

Lake Region Monitor

USPS 114-170 — Keystone Heights, Florida Thursday, Dec. 21, 2017

45th Year — 33rd Issue — 75 CENTS

Fatalities climb in multiple crashes

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

The number of traffic fatalities climbed this past week, including in an accident on State Road 100 on Thursday morning.

At around 8:20 a.m. Dec. 14 near the intersection of S.R. 100 and Southeast 75th Street, near Theresa, a Ford Ranger driven by Andrew M. Garnett drove off the road and overturned.

Garnett, 46, of Keystone Heights was killed in the accident. His passengers, 42-year-old Angela D. Lloyd of Melrose and 20-year-old Robert L. Lloyd of Keystone Heights received serious injuries.

The Florida Highway Patrol is investigating the cause of the crash.

A Melrose man died on S.R. 100 near Paran Church Road on Sunday morning. The location is near the Putnam-Clay County line. At around 8:30 a.m. Dec. 17, 55-year-old Bruce Wolf traveled across the road in his Ford Escape and collided with a tree.

FHP is also trying to determine the cause of this crash.

It was also reported that 21-year-old Austin Yarbrough of Melrose died in the hospital of injuries he sustained in a

Dec. 11 crash on County Road 225 and Northeast 199th Lane in Alachua County. Yarbrough was the driver in the accident which also took the life of 25-year-old Austin Tison of Starke.

Car crashed into concrete culvert

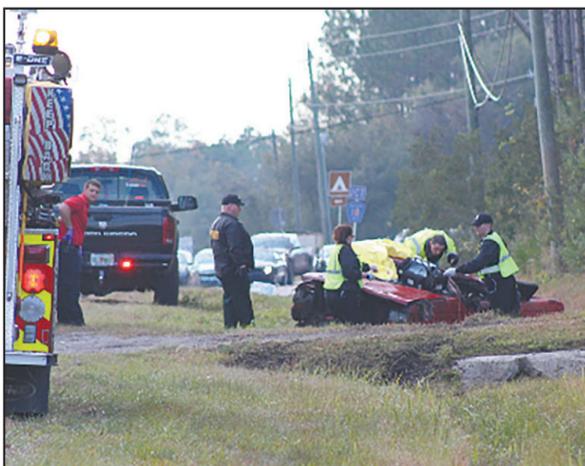
A bizarre traffic accident in Starke on Dec. 13 remarkably resulted in no injuries, although the crash scene was a sight to behold.

Walter Gage Leukel, 27, of Hampton told crash investigators he was driving a BMW with the windows down north on U.S. 301 through the city of Starke when an unknown object flew into his eye.

Temporarily unable to see, Leukel lost control of the vehicle, which crossed both southbound traffic lanes and left the highway, landing in the concrete retention drain in front of the former Checkers restaurant.

Witnesses told investigators the vehicle had been traveling about 15 mph above the posted speed limit.

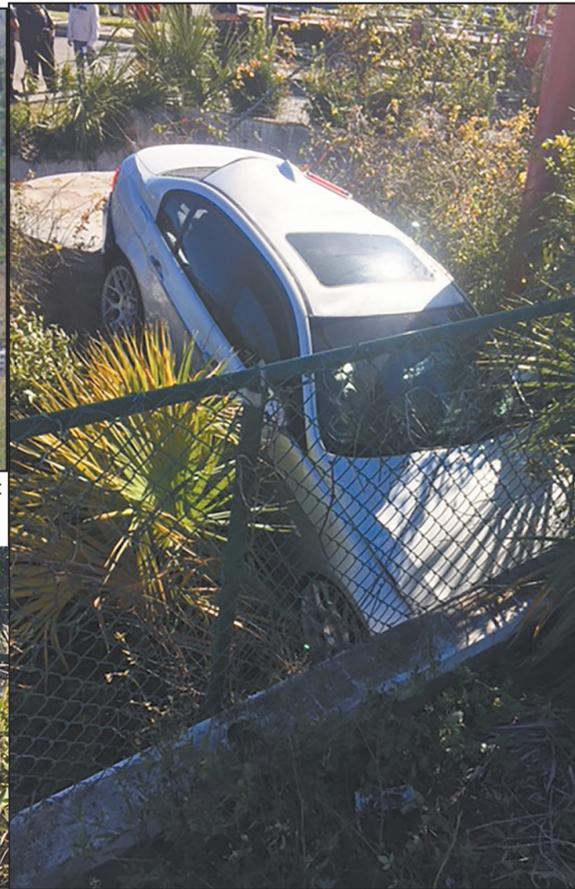
The vehicle, fence and concrete culvert suffered major damage, but no injuries were reported.



It is unknown why the truck driven by Andrew Garnett left the road, killing him and injuring his passengers.



The driver walked away from this crash without injury.



Man found dead at insurance agency

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

The manager of Roberts Insurance in Keystone Heights discovered the body of an unidentified man after returning from her lunch break on Thursday, Dec. 14.

DarbyAnn Roberts said she had just sat down at her desk when she looked through the building's glass front door and saw a man lying outside of the business, located on South Lawrence Boulevard.

Roberts said that after calling 911, she and a co-

worker were about to begin chest compressions on the man when emergency medical workers arrived. Roberts said firefighters tried to resuscitate the man for about 30 minutes.

Sgt. Keith Smith of the Clay County Sheriff's office said the man appears to have died of natural causes. He referred the Monitor to the agency's records department for further details, including the identity of the man. However, a records clerk said the death investigation is ongoing and an incident report has not yet been completed.

Operation Roundup funds camp improvements

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

The Clay Electric Foundation awarded \$10,000 to the Friends of Lake Swan Camp earlier this month. The camp will use the money to convert space into a counselor's lounge.

Camp Director Perry Rollins said that now, counselors must share break-time space with groceries and other supplies in a cramped back room. The new facility will allow counselors to relax between shifts. The camp will also use the space for training.

Rollins added that a vital part of the camp's mission is to develop counselors, in

See CAMP, 2A



(L-r) Clay Electric Administrative Assistant Edwina Painter, Lake Swan Camp Director Perry Rollins, Co-op Member Relations Representative Pat Mundorff and Clay Electric Trustee Carl Hagglund.

School board member earns certification, elected vice-chair



Clay County School Board Member Betsy Condon recently became a certified school board member through the Florida School Boards Association. The 96-hour curriculum covered boardsmanship, collective bargaining, finance and policy.

The Crystal Lake resident was also elected as vice-chair of the Clay County School Board earlier this year.

Pictured is Condon holding her Certified School Board Member recognition.

Lake Region joins America in placing wreaths



Lake Region service members, veterans and citizens participated in Wreaths Across America Saturday. The annual observance now takes place at over 1,200 cemeteries with over 1.2 million wreaths laid on the graves of veterans.

Pictured are U.S. Coast Guard members Kimsey (left) and Kern placing a wreath on a cross at the Keystone Heights Cemetery. See page 4A for more photos. All photos: Steve Hart.

Christmas Weather: 40% rain chance

Thursday - A 30 percent chance of showers, mainly before 8am. Patchy fog before 10am. Otherwise, cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly sunny, with a high near 76. Light northwest wind.

Thursday Night - Patchy fog after 2am. Otherwise, partly cloudy, with a low around 54. Northeast wind around 6 mph becoming calm in the evening.

Friday - Patchy fog before 9am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 76.

Friday Night - Patchy fog after 2am. Otherwise, partly cloudy, with a low around 56.

Saturday - Patchy fog before 8am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 79.

Saturday Night - Partly cloudy, with a low around 59.

Sunday - A 20 percent chance of showers after 8am. Partly sunny, with a high near 77.

Sunday Night - A 40 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 51.

Christmas Day - A 40 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 62.

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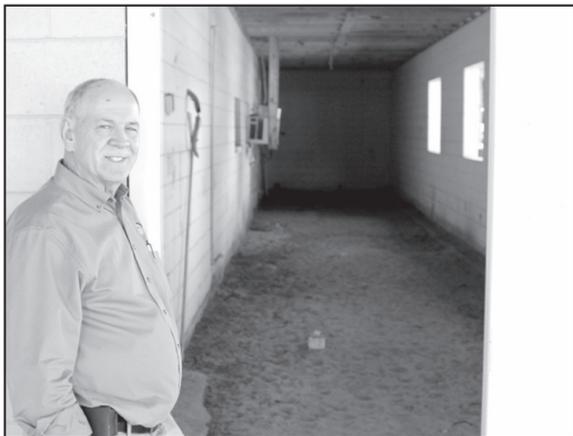
GRANT

Continued from 1A

addition to reaching campers.

Rollins said he started attending Lake Swan Camp at age 12 and became a counselor when he was 14. He also met his wife at the facility.

The Clay Electric Foundation is funded through the co-op's Operation Roundup, in which members' monthly bills are rounded up to the next whole dollar, with the difference donated to the foundation.



Rollins said the grant will be used to convert this space into a counselors' lounge.

Melrose Senior Center receives co-op grant

The Melrose Senior and Community Center was the recipient of a \$5,000 Clay Electric Foundation grant in December.

The center will use the funding to upgrade its kitchen.

Pictured are the center's Program Director, Peggy Jo Thran, Clay Electric's



Member Representative Relations Representative Pat Mundorff and co-op Trustee Susan Reeves.

Montgomery program director grew up with camp

BY STEVE HART
Lake Region Kiwanis

Lexi Green, program director at the Montgomery Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center, spoke to the Lake Region Kiwanis Club on Dec. 7.

She was the guest of Camp Director Terry Patterson, who is a member of the Kiwanis Club.

Green majored in religious studies at the University of Florida, and has worked at the camp for six years in several jobs. She was appointed program director in October.

She told the Kiwanians that she has grown up around the facility, which includes 11 cabins, two lodges, a dining hall and three lakes. She added that her favorite lake is Lake Emerald, which lies completely within the boundaries of the camp.

The camp's water activities include canoe instruction, water skiing, pontoon boating and "blobbing."

Green explained that a blob is an air-filled bag that floats on the water. She added that blobbing consists of a "blobbor" jumping off a platform onto the blob, catapulting the "blobbee" into the air.

Although the camp and conference center are operated by the Presbytery of St. Augustine, Green said that about 50 percent of campers are not affiliated with any church.

She also said that the camp is open to all youth of any or no faith, adding that the camp creates opportunities for kids to experience Christ and to ask questions, but religion is not



Lexi Green. Photo: Marilyn Martin for Lake Region Kiwanis

stressed.

The camp's counselors are young: between 18 and 23. Green said that over a two-week camp, counselors and campers form strong bonds.

The summer camping season is six weeks long.

Green also said that the camp's administration is pushing to get the facility more involved in the Lake Region community. She added that the conference center recently hosted a Keystone-Lake Region Business Association event and that the Kiwanis Club has held several functions there.

However, she said that developing young people will remain the primary mission of the facility.

"Camp impacts the lives of kids," she said, and the kids impact our lives".

Clay Electric raising access charge

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

Clay Electric Cooperative said it is raising its access charge by \$3 a month beginning in January due to rising costs.

"The access charge is the component of your bill that recovers some of the fixed costs that come directly from serving each member, regardless of how much electricity is used," the co-op said in a social media post. "These include the cost of the meter, poles, substations and the more than 13,000 miles of distribution and transmission lines running through 14 counties to deliver electricity to your home or business. Every utility company charges a flat fee for the purpose of covering fixed costs. Even after the increase, our access charge will still be lower than the average of the other electric cooperatives in Florida."

Clay Electric bills, as well as those of other utilities, are made of four charges: (1) an access charge, which is a fixed, monthly amount to cover the costs of billing, metering, distribution, customer service and other costs; (2) an energy charge, based on kilowatt hours used by the customer; (3) a fuel charge, based on kilowatt hours, which reimburses the utility for the costs of fuel used to generate power and (4) taxes.

The last two changes to the co-op's prices have been decreases. In March 2016 the utility lowered its energy charge by \$3.20 per kilowatt hour. Six months later the co-op dropped its fuel charge by one cent per kilowatt hour.

The January access charge increase will be the ninth price

See CHARGE, 3A

Audubon hosts conservation celebration

BY JOYCE KING
Santa Fe Audubon

More than 100 people highlighted the conservation community at Santa Fe Audubon's Annual Conservation Celebration on Tuesday, Dec. 12 at Trinity Episcopal Church in Melrose.

A chili and cornbread supper and a busy silent auction of art and other nature-related items, plus music by local musicians "Dim Lights" provided a festive atmosphere.

Representatives from conservation organizations: Audubon Florida, Florida Conservation Voters, Putnam Co. Environmental Council, Sierra Club, Citizens Against Phosphate Mining, Gold Head Branch State Park, Santa Fe Lake Dwellers and Putnam Land Conservancy, brought information about their issues and activities.

Ron Robinson from Alachua Audubon provided the program: "Creative Birdscaping," showing how he uses repurposed materials to create unusual bird feeders and bird baths.



Ron Robinson. Photo: Alachua Audubon Society

He also offered tips to backyard birdwatchers about how to keep birds from the harm of flying into windows, his recipe for suet, and other foods that birds are attracted to.

Among the winter birds currently enjoying his backyard is a flock of Baltimore orioles, numerous warbler and sparrow species, hummingbirds, and woodpeckers, in addition to year-round resident cardinals, titmice, chickadees, mockingbirds and

brown thrashers.

It's not easy to attract Baltimore orioles, but Ron recommends putting out oranges cut in half in mid- to late-October, plus a dish of their favorite treat: grape jelly.

Santa Fe Audubon recommends landscaping with Florida native plants to provide good habitat — food, water, shelter — for resident and migrating birds. Keeping a yard pesticide-free allows pollinators to guarantee that berries, nuts, and insects are there for birds. Birds also benefit from supplemental feeding from natural sources like commercially available seeds, suet and fruit, but avoid feeding birds "junk food" that does not give them the nutrition they need to raise the next generation.

A Santa Fe Audubon field trip to Ron Robinson's yard in Northwest Gainesville is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 13. For more information, call Joy Segall at 352-214-3111 or jrsegall@verizon.net. Meet at 7:45 a.m. at Melrose Heritage Park to carpool.

Business association awards scholarship

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

The Keystone-Lake Region Business Association awarded a scholarship to Tamika Bright during the association's Christmas banquet on Dec. 4.

Bright was a runner up in the Clay Electric Cooperative Back-to-Your Future Scholarship. The business association chose to award its scholarship to the runner up of the Back-to-Your-Future award.

The Clay Electric program targeted potential college students who are 22 years of age or older.

Bright is a 2010 Keystone Heights High School graduate and is pursuing a master's degree in counseling psychology. She hopes to also earn a PhD in clinical and research psychology.

"I want to use my degree to help those suffering from mental illness, especially PTSD, depression and anxiety," she wrote in her application.



Tamika Bright

Bright is a member of the Lake Swan Friendship Bible Church praise camp and a volunteer for Lake Area Ministries.

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Hope Christian celebrates homecoming

Hope Christian Academy celebrated homecoming the week of Dec. 4-8. Themed dress-down days, decorated doors, a pep rally and the annual ROAR were enjoyed by students in early education through 12th grade. Homecoming royalty were

presented at the Thursday evening ROAR event where students enjoyed a Parade of Lions, a bounce house, games, lots of prizes and food. The HCA cheerleaders, basketball team members, and the Key Club were all presented at the ROAR.

Laney Sibley and Dawson Rosier were chosen homecoming queen and king; senior Jacob Lowe was selected prince while Ashley Hughes and Jordan Oliver were crowned princesses.



Pictured (L-R): Senior court with their parents: Daniel Wolfe, Homecoming Princess Jordan Oliver, Cindy Sibley, Mack Sibley, Homecoming Queen Laney Sibley, Homecoming Princess Ashley Hughes, Cindy Hughes, Howard Hughes, Jennifer Lowe, Daniel Rosier, Homecoming King Dawson Rosier, Kathy Rosier, and (kneeling) Homecoming Prince Jacob Lowe.



HCA Key club donates sock for vets

The Key Club at Hope Christian Academy held a sock drive during October where the students collected 800 pairs of socks for veterans. The socks were presented on stage to Barbara Fischer of the Bradford County Veterans Affairs Office at the 12th Annual HCA Veterans Breakfast and Program on Nov. 9. Pictured with two large boxes containing 800 pairs of socks for veterans are (front row, l-r) Riley Carr, Rachel Williams, Jenna Folsom, Barbara Fischer, Haven Harper, Ella Dinkins, (second row) HCA Director of Operations Terry Denmark, Key Club Vice President Hannah Hagan, Ellie Hall, (back row) Key Club President Jordan Oliver, Secretary Preston Denmark, Treasurer Ricky Walker and Shane Moore. Photo by Lindsay Triplett.



Pictured (L-R): HCA Junior Representative Josh Glisson, escorted by English teacher Sissy Lee. HCA Freshmen Representatives Tiffany Williamson and Dawson Morris. HCA Sophomore Representatives Ellie Hall and Wade Johnson.

Aeden Callahan wins Keystone Heights Junior High School spelling bee

BY BRANDON LUDWIG
Monitor Correspondent

The winner of this year's Keystone Heights High School Spelling Bee is eighth grader, Aeden Callahan with Chelsie Buckley placing second, and Jason Bowden and Riley Jordan Folsom tying for third place.

Callahan, in his second year at the school, had to spell various words that increased in difficulty as the competition, held on Dec.

5, progressed.

He advances to represent KHHS at the Clay County Spelling Bee in January, where he will compete against more than 30 other students from across the county, including the winners from Keystone Heights and McRae elementary schools.

Drama and television production teacher Sally Jackson organized the junior high event. Twenty-five students started the event with Callahan remaining

alone after the 10th round. His winning word was reprobate, which means to condemn strongly.

Callahan said he prepared for the spelling bee by studying the entire word list once, and then having his family quiz him on the harder words. He also practiced spelling in front of his brothers and sisters, something that helped him to a certain degree, as he took the stage for the contest.



Aeden Callahan

While he said that, at first, he was nervous, he also stated that once he had spelled the first few words correctly, he began to feel slightly more confident. This enabled him, in his opinion, to think through the words more clearly.

When asked which word was the trickiest to him, he mentioned

that he nearly stumbled on the word grandiose — which means affected by splendor — but he overcame the difficulty by splitting the word into parts. Grandiose turned out to be the second-last word he would have to spell.

In his free time, Callaway enjoys spending time with his family, along with reading books and playing video games.

Callaway said that he is currently looking into some kind of career surrounding the graphic arts.

The eighth grader thanked his family, including his parents, his brother, and his sisters for being there for him, while he prepared for the competition, and for their time spent in helping him practice his words for the school spelling bee.

Without them, he said, he wouldn't be able to have this opportunity, as he looks towards competing soon at the county level.

Callaway, along with spelling

bee winners from Keystone Heights Elementary School and McRae Elementary School, will compete at the Clay County Spelling Bee at Plantation Oaks Elementary in Oakleaf on Tuesday, Jan. 30, at 7 p.m.

The countywide winner will go on to represent Clay County in the Regional Spelling Bee at the Jacksonville Main Public Library at a date yet to be announced in February.

CHARGE

Continued from 2A

adjustment the co-op has made since July 2015, when its total price for 1,000 residential kilowatt hours was \$122.90.

After the January access charge increase, the cost of 1,000 residential kilowatt hours from Clay Electric will be \$112.90.

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

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Wreaths Across America in Keystone Heights



Above: AMVETS Post 86 Commander Bob Bienlich addresses the crowd.



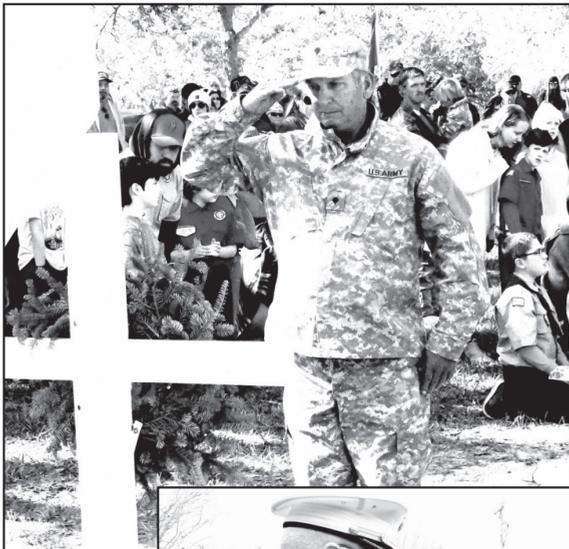
Ann Lewis (left) singing the National Anthem. Also pictured is Event Organizer Joan Jones (right).



Clay County Clerk of Courts Tara S. Green (second from right) with her family.



Coast Guardsman Kimsey.



Right: Laying the U.S. Army wreath is Stan Altman (left).



Pam "Shortstop" Stoppelbein, U.S. Navy ret.



Scott Boland playing bagpipes.



Clay County Commissioner Gayward Hendry and Keystone Heights Mayor Karen Lake.



Keynote speaker Gayward Hendry.

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All I want for Christmas is to Shop with a Cop

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer

Some children sit on Santa's lap or write him a letter, telling him what they want for Christmas. Then there are some children in Bradford County who get to go to the store and pick out their own gifts.

More than 250 children participated in Shop with a Cop, getting the chance to pick out \$100 worth of gifts at Starke Walmart on Dec. 14-15. Each child was accompanied by a member of law enforcement or the Florida Department of Corrections.

"It sets the tone for Christmas. It really does," said Gerald Ruise of the Bradford County Sheriff's Office.

Barry Warren of the Starke Police Department is responsible for getting out in the community and soliciting the donations that make the event possible. The first Shop with a Cop — 13 years ago — consisted of approximately 40 children, but support has swelled to where hundreds of children take part in what is now a two-day event.

"I said it the first year, Bradford County cares about its kids," Warren said. "It cares about its people. This event here shows it so much."

Richard Kitler, who works at New River Correctional Institution, said, "There are some families that can't always buy everything for their kids. The fact that other people are willing to donate money to do this — I think it's great."

As you can imagine, the children are excited about the chance to shop for themselves, whether they're picking out the latest and greatest toys or getting something to wear. The "cops," though, are just as excited. Like Kitler, who was taking part in his



ABOVE: Starke Elementary student Ejarion Brown reached his quote in less than five minutes, with assistance from his escort, Julie Beighley of Florida State Prison. LEFT: Southside Elementary student Alexis Setzer shows off a jacket she picked out shopping with Gerald Ruise of the Bradford County Sheriff's Office.

first Shop with a Cop, escorting Southside Elementary student Alyse King.

"Actually, it was probably better than what I expected," Kitler said. "She was so sweet. She picked out a whole bunch of stuff. She was able to get everything she wanted. That was great."

Kitler said what impressed him about King was how she picked out games that she and her sisters could play.

"She got things for herself, but she was also able to get things she can play with her sisters," Kitler said.

He never had the opportunity to participate before this year, but now that he has, Kitler is looking forward to doing so again. He already has a lifelong memory — the smile on King's face.

"It was great," Kitler said. "I'll definitely do it again."

Ruise was participating for the seventh year.

"It's just a warm feeling that comes over you when you see these kids smiling and see some of the less fortunate kids that don't really get a chance to get everything they need for Christmas. For us to help provide that, it's such a good feeling."

Ruise escorted shoppers during both days of this year's event. On the first day, he was joined by Southside student Alexis Setzer.

"He was really nice and helped me find everything I wanted," Setzer said of Ruise.

Lawley Police Chief Shane Bennett was taking part for the eighth straight year. He remembered how he got "hooked" that first year, escorting a 7-year-old Hampton Elementary student he described as "the happiest fellow in the world."



Hampton Elementary student Aleirah Cox is happy with a bike she picked out with RMC's Heather Liston.



Southside Elementary student Elijah Lee and Joe Walker of the CSX Police Department.



Southside Elementary student Christafia Towns and her shopping partner, Randall Polk of RMC.

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Merry Christmas

Wow, 2016 has really come and gone in a flash!! It's been another blessed year. But not without unspeakable tragedies and so much of life's unexpectedness!! So is there any reason to say "Merry Christmas? There is so much conflict, so much pain and a lot of trials and tribulations. The "Prince of Peace" left Glory to come to earth as a baby. He was crucified and resurrected and left earth temporarily!! The rule of this earth by in large according to the Bible, (2 Cor. 4:4), is Stan, Lucifer or the devil, whatever name you prefer! He is the "Father of lies", the chief deceiver and masquerades as an angel of light so that is why there is so much conflict!!

So we must answer this one question if we truly want to say Merry Christmas and have Peace on Earth. Jesus, in Matthew 16:13-15, asks "Who do you say I am?" Peter replied in verse 16, "You are the Christ (Messiah) the son of the living God"! This is how we can have peace and this is why we say Merry Christmas — and this is what makes Christmas so very special.

Isaiah 9:16 says "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders and He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." And indeed He is! We need hope and peace and through Jesus He assures us of His promises.

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Larry Shannon holds the Class 7A state championship trophy earned by Venice High School. Shannon, a Bradford High School graduate, has been an assistant coach with Venice since 2004.

BHS grad Shannon helps coach Venice to state title

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer

Larry Shannon, a 1993 Bradford High School graduate and current Venice High School assistant football coach, experienced a state championship this year as the Indians defeated Bartram Trail 37-24 in the Class 7A final.

It was the second state championship for Venice, with the first occurring in 2000 in Class 5A. Shannon, the team's defensive coordinator, has been with the Indians since 2004.

Venice reached the title game by defeating three-time defending state champ St. Thomas Aquinas 27-20, avenging a 46-8 loss in the 2016 state semifinals.

In this year's championship game, Venice built a 34-3 lead before Bartram Trail scored three touchdowns in the final 13 minutes.

Shannon was a standout wide receiver for East Carolina University. He led the nation in yards per reception (21.4) as a

junior in 1996. That was his best year for the Pirates as he finished with 39 catches for 834 yards and nine touchdowns (a school record at the time).

For his four-year career, Shannon caught 101 passes for 1,714 yards. His yardage total currently ranks eighth in East Carolina history.

Shannon graduated from ECU in 1997 and was a third-round pick of the Miami Dolphins. Injuries prevented him from making an impact professionally. He spent four years in the NFL before embarking on a coaching career that began as a graduate assistant at East Carolina University.

Prior to helping guide Venice win the state championship earlier this month, Shannon was honored by the Sertoma Club of Venice as its Educator of the Month for November. He is an engineering technology teacher and helped form Venice High School's engineering program.

BHS' Tomlinson is 3rd in Coach of the Year voting

Union's Strong, who has de-committed from FSU, and former Tornado Carter earn player votes

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer

In his first year as a high school varsity head coach, Bradford High School's Brian Tomlinson finished third in voting for the Florida Dairy Farmers Class 4A Coach of the Year.

Tomlinson, who guided the Tornadoes to a 10-2 record and their first berth in the state semifinals in 13 years, received 68 votes, which left him trailing the state championship coaches:

Raines' Deran Wiley (210) votes and Cocoa's Johnny Wilkinson (145).

In response to the congratulatory comments he received via Bradford High School's Facebook posting of the results, Tomlinson wrote, "Thank you, everyone. This just proves we have an amazing coaching staff in Rob Charles, Lamar Waters, Adrian Mosley Jr., Bret Dukes, Wendell L. Shanks, Caleb Dukes and Scot McClelland."

In Class 1A player voting, Union County senior running back Charles Strong received 49 votes to place fourth behind Derrick Staten Jr. of Madison County (149), Jaxson Beach of Lafayette (132) and Kelvin Dean of Chipley (114). Strong rushed for 1,388 yards and 15

touchdowns on 186 carries.

Strong had been committed to Florida State, but in the wake of head coach Jimbo Fisher's resignation, he wrote on Twitter, "I had a long talk with my family, and I've decided to de-commit from Florida State and re-open my recruitment status. Because of the change in coaching staff, I will no longer be pursuing Florida State. I want to thank coach Fisher for giving me the opportunity, coach Brad Lawing, coach Sanders, coach Graham, the players and the fans for making me feel at home and showing me a lot of love. Thank you, 'Nole Nation. Recruitment back on."

Clay High School senior running back Aundre Carter, who transferred from Bradford



Brian Tomlinson

following the 2016-17 school year, was second in Class 5A Player of the Year voting. Carter, who rushed for 2,348 yards and 24 touchdowns on 256 carries, received 78 votes. Orlando Jones' Quadry Jones placed first with 95 votes.

Kiwanis boys' hoops tourney is 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 and bicycles will also be given away to lucky children throughout the event.

Daily admission is \$5.

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.

LETTERS

EDITOR@BCTELEGRAPH.COM

Consider skipping a week of watering lawn

Dear Editor:

Want to help save 1 billion gallons of water? Skip a week of lawn irrigation this winter.

When it comes to water, the past 12 months demonstrated that although Florida generally receives ample rainfall, it tends to arrive in large gulps. Effects from this spring's drought conditions followed by Hurricane Irma's statewide saturation have shown that, as stewards of Florida's water, we all must maintain an emphasis on both water conservation and water storage, even when the landscape seems saturated with water.

In the face of drought and abundance, the St. Johns River Water Management District

works to strike a balance between the needs of people and the needs of the environment. During the rainy season, our local and regional flood protection projects help to mitigate flooding. As the weather cools and rain subsides, we are reminded of the need to conserve water.

With public water supply the largest category of water use, and irrigation accounting for a large part of residential water use, year-round watering restrictions help ensure efficient use of water. Current watering restrictions specify that watering should only occur one day a week before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.

This year, during the cooler months of December through February, the district is asking everyone to skip every other week of watering their lawns. If everyone in our 18-county region participated this season, it could save more than one billion gallons of water across north and east-central Florida.

Water conservation is a

beneficial habit that each of us can practice, and it saves dollars too. So, I encourage everyone to skip a week! Be part of a sustainable water future for all Floridians by conserving water, as saving water is the simplest and least expensive way to protect our water resources and supplies. Individually and collectively, we can make a difference. To learn more, visit sjrwm.com/SkipAWeek.

Ann B. Shortelle, Ph.D.
Executive Director
St. Johns River Water Management District

Thieves targeting Crosby Lake Cemetery

Dear Editor:

I wish to let any family/friends

who have loved ones in Crosby Lake Cemetery to know people are stealing items off graves. My granddaughter's grave had a small Christmas tree, two angels, and a cross with a bible verse written on it stolen.

Edna Glisson

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"From the beginning until the end, Jesus will always be with us!!!"

I thank God every day for the friends, who love and care for my family, our staff and myself! 2016 has passed by so fast and this year was not a good year for many of us. But I want to say, what would we do without the loving friends that are there when we need them most.

We want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and may the New Year 2017 bring us all the things we need, and the happiness we all long for: God is Always there when we need him, all we have to do is Pray. Sometimes our prayers are not answered right away, but sooner or later things will come through.

We want to let you all know how much we appreciate you all for letting us take care of your loved one's for the last time here on earth, we treat everyone as if they were our own Family.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families from all of us at Archer Funeral Home in Lake Butler.

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Thank You!

ARRESTS

Bradford

Cheryl Lynne Birk, 54, of Lawtey was arrested Dec. 17 by Bradford deputies for disorderly intoxication. Bond was set at \$25,000.

Eric Jason Gunter, 40, of Starke was arrested on Dec. 12 by Bradford deputies for parole violation. No bond was allowed.

Kenneth Lamar Jenkins, 44, from Starke was arrested Dec. 13 by Bradford deputies for possessing and selling cocaine. Bond was set at \$150,000.

Rodney Lamont Jenkins, 36, of Lake Butler was arrested on Dec. 17 by Bradford deputies for violation of probation. No bond was allowed.

Charlene Renee Johnson, 46, of Starke was arrested on Dec. 16 by Bradford deputies for larceny, dealing in stolen property and fraud-illegal use of credit cards. Johnson's mother, Irene Christie, reported to police that her daughter (Johnson) had stolen her purse and her vehicle. Christie told deputies that Johnson was accompanied by her son, Brandon A. Stanton (see arrest notice below). Christie reported that her purse contained car keys, her drivers license, a credit card and two \$20 bills. Also, she reported that a 32-inch Vizio flat screen television was missing from her back porch.

When Johnson and Stanton returned to the property, deputies were called and they were questioned. They admitted to taking the vehicle without permission and that the television had been taken and sold for crack. Johnson also admitted that the credit card had been used to purchase a carton of cigarettes. At the time of the arrest no total amount of charges on the card was known. No bond was set for Johnson.

Latoya Shandel Johnson, 39, of Jacksonville was arrested Dec. 15 by Bradford deputies for failure to appear. No bond was set.

Matthew Winford McSpadden, 21, was arrested Dec. 12 by Bradford deputies for violation of probation. No bond was set.

Curtis Lee Moody, 46, was arrested Dec. 15 by Bradford deputies for DUI-unlawful blood alcohol, fleeing/eluding police, a moving traffic violation, possession of marijuana (not more than 20 grams) and possession of drug equipment.

Moody had been observed by a deputy, who was sitting in the parking area of the Midway Kangaroo, approaching from

the north at an estimated speed of 80 mph. Radar confirmed a speed of 83 mph, in a 45 mph zone. Pursuit was initiated by the deputy and he conclude the suspect was trying to elude him after numerous turns were made at a high rate of speed in a residential section.

When eventually stopped, Moody presented a Florida ID card and repeatedly apologized to the deputy for running, saying he was afraid because he did not have a valid drivers license. A record check revealed Moody had a suspended license. The deputy reported a strong odor of alcohol about Moody's person and, when questioned about it, Moody said he had been drinking at his wife's Christmas party. Moody declined to perform field sobriety exercises. When Moody was searched the deputy discovered a marijuana cigarette hidden in a pack of regular cigarettes, weighing approx. .2 grams.

Moody has a previous DUI in Putnam County and refused to take a lawful breath test. Bond was set at \$90,000.

Rebecca Lynn Sellers, 36, of Starke was arrested Dec. 13 by Bradford deputies for larceny, fraud-illegal use of a credit card and possession of cocaine. Bond was set at \$70,000.

Brandon A. Stanton, 28, of Starke was arrested Dec. 16 by Bradford deputies for larceny, dealing in stolen property and fraud-illegal use of a credit card. (Please see arrest report of Charlene Renee Johnson above.) Bond was set at \$55,000.

Kevin Lee Truett, 24, of Gainesville, was arrested Dec. 14 by Bradford deputies for two counts of violation of probation. No bond was allowed.

Brandon Scott Wynne, 36, of Starke was arrested Dec. 13 by Bradford deputies for two counts of failure to appear and a sex offender violation. Bond was set at \$102,500.

Keystone/Melrose

William Joseph Aviles, 38, of Keystone Heights was arrested Dec. 18 by Clay deputies for domestic violence. According to an arrest report, the defendant and victim have been residing together for eight years and have two children in common. The victim told a deputy that on Dec. 15, she and the defendant began arguing over money and the defendant's drinking. She said that after she told the defendant she planned on leaving him after the holidays, he became enraged.

"She stated she tried to

deescalate the situation by taking a bath and separating herself from the defendant," a deputy wrote in a report. "The defendant kicked the door to the bathroom open to continue to argue with her."

The victim said she then walked to the dining room to get something to eat and while there, the defendant poured a can of beer on her head.

"The defendant than struck her in the left side of her face using his closed fist," the officer wrote. "This knocked her to the ground, (and) the defendant then climbed on top of her; they began to struggle."

The woman eventually freed herself from the defendant and met her mother outside, who had come over to view Christmas decorations. Once at her mother's house, the victim called 911 to report the incident, but cut the call short, saying she did not want anyone arrested and did not want DCF interfering in her life.

Days later, the victim's mother persuaded her to call 911 again. After interviewing the victim, defendant and witnesses, a deputy arrested the defendant.

Cody Arthur Carpenter, 25, of Keystone Heights was arrested Dec. 13 by Clay deputies for a probation violation.

Joshua Andrew Elliot, 28, of Keystone Heights was arrested Dec. 13 by Clay deputies for possession of cocaine.

David Brian Frew, 57, of Keystone Heights was arrested Dec. 12 by Clay deputies for domestic battery.

Hollie Nicole Moore, 34, of Keystone Heights was arrested Dec. 13 by Clay deputies for domestic violence. The defendant was a victim of domestic violence on Dec. 9.

During that incident, she picked up a machete to defend herself against her husband: Ryan Richard Moore, who allegedly pushed her to the ground, pulled her hair and punched her in the back of the head.

After her husband's arrest, Hollie Moore stayed at the home of a friend, who later asked her to leave because of erratic behavior. Moore refused to leave so the friend left instead, returning a week later to turn off power to the residence. While the victim was at the breaker box, Moore attempted to hit him with a skillet, but the victim disarmed her and threw the pan into the front yard, when he turned back toward Moore, she was holding two knives.

"The victim retreated to

the driveway and called law enforcement," a deputy wrote.

Union

Johnnie Lee Alexander, 51, of Lake Butler was arrested on Dec. 15 by Union deputies for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession of narcotic equipment. (Please see arrest report for Johnnie Lee Alexander, above).

A white male juvenile, age 13, was arrested Dec. 16 by Union deputies for criminal mischief, possession of a firearm by a minor, shooting into an occupied dwelling and discharging a firearm from a vehicle in three separate incidents.

The first incident occurred in Worthington Springs about 11:30 a.m. on Dec. 15 when shots were fired from a vehicle, damaging a 2003 Mercury Grand Marquis.

About 1:10 a.m. on Dec. 16 shots were fired that did damage to a mobile home in Providence. The juvenile (arrested in a later traffic stop) admitted to being in the area of SW CR 241 and SW 64th Trail, shooting bunnies with his BB gun about 2 a.m. He stated that he may have shot at a trailer about 400 ft. away

Later, after transport to the Union County Jail, Alexander told an officer that the crack was his.

Richard Shawn Dermid, 34, of Lake Butler was arrested Dec. 16 by Union deputies for disorderly intoxication and two counts of obstruction without violence – resisting an officer.

Ira L. Holmes, 35, of Gainesville was arrested on Dec.13 by Union deputies for damage to property \$200 and under-criminal mischief and burglary of a dwelling structure or conveyance while armed.

The suspect was arrested on tips that he had been involved in the burglary of a residence on Dec. 7. Holmes was identified as the person who sold a firearm that was taken in that burglary.

Wendy Beth Kimble, 49, of

Lake Butler was arrested by Union Deputies for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession of narcotic equipment. (Please see arrest report for Johnnie Lee Alexander, above).

The third incident took place in Lake Butler about 8:15 a.m. where the back window of a 2014 Ford Escape was damaged by a small hole in the center of the glass.

Based on descriptions of the car, the juvenile was arrested following a traffic stop where it was confirmed he was driving. Contact was made with the suspects aunt and she stated that the boy frequently went out shooting a 22-caliber pistol and often took his grandmother's care without permission. Another suspect in the case is 14. Both juveniles remain in custody with the department of juvenile justice on multiple felony charges with more charges pending.

By accident and he also said he was driving his grandmother's vehicle up and down the roads looking for his dog. The resident said he heard what sounded like a 22-caliber gun being fired and heard something hit his mobile home. About \$1,000 in damage was done to the mobile home.

The juvenile (arrested in a later traffic stop) admitted to being in the area of SW CR 241 and SW 64th Trail, shooting bunnies with his BB gun about 2 a.m. He stated that he may have shot at a trailer about 400 ft. away

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RMC's Dawnya Thornton helps Hampton Elementary student Jessie Dennis try on a bike helmet.



ABOVE: Hampton Elementary student Jaden Dennis and Lawley Correctional's Darren McCook. LEFT: Starke Elementary student Alexandria Arenz looks over her list with RMC's Angela Warren.

Barry Warren will tell you the community deserves so much more credit than him because it's their donations that keep Shop with a Cop going. He'll tell you all the law-enforcement officers and Department of Corrections personnel deserve more credit than him because they are the ones taking the time to escort the children. Yet Starke Police Chief Jeff Johnson has said in the past that Shop with a Cop wouldn't be what it was without Warren's efforts.

"It's evident how much work he puts into this," Johnson said at last year's event. "He gets the whole community involved. You go anywhere else — this program is second to none."

Sarah Warren said, "He's very selfless. He doesn't do it for the recognition or the credit or anything. Sometimes I feel he works too much, but in the end, it's worth it to see all the smiles and all the kids and people he benefits. He definitely deserves recognition for it. He's someone I look up to."

For his part, Barry Warren said, "It's a lot of work for me, but it's a lot of joy. What's work when you're doing the right thing?"

That sums up Shop with a Cop: doing the right thing for children who are doing the right thing.

ABOVE: Lawley Correctional's Andy Brown looks on as Southside Elementary student Victoria Cribbs makes her mind up. RIGHT: Starke Elementary student Annie Champagne points in the direction Florida State Prison's Brian Scott should go.



SHOP

Continued from 1B

That student, like Bennett, was keeping track of how much his items cost, determining what he really wanted that would be covered by the limit he could spend.

"He would start trading," Bennett said, explaining how the child would put certain items back so he could replace them with others. "It was a good time."

Some children wander the aisles, seeing what all appeals to them. The child Bennett escorted this year, though, knew what she wanted and knew where to find it.

"She got all kinds of dolls and toys," Bennett said. "She knew exactly which aisle she wanted to go down."

Warren said Shop with a Cop was created as a reward for those children — identified by school personnel — who have needs (financial, emotional or psychological), but are still doing the right things and striving to do their best in school. That's why Warren makes it a point to tell the escorts to make sure the children pick out items for themselves. Year after year, so many children want to buy things for family members. As Warren told this year's first-day group of students, "That's OK for a little bit, but take care of yourself. Get what you want. They know you love them. If you want to take care of a little brother or sister, that's fine, but don't spend all your money on that and then not have anything left for yourself. Make sure you get something for yourself. OK?"

Rewarding children who are doing the right things is one purpose of Shop with a Cop. Warren said it also is a great way to forge positive relationships between children and members of law enforcement, so that children don't grow up being scared of those individuals. He encouraged the children to get to

know the officers they were shopping with, to tell them the things they like and the things they'd like to do in life.

Bennett said people in uniform may seem scary to little children at first, but Shop with a Cop helps them to see that those police officers, sheriff's deputies and others are human beings. They have families. They have children. They care about others. "How important is that? Where the children get to see the authority figure being human and interacting and smiling and being kind? I hope that is one of the biggest benefits (of Shop with a Cop)," Bennett said.

Every year, however, Warren does not look like a member of law enforcement as he trades his Starke Police Department uniform for something that's green and red and fringed in white. He transforms into what he calls Po-Po Elf.

Po-Po Elf has an assistant, who's similarly dressed in green and red. Warren's daughter, Sarah, who is a senior at Bradford High School, has been helping her father throughout Shop with a Cop's duration, though she didn't get to start actually attending the event until a couple of years ago.

"I've asked Dad, ever since I was in elementary school, if I could participate and come, but he told me to wait until I was a little older, so I wasn't the same age as all the kids here," Sarah Warren said.

This year marked a first for Sarah. There weren't enough officers to escort all the children on the first day, so she stepped in and escorted Southside student Jaelyn Melton. She described her experience as "a lot of running around, trying to pick out toys and stuff."

"It was definitely tiring," Sarah said, "but it was definitely worth it."

Sarah said she'll never stop being involved with Shop with a Cop. When her father can't do it anymore, she wants to step in and fill his shoes.



Lawley Elementary student Karly Stephens finds just what she wants with the help of Shelby Ellis of the Union County Sheriff's Office.



Lawley Elementary student Trinity Fasano scans the aisles as Dan Wendorff of the Department of Corrections follows with a cart at the ready.



Florida State Prison's Clint Collins gets something off the top shelf for Hampton Elementary student K'nara Riley.



Shop with a Cop is more than just rewarding children with a shopping spree. It fosters relationships between children and those who work in law enforcement. Lawley Elementary student Kaleb Stephens and Florida State Prison's Charles Harrison take the opportunity to get to know each other a little better after the shopping's over.

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OBITUARIES

Willie Clark Sr.

LAWTEY—Willie James “Gabe” Clark Sr., 71, of Lawtey died on Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 at Shands UF in Gainesville. He was born on March 13, 1946 in Lawtey to the late Benjamine Clark, Sr. and Sadie Lee Clark. He graduated from R.J.E. High School class of 1965 in Starke. He was a member of St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Lawtey. He held various jobs including seafood distribution and concrete finisher. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Wilnette Clark; and his brothers, Benjamine Clark, Jr. and Timothy Clark.

He is survived by: his wife of 32 years, Lula Annette Clark; children, Pamela N. Clark, Nicole Clark, Elizabeth L. Clark Otis, Melanie F. Johnson, Willie James Clark, Jr.; siblings, Elder Edwin A. Clark, Dewayne Clark, Stanley Clark, Pamela F. Clark, and Dora Anderson; 20 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Services will be held on Saturday, Dec. 23 at 11:00 a.m. at St. John Missionary Baptist Church of Lawtey with James Rackley, officiating and Reverend John Herring, presiding. The public viewing will be held at Greater Bethlehem Freewill Baptist Church, 505 Chestnut Ash Street in Starke on Friday from 5:00-7:00 p.m. The family will meet at the home of Clark, 1701 Adams Street, Apt. 30, Lawtey at 10:15 a.m. Final Rites are entrusted to: A.M. White Mortuary of Macclenny.



Jordan Cooper

Jordan Cooper

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Jordan Elizabeth Cooper, age 25, of Keystone Heights, Florida passed away on Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017. She was born in Gainesville on Oct. 26, 1992 to Jeff Cooper and Dawn Perry Cooper. Jordan has lived in Keystone Heights her entire life and graduated from Keystone Heights High School in 2012. Jordan was a movie enthusiast and critic. She also was an avid reader and writer; her favorite genres were fiction, adventure and fairytales. Jordan

also loved animals, especially dogs. She is predeceased by her maternal grandfather, Henry Perry; and uncles, Tony and Steve Perry.

Jordan is survived by: her parents, Jeff Cooper and Renee’ Cooper of Keystone Heights; brother, Todd Cooper of Keystone Heights; maternal grandmother, Margie Perry of Keystone Heights; paternal grandfather, Jack (Sharon) Cooper of Keystone Heights; paternal grandmother, Susie Heath Cooper of Keystone Heights; aunts, Cheryl Perry, Dolly Cooper and Kerry Collins; uncles, Frank Cooper, Richard Fulmer, Paul Fulmer, and Ronald Perry; and numerous cousins.

A Celebration of Jordan’s Life will be held on Thursday, Dec. 21 at 11:00 a.m. at Heilbronn Springs Baptist Church with Pastor Danny Boyd officiating. Interment will follow at Keystone Heights Cemetery. The family will receive friends on Thursday 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. Visit www.ferreirafuneralservices.com to sign the family’s guest book. 904-964-5757.

PAID OBITUARY



Catherine Filer

Catherine Filer

LAKE BUTLER—Catherine Rosie Glover Filer, 62, of Lake Butler passed away to be with the Lord on Saturday, Dec. 16, 2017 at Shands Hospital, after a sudden illness. Catherine graduated from Union County High School. She later married Mr. Henry Filer. She and Henry were married for 30 years. Catherine was a devoted Christian and member of Little Rock Church. She loved her friends and family dearly.

Catherine is survived by: her loving husband, Henry Filer; three daughters, Henrietta (Minister Louis) Williams of Ft. Myers, Sonya Filer of Labelle, and Angela (Ian) Spence of Georgia; four sons, Harold D. Young of Orlando, Pastor King Solomon (Doris Grigger) of Gainesville, Charlie Filer of Ft. Myers, and Anthony James Filer

of Ocala. She is also survived by 116 grand children and great-grandchildren.

A visitation will be held at Archer Funeral Home on Friday, Dec. 22nd at 6 pm. Funeral services will be held at Little Rock Church in Lake Butler on Dec. 23, 10:00 am, with Reverend Randolph Murray and Reverend Harold Young officiating. The burial will follow at Little Rock Cemetery, under the direction of Archer Funeral Home of Lake Butler, Florida. The family will leave the residence of Filer, in procession, at 9:30 am on Saturday. Arrangements are under the care of Archer Funeral Home, Lake Butler. For more information, please call (386)496-2008.

PAID OBITUARY

Andrew Garnett

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Andrew “Mark” Garnett, 45, of Keystone Heights died Thursday, Dec. 14, 2017 from injuries he sustained in an automobile accident. He was born on Sept. 8, 1972 in Ashland, OH and had been a longtime resident of the area. He worked as a roofer.

Survivors are: daughter, Anastasia Gwendolyn Garnett of Keystone Heights; parents, Carl Garnett, Jr. and Sandy (Hartman) Garnett all of Keystone Heights; siblings, Carl E. (Michelle) Garnett, III of Florahome, Belinda (Mike) Getz of McRae; and two grandchildren.

A visitation will be held at the Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home Chapel in Keystone Heights on Friday, Dec. 22 from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. with a memorial service at 8:00 p.m. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Keystone Heights.



Rhea Johnson

Rhea Johnson

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Rhea Fayne Hamer Johnson, 96, of Keystone Heights, died peacefully on Friday, Dec. 15, 2017 in Starke following a long battle with Alzheimer’s. Rhea was born at home in Tatum, SC, on June 18, 1921 to the late Reese R. Hamer and the late Fayne Parson Hamer. She went to school in McColl, SC then Furman University. At the outset of WW II, she left college to work in various positions for the Department of War. While working in Atlanta, she met

her future husband, Walter Edward Johnson, who was stationed at Ft. Benning, Ga. Rhea and Edward were married soon after he returned from Europe at the end of the war, on Oct. 21, 1945 in Tatum. While Edward made the Army a career, they lived in many places, including Germany, which afforded them the opportunity to travel extensively throughout Europe. Following his retirement and their move to Keystone Heights, she was actively involved in the Women’s Club. She was always an avid bridge player and became a certified ACBL instructor after moving to Keystone. She volunteered with the American Cancer Society and Haven Hospice. Additionally, she had many friends and led a very active social life until Alzheimer’s disease left her unable to socialize as she had once done. Rhea is preceded in death by: her parents; her brothers, Reese Jr. and Bradwell Hamer; her sister, Annetta Hamer Marble; her husband, Edward; and her son, Reese Johnson.

Rhea is survived by: her daughter, René Johnson; sisters-in-law, Ida Otto of Murfreesboro, TN, and Belva Hamer of Columbia, SC; numerous nephews and nieces and their families; and caregiver/dear friend, Donna Schleicher.

Burial will be at the Florida National Cemetery at Bushnell where she will be reunited with her husband, Edward. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to the Alzheimer’s Association or Haven Hospice. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Keystone Heights. 352-473-3176. www.jonesgallagherfh.com

PAID OBITUARY



Larry Lalone

Larry Lalone

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Larry James Lalone, 73, of Keystone Heights, passed away at the Haven E.T. York Care Center in Gainesville on Friday, Dec. 8, 2017. He was born on March 25, 1944 in Ogdensburg, NY to Floyd and Grace Nichols Lalone. Larry served in the US Navy on the US Albany with an honorable discharge on April 1, 1965. Larry retired from the Church of Latter Day Saints as a Mechanic FM on June 17, 2010.

Larry is survived by: his beloved wife of 25 years, Glenda Young Lalone; three daughters, Christie Lewis, Roxann (Nick) Ocasio and Heather (John) Bradshaw; son, Scott Lalone; step children, Aimee Lilly,

Eric Jackson and Shawn Jackson; eight grandchildren; sister, Barbara Lalone Grodewald and nieces and nephews.

Services were held on Dec. 16 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Starke.

PAID OBITUARY



Betty McKinney

Betty McKinney

STARKE—Betty Jane McKinney, age 80, of Starke passed away peacefully on Thursday, Dec. 14, 2017 at her home. She was born Dec. 18, 1936 in Lawtey to the late Thomas Henry Bradley and Bessie Mae Thomas. Betty was a life long resident of Bradford County. She dedicated her life to her career as a waitress and worked at Dixie Grill, Brandin’ Iron, Sportsman Truck Stop, and 22 years at Western Steer. Betty was married at the age of 13 to the love of her life Willie “Dub” McKinney on Sept. 2, 1950. Dub taught Betty how to drive, swim, and fish. They did everything together until he passed away Sept. 14, 2014. Betty loved tending to her family and enjoyed her precious time with them. She is preceded in death by: her parents; husband, Willie “Dub” McKinney; daughter, Carole McKinney; sister, Lindell Sheppard; and his grandson, Patrick McKinney.

Betty is survived by: her son, William (Anita) McKinney of Graham; brother, Ray Griffis of South Carolina; sisters, Lynn Weldon of Orange Park, Sandra Pennell of Hawthorne, Sharon Foster of Starke, Faye Griffis of North Carolina; grandchildren, Jeremy Boyer, Jason McKinney, Justin McKinney, Rhianna McKinney, Josh McKinney, Teila Burkett, Kristen McKinney, Garrett Thornton, and Brandon Thornton; 21 great-grandchildren; and a great great-grandson on the way.

A Celebration of Betty’s Life was held on Dec. 18 at Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel. Arrangements are under the care and direction of Archie Tanner Funeral Services, Starke. 904-964-5757. Visit www.archietannerfuneralservices.com to sign the family’s guest book.

PAID OBITUARY

Meno Nershi

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Meno Nershi, 99, of Keystone Heights died at Willey Manor in Keystone Heights, Thursday, Dec. 14, 2017. He was born on July 1, 1918 in West Hoboken, NJ to the late Thomas and Anna Nershi and had served in the United States Navy during World War II. Prior to retirement he was a civil engineer and had owned his own land surveying business.

He is survived by: his wife of 70 years, Edna “May” (Wasson) Nershi of Keystone Heights; two daughters, Elizabeth Nershi of San Diego, CA and Barbara Sands of Fairfield, CT; along with two grandchildren.

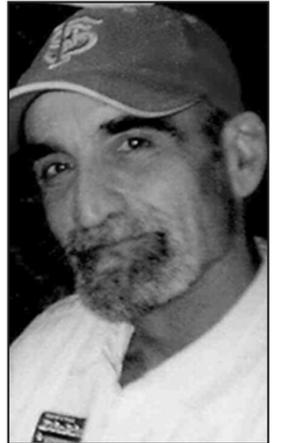
A private interment was at the Keystone Heights Cemetery. A memorial service will be held at the Park of The Palms at a later date. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, of Keystone Heights.

Doris Pendleton

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Doris Jean Pendleton, 86, of Keystone Heights died Thursday, Dec. 14, 2017 at Windsor Health and Rehabilitation in Starke. She was born in Gastonia, NC on Nov. 30, 1931 to the late Eury Carlton and Pansy Annie (Garver) Pendleton. She was a homemaker and a member of Freedom Baptist Church. Her five brothers, Roy Pendleton, Dean Pendleton, Gary Hayes, Randy Hayes, and Mickey Hayes had all preceded her in death.

She is survived by: her friends and caregivers, Helen and DeWitt Hersey.

Graveside services were held Dec. 18 with Pastor Jason Stephens officiating.



Nikolas Porfiriadis Jr.

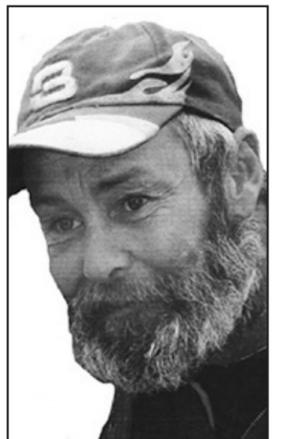
Nikolas Porfiriadis Jr.

STARKE—Nikolas Porfiriadis Jr. age 61, of Starke passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017 at his residence with his loving family by his side. He was born in Queens, NY on Dec. 18, 1955 to Nikolas Porfiriadis, Sr. and the late Colette Bourgoin Porfiriadis. Nikolas was raised in New York and spent a few years in France as a young child. He relocated to Florida in the 70’s and has resided in Baker and Bradford counties for many years. Nikolas was very gifted with his hands and loved his longtime career as a carpenter where he specialized in installing drywall. Most of all, he enjoyed spending time with his family. Nikolas was preceded in death by: his mother; his son, Nikolas L.B. Porfiriadis, III; and his granddaughter, Summerlyn Grace Porfiriadis.

Nikolas is survived by: his father, Nikolas Porfiriadis of Englewood; mother of his children, Wanda “Ann” Hutchins of Starke; his sons, Blakemon Porfiriadis and Stephen (Heather) Porfiriadis; his brother, Porfis (Linda) Porfiriadis; and his seven grandchildren, Blakemon Porfiriadis, Jr., Granson Porfiriadis, Nikolas Porfiriadis, Michaela Bradley, Shyann Pfalzgraf, Joshlynn Pfalzgraf, and Noah Pfalzgraf.

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. 904-964-5757.

PAID OBITUARY



Allen Shealey

Allen Shealey

DECHERD, TN—Allen Lee Shealey, age 56 of Decherd, TN departed this life on Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2017 at the Waters of Winchester, TN following an extended illness. Allen was born on Aug. 3, 1961 in Atlanta, GA to Arvil Walker and Dorothy Ray Epperson Shealey. Allen enjoyed fishing and camping on the creek. Allen was preceded in death by: his father, Arvil Shealey; brother, Wayne Shealey; and daughter, Misty Shealey.

Allen is survived by: his mother, Dorthy Shealey (David) Clay and of Hampton; daughters, Tonika Henson Phillips of Tullahoma, TN, Tori Raines Thornton of Manchester, TN; son, Jason Raines of Seiner, TN; brothers, Walker (Susan) Shealey of Ballground, GA, Ben (Angel) Shealey of Hampton; sisters, Georgia Annette (Alan) Thornton of Jacksonville, Tina (Fred) Phillips of Starke. He has eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild; ex-wife and friend, Paula Shealey of Winchester, TN; several nieces, nephews and cousins.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date in Tennessee.

PAID OBITUARY

“Home At Last”

Oh happy day when I see His face,
After the sunset, after my race.
My long journey here will soon past,
What I’ve done for Christ only will last.
Thru valleys low or mountains high,
To all of these I’ll bid goodbye.
I’ll soon be walking on streets of gold,
So many things will then unfold.
Home at last to riches untold,
Home with my Savior as ages roll.

— Henry Hodges
Lawtey, FL

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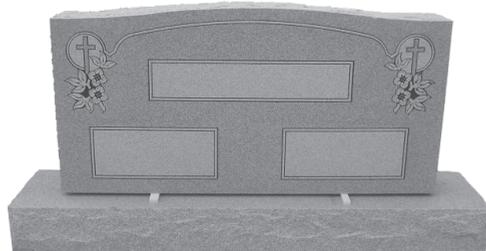
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James 4:12— There is one
Lawgiver, who is able to save.

OBITUARIES



Linda Sweat

Linda Sweat

KINGSLEY LAKE— Linda Carter Sweat, age 86, of Kingsley Lake passed away Friday, Dec. 15, 2017 surrounded by her family at Haven Hospice Custead Care Center in Orange Park. She was born in Lawtey on Dec. 19, 1930 to the late Carl Francis and Mildred (Durban) Carter. Linda had been a native of Lawtey before moving to Kingsley Lake 21 years ago. She was a Mortgage Processor for the Credit Bureau of Jacksonville before retiring in 1996. Linda was a member of Grace United Methodist Church in Lawtey, but also enjoyed attending Kingsley Lake Baptist Church. She had a passion for working in her yard, tending to her flowers, spending time with her family and friends. She also enjoyed going to her family farm to see the 39 cows and one pig. Linda especially loved to cook and sew with her grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; and her husband, Lonnie Francis "Frank" Sweat, Jr.

Linda is survived by: her son, Michael S. Sweat of Sanderson; daughter, Sherry S. (Tim) Sexton of Kingsley Lake; siblings, Margaret Cribb of Hartwell, GA, Ann (Lloyd) Macy of Kingsley Lake, Donald (Janet) Carter of Kingsley Lake, and William Thomas "Bill" (Joy) Carter of Hartwell, GA; grandchildren, Gavin Sweat (Terri Kay), Brittany (Will) Hobbs, Shannon Lindley (Justin) Adkins, Garrison Sweat, and Courtney Sexton; and great-grandchildren, Peyton Hobbs, Liam Hobbs, and Axel Adkins. Also left behind are numerous nieces, nephews, other family members, and friends.

Services were held Dec. 18 at the DeWitt C. Jones Chapel. Graveside services followed at Lawtey Cemetery, with Pastor Jonathan Rodriguez officiating. Memorial contributions may be made in Linda's name to Kingsley Lake Baptist Church. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Starke. 904-964-6200.

PAID OBITUARY



Margaret Teto

Margaret Teto

MELROSE—Margaret Teto, age 80, of Melrose passed away Saturday, Dec. 16, 2017 at North Florida Regional Medical Center in Gainesville after an extended illness. She was born in London, England on Jan. 20, 1937 to the late William Robert and Jane McIntosh (Robertson) Hopkins. Before moving to Melrose 15 years ago, Margaret had been a resident of Phillipston, MA where she was a Registered Nurse, as well as an advocate for special needs adults. Margaret was instrumental in getting grants for the special needs community in their area. She was even recognized by the State of Massachusetts on two separate occasions for her advocacy work. Margaret was a member of St. William Catholic Church in Keystone Heights, and loved horseback riding and training horses for family and teams for competitions throughout New England. She enjoyed camping, and being involved with her precious grandchildren, which included her involvement with Kiwanis, and 4-H. She also assisted with transportation for handicapped children. She was preceded in death by her parents; and her daughter, Catherine L. Teto.

Margaret is survived by: her beloved husband of 51 years, Paul E. Teto of Melrose; son, Brian W. (Heather) Teto of Middleburg; sister, Winifred (Phillip) Mahoney of Fitchburg, MA; as well as numerous other family members, and friends.

A Memorial Mass will be held 10:30 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 22 at St. William Catholic Church with Father Andy Mitera as Celebrant. Memorial contributions may be made in Margaret's name to Wilkinson Elementary School, Middleburg, Florida. Burial at Ashby West Cemetery in Ashby, MA will be at a later date. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, of Keystone Heights. www.jonesgallagherfh.com

PAID OBITUARY



Ronald Thomas

LAKE BUTLER—Ronald Lee Thomas, 76, of Lake Butler passed away on Sunday, Dec. 10, 2017. Ronald was the starting running back for Union County High School football team, where he also graduated high school. After graduating high school, Ronald joined the United States Navy. He later retired from the United States Navy. Ronald received his Bachelors degree and returned to Union County High school as an Algebra teacher, where he taught until his retirement. Ronald was a Florida Gator football fan and he enjoyed fishing. Ronald is preceded in death by: his parents, Jacob and Barbara Thomas. He leaves his memory to be cherished by his family and friends.

Ronald Thomas is survived by: three sons, Paul Thomas, Jason Thomas, and Derek (Darlene) Thomas, two step daughters, Marcie (Carpenter) Nordyke and Chasity Carpenter; two brothers, Oliver Thomas and Jacob "Randy" Thomas. Ronald was loved by many and will be missed.

A Memorial Service will be held at a later date. Arrangements are under the care of Archer Funeral Home, Lake Butler. For more information, please call (386)496-2008.

PAID OBITUARY

Virgil Turke

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Virgil Steven Banciu Turke, 72, of Keystone Heights died at Shands Hospital in Starke Monday, Dec. 18, 2017. He was born in Romania on March 26, 1945 and had served in the United States Army. He had been a longtime resident of Keystone Heights prior to moving to Miami. Prior to his retirement he was a police officer. He was of the Methodist faith. Preceding him in death were his parents, George J. and Helen (Podmaniski) Turke.

He is survived by: his wife of 26 years, Ana "Anita" (Arzate) Turke; four children, Gil (Lori) Banciu of

St. Augustine, Christeen (Shawn) Haney of Keystone Heights, Laura (Carlos) Hernandez of Homestead and Javier Turke of Fontana, CA. Also left behind is a brother, George (Mackie) Turke of Tennessee; a sister, Tavi Turke Slevinski of Pensacola, along with six grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 11:30 a.m., Friday, Dec. 29 at the Florida National Cemetery in Jacksonville. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to an AMVETS post of your choice. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, of Keystone Heights.



Austin Yarbrough

Austin Yarbrough

MELROSE— Austin Bryce Yarbrough, age 21, of Melrose passed away, Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017 at Shands Hospital from injuries he sustained in an automobile accident. Austin was born on Jan. 7, 1996 in Gainesville to Dale and Sally (Greene) Yarbrough. Austin was a 2014 graduate of Interlachen High School where he was affectionately known as "Yar Bird." SPC Austin Yarbrough joined the Florida National Guard in February 2013 and completed One Station Unit Training at Fort Benning, Georgia and graduated as an Infantryman when he was 17 years old. Austin was assigned to HHC 2-124 Infantry Battalion within the Scouts Platoon where he was awarded the Florida State Active Duty Ribbon on three separate occasions; two for supporting life-saving hurricane

relief efforts during Hurricane Matthew and Hurricane Irma and one for assisting law enforcement and providing security during VIP visits to the Gainesville area. Austin was awarded the Air Force Achievement Medal when assigned as a Team Member tactically controlled by 449th Air Expeditionary Group, 435th Air Expeditionary Wing stationed at Camp Lemonier, Republic of Djibouti. During this mobilization to the Horn of Africa, he successfully executed 40 missions as a part of the Fly Away Security Team, which provided security and protection for the 75th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron and the 81st Expeditionary Rescue Squadron. Austin also completed 2-124 Infantry Battalion's Long range Marksmanship Course's. Austin's other awards include the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M Device, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Army Superior Unit Award. Austin took great joy in his Jeep and hunting with his family and friends. Austin will be remembered as a Patriot who loved his Country and as a young man with the contagious smile, and big heart. Austin was kind, fun and a

great friend to many. Austin was setting the bar high for the younger members of his family with his success in the National Guard and with his daily work ethic. He was the first one to encourage family and friends to reach higher and work harder toward their goals.

Survivors are: his parents, Dale and Sally (Greene) Yarbrough; a sister, Danielle Yarbrough; and a brother, Hunter Yarbrough all of Melrose; maternal grandfather, Walter T. Pitts, III of Valona, GA; paternal grandparents, Clifford Yarbrough of Jacksonville Beach, and Brenda Bishop of Interlachen; and his Granny Grape, Lavonia Link of Melrose; Aunts and Uncles, Arlene (Greene) Jones and Hugh Jones Jr. of Green Cove Springs; Maria and Teddy Seyppura of Melrose; Derrick Yarbrough of Hawthorne; along with numerous cousins, extended family and friends.

A memorial service will be held for Austin on Wednesday, Dec. 20 at 11 am at Eliam Cemetery in Melrose. Memorial contributions may be made to the Florida National Guard foundation in honor of Austin Yarbrough, P.O. Box 717, St. Augustine, Florida 32085. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Keystone Heights Florida. 352-473-3176. www.jonesgallagherfh.com

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— By Henry Hodges
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©Max Lucado, December 2017

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Julius sparks Keystone girls to 39-28 district win over Bradford

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer

Haley Julius made two three-pointers to start the second half and scored 12 points in the third quarter, helping lead the Keystone Heights High School girls basketball team to a 39-28 win over visiting Bradford on Dec. 14.

It was the first District 4-5A win for Keystone (3-6), which added another on Dec. 15 in defeating Pierson Taylor 46-5.

Bradford (3-5) was looking to remain tied with Interlachen for second place in the district, but instead fell to 2-2. Interlachen

is 3-1 in district play, while Newberry is tops with a 5-0 district mark.

A Julius steal and layup gave the Indians a 13-11 lead early in the second quarter, but a Jah'mya Henderson three-pointer sparked a 9-0 Bradford run to close out the half. Henderson and Raynisha Hunter each scored off an offensive rebound, while Henderson added a layup off a Olyvia Griffin assist. Henderson missed a three-pointer before the buzzer that would've sent the Tornados into halftime leading 23-13.

Two quick three-pointers by

Julius coming out of the break made it a one-point game. Julius then made a floater along the baseline following a Savannah Channell steal to give Keystone a 21-20 lead. Griffin sank a jumper in the lane and then scored on a layup, receiving an outlet pass from Dezirae Tabet, who grabbed a defensive rebound. That put the Tornados up 24-21, but Victoria Snider scored off a Channell assist before Julius made her third three-pointer of the quarter, putting Keystone ahead 26-24 and giving the Indians the lead for good.

A Henderson drive led to a

basket that sent Bradford into the fourth quarter trailing by just one, but the Tornados were held to one field goal in the final quarter.

Keystone scored the first eight points of the fourth quarter, with a Channell offensive rebound leading to a basket by Destiny Bright and a Julius assist leading to a score by Channell. Snider scored off an offensive board, while a Channell steal led to a layup by Lexi Northway.

Julius led all scorers with 18 points, while Channell and Snider had eight and six, respectively. Keystone also got

five points from Bright and two points each from Northway and Skylar Rollins.

Henderson led Bradford with 13 points, while Griffin had eight. Hunter and Chloe Raab had four and two points, respectively, with Sara Foster adding one point.

Prior to playing Bradford, the Indians lost district games by scores of 43-42 to Fort White on Dec. 7 and 59-40 to Newberry on Dec. 11.

In the home loss to Fort White, Julius and Bright led the Indians with 15 and 14 points, respectively, while Snider had six. Channell and Victoria

Bannon each had three points, while Carissa Gagnon added one.

Julius and Bright had 13 and 10 points, respectively, in the road loss to Newberry. Snider and Channell added eight and seven points, respectively, while Emily Pressley had two.

Bradford entered the game off a 58-56 win over visiting Williston on Dec. 12. Griffin scored 20 points, while Hunter and Henderson had 11 and 10, respectively. Tabet had eight points, with Jade Baker and Regina Roberts adding five and four, respectively.

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UCHS girls' weightlifting team improves to 6-1

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer

Union County High School girls weightlifting coach Bryan Griffis is excited about the potential of his team after a 6-1 start, which includes a recent 59-30 win over Fort White that saw five of his lifters remain undefeated.

"This year's team is something else," Griffis said.

The Tigers' only loss came to Gainesville by six points. Among their accomplishments is a win over Baker County in a tri-meet.

Griffis said this year's team is better than the 2015-16 team, which featured state champions Brandy McCoy and Latiyah McDonald. He chalks that up to the number of lifters who put in an incredible effort during the off-season and who continue to do so.

"They're the hardest working bunch of girls I've ever had," Griffis said.

McCoy, Kurston Bakken, Breynce Cummings, Josie Godwin and Mia Jackson remained undefeated with their wins in the Fort White meet. Godwin had a 315 total (160 bench press, 155 clean and jerk) in the 139 class, while Jackson had a 310 total (175, 135) in the 169 class. Cummings had a 295 total (160, 135) in the 183 class, while McCoy, the two-time defending state champ in the 199 class, posted a 480 total (275, 205). Bakken had a 450 total (275, 175) in the unlimited class.

Godwin's bench press was 10 pounds less than the total of last year's 139 class state champ, while Bakken's overall total was 55 pounds better than last year's unlimited champ. McCoy bettered her bench press total at state last year by 10 pounds.

Also earning wins were: Katie Tomlinson 150 total (75, 75) in 101, Maisie Thornton 250 total (125, 125) in 129 and Taylor Gainey 260 total (135, 125) in 154.

Thornton has lifted before, but did not compete last year. However, Griffis said, "She is making excellent progress."

Tomlinson has placed either first or second in every meet, along with Sydney Personette. Personette placed second in the 110 class at the Fort White meet with a 185 total (95, 90).

The Tigers also had the following place second: Jahlivya Woodall 115 total (60, 55) in 101, Madelyn Whitehead 225 total (115, 110) in 119, Kyler Herndon 165 total (75, 90) in 129 and Cora Johnston 220 total (110, 110) in 154.

Third-place finishers were: Erica Roseke 205 total (100, 105) in 119, Alana Brown 180 total (100, 80) in 139, Cheyann Leshuk 170 total (90, 80) in 169 and Lorina Kelley 180 total (95, 85) in 199.

The number of strong performances has Griffis hopeful that he can take more lifters to state than usual. If that happens, then he just prays those lifters can earn enough points to give Union a team state championship, which would make Union the smallest school to ever do so in girls weightlifting.

"We stand a pretty decent chance if these girls keep working and keep improving," Griffis said.

BHS boys win 5th straight, remain perfect in District 4-5A

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer

Chris Cummings and Jordan Lee led the way for the Bradford High School boys basketball team, which defeated visiting Fort White 72-47 on Dec. 16 to improve to 5-0 in District 4-5A.

It was the fifth straight win for the Tornados (5-1) after a season-opening loss to Bolles.

Cummings scored 14 points and had five assists, while Lee was efficient from the field, making 4-of-6 field goals to finish with 12 points.

Matthew Crawford also went 4-of-6 from the field, just

missing double figures with nine points. D.J. Mackey and Taz Curry had eight and seven points, respectively, while Dequan Hankerson had six. Tarrin Jackson and Jaleen Lane each had five points, while J'cobi Harris, Jordan Hill and Tavi'en Young each had two.

Mackey grabbed eight rebounds, while Curry and Harris each had five.

Bradford entered the game off a 77-68 win over host Newberry on Dec. 14, which featured a 21-point, nine-rebound and five-assist performance by Curry.

Three players joined Curry in double figures in scoring: Young and Cummings with 16 and 12 points, respectively, and Mackey with 10. Mackey led the team in rebounds (10) and steals (4), while Cummings led the team in assists (7). Young added five assists.

Cummings and Young finished a combined 12-of-18 from the foul line.

Crawford and Harris had nine and six points, respectively, while Hankerson had two. Lee added one point.

Bradford will take part in the annual Lake Area McDonald's-Kiwanis Club of Starke tournament, which will be played at BHS Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 21-23. See related story on page 2B for schedule.

KHHS boys defeat Pierson Taylor for 3rd win in 4 games

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer

Marco Flores scored 12 of his 19 points in the first half, helping the Keystone Heights High School boys basketball team build a double-digit lead en route to defeating visiting Pierson Taylor 73-32 for its first District 4-5A victory on Dec. 15.

It was the third win in four games for the Indians (4-4, 1-3).

Flores had the Indians' first two field goals, while baskets by Sawyer Maxwell, Ray Kirtley and Eddie Thomas helped Keystone

take a 10-3 lead. A Taylor three-pointer cut the lead to four, but Flores, following a Josh Hughes steal, answered with a floater in the lane as the Indians outscored the Wildcats 6-1 to end the first quarter. Hughes knocked down a jumper, while Kirtley had a rebound putback, sending Keystone into the second quarter leading 16-7.

A 10-0 run put Keystone up 30-11. Flores and Thomas each scored on a drive to the basket, while Maxwell sank a jumper. Flores then had two straight baskets, the second of which was set up by Jarlen Woodard's steal.

Keystone led by 14 at the half, but Thomas quickly made it a 22-point lead as he scored the Indians' first 11 points of the third quarter. Thomas was twice set up for scores on assists from Woodard, while another field goal occurred on a rebound putback of a missed Kirtley free throw.

Thomas finished with a game-high 21 points, while Hughes and Kirtley each had seven points. Maxwell and Garrett Stanley each had six, while Tyler Cumbus had five. Woodard added two points.

On Dec. 8, the Indians got 14 and 12 points from Thomas and Kirtley, respectively, in holding off visiting Middleburg 52-50.

Flores and Maxwell each had seven points, while Hughes and Adrien Ciena had five and four, respectively. Stanley added three points.

Keystone traveled to play Trenton on Dec. 9, getting seven third-quarter points from Thomas as they turned a two-point halftime lead into one of 14 points en route to a 54-38 win.

Thomas and Maxwell finished with 20 and 10 points, respectively, while Flores had seven points. Ciena had six points, while Kirtley had five, going 5-of-6 from the foul line in the second half. Stanley and Hughes finished with three and two points, respectively, with Cumbus adding one point.

On Dec. 12, the Indians couldn't take advantage of visiting Newberry's 3-of-12 performance at the foul line in the fourth quarter, getting just three field goals in the final

quarter of a 40-38 district loss.

Keystone trailed by five entering the second quarter, but then got two field goals each from Ciena and Stanley, along with a three-pointer each from Hughes and Kirtley, in going into halftime trailing only 21-20.

Maxwell and Thomas each finished with eight points, while Kirtley and Stanley had seven and six, respectively. Ciena had

four points, with Hughes and Flores adding three and two, respectively.

The Indians played district opponent Fort White this past Monday and will play in a tournament hosted by Bell High School on Thursday and Friday, Dec. 21-22. Keystone returns to action after the break on Thursday, Jan. 4, traveling to play Union County at 7:30 p.m.

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