

Lake Region Monitor

USPS 114-170 – KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FLORIDA

THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2014

42ND YEAR – 5TH ISSUE – 75 CENTS

Melrose residents to get faster response

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

Bradford County aims to provide better service to its southernmost residents by relying more on friends for emergency response.

On Monday, the Bradford County Commission approved a mutual aid agreement with Alachua County, assuring that Melrose-area responders will know sooner about emergencies.

Commissioner Chairman Danny Riddick yielded his time to EMS Director Allen Parrish, who discussed the details of the agreement.

Four counties meet in the

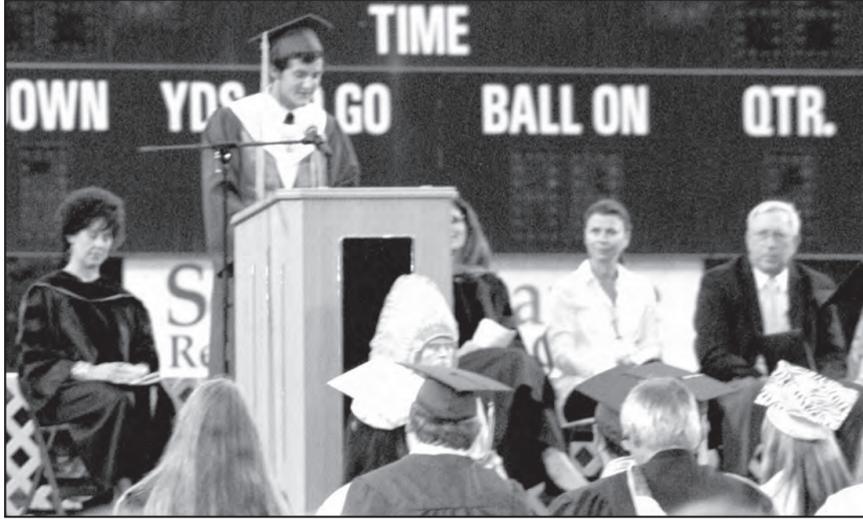
See MELROSE, 4A

Keystone graduates endure rain

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—A sea of umbrellas spread across the school's football field greeted the 2014 graduating class of Keystone Heights High School during the commencement service at the school's football stadium. A light rain persisted throughout the May 30 ceremony, but the weather appeared not to dampen the enthusiasm of the over 200 departing seniors.

Class president Grant McGee told his classmates that a solid work ethic and the ability to work with people are keys to success. He also told the graduates that the best is yet to come for them and he urged them to be a generation that will be remembered.



Senior Class President Grant McGee addresses his classmates. Also pictured are Principal Dr. Susan Sailor, Santa Fe College Watson Center Administrative Assistant Karen Lake and Bob Kinsey. Photo by Tonya Gibbs.

See GRADS, 4A

Melrose man accused of killing NY trooper had Clay Co. DUI

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

MELROSE—The Melrose man accused of killing a New York State Trooper on May 29 was arrested for DUI in Clay County five-and-a-half years ago.

New York officials said Almond Arnold Upton, 60, intentionally struck and killed Trooper Christopher Skinner on Interstate 81 near Binghamton. Skinner was conducting a traffic stop when he was hit.

Officials added that before the fatal collision, the Melrose man, driving a

Toyota Tacoma around noon, intentionally struck two other vehicles that were also traveling north on the interstate.

Law enforcement officials said that prior to striking Skinner, Upton swerved from the inside passing lane of the roadway to the right, crossing the outside lane and hitting the stopped car and the trooper.

Moments later, Upton pulled over and ran into the woods. Law enforcement officers caught him an hour later. They said he showed no signs of impairment. According to a Clay County Sheriff's report, on Oct. 19, 2008, a motorist reported seeing a silver Toyota pickup driven by a possibly drunk driver traveling west on S.R. 100 near C.R. 219.

A deputy, who was already parked at a nearby convenience store wrote in the report that he saw Upton stagger out of the pickup, walk inside the store and purchase lottery tickets. After Upton refused to take a field sobriety test, the officer arrested him. At the Clay County jail, deputies took two breath samples from Upton, which registered alcohol levels of .201 and .190, double the state's legal limit.

According to the arresting officer, Upton said he refused to take the field sobriety test because he had failed one in Connecticut. He also told the deputy that he had consumed around a dozen beers before encountering the lawman at the convenience store.



Upton

See WARRANT, 6A

Keystone farmers market closing in July and August

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—The Keystone Heights City Council voted to close its farmers market for the summer, beginning in July.

City Manager Terry Suggs said that code enforcement officer Lynn Rutkowski can no longer serve as interim market manager and he has been unable to find candidates for the approximately \$6,000-a-year, part-time job that are willing to complete the application process.

Suggs also said that several of the market's most popular vendors will be taking the summer off from the venue.

The market will reopen the first Saturday in September.

Co-op business customers targeted by scammers

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Clay Electric Cooperative is warning its commercial accounts and business owners to be aware of scams being attempted by people who demand immediate payment of delinquent bills.

The most recent scam attempts occurred last week in Putnam

See SCAM, 5A

Sheriff's office: no one owning up to Kindergarten marijuana

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—The family members of a six-year-old boy who brought marijuana to Keystone Heights Elementary School are all denying the cannabis belongs to them, according to the Clay County Sheriff's Office.

A school resource officer wrote in a report that during the morning of May 28, the kindergartener was bragging to classmates that he had brought his mother's cigarettes to school. Principal Mary Mimbs took possession of the child's backpack, confiscated the pack of cigarettes and discovered what appeared to be a small plastic bag of marijuana in the box.

At the time of the discovery, the child's mother happened to be on campus to watch her son in a kindergarten performance. After the show, the deputy interviewed the mother who denied owning the drugs. She said she had no idea how the boy obtained the marijuana.

Sheriff's office spokesperson Mary Justino said that none of the child's family members have, so far, claimed the substance, and unless someone does, an arrest is unlikely.

"We don't believe the 6-year-old boy knew there was pot in the cigarette box/case," she wrote in

See MARIJUANA, 2A

Clay Electric trustee Angus Hastings dead at 87

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Clay Electric Cooperative's longest-serving trustee and a pioneer in political action for electric co-ops died on May 25. Angus Hastings was 87.

Clay Electric members first elected the Ft. McCoy resident to the board of trustees in 1965. For nearly 50 years, he represented District 9, which includes



Hastings

parts of Putnam and Marion Counties.

Before his service on the Clay Electric board, Hastings worked as a meat grader for the U.S. Department of Agriculture for 15 years.

In 1968 he ran for the Florida legislature, losing the Democratic primary to future U.S. Congressman and Gov. Buddy MacKay, who took over the statehouse for 23 days after the death of Lawton Chiles.

In 1974 Hastings began his 40-year association with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, representing Florida co-ops on the board.

The following year he met Georgia Gov. and future U.S.

See HASTINGS, 5A

Middleburg realtor leading state GOP

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

Members of Florida's Republican State Executive Committee elected Clay County's GOP chairwoman as their next leader.

Leslie Dougher, 50, of Middleburg, will fill the unexpired term of State Chairman Lenny Curry, who resigned in April to run for mayor of Jacksonville. The term expires in January, 2015.



Dougher

Dougher is a California native who moved to Florida in 1995. She is a realtor for Caldwell Banker Vanguard Realty in Fleming Island, and is married with a 15-year-old daughter.

In 2006, Dougher attempted to unseat school board member Lisa Graham and lost with 38 percent of the vote. In 2008 she was elected chairwoman of the Clay County Republican Executive Committee. She also chairs the Clay County Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee.

In Saturday's election at the Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay, she defeated Eric Miller, a state committeeman from Martin County, 106-69.

In a statement released by the party, Dougher said, "I

See DOUGHER, 6A

Clay sheriff: arrest warrant scam resurfaces

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

GREEN COVE SPRINGS—The Clay County Sheriff's Office said that area residents are once again receiving bogus phone calls from individuals posing as law enforcement officials demanding payment of fines or court costs.

In January, the sheriff's office arrested a prison inmate and his girlfriend after deputies traced similar phone calls to Georgia.

Daniel Ray Floyd, 38, an inmate at Autry State Prison, was charged with 10 counts of participating in a scheme to defraud.

Ashley Nicole Dean, 27, of Fayetteville, Ga. was charged with one count of participating in a scheme to defraud.

According to a sheriff's office report, Dean provided Floyd with information about Florida cities that were using red light cameras. Floyd then telephoned residents in those communities, including 13 in Orange Park and Green Cove Springs.

Claiming he was Lt. Little with the Clay County Sheriff's Office, Floyd told victims that they had run red lights, had missed court dates and were going to be arrested unless they remitted fines and late fees to him. Floyd instructed his victims to purchase a prepaid debit card and then provide him with the card's number and security code.

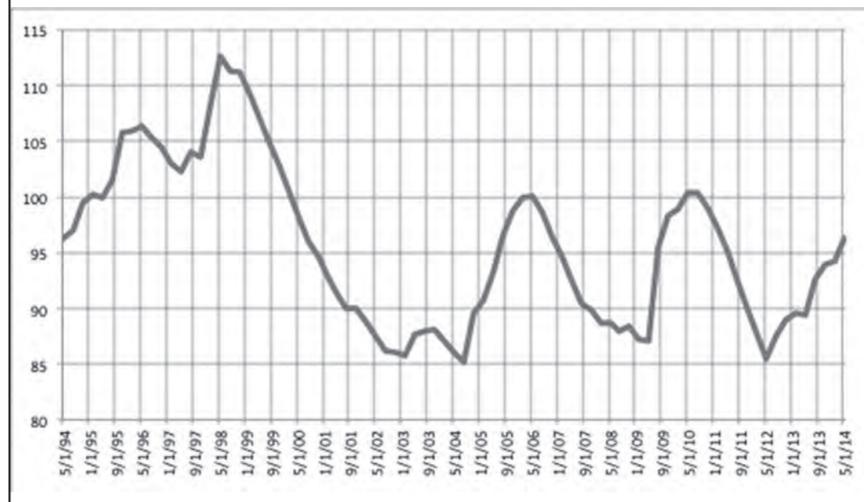
See WARRANT, 6A

Keystone Heights council member sworn in



Keystone Heights City Manager (L) Terry Suggs swears in the municipality's newest council member, Steve Hart during the council's June 2 meeting while city staff member Lynn Rutkowski holds a bible. Hart won a May 6 election to fill the term of council member Tony Brown. Brown vacated the seat to run for mayor.

Lake Brooklyn up 11 feet in nearly 2 years



On May 31, Lake Brooklyn's water level was at 96.25 feet above sea level. That is up 11.07 feet since its last low of 85.18 feet on June 23, 2012. The record low since 1991 occurred on Sept. 6, 1994 at 85.15 feet. The record high since 1991 was 112.87 feet on May 2, 1998.

DOT beginning Clay County section of First Coast Expressway

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

OAKLEAF-Florida's Department of Transportation began clearing land last week for a portion of the First Coast Expressway that will run through Clay County.

Workers removed trees on a parcel southwest of Blanding Boulevard's intersection with Branan Field Road. The route of the expressway in northern Clay County follows Branan Field Road from Argyle Forest Boulevard to Old Jennings Road. The route then breaks west and goes behind St. Vincent's Hospital and the Walmart Supercenter to connect with Blanding Boulevard (S.R. 21) southwest of Branan Field Road.

DOT officials hosted an open house on May 28 in Orange Park to explain the project to the public.

River crossing and frontage roads

Once complete, the 46.5-mile toll road with 10 interchanges will connect Interstate 10 in western Duval County to I-95 in St. Johns County. The state agency plans to cross the St. Johns River near the Shands Bridge south of Green Cove Springs. The two-lane Shands Bridge will remain open after the expressway is complete to offer motorists a toll-free option across the river.

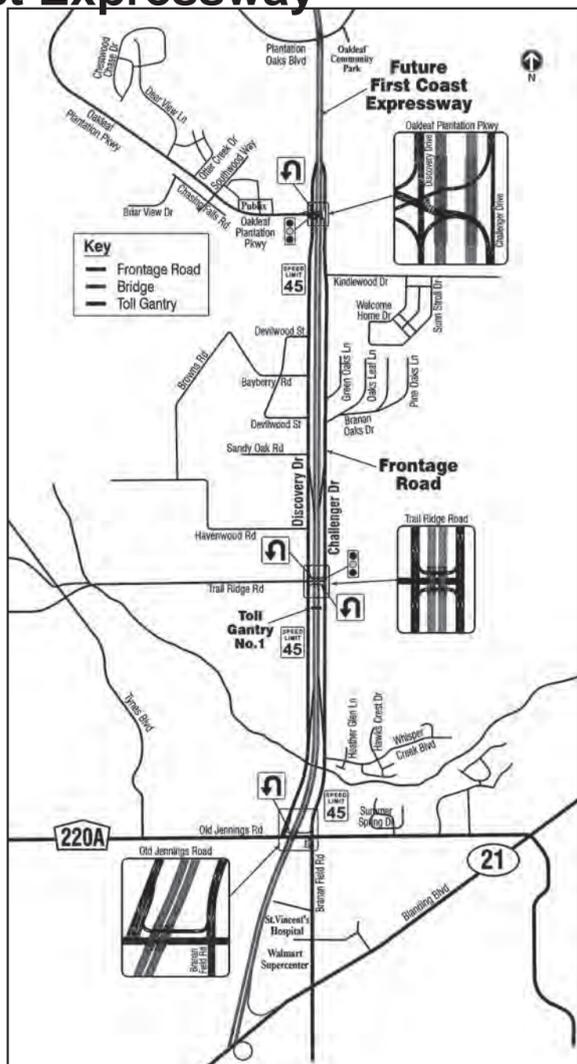
Florida's legislature has so far, only funded the portion of the road between I-10 and Blanding Boulevard. For the past year DOT contractors have been clearing land in the Duval County portion of the road, north of Argyle Forest Parkway. DOT also recently opened two frontage roads that will operate on both sides of the expressway, between Old Jennings Road and Oakleaf Plantation Parkway in Clay County.

Project spokesperson Laurie Sanderson said that workers will soon begin clearing land and constructing drainage facilities between the two frontage roads, and north to Argyle Forest Boulevard. She added that in Duval County, workers will begin constructing on-ramps and off-ramps for the limited access highway.

Toll collection, costs, speed limit

Sanderson added that the most unique feature of the toll road will be the absence of toll booths or plazas. Instead, DOT will erect a series of gantries along the route, which will track SunPass users along the road and bill them appropriately.

SunPass is the state's electronic toll collection system that uses radio frequency identification transponders, about the size of a credit card that SunPass users affix to their vehicles. Users either link their



The route of the expressway in northern Clay County follows Branan Field Road from Argyle Forest Boulevard to Old Jennings Road. The route then breaks west and goes behind St. Vincent's Hospital and the Walmart Supercenter to connect with Blanding Boulevard (S.R. 21) southwest of Branan Field Road.

SunPass accounts to a credit card or manually replenish their balances. DOT uses SunPass to collect tolls on the Florida Turnpike. Other toll collecting agencies, such as those in Orlando, Lakeland, Miami and Ft. Myers have integrated SunPass into their own systems.

For expressway users who are not SunPass customers, the gantries will photograph the license plates of the drivers' vehicles and bill them for the toll, plus an administrative fee.

DOT officials said in handouts they distributed during the open house that the speed limit on the expressway will be 70 mph. Motorists in Clay County will be able to access the road from on-ramps at Argyle Forest Boulevard, Oakleaf Plantation Parkway and Blanding Boulevard. DOT will construct overpasses at Trail Ridge Road and Old Jennings Road.

The agency also said the anticipated toll between Blanding Boulevard and Oakleaf Plantation Parkway will be 60 cents. Motorists will pay another 60 cents between Oakleaf Plantation Parkway and Argyle

Forest Boulevard. The toll from Argyle Forest Boulevard to 103rd Street in Jacksonville will be 60 cents and an additional 40 cents will get motorists to I-10.

DOT permanently closing section of Chaffee Road

DOT also said that as part of the expressway's construction, it will permanently close a section of Chaffee Road between Normandy Boulevard and S.R. 23 (the expressway). Motorists traveling south on Chaffee Road from Normandy will instead follow a new section of Samaritan Way to 103rd Street.

DOT said it plans to complete the \$77 million, 8-mile Duval County section of the highway in early 2016. Its estimated completion date for the \$84.8 million, 7.3-mile Clay County section to Blanding Boulevard is late 2016.

Sanderson said DOT will not start charging tolls on the road until both sections are complete.

KHHS seniors recognized during Class Night

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—The faculty and administration of Keystone Heights High School recognized the achievements of the 2014 graduating class during the school's Class Night May 30.

Community awards

Community-based scholarships and awards included the Keystone Heights Animal Hospital Scholarship, which went to Nathaniel Tate Williams;

Ryan Rossano Baseball Scholarship: Tristen Starling;

Florida First Coast Coalition of Labor Union Women Scholarship: Kayla Grantham and Melissa Fain;

Whitley Steel Clay County Golf Classis Scholarship: Rachel Lee and Jacquelyn Bryant;

XI KAPPA MU Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Scholarship: Jenna Dugger;

Florida Credit Union Scholarship: Kristen Wood;

Clay Electric Scholarship: Nathaniel Tate Williams;

Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida "Why Education Is Important" Essay Scholarship: Kayla Grantham;

Briggle-Bradley Scholarship: Brooke Tussinger;

Federated Republican Women's Club of Clay County Scholarship: Diana Ramos;

Keystone Heights Woman's Club Scholarship: Rachel Lee and Mellissa Fain;

Lake Region Kiwanis Scholarship: Katrina Sessions and Nicholas Jones;

Held in Trust by Keystone United Methodist Church Hubert White Scholarship: Rachel Lee;

William Scott Wilkes Scholarship: Cory Taylor;

Emily Rund Champion's Heart Scholarship: Emily Frampton and Geoffrey Messer;

Daughters of the American Revolution Citizenship Award: Rachel Lee;

General Roy S. Geiger Leadership Award: Christopher Priest and Mia Nelson-Gauthier Faith Presbyterian Church Scholarship: Rachel Lee;

Duty-Owens Family Scholarship: Grant Bostick, Jacquelyn Bryant, Melissa Fain, Corbin Frakes, Taylor Jewett, Geoffrey Messer, Zachary Poole, and Anna Tuller;

The Jason Bishop Scholarship: Joshua Knight - Chief Level Award, Brandon Nicholas - Lieutenant Level Award, Courtland Singletary - Lieutenant Level Award, Rachel Lee - Lieutenant Level Award, Tara Shobris - Honorable Mention Award;

Sons of Amvets Scholarship: Eric Wood, Rachel Lee and Diana Ramos;

Billy "Joe" Hagens scholarship: Joshua Knight;

Gator Bowl Scholarship:

Nathaniel Tate Williams;

Geico Family Scholarship: Rachel Maddox;

George Bolden Scholarship - on behalf of the Melrose Masonic Lodge #89 in Keystone Heights: Rachel Lee;

Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship: Nathaniel Tate Williams;

Clay County Chamber of Commerce: Joel Michel;

Mark Allen Ochkie Jr. Memorial Scholarship: Rachel Lee;

Miss KHHS 2013-2014 Scholarship: Emily Peoples;

Erin L. Erxleben/HOSA Scholarship: Diana Ramos;

FFA Alumni Award: Austin Saunders and James McCoy;

IMPACT Scholarship from the Orange Park Charter Chapter of the American Business Women's Association: Rachel Lee;

NAACP Minority Health Scholarship: Dayshia Jenkins;

Imagine America Vocational Scholarship: William Walker;

Clay Bar Association Scholarship: Corbin Frakes;

Wes Whiddon Athletic Scholarship: Rachel Lee and Emily Frampton;

Southern Scholarship House Foundation Scholarship: Joel Michel;

KHHS Faculty & Staff Scholarship: Ann M. Roberts and Brooke Tussinger;

Chief of the Year: Shane Savoy;

Shane Savoy Culinary Scholarship: Brittany Filing;

Clay County Education Foundation: Diana Ramos, Zachary Poole, Rachel Maddox (Barbara Denton Memorial Scholarship), Brittany Filing (Ruth Alexander Scholarship) and Garrett Clance (Pellerito Scholarship);

Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association Scholarship: Brittany Filing;

John P. Hall Sr. Children's Charities Scholarship: Diana Ramos;

Gainesville Junior Golf Tour Scholarship: Taylor Heinz;

Questbridge Scholarship: Anika Henanger.

Scholarships awarded by colleges

Scholarships and awards from specific colleges included Santa Fe College Watson Scholarship: Laura Danis, Rachel Maddox, James McCoy, Delaina McEwen, Grant McGee, Chase Musselman, Emily Peoples, Zachary Poole, Courtland Singletary and Nathaniel Tate Williams;

SFC Boone Bussard Welding Technologies Scholarship: Sean Walls;

Northwestern University and Pledge Scholarship: Anika Heneger;

St Johns River State College Collier-Blocker Minority Scholarship: Diana Ramos;

Florida State University Merit Scholarship: Zachary Coursey;

St. Pete State College Athletic scholarship for volleyball: Keerston Skinner;

Wilmington College Athletic Scholarship Ohio - Football: John Ashton and Blake Valenzuela;

The University of New England Merit Award and Scholarship: Natasha Sudsbury;

Faulkner University Academic and Athletic Scholarship/Golf: Taylor Heinz;

Faulkner University Faulkner University Academic & Athletic Scholarship/ Golf: Olyvia Heinz;

Full Sail University Creative Minds Scholarship: Mackenzie Marsh;

University of West Florida Argonaut Scholarship: Hannah Royalty;

Florida Southern College Athletic Scholarship for Soccer and George Jenkins Academic Scholarship: Madison Colaw

Clearwater Christian College

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Full Sail University Creative Minds Scholarship: Mackenzie Marsh;

University of West Florida Argonaut Scholarship: Hannah Royalty;

Florida Southern College Athletic Scholarship for Soccer and George Jenkins Academic Scholarship: Madison Colaw

Clearwater Christian College

See CLASS, 3A

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MARIJUANA

Continued from 1A

an email. "He thought cigs were in it. There is no evidence that he consumed anything. DCF's investigation into the home life of this child remains open/active."

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Lake Region Monitor

USPS 114-170

Published each Thursday and entered as Periodical Postage Paid at Keystone Heights, Florida under Act of March 3, 1879.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

Lake Region Monitor
P.O. Drawer A - Starke, FL 32091

7382 SR 21 - Keystone Heights, FL 32656

Phone: (352) 473-2210 • (352) 473-6721

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Bookkeeping:	Joan Stewart-Jones

Subscription Rate in Trade Area
\$39.00 per year:
\$20.00 six months
Outside Trade Area:
\$39.00 per year:
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City honors Keystone weightlifters



Keystone Heights Mayor Tony Brown congratulates KHHS weightlifting coaches (l) Chuck Dickinson and Lantz Lowery during the June 2 city council meeting. Brown read a proclamation recognizing the weightlifting team for winning Florida's Class 1A state title. Keystone tied with Baker County for the championship.

Sheriff: School vandals caught

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

OAKLEAF-The Clay County Sheriff's Office said it caught three youths after they broke into Oakleaf Junior High School. Officers later charged two of the defendants with burglarizing and vandalizing a nearby elementary school.

Deputies charged a 14-year-old and two 13-year olds with trespassing on school grounds, burglary, grand theft of a fire extinguisher, criminal mischief and breaking a fence containing animals.

According to a sheriff's office report, on May 27, around 6:30 p.m., witnesses told dispatchers they saw three youths on skateboards leaving the campus and heading toward the Whitfield subdivision, across the street from the junior high school.

A deputy intercepted the suspects in the neighborhood and three witnesses later identified them as the individuals they saw leaving the campus.

Deputies then inspected the school and observed that two fire extinguishers had been discharged within school buildings and that toilets in bathrooms had been stopped up with toilet paper. The officers also documented graffiti on the school's walls and found that pens containing farm animals on the campus had been opened, allowing goats and chickens to run loose on the property.

After interviewing the defendants, deputies later charged two of them with breaking into portable classrooms at Plantation Oaks Elementary School on May 18 and damaging telecommunications lines.

Clay County's newest hospital plans expansion

MIDDLEBURG-The parent company of St. Vincent's Clay County has tentatively approved a \$24 million expansion plan for the Middleburg hospital.

The project, first reported by the Jacksonville Business Journal, would add nearly 200 jobs, a maternity ward and 37 beds to the facility that now has 64 beds.

Ascension Health, the Catholic charity that operates the Branan Field Road hospital, gave partial approval to the project in May. It must give final approval before construction can begin this summer, as scheduled.

The project would also expand the hospital's emergency room and add a three-story patient tower to the facility.

CLASS

Continued from 2A
Athletic Scholarship for Soccer: Raychel Trimble;
Southeastern University Academic and Athletic Scholarship for Football: Michael Carroll;
Kentucky Christian College Athletic Scholarship: Micah Brown-Lewis Football and Trinity Baptist College Athletic Scholarship - Baseball: Blake Richardson

U.S. Military

Students entering U.S. military branches include: Ashley Norris and Bradley Collins- Air Force; Anthony Delano and Parker Rollins- Army and Danny Fritch, Christopher Priest and Benjamin Waters-Marines.

Other awards

Rachel Lee received the President's Volunteer Service Award: and the Wendy's High School Heisman award.

John Crittenden is the KHHS nominee for the Lombardi Scholarship.

Caroline Felicia Vargas was awarded the KHHS Perseverance Award.

Students earning AA degrees

Students receiving an Associate of Arts degree from Santa Fe College, concurrent with a high school diploma received a blue honor cord. They were David "Wyatt" Bennett, Madison Colaw, Zach Coursey, John Crittenden, Sarah Guilfoyle, Ochesa Hall, Zach Hawkins, Olyvia Heinz, Taylor Heinz, Anika Henanger, Taylor Jewett, Nicholas Jones, Rebekah Lampkin, Delaina McEwen, Caleb Moore, Christina Schrader and Anna Tuller.

Bright Futures Scholars

Recipients of the Vocational Gold Seal Bright Futures Scholarship were Amanda Crawford, Jessica Garcia, James McCoy, Austin Saunders, Tara Shobris, Courtland Singletary, Eric Wood, Glen Farson, Rachel Lee, Santana Wallace and Charles Rogers.

Winners of the Florida Bright Futures Florida Medallion Scholarship were Zachary Hawkins, Kaitlin Collison, Parker Dykes, Hannah Royalty, Christina Schrader, Katrina

Sessions, Rachel Maddox, Nathaniel Williams, Grant McGee, Cecelia Buckley and Taylor Reed.

Winners of the Bright Futures Florida Academic Scholars Scholarship were Kayla Baker, David Bennett, Zacary Coursey, John Crittenden, Emily Frampton, Taylor Jewett, Nicholas Jones, Rebekah Lampkin, Joel Michel, Caleb Moore, Chase Musselman, Raksmei Vorn, Kristen Wood, Anika Heniger, Madison Colaw, Shaun Young, Cory Taylor, Zachary Burns and Emily Peoples.

Vocational honors

Students receiving the vocational honor cord for business digital design were Zachary Burns, Brendan Guildry, Gabriel le Gee, Joel Michel, Harley Mosely, Jalissa Willis and Jarrett Jones.

Students receiving the Culinary Arts vocational honor cord were Melissa Fain and Steven Trimble.

Students receiving the health careers vocational honor cord were Mirah Beck, Katie Dalton, Laura Danis, Jaiene Garcia, Dayshia Jenkins, John Crittenden, Eric Wood, Nina Horton, Jacob Fanton, James McCoy, Hallie Wheeler, Haley Arzie and Brianna Bowman.

Students receiving the agriscience vocational honor cord were Glen Farson, Thompson, Austin Saunders, John Crittenden, Eric Wood, Tara Shobris, Courtland Singletary, Santana Wallace, Joshua Knight and Rachel Bellman.

Academic Honors

Students receiving a silver honor cord earned a grade point average between 3.0 and 3.499. Silver honor cord recipients were Meranda McCary, Taylor Reed, Mia Nelson-Gauthier, Santana Wallace, Jacob Maddox, Nicole Straka, Tara Shobris, Danney Fritch, Tristan Starling, Nina Horten, Darien Gilio, Geoffrey Messer, Julian Harrison, Kierra Collins, Natacha Sudsbury, Logan Deuel, Rachel Wells, Timothy Mock, Brianne Bowman, Micah Brown-Lewis, Ashley Norris, Wyatt Graziano, Kelsey Hassell, Zachary Poole, Parker Rollins, Logan Evans, Charles Rogers, Dakota Black, Dayshia Jenkins, Brooke Tussinger, Brenton Moring, Lowell Triest, Nathaniel Nelson, Lane Blanton, Aaron Thomas, Joshua Knight, Taylor Haney, Jaiissa Willis, Samantha Bass, Brittany Filing, Ann Roberts, Brandon Nicholas, Kennon Brock, Addison Mosher, Keerston Skinner, Morgan Smith, John Waters, Kami Ferriell and Steven Trimble.

Academic High honors

Students receiving a gold honor cord earned a grade point average from 3.5 to 4.6. Students receiving a gold honor cord were John Crittenden, Joel Michel, Kayla Baker, Rebekah Lampkin, Kayla Grantham, Eric

Wood, Grant McGee, Emily Frampton, Shaun Young, Anika Henanger, Cory Taylor, Taylor Heinz, Corbin Frakes, Raksmei Vorn, Olyvia Heinz, Madison Colaw, Chase Musselman, Courtland Singletary, Kristen Wood, David Bennett, Parker Dykes, Nicholas Jones, Farrah Hicks, Zachary Jacquelyn Bryant, Emily Peoples, Melissa Fain, Diana Ramos, Kyle Saunders, James Richardson, Caleb Moore, Miriah Beck, Christina Schrader, Taylor Jewett, Jessica Garcia, Delaina McEwen, Miranda Moulton, Kaitlin Collison, Kent Carson, Rachel Maddox, Nathaniel Williams, Katrina Sessions, Glen Farson, Jaiene Garcia, Anna Tuller, Amanda Crawford, Zachary Burns, Grant Bostick, Rachel Lee, Erika Dingman, Zachary Hawkins, Lucy Montford, Ochesa Hall, Alexa Born, Elizabeth Weaver, Jacob Fanton, Jenna Dugger, Matthew Smith, Cailen Gonzales, Cecelia Buckley, Kaycee Sapp, Hailey Arzie, Raychel Trimble, Honey Harvey, Hannah Royalty, Brenden Guidry, Robert McCormick, Haillie Wheeler, Kenneth Booth, Sarah Guilfoyle, James McCoy, Laura Danis, Katlyn Dalton, Michael Carroll, Donald Bailey and Christina Hopkins.

Department awards

Hallie Wheeler won the English award.
Allen Vorn won the mathematics award.
Grant McGee won the science award.
Addison Mosher won the social studies award.
Kaitlin Collison won the Spanish award.
Kayla Baker won the French award.
Brandy Dennis won the art award.
Addison Mosher won the drama award.
Melissa Fain won the television production award.
Elizabeth Weaver won the musical theatre award.
Elizabeth Weaver won the band award.
Kaitlin Collison won the chorus award.
Jalissa Willis won the digital design business award.
Melissa Fain won the yearbook award.
Parker Rollins won the AROTC award.
Austin Saunders won the agriculture award.
Courtland Singletary won the health science award.
Melissa Fain won the culinary arts award.
William Walker won the carpentry award.

Hall of Fame

Valedictorian John Crittenden, Co-Salutatorian Kayla Baker, Co-Salutatorian Joel Michel, Corbin Frakes, Emily Frampton, Grant McGee, Chase Musselman and Emily Peoples were inducted into the Keystone Heights High School Hall of Fame.

Need to put more away for retirement?

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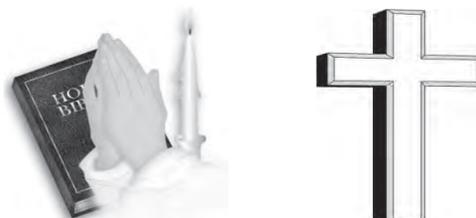
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(L-r) front row: Zackrey Geiger, Ethan Robinson, Ernie Williams, Allyssa Kudledsky, Jaydin Wilson, Abbey Anthony-Rozier, Tres Wilkerson, Cooper Alsbrook and Hailey Kahn. Middle row: Jonathan Darley, Nick Sadowski, Riley Anthony-Rozier, Tyler Jenkins, Bailey Nelson, Ariana Kort, Roy Kelley, Courtney Savoy and Madison Bettet. Back row: Principal Marcus Dooley, Megan Callahan, Rachel Brookshire, Christopher Hoffmeyer, Kylie Fischer, Alyssa Smith, Alyssa Gilbert, Jessica Falana and Jacob Morgan.

Rotary Club wrapping up year

BY JAMES WILLIAMS
Special to the Monitor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS-The Keystone Heights Rotary Club had an active, successful and even award-winning year, as shown by its activities just since January.

The club was well represented at a recent conference and awards banquet, held at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach on May 17.

Among those attending were President Paul Fessenden and his wife, Karen, President-Elect and Keystone Heights City Manager Terry Suggs, Secretary Richard Segall, and Past President James Williams.

Rotarians from around the state took a tour of the Embry-Riddle campus, which has grown far beyond its earliest years as a flying school. The university now offers degrees in aviation financing and aviation management. There is a National Security Agency program on the campus, engineering and robotics, plus there's still a flying school. The university now offers courses in small craft flight, commercial flight, jets and even space flight.

At the awards banquet, the Keystone Heights Rotary was given three District 697 awards for its efforts during the past year. Included was an award for best membership retention percentage (100 percent) for a small club.

The club also received a Platinum Premier Award for having 100-percent membership participation, with member contributions of \$100 or more to the Rotary Foundation. The club also received an award for its three-to-five-year plan and taking steps during the year to meet its goals.

The club currently has 16 members, its smallest membership since formation in the 1940s. However, over the last three years, the average age of the club has fallen by about 10 years, due to several younger members joining the ranks and the departure of several senior members.

On May 20, club members were also happy to join charter night festivities for the Club of Interlachen and Lakes Area, held at Interlachen High School. The Interlachen club was sponsored by the Palatka Sunrise Rotary, and the club comes with a built-in Interact Club at the high school. The new club inducted over 40 brand new members that night. Many high school students also attended the new club's

charter night. The Keystone Rotary made a contribution to the Interlachen Club's start-up fund-a Rotary tradition.

At Keystone Heights High School's Class Night, the Rotary also gave two \$750 scholarships, including one for the club's new Glenn Harris Scholarship, in honor of a club member, who died almost two years ago. The scholarship was funded by a generous donation from the Harris family. The late Glen Harris was widely known for his work in silviculture and forestry. The first recipient of the Harris award went to graduating KHHS senior Austin Saunders, who plans to study agricultural management at Santa Fe College. Graduating senior and Student Council President Lucy Montford received the second Rotary scholarship.

Rotarian Karen Lake, who was on the scholarship committee, said Montford's student council commitment and her work with Haven Hospice made her a good match with Rotary's motto: Service Above Self.

The club also recently gave or confirmed donations to the Clay County Science Fair and Seamark Ranch.

Later this month, Rotary will close out the year as Fessenden hands the gavel to Suggs, president for the coming year. Club awards will be handed out at a dinner later in June, to be given at the home of Rotary member and M&S Bank Branch

Manager Shelly Gibbs.

The Rotary year ends on June 28, with one of the club's two biggest annual fund-raisers, the three-on-three soccer tournament, held in cooperation with the Keystone Youth Soccer Club at Twin Lakes Park.

For information on Keystone Heights Rotary Club membership, call Century 21 Realtor and Rotarian Paul Fessenden, 352-665-2121.



The Keystone Heights Rotary Club earned three accolades this year, including an award for 100-percent membership retention. Pictured is President Paul Fessenden with the award.

MELROSE

Continued from 1A

Melrose area, and yet its underserved by first responders, he said. Theresa's EMS station and volunteer fire department are the Bradford County's first responders to the south end of the county, as well as much of the area west of Theresa.

"Anytime we have a 911 call from down in this area, whether it be a first responder call for medical or for fire, it takes a long time for us to get people to that area," Parrish said.

Melrose, although unincorporated, has a well-equipped station manned during the day by a full-time responder paid for by Alachua County.

"If you're having a heart attack or your heart stops, they have a defibrillator a mile away that can come and help you," said Parrish. "It takes us anywhere from 10 to 12 minutes to get to that area. It takes Clay County just as long to get there from their county."

Parrish said the solution is an agreement that has been in the works for sometime and cements a cooperative arrangement between Alachua, Bradford, Clay and Putnam counties.

Parrish said his goal has been to expand services. This agreement will accomplish that he said, and at no additional cost to Bradford County.

"We benefit more than any other county," he said, "because we have the largest population in that area."

The agreement removes a time consuming process of phone tag. A call from a mobile phone in Melrose will be answered by one of multiple communications centers, but most likely the center in either Putnam or Clay. There are examples of calls being transferred between counties until the correct responder for the address is identified, Parrish said. Calls have even been transferred from one county to another, and then back to the county that originally received the call.

"So what we're trying to do is reduce that time frame by introducing an automatic agreement," he said.

With an agreement in place

and all of the communications employees informed, the Melrose station will be dispatched automatically, regardless of address.

Sheriff Gordon Smith compared the automatic aid contract to the Four Corners agreement that exists for law enforcement between the Alachua, Bradford, Clay and Putnam sheriffs. He commended Parrish for stepping up and getting the deal done.

Parrish said he's spoken to many residents in the Melrose area and they don't care which county shows up.

"If they can't breathe, they want to breathe," he said.

Parrish has also applied for a grant that would construct an EMS station in the Brooker area to improve response times for residents there.

GRADS

Continued from 1A

Co-salutatorian Kayla Baker thanked the school's workers, including the cafeteria and custodial staff. She advised her classmates to show kindness to others throughout their lives. She also said that the phrase "follow your dreams" may be a shop worn cliché, but it is also good advice. Baker added that people who are in jobs they are passionate about are happier and more productive throughout their careers.

Co-salutatorian Joel Michel said that because he and his classmates are now adults, they should make decisions in a judicious and thoughtful manner. He also admonished his colleagues to not fear failure and added that if they attempt

anything worthwhile, they will fall short of some of their goals.

Michel quoted former basketball star Michael Jordan, who recounted the many failures he experienced en route to six NBA championships and five Most Valuable Player awards.

"I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my career," Michel said, quoting Jordan. "I've lost almost 300 games. Twenty-six times I've been trusted to take the game-winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life, and that is why I succeed."

Michel invoked the memory of former President Ronald Reagan when encouraging his classmates to lend a helping hand to others throughout their lives.

"We can't help everyone," Michel said, quoting Reagan, "but everyone can help someone."

Valedictorian John Crittenden spoke about opportunity. He started off by thanking the school's teachers for investing in Keystone's students, and also thanked veterans for preserving the freedoms that make education in an open society possible.

Crittenden also commended the school's weightlifting team for capitalizing on an opportunity to win the state championship.

Crittenden cited the civic service of Cincinnatus, the Roman statesman, as an example of opportunity. He said that as rival factions threatened to tear the republic apart, the Roman Senate proclaimed Cincinnatus dictator. However, after quelling the rival tribes in two weeks,

See SPEECH, 5A

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SPEECH

Continued from 4A
Cincinnatus resigned from the post, preserving the Roman Republic.
Crittenden also urged the graduates to courageously take on the difficulties of adulthood by quoting Theodore Geisel, widely known as Dr. Seuss.
Crittenden quoted the children's author, reading, "I've heard there are troubles of more than one kind; some come from ahead, and some come from behind. But I've brought a big bat. I'm all ready, you see; now my troubles are going to have troubles with me."
Principal Dr. Susan Sailor told the crowd that due to the weather, she was cutting her two-page, prepared remarks to one paragraph. She said that every graduate will soon wake up and realize that the life he or she has led over the past dozen years is over.

"What you create in its path is completely up to you," she added.
Sailor also counseled the graduates to seek guidance from above by quoting Proverbs 3:5-6.
"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding," she said. "In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths."

SCAM

Continued from 1A
and Lake counties.
"Someone called a grocery store owner and said their bill was past due and payment

was needed immediately," said Palatka District Member Relations Representative Derek Hembree. "In another incident, the owner of a Chinese restaurant was called and told that payment was required immediately or the power would be shut off."
Both fraud attempts failed when the business owners called Clay Electric's Palatka District office and inquired about their bills.
Earlier this year, the co-op received reports that two commercial accounts it serves in Clay County were the target of attempted scams. The two businesses reported someone claiming to represent the co-op contacted them about making payment on an overdue bill. In one case, a payment for more than \$2,000 was requested, and the caller wanted the money wired.

Clay Electric encourages the businesses it serves to be very suspicious of anyone who calls and claims he or she represents the co-op and wants to be paid for an overdue bill. The cooperative does not collect past-due amounts in this manner.
"If the caller asks you to wire money or use a prepaid debit card, that's a red flag," said Bruce McHollan, director of the cooperative's information and communication technology department. "If you have any doubt at all, hang up and call Clay Electric at 800-224-4917 and confirm if any payment is due. Clay Electric sends a reminder letter and makes an automated reminder call when bills are past due.
Members with residential accounts have also been subject

to scam attempts during the past year that involved emails.
Clay Electric does not send emails that threaten or require immediate action to provide personal information.
"We urge our members to ignore suspicious requests for personal information such as bank account numbers, credit card numbers, user names and passwords, or Social Security numbers," said Derick Thomas, director of the co-op's Member and Public Relations Department. "We ask our members to delete all suspicious emails that require immediate action to verify or provide personal information."
"If a member has an overdue bill, he or she will likely receive a call from our automated phone messaging system as a reminder to call the cooperative to arrange payment. They'll also receive a courtesy notice in the mail," Thomas said. "Members should not share confidential personal information over the phone."

HASTINGS

Continued from 1A
President Jimmy Carter at the NRECA Convention in New Orleans. Hastings went onto become a Carter supporter, making several visits to the White House in the 1970s and serving as a Carter delegate in the 1980 Democratic Convention.
In the 1980s, Hastings led the fight against Ronald Reagan's attempt to cut off co-ops from federal low-interest loans.
He served as president of Clay Electric's board of trustees for 10 years and as the NRECA president in 1981-1982.
Last year, the NRECA honored Hastings with a lifetime achievement award.
In March, during Clay Electric's annual meeting, the co-op thanked Hastings for his long service with the NRECA.
Hastings also hit the Florida Lotto in 1992, winning \$6.78 million.

See CLAY, 6A

Coppergate, RideOut students win Tropicana contest



Sixth-grade winners Landon Opp, Jeremiah Jackson, Madison Baity and Wade Taylor.



Fourth- and fifth-grade winners Dorion Sledge, Rylee Martin, Sarah Cobb and Paxton Shuppert.

GREEN COVE SPRINGS—Fourth, fifth and sixth-grade students from 22 schools competed in the Clay County 4-H Tropicana Public Speaking Contest on May 20 and 21 at the University of Florida/IFAS extension office.
The winners of 20 elementary school contests competed in the fourth- and fifth-grade category.
Dorion Sledge of Coppergate Elementary won the county's fourth and fifth-grade title with his speech, "My Family (Help!),"

Rylee Martin of Shadowlawn Elementary School placed second with "One Hip Girl" and Sarah Cobb of Fleming Island Elementary placed third with "The Black Flood." Paxton Shuppert of Orange Park Elementary came in fourth with her speech titled "Narcissism."
In the sixth grade category, winners from 17 school contests competed for the county title. Landon Opp of RideOut Elementary won the competition with his speech, "Life." Jeremiah

Jackson from Doctors Inlet Elementary placed second with "Three Things that are Important to Me" and Madison Baity of Shadowlawn Elementary came in third with "Body Language." Wade Taylor of Swimming Pen Creek Elementary placed fourth with "A Dream is a Wish Your Brain Makes."
Each of the winners from both categories received plaques and the first-place winners won a week at 4-H summer camp in July sponsored by Tropicana.

Worth Noting

Wings of Dreams Fly-in, Cruise-in

Around seven D-Day veterans, U.S. Congressman Ted Yoho and a large crowd is expected at the June 7 Wings of Dreams Fly-in and Cruise-in at the Keystone Airport. Wings of Dreams Executive Director Bob Oehl said the event is the only D-Day observance scheduled in the Gainesville area.
A buffet breakfast will be served. The cost is \$7 for adults and \$4 for children nine and under. For more information, see www.wingsofdreams.com or call 352-256-8037

Community Church rummage sale

It's rummage sale time at Community Church, located behind Ace Hardware in Keystone Heights.
The popular early bird shopping continues on Thursday, June 5 from 4 to 7 p.m. The admission is \$5 per family. There is no admission charge for the regular sale dates on Friday June 6 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, June 7 from 9 to noon. Saturday will also feature the Dollar-A-Bag sale.
Reasonably priced merchandise. Proceeds serve many projects.

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.

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.

100 year birthday celebration

The friends and family of Charlie Bryant invite the community to celebrate his 100th birthday on Saturday, June 7 at 3 p.m. The celebration will be held at his home at 102 S. Sipprell Road in Florahome.

Clay firefighters raise \$46,193 for MDA

CLAY COUNTY—More than 170 members of Clay County Local #3362 raised \$46,193 during the annual Muscular Dystrophy Association's Fill the Boot drive on May 23-25 to benefit children and adults affected by muscle disease throughout the Clay County area.
"For six decades, firefighters have fueled MDA's mission to find treatments and cures for life-threatening muscle diseases, and this year's Clay County Fill the Boot results are a perfect example of the true dedication Clay County Local #3362 has toward supporting the families we serve," said Lauren Herringdine, executive director

of MDA, Jacksonville. "We're grateful for the support of these inspiring, selfless individuals who provide life-saving help that will fund research, advocate for children and adults affected by muscle disease, and rally our community to fight back."
Funds raised during the 2014 Clay County Fill the Boot event will help support MDA's programs of worldwide research, specialized health care services, and day-to-day support, which includes sending children affected by muscular dystrophy and related muscle diseases to a weeklong, barrier-free MDA summer camp at Camp Suwannee in Dowling Park.

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CLAY

Continued from 5A

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the Hastings family," said Ricky Davis, Clay Electric's general manager and CEO. "Angus dedicated almost 50 years to serving Clay Electric members in his own district and across our service area, and was also a state and national leader. We will miss his spirit and his leadership."

Hastings is the second Clay Electric trustee to die in the last eight months. Middleburg board member Floyd Gnann died on Aug. 18.

DOUGHER

Continued from 5A

am honored and humbled to have been chosen by my fellow grassroots leaders to serve as the next RPOF Chairman. It was an honor to even be considered, and I am looking forward to getting right to work to make sure the thousands of volunteers across the state have the tools to be successful in November. We are united in one purpose - electing Republicans - and I am excited for the opportunities that are ahead for our party."

Dougher is the fifth chair for the state organization in the past four years. In 2010, Jim Greer resigned under pressure and later pleaded guilty to grand theft and money laundering in connection with a contract his company, Victory Strategies, had with the state party. Later that year, former State Rep. Dave Bitner replaced interim Chair Jim Thrasher. Republicans elected Curry in 2011 after Bitner died from Lou Gehrig's disease.

WARRANT

Continued from 1A

The sheriff's office said that around May 29, three county residents and one Green Cove Springs resident received phone calls from individuals claiming to be law enforcement officials. The callers claimed there were

arrest warrants for the residents and demanded payment for outstanding fines or court costs using a prepaid debit card.

Sheriff's office public information officer Mary Justino said investigators are trying to identify the latest callers. She added that law enforcement agencies never demand payment of fines and costs over the phone.

"Any such call is fraudulent and bogus," she said. "The CCSO reminds residents - don't fall for it. Make note of as much information as possible and report it to your local law enforcement agency."

Clay County's newest hospital plans expansion

MIDDLEBURG-The parent company of St. Vincent's Clay County has tentatively approved a \$24 million expansion plan for the Middleburg hospital.

The project, first reported by the Jacksonville Business Journal, would add nearly 200 jobs, a maternity ward and 37 beds to the facility that now has 64 beds.

Ascension Health, the Catholic charity that operates the Branan Field Road hospital, gave partial approval to the project in May. It must give final approval before construction can begin this summer, as scheduled.

The project would also expand the hospital's emergency room and add a three-story patient tower to the facility.

Melrose African-American Heritage Festival

June 14 at Tommy's Place, the intersection of S.R. 26 and C.R. 219. Games, food, DJ, bounce house, car club and door prizes.

Jaycees kick off haunted holiday plans

Get into the Halloween

spirit early and get involved in the Keystone Heights Jaycees annual Haunted Trail. A kickoff party for the organization of this year's event will take place at the Jaycees clubhouse on Saturday, June 7, at 8 p.m.

The zombie themed party will include a costume contest, games, prizes, snacks and movies. If you are interested in participating in the Haunted Trail, join the Jaycees June 7 for an evening of planning and fun.

Contact Paul Huff for more details at 352-572-3892, and look for the Keystone Jaycees on Facebook.

Fizz, Boom, Read! At the Keystone Heights branch library

Preschool programs for children aged 3-5 will be offered each Wednesday morning at 10:30 a.m.

June 11, 18, 25 and July 2, 9, and 16. Stories, songs and crafts - and a related snack will be offered.

There will be a special Stuffed Animal Sleepover (for stuffed reading buddies only) as well as a preschool story time program on July 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Reading buddies to be picked up at the final story time, theater-event breakfast, the following morning.

For school-aged children, kindergarten through fifth grade we will offer:

June 13th - Friday at 10:30am - "Wild Wonders" animal program, with Mike Rossi and his live friends.

June 20th Friday at 10:30am - "Fizz, Boom, Science!" with our friends from Sugarplum Entertainment.

June 26th Thursday at 6:00pm - "Fire and Ice" with Mad Science of NE Central Florida

June 30th Monday at 2:00pm - "Did Someone Say 'Bats'?!" with Lube Bat Conservancy and winged friends.

July 11th Friday at 10:30am - "How and Why" stories with Kaye Byrnes, Storyteller extraordinaire

July 18th Friday at 10:30am - "It's a Wrap!" Finale with special

guest, Ronald McDonald.

Melrose Bay Art Gallery

Murmurations. Work by Valerie Aslakson-Jennings, guest artist showing thru June 29

Reception during Melrose Art Walk, Friday, June 6, 6-9 p.m.

Letter to the editor

As a resident of Alachua county since 1985, I've always had a keen interest in our urban and suburban, rural development and the conservation of lands. We've done an excellent job as a community thus far, but some areas have benefited from it more than others. We can help those communities left out, while preserving areas that want to stay unchanged, including conservation lands and historic towns that enhance everybody's quality of life.

I followed Plum Creek's 2.5 year-long community workshop known as Envision Alachua. I attended as many public meetings as I could, and filled out comment cards with suggestions. I'm happy with the results: a balance of our need for economic development while preserving and enhancing conservation at the same time. A future agriculture-based research park near Windsor, with skilled workers living there instead of all commuting from Gainesville. And built from labor in Gainesville looking for work, starting now.

But there is a smear campaign going on in the Sun's letters section, and organized under the banner "Stand

By Our Plan" to continue without compromise the disenfranchisement of many citizens who've waited long enough, under the guise of protecting the Comprehensive Plan. Their false claims are already answered in Envision Alachua's thick report published and available online at www.envisionalachua.com such as:

1). "It's 8 miles from east Gainesville, and won't happen for 30-50 years anyway" -- Wrong. The construction can begin in a couple years, and includes plans for a bus line connecting east Gainesville to Hawthorne and in between near the Windsor site;

2). "It's more sprawl and will hurt downtown" -- Wrong. It's no more sprawl than Micanopy is. Newnan's Lake and vast preservation lands separate Windsor-Rochelle from Gainesville, much as Payne's Prairie buffers to the south of town. Hawthorne already exists, and is ideal for a new industry located near CSX rail lines there. (Downtown Gainesville was hurt in the '70s when the interstate and mall were fashionable, and planners let sprawl happen. But now urban renewal is in full swing, starting in the '80s at the same time Butler Plaza blossomed. Our area is big enough to accommodate it all, at once;

3). "It'll hurt the small towns in eastern Alachua county" -- Wrong. Only towns that want to participate in Plum Creek's offer will change. Hawthorne and Windsor, yes. But Melrose, Cross Creek and Orange Heights don't if they don't want to. Micanopy is flanked by I-75 and US-441, but the town stayed the same. So did High Springs. But Alachua town and Jonesville-Newberry residents wanted change, and did;

4). "It'll deplete our aquifer and run off wildlife" -- Wrong. The latest knowledge in water management and recovery will be used, plus the developments only use a small fraction of the entire Plum Creek properties in the area (most will be enhanced preservation lands, including wetland setbacks and a wildlife corridor protected). It's an improvement over the old crazy-quilt pattern of west Gainesville, and not a retirement community of golf courses. Even if a small residential area were added on the north end off SR-26, it wouldn't hurt because eastern Alachua County has lost population in recent decades, having moved west. Rainfall cycles are beginning to turn around after the 60-year low period soon ends, too.

Then there's those who say doing "nothing" is better than Plum Creek's plan. Wrong, "doing nothing" is worse because it's a continuation of the status quo which hurts the environment and people, alike:

"Nothing" would continue hole-punching the aquifer on every five acre lot, reducing overall water pressures, levels and flows;

"Nothing" continues placing a septic tank every five acres, leaking into the watershed and the aquifer with nitrate pollution;

"Nothing" continues the haphazard, crazy quilt development pattern we've seen before on the Gainesville's west side;

"Nothing" continues a one-industry college town economy and residential construction fluctuating economy.

Get the facts and ignore the smears:

Jeff Knee, Gainesville

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REGIONAL NEWS

NEWS FROM BRADFORD COUNTY, UNION COUNTY AND THE LAKE REGION

Soon-to-be BHS grads soak up fun on last day

Bradford High School seniors were able to enjoy a field day on May 30, eating pizza, running through an inflatable obstacle course, playing kickball and getting wet, among other things. Once the first student got doused, no one was safe... not even Principal Bryan Boyer, who gets a cooling off, courtesy of senior Bradley Davis.



Senior shower? Kenneth "Doot" Brown gets a surprise drenching from Kenny Dinkins. Please see page 6B for more photos. Photos are also available for viewing at www.StarkeJournal.com. (Membership required.) All photos by Cliff Smelley.

Ricker earns medal at international science fair

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer

Bradford High School freshman Tessa Ricker earned a silver medal at this year's International Sustainable World (Energy, Engineering, Environment) Project Olympiad, an international science fair held annually in Houston.

Ricker, whose project, "The Rate of Decomposition of Compostable Packing Materials," received one of 40 silver medals in the Environment division, shared her I-SWEEP experience with the Kiwanis Club of Starke on May 27.

"I wasn't expecting this at all, to say the least," Ricker said of earning a medal.

Ricker was one of more than 600 participants—some of whom were part of group projects—from more than 40 states and more than 70 countries at the April 30-May 5 event.

More than 300 medals (gold, silver, bronze) and honorable-mention awards were presented, which made for a long awards ceremony. Ricker admitted she almost didn't accept her medal. After sitting through a portion of the ceremony, she told her older sister Hannah, who accompanied her on the trip, "I'm not going to get anything. Let's go."

Her sister persuaded her to stay just a little longer, which was good. Ricker heard her name called and went up to accept her award, though according to her sister, you couldn't tell she was excited about it.

"When I got back, Hannah was like, 'Why didn't you smile at



Tessa Ricker is shown with her project, "The Rate of Decomposition of Compostable Packing Materials," at the April 30-May 5 I-SWEEP Olympiad in Houston. Photo provided courtesy of I-SWEEP.

all?" I thought I did," Ricker said. "I don't know. I wasn't expecting it."

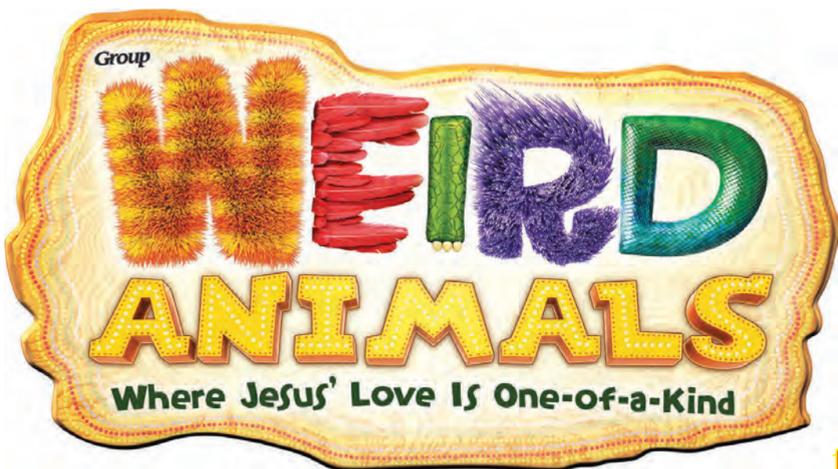
It proved to be an interesting experience from start to finish. Ricker was told beforehand there

wouldn't be a problem with her carrying her project onto the plane for the flight to Houston. When she got to the airport,

See RICKER 12B

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Academy of Academics students recognized for their efforts

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer

John Andrews looked forward to going to school after enrolling in the Bradford County School District's Academy of Academics. Four years later, he is preparing to accept his high school diploma.

Andrews said he wouldn't have gotten through school were it not for the Academy of Academics, a voluntary performance-based program for middle-school and high-school students that are behind in terms of grade level, and at risk for dropping out of school. Andrews enjoyed the

environment and being exposed to more one-on-one attention from teachers who seemed compassionate in helping him and other students.

"It's like family here," Andrews said. "You don't see teachers—they're just like my moms and dads. I love it here."



John Andrews receives a certificate for overall excellence from Bradford-Union Technical Center Director Christy Reddish. Also pictured (foreground to background) are Academy of Academics teachers Peg Stanwix-Hay, Linda Rudoi, Cindy Bagley, Anna Kirley and Bish Bishop.



ABOVE: Academy of Academics students who received certificates during a May 29 luncheon are pictured with guidance counselor Cynthia Ross. Pictured are: (front, l-r) Charlotte Carter, Ross, Shania Rosier, Justin Mann, (back, l-r) Joshua Hundley, John Andrews, Javone Blackshear, Aaron Akridge and Jacob Slayton. LEFT: Also receiving a certificate was Kristen Harris. NOT PICTURED: Students Markayla Smith and Tahlera Sweeting also received certificates, but were not present.

Teachers handed out certificates of achievement on May 29, with Andrews receiving several, including one for overall excellence. Teacher Peg Stanwix-Hay said Andrews really blossomed in the program and took advantage of the welding program at the Bradford-Union Technical Center as well. Andrews has one more welding area to become certified in.

See ACADEMY, 4B

BHS junior Yates earns 3rd place at SkillsUSA Florida event

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer

Bradford High School junior Kristie Yates earned a third-place finish in the area of medical terminology at the April 27-29 Skills USA Florida Leadership and Skills Conference in Pensacola.

Teresa Jackson, a health sciences teacher at the Bradford-Union Technical Center, said, "I am very proud of Kristie. I had no doubt that she would be successful."

Yates, who advanced to the state event after placing first at the Feb. 21 Region 2 SkillsUSA Florida Conference in Jacksonville, had to take a 100-question multiple-choice test. A college medical terminology class was a big help to her.



Kristie Yates

"I was confident on about 75 percent of it," Yates said. "The other 25 percent were some

See YATES, 9B

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Remembering D-Day 70 years later

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

The men who landed on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day during World War II and lived to tell about it are quickly fading into history, yet the significance of their sacrifices and valor will be remembered, especially this year, the 70th anniversary of the invasions.

The commemorations will culminate Friday, June 6, in Ouistreham, France, where President Barack Obama, French President Francois Hollande and Britain's Queen Elizabeth II will gather to remember the more than 9,000 Allied soldiers killed or wounded on June 6, 1944.

Frank W. Towers of Alachua County will also be there. Towers, hale and hearty at 97, was there on D-Day "plus six," landing in France on his 27th birthday. He reminisced about his experiences recently at a meeting of the D-Day Veterans of North Central Florida at Conestoga Restaurant in downtown Alachua.

"I was on a Liberty ship, taking packets from the Isle of Wight to the beaches," Towers said.

Towers' unit was supposed to land on Omaha Beach, but ended up at Utah Beach, 40 miles to the west, by mistake. Because there was a foot-long drop to the beach from the landing ramp, the service vehicles could not be reloaded. They traveled by land and met the ship when it landed at Omaha Beach later that day, the only unit to "land" at both beaches.

There was no fighting at Omaha Beach when Towers landed. He could hear artillery fire, and he saw the carnage.

"There were wrecked vehicles and ships and stacks of bodies waiting to be shipped to England," he said. "There were a lot of wounded and field hospitals. It was not pleasant."

For the five months leading up to D-Day, Towers had been training in England.

"It was all play—dummy bullets," he said. "But this was the real thing."

Towers' wife of 71 years, Mary, remembers how she felt back home in the U.S., waiting to



ABOVE: Frank Towers, pictured with his wife, Mary, is a co-founder of Les Fleurs de Memoire, an organization that arranges for French families to "adopt" the graves of Americans interned in French soil. LEFT: Don Mandeville of Gainesville made 26 trips ferrying soldiers across the English Channel during the Normandy invasions.

hear from Frank with his mother in Boston.

"I was scared to death," she said. "I pictured him in every one of the pictures."

Because there was no TV in those days, she went to the movie theatre to see newsreels.

"We wrote letters to each other each day," Mary said, noting that the first letters arrived about 10 days after her husband's landing. They numbered their letters, so when several arrived at once, she could put them in order for reading.

Towers served in Europe for 18 months and was due to go to the Pacific when atomic bombs dropped over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, ending the war. His commission was deactivated, although within six months he returned to Germany, where he was stationed for three years.

Mary went with him, and their three children were born there. The family settled in Alachua County, where they raised chickens and eventually opened a country store. Years later, Frank took a computer course and went to work at the University of Florida.

and part of his hand. "I thought he probably didn't want this war any more than I did," Mandeville said. "The people that want it the least suffer the most."

Art Butler of Lake City also participated in the D-Day invasions, landing on Utah Beach on June 19. Like Towers, he was 27.

"We didn't know what we were getting into," Butler said. "It was noisy. There was shelling over us all night."

Butler said he didn't worry about making it home because he had a wife and two children and knew he had to. He settled in Lake City after the war, pursuing a career in lumber and building and construction supply.

Asked about whether he felt "the eyes of the world" upon him during those harrowing days, Butler paused before answering.

"We went over there knowing we had a big job to do," he said. "We were hell-bent to make good."

Remembering those who served and sacrificed their lives

Towers is one of the founders of Les Fleurs de la Memoire, an association that arranges for French families to adopt the grave of an American soldier buried in Normandy in perpetuity, making at least one visit annually to place flowers on it.

The association's website includes an excerpt from a letter Towers wrote to Claude Lavieille, a co-founder of the association: "When I come to Europe, it is most difficult for me to visit the American cemeteries wherein my comrades lie at eternal rest. As a liaison officer, I knew many of them personally. Each of these visits is hard on me...for when I am standing in silence in front of a tomb, images of my comrade's life come to mind, and it is like that for each visit. But I have to do it. I can't miss visiting each of them. Soon, neither I nor any of my companions will be able to visit the graves of American service men and women at eternal rest in Europe. Then what? Will they be



The American monument on Omaha Beach commemorates those who lost their lives during the bloody D-Day battle.

forgotten?"

Thanks to the efforts of Towers and other American and French citizens who share his concern, approximately 95 percent of the graves have been adopted.

Towers also works hard to keep the memories alive at home, volunteering every Tuesday afternoon at the Camp Blanding museum.

Wings of Dreams to remember D-Day at fly-in breakfast

D-Day will be commemorated at the Keystone Heights Airport on Saturday, June 7, at 8 a.m. with a Wings of Dreams fly-in breakfast. All veterans will

receive a free breakfast, which will be followed by a program honoring those who participated in the Normandy campaign.

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LETTERS

EDITOR@BCTELEGRAPH.COM

Some information regarding CCFR Station 11

Dear Editor:
In response to your article about the temporary fire station in Keystone for CCFR Station 11, I would like to offer the following information.

1. CCFR has been living in the house and utilizing the facilities owned by KHVFD rent free for 30 years! In 2004 CCBOCC entered into a 15 year agreement/contract with KHVFD to resolve the inadequate living quarters for the paid crews that are assigned there when the county staffed a paid fire engine in Keystone in addition to the rescue unit which increased staffing from 2 to 5. This allowed them to renovate the twostory building to resolve those issues that were recognized and were rushed due to the important nature in 2004. When the contract was signed by the County Commissioners, a quote was provided for the amount of \$250,000 in which Clay County had budgeted for the project. Had your county administration followed through with the contract they entered into (for their benefit) none of this nonsense would be taking place today. Had the County administration completed the renovation as contracted to do they could have had this problem

solved 10 years ago.
I would also remind you that CCBOCC vetoed the contract in April of 2013 with KHVFD, yet KHVFD continues to allow the career CCFR staff to reside there and to continue to use the facilities to store the fire engine, spare engine, and spare rescue all while paying no rent. Clay County is kind enough to pay the utilities, insurance, and partially maintain the buildings while they continue to use KHVFD to operate from. KHVFD has yet to file or enter into any litigation for the breach of contract in hopes Clay County would resolve the deficit they have caused.
Over the last 12 months, KHVFD directors and individual Volunteer firefighters have made several attempts to work things out with Clay County and put KHVFD back to work to provide fire and first responder services to the area and Clay County will not even respond to our phone calls or emails any longer. KHVFD is negotiating with Bradford County to serve Southeast Bradford County as the primary fire protection and that would reduce homeowner's insurance rates for all of those that are "uninsurable" in Bradford County because they are more than 5 road miles from Theresa Station 2. Yet Bradford's County Manager wants permission from Clay County to allow a non-profit fully functional, self-sustaining fire department to provide additional fire/rescue services to the citizens of Bradford County. (Clay County does not even recognize KHVFD as a department any longer) If you

were not aware, Bradford Station 2 is covering fire/rescue services for Hampton now on a regular basis which has them spread thin due to lower manpower and a larger response area.
In closing, I would encourage and challenge each person in Clay County and Bradford County to contact your respective County Commissioners, and Manager and express to them how much KHVFD could save the property owners in insurance rates, provide fire and medical response quicker and more efficiently supplementing the services provided by Bradford County currently, and why Bradford County needs "permission" to use KHVFD for the benefit of the citizens which Clay County Commissioners took from the Lake Region last year.
*Kevin Lee Mobley
Firefighter/Paramedic/
Instructor/Inspector/Officer*

Nepotism OK for county, but not Hampton?

Dear Editor:
So one of the issues that the town of Hampton was scolded for was nepotism...ok. What makes Bradford County so superior? Chapter 112.3135 Florida Statutes clearly defines that law. Yet, Bradford County thumbs their nose at that law and employs a County Commissioner's Niece and the County Manager's Son. The County Attorney, who

apparently is supposed to be smarter than everybody else, allows the BOCC to adopt resolutions (2012-04 and 2012-10), to circumvent the state statutes, and no big deal.
So.. if I'm clear on this, the local governments can adopt resolutions to circumvent any law the State of Florida has set forth? That's convenient.
Not a single Commissioner questioned the legality of this... no surprise, being as the two public officials whose relatives benefit from this have a history of termination from the DOC scandal and Ethics Commission violations.
So what else are they up to? Hampton was nearly abolished for wrong doing...
Think about this as an election is coming up.
Change is needed, and there is competition out there against the "way we always do it"
*Paul McDavid
Resident, Bradford County
District 5*

Storm a time of reflection on faith

Dear Editor:
Last night as we were going to church, the weather got real stormy. The wind was blowing rain and limbs in sheets across the roads. Lightning and thunder came as we got into the church.
The preacher was preaching about the miracle of creation,

which I liked a lot, but I was distracted by the sounds of the storm and the words of the 19th Psalm kept running through my head. "The Heaven's declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth His Handiwork" Music of the spheres: God's orchestra blessing the earth and all we who are aware of it!
It is no wonder that I like stormy weather. When I got

home, I read the whole Psalm and found it so familiar, I think I know most of it by heart. In the night, I lay there saying it over and over. The last verse: "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight O Lord. My strength and my Redeemer."
Those are good words to go to sleep on.
Hazel Wall

ACADEMY
Continued from 2B

Andrews really excelled in the subject of math and helped assist other students who were having problems understanding it.
"You would not believe how many kids today give John credit for them knowing their multiplication tables," said Stanwix-Hay, who also said she has many photos of Andrews up at the board teaching fellow students how to do math problems.
Basically, Andrews demonstrates what good citizenship is all about, Stanwix-Hay said.
"He's the kind of kid everybody wants to help because he's so helpful himself," she said.
Andrews just never fit into a regular classroom setting, which is true of many students, Stanwix-Hay said. Some students just can't maintain the same level as others.
"Many, many kids aren't cut out for that, which is why kids drop out of school," Stanwix-Hay said. "They just can't sit in a class where everyone is on page 51 at the same time. Some of them should be on page 98, and some of them shouldn't even be in that book."
The Academy of Academics use of an individual educational plan is beneficial to a lot of students. Like Andrews, Jacob Slayton is set to graduate, and it wouldn't have been possible otherwise. Slayton was so behind on his credits he didn't think it

would be possible to graduate after enrolling in the academy this school year.
Slayton gave a lot of credit to the academy teachers, saying, "Everybody here cares and wants to help you out."
An appreciation for teachers Stanwix-Hay, Cindy Bagley, Harold "Bish" Bishop, Anna Kirley, Linda Rudoj and Robin Tatum—as well as guidance counselor Cynthia Ross—seems to be share by many of the academy students. Charlotte Carter, who said she would be sitting at home doing nothing if not for the program, stressed how the individual attention students receive is a big plus.
"They want you to succeed," she said of the teachers.
Aaron Akridge said the teachers have helped him make tremendous progress since he joined the program last year.
"They've brought me a long way," he said.
Like Andrews, Akridge has been participating in the Bradford-Union Technical Center's welding program. He became certified in two areas this past year.
Akridge now sees a future for himself. If not for the Academy of Academics, he said, "I probably would've left (school)."
Akridge and Andrews received certificates at the May 29 ceremony for the achievements in welding. Andrews and Slayton received Florida Ready to Work certificates, while Shania Rosier received a certificate for meeting the requirements to become a Microsoft Office specialist.
Certificates of achievement

were also awarded in the following areas:
• Math: Rosier, Joshua Hundley, Justin Mann and Markayla Smith.
• History: Smith, Javone Blackshear and Tahlera Sweeting.
• English: Andrews and Smith.
• Science: Carter, Rosier and Slayton.
• Edmentum (online learning program)/Reading: Sweeting and Kristen Harris.

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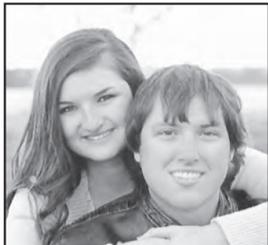
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SOCIALS



Davin Crews and Chelsey Collins



Brandi Barrington and Jackson Tatum



Margaret Peek and family

Peek celebrates 94th birthday

Born in 1920 when the life expectancy was only 66 years, Margaret Peek has definitely defied the odds by 28 years. Four generations of her family came together to celebrate her 94th birthday with lunch in the park. We all enjoyed reminiscing about previous get-togethers throughout the years. A highlight of the celebration was watching her great-grandchildren interact with each other and the adults. We all delighted in sharing new and old memories as we celebrated the 94th birthday of our mother, mother-in-law, and nana.

Collins, Crews to wed June 20

Chelsey Marie Collins of Starke and Davin Sloan Crews of Lawtey announce their upcoming wedding.

Chelsey is the daughter of Rex and Lisa Collins of Starke. She is a Graduate of Bradford High School.

Davin is the son of Herman and Sandra Crews of Lawtey. He is a graduate of Bradford High School, Santa Fe College, Criminal Justice.

The wedding will be on June 20, 2014 at Crystal Lake in Keystone Heights at 11:00 am. Roy Spaulding is the minister. The bride will be given in marriage by Clinton Collins, her brother. Lisa Collins will be Maid of Honor. The Best Man will be Herman Crews, groom's grandfather.

Barrington, Tatum to wed June 21

Brandi Barrington of Starke and Jackson Tatum of Lawtey announce their wedding on June 21 at 3 p.m. at Madison Street Baptist Church in Starke.

Brandi is the daughter of Halbert and Nadine Barrington. She attended Bradford High School (Class of 2010) and just graduated from the University of North Florida in April, earning a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education.

Jackson is the son of John and Christina Tatum. He attended Bradford High School (Class of 2008) and works at his family's business.

All friends and relatives are invited to attend.



Drew Andrews is the new director of exceptional student education with the Bradford County School District.

Andrews passionate about students with disabilities

BY MICKEY AGNER
Special to the Telegraph-Times-Monitor

Drew Andrews is the new director of exceptional student education with the Bradford County School District, and he knows and loves his job. He will answer any related question and transition into new, but related, topics extemporaneously and without hesitation.

Discussing the recent growth specifically in the autism spectrum area during a May 30 interview, Andrews said, "The question quickly arises as to whether environmental issues are causing a growth of autism spectrum disorders, or have we just become better at evaluating and identifying them? I don't know the answer to that question, but what I do know is that in the last few years, we have gained massive amounts of information about how people learn and how to help those with disabilities grow."

Andrews indicated that the requirements and regulations for the ESE program are mandated and regulated according to the Individuals with Disabilities

Educational Act. Moreover—and according to that disabilities act—the necessary instruction required for identified disabilities was previously provided in separate classes, but research indicates that including the students with disabilities in the regular class—a process known as "inclusion"—is much more effective.

When reminded that many people say that inclusion lowers the standards of the regular class, Andrews quickly responded that the claim is "simply not true." Each student with disabilities is given a weight based upon the complexity and severity of the identified disability, and every public school is provided additional funding to address those needs according to the disability. The classes with more noted disability presence are provided additional teacher support. With that additional teacher support, the class is better able to address the skill diversification of each class, whether that is the student with educational disabilities or the

See ESE, 10B

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John Parker

Parker graduates from Elon University

John Edward Parker graduated Magna Cum Laude from Elon University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics. He is a member of Sigma Pi Sigma, the national physics honors society.

John is the grandson of Mary Ann Soud of Keystone Heights.

His parents are Tim and Esther Parker, and sister, Laura Soud Parker, all of Raleigh, N.C.

Sucsy named to Bates' dean's list

Anna Sucsy of Keystone Heights, was named to the Dean's List at Bates located in Lewiston, Maine, for the winter 2014 semester -- a distinction earned by students whose cumulative grade point average is 3.71 or higher.

"Dean's List students at Bates are exemplary high academic achievers. They model the good things that come from being goal-oriented, hard-working and persistent," said Matthew R. Auer, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty at Bates.

Sucsy is the daughter of Peter V. Sucsy Ph.D. of Keystone Heights, and is a 2013 graduate of Eastside High School.

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Going out with a fun day of memories

Bradford High School seniors enjoyed food and lots of fun during a May 30 field day. **BELOW:** Brenton Ruise (left) and Hannah Hildebran compete in a sack race.



LEFT: Running through a gauntlet of balls are (foreground to background) Jaquita Richardson, Alexis Graham and Janell Lennon. **RIGHT:** Danielle Clark (left) and Beverly Detlefsen seem to have the hang of it in the three-legged race. **BELOW:** Mackenzie Gault (left) and Whitney Flanders don't quite have the hang of it as they go crashing to the ground.



Holden Huggins (left) and James Young are taking it easy.



DeQuan Blount goes tumbling out of an inflatable obstacle course.



LEFT: Lariann Tillotson (foreground) and Haleigh Clary are all smiles as they look for unsuspecting victims to squirt. **BELOW LEFT:** Cameron Chadwick has a water gun ready to go. **BELOW:** Scotty Peirce looks as if he's up to no good. He has a tub full of water balloons.



TOP LEFT: Zach DeWitt competes in tug of war. **LEFT:** Caleb Blankenship goes plummeting down an inflatable slide. **ABOVE:** Lindsey Wiggins gets the last laugh as she makes sure BHS football coach Steve Reynolds gets dunked.



BHS graduation: June 6, 8 p.m.



LEFT: Justin Williams prepares to put some power into it during kickball. **BELOW:** Shannon Mikell throws a football.



NEWS Flash!

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<p>Ariens Max Zoom 60" Fabricated Welded Deck Reg. \$5349.00 FUTCH PAYS Sales Tax 374.43 YOUR TOTAL \$5349.00</p>	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>Futch's Power Depot will pay the sales tax up to \$10,000 on our already low marked price.</p> <p>Eligible equipment: All hand-held equipment in stock, Echo, Shindaiwa, all Ariens Zero Turn Mowers, all Kubota Z100 Series and Z700 Series Zero Turns, all Husqvarna, Poulan and McCoulogh Riding Lawn Mower Tractors, Generators and Log Splitters.</p> </div>

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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

Thomas Henry Anderson, 63, of Jacksonville was arrested May 28 by Lawtey police for driving a vehicle not registered or licensed with the state.

Jeremy Christopher Brewer, 21, of Starke was arrested May 31 by Bradford police for battery. According to the arrest report, Brewer slapped his wife and pulled her to the ground by her hair before almost pushing her down the steps of the front porch as she tried to get away from him. The police were called, and Brewer was arrested. Bond was set at \$5,000 for the charge.

Chad Austin Carpenter, 27, of Lake Butler was arrested June 2 by Starke police for trespassing. According to the arrest report, Carpenter went to an auto parts store in Starke where a relative works and caused a disturbance, yelling obscenities and threatening several employees. He had been trespassing already in February from the same store.

Tonya Gisela Carter, 32, of Starke was arrested June 2 by Bradford deputies for battery. According to the arrest report,

Carter was irritated with a male at the residence. He was sitting outside on the front porch when she ran out the door, head-butted the victim and then tried to shove him off the porch. The victim was able to catch himself before falling and called law enforcement. A witness verified the victim's account, and Carter was arrested.

Rolando Carreno of Miami was arrested May 30 by the Florida Highway Patrol on two out-of-county warrants. Bond was set at \$7,000 for the charges.

David Orman Cox, 52, of Starke was arrested June 1 by Bradford deputies for aggravated assault with a weapon. According to the arrest report, Cox had been drinking and got into an argument with his son. Cox had purchased a new knife and had it in a sheath on his side, and threatened to stab his son with it during the argument. The son called law enforcement after Cox passed out on the couch. Bond was set at \$50,000 for the charge.

Elmer Ray Cox, 47, of Keystone Heights was arrested May 29 by Bradford deputies on an out-of-county warrant from Clay for domestic battery. Bond was set at \$5,002 for the charge.

Brittany Mae Daugherty, 18, of Keystone Heights was arrested May 27 by Bradford deputies on a warrant for making a false report of child abuse. Bond was set at \$10,000 for the charge.

Willie Kevin Dolison, 35, of Lawtey was arrested May 28 by

Bradford deputies for battery. According to the arrest report, Dolison was arguing with his girlfriend when he came up behind her and grabbed her, pushed her against the wall and took her cell phone. He then threw the phone in the yard. Bond was set at \$20,000 for the charge.

Marc Howard Duncan, 21, of Lawtey was arrested May 28 by Lawtey police during a traffic stop for possession of cocaine, possession of marijuana and destroying evidence. According to the arrest report, Duncan threw a bag of marijuana out of the vehicle before being pulled over by the officer. Crack cocaine was found during a search of the vehicle, along with more marijuana. Bond was set at \$17,000 for the charges.

Nicholas Shane Faulkner, 27, of Jacksonville was arrested May 30 by Bradford deputies for probation violation. No bond was allowed for the charge.

John Anthony Faust, 28, of Salisbury, N.C., was arrested May 27 by Lawtey police during a traffic stop for two charges of possession of marijuana and for five charges of possession of drug equipment. Bond was set at \$29,000 for the charges.

Timothy Lavain Floweres, 33, of Starke was arrested May 29 by Bradford deputies on four warrants for probation violation. No bond was allowed for the charges.

Christopher Daniel

Geistlinger, 27, of Starke was arrested May 29 by Bradford deputies for possession of marijuana, producing marijuana, possession of drug equipment and destroying evidence. According to the arrest report, deputies received a tip that Geistlinger had a marijuana-growing operation at his residence, and after going to the residence once and smelling the marijuana, they returned later to speak with him. After gaining entry into the home and observing marijuana plants, they obtained a search warrant for the residence and found six pots with marijuana growing in them, along with other equipment used to grow the plants. Bond was set at \$62,000 for the charges.

Aaron Roy Griffis, 21, of Lawtey was arrested June 1 by Bradford deputies on a warrant for possession of a weapon or ammo by a convicted felon. Bond was set at \$50,000 for the charge.

Danielle N. Hamm, 36, of Starke was arrested May 29 by Starke police for failure to appear.

Lucella Hill, 37, of Starke was arrested June 1 by Starke police for driving while license suspended or revoked. Bond was set at \$5,000 for the charge.

Tyrise D. Jackson, 19, of Lawtey was arrested May 28 by Lawtey police for battery. According to the arrest report, Jackson got into an argument with a 14-year-old relative over the use of a phone and slammed her head into a dresser, causing a knot the size of a baseball on the back of her head.

Richard Kelly, 24, of Lady Lake was arrested June 1 by Bradford deputies for driving while license suspended or revoked. Bond was set at \$500 for the charge.

Jeremy James Manning, 35, of Starke was arrested May 30 by Bradford deputies on a warrant for battery. Bond was set at \$50,000 for the charge.

Demetrius A. Martin, 20, of Starke was arrested May 28 by Lawtey police during a traffic stop for possession of marijuana. Bond was set at \$5,000 for the charge.

Richard Craig Nipper, 46, of Brooker was arrested May 27 by Bradford deputies on a warrant for larceny-petit theft second degree, third subsequent offense. Bond was set at \$15,000 for the charge.

Shynequia M. Oneil, 18, of Starke was arrested May 30 by Bradford deputies for driving while license suspended or revoked. Bond was set at \$5,000 for the charge.

Mathew R. Padgett, 24, of Jacksonville was arrested May 31 by Bradford deputies during a traffic stop for possession of marijuana and possession of drug equipment.

Alphonso Leon Pernel, 34, of Starke was arrested May 28 by Bradford deputies for aggravated assault with a weapon, two charges of battery, kidnap-false imprisonment, criminal mischief-property damage, resisting an officer, disturbing the peace and obstructing justice. According to the arrest report, the police were called to a residence about a disturbance. Pernel was at his mother's home in Starke washing his clothes when he became irate over something and started threatening to shoot and kill everyone in the house. While his mother was on the phone calling 911, Pernel snatched the phone out of her hand and broke it. Police arrived shortly thereafter, though, with several deputies and a K-9 unit to assist.

Pernel refused to come out of the home and threatened that he had "something" for the officers if they went in the home. Pernel's mom then snuck out of the house in the back and was talking to the officers from the front porch when Pernel stepped out onto the porch. She quickly went back inside and locked the front door, leaving him outside.

After Pernel wouldn't comply with the officers to get on the ground, they released the K-9, but Pernel hit and kicked the dog several times. An officer then used a Taser, but Pernel continued to resist. Another officer used a Taser before Pernel was handcuffed and arrested. Bond was set at \$1,102,000 for the charges.

Timothy Warren Potts, 31, of Starke was arrested May 31 by Bradford deputies on a warrant for larceny-grand theft of a dwelling. Bond was set at \$50,000 for the charge.

Dennie Rae Randolph, 34, of Starke was arrested May 27 by Bradford deputies for possession of marijuana and possession of drug equipment. Bond was set at \$1,500 for the charge.

Daryl S. Risby, 40, of Starke was arrested May 29 by Bradford deputies on a warrant for violation of conditional release by the Florida Parole Commission. No bond was allowed for the charge.

Ronald Eric Sawyer, 42, of Starke was arrested May 29 by Bradford deputies for possession of opium or derivative. According to the arrest report, during a traffic stop it was discovered that Sawyer had 19 Methadone pills he intended to distribute to another individual. Bond was set at \$20,000 for the charge.

Rosamarie Denise Simmons, 34, of Starke was arrested May

30 by Bradford deputies on an out-of-county warrant from Putnam. Bond was set at \$500 for the charge.

Rachel Marie Smith, 24, of Jacksonville was arrested May 30 by Bradford deputies for failure to appear. No bond was allowed for the charge.

Robert Gerald Swanson, 41, of Baldwin was arrested May 31 by Bradford deputies for driving while license suspended or revoked. Bond was set at \$500 for the charge.

Keystone/Melrose

Jacqueline Fraga, 49, of Melrose was arrested May 30 by Putnam deputies for DUI.

Dana Charles Hoffman, 55, of Melrose was arrested May 30 by Putnam deputies for perjury.

Justen Kelley, 24, of Keystone Heights was arrested June 2 by Clay deputies for failure to appear.

Jessica Nail, 21, of Keystone Heights was arrested May 30 by Clay deputies for burglary.

Amanda Smith, 44, of Keystone Heights was arrested May 30 by Clay deputies for failure to appear.

Derick Luther Phillips, 23, of Melrose was arrested June 1 by Putnam deputies for an out-of-county warrant.

Ronnie Allen Stratten, 49, of Melrose was arrested May 28 by state troopers for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

John Waters, 18, of Keystone Heights was arrested May 28 by Clay deputies for lewd or lascivious battery.

Union

Marion Eugene York, 52, of Lake Butler was arrested May 28 by Union deputies for battery. According to the arrest report, deputies were called to a disturbance, where it was eventually determined that York struck his girlfriend in her face during an argument. According to the victim and a friend staying at the residence, this wasn't the first time York struck the victim during arguments. He was arrested and transported to jail.

Stephen Louis Heslar, 27, of Lake Butler was arrested May 30 by Union deputies on an out-of-county warrant from Bradford.

A 16-year-old juvenile from Lake Butler was arrested May 27 by Union deputies for three charges of possession of marijuana, possession of narcotic equipment and obstructing justice-tamper or destroy evidence.

NEW DOCTOR IN TOWN



Dr. Anubha Gupta received her family medicine training from Jamaica Hospital Medical Center in New York City and her fellowship training in geriatric medicine from the VA Medical Center in Gainesville. She received her medical degree from Terna Medical College, Navi Mumbai, India. Dr. Gupta will be joining the staff of PALMS MEDICAL GROUP facilities in Starke every Tuesday. She will be seeing pediatric and adult clients for routine health maintenance and sick visits. Dr. Gupta's husband is attending the University of Florida with a Fellowship in Pediatric Cardiology & Pediatrics ICU. The joy in the doctors lives is their toddler son. They are making their home in Gainesville, hopefully for a very long time!



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Commercial Vehicle Driving	Abercrombie	5/20/14-7/10/14	M-Th	7:30 AM- 5:30 PM	Closed	\$2,836.56
Spinning (Indoor Cycling)	Bridgman	6/10/14-8/14/14	T, Th	5:15 PM	Open	\$3.30/spin
Pilates/Yoga	Bridgman	6/10/14-8/14/14	T,Th	6:20 PM	Open	free w/spin
Hunter Education	FWC	8/14/2014	Th	6:00 PM	Open	free
Introduction to Publisher	Thomas	6/16,23,30 & 7/7,14,21	M	3:00 PM- 4:00 PM	closing 6/12/14	\$15.00
Introduction to Computers	Thomas	6/16,23,30 & 7/7,14,21	M	4:00 PM-5:30 PM	closing 6/12/14	\$15.00
I.V. Certification Course	TBA	6/19/2014	Th	9 AM-5 PM	closing 6/6/2014	\$ 300.00
I.V. Certification Course	TBA	6/26/2014	Th	9 AM-5 PM	closing 6/9/2014	\$ 300.00
Practical Nursing	Johnson	In Progress	M-Th	5:00 PM- 10:00 PM	Closed	
Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE)	Bishop	6/9/2014	M	1:00 PM	closing 6/6/14	\$ 20.00
Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE)	Bishop	6/11/2014	W	1:00 PM	closing 6/10/14	\$ 20.00
Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE)	Bishop	6/16/2014	M	9:00 AM & 1:00 PM	closing 6/12/14	\$ 20.00
Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE)	Bishop	6/18/2014	W	9:00 AM & 1:00 PM	closing 6/17/14	\$ 20.00
Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE)	Bishop	6/23/2014	M	9:00 AM & 1:00 PM	closing 6/19/14	\$ 20.00
Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE)	Bishop	6/25/2014	W	9:00 AM & 1:00 PM	closing 6/24/14	\$ 20.00
Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE)	Bishop	7/9/2014	W	9:00 AM & 1:00 PM	closing 7/7/14	\$ 20.00
Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE)	Bishop	7/14/2014	M	9:00 AM & 1:00 PM	closing 7/10/14	\$ 20.00
Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE)	Bishop	7/16/2014	W	9:00 AM & 1:00 PM	closing 7/15/14	\$ 20.00
Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE)	Bishop	8/4/2014	M	9:00 AM & 1:00 PM	closing 7/31/14	\$ 20.00
Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE)	Bishop	8/6/2014	W	9:00 AM & 1:00 PM	closing 8/5/14	\$ 20.00

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3 KHHS football players receive college opportunities

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer

Three recent Keystone Heights High School graduates signed letters of intent to play football during a May 22 ceremony.

Tight end Micah Brown, who also played safety, will join former teammate Nate Smith—a 2013 KHHS graduate—at Kentucky Christian University in Grayson, Ky., while quarterback Blake Valenzuela will attend Wilmington (Ohio) College. Fullback/kicker Michael Carroll, who also played the linebacker-defensive end hybrid position, will join the first-year program at Lakeland's Southeastern University.

Each player generated interest from more than 20 schools through the Athletes for College recruiting service.

Brown said it was a stressful time, talking to various coaches every day, but it was an experience he also enjoyed.

It was a mixture of feelings at the signing ceremony as well.

"I'm nervous and excited—really excited," Brown said.

Brown said he believes the small, Christian school will be a good fit for him. Plus, he enjoys the fact he gets to join a friend in Smith.

Keystone head coach Chuck Dickinson said Brown possesses a 6-3, 6-4 frame that could use a little more weight. He said Brown probably weighs approximately 200 pounds now, but could see him putting on 25 to 30 pounds.

As it was, though, Brown did the job he needed to do at tight end.

"Even though he wasn't real heavy, he came off the ball," Dickinson said. "We ran quite a bit to his side. He was able to get people moved out of there just because of leverage."

Brown already catches the ball well, though Dickinson said that's something he'll have to continue to work on.

"He's got above-average hands," Dickinson said, "but that's something he can improve on."

Brown feels good about his chances to contribute.

"I think I'll get the opportunity

to play a lot at this school," he said.

Carroll seemed almost at a loss for words in describing what it felt like to get a chance to keep playing.

"I don't know, it's just mind blowing getting this far," he said. "It's crazy to think of."

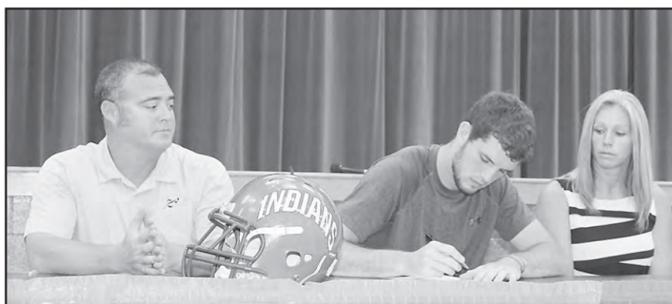
It was a hard decision to choose a school, Carroll said. He narrowed his choices to Southeastern and Faulkner University in Montgomery, Ala. In the end, Carroll said he liked Southeastern's commitment to academics and its closer location to home.

As far as the football side of Southeastern, Carroll said he's not sure where he'll end up playing, though he does have a preference for lining up in the offensive backfield.

"I'd like to get the ball, but it's just wherever the coaches need me," Carroll said.

Dickinson said Carroll is a strong blocker, with an emphasis on "strong."

"Michael benches 335, 340, and cleans over 300," Dickinson



Micah Brown, seated between Athletes for College's Kevin Wright and mother, Holly Hudson, signs his Kentucky Christian University letter of intent.

said. "From a strength standpoint, he's already there. He's just got to fit into their system. It's a new system in the sense of being a first-year program, so maybe he'll have a chance to get in and have some early playing time."

Carroll proved his worth at KHHS as a kicker as well with his ability to kick off into the end zone.

"He was a very big asset to the team," Dickinson said.

Valenzuela admitted he didn't like talking during his interview with the Telegraph-Times-Monitor, but he had no trouble putting into words what the day meant to him.

"I'm pretty happy," he said. "I've always wanted to go play a sport in college. It's always been my dream. Now, it's happening."

Valenzuela helped lead the Indians to the District 4-4A championship last season. That accomplishment will only help as he attempts to make his mark at the collegiate level.

"It helped me because it showed that anything can

happen," Valenzuela said. "Nobody determined that we would go as far as we did (in 2013). We were supposed to be the underdogs, and we proved everybody wrong."

Dickinson said Valenzuela was a big part of that district championship by adding another dimension to his game. Valenzuela showed the ability to run the ball and did so

successfully in key games, such as a win over district opponent Bradford.

"I think that helped our offense tremendously with him being able to be a run threat," Dickinson said. "He still was able to throw, but I think that's part of the game he'll have to work on a little bit more at the next level. Hopefully,

See SIGNINGS, 10B



Michael Carroll signs his letter of intent to attend Southeastern University. He is joined by sister, Courtney, and parents, Jodi and Sean Carroll.



Blake Valenzuela, between parents, Wayne Musselwhite and Jennifer Valenzuela, and brothers Josh (far left) and Jacob Musselwhite, signs to play at Wilmington College.

Keystone girls' basketball/softball camp starts June 30

A girls' basketball/softball camp will be held at the Keystone Heights High School gym from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. starting June 30 and running through

July 2. A session will be offered for girls in second through fourth grade, while another will be offered for those in fifth through seventh grade.

The cost is \$130 (or \$65 for those who want to do only one sport) and includes lunches, drinks, T-shirts and awards.

Applications may be obtained at Keystone Heights Elementary School.

For more information, please call Keystone Heights Elementary School at 352-473-4844 and speak to either Jessica Carter (ext. 2315) or MaryAnne McCall (ext. 2270).

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OBITUARIES

Mildred Copeland

LAKE BUTLER—Mildred Dansie Copeland, 93, of Lake Butler passed away Wednesday, May 28, 2014 at her residence from an extended illness. Mrs. Copeland was born on Jan. 23, 1921 in Salt Lake City, Utah to the late Mahonri Dansie and Estella Starling Dansie. She was a homemaker. She was a lifetime member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, currently of the Lake Butler Ward. She is preceded in death by a son, David Copeland.

Mrs. Copeland is survived by: her loving husband of 72 years, William O. Copeland; seven daughters, Ellen Virden, Mary (Robert) Porter, Donna (Glenn) Milton, Christine (George) Bradberry, Nancy (Tom) Price, Barbara Trambley, and Sarah (Mark) Hill; two sons, Tommy Copeland and James (Carolyn) Copeland; brother, Wesley Dansie; sisters, Dorothy Dansie and Stella Benson; 36 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services for Mrs. Copeland were held May 31 at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Lake Butler Ward. Burial took place after the funeral in the Jacksonville Memory Gardens, 111 Blanding Blvd. Orange Park. Archer Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. 386-496-

2008, please sign the guestbook at archerfuneralhome.com
PAID OBITUARY



Wanda Jones

Wanda Jones

STARKE—Wanda Leen Jones, age 77, of Starke passed away at E.T. York Hospice Care Center in Gainesville on Friday, May 30, 2014. She was born on Nov. 18, 1936 in Kings Mills, Ohio to the late Edward and Edith Robinson. Wanda was preceded in death by her husband of 54 years, Reverend Reed Jones.

While a resident of Starke, Wanda worked as a Preschool Teacher at St. Mark's Daycare and Little People's Daycare. She and Reed then moved to Shelby, North Carolina where

they pastored New Bethel Nazarene Church for 22 years. Wanda's two favorite things were spending time with her family and sharing the love of the Lord through time spent with her church family.

Wanda is survived by: her children, Rhoda (Wayne) Wainwright, Danny Jones and Jeanetta Skinner all of Starke; her brother, Jimmy Robinson of Manchester, Ohio; her sister, Beulah Reese of Little Valley, N.Y.; her grandchildren, Kenneth Wainwright, Kristen Quinones, Tarah Jones and Daina Skinner; her great-grandchildren, Tyler, Carson and Kencie Wainwright, Ava and Luka Quinones, and Libby and Hannah Jones.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, June 7, at 11:00 am, with visitation beginning at 10:00 am, followed by a memorial service at Madison Street Baptist Church. Wanda lovingly requested donations be made to Haven Hospice, 4200 N. W. 90th. Blvd. Gainesville, FL 32606, in her memory. Arrangements are under the care and direction of Archie Tanner Funeral Services of Starke. 904-964-5757. Visit www.archietannerfuneralservices.com to sign the family's guest book.

PAID OBITUARY



Roy Knight

Roy Knight

BROOKER—Roy Edward Knight, 63 of Brooker passed away Monday, June 2, 2014 at ET York Haven Hospice in Gainesville. He was born Dec. 11, 1950 in Brooker to the late James Knight and Geraldine McNeal Knight. Mr. Knight was a heavy equipment operator. He enjoyed gardening, his dogs, and being a mechanic. He was preceded in death by his brothers, David and Jack Knight.

Mr. Knight is survived by: his

loving wife, Bethany Goodrich Knight; three brothers, Richard Knight, John Knight, and Vernon Knight; two sisters, Alice Sanford and Thelma McQuaig.

Archer Funeral Home is in charge of the funeral arrangements. 386-496-2008

PAID OBITUARY



Shirley Marshall

Shirley Marshall

STARKE—Shirley Tyson Marshall, 64, of Starke, died on Thursday, May 29, 2014 at Shands at University of Florida Hospital Gainesville. She was a lifelong resident of Starke. She was a member of Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church. She was a graduate of RJE High School Class of 1968. She was also employed with Head Start and Episcopal Children Services for 34 years.

She is survived by: son, Mark A. Marshall; and daughter, Stacy L. Marshall, both of Starke; sisters, Helen Pitts of Cocoa, Gloria Mack and Hazel Hamilton, both of Starke; brothers, Clinton Kelly of Cocoa, Vernon Tyson of Gainesville, Oliver Tyson of Starke, and Gad Tyson Jacksonville; and three grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at

2:00 p.m on Saturday, June 7 in the Church of God by Faith in Lawley with Rev Carl Tyson Presiding and Rev. Alvin Green Eulogist conducting the services. Interment will be held in Bob-Love Cemetery in Starke. Viewing Family Hour, Haile Funeral Home Chapel Friday June 6, 2014 3-4:00 p.m. Viewing for Friends will be held at Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church 5-7:00 p.m. and 1 hour prior to the services on Saturday at the church. The Cortege will form at the Home of Ms. Shirley Marshall 17285 N. W. 55th Avenue in Pleasant Grove at 1:15 p.m. Arrangements are under the Haile Funeral Home, Inc. of Starke.

Lujune Southerland

LAKE BUTLER—Lujune Rush Southerland, 56, of Lake Butler died Monday, June 2, 2014 at ET York Haven Hospice in Gainesville after an extended illness, surrounded by her family. She was born on June 15, 1957 in Ocala to the late James Rush, Sr. and Velta Gay Rush. She was employed with medical records at Shands in Gainesville for many years.

She is survived by: her husband of 35 years, John Earl Southerland, Jr.; daughter, Jennifer Dawn Southerland; one granddaughter; brother, James Rush, Jr.; sisters, Penni (Anthony) Williams and Teresa McGill.

Funeral services will be held Friday, June 6 at 11:00 a.m. in the chapel of Archer Funeral Home, with Rev. Steve Hutchinson officiating. Burial will be at New Zion Cemetery following the services. Family invites friends for visitation Thursday, June 5 from 6 to 8 pm at the funeral home. Archer Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Daniel Williams

LAWTEY—Daniel Wayne Williams, 67, of Lawtey died June 3, 2014 at the V.A. Medical Center

in Lake City. He was born July 27, 1946 in Jacksonville. He is preceded in death by his brother, Dale Walker Prescott and his mother, Lavada Ivey Prescott. He served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War.

He is survived by: his brother, Eugene Prescott of Lawtey.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of Archie Tanner Funeral Services of Starke.

Card of Thanks



Malcom Crews, Jr.

1954—2014

On behalf of the family of Malcom H. Crews, Jr. we would like to thank all those who surrounded us with prayer, encouragement, food and flowers during this most difficult time. We are truly overwhelmed with gratitude for the love you have shown us.

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DISCOVER

YATES

Continued from 2B

things I had never seen before, so I just kind of guessed."

BHS sophomore Cole Johnson also competed at the state event in the area of computer maintenance. He placed fifth after earning a first-place finish at the Region 2 event.

The winner in each area at the state event will compete in the SkillsUSA national event.

This was the first year of SkillsUSA competition for Johnson and Yates.

SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry representatives working to provide the U.S. with a skilled labor force.

Yates said she wasn't expecting to come out on top at the Region 2 event, which featured 12 other students competing in medical terminology. In fact, she said she was hesitant about even placing due to a soccer injury that had her on crutches.

"I was recovering from an

ACL reconstruction," Yates said. "They were going to make me walk up to the stage and walk across it. Mrs. Jackson walked up (to the stage) with me and went on stage and got my award. I was thankful for that."

By virtue of a top-three finish, Yates earned the right to compete at state along with Johnson, who also placed first at the Region 2 event.

"I was really excited because I had never been to Pensacola before," she said.

At the time of the SkillsUSA event, though, the area was deluged by rain and experienced flooding.

Jeff Ledger, a computer systems and information technology teacher at the Bradford-Union Technical Center who went on the trip, said it was the "craziest" weather he's ever seen. The electricity at the Bay Center, where the SkillsUSA event was held, went out halfway through the competition.

"When it came back on," Ledger said, "they said, 'Just so you know, there's a funnel cloud

about a mile from us. We'll keep you alerted.'"

Yates said, "We got like 21 inches of rain overnight. There was actually a lightning bolt that hit the hotel and shook the whole building. It woke me up from a dead sleep."

Still, the SkillsUSA event was fun, Yates said. She competed against approximately 20 people in medical terminology.

She was off crutches by that time, but that didn't make hearing her name announced as a third-place finisher any less intimidating as the state event had more competitors overall than at the Region 2 event.

"I was a bit more nervous," Yates said. "I was off crutches, but I still had to walk down about three flights of stairs and get on stage with all those people looking at me. It was nerve-racking."

Yates believes competitions hosted by such organizations as SkillsUSA and Health Occupations Students of America can help students plan out a career path. However, she made up her mind to do something in medicine years ago, citing her parents as influences. Her father, Rusty, works for Philips and provides service for medical equipment, while her mother, Susan, works for the Cardiac and Vascular Institute in Gainesville as a nuclear technologist.

"I've known from a young age I always wanted to go into the medical field," said Yates, who is contemplating becoming either an obstetrician/gynecologist or a neonatologist. "I think these classes here (at the Bradford-Union Technical Center) help solidify that."

Ledger said he wished to thank the following for their support in allowing Yates and Johnson to compete in the SkillsUSA events: George Roberts Insurance, Starke Chiropractic, Mosley Tire, Denmark Enterprise, Knuckle Druggers, Capital City Bank, State Farm, Community State Bank, Bradford County Education Foundation, Tatum Brothers Saw Mill, Jackson Building Supply and Ameriprise Financial.

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SIGNINGS

Continued from 8B

he'll continue to progress." The fact that Valenzuela progressed each year while at KHHS has the coach believing he can do the same at Wilmington. "I think if he does what he's supposed to, he'll have an opportunity to do well," Dickinson said. The three players can't wait to suit up for their respective schools.

"It's something I've always wanted to do," Valenzuela said, while Brown said, "I can't wait. It's so exciting." Carroll said, "It's going to be an adrenaline rush, definitely." Dickinson, of course, is proud of all three for achieving their goals and putting in the work necessary in the classroom to do so. "Hopefully, they found the (school) that will best fit them, and they'll have success," Dickinson said.

ESE

Continued from 5B

student with gifted skills. Additionally, those classes with additional teacher support are better able to intensify the support for students learning new skills and gradually withdraw that support as the student progresses, a successful process known as "scaffolding." That, Andrews said, is not his opinion, but the "conclusion of research." From there, his conversation with the Telegraph-Times-Monitor quickly flowed into the area of specific learning disabilities because it is by far the largest area of disabilities in every public school district. According to the National Center for Learning Disabilities, nearly 2.5 million school-age children in the United States today have been identified as having learning disabilities, and this does not include the students enrolled in private or religious schools. That number of students represents about 42 percent of

all U.S. students enrolled in any kind of ESE class. Unlike many common perceptions, these disabilities are not a discriminator of people. They are caused by genetics and problems in pregnancy, at birth or after birth. Additionally, they can be caused after birth by head injuries, poor nutrition or chemical exposures to elements such as lead. According to Andrews, a major factor in the student's educational growth, regardless of the relevant type or severity of disability, is early detection. Even when a young child encounters brain damage from accidents, he or she has a better chance of regaining the original neurological function compared to adults. Likewise, the younger the child is when a disability is identified, the better chance he or she has of overcoming those disabilities educationally. Consequently, the district

places much emphasis upon its relationship with childcare programs, voluntary pre-K programs and early organizations like Child Find and Early Steps. Andrews indicated that good communications between parents and people who work with children in preschool organizations are very important. Those professional childcare workers have been trained to recognize disability indicators that are age specific to those children. Some of the more profound and physical disabilities are easily identified, but specific learning disabilities are manifested in subtle expressions. Andrews concurred that the identifying behaviors and skills listed on the idonline.org website are good indicators of the less-obvious learning disabilities of preschool-age children to look for. Those identifying skills and behaviors are:

- Speaks later than most children.
 - Pronunciation problems.
 - Slow vocabulary growth, often unable to find the right word.
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 - Extremely restless and easily distracted.
 - Trouble interacting with peers.
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Lake City, FL 32025-2007
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Fax (386) 754-4814
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RICKER

Continued from 1B

however, she was told her project would have to be considered checked baggage.

"We got it back when we were in Houston, and there was this black line down the back of it," Ricker said.

The black line could be removed, though, so no harm done.

Upon arriving at the Hilton Americas-Houston, where she was supposed to be staying, Ricker found out her name was not on the hotel list. She was asked if she could provide her I-SWEEEP project code, but she didn't have it on her.

"I had to call my parents, but they were in Gainesville," Ricker said. "There was no way they could get me the project code on time. I'm calling random people and asking them if they are in Starke. I finally got a hold of one of my youth directors. She was like, 'Yeah, I'll get it for you.' She had to break into our house and get my project code for me."

Ricker said it was intimidating showing up at the George R. Brown Convention Center with her project. There were so many people and so many projects she thought looked better than hers, she said. She said she didn't feel good about her chances.

"Then you start to talk to the kids," Ricker said. "It's not like you're in a competition with them. You're friends. I didn't meet a single rude person while I was there. It wasn't that kind of environment. Everyone was so nice."

Prior to the project judging, there was a flag ceremony in which some of the I-SWEEEP participants showed off their countries' flags and traditional attire. It was interesting, Ricker said. She said she saw kids from Mexico wearing reindeer headaddresses, while Bangladeshi kids wore what she could only describe as Mrs. Claus-type outfits.

"The girls from Puerto Rico had these huge, pink dresses," Ricker said. "I was wondering how they walking."

More interesting attire awaited Ricker when I-SWEEEP participants visited Johnson Space Center on May 4, which happens to be "Star Wars Day." She said there were "crazy" people dressed in costumes from Wookies to Galactic Empire stormtroopers.

"It was an interesting cultural experience," she said.

Ricker got to visit the Houston Museum of Natural Science, at which she found a vending machine that sold flavored crickets. She bought salt and vinegar and bacon and cheddar varieties and offered them to any Kiwanis member who was bold enough to try them. (Two members did.)

"I brought them back originally for my dad, but he wouldn't eat them," Ricker said. "I ate one for him. I got like cricket stuff in between my teeth. It was not fun. I was one and done."

A STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) Expo was held prior to project judging as well. It was an event open to the public that featured more than 100 physics, chemistry and math demonstrations. Ricker said there was a robotics competition in which you raced against another person to build a robot and then use the finished robot to pick up balls and place them in a bin.

"I was going up against this kid who looked like he was 5," Ricker said. "I'm like one third of the way through my robot, and he's already putting balls into the bin. It was not fair, so I just gave up. It was embarrassing."

The expo also featured the Texas A&M University Chemistry Roadshow, a public-service program designed to entertain as well as educate students.

Dr. Jim Pennington, a senior lecturer and research associate at Texas A&M who coordinates the roadshow, made quite an impression on Ricker with his colorful tie-dyed smock and propensity for scaring people with a contraption that made loud noises.

"He was insane because he kept blowing things up and not telling you (beforehand)," Ricker

said.

At one point, Pennington called Ricker to the stage and asked her to provide him with a monetary bill.

"I gave it to him and he sprayed something on it and lit it on fire," Ricker said, adding, "Then he just handed it back to me, and it wasn't even hot. It was the coolest thing, but he really scared me."

Ricker got her money back safely, plus went home with a little extra, receiving a \$400 check for earning a silver medal after project judging.

Despite a rough beginning with the inability to carry her project on the plane and not being on the hotel list, it turned

out to be quite a trip.

"I really did just have so much fun at I-SWEEEP," Ricker said.

Medals and honorable-mention awards are given to participants in three divisions: Environment, Engineering and Energy. A grand winner is named in each division.

This year's grand winners were Albert Kim—a student at Manhasset High School in Long Island, N.Y.—in Environment, Drew Prevost—a student in the Huntsville, Ala., Covenant Christian Academy home-schooled program—in Engineering and Raymond Yin—a student at Ward Melville High School in East Setauket, N.Y.—in Energy.



Tessa Ricker was called on by Texas A&M University's Dr. Jim Pennington to be a volunteer in the university's Chemistry Roadshow. Here, Ricker watches as her money seemingly burns, but Pennington coated the bill with something to prevent the fire from consuming it. Photo provided courtesy of I-SWEEEP.

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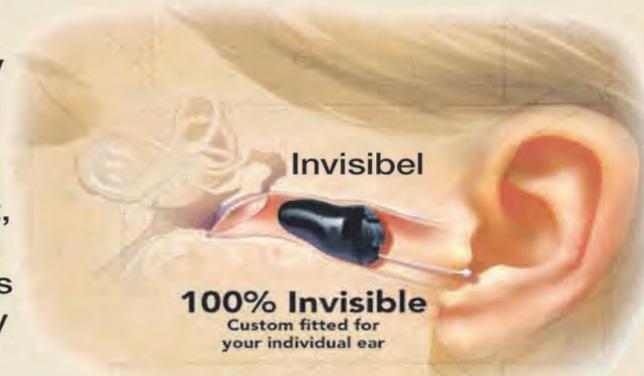
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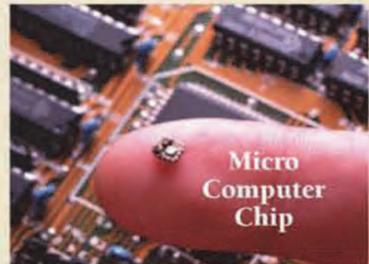
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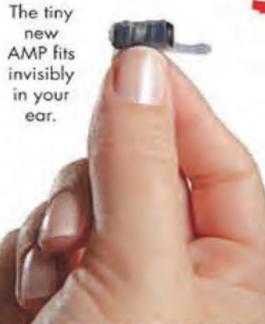


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