

Lake Region Monitor

USPS 114-170 – KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FLORIDA

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Culinary Dept. to establish legacy for fallen student

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

The students and faculty of Keystone Heights High School's culinary arts program are establishing a scholarship in honor of a key member of the group that was killed in an accident on April 11.

Shane Savoy was struck by a truck while walking to a bus stop on C.R. 214. The senior was a mainstay in the high school's culinary arts classes.

Meri-Lin Piantanida, the high school's culinary arts instructor said Savoy was in her advanced culinary class, as well as an aid in several courses.

"I had him for three of his six periods, so he spent half of his day in culinary," she said.

"He was a huge asset to the program," she added. "He was going to go to First Coast Tech and become a chef."

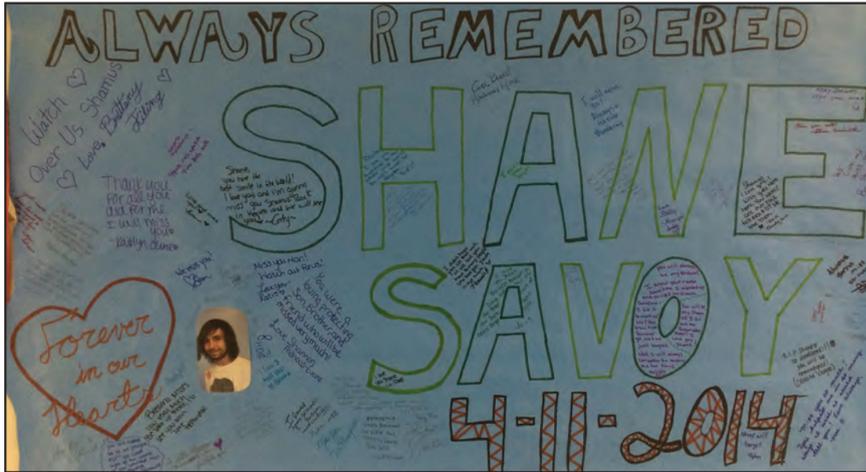
Piantanida said Savoy's helping attitude shone through early during his tenure in the program. She described him as the champion of the underdog.

"He didn't mind partnering up with kids that needed special help," she recalled.

Savoy displayed that selfless attitude seconds before the fatal accident when he pushed another classmate out of the way of the oncoming truck.

As Savoy progressed through the program, he became Piantanida's top student assistant, setting up cooking labs, the morning coffee bar, and carrying out other responsibilities.

"The list was long of the things he could do for the program," she said.



Brittany Filing, a classmate of Shane Savoy put together a poster in his honor.

She also said his demeanor was bright, a no-drama student with a positive attitude that set an example for his classmates.

"Just a beautiful kid," she said.

Piantanida said the idea for the memorial scholarship came from Savoy's mother, and soon community members also expressed their support for the concept.

She added that she hopes to fund several \$500 scholarships for graduates of her own program so students can continue their studies after high school. She also said as many as six graduating seniors may apply for the scholarship this year.

The high school is now accepting donations for the Shane Savoy Culinary Arts Scholarship.

"\$500 is enough for a kid to buy their knife kit, uniforms and books when they go to culinary

school," she said. "So it will give them a good start."

On the day of Savoy's death, the culinary arts program was to provide the meal for the drama club's dinner theater production of "Anything Goes." Piantanida said the group was taking a pizza break before completing the meal when they got the news of Savoy's passing.

"We just had to go on automatic pilot," she recalled. "We were in shock."

Principal Susan Sailor offered to have the four-course meal catered by an outside group. However, Piantanida and the students decided to complete the assignment. Staff members from the high school and Keystone Heights Elementary School, and even some former students pitched in to help with the meal.

"We could not have done it without the help," she said.



Savoy

Piantanida said the completion of the assignment and subsequent community support helped the students rally together and cope with their grief.

She said the establishment of the scholarship is another positive step the program hopes to take to remember Savoy's passion for cooking and his positive spirit.

Melrose arson investigation uncovers theft ring

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

The investigation of a fire that destroyed a Melrose-area convenience store uncovered a theft ring which detectives say victimized over 50 houses and businesses in a four-county area.

According to a Clay County Sheriff's Office report,

hours after deputies responded to a blaze at Nick's Quick Stop, a Chevron branded convenience store at the corner of S.R. 21 and Lakeview Road, Detective Stacey E. Durham made contact with two suspects.

The April 14 fire gutted the structure, which lies inside Clay County but is within 300 feet of Putnam and Bradford

counties. Durham wrote that Mathew Ryan Cemer, 14, and Frederick James Martin, 18, met him two blocks from Nick's Quick Stop. Durham transported the two suspects

to Cemer's home in Putnam County, and asked Putnam deputies to obtain a search warrant for the house.

Once inside the residence, Putnam investigators found \$1,000 worth of cigarettes and tobacco products, a computer and other merchandise from the convenience store.

They also discovered hundreds of items of stolen property associated with numerous burglaries. The Putnam County Sheriff's Office said detectives determined the stolen items are from more than 50 burglaries committed in Bradford, Clay, Alachua and Putnam Counties.

Putnam deputies arrested Cemer and Martin for burglary, grand theft and criminal mischief. They also arrested Kenneth Baldinelli, 14, of Melrose for armed burglary, grand theft of a firearm, and grand theft and Adam Boyd, 14, of Melrose on the same charges.

In addition, Putnam charged Cemer's parents, Casey Marie Gaffney, 33, and Michael David Lavane, 38, both of Melrose with child neglect and dealing in stolen property.

On April 22, Clay deputies served arrest warrants on Martin and Cemer, charging them with burglary, grand theft and arson for crimes committed at Nick's Quick Stop.

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3 qualify for Keystone council seat

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

Three candidates have qualified to run for the open Keystone Heights city council seat. The election for the office will occur on May 6.

The candidates are Robert S. Brown Jr. of Dove Street, Stephen O. Hart of Garden Street and Bradley Scott Harvey of Cargo Way.

Sunrise service raises \$1,440 for LAM

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

Attendees of an Easter morning sunrise service at Keystone Beach raised \$1,440 for Lake Area Ministries. The event was produced by the Kiwanis Club of the Lake Region.

Volunteers for the color guard included Dakota Wiley, Brittanie Koon, Tyler Williamson, Bo Brock and Noah Beckham.

Craig Moore of Keystone United Methodist Church delivered the message.

Event sponsors included the City of Keystone Heights, Darla Calcote and the Keystone Heights United Methodist Church, Hitchcock's Supermarket and Martin Coffee Company.

Event organizer Tina Bullock said attendance for the service was lighter than usual. She added that a light mist could have hampered attendance.

Keystone moves forward on skateboard park



Kyle Kincade tells the city council about the need for a skateboard park in Keystone Heights.

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

The Keystone Heights City Council may decide as soon as May whether to reopen its skateboard park behind the Keystone Village Shopping Center.

The city built the facility several years ago but closed it due to insurance and other costs.

Council member Brian Wilson said he has resolved the insurance issue and has drafted policies and procedures based on other parks in the area.

Several teenagers addressed the council saying they now skate on a foundation on north S.R. 21. They said they need a safer facility.

The council instructed City Manager Terry Suggs to continue working on Wilson's plan and report back to the council in May.

AMVETS host Easter egg hunt



Kianna Conant, a preschooler at In Loving Hands Learning Center lines up for the Easter Egg Hunt at AMVETS Post 86 in Keystone Heights on April 19. The organization also provided free food to participants.

Keystone Heights High School evacuated

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

A fire alarm forced the evacuation of Keystone Heights High School around noon on April 22.

According to a school district official, an overheated amplifier in the school's sound room activated the alarm.

After firefighters discovered the source of the smoke, students returned to class.

New Orange Park noise ordinance fails in council

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

Orange Park's new noise ordinance failed to garner enough support for a first reading during the town council's April 15 meeting.

The new proposed law eliminated the requirement that police measure alleged noise infractions with a decibel meter. It instead prohibits noises that are "unusually loud or raucous" or any noise that disturbs "reasonable persons of ordinary sensitivity."

Council member Scott Land, who worked with the public works and public safety committee to draft the measure, said Orange Park's police department favored the newer, subjective law, rather than the current ordinance, which requires objective measurements.

"They feel like they can enforce this better than the other one," said Land. "They are the ones that have to enforce it and they agree with this one."

Council members Gary Meeks and Jim Renninger both said the subjective nature of the revised ordinance makes it unenforceable.

"This ordinance is regulated by opinion," said Renninger. "There is no shred of evidence in here that a judicial body would rule on. I think they would throw out any kind of violation because it's innuendo, it's opinion and there's no evidence."

Land's motion for the proposed first reading of the new law died for a lack of second.



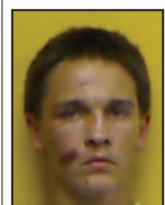
Lavane



Gaffney



Martin



Cemer

Keystone Heights-area property crimes



1. 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.
2. On March 28, chainsaws were stolen from the bed of a pickup truck parked in the front yard of a residence on King Street.
3. On March 30, a riding lawn mower and a car battery were stolen from a residence in pre-foreclosure on Klare Drive.
4. On April 5, powered lawn tools were stolen from a shed at a residence on Ranchette Road. There were signs of forced entry into the shed.
5. On April 5, a trailer was entered and gone through on C.R. 214. There were signs of forced entry into the trailer but there was nothing missing or destroyed.
6. On April 7, the air conditioning unit was stolen from a vacant residence on Bellamy Road.
7. On April 9 a motorcycle with a broke chain was stolen from the side of the road on S.R. 21.
8. On April 10, 10 used tires were stolen from the rear of a business on Sunrise Boulevard.

SRWMD Bradford County land purchase will benefit regional water resources

The Suwannee River Water Management District, in partnership with the National Guard Bureau, acquired a 344-acre tract in Bradford County from Bradford Timberlands LLC. The tract will provide a buffer for Camp Blanding and enable the district to build a flood protection and aquifer recharge project.

The district will use the property to capture floodwaters and recharge the Upper Floridan aquifer. Recharging the aquifer in this location will benefit aquifer levels in both the Suwannee River and St. Johns River water management districts.

The purchase was funded

by a grant from the National Guard Bureau in cooperation with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as part of the Department of Defense Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration program designed to secure buffers around military installations.

"The district appreciates the opportunity to partner with the National Guard Bureau on this acquisition that will establish a necessary buffer for Camp Blanding and allow the district to construct a multi-purpose project that will provide flood protection and benefit regional aquifer levels," said SRWMD Executive Director Ann

Shortelle.

"This purchase helps to fulfill the state's continued emphasis on preserving conservation land that protects springs, water resources, and buffers military areas," said DEP Secretary Herschel Vinyard.

"This purchase will help to protect the military mission of Camp Blanding by allowing soldiers to train to the fence line without fear of affecting the quality of life for our neighbors. This is a win-win for both agencies," said Paul Catlett, installation environmental program manager, Camp Blanding Joint Training Center.

Haven Hospice Welcomes Catherine Mitchell as CFO

Haven Hospice welcomes Catherine Mitchell as the new vice president and chief financial officer for Haven Hospice. As a key member of the Haven Hospice Executive Leadership Team, Mitchell assumes a strategic role in the overall management of the company and will be responsible for planning, implementing, managing and controlling all financial related-activities.

Mitchell is a diversified finance executive with broad experience that spans from insurance, banking and education to healthcare. With 30-plus years of experience, Mitchell spent a decade in healthcare, of which the last eight years have been as a finance leader in two hospice organizations, including for-profit and not-for-profit. In 2007, she began to lead initiatives to build and manage the newly formed financial department for Bristol Hospice in Salt Lake City, Utah, along with a joint venture to expand the company's operations eastward. Following Mitchell's success of helping to strategically expand hospice services and further grow

Bristol's hospice locations, she moved to California to become the CFO at Hospice of the East Bay where she has served since late 2010.

"Catherine is a seasoned financial executive who has experience in growing hospice organizations," said Haven Hospice President Tim Bowen. "Her diverse background, fresh perspective and strategic approach has helped her establish credibility, quick wins and successful growth for the

organizations she has worked for."

Mitchell founded and leads the Hospice Coalition that started with 8 organizations and has grown to 21 independent for-profit and non-profit hospice entities, which have joined forces to tackle common challenges in the industry such as workers' compensation, DME and long-term pharmacy, group purchasing and managed services.

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Realtors' bass tournament

The Northeast Florida Association of Realtors (NEFAR) will once again host the NEFAR Bass Tournament at the Palatka City Dock on April 26 to benefit unreimbursed programs and services for Haven Hospice patients and families in the community. Over the last ten years, the tournament has helped raise more than \$185,000.

The \$120 registration fee will include a team of two per boat. The Family Fun Day activities, which are free and open to the public, will include a blow-up slide, children's fishing tank and casting tournament, crafts, food vendors, animal adoptions and much more! Prizes will include a \$2,500 guaranteed payback for first place, a \$1,000 guaranteed payback for the big fish of the tournament and a \$250 cash drawing for tournament boaters who are present.

Vendors will include the Humane Society, the Camp Blanding Museum and the Keystone Cloudbusters. Attendees will also have the opportunity to learn more about the mason child ID program. There will be arts and craft vendors with hand-made gifts for sale and a car show.

All proceeds will benefit the unreimbursed programs and services provided by Haven Hospice in the Putnam, St. Johns and Clay Counties. To register for the event, visit www.nefarbass.org or contact Mike Oglesbee at 386-546-3614. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor please contact Glenn East at 904-394-9132.

Kindergarten registration

Keystone Heights Elementary and McRae Elementary kindergarten registration will be May 5-9, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

It is not necessary to have any documents or paperwork to participate in the preregistration.

To be included in 2014 Kindergarten classes, parents should pick-up a registration packet during this week for students turning 5 years old on or before Sept. 1.

After completion of the packet, they should be returned to the school with the following required documents: Certified birth certificate, completed Immunization record (Form 680), health physical (received since 8/12/13), and parent ID including three proofs of residency in the school district at the current physical address.

KHE will implement a new Kindergarten Orientation this year. Packets should be picked up during Pre-Registration week (May 5-9) at which time an appointment will be made for their return on Wednesday,

May 14, or Thursday May 22.

At the return appointment, parents will bring their child with the completed registration packet and all required documents. During this time they will tour the kindergarten classrooms, participate in a readiness screening and receive information for the upcoming school year.

If you have any questions, please contact either school.

Degrees of Separation

New and selected works by Jim Carpenter are now on display April 12 - May 18.

Reception is Friday, May 2nd, 6 to 9 p.m., part of Melrose Art Walk.

"Poet of the Piano" Don Wyrzten

A two day event, featuring Professor of Church Music & Chapel Pianist, Don Wyrzten. Mr. Wyrzten will be leading a seminar for piano and keyboard players at Lake Swan Camp in their Fire Side Room., Saturday, May 17. The day will begin at 10:00am and end at 2:30pm. The cost of the event is \$15 per person, price includes lunch.. Please RSVP for lunch to Friendship Bible Church at 352-473-2713. Payment for the seminar and lunch will be accepted at the doors. Guests may call Lake Swan Camp for motel room reservations at 352-475-2828. The room cost is \$35 per night/per person and \$10 for each additional family member in the same room. Rooms available May 16-17. Lake Swan Camp is located at 647 State Road 26, Melrose, FL 32666.

Sunday, May 18th at 10:30am, Mr. Wyrzten will be bringing the Word & leading the worship service at Friendship Bible Church located at 1155 Orchid Ave, Keystone Heights, FL

32656. All are welcome!

Garden Club of the Lakes events

In celebration of Arbor Day the Garden Club of the Lakes will hold its annual Plant and Garden Sale Saturday May 3 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Keystone Heights City Park. The Garden Club and other vendors will sell plants, garden décor and accessories and we will have fun activities for the children. The Garden Club will sell raffle tickets for "A Day in the Garden" gift basket. The event is sponsored to bring awareness to Arbor Day and the Garden Club of The Lakes and to raise funds for our worthy projects in the downtown area and to fund scholarships for children to attend Wekiva Youth Camp in Apopka.

The Indoor Yard Sale and Bake Sale will be held Saturday, May 10 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the American Legion Post in Keystone Heights located at 7441 S.R. 21. We will be selling assorted housewares, collectible doll items, craft supplies, garden trinkets, some small appliances and much, much more and everything is priced to sell.

For more information about either event, call 352-473-8399.

We need your clothes

Community Church of Keystone Heights is hosting our 6th Annual Back to School event on July 22. Clothes will be given away free to children in need.

Donate clean, gently used clothes for children sizes 3T through adult. Teenagers come in all sizes and this collection is for all ages and sizes. Drop clothes off at Community Church marked B2S (Back to School).

The deadline is July 10.

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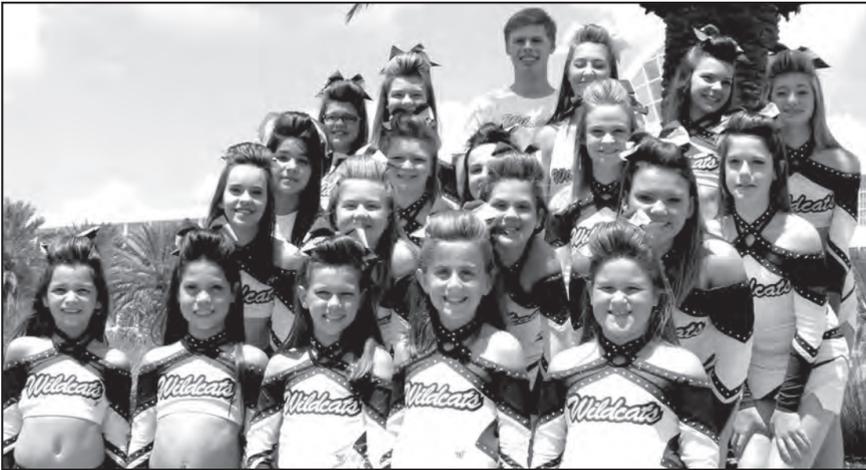
Keystone Heights 32656

Keystone recognizes Arbor Day



Keystone Heights Mayor Tony Brown hands Garden Club of the Lakes President Sue Hamerstrom an Arbor Day proclamation. Also pictured in front are Garden Club members (l-r) Doris Bachand, Carrie Milligan, Joan Valentine and Jackie Host. Pictured behind Hamerstrom are city council members Brian Wilson and Marion Kelly and Vice Mayor Paul Yates.

Wildcat Allstars complete inaugural season



The Wildcat Allstar Cheerleaders, coached by Becky Massey, formed in October. During the 2013-2014 competitive season, the team consisted of a junior level 1 cheer team and a senior stunt team performing level 3 and 4 stunts. Both teams attended three competitions this spring. In their first two competitions, the team walked away with two divisional first place trophies, plus second and third place overall trophies. The stunt group, also brought home first place trophies for all of their performances. Most recently, the team won second place in the junior level 1 division at the Florida Cheer and Dance Association National Championship in Orlando on April 12.

Pictured are (L-r) Front row: Kylie Frew, Kyla Maloney, Kori Jennings, Emma Cirigliano and Kamryn Eatmon.

Second row: Alli Huston, Grace Cirigliano, Jozee Tymberlynn Smith and Abby Jordan.

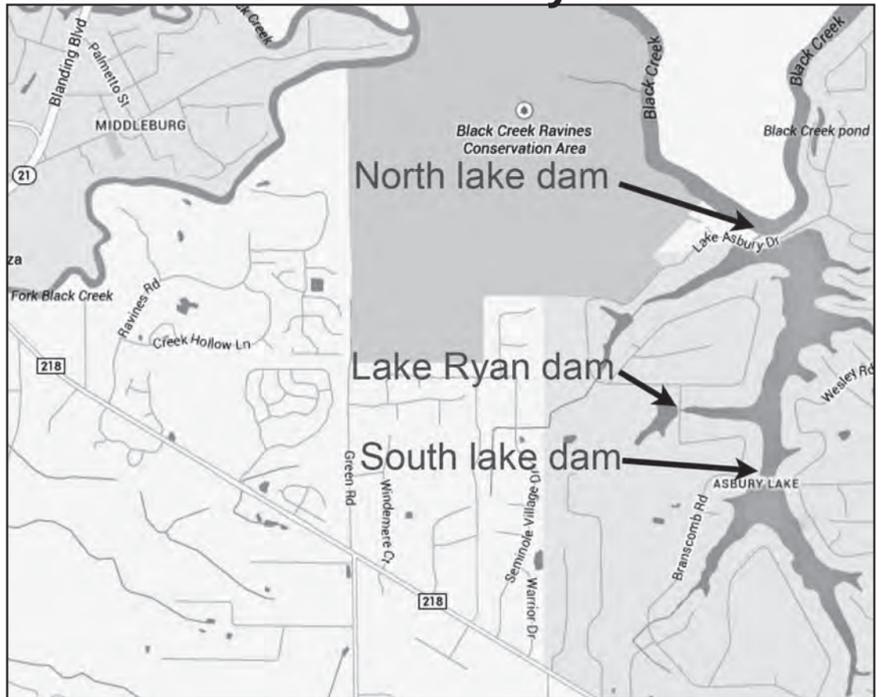
Third row: Nayeli Trejo, Savannah Koppert, Macy Parker, Trinity Flanders and Shanna Sullivan.

Fourth row: Kylie Fischer, Jordyn Fischer, Nick Jones, Mia Gauthier, Kylee McManis and Parker Grooms.

Not Pictured: Savanna Sayers.

Coaches: Becky Massey, Kelly Maloney and Calee Harrison.

Legal issues delay repairs to water main inside Lake Asbury dam



Lake Asbury's three dams were built in the 1960s and impound Lake Ryan, South Lake Asbury and North Lake Asbury. Middleburg and S.R. 21 are in the upper left of the map.

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

Repairs to a broken water main running through the north lake dam at Lake Asbury have been delayed for two months while the Clay County Utility Authority, a homeowners' association and the neighborhood's municipal service benefit district agree to an easement and repair plans.

The dam separates Black Creek from North Lake Asbury. It also supports Lake Asbury Drive. The north lake dam was constructed in the 1960s, along with two other earthen barriers: the Lake Ryan Dam and the South Lake Dam.

In a report to the CCUA board of supervisors, the utility's staff wrote that on Jan. 13, a break occurred in the six-inch, concrete, asbestos water main within the north lake dam. On Feb. 3, a second break occurred in the line. After a third break on Feb. 6, utility managers installed a gate valve cutting water flow to the six-inch pipe.

"Anytime you have a broken water main under high pressure, it's not a good thing to have it inside of a dam that's holding a lot of water, especially with people living in the adjacent area," CCUA Executive Director Tom Morris told the board on April 1. "That is something that concerned us enough and concerned me enough, especially about the possibility of loss of life, that I declared an emergency."

Morris described the breaks as major splits in the 50-year-old, concrete pipe. He added that the splits were unusual for the type of pipe inside the dam. He also said that following the break, workers saw damage to the dam itself and made emergency repairs.

"We really need to replace that main before something very, very serious happens," he continued. "And by serious, I mean loss of life, which is a

distinct possibility."

Later in the same meeting, in answering a question from Supervisor John Wilkinson, Morris agreed that after installing a valve and shutting off water flow to the pipe within the dam, the immediate danger of additional damage to the earthen barrier was removed.

"That's correct right now," Morris answered Wilkinson. "There are a group of customers that don't have quite the pressure that we would like to maintain--could present some fire flow issues. So we had time that switched it maybe from an emergency to extremely urgent, but we definitely need to address this."

During the April 15 board of supervisors meeting, Morris said the two-month delay in replacing the six-inch main was caused by questions surrounding the ownership of the dam and the absence of an easement that would allow the utility to do work on top of and within the structure.

"As we understand it, this dam is privately owned," he said. "That's one of the things that makes us very nervous. We are proceeding very, very carefully."

According to the Clay County Property Appraiser, the dam is owned by the Lake Asbury Municipal Service Benefit District and the Lake Asbury Lake Lot Owners Association Inc.

Morris told his board that CCUA acquired the Lake Asbury water system when it purchased Mid-Clay Service Corp. in 1993.

Apparently, Mid-Clay failed to negotiate an easement for the line running beneath the dam. Morris said the lack of an easement is another obstacle he is trying to overcome.

"We own the line, but we have no legal means to maintain the line," he said.

Morris also said the utility is including the engineer for

the municipal service benefit district, Mike Kelter, in every stage of its planning. He told CCUA board members that including the district in planning the repairs will limit the utility's liability should a dam failure occur in the future.

"The last thing we want is two years from now, some sort of a catastrophic failure, and the homeowners come knocking on our door saying, 'You caused this damage.'"

The utility plans to replace the damaged six-inch concrete, asbestos line with an eight-inch PVC pipe using directional drilling on the west portion of the 1,200-foot dam and an open cut on the east end of the structure. Workers will also fill the damaged line with gravel.

Morris said that once the dam owners sign the easement documents and the engineer for the municipal service benefit district approves plans for the line replacement, his crews will begin work immediately.

"If we got a green light from the easements and from Mr. Kelter, we are talking hours," he said of the response time. "24, 48 hours-that will be considered a very high priority."

CCUA: rate increase 'distinct possibility'

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

The executive director of the Clay County Utility Authority said that the utility's conservation program has been so successful, CCUA may have to increase rates to make up for lower revenues caused by the conservation plan.

Tom Morris told the utility's board of supervisors that higher than normal rainfall in March, combined with the utility's tiered rate structure resulted in a 34 percent decrease in water consumption in March compared to the same month last year.

Through the first half of its fiscal year, CCUA is also \$711,703 under budget on operating revenues caused, in part, by the conservation

See RATE, 4A



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Tax certificate investors may walk a complex, lucrative road

BY JAMES WILLIAMS
Special to the Telegraph

Sometime around March 19, 2013 a one-acre piece of property on U.S. 301, south of Starke, was auctioned off at the courthouse. It was one of 15 to 20 such properties currently in Bradford County's pipeline of properties up for auction.

Someone paid the full amount of all tax certificates written on these properties, plus additional fees and percentages and a tax deed was written. Buyers walked away with properties assessed at anywhere from \$1,400 to nearly \$100,000, potentially at a bargain basement price.

Bradford County Tax Collector Teresa Phillips says the number of delinquent properties up for grabs is growing. In 2013, the county's total sales of delinquent tax certificates totaled \$938,351 on 1,363 parcels. Is it due to a bad economy and people not able to pay their taxes? Not necessarily.

A tax lien is similar to, but isn't, a foreclosure. Tax liens are filed by federal, state or local governments. Don't pay your taxes, governments confiscate your assets.

Florida Statute 197 states in part: "All owners of property are held to know that taxes are due and payable annually and are responsible for ascertaining the amount of current and delinquent taxes and for paying them before April 1 of the year following the year in which taxes are assessed."

"It is the state's way of protecting county and municipal entities," Phillips said. "The county budget is based (in part) on expected revenue from ad valorem taxes." When that revenue doesn't come in, the county must take action.

Florida statutes also require the tax collector, on or before June 1, to conduct a sale of tax certificates on all land on which the taxes are delinquent for the preceding year.

Certificates are sold at a tax sale auction through competitive bidding. Once a prospective bidder has registered and the on-line bidding start date is reached, bidders log in and begin placing their bids. The on-line bidding start date is the first day the advertising list is published in the newspaper. Bids can be submitted anytime from this date, until midnight before the actual tax sale date.

Online county tax certificate sales in Florida follow a sealed bid format in the form of proxy

bidding. The auctions encourage bidders to submit the lowest percentage rate they are willing to accept on their investment to win a particular tax certificate. The minimum bid is held in confidence in the system until the end of the bidding and certificates are awarded. The system, on behalf of the bidder, will bid the percentage rate necessary to maintain the position of the low bidder. Florida law requires all bidders to see at least a five percent return on their investment.

The amount of the certificate is the sum of the unpaid real estate taxes and non-ad valorem assessments, such as schools or water, plus 3 percent interest, 5 percent in costs associated with the sale and advertising charges.

If the owner later pays the taxes and all related charges, the lien is canceled. If the certificate is not redeemed between two and seven years from the date of the delinquency, the certificate holder can initiate a tax deed application that may result in the original owner's loss of the property.

Monitor publisher John Miller, agrees that tax auctions seem to be on the rise; he watches tax certificates and auctions advertised in this newspaper, an advertisement required by law.

Phillips said the trend is not always due to economic downturn, as one might expect. There's also the passing of time and old age. Of the county's 237 current outstanding tax certificates, 10 property owners are listed as deceased; an additional 31 are owned by an estate.

"Many of the cases we have right now are heirs' properties," Phillips said. It's possible, and does happen, that some co-owners may not be aware that taxes are due or that taxes haven't been paid. They may not even be aware that they co-own the property.

Miller produced a sheaf of ads and information on 12 of 20 or so properties to go up for auction this month. Of the 12 properties, seven were owned by an estate, or the owner was listed as deceased. Taxes had been assigned to multiple owners, presumably heirs, lists of three or more people rather than a single individual or a couple.

Orange Park narrows city manager candidates to 3

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

The Orange Park Town Council eliminated one candidate for its town manager position during its April 15 meeting, leaving three finalists for the job.

The council started its search to replace retiring manager Cindy Hall last October.

In February, the panel selected its five semifinalists: current Town Clerk Sarah Campbell, Beloit, Wis. Town Administrator Robert A. Museus, former New Port Richey City Manager John R. Schneiger, former Atlantic Beach City Manager Jim Hanson and Brunswick, Ga. City Manager William Weeks.

In April, Schneiger withdrew his name from consideration.

During the April 15 meeting, the council also dropped Museus from its list.

Council member Gary Meeks recommended the move, noting that when the council narrowed its choices from 10 to five candidates, Museus received only three votes from the panel, while the other semifinalists received four or more votes.

The council also scheduled April 26 interviews for the three finalists, and agreed to vote for its final choice during its May 6 meeting.

One property was located on C.R. 200B. The owner was an estate and the tax statement had been sent to an individual in Georgia, possibly the deceased's daughter or a business representative. However, the tax assessment listed the estate, the addressee and 18 additional heirs as being responsible for paying taxes.

"Sometimes you inherit land you don't actually want," Miller said. "If someone inherits land in Bradford County but lives elsewhere, would they want only one acre in Bradford County badly enough to pay taxes on it?" Family or heirs' squabbles can get in the way. Sons and daughters marry and move across the country.

On the Bradford tax collector's books today are 237 certificates from 2005 to 2012, properties the county has absorbed when nobody wanted to bid on them. None of those are listed as resulting from bankruptcy. Fewer than 25 appear to be business or corporate properties; the rest appear to be owned by individuals.

Forty-nine individuals and businesses own two or more properties with tax certificates written against them. Three certificates date from 2005, five from 2006, 30 from 2008, 43 from 2010, 112 from 2011 and 44 from 2012. Naturally, you would expect earlier years to reflect fewer cases as property or certificate owners clear up the liens.

In Bradford's database of open tax certificates, only about half of the contacts for tax certificate properties reside in Bradford or Union counties. Around 22 percent of contacts live outside of Florida and two live outside the U.S. Just because one co-owner gets the tax bill in the mail doesn't mean the addressee can or will get in touch with all the other listed heirs, or even knows them.

A second example in the Bradford files involves a

See TAX, 5A

Middleburg man hits school bus, no injuries

A Middleburg man was cited for careless driving after his vehicle struck a school bus in St. Johns County Wednesday morning.

According to a Florida Highway Patrol report, Jesse W. Helms, 20, was driving a 1998 Chevrolet Blazer southbound on S.R. 13 around 6:35 a.m. when he came upon traffic slowing down for a stopped school bus.

Helms failed to slow down, and veered off to the right of the road to avoid hitting the vehicles in front of him.

After striking a mailbox, he overcorrected turning back left and struck the bus with the front of his Blazer.

Neither the driver of the bus, nor its only passenger, a 13-year-old boy, were injured.

Helms also was not injured in the collision.

Green Cove Springs dedicates new police station



Green Cove Springs Mayor Mitch Timberlake addresses a crowd in front of the new Green Cove Springs Police Station. Also pictured (standing) are Clay County Tax Collector Jimmy Weeks and Green Cove Springs City Manager Danielle Judd. Seated are council members Van Royal and Ray Braly, Vice Mayor Felicia Hampshire, Council Member Pamela Lewis and Police Chief Robert Musco.



Melrose Senior Community Center Yard Sale and Bake Sale

Friday April 25, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. 307 SR 26 Melrose. 15 participants. Proceeds to benefit the center.

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.



LRM Legals 4/24/14

ABSENTEE BALLOTS
City of Keystone Heights
"Special" Municipal Election
Absentee ballots for the City of Keystone Heights "Special" Municipal Election to be held on May 6, 2014 may be requested from City Hall, 555 S. Lawrence Blvd. Please contact Terry Suggs, City Manager at 352-473-4807 regarding an absentee ballot.
4/24 2tchg 5/1-LRM

RATE

Continued from 3A

program. Controller Patty Barthlow said the utility is also \$790,108 under budget on operating expenses for the year.

CCUA Supervisor Mike Vallancourt asked Morris if the utility would have to raise rates to make up for falling revenues caused by less water demand.

"That's a distinct possibility," answered Morris. "Don't know yet."

Morris said many utilities around the country have had to increase rates after successful conservation efforts reduced water consumption and pulled down revenues as a result.

"That's the trap most utilities fall into," he said. "We launched this four years ago and have not touched the rates since, but we did not anticipate a 25, conceivably 30 percent decrease. We anticipated 15."

He added that by the end of the year, he projected a year-to-date decrease of between 20 and 22 percent.

"That would not prompt a major rate increase," he told the board. "Low, single digits, if at all."

Man stole glasses while pushing child

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

Clay County deputies are looking for a shoplifting suspect they say eluded the scrutiny of store personnel by committing the theft while pushing a baby stroller.

According to the sheriff's office, store video shows a 30-40-year-old Asian or Hispanic male entering the Sunglass Hut at the Orange Park Mall around 1 p.m. on April 3.

The suspect tried on several pair of sunglasses before concealing a pair of Ray Ban Aviator sunglasses valued at \$200 in the pocket of his jeans. He then continued walking around the business for several minutes before exiting.

The suspect was pushing a stroller with a girl, age 2-3 in it.

A store employee told a deputy that during the time of the incident he had several customers to help and therefore did not see the theft. He also said that since the man was accompanied by a small child, he did not pay much attention to him.

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Dr. Kevin Hornsby, MD, will mail the first 37 men that respond to this ad a free copy of his new thirty dollar book "A Doctor's Guide to Erectile Dysfunction." He's so sure this book will change your life he will even pay the postage and handling. If the popular pills don't work for you, regardless of your age or medical history, you owe it to yourself and your lady to read this book now! Call Toll Free 800-777-1922 24-hrs. and leave your name and address (only).

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Jacksonville, FL 32207
904-399-8484 (v)
904-398-6322 (tty)

Florida Telecommunications
FTRI Relay, Inc.



Current FTRI clients: If your phone isn't working properly or your hearing has changed, or should you no longer need your phone or are moving out of Florida, call FTRI at 888-554-1151 for assistance.

Keystone student wins chamber scholarship



Clay Chamber Foundation Scholarship winners included (l-r) Jeffrey Shao, Eileen Harding, Joel Michel, and Raymond Norris. Photo courtesy of the Clay County Chamber of Commerce.

Keystone Heights High School senior Joel Michel was one of five students who won \$1,000 scholarships from the Clay County Chamber Foundation.

The chamber of commerce created its scholarship program in 1991 to recognize academically talented Clay County high school

seniors and provide financial assistance for their college level studies. The scholarship fund is supported by fundraisers and chamber members who pay an additional amount in voluntary contributions as part of their annual dues.

Other students who won the

award were Eileen Harding of Orange Park High School, Raymond Norris of Fleming Island High School, Jeffrey Shao of Oakleaf High School and Breyana Stilts of Orange Park High School.

Bellamy Road Presents Gumbo Limbo Cajun Band

Saturday April 26 - 7:30pm. The Artists Hall - 301 SR 26 in Melrose. Dance lessons at 7:30 Dance starts at 8 \$10 Tickets at the Door.

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.

United Methodist Women Fashion Show and Luncheon

The UMW of Keystone UMC will have their annual fashion show and luncheon on Saturday May 3 at 11:30 a.m. in the MMC Building. Our theme this year is a Garden Party. There will be food, fashions, shopping, door prizes and special music will be provided. Fashions will be provided by Belk's Gainesville. Our thrift shop will have fashions and accessories on display for purchasing.

You can purchase tickets from any UMW members, Mallards or by calling Marilyn Freeman at 352-473-5158. Tickets are \$12.00. No tickets will be sold at the door.

All our proceeds will go to local charities.

Melrose Elementary Kindergarten Roundup

Melrose Elementary will be holding a Kindergarten Round Up on Friday, May 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. You can come by and register your kindergarten student for the 2014-2015 school year. Complete packets must be turned in with your child's birth certificate, social security card (optional), immunization record and physical record prior to starting the school year. Incomplete packets will not be accepted. Registration will continue Monday-Thursday

Keystone proclaims April as Autism Awareness Month



The City of Keystone Heights proclaimed April as Autism Awareness Month by presenting Angela Clance with a proclamation. Clance is the co-chair of Walk Now for Autism Speaks. Also pictured are city council members Brian Wilson and Marion Kelly.

throughout the summer as well. Students must be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1st.

Wills and estate program

On Thursday, May 1, the Melrose Library Association

will present a program on wills and trusts. If you do not have a will, the State of Florida will decide how to divide your estate at great expense to your heirs. Attorney Scott Toney of Gainesville, a specialist in such areas, as well as elder law, will provide information to guide you in your planning. This adult

enrichment program begins at 7:00 pm at the Melrose library behind the post office and is free.

TAX

Continued from 4A

business couple who lived in the area some years ago but has since moved to a western state. The property in question is worth a few thousand dollars. The owners may have simply walked away from the property, because it is no longer worth their while to maintain or dispose of it through a bothersome sale in regular channels. By now, they may have bigger fish to fry elsewhere.

One year after assessed taxes have not been paid, a tax

certificate is issued by the tax collector's office.

Of Miller's 12 examples, four tax certificates were owned by PNC Bank of Tampa, seven by U.S. Bank of Dundee and one by a capital investment corporation. "Why would banks want these?" Miller asked.

An online source, Tax Lien University, says it's not at all unusual for banks and other big investors to buy up tax liens, lured by the potential for interest returns as high as 18 percent or more. In Illinois the peak interest rate allowed is over 30 percent.

According to the site, "Investors and Wall Street

insiders spend (\$7 to \$10 billion dollars) each year buying tax lien certificates. ... They've also done their very best to keep the tax lien business to themselves." They have been helped by the recent turn to offering tax certificates for sale online.

Banks may like to own high interest certificates without becoming property owners. Most American banks are already trying to ditch foreclosed mortgage properties as fast as they can. Why would they want to become custodians of more?

Shelly Gibbs, branch manager at M&S Bank in Keystone Heights, said she assumes banks would be interested in the high interest rates, but may have no interest in owning the property unless they also hold an unpaid mortgage on it.

According to the PNC Bank website, owners may mistakenly assume the bank automatically pays the taxes each year, but no escrow account was set up to do so. This especially applies to the sub-prime mortgages of a few years ago.

Tax Lien University says that if the Florida tax lien certificate is not redeemed, after two years of holding a certificate but no later than seven, the certificate's buyer may request and file a tax deed application. If the certificate remains unredeemed, the property is scheduled for public auction by the Clerk of Circuit Court.

For non-homestead parcels, the opening bid equals delinquent property taxes, accrued interest, plus costs and fees. For homestead parcels, the opening bid is half the assessed value plus delinquent taxes, interest, fees, and costs. The highest bidder is awarded ownership of the property.

"It's not unheard of for one or several heirs to show up when property is auctioned, to become sole owner of the property just lost by a group of heirs," Phillips said. "That could be less expensive and complicated than trying to negotiate with all other heirs and buy from each of them

one share at a time."

Assistant Clerk Lisa Brannon at the Bradford Clerk of the Court's office said after the tax collector sends an affidavit stating that a property is to be auctioned the clerk's office notifies owners, lien and mortgage holders and other interested parties. The date and time of the auction is advertised in the Telegraph's legal notices.

The owner may redeem the property by paying taxes and fees at the last minute and the sale is stopped, Brannon said. It may also happen that no one shows up for the sale. In this case, the tax certificate holder pays the opening bid, additional court costs and filing fees and gets the property. If additional bidders show up, the property goes to the highest bidder.

Before readers withdraw their IRA funds and head for the courthouse, be advised: there are caveats. A tax deed—the deed you get if an auctioned property is turned over to you—may be what Phillips called a cloudy deed. That is, it may not be entirely clean and can come with complications.

There's no guarantee an heir won't show up later with claims the property is rightly theirs. The cost of title searches and legal fees could become an issue. Tax Lien University also cautions its students to avoid worthless properties, federal tax liens, bad neighborhoods, bankruptcies, costly environmental issues and uninsurable titles.

The prospective tax certificate investor should also be prepared to navigate competitive markets, says Tax Lien University.

Bradfordtaxcollector.com has several pages devoted to delinquency, the sale of tax certificates and auctions. For a helpful overview on the subject, visit www.taxlienuiversity.com.



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9:15am Contemporary Worship in our MMC

11:00am Traditional Worship in our Sanctuary
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Bible Question: Once we are baptized into Christ we are no longer slaves to sin: **Romans 6:1-7** Now whose slaves are we to be? What does the bible say about those who PRACTICE sin?

Bible Answer: Romans 6:20, 22 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. **Galatians 5:19-21** Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like, of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who PRACTICE such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

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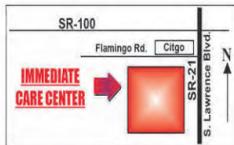
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1998 Nova Southeastern Graduate with honors and was a National Health Service Corp Scholar recipient.
Highly skilled rural physician with 12 years experience in Hospital ER and Primary Care Environments.



Janet Calhoun, A.R.N.P.

Janet Calhoun, A.R.N.P.
University of Florida Graduate, Board Certified Family Practice Nurse Practitioner
Active practice in Family Medicine since 2002. She is currently working on certification as a Diabetic Educator.

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(Next to Walgreens)
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Dr. Jessica Miller, M.D.

- Medical Bio
- Graduate University of Wisconsin Medical School in 2002
 - Family Medicine Residency at Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton - Oceanside, California
 - Pakistan - 2002 Earthquake Medical Relief Supervision of Primary Care to Women and Children Marine Corp.
 - Afghanistan - 2009 Physician for Camp of 450 Army Infantry Soldiers at Mazar-e-Shariff, Northern Regional Hospital
 - Okinawa Japan - Family Practice with credentials in Women's Healthcare, Colposcopy, Newborns and Pediatric
 - Associate Professor Uniformed Services University of Healthsciences 2010



Jessica Miller, M.D.

Kimberly Beers Castillo, A.R.N.P.

- Medical Bio
- University of Florida graduate; Master of Science in Nursing, FNP, Dec. 2009 and Bachelor of Science in Nursing 2007.
 - Primary Care experience in rural health with adults, pediatrics and women's health.
 - Experienced in both the ICU and Medical Surgical environments.
 - A former Peace Corps volunteer and is also skilled in Spanish... both written and oral.



Kimberly Beers Castillo, A.R.N.P.



Matt Modansky, M.D.

"CHANGES"

With regret after 5 years, Dr. Modansky has left our practice to move closer to his home near Jacksonville Beach. The one and a half hour drive became too much for his family. He will be at The *St. Vincents Primary Care Center* in Fleming Island and we at *Starke Family Medical Center* will be happy to help with record transfer if you want.

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Dr. Charles Franson, D.O. will be covering Tuesday and Thursday in our Starke office and of course Kay Bonett will be here taking care of people everyday!

Great people sometimes take a while to find...we've been interviewing candidates since February. We will take our time to find the right physician to join our group.

We regret any inconvenience and we have the capacity to continue care for everyone!

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Brenda Kay Bonett
ARNP
Board Certified
Family Nurse
Practitioner



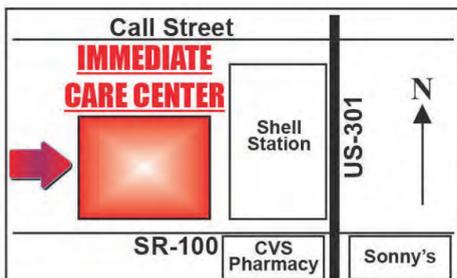
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REGIONAL NEWS

NEWS FROM BRADFORD COUNTY, UNION COUNTY AND THE LAKE REGION

FEATURES
CRIME
SOCIALS
OBITUARIES
EDITORIAL

Relay for Life: walking for hope, finishing the fight

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer

American Cancer Society statistics show that the cancer death rate for men and women combined decreased by 20 percent from 1991 through 2010.

Good news, to be sure, but according to "Cancer Statistics 2014," which was published in the American Cancer Society journal "CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians," it is estimated that 585,720 people in the U.S. will die from cancer in 2014. It is estimated that 1,665,540 new cancer cases will be diagnosed in 2014.

What the numbers show is that even though there is hope for those who are diagnosed with cancer, cancer is still a prevalent disease that claims a lot of lives.

The quest for a cure continues, and it is that end goal that keeps people walking around the Bradford High School track throughout the night during the annual Relay for Life, a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society.

This year's Relay, which



Bradford-Keystone Heights Relay for Life Chair Linda Lee poses with "Pua the Purple Pig," which was part of just one of many pre-Relay fundraisers.

combines the efforts of Bradford County and Keystone Heights, Saturday, April 26. The theme is: "Walking for a Cure on Hope Island." "We're just imagining the

middle of the track is an island, and the track itself is the beach," said Linda Lee, the event's chair. "We're all marooned on that island, and we're going to keep walking until we find a cure." Cancer survivors and their caregivers are invited to a dinner—sponsored by Altrusa of Starke and Community State

See RELAY, 4B



If birthdays and gravity are no longer your BFFs, get your gal pals together for a fun night out.

One day, you look in the mirror and someone with baggy, saggy skin looks back. How do you fight back? Dr. Keener discusses what's new in plastic, cosmetic and reconstructive surgery; breast augmentations; skincare, facials and injectable treatments at our Women's Health Fair.

Free Girls Night Out!

Discussion and Women's Health Fair
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Cleesen: encouraging others while fighting her own battle

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer

The American Cancer Society is encouraging people to help "finish the fight" that began with the organization's start 100 years ago.

Laura Cleesen of Starke has been told she can't finish the fight and become cancer free, but that does not make her any less of a fighter.

"I may have bad days, but I'm going to be here as long as I can," Cleesen said. "As I say to everybody, I may not win the war, but I'm going to win every battle until that point. That's just my mindset."

Cleesen has battled through two bouts of breast cancer and an occurrence of uterine cancer. In March 2013, the discovery of a small lump on the back of her neck led to a diagnosis of non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

Doctors have told Cleesen she will never again hear the words, "You're cancer free." The cancer is spreading throughout her body, but that hasn't stopped Cleesen from wearing a smile on her face, putting her best foot forward and trying to be an encouragement—an encouragement to her family, friends and even those who don't know her.

That's why Cleesen will be a part of the Bradford-Keystone Heights Relay for Life this Friday and Saturday, April 25-26, from 7 p.m. until 7 a.m. at the Bradford High School track. (See related story.)

"When you share a story (about cancer), it makes an impact, whether you've gone through it, you've survived it, you've lost someone or you're caring for someone," Cleesen said. "It makes a big difference."

There was a time when Cleesen didn't share with others what she had gone through and was currently going through. However, she met and became friendly with several people



Laura Cleesen

involved in Relay for Life, which

See CLEESSEN, 3B

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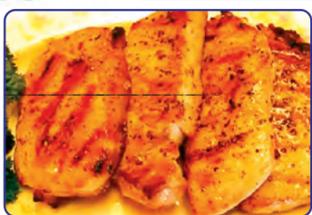
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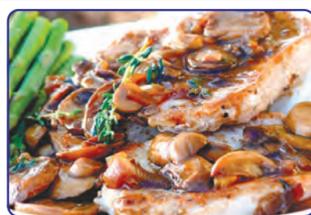
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Kingsley Kruizers fundraising dinner is April 24

The Kingsley Kruizers are hosting a dinner to benefit the American Diabetes Association on Thursday, April 24, from 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. at the Starke Golf and Country Club.

Dinners, consisting of chicken tetrazzini, salad, green beans, tea and dessert, are \$10 each for adults and \$5 each for children 12 and under. Diners may eat in or take out.

Please call 904-966-1002 or see Christie Torode, Shelley Luke, Josh Luke, Danny Luke, Erin Waters, Lamar Waters, Norma Cox, Darlene Padgett, Guy Padgett or Cassi Smyth for tickets.

The Kingsley Kruizers is a local group that participates in the annual Tour de Cure—a bicycle ride to raise funds for the American Diabetes Association—in Jacksonville. This year's ride is scheduled for May 17.

Registration now open for College for Kids programs

The Starke campuses of Santa Fe College are once again hosting Jr. College for Kids and College for Kids this summer, and registration is open now.

Jr. College for Kids, which is for rising first-, second-, third- and fourth-graders, is scheduled for June 23-27, 8 a.m.-noon each day. College for Kids, which is for rising fifth-, sixth-, seventh-, eighth- and ninth-graders, will be held Mondays-Fridays, July 7-18, from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Half-day sessions are an option.)

The cost for Jr. College for Kids is \$95, while the cost for College for Kids is \$270, or \$135 for half-day sessions.

Scholarships are available, thanks to generous donors in the community. The deadline to submit a scholarship application is Thursday, May 15.

Visit the Santa Fe College Andrews Center to register for either Jr. College for Kids or College for Kids, or to pick up a scholarship application.

You may also call 904-964-5382.

LEGALS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING A SPECIAL EXCEPTION AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE BRADFORD COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS BY THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the Bradford County Land Development Regulations, as amended, hereinafter referred to as the Land Development Regulations, objections, recommendations and comments concerning a special exception, as described below, will be heard by the Planning and Zoning Board of Bradford County, Florida, at a public hearing on May 5th, 2014 at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the County Commission Meeting Room, North Wing, County Courthouse located at 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida. SE 14-01, a petition by Wilbert E. Thrasher, to request a Special Exception be granted as provided for in Section 4.8.5 (Residential Single Family-1) # 11of the Bradford County Land Development Regulations to allow for Equine Activities to be located at the property being described as follows:

P/O The NE1/4 of Section 25, Township 8 South, Range 22 East, being Bradford County Parcel Number's 06001-0-00100, 06001-0-00106 and 06001-0-00107, containing 6.32 acres, more or less.

The public hearing may be continued to one or more future dates. Any interested party shall be advised that the date, time and place of any continuation of the public hearing shall be announced during the public hearing and that no further notice concerning the matter will be published, unless said continuation exceeds six calendar weeks from the date of the above referenced public hearing.

At the aforementioned public hearing, all interested parties may appear to be heard with respect to the appeal.

Copies of the material are available for public inspection at the Office of the Director of Zoning, Planning, and Building, County Courthouse located at 945 North Temple Avenue, North Wing, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours.

All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

4/24 1tchg-B-sect

DAR chapter to announce scholarship recipient May 5

This year's recipient of the Betty Warren Memorial Scholarship will be announced at the Monday, May 5, meeting of the Col. Samuel Elbert Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution at IHOP in Starke at 10:30 a.m.

Visitors are welcome.

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

April 19, 1775, and Nov. 26, 1783, is eligible for membership.

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

Santa Fe College to host May 17 concert at BHS

A concert featuring Alter Eagles and the three winners of the 2014 Bradford Fest Talent Showdown will be hosted by Santa Fe College on Saturday, May 17, at 7 p.m. at the Bradford High School auditorium.

Alter Eagles is a tribute band

that plays the music of Eagles, the group responsible for such hits as "Take It Easy," "Lyn' Eyes," "One of these Nights" and "Hotel California."

Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$15 for reserved seats. They may be purchased at the Santa Fe College Andrews Center or the North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce.

All proceeds will go to the Santa Fe Foundation to fund scholarships for Bradford County students.

The Bradford County Tourist Development Council is a main sponsor of the event.

For more information on Alter Eagles, visit www.altereaglesband.com.

Airman Ellis graduates from basic

Air Force Airman Joel T. Ellis graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Ellis, a 2011 Santa Fe High School graduate, is the son of



Joel Ellis

Linda Ellis of High Springs and Joel Ellis of Lake Butler.

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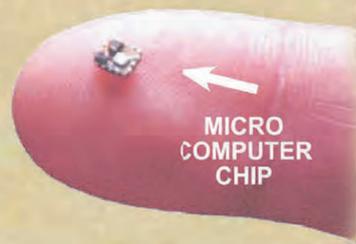
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Starke to host Bradford-Union Law-Enforcement Memorial May 1

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer

A special recognition of Jerry Whitehead and the dedication of a new monument area devoted to fallen Bradford County law-enforcement personnel will highlight this year's Bradford-Union Law-Enforcement Memorial Service, which will be hosted this year by the Starke Police Department on Thursday, May 1, at 6:30 p.m. at the Starke Square (538 E. Call St.) between S.R. 100 and S.R. 230.

The annual service pays tribute to the officers who gave their lives during service to their respective areas: six in Union County and 19 in Bradford

County.

Starke Police Capt. Barry Warren said attending the service is a great way for people to express their thanks to those who did so much for the place they call home.

"Basically, these are the people who made our community as safe as it is today," Warren said.

Union County Sheriff Brad Whitehead, Bradford County Sheriff Gordon Smith and Starke Police Chief Jeff Johnson will pay tribute to Jerry Whitehead, who died Dec. 18, 2013, after a brief illness. He was the longest-serving sheriff in the state, having been elected in 1984 and serving up until the time of his death.

"It's a great opportunity to recognize him," Warren said.

Also planned is the official dedication of a monument area to the 19 Bradford County law-enforcement officers who gave their lives in service. The area, which will include 13 benches, consists of a memorial stone placed in honor of each officer as well as 18 palm trees planted in their memories. (One tree represents both father and son George W. Epperson and Henry W. Epperson, who were both former sheriffs.)

Warren said the idea for such a physical memorial has been in the works for approximately 10 years. Thanks to the support

of donors in the community, the idea has become a reality—a reality that has been overdue, Warren said, pointing out that the first officer killed in the line of duty was Dec. 25, 1885, while the last was July 26, 1995.

"It's time," Warren said. "It's beyond time for these people who served their last call in service to this community."

Union County Sheriff Brad Whitehead will perform the roll call for those who gave their lives in service to Union County: Union deputies Hal Croft (May 23, 1961) and Ronald Jackson (May 23, 1961), Department of Corrections officers Paul Jordan (Jan. 24, 1976) and John

S. Dennard (May 5, 1983), Union deputy Renee D. Azure (Aug. 6, 2002) and Department of Corrections officer Adam Sanderson (March 6, 2009).

Bradford County Sheriff's Department Capt. Brad Smith and Lawtey Correctional Institution Warden Barry Reddish will perform the roll call for Bradford County's fallen officers: sheriffs George W. Epperson (Dec. 25, 1885), Henry W. Epperson (Jan. 20, 1890) and David Levy Alvarez (May 30, 1891), Bradford deputy Andrew J. Kite (Feb. 21, 1899), Starke Marshall Jeff Jones (Nov. 19, 1903), sheriffs Everett E. Johns (Dec. 6, 1905), Joe A. Bennett

(Aug. 9, 1907) and J.W. Langford (Aug. 23, 1912), Bradford deputy W.T. Andrews (Feb. 1, 1914), Constable Richard Bennett (March 30, 1925), Starke officer Leonard E. Colson (Dec. 26, 1951), Florida State Prison Assistant Superintendent James G. Godwin (April 4, 1955), Starke officer William Burtis Jackson (April 20, 1956), Department of Corrections officers Howard D. Starling (July 2, 1964), Julie Gabor Caddell (Sept. 22, 1974) and Richard Burke (Oct. 12, 1980), Bradford deputy Hesley Delmar Griffis (May 13, 1992) and Department of Corrections officer Jerome A. Williams (July 26, 1995).

CLEESEN

Continued from 1B

led to her first-ever involvement with the American Cancer Society fundraiser. Cleesen was asked to give a survivor's speech at this year's kickoff party.

"It was very hard to give that speech because I was never open," Cleesen said, adding, "When it was done, I knew I made an impact on some people. They told me it helped them to realize things. If I can do that, then I'm accomplishing something."

"With this Relay, if I can reach out and just help one person through it emotionally, then I know that I'm doing OK."

Cleesen was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2002. It was a shock, of course. Cleesen said the diagnosis left her wanting to "crawl in a hole," but at the same time, she didn't want to let the disease slow her down. Her approach to chemotherapy, for example, was to undergo treatment on Fridays so she could rest on weekends, be "green" on Mondays and then be able to go to work on Tuesdays.

In fact, she told her boss that if she ever called in sick, he was to give her a hard time about it and not to ever let her "give up."

"I was bound and determined I was going to continue working," Cleesen said.

Cleesen, though, because of that determination, was holding all of her emotions in check. When the chemotherapy caused her hair to start falling out, she called her boss to say she wouldn't be in to work that day.

Her boss' response was to go pick Cleesen up, take her to her office and give her the OK to have the emotional outburst she was needing.

"He physically came and got me, put me in his car—in my pajamas—took me to my office, shut the blinds in my office, shut the door and looked at me and said, 'Just cry. You haven't cried. You just keep going like everything's OK.'"

"I let it go. I just let it out. Then he took me home, and I



Laura Cleesen (center) is surrounded by (clockwise from top) son Larry, husband Lawrence, daughter Ashley, granddaughter Courtni and daughter Amber. Not pictured: son Mark and grandson Camden.

was OK."

Cleesen said eventually hearing those words, "You're cancer free," was a blessing, but she would later be diagnosed with breast cancer again. She wanted to have a double mastectomy done, but doctors advised against that, saying that the surgery was too risky due to the fact Cleesen has an enlarged heart due to cardiomyopathy.

It turned out to be a true definition of a catch 22. Having a double mastectomy was a risk, but not having it was a bit of a risk as well. In March 2012, Cleesen was diagnosed with uterine cancer. She said it was the result of cancerous breast tissue.

At first, Cleesen didn't suspect the return of cancer. She has diverticulitis and suspected that was what was causing her

stomach to swell.

"I kept getting bigger and bigger in that area," Cleesen said. "I actually looked like I was pregnant."

As it turned out, Cleesen had three tumors the size of baseballs in her uterus.

It was one of those here-we-go-again moments, but Cleesen said she thought of how many other ways she had been blessed in life and decided there was nothing to do but keep fighting.

That mindset was severely tested a short time later with the discovery of non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Cleesen had large, cancerous masses on her neck and on the lymph nodes in her throat. She also had a 6.2-centimeter mass under her tongue toward where her tonsils would've been.

She had all the masses surgically removed with the

exception of the one under her tongue. Cleesen said she's not taking a chance getting that removed because she doesn't want to lose the ability to be able to talk to her two grandchildren.

Family has kept Cleesen going, whether it's grandchildren Courtni and Camden, children Mark, Amber, Larry and Ashley, future son-in-law Ross or her husband of more than 20 years, Lawrence. She recalled how a doctor told her she wouldn't be around to see the high school graduation of her daughter Amber. Well, Amber, who is 20, has since graduated.

If Cleesen has her way, she'll be around to see 15-year-old Ashley graduate. However, she has no control over the future. She just focuses her energies on each day as it comes around.

"You know how people say, 'Don't count the days, make the days count?' That's basically what I do," Cleesen said. "I just enjoy every day. I have my kids, my grandkids, my husband and my friends. Basically, I just pour my heart into all of that."

"I can't worry about tomorrow because it's not here yet. I just live every day."

There are bad days, of course. Cleesen said there are some days she doesn't want to get up out of bed.

She thinks of others, though, and says to herself that even though her problems may look bad, there is someone out there with worse problems.

"I've got to get up," Cleesen

said. "I can't feel sorry for myself, and I don't like people to feel sorry for me. I don't want sympathy."

Sympathy, no, but support is another matter. Cleesen said it really means a lot to open an email, for example, and read, "Good morning, beautiful," or, "How are you today?"

"What cancer patients need, more than anything, is support," Cleesen said.

With that in mind, Cleesen

tries to put on a smile every day and do what she can to be an encouragement to others. That's why she's looking forward to Relay for Life. She wants to have that positive impact on people who have cancer, even though she, too, has the disease.

"There's a reason why I'm still here," Cleesen said. "That's the way I look at it. There's a reason why this happened to me. There's a reason why I'm still fighting, and I'll continue to fight."

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LETTERS EDITOR@BCTELEGRAPH.COM



Kathryn Henry

Independent American Party issues statement on ranch standoff

Dear Editor:
Justice Joseph Story stated in his Commentaries on the Constitution 3:§§ 1833 the truth that, "The militia is the natural defence of a free country against (1) sudden foreign invasions, (2) domestic insurrections, and (2) domestic usurpations of power by rulers."

The Bundy Ranch Standoff is an example of #3 above. This is where the IAP stands in this fiasco? We stand with Cliven Bundy, who said: "I don't recognize them (the federal government) having any jurisdiction or authority over this land."

In the United States the people are the government; their united voice is the only sovereign that should rule, and only power that should be obeyed. The fact that a desert tortoise is endangered doesn't change this fact. The BLM (Bureau of Land

Management) usurpation in forcing the Bundy's to pay for land that has been in his family for 140 years doesn't change this fact.

For those of us who still labor under the conviction that the U.S. Constitution is the supreme law of the land, it must be observed that the only crimes assigned to the federal government in the Constitution for law enforcement purposes are Treason, Piracy, Counterfeiting, and International law violations. That's it! All other law enforcement matters are the purview of the individual states, according to the Tenth Amendment.

Unfortunately, for most of the Twentieth Century the federal government has demanded more and more power and authority that it does not constitutionally possess. And, for the most part, the individual states have sheepishly done little to resist, not to mention (in this case) County law enforcement. All of which has led to the events that are now playing out in Clark County, Nevada.

To coin a maxim from the German pastor, Martin Neimoller: "First, they came for the Randy Weaver family in Idaho, and I did not speak out; next, they came for the Branch

Davidians in Texas, and I did not speak out; then, they came for the Cliven Bundy family in Nevada, and I did not speak out; then, they came for me, and there was no one left to speak out."

Independent American Party

BC children show hope for future

Dear Editor:

Greetings from the hills and hollows of wild wonderful West Virginia. Just wanted to take a minute to express an opinion and offer a compliment to the folks of Bradford County. I've been coming down you folks way for more than forty years and I intended to write this letter last year but like most other of my good intentions, I procrastinated, got busy and it got away from me. So I will do it now while I'm thinking about it. With all due respect, I believe you folks are blessed in many ways. To name a few, the people I know and run into around the ball fields, neighborhoods and generally out and about are good, honest, hard workin, straight shootin, friendly, country lovin, god fearin solid

citizens. Your children are mannerly and respectful. It's not like that everywhere you go. I think one of the reasons you are blessed is because you work at it. Over the years I've had the great pleasure and opportunity to watch many of your children grow through t-ball/little league to high school JV and Varsity teams. I have great respect for the parents, the coaches and all the others that work long and hard to make this happen for the children. I especially wanted to send my love, respect and best wishes to the boys and girls on the Bradford County High School Tornado baseball and softball teams. I consider myself very fortunate to have had the opportunity to meet and know you and watch you compete and excel with great success on and off the field. Thanks for the memories!! To the folks that haven't seen the teams play and compete, I would highly recommend it. As Tony the Tiger says, "they're great," and it's money well spent. In closing I would say, that to some of us it appears that the direction our country is taking is worrisome at best and frightening at worst but I take some comfort and optimism when I see and meet some of your children. Raising

them up respectful and with the values that made this country a great country reflects greatly on you. Thank you...and thank you for listening to an old man ramble... May god bless and keep you and the children safe. May God Bless America...

*Sincerely:
RW Pettit
Left Hand, WV*

Let him rest in peace

Dear Editor:

Mr. Busby, you call it the good ol' boy system but the people of Union County kept Jerry Whitehead, Sheriff for almost 30 years. Sounds like you are saying the people were wrong. You bring up Mr. John, who has been gone for five years. I say let them rest in peace. If you will give Brad a chance the people wilt see that he will take care of them. A true southern gentleman would let them rest in peace so their family can have closure. So let me remind you it's called a democracy, not the good ol' boy system and a real man would know the difference.

Willum Sullivan

Henry to celebrate 90th birthday

We are having a surprise 90th birthday celebration for Kathryn Henry. We will gather at New River Baptist Church, 16703 SW 144th Ave. Brooker, for a time of socializing from 2-5:00 pm on May 3rd, 2014. Come and enjoy refreshments, photo ops and reminiscing. In lieu of gifts: Donations will be accepted on Kathryn's behalf — with proceeds to benefit Northside Baptist Church "Family Life Center" fund.

RELAY

Continued from 1B

Bank—at 6 p.m. at the track. Then, once the Relay begins with an opening ceremony that will feature Amber O'Neal performing the national anthem, survivors and their caregivers will walk the first lap.

"Once those survivors get on the track, there's usually not a dry eye," Lee said.

Another emotional moment is the luminaria ceremony, which is scheduled to take place at 9:30 p.m. The ceremony consists of paper bags, containing lighted votive candles, placed around the track, bearing the names of survivors, those who are currently battling cancer or those who have lost their lives to cancer. The track stadium lighting will be turned off so that only the glow of the candles is visible as the names of those the bags represent are read aloud.

The rest of the event will consist of various themed laps (Mardis Gras, pajamas, hula hoop, super hero, etc.), a scavenger hunt, a Zumba class, a "Miss-ter Relay" contest, a dance competition and other fun activities, as well as musical performances by Melissa Mann, Shelby Clark, Jessica Thornton and Lindsey Murphy.

You also do not have to be a member of a team or a survivor/caregiver to attend. People are encouraged to show up because there will be several fundraisers going on at the Relay. Many teams will be serving up delicious items, including such fare as fruit kabobs, boiled peanuts, cotton candy, Teriyaki wings and chicken and rice. The Community State Bank team will even be roasting a whole pig.

"If you go out and eat on Friday night, come down to the track and eat with us," Lee said.

As of April 17, 38 fundraising teams (178 participants) had registered to take part in Relay for Life. Though fundraising takes place at the event, it is really a yearlong effort. That's why teams had already raised \$31,000 as of April 17. Community State Bank, for example, had raised more than \$5,000 with its Pua the Purple Pig campaign, while D. Mosley Trucking, which joined the cause for the first time a few weeks prior to last year's Relay, hosted a golf tournament that raised \$4,500.

Every year, Maria Stephenson raises the most money as an individual, and this year looks to be no different. As of April 15, she had raised \$4,087.

The fundraising effort doesn't begin and end with Relay for Life, which ties in with the American Cancer Society's

mission this year—"Finish the Fight."

"What that means is we want to encourage everyone who is raising funds for this to finish the fight through Aug. 31 when our fiscal year ends," Lee said. "A lot of people think the fundraising ends at the event, but it doesn't. We go on."

Last year's Relay for Life and various fundraisers raised approximately \$72,000, with approximately \$9,000 being raised solely at Relay for Life. Both totals were record numbers, and the goal is to do even better this year. Lee said this year's total fundraising goal is \$90,000.

Participating in Relay for Life and raising funds for the American Cancer Society is near and dear to Lee's heart. Lee, who lost her mother to lung cancer in 1999, said many people with cancer are not benefiting from the various services and programs the American Cancer Society makes available.

"The one thing I have found is a lot of people who have been diagnosed with cancer are not aware of the American Cancer Society," Lee said.

This will mark Lee's sixth year of involvement with Relay for Life. Her fifth year, when she served as team development chair, had one especially memorable moment. Lee was contacted by a woman who had heard about Relay and was seeking more information about it. The two communicated back and forth before Lee met the lady in person at the event.

After the event, the woman told Lee she had a "wonderful" time and said, "You don't know how that changed my life. I was homebound. I was just giving up. I wasn't getting out. It's just completely changed my life."

Moments like that are what make participation in Relay for Life so special.

"If you don't touch but one person, it's worth it," Lee said.

For more information on the Bradford-Keystone Heights Relay for Life, visit www.relayforlife.org/bradfordkeystonefl.

Wear, show off purple Friday, April 25

The city of Starke has issued a proclamation to "Paint the Town Purple" on Friday, April 25, in support of the Bradford-Keystone Heights Relay for Life, which will take place from 7 p.m. on April 25 until 7 a.m. on Saturday, April 26.

To show your support in the fight against cancer, wear purple, hang a purple wreath, display purple bows or find other creative ways to show your purple spirit.



Shanon Kiser

Kiser to graduate summa cum laude

Shanon Joseph Kiser, son of Emanuel Joseph and Cassandra Kiser of Lawtey will be graduating Summa Cum Laude (the highest distinction of honors) from the Florida State University in Tallahassee on Saturday May 3. He will be graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. As an active member of Alpha Delta Pi, Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Theta Kappa and Sigma Alpha Lambda all honor societies, his GPA is 3.97. Kiser is a BHS graduate.



Marissa Molina

Molina to graduate magna cum laude

Marissa Evelyn Molina, daughter of Mary Ann Lester of Elmira, N.Y. and the late Julio Molina will be graduating Magna Cum Laude (second highest distinction of honors) from the Florida State University in Tallahassee on Saturday May 3. She will be graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. As a member of WEB Dubois, Golden Key and Phi Eta Sigma, all honor societies, her GPA is 3.89. Molina is a BHS graduate.

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FINS, FUR & TAILS

Talkin' big bass—past and present

The recent large bass caught in Kingsley Lake have created a lot of talk among local fishermen. This is the second year in a row that 14-plus-pound bass have been caught in Kingsley. In 2013, Len Andrews pulled into a dock on the western bank of the lake and weighed one that went over 14 pounds. Afterward, he released the fish unharmed.

This year, two fish over 14 pounds have been landed, weighed and released. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission accepted the 14-pound, 9-ounce bass that Brooks Morrell caught, placing him at the top of the FWC Trophy Catch Program. Brooks indicated that he has landed nine bass over 9 pounds, four over 10 pounds and two over 13 pounds—all in Kingsley Lake. He is also aware of three others that have been caught that were over 13 pounds.

Kingsley Lake is no stranger to large bass. In 1967, Benny Zoltoski was trolling around Kingsley with two bass in his livewell that weighed about 10 pounds each. However, when he passed what was then Kingsley Beach and headed to the Officer's



LEFT: Buddy Wright with his replica that matches his 18-pound, 13-ounce bass both in length and girth. BELOW LEFT: Brooks Morrell shows off a 10-plus-pounder taken in Kingsley Lake.



Club at Camp Blanding, he had a huge hit, which he thought was a hang-up, until the line-water intersection began to move outward, indicating that the hook was moving toward the surface.

Making a long story short, it was not a hang-up, but a 16-pound, 6-ounce bass that was eventually mounted, hanging on the wall of Strickland's Store for years.

The history of big bass in North Central Florida does not

center entirely around Kingsley Lake, however. Buddy Wright, a current resident of Keystone Heights who has always fished from a 12-foot jon boat and has never fished in a bass tournament, was having a good day on the St. Johns River south of Palatka in April 1987. He had a couple of nice catches under his belt that weighed over 5 pounds each.

His last catch of the day—caught on a Bill Norman Weed Walker lure—was a monster that weighed in at 18 pounds, 13 ounces. Unfortunately, the fish lost a lot of roe before its first weight on a certified, accurate scale. The fish was subsequently frozen and thawed out for another certified weight. However, the FWC would not recognize the fish because a wildlife officer did not get to Wright's home until two weeks after notification and after the fish was frozen, thus depriving Wright of a Florida record.

All was not lost, though, because the International Game Fish Association did recognize the catch as a world record for a 16-pound-line weight catch, and Wright has that plaque on his wall beside the replica.

Believe it or not, the largest bass landed in Bradford, Clay or Union counties, according to this research and in recent history, came from Brooklyn Lake in Keystone. In 1966, "Forest and Stream" magazine, which later became "Field and Stream," published an article about an 18-pound, 2-ounce bass caught by Hugh Paul.

Though there have been larger bass caught, the gold standard for record largemouth bass is still the 1932 George Perry bass that weighed 22 pounds, 4 ounces, with a 32.5-inch length and 28.5-inch girth. Manabu Kurita caught a 22-pound, 4.97-ounce bass in Japan on July 2, 2009. (Despite bettering the Perry bass by almost an ounce, IGFA rules consider the catch a tie with the Perry bass.) In 2006, Mac Weakley foul hooked and landed a 25-pound, 0.01-ounce bass that was photographed, weighed and released.

Paul Nosca has done a significant amount of research on the 25 largest bass ever caught, and he makes several good observations about record largemouth bass. Many of the larger Florida bass have been

very long and comparatively light in weight. Bill Whipple caught what is considered to be the world record longest bass in 2002 on Lake Toho. The bass was 33 inches in length, but weighed only 14 pounds and 6 ounces. Certainly bass caught in the spawn and full of roe would have a significant weight advantage over fish caught while not spawning.

Nosca's research on the largest 25 bass ever caught can be found online under his name.

Fishing outlook

Despite some reports to the contrary, especially on Newnans Lake, the specks should be moving to deeper water as they finish their spring spawn. Shellcrackers and bluegills should be swapping places with the specks as they prepare for their first spawn. The initial spawn for the shellcrackers will be their primary bedding season for the year, while the bluegills will bed continuously throughout the summer, especially around full and new moons.

The "big fish" and comprehensive weights at the local tournaments have shown a little decline, which would suggest that the bass spawn is beginning to wane somewhat. It might show a brief spark after the traditionally cool Easter, but this yearly phenomena will also soon begin to close ranks. When

that occurs, the quest for bream and bass will begin to compete equally for the remainder of the summer.

The better part of the sheepshead spawn on both inshore coasts, but the stripped and toothy creatures will continue to hang out around the rocks, oyster bars and bridges over the summer. As the coastal waters warm, pompano and whiting will take up residence on the beaches, and the kings will move in to the beaches in time for the big kingfish tournaments on the east coast.

Local tourney results

The results of the April 16 Bald Eagle Bass Tournament are: Drew Carroll and Chris Hollingsworth in first, Chris Kadlec and Glenn Barnes in second, Wayne Geiger and Zach Smith in third and Ryan Gonzales with the big fish.

The results of the April 17 Sampson Lake Tournament are: Braden Gray and Cason Noles in first, Ronny Pruitt and Matthew Elixson in second and Elixson with the big fish.

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.

Tigers put together an almost perfect junior varsity season

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer

It was a season to be remembered and a good sign for the future of Union County High School baseball as the junior varsity team went 12-1, with its lone loss coming by one run against Williston.

"Our varsity program certainly has some promise," Union head coach Bret Dukes said.

The Tigers scored an average of 11 runs per game, while allowing an average of just four per game. Their last game—a 17-1 win over Dixie County—"was a good way to put the icing on the cake of an unbelievable season," Dukes said.

Offensively, sophomore Willie Rogers and freshman Phillip Joyner provided a spark, batting .520 and .470, respectively, in the lead-off position and number-two positions.

"Hitting and getting on base is almost contagious," Dukes said.

Though Rogers and Joyner led the team, Dukes said it was hard to really single out any player from the rest of the lineup, which batted a cumulative .360.

"We were so consistent in our lineup," Dukes said. "It did not matter who was coming up. You had confidence the kid was going to get it done."

Dukes said the Tigers had several players who could throw

strikes, including freshman Taz Worrell, who led the team. Worrell went 4-0 and had a 2.30 ERA.

Dukes, though, singled out freshman J.C. Lovelace for providing consistency as one of several middle relievers as well as sophomore Casey Driggers, who got in a zone the last couple of weeks of the season and pitched "lights out."

The Tigers opened the season by defeating Interlachen 10-5 and followed that with a 6-3 win over.

In their third game, however, the Tigers got off to a slow start and committed six errors in the first two innings. Visiting



The UCHS junior varsity baseball team is: (front, l-r) J.C. Lovelace, Phillip Joyner, Taz Worrell, Dylan Thornton, Seth Hendricks, Stephen Milner, Garrett Ritch, Dalton Teston, (back, l-r) assistant coach Chance Bailey, Willie Rogers, Casey Driggers, Jarrett Shadd, Matthew Jobin, Garrett Williams, Kyle Davis and head coach Bret Dukes.

Williston would go up 5-0 before hanging on for a 7-6 win.

Rogers and Worrell batted 2-for-3 and 2-for-2, respectively, while freshman Seth Hendricks went 2-for-3 to help Union rally. The Tigers had the tying run on third base in the last inning, but Dukes said the Williston shortstop made a great play on a ball that would've normally been a hit in most cases.

The Tigers responded to the loss by winning all 10 of their remaining games, including a 6-5 win over Williston.

That second matchup against Williston saw Union take a 6-0 lead into the seventh, but an approximately 30-minute injury timeout after two Williston outfielders collided seemed to take something away from his

team, Dukes said. Williston scored five runs in the bottom of the seventh, but Lovelace entered the game and did a good job on the mound, Dukes said. Lovelace forced the Devils to hit a couple of ground balls before Williston hit a dribbler back to the mound for what would be the game's final out.

Worrell started the game, giving up one hit and striking out five in five innings. At the plate, Joyner was 2-for-3 with an RBI, while Lovelace was 2-for-4 with an RBI.

After avenging their only loss, the Tigers won their final five games by an average score of 14-3. They defeated Interlachen 7-4, Bell 10-5, St. Francis 25-0, Hamilton County 9-7 and Dixie County 17-1.

In the season finale against Dixie, Rogers and Joyner were 4-for-4 and 4-for-5, respectively, while sophomore Garrett Williams was 3-for-4. Worrell was 2-for-2, while Driggers and sophomore Dalton Teston were each 2-for-3.

Also contributing to the best season Dukes can ever remember were sophomore Kyle Davis and freshmen Matthew Jobin, Stephen Milner, Garrett Ritch, Jarrett Shadd and Dylan Thornton.

"There were not many games that all 14 did not in some way contribute," Dukes said.

The Tigers also excelled in the classroom, with each player maintaining at least a 3.0 GPA. Half the team had weighted GPAs of 4.0 or higher.

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OBITUARIES



Vera Aaron

Vera Aaron

STARKE—Vera Jean Aaron 59 of Starke died Thursday April 17, 2014 at North Florida Regional Medical Center Gainesville. A lifelong resident of Starke, she was a member of Truevine Outreach Ministry Church and served in her community. She attended the local schools of Bradford County.

She is survived by: mother, Zerline Aaron of Starke; sisters, Barbara Aaron Bennett and Pamela Kimmons, both of Starke; goddaughter, Mariah Monroe; brothers, Alfred Griffin and Anthony Aaron both of Starke, Bernard Carter and Calvin Aaron of Waldo, and Morris Aaron of Lawley.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. Saturday April 26 at the True Vine Outreach Ministry Church with Elder Ross Chandler Eulogist conducting the services under the direction of Haile Funeral Home Inc. Visitation will be held on Friday, April 25, at the Church 3:30-6:00 p.m. and on Saturday one hour prior to the services. The Cortège will form at the home of Aaron at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday 14647 S.E. 44th Avenue "Lincoln City". In lieu of flowers donations can be made to: North Fla. Foundation for Cancer 7000 NW 11th Place Gainesville, FL 32605.



Muriel Bradley

Muriel Bradley

HAMPTON—Muriel Marie Bradley, age 91, of Hampton, passed away Saturday April 12, 2014 with her loving daughter and granddaughter by her side. Marie was born in Belize, Central America on Nov. 20, 1922 to the late James Bradley and Kelly Caroline Phillips Bradley. Throughout her life Marie lived in Belize, Central America, Queens, New York, Edentown, New Jersey, and Miami before moving to Hampton eight years ago. She was a resident of Bradford Terrace where the staff affectionately referred to her as "Mamacita". To her family, she was known as "Nin" or "Nin Nin" and can be remembered for her love of gardening and flowers, especially orchids. Marie was passionate about music and singing. Her favorite song was "Amazing Grace". She also loved to dance. Marie was a devoted mother, grandmother, great grandmother, sister, aunt and friend.

Marie is survived by: her daughter, Gail (Theodore) Gonzalez of Hampton; brother, William Bradley of Eatontown, N.J.; sister, Olga Bradley of Starke; four grandchildren, Sheralyn (Gary)

Frisbey of Mobile, Ala., Suzette (Guitian) Gilbert of Miami, Theodore "Casey" (Shannon) Gonzalez of Miami, and Christopher Gonzalez of Miami; seven great grandchildren, Adrian, Eric, Jillian, Brittany, Brandon, Mason and Gavin.

Memorial Mass will be held on Saturday, April 26, at 11:00 am at St. Edward's Catholic Church with Father Conrad Cowart officiating. Inurnment will follow at a later date in Our Lady of Mercy - Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Miami. Arrangements are under the care and direction of Archie Tanner Funeral Services, 14397 US Highway 301 South, Starke, 904.964.5757. Visit www.archietannerfuneralservices.com to sign the family's guest book.

PAID OBITUARY



Carol Brunson

Carol Brunson

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Carol Ann Brunson, 74, of Keystone Heights passed away on Friday, April 18, 2014 following an extended illness.

Carol was born on Aug. 15, 1938 and was raised in Gloucester, Mass. She has lived in the Lake Region area for more than 30 years. Carol loved wildlife and enjoyed the squirrels and birds that frequented her yard. Her favorite was the hummingbirds. Carol had many interests including playing tennis, twirling the baton and drinking root beer floats. She found joy in everything and was the life of any party with her contagious smile, laughter and positive outlook on life. Her motto was "Young at Heart." Carol was a wonderful and loving sister, mother, friend and role model.

Left to cherish her memory is: her twin brother, Donny (Joanie) Enos; younger brother, Kenny (Elaine) Enos; Vivian (Ivan) Gouldthorpe; Nathan (Angie Clines) Womble; Lisa (Scott) Darnall; Karen (Bill) Pruss; Barbara Campbell; and her second husband Al Brunson. "Nana Carol" was adored by her 9 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. Carol was preceded in death by her parents, Paul and Helen Enos, and late husband, Ray Womble.

A celebration of her life will be held on Saturday, May 3rd at 5pm. Please call 352-475-5855 for details. In lieu of flowers please make a memorial contribution in her name to Haven Hospice, 4200 NW 90th Blvd, Gainesville, FL 32606.

PAID OBITUARY

Shirley Campbell

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Shirley Christine Campbell, age 82

of Keystone Heights passed away Friday, April 18, 2014, at the Orange Park Medical Center. She was born in Hoxie, Kan. on Oct. 4, 1931, to the late John and Aurelia (Shalz) Schumaker and was a resident of Orange Park before moving to Keystone Heights 18 plus years ago. Prior to her retirement, Mrs. Campbell was a Dental Assistant along with being a homemaker and an active volunteer. Mrs. Campbell was a member of St. William Catholic Church and read her devotionals daily along with saying the Rosary. She loved to watch old black and white Westerns on TV along with "Wheel of Fortune," "American Pickers" and "Paw Stars." Before she became sick, she enjoyed fishing and riding behind her husband on their motorcycle throughout the United States. She and her husband Robert traveled extensively in the United States and abroad and Mrs. Campbell proved herself to be a most adventurous lady.

Mrs. Campbell is survived by: her husband of 64 years, Robert L. Campbell; and her daughter, Mary (John) Westmoreland of Keystone Heights; two grandsons, Robert Scott Gilbert and Christopher Jon Gilbert both of Middleburg; and one great grandson, Bradley Jon Gilbert of Orange Park. She also leaves behind a brother, John Schumaker of Riverside, Calif. and a sister, Maxine Monsen of Oroville, Calif.

Funeral services for Mrs. Campbell were held April 22, in the Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home Chapel. Father Mike Williams presiding. Interment followed at Jacksonville National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers contributions can be made to St. William Catholic Church, P.O. Box 721, Keystone Heights, FL 32656. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 340 E. Walker Dr. Keystone Heights.

PAID OBITUARY

Curtis Crawford

STARKE—Curtis Lamar Crawford, 55, of Starke died Thursday, April 17, 2014 at the Hospice Custeard Care Center in Orange Park. He was born in Starke on Aug. 17, 1958, and was a Lieutenant with the Gainesville Fire and Rescue Department. He was an active member of Kingsley Lake Baptist Church. He was preceded in death by: his father, Gerald Crawford; and brother, Steve Crawford.

Survivors are: his wife of 30 years, Ronda (Stern) Crawford; three children, Ashley (Derek) Browning, Amber (Hunter) Reichert, and Austin Crawford all of Starke; mother, Aline (Crews) Crawford of Kingsley Lake; brother, Dennis (Joan) Crawford, and his father and mother in law, Roland and Lucinda Stern all of Starke.

Funeral services were April 19 at Kingsley Lake Baptist Church with Pastor Zeb Cook and Pastor Jeremy Crawford officiating. Interment followed at Kingsley Lake Cemetery. In lieu of flowers the family has requested contributions please be made to the Kingsley Lake Baptist Church in memory of Curtis, 6289 Mary Dot Lane, Starke, FL 32091. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke.

Joyce Epling

STARKE—Joyce Irene Epling, 81, of Starke died Tuesday, April 15,

2014. She was born on Dec. 20, 1932 in Marion, Ind. to the late Walter and Margaret (Lemons) Voland and moved to Starke seven years ago. Prior to retirement she worked as a beautician for over 40 years.

Survivors are: children, Andrea Weston of Starke, Pam Lovings of Arizona, and Raymond Purtee of Indiana; sister, Nancy Saenz of Arizona; nine grandchildren; twenty six great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter.

Memorial services and interment will be at a later date. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke.



LaVaughn Fraser

LaVaughn Fraser

GAINESVILLE—LaVaughn "Von" Hodges Fraser age 76, passed away peacefully on Thursday, April 17, 2014 at North Florida Regional Medical Center. He was born in Doerun, Ga. on Feb. 22, 1938. Von was the eighth child born to Wallace and Sallie (Hodges) Fraser. He was raised in a large family in a small, rural town with a strong work ethic. At age 12 he was a telephone switchboard operator and worked a paper route. On summer breaks he picked cotton, cropped tobacco and stacked peanuts while completing his high school education. When questioned about stacking peanuts he replied, "Anyone who grew up in rural Georgia in the 1950's can tell you what that means!" He inherited his love of conversing with others from his mother. With her nine children gathered around the dinner table on Sundays, she enjoyed sharing stories of growing up in rural Georgia. When questioned why he talks fast, Von replied, he had to talk fast to get a word in edgewise with eleven people at one table. After a tour of duty in

the United States Army as a Non-Commission Officer, Von attended the University of Florida where he earned his BSBA in Accounting in 1969. In 1992, he received a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree from the University of North Florida. Von was hired in 1977 by the Alachua County Clerk of Court as a Supervisor of Finance and Accounting. He was hired in 1981 by the Alachua County Tax Collector's Office where he held the position of Assistant Tax Collector until 2000 when he was elected Tax Collector. During his tenure as a public servant, Von used his inherited talent for conversation from his beloved mother to reach out to thousands of people in all walks of life to help them with tax issues or personal concerns. He often said "no tax payer's concern is too small or too large; they deserve my undivided attention."

Von's extraordinary commitment to service was evidenced by the many positions of leadership he held both locally and statewide. His involvement included but was not limited to: Florida Tax Collector's Association, Vietnam Veterans of America, Korean War Veterans Association, American Legion, Military Support Group, Florida Credit Union, Habitat for Humanity, Leadership Gainesville Alumni Association, Cotton Club Museum and cultural Center, League of Women Voters, African American Accountability Alliance, Florida Cattleman's Association, NAACP, PTA, A.L., Mebane Alumni Association, Inc., Arts Council of Elementary Schools, and the Gainesville Lion's Club. Most

notably, among all honors, awards and accolades, Von was elected and ordained Honorary Deacon at two local churches, Third Bethel Missionary Baptist Church and Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church.

In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by: brothers, Warren Fraser, Wendell Fraser, Wallace Fraser, and Arthur DeLacey Fraser.

Survivors are: sisters, Sadie King of Gainesville, Evelyn Chesser of Dinsmore, Mary O. (Raymond) Hunt of Starke, Joy (Glen) Edmunds of Albany, Ga.; sister-in-laws, Nell Fraser of Dublin, Ga. and Lucille Fraser of Valdosta, Ga.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends at Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 620 Nona Street in Starke on Saturday, April 26 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. There will be an additional viewing on Sunday, April 27th from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm in Trinity United Methodist Church, 4000 NW 53rd Ave., Gainesville, 32653 with funeral services beginning at 3 o'clock. Interment will follow services in Rock Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery, County Road 231, in Brooker with Pastor Roswell Henderson and Pastor Jim Sandlin officiating. A reception will follow the graveside service at Rock Primitive Baptist Church Fellowship Hall for family and friends. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke, 904-964-6200. On-line condolences may be left at www.jonesgallagherfh.com.

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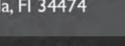
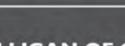
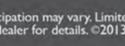
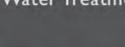
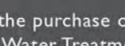
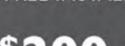
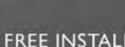
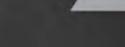
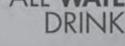
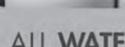
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NEW DOCTOR IN TOWN



Dr. Anubha Gupta received her family medicine training from Jamaica Hospital Medical Center in New York City and her fellowship training in geriatric medicine from the VA Medical Center in Gainesville. She received her medical degree from Terna Medical College, Navi Mumbai, India.

Dr. Gupta will be joining the staff of PALMS MEDICAL GROUP facilities in Starke every Tuesday.

She will be seeing pediatric and adult clients for routine health maintenance and sick visits.

Dr. Gupta's husband is attending the University of Florida with a Fellowship in Pediatric Cardiology & Pediatrics ICU.

The joy in the doctors lives is their toddler son. They are making their home in Gainesville, hopefully for a very long time!



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OBITUARIES



Robert Griffin, Jr.

Robert Griffin, Jr.

LAWTEY—Robert Rollin Griffin, Jr. "RJ" age 23, of Lawtey, passed away April 14, 2014 surrounded by his loving family. RJ was born Feb. 10, 1991 in Jacksonville, to Robert Griffin, Sr. and Barbara "Barbie" Griffin. He resided in Lawtey for most of his life before moving to Baker County two years ago. RJ was a graduate of Middleburg High School and attended the police academy in St. Augustine. He has worked as a Corrections Officer at Columbia Correctional in Lake City for the past two years. Prior to becoming a Corrections Officer, RJ worked with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office. In his spare time he enjoyed fishing, four wheeling, watching Georgia Bulldog games, and spending time with his family and friends.

Robert is survived by: his father, Robert Griffin; his mother, Barbara "Barbie" Griffin; brothers,

Clint Austin Griffin and Steven Norman; fiancé, Amber Cernik; grandparents, Richard (Linda) Norman, Kay (Linda) Sands, Homer (Billie) Griffin and numerous aunts, uncles, extended family members and friends.

Funeral services were held on April 19 at Highland First Baptist Church in Lawtey, with Daniel Padgett officiating. Interment followed in Highland First Baptist Church Cemetery. The arrangements are under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services, 250 North Lowder Street, Macclenny. (904)259-5700. Visit www.ferreirafuneralservices.com to sign the family's guest book.

PAID OBITUARY

Emiko Gunn

MELROSE—Emiko Muria Gunn, 82, of Melrose died Tuesday, April 22, 2014 at the Robert's Care Center in Palatka. She was born in Kouousa, Japan on July 5, 1931 and became a U.S. Citizen in 1954. She had lived in Gainesville before moving to Melrose and she was a homemaker.

She is survived by: her husband of 42 years, Koin D. Gunn; and children, Junji Brown of Lake City, Jannet Brown of Keystone Heights, Maki Brown of Gainesville, and Mary Deukuffny of Orange Park.

There are no scheduled services at this time. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Keystone Heights.

Janice Kelley

LAKE CITY—Janice L. Kelley, 56, of Lake City died Tuesday, April 22, 2014 at her residence after a brief illness. She was born on Aug. 20, 1956 in Lake Butler to the late

Sidney and Letha Ellis Todd. She was a LPN until ill health forced her to retire. She was raised in Sardis Baptist Church in Worthington Springs.

She is survived by: her husband, David Allen Kelley; sons, Gregory Kelley, Joseph Kelley, and Christopher (Tabitha) Kelley; two grandchildren; brothers, Sidney Todd, George Todd and Charles Todd; sisters, Shirley Taylor and Lanita Combs.

Funeral services will be held Friday, April 25, at 11:00 am in the Chapel of Archer Funeral Home, burial to follow in Elzey Chapel Cemetery. Family invites friends for visitation Thursday, April 24, from 6 to 8 pm at Archer Funeral Home.



Christine Lawson

Christine Lawson

STARKE—Christine Stringfellow Lawson, 100, of Starke, died Saturday, April 19, 2014 at the Shands Hospital in Starke. She was born in Headland, Ala. to the late Nathaniel Stringfellow and Mary Catherine (Molly) Owens Stringfellow on Aug. 20, 1913. She moved to Starke in 1947. She was one of the charter members of Madison Street Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by: her husband of 74 years, James (Jim) Thomas Lawson; her daughter, Patricia "Patti" Sue (Neil) Crawford; and son, Hal Thomas Lawson.

She is survived by: daughter, Alice "Aliese" Louise (Tom) Harding of Odenton, Md.; eight grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; two step-great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, April 24, from 6 pm to 8 pm in the DeWitt C. Jones Chapel. Funeral services will be held on Friday, April 25 at 10:00 am at Madison Street Baptist Church with Rev. Justin Kirksey and Brother Charles Warren officiating. Interment will follow at Crosby

Lake Cemetery. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke.

Tommy Linzy

LAWTEY—Tommy Kendrick Linzy, 66, of Lawtey, died Tuesday April 22, 2014 at his home surrounded by his family. He was born in Starke on May 31, 1947 to the late Hayward Randolph Linzy and Lois Rose Linzy. He served in the United States Army. He was employed by Merita Bread Company as a Salesman. He was a member of Smyrna Baptist where he served as a Deacon. He is preceded in death by: his parents; his brothers, Benjamin Linzy and Kenneth Linzy; and sisters, Wanda Sapp and Betty Deese.

He is survived by: his wife of 48 years, Virginia Cruce Linzy; sons, Thomas Kevin Linzy of Lawtey, and Brian (Kimberly) Keith of Grover, N.C.; sister, Elsie Carlton of Raiford; and five grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 3:00 pm Friday, April 25 at Smyrna Baptist Church in Starke with Pastor Charles Starling officiating. Interment will follow at Sapp Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm Friday at the church. Arrangements are under the care and direction of Archie Tanner Funeral Services of Starke.

Verna Mathews

LAKE BUTLER—Verna Florence Mathews, 92 of Lake Butler died Saturday, April 19, 2014 at Shands of UF in Gainesville. She was born in Brewer, Maine on March 30, 1922 to the late Edward and Marie Rose Georgine DeGrace Pooler. She lived most of her life in Leesburg and came to Lake Butler in 2005. She was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Lake Butler Ward. She is preceded in death by her husband Harold Franklin Mathews.

She is survived by: her sons, Bill (Johanna) Mathews of Lake Butler, Vernon Edward (Regina) Mathews, of Roseville, Michigan and John (Pam) Mathews of Leesburg; daughters, Merline Sanders of Umatilla and Marilyn Mathews of Daytona; 14 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

Graveside services will be held Saturday, April 26 at 11:00 am in the Lakeside Memory Gardens, in Eustis. Archer Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. 386-496-2008.

Robert Mitchell

MELROSE—Robert "Bob" Allen Mitchell, 87, of Melrose died Thursday, April 17, 2014 at the Willey Manor ALF home in Keystone Heights. He was born on Aug. 12, 1926 in Hooksett, N.H. and retired as an electrician with the telephone company. He served in the United States Navy with the Seabees during World War II. His

brother had preceded him in death. He is survived by: son, Gregg Mitchell of Melrose. There are no scheduled services at this time. Interment will follow at a later date in California. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Keystone Heights.



Diana New

Diana New

STARKE—Diana Marie New, 54, passed away April 17, 2014. She was born to the late Myron and Dorothy Bartholomew, Aug. 11, 1959 in Rochester, Mich. She was a former driver for the Suwannee River Economic Council. Mrs. New was a devoted Wife, Mother, and Grandmother who loved spending time with her family.

Diana is survived by: her husband, Anthony New; daughter, Christia New; son, Glenn (Ashley) New and beloved Grandson, Myron.

Memorial services for Mrs. New will be held on Saturday, April 26, at Starke Community Nazarene Church, 1:00 pm. Officiating for her service is Pastor Mike Meek.

Arrangements trusted to ICS Cremation & Funeral Home 357 NW Wilks Lane Lake City, 386-752-3436 www.icsfuneralservices.com

PAID OBITUARY

Cherie Rangler

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Cherie Lynn Rangler, age 68, of Keystone Heights passed away Monday April 14, 2014 at the Acosta-Rua in Jacksonville. She was born in Manchester, Mich. on May 14, 1945 to the late Harold and Leona Belle (Smith) Roberts, and has been a resident of Keystone Heights for 15 years. Cherie worked as an Assembler for the Ford Motor Company and was also a member of the Keystone United Methodist Church. She was involved with the Make A Wish Foundation at Amvets Post 893 in Rockledge and the Ladies V.F.W. Auxiliary. Her husband, David Rangler has preceded her in death.

Survivors are: her three children, Laura (Dorsey) Turner of Clinton, Mich., Stormy (Matthew) Wimberly and Christopher (Jessica) Rangler all of Keystone Heights. Also left behind are her loving grandchildren, Destiny and James Norton of Deland, Thomas Christopher and Theresa Rodriguez of Tecumseh, Mich., Dylan and Dixie Black of

Keystone Heights, Shelby Rodriguez of Clinton, Mich., Bobby Bates, Dakota Black, Cheyenne Rangler, Tully Rangler, and Christian Rangler all of Keystone Heights; great-grandchildren, Aiden Lindemuth, Ryleigh Norton, Kayden Rodriguez, Devin Black and Emmalyn Black.

A memorial service for Mrs. Rangler will be held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, April 26 at the Keystone United Methodist Church with Dr. Craig Moore officiating. The family will be receiving friends immediately following the services in the church fellowship hall. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 340 E. Walker Dr. Keystone Heights. 352-473-3176. www.jonesgallagherfh.com

PAID OBITUARY



Jewel Sellers

Jewel Sellers

KINGSLEY LAKE—Jewel Faye "Jackie" Sellers, 86, of Kingsley Lake died Monday, April 21, 2014. She was born on Nov. 2, 1927 in Jacksonville to the late Rufus and Esther (Lee) Parnell. Prior to retirement she worked as a lab technician in the Medical field. She was a longtime member of the First Christian Church of Starke. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Herbert S. Sellers, Jr.; daughters, Rebecca "Becky" Holder and Susan Faye Sellers; sister, Ynez Marsh; and brother, Eddie Parnell.

Survivors are: sons, Herbert S. (Tana) Sellers III, of Kingsley Lake, James A. (Beth) Sellers of Middleburg; seven grandchildren; and twelve great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be on Thursday, April 24, at 11:00 am in the First Christian Church of Starke with Pastor John Faulkner and Charles Soper officiating. Interment will follow at Kingsley Lake Baptist Church Cemetery. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke.

Carolyn Thornton

STARKE—Carolyn Marie Thornton, 66, of Starke died Sunday, April 20, 2014 at the ET York Haven Hospice in Gainesville. She was born March 18, 1948 in Starke to the late Aaron and Rosie Muse Sumner, living most of her life in Raiford and Starke. She was a member of the Morgan Road Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by her husband Richard A. Thornton.

She is survived by: her sons, Tim (Tammy) Thornton of Starke, Les (Michelle) Thornton of Starke, Travis Thornton of Starke and Steven Thornton of Starke; daughter, Tammy (Roger) Tetstone of Starke; five grandchildren; seven great grandchildren; brother, Carl Sumner of Keystone Heights; sisters, Evelyn Booth of Starke and Nancy Jacobs of Brooker.

Graveside funeral services were held April 23 at Sapp Cemetery in Raiford, with Rev. Al Paulson officiating. Archer Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Card of Thanks

We, the families of Steve and Curtis Crawford would like to thank everyone from the Gainesville, Bradford and Clay County Fire Departments for their loving support in our time of loss and sadness! We are also very thankful to the Kingsley Lake Baptist church family for their prayers, food and support!

We are so grateful to Pastor Zeb Cook for his constant love, prayers and presence! We appreciate the Bradford County Sheriffs Department for their support during Steve's funeral. So many people have been so kind and giving over the past few years, we apologize for not mentioning everyone, but we are so blessed by everyone's love and support!!

Sincerely,
the Gerald and Ainsie Crawford family



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NOTICE OF STOCKHOLDERS ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the stockholders of
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for the election of Directors, and the transaction of any other business that may come before the meeting, will be held at *The Woman's Club of Starke*, 201 North Walnut Street in Starke on Tuesday, April 29 at 6:00 p.m.

CRIME

Recent arrests in Bradford, Clay or Union

Bradford

Shane Allen Arnett, 21, of Starke was arrested April 21 by Bradford deputies for battery. According to the arrest report, Arnett started arguing with his brother and then began to hit him in the head with his fist. The victim told deputies Arnett knew he couldn't fight back due to a medical condition, including a dialysis port on the side of his chest.

Joshua Bryan Coffman, 33, of Starke was arrested April 16 by Starke police for probation violation. Bond was set at \$500 for the charge.

Brian Sean Copeland, 39, of Keystone Heights was arrested April 20 by Bradford deputies for larceny and for loitering. According to the arrest report, deputies were called to the Kangaroo store on S.R. 100 and Griffiths Loop in Starke about two suspicious men hanging around out front. When the deputies arrived, the men went into the woods, but Copeland was stopped and arrested. The other man wasn't located, but video from the store showed both men shoplifting items, including beer and wine. Bond was set at \$3,000 for the charges.

Mario Correa, 53, of New Haven, Conn., was arrested April 16 by Lawtey police for driving without a valid license. Bond was set at \$500 for the charge.

Travis Dekon King Covington, 27, of Starke was arrested April 17 by Bradford deputies for possession of cocaine, possession of amphetamines and for driving while license suspended or revoked. According to the arrest report, Covington was stopped by a Clay County deputy in the Speedville area after the deputy observed someone throwing three plastic bags out the window of the vehicle. The bags contained crack cocaine and methamphetamine. Bond was set at \$5,000 for the charges.

Chuckie Detroy Covington, 24, of Starke was arrested April 18 by Starke police for assault and for simple assault. According to the arrest report, Covington threatened to kill a family member and then threatened to attack and beat up the police officer when they were called to the area. Bond was set at \$50,000 for the charges.

Maria T. Davis, 31, of Lake Butler was arrested April 21 by Bradford deputies for two out-of-county warrants from Union for probation violation for original charges of grand theft.

Roosevelt Chevelt Ferguson, 29, of Gainesville was arrested April 17 by Lawtey police for carrying a concealed weapon, for possession of marijuana and drug equipment and for driving while license suspended or revoked. According to the arrest report, Ferguson was stopped by an officer because his windshield was broken on the driver's side and he wasn't wearing a seat belt. When the officer asked for his license, he smelled a strong odor of marijuana. He then asked for his registration and observed a pistol in a tote bag Ferguson

was looking in. A further search of the bag revealed a loaded .45 Taurus pistol, several bags of marijuana and an electronic scale. Bond was set at \$15,000 for the charges.

Terrius Germaine Green, 22, of Starke was arrested April 17 by Bradford deputies for possession of cocaine, possession of amphetamines and for destroying evidence. According to the arrest report, Green was in a vehicle stopped by a Clay County deputy in the Speedville area after the deputy observed someone throwing three plastic bags out the window of the vehicle. The bags contained crack cocaine and methamphetamine. Bond was set at \$15,000 for the charges.

Joaquin Guerrero, 22, of Jacksonville was arrested April 19 by Lawtey police for driving without a valid license. Bond was set at \$1,000 for the charge.

Linda Hankerson, 33, of Starke was arrested April 19 by Bradford deputies for probation violation.

Jennifer Renee Harris, 22, of Lawtey was arrested April 16 by Bradford deputies for two probation violations.

Denise Nicole Hengl, 25, of Hampton was arrested April 17 by Bradford deputies for driving while license suspended or revoked and for not having a valid registration for her vehicle. Bond was set at \$1,000 for the charges.

William Christopher Kahakua, 37, of Starke was arrested April 21 by Bradford deputies for criminal mischief-property damage. According to the arrest report, Kahakua was at the Kangaroo store on Morgan Road and got into an argument at the gas pump. He then hit the victim's vehicle with his fist, leaving a large dent on the passenger side. Bond was set at \$1,000 for the charge.

Eunice Ann Langford, 35, of Waldo was arrested April 16 by Starke police for disturbing the peace. According to the arrest report, Langford was causing a disturbance at a home in Starke, yelling loud enough to bring neighbors out of their homes. She refused to calm down with the officer and was arrested. Bond was set at \$500 for the charge.

Carl Frances McKinley, 33, of Lawtey was arrested April 16 by Lawtey police for burglary, larceny and three charges of dealing in stolen property. According to the arrest report, McKinley went to Guide Metals on U.S. 301 three times in the past several weeks with loads of stolen items from a resident of Lawtey. He sold the items for scrap metal. Bond was set at \$25,000 for the charges.

Monique Lashay Newman, 27, of Jacksonville was arrested April 21 by Starke police for probation violation.

Terri Lynn Palmer, 30, of Hampton was arrested April 21 by Bradford deputies for felony child neglect. According to the arrest report, law enforcement was called after a neighbor of Palmer's encountered a 3-year-old boy walking down the road and picked him up. The deputy took the child and went down to a nearby trailer, where he encountered an 11-year-old girl

and four other children younger than her in her care. The 3-year-old was her brother, and she told the deputy her parents were in town grocery shopping. While the deputy waited for the parents to come home, the 11-year-old proceeded to cook dinner for the others, boiling water for hot dogs. When the parents, Terri and Christopher Palmer, showed up, Terri Palmer said this was the first time they had left them alone. The deputy stated he had been told otherwise, at which point Terri Palmer started to have a negative attitude, according to the deputy. She also stated she knew she was going to be arrested, so he should just go ahead and arrest her. In the report, the deputy noted that Palmer never seemed upset or remorseful, and she made it seem like it was the children's fault the deputy was out there arresting her. The children were left in the custody of their father.

Wendy McMaster Pettit, 48, of Middleburg was arrested April 21 by Bradford deputies on three charges of failure to appear.

Mava Grace Proctor, 25, of Keystone Heights was arrested April 18 by Starke police for possession of drugs. According to the arrest report, Proctor was a passenger in a vehicle pulled over for a faulty tag light. The officer stated the driver and Proctor appeared nervous and asked if they had anything illegal in the vehicle and if he could search the vehicle. The officer found four hydrocodone pills in Proctor's purse, which she didn't have a prescription for. She was arrested, and bond was set at \$1,000 for the charge.

Felicia Matasha Richardson, 23, of Gainesville was arrested April 1 by Bradford deputies for possession of cocaine, possession of amphetamines and for destroying evidence. According to the arrest report, Richardson was in a vehicle stopped by a Clay County deputy in the Speedville area after the deputy observed someone throwing three plastic bags out the window of the vehicle. The bags contained crack cocaine and methamphetamine. Bond was set at \$10,000 for the charges.

Sherri Foreman Roberts, 50, of Starke was arrested April 15 by Starke police for battery. According to the arrest report, Roberts was in a vehicle with three other passengers when they got into an argument about which convenience store to stop at. They stopped near the Veterans Memorial Park in Starke, and Roberts got out of the vehicle and continued arguing through a back window with a passenger before striking the victim in the face. Bond was set at \$500 for the charge.

Don Edward Rosier, 51, of Starke was arrested April 21 by Starke police for three charges of felony child neglect and three charges of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. According to the arrest report, Rosier purchased three "dime" bags of marijuana for his 11-year-old son and two other juveniles who are 9- and 11-year-old brothers. Rosier and the three juveniles then smoked all the marijuana at Rosier's residence. The brothers went home and got sick, and their mother called law enforcement after they told her what happened. When arrested at his residence, Rosier admitted

to purchasing the marijuana and smoking it with the juveniles. Bond was set at \$30,000 for the charges.

Walter Edward Schneider, 40, of Keystone Heights was arrested April 16 by Bradford deputies on an out-of-county warrant from Clay for failure to appear for original charge of driving while license suspended or revoked. Bond was set at \$2,550 for the charge.

Bethany Jessica Smith, 29, of Jacksonville was arrested April 21 by Bradford deputies for driving while license suspended or revoked. Bond was set at \$500 for the charge.

Timothy Joshua Staten, 30, of Dade City was arrested April 20 by Lawtey police for possession of marijuana. Bond was set at \$1,500 for the charge.

Timothy Jerome Stewart, 22, of Starke was arrested April 21 by Bradford deputies for probation violation.

Reginald Bernard Trumpler, 37, of Palatka was arrested April 17 by Starke police on a warrant from the Florida Parole Commission for a parole violation out of Putnam County. No bond was allowed for the charge.

Shannon Marie Vansyckel, 34, of Starke was arrested April 16 by Starke police for larceny and for contributing to the delinquency of a minor. According to the arrest report, Vansyckel and two juveniles were observed placing items in their purses at Walmart by an employee. The employee was able to detain the two juveniles, but Vansyckel left the store and then left the area on a bicycle. The juveniles, one of whom is related to Vansyckel,

had also come to Walmart on bicycles and were able to tell the police where Vansyckel lives. Vansyckel was located and arrested, but denied knowing the juveniles and assisting them by placing items into bags, so she was charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor. With eight other theft convictions in her past, Vansyckel's theft charge was upgraded to felony larceny (instead of petit theft). Bond was set at \$7,500 for the charges

against her. Walmart declined to press charges against the juveniles.

Matthew Carter Wells, 31, of White Springs was arrested April 21 by Bradford deputies for probation violation.

James William Young, 41, of Hampton was arrested April 18 by Bradford deputies on an out-of-county warrant from Clay for contempt of court from original charge of driving while license suspended or revoked. Bond was set at \$355 for the charge.

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CRIME

Recent arrests in Bradford, Clay or Union

Keystone/Melrose

Kenneth Baldinelli, 14, of Melrose was arrested April 15 by Putnam deputies for armed burglary, grand theft of a firearm and grand theft.

Adam Boyd, 14, of Melrose was arrested April 15 by Putnam deputies for armed burglary, grand theft of a firearm and grand theft.

Mathew Cemer, 14, of Melrose was arrested April 15 by Putnam deputies for burglary, grand theft and criminal mischief.

Casey Marie Gaffney, 33, of Melrose was arrested April 15 by Putnam deputies for child neglect and dealing in stolen property.

Michael David Lavane, 38, of Melrose was arrested April 15 by Putnam deputies for child neglect and dealing in stolen property.

Frederick J. Martin, 18, of Melrose was arrested April 15 by Putnam deputies for burglary, grand theft and criminal mischief. According to the Putnam County Sheriff's Office, Martin, Baldinelli, Boyd, Cemer, Gaffney and Lavane were part of a theft ring that committed over 50 residential and commercial burglaries in Putnam, Clay, Alachua and Bradford counties.

Charles Chamberlain, 41, of Keystone Heights was arrested April 18 by Clay deputies for

child abuse without great harm.

Summer McKinnon, 18, of Starke was arrested April 18 by Clay deputies for petit theft.

Union

Julian Demetrius Merriex, 19, of Lake Butler was arrested April 8 by Union deputies for kidnapping a minor-interfering with custody, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, child neglect, failure to appear and felony escape. According to the arrest and offense reports, a 14-year-old runaway from Columbia County stayed with Merriex at his mother's home in Providence for four nights and five days before a deputy located her at the residence in mid-October of last year. The runaway was returned to her family, and a warrant was issued for the arrest of Merriex. When deputies returned to the Providence area several days later to arrest Merriex, the same runaway was with him again, and they tried to elude the officers by fleeing into the woods. They were tracked and located several hours later by the canine unit. The runaway had a lot of superficial wounds on her body from being dragged through the brush and woods by Merriex trying to elude the deputies. Merriex was handcuffed and placed in a patrol car and transported to the jail, but he apparently worked his hands from behind his body to the front of his body during the trip. When the deputy went to remove

him from the vehicle at the jail, Merriex kicked the door and knocked the deputy down and took off running. He was able to elude law enforcement and the canine unit, which tracked him for several hours in Lake Butler and toward Providence before stopping. Merriex was arrested in Columbia County several weeks later in November 2013 on unrelated charges from Columbia and has been in jail since then. He was transported to the Union County Jail on April 8 to face charges in Union, where he is still being held.

Georgia Gail Massey, 29, of Lake Butler was arrested April 21 by Union deputies for probation violation.

Willie Lee Gainey, 58, of Lake Butler was arrested April 14 by Union deputies for larceny, disorderly intoxication and resisting property recovery from a retail merchant. According to the arrest report, Gainey was at the CVS in Lake Butler when he attempted to conceal a bottle of wine in his pants and leave the store. The manager followed Gainey out to get him to stop, but he didn't until an unidentified customer stopped him. When the officer arrived, Gainey stated he had been drinking all day and ran out of alcohol at his house, but didn't have the money to pay for the wine, so he thought he would just take it from the store.

James Alan Simmons, 29, of Starke was arrested April 11 by

Union deputies for driving while license suspended or revoked and for failure to appear. Bond was set at \$500 for the failure to appear charge.

Matthew Aaron Dover, 21, of Lake Butler was arrested April 21 by Union deputies for burglary and for petit theft and on an out-of-county warrant from Suwannee for probation violation of a domestic violence injunction. According to the arrest report, Dover showed up at a relative's residence uninvited and plundered through a bedroom, stealing a gold-rod chain valued at \$200. Law enforcement was called, and he was located and arrested for the theft and the out-of-county warrant. Bond was set at \$835 for the probation violation charge.

Joshua Oneal Perry, 18, of Lake Butler was arrested April 16 by Union deputies for possession of a weapon on school property. According to the arrest report, during a routine search at the UCHS alternative school, a knife was found on Perry under his waistband.

Zachery Weldon Robertson, 23, of Lake Butler was arrested April 16 by Union deputies on an out-of-county warrant from Duval for probation violation on a driving-under-the-influence charge. No bond was allowed for the charge.

A 15-year-old was arrested April 16 by Union deputies for

disturbing the peace at the UCHS alternative school.

Jimme V. Lewis, 49, of Alachua was arrested April 19 by Union deputies for two charges of false imprisonment and two charges of burglary. According to the arrest report, Lewis went to an ex-girlfriend's home late at night and barged his way in after someone answered the door. He refused to leave and then started to tear up and throw several items in the home. The victim then gathered up her infant child and tried to leave, but Lewis wouldn't allow her to. The victim finally shoved Lewis against the door and ran out of the house to her mother's home across the yard and called law enforcement. Lewis was located in Alachua and arrested.

Shawn Matthew Eiserman, 25, of Lawtey was arrested April 18 by Union deputies for hit and run, distribution and possession of marijuana, possession of drugs public order crime-using two-way device to facilitate a felony. According to the arrest report, a deputy was called to the Hungry Howies in Lake Butler about a traffic crash. Eiserman told the deputy he backed into a car on the other side of a gas pump, but was acting very nervous and stuttering and shaking when he was getting out his driver's license. The deputy asked him to get his registration from the vehicle while he interviewed the owner of the car Eiserman hit. Instead of getting his registration,

Eiserman went behind Hungry Howies and jumped in a vehicle parked there with an acquaintance of his in it. He then threw what appeared to the deputy to be a bag of marijuana on the driver's side of the floorboard. The deputy had both men exit the vehicle, retrieved the marijuana from the acquaintance and arrested Eiserman. A later search of his vehicle turned up a brown bag with a over 50 grams of marijuana in it and a pill bottle with cocaine.

The acquaintance, Joseph James Lacy, 32, of Lake Butler, was also arrested and charged with resisting an officer, possession of marijuana and possession of drugs, using a vehicle to sell or store drugs and public order crime-using two-way device to facilitate a felony. After his arrest, Lacy told deputies that Eiserman was on his way from Starke to meet him to "make a deal" for the marijuana. When Eiserman had the accident at the gas pump, he called Lacy, and Lacy came to the store. Lacy stated that Eiserman went over and gave him the marijuana right before the deputy arrived. When Lacy was ordered out of the vehicle along with Eiserman, he refused several times to place his hands on the vehicle so the deputy could pat him down for weapons. He only did so after the deputy told him he would be tasered if he didn't cooperate. The deputy also found a bag with cocaine in it during his search of Lacy.

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Tornadoes rally in 7th, defeat Blue Wave for district crown

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer

Mackenzie Gault capped a three-hit night with a single that scored what would prove to be the winning run in the Bradford High School softball team's 2-1 win over P.K. Yonge in the District 5-4A championship game on April 17 in Alachua.

It was the second straight district championship for the

Tornadoes (18-7), who played District 6 runner-up South Sumter in a regional quarterfinal game on April 23.

Bradford, the tournament's second seed, had lost its previous two matchups with top seed P.K. Yonge by one run each.

"It's an indescribable feeling," pitcher Ashton Adkins said. "It's amazing just knowing that we've struggled with them the past two times. This win meant so much

to me and my team. It's just tremendous."

The Tornadoes had three hits entering the top of the seventh, but lead-off batter Annie Luke hit a single, while a throwing error on Jaci Atkinson's ground ball to the shortstop gave Bradford two on with no outs. After P.K. Yonge recorded the inning's first out, Lindsey Wiggins hit a hard single up the middle to score



Posing with the District 5-4A championship trophy are: (front, l-r) Jordan Davis, Lindsey Wiggins, Ashton Adkins, Mackenzie Gault, Lainie Rodgers, Taylor Cruce, (back, l-r) Alexis Shealey, Chelsey Thomas, Shelby Wilkison, Annie Luke, Kaylen Chitty, Jaci Atkinson, Sabina Watson and Taylor Crawford.

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and tie the score at 1-1.

Gault, who doubled in two of her previous three at-bats, followed with another single that scored Atkinson.

"I didn't hit it where I wanted it, but, hey, a single will work for me," said Gault, who was 3-for-4.

Adkins gave up seven hits and five walks, but pitched the Tornadoes out of several jams. P.K. Yonge (21-3) loaded the bases twice, but failed to score in each instance, and also had innings where it failed to score when it had runners in scoring position with one out.

Of Adkins' 10 strikeouts, five ended innings.

"We always say it's one versus

nine—nine players against that one batter," Gault said, "but (Adkins) really held us in this game. She worked her heart out. She pitched great."

For her part, Adkins said, "I just knew I had to focus and concentrate on our main goal, which was to not let them score hardly any runs so we could have a chance to win this game."

Gault got the Tornadoes off to a good start when she doubled to lead off the game. However, P.K. Yonge pitcher Kalen McGill retired three straight batters to leave Gault stranded on third.

Two hits and a walk loaded the bases for P.K. Yonge with just one out in the bottom of the inning. A baserunning miscue

by the Blue Wave after a force-out at home allowed Bradford to get out of the inning without surrendering a run.

P.K. Yonge put two on with no outs in the second, but Adkins recorded two strikeouts as well as holding the two base runners in place after fielding a bunt before throwing to first for an out.

Adkins recorded her fifth strikeout of the game to end the third inning after the Blue Wave loaded the bases with two outs.

"(Adkins) always gives great effort and shines every time she goes on the mound," Bradford head coach Daniel Davis said.

See TITLE, 12B

BHS, UCHS to play for baseball titles

Bradford and Union County extended their seasons and will play for the championships in their respective district tournaments, while Keystone Heights saw its season come to an end in its district semifinals.

Second-seeded Bradford (16-9) defeated host and third seed Santa Fe 2-1 in the April 22 semifinals of the District 5-4A tournament and will play

fourth seed Fort White for the championship on Thursday, April 24, at Santa Fe High School at 7 p.m.

Fort White advanced to the championship game by defeating top seed Keystone 3-1.

In Williston, second seed Union defeated third seed Newberry 3-2 in the April 22 semifinals of the District 7-1A tournament. The Tigers (15-6)

will play top seed Williston for the championship on April 24 at Williston at 7 p.m.

Championship game participants will advance to the regional playoffs. Bradford will play its first regional game on Thursday, May 1, at 7 p.m., while Union won't play its first regional game until Tuesday, May 6, at 7 p.m.

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Region champ Ardley, 2 BHS teammates heading to state finals

Three athletes from Bradford High School will compete in four events at the state track and field finals, including Keearis Ardley, who was the Region 2-2A champion in the high jump.

Ardley won the high jump by clearing 6-2. He will be joined at the May 2 Florida High School Athletic Association Finals at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville by teammates Diontre Jonas and Kenny Dinkins. Jonas was the Region 2 runner-up in the 200m dash with a time of 22.22 seconds and was fourth in the 100m with a time of 10.84. Dinkins was third in the 400m with a time of 50.45.

The top four placers in each event earned the right to compete in the state finals.

Bradford competed in the boys' 4x400m relay, placing 10th with a time of 3:38.80, while Sarah Frederick was 14th in the 1600m with a time of 6:18.54.

Union's Cook places 10th at regionals

Union County High School will not be represented at the Florida High School Athletic Association Track and Field Finals, but Kristen Cook did earn a top 10 finish at the Region 2-2A meet on April 16 in Orlando.

The top four finishers in each event earned the right to move on to state. Cook placed 10th in the shotput with a distance of 28-4.75.

Nancy Slocum also competed for Union, placing 15th in the 200m with a time of 30.13.

Bradford pulls out 5-4 win over Suwannee

Zach DeWitt and Carson Yowell each went 2-for-3 with a double and an RBI as the Bradford High School baseball team closed the regular season with a 5-4 win over visiting Suwannee on April 17.

David Hall and Matt Stanwix-Hay each drove in a run, while pitcher Jacob Luke (3-1) earned the win, giving up two hits and one walk in three innings.

Starter Jackson Reddish gave up one hit in three innings, while DeWitt gave up no hits in one inning.

On April 15, Bradford traveled to Forrest, losing 6-1. Only two of the five runs scored against starting pitcher Wyatt Barnes (4-3) were earned. Barnes gave up five hits and one walk in 4.1 innings.

At the plate, Reddish hit a double.

Keystone falls to Clay 9-2

Visiting Clay held the Keystone Heights High School baseball team to five hits as the Indians lost their regular-season finale 9-2 on April 17.

Morgan Bass and Cory Taylor each went 2-for-3, with Taylor hitting an RBI single in the fifth inning. That scored Morgan Smith, who reached after getting hit by a pitch.

Blake Richardson hit an RBI single in the second, scoring Tristan Starling, who reached on a walk.

Prior to playing Clay, the Indians (14-11 prior to April 22) defeated New York's Iroquois 2-1 in eight innings on April 15 in Keystone.

Starling scored the winning run, hitting a single to lead off the bottom of the eighth, moving to second when Richardson was hit by a pitch and stealing third before going home on an error.

Starling finished the game 3-for-4, while Kyle Hix hit an RBI single that tied the score at 1-1 in the third inning.

Bass pitched a complete game, giving up three hits and one walk, while striking out 12.

Union wins last 2 regular season games

Union County High School's baseball team bounced back from its 11-1 loss to Suwannee by defeating Interlachen 10-0 on April 15 and then capping the regular season with a 6-4 win over Crescent City on April 17.



Keearis Ardley won the District 5 and Region 2 titles in the high jump and will advance to the Class 2A state finals with Bradford High School teammates Kenny Dinkins and Diontre Jonas. Photo by Shelley Rodgers.

The Tigers got a complete-game (five innings) performance from pitcher Corey Hersey in the win over Interlachen. Hersey allowed just two hits and struck

out six. Offensively, Garrett Hersey was 3-for-3 with a double and three runs scored, while Colten McAlister was 3-for-4 with a

double and an RBI. Trey Owen was 2-for-2 with an RBI, while Chris Starling and Cole Kite were 2-for-3 and 2-for-4, respectively. Starling and Kite each had two RBI, with Kite hitting a double

and a triple. Corey Hersey drove in a run as well. The Tigers traveled to Crescent City to earn their second win in a row heading into this week's

District 7-1A tournament. (The Telegraph-Times-Monitor did not obtain stats of the Crescent City game by deadline.)

TITLE

Continued from 11B

"I'm very fortunate to have her. She keeps you in games."

P.K. Yonge finally took advantage of an opportunity when a walk and an error put two on with one out in the fourth. Kaitlyn Burke hit a double to score a run, but Adkins also had two strikeouts to prevent any more damage.

"They were very resilient

tonight and pushed through some tough spots to pull out the win," Davis said. "It was a great team win."

If Bradford advances to the Tuesday, April 29, regional semifinals, it would host either P.K. Yonge or the Villages. The game time would be 7 p.m.

Visit www.StarkeJournal.com to view photos from this game. Membership required.

Bradford defeats host

Santa Fe in semifinals

Gault drove in two runs, while Adkins gave up four hits and two walks in the Tornados' 5-1 win over third seed Santa Fe in the District 5 semifinals on April 15.

Luke was 2-for-2 with an RBI, while Adkins and Jordan Davis each hit a double and had an RBI. Lainie Rodgers was 3-for-4 with two doubles.

Adkins had five strikeouts in earning the win.

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