

Lake Region Monitor

USPS 114-170 — Keystone Heights, Florida

Thursday, January 4, 2018

44th Year — 35th Issue — 75 CENTS

In this week's Regional News: Keystone Heights High School sports year-end report



2 fires damage homes over holidays



Right: The site-build brick home on Southeast State Road 100 was a total loss. Photo: Bradford County Emergency Management.

Above: Damage to the Southeast Third Street home was extensive, however, much of the personal property inside the structure appeared to be salvageable.
BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

A Dec. 28 fire southeast of Starke destroyed one home and a second on Jan. 1 at the Bradford-Clay County line near Keystone Heights claimed the roof of a second.

Bradford County Fire Coordinator Chip Ware said the cause of the December blaze, in the 9,400 block of Southeast State Road 100, is still under investigation. He added that the site-built brick home is a total loss. Firefighters from Starke, Theresa and Heilbronn Springs responded to the incident.

Around 8 p.m. on New Year's Day, a chimney fire spread to the roof of a home on Southeast Third Avenue in Bradford County, near the Keystone Heights Shrine Club.

A Clay County crew from



Keystone Heights arrived first on scene and saw flames on the roof. The team entered the structure through the front door and fought the blaze from the interior. Theresa firefighters soon arrived and attacked the fire from the outside. About 15 firefighters responded to the incident, including a crew from Sampson City.

Ware described the damage to the home as extensive, but added that much of the personal property inside the structure appeared salvageable.

According to county records, the home is owned by Dorothy M. Denton and Tracie Brown. There was no loss of life nor injuries in either fire.

Man pulls gun and mugs bystander near city hall



Martin

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

A 20-year-old Lakeview Drive resident was arrested the day after Christmas for threatening and then robbing a Lake Geneva man following an argument.

Clay deputies arrested James Isiah Martin for armed robbery with a firearm, aggravated battery with a deadly weapon and vandalism.

According to an arrest report, the victim is an acquaintance of the defendant. The two encountered one another around 8:50 p.m., with Martin on the sidewalk in front of city hall and the victim in front of Natural Park.

"(The victim) was standing on the sidewalk charging his cellphone when he observed the defendant standing across the street," a deputy wrote in a report. "The offender began shouting and threatening (the victim)," who "shouted back that he was not afraid."

The deputy wrote that Martin then lifted up his shirt showing the 18-year-old victim a firearm. The defendant then crossed the street and demanded that the victim turn over his phone.

When the victim refused, "the offender began striking (him) on the back of his head with a closed fist," the officer wrote. Martin then kicked the victim several times, taking him to the ground. The victim then surrendered his

See MARTIN, 2A



More arrests in cemetery case

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

Two more individuals have been arrested in connection to thefts taking place from gravesites in Bradford County.

According to the sheriff's office, Amanda Renee Thornton was arrested for tampering with evidence by hiding several stolen items when local news stations began reporting on the case.

Thornton, 29, was the one who pointed the finger at the primary culprit, Jenni Marie Hudkins, as well as the mother of Hudkin's boyfriend, Janice Crawford, who was accused of purchasing the stolen items to sell.

Hudkins was arrested for removing monuments from gravesites and dealing in stolen property. Crawford was also arrested for dealing in stolen property.

Hudkin's boyfriend, Ernest

Steven Varnes, already in jail on drug charges, was arrested on additional charges, including disturbing a tomb and dealing in stolen

Varnes' bond was raised by \$100,000 to \$275,000. Thornton's bond was set at \$75,000. Both remained in jail as of press time.



Thornton



Varnes

merchandise. According to the sheriff's office, Varnes participated in the thefts and even sold one of the items back to the owner.

Thornton and Varnes both have arrest records that include theft and drug charges.

WeekndWeather: Slight rain chance

Thursday - Sunny, with a high near 45. Wind chill values as low as 14 early. West wind 8 to 11 mph.

Thursday Night - Clear, with a low around 23. Northwest wind around 6 mph.

Friday - Sunny, with a high near 46.

Friday Night - Clear, with a low around 24.

Saturday - Sunny, with a high near 49.

Saturday Night - Mostly clear, with a low around 30.

Sunday - Mostly sunny, with a high near 61.

Sunday Night - Mostly cloudy, with a low around 46.

Monday - A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 70.

Monday Night - A 50 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 51.

Tuesday - Partly sunny, with a high near 65. a high near 52.



Couple aims to bring manufacturing to area



Joe Condon greets members of the Keystone-Lake Region Business Association after telling the group about his business.

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

Joe Condon thinks it's a crime that American manufacturing jobs have been off-shored and he intends to do something about it.

The president and CEO of Auxadyne, a Keystone Heights manufacturer of auxetic foam, told a business group recently that his firm is making progress in bringing high-paying jobs to the area.

Condon and his wife Betsy launched Auxadyne in 2015,

after licensing a manufacturing technique from the High-Performance Materials Institute run jointly by Florida State and Florida Agricultural and Mechanical universities.

Joe described his wife



Joe Condon
Auxadyne

"It's a crime that we have offshored manufacturing in this country. We're bringing it back and we're doing it right here."

as the boss, and credited her with founding the firm. She could not accompany her husband during his presentation to the business group because she was on Clay County School District business as a school

board member.

Condon told the Keystone-Lake Region Business Association that prior to Auxadyne, he had a 30-year career in medical device manufacturing, working as a senior executive for Stryker and Zimmer Biomet, two \$8 billion medical device companies. He was also the senior operations executive for RTI Surgical in Alachua for eight years.

Condon said he didn't like what he saw while working in corporate America.

"I got tired of corporate America: didn't care for the decision-making where the

stock value trumps good patient care," he said.

He said he was also disturbed about the trend to outsource manufacturing jobs overseas.

"It's a crime that we have offshored manufacturing in this country," he told the business group. "We're bringing it back and we're doing it right here."

Now, Auxadyne is still in the seed capital stage, but has already achieved success raising venture money.

The company earned a matching \$300,000 investment from the Florida Institute for Commercialization of Public Research after Auxadyne raised its first \$300,000.

"We raised 300 and the next day we had \$600,000," said Condon, "which was great."

Last year, Condon and his team brought home a \$50,000 check for placing second in a venture capital contest sponsored by Space Florida.

"You have six minutes on stage in front of a panel," he said describing the competition.

Eighty companies participated in the Orlando event.

Last year, Auxadyne signed a multi-year development agreement with Nike, which allowed the Condons to move their manufacturing facility from their garage to a plant on Keystone's Commercial Circle.

The technology the Keystone Heights company obtained from FSU and FAMU was developed with a \$4.5 million grant from the U.S. Veterans Administration.

"The VA was interested in a better solution for veteran leg amputees," Condon said. "They walk on a surgical site every day and it hurts."

He said researchers developed a manufacturing process to mass produce auxetic foam.

He explained that traditional foam acts like a rubber band:

when stretched, it becomes thinner. But when auxetic foam is stretched, the opposite occurs, it expands. Similarly, when you vertically compress a marshmallow, it expands horizontally. Do the same to auxetic foam and it shrinks horizontally.

"Foam is in anything," Condon added. "Everyone in this room is interacting with three foams right now. It's in your shoes, it's under the carpet and it's in the seat you are sitting in. You slept on a foam bed last night likely with a foam pillow, and you came over here in a foam-filled car. Foam is in everything."

Condon also said that a recent visit by Dow Chemical to his plant confirmed a notion he had been wondering about: "We produce the only commercially-available synclastic foam in the world."

He said the foam has many practical applications, particularly in sports, medical devices and by the military.

"Conventional foam padding moves away from the point of impact," he said. "Our foam moves to the point of impact. When you need an elbow pad is not when it's hanging on your elbow, it's when your elbow is about to hit the ground. And at that point that foam is in its worst possible performance state: right at the moment you need it the most. That's what's wrong with conventional foam."

He said tests by several commercial users of foam such as Nike, the VA and the Canadian and U.S. departments of defense have confirmed that his foam outperforms conventional padding.

Auxetic foam is not new. The first white paper on auxetic foam was written 22 years ago at Bolton University in the UK. But nobody could figure out how to make it.

"Just because you can do it in a test tube once, doesn't mean you can mass produce it," Condon said.

"What FSU invented was a method of manufacturing. We can make this foam all day, every day, and in the exact specification that the consumer needs."

Now, Auxadyne is working with Nike, equestrian equipment maker Equibrand, NASCAR, Rawlings Baseball, Simpson Helmets, the U.S. Army and Navy, Gainesville body armor maker Phalanx Defense Systems and other firms to develop applications for the foam.

And Condon said that although everyone interacts with foam all the time, it is unlikely you will see his auxetic foam used as carpet padding.

"Most of the foam you interact with is a commodity: cheaper is better," he said. "In the military, athletics and medical devices, those industries are willing to pay premium prices for premium performance. This foam will never go in carpet padding. It's too expensive."

He said that focusing on industries that value high performance products will ultimately benefit his workers.

"High performance equals high revenue," he said, "and high revenue equals high-wage jobs."

MARTIN

Continued from 1A

wallet, backpack and phone.

"The offender then slammed (the victim's) cellphone on the ground, shattering the screen and breaking the phone into multiple pieces."

Deputies later located Martin at his home, questioned him about the incident and took him into custody.



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Inmate health dominates FDC budget priorities

DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

Florida Secretary Julie Jones presented the governor's corrections budget to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice in December, telling lawmakers that inmate health will be a major point of emphasis in the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

the current year's budget. The budget also includes a \$156 million increase to the Department of Corrections.

Inmate mental health

Jones said the FDC budget focuses on increasing safety for inmates and officers, reducing recidivism and increasing operational efficiency.

She said the spending plan includes \$78 million for 476 new positions to enhance mental health services for inmates.

Jones said that while the prison population has decreased, the number of inmates with severe mental disorders has risen.

"Between 2010 and 2016, there was a 51-percent

Improving statistics

Before Jones took the podium, Katie Cunningham, Gov. Rick Scott's Public Safety Policy Coordinator in the Office of Policy and Budget, told senators that Florida's crime rate dropped 2.8 percent in 2016.

"That's a 46-year low," she said. "And data just released shows that in the first half of 2017, there were over 6,000 fewer crimes reported than in the first half of 2016. And we are seeing these decreases, even while our population grows."

Cunningham added that the state's recidivism rate — the rate at which released inmates

BY THE NUMBERS

2,000

CO and sergeant job vacancies in FDC, out of 16,000 positions

increase in the percentage of inmates with the most severe and persistent mental disorders," she said.



Julie Jones
FDC Secretary

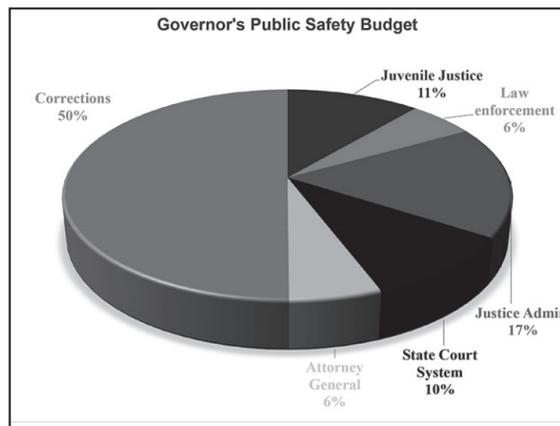
"Cellphones, synthetic drugs and weapons are a growing problem that affect very directly the security of our facilities."

prison — is at 25.2 percent, an all-time low.

Cunningham also said the governor's 2018-2019 public safety budget is \$5.3 billion,

Pharmaceuticals

The budget also includes an additional \$31 million for pharmaceuticals.



a 3.7-percent increase over "The current funding levels have remained static over the

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Dept. of Corrections budget priorities

Enhancing mental health services	\$78 million for 476 new positions
Pharmaceuticals	\$31.1 million
Facilities maintenance and repair	\$21 million
Improving services to disabled inmates	\$6.5 million for 12 new positions
Expanding inmate workforce education programs	\$4 million
Desktop virtualization	\$4 million
Contraband interdiction	\$2 million
Office of Inspector General	\$1.3 million for 20 positions

last 11 years, despite the rising costs of pharmaceuticals Jones told senators. "Due to changes in standards of care and increasing costs for infectious diseases...we are asking for \$11.8 million to address funding shortfalls in our general and infectious disease drug categories, and \$19.3 million for the treatment of inmates with HCV (Hepatitis C). The evolving standard of care for HCV in prison is a national issue, and our department has been working for more than a year to ensure our health service bulletins are in line with the new standard of care."

Jones said she hopes to reduce the costs of treating Hepatitis patients.

"We are actively meeting with pharmaceutical companies who manufacture these drugs and have urged them to join us in addressing this critical public safety issue," she said.

Jones added that some pharmaceutical companies have already committed to lowering costs.

Jones said the agency knows it has around 7,600 inmates out of a total population of 96,000 who are infected with Hepatitis C.

She said the governor's \$20 million request would treat 1,400 inmates a year at current prices, adjusted for anticipated cost reductions the agency is now negotiating with pharmaceutical companies.

Workforce training and education

She said the budget also includes an additional \$4 million for expanding inmate workforce training and education services.

"Research indicates job training in prison reduces recidivism by 13 percent," she said. "And for each increase in grade level an inmate achieves, recidivism decreases by four percent."

The \$4 million will provide an additional 1,600 career and educational program seats.

Maintenance

Jones said the agency would also like to put an additional \$21 million into maintenance and repair for the agency's 4,000-plus buildings, which accounts for around 20 million square feet.

"This is the largest facility portfolio in the state," Jones said.

She added that the money will go for roof repair; the replacement of perimeter fence systems and wastewater and sewer systems.

Contraband interdiction

Jones is also asking the legislature for \$2 million for contraband interdiction. The funding would pay for technology to prevent contraband from entering

BY THE NUMBERS

4,000+

Buildings maintained by the Florida Department of Corrections

facilities and for contract staffing to gather and analyze security threat group (gang) intelligence.

Jones said the agency created an office of intelligence in April 2016. Part of the \$2 million in additional funding would allow FDC to add 20 additional contract analyst positions in that office.

"Cellphones, synthetic drugs and weapons are a growing problem that affect very directly the security of our facilities," she said.

Jones told senators that the agency is running pilot programs at Wakulla and Okeechobee that block cell phone use within dormitories. The no-cost test program sets up an electronic umbrella over dorms which block radio signals.

"We try not to umbrella the entire prison so we don't bleed out and affect 911,"

See FDC, 4A

Single lawsuit could drain corrections budget by \$700 million

Judge orders prison system to treat Hepatitis patients

BY TRACY LEE TATE

Times Editor

In a harshly worded, 32-page order, U.S. District Judge Mark Walker declared that cost was no excuse for the Florida Department of Corrections not providing treatment to inmates infected with the Hepatitis C virus.

In his Nov. 17 ruling, Walker stated that he found the FDC to be "deliberately indifferent" to the medical needs of inmates and that "preventable deaths from HCV (Hepatitis C virus) are occurring within the prison system." He ordered FDC to update its policies on treatment of Hepatitis C and to prepare a new policy which included a plan to screen, evaluate and treat inmates in need.

The ruling came after the Florida Justice Institute filed suit against the state agency in May on behalf of three inmates who have the disease.

The plaintiffs' claim stated that FDC is not providing inmates with "adequate medical treatment — leaving them at risk for liver failure, liver cancer and death."

According to the Associated Press, the ruling orders FDC to "immediately treat a significant portion of the state's 98,000 inmates who test positive for the viral infection with direct acting antiviral drugs, a 12-week treatment which now costs



Michelle Glady
FDC Spokesperson

"FDC is absolutely committed to ensuring all inmates in our custody are provided medically necessary treatments that is in line with national standards and our constitutional responsibilities."

about \$37,000 per patient." Estimates in several news sources put the actual number of inmates infected with the virus somewhere between 7,000 and 20,000 and the cost of their treatment between \$200-\$700 million.

The latest FDC budget request, which was submitted after the lawsuit was filed, requested \$19.5 million for the treatment of 500 inmates. Michelle Glady, a FDC spokesperson, said the state had not decided on whether or not to appeal the ruling.

"FDC is absolutely committed to ensuring all inmates in our custody are provided medically necessary treatments that is in line with national standards and our constitutional responsibilities," Glady said in a statement provided to the press. "We're reviewing the order closely and we'll be determining a plan of action."

In his ruling, Walker expressed his conclusion that the lack of treatment was, at least in part, due to the lack of funding. He informed the state that he wanted to see a plan submitted by Dec. 1 that included a timetable to show how it planned to comply with the order. He stated that "this court will not tolerate further foot dragging."

Walker wrote the state was "deliberately indifferent to the serious medical needs" of inmates and he noted that only 13 of the estimated 7,000 inmates in need of treatment had been treated with the antiviral drugs and that three of these were only given treatment after being named plaintiffs in the class action case.

Hepatitis C is a blood-borne disease that can be transmitted by even tiny amounts of blood and will survive outside the human body, in blood, for up to three weeks. The infection can be acquired in several ways: through blood transfusions or organ transplants done before 1992 (the virus was not discovered until 1989 and routine screening was not implemented until 1992), unsterilized tattoo needles, recreational use of injectable drugs, and less commonly, through exposure to infected blood through shared objects such as shaving razors or toothbrushes.

Symptoms of infection can take decades to appear and as many as 70-80 percent of infected people show no symptoms. It is estimated that at least 3.5 million people in the U.S. are infected and that at least half of these do not know it. The test for Hepatitis C is not part of routine bloodwork. The virus is often referred to as a "baby boomer" disease and statistics show that people born between 1945 and 1965 are five times more likely to be infected. Liver damage is one of the primary effects of the disease and this damage cannot be reversed.

LEGALS

LRM Legals 1/4/18

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12/28 2tchg 1/4-LRM

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Tallahassee Brief

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

Local reps make biggest funding requests

State Rep. Bobby Payne and Sen. Rob Bradley made the largest requests for state dollars among their peers in the House and Senate for the upcoming legislative session.

Payne made the biggest request in the House, asking for \$69.5 million to improve Palatka's drinking water infrastructure. The first-term House member represents Bradford, Union and Putnam counties, in addition to southern Clay County.

Other big-ticket requests in the House were made on behalf of the University of Florida, Gainesville Democrat Clovis Watson Jr. filed a bill to put \$30 million into the school's utilities infrastructure and Mike Miller, a Winter Park Republican requested \$50 million to fund data science and information technology at UF.

Other spending requests made by Payne include \$650,000 for Penny Farms storm water drainage, \$2.4 million for Communities in Schools, \$500,000 to upgrade Starke's wastewater reclamation infrastructure, \$50,000 to fund Lincoln City Park in Bradford County, \$4.7 million to expand the Camp Blanding Museum, \$300,000 to fund Transition House Inc.: a homeless program in Starke, \$4 million to replace buildings at the Bradford County



Fairgrounds, \$1 million for Santa Fe College's Construction, H V A C , Automobile and Industrial Tech Program, \$ 7 2 7 , 5 0 0

for the ACORN Medical and Dental Clinic south of Brooker and \$3.75 million to fund a Clay County live fire training building and a Clay County joint public safety training facility between Camp Blanding and Middleburg,

Bradley topped the Senate wish list, asking for \$328 million for segment three of the First Coast Expressway. The Fleming Island Republican also asked for \$39.7 million to fund a new Bradford County public school, \$10 million for a Dixie County middle-high school, \$8 million to



Sen. Rob Bradley

"We need to lower the number of prisoners the Department of Corrections handles, and this is one of many strategies to accomplish that goal."

renovate the middle-high school in Gilchrist County, \$5 million for the Black Creek Water Resource Development Project, \$1 million to fund a public safety training facility between Camp Blanding and Middleburg and \$656,000 for the ACORN Medical and Dental Clinic, south of Brooker.

Bradley represents Clay, Bradford, Union, Baker, Columbia, Suwannee, Lafayette, Gilchrist, Dixie and Levy counties, in addition to the southwestern corner of Marion County.

The legislative session begins on Jan. 9.

Bradley backs plan to send inmates to county jail

Sen. Rob Bradley's bill that would allow some state inmates to serve up to 24 months in county jails cleared the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee in December.

Now, defendants sentenced for one year or less serve their time in county jails while defendants sentenced to longer terms are placed in the custody of the Department of Corrections.

Bradley told the Senate's Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice that the Department of Corrections is facing challenges housing nearly 100,000 inmates.

"We need to lower the number of prisoners the Department of Corrections handles," he said, "and this is one of many strategies to accomplish that goal."

He added that one consequence of the measure, if passed, would stress among overworked correctional officers.

"We owe it to them to be very deliberate in our strategies in addressing that very serious situation," he said.

Bradley said that under his bill, counties could voluntarily contract with the Department of Corrections to house state inmates. Counties would be paid up to \$60 per day per inmate.

Bill would create animal cruelty registry

A House bill co-sponsored by Rep. Bobby Payne would create a state registry for

people convicted of animal cruelty and would give judges the authority to ban violators from owning pets after their convictions.

House Bill 473, also known as "Ponce's Law" was named in honor of a Labrador Retriever puppy found beaten to death in the backyard of a Ponce Inlet resident.

Travis Archer is awaiting trial for animal cruelty in connection with the Ponce Inlet case. Animal cruelty is a third-degree felony in Florida, punishable by up to five years in prison.

Backers of Ponce's Law hoped the measure would upgrade the crime to a second-degree felony, with a possible sentence of 15 years. However, the bill's primary sponsor, Rep. Tom Leek of Ormond Beach, said there is not enough support in the state's lower chamber for the increased penalty.

The bill cleared the House Criminal Justice Committee in December and is now in the Justice Appropriations Subcommittee.

A related bill in the Senate is awaiting action in the Criminal Justice Committee.

FDC

Continued from 3A

she said, "but this masks the ability for a cell phone to be used, and only by exception, so the warden's phone is an exception and would work, but they don't work inside that umbrella."

She also said the agency is using low-tech methods for interdiction, like plow lines around the perimeter to detect when contraband may have been obtained from the outside, "because a lot of this stuff comes over the fence."

She said the agency is also increasing searches for its own staff, adding that the budget request includes X-ray machines that allow officers to look inside body cavities for contraband.

Office of Inspector General

Jones also requested \$1.3 million to fund 20 additional inspector general positions.

"This increase will reduce the average caseload from 189 to 161 cases per inspector,"

she said.

The department currently has 114 inspectors and senior inspectors. They investigate 22,500 cases a year.

Computer upgrades

The budget also includes \$4 million to upgrade the agency's 15,000 workstations to Windows 10. The computers now run on Windows 7, however Microsoft has told FDC that it will not support Windows 7 after January 2020.

"Many of our workstations are between five and 10 years old and will not support Windows 10," Jones said.

Jones said the agency wants to deploy Windows 10 under a virtual desktop infrastructure, allowing software to remain on a few servers instead of on each individual workstation.

"The virtual desktop solution allows the department to avoid nearly \$9 million in costs associated with the traditional equipment refresh," Jones said. "It creates significant efficiencies and enhances the security of our data through centralized storage."

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Boys' weightlifting team's 3rd place at state highlights 2017 sports year for KHHS

The following is a look at the high school varsity teams and individuals that won championships at the district, regional or state levels, earned medals in state competition or that qualified to participate in regional and state competitions in 2017. Any omissions are unintentional.

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

A third-place team finish at the boys' weightlifting Class 1A state finals, which included an individual runner-up finish by Brandon Spivey, highlighted the sports year for Keystone Heights High School in 2017.

The Indians had four weightlifters earn medals (awarded for top-six finishes) in compiling 14 points, finishing behind state champ Madison County (22 points) and runner-up Baker County (21).

Spivey had a 470 total (245 bench press, 225 clean and jerk) in the 139 class, while Taylor Beall and Justin Raysin each earned a third-place finish. Beall had a 435 total (210, 225) in the 129 class, while Raysin had a 585 total (295, 290) in the 183 class. Matt White earned a medal as well with a fourth-place total of 675 (360, 315) in the heavy-weight class.

Also competing at state for Keystone were: Zach Blalock seventh in the 169 class with a 545 total (290, 255), Nolin Robertson

eighth in the 219 class with a 600 total (300, 300), Rian Prieto ninth in the 199 class with a 550 total (275, 275), Hunter Collins 16th in the 183 class with a 525 total (270, 255) and David Tisdale 17th in the 139 class with a 395 total (210, 185).

Prior to state, Keystone won the District 9 and Region 5 team championships.

Individually, the following were district champions: Beall, Blalock, Prieto, Raysin, Robertson, Spivey and Jalon Thomas



Camille Jackson putted her way to state.



Dee Dee Taylor (left) and Camryn Williams qualified for the cross-country regionals.

Following were district champions: Beall, Blalock, Prieto, Raysin, Robertson, Spivey and Jalon Thomas

White, with Dan Dodd (heavyweight) and Carter Semione (238) each placing third. Phillip Grimaldo (129) and Joshua Velez (199) each placed fifth, while Hunter Stitt (154) placed sixth.

At the Region 5 finals, Keystone had four champions: Beall, Spivey, Raysin and Prieto, while Blalock, Robertson and White were runners-up. Collins placed third, while Tisdale, Thomas and Dodd each placed fourth. Semione placed fifth.

Golfer Jackson goes back to state

Girls' golfer Camille Jackson earned her second straight berth in the state finals, the

District 6-1A championship and posting the fourth-lowest score at the Region 2 meet.

Jackson shot 78 to help her team win the District 6 championship with a team score of 334. Candace Jackson

and Savannah Heinz shot 82 and 85, respectively, while

Siebert and Sloan shot 89, the Region 2 meet, Camille Jackson earned a state berth by having the top score (78) of an individual not on one of the two state-qualifying teams. Keystone placed third as a team, finishing behind Bolles and Providence and missing out on state by one place. Heinz shot 92, while Candace Jackson and Ashton Ludwig shot 104 and 108, respectively.

At state, Camille Jackson placed 45th out of 93 with a two-day score of 163. When factoring in ties, she actually had the 24th best score.

In boys' golf, Wyatt Thomas earned the lone regional berth for Keystone, shooting 72 at the District 6-1A meet and winning a sudden-death playoff.

Julius missed both free throws, which sent the game to overtime. Julius finished with 22 points, while Kaitlyn Cline and Jones had 12 and 11, respectively.

Keystone advanced to the title game by defeating Interlachen 55-23 in the semifinals. Julius led the Indians with 18 points, while Cline and Jones each had 13.

The Indians' season came to an end in the first round of the regional playoffs with a 62-28 loss to Ferdinand Beach. Cline led the team with seven points.

It was the first time Keystone had advanced to the playoffs in consecutive years since doing so three straight times from 2008 through 2010.

Keystone finished the season with a 12-11 record.

Softball team holds off Raiders for district title

Santa Fe scored five runs in the final inning, but the Keystone softball team hung on for a 6-5 win in the District 5-5A championship game, giving the Indians their first district title since 2012.

Pitcher Megan Moncrief gave up one hit through the first six innings before the Raiders got five off of her in the seventh.

Bre Wells' RBI single in a two-run fifth proved to be the difference.

Wells went 2-for-2, while

District 4-5A title by defeating Bradford 55-52.

Bradford missed two free throws that would've given the Tornados a five-point lead in regulation. Julius then made a three-pointer with 26 seconds left to tie the score at 46-46. Keystone's Victoria Snider had a chance to give the Indians the lead, but missed two free throws.

The Indians then had to hold their breaths as Bradford's Olyvia Griffin rebounded Snider's missed second free throw and was fouled with nine-tenths of a second remaining in regulation. Griffin missed both free throws, which sent the game to overtime.

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Keystone's season came to an

end with a 5-1 loss to Eustis in the regional semifinals.

Worley tied the game at 1-1 in the top of the second with a home run, but the Indians left four runners stranded in scoring position the rest of the way.

Story went 3-for-4 as the Indians finished the season with a 19-10 record.

Baseball team wins district after rally in semifinals

The baseball team had no trouble beating P.K. Yonge to claim the District 5-5A championship, but getting to the title game took some work, with Pierson Lewis and Gage Hall providing the seventh-inning dramatics as the Indians defeated Palatka 8-7.

Keystone trailed 7-5 entering the bottom of the seventh. Nate Gagnon drew a walk, while Gary Searle singled, with both scoring on a Lewis double. Lewis then scored on a line drive by Hall.

It was the fourth RBI for Hall, who had a three-run homer in the third inning.

Lewis finished 4-for-5 with two RBIs, while Conner Osteen went 2-for-4. Andrew Cox and Tyler Keaton each had an RBI.

In the district championship game, Keaton had a two-run homer to help the Indians beat P.K.

Skylar Rollins and Bailey Story each went 2-for-3. Wells, Kaitlyn Cline and Cami Worley each had an RBI, while Molly Crawford had two.

To get to the championship game, the Indians blanked P.K. Yonge 10-0 in the semifinals, getting two RBIs each from Cline, Moncrief, Wells and Worley.

Asleigh Jennings went 3-for-4, while Moncrief and Worley each went 2-for-3. Cline, Story and Wells each went 2-for-4, with Story hitting a double and driving in one run and Wells hitting a solo home run.

Moncrief earned the win, giving up one hit and one walk in five innings.

The Indians hosted South Sumter to start the regional playoffs, beating the Raiders 6-0.

South Sumter had runners in scoring position in only two innings, with pitcher Moncrief giving up five hits in a complete-game effort.

Wells drove in two runs, while Crawford, Moncrief and Rollins each had one RBI. Rollins and Jennings went 2-for-3 and 2-for-4, respectively.

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Earning state weightlifting medals were (l-r) Matt White, Taylor Beall, Brandon Spivey and Justin Raysin.

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D.J. Mackey (right) scored 21 points in Bradford's win over Hawthorne in its last game of the Hitchcock's Challenge.

Tornadoes go 2-2 in Hitchcock's Challenge

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

After going 2-1 and finishing as runner-up in the Lake Area McDonald's-Kiwanis of Starke Holiday Tournament, the Bradford High School boys' basketball team went 2-2 in the 16-team Hitchcock's Challenge in Alachua, wrapping up play with a 64-61 win over Hawthorne on Dec. 30.

Bradford (9-4) opened play with a 55-36 loss to Miami's Doral Academy on Dec. 27. Doral, a Class 7A school that was a regional semifinalist last year, went on to win the tournament.

Chris Cummings led the Tornadoes with 15 points, while Taz Curry and Tavi'en Young had nine and seven, respectively. Jordan Lee had three points, while J'cobi Harris had two.

Young was the leading rebounder with seven.

On Dec. 28, Cummings again led Bradford with 15 points as the Tornadoes defeated St. Francis — a Class 3A regional finalist last season — 55-52.

Cummings also led the team in assists with five, while he and D.J. Mackey shared the team high in rebounds with nine.

Lee had 10 points, while Jalen Williams had seven. Curry and Mackey each had six, with Harris adding five. Tally Chandler had four points, while Young had two.

Harris and Young each had three steals, with Young also pulling down seven rebounds.

If Bradford could've followed with another win, it would've played for the tournament's Silver championship, but instead, the Tornadoes lost to fellow Class 5A team Trinity Catholic 62-48 on Dec. 29.

Mackey and Cummings scored 15 and 11 points, respectively, with Mackey also grabbing a team-high eight rebounds. Young had nine points, while Lee and Curry had five and four, respectively. Chandler and Williams each had two points.

Lee led the team in assists with six.

Trinity Catholic would go on to win the Silver championship.

Bradford left the tournament on a winning note, as Curry and Mackey each recorded a double-double in the 64-61 win over Hawthorne.

Mackey had 21 points and 10 rebounds, while Curry had 10 points and 11 rebounds.

Young, who was 5-of-6 from beyond the three-point line, and Williams each scored in double figures, too, with Young scoring 12 points and Williams scoring 10. Cummings almost reached double figures with nine points.

Harris added two points. Young and Cummings led Bradford with five and four assists, respectively.

The two teams will play each other again this Friday, Jan. 5, in Hawthorne at 7:30 p.m. Bradford then returns home to play Gainesville — the team it lost to in the Lake Area McDonald's-Kiwanis of Starke championship game — on Tuesday, Jan. 9, at 7:30 p.m.

Junior varsity games will be played prior to each game at 6 p.m.



Brian Tomlinson

Tomlinson named Sun's Big School Coach of the Year

Bradford has 13 players earn All-Area honors, while Keystone Heights has 11

Bradford High School's Brian Tomlinson was named one of two Big School Coaches of the Year by the Gainesville Sun when the publication released its annual All-Area teams.

Tomlinson, who shared the honor with Eastside's Cedderick Daniels, guided the Tornadoes to a 10-2 record and their first regional championship and state semifinal appearance in 13 years.

The Tornadoes had four players earn first-team All-Area honors: Senior quarterback Zion Barber, who passed for 1,341 yards and 19 touchdowns and nine touchdowns; senior defensive lineman Gerald Smith, who had 77 tackles (eight for loss) and nine sacks; senior defensive back Taro Ward, who had 123 tackles and three interceptions; and senior Chris Cummings, a wide receiver and defensive back who was named a utility player. Cummings caught 40 passes for



Bradford's Chris Cummings was a first-team Gainesville Sun All-Area selection and a first-team Florida Times-Union All-First Coast selection.

714 yards and 13 touchdowns, while intercepting five passes on defense, returning two for scores.

Seven Bradford players earned second-team honors, including senior offensive linemen Jakob Alvarez and Gavin Woods and running backs Tally Chandler and Jeremiah Vaughn. Chandler, a senior, rushed for 907 yards and nine touchdowns, while Vaughn, a junior, rushed for 975 yards and 11 touchdowns.

Second-team defense honors went to senior linebacker Dallin Woods, senior lineman D.J. Mackey and junior lineman Jaquez Mosley. Woods and Mosley recorded 101 and 83 tackles, respectively, while Mackey had 39. Mackey also had two interceptions, one of which he returned for a score.

Bradford junior wide receiver and defensive back Nathaniel Davis earned second-team honors as a utility player. He caught 10 passes for 195 yards and three touchdowns, while making 102 tackles and intercepting three passes.

Keystone Heights had three players earn second-team honors on offense: junior linemen Dan Dodd and Josh Hughes and senior running back Blake Sanders, who rushed for 979 yards and 11 touchdowns.

Bradford senior linebacker Caleb Patray earned honorable mention, while Keystone had nine earn honorable mention: Hughes for his play on the defensive line, senior linebackers Andrew Cox and Alex Cruz, senior defensive back Kaison Harvey, junior defensive back Colton Crane, senior tight end Nolan Sapp, sophomore offensive lineman Joey Baxter, sophomore Ty Friedlin at both fullback and punter, and senior running back Briar Smith.

Tornadoes earn All-First Coast nods

Bradford's Cummings was a first-team selection with the release of The Florida Times-Union's All-First Coast Teams.

Alvarez and Ward earned second-team honors, while the following earned honorable mention: Barber, Mackey, Mosley, Smith, Vaughn and Dallin Woods.

Former BHS running back Aundre Carter, who transferred to Clay, was a first-team pick, while defensive lineman Josh Griffis, another Tornado who transferred to Clay, earned honorable mention.

3 from UCHS earn Gainesville Sun football honors

Two Union County High School defensive linemen earned first-team All-Area honors, while running back Charles Strong was a first-teamer as well with the release of the Gainesville Sun's Small-School All-Area Teams.

Senior Maurice Strong, who recently signed with South Alabama, was a first-team pick after making 31 tackles (14 for loss) and eight sacks. He also had nine quarterback hurries.

Fellow lineman Agelu Nunu, a sophomore, was a first-team pick after making 28 tackles (15 for loss) and eight sacks. Nunu had 25 quarterback hurries.

Charles Strong made the offensive team after rushing for 1,388 yards and 15 touchdowns. He was also recognized by The Florida Times-Union as a third-team All-First Coast selection.

Two defensive players earned second-team honors: senior defensive back Shamar Highland and junior linebacker Trevor Rogers. Highland had 35 tackles

and one sack, while Rogers had 69 tackles (four for loss) and one sack.

Senior wide receiver Joey Szymanski earned honorable mention.

KHHS' Jackson leads area athletes recognized by Sun in golf, cross country

The Gainesville Sun recently released its All-Area Teams for golf and cross country, with Keystone Heights High School freshman Camille Jackson being named to the second team after her second straight trip to the state finals.

Jackson had an average score of 39 and was medalist in 16 of 18 matches. She was the District 6-1A champion for the second straight year and had the fourth-lowest score at the Region 2 meet. Jackson placed 45th at state.

Union County junior Erica Lloyd was a second-team golf selection. She had a 44 average and was the medalist at the District 7-1A finals for the second time in three years.

Two Keystone boys' golfers were second-team picks: junior Wyatt Thomas and freshman Tyler Thomas. Wyatt Thomas shot a 72 at the District 6 meet and won a sudden-death playoff to advance to the Region 2 finals. He finished the season with a 39.8 average, while Tyler Thomas had a 42.5 average.

In cross country, Keystone had six boys earn honorable mention: junior Alex Guy, sophomores Joey Danella, Jay Payne and Jerry Payne, freshman Travis Dockery and eighth-grader Tyler Shaw.

Two Keystone girls earned honorable mention in cross country: junior Dee Dee Taylor and freshman Camryn Williams.

Bradford freshman Jaelyn Canova also earned honorable



Jordan Windham

Union's Windham named Sun's Coach of the Year

9 UCHS players earn Small-School All-Area Honors, while BHS and KHHS have a combined 10 earn Big-School honors

After guiding the Union County High School volleyball team to its first-ever state-finals appearance in her first season, Jordan Windham was named the Gainesville Sun's Small-School Coach of the Year.

Windham led the Tigers to a 14-12 record and their second

straight district and regional championships.

Two Union players earned first-team All-Area honors: senior setter Madison Adams and senior outside hitter Madelyn Kish. Adams had 606 assists and 99 digs, while Kish had 296 kills, 163 digs, 58 service aces and 18 blocks.

Kish also received honorable mention in The Florida Times-Union's All-First Coast Teams.

Senior middle Taylor Beatty and senior libero Brooke Waters earned second-team honors. Beatty had 154 kills, 48 aces and 20 blocks while Waters had 717 digs.

Tigers earning honorable mention were juniors Summer Fulgham (middle), Emily O'Neal (defensive specialist) and Shelby Spratlin (defensive specialist), and sophomore outside hitters Mackenzie Bradley and Kylie Stevens.

Keystone Heights senior outside hitter Hannah Jones was named to the Big-School second team after recording 76 kills, 105 digs and 41 aces, while the following Keystone players earned honorable mention: senior Brooke Tschorn, junior Jessi Yeldell and sophomores Madison Heskett and Emily Loose.

Five Bradford players earned honorable mention: senior Chelsea Creighton, junior Karizma Calloway, sophomores Olyvia Griffin and Brooklyn Wiggins, and freshman Raynisha Hunter.

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Boys weightlifters earn team district title, 2 state medals for BHS in 2017

The following is a look at the high school varsity teams and individuals that won championships at the district, regional or state levels, earned medals in state competition or that qualified to participate in regional and state competitions in 2017. Any omissions are unintentional.

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Bradford High School had three individuals earn state medals in 2017, including boys' weightlifter Jakob Alvarez, who was the runner-up in the heavyweight class.

Alvarez compiled a 725 total (440 bench press, 285 clean and jerk), while fellow lifter Taro Ward earned a medal with a fourth-place total of 525 (280, 245) in the 154 class.

Four other lifters qualified for state. Jordan Luke was eighth in the heavyweight class with a 655 total (340, 315), Sam Simmons

was ninth in the 238 class with a 590 total (310, 260) and Andrew Sadler was 13th in the 238 class with a 570 total (310, 260). Zion Barber, who qualified in the 169 class, was disqualified.

The path to state began at the District 5-1A finals, with Bradford winning the team championship.

Four individuals placed first: Alvarez, Barber, Simmons and Ward. Luke and Sadler were runners-up.

Maurice Hewett, Kamren Thomas and Dwayne McBride each placed third, while the following placed fourth: Ian McGowan and Dallin Woods.

James Martin, Shaytron Cotton and Trace Barber each placed fifth, while Caleb Patray placed sixth.

The top six in each class advanced to the Region 3 finals. Alvarez and Barber each won his weight class to earn automatic berths in the state finals. Earning at-large state berths were Ward with a third-place finish, Luke with a fourth-place finish, Simmons with a fifth-place finish and Sadler with a sixth-place finish.



Jah'mya Henderson (left) helped lead the girls' basketball team to a district runner-up trophy.

Medals were presented at the Region 3 meet to the top six in each class. Hewett, Martin and Woods earned medals with sixth-place finishes.

Bakken earns another state medal

Girls' weightlifter Kurston Bakken earned a medal for a top-six finish at the Class 1A state finals for the second straight year, placing fifth in the unlimited class with a 385 total (210, 175).

Teammates Khalia Donley and Taylyn Jackson also qualified for state. Donley couldn't compete because she had the flu, while Jackson placed 16th in the 235 119 class with a 235 total (115, 120).

Bradford had two lifters win championships at the District 4 finals: Donley in the 110 class and Lauryn Hill in the 129 class. Bakken and Jackson each placed second.

The top six in each class qualified for the Region 2 finals. Dalice Betterson, Bethany Bryan and Susie Cooper each placed



Jakob Alvarez was a state runner-up in weightlifting's heavyweight class.

two spots shy of earning a medal with a 10th-place long jump of 16-9.25. She was 14th in the 200m with a time of 25.68.

Harris competed in the triple jump, placing 16th with a distance of 33-1.75.

At the District 5 meet, Hines won the long jump (17-2.75), placed second in the 200m (25.55) and placed third in the 100m (12.64). Harris won the triple jump (34-7.75) and was runner-up in the 400m (1:01.56).



Gerald Smith (left) was a key member of the defense during Bradford's run to the state semifinals.

won the District 4-1A championship in the 220 weight class and qualified for the state finals with a fourth-place finish at the Region 1 finals.

McCormick went 2-1 at the Region 1 meet in earning his first-ever state bid. He went 0-2 at the finals, losing his first match to the eventual state champ and his second match to the eventual fifth-place finisher.

Six wrestlers in all advanced to the Region 1 finals off their performances at the District 4 meet. Jesse Burch was the district champ in the 170 class, while Trevor Jones was the runner-up in the 152 class. Brian Foster and Andrew Hetler placed third in the 120 and 145 classes, respectively, while Aaron Blaz was fourth in the 126 class.

Jones went 1-2 at the Region 1 meet, while Blaz went 0-2.

defeated 33-0 during the regular season. Running back Tally Chandler scored two first-half



Meghan Harris (left) and Jade Hines earned the right to compete in the state track and field finals.

touchdowns on a pair of 1-yard runs, the second of which capped a 75-yard drive and allowed Bradford to go into the break leading 21-0.

Quarterback Zion Barber had a 14-yard touchdown run in the first half and led the team with



The district-champion boys' basketball team: (front, l-r) Chris Cummings, J'cobi Harris, Tavi'en Young, (middle, l-r) Jaleen Lane, Taz Curry, Tarrin Jackson, Tally Chandler, head coach Adrian Chandler (with trophy), Trey Greenidge, assistant coach James McBride, Kalil Cummings, (back, l-r) Jordan Lee, Courtney Kelly, Austin Gustus, Dustin Jones and D.J. Mackey. Not pictured: Juwontae Russell.



Running back Jeremiah Vaughn and Bradford advanced to the state semifinals for the first time in 13 years.

Hines took third in both the long jump (17-1.5) and the 200m (26.05) at the Region 2 finals, while placing fifth in the 100m

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third, Bailleane Crews placed fourth and Kristina Rowe placed fifth.

As a team, Bradford finished second at the District 4 finals.

Donley earned an automatic state-qualifying berth at the Region 2 finals by winning her class. Bakken and Jackson, who were second and third, respectively, later earned at-large berths.

Medals were awarded to the top three in each class at the Region 2 meet. Hill earned a medal with a third-place finish.

Cooper just missed out on a medal with a fourth-place finish, while Betterson, Bryan and Crews each placed fifth.

2 advance to track and field finals

Jade Hines and Meghan Harris each earned a District 5-2A championship and advanced to the state finals in track and field.

Hines competed in the long jump and 200m at state, falling

(12.66). Harris was third in the triple jump (35-2.5) and eighth in the 400m (1:03.58).

Eddie McCormick wrestles way to state tournament

Wrestler Eddie McCormick

Foster did not participate, while Burch and Hetler were unable to because of injuries.

Football team makes run to state semis

On the strength of an eight-game winning streak in which it outscored opponents by an average of 41-12, the football team earned the number-one seed in its region and won its first playoff game in 13 years, advancing to the state semifinals before losing 53-13 to eventual state champion Raines.

Bradford opened the season with a 24-7 loss to Taylor County, but did not lose again until the state semifinals.

The Tornados began the playoffs with a 27-7 win over Keystone Heights, a team it had

106 yards on five carries.

Chandler finished with 75 yards on 10 carries, while Jeremiah Vaughn, who scored the team's last touchdown on a 10-yard run, had 83 yards on 11 carries.

In the regional finals, Bradford's defense made two stops inside its own 5-yard line and three red-zone stops in all in defeating Dunnellon 24-14.

Barber had the first score on a 1-yard run, but the Tigers scored on a 1-yard run of their own and added the two-point conversion for an 8-7 lead. Barber kicked a 20-yard field goal as Bradford went back up by two. The Tornados then put together a 68-yard scoring drive, capped by Barber's 14-yard touchdown pass to Nathaniel Davis, that allowed

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Letters

Bradford superintendent reviews first year

As I look back over my first full year in office and towards the coming year ahead, I must thank each and every person who worked with and for our school system. We are very blessed to have such a team of individuals investing in our youth daily. From hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding and power outages, your local school staff has done an outstanding job. Please join me in saying thank you for all of their hard work in 2017.

I am very excited about our new expanded and specialized educational opportunities in Bradford County. Your school administration has been tireless in their efforts and I would like to update you on upcoming changes for next year and the challenges we have faced this year.

Seven periods in upper grades

First of all, I am working with the school board on the details of returning to a seven-period day for the middle school and high school in an effort to increase instructional time and opportunity for our students. It was brought to our attention that a neighboring county with one hour more of instruction each day ends up with what amounts to 23 extra days per year of instruction. That extra time equates to an additional month of school. In order to begin closing the achievement gap in our county, I believe this change is critical to address our historically low-test performance.

New curriculum

Over the years when one looks at our district's Florida Standards Assessments scores, Bradford had some of the lowest proficiency scores in the state. We have been working in teams with the North East Florida Educational Consortium at the district and school level to reflect on the data and identify gaps in student learning and tailor instructional practices and resources to correct it. Our kindergarten-, first-, and second-grade students are using the new Core Knowledge Language Arts Skills Strand for early reading instruction. We have implemented Eureka math in all grades K-5 across the district. We have teamed with Renaissance Learning to bring in a reading assessment that will give us a complete, seamless look at data and trends across all schools K-12 in the district. This is the first time Bradford has had this sort of resource in all the schools in many years. These new curriculum tools have a proven success with students like ours. We are also implementing some of the same practices used in successful districts. Our school scores and grades are still going to be a challenge for some time as we work to close significant gaps in reading and math. I believe our students and staff are ready for the challenge and equipped for success.

We are also bringing in a new gifted curriculum that Bradford families can be very excited about. Cubit will provide our gifted and academically talented students access to exciting hands-on science, math, engineering and computer-coding projects. We plan to implement it at all elementary and middle schools next school year.

Data integrity

Data integrity is also being addressed. During this past year we have identified many areas where our data has been found to be unreliable. For one example, Bradford High School's graduation rate was increased by the past practice of transferring non-graduating BHS seniors to the Bradford Intervention Center school and all graduating seniors of the intervention center to the high school. By doing so, BHS received a high graduation rate while the intervention school showed zero successful

graduates, even though we had a very successful Academy of Academics with teachers who worked tirelessly to help students recover credits so they could graduate with their class. The Bradford Intervention Center will be dissolved as a separate school this year and all students will be reported by their appropriate school, even though they will not be physically relocating. This also means that the graduation rate at BHS will not be as high since we will no longer be transferring non-graduating seniors to the intervention center, but Bradford High School will have an accurate graduation rate.

Staff turnover

Even though Bradford County was one of the few school districts to start the school year fully staffed, we are not immune to the issues of high turnover rates of teachers (close to 40% in recent years) and Florida's teacher shortage. In response, our new human resource director has implemented a new teacher academy in efforts to support our new teachers and their mentors. We have also partnered with the North East Florida Educational Consortium for additional support in instructional reviews and standards training so our teachers can better align curriculum and instruction to Florida's rigorous standards. At our request, the school board also approved additional coaching positions in reading and math.

North Florida Technical College

The Bradford Union Technical Center has undergone a name change and is now the North Florida Technical College. The name may have changed but the same great quality technical education is still here. The Florida Department of Education Perkins Annual Report shows that Bradford students who participated in technical programs had a graduation rate of 90 percent and the state target was 87 percent. For adult students, 91.3 percent have successfully completed our programs and the state target was 59.75 percent. Our staff and students exceeded every performance target they set. Our Licensed Practical Nurse program had a 100-percent pass rate. These are graduates that will enter a waiting workforce with the skills needed to excel in their chosen profession.

Communication

We have also been working on better communication. We started the school year with schedules prepared before school started thanks to the tireless work of our administrators and guidance counselors over the summer. We have updated the website and added a scrolling calendar. Every school has a Facebook page for current events and Focus account access for every parent to check their child's attendance and grades. Every school passed out a student handbook and all elementary schools included a calendar in the back so parents would know on the first day of school when awards ceremonies and picture days were scheduled. We are constantly looking for ways to improve customer service in guidance and I am pleased to announce that our high school will now have a graduation coach to further assist our juniors and seniors in preparing for graduation and life plans after graduation.

Facilities

We are committed to safe, secure, modern facilities and we will continue our work to convince the state that investing in our facilities is crucial. As of this writing, the school district has done everything it can to get funding for a new school. For the first time, the funding to build our new school is on the governor's proposed budget. Now we have to work to keep it there as the budget begins its move through the House and Senate before it is finalized. Please let Rep. Bobby Payne and Sen. Rob Bradley know that this school is needed for Bradford County and thank them for their support of this project. I would also like to thank the volunteers who worked tirelessly on this committee: Jerome Kelly, Richard Sapp, Bryan Nazworth, Gerald Ruise and Lynn Melvin.

In regard to our current facilities, we are using the money raised from our local property taxes and state Public Education Capital Outlay funds to repair and upgrade roofs, drainage systems, bathrooms, and purchase needed equipment for our custodial staff. We are creating a state-of-the-art science lab at Bradford High School to better suit the hands-on experiments we expect as part of our curriculum. We have new covered batting cages and have also updated our press box at the stadium to address various safety concerns and to allow the press to easily see our regional champion football team as they score touchdowns!

Athletics

I also want to take this opportunity to thank our great community for the outpouring of support for our BHS football team. Coach Bryan Tomlinson had a late start getting our team ready and hiring a coaching staff. He and his staff and players did an amazing job and I am anticipating many successful seasons to come. I would like to thank the many community members who sat with me on the interview committees for head football coach. These include Matt Barber, Gerald Ruise, Sean Jenkins, Chris Daugherty, David Harris and Billy Rehburg. These gentlemen helped us find a coach who exemplified the character for our students to model as well as the coaching expertise to make the BHS Tornadoes regional champs this year.

We also hired an amazing athletic director, Lamar Waters. The community members who helped this past year with finding an athletic director include Terry Vaughn, Cindy Futch, Chris Coffey, Tony Mangols and Brian Tomlinson. Thank you all so much for giving up your time to help us find the right people we need to

further Tornado sports. Coach Waters is working hard to make our athletic team experiences and facilities something for which we can all be proud.

Community partners

As I settled into office this past year, I also realized how blessed our school system is to have community leaders and businesses who share this same desire and drive for success. Our schools have received a great deal of financial help as well as mentoring support for students through the shared work and vision of the Bradford Education Foundation, Kiwanis, Rotary, Dylan William, Siobhan Leahy, Murray Ford, Community State Bank, Florida Credit Union, VyStar Credit Union, Capital City Bank, Shop with a Cop, Communities in Schools, the Bradford County Sheriff's Office, the Starke Police Department, the Florida Department of Corrections, the Women's Club, Altrusa, the RJE, Concerned Citizens, Wal-Mart, Winn-Dixie, Aaron's, the Steakhouse in Starke, Dinks, Beef O'Brady's, Arby's, the Downtown Grill, Davis Trucking, Circle K, the Florida Twin Theater, Quality Plumbing, Suburban Carpet, the Office Shop, Arthur Gallagher and Co. and many, many other businesses and countless dedicated individuals. Thank you all so much for your unwavering support for our school system.

School board

I would also like to thank our Bradford County School Board members: Erica Reddish, Cheryl Canova, Sheila Cummings, Charnelle Whittemore and Vivian Chappell. There are constitutional reviews going on in Tallahassee that would term limit school board members and make these positions unpaid. I am opposed to both measures. These board members work tirelessly to improve our district and demonstrate support for all employees and they more than earn their pay. I encourage all of you to oppose these changes to the Florida Constitution.

In closing, I just want to say Thank You to everyone who has reached out with information, suggestions and offers of help. I believe that together we can make the Bradford County School System a great place to learn and to work. I want to remind all that my door is always open. I wish you all a happy, healthy and successful 2018 and I look forward to the new year ahead. Thank you all for the honor I have of working with our schools and our community.

Sincerely,
Stacey Creighton

Reader: mining leads to bankruptcy

Bankruptcy, when it happens to you, feels humiliating. Bankruptcy, when it happens to a business, is often just a business decision.

Bankruptcy is the predictable outcome of a phosphate mining venture. After the land is stripped, the phosphate is removed, and thousands of acres are re-contoured or left flooded with toxic ponds. There is nothing profitable for a company to do but move on, and bankruptcy is the logical business decision.

Then what? There is no more funding for Superfund sites. It will come down to the state and the county to manage these mined out sites long-term, at great expense. That is what has happened at many former phosphate strip mines.

From the industry fact sheet, "The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) estimates it will cost the state about \$160 million to close the [waste] stack at Piney Point and the two in Mulberry in Polk County."

In Bradford County, HPS II says they are here to stay, as local families always have. But they always have been able to farm their land, and that will not be happening after this mine. I know they have big plans, to be the first to develop a new process, when no one else could, or cared to. Maybe they will, but it is a gamble. A gamble with our future. Their experiments have not been successful in the real world.

In the meantime, HPS II has bills to pay and profits to be made. Once they get hold of a permit, practical business decisions will dominate. That's the way it is. We could have healthy long-term development of our county, or we could have a dead-end phosphate mine.

As we start the New Year, can we make a new commitment to healthy business development that benefits everyone, not just a few? Our county commissioners may be deciding for us in 2018, and

they may be listening, so, let them hear from you.

Kate Ellison

Retiring optician thanks community

Dana Crase, optician for 30 years with Dr. Len Schlofman and the last seven with Dr. Mike Schlofman. Married to my soulmate of 32 years, Roger. Two children: daughter, Lori Batts. Son, Jeffrey Batts and his spouse Julie and my heart, my sweet granddaughter, Leah.

I have been in many clubs in my life but the one closest to my heart is Altrusa of Starke, I was President for two years and served on the District Board as well. I made so many new friends and grew so much as a person at that time. I will always cherish the memories from that time.

I am sure that by now most people know that I am retiring after 30 years with Bradford Eyecare on Feb. 23. It will be bittersweet but I am happy to get this opportunity to tell you how I feel.

I would like to thank the people of Bradford County and surrounding counties for the privilege of taking care of your eye care needs for the past 30 years. I have made so many friends and been so fortunate to work with so many families and even generations of some. A lot of you made me feel like part of your family and you felt like part of mine. We went thru a lot of things together when things were going on in our lives. I am truly thankful for all of you. I am very excited to start this new adventure in my life but I will miss you all and pray that you have health/happiness and peace in your lives.

I would also like to thank Dr. Len for taking a chance on me 30 years ago. We sort of grew up together with our families and we worked very hard to grow the business and make our patients feel comfortable and give them the best that we had. We were a perfect team as we both cared about the community and the people and we were very involved, we loved doing things to better

See LETTERS, 5B



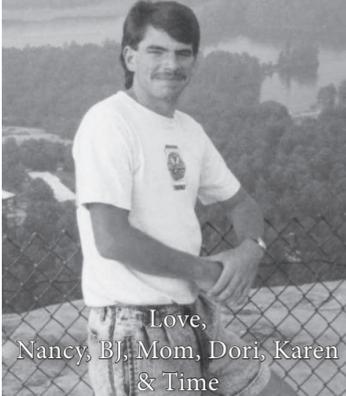
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Obituaries

Beulah Bruner

LAWTEY— Beulah “Marie” Bruner, 64, of Lawtey died on Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2017 at her home, surrounded by her family, after an extended illness. She was born in Lawtey on Jan. 28, 1953 to Milo and Katy (Mitchell) Smith. She was a stores specialist with the Florida Department of Corrections and was a member of Highland First Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by her father, Milo Smith.

She is survived by: her husband, Harry E. Bruner, Jr. of Lawtey; mother, Katy McCombs of Lawtey; son, Nathan R. Blom of Raiford; daughter, Amy M. Blom of Lawtey; stepchildren, Cindy (Walter) Machel of Boca, and Mark (Valerie) Bruner of Lake City; and siblings, Charles (Jennifer) Smith of Ohio, Mary (David) Scott of The Villages, Margaret (David) Albert of Jacksonville, John (E’Chin) Smith of Lawtey, and Martha (Jason) Hamm of Nevada; five grandchildren, as well as numerous other family members, and friends. Private family services will be held at a later date. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Starke.

Heights, died Thursday, Nov. 23, 2017 in Gainesville. He was born Aug. 27, 1934 in Boston, MA to the late William Frank and Bessie (Thomas) Connors. He was a mail courier for the US Postal Service.

He is survived by his wife, Diane Beth (Baker) Connors.

A Memorial Service will be held Saturday, Jan. 13 at 11:00 a.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church, 204 SR 26, Melrose, with Father Tony Powell officiating. Arrangements under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Keystone Heights.



Denton DeVoe II

STARKE— Denton Edward Wesley Connors, 83, of Keystone

Heights, died Thursday, Nov. 23, 2017 in Gainesville. He was born Aug. 27, 1934 in Boston, MA to the late William Frank and Bessie (Thomas) Connors. He was a mail courier for the US Postal Service.

He is survived by: his wife, Diane Beth (Baker) Connors. A Memorial Service will be held Saturday, Jan. 13 at 11:00 a.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church, 204 SR 26, Melrose, with Father Tony Powell officiating. Arrangements under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Keystone Heights.

Denton Edward DeVoe II is survived by: his father, Denton DeVoe Sr.; mother, Brenda Tew; daughter, Hannah DeVoe; one brother and one sister, Jemery Brown, Tracy DeVoe. He is survived by three nephews; Trevor Bechtel, Lane Brown, and Justin Brown; one niece, Nevaeh Hunt. Denny was loved by many and will be missed.

Funeral service will be held on Dec. 29, at Archer Funeral Home Memorial Chapel. Arrangements are under the care of Archer Funeral Home, Lake Butler. For more information, please call (386)496-2008.

PAID OBITUARY



Vernon Glisson, Sr.

HAWTHORNE— Vernon Eugene Glisson, Sr. age 76, of Hawthorne, peacefully went to be with his Lord and Saviour on Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2017, surrounded by family following a short illness. Vernon was born on July 25, 1941 in Jasper. He was raised in Starke and graduated from Bradford County High School in 1960, where he met and then married his high school sweetheart, Carolyn Shannon. Vernon was a retired meat market manager for Pantry Pride and later Hitchcock’s in Hawthorne. He loved watching racing, football and western movies. He was preceded in death by: his parents, Albert and Susie (Allen) Glisson; and brothers, Alfred Glisson and Leroy Glisson.

Survivors are: his wife of 55 years, Carolyn (Shannon) Glisson of Hawthorne; daughter, Virginia (Van) Elmore of Hawthorne; sons, Vernon (Yvette) Glisson, Jr. of Hawthorne and Vince (Joan) Glisson of Gainesville. Also left behind are thirteen grandchildren, twelve great-grandchildren, many nieces,

nephews, and other family members that loved him very much.

Graveside funeral services were held Dec. 30 at Crosby Lake Cemetery with Pastor Aaron Morgan officiating. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Starke. 904-964-6200.

PAID OBITUARY

Sean Leverette

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS— Sean Thomas Leverette, 27, of Keystone Heights died Tuesday, Saturday, Dec. 23, 2017. He was born on Jan. 22, 1990 in Jacksonville and attended schools in Keystone Heights. He served in the Navy. He studied Criminal Justice at The University of Southern Mississippi and joined the Biloxi Police Department. He was a member of Trinity Baptist Church. His mother Brenda (Stanley) Leverette had preceded him in death.

His survivors are: his father, Otis “David” Leverette of Keystone Heights; and two brothers, David Leverette of Keystone Heights, Andrew Leverette of Orange Park; and many other family members. There are no scheduled services at this time. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Keystone Heights.



Carlea McTaggart

OCALA— Carlea Joanne Simmons Todd McTaggart, age 70, of Ocala, formerly of Starke, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 28, 2017 at Palm Gardens in Ocala after an extended illness. Carlea was born in Miami on April 29, 1947 to Carlton J. and Leila (Hines) Simmons. She was a resident of Starke before moving to Ocala in 1997, and was a Revenue Specialist in the Child Support office for the Department of Revenue before retiring in 2004. Carlea was a member of Ocala North Congregation of Jehovah’s Witnesses. She enjoyed tracing her family’s history through genealogy, knitting, spending time with her family and cheering on the Florida Gators. Carlea will be deeply missed by those who knew and loved her. She was preceded in death by: her parents; and her husband, James W. Todd Jr.

Carlea is survived by: her husband of 20 years, Donald K. McTaggart of Ocala; son, Jonathan “Eric” Todd of Casa Grande, AZ; stepchildren, Tammy (Paul) Green of Salt Springs, Amanda (Jeff) Selvidio of Largo, Donald M. (Lisa) McTaggart of Ocala, and R. Darrin (Jane) McTaggart of Ocala; brothers, James “Jim” (Sue) Simmons of DeBary, Carl “Fred” (Lois) Simmons of Clemmons, NC, and John Dale (Christine) Simmons of Orlando; along with 12 grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren.

Family will receive friends from 1:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 6, 2018 at DeWitt C. Jones Chapel.

A memorial service will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 7, 2018 at Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses, 3788 NE 35th Street, Ocala, FL 34479.

Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Starke. www.jonesgallagherfh.com 904-964-6200.

PAID OBITUARY

Steven PeCord

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS— Steven Raymond PeCord, 65, of Keystone Heights died Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2017 in Palatka. He was born in Hartford, CT on Aug. 19, 1952 to the late Leo and Ceceila (Avery) PeCord, and had served in the United States Army. He was a retired automobile mechanic and of the Catholic faith. He was preceded in death by: his daughter, Hope Ann PeCord; and his brother, Scott PeCord.

His survivors are: his twin daughters, Lisa Marie PeCord of Palm Bay and Lauren Lynn (John) Willingham of Starke; a sister, Valerie Giordano of Manchester, CT; and a brother, Robert PeCord of Hawthorne; his caregiver, and mother of his daughters, LaVerne PeCord of Keystone Heights; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Keystone Heights.

Ida Williams

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS— Ida Estella Williams, 92, of Keystone Heights died at Shands Hospital in Gainesville Thursday, Dec. 28, 2017. She was born in Beaver Center, PA on Dec. 23, 1925 to the late Carroll Ulysses and Fanny Caroline (Whitford) Blood. She had been a resident of Keystone Heights since 1967 and was a homemaker. She was a member of Hope Baptist Church. Her husband of 70 years preceded her in death.

Survivors are: children, Robert Ray (Carol) Williams of Stevensville, MI, Mary Alice Williams of Keystone Heights, Joseph A. (Libby) Williams of Vermilion, OH, Ellen Louise Harrington (Robert DeWayne) of Starke and Larry Lee Williams of Keystone Heights; sister, Alice Caroline Huston of Alvin, PA; seven grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; nine great great-grandchildren; and two great great-grandchildren.

Viewing will begin at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 4 in Hope Baptist Church with funeral services following at 11:00 a.m. with Dr. Larry Strickland officiating. Interment will follow at Hope Baptist Church Cemetery. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Hope Baptist Church, Starke. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Keystone Heights.



Norman Young

Norman Thomas “Tommy” Young went to Heaven for Christmas this year, on Saturday, Dec. 23, 2017. Tommy was born Sept. 22, 1954 in

Savannah, GA to Norman Jay Young and Ruth Floyd Young. His family moved frequently due to his dad’s work as a lineman. Tommy attended elementary school in Starke and met some great lifelong friends, including William McKinny. After he grew up, he attended Santa Fe Community College, where he received his certificate in the HVAC field. He then transferred to Heat Plant II at the University of Florida. He worked there for about 20 years and made some great friends including, Bill Hopper and Jerry Holland. Some of his favorite hobbies were camping and fishing with his friends and brothers, Glynn and Donald Rice were happy to be there with him. Tommy was preceded in death by: his father.

He is survived by: his mother, Ruth Young of Waldo; loving wife of 40 years, Jo Knepper Young of Keystone Heights; brothers, Donald (Sheri) Floyd of Guyton, GA and Harvey (Evelyn) Young of Fairbanks, AK; sisters, Jean (Neal) Harden of Guyton, GA, Gayle Morris of Waldo, and Viola (Richard) Newman of Hampton; brothers-in-law, Dave Knepper of Cocoa Beach, Larry (Hai) Knepper of Austin, TX, and Francis Knepper of Gainesville; sister-in-law, Teresa (David) Knepper of Winter Haven; along with some wonderful cousins, nieces, and nephews, extra special to him were: Tennille (Raymond) Morris of Norman Park, GA and Kristopher Parker of Jacksonville.

A Memorial Service to celebrate Tommy’s life was held on Wednesday, Jan. 3 at St. Williams Catholic Church with Father Michael Williams as celebrant. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to your local Hospice or to the American Cancer Society, www.cancer.org or 1-800-227-2345. Arrangements are under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services and Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel, Starke. 904-964-5757. Visit www.ferreirafuneralservices.com to sign the family’s guest book.

PAID OBITUARY

LEGALS

B-sect Legals 1/4/18

NOTICE

The New River Community Health Center Board of Directors will meet January 10, 2018 at 395 West Main Street, Lake Butler, FL 32054 from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

1/4 1tchg-B-sect

LETTERS

Continued from 4B

our community. Since I had been a part of Dr. Mike’s life since he was a child. I was very proud when he came back from school and wanted to be a part of the practice. It was a natural progression and I can say with much confidence and pride that you are going to be in very capable hands. He is a good person and a great doctor. I have truly enjoyed watching him grow into the man he is today. As for my position I feel like I am leaving you in very capable, caring hands also. Her name is Rachel and I feel she is a very good fit for the practice. I have been training her for the last few months and she is doing well. It is very important to me to leave you in good hands and I know I have.

Thank you again for this privilege. This is meant with much love and affection until I see you again.

Dana Crase

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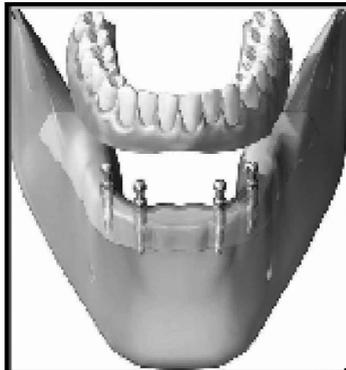


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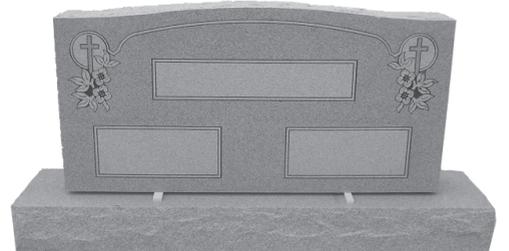
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CRIME

Recent arrests in Bradford, Clay or Union

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

Bradford

Gloria Dias Atwood, 53, of Starke, was arrested Dec. 22 by Bradford deputies for larceny. Bond was set at \$500.

Truin Lyvel Blye, 45, of Starke, was arrested Dec. 22 by Starke Police officers for felony possession of marijuana. Bond was set at \$2,500.

Robert Lee Chastain, 45, of Starke, was arrested Dec. 22 by Starke Police officers for disturbing the peace. No bond was set and the suspect has been released.

Tammy Lorene Cox, 50, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Bradford deputies for two counts of smuggling contraband. Bond was set at \$10,000.

Janice Lee Crawford, 61, of Starke, was arrested Dec. 23 by Bradford deputies for dealing in stolen property. Bond was set at \$25,000.

Michael Wilson Hall, 56, of Starke, was arrested Dec. 22 by Bradford deputies for disturbing the peace. No bond was set and the suspect was released.

Randy Allen Jackson, 34, of Lawtey, was arrested Dec. 23 by Lawtey Police officers for violation of probation. No bond has been set.

Christopher Matthew Kienlen, 38, of Lawtey was arrested Dec. 24 by Bradford deputies for battery. No bond was set and the suspect was released.

Gregory Bernard Merricks, 29, of Starke, was arrested Dec. 23 by Bradford deputies for a moving traffic violation, resisting an officer and felony possession of marijuana. Bond was set for \$9,500.

Teyona Cierra LaShay Powell, 28, of Waycross, Georgia, was arrested Dec. 20 by Bradford deputies for a moving traffic violation. Bond was set at \$5,000.

Amanda Renee Thornton, 29, of Starke, was arrested Dec. 20 by Bradford deputies for larceny. Bond was set at \$1,000.

Dominick J. Tusa, 32, of Starke, was arrested Dec. 23 by Bradford deputies for driving under the influence. Bond was set at \$7,500.

Briana Roshae Aaron, 27, of Starke, was arrested Dec. 26 by Bradford deputies for violation of probation. No bond was set.

Patricia Anne Ford, 43, homeless, was arrested Dec. 30 by Starke officers for trespassing and resisting an officer. Bond was set at \$5,000.

Donald Nelson King, 32, of Starke, was arrested Dec. 26 by Starke officers for burglary. Bond was set at \$50,000.

Thomas Eugene King, 53, of Brooksville, was arrested by Bradford deputies for two counts of moving traffic violations. Bond was set at \$12,500.

Teresa Ann Lohr, 41, of Starke, was arrested Dec. 31 by Starke officers for hit and run. Bond was set at \$500.

Robert Farris Miles, 50, of Lawtey, was arrested Jan. 1 by Bradford deputies for battery. Bond was set at \$20,000.

Destrea Patrice Mincey, 18, of Jacksonville, was arrested Dec. 29 by Bradford deputies for aggravated battery, kidnap-false imprisonment and resisting an officer. Bond was set for \$205,000.

Terry W. Monk, 39, of Lawtey, was arrested Jan. 1 by Bradford deputies for aggravated battery. Bond was set for \$25,000.

Kimberly Dawn Strickland, 39, of Starke, was arrested Dec. 26 by Bradford deputies for violation of probation. No bond was set.

Amanda Renee Thornton, 29, of Starke, was arrested Dec. 27 by Bradford deputies for destroying evidence. Bond was set at \$75,000.

Union County

Corinthian Eli Williams, 21, of Raiford, was arrested Dec. 19 by Union deputies for third-degree felony larceny. No bond has been set.

Louis Joseph Troiano, 43, of Lake Butler, was arrested Dec. 23 by Union deputies for battery (touch or strike), false imprisonment and resisting an officer (obstruction of justice). No bond has been set.

George Clarence Livesay, 44, of Providence, was arrested Dec. 24 by Union deputies for possession of marijuana and possession of narcotic equipment. No bond has been set.

Derrick Verdel Hill, 32, of Lake Butler, was arrested Dec. 19 by Union deputies for aggravated assault (with a deadly weapon without intent to kill), battery and obstructing justice. The suspect was released, then re-arrested later the same morning for violation of pre-trial conditional release for domestic violence. No bond has been set.

Johnny Everett George, 53, of Lake Butler, was arrested Dec. 22 by Union deputies for assault on an officer, indecent exposure (urinating in public), resisting an officer and disorderly intoxication. No bond has been set.

Dale Vincent Crawford Jr., 33, of Lake Butler, was arrested Dec. 21 by Union deputies for disorderly intoxication and trespassing. No bond has been set.

Wilts Clarence Alexander, 49, of Lake Butler, was arrested Dec. 22 by Union deputies for second-degree assault (intent/threat to do violence), battery (touch or strike) and battery (felony-battery resulting from strangulation, possible domestic). No bond has been set.

Mamie Beatrice Brown, 35, of Lake Butler, was arrested Dec. 31 by Union deputies for two counts of battery (touch or strike). No bond has been set.

Keystone/Melrose

Israel Harris Banda, 38, was arrested Jan. 1 in Keystone Heights by Clay deputies for being a fugitive from justice.

Jonathan Kyle Cox, 25, of Keystone Heights was arrested Dec. 28 by Clay deputies for failing to report a name or residence change.

James Isiah Martin, 20, of Keystone Heights was arrested Dec. 27 by Clay deputies for armed robbery with a firearm, aggravated battery with a deadly weapon and vandalism.

According to an arrest report, the victim is an acquaintance of the defendant. The two encountered one another around 8:50 p.m., with Martin on the sidewalk in front of the Keystone Heights city hall and the victim in front of Natural Park.

"(The victim) was standing on the sidewalk charging his cellphone when he observed the defendant standing across the street," a deputy wrote in a report. "The offender began shouting and threatening (the victim)," who "shouted back that he was not afraid."

The deputy wrote that Martin then lifted up his shirt, showing the 18-year-old victim a firearm. The defendant then crossed the street and demanded that the victim turn over his phone.

When the victim refused, "the offender began striking (him) on the back of his head with a closed fist," the officer wrote. Martin then kicked the victim several times, taking him to the ground. The victim surrendered his wallet, backpack and phone.

"The offender then slammed (the victim's) cellphone on the ground, shattering the screen and breaking the phone into multiple pieces," the deputy wrote.

Officers later located Martin at his home, questioned him about the incident and took him into custody.

Daniel Allen Simpson, 34, was arrested Dec. 23 by Clay deputies in Keystone Heights for domestic battery.

Christopher Sean Silvey, 35, was arrested Dec. 25 by Clay deputies for simple battery.

Joe Turner, 27, of Keystone Heights was arrested Dec. 28 by Clay deputies for burglary of an unoccupied dwelling, and grand theft.

Principal Blye tells Starke Kiwanians of positives at Bradford High

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

First-year Bradford High School Principal Vinnie Blye, who is a BHS alumnus, was the featured speaker at the Nov. 28 meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Starke, sharing some of the good things happening at the school and expressing his desire for the community to become more involved with the school in creating opportunities for students.

In passing around a sheet of paper for Kiwanis members to write their contact information on, Blye said he wanted to create a network of individuals the school could utilize when it comes to preparing students for their futures, whether it's receiving on-the-job training or meeting service-hour requirements for Bright Futures scholarships.

"Providing kids with opportunities to work and to do internships or externships, I think, is the way I feel we can really partner," Blye said.

Employment opportunities while in high school can help students decide what they want to do. Blye remembered when he, as a BHS student, washed vehicles on Saturdays at the Chevrolet dealership and washed dishes at the former Fried Chicken Factory. He said he hated his job at the restaurant and realized he didn't want to work such manual-labor jobs the rest of his life. He said to himself, "Oh, no. This isn't working out for me. What's on the other side?"

Conversely, Blye's wife had an internship that reinforced what she wanted to do in life. She was exposed to forestry law while working at a forestry company in the town where she grew up.

"She wanted to be an attorney," Blye said. "It's all she ever wanted to do. So she got an internship, and she got exposed to that and went on to become a lawyer."

Working in the community provides another benefit to students in that they have the chance to interact with others and really get a sense of what it's like to co-exist with others.

"One of my primary goals is to build a learning experience that really kind of develops kids holistically — not just in math, science and social studies, but in social skills as well," Blye said.

Blye talked about several of the positive things taking place at his school, including the updating of one of the science labs "to bring it up to the 21st century in so many ways."

Also, thanks to the Bradford County Education Foundation, one of the math classrooms was equipped with node chairs. The chairs and their accompanying desktops can swivel, while the chairs are on



Vinnie Blye

established, with Blye explaining it's a way of rewarding students who are doing the right things, while also helping students to enjoy the school experience. Blye said students who get into trouble and engage in the kind of things that become "front-page" news make up 5 percent of the school population. He feels all the other students are deserving of attention.

"We have very stern consequences for kids who are getting out of line," Blye said, "but I like to spend my time focusing on the 95 percent of the kids that are doing exactly

wheels. That allows for easier rearranging when it comes to various classroom exercises, such as when students have to work in groups.

A Positive Behavior Intervention System has been es-

See BLYE, 7B



Jeremiah Hernandez throws a ball during one of the dodge-ball games held between the different grade levels at BHS in October. Such activities are being offered to make school a fun experience for those students who are doing the right things.

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BLYE

Continued from 6B

what they need to be doing.” Incentives are being provided for those kids to enjoy school, including such activities as a dodgeball tournament, which was held between the different grade levels on Oct. 6. The seniors won, which allowed them to receive tickets for a prize drawing that included such things as paraphernalia for fans of the Gators and Seminoles. A “tailgate” party, catered by Sonny’s, was held recently for the grade level that had the highest attendance for a month. The freshmen won. Blye said he overheard one of the freshmen at the party say, “I really like high school.” “Wow. What a pork sandwich, chips and a cookie will do to kind of get kids to kind of really talk about and appreciate going to school,” Blye said

Upcoming events include students-versus-faculty volleyball and basketball games — which prompted Blye to say he’d be “tying up his laces” — and an ice-cream social. “All these things are kind of connected to kids coming to school, kids staying out of trouble and kids kind of putting forth the necessary efforts allowing them to be successful in school,” Blye said. Blye said some students have had the opportunity to be exposed to life in college. Some members of the junior class got to spend the day at Santa Fe College, for example, while other students, though the Upward Bound program, had the chance to spend a day at the University of Florida. The principal isn’t just happy to talk about the good things going on at BHS. He’s happy he’s in a position to help bring those things about and happy he can do so at his alma mater



New node chairs at Bradford High School, courtesy of the Bradford County Education Foundation. Pictured are: (seated, l-r) Lila Sellars, Dimple Overstreet, Shannon Rowe, Cheryl Canova, Superintendent Stacey Creighton, assistant principal Lindley Adkins, (standing, l-r) Brenda Thornton, Principal Vinnie Blye, Barry Warren, Jerome Kelley and assistant principal Chris Coffey.

able to give back to the community that has allowed me to thrive and prosper,” Blye said.

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da Administration Code 64J, Incident Command Structure (ICS), National Incident Management System, Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), grant writing skills, and strong communication skills. Applications must be submitted to the Union County Board of County Commissioners. The office is located at 15 NE 1st Street, Lake Butler, Florida 32054. Union County is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Veteran Preference. Deadline for submitting applications will be December 13, 2017

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BHS

Continued from 3B

Bradford to take a 17-8 lead into the half.

Dunnellon scored on the opening drive of the second half to pull within three, but Bradford answered with a 69-yard scoring drive, capped by Barber's 35-yard touchdown pass to Davis.

Defensive lineman Gerald Smith recovered a fumble inside the Bradford 5-yard line in the fourth quarter to help the Tornadoes earn their first regional title since 2004.

Barber rushed for 127 yards on 19 carries, while completing 9-of-14 passes for 126 yards. Chandler and Vaughn rushed for 69 and 52 yards, respectively, while Davis caught four passes for 74 yards.

Bradford ended its season with a 10-2 record after the state semifinal loss to Raines. The Vikings scored on six of their eight first-half possessions and built a 46-0 lead before the Tornadoes finally scored on Davis' eight-yard touchdown pass to Barber.

Barber also threw a 64-yard touchdown pass to Vaughn.

Boys' hoops team hangs on to win district title

Interlachen made two three-pointers in final minute to make a one-point game, but the Bradford boys' basketball team won 58-57 to claim the District 4-5A championship.

The Tornadoes, who went 4-0 against its two district opponents during the regular season to earn the top seed and automatic berth in the tournament championship game, led by as many as 14 points in the third quarter. An Interlachen three-pointer made it 56-54 with 45 seconds left.

Bradford was just 9-of-19 at the foul line, but Chris Cummings made two free throws with 28 seconds left to put the Tornadoes up 58-54.

An Interlachen three-pointer following an offensive rebound made it a one-point game with 17 seconds left. Interlachen then came up with a backcourt steal, but missed a short jumper, which was rebounded by Cummings. Cummings was sent to the foul line, where he missed both free throws.

That meant the Rams still had a chance, but they lost the ball dribbling it upcourt, with Cummings corralling the loose ball to preserve the win.

Taz Curry led Bradford with 20 points, while Jordan Lee and Cummings had 11 and 10, respectively.

Bradford used a 15-0 fourth-quarter run to win its first playoff game in six years, defeating Jackson 63-51 in the regional quarterfinals.

Lee and Trey Greenidge had back-to-back three-pointers during the run, which included



Tally Chandler goes in for a layup during Bradford's run to a district title and into the regional semifinals.

another two points and an assist by Lee, three points, an assist and a steal by Cummings, and two points each by Curry and D.J. Mackey.

Cummings finished with 15 points, while Lee and Mackey had 13 and 12, respectively.

In the regional semifinals, a rebound tip-in by Curry tied the score at 46-46 in the fourth quarter, but the Tornadoes were held to three points in the final 3:12 of a 56-49 loss to Raines.

Bradford went 1-of-6 from the field during that span, with the one field goal a layup that Raines allowed before the final buzzer.

Lee scored four points during an 8-0 third-quarter run that helped Bradford go into the final quarter with a slim lead. Lee finished with a team-high 16 points, while Mackey added 10 points.

The Tornadoes finished the season with a 13-15 record.

Girls' hoops team can't hold lead, is district runner-up

The girls' basketball team went 4-0 against its two District 4-5A opponents during the regular season to earn the top seed and automatic berth in the tournament championship game, but the Tornadoes couldn't hold a late lead against Keystone Heights, settling for the runner-up trophy after a 55-52 overtime loss.

Jah'mya Henderson made a basket to put Bradford ahead 46-43 with 1:38 to play in regulation. Keystone tied the score with a three-pointer with 26 seconds left. Keystone missed two free throws with two seconds left, with Bradford's Olyvia Griffin rebounding the second miss and getting fouled, putting her at the foul line with one second remaining. She missed both free throws, however, sending the game to overtime, where the

Tornadoes were outscored 9-6.

The Tornadoes missed 16-of-28 free throws overall.

Griffin led the team with 18 points, while Henderson had 14.

Bradford finished its season with an 8-12 record after a 64-41 loss to Bolles in the Region 1 quarterfinals. Meghan Harris led the team with 10 points.

Ames, Canova qualify for regionals in golf, cross country

Abby Ames was the only golfer — girls' or boys' — to earn the right to compete beyond districts. She shot a 128 which was a top score among individuals not on regional qualifying teams.

Likewise, Canova was the only cross-country runner — girls' or boys' — to qualify for regionals after placing 14th at the District 5-2A meet with a time of 24:22.39.

Though she qualified, Ames did not compete at the regional meet.

Canova competed at the Region 2 cross-country meet, placing 35th with a time of 22:24.9.

KHHS

Continued from 1B

Yonge 8-1.

Keaton finished with the two RBI, while Cox, Hall and Lewis each had one. Gary Searle went 2-for-2.

Starting pitcher Josh Shepard gave up one hit and had four strikeouts in four innings. Osteen struck out eight and gave up no hits and no walks in three innings.

Keystone hosted The Villages in a regional quarterfinal game, losing 4-1 to finish the season with a 21-8 record.

The Indians trailed 4-0 entering the bottom of the seventh. Gagnon walked, stole second and scored on a one-out single by Lewis. Keystone loaded the bases on an Austin Bass single and a Sheppard walk, but a strikeout and groundout ended the game.

Lewis went 3-for-4 with a double.

5 girls' lifters go to regional finals

Karsyn Kendrick and Sarah Meadows had a pair of third-place finishes as five girls' weightlifters in all earned the right to compete at the regional level after their performances at the District 7-1A finals.

Kendrick had a 140 total (65, 75) in the 110 class, while Meadows had a 205 total (100, 105) in the 199 class.

Courtlin Gentry placed fourth in the 139 class with a 155 total (80, 75). Alexis Buchanan was fifth behind Gentry with a 145 total (75, 70), while Zoe Dearborn was fifth in the 119 class with a 170 total (85, 85).

Boys' cross-country team earns another regional berth

For the fourth straight year, the boys' cross-country team advanced to regionals, placing third behind Santa Fe and Eastside at the district meet.

Alex Guy led the team with a third-place time of 18:17.1. Tyler Shaw was 12th with a time of 19:43.78, followed by Jay Payne, 16th 20:13.65; Jerry Payne, 18th, 20:30.81; Joseph Danella, 24th 21:26.65; and Travis Dockery, 25th 21:40.7.

No runners advance from the Region 2-2A finals to state. Guy had a time of 18:07.3, which was good for 36th out of 109. Shaw had a time of 19:12.4, followed by Jerry Payne, 21:09.7; Jay Payne, 21:09.7; Dockery, 21:57.2; and Danella, 22:12.2.

Two girls' runners advanced to regionals, with Camryn Williams and Dee Dee Taylor finishing fourth and sixth, respectively, at the district meet. Williams had a time of 22:13.06, while Taylor had a time of 22:37.33.

At regionals, Williams placed 31st out of 98 with a time of 22:14.4, while Taylor was 35th with a time of 22:24.9.

Late-season wins help football team make playoffs

Despite a losing record, the football team, after winning its final two regular-season games, earned the fourth and final seed in the Region 2-4A playoffs.

The Indians stopped a five-game losing streak when they defeated Interlachen 28-21 on Oct. 27. Running back Blake Sanders, who had three touchdowns, scored on a 5-yard run that would prove to be the difference.

Sanders, who finished with 117 yards rushing, scored the team's first touchdown on a 1-yard run, while scoring its second on a 1-yard reception from Adrien Ciena.

Dominic Randall, who had an interception on defense, proved to be in the right place at the right time during one offensive series, when he recovered a fumble by teammate Briar Smith and carried it 36 yards for a touchdown.

The defense made two red-zone stops, including recovering a fumble inside its own 5-yard line.

On Nov. 3, the Indians rallied from a 24-12 halftime deficit to defeat Pierson Taylor 34-31.

A 30-plus-yard touchdown run by Sanders, along with a two-point conversion, pulled the Indians to within 24-20 in the third quarter. An 18-yard touchdown run by Smith, followed by Ciena's run on the two-point play, put Keystone ahead 28-24.

With 8:17 left, Taylor scored on a 59-yard run and went back on top 31-28, but Keystone retook the lead on a 1-yard touchdown run by Ty Friedlin.

The defense had two huge plays to preserve the win, with Dan Dodd recovering a fumble and Carter Semione coming up with a timely sack.

Sanders finished the game with 136 rushing yards.

Keystone ended its season with a 4-6 record after a 27-7 loss to number-one seed Bradford in the Region 2 semifinals.

The Indians failed to capitalize on a couple of scoring opportunities, including a third-and-goal from the 1 in the third quarter.

Sanders capped a 60-yard scoring drive in the fourth quarter with a 1-yard touchdown run.

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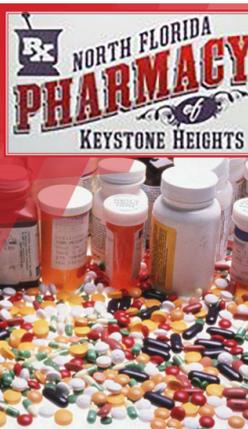
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