

# Lake Region Monitor

USPS 114-170 – KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FLORIDA

THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2014

42<sup>ND</sup> YEAR – 2<sup>ND</sup> ISSUE – 75 CENTS

## Worth Noting

### Melrose UMC fish fry

Friday, May 16, 5-7 p.m., \$8.50. Melrose United Methodist Church, 5802 Centre St.

### Soccer try-outs

The Keystone Youth Soccer U13/U14 competitive travel soccer team will be holding try-outs for the 2014-2015 season. Any player under the age of 14 on July 31, 2014 is eligible. Try-outs will be at Twin Lakes Park, 6065 Twin Lakes Road, on Saturday, May 31 beginning at 9 a.m. Please arrive 30 minutes early to stretch and register. For more information call 352-235-0393.

### Cheerleader try-outs

The KHHS Cheerleaders are having tryouts for upcoming 7th grade girls for the 2014/2015, football and basketball season on Monday and Tuesday, May 19th and 20th, from 3:30 to 5. On Monday, you will be working on your cheer, chant and jumps. Tuesday will be the official tryout. Both days are mandatory and will be held in the multi-purpose room of the KHHS gym. Applications are available at the front offices of KHHS, MES and KHES. Also, the KHHS Varsity Cheerleaders will be coming to KHES and MES to meet with the 6th grade girls to answer questions and to hand out applications. Applications are due by 2:00 pm, Thursday, 5/15/14, to Margie McCall at KHHS.

### Florahome UMC centennial celebration

Florahome United Methodist Church was founded in 1914 and is located on the corner of S. R. 100 and Coral Farms Road at the flashing light in Florahome.

The Church will begin celebration of its centennial year with a devotional, historical presentation, food and fellowship at 5 p.m. Saturday, May 17.

The celebrations will continue with a worship program on Sunday May 18 at 11 a.m. with special guest speaker the Rev. Dr. Rick Neal. A fellowship meal will follow the service.

### 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.

Including works by member and consignment artists in various media, painting, sculpture, photography, printmaking, ceramics, pottery, textile, glass and jewelry.

### 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. Please call Barbara Sullivan (258-3113), Karen Powell (538-9546), Jenn Cumbus (258-5479) or Kim Nugent (258-3602) for more information or to volunteer.

## Clay County Sheriff's Office honors fallen heroes

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

GREEN COVE SPRINGS—Members of the Clay County Sheriff's Office honored eight of their fallen comrades during a ceremony at the David A. White Memorial Headquarters in Green Cove Springs on May 8.

Sheriff Rick Beseler told family members of the fallen officers that their memories are honored on a daily basis by members of the public passing by the agency's stone memorial, placed outside Beseler's office window.

"I spend most of my days in that office overlooking the memorial," he said. "I have watched hundreds of visitors as they arrive here to conduct business and I notice as they approach the building they pause and read the names inscribed on the stone. Their actions and reactions vary, but without exception they seem respectful and mindful of what each of those names represent."

Activities during the ceremony included prayer led by

See OFFICERS, 2A



Buglers from Union Correctional Institution and Clay County Fire Rescue play Taps after a 21-gun salute during the Clay County Sheriff's Office's Police Memorial Ceremony.

## High school hosts suicide prevention training for parents

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Administrators at Keystone Heights High School held a parents' night in the school's auditorium May 1 to train parents about the warning signs of childhood depression and teen suicide.

Principal Dr. Susan Sailor told the crowd of around 50 that after a second KHHS student took her own life in March, many parents asked for the training. She added

See PARENTS, 3A

## 23 judges run unopposed in 4 corners counties

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

GREEN COVE SPRINGS—Nearly two dozen circuit court judges in jurisdictions covering Clay, Bradford, Putnam and Alachua counties were returned to the bench after qualifying with no opposition on May 2.

Circuit judges preside over felony criminal cases, civil suits involving more than \$15,000, probate cases and family law matters.

In the Fourth Judicial Circuit, which includes Clay County, incumbents James Hunt Daniel,

See JUDGES, 2A

## Planning board approves change to Kingsley Lake development

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

GREEN COVE SPRINGS—The Clay County Planning Board approved a change in the visual barrier requirements for a 70-lot Kingsley Lake development during its May 6 meeting.

Kingsley Cove is a 46.5-acre project on the former site of Strickland's Landing and Kingsley Beach.

In 2008, the planning board approved an application by a group of Lake Butler-based

See KINGSLEY, 4A

## Clay commission extends Waste Management contract

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

GREEN COVE SPRINGS—Clay County Commissioners extended their multi-million dollar contract with Waste Management through September 2023, during a May 13 board meeting.

The current agreement between the county and Waste Management was set to expire in two years. Under the contract, Waste Management picks up the county's garbage

See WASTE, 5A

## Putnam EMS: Keystone man stole from heart attack victim

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

PALATKA—A Keystone Heights man resigned from Putnam County Emergency Medical Services after he was accused of stealing \$40 in cash from a cardiac victim.

According to a Palatka Police Department report, a nurse said she saw EMS worker William Earl Curtis, 46, putting money into his pocket while standing close to heart attack victim Robert Hancock, 71. Hancock later died at Putnam County Community Medical Center.

The nurse added that she and another hospital employee counted the victim's cash both before and after the alleged theft and determined that \$40 was missing from the man's wallet.

According to the report, EMS Chief Chad Hutchinson confronted Curtis about the incident, and Curtis admitted taking \$20 from the victim's wallet, which he turned over to Hutchinson.

As of press time, Curtis had not been arrested nor charged. Palatka police filed a complaint with the State Attorney's Office, which is now reviewing the case.

## Lake Geneva resident arrested after confronting lake bed dirt bikers

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Clay County deputies arrested a Lake Geneva man after the lake dweller struck two riders of dirt bikes and ATVs with a shotgun and then fired the weapon as the victims fled the scene, according to a sheriff's office report.

Tony Waters, 50, of Keystone Heights was arrested on May 8 for discharging a firearm in public, possession of not more than 20 grams of cannabis, battery and possession of drug paraphernalia.

According to a sheriff's office report, Waters confronted three men who were doing wheelies on dirt bikes and ATVs in the dry lakebed of Lake Geneva near his home. With his granddaughter watching, Waters struck two of the men in the sternum with the barrel of a 12-gauge shotgun. As the victims fled the scene, Waters fired three shots over their heads.

A Clay County deputy wrote that before interviewing Waters about the incident, he patted down Waters for his own safety. During the search, the deputy found marijuana and a pipe in Waters' pants pockets.

## 19 high school seniors earn Associate of Arts degrees

BY KAREN LAKE  
Santa Fe College

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS--Nineteen area seniors are graduating with an Associate of Arts degree in addition to their high school diplomas this year. These students dual enrolled at Santa Fe College's Watson Center as rising juniors and have earned 60 hours of college credit while satisfying high school requirements over the past two years.

Here is what they had to say: Sarah Guilfoyle said she is taking the summer off. Rightly so. She said she is happy her mom pushed her towards this (AA degree) and that, yes, she'd do it all over again. "My parents helped me with this," she said.

Guilfoyle plans to continue her education either at Santa Fe College or at the University of Florida in her pursuit of a teaching degree. She said the summer will give her the time to decide between teaching history or drama.

When asked what she liked best about her dual enrollment experience she said it was the activities at the Watson Center. "And hey, it was free college," she said.

David "Wyatt" Bennett is an engineering major. He is returning to Santa Fe College to finish the prerequisite courses needed for his degree and will use this time to consider his



Seniors at Keystone Heights High School and Hope Christian Academy who earned an Associate of Arts degree from Santa Fe College this year. Pictured are (l-r) first row: Delaina McEwen, Katie Cruzan, Taylor Heinz, Olyvia Heinz and John Crittenden. Second row (l-r): Taylor Jewett, Christina Schrader, Ochesa Hall, Anna Tuller, Anika Henanger and Sarah Guilfoyle. Third row (l-r): Caleb Moore, Zachary Coursey, Madison Colaw, Nicholas Jones and David "Wyatt" Bennett. Not pictured: Zachary Hawkins and Rebekah Lampkin. Photo by Aaron Daye, multimedia specialist at Santa Fe College.

future transfer options.

Madison Colaw is continuing her education at Florida Southern College on an athletic scholarship. She is a health sciences major and wants to specialize in pediatric oncology. She said earning her Associates of Arts degree has definitely

helped her in achieving her goals and that if she had it to do over again, she'd make the same decision.

Music is his first love but since Zachary Coursey decided on a major, Florida State University is now his destination school. "High school dual enrollment

saved me a lot of money," he said, "The only thing I would change is making my decision about a major earlier." Coursey said he would have taken different prerequisite coursework to help him toward his major. "Overall,

See COLLEGE, 6A

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## OFFICERS

Continued from 1A

Keystone Heights resident Tom Croft, music by the sheriff's pipe and drum corps and a moment of silence on the agency's radio frequency.

Beseler also led a roll call of the agency's fallen officers. The sheriff read a profile of each man as family member or deputy pinned a rose on a wreath near the granite monument.

The honorees were: Sheriff Josephus Peeler, who died on May 10, 1894, five days after he was shot at the Green Cove Springs train station. Peeler was attempting to break up a fight between two men at the time of the shooting;

Sheriff Charles Wilson, who on July 10, 1906 was shot on a train in Palatka while he was attempting to arrest a man. The shooter was subsequently shot and killed by another train passenger. Wilson was a former Green Cove Springs marshal;

Sheriff Theodore Cherry, who was shot on July 6, 1913 while questioning a suspect. The shooter fled the scene but was later killed by a citizen posse;

Sgt. Richard Watkins, who was killed in a crash on May 3, 1976 at the intersection of Old Jennings Road and S.R. 21 while following an ambulance from the scene of a suicide attempt;

Auxiliary Deputy Burton Caton Sr., who suffered a fatal heart attack on July 15, 1979



**Sheriff Rick Beseler delivers remarks during the ceremony. Also pictured is a granite monument memorializing fallen officers.**

while working a traffic detail in Orange Park;

Deputy Wilson Walker, who died on Dec. 17, 1994, as a result of medical complications caused by materials used during his work as an evidence technician;

Sgt. Kenneth Eddie Hayes, who died on May 26, 2002 from a heart attack while on duty; and

Detective David White, who on Feb. 16, 2012 was shot and killed during a raid on a methamphetamine lab in Middleburg. The shooter was later killed by deputies as he fled the house while firing on other officers.

## McRae Elementary Terrific Kids for April



(L-r) front row: Ansley Juchniewicz, Hannah Goodwin, Joann Mason, Brylee Hart, Roseberrie Portier and Nathan Miller. Second row: Ryan Duve, Emily Dion, Jackson Herman, Noah Freeman, Jocelyn Teall, Julia Weaver and Miranda Wallace. Third row: Billy Mobley, Jayson Lauzurique, Drew Edsall, Nelson Dupaul, Iris Switzer, Boston Roberts, Shay Allen, Camille Jackson, Gage Smith and Amelia Junk. Fourth row: Gena Edwards, Shienne MacKinnon, Cindy Grimaldo, Wyatt Hopkins, Makayla Smith, Summer Brown and Chris Simmons.

## New beacon, fire suppression system at airport

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS--The chair of the Keystone Airpark Authority said an extended fire suppression system and a new beacon are among the recent improvements to the airport, which straddles the Clay and Bradford county line.

Noel Thomas gave the Keystone Heights Rotary Club an update on May 8 about the developments.

Thomas said the airport's old beacon and tower were 45 feet tall. The new structure is 70 feet tall. In addition, the airport moved the rotating light to a new location that is 23 feet higher than the previous spot, increasing the light's total height

See AIRPORT, 4A

## Thank You

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## JUDGES

Continued from 1A

Gregg McCaulie, Tyrie W. Boyer, Lance M. Day, Adrian G. Soud, David M. Gooding, John Hills Skinner, Harvey L. Jay, Tatiana Radi Salvador, Virginia Norton and Waddell A. Wallace were all returned to office for six-year terms.

Skinner has been a circuit court judge in Clay County since 1996. From 1987 to 1996 he was a county judge in Green Cove Springs.

The only contested judicial race in the Fourth Circuit is between Anthony Paul Penoso and Mike Sharrit in Group 27. Voters will choose between the

two in the Aug. 26 primary.

In the Eighth Judicial Circuit, which includes Bradford and Alachua Counties, incumbents Robert K. Groeb and James P. Nilon qualified without opposition. Phillip A. Pena also qualified with no opponent. William Falik is challenging incumbent William E. Davis in group 11.

Groeb currently handles criminal cases in Bradford County.

Pena is currently an Alachua County judge. He will replace Judge Phyllis M. Rosier, who did not seek reelection.

In the Seventh Circuit, which includes Putnam County, incumbents David J. Walsh, James R. Clayton, Margaret W.

Hudson, John M. Alexander, Carlos E. Mendoza, Howard M. Maltz, Raul A. Zimbrano and Randel H. Rowe III all qualified without opposition. Sandy Upchurch also qualified unopposed.

Mendoza is the administrative judge in Putnam County and handles criminal cases in Palatka.

Four contested races remain in the Seventh Circuit. David Hood and Mike Orfinger will compete in Group 6, Karen Foxman and Steve Sands will run in Group 18, Steven N. DeLaroche, Adam Warren and Kathy Weston are running in Group 20 and Kellie Jo Killebrew is challenging incumbent Thomas G. Portuallo in Group 23.

## DOT begins Blanding Boulevard resurfacing

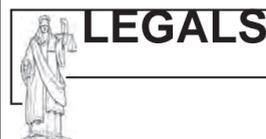
ORANGE PARK—The Florida Department of Transportation began a resurfacing project on May 12 on Blanding Boulevard from Kingsley Avenue to Knight Boxx Road.

In addition to paving, the nearly 5-mile long resurfacing project includes drainage and sidewalk repairs, improving sidewalk ramps at side street intersections and traffic signal upgrades. Construction also includes a median modification at Parkridge Avenue which will allow cars to only travel a certain direction when crossing through the median. This modification reduces the potential number of crashes in the intersection by guiding motorists directionally and minimizing conflicts with cross traffic.

Blanding Boulevard is a major thoroughfare, logging more than 50,000 cars per day through the project area.

During construction, lane closures for paving are restricted to nighttime hours. Northbound Blanding Boulevard lane closures may occur from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m., and southbound lane closures may be scheduled from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. Restricting lane closure times minimizes impacts to motorists, especially during rush hour.

DOT hired Hubbard Construction Company of Jacksonville to complete the \$4.9 million project by spring, 2015.



LRM Legals 5/15/14

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION**  
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Florida Self Storage Facility Act Statutes (Section 83.801, 83.809), Lake area Storage, LLC, will sell the following items to the highest and best bidder on Monday, May 19, 2014 at 9:00 A.M. (EST) at 7101 SR 21, Keystone Heights, Florida 32656: Unit# 226, containing misc. household items.

5/8 2tchg 5/15-LRM



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131 West Call St. in Starke between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

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## New Melrose gallery hosts student art show

MELROSE—The Lake Region's newest gallery opened a student art show during the Melrose First Friday May Art Walk.

Artisan's Way is inside the historic Hilton House at the corner of S.R. 26 and Hampton Street.

The student exhibit is an outgrowth of an end-of-year show coordinated last year by Interlachen High School art teacher Ann Hamilton at Shake Rag Cultural Arts Center.

This year, Hamilton invited Keystone Heights High School art teacher Trisha Qualls and her students to participate in the show.

The exhibit will be on display through Sunday, May 25.

Winners in the three-dimensional category were:

First place- Abi Loose of Keystone, metal bird;

Second place- Jarret Jones of Keystone, metal dog and

Third place- Alexis White of Keystone, paper tree.

Winners in the two-dimensional category were:

First place- Nik Sevlík of Interlachen, red manga style;

Second place- Mary Fournier of Interlachen, apple basket;

Third place- Brandon Figueroa of Interlachen, tempera resist and

Honorable Mention- Samantha Korth of Keystone, Cheshire cat, Hannah White of Interlachen, op art, Haley Arzie of Keystone, pen and ink and Mason Davis of Keystone, snail.

Clay County school board member Tina Bullock applauded the gallery's involvement in the project.

"With the arts being an area that suffers during an economic downturn, I commend community people for stepping up," she said. "I would also thank the art teachers from the schools for doing such a great job."

## PARENTS

Continued from 1A

that the school's expert in suicide prevention advised her to delay the session for several weeks until the emotional impact of the student's death waned.

Sailor said she has lived in the Lake Region her entire life, and that she has never seen the combination of two suicides and the death of a third student by accident over the course of three months.

"We're talking about things that we probably needed to have been talking about for years," she said, "but now things are coming to the surface and kids are reaching out for help, parents are reaching out for help and we are trying to do the best that we can in the school system."

Sailor added that over the past three months, the school's staff has had to adapt to the rush of students seeking counseling after the deaths.

"When you talk about school-level people: the teachers the counselors and the administrators who work in the building every day, we were trained to teach kids... We weren't really equipped to handle the kinds of grief issues that we've been dealing with here with our students."

Sailor said that after the second suicide, the school district assigned six social workers, two mental health counselors, a military family life counselor and several school psychologists to the campus.

For the parents' training, Sailor invited Dr. Stephanie Jallen, a fellow in child and adolescent psychiatry at the University of Florida's College of Medicine to address parents about the warning signs of childhood depression and teen suicide.

Jallen said children with depression may also withdraw from relationships and experience declines in energy levels. It is harder to concentrate. Grades start to drop.

Drug and alcohol use is also a sign of depression. "They are looking for ways to cover up their pain," she said.

Jallen said risk factors for depression include family history and personal history. "If the child has ever been abused or neglected, they are going to be at a higher risk of depression," she said.

She added that students living in households with active alcohol or drug abuse, or in families with high levels of strife or discord have increased risks for depression.

"They just have a lot on their plates," she said.

Jallen added that students are adept at covering up depression, and almost never seek help from their parents in dealing with it.

"Although some kids get sad and they may become tearful, a lot of them just become irritable," she said of depressed children. "You will see a change. Nothing makes them happy. They get annoyed with every little thing."

She said all teenagers have bad days.

"It goes beyond that," she said. "It has to be this persistent, lower-mood irritability for the majority of the day, for weeks: two, three, four weeks in a row."

Jallen said parents should also watch for changes in sleeping patterns.

"Either they are not sleeping at all, waking up in the middle of the night, waking up before the alarm clock goes off, tossing and turning ...or they are sleeping more," she said.

Jallen said that children dealing with depression also lose interest in the things they used to enjoy.

"They'll start making excuses about not going out with friends," she said. "They don't want to go fishing anymore, they don't want to play basketball anymore. The things that they really took pride in just don't seem to matter anymore, or as much as they used to."

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U.S. Jallen said students contemplating suicide sometimes make statements like "Nothing matters," "You don't care," "You won't have to deal with me later," or "It will all be over soon."

She added that teenagers who have been struggling over the long term, and suddenly seem relieved or happy may have decided to commit suicide.

"They've got a plan and they are going to end the suffering," she said.

"They might start giving things away," Jallen added. "Sarah gets the Xbox and John gets the fishing rod."

Risk factors for suicide include depression and drug or alcohol abuse. She added that teenage substance abuse goes beyond the typical drugs of marijuana and cocaine.

"Buying someone else's Adderall, stealing Mom's Xanax," she said. "Cough medicine, over-the-counter has really picked up in this area. They'll look at synthetics because you can't test them on a drug screen."

Previous suicide attempts are also a risk factor for subsequent attempts, as well as non-suicidal self injury like cutting, burning, biting and punching.

"It can be a call for help," Jallen said. "There are a lot of kids who do it just to kind of release some tension. Their intention is not to kill themselves, but they can get lost in the moment and it can go too deep and it can become more serious."

Cutting is the most common form of this behavior and teenagers will often go to great lengths to hide their scars.

A lot of girls will cut under the bikini line so they can still wear their swimsuits in the summer and no one sees it," Jallen said. "They will cut on their upper thighs so they can cover it up with shorts. They cut above their arms, so it's always covered up by T-shirts. In Florida, sometimes I get worried when girls come into my office all the time wearing long sleeve shirts."

Easy access to firearms is another risk factor for teenage suicide.

"I'm not here to talk about the Second Amendment," Jallen said. "I know a lot of people have guns. They like hunting and that's OK, but the reality is, if it's in the home, the kids can get at it."

Jallen added that parents should eliminate a depressed

teenager's access to firearms in the same way they limit a toddler's access to household chemicals.

She also said most teenagers who survive an overdose suicide attempt live to regret the attempt.

"The problem is with guns you don't get time to regret it," she added. "It is, by far the most lethal way of suicide, followed by hanging."

Jallen said if a teenager knows someone who committed suicide, they are at greater risk of suicide themselves. Low self-esteem is another risk factor.

She said that students who are at a lower risk of suicide are engaged with their family or school.

"They're doing well in school," she said. "They really take pride in their school work. They feel like they can talk to teachers or friends. There is not a lot of bullying going on."

Jallen also recommended parents view a four-minute video produced by the Mayo Clinic about teen suicide prevention. The video is available on Youtube.com.

Jallen said the most important thing parents can do is to stay alert. She said adults should take action when teenagers make statements indicating they may be thinking about taking their own lives.

"When any child makes any comments about thinking of suicide, dying or not wanting to be alive, you should take it very seriously," she warned. "Because all you need is one minute when this kid is home alone and feeling very low, feeling alone, feeling like they can't do anything; they go get the gun and they're done."

## St. William Catholic Church yard sale

Huge yard sale at 275 Satsuma St. this Friday and Saturday, May 16 and 17.

## Artisans' Way Dim Lights Benefit Concert

Featuring Karan Newman, Chuck Spitzer, Ned Stewart and Gerald Snyder. Saturday, May 17, 8-10 p.m. 5910 Hampton St., on the corner of S.R. 26 in Melrose. 352-639-0730 <http://artisansway.org>.



### Worship in the Park

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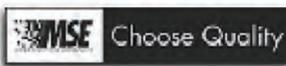
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## Teenage suicide

Jallen said most student suicides result from depression. Suicide is the third-leading cause of death for people between the ages of 14 and 25, following only accidents and homicide. On average, there are around 5,000 teenage suicides a year in the

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**RED DRAGON AERIAL DEMONSTRATION**

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## Woman's Club elects new officers, plans luau

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS--The Woman's Club of Keystone Heights elected its new officers for 2014-2015 during its April meeting. The new officials are President, Sally Linton; First Vice President, Sue Plaster; Second Vice President, Joanne Motter; Third Vice President, Cindy Martorano. Treasurer, Tina Bullock; Recording Secretary, JoAnne Gill and Corresponding Secretary, Shirlee Davis.

The club continued preparations for its luau and Bunko party for Saturday, May 17.

Proceeds from the 6 p.m. event at the clubhouse on Woman's Club Drive will go toward education and club upkeep. The menu includes shrimp sliders, pulled-pork sliders, pineapple casserole, fresh fruit, pineapple and spam skewers, frozen fruit salad, sweet and sour meatballs, Hawaiian dream cake, Hawaiian pie, South Sea cookies, punch, iced tea and coffee.

Bunko is an easy game to learn and play. Instructors will be on hand to help everyone get started for an evening of fun. Tickets are \$10.

For information about the event, call 352-473-3553 or Sally Linton at 352-473-0045.



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## Culinary program awards cake decorating winners

BY MERI-LIN PIANTANIDA

Keystone Heights High School  
KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—The culinary arts program at Keystone Heights High School recently completed a week of cake decorating which culminated with a program competition.

There were 24 entries in two divisions: first-year culinary students and advanced students.

To complete the project, students used 75 pounds of cake mix, 50 pounds of powdered sugar and 12 pounds each of butter and shortening.

Following the competition, students and faculty both enjoyed eating the cake, lots of cake.

Advanced division winners were:

First Place- Brianna McCarty and Brittany Frantz for "Bambi"

Second Place- Melissa Fain and Brittany Filing for "Split Personality Wedding;"

Third Place - Cory Hedding, Kyle Richardson and Kody Downs for "Mind Craft."

First-year division winners were:

First Place- Lexy Hamlow, Hailey Turner, Larann Massey, Eiron McGee and Adri Nassif for "A Day at the Beach;"

Second Place- Kaitlyn Cline and Sabriya Bacote for "KHHS Volleyball;"

Third Place - Shannon Aldhous-Evans and Marissa Williams for "Minion."



(L) Brianna McCarty and Brittany Frantz display their first-place cake in the advanced division: "Bambi".

**First-year Division winners show off their first-place cake: "A Day at the Beach."** (L-r) front row: Larann Massey, Adri Nassif and Hailey Turner. Back row: Lexy Hamlow and Eiron McGee. Photos courtesy of Keystone Heights High School.



## AIRPORT

Continued from 2A  
to nearly 100 feet.

Thomas added that the new beacon uses LED technology, rather than incandescent bulbs. He said some pilots have reported seeing the new beacon shortly after taking off from Ocala's airport.

Thomas also said the airport extended a water main and a series of fire hydrants from the airport's terminal along the facility's main entrance road to S.R. 100 for about a mile and a half.

He added that the new hydrants are equipped with special connectors that prevent their unauthorized use.

"It's a liability issue, believe it or not," he told the club.

Thomas explained that the hydrants are supported by a pump that pushes 1,700 gallons a minute through them and that the airport could be liable for injuries sustained to individuals attempting to acquire water through them.

"A lot of these companies, they find a hydrant out in the open like we have at the airport," he said. "They will be pulling up there and filling up their tanks, and so we are having to shut that down."

Thomas also said the airport has upgraded its capability to host blimps.

"Several times a year we've had blimps come in and stay out

See BLIMPS, 5A

## KINGSLEY

Continued from 1A

developers, including Avery C. Roberts and Jon W. Pritchett, to rezone the land to a planned unit development. The application and subsequent PUD stipulated that a 6-foot high, opaque barrier consisting of vegetation or fencing would buffer the development from residential properties on either side.

At the May 6 meeting, the developers requested that the barrier requirement be changed from an opaque buffer to a 4-foot-high board fence.

Gloria Strickland Valinski, who owns the parcel to the east of the development, said she supported the change. She said that the opaque fence would have blocked the view of the lake along her quarter-mile driveway.

Dawn Strickland also appeared before the board. She said she was representing her parents, Louis and Delores Atchison, who own the property west of Kingsley Cove. Strickland said her parents also supported the change in barrier.

She added that Roberts, who did not attend the planning board meeting, indicated to her parents that the original stipulation for an opaque fence was an error.

Both women complemented

the developers for their willingness to change the barrier stipulation to accommodate neighbors.

One property owner objected to the proposal. Vinette D. Godelia, writing on behalf of the Leseman Family Land Partnership wrote a letter to the board saying that the purpose of the original opaque barrier was to protect adjacent property owners from incompatible components of the PUD, such as the amenities area. Godelia added that the change will not visually protect nearby property owners from the recreational activities in the amenities area.

In other business during its May 6 meeting, the board:

**Approved a large scale land use amendment for a 14.12-acre parcel to the northeast of the intersection of C.R. 209 (Russell Road) and the CSX railroad track, north of Green Cove Springs.**

The change in land use to Rural Reserve matches the land use to an adjacent 100-acre

property and clears the way for a 21-homesite development by Edgewater Landing LLP.

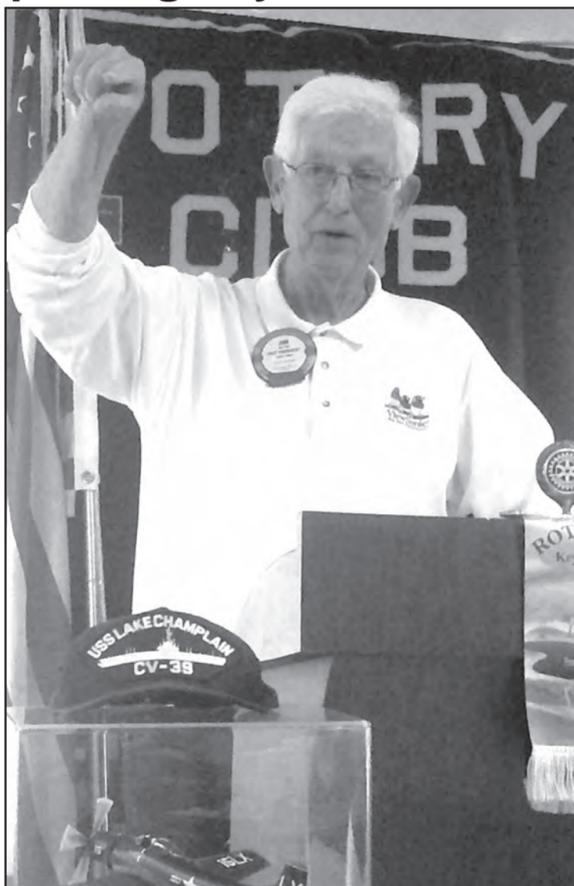
Rural Reserve is a land use designation that serves as a transition between suburban and rural land uses. It requires minimum buffers of 50 feet and stipulates that 35 percent of the acreage be preserved as permanent open space;

**Approved a change in zoning to Agricultural-Residential for a lot on Chicory Circle, off C.R. 215 between Middleburg and Camp Blanding.**

The applicant, R. Timothy Carter, plans to place a mobile home on the property and had already installed a well and septic tank on the parcel before realizing the lot was zoned Private Service-2, a business classification.

According to the county's planning and zoning director, the land was rezoned in 1986 to PS-2. Planning and zoning staff members could not determine why the change in zoning occurred at that time.

## Keystone man recalls piloting days



Keystone Heights resident Jim Gill talked about his service in the Marine Corps flying the Douglas A-1 Skyraider during a May 2 meeting of the Keystone Heights Rotary Club. Gill flew the attack aircraft from 1953 to 1962. He said the 2,700-horsepower, single prop had the same bombload capacity as a B-17 bomber, yet could operate from aircraft carriers. It was the only prop plane to record kills against jet aircraft during the Vietnam conflict, taking down two MiG-17s in 1965 and 1966. The AD-4L version was designed to deliver a nuclear weapon using the over-the-shoulder toss technique. Gill told the Rotarians about the unique attributes of the Skyraider, his assignments and duty stations, and the difficulties of landing on a carrier.

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### Johnson seeking District 4 commission seat

My name is Steven Johnson. I was born in Jacksonville at St. Vincent's Hospital on April 12, 1970. I arrived in District 4, Clay County, Middleburg and have resided here for 43 years.

I am proud to be a third-generation Johnson to reside, live and raise a family in Clay County. I attended Middleburg Elementary School and J.L. Wilkinson Middle School, and graduated from Middleburg High School in the proud class of 1989.

I have worked diligently at many jobs and different trades throughout my life. I have personally started, owned and operated three businesses in Clay County and succeeded in all. I am currently the owner of Artistic Designs Lawn Care LLC and am running for Clay County Commissioner District 4.

I have attended many meetings giving testimony at the Jacksonville City Council, Duval County legislative delegation, JEA Council, Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Senate in Tallahassee. I have met with the EPA Criminal Division, Army Corps of Engineers, Sheriff Rick Beseler, the Clay County State Attorney's office, Rep. Travis Cummings, Sen. Rob Bradley, Rep. Charles Van Zant, Congressmen Yoho's deputy director and Gov. Rick Scott.

All of these meetings directly pertain to the safety and well-being of our children, schools, community, environment, drinking water and property values in District 4.

I have helped stop the delivery and use in Clay County of EZBase, a contaminated,

manufactured, trademarked product created by the Jacksonville Electric Authority based on an incorrect Material Safety Data Sheet through the aid of scientific data, analogical reports, a former EPA senior chief chemist PhD reviews and the Clay County Commission. I have started an ongoing investigation with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection about the analogically tested toxic EZBase directly adjacent to our public school playground and their source of drinking water.

I have attended meetings in Keystone Heights and Palatka with the St. John's River Water Management District pertaining to our dry lakes in District 4. I will continue to monitor and research this ongoing problem that affects our beautiful ecosystem, property values and inevitably us all. Our forgotten neighbors, Keystone Heights, District 4 need our help and support as a community in this matter.

I have lived in District 4 my whole life and realize that our basic roads, drainage and community park infrastructure need our immediate attention. I realize this is an ongoing problem and I will do my best to be a voice for District 4 and get the needed funds to help resolve these problems.

I believe in God, truth and honesty. I believe puppets are for children and promises are meant to be kept. My promise to Clay County: My door is always open. I will listen to our community and do my best to keep the will of the people.

I will keep my faith in God, and I will seek counsel from my elders. I will uphold the safety



Johnson

and well-being of the public and our environment. I am a member of the NRA and support the rights of citizens to bear arms. I will research extensively why our beautiful lakes in Keystone Heights are dry. I will make it a goal to bring back the water, beauty, and value of this great county. I will respect the rights of our veterans, the great men and women who have fought to protect our freedom. I will fight for the senior citizens and our handicapped.

I support private business owners and welcome new job creation in our community.

I am directly involved with the county, state and community through the civic association, historical society, Facebook, email and my website.

I will be the ears, eyes and voice that District 4 needs.

We must stand together and keep Clay County clean, beautiful and honest for generations to come. I look forward to representing District 4 as your Clay County Commissioner.

Thank you for your support.  
Steven R. Johnson

### Coleman running for District 4 commission seat

My name is Ronnie Coleman. I am the candidate running for the District 4 seat on the Board of County Commissioners. I am running to be your full time commissioner, serving you every day with community leadership, integrity and commitment. I have faithfully served this community and the people of District 4 for over 37 years.

My wife Marlene and I reside in the Middleburg area of Clay County along Black Creek. We have 5 children and 15 grandchildren.

I attended local public schools in Jacksonville, graduating from Robert E. Lee High School. I then continued my education at Jacksonville University majoring in business management. I also served in the U.S. Army and the Florida National Guard, both from which I was honorably discharged.

I am qualified to be your county commissioner because I have been actively engaged with the board of commissioners for the last 37 years, representing my neighborhood, community, and various county committees for which I was appointed. I have stayed up-to-date with the county commission through attending meetings and watching tapings when I am unable to attend.

This being a steadily

increasing district, it is crucial that our leaders remain steady, strong, and consistent in these tough economic times. We must maintain our focused commitment on lowering taxes, improving our roads and public safety, and helping the school board to achieve educational excellence. Most important, elected officials must remember that they work for the taxpayers.

When I take office, my only job will be that of your full time commissioner, providing every day help to the citizens of District 4 and Clay County. When voting on issues as your county commissioner, my vote will go towards what is best for this community and not what is best for special interest groups.

My past and present affiliations include member of First Presbyterian Church, Clay County Cattleman's Association, Republican Men of Clay County, Middleburg area Republican Club, 2-time president of the Middleburg Civic Association, Director of the annual Middleburg 4th of July and Lighted Christmas parades, co-founder and president of the Clay County Gator Club, president of Delta Nu Alpha, awarded International Transportation Person of the Year 2 times, Clay County Transportation Advisory



Coleman

Commission, associate member of the University of Florida Alumni Association and 19 years as president of the Black Creek Hills Homeowners Association.

I hope to be serving you soon as your full time commissioner, providing a redefined trust in keeping the citizens informed and updated to the changing issues and decisions made on their behalf.

If you have any further questions you may contact me at mrcoleman9@aol.com, 904-614-3752, or 904-282-2574.

Thank you and God bless,  
Ronnie Coleman

### WASTE

Continued from 1A

at the Rosemary Hill Transfer Station west of Green Cove Springs and disposes of it at Waste Management's Chapman Landfill near Brunswick, Ga.

The county recoups the disposal costs through an \$84 annual assessment to property owners in unincorporated Clay County.

The county has a separate

contract with Advance Disposal to collect trash and recyclables from curbsides and deliver the materials to the Rosemary Hill transfer and recycling facilities. The county assesses almost \$150 a year to property owners in unincorporated areas to cover collection costs.

The county's four municipalities each have their own agreements to collect household waste. In Keystone Heights, Advance Disposal bills city residents to collect and dispose of trash.

During a special board meeting on May 5 and a regular board meeting on May 13, county commissioners considered an alternative proposal from Republic Services to dispose of the county's trash at a Putnam County landfill that Republic is in the process of acquiring. However, when negotiations between Putnam County and Republic bogged down, Clay commissioners focused instead on extending the Waste Management deal.

At both meetings, Commissioner Ronnie Robinson pushed for the renewal. He pointed out that the Waste Management extension gives the county manager until Dec. 31, 2016 to designate an alternative disposal facility. He said that if Republic and Putnam County did finalize an agreement, and Republic offered Clay County a better deal, then the county could switch. Commissioner Diane Hutchings joined Robinson in supporting the deal.

Commissioner Wendell Davis voted against the extension. He said that regardless of the pending agreement between Putnam County and Republic, he thought Clay County could negotiate better terms with Waste Management. Doug Conkey also voted "no." He said the contract for the county's waste disposal services was too

important and too big to rush through. He noted that the agreement touches every Clay County resident.

That left Chereese Stewart, who did not respond when Chair Davis asked for a voice vote. She initially said she could not make up her mind but voted in favor of the renewal after more discussion. She cited the uncertainty surrounding Putnam County's negotiations with Republic Services as a factor in her decision.

Doug Conkey changed his vote, making the final tally 4-1. Conkey reasoned that Putnam County officials would likely be forced to resolve their negotiations with Republic before October 1, the start of the new fiscal year. That timeline put the resolution of the Putnam County contract well before the December 31, 2016 deadline for the county manager to designate an alternative disposal site.

### BLIMPS

Continued from 4A

at the airport," he said. "We've got plenty of space for them."

He added that blimp traffic usually picks up during basketball season, when the vessels circle the Stephen C. O'Connell Center during University of Florida games.

Thomas also said his board is planning to host an annual music festival in November. The event is an outgrowth of a Montgomery Gentry concert the Florida National Guard Foundation produced in 2013.

He said the inaugural event, slated for Nov. 8 will feature activities centering on aircraft and vintage cars during the day, before the evening concert.

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## Historical society remembers Enduring Freedom veteran



Crose

ORANGE PARK—The Orange Park Historical Society, in its May newsletter remembered a local veteran who died in Afghanistan in 2002.

A marker honoring U.S. Army Sgt. Bradley Crose is in the Veteran's Memorial within Magnolia Cemetery.

Crose was born at the naval hospital in Orlando.

His family relocated to Orange Park where he participated in Tae Kwon Do national championship tournaments and graduated from Orange Park High School in 1988.

Shortly after graduation Crose volunteered for military service with the U.S. Army, later becoming a Ranger and earning the rank of sergeant.

Crose was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment at Hunter Army Airfield. His unit was sent to Afghanistan to serve in Operation Enduring Freedom.

On March 2, 2002, 20 Rangers, including Crose, took off from Bagram Airfield in support of a SEAL team taking heavy fire on a ridgeline in eastern Afghanistan's Shahikot Valley.

Believing the SEAL team to still be at the top of the ridge, but with little accurate information to guide them, they planned to land their helicopter along the top of the ridge to extract the SEAL team. As they prepared to

land, the aircraft was hit with a rocket-propelled grenade and by heavy machine gun fire.

The grenade knocked out the right engine. The helicopter dropped about 20 feet to the ground. Gunfire continued, killing one door gunner and wounding both pilots and the second door gunner. The Rangers rushed to evacuate the helicopter and take up defensive positions to return fire. Crose and two other Rangers were killed attempting to exit the aircraft. Aided by the arrival of reinforcements, the ridgeline was secured and all U.S. personnel were evacuated the following evening. Six soldiers were killed in the rescue attempt.

A week after his death, a memorial service was held for Crose at Pinewood Presbyterian Church in Middleburg.

Over 900 people attended the service. Thousands of others, some waving American flags and others with their hands over their hearts lined Knight Boxx Road and Blanding Boulevard as the funeral procession made its way to Jacksonville Memory Gardens.

The Florida Times-Union quoted Sheila Maguhn, Crose's mother as saying, "There's no way you could see it without crying. It was just too touching. It was just overwhelming, the support and the love that we saw. There's no way to tell them how much it meant to us."

Crose was buried at Jacksonville Memory Gardens with full military honors. He was also awarded a Purple Heart, a Bronze Star with a "V" for valor and a meritorious service commendation for exceptional gallantry during combat.

## Garden Club awards May yard of the month

BY TONI DAVIS

*Garden Club of the Lakes*

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS--The Garden Club of the Lakes has awarded the Yard of the Month for May to Ken and Mary Jean Mitchell.

The Mitchells moved to Keystone Heights 14 years ago from northwest Pennsylvania. They also served three years in the mission field in Africa.

Ken and Mary Jean now operate the Keystone Auction Service. Mary Jean also enjoys quilting and has painted some of her favorite quilt patterns on their fence.

Some of the plants in their yard are the black jack and live oaks that are the setting for a variety of plants and flowering trees.

Other plants include dogwood, purple plum crepe myrtle, magnolia, citrus, azaleas, spiraea, sago palm, old world roses, camellia, and gardenias. They also have day lilies, begonias, amaryllis, impatiens and hydrangea for summer color.

To nominate a Yard of the Month, contact Jackie Host at 352-473-8095 or Toni Davis at 352-475-3146. Anyone with an interest in gardening is invited to the Garden Club meetings at Faith Presbyterian Church located at S.R. 21 and Southeast C.R. 21B in Midway on the second Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. Our next meeting will be in September.



Garden Club of the Lakes Yard of the Month Chair Toni Davis is pictured with Ken Mitchell in front of his home at 5500 S.E. Third Ave., Keystone Heights. Photo by Jackie Host.

## COLLEGE

Continued from 1A

it's been great," he said. Coursey is pursuing a degree in marine biology.

Valedictorian John Crittenden recently changed his mind about his major. Initially, he was set on becoming a doctor but somewhere during a Chem 1 class - while he was good at it - he said he realized he didn't enjoy it. He's headed to the University of Florida where he will pursue a degree in business.

Ochesa Hall is a health sciences major who is being

admitted to the University of Florida.

Zachary Hawkins is returning to Santa Fe College to continue taking prerequisite courses towards an engineering degree.

The Heinz sisters, Olyvia and Taylor, are both moving to Alabama this summer where they will play on the women's golf team on a combined athletic and academic scholarship. They will attend Faulkner University in Montgomery this fall. Olyvia is a health sciences major while Taylor will seek a degree in criminal justice.

Anika Henanger is being offered a full scholarship to

attend Northwestern University in Chicago as a journalism major.

Taylor Jewett is also a health sciences major headed to the University of Florida.

Florida State University welcomes Nicholas Jones this fall. He's double majoring in religion and digital media communications. He said his dual enrollment experience was fantastic and that he's very happy he did it (earned an Associate of Arts degree).

Rebekah Lampkin is a psychology major attending the University of Florida in the fall.

In addition to an Associate of

Arts degree, Delaina McEwen is returning to Santa Fe College to earn an Associate of Science degree in radiology.

Caleb Moore is attending the University of Florida. He is majoring in philosophy while pursuing his love of music.

Having earned an Associate of Arts degree, Christina Schrader is returning to Santa Fe College to earn an Associate of Science degree in radiography. She said she would absolutely - no questions asked - decide to do the same thing (earn an AA degree) all over again if given the choice. "The majority of the professors were really fun to learn from,"

said Schrader.

Anna Tuller said the best part of earning an Associate of Arts degree is the feeling of accomplishment. She plans to stay at Santa Fe College and continue earning credits towards a degree in English. She said she hopes one day to teach high school English.

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# REGIONAL NEWS

NEWS FROM BRADFORD COUNTY, UNION COUNTY AND THE LAKE REGION

FEATURES  
CRIME  
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EDITORIAL

## High school teams gearing up for 2014 season

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Staff Writer

There is a conception that today's youth spend too much



Quarterback Caleb Cox gets some work in during the Tigers' May 12 practice.

time indoors in front of televisions or glued to their phones, tablets and other technological devices, but a group of teenagers are spending their afternoons in the Florida heat, running gassers and hitting each other.

And you know what? They like it.

Spring football practice for high schools in Florida began May 1, and returning players at Bradford, Keystone Heights and Union County were glad of it.

"It's great. I missed it," said Bradford quarterback Jacob Luke, who just recently finished playing baseball. "This is, for real, probably my favorite sport. Nothing beats football."

Keystone running back/defensive back Brighton Gibbs, who has played football since the



Keystone's Kyle Teague snags a ball during pass-catching drills.

age of 7, said, "This is the best thing ever. This is what I live for."

Like Bradford and Keystone, Union saw its season come to an end in the regional playoffs. Union linebacker Casey Driggers has been ready to work on improving and getting stronger since his team's season came to an end against District 7-1A rival Dixie County.

"It's good to get ready and just get back into that motion," Driggers said. "Everybody's just getting ready, getting fit and getting used to how we run things."

Coaches, of course, are glad to get back onto the field as well.

"I hate the off-season," Bradford head coach Steve Reynolds said. "I love to finally get back out here (and see) young kids who maybe didn't get as much playing time last year excited about coming out and

trying to show their hand and show off how much stronger and bigger they've gotten."

Union head coach Ronny Pruitt said he enjoys reuniting with players he sometimes doesn't come in close contact with for three to four months because of the fact they play other sports.

"I'm glad to be back out here," Pruitt said. "It gets boring after a while, not being able to be around the kids."

Following is a brief look at each team:

### Bradford

During a break on May 8, Luke talked about practices, saying his favorite activity is seven-on-seven drills and "trying to beat the defense."

Luke said the worst part of practice is conditioning, but his drive to continually get better gets him through it.

"That always keeps me going,"



Johnny Hernandez is fired up at Bradford's May 8 practice.



Bradford's Da'quon Blackshear prepares to catch a pass.

he said.

The quarterback position is certainly experienced, with Luke Hankerson played a lot last season as well as safety.

There are six players in the mix for the four secondary positions. "It's good," Reynolds said. Reynolds said Bradford was blessed the last two years to have a veteran secondary, but graduation will leave only

Rodderick Broomfield as a returning corner, though Carlton Hankerson played a lot last season as well as safety.

There are six players in the mix for the four secondary positions.

"It's good," Reynolds said. "They understand that they can't have a bad day two days in a row. There are some serious things at

See SPRING, 6B



Union County running back Darion Robinson carries the ball as head coach Ronny Pruitt looks on.



Juwan Crum (left) and James Laye grapple with each other during Keystone's May 9 practice.

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



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# Rowe Enterprises: making a mark after humble beginnings

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Staff Writer

It is the true definition of a success story—a business that began in a spare bedroom, but has since expanded and earned recognition, such as being named a Best Company to Work For by “Florida Trend” in 2012 and Contractor of the Year by Lender Processing Services that same year.

Chances are you’ve heard of Bradford County’s Rowe Enterprises.

Chances are you’re not fully sure what Rowe Enterprises is.

What is this business that was founded by Jerry and Donna Rowe—chief executive officer and chief financial officer, respectively—and includes their children, Jonathan Rowe and Justis Smith, as part of its management team? Good question.

Smith, who is the vice president of client relations, said it’s hard to give people who ask what Rowe Enterprises is a simple answer. She said she can use terms such as “property preservation” or “taking care of foreclosed properties,” but they don’t seem to fully explain what the company does. She can say, “Prepare properties for conveyance,” but added, “No one knows what that means.”

Property Preservation Director Shannon Rowe, who is married to Jonathan Rowe, listened to Smith try to define the business and laughed, saying, “We don’t even know what we do.”

Basically, Rowe Enterprises coordinates with independent contractors it trains—and who work only for Rowe Enterprises—to provide a variety of services in regard to foreclosed, rental and real-estate-owned properties. Those services can include changing locks, lawn maintenance and various repairs and clean-up tasks.

“It’s a big conglomeration of items,” said Jonathan Rowe, who is the vice president of field operations.

Jonathan said the company will be contacted by a bank, for example, that has decided it needs to take action in regard to a particular property. At first, Rowe Enterprises contractors will do things such as lawn maintenance, changing locks and

assessing the property. They may do some emergency repairs and take care of code violations.

“Basically, at that point you’re just doing a protection of the property so that the value maintains,” Jonathan said.

When a property goes into the foreclosure stage, contractors will go inside the house, cleaning up debris and bringing it up to the guarantor’s standards, Jonathan said.

Another level of work comes into play for real-estate-owned properties and properties that banks hold onto to sell. Jonathan said that entails heavy cleaning and possibly minor repairs and carpet replacement—things that go into making the property more marketable.

“Every client has a different idea of how marketable they want it to be,” Jonathan said. “There are banks out there that’ll take a property and spend \$20,000 on it—to paint it, put carpet in it and plumbing fixtures and everything to make it move-in ready in order to sell it.”

“Then, there are some that’ll just say, ‘Look, just get it cleaned up enough. Instead of spending \$20,000, we’re going to ask \$20,000 less.’”

Technological advances have made the working relationship between office staff and contractors in the field much easier. Jonathan said if the company was using the same technology it was 12 years ago, it would need three times the office staff to handle the current workload.

It was once a time of relying on Polaroid photos, UPS and FedEx, and physical visits to the office by contractors. Tons of paperwork was coming in via the fax machine, which Shannon said had three members of the office staff going into work 30 minutes early to start sorting papers into stacks corresponding to clients.

“It took about an hour to sort the work just so everybody else could go to work on the fax machine, and then (we had) to hope all the pages were there,” Shannon said.

Now, contractors are entering all their information on iPads and sending it instantly to office staff.

“Technology has been a huge lifesaver for us,” Smith said.



The family-management team of Rowe Enterprises (clockwise from top left): Shannon Rowe, Donna Rowe, Justis Smith, Jerry Rowe and Jonathan Rowe.



The home of Rowe Enterprises on U.S. 301 in Hampton. It’s a lot larger than the spare bedroom in which the business began.

Though things are easier, that doesn’t make each day predictable.

### ‘Never the same day twice’

Those are Shannon’s words. Her husband said he never says he’s seen it all because as soon as he does, something will come along that he’s never seen before.

“I worked in the Panhandle,” Jonathan said of his and Shannon’s time as contractors, “so I worked in \$1 million houses out on the water to shacks way up a back road and 4 miles of dirt road to get there. They’d have barns and sheds falling in and everything else.”

“You never knew what you were going to see. That’s probably the best part about it. It’s an interesting mix.”

With Jonathan, Shannon and Smith all having done work in the field, they can relate to what contractors are experiencing, and sometimes it isn’t pleasant.

“Some days, it’s the nastiest thing you’ve ever done,” Jonathan said.

Smith said contractors have witnessed some of the worst examples of hoarding one can imagine. She once worked in the field and remembered one house she went into.

“We had one where the entire kitchen was so full that they put in a new refrigerator in the dining room,” Smith said. “On their end table were pizza boxes stacked up. You could turn sideways to get down the hallway, and when you got to like the kids’ bedroom, you just literally had to jump over stuff to the bed.”

Shannon said, “We’ve had meth houses in Atlanta where the (law enforcement) officers wouldn’t even go inside. You had to call HAZMAT and the fire department.”

There was the house in St. Petersburg where contractors, in the midst of cleaning, discovered the body of a dead woman wrapped in plastic underneath a

blanket on a bed.

“They’re on the evening news—‘Cleaning crew destroys crime scene.’ It turned out the woman’s sister had killed her, stolen her identity and moved to Georgia,” Smith said. “I guess she was the only living relative because no one was even looking for her.”

Jonathan said one of the most interesting jobs he was a part of involved a compound in Georgia that was utilized by the United Nuwaubian Naion of Moors religious sect. The 476-acre compound, which consisted of pyramids, was seized by the federal government after the sect’s leader, Dwight “Malachi” York, was arrested for child molestation and racketeering.

“That was probably the biggest, weirdest thing we’ve done,” Jonathan said.

Occupied evictions are never fun, Smith said. She cited one example of a daycare in Jacksonville where those involved had to wait while the owner called parents to come pick up their children. The owner knew she was being evicted, but had done nothing in response until that day officers showed up.

Jonathan agreed that evictions are not enjoyable.

“They may be willing to move out,” Jonathan said, “but you always feel bad. I’ve never been homeless, but what do you do when all of a sudden it’s, ‘OK, they’re going to put me out of my house?’”

Jonathan has witnessed several types of instances where people either had enough assets they could’ve sold to earn money for mortgage payments,

See ROWE, 10B

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# Spanish language immersion: jumping in with both feet

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

Life after 50 can be an age of exploration, offering both time and opportunity to explore tantalizing roads not taken during one's youth.

Learning a foreign language is a road that beckoned during my high school and college days. I took three years of Spanish in high school, followed by another two in college, all purely elective, simply because I enjoyed the language. The ingredient missing from those early experiences was contemporaneous conversation. I found it difficult to formulate a Spanish sentence that made any sense on those few occasions when it might have been useful.

Fast forward to retirement, a welcome phase of life that has allowed me to reacquire myself with activities I haven't enjoyed for years, writing being chief among them. I began to play organ and piano again, volunteered in a variety of capacities and became a Master Gardener and a certified group-fitness instructor. My husband and I moved to a smaller community and launched a few home-improvement projects. Studying Spanish wasn't on my radar screen.

One day out of the blue, my friend Susan invited me to accompany her to Mexico for a Spanish-immersion study program arranged by Amerispan, a company that offers language programs all over the world. Amerispan suggested that Susan and I study in Oaxaca, a city of 500,000 people. Oaxaca is the capital and largest city of the Mexican state of the same name. It is located in the foothills of the Sierra Madre in southwestern Mexico. The area features a large number of colonial-era structures as well as native Zapotec and Mixtec cultures and archeological sites that attract many tourists.

The weather in Oaxaca is mild year round, varying from 50 degrees in the evening to the mid 80s in the afternoons during the month of February, when our trip was scheduled. The rainy season



Santo Domingo Cultural Center includes a church, museum, library and conference facilities.

lasts from April through October. Due to its altitude of over 5,000 feet, Oaxaca is much cooler than lowland areas. The mild climate, more than historic and archaeological sites, is doubtless responsible for Oaxaca's booming tourist trade—77 percent of its jobs are related to tourism. Many Americans and Canadians winter there, escaping the harsh conditions of their homelands.

Susan planned to stay for three weeks, but I decided to go for one. Her intention was to arrange "home stays" for the weeks prior to and following the week I would be there, and move to the school's "residence" during our time together. However, her home-stay experience wasn't satisfactory. The home was isolated, and her hosts limited their interactions with her—the language barrier contributed to the problem. Susan checked out the school's residence prior to my arrival and was disappointed with it as well. It offered very little in the way of aesthetics and amenities. So, with the help of the school, Susan located a bed and breakfast, where we could share a room.

The cost of the week's study was reasonable—\$700 covered both instruction and lodging. However, I experienced sticker shock when I started searching for flights—over \$1,100 for a roundtrip ticket. I flew United

from Gainesville to Tampa and then from there to Houston before catching a direct flight to Oaxaca, thus avoiding a long layover in Mexico City, about 300 miles to the north. Oaxaca's airport has nine gates, but is comfortable and modern.

I never asked what exactly is meant by the term "immersion" when applied to language studies. I assumed it meant students would be required to speak only Spanish, but that is not strictly true. Classes are taught in Spanish, but students are permitted to ask questions in English.

In Oaxaca, Amerispan contracts with a school called Solexico. Classes are small—no more than three or four students per class—with private instruction also available. My week at Solexico began with a four-page exam, which I didn't find terribly difficult. I was quickly placed in a class with one other student, a woman my age named Tami, also retired, from California. Her vocabulary was more comprehensive than mine, but she, like me, needed more practice with conjugation of verbs and, of course, conversation. Our teacher, Adrian, was gentle and patient with our fumbling attempts to become better speakers.

We received four hours of instruction daily—three of grammar and one devoted to conversation. The school uses a four-level grammar series,

written completely in Spanish, which I found easy to use. We worked through exercises during the first 80 minutes of class, took a 10-minute break and then continued for another 70 minutes, followed by a 30-minute lunch. After lunch, we met with another teacher, Javier, for conversation. We were joined in conversation class by a third student, a young man named Grant, who hoped to be hired by the United States Border Patrol. He believed fluency in Spanish would make him a more attractive candidate.

I enjoyed all aspects of the coursework, especially the low student/teacher ratio, which permitted more impromptu learning. Most interesting were the conversations, which often provided insight into the culture of Mexico—its religion (predominantly Roman Catholic), family life, health-care system and government.

Although the focus of our stay was studying Spanish, afternoons and evenings were free for exploring. One of the teachers at our school, Miguel, was available to drive us to local destinations and also provided transportation to and from the airport. Ever the diligent teacher, he turned each expedition into a lesson. He never seemed to tire of our endless questions and grammar snafus.

Miguel took us to Monte Alban, an ancient Zapotecan capital and one of the most important Mesoamerica cities. It was founded around 500 BC and flourished for over 200 years. The site, uninhabited since colonial times, featured a great plaza, ball court, tombs and fabulous views of the surrounding mountains.

Another interesting afternoon was spent at Santo Domingo Cultural Center, which is housed in a former convent that was constructed in the late 16th century. Opened in 1998, the center is composed of the magnificent Church of Santo Domingo, the Museum of Oaxacan Cultures, the Ethnobotanical Garden of Oaxaca, two libraries and conference facilities.

Susan was particularly impressed by the celebratory feel of the Zocalo, a traffic-free square

in the center of town. There were government-sponsored fiestas, dancing and music on the square nearly every evening despite the fact that Oaxaca is the poorest state in Mexico.

Dining out in Oaxaca offered unexpected pleasures. We learned that the area is famous for its culinary offerings,

particularly mole, a sauce that includes chocolate flavoring. I sampled the concoction—finding it smooth, creamy and not too sweet—over turkey at Casa Oaxaca, a lovely dining establishment featuring rooftop views of the towers of the church

See MEXICO, 7B



Mary Bridgman's friend Susan unpacks in the room they shared at a bed and breakfast.

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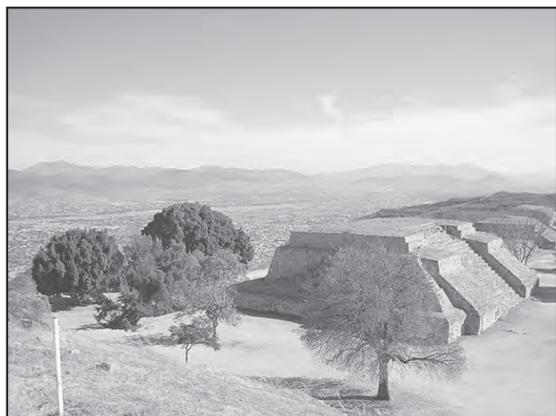


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## Starke Kiwanis Club Sporting Clays Tournament!

Saturday May 17th, 2014

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Registration includes NSCA & FSCA fees, lunch & awards

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LUNCH WILL BE SERVED FROM 12:00 - 1:30 PM.

The Handicap Game will be available for the West Course if you wish to participate. Cost is \$10/shooter/course. The Payout will be as follows: 1-5 shooters participating, winner takes all; 6-15 shooters participating, the top two split 60 / 40; 16-25 shooters participating, the top three split 50 / 30 / 20. Ties will divide. NSCA shooters only. Handicap targets per class will be: M + 0, AA + 3, A + 4, B + 5, C + 11, D + 17, E + 20

Our Next Scheduled Registered Shoot is May 25th, 2014!

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Or Email us at [bradfordsportsmenfarm@windstream.net](mailto:bradfordsportsmenfarm@windstream.net)

## Starke Kiwanis clay shoot is May 17

The Kiwanis Club of Starke will be hosting its annual clay shoot on Saturday, May 17, at 9 a.m. at the Bradford Sportsmen's Farm in Graham.

The National Sporting Clay Association-registered shoot will award cash prizes—dependent upon the overall number of shooters—for high-overall score, overall runner-up and for first, second and third places in each class (A, B and C).

Registration is from 8 a.m. until 10 a.m. and costs \$75, which includes 100 targets.

Lunch will be available from noon until 1:30 p.m.

For more information, please call Kiwanis Club of Starke member Sherry Ruskowski at the Arc of Bradford County (904-964-7699), or visit the Bradford Sportsmen's Farm website at [www.bsfsportsmen.com](http://www.bsfsportsmen.com).

## Alter Eagles highlight May 17 Santa Fe 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.

## College for Kids registration is ongoing

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.)

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.



Joshua Williams

## Williams graduates from UF

Joshua C. Williams graduated from the University of Florida on May 4, 2014.

Williams, the 2011 KHHS Valedictorian, completed two degrees in three years. He graduated with Honors, with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the Warrington School of Business with a Minor in Organizational Leadership for Non-Profits.

At UF, Williams was a University of Florida Scholar and worked on research involving the codification of ethics into our capitalistic system and its impact on modern businesses and presented research at the Annual University of Florida Undergraduate Research Program in the spring of 2013.

His record of service during his three years at the university was recognized recently as he is a recipient of a University of Florida Presidential Service Award.

Williams plans to continue his education in Law and Philosophy. He has accepted a \$62,000 scholarship to attend the University of Southern California Gould School of Law to earn his Juris Doctorate.

Sincerely,  
Richard Brinker,  
2014 Chairman of the  
Timucua District

Williams is the son of Mike and Rebecca Williams of Keystone Heights and grandson of Barbara Northam of Keystone Heights and Charles and Patti Williams of Palatka.



## Birth: Kyleigh Mychelle Pauley

Jennifer Leigh Robbins and Matthew Stuart Pauley of Starke, wish to announce the birth of their daughter, Kyleigh Mychelle Pauley on April 24, 2014 at 6:31 p.m., at the Birth Center, Shands Lake Shore, Lake City.

Maternal grandparents are Gillie Robbins and Wayne Goodwin of Starke. Paternal grandparents are Stuart and Janice Pauley of Julington Creek, and Susie and Kirby Smith of Keystone Heights.

Paternal great-grandparents are Grady and Gabriella Pauley of Lawtey. Paternal great-great grandparents are Margaret Pauley and the late Obed Pauley of Lawtey.

## Click It or Ticket campaign underway in Starke

The Starke Police Department has joined with hundreds of other law enforcement agencies across Florida in renewing a pledge to save lives by intensifying efforts to enforce seat belt laws during the Click It or Ticket mobilization.

This enforcement, which began May 12, runs through Memorial Day (May 26).

"Memorial Day weekend is upon us, and that means excitement in the air and summer fun," Starke Police Chief Jeff Johnson said. "We hope everyone has a safe and fun holiday weekend. Most importantly, we hope everyone returns home from their fun activities alive and well."

"Help ensure your chances by wearing your seatbelts. It's not only the law, but it's the smart thing to do."

Starke Police Capt. Barry Warren said, "Worn correctly, seat belts have proven to reduce the risk of fatal injury in a crash by 45 percent for front-seat passenger vehicle occupants and by 60 percent in pickup trucks, SUVs and minivans. In fact, data shows that more than three-quarters (77 percent) of passenger vehicle occupants who were in a serious crash in 2006 and were buckled up survived the crash."

To learn more, please visit [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov).

## LETTERS

EDITOR@BCTELEGRAPH.COM

## Does illegal annexation mean city of Starke owes business?

Dear Editor:

It was with great interest that I read the April 24th front page article "Not So Fast", wherein Sheriff Gordon Smith and Sergeant Ray Shuford enlightened the public to the City of Starke illegally annexing properties south of the city limits including US 301 and more important to me, Southwest 143rd Street. Since 143rd Street was apparently annexed illegally, then any demands made by the City of Starke regarding that roadway must therefore have been done without legal ground.

During construction of Knuckle Draggers Motorcycles and Accessories, Inc. at its current location in the county, the Florida Department of Transportation withdrew permission for access from US 301 and informed us we had to have our access made from 143rd Street. We then discovered we had to contact the City of Starke to get permission to access our county property from their city street.

While the City Manager gave us the approval for access to the property, the permission was based on our compliance with new specifications dictated by him for entrance to and exit from the property resulting in greater costs to us for engineering and pavement. Those specifications resulted in loss of additional paved parking, very important for our motorcycle riding customers. Additionally, access was granted only if we paid for paving 143rd Street from US 301 for 185 feet to the west and 20 feet wide. The pavement on 143rd alone cost us \$13,460.00.

A little history is important now for those who do not know. Southwest 143rd Street provides access from US 301 to the city sewage spray field and to a sod farm which leases the spray field from Starke. That business existed before we did. The nature of its business results in

many vehicles weighing tens of thousands of pounds with their loads of sod using 143rd Street. The City of Starke has not paved the street. The sod business was not required to pave it for its customers to gain access. Why were we required to do so? 143rd Street beyond our required pavement is riddled with potholes and only once in four years have I seen it graded.

Now I wonder why our business was required to pave what another was not in order to gain access to its business. If Starke illegally annexed 143rd Street, did the City Manager illegally burden us with additional construction specifications and costs? I think the city owes Knuckle Draggers \$13,460.00. Since the decision was made by the City Manager, I think it would be appropriate for him and his supervisor(s) to reimburse us, not the taxpayers. The taxpayers have paid enough by paying the salary of managers who made bad decisions. The city managers will of course use the excuse that they were misguided by counsel. If that is the case, hire new counsel and pay up.

Jack Schenck  
Knuckle Draggers  
Motorcycles and Accessories  
Starke

## Boy Scouts thankful for support

Dear Editor:

Thank you friends and family of the Boy Scouts of America. Our Timucua District (made up of Putnam County, Bradford County and Keystone Heights) of the North Florida Council thanks all the members of our communities. We are grateful for the parents and grandparents who bring their sons to the meetings and support them in so many ways...many of whom are also serving as scouting leaders.

We are grateful for our volunteer leaders. They do so much and with very little thanks except for the smiles on the faces of the boys they serve.

We are grateful for those who contribute financially. Individuals have contributed so

generously in our "Friends of Scouting" campaign. Recently we held an "American Values Dinner" in both Starke and in Palatka. Both were an overwhelming success. The energy and enthusiasm were wonderful. Many, many folks of our communities stepped up to invite others and the response was terrific.

Once again, I thank every one of you for the effort and generosity each one has demonstrated as we move ahead in support of our boys and young men through the Boy Scouts of America.

Sincerely,  
Richard Brinker,  
2014 Chairman of the  
Timucua District

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# CRIME

## Recent arrests in Bradford, Clay and Union

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

### Bradford

Briana Roshae Aaron, 23, of Starke was arrested May 7 by Starke police for possession of cocaine and drug equipment, selling cocaine and public order crimes-using two-way communication device to commit a felony. According to the arrest report, a confidential buy was made from Aaron for cocaine and marijuana, with the transaction monitored and recorded on video by the police department. Bond was set at \$155,000 for the charges.

Isaiah Allen, 49, of Starke was arrested May 6 by Starke police for probation violation. No bond was allowed for the charge.

Iven Keith Allen, 61, of Raiford was arrested May 6 by Bradford deputies on an out-of-county warrant for failure to appear for original charge of attaching an unassigned tag/license to a vehicle. Bond was set at \$1,000 for the charge.

Marvaleious I'Keme Armstrong, 23, of Jacksonville was arrested May 6 by Lawtey police for driving without having a valid driver's license. Bond was set at \$500 for the charge.

John Michael Barnhard, 30, of St. Petersburg was arrested May 11 by Bradford deputies for possession of marijuana during a traffic stop for not wearing a seat belt.

Angela McGaw Brown, 39, of Hampton was arrested May 10 by Bradford deputies for driving while license suspended or revoked. Bond was set at \$500 for the charge.

Christopher Duane Brown, 37, of Hampton was arrested May 10

by Bradford deputies for failure to appear. Bond was set at \$1,000 for the charge.

Tremaine Alvin Byrd, 29, of Starke was arrested May 7 by Starke police for child abuse causing bodily harm. According to the arrest report, Byrd is accused of spanking a girlfriend's 7-year-old child with a switch hard enough to cause bruising to the back of the child's legs and buttocks. Bond was set at \$50,000 for the charges.

Ieashae Selest Chandler, 23, of Jacksonville was arrested May 9 by Bradford deputies on a warrant for Food Stamp fraud. Bond was set at \$15,000 for the charge.

Larry Earl Dobbs, 43, of Raiford was arrested May 6 by Bradford deputies for probation violation.

Shawn Roy Fischer, 19, of Jacksonville was arrested May 7 by Bradford deputies for possession of a weapon or ammo by a convicted felon, possession of marijuana and possession of drugs-controlled substance without a prescription. According to the arrest report, a deputy was parked at the Kangaroo at S.R. 16 and U.S. 301 in Starke when a vehicle pulled in front of the deputy's vehicle and slammed on the brakes. Fischer exited the vehicle and walked toward the deputy, saying he needed to use his phone. The deputy told Fischer the Kangaroo had a phone, but Fischer was acting strange, walking in circles and becoming angry at the deputy. He dropped a bag with marijuana on the ground as he went back to his vehicle, at which time the deputy asked him to stand in front of the car. The deputy found two pills and ammo to a revolver in the seat, and arrested Fischer. Bond was set at \$9,500 for the charges.

Preston Ford, 56, of Jacksonville was arrested May 12 by Bradford deputies on an out-of-county warrant from Jefferson for driving while license permanently revoked. Bond was set at \$2,500 for the charge.

Roger Neil Gilliam, 46, of Waldo was arrested May 6 by Starke police for disorderly intoxication and for loitering-prowling. According to the arrest report, Gilliam was found behind an office building on S.R. 100 in Starke by police after a pedestrian, observing him banging on a window, called 911. Gilliam was intoxicated and wouldn't explain to the officer what he was doing behind the building. There was no apparent damage to the window or building. Bond was set at \$1,000 for the charges.

Theodore Franklin Hurst, 51, of Starke was arrested May 7 by Bradford deputies for failing to register as a sex offender and for failing to report a residence change as a sex offender. Hurst is a convicted sexual predator, and bond was set at \$50,000 for the charges.

Brandon Lee Kay, 26, of Jacksonville was arrested May 8 by Bradford deputies for failure to appear.

Taurean Tivon Keel, 25, of Gainesville was arrested May 8 by Bradford deputies for probation violation. Bond was set at \$1,000 for the charge.

Kenneth Ash McNeal, 50, of Brooker was arrested May 6 by Bradford deputies for resisting an officer-fleeing and eluding a law enforcement officer with lights and siren active, and for driving while license suspended or revoked. According to the arrest report, a deputy spotted McNeal driving on C.R. 18 near Graham and turned around to stop him, as the deputy knew McNeal's license was permanently revoked. The deputy got behind McNeal with his flashing lights, but he didn't pull over, so the deputy activated his siren. McNeal still didn't pull over, and eventually turned off C.R. 18 and made several other turns before pulling into his residence. He told the deputy he didn't stop because he didn't want his vehicle towed. Bond was set at \$20,000 for the charges.

Sholeke Lomeke Merriweather, 25, of Starke

was arrested May 11 by Starke police for criminal mischief-property damage. According to the arrest report, Merriweather got into an argument with Takiesha McCutchen outside at Whispering Oaks Apartments in Starke. During the argument, Merriweather ran over to McCutchen's vehicle and kicked it, causing damage. McCutchen, 30, of Starke, then got into her vehicle and attempted to hit Merriweather with it as she moved it to another parking space. McCutchen was also arrested by Starke police and charged with aggravated assault with a weapon. Bond was set at \$500 for the charge against Merriweather, while bond for McCutchen's charge was set at \$1,000.

Michael Wayne Minton, 39, of Middleburg was arrested May 6 by Lawtey police on an out-of-county warrant. Bond was set at \$2,012 for the charge.

Kathryn Sing Monsivais, 25, of Jacksonville was arrested May 7 by Starke police for possession of marijuana during a traffic stop. Bond was set at \$500 for the charge.

James McCracken Nooney, 39, of Keystone Heights was arrested May 9 by Bradford deputies for possession of marijuana, possession of cocaine, possession of drugs-controlled substance without prescription, possession of drug equipment and for destroying evidence. According to the arrest report, Nooney was a passenger in a van that was stopped for speeding at C.R. 18 and S.R. 100. They deputy smelled marijuana and asked to search the van. He found a small amount of cocaine in a wallet and then observed Nooney trying to bury a Crown Royal bag in the dirt with his foot. The bag contained a larger amount of cocaine. A K9 was then called in, discovering a plastic container with more marijuana and a pipe used for smoking the marijuana. Nooney stated that all the drugs and the pipe were his, and he was arrested. Bond was set at \$85,000 for the charges.

Joshua W. Padgett, 22, of Starke was arrested May 12 by Bradford deputies for driving while license suspended or revoked, failing to register his vehicle, possession of drugs and destroying evidence. According to the arrest report, a deputy was called to Market Road in Starke about a suspicious vehicle. The deputy observed a vehicle parked in a driveway with the gate closed and ran the tag, which wasn't registered to any vehicle. When Padgett left in the vehicle, the deputy pulled him over, but Padgett tossed two objects out the window before pulling over. The objects turned out to be synthetic marijuana, recovered by a Starke police officer, who arrived to assist the deputy.

Matthew Aaron Pardekooper, 27, of Starke was arrested May 7 by Bradford deputies on an out-of-county warrant from Putnam for failure to pay child support.

Leslie Michelle Parrish, 31, of Starke was arrested May 12 by Bradford deputies on an out-of-county warrant from Union for battery with no bond allowed.

Dylan Chase Phillips, 18, of Gainesville was arrested May 11 by Bradford deputies for burglary.

According to the arrest report, a homeowner on Northwest C.R. 233 woke up to feed her young baby when she discovered a man asleep on her living room couch. She woke up her boyfriend, who confronted Phillips, but Phillips ran out of the back door of the house. A neighbor, who had called deputies earlier to search for a man that left his home all of a sudden after being there with his daughter's friend, was outside his home when he saw Phillips being chased out of the victim's home. The neighbor detained Phillips, who later told law enforcement that he was drunk and didn't know how he ended up sleeping on the couch of the victim's home.

Mildred Elizabeth Pope, 24, of Starke was arrested May 10 by Starke police for battery and on an out-of-county warrant from Union for failure to appear on an original charge of driving without a valid license. According to the arrest report, Pope got into an argument with her husband and cut him on the forehead by throwing an unknown object at him. She then threw a picture at him, cutting his hands with the glass frame. Bond was set at \$7,500 for the charges.

Maurice Javonne Portis, 25, of Starke was arrested May 6 by Bradford deputies for probation violation.

Patrice Lynette Randall, 43, of Kissimmee was arrested May 9 by Bradford deputies for two charges of probation violation.

Lishawn Likeith Sharon, 27, of Palatka was arrested May 8 by Lawtey police for two charges of possession of marijuana, possession of drug equipment, fraud-using a false name, driving while license suspended or revoked and for an out-of-county warrant. Bond was set at \$106,000 for the charges.

Joseph Brian Stafford, 44, of Perry was arrested May 11 by Bradford deputies for probation violation.

Vincent Wayne Sutherland, 36, of Alachua was arrested May 7 by Bradford deputies on a warrant for welfare fraud. Bond was set at \$1,000 for the charge.

Clara Denne Tedder, 48, of Lawtey was arrested May 6 by Bradford deputies for aggravated assault with a weapon. According to the arrest report, Tedder and her boyfriend started arguing before Tedder began packing her clothes to leave the residence. When the boyfriend asked her to not take his movies, she started screaming and striking him with a shoe. She then went outside to a shed, returned with an axe and began to chase the boyfriend and his teenage son around the home. They both went outside and called law enforcement, but could hear Tedder breaking things inside the home. When deputies arrived, Tedder claimed the victim had actually started the argument by demanding she make him some food, grabbing her by the arm, head-butting her, and throwing her against a fireplace before she went outside to get the axe in self-defense. In the report, the deputy stated he didn't observe any injuries or markings on Tedder that were consistent with her story and arrested her for assault. Bond was set at \$25,000 for the charge.

Matthew Leon Wilkerson, 29, of Raiford was arrested May 9 by Bradford deputies for driving while license suspended or revoked. Bond was set at \$5,000 for the charge.

Allen Lee Williams, 32, of Lawtey was arrested May 12 by Bradford deputies for contempt of court-violation of an injunction protection domestic violence and for possession of cocaine. According to the arrest report, the cocaine was found on Williams when deputies arrested him on the contempt of court charge.

### Keystone/Melrose

David Austin, 42, of Keystone Heights was arrested May 12 by Clay deputies for battery.

Sarah Drawdy, 19, of Keystone Heights was arrested May 11 by Clay deputies for an out-of-county warrant.

Delcia Fermin-Gonzales, 56, of Keystone Heights was arrested May 9 by Clay deputies for battery on a person 65 years or older. According to an arrest report, Fermin-Gonzales had an argument with her roommate and then attacked the victim with a stun gun.

Curtis Franke, 24, of Keystone Heights was arrested May 8 by Clay deputies for contempt of court.

Earl Murby, 49, of Keystone Heights was arrested May 9 by Clay deputies for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. According to an arrest report, Murby and another man were arguing about money when Murby pulled out a gun and fired five rounds toward the victim's camper. Murby then walked over to the camper and fired two additional rounds, while threatening the other man's girlfriend.

Marc Perreault, 35, of Keystone Heights was arrested May 7 by Clay deputies for a probation violation.

Natalee Strombeck, 22, of Keystone Heights was arrested May 7 by Clay deputies for failure to appear.

Travis Vazquez, 25, of Keystone Heights was arrested May 12 by Clay deputies for possession of not more than 20 grams of cannabis and reckless driving.

Tony Waters, 50, of Keystone Heights was arrested on May 8 by Clay deputies for discharging a firearm in public, possession of not more than 20 grams of cannabis, battery and possession of drug paraphernalia. According to a sheriff's office report, Waters confronted three men who were doing wheelies on dirt bikes and ATVs in the dry bed of Lake Geneva near his home. With his granddaughter watching, Waters struck two of the men in the sternum with the barrel of a 12-gauge shotgun. As the victims fled the scene, Waters fired three shots over their heads. A Clay County deputy wrote that before interviewing Waters about the incident, he patted down Waters for his own safety. During the search, the deputy found marijuana and a pipe in Waters' pants pockets.

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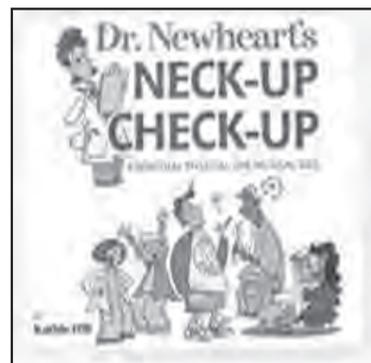
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Keystone's Ray Trimble sprints past a diving tackler.

## SPRING

Continued from 1B

stake. They're trying to learn. Their noses are in the playbook."

Reynolds is excited about the fact he has seven rising seniors battling for spots along the offensive line, saying, "We're getting as much production from the offensive line as we have the last three or four springs."

In looking at all of the players attending practices, Reynolds said they are eager to learn from coaches and fellow players and diligent in attending meetings and fulfilling other requirements.

Luke said it's a good, close-knit group.

"We've all got each other's backs no matter what," Luke said. "We're going to be there for each other."

Bradford will play an intra-squad Scarlet and Gray scrimmage on Thursday, May 15, at 6 p.m. (Admission is free.) The Tornadoes will cap the spring with a three-team classic at Newberry High School on Friday, May 23. Play begins at 7 p.m. with Bradford taking on Dunnellon. Dunnellon will then play Newberry before Newberry plays Bradford.

"It's going to just be great to be out there in another game-day situation," Luke said. "Nothing beats game days."

### Keystone

The Indians are coming off of a district championship season, which provides a good spark for spring practices, Gibbs said. However, he also noted that the team will lose quite a few seniors, so the 2014 team can't get caught up in what happened last season. Gibbs' mindset is, "Let's just get it started, boys, (and) not think about last year, not think about the past. Just start off fresh and make things happen for us and make our own name."

Keystone loses 14 players from last season and could count on a lot of newcomers.

"We've got a big freshman class," head coach Chuck Dickinson said. "I'm looking at a lot of them this spring to see if they can play or not."

There are several areas of concern for Keystone. The Indians will have to replace quarterback Blake Valenzuela and tight end Micah Brown, as well as find several new starters on the offensive line to play alongside Joe Pace and Roy Williams.

On defense, the Indians currently have no returning linebackers, with Sam Anderson sitting out this spring as he

trying to keep stuff simple this year. Right now, we've got kids who don't understand the routes and things like that, but it'll come."

Gibbs said his fellow players are like brothers, and he can't wait to start the season with them. However, he knows the team is not where it needs to be just yet.

"We've just got to keep working hard every practice and not give anything less than 110 percent," Gibbs said.

Keystone will travel to St. Augustine to play a classic against Menendez on Friday, May 23, at 7 p.m.

"I'm ready to hit somebody else and get our season started," Gibbs said.

### Union

The Tigers lose 17 players from last season, but Pruitt doesn't see a lot of difference between the players out this spring and the ones who come out in springs past. They are coachable and do whatever is asked of them, Pruitt said.

This year, though, the Tigers seem to be benefiting from new strength and conditioning coach Mark Williams.

"He's got these kids pumped up about getting strong and getting in shape," Pruitt said.

Driggers is just pumped up to be out on the field again, saying, "I like being able to spend time with the guys I'm going to be playing with over the fall and just growing with them and getting

better."

Battling it out through tough, hot practices is not always easy, Driggers said, but he added it just takes a certain mindset to be successful.

"You can always push harder than you think," he said, adding, "If you push through it, it just makes you stronger."

The right mindset is key also in that some players find themselves learning positions they're not familiar with. For example, players who have most of their experience on the defensive side of the ball are getting a look at offensive line, Pruitt said.

"We're putting them in different roles and trying to teach them," Pruitt said. "They're picking it up. They've got great attitudes."

There are key roles to be filled on the offensive side of the ball as just two starters return on the offensive line and one returns to the offensive backfield.

Defensively, the Tigers have issues, too. Driggers is the only returner at linebacker, while the secondary's most experienced player returning is probably Kel Galloway, who played a limited role last year. Isaiah Johnson also brings experience to the secondary, but he has been and will be such an important part of the offense.



Bradford's Trevor Shannahan prepares to hit the tackling dummy as head coach Steve Reynolds looks on.

"We've got to find a way to get more guys involved and more guys on the field, and be able to have a little more gas in the fourth quarter," Pruitt said.

Younger players will have to step up, but Driggers is confident in how things will play out.

"Some of them still have a lot of learning and growing to do,"

Driggers said, "but I think we'll do very well."

Union caps the spring by hosting a classic against Duval Charter on Friday, May 23, at 7 p.m.

"You're glad to get on the field and actually hit somebody who's not wearing the same colors as you," Driggers said.

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Union County's Josh Smith works on technique with his fellow defensive linemen. To view more photos from Union, Bradford and Keystone practices, please visit [www.StarkeJournal.com](http://www.StarkeJournal.com). (Membership required.) All photos by Cliff Smelley.



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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



Grace Berry

## Grace Berry

STARKE—Grace South Berry 97, died Monday, May 5, 2014. She was born in Balwin, Miss. on June 23, 1916, and lived in Starke for the past 22 years. She is the daughter of the late B.C. South and Kate Hifflin South. She worked as a bookkeeper for Plough Inc. She is preceded in death by her husband: Virgil A. Berry. She is survived by: her step son Dr. Virgil Berry of Starke; sister, Barbara Lumpkin of Oklahoma City; one granddaughter; one grandson;

and one great-granddaughter. Archer Funeral Home is in charge of all arrangements. Burial will be held at a later date.

## Florence Silcox

NORWALK, OHIO – Florence H. Silcox, 94, of Norwalk, Ohio, passed away Tuesday evening, April 29, 2014 in Twilight Gardens Home. She was born April 2, 1920 in Havana, Ohio to the late George N. and Myerl R. (Perry) Baker, and was a lifelong area resident. Florence was the Valedictorian of the North Fairfield High School Class of 1937. She was a member of St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church, Norwalk, and was a former employee of Schild's IGA in Norwalk. Florence enjoyed playing cards, bingo, reading, embroidery, baking, and studying her Bible, and spending time with her family. Florence was preceded in death by her husband, Oscar A. Silcox in 1998, and by her sister, Vernice Roth.

She is survived by: her daughters, Yvonne (Daniel) Obringer of Norwalk, and Mary (Thomas) Osborn of Keystone Heights. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Kathleen Miller, Amy (Sean) Berry, Jeffrey (Amy) Obringer, and Gregory (Ann) Obringer, and by her great-grandchildren, Colleen, Erica, and Kennan Miller, Larissa, Alaina, Ian, Brenna, Anessa, Sela, and

Mara Berry, Colin, Quinn, Matigan, Samantha, Sydney, Blake, Garrett, and Eli Obringer.

Services were held Saturday, May 3, at 11:00 a.m. in St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church, 243 Benedict Avenue, Norwalk. Rev. David Connor officiated. Interment was in St. Peter Lutheran Cemetery in Pontiac. Memorial contributions may be made to Stein Hospice Service, 1200 Sycamore Line, Sandusky, Ohio 44870, or to St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church, 243 Benedict Ave., Norwalk, OH 44587. Walker Funeral Home, 98 West Main Street, Norwalk was in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be made by going to [www.edwalkerfuneralhome.com](http://www.edwalkerfuneralhome.com).

PAID OBITUARY



Doris Summerlin

## Doris Summerlin

STARKE—Doris Watson Summerlin, age 82, died peacefully on Saturday, May 10, 2014 after an extended illness. She was born on Sept. 21, 1931 in Lakeland, Ga., to

William Curtis Watson and Flossie Nix Watson. She moved to Starke around 1955. Doris worked for Rowe Enterprises until retiring in 2009, where she was famous for home cooked lunches and also breakfast and lunches for the hunters at Moccasin Quail Preserve. She was a member of Kingsley Lake Baptist Church in Starke.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Curt and Flossie Watson, by her husbands, Olan Rowe and Melvin Summerlin and two brothers: Frank Watson and James E. Watson.

She is survived by: her daughter, Sharon (Al) Coston of Starke, three sons, Jerry (Donna) Rowe of Starke, Gary (Mary) Rowe of Moyock, N.C., and Mel Summerlin of Gainesville, a step-son, Jimmy (Aileen) Summerlin of Jacksonville, a sister, Theresa Watson Reardon of Albany, Ga., a brother, William Russell (Evelyn) Watson of Hampton, two sister-in-laws, Joan Watson of Graham, and Carolyn Watson of Ray City, Ga., 13 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren. She is also survived by many loving cousins, nieces, nephews and friends in Florida and Georgia.

Funeral Services will be held on Sunday, May 18, at 2:00 p.m. at Kingsley Lake Baptist Church, State Road 16 East in Starke, FL. 32091 with Pastor Zeb Cook officiating. Interment will be at Crosby Lake Cemetery in Starke. Visitation will be held on Saturday, May 17, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Jones Gallagher Funeral Home, 620 E. Nona Street, Starke.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made in memory of Doris to: Kingsley Lake Baptist Church, 6289 Mary Dot Lane, Starke, FL. 32091 or to Haven Hospice, 4200 N.W. 90<sup>th</sup> Blvd, Gainesville, FL. 32606.

Arrangements under the care of nephew, Clay Watson owner of Watson Funeral Home, 426 W. Wade Street, Trenton, FL. 32693 (352) 463-8888, and assisted by nephew, Doug Watson.

Online condolences or to sign the guest book at [www.watsonflh.com](http://www.watsonflh.com)

PAID OBITUARY



Jesse Wheeler

## Jesse Wheeler

STARKE—Mr. Jesse Thomas Wheeler, age 67, of Starke passed away Wednesday, May 7, 2014 at Shands UF from injuries sustained in an automobile accident. Mr. Wheeler was born on Jan. 20, 1947 in Nashville, Tenn. to the late Herschel Fred Wheeler, Sr. and Nellie Bell (Thomas) Wheeler and was a lifelong area resident. Prior to retirement he was the meat market manager for Winn Dixie and later worked for Hitchcock's as their meat market manager. Jesse served six years in the Florida Army National Guard and operated a booth at the Waldo Flea Market where he made many friends. He was a Gator fan and a NASCAR fan especially Dale Earnhart. Jesse was a very involved grandfather, enjoyed fishing and along with his family had a wildlife sanctuary. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his brother Herschel Fred Wheeler, Jr.

Survivors are: sons, Richie Wheeler and Devin Wheeler both of Starke; brothers, Paul (Pam) Wheeler of Starke, Jimmy (Cindy) Wheeler of Starke, Donald "J.J." (Linda) Wheeler of Keystone Heights; grandson, Konley Snyder of Starke; close friend and mother of his children, Glenda Wheeler of Starke.

A casual memorial service will be held on Saturday afternoon, May 17, at 4 o'clock in the Dewitt C. Jones Chapel of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 620 Nona Street, Starke, with Reverend Gene Bass officiating. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made in is memory to your favorite charity. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke 904-964-6200. On-line condolences may be left at [www.jonesgallagherfh.com](http://www.jonesgallagherfh.com).

PAID OBITUARY

## Card of Thanks

We the family of the late Vera Aaron would like to thank each and everyone for all of the love you've shown to our family. We could never thank you enough. We will forever be so very grateful to each and every one of you. We would like to give a special thanks to Haile Funeral Home and staff for going above and beyond their call of duty during our time of bereavement. We would also like to give a special thanks to Dr. Joelle Simon-Greenwood for always being there for Vera. We will never forget any of you.

Thanks again  
The Family of the late  
Vera Aaron

## MEXICO

Continued from 3B

of Santo Domingo.

Although our lodgings in Oaxaca were inexpensive—\$150 per person per week for a shared double room—premium lodgings are available. Tami stayed at a nice hotel for \$150 per night. Another student, who was sent for Spanish studies by his employer, stayed at an even more impressive luxury hotel, Quinta Real. The Quinta had the look of a former convent or monastery and reminded me of paradors that I'd stayed at in Europe.

During our stay in Oaxaca, Susan and I felt completely safe. Before we left, we checked for U.S. Department of State travel advisories and found none related to Oaxaca. We often saw police patrolling the city on foot, accompanied by leashed dogs. One evening, when we couldn't find a restaurant we wanted to try, we asked one of the policemen to help us. He promptly radioed someone to get the information, and together with several of his colleagues, escorted us to the place.

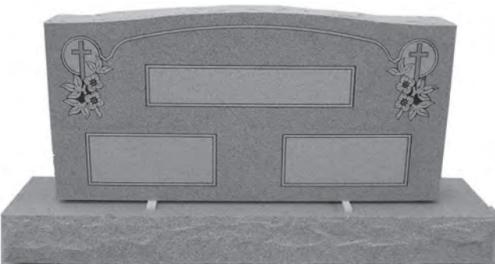
On my last evening in Oaxaca, Susan and I joined four other students from the school for a buffet dinner and a colorful folk dance exhibition at Quinta Real. During one of the numbers, a male performer grabbed my hand and led me to the stage to dance. Several others in the audience accepted similar invitations, not quite understanding exactly what we were doing, but getting the hang of it in a spirit of international goodwill.

I can't say that I had a breakthrough learning experience with Spanish during my week in Oaxaca. By far, the most frustrating moments came during conversation, when the vast expanse of my ignorance hit full force. I'd sit in silence, white noise filling my brain as I struggled to formulate the words needed to express my thoughts. However, I can say that my Spanish, limited though it may be, proved more than adequate for shopping, ordering meals, taking taxis and asking directions.

I had an enjoyable time in Oaxaca, an intense and lively learning experience. After a week of study, I understood that fluency in Spanish would take me years to attain. With pocket translators readily accessible on my Smartphone, I'll probably never have sufficient motivation to learn, but there's more to learning another language than wrestling with grammatical rules. I'll always treasure memories of simple human interactions with people of another culture, from a different country, who spoke—and taught—a mellifluous language not my own.

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# FINS, FUR & TAILS

## Making quick work of cleaning bream

Since it is bream fishing season, it is also bream cleaning season. For those who ardently look for the beds, catch them in large numbers and eat them, the cleaning chore can be much more daunting than the catching part. These are the finned creatures that can keep the attention of the youngest members of the family who want to go fishing, but quickly become bored when it comes to waiting.

Shellcrackers, redbellies and bluegills are all excellent eating. Just do not try to fillet them, because they are just a little too small for the boning procedure. Learn where the pin bones are and separate them after cooking, and the backbone presents no problems. Without filleting them, you will necessarily scale them, which, along with the bones, actually enhances the taste. Unfortunately, it also makes the process a little more tedious and adds to the daunting nature of cleaning large numbers of small fish.

Some fishermen who love catching and eating bream have become rather efficient at the cleaning process, and Dennis Burkhalter is one of these fishermen. Burkhalter can clean a large bunch of panfish without making a big mess, and he can do it quite efficiently as well.

Burkhalter uses a tumbler scaler, which advertises that it can scale 50 fish at a time. However, Burkhalter prefers to use groups of 20.

"It takes less time and does a better job," he said.

After the scaling process, Burkhalter removes the fish one at a time and places them on a modified paper cutter, as shown in the accompanying photo. He raises the lever, places the fish into position and with one cut, he cleanly removes the fish's head. This could not be done with the original paper-cutting blade because it typically has a square or chamfer edge. In order to cut fish flesh, the blade needs a beveled edge like a knife. Burkhalter removed the paper-cutting blade and put a sharp, knife-like edge on it. The process is smooth, clean and completed in microseconds.

Another tool that Burkhalter uses is a citrus spoon. The spoon is shaped like any other spoon, but it has serrated edges. The spoon is perfectly sized to clean the body chamber of panfish, and with one scoop into the fish's body, it needs only to be washed off to complete the cleaning process in record time.



**ABOVE: Dennis Burkhalter prepares his tumbler scaler for action. RIGHT: Burkhalter places a bream in position on the paper cutter for the deheading process.**



### Outdoors outlook

The big female bass are less common at local tournaments, and the bass bite has tapered off locally in late spring.

The cool water-loving crappie are gradually seeking the colder temperatures in deeper water, which is also slowing their bite. However, May starts the beginning of bream season. The warmer weather triggers these panfish's spawning instinct, and they will readily pop a cork

under the water. These are great targets for those youngsters that are too impatient for bass.

The shellcrackers, which are the largest of the three types, will probably bed around full moon in many of the local lakes. The bluegills, which are just as broad, but not as thick in body size, will peak their bedding habits for the month around the same moon, but they are so prolific that they are already spreading their pungent mating smell around the

**Wally Johns, who is from Starke, and Mark Roberts win the Save Rodman Tournament.**



shorelines. The redbellies, which are the smallest, but also the prettiest of the three, will follow bluegill habits, but in the creeks and rivers in our local areas.

K.J. Stormant and Jim Thornton launched their boat at Sampson Lake on May 13 in the afternoon and bream fished the docks and lake cover of Sampson with little luck. However, the wind made it difficult for them to stay in place, so they sought refuge in the canal between Sampson and Rowell. Finally, they found a few places where it was difficult to keep crickets on their hooks, and they ended up with a cooler half full of keepers. More telling was the fact that some of the fish appeared to be full of roe.

### Tournament results

At the April 29 Bald Eagle Bass Tournament, Andy Spartman and Darren Cowart placed first and also landed the "big bass," while Evan Hurst and Joe Yarborough placed second.

Cody Black and Robert Black took first in the May 7 Bald Eagle event, with Hurst and

Yarborough placing second. Ed Prader placed third, while Erick Dougherty and Emily Canto landed the "big bass."

At the April 30 Sampson Lake Bass Tournament, Zack Smith and Richard Kingsberry placed first, while Bradon Gray and Cason Noles placed second. Sam Sibley and Donnie Brooks



**Mike Christie displays the big bass caught at the April 30 Sampson Lake Bass Tournament.**

made up the third-place team, while Jonathon Nash and Randal Alvarez were fourth. Mike Christie landed the "big bass."

Trevor Corbitt and Drew Rogers landed the "big bass" at the May 8 Sampson Lake Bass tournament and placed first. Alvarez and Mike Rhoden placed second, while James Robinson and Tyler Carr were third. Braden Esimer and Tommy Wallace placed fourth.

Local fishermen continue to make good showings in major charity tournaments in the Palatka area. The April 26 NEFAR tournament, which gives its proceeds to Haven Hospice, featured a good number of locals that finished with recognition, including Timmy Givens, Coy Givens, Wally Johns, Mark Roberts, Glen Barnes, C.K. Ryan, Chuck Foster, Richard Barnes, Robert Black, Cody Black, Treg Johns and John Mobley.

The Save Rodman Tournament, organized to support the preservation of Rodman Lake, gave up the winning position to Wally Johns of Starke and Mark Roberts of Middleburg. Tight lines until next week.

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**SALARY: Based on degree and experience, plus benefits**  
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# ROWE

Continued from 2B

but he said the worst cases are where somebody is not making payments and receives eviction notices, but says nothing to their spouse.

"Thankfully, most of the time they go ahead and move out before we get there," Shannon said. "Rarely do we do an occupied eviction."

Rowe Enterprises may have to evict itself from its current home on U.S. 301 in Hampton. Due to the amount of growth it has experienced, it really needs a larger building.

"That's a good problem to have," Jonathan said.

## Growing a business, a family and a community

It began in 1995 with Jerry Rowe doing inspections of properties that went into delinquency. His wife, Donna, helped him at nights with paperwork and photos. Smith said within two years, the business, which became incorporated in 1999, moved into the Rowes' barn.

From there, the business "grew in leaps and bounds," Shannon Rowe said. Other people may have been able to ride by properties and take pictures, but not everyone could prepare invoices, make sure they got paid and handle other aspects of the business side of things, she said.

"Jerry's a very good businessman," Shannon said. "He just is."

The office moved from the barn into a doublewide trailer. Approximately two years later, another move was made into the building the business currently occupies—a building that offers 3,000 square feet. Smith said that prompted a few family arguments about whether or not it was too much space.

Well, it didn't take long to realize it wasn't enough space once 26 desks were installed.

"We have people in every corner possible," Smith said. "We have one working from home and two more offices next door."

Expansion included bringing family together. At the time of the business' start, Smith was attending college, while Jonathan and Shannon, were living in Georgia, where Jonathan worked for Applebees.

Jerry and Donna, though, saw an opportunity to bring their children and grandchildren closer to home, Smith said.

In a way, though, all of the employees have become family. If an employee has a problem, the Rowe family will do what it can to help, whether it's during times of need, such as deaths in the family or divorces, or just giving somebody a bit of a hand-up to get a little bit ahead in life.

The company recognizes Employees of the Month, and each employee receives a gift card on his or her birthday.

Every employee is involved in what Rowe Enterprises accomplishes, Smith said. Some of the best ideas to come out of brainstorming sessions have come from employees who aren't in management, she said.

Jonathan said taking care of employees and participating in employee-appreciation efforts goes a long way in making the business successful in terms of employee retention.

"Will I tell you we're the highest-paying place in Bradford County? Absolutely not," Jonathan said, "but I will say we do what we can. We try to be fair."

Smith said, "We've just always treated everybody like family and tried to take good care of them."

That "family" not only contributes to a successful business, but to the needs of the community as well. Smith said staff has always come together to donate to the Bradford County Food Pantry. Office events, such as Silly String Day, Holey Jean Day and Pajama Day helped raise approximately \$3,000 for last

year's Starke Police Department Shop with a Cop program.

Smith and Shannon Rowe are active in the Kiwanis Club of Starke, and that has opened their eyes to even more needs in the community.

The willingness to come together for a cause is impressive, Smith said.

"Duval County has way more need, but being such a huge community, nobody's getting involved, or there's a million different little projects," Smith said. "They don't come together near the way we can."

Perhaps it's easy to give, though, when the heads of the family—Jerry and Donna Rowe—set an example.

"I think that's part of their success," Smith said. "They've



"A property preservation company." That's a succinct way of describing all that Rowe Enterprises does.

always given back. They've always appreciated and always helped somebody who had less and needed an opportunity."

### What's next?

It would appear that part of Rowe Enterprises' future is finding a larger working space for its office staff, whether it's

utilizing its existing property for expansion or moving to a new location.

Shannon Rowe said Jerry Rowe probably didn't envision such growth from that simple start in a bedroom.

"I don't think he saw this coming," she said. "I don't think any of us saw this coming."

Outside of accommodations, Jonathan Rowe said eyes are on industry changes and how Rowe Enterprises can remain successful.

A big change in the industry is that large investment groups are buying foreclosed properties for the purpose of making them rentals, Jonathan said. The hope is that Rowe Enterprises can offer its services by preparing the properties for rental and to continue doing so between tenants.

There are other areas the business may look into.

"There are plenty of other avenues we've discussed as far as having this sized network as people begin to be homeowners again," Jonathan said. "We may look at occupied-property

opportunities—what can we do to help people and whether it's our same type of services."

Jonathan said the key is adaptability, and he believes Rowe Enterprises has already shown it has that ability.

"Are we the best in the industry at this? I couldn't tell you," Jonathan said, "but I am happy with the direction we've taken. I have seen companies come and go. I've seen several go in the last year with some industry changes and the way things have developed."

"I think we're sustainable. I think that's a lot of our benefit."

If you'd like to learn more about Rowe Enterprises, please visit the website [www.rowepp.com](http://www.rowepp.com).

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**LEGALS**

**NOTICE**  
The New River Community Health Center Board of Directors will meet May 21, 2014 at the Union County Library, located at 250 SE 5th Ave, Lake Butler, FL 32054 from 12:30 - 1:30 pm.

5/15 1tchg-B-sect