

Lake Region Monitor

USPS 114-170 — Keystone Heights, Florida Thursday, Dec. 14, 2017

45th Year — 32nd Issue — 75 CENTS

Worth Noting

Rotary Club Christmas Pecans

The Rotary Club of Keystone Heights Christmas Pecan sale is now underway. Fancy Mammoth Pecan Halves, Fancy Pecan Pieces, Milk Chocolate Covered Pecans and Deluxe Mixed Nuts (Roasted & Salted) are available from any Rotary Club member for \$10. All bags are 12 oz. Pecans are also on sale at Ameris Bank and Bryan's Ace Hardware.

Wreaths Across America

Thanks to everyone who donated to Wreaths Across America this year. We are now preparing for this year's ceremony which will take place at the Keystone Heights Cemetery, Saturday Dec. 16 at noon.

If you wish to help as a volunteer to unpack the boxes of wreaths, we begin will between 9 and 9:30 a.m. at the cemetery. We have over 650 fallen veterans' grave sites to be honored. Wreaths will be laid on these graves after the program is ended.

Third Annual Garden Club of the Lakes Holiday Yard Decoration Contest

First Place: \$50 Ace Hardware gift card.

Second place: \$25 Ace Hardware gift card.

Entries must be received by December 20.

Winners will be announced at the January 11, 2018 Garden Club of the Lakes Meeting.

You may enter your yard or nominate a yard by contacting Toni Davis, Yard of Month Chairman at 352-475-3146.

Bringing in the holidays

Santa Claus made a stop in Keystone Heights Saturday night during the Lake Region Kiwanis Club's annual Christmas parade up South Lawrence Boulevard. Both Keystone Heights and Melrose community leaders produced marches. Organizers Tina Bullock in Keystone and Steve Thrift in Melrose thanked participants in each event.

Participant winners in the Keystone Heights parade were: Best Marching Unit, 1st place: Keystone Heights High School JROTC, 2nd place: KHHS Band; Judge's Choice, 1st place: Operation Barnabas, 2nd place: AMVETS Post 86; Closest to Theme, 1st place: Embrace Community Center, 2nd place: Montgomery Presbyterian Center; Best Business Entry, 1st place: Keystone Heights Animal Hospital, 2nd place: US Logistics; Most Original, 1st place: Eatmon Welding and Coble Family, 2nd Place: Starling Family; Best Youth Entry 1st place: Keystone Heights Jaycees pulled by Stumphead Grinding, 2nd



Place: Keystone Heights United Methodist Church with Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts Troop 146. More photos beginning on page 3A.

County cuts ribbon on new boat ramp

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

Lake Region elected officials cut the ribbon on a new boat ramp south of Keystone Heights Monday, in addition to holding an open house at the beach pavilion.

County Commissioner Gavin Rollins, who pushed the boat ramp project through the county commission, said one purpose of the dual-site event was to thank State Rep. Bobby Payne and Sen. Rob Bradley for their work in Tallahassee. He added that the pair secured funding for the Black Creek Water Resource Development Project, a plan to pump up to 10 million gallons a day from the south prong of the creek to an aquifer recharge area in Camp Blanding. Planners

See RAMP, 2A



Cutting the ribbon for a new Clay County boat ramp on S.R. 21, south of Keystone Heights are (l-r) Keystone Heights City Council members Steve Brown and Marion Kelly, Green Cove Springs City Council Member Van Royal (background), Clay County Commissioner Gavin Rollins, Green Cove Springs Mayor Mitch Timberlake, Save Our Lakes President Vivian Katz, Keystone Council Member Dan Lewandowski, Vice-Mayor Steve Hart, State Rep. Bobby Payne, State Sen. Rob Bradley, Keystone Heights Mayor Karen Lake and Clay County School Board Member Betsy Condon.

Confusion, anger brewing after discovery of Cooper's body

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

Confusion, shock and anger are among the emotions Lake Region residents expressed in reaction to the discovery of the body of Jordan Cooper, Saturday at her home off Brooklyn Bay Road in Keystone Heights.

The 25-year-old went missing on Nov. 25. The Clay County Sheriff's Office and other agencies searched the area around Little Rain Lake Park before scaling back the search last week.

On Saturday Sheriff Darryl Daniels announced deputies found a body in the missing woman's home. The remains were later identified as Cooper's.

During a press briefing Saturday night, Daniels did not take questions, and only said a body had been discovered in the home, that the body had been concealed, and because of its positioning, investigators suspected foul play.

Former Keystone Heights High School Principal Tina Bullock, who knew the victim when Cooper was a

student at the school, said many community members are perplexed about the investigation into the woman's death.

"People are confused about why we are not getting more information," she said. "Is there a need to be fearful? Is there a person out there we should be concerned about?"

During its search for Cooper, the sheriff's office said it was withholding information about the case from the public to protect its investigation and out of respect for Cooper's family.

Bullock added that she was surprised that the sheriff's office did not ask for volunteers while deputies were searching for Cooper in the woods around Little Rain Lake Park.

"We're a small community," she said. "People would have turned out in droves for that."

While searching the area around the park, the sheriff's office said it did not request volunteers to assist because additional people in the area would have hindered the work of tracking dogs investigators were using.

Nick McLeod, who owns

a barber shop on north S.R. 21 echoed the worries about community safety that Bullock expressed.

"Of course, we should be concerned," he said. "Somebody killed her, didn't they?"

McLeod said he has heard rumors about the investigation since the girl's disappearance last month: some believable, some outlandish.

He also said many of his customers have expressed anger over the woman's death. Authorities said the 25-year-old victim had the mental capacity of a teenager.

"It's bad enough that somebody would do that to anyone," McLeod said of the homicide. "But for someone to do that to a person with a disability makes you mad. People are ticked off."

Sheriff's Office Spokesperson Sgt. Keith Smith said he understands that the community wants answers. "I get it," he said. "We do want to get the information out."

He also said that if the sheriff thought a threat to the community existed, he would

have warned the public.

"In past investigations, where we have had information where the public needed to be on the lookout, we have gotten that information out," Smith said.

"Although I can't release information about the investigation," he continued, "I will say this: Keystone Heights, and all of Clay County is as safe as it has ever been."

He also said that in time, questions about the circumstances surrounding Cooper's death and details of the investigation will come out. "Let the investigation run its course," he said, "and have faith in the sheriff's office."

Joey Tyson of Bald Eagle Bait and Tackle said most of the people he talks to do have faith in the sheriff's office. He added that he has not sensed the confusion or anger Bullock and McLeod described.

"There is a lot of speculation," he said about the woman's death. "I think the sheriff's office knows a lot more than what they're letting on," he added. "They'll figure it out. They're sharp enough."

Weekend Weather: Cool and sunny

Thursday - Partly sunny, with a high near 67. Light southwest wind becoming west 5 to 9 mph in the morning.

Thursday Night - A 20 percent chance of showers after 1am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 51.

Friday - Showers likely. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 65. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Friday Night - Partly cloudy, with a low around 37.

Saturday - Sunny, with a high near 61.

Saturday Night - Mostly clear, with a low around 41.

Sunday - Sunny, with a high near 69.

Sunday Night - A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 52.

Monday - A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 72.

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Rollins said the unimproved boat ramp will serve as a kayak and canoe launch.

RAMP

Continued from 1A

said the project will not only replenish the aquifer, but also help restore lake levels around Keystone Heights.

Rollins said the unimproved county boat ramp, south of Keystone Heights on S.R. 21, will serve as a kayak and canoe launch.

"It's an opportunity for the public to access the beauty of our lakes," Rollins said.

He also said that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will treat the hydrilla around the site.

"It's also symbolic," Rollins said about the boat ramp. "It's symbolic that the lakes are coming back. Keystone is coming back alive again and people are excited."

Later at the Keystone Beach pavilion, Rollins again thanked

Bradley and Payne for securing funding for the Black Creek project.

Bradley credited Rollins and his colleagues on the county commission for protecting the project from opponents.

"The county commission has been one-hundred percent behind our efforts, from the beginning," Bradley said, "even when folks tried to stop it, opposed it, tried to put up road blocks. It takes leadership in those times to make sure we move forward."

"Like any fight worth having, there are going to be ups and downs," he added.

Bradley recalled times during his childhood when he spent summers at Camp Immokalee.

"When you came into the city, it was thriving," he recalled. "There were jobs; there was activity; people would vacation here in the summer, and that's all kind of slowly, over time left us."

Bradley also described the

frustration of trying to restore the area's lakes, while he served on the Clay County Commission and as attorney for the City of Keystone Heights.

"We have sat through so many meetings, haven't we?" he said to the crowd gathered at the pavilion, describing the numerous projects to restore the lakes, most of which never were completed. "How many years have we sat through meetings with stacks of plans? — (describing) this is the way to do it — and then it starts and then it stops, and then it starts and then it stops."

"We just decided that was going to end," he said, "and we are going to do something about it and quit talking."

Bradley also credited the St. Johns Water Management District for its part in supporting the Black Creek project and thanked Payne for supporting the project in the Florida House.

Easement approval keeps Black Creek Water Resource Development Project on track, allows for future recreational access

An easement on three acres of county-owned property on Black Creek was approved Tuesday night by the Clay County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to implement the Black Creek Water Resource Development Project (WRD), a key component to meeting northeast Florida's water supply needs. The easement also allows for the construction of a kayak/canoe launch and connected parking for future public access to Black Creek.

"Many thanks to the Clay County BOCC for unanimously recognizing the regional importance of this project to replenish the Floridan aquifer in northeast Florida," said St. Johns River Water Management District Executive Director Dr. Ann Shortelle. "The commissioners' approval is a major step toward acquiring the land rights for construction of the transmission system. We appreciate their support, and we are excited to partner with them to provide future recreational access to Black Creek."

"This project will help with flooding and recharging the aquifer so future generations will have clean drinking water," said Clay County BOCC Chairman Gavin Rollins. "It will also be a kayak launch for residents of the Middleburg area to enjoy the beauty of Black Creek."

The BOCC unanimously approved granting a perpetual

easement to the district over the county's property near the intersection of state roads 16 and 21, encompassing a portion of Black Creek. The purpose of the easement is to allow the district to implement the project and to construct the kayak/canoe launch and parking area.

The Black Creek WRD Project is one of several projects identified in the North Florida Regional Water Supply Plan (NFRWSP) to help meet future water supply demands while protecting natural resources. The plan was approved in January 2016 after three years of collaborative development in a public process.

This project, which will be built over four years in southwest Clay County between Penney Farms and Camp Blanding, focuses on providing recharge to the Upper Floridan aquifer in the Keystone Heights region and Lower Santa Fe basin.

The project will capture up to 10 million gallons per day (mgd) of flow from the Black Creek South Fork when water levels allow. The water will then be pumped through a transmission system toward Camp Blanding in the Keystone Heights area and discharged to an Upper Floridan aquifer recharge system adjacent to Alligator Creek.

Key points to know about the project:

- Currently, the project is in design and engineering phase.

- Preliminary analysis indicates there will be no measurable change in the creek's salinity from the project.

- The maximum pumping of 10 million gallons per day will have little to no environmental impact.

* The average flow of Black Creek is 155 MGD. During Hurricane Irma, the flow exceeded 6,700 MGD.

- At low flows, there will be no water diversion from Black Creek.

- The project is expected to contribute to minimum flows and levels recovery in the region.

- The project may help improve water levels in lakes in the Alligator Creek system, including drought-stressed lakes Brooklyn and Geneva, but its purpose is to replenish the aquifer system.

Funding for the estimated \$41 million project includes \$5 million a year from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund, funded through Amendment One, the Florida Land and Conservation Initiative. The funds are part of a 2017 legislative appropriation championed by Sen. Rob Bradley, R-Fleming Island, Rep. Bobby Payne, R-Palatka, and Rep. Travis Cummings, R-Orange Park, and administered by the district.

For information and ongoing updates about the project, visit the district's website at www.sjrwmd.com/facts/BlackCreek.html.

McRae Elementary School Terrific Kids for October



(L-r) Front row: Samuel Strickland, Dalton Bryan, Addilyn Alday, Jaylynn Gayle, Taylor Clark, David Shepherd, Hunter Gray, Mason Gray and Mya LaVane. Back row: Principal Tammy Winkler, Eli Pons, Jacob Stahmann, Carson Wilson, Samuel Mosher, Zachary Cowan, Ryan Duve, Bailee Thornton, Shaila Davis, Gauge Ronquille, Gloria Gilmore, Matthew Miranowicz, Allison Alvarado, Jeff Lin, Jacob Rutkowski, Kendall Souza and Jacob Loftis. Photo: Lake Region Kiwanis.

High schoolers take crash course in coding



Twenty-eight students at Keystone Heights High School completed the school's Hour of Code event last week in the library. Media Specialist Kathy Williams said the students spent 20 minutes for three days, during the school's Tribe Time getting an orientation into computer coding. She added that another 30 students took part in at least part of the program. Hour of Code is a global movement reaching millions of students in over 180 countries that introduces coding to people age four and older. Pictured are students celebrating the completion of the program with a pizza party in the library. (L-r) Thomas Kaszas, Chris Lehigh, Angelica Lindquist, David Welty and Taylor Westberry. Photo: Keystone Heights High School.



KEYSTONE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Our December is filled with wonderful activities for the entire family! Please join us!

- **December 17 at 6pm "Blue Christmas" worship service** is for anyone feeling loss this Christmas season. This service is to bring light into their life. This service is open to all.
- **December 24, Christmas Eve worship at 10:30** with our Choir presenting a cantata.
- **December 24, Christmas Eve evening at 5:00pm** our Children's/Family Christmas Service will be held. Immediately following will be a "Happy Birthday Jesus" party where Santa will be in attendance in the Multi Ministry Center.
- **At 7pm** will be our traditional Candlelight Service. All are invited.
- **December 31. New Year's Eve morning, one service at 10:30 am.**
- **December 31 at 11 pm** a Watchnight Service with Holy Communion is open to all. Come and start the New Year in God's House.

Any questions about any of these services please call 352-473-3829

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American Heritage Girls Troop FL 7884 from Gadara Baptist Church: (L-r) MacKenzie McRaney, Jessica Bettey and Amber Nance. All photos: Hannah Reddish.



On the AMVETS and auxiliary float are (l-r) Gerry Wooten, Michael Carroll, Dakota Wiley and Jonah Hayes.



In the Clay Electric pickup truck: Gabriel Richie and Kimber Hersey.



Steve Allain with the City of Keystone Heights.



On the Clay Electric line truck: Jackson, Wesley and Wyatt Poncher, Cooper and Hickey and Maggie Mosley.



Kiwanian of the Year Marion Kelly with Lake Region Kiwanis President DarbyAnn Roberts and Scott Roberts.



On the Eatmon Welding and Coble Family float (l-r) Cole Stanford holding his son Pierson Stanford, Zoey Gill, and Tyler Bishop.



Andrew Harvey of Lakeside Links Golf Course.



Keystone Heights Mayor Karen Lake.



Miss Keystone Heights High School: Emily Nop.



Miss Clay County USA: Mackenzie Foye.



A.P. and Hattie Jo Hopper waiting for the parade to begin.

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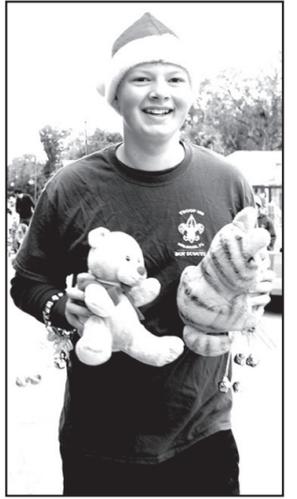
Merry Melrose Christmas parade



On the Ameris Bank float (l-r) Rebeca Gamble, Mary McDonald and Joann Roberts.



(Right) Putnam County Sheriff Gator DeLoach and Junior Kelly.



Jacob Lowe of Boy Scout Troop 109.



Grand Marshal Jimmie Price (center).



Liam Tavarez of Boy Scout troop 109.



From Lake Swan Camp: Noah Cook and Paige Stanley.



Melrose community and Business Association president Joe Rush with Santa and Mrs. Claus.



Romie Williamson, owner of Williamson's Food Store.

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Starke man's book is a Christmas present for all kids

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer

Mike Qualls received an early Christmas present — one he hopes will bring joy to other families as well.

Qualls, who lives in Starke, wrote a children's book called "O Little Christmas Tree," which is now available for purchase online at Amazon and Barnes and Noble. It's the culmination of an almost two-year process from when his story was first submitted to Faith Christian Publishing Inc. for consideration.

"It kind of makes Christmas more special," Qualls said.

His copies of the book he was supposed to look over to make sure everything was OK arrived at just the right time, it seemed. Qualls was returning home the



This Christmas is extra special for Mike Qualls, whose children's book, "O Little Christmas Tree," is now available online via Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

night of Nov. 24 after a playoff football game at Bradford High School, where he is the public-address announcer. He had just watched his Tornados lose to Raines. When he got home, a box was sitting on his porch.

"I felt like I had gotten kicked in the gut," the 1990 BHS graduate said. "That game just took it out of me. Then, when I got home — I didn't know what (the box) was. It was just sitting there in front of the door.

I opened it and said, 'Well, look here. My goodness.' That was the first time I had actually seen or held the book. It was pretty neat."

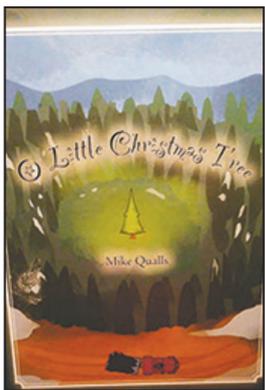
"O Little Christmas Tree" tells the story of Little Tree, who feels neglected as he watches customers buy bigger trees with which to decorate their homes. The story has a happy ending, of course, for Little Tree, with the underlying message that God has a purpose for us all.

Qualls said he feels it's a message important in today's world, citing the fact that children — whether through peer pressure or by watching TV, for example — are basically told they have to meet certain ideals in order to be accepted, to be seen as "cool."

Little Tree, like any child, wants to be adored, Qualls said.

"Not every kid gets up in the morning and feels like they're

See BOOK, 8B



The cover of "O Little Christmas Tree," 20 years in the making and inspired by observing how shoppers bypassed smaller Christmas trees.

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LEFT: Student Ashlyn Padgett (right) checks the pulse of instructor Pam Harvey in the Medical Assisting program at the Bradford-Union Technical Center. **BELOW:** Students Tonya Robbins (left) and Amber Garrett practice taking blood-pressure readings.



B-U Technical Center gives students assist in Medical Assisting

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer

Need an assist in getting a job as a medical assistant? The Bradford-Union Technical Center can provide it.

In its continuing role of helping students gain skills and become licensed and certified in a number of career fields, the center has added Medical Assisting to its Health Science program. It was offered for the first time last year, with all three students graduating, passing their national exams and then being hired to work in the field. Seven students are currently enrolled in this year's program.

Instructor Pam Harvey said the number of students has been small, but is hopeful that number will grow over time as more people realize the program is available.

"It's just getting the word out," she said.

The 1,300-hour program, which consists of Monday-Thursday classes from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., prepares students for a career that is growing at a

rate faster than the average of all occupations. According to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the number of medical assistant jobs was expected to increase by 29 percent by 2026. As of 2016, the number of jobs in that field was 634,400.

The reason for that increase is explained on the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics website: "The growth of the aging baby boomer population will continue to increase demand for preventive medical services, which are often provided by physicians. As a result, physicians will hire more assistants to perform routine administration and clinical duties, allowing the physicians to see more patients."

In May 2016, the median pay for medical assistants was \$31,540 per year (\$15.17 per hour), according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

So, what is a medical assistant? Medical assistants are trained in both clinical and administrative duties. Clinical duties include:

See MEDICAL, 10B



Tanner Tyer

Tyer graduates from UCF

Tom and Sheri Tyer of Callahan are proud to announce that their son, Tanner Jacob Tyer, will be graduating Friday, Dec. 15, from the University of Central Florida with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences—Pre-Medical Track, Cum Laude.

He is the grandson of Tommy and Frances Tyer of Starke and Sherwin and Barbara Carter of Keystone Heights.



Jessica Grimaldo

Grimaldo graduates from Air Force basic

U.S. Air Force National Guard Airman Jessica A. Grimaldo graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio.

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

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

Grimaldo is the daughter of Ana N. Grimaldo of Keystone Heights. She graduated in 2015 from Keystone Heights Junior/Senior High School and earned an associate degree in 2016 from Santa Fe College.



Bullington receives Wings of Gold

U.S. Navy Lt. j.g. Joseph Bullington, a Lawley native and Bradford High School graduate serving at Helicopter Training Squadron (HT-18), received his Wings of Gold during a winging ceremony on Dec. 15 at Naval Air Station Whiting Field in Milton. Bullington, designated as an aviator, received his wings upon completion of flight school. Winging ceremony is the pinnacle of flight officer training, which lasts approximately a year and a half. The curriculum includes air navigation, pre-flight indoctrination and basic ground and engine systems. The rigorous curriculum forces pilots to retain vital flight operation information.



Dahren Allen and Natasha Hines

Hines, Allen wed on Nov. 3

Doctor Natasha R. Hines and Dahren D. Allen were united in marriage on Nov. 3 in Miami Beach.

The bride is the daughter of Ophelia B. Hines of Starke and the late Nathaniel Mines. She is the granddaughter of the late Bishop D.L. and Gussie Bright of Lawley.

The bridegroom is the son of Glenda Allen of North Lauderdale and the late Fred Allen. He is the grandson of Myrtle Wright of Pompano Beach and the late David Wright. Natasha is a graduate of

Bradford High School, Florida State University, Hofstra University and University of Phoenix.

Dahren is a graduate of Blanche Ely High School, Florida A&M University and Florida State University.

The couple will reside in Miami.



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Keystone man arrested for attempted murder

Joseph Allen Stathas, 59, of Keystone Heights was arrested Dec. 6 by Clay deputies for attempted murder and aggravated domestic battery with a deadly weapon.

According to an arrest report, the defendant and victim have lived together as boyfriend and girlfriend for three years. The victim told a deputy that during an argument, the defendant

grabbed the victim's mobile phone and went outside. The victim followed the man into the front yard, where she attempted to get her phone back. She said that during the struggle, the defendant struck her in the face with a closed fist several times.

"The offender then retrieved a handgun from the front, right pocket of his pants," wrote the officer, "pointed the gun at the victim and fired one shot; however, the bullet did not strike the victim."

The woman went to a neighbor's house to call 911.

Deputies later found the handgun in the defendant's front, right pants pocket.

Man arrested for battery with refrigerator

Russel Allen Suco, 64 of Keystone heights was arrested Dec. 8 by Clay deputies for battery.

According to an arrest report, the victim is the defendant's daughter and the two live together as a family.

The victim told a deputy that while she was getting a drink from the refrigerator, the defendant slammed her head against the appliance, busting

her bottom lip and causing her to lose two front teeth.

"It should be noted," the deputy wrote in the arrest report, "that (the victim) was highly intoxicated at the time of this report."

The defendant told the officer that while his daughter was attempting to get a beer from the refrigerator, he tried to close the icebox to prevent her from getting the drink.

"While doing so," the officer wrote of the defendant's account, "the victim's head was still inside the fridge which resulted in the door hitting her head."

Woman says she had to use machete to defend herself

Ryan Richard Moore, 33, of Keystone Heights was arrested Dec. 9 by Clay deputies for battery. According to an arrest report, the victim had been married to the defendant for five years. However, the couple has been separated for four years.

The victim said when she and a witness drove to the defendant's home to pick up the separated couple's daughter, the girl was wearing no shoes and a thin dress. She also claimed that when the defendant drove up to the residence with the girl, he got out of the vehicle with liquor and appeared intoxicated.

"The victim stated she became upset because the defendant was drinking and driving, and the two began to argue," a deputy wrote in a report.

Later, according to the victim, the defendant demanded that the child remain with him and

the dispute escalated, while the couple was at the bottom of the defendant's staircase.

She added that after declaring that she was taking the child, the defendant approached her in an aggressive manner.

"The victim stated she picked up a machete that was located by the wall next to the stairs and told the defendant to stay away from her," the officer wrote. "The defendant 'charged' the victim and pushed her to the ground. While on the ground, the defendant pulled the victim's hair and punched the victim on the back of her head several times."

The victim said she then got up and left the home with her daughter and the witness.

The defendant claimed he was defending himself after the victim cut him with a machete, which she retrieved from a shelf over the kitchen sink.

However, the deputy noted that the shelf was too high for the victim to reach, and the scratch on the defendant's arm was not consistent with being cut by a machete.

ARRESTS

Bradford

Austin Michael Bruno, 19, of Gainesville was arrested Dec. 8 by Bradford deputies for possession of marijuana and possession of drug equipment. He was released without bond.

Charles M. Chason, 44, of Jacksonville, was arrested Dec. 7 by Bradford deputies for violation of probation. No bond was allowed.

James Tyrone Davy, 44, of Starke was arrested Dec. 11 by Starke Police for three counts of possession of cocaine, three counts of selling cocaine and two counts of public order crimes. Bond was set at \$330,000.

Edward Allen Grover, 50, of Starke was arrested Dec. 7 by Bradford deputies for violation of probation. No bond was set.

Samuel Anthony Hinkle, 33, of Lawtey was arrested Dec. 11 by Bradford deputies for possession of marijuana and possession of drug equipment. No bond has been set.

Alvin Jenkins, 46, of Lawtey was arrested Dec. 5 by Lawtey Police for fleeing/eluding police, possession of a weapon, burglary, larceny, resisting an

officer, loitering and destroying evidence. Bond was set at \$120,000.

Linda Hudnall Johns, 51, of Starke was arrested Dec. 8 by Starke Police for contempt of court. Bond was set at \$5,000.

Jennifer Michele Kelley, 40, of Hampton was arrested Dec. 9 by Bradford deputies for battery. Bond was not set.

Daniel Matthew Mastrollia, 30, of Lawtey was arrested Dec. 9 by Bradford deputies for battery, larceny and possession of drug equipment. Bond was set at \$17,000.

Theodore Monroe, 25, of Green Cove Springs was arrested Dec. 8 for destroying evidence. He was released without bond.

Kenneth Grant Outlaw, 36, of Melrose was arrested by Bradford deputies for battery. He was released without bond.

Tyler G. Peraino, 18, of Lawtey was arrested Dec. 8 by Lawtey Police for resisting an officer. He was released without bond.

William James Reed, 32, of Lawtey was arrested Dec. 9 by Bradford deputies for a moving

traffic violation and possession of drug equipment. Bond was set at \$4,000.

Myra Lynn Roberts, 47, of Brookier was arrested Dec. 10 by Bradford deputies for larceny. She was released without bond.

Jennifer Ann Sanders, 18, of Lawtey was arrested Dec. 8 by Lawtey Police for aggressive assault with a weapon and two counts of resisting an officer. Bond was set for \$10,000.

Joshua Alex Sumner, 32, of Starke was arrested Dec. 5 by Starke Police for burglary and larceny. No bond was set.

Kimberly Michelle Thomas, 32, of Keystone Heights was arrested Dec. 8 by Bradford deputies for a probation violation. No bond was set.

Heather Michelle Thornton, 40, of Lake Butler was arrested Dec. 8 by Starke Police for a moving traffic violation, possession of drugs and possession of drug equipment. Bond was set at \$7,000.

Keystone/Melrose

Ryan David Fritz, 41, was arrested Dec. 7 by Clay deputies in Melrose for a probation

violation.

Union

Kristofferson Farmer, 18, of Lake City was arrested Dec. 10 by Union deputies for possession of marijuana.

Allen Jones, 51, of Brookier was arrested Dec. 7 by Union deputies for obstructing justice/retaliation against an informant/victim/witness without injury. No bond was set.

Matthew Bryant Morgan, 31, of Lake Butler was arrested Dec. 7 by Union County deputies for cruelty toward a child/abuse without great harm. No bond has been set.

Steven Richard Rollins, 50, of Lake Butler was arrested on Dec. 9 by Union Deputies for driving while license suspended, third or subsequent offense. No bond has been set.

Phillip Anthony Washington, 15, of Raiford was arrested by Union deputies at the Union Juvenile Residential Facility for two counts of battery on juvenile detention staff. A witness reported that Washington struck one victim with a chair and then kicked another in the side while they were trying to restrain him.

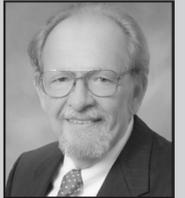
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|---|-------------|---|-----------------------------|-------|--|-----------------|
| Adult General Education, GED, and Applied Academics | Rudoi | Call Now | January 4th - May 25, 2018 | M - F | 9AM - 12PM | Vary |
| Automotive Maintenance and Light Repair Technician | Rensberger | Call Now | January 4th - May 25, 2018 | M - F | 9AM - 3:30PM | 600 |
| Automotive Service Technology (AST), AST 1, and AST 2 | Rensberger | Closed | January 4th - May 25, 2018 | M - F | 9AM - 3:30PM | 1800, 750, 1050 |
| Commercial Foods and Culinary Arts | Crews | Call Now | January 4th - May 25, 2018 | M - F | M,T,W,F: 9AM - 3:30PM R: 9AM - 7:30PM | 1200 |
| Commercial Vehicle Driving A & B | Abercrombie | Call Now | January 8th - March 1, 2018 | M - R | 7AM - 5PM | 320 & 150 |
| Commercial Vehicle Driving A & B | Abercrombie | Call Now | March 12 - May 3, 2018 | M - R | 7AM - 5PM | 320 & 150 |
| Computer Systems and Information Technology | Ledger | Call Now | January 4th - May 25, 2018 | M - F | 9AM - 3:30PM | 900 |
| Cosmetology | Kirkpatrick | Call Now | January 4th - May 25, 2018 | M - F | M,T,W,F: 9AM - 3:30PM R: 9AM - 7:30PM | 1200 |
| Diesel Maintenance Technician | Rensberger | Call Now | January 4th - May 25, 2018 | M - F | 9AM - 3:30PM | 600 |
| Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) | Pusateri | Course In Progress. Visit www.butc.edu for 2018 application. | | M - R | M & T: 8AM - 4:30PM W & R: 7AM - 5PM | 1350 |
| Medical Assisting | Harvey | Course In Progress. Visit www.butc.edu for 2018 application. | | M - R | 8AM - 4:30PM | 1300 |
| Welding Technology | Geiger | Call Now | January 4th - May 25, 2018 | M - F | 9AM - 3:30PM | 1050 |
| Welding Technology, Advanced | Geiger | Call Now | January 4th - May 25, 2018 | M - F | 9AM - 3:30PM | 750 |

EVENING CLASSES

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| Adult General Education, GED, and Applied Academics | Rudoi | January 4, 2018 | January 4th - May 25, 2018 | M, T, R | 6PM - 9PM | Vary |
| Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) | Pusateri | Course In Progress. Visit www.butc.edu for 2018 application. | | M - R | 5PM - 10PM | 1350 |
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Tornadoes defeat Taylor 109-42, off to 3-0 start in district

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer

It wasn't much of a challenge, but it was still a game the Bradford High School boys basketball team had to take seriously.

Five players reached double figures, with another four right on the cusp of doing so, as the Tornadoes routed visiting Pierson Taylor 109-42 on Dec. 8 to improve to 3-0 in District 4-5A.

Bradford (3-1) is the only area team — boys or girls — with a winning record right now. They're also the only area team with an undefeated district record.

"That's definitely the most important piece right now," Bradford head coach Adrian Chandler said. "During the regular season, take care of your district matchups."

The Tornadoes scored more points in the first quarter than Taylor finished with for the game. Taz Curry and Chris Cummings scored 13 and 10 points, respectively, in the first quarter, which also featured nine points from Jordan Lee and eight points from Tavi'en Young.



Matthew Crawford pulls up for short jumper in the Tornadoes' district win over Pierson Taylor. Crawford scored a game-high 25 points.

Those would be the final point totals for those four players. Matthew Crawford scored 12 points in the second quarter

and 11 in the fourth quarter to finish with a game-high 25. He did a good job of creating opportunities for teammates in the third quarter, rebounding his own miss and feeding Tarrin Jackson for a basket, while his drive to the basket set up another score by J'cobi Harris. Crawford then had a hot start in the fourth quarter, successfully driving to the basket for three scores, while setting up another with a steal.

Harris, Jackson and Dequan Hankerson all had scores off their own rebounds as Bradford never slowed, regardless of who was in the game. Harris and Jackson finished with 12 and 10 points, respectively, while Jordan Hill had nine. Hankerson added eight points, with D.J. Mackey and Jaleen Lane chipping in three and two, respectively.

Crawford and Lee each had six assists, while Hill had five. Harris grabbed 10 rebounds, while Cummings had five steals. Crawford, Lee and Mackey each had four steals.

Bradford opened district play with an 82-43 win over Keystone Heights on Dec. 5 in Starke.

The Indians trailed by just five entering the second quarter,



Tarrin Jackson works himself into position for a shot after grabbing a rebound.

thanks to Eddie Thomas' seven points, but Bradford began pulling away in the second quarter, getting eight points from Curry and outscoring Keystone 19-8 to take a 36-20 halftime lead.

Lee reached double figures in the first half and finished with 17 points, which left him one point shy of team leader Cummings,

See BHS, 6B

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Lake Region Monitor

Kiwanis boys basketball tourney returns Dec. 21-23 at BHS

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer

Do you want some hoops to go with your holiday hoopla?

The annual Lake Area McDonald's-Kiwanis Club of Starke boys basketball tournament returns to Bradford High School for three days of action beginning Thursday, Dec. 21.

It's not just a chance to watch eight teams battle for the championship trophy. Paid admission automatically enters spectators into prize drawings. Toys will also be given away to lucky children throughout the event.

Daily admission is \$5. Bradford head coach Adrian

Chandler believes this year's tournament will bring plenty of excitement for spectators.

"If they want a holiday thrill, I think it's going to be fun," he said.

The field consists of the host Tornadoes, who play in Class 5A, Class 1A Union County and Madison County, Class 6A Santa Fe and Stanton Prep, Class 7A Gainesville, Class 8A Creekside and Class 2A South Carolina team Landrum. Six of those teams (including Bradford) were playoff qualifiers last season, with all six winning at least one postseason game. Creekside, Gainesville, Landrum and Madison County went a combined 94-19 last season.

As has become a tradition, a game between Bradford and Union will be part of the action on the first day, Dec. 21. First, Santa Fe plays Stanton Prep at 4 p.m., followed by Gainesville taking on Madison at 5:30 p.m. Creekside plays Landrum at 7 p.m., with the Tornadoes and the Tigers then squaring off at 8:30 p.m.

On Friday, Dec. 22, the Santa Fe-Stanton Prep and Gainesville-Madison losers play at 4 p.m., while the Creekside-Landrum and Bradford-Union losers will play at 5:30 p.m. The Santa Fe-Stanton Prep and Gainesville-Madison winners play at 7 p.m., with the Creekside-Landrum and Bradford-Union winners playing at 8:30 p.m.

The seventh- and fifth-place games take place on Saturday, Dec. 23, with the losers of the first two games on Dec. 22 playing at 4 p.m. and the winners of those games playing at 5:30 p.m. The losers of the final two games on Dec. 22 will play for the consolation championship (third place) at 7 p.m. The field's remaining undefeated teams will play for the championship at 8:30 p.m.

Chandler said his players are excited about the tournament and ready for the challenge of trying to win it.

"Our guys are just eager this season to prove a lot of the naysayers wrong who say they can't play on a consistent basis," Chandler said.

Bishop Snyder won last year's championship, defeating Fleming Island 84-75. Bradford went 1-2, losing 52-49 to Oakleaf in the consolation championship. Union went 0-3 to finish eighth.



Scramble supports KHHS golfers

A fundraising scramble was held Nov. 18 to benefit the golf program at Keystone Heights High School. The winning team, shooting 15 under par, was made up of (l-r) Travis McMurtry, Nolan Julius, Joe Pellerito and Wyatt Thomas.



The second-place team, shooting 12 under par, was made up of (l-r) Camille Jackson, M.J. Rivera, Candace Jackson and Kate Huber.



Placing third, and shooting 11 under par, were (l-r) Ron Beasley, Tyler Thomas, David Thomas and Scott Kicklighter.

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In Him let us trust.
A sign, a sign He is here,
The angels tell us He is near.
Oh wonderful child — God in flesh,
In Him let us rest.
Oh Savior Lord, you are here,
To save us from eternal fear.
The Christ Child — became a man,
To fulfill His master plan.
To save the world from their sin,
He is the beginning and the end.
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
Christmas is all about the Christ Child.
— Henry Hodges, Lawtey, FL

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UCHS grad Dukes to play in Division II football championship

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer

Sophomore defensive lineman Austin Dukes, a 2014 Union County High School graduate, and his University of West Florida teammates will play for the Division II national championship, taking on Texas A&M-Commerce on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 5 p.m. The game will air on ESPN2.

Dukes, the son of Bruce and Kelly Dukes, has played in all 14 games this season, recording 13 solo tackles and 28 assists. He has four tackles for loss, two quarterback sacks, three quarterback hurries and one pass breakup.

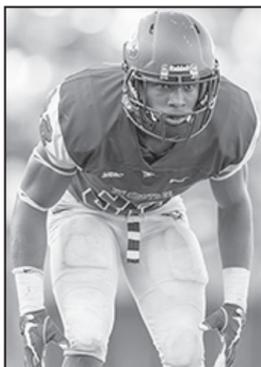
In the Argonauts' first playoff game, Dukes recorded two solo tackles and three assists in a 31-0 win over Wingate. He had one

sack for a 5-yard loss.

Dukes had one solo tackle and two assists in each of West Florida's next two playoff games: a 17-14 win over West Georgia and a 28-21 win over West Alabama.

To get to this Saturday's championship game, the Argonauts defeated Indiana University of Pennsylvania 27-17. Dukes had three solo tackles.

West Florida (11-3) is in its second year of football.



Alden McClellon

(Photo by Kevin Dorsey/
North Carolina Central
University Athletics)

Former Tiger McClellon earns All-MEAC honors

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer

Alden McClellon, a 2015 Union County High School graduate, received second-team All-Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference honors following his junior season at North Carolina Central University.

The safety finished third on

the team in tackles with 55 (34 solo), including 7.5 for loss, two sacks and two pass break-ups.

McClellon recorded nine tackles (five solo) in a 60-7 loss to Duke on Sept. 2 and had eight tackles each in a 33-28 win over South Carolina State (Sept. 21) and a 24-17 win over Gardner-Webb (Oct. 14). He had six solo tackles and three tackles for loss against South Carolina State, while his four solo tackles against Gardner-Webb helped him finish as the team's leading tackler that game.

For his career at NCCU, McClellon has 153 tackles (88 solo).

BHS

Continued from 4B

who scored eight points in the third quarter and finished with 18.

Crawford scored 11 points in the fourth quarter and finished with 13, while Curry and Young had 12 and 11 points, respectively. Mackey and Harris had four and three points, respectively, while Hill and Lane each had two.

Lee and Cummings had eight and six assists, respectively, with Cummings also coming away with 11 steals.

Harris led the team in rebounds with six.

Keystone's Thomas led all scorers with 22 points, while the Indians also got eight points from Sawyer Maxwell. Ray Kirtley had six points, while Marco Flores, Josh Pendergrast and Garrett Stanley each had two. Jarien Woodard added one point.

On Dec. 7, the Tornados got 22 and 21 points from Curry and Cummings, respectively, and held off host team Interlachen for a 73-72 win.

Lee and Cummings scored nine

and eight points, respectively, in the first quarter as Bradford built a 23-9 lead. Eight points from Curry in the second quarter helped the Tornados go into halftime leading by 10, but the Rams outscored Bradford in the second half to make things interesting.

Chandler praised his players for the way they handled Interlachen's second-half run. He said the Tornados did a good job of slowing the ball on offense when they needed to, making good decisions on passing and picking their spots to score, while players did a good job of communicating on defense, making switches to help each other out.

"It definitely showed a lot of maturity and resilience late after God allowed us to get off to a good start," Chandler said.

The coach said Bradford still has room to grow, but the 3-0 district start is beneficial for the players' morale and confidence.

Bradford plays two district games this week, traveling to Newberry on Thursday, Dec. 14, for a 7 p.m. game and then hosting Fort White on Saturday, Dec. 16, for a 7:30 p.m. game.

Rams hand BHS girls 1st district hoops loss

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer

The Bradford High School girls basketball team came up just short in improving to 3-0 in District 4-5A, losing to host Interlachen 32-30 on Dec. 7.

Raynisha Hunter led the Tornados (2-4) with eight points, while Olyvia Griffin and Jah'mya Henderson each had five points. Chloe Raab had four points, while Talia Brown and Regina Roberts each had three. Jade Baker and Dezirae Tabet each added one point.

Baker also had four steals, while Sara Foster grabbed six rebounds.

Bradford played Williston this past Tuesday and will travel to play district opponent Keystone Heights on Thursday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. The Tornados then host Baldwin on Tuesday, Dec. 19, at 7 p.m.

Junior varsity games will be played at 5:30 p.m.

KHHS boys get 1st district soccer win

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer

Goalie Caleb Cushman made six saves as the Keystone Heights High School boys soccer team picked up its first District 5-2A win, defeating visiting Interlachen 2-0 on Dec. 5.

Jay Payne scored a goal off a Landon Ricketts assist, while Matt White scored off a Payne assist.

Keystone (4-4-2) then traveled to play P.K. Yonge on Dec. 11, with the teams playing to a scoreless tie. That put the Indians' district record at 1-3-1.

The Indians played district opponent Crescent City this past Tuesday and will host Fernandina Beach on Thursday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. Keystone travels to play Palatka on Friday, Dec. 15, at 7:20 p.m. and then travels to play district opponent Fort White on Monday, Dec. 18, at 7 p.m.

A home match against Fort White, which was originally scheduled for Dec. 8, will now be played on Tuesday, Dec. 19, at 7 p.m.

Keystone's junior varsity team played Crescent City this past Tuesday and plays at 4 p.m. prior to the varsity team's Dec. 15 Palatka match.

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OBITUARIES



Glenn Brannen

Glenn Brannen

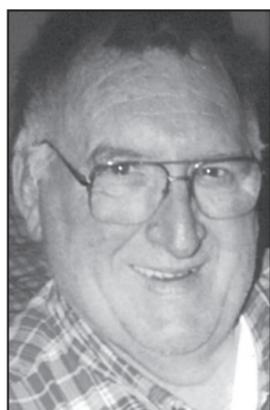
LAKE CITY—Glenn Brannen, 70, of Lake City, passed away on Sunday, Dec. 10, 2017, at the Haven Suwannee Valley Hospice Care Center in Lake City with his family by his side. He was born in Lake City to the late Cecil Wilson Brannen and Edith Margaret Thornton Brannen. Mr. Brannen was raised in Lake Butler and was a graduate of Union County High School, Class of 1965, where he lettered in track and football. He made his home in Lake City for the past 39 years and was a member of Southside Baptist Church in Lake City. Mr. Brannen worked for 27 years with Florida Gas, Florida Hydrocarbons (later becoming Enron) and also with the Florida Department of Corrections at Columbia Correctional Institution, retiring with 12 years of service. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, woodworking, making walking canes, raising animals and spending time with his family and friends. He was preceded in death by his loving Dachshund, Roxy.

Survivors include his wife, Delores Box Brannen, Lake City; two daughters, Jackie (Steve) Rossiter, Ocala, and Christie (Chris) Graham, Lulu; four grandchildren, Kailee (Kyle) Markham, Lake Butler, Konnor Rossiter, Ocala,

Natalie Graham and Maysen Graham, both of Lulu; uncle, Dewey (Norma) Thornton, Lake Butler; aunts, Melvina "Bunny" Addison, Gainesville, and June Thornton, Starke; brother-in law, A.C. Box (Johnnie Belle), Lake Butler; sisters-in-law, Emogene Box and Josephine Addison, both of Lake Butler, Alief (Randall) Bryant, Glen St. Mary, and Durelle (Emory) Bailey, Lake City; and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were conducted on Dec. 13 at Southside Baptist Church with Dr. Fritz Fountain, Rev. Herman Hampton and Rev. Larry Sweat officiating. Interment followed at Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, Haven Suwannee Valley Hospice Care Center or Southside Baptist Church Building Fund, Lake City. Arrangements were under the direction of Gateway-Forest Lawn Funeral Home. Please leave words of comfort for the family at www.gatewayforestlawn.com.

PAID OBITUARY



Carl Brumbaugh

Carl Brumbaugh

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Carl R. "Ray" Brumbaugh entered into the arms of Jesus on Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017, at Kindred North Florida Hospital. On Nov. 24, 1933,

he was born to the late Carl and Beulah Brumbaugh in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Ray grew up on a farm in Whitmore Lake and attended a one-room schoolhouse for eight years. Ray was quite young when he accepted Christ at Camp Fahola in Michigan. He graduated from Ann Arbor High School and was the state heavyweight wrestling champion in 1951. Ray attended Bob Jones University, where he met Lovelda Ellison and married her in 1954. He was a brilliant pitcher for fastpitch softball for many years.

In 1960, Ray graduated from Toccoa Falls Bible College with a desire to work with young people. He applied for and was called to be the director of Lake Swan Camp in Melrose. "Uncle Ray" and "Aunt Lovie" served the Lord for 16 years at Lake Swan, leaving behind a legacy of hundreds, if not thousands, entering Christ's kingdom in those days. He and Lovie also served 10 years with the Georgia Sheriffs' Boys Ranch.

Ray became well known throughout the area as a general contractor, being instrumental in constructing many homes and several churches in northeast Florida. In later years, Ray was unable to get out and loved to watch sermons on TV, plus the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. He found great pleasure watching his grandson, Jimmy, coach football at several major universities. He was preceded in death by: his grandson, Todd Brumbaugh; and his sister, Nanci Hanlon.

Ray is survived by: his loving wife of 63 years, Lovie; sons, Gary (Shelley) Brumbaugh, Greg (Kathy) Brumbaugh; daughters, Darla (James Yarborough), Dawn (James) Johnson; sisters, Arlene (Ed) Ayers, Gayle Aseltine, Janelle (Bob) Collins, Becky (Jack) Thompson; "adopted" sons, Paul (Beth) Pendleton, Buddy (Diane) DeGraff; nine grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren; along with many nieces and nephews.

Memorial services for Mr. Brumbaugh will be conducted by: Rev. Frank Smith on Thursday, Dec. 21, at 5 p.m. at Lake Saw Camp in Melrose. The family will receive friends from 4 p.m. until 5 p.m. Following the service, dinner will be provided. The family would

like to invite all to attend. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider making donations to Lake Swan Camp, 647 State Road 26, Melrose, FL, 32666. Arrangements are under the direction and care of Gateway-Forest Lawn Funeral Home, Lake City. Please leave words of comfort for the family at www.gatewayforestlawn.com.

PAID OBITUARY

John Clark

ALACHUA—John William "J.W." Clark, 89, of Alachua died on Sunday, Dec. 10, 2017. He was born in Bland to the late John Bryant and Minnie Lucille Clark. He spent most of his life in Alachua. He sold peanuts in Worthington Springs. He was preceded in death by: his wife of 57 years, Victoria Clark; children, Johnny Clark, David Clark, Kathy Ward and Jeanette Arnold; siblings, Tony Clark, Warren Clark and Gladys Clark.

He is survived by: son, John William (Robin) Clark; daughter, Carol Clark; 10 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Services were held at North Pleasant Grove Church on Dec. 13. Arrangements were under the care of Archer Funeral Home, Lake Butler.

Wynell Dickens

RAIFORD—Wynell "Nell" Dickens, 83, of Raiford died on Thursday, Dec. 7, 2017. She was born in Sylvester, Georgia, to the late J.D. and Susie Terrell. She lived nearly all her life in Union County. She attended night school to earn her CNA certificate and worked as a sales representative. She attended Evergreen Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by: husband, Patrick Dickens Jr.; and son, Charles David Dickens.

She is survived by: son, Patrick (Barbara) Dickens III; daughters, Sheila (Donnie) Jackson and Julie (Patrick) Berger; six grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Dec. 30, at 11 a.m. at Evergreen Baptist Church. The family will receive friends at 10:30 a.m. Arrangements are under the care of Archer Funeral Home, Lake Butler. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Haven Hospice on Highway 90 in Lake City.

Robert Glaab

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Robert E. Glaab, 79, of Keystone Heights died Thursday, Nov. 30, 2017, at his home. He was born on Dec. 26, 1937, in Illinois to the late Samuel and Clara (Baine) Glaab. He served

in the United States Army and, prior to retirement, worked for Ford Motor Company.

Survivors are: his wife, Letha (Adams) Glaab of Keystone Heights; children, Kenneth Robinson of Keystone Heights, Marcy Wernig of Plainfield, Illinois, Dorothy Johns of Marshalltown, Iowa, Karla Mueller of Chatham, Illinois, and Dana Robinson of Cairo, Illinois; and sister, Joyce Griffin of Jacksonville. Also left behind are 16 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and many other family members. Services have not been scheduled. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Keystone Heights.

PAID OBITUARY



Malcolm Hill

Malcolm Hill

STARKE—Malcolm L. Hill passed away Monday, Dec. 11, at age 84.

He is survived by: his wife, Edythe Robinson Hill; his children, Troxie (Mark) Schoenborn of Ocala, Mauriessa Hill and John (Julie) Hill, both of Gainesville, and Robin (Dennis) DiFranco of Huntsville, Alabama; and Edythe's children, Cathy (John) Yax of Sarasota and Mike (Amy) Robinson of Starke. They loved a combined 12 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren and counting.

He was born in Greenwood and raised in south Gainesville. Malcolm served in the U.S. Army in Korea during that war with the 11th Combat Engineers, returned home and graduated from Florida State University and then went on to 31 years in the Florida Department of Corrections before retiring. Malcolm was well known locally for his interests and opinions and often wrote to the paper to express them. Malcolm was a past president of the Florida Peace Officers Association and an active member of the National Rifle Association. Locally, Malcolm especially enjoyed his association and interest with the youth 4-H and FFA groups. He was a life member of the VFW and current member of the Starke American Legion. An avid FSU fan, he made sure the world knew it. Malcolm wanted no memorial and has donated himself to medical research to see what good he can still do.

His family and friends will celebrate his life in the near future. Malcolm also wished that all folks will support youth organizations in their area. He will be missed for all time. Go Noles! Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Starke.

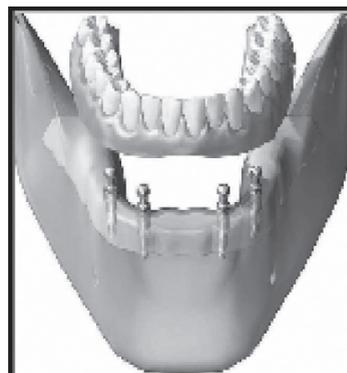
PAID OBITUARY

Florence Osborn

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Florence Marie Osborn, 95, of Keystone Heights died Friday, Dec. 8, 2017, at Windsor Health and Rehabilitation Center in Starke. She was born in Crawford County, Ohio, on Sept. 18, 1922, to the late Thomas and Mary (Smith) Marsh. She had been a resident of Keystone Heights since 1989 and retired as a toy maker. She attended the Methodist churches in Melrose and Keystone Heights. Her husband of 20 years, William A. Osborn, preceded her in death, along with her daughter, Vera Wilharm, five sisters and one brother.

She is survived by: daughters, Barbara Zeigler of Tennessee and Kae Zueleger of Arizona; stepson, Thomas W. (Mary) Osborn of Keystone Heights; sister, Shirley Barney of Ohio; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The family will be having a private graveside service at Eliam Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family would like for donations to be made to Haven Hospice, 4200 N.W. 90th Blvd., Gainesville, FL 32606. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Keystone Heights.



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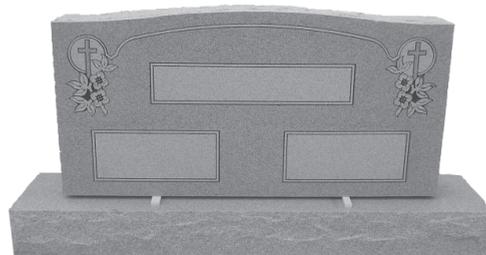
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OBITUARIES

Barbara Powell

OCALA— Barbara Louise Powell, 84, of Ocala died on Monday, Dec. 4, 2017. She was born to the late Lawrence and Cedora Gilbert in Jacksonville.

She is survived by: husband, Ray Powell of Ocala; son, John E. (Kay) Jeffers of Chuluota; stepsons, Jonathan (Linda) Powell of Big Canoe, Georgia, David (Lisa) Powell of Lake Butler; daughter, Michelle (Brett) Forte of Jacksonville; stepdaughter, Nancy Powell of Lake Butler; and four grandchildren.

A graveside service was held on Dec. 7 at Varnes Cemetery. Arrangements were under the care of Archer Funeral Home, Lake Butler.

Mark Robbins

STARKE—Mark Glenn Robbins, 62, of Starke died on Sunday, Dec. 10, 2017, at Shands at the University of Florida in Gainesville. He was born in Independence, Kansas, on Feb. 18, 1955, to the late Lawrence Robbins and Pauline Stephens Robbins. He attended school in Kansas and joined the United States Air Force. Following his discharge from the military, he was an avionics technician. He relocated to Starke in 2012. He was a member of River of Life Church in Starke.

He is survived by: companion, Ethel Storminger of Starke; stepchildren, Mark (Courtne) Bassett of Naples, Joey (Chrissy) Bassett and Amy (Damien) Gagnon, both of Lake City; and three grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life will be held

on Sunday, Dec. 17, at 3 p.m. at River of Life Church, with Pastor Brian Tillman officiating. Interment will follow at Crosby Lake Cemetery. The family will receive friends on Sunday an hour prior to the service at the church. Arrangements are under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services and Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel, Starke.



Austin Tison

Austin Tison

BROOKER— Austin David Tison, age 25, of Brooker passed away on Monday, Dec. 11, 2017.

He was born in Gainesville on July 4, 1992, to Robert A. Tison and Tammy Guthrie. Austin grew up in Bradford County and graduated from Bradford High School in 2011. Shortly after graduation, Austin attended Santa Fe College, where he earned his Associate of Science degree in Nursing. While attending nursing school, he enjoyed working as a pharmacy technician at Walgreens in Starke. He was currently employed at Shands at the University of Florida as a registered nurse in the Pediatric Oncology department. Austin had a passion for helping others and loved his career. He was due to graduate from West Florida College in a few months with his Bachelor's in Nursing. When Austin wasn't working or studying for school, he enjoyed reading and going to the beach. He also enjoyed all theme parks, but especially loved Disney and Universal Studios. Most of all, Austin loved his family and enjoyed spending time with them. He was preceded in death by: his paternal grandmother, Pamala Sue Tison; and his maternal grandparents, Preston Guthrie and Betty Jo Warren.

Austin is survived by: his loving parents, Robert "Andy" Tison of Starke, and Tammy Guthrie Puckett of Hawthorne; his sister, Brittany Tison of Starke; his nephew, Braxton Smith; and his paternal grandfather, Harry W. and Sharon Tison.

A Celebration of Austin's Life will be held on Friday, Dec. 15, at 11 a.m. at First Baptist Church of Starke, with Pastor Scott Crook officiating. Interment will follow at Crosby Lake Cemetery. The family will receive friends on Thursday, Dec. 14, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Archie

Tanner Memorial Chapel. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in honor of Austin's life to UF Health Shand's Children's Hospital, PO Box 100335, Gainesville, FL 32610. Arrangements are under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services and Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel, Starke. Visit www.ferreirafuneralservices.com to sign the family's guest book.

PAID OBITUARY



James Walker

James Walker

MELROSE— James Stanley Walker, 82, of Melrose, passed away Friday, Dec. 8, 2017, at Windsor Manor, Starke. A native of Waycross, Georgia, he moved

to Melrose in 1991 after living in Cocoa for 35 years. He was a retired manager of Southern Bell, member and former director of Lake Region Kiwanis Club and member of Keystone Heights United Methodist Church, Pioneer Club, American Legion, Moose Lodge, Elks Lodge and Jaycees.

He is survived by: his wife, Zolena Lewis Walker, a brother, Frank Walker, Liberty, North Carolina; and a sister, Margaret Ann Outlaw, Patterson, Georgia.

Funeral services will be held 10:30 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 18, at Keystone Heights United Methodist Church, Keystone Heights, with Rev. Jeff Tate and Dr. Tom Farmer officiating. Visitation will be from 9:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. at the church. As a Naval veteran, he will have full military honors at 2 p.m. at Jacksonville National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Lake Area Ministries or E.T. York Hospice Care Center. His care has been entrusted to Forest Meadows Funeral Home, Gainesville.

PAID OBITUARY

James White

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS— James Edward "J.E." White, 75, of Keystone Heights passed away on

Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2017. J.E. proudly served his country in the United States Navy. He later worked as a master electrician and taught motor electrical engineering. He also owned several small businesses: laundry and dry-cleaning service, print shop and a small-engine shop. J.E. was an active member of the Moose Lodge and the Masonic Lodge. He was also an active Shriner. J.E. was preceded in death by: his father, Edward White; mother, Ruth White; son, Edward White; daughter, Fritzie Galpin; and grandson, Raimon James Stoppelbein. He leaves his beloved family to cherish his memory.

J.E. White is survived by: his beloved wife, Rose Marie White; son, James (Rhonda) White Jr.; daughters, Catherine White, Kimberly (Al) Gonzalaz, Nancy Livenson, and Audrey Brake; one brother and three sisters, Rodger White, Patricia (Glen) Blackston, Deborah (Micheal) Penny and Cheryl (Alford) Fox; 16 grandchildren; and 24 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held in honor of J.E. on Saturday, Dec. 9, at Sardis Baptist Church. Arrangements were under the care of Archer Funeral Home, Lake Butler.

PAID OBITUARY

BOOK

Continued from 1B

perfect," he said. "All of them are going to have that wish that they could be like this or look like that. This (story) is letting them all know that they're special."

Though Qualls submitted "O Little Christmas Tree" to Faith Christian Publishing in February 2016, the idea for the story was sparked almost 20 years ago when he was watering Christmas trees as part of his job at the old Scotty's in Starke. Every day, he'd see the smaller trees that no one seemed to give a second glance at.

"I'd fluff them up and try to make them look better so you could sell them," Qualls said.

The idea for the story remained in his head, but years later, as he was watering Christmas trees now working for Ace Hardware, it was ready to come out. Qualls said to himself, "You know what? I need to put pen to paper on this idea and see what I can come up with."

Trying to figure out how he would tell the story, developing it from that idea in his head, was the hardest part, Qualls said. After that, actually writing it seemed to come easy. In fact, writing provided a stimulus for more ideas that almost overwhelmed him.

"My ideas were coming quicker than I could write," Qualls said. "I was like, 'OK. Let me take some notes here so I can remember that as we get to the end.' Really, writing it wasn't that hard. It was just getting started and figuring out what story you wanted to tell and then what avenues you wanted to go down."

The story, though, remained tucked away for years. Qualls didn't know what to do with it once he had it written.

That changed one morning in February 2016. Qualls woke up to get ready to go to work. He turned the TV on and immediately heard the following on a Faith Christian Publishing commercial: "Have you written a children's Christian book?"

"I stopped dead in my tracks," Qualls said. "I was like, 'As a matter of fact, I do have a children's Christian book.'"

Qualls did some research on Faith Christian Publishing and read a couple of reviews of the company by authors. He liked what he read and admitted he was ready to "run with it."

"It just opened the door," Qualls said. "It gave me that avenue that I needed to put my book out there."

Upon contacting Faith

Christian Publishing, Qualls was told it would take two or three months for his story to be reviewed and a decision made on whether or not the company would publish it.

"By the third day, after I sent it to them, they were already contacting me, saying, 'Wow. We like it.' That let me know I was on the right path," Qualls said.

As part of his contract with Faith Christian Publishing, a video trailer for the book can be viewed on YouTube (search for "O Little Christmas Tree by Mike Qualls").

"I've never had anything on YouTube before," Qualls said. "That is an absolute first right there."

Could he one day have something on television? Qualls believes his story would work well just like another holiday staple.

"We've watched 'A Charlie Brown Christmas' for eons," Qualls said. "How come we can't make a little television cartoon out of 'O Little Christmas Tree?'"

One of his ideas became a book, so why not?

"I didn't think it could get this far," Qualls said, "but it did. You never know."

Now that he's a published author, could there be another book in the works?

"I've already been toying with the idea, thinking about targeting

Easter this time," Qualls said.

For now, it's all about Christmas, a special time for the Qualls family that just became even more special with the arrival of "O Little Christmas Tree."

"It's just something we can all share as a family," Qualls said.

Watch the 'O Little Christmas Tree' video trailer on YouTube

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Classified Advertising should be paid in advance unless credit has already been established with the newspaper. A \$3.00 service charge will be added to all billing to cover postage and handling. All ads placed by phone are read back to the advertiser at the time of placement. However, the classified staff cannot be held responsible for mistakes in classified advertising taken by phone. The newspaper reserves the right to correctly classify and edit all copy or to reject or cancel any advertisements at any time. Only standard abbreviations will be accepted.

40 Notices

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY. All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 in which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate in which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777, the toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275. For further information call Florida Commission

on Human Relations, Lisa Sutherland 850-488-7082 ext #1005.

42 Motor Vehicles & Accessories

\$CASH\$ FOR JUNK cars, up to \$500. Free pick up, running or not. Call 352-771-6191.

43 SET OF TIRES & RIM.

18" Cobra low profile \$600. Aluminum intake & carburetor fits small Block Ford 351 Windsor \$250. Top Loader Ford Full speed transmission & flow shifter \$300. Complete 9" rear end for '66 Ford Fairlane & '69 mustang. 351 Cleveland Short Block \$1,500. Call Factory Mustang Headers \$35. Aluminum intake manifold for small Block Ford fits 302 & 289. \$100.

47 Commercial Property (Rent, Lease, Sale)

D O W N T O W N STARKE Affordable Office Space for rent. 113 E. Call St. Call Freddie American Dream Realty at 904-509-9893.

48 Homes for Sale

3BR/2BA HOME. Included office separate from house. With 2 car garage. 1005 Palm St. Starke, Fl.

House newly renovated, new windows, roof, carpet, vinyl flooring, tiled bath, new appliances. City gas. Double size lot that's fenced. Nice neighborhood, near school. Move in ready. \$177,000. Call 904-364-9022 for appointment to see home.

50 For Rent

LOOKING for female roommate. Bedroom w/private bath. Kitchen privileges. \$350/mo. \$50/deposit. 386-496-1062 or 904-263-0366.

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bedroom MH, clean, close to prison. Call 352-468-1323.

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mobile homes. 3 BR/ 2 BA DW and 2 BR/ 2 BA. (One) 16x80 2 BR/2 BA. Lake Butler. 1-678-438-6828.

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MH, CH/A. New carpet, vinyl and paint. Mini blinds throughout. Three year old eat-in kitchen. Service pets only,

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HEIGHTS 3BR/2BA MH on 1 acre. Close to town. \$550/mo. & security. Call 352-478-9104. FOR RENT: 2BR/2BA. SW MH, on 1-1/4 acres in Strawberry Acres. \$550/mo. plus security. Call 352-497-3934. Leave message.

3BEDROOM 2BATH.

4257 NW 178th Loop, Starke FL 32091 Newly Updated \$950 Month Contact 904-275-2024

53 A

Yard Sales
BIG GARAGE SALE. 1792 NE 154TH STREET. Bessent Road. Fri. & Sat. 8-6. Furniture, house wares, stocking stuffers,

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GIANT YARD SALE.

12/15 & 12/16. 8-3. Toys, antiques, collectibles, etc. 3833 West State Road 238.

65 Help Wanted

HELP WANTED CALL TIME CLERICAL POSITION Must have experience and proficiency in Excel, Microsoft Word, Email, etc. Ability to operate computer and office equipment. Ability to multi-task, show proficiency in mathematical calculations. Ability to create and maintain records and complete payroll in a timely fashion. Must show professionalism through oral, written and typed communication. Ability to work under little or no supervision, must be self-motivated to complete tasks and meet deadlines. Minimum of 2-years experience in a secretarial position. Apply at Union County Solid Waste. Position closes at 3:00 p.m. on December 21, 2017. Union County Board of County Commissioners is an equal opportunity employer and gives Veter-

ans Preference. CDL Driver wanted: Clean MVR, dump trailer experience a plus. Job history required, local and regional. Send resume to: Greenedge01@bellsouth.net, Call 904-289-4322

MANUFACTURING and Production Worker needed. Green Technologies, LLC is a manufacturer and blender of bagged fertilizers in Maxville Florida. General labor, Previous production experience a plus. Ability to read and comprehend simple instructions. Ability to follow company production and safety procedures. While performing the duties of this job the employee will be required to frequently stand on

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Amber Langford (left) and Keearah Galvao are two of seven students taking Medical Assisting this year.

Center as Practical Nursing, Commercial Foods and Culinary Arts, Cosmetology, Commercial Vehicle Driving and Welding Technology, just to name a few. It's a way of better meeting the needs of students looking for career opportunities.

"I think it's awesome," Harvey said. "You have students that don't really know what they want in life. They haven't made that decision of what they want to do. We have enough programs that can get their foot in the door."

If you'd like to know more about Medical Assisting, please call the Bradford-Union Technical Center at 904-966-6764, or visit butc.edu.



Lanie Tillman (center) plays the role of the patient, who is being cared for by Lynn Cann (left) and Toby Norris. The three women graduated from the Bradford-Union Technical Center's first Medical Assisting class last year.

MEDICAL

Continued from 2B

taking medical histories, explaining treatment procedures, preparing patients for exams, assisting physicians during exams, collecting and preparing lab specimens, performing basic lab tests, instructing patients about medications and special diets, preparing and administering medications as directed by a physician, authorizing prescription refills as directed, drawing blood, taking electrocardiograms and removing sutures and changing dressings.

Administrative duties include: using computer applications, answering phones, greeting patients, updating and filing medical records, coding and filling out insurance forms, scheduling appointments, arranging for hospital admissions and lab services, and handling correspondence, billing and bookkeeping.

Harvey said medical assistants can work in doctors' offices and clinics as well as in hospitals in certain areas.

"Most places hire them for the clinical area," Harvey said, "but in a smaller office, like for a doctor or two who would just be independent doctors, they might do the whole office."

Whether looking for a long-term career in the field or not, medical assisting can help students determine what career path in health they'd eventually like to take.

"Sometimes, they come in because they think they want to be in the medical field, but they're not sure what they want to do," Harvey said. "This is like a starting ground for some of them. Some of them will, of course, go on to be nurses and x-ray techs and whatever, but it gives them kind of an idea. It's a good place to be because you get kind of a sample of a lot, especially in the bigger clinics."

Students focus on studying medical terminology, medical law and ethics and general health information as part of the Bradford-Union Technical Center's Medical Assisting program. Then they delve into the hands-on training, which most students would like to do from the get-go.

"They're eager to learn," Harvey said. "All these, for most of them, are new skills. They've seen it on TV, or they've seen it in the doctor's office. They're like, 'Oh, I think I want to do that,' but they don't realize you've got to learn this part before you do this part. As much as you like hands-on, you still have to have that knowledge behind it."

Students learn such things as how to draw blood, do electrocardiograms, provide wound care and perform various lab tests. A computer program that comes with their textbooks gives them a taste of the administrative-type of work they could wind up doing.

"It's actually like a simulator of the computer program that the offices use, so they have practice putting in orders and information and demographics," Harvey said.

Students get externship opportunities at Shands Starke Medical Group during the course's final 200 hours.

Medical Assisting complements such programs at the Bradford-Union Technical

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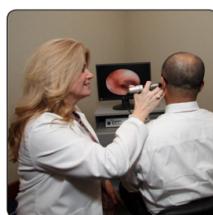
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