, 823 NW 143rd St., with Rev. Charles Litzell officiating. Interment followed in Deden Cemetery. Please visit her memorial page at www.williams-thomasfuneralhome.com, for further information Williams-Thomas Westarea (352) 376-7556.

PAID OBITUARY

Jannie Padgett

STARKE—Jannie Ann Padgett, 62, of Starke died suddenly Sunday, March 30, 2014 at her residence. She was born Oct. 15, 1951 in Lawtey to the late Collie and Eva Bell Griffis. She was a caregiver and a member of The Church of Hampton. She was preceded in death by her loving husband Cecil Padgett.

She is survived by: her sons, John C. (Alicia) Padgett, of Starke and Lloyd "L.J." (Stacie) Padgett, of Starke; six grandchildren; sister, Bonnie (Charles) Griffis, of Starke; and sister-in-law, Victoria Mosher Cooper.

Funeral services were held April 2, in the Chapel of Archer Funeral Home with Rev. Donnie Lott and Rev. Aaron Morgan. Burial took place in Deden Cemetery following the service. Archer Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



Ann Payne

Ann Payne

MELROSE—Ann Wilson Payne, 85, of Melrose, passed away March 15 surrounded by her family. Born July 28, 1928 in Palm Beach County, she was raised in Ft. Lauderdale. She graduated from Mary Washington College in 1950 and was commissioned in the U.S. Navy, serving her country as a Naval Intelligence Officer in Washington D.C. and Hawaii, where she met and married her late husband, Dr. Philip Marshall Payne II, also a Naval Officer. Fittingly, she outranked him. Subsequently, the Navy transferred them to Japan for a brief time. After returning to the United States, Ann delivered her first set of twins, Philip Marshall Payne III and Sarah Margaret Ann at the Bethesda Naval Hospital. Upon her husband's

acceptance to medical school at the University of Virginia, the family moved to Charlottesville, Va., where she delivered Oona Mary Catherine, and her second set of twins, Sarah Catherine and Susan Elizabeth. She was a loving, patient, devoted and supportive mother who was adored and respected. Her children list as one of their mother's major accomplishments the raising of five children, born within a three-year span, without ever raising her voice.

Ann was a woman of quiet strength, great intelligence and fierce determination, who was equally beautiful inside and out. She was a voracious reader, and an accomplished writer and painter. A long-time member of the Audubon Society, she had a deep and abiding love of nature and joyfully passed this love to her children, teaching them to identify and appreciate birds, animals, plants and trees. A Master Gardener, an avid collector of books, art and nature's treasures, Ann transformed each place the family moved into a home and yard of beauty; a haven for her family and numerous pets, as well as the wildlife. She loved travel, and after many family vacations to the Bahamas aboard their boat Paganos, she and her husband Phil explored the world together choosing roads less traveled. Their adventures took them to Alaska, Scotland, Australia, New Zealand, Egypt, Morocco, Tibet, China, both the Northern and Southern Spice Routes, and many other places. Both were life-long learners and together they found great joy and deepened respect for world cultures, learning local customs and collecting the fine handwork of each.

Ann was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church where she volunteered at its thrift shop, and was a devoted volunteer for the Melrose Public Library. She is preceded in death by: her beloved husband, Dr. Philip M. Payne, M.D.; her parents, Elbert Ezra and Margaret Ann Wilson; and her brother, Elbert "Buster" Wilson.

Ann is survived by: her children Philip (Cynthia Booth) Payne III and Margaret "Maggie" (Rick) Blizzard, who both lovingly cared for her in the final years of her life, Oona (Eddie) Lewis, Susan (Carmine) Russo, and Sarah (Clark) Speese. Ann is also survived by seven grandchildren, Ben and Katie Payne; Reid and Kyle Lewis; Drew, Eric and Annie Speese.

Donations may be made to the Melrose Public Library, P.O. Box 1048, Melrose, FL 32666 or Haven Hospice, 6400 St. Johns Ave., Palatka, FL 32177.

Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral

Home, 340 E. Walker Dr. Keystone Heights. 352-473-3176. www.jonesgallagherfh.com

PAID OBITUARY



Steven Toms

Steven Toms

STARKE—Steven Austin Toms, 15, of Starke died Thursday, March 27, 2014 in Shands at The University of Florida. He was born on July 10, 1998 in Gainesville and was a 10th grade student at Bradford High School. He attended Windsor Baptist Church. He was preceded in death by his sister, LeAnne Dawn Tomlinson; his maternal grandfather, David Tomlinson; and his paternal grandparents, Willard and Ann Toms.

He is survived by: his parents, Woody and Tracy (Tomlinson) Toms; siblings, Jacob Toms, Stacey Toms, Brittany Toms, Justin Toms, and Sylvia Toms, all of Starke; his maternal grandmother, Linda Tomlinson of Hawthorne; and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Funeral services were held Monday, March 31, at Madison Street Baptist Church with Brother Mike Redmond and Brother Rick Cico officiating. Interment followed in Hawthorne Cemetery. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made directly to them at 14200 SE 26th Ave., Starke, FL 32091 for funeral expenses. Arrangements under the care and direction of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home.

Card of Thanks

On behalf of the family of Nolie Hall Tisdale. We would like to thank all of the people who showed their loving kindness and support during the time of our need and grief.

God Bless you for the love and the contributions that you made on behalf of the Nolie Hall Tisdale family. Special thank to Windsor Manor, True Vine Ministry, Class of 1974, Jimmie Hankerson, Ahmad Hudson and Haile Funeral Home Staff.

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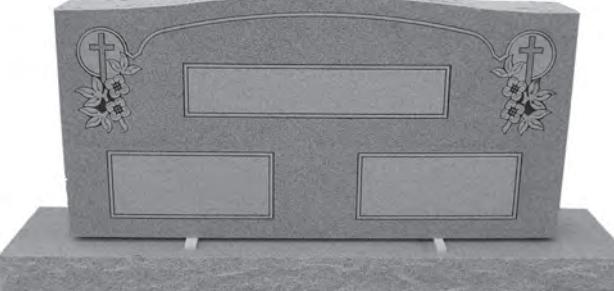
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Beulah Baptist members remember church's heritage

BY MARY W. BRIDGMAN
Special to the Telegraph-Times-Monitor

Members and friends of Beulah Baptist Church, located on S.R. 21 near Keystone Heights, gathered for its annual Heritage Day on March 29.

Participants met at the church, then drove to the main gate at Camp Blanding, where they were met by military police and escorted to the old cemetery, more than 5 miles away.

Beulah was founded in 1850 when Zachary Taylor was president of the United States. The land that comprises present-day Clay County was then part of Duval County. The church met in a small, log cabin on land owned by Kindred B. Drew. A creek ran nearby, and early members had to ford it to get to services.

Later, Drew deeded 2 acres to



LEFT: Four generations of Weeks women honored their forebears (l-r): Maggie Mosely, Kelly Padgett Mosely, Carolyn Weeks and Louisa Weeks Padgett. **RIGHT:** Earnest Saunders of Penney Farms paid tribute to his parents, who died when he was an infant.



Beulah Cemetery, which is located at Camp Blanding and maintained by the Florida National Guard, has more than 100 graves.

the church, which included space for a cemetery. The first person buried there was his 38-year-old wife, Martha Drew, who died in 1865.

The old cemetery is maintained by the National Guard, marked as a sensitive site and separated from the outside by a chain-link

fence. There are over 100 graves in the cemetery. Grave markers bear the names of families still living in the area—Booree, Harris, Hickey, Sapp, Saunders, Thomas, Weeks and Wilson, among others.

The government began using the property around Beulah's

original site as the threat of World War II loomed and the land was needed for Camp Blanding. Beulah members, "considering it [their] Christian duty to assist [their] nation in this great movement of preparedness," began holding all their meetings at a nearby school. In 1942, the

government contracted to pay the church \$800 for its property. Eventually, the church was given the plot of land it now occupies on S.R. 21, which also includes a cemetery.

Twenty-one people, including two children, braved rainy conditions and muddy roads to make the trek to the cemetery and honor their dead. Jimmy Weeks, tax collector of Clay County,

spoke briefly to those assembled, honoring his mother, Carolyn Weeks, and his sister, Louisa Weeks Padgett, who have kept the tradition going for several generations and hope to continue for many years to come.

The gathering was followed by a covered-dish dinner at Beulah Baptist Church, with an egg hunt as a special early Easter treat for the church's children.

13-1 win over Keystone is latest lopsided district win for Tornadoes

Following its performance in the Daytona Beach Softball Slam, the Bradford High School softball team won three District 5-4A games by a combined score of 48-6, including a 13-1 win over visiting Keystone Heights on March 31.

Lainie Rodgers hit a double and drove in three runs in the win over Keystone, which improved Bradford's district record to 7-2.

Bradford (13-3 overall) went up 7-0 after the first two innings, getting RBI doubles from Rodgers and Annie Luke.

That was more than enough run support for pitcher Ashton Adkins, who gave up three hits and no walks in four innings. She had eight strikeouts, including three straight after Keystone's Cece Buckley led off the top of the third with a single.

Rodgers finished the game 2-for-4. Taylor Cruce, who drove in Bradford's final two runs, had two RBI, while Adkins, Luke and Jordan Davis each had one.

Keystone (5-8, 5-4) scored a run in the top of the fifth when Gina Griffin's double advanced Kristen Wood to third. Wood scored on a wild pitch.

Prior to playing Keystone, Bradford defeated district opponent Interlachen twice.

On March 24, the Tornadoes got six RBI from Luke in a 20-5 win.

Luke went 5-for-5 with a double, while Rodgers was 3-for-3 with a double and three RBI. Cruce, Sabina Watson and Shelby Wilkison each had two RBI, with Cruce going 3-for-5 with a double. Jaci Atkinson was 3-for-4.

Wilkison earned the win in the circle, giving up four hits and striking out 10 in five innings.

On March 25, Adkins pitched

BHS goes 3-1 in Daytona Beach Slam

Bradford High School won three games by a combined score of 13-3 before losing 1-0 to West Florida in the championship game of the March 21-22 Daytona Beach Softball Slam.

The Tornadoes used a five-run fifth to defeat Space Coast 6-1, with Jordan Davis homering and driving in four runs. Taylor Cruce and Lainie Rodgers each had an RBI and were 3-for-4 and 2-for-4, respectively. Jaci Atkinson went 2-for-3, while Annie Luke hit a double.

Pitcher Ashton Adkins gave up three hits and no walks during six innings, striking out 10.

Adkins hit a home run in a 4-2 win over Class 7A Fleming Island. Cruce hit a double and drove in two runs.

In the circle, Adkins gave up seven hits and three walks. She had six strikeouts.

Adkins recorded 12 strikeouts in a 3-0 win over Class 7A East Bay. She allowed three hits and one walk.

Despite Adkins' nine-strikeout performance, the Tornadoes lost 1-0 to West Florida. The Tornadoes were held to two hits.

BHS gets high finishes from Peirce, Ardley

Bradford High School track and field athletes Scotty Peirce and Keearis Ardley earned third-place finishes at the Santa Fe Raider and University of North Florida Spring Break

invitations, respectively.

At the March 22 Raider Invitational, Peirce placed third in the 400m with a time of 57.71. Girls' team member Sarah Frederick placed ninth in the 1600m with a time of 6:32.76,

while Brooke Shireman placed 12th in the shotput (23-3) and 13th in the discus (56-3).

Ardley took third in the high jump at the March 29 UNF Spring Break Invitational by clearing 5-10. Frederick and Greg Kersey competed in the 3200m, finishing with times of 14:05.74 and 12:11.75, respectively.

UCHS earns 4 top-10 finishes at Wolfson

Daquin "Buddy" Edwards was

a runner-up for Union County High School at the Wolfson High School Wolfpack Classic on March 28.

Edwards took second in the shotput with a distance of 41-2. He had one of four top-10 finishes for the Tigers.

Josh Scott also competed in the shotput, placing third with a distance of 39-4. He was seventh in the discus with a throw of 97-4.

Girls' team member Nancy Slocum placed fifth in the 400m with a time of 1:07.88. She was also 12th in the long jump (13-4.5), while Jakia Green was 19th in the shotput (22-0).

For the boys' team, Case Emerson was 13th in the discus (81-10), while Tarek Walker was 21st in the 400m (1:02.21).

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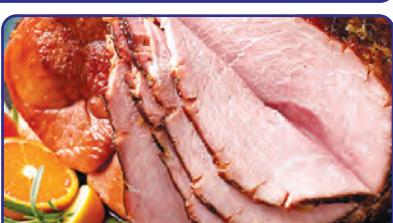
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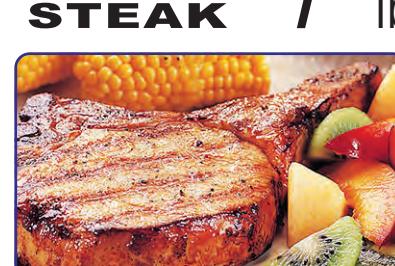
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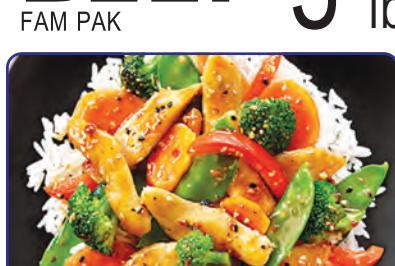
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