

Lake Region Monitor

USPS 114-170 — Keystone Heights, Florida

Thursday, March 29, 2018

44th Year — 47th Issue — 75 CENTS

Kiwanis to host sunrise service April 1



Denmark

Brandon Denmark, Associate Pastor for Discipleship at Trinity Baptist Church will bring the message with music provided by Friendship Baptist Church. The service begins at 6:30. Bring your flashlight.

Clay Electric trustees approve record \$12 million refund

Clay Electric Cooperative's board of trustees declared a record \$12 million capital credits refund for members who received service from 1988 through 2016.

Capital credits reflect the cooperative's not-for-profit and member-owned status and represent each member's pro-rata share of any margins left over at the end of the year after all expenses are paid. Capital credits are a unique benefit of being served by an electric cooperative. Investor-owned electric utilities send their margins (profits) to stockholders, and municipally owned utilities return their profits to city coffers for use in road-paving or similar projects.

Before Clay Electric's nine-member board of trustees decided whether a refund could be made, it carefully considered a variety of data and economic conditions. Following this review, the board decided it was prudent to refund \$12 million to entitled members and former members. This year's refund will be the 44th consecutive time that the cooperative has refunded capital credits.

Current members of the co-op who are entitled to a refund will receive a credit on their March bills. The number of capital credits bill credits scheduled for this year is approximately 133,700. The average amount of a bill credit this year is \$38.66.

For those entitled to a refund but who no longer receive service from Clay, a refund check will be mailed around the middle of the month. The co-op is scheduled to mail approximately 69,000 refund checks to this group. The minimum amount to be refunded by check is \$10. The average check amount this year is \$63.91.

Former members of the cooperative who receive a refund check should cash their check within 90 days. If the check is not cashed and remains unclaimed after 90 days, a \$1 maintenance fee will be assessed each month against the capital credits refund.

The cooperative utilizes these margins to help lower its borrowing expenses and operational costs before returning the money to entitled members and former members.

If a member or former member of the cooperative has any questions about capital credits, they should contact their district office.

Kindergarteners take farm trip to high school



Clockwise from top, left: Rozlynn Sames and Allia Ivey demonstrate to Bryce Hutchins, Devin Lam and Trayon Jones how to wrap seeds in cotton balls to assist germination.

Sloan Lybargek edges Presley closer to the fence for Alaina Dampier to pet.

Karlibeth Dowdy holds a rabbit for students to pet.

Lauren Hix shares care needs and how cows are important to people with Mason Padgett, Lillian Harrington, Jared Rice, Sophia Kroll, Braxton Barton, Jackson Spence, Samira O'Berry, Kai Riviere, Kamden Cochran and Alaina Dampier.

BY ATHIE SANDERS
Special to the Monitor

Keystone Heights Elementary School kindergarteners participated in their annual Farm Field Trip Friday, March 23 at the Keystone Heights High School agricultural department to learn about farming and high school students' work in the school's agricultural program.

Students walked from the elementary school to KHHS.

"It's a great field trip. Erin Verplank, high school agriculture teacher, does a great job coordinating the program, our kids learn a lot and it's an easy and free field trip for us," said MaryAnne McCall, kindergarten teacher.

Kindergarteners rotated through eight 15-minute presentation stations lead by KHHS students focusing on school-related agricultural

projects. Each station was student lead and included background information, an education activity and an opportunity to participate hands-on with the featured aspect of the station.

The pig station was located next to the pig pen and displayed two pigs ready to be shown at this year's Clay County Fair. Ear-notching patterns were explained before children colored paper plates to represent pig's heads. They notched their model's ears as is done to identify a pig's litter and birth order.

The cow station was all about beef, beef products and the care of cows. Beef-O, a game like Bingo, reviewed vocabulary using matching picture supports. Children were able to pet the steer held in a cow gate.

The Bean Babies Station displayed plants from seed to adult. Students wrapped damp seeds in cotton balls, folded the

cotton over like a taco then put it into a small zip lock baggie. Punched with holes the baggies were strung on yarn to make necklaces.

The Small Animal Station featured goats, rabbits and chickens. After learning facts about each animal, students pet the rabbit, dropped chicken eggs into a pail to see what is inside and pretended to milk a goat using a latex glove.

The Horse Station displayed tools, equipment and techniques necessary to prepare a horse to ride. Each child pet and brushed the horse.

The Water Cycle Station had visuals of the water cycle, required students to fill in the blanks on a diagram of the cycle and string a bracelet using colored beads to represent the cycle's stages. Light blue beads represented rain, green for grass, blue for puddle, clear as

evaporation and white for clouds.

The Oh Say Can You Seed Station presented agriculture literacy. After talking about development of a plant, student Brianna Velazquez read "Oh Say Can You Seed" by Dr. Seuss, a story all about germination.

The Making Butter Station discussed where butter comes from and various uses. Each student shook a jar containing the necessary ingredients to make butter then tasted it on a cracker.

"Every station was really well thought out and well planned. There was a wide range of things being taught. Combination of activities: live specimens, hands on learning activities and make and takes provide a strong learning environment. The high school student's interaction with the kindergarteners was wonderful," said McCall.

New State Legislation Casts Wide Net to Try and Stop School Shootings

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Editor

The Florida legislature recently passed Public Safety Bill SB7026, otherwise known as The Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act, which will add many measures to current school safety protocols that may improve school safety in the state.

The bill calls for establishing an Office of Safe Schools within the Department of Education and allowing each sheriff to establish a Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program (named after the heroic assistant football coach who threw himself in front of students to protect them from gunfire during the incident in Parkland), appointing certain volunteer school employees (not classroom teachers) as school guardians and to increase the number of school resource officers required in a school district to one officer per school or per 1,000 students.

The bill also authorizes grants through the Crime Stoppers Trust Fund for student crime watch programs and the state provision

of funds to help defray the cost of additional school resource officers and increased mental health services in the schools.

The bill authorizes law enforcement officers to seize and hold firearms and ammunition taking custody of a person who is considered to pose a "potential danger to himself, herself or others and who has made a credible threat against another person." It also covers circumstances where firearms and ammunition can be seized or asked to be voluntarily surrendered should an arrest be made at a person's residence.

The bill at least temporarily restricts or prohibits the ownership or possession of a firearm by any person who has been adjudicated mentally defective or been committed to a mental institution until special permission (relief) has been obtained. An action known as a petition for risk protection has been created in order to prevent persons who are at high risk for harming themselves or others from accessing firearms or ammunition.

There are also many new regulations concerning ownership, possession, purchase, carry permits and exactly who cannot have possession of a firearm in the state. It does offer means of mitigation for persons prohibited from firearm ownership and provision for the return of confiscated firearms should requirements be met.

Laws concerning the making of threats, posting them online, committing an act of terrorism in writing or transmitting them in any way have been strengthened and the bill mandates the purchase by the state of a mobile suspicious activity tool which must send law enforcement special reports about potential threats.

The creation of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Safety Commission, within the state Department of Law Enforcement is required, with numerous provisions concerning its composition and the reports it will be expected to submit to the governor.

Local school boards are also faced with a number of changing

requirements, many related to student discipline and safety. Students are to note referrals to mental health services on initial registration to a school and a district school board will now have the authority to refer a student to mental health services under certain circumstances.

Also, to be required are a number of emergency drills to be conducted in the schools, including drills for active shooter and hostage situations.

Emergency communications systems are to be tested according to a set schedule and models for emergency preparedness procedures for active shooter situations and emergency management are to be set and/or updated.

School superintendents are now required to establish policies and procedures designed to prevent violence on school grounds and to designate a school safety specialist for their district, provide requirements and duties for school safety specialists and requirements related to the now-required school security risk assessments.

Late for dinner, a gunshot, jail

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Managing Editor

A man invited to dinner by his ex-girlfriend wound up in jail after he arrived late for his date, lost his temper with the woman, and found deputies in his home after he discharged a firearm from his vehicle.



C. Darnell

Christopher Michael Darnell, 36, was arrested in Keystone Heights on March 24 by Clay deputies for discharging a firearm from a vehicle within 1,000 feet of a person, possession of a weapon by a convicted felon, possession of methamphetamine with intent to sell, manufacture or deliver and possession of drug equipment.

According to an arrest report, the defendant and his girlfriend broke up about a month ago, but on March 23, she invited him over for dinner. However, Darnell arrived late, at 4 a.m. the following morning.

"He started arguing with her and being verbally abusive," wrote Deputy A.E. Fornash of the defendant in an arrest report.

Fornash added that because Darnell had what looked like a pistol holster on his left hip, the girlfriend became concerned for her safety and asked Darnell to leave.

"The defendant then went to his truck that was parked in her driveway," wrote Fornash. "She then heard a gunshot coming from the defendant's truck. The defendant drove off yelling."

Deputies later found out that Darnell was a convicted felon and had an outstanding warrant for his arrest in Clay County for failure to appear. While interviewing the defendant at his home, deputies found a revolver, drug equipment and a case containing crystal methamphetamine in and near the man's couch.

In other Keystone Heights and Melrose-area arrests:

Trisha Ann Jewell, 27, was arrested in Keystone Heights by Clay deputies for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession of drug equipment.

Dustin Wade Wright, 30, was arrested March 25 in Keystone Heights for an out-of-county warrant.

Deputy: Man exposed himself at busy intersection

Bradford County

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Managing Editor

A deputy arrested a Naples truck driver after a 911 caller told a dispatcher the man ran him off the road twice, then exposed himself at the intersection of U.S. 301 and S.R. 100.

Zenen Jesus Estrada, 25, was arrested March 24 by Bradford deputies for indecent exposure.

According to an arrest report, the caller claimed a semi-truck



Z. Estrada

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Many Answers Still Up in the Air About School Safety Funding

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Editor

The mandates have arrived from Tallahassee and a contact person with the Florida Department of Education has been designated, but no one is really sure on where to go from here to meet new state requirements for keeping schools and students' safe.

Union County

Union County Superintendent of Schools Carlton Faulk said that no one seems to know the full extent of the funding which may or will be coming from the state or the federal government. He said that, at this point, everything is still in the planning stages and even Brooke Rominik, the DOE representative now over school safety, can't answer specific questions about funding or the new requirements.

"We had already planned to extend the fence at the elementary school for student safety, even before this new mandate had come about," Faulk said. "We called Ronimik to see if there were any specific features that would be required in the new fence and she said she did not know yet. The information seems to be just trickling in and we don't know very much concrete information about most of the requirements."

Faulk did say that, to his understanding, the district would be required to increase the number of school resource officers from the single officer now at the high school to a total of one officer per school.

Union County Sheriff Brad Whitehead was also quick to point out that not everything that his office needs to know has been communicated to him as of yet.

"We are still trying to determine the funding right now," Whitehead said. "We are dedicated to doing everything we can and our number one priority, as it always has been, is the safety and security of our children and our schools. The sheriff's office is already an active presence at all of our schools and we have people, in addition to the school resource officer, on all of

the campuses on a daily basis. We are still in the early days of planning and have not gotten any concrete figures yet, but we are dedicated to getting done what needs to be done."

USCO Captain Lynn Williams added that his agency is talking with the Florida Sheriff's Association to find out what other counties are doing. He declined to give out exact figures of how many new hires would be necessary for security reasons, but did say it was an expensive proposition to employ and outfit new school resource officers.

"We are talking a lot of money just for equipment," Williams said. "Each officer will need a car, training, uniforms, basic equipment needed by any law enforcement officer, a gun, communication equipment and a bullet proof vest. Add to this the cost of a salary, benefits, retirement, insurance and certain liability bonds that the law requires and we could well be looking at almost \$100,000 per SRO expense for the first year – and this isn't even a highly-paying job. The first-year expenses will be the worst since many of the expenditures will not need to be repeated in subsequent years, but it's still a tremendous amount of money."

Clay County

Ken Stivers, Chief of Operations for the Clay County Sheriff's Office is in charge of school resource officers for that agency and he was quite vocal about the costs involved in meeting the new requirements.

"The issue is that they (law makers) have given us some money, but it's not going to be nearly enough," Stivers said. "We are possibly going to be a couple of million dollars short of being able to hire deputies. If we have to make that up out of our budget, obviously, we are going to have to cut some services, and if the school system has to take it out of its budget, it will have to cut some services."

Currently, the CCSO has a resource officer in all eight of the county's high schools, with other officers in place at times

which are not funded by the SRO program. The county has a total of 43 schools. The department requires a supervisor for every five deputies, a lieutenant and officers to cover positions when an SRO is out sick or on leave. The SROs are assigned to stay at the schools all day and cannot leave for other calls or to transport suspects. Stivers said the office is looking at having to hire 35 more deputies and as many as seven sergeants, one lieutenant and three relief people.

Bradford County

Bradford County Sheriff Gordon Smith is fighting the general lack of information as well, trying to figure out how to hire, pay and outfit at least eight more deputies to serve as school resource officers – seven for regular duty and one to serve as relief. He agrees with Williams as to the start-up costs.

"The legislature has good intentions but their requirements were devised too quickly and we are looking at years of adjustments to the initial mandates," Smith said. "We are not only required to have school resource officers in all of the schools, we are also required to have a trained officer present at all school functions. It is mandated that all of the officers used in the schools must undergo psychological testing. This means that I will have to have most, if not all of my deputies tested so they can be used if necessary – and this is in addition to the SROs."

Smith said that as it stands now, even with the combined efforts of the Bradford County Sheriff's Office and the Starke Police Department there are not enough law enforcement personnel to cover the county at some times.

"I wish the legislature had taken the time to give each county the opportunity to come up with a plan that fits the needs and circumstances of their particular county," Smith said. "What is necessary in a large county, like Dade or Broward, is way over the top for a small,

less prosperous county like Bradford or Union. Now they are even discussing private schools and their possible security needs. Private schools receive public funds through the voucher system, so many people think they should be included as well."

Smith said the difficult parts of meeting the legislature's mandates will be financial, but will also be in finding the right people to fill the new jobs.

"Not every law enforcement professional is cut-out to be an SRO, it's a different world," Smith said. "In addition, there are only so many qualified applicants in any given area and there are going to be several agencies all trying to hire to meet their needs, all within the same timeframe. It may be difficult to find the people we need to do the job. In addition, programs offering the mandated training are filling up fast, so it may be difficult to get new hires the training they require before they can start work."

On a financial front, Smith said the school district has said they can provide about \$300,000 out of their additional state funding (they must retain a specific amount for the required mental health services) and this leaves the sheriff's office about \$195,000 short on hiring, paying and outfitting the new SROs (start-up costs plus three months of salaries and benefits), who must be hired by July 1, about three months before the beginning of the new budget year.

"Meeting the financial needs of doing what the legislature wants is going to hurt everywhere," Smith said. "It will probably cost us our new school here in the county and who knows what else will need to be cut from everyone's budgets, just to get through the first three months. At least we can plan for some of the expenses in the new budget year, but the two questions I have are where are we going to get the money now and who is going to fund all these mandates next year?"

Smith said he is on the lookout for any grants or special programs which can offer funds or training opportunities to help defray the cost of the new program.

At the suggestion of the school district, he plans to rotate officers among the schools so everyone will be familiar with each location.

"This 'Disney Program' (because it mimics Disney's employee training practices) will allow for a more coordinated and unified response if something does happen because everyone will know everyone else's job," Smith said.

"No matter how difficult this gets, everyone in my office is dedicated to making sure our schools and children are safe," he added. "Our kids are worth it and if what is happening now is what needs to happen, then it is worth the effort and money that is it going to take."

LAW

Continued from 1B

Each school district is now required to establish a threat assessment team at each school within the district. These teams will be authorized to obtain certain criminal history records under certain circumstances.

Mental health services in the schools are to be increased, with the state providing much of the funds to do so. This will include the addressing of substance abuse problems, if they are found to exist. Behavioral health crises resources are to be established

and available as needed by the district.

Zero tolerance is the key to many of the new regulations the schools face. For some offenses, expulsion (with or without the provision of an educational alternative) will be required for more offenses, mainly ones where there is violent action or intent.

Although the details are not yet clear, several measures, known collectively as "school hardening" are required to be put in place, with a date set for July 1 for compliance. These measures will include security fencing, the installation of steel security locks on many doors within the school

(including some or all of the classrooms), bullet-proof glass in certain applications and metal detectors at all points of entry to the school.

While the state is providing funds specifically earmarked for use in paying school resource officers and for mental health services they are, as of yet, not telling school districts how they are to be able to afford such measures. So far, all that has been said is that the districts capital outlay funds are to be used for school hardening before any money is to be spend on maintenance or improvements.

Despite the 105-page bill, there is much to still be determined how it is to be done and how it can be financed. The cost will be high and it is not expected to be completely covered by the state. Counties with a large number of schools will be hardest hit, although small counties will suffer from meeting the requirements due to having a smaller tax base and therefore less money available in their budgets.

School Shootings Not a New Phenomenon, Even in Florida

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Editor

When it happens, anywhere, a school shooting dominates the news and grabs everyone's attention. The psychological effect can be profound, for educators, parents and students – even if they are not directly affected and may live 1,000 miles away. There is increasing evidence that the extensive media attention paid to these occurrences may actually be fueling future acts of violence and bids for media attention. While most of us see this as a relatively new phenomenon of human behavior it is not. School shootings have been around for more than 300 years.

According to Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia, a school shooting is defined as "an attack at an educational institution, such as a school or university, involving the use of firearms." It goes on to state "incidents that involve four or more deaths are also categorized as mass shootings."

In the history of the United States there have been 479 occurrences classified as school shooting, beginning in colonial America. Although the completeness of the records varies, there is concrete evidence that school shootings are not an American problem, but they occur worldwide. Over varying periods of time, 19 have occurred in Canada (1884-2016), 5 in Mexico (2011-2018), 28 in Europe (1913-2018), 4 in South America (2001-2017), 14 in Asia (1962-2014), 6 in Oceania (1923-2012) and seven in Africa (1994-2015).

The United States does seem to be the place where the majority of school shootings occur. There were already 11 firearm related events at schools or campuses in the U.S. in the first 23 days of 2018. The U.S. does not, however, carry the title as the country in which the worst-ever school shooting occurred – that dubious credit goes to the Soviet Union, where in 2006 a three-day terrorist event took place at a school in Beslan, North Ossetia (an autonomous republic in the Russian Federation), which was taken over by an Islamic militant group and over 1,100 people were taken as hostages. At the end of the three-day nightmare, 334 people (excluding terrorists) were dead, including 186 children.

Many of the attacks, worldwide, have been politically, racially or even religiously

motivated and in many cases the "shooter" has little or nothing to do with the school and has simply targeted it for some reason. A good number are also occurrences where there is a single target, often a teacher, relative or fellow student.

The first recorded attack in American history happened in 1764 in Greencastle, Penn., where one teacher and nine children were killed by American Indians during Pontiac's War. This "Enoch Brown School Massacre" is classified as a school shooting because the teacher was shot with a firearm – all of the students were killed with hand weapons.

Until the most recent violence, at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, Florida schools have been far down the list of number and severity of school shootings. In the period between 1915 and 2018 there have been 24 school shootings in the state, none of which (except the most recent) have also been classified as mass shootings, with more than 4 victims killed. The majority of Florida incidents seem to involve shooters with "personal" reasons for their actions and most have only one or two fatalities.

School shooters statistically are usually male, Caucasian (in non-college environments), live with both of their biological parents, make A and B grades in school (and often appear on the honor roll), have received psychological treatment/evaluation, have had suicidal thoughts or actions and reported instances of depression. Most have also often exhibited violent expression through personal media.

The jury is still out on the motivation behind a student (or students) deciding to take up arms against their school staff and classmates. The reactions in the affected communities, as well as those nearby, include fear, outrage and a determination to see that it never happens again "here." In Florida, local law enforcement and school districts are facing a 105-page piece of legislation designed to help prevent another incident, with many local officials worried about who will pay for the mandated measures and how it can be done. Only time will tell if all of these measures will have the desired effect. Much may depend on mental health professionals learning the causes and how to identify "future shooters" and help them before they take up arms.

New resource helps Floridians find transportation options in their communities

When older adults stop driving, they may worry about losing their independence. Now, a University of Florida and Florida Department of Transportation Safe Mobility for Life team wants to help them find transportation options so they can get to medical appointments, go shopping, head out with friends, or travel wherever else they want to go.

UF and FDOT have launched the website FindaRideFlorida.org, which features transportation

options in all of Florida's 67 counties.

"We know that a lack of transportation can have a big impact on physical and mental health. We want people to continue to meet their daily needs, participate in their communities and do the things they enjoy," said Sandra Winter, the UF team's project leader and the associate director of the

See TRANS, 4B

Brooklyn Boys @ 9pm on April 7th, 2018

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Audubon members take field trip to Paynes Prairie

BY ATHIE SANDERS
Special to the Monitor

The Santa Fe Audubon Society participated in a park ranger-led field trip Saturday, March 24 at Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park in Micanopy to learn about the park's restoration and to observe wildlife, especially birds.

"Paynes Prairie State Park's mission is to provide resource-based recreation while preserving, maintaining and restoring cultural and natural resources," said Florida Park Service Ranger Oscar Sanchez Davila.

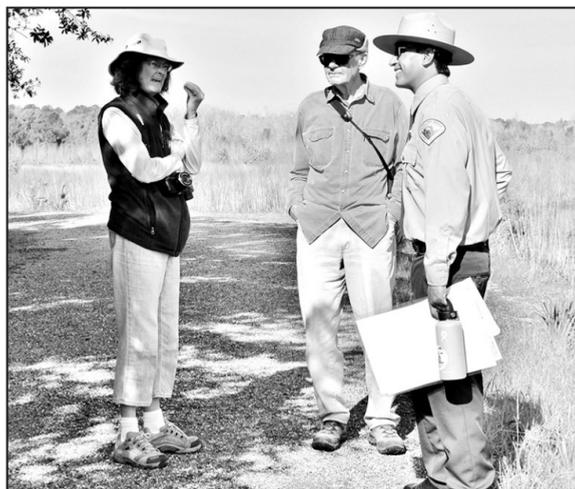
Audubon members met at Heritage Park in Melrose forming a caravan to the state park. "There are at least two active osprey nests just after turning onto County Road 234," said Annie Pierce, trip coordinator. The nests were sighted and an Osprey was visible. Travel along 234 through the rural country side provided views of pasture lands followed by elevated water-lined roadways leading to U.S. 441, just south of the park entrance. Deer were sighted driving along the entrance road into the park.

Upon park arrival Pierce provided club binoculars to those in need. Ranger Davila greeted the group and gave an overview of the morning's hike along Cones Dyke Trail.

"Normally Cones Dyke Trail offers an eight-mile hike but due to high water levels as a result of the hurricane and all the rain we have had only the upper grounds are accessible, and we will only be able to go about a mile in on the dyke," said Davila.

Immediately upon entering the trail, varying off to stop at the comfort station, an immature bald eagle was sighted perched high on a branch.

"Paynes Prairie is the most



Ida Little and Michael Walsh discuss environmental concerns with Ranger Davila.

biologically diverse fresh water marsh in Florida. Over 270 species of birds can be seen in the park as well as alligators, Florida Cracker horses, Florida Cracker cattle and bison," said Davila.

"The animals usually graze all over but because of the high-water level they have moved to other areas providing the food they need so you will most likely not see the cracker horses, cracker cattle or bison that normally graze along this area," Davila said.

Walking out onto the dyke opened views to the expansive 22,500-acre prairie. "In order to have a real impact we can't just manage this. We always try to inform, and at the same time we try to acquire more property," said Davila.

The Ranger provided color coding maps outlining lands felt necessary to acquire for preservation and restoration and also lands they wished they could acquire. The plan for land procurement is long ranged as is restoration.

Florida State Parks acquired Paynes Prairie in 1970 when it included 10,000 acres and

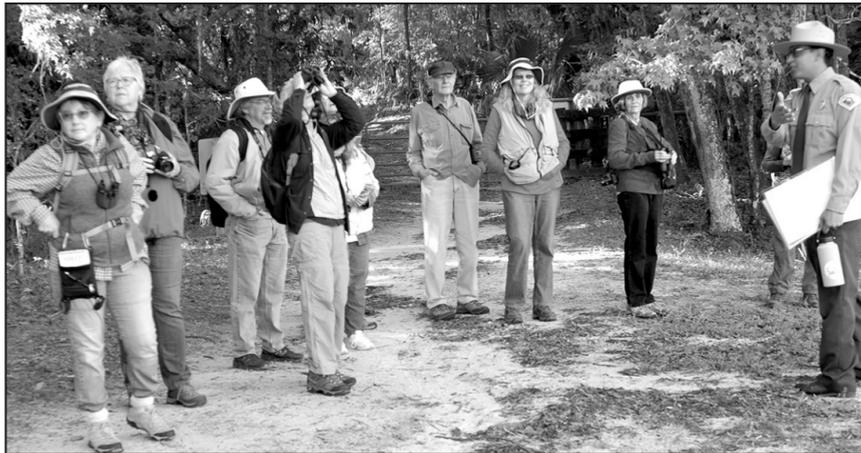
has since worked toward the restoration of the prairie back to its natural state.

Davila shared historical landmarks of the prairie's progression during slow paced hiking. The prairie had changed as a result of past cattle farming altering water patterns by use of dykes, such as the one being walked. Weather factors contributed to changes and the plugging of the one sinkhole on the prairie provided a large lake navigable by steam ships at one time.

Restoration efforts include education and outreach, natural management such as trying to identify and restore natural sheetflow and prescribed fires.

Invasive plants or animals may require mechanical removal but overall efforts are made to restore in the most natural way possible. Currently, invasive wild hogs destroy feeding areas and terrain.

Over time most dykes will be removed and most likely replaced with raised walkways which will not have the environmental impact of



Florida Park Services Ranger Oscar Sanchez Davila pauses with Santa Fe Audubon Club hikers before entering the Cones Dyke area to explain the Parks Services efforts toward restoration of Paynes Prairie to its natural state. (L-r) Donna Barre, Celina Rohman, Steve Howe, Joy Segal, Elisabeth Summers-Howe, Michael Walsh, Laura Berkelman, Carol Sallett and Ranger Davila

dykes. The park contains 38 miles of dykes and 50 miles of canals.

The hike along the dyke accommodated members' interest in bird watching. Scat and footprints of animals indicated recent travel of wild animals along the dyke. The scheduled two-hour hike turn into nearly four hours of hiking and birding. At the conclusion of a cool sunny hike, a trip to the visitor center and the 50-foot-high Observation Tower resulted in sightings of free roaming bison.

Paynes Prairie Preserve is located at 100 Savannah Blvd, Micanopy. Hours are 8 A.M. until sunset, 365 days a year. Entrance fee is \$6 per vehicle, limit 2-8 people per vehicle, \$4 Single Occupant Vehicle, \$2 Pedestrians, bicyclists, extra passengers and passengers in vehicle with holder of Annual Individual Entrance pass. For further information call (352) 466-3397.



Birders Elisabeth Summers-Howe, Laura Berkelman, Steve Howe, Donna Barre and Carol Segall sight birds along the side of the dyke.



Anne Pierce shares her birding phone app with Joy Segall.

FWC provides tips for living with alligators

The American alligator is a conservation success story. Florida has a healthy and stable alligator population, which is estimated at 1.3 million alligators of every size. They are an important part of Florida's wetlands, but should be regarded with caution and respect.

Alligators become more active and visible during spring when temperatures rise and their metabolism increases. Although serious injuries caused by alligators are rare in Florida, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission recommends taking precautions when having fun in and around the water.

Alligators inhabit all 67 counties in Florida and can be found anywhere there is standing water. Reduce the chances of conflicts with alligators by swimming only in designated swimming areas during daylight

hours. Also keep pets on a leash and away from the water.

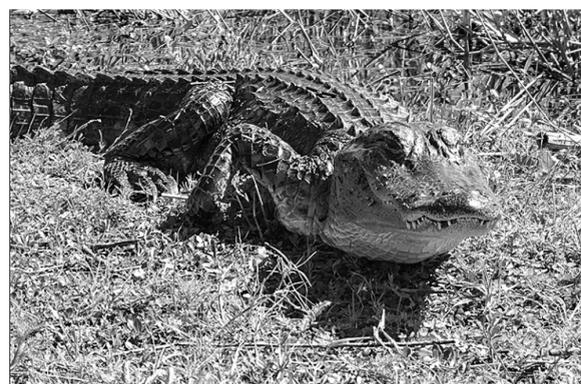
Because alligators control their body temperature by basking in the sun, they may be easily observed. However, the FWC urges people to keep their distance if they see one. And never feed alligators because it is dangerous and illegal.

The FWC places the highest priority on public safety and administers a Statewide Nuisance Alligator Program to address complaints concerning specific alligators. People concerned about an alligator should call the FWC's toll-free Nuisance Alligator Hotline at 866-FWC-GATOR (392-4286). SNAP uses contracted nuisance alligator trappers throughout the state to remove alligators 4 feet in length or greater that are believed to pose a threat to people, pets or property.

The FWC also works

diligently to keep Floridians and visitors informed, including providing advice about Living

with Alligators. Learn more about alligators at MyFWC.com/Alligator.



2018 Municipal Super Tuesday Election Tuesday, April 10, 2018 7 A.M. to 7 P.M.

LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE CANVASSING BOARD EVENTS

Notice is hereby given that meetings for the Municipal Super Tuesday Election Canvassing Board will be held on the following dates:

April 6, 2018
9:00 a.m. Orientation & Logic and Accuracy Test

April 9, 2018
1:00 p.m. Opening of Mail Ballots

April 10, 2018
1:30 p.m. Process and duplication of Mail Ballots
6:00 p.m. Opening of Mail Ballots
7:00 p.m. Canvass of Election Returns/Questionable Mail Ballots/Cured Provisionals, Totals Report, Audit Selection (if possible)

April 12, 2018
5:00 p.m. Canvass Provisional Ballots (if applicable), Totals Report, Audit Selection (if applicable), Audit (if applicable)

April 13, 2018
3:00 p.m. Logic & Accuracy Test for Recount (if applicable), Recount (if applicable), Totals Report, Audit Selection (if applicable)

April 16, 2018
1:30 p.m. Audit of Election (if applicable)

In accordance with the Sunshine Law of Florida, this meeting is open to the public.

Note: Section 286.01105, Florida Statutes, states that if a person decides to appeal any decision by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at a meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purposes, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Keystone Height City Hall 555 S. Lawrence Blvd., Keystone Heights, FL 32656

Official Municipal Election Ballot		702C1
April 10, 2018 Keystone Heights, Florida		
* Instructions: To vote, fill in the oval (●) completely next to your choice. Use only the marker provided or a black or blue pen. * If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot. Do not cross out or your vote may not count.		
City Council Seat 4 (Vote for 1)		
<input type="radio"/>	Karen Lake	
<input type="radio"/>	Dan Lewandowski	

Orange Park Town Hall 2042 Park Ave., Orange Park, FL 32073

Official Municipal Election Ballot		206C1
April 10, 2018 Orange Park, Florida		
* Instructions: To vote, fill in the oval (●) completely next to your choice. Use only the marker provided or a black or blue pen. * If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot. Do not cross out or your vote may not count.		
Town Council Seat 3 (Vote for 1)		
<input type="radio"/>	Roland Mastandrea	
<input type="radio"/>	Eugene Nix	

Lake Region Monitor

USPS 114-170

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CRIME

Continued from 1B

was travelling northbound on U.S. 301 when the caller was attempting to leave VyStar Credit Union. The victim added that the driver of the semi ran him off the road twice.

"The driver of the car stated that at the intersection of 301 and S.R. 100," wrote arresting officer Joshua Hill, "Zenen then jumped out of the truck and pulled his pants down, exposing his sexual organs and also pointing at them."

Hill pulled over the truck and arrested the driver.

Man arrested for hitting business partner with baseball bat

Bradford County

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Managing Editor

A dispute by two business partners resulted in the arrest of one after he was accused of striking his partner in the back with a baseball bat.



D. Tingle

David Earl Tingle, 44, of Starke was arrested March 21 by Bradford deputies for aggravated battery.

According to an arrest report, Tingle and the victim have been working on cars together for three years.

On the evening of the incident, the victim was at the defendant's house washing cars, his daughter was with him.

According to witnesses, the defendant became upset over a note the victim allegedly left on the windshield of the defendant's wife. This first led to an argument between the defendant and his wife.

According to witnesses, Tingle then retrieved a silver bat and walked to the shop.

The victim said when he saw Tingle approaching with the bat, he ran, and even put an obstacle between himself and the defendant.

"(The victim) explained that David swung the baseball bat twice," wrote arresting officer Justin Q. Hanson in the report. "The first time, the victim was able to avoid it, but was struck the second time."

The defendant gave a different version of events, telling the

deputy that he and the victim got into an altercation in the garage, and then a struggle, with both of them falling to the ground.

"According to David, (the victim) then left the property," Hanson wrote. "David explained that he and (the victim) were both aggressive toward each other. David never mentioned any punching between the two. When asked, David did not admit to having a baseball bat."

Child neglect charge added to reckless driving

Bradford County

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Managing Editor

A 19-year-old Hampton man was arrested for child neglect because his 16-year-old girlfriend was with him when he drove recklessly.

Dakota Matthew Webb was arrested March 21 by a Bradford



D. Webb

deputy for reckless driving, failure to register a motor vehicle and child neglect without great bodily harm.

Arresting officer Robert Hullender wrote in a report that

he was observing traffic at 8:46 a.m. at the intersection of U.S. 301 and Southwest County Road 18 when he saw Webb's pickup cross 301 in the eastbound lane of 18, while he was driving westbound.

"As I caught up to the vehicle with my emergency lights and sirens activated, the vehicle proceeded westbound in the opposite lane of traffic, failing to yield to my emergency lights," Hullender wrote. "As the vehicle attempted to negotiate a right turn around the curve in the area of SW CR 18 and Hampton Lake, the vehicle continued in the wrong lane, causing opposing vehicles to travel off the roadway."

The lawman added that the vehicle had no license plate and that when Webb finally stopped, he said he didn't understand why he was pulled over and he was in a hurry to get to his girlfriend's house. The girlfriend was a passenger in the pickup.

"As I informed Dakota my reasons for the traffic stop, Dakota stated he just purchased the vehicle a few days ago and that the alignment is off a bit," wrote Hullender. "Dakota denied being all over the roadway and said that he was fine to operate the vehicle."

The defendant also said he had planned to register the pickup later that day.

The officer then spoke with the girlfriend who told Hullender that the couple had been arguing all morning and that the defendant was taking her home.

"(The girlfriend) stated that Dakota was all over the road and at one point, she stated she grabbed the steering wheel to get back in the proper lane," the officer wrote.

The girlfriend's mother picked up the 16-year-old at the scene.

Police: Man attacks girlfriend after she wakes him

Bradford County

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Managing Editor

Police arrested a 31-year-old Starke man after he was accused of choking and punching his girlfriend.

Levy Shane Green was arrested for misdemeanor battery and felony battery by strangulation.

According to an arrest report, the girlfriend told arresting officer Karly Jones that the defendant was asleep on her couch when she



L. Green

woke him.

"(The victim) stated Green became angry and began to strangle her," wrote Jones. "(The victim) began kicking him because 'she could not breathe.'"

After the victim broke away and attempted to leave, the defendant punched her in the mouth and face, the victim told Jones. He then left in his pickup but was pulled over about a half-mile away.

Jones reported that the victim's injuries were consistent with her story, including a swollen eye, busted teeth and swollen and bleeding lips.

"On the right side of (her) neck," Jones wrote, "there was bruising from what appeared to be caused by a thumb."

When questioned by the officer about the incident, the defendant said he was sleeping when the victim woke him and struck him in the face. He added that when he attempted to grab her to calm her down, she fell and hit her face on a table in the living room. Green denied ever striking the victim.

In other Bradford County arrests:

Gary Allen Brock, 31, of Green Cove Springs was arrested March 26 by Bradford deputies for a probation violation.

Michelle Doreen Crews, 34, of Starke was arrested March 23 by Bradford deputies for an out-of-county warrant.

William Kent Dail, 55, of Starke was arrested March 25 by Starke police for battery.

Eddie Devonl Dean, 35, of Starke was arrested March 25 by Bradford deputies for battery.

Luz Elena DeJesus, 62, of Chatham Louisiana was arrested March 26 by Bradford deputies for larceny.

Samuel Joseph Fisher, 37, of Starke was arrested March 24 by Bradford deputies for contempt of court.

Marion Russel Gatlin, 42, was arrested March 21 by Bradford deputies for driving with a revoked or suspended license.

Amanda Leigh Gay, 30, of Gainesville was arrested March 22 by Bradford deputies for an out-of-county warrant and failure to appear.

Amanda Gail Godwin, 35, of Waldo was arrested March 26 by Bradford deputies for fraud, presenting proof of insurance knowing such insurance was not in force, operating a non-registered motor vehicle and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Marie Green, 46, of Starke was arrested March 22 by Starke police for possession of cocaine.

Dauviel Octavious Jackson, 20, of Hampton was arrested March 22 by Starke police for battery.

Joshua William Johnson, 27, of Starke was arrested March 23 by Bradford deputies for a probation violation.

Cody Lamar Masey, 19, of Starke was arrested March 24 by Bradford deputies for throwing an object into a structure or vehicle and criminal mischief with property damage.

Beverly Ann Osborne, 43, of Starke was arrested March 24 by Bradford deputies for battery.

David Kevin Sellers, 36, of Lawtey was arrested March 22 by Lawtey police for failure to appear.

Dannerius Rashad Sheffield, 28, of Starke was arrested March 24 by Bradford deputies for battery.

Christopher Jason Sumner, 35, of Keystone Heights was arrested March 26 by Starke police for a probation violation.

Argument Turns Physical, Results in Multiple Charges

Union County

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Editor

Deondre Skykur Clayton, of Lake City was arrested by Union deputies on March 23 for felony probation violation, battery, battery by strangulation, battery on a pregnant victim, false imprisonment, evidence tampering, petit theft and



D. Clayton

resisting without violence.

According to an arrest report, Union Deputy Phillip Sellers responded to a disturbance at an apartment on Main Street in

Lake Butler.

Upon his arrival, he approached the apartment and heard both male and female voices within. He attempted to make contact by knocking on the door but got no response. After several minutes of knocking on the front door, the victim opened the door and exited the residence, shutting the door behind her.

The victim was known to the deputy and appeared to him to be visibly distraught – she was crying and shaking. When asked what had happened, she told the deputy that she and her boyfriend, Clayton, who have a child in common, had been involved in an altercation at the residence. She said the altercation had turned physical, with Clayton grabbing her left arm and pulling her. She said he then punched her in the stomach and put his hands around her neck and began choking her.

She informed Sellers that she was pregnant with Clayton's child and that he was aware of that fact. Marks were visible on her arm and neck that were consistent with her report.

Walker told Sellers that Clayton had taken her phone away from her, so she could not call for help and that he had prevented her from answering the door when Sellers had knocked. Walker declined medical attention but told Sellers that her two children were inside the apartment during the incident, but they were unharmed.

After hearing Walker's report, Sellers attempted to make contact with Clayton, who was said to still be inside the apartment. He got no response at the front door of the apartment, so he went to the rear entrance and found it unsecured. Clayton was not located inside the residence and Walker received information that he had been seen running from the rear of the residence toward Family Dollar.

Sellers relayed the information to Deputy John Riggs who was on the way to assist and requested that he begin a search for Clayton. Walker was advised to remain locked in the residence until Clayton was located.

Sellers and Riggs were unable to locate Clayton, but while searching behind the Family Dollar store Sellers located a cell phone under one of the store's air conditioner units. He returned to the apartment and verified with Walker that the phone was the one which Clayton had taken away from her. Walker was then provided with victim's rights and domestic violence information and completed a written statement in reference to the incident. A report was made to DCF about the incident since the children were present when the violence occurred.

Later, Deputy Jacob Lepanto responded to a trespassing call and identified a red Kia which a witness had seen Clayton park and get out of. Walker said that Clayton had been in possession of a gun when he entered the apartment. A key to the vehicle was found in Clayton's shoe when he was searched. When asked where the gun was, Clayton responded "I think the glove box." When Lepanto opened the car door a .380 semi-automatic hand gun was in plain view on the console by the driver's seat.

Deputies noted that due to the fact that the couple had a child in common, the case should be considered to be domestic in nature. Clayton was transported to the Union County Jail and charged with the aforementioned multiple charges.

In other Union County arrests:

Matthew Christopher Adams, 23, of Gainesville was arrested March 23 by Union deputies for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription

and possession of drug equipment.

Kasey R. Brooks, 21, of Gainesville was arrested March 23 by Union deputies for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession of drug equipment.

Eugene Sylvester McRae, 38, of Graham was arrested March 19 by Union deputies for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Robert Todd Sheldon, 53, of Lake Butler was arrested March 24 by Union deputies for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

TRANS

Continued from 2B

Institute for Mobility, Activity, and Participation, or I-MAP, housed in the department of occupational therapy at the UF College of Public Health and Health Professions.

Site users indicate their starting location and can select other search filters, including purpose of trip and special needs, such as wheelchair accommodations. Search results list the various transportation providers in that geographical area, along with details on cost, reservation requirements, service hours and contact information. Providers include traditional taxi companies, public transportation, nonprofits and ride-hailing services.

"Everyone's mobility needs are unique, and by providing our aging population access to more transportation options, it will help older adults remain independent and connected to their communities," said Gail M. Holley, FDOT Safe Mobility for Life program manager.

The site's design features address the needs of users with low vision, and the site offers links to resources for screen readers that read the content aloud.

While FindaRideFlorida.org was developed with older adults in mind, the site is open to users of any age. UF and FDOT first began offering an online transportation database in 2004. The newly launched FindaRideFlorida.org offers several technological upgrades over the previous database, including the use of geographic information system mapping to make the site more accurate and user-friendly.

The GIS data captured by FindaRideFlorida.org could also inform state transportation policy, said Sherrilene Classen, director of I-MAP and a professor and chair of the UF department of occupational therapy.

"Find a Ride data enables public transportation agencies and decision-makers to respond to transportation gaps more effectively, leading to better, more equitable public transportation service planning and delivery to benefit the most vulnerable populations in Florida," she said.

Ultimately, Classen said, the goal is that transportation options in Florida pass the "ice cream test," an idea proposed by Joseph F. Coughlin, the founder and director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's AgeLab.

"If an older adult desires to have an ice cream cone at 9 p.m. on, let's say, a Thursday evening, they should be able to obtain just that via user-friendly alternative transportation services," Classen said.

In addition to Winter and Classen, UF's FindaRideFlorida.org development team includes Ilir Bejlari, an associate professor of urban and regional planning in the UF College of Design, Construction and Planning who led the geographic information system mapping component; Jason Rogers, web and database developer, and Donna Schoenfelder, database assistant, both in the department of occupational therapy; Marni Fowler, a junior mapping developer at the College of Design, Construction and Planning; and senior developer Nathaniel Wingfield, formerly of the College of Design, Construction and Planning.

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REGIONAL NEWS

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NEWS FROM BRADFORD COUNTY, UNION COUNTY AND THE LAKE REGION

Visit the Arc of Bradford — you might be surprised

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

You've probably seen the building on S.R. 100 and may even know it is the Arc of Bradford County, but do you really know what occurs there? Sherry Ruskowski, the executive director, believes too many people don't fully understand what the Arc is. She wants to change that and extends an invitation to anyone who wants to drop by and learn more.

"We want to bring people in house and let them know what occurs here in this building on 100," she said.

Ruskowski said the Arc's mission is to help people with disabilities "plan for their dreams and future direction." In other words, "We're here to help people be all they can be."

People with disabilities that are served by the Arc are called "consumers." One way the Arc helps its consumers is by

providing jobs.

Consumers enjoy the chance to work

Under the title of Sunshine Industries, a section of the facility consists of bustling, noisy activity as more than 10 consumers operate nail guns and a variety of saws in constructing wooden pallets, picnic tables and survey stakes. The Arc

purchases the wood and sells the finished products to customers in Bradford, Alachua and St. Johns counties as well as in Jacksonville.

"We have plenty of orders coming in," Ruskowski said. "We've tried to expand our customer base and will continue to do so."

Ruskowski said Sunshine Industries disproves what she's sure is a common misconception — that people served by the Arc can't do such work. She'll tell anybody — and, of course, welcome them to visit and see for themselves — about the



Allen Sullivan works in the woodshop at the Arc of Bradford, helping to produce pallets, picnic tables and survey stakes.

See ARC, 2B



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ARC

Continued from 1B

strenuous work the consumers do in the woodshop all day long. "All of the products are manufactured by our program participants, people with disabilities," Ruskowski said. "What's to be admired more than the physical labor they're performing is their attitude toward work. Ruskowski said the consumers want to do it and look forward to it. More importantly, they see it as their responsibility. "Do some of them have bad days? Yeah, they do, just like the rest of us," Ruskowski said, "but for the most part, you will see smiling, happy faces and very positive attitudes about their work."

Direct-care staff member Tony Sellars, who helps supervise the woodshop, said the consumers love coming to work because they love making money, but he also believes they love just being there.

"Basically, I think they enjoy the atmosphere of each other and all of us," Sellars said.

That seems to sum up consumer Robbie Pickering's feelings. When asked what he likes most about working in the woodshop, he said, "Making friends and money." He also described his fellow consumers and Arc staff members as another family.

Pickering said some of the duties he performs the most are operating a chop saw and bundling wood. Operating a band saw and constructing pallets

were some of the hardest things he had to learn.

If he wasn't working in the woodshop, Pickering said he'd just be "bored at home." He hopes the experience helps prepare him to get a job outside of the Arc. He'd like to work at Walmart.

Ruskowski said that's part of the mission as well — helping consumers who are able to do so be able to integrate into a job outside of the Arc.

"That's part of what we're here to do, to make sure they understand the importance of good work habits and good work skills," Ruskowski said.

Jobs at the Arc consist of more than working in the woodshop. Robin Garvey, who is the Arc's operations manager, said some consumers, through a contract with Southeastern Paper Group, sort bags that are delivered to the Arc in bulk.

"We count them, stack them into piles of either 50 or 100, depending on the bag type, band them and then ship them back," Garvey said.

Southeastern Paper also sends boxes of various sizes that consumers sort and fold.

Also, the Arc of Bradford receives overflow work from the Arc of Alachua County. Arc of Alachua has a contract with a company to sort hangers. What that organization can't handle is sent to the Arc of Bradford.

Garvey said consumers decide whether or not they want to work. More often than not, when they are asked at the start of every day if they feel like working, they respond in the affirmative. "It is not a have-to," Garvey

said, "but I have seldom had any of them turn me down."

Meaningful activity, quality of life

Not all Arc consumers choose to work. Some aren't capable of working. That doesn't mean they spend their days doing nothing.

"We have a lot of seniors in our program that don't want to work, and that's OK," Ruskowski said. "That doesn't mean they have to sit at home without something to do."

Consumers can take part in such activities as arts and crafts and play games and puzzles.

"Just something to keep them engaged," Garvey said.

Ruskowski said Arc organizations have helped improve consumers' quality of life, whether it's giving them work to do or just having them participate in activities. When people with certain disabilities were confined to institutions, they'd live to be about 35, Ruskowski said.

Today, the Arc of Bradford is serving consumers that are in their 70s and 80s and active and vibrant, Ruskowski said.

Aside from offering consumers a place to go to for work and activities, the Arc of Bradford also operates three group homes that provide around-the-clock care every day of the year. Each home has no more than six people.

"We're there to take care of their daily living needs and to make sure they're healthy and that they're well cared for," Ruskowski said.

The Arc provides transportation for all of its consumers, whether it's taking them to and from the main building for work or activities or meeting the medical needs for group home residents.

"That component — transportation — is vital to what we do here," Ruskowski said. "There are a few people here who do drive themselves — they drive themselves to work — but that is not the case for the majority. They rely on transportation to get here and home to do whatever we need to do with them."

Sometimes, transportation is for taking the consumers into



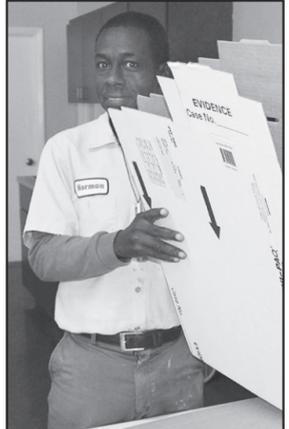
Arthur Sinabian grabs a piece of wood to work with.



Arthur Sinabian (left) works in the woodshop as James Dyla, a member of the direct-care staff, looks on.



Chris Miller is covered in sawdust and working in a noisy environment, but his smile tells you he's enjoying the experience.



Norman Dixon sorts and folds boxes, part of a contracted job with Southeastern Paper Group that also involves sorting paper bags.

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Giving back and getting out

Consumers love the chance to meet people and participate in community service projects. They participate in the Adopt a Highway program, removing trash and debris, ring bells for the Salvation Army's kettle drive and collect donations for the Back to School Info Fair and the Bradford Food Pantry, just to name a few activities.

Many of the consumers are in the Aktion Club, a group under the umbrella of the Kiwanis Club of Starke. Therefore, they assist at Kiwanis events and help with projects such as the one where dictionaries are presented to every third-grade student in the county. Aktion Club members stick the labels on the inside covers of the dictionaries, which are then filled out with the names of the recipients.

"They absolutely love it," Ruskowski said in regard to the consumers and community service. "It is their way of giving back. It is their way of participating. It's their way of being part of the local community that they live in."

It's not all about community service, though. Sometimes, the consumers take trips just for the sake of having something enjoyable to do.

"We look for those kinds of things to get them out from behind these four walls and doing things," Garvey said, adding, "Just anything to keep them from stagnating."

Such experiences brighten up their lives. A visit to the Arc could do the same for you.

Getting reeled in

Sellars actually retired from his job at the Arc, only to eventually return. He described the Arc as "the best place on earth to work." That has to do with the joy that comes from interacting with the consumers.

"If you ever take the time to

get to really know them, you are hooked," Sellars said. "It's like they reel you in."

Ruskowski said she understands some people's hesitation to be around the Arc consumers. They haven't had much contact with people with disabilities, so there's always a fear of the unknown.

However, consumers are people like the rest of us.

"Anybody that I can get to physically come and visit with us is immediately impacted," Garvey said. "It doesn't take long to warm up and see that everybody that is here, whether it's staff or consumers, are people. We all have gifts and talents and personalities."

Yes, the consumers need assistance in certain aspects of their lives, but all of us do, Ruskowski said.

"People here are not broken," she added. "We're not trying to fix people. We're just trying to help that individual be all they can be."

Don't take her word for it. Go to the Arc and see for yourself.

"We want people to come in," Ruskowski said. "We want people to know what we can do."

Garvey said, "I run into a lot of people in the community that have no idea what we do. They really underestimate the abilities of the people we serve. It's nice to get them in here."

Customers of the products



Consumer James Searcy (left) shares a laugh with Executive Director Sherry Ruskowski.

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Into the spotlight: Noegel honored as Woman of Distinction

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Brandi Noegel, like most people who give of their time for the betterment of their communities, prefers to avoid the spotlight, but Santa Fe College has tabbed her as one who's worthy to step out front and receive accolades.

Noegel is one of four women to be named a Woman of Distinction, an annual honor the college bestows upon women in Bradford and Alachua Counties in recognition of Women's History Month. She, fellow Bradford County resident Beverly Hardy, Bradford County native Stacy Scott and Alachua County resident Patsy Blount will be honored, along with Women of Promise (ages 16-21) Grace Johns, a Bradford High School senior, and Victoria Maggard, at a Tuesday, March 27, luncheon at the Hilton UF Conference Center.

"When (Santa Fe College President) Jackson Sasser called me, and he told me that I had been awarded it, I said, 'Oh, I don't know if I want to accept it or not.' There are so many other women that could qualify for this because there are so many wonderful women here in Starke who volunteer and do so many different things," Noegel said.

Noegel, who serves on the Santa Fe College Foundation board of directors, was once on "the other end" as a member of the Woman of Distinction selection committee.

"I never planned on being a Woman of Distinction myself. When you're on the committee, you don't have to worry about that," she said with a laugh.

Being named a Woman of Distinction wasn't something Noegel immediately told everybody about. In fact, Altrusa International of Starke members were unaware they had two Women of Distinction in their membership. They recognized Hardy at one of their meetings, with Hardy then having to tell the club Noegel also received the honor.

"I hadn't told anybody," Noegel said, adding, "I like to be in the background, get things done and move on."

Getting things done

Noegel, who is the president of Noegel's Auto Sales, taking control of the business following her husband, Larry's, death in 2008, is not only involved with Altrusa and the Santa Fe College Foundation. She's in the Starke Rotary Club, serves on the board of Supporters of Sheltered Animals of Starke and is involved with the Eugene L. Matthews Bradford County Historical Museum. Noegel was instrumental in bringing Teen Court to Bradford County, as well as helping Make A Difference Day become an event locally.

When she was on the CareerSource North Central Florida board of directors, the organization received an almost

\$12 million federal grant to help the unemployed.

Noegel supports Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches and has donated vehicles to that organization in the past. She also once donated a couple of vehicles to Bradford High School to reward student achievement and supports 4-H and such programs as Shop With a Cop and College for Kids.

"I just do it because I want to do good things for the community," Noegel said.

Her community involvement got its start when she began volunteering at the schools her daughter, Ashley, attended.

"I think once my daughter started going to school, I just found that it was real important to volunteer so you would know what was going on in the school," Noegel said. "The schools really appreciated it, having the parents volunteer."

Noegel has received accolades in the auto industry, such as being named a Quality Dealer in 2012 by the Florida Independent Automobile Dealers Association. She is currently that organization's regional vice president and has held all of its leadership positions. She was the second woman to serve as its president.

Santa Fe is special

As mentioned earlier, Noegel already has a relationship with Santa Fe College as a foundation board member. The foundation's

mission is to inspire, cultivate and assist private donors to enrich students and the community through scholarships, program enhancements and facilities support. Noegel has helped the Altrusa and Rotary clubs raise money to endow scholarships and established a scholarship herself in 2008 in her husband's name. Like her, Larry served on the foundation board.

"The college is very important to me," Noegel said. "The scholarships are important — to see students who can't afford to go get the scholarships so they can go and get a higher education."

Noegel, who remembers touring the old Bradford County courthouse prior to its transformation into the Andrews Center, likes the fact Santa Fe has a local presence.

"I thought it would be great to have something here, and I have taken many classes there myself," she said. "I took Spanish, I took accounting and I took computer classes just to keep up with things because you need to continue your education, even after school, because things change so much. If you're going to stay in the business field, there are so many things you need to update."

"All the women that were awarded this year are just really great women," she said.

Noegel is happy to see Blount get honored this year as well, saying, "I know Patsy real well. I love Patsy. Her husband and my husband were real good friends."

Like Noegel, Blount didn't spread the word about receiving the honor.

"She's kind of shy, too, like me," Noegel said. "We were talking. She said, 'I didn't tell anybody. My friends saw it in the paper.' I said, 'I hate to say the same thing, Patsy, but I didn't tell anybody either until it was announced.'"

Noegel looks at Blount and Hardy — two women she knows well — and the women who've been named Woman of Distinction in the past and sees a lot of accomplishments. She is honored to be among their company.



Brandi Noegel is one of Santa Fe College's Women of Distinction for 2018. She joins Beverly Hardy, Stacy Scott and Patsy Blount. Photo by Matt Stamey, Santa Fe College.

"For those women who've received it, I'm just happy for them because they were deserving of the award," Noegel said. "I'm happy to be with the group now."

Even if it meant stepping out of the shadows for a little while.

Boots and Bangles fundraiser set for April 26

The Bradford County Education Foundation is hosting

its annual Boots and Bangles on Thursday, April 26, at the National Guard armory on Edwards Road in Starke. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., with dinner scheduled to be served at 6:30 p.m.

Bradford Middle School's jazz band will provide entertainment,

while school employees and community members will battle each other in a game of Minute to Win It.

The event will also feature a cake auction.

Tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased from any education foundation member.

You may also contact Cheryl Canova at the Santa Fe College Andrews Center or Vorease Jones at Capital City Bank in Starke for tickets or more information.

Public invited to BHS' new science lab

The public is invited to visit the new science lab at Bradford High School following the Monday, April 9, Bradford County School Board meeting, which begins at 6 p.m.

Light refreshments will be provided by the Bradford County Education Foundation.

Col. Samuel Elbert DAR meeting set for April 2

The Col. Samuel Elbert Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution will hold its regular meeting beginning at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, April 2, at IHOP in Starke.

Rising country star to perform in Waldo



Mosley

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Managing Editor

The nephew of two former Bradford County educators will be performing at the Dixieland Music Park in Waldo this weekend.

Eli Mosley is the nephew of Mike and Debbie Woodfin. Mike was the band director at both Bradford Middle School and Bradford High School for eighteen years. Debbie was the Starke Elementary School music director for most of those years. She also taught fourth grade.

Following in their footsteps, Mosley has chosen a career in music.

The Bartow native is a Marine Corps veteran and received his college education at Southeastern University in Lakeland, earning a degree in music business.

Mosley said he gets inspiration from traditional country artists such as George Strait, Brad Paisley, and Brooks and Dunn. He not only writes and sings his own original work, but also covers country favorites such as "Check Yes or No" by George Strait and "Boot Scoot Boogie" by Brooks and Dunn. Mosley released his first album in 2015 and released his second album in April 2017: "Come Along with Me."

Throughout the past year, he has performed at such events as Party in the Pines with headliners Keith Urban, Miranda Lambert and Josh Turner and the Orlando Veterans Day Stars and Stripes event with headliners Joe Nichols

and Tyler Farr. Additionally, other venues have been the Dade City Florida Kumquat Festival, the Fort Worth Texas Mayfest, the Highlands North Carolina Village Square Festival, the Bartow Independence Day festivities, the Florida Strawberry Festival, the LaBelle Swamp Cabbage Festival and the West Palm Beach Clematis by Night event.

The Florida Strawberry Festival in Plant City is special to Mosley.

It was there, while watching Tracy Byrd perform in 1996 that Mosley, then six-years-old, decided he wanted to become a musician. Twenty-one years later, Byrd was back on the Strawberry Festival stage, and so was Mosley.

Mosley's show in Waldo starts at 6:30 p.m., Saturday night.



AFTER A GREAT SHOWS IN 2017 WITH HEADLINERS SUCH AS KEITH URBAN, MIRANDA LAMBERT, JOE NICHOLS, JAKE OWEN, AND TYLER FARR, ELI MOSLEY BE TAKING THE STAGE AT THE DIXIELAND MUSIC PARK IN WALDO ON MARCH 31 AT 6:30 PM FOR "A NIGHT OF COUNTRY MUSIC." TICKETS ARE ONLY \$10 AT ELIMOSLEY.COM OR AT DIXIELAND MUSIC PARK, 17500 NE US HIGHWAY 301, WALDO, FL.

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The women came their Lord to seek.
The stone is rolled away up the hill,
Inside the tomb the angels fill.
He's not here — He arose!
He's not here as ye suppose.
Why seek ye the living among the dead?
He's alive as He said.
Go and tell the disciples so they can see,
Their Lord lives, Oh thankful be.
Search the scriptures they tell of Me,
May the Word a comfort be.
This Easter story it blesses the soul,
All glory to the Lord of old.*

*by Henry Hodges
Lawtey, FL*

Obituaries



Henry Brunson

MELROSE—Henry Alvin "Al" Brunson, age 83, of Melrose passed away Monday, March 26, 2018 in Gainesville following an extended illness. He was born Sept. 2, 1934 in Savannah, Georgia to the late Grover and Rosa Lee (Howze) Brunson.

Mr. Brunson retired from the United States Air Force following 28 years plus of dedicated service, which included his time as a drill instructor at Lackland AFB, as well as a top Medical Recruiter based in Gainesville covering the entire southeast United States. Al also served as Keystone Airport Manager for ten years. Al enjoyed riding his motorcycles throughout the southeast U.S. whenever the mood hit, as well as spending quality time with his friends and family. In his spare time he would piddle around in his garage fixing things and was

always lending a helping hand to others in need. Al also enjoyed growing fruit trees, and was very proud of his blueberry bushes. His lifelong interest in genealogy had him tracing his family roots back to the 1700's.

He was preceded in death by the love of his life, Carol, as well as his brother Leslie Brunson.

Survivors include: "Al's Angels", Tracy G, Traci, Thurmette and Heather; three daughters, Lisa (Scott) Darnall of Adkins, Texas, Karen (Bill) Pruss of Melrose and Barbara Campbell (Ken Miller) of Wesley Chapel and a brother Lee (Martha) Feller of Mechanicsville, Virginia. He was known as "Grandpa Al" to six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Also left behind are several nieces and many additional family members and friends.

Funeral services for Al will be held at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, March 31 in the Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home Chapel. The family will receive friends beginning at 9:00 a.m. Interment will follow at 1:30 p.m. at the Jones Cemetery in Callahan. A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday beginning at 5:00 p.m. at the home of Dave and Dana Todd.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made in his name to Lake Area Ministries, P.O. Box 1385, Keystone Heights, FL 32656. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Keystone Heights. 352-473-3176. www.jonesgallagherfh.com

PAID OBITUARY



Jacqueline Dickinson

LAWTEY—Jacqueline "Jacky" Dickinson, age 59, of Lawtey passed away on Monday, March 26, 2018 at Munroe Regional Medical Center in Ocala. She was born in Greenfield, Massachusetts on Jan. 30, 1959 to the late Paulin Bukowski and Peggy Gabree' Bukowski. Jacky was raised in Greenfield, Massachusetts and graduated from Greenfield High School. She relocated to Bradford County where she met the love of her life, Donald Dickinson. Donald and Jacky were happily married on July 18, 1997 and have enjoyed 21 years together. Jacky enjoyed her longtime career at the Department of Corrections as a corrections officer. She retired from the New River Correctional Institution in 2008 after serving 31 years. Jacky also enjoyed being outdoors, riding her

motorcycle with her husband, riding her "Big Red" tractor, and quilting. She was an avid Jacksonville Jaguar fan and a proud member of the National Rifle Association. Jacky was known for her kindness as she was always loving and caring to others. More than anything, Jacky loved her family and was an amazing wife, mother, and grandmother who enjoyed spending time with her husband, children, grandchildren, and her furry babies. Jacky was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, William Bukowski.

Jacky is survived by: her loving husband of 21 years, Donald Ray Dickinson of Lawtey; her children, Jessica (Steven) Drawdy of Worthington Springs, Clinton (Tasha) Johnson of Middleburg, and Elizabeth Johnson of High Springs; her brothers, Richard Bukowski of Massachusetts and Michael Bukowski of Pennsylvania; her sisters, Karin Porter of Mississippi, Kate O'Brien of Massachusetts, and Michelle Griggs of California; her grandchildren, Quay Drawdy, Avery Drawdy, Quinton Patterson, Aiden Johnson, Quayde Page, Qullen Page, and Emerie Johnson.

A Memorial Visitation will be held on Friday, March 30 at Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel from 7-9:00 pm. Arrangements are under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services and Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel, Starke. Visit www.ferreirafuneralservices.com to sign the family's guest book. 904-964-5757.

PAID OBITUARY



PAID OBITUARY

Billy Foister

LAKE BUTLER—Billy Ray Foister, 77, of Lake Butler, died Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at North Florida Regional Hospital after a brief illness. Mr. Foister was born in Monticello, Kentucky and has resided in Lake Butler for over 51 years. He graduated from the University of Kentucky with a bachelor's degree in Education. Mr. Foister was lifelong educator. He was a teacher, a basketball coach, and

then served as Principal at both Lake Butler Elementary School and Union County High School. He retired in 1994 as Assistant Superintendent of the Union County School District. He was actively involved in the Lake Butler Rotary Club and the Florida Gateway College Foundation Board. He is a past president of the Ocean Villas Condominium Association in St. Augustine. Mr. Foister was an active member of the First Christian Church of Lake Butler. He was preceded in death by: his parents, Howard and Mildred Foister of Monticello, Kentucky, and his beloved wife of 38 years, B. J. Foister.

Mr. Foister is survived by: his two daughters, Allyson Foister (Owen) Beatty of Lake Butler with granddaughters, Taylor and Maegan and Angie Foister Hingson of Lake City, with granddaughter, Ellie and grandson, Drew.

Services were held on March 23 at the First Christian Church of Lake Butler. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Florida Gateway College Foundation General Scholarship Fund or the First Christian Church general fund.

PAID OBITUARY



Vera Garrison

STARKE—Vera Elouise Garrison, 86, of Starke, Florida died Sunday, March 18, 2018 at Riverwood Health and Rehabilitation

Center in Starke. She was born Oct. 3, 1931 in Jacksonville to the late Forrest Davidson and Julia Williams Davidson. She moved to Bradford County in 1975 and was a member of Morgan Road Baptist Church. She is predeceased by her husband of 66 years, Joseph "Pop" E. Garrison; son, Joseph D. "Joey" Garrison; and daughter, Pamela Sue Evans.

She is survived by: sons, David Eugene "Gene" Garrison, Gary Lee Garrison, and Mark Garrison; brother, David Davidson; sisters, Blanche Gleaton, Sue Baldwin, and Edie Douberly; 10 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; 10 great-great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life service was held on March 22 at Dyal Cemetery with Pastor Al Paulson Sr. officiating. Arrangements are under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services and Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel, Starke.



Annie Covin-Jones

LAKE BUTLER—Mrs. Annie J. Covin-Jones was born June 28, 1945, in Lake Butler. Parents, Elder Ruben Williams and Missionary Almetha Williams preceded her in death. She departed from this life on Thursday, March 8, 2018, at University Hospital in Augusta, Georgia. She was gifted early in life with singing and playing the piano, a gift she used widely to glorify God in many places. A member of Friendly Church of God in Christ, she served dutifully in various

capacities. Mother Covin enjoyed her profession as a registered nurse, retiring from Charlie Norwood Uptown VA Hospital, Augusta, Georgia, in 2014. Sons, James F. Graham, Jr., Daniel A. John; and brothers, Leon and Billy Williams, also preceded her in death.

Her memory will forever be cherished by: husband, Rev. Willie Jones; daughters, Tamica Graham, Charlotte Howard; grandchildren, Timothy Howard, William Howard; step-son, Tony Jones; brothers, James (Crecy) Williams, Juroy (Darlene) Williams, Buck (Betty) Williams, Jubbie (Effie) Williams, Ruben (Geraldine) Williams, Jr., Angelo (Patti) Williams, Emuel (Emory) Williams, Bishop Borie (Nancy) Hudson, Jonathan (Venice) Williams; sisters, Annie Lee Everett, Freida Timmons, Mae Watson, Patricia Hampton and Lora (Jeff) Rivers; hosts of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held March 17, in Augusta, Georgia. Interment was on March 21, at St. John Baptist Church Cemetery, Providence.

Local arrangements under the direction of Combs Funeral Home, Lake City. (386) 752-4366, "The Caring Professionals"

PAID OBITUARY

Bonnie Doughman

STARKE—Bonnie E. Doughman, 77, of Starke died on Monday, March 12, 2018 at her residence. She was born on Oct. 4, 1940 in Baldwin to the late James Robert "Rabbit" Haisten and Gertrude (Wilkerson) Haisten. She was a homemaker. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, William M. Doughman; and

grandson, James Lewis "Scooter" Smith.

She is survived by: daughters, Elaine A. Doughman, Bobbie "B.J." Doughman (Stacey Santee), Venus "Marie" Keplar, all of Starke; siblings, Bobby Haisten and Cynthia C. Allen, both of Starke. Also left are five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

The family will have a private memorial service at a later date. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke.



John Dowling

ORANGE PARK—John "Big Daddy" Dowling went home to be with his Lord and Savior on Wednesday, March 21, 2018 in Orange Park.

John was born in Fayetteville, North Carolina on June 20, 1939. From there his family quickly settled to Wilmington, North Carolina. John graduated from New Hanover High School and went on to join the United States Air Force at the age of 20. After basic training he drew several assignments and eventually settled in Oklahoma in 1961. In 1961 he married Linda Kay Davis of Santa Fe, who has always been the love of his life. They had their first daughter Donna Kay while stationed in Oklahoma. Their second daughter Cynthia Ann came along during an assignment in

Turkey. From Turkey they were then reassigned to Biloxi, Mississippi. While stationed in Biloxi, John put in for a possible assignment in Washington D.C. He was then selected for an assignment with the White House Communication Agency (WHCA). He remained there for nine years, traveling on many communication assignments in support of the President and Vice President of the United States. He retired from the Air Force on Sept. 28, 1978 as a Senior Master Sergeant. John immediately took a job with Motorola C&E Inc, Utility Sales Force and moved to Orange Park. After ten years with Motorola he was selected to be a member of The Galvin Masters Fraternal Sales Organization. In December 1998 after 20 years John retired from Motorola.

John was a good friend to all and will be sorely missed. During their retirement years, John and Linda traveled extensively across the United States, cruised throughout the Caribbean and made many trips to the Florida Keys to go fishing. They loved to fish, and John hunted for many years with Jack Holder, Linda's stepfather. He also discovered the joys of being a grandfather to his three grandchildren with whom he loved dearly.

John is survived by: his wife, Linda Dowling; children, Donna Powell, Cynthia Dowling; grandchildren, Christopher (Michelle) Dowling, Tucker, Harper and Sawyer John, Fallon Raeffer (Ryan) Kaleb, Brooke, Jayden and Addison, Chelsea (Ryan) Nelson, Emma Raye and Lincoln. The family asks in lieu of flowers, all donations be made to the Haven Hospice of Orange Park.

Services for Mr. Dowling were held March 26 at North Pleasant Grove Baptist Church at 11:30 a.m., the family received friends one hour prior to the service at 10:30 a.m. The address to the church is 25330 Northwest County Road 239, Alachua. All arrangements are under the care of Archer Funeral Home. 386-496-2008.



Joseph Lee, Sr.

LAKE BUTLER—Joseph Benjamin "Benny" Lee, Sr., 74 years old, of Lake Butler went to be with Jesus on Saturday, March 24, 2018. Benny was born in Waycross, Georgia on Aug. 30, 1943.

Benny was married to his high school sweetheart, Gail Lennon for 56 years. They have four children, Joseph Jr. (Barbara), Ted (Jeanie), Mark, Lisa (Randy);

eight grandchildren, Megan, David (Miranda), Melody (Jesse), Kathryn (John), Eric (CeCe), Alee (Tyler), Erica, Miranda (Jordan); and six amazing great-grandchildren, Gracie, Easton, Charlee, Roman, Trenton, and Parker whom he loved dearly. Benny has five sisters, Patricia (Walter), Carolyn, Linda, Charlene (Al) and Donna; and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his mother, Melba, his dad, Burnis, and brother, Randy.

Benny's life was largely spent in dedication to his family. He was devoted in unconditional love to each of them. He will be profoundly missed by his family and friends. Benny worked with lumber yards building trusses and leading up to retirement he painted houses. His pastime was NASCAR racing. Cancer won the battle with his body, but Glory to God, not his soul.

Benny was a "gentle giant". He was the best PaPa, daddy, and husband. Never complained and loved to help anyone in need. May his soul rejoice in the eternal peace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

PAID OBITUARY



Edward Roberts

LAWTEY—Edward Roberts,

age 81, gained his wings, with his family by his side on Saturday, March 17, 2018 at UF Health Shands Hospital in Gainesville. He was born in Strunk, Kentucky on June 6, 1936 to Stewart and Flora Roberts and was the youngest of two children. Ed grew up in Miami, where he attended school. He had various trades such as, plumbing with Norman's Plumbing, hauling produce cross country, milkman, original owner of the Slab Fish Camp and he retired as a plumbing vocational instructor with the State of Florida. He loved to fish, to be outdoors and he loved spending time with his family. He had many friends and would help anyone in need. He married Madelin fifty-five years ago, and had sons, Dusty, Timmy, Dennis, Randy, Bobby and raised their grandson Bobby Jr. He had thirteen grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother, and three of his sons, Dusty, Timmy and Dennis.

His memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 31 at 2 p.m. at Evergreen Baptist Church in Lawtey. In lieu of flowers the family requests that you make a donation to the youth group at Evergreen Baptist.

PAID OBITUARY

Curtis A. "Lex" Sanders Attorney at Law



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Mark Wainwright, Sr.

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Mark Gregory Wainwright, Sr., 59, of Keystone Heights died on Friday, March 23, 2018 at his home. He was born in Jacksonville on Dec. 6, 1958 to Marion Francis and Martha Gayle (Pringle) Wainwright. He was raised in Jacksonville and moved to Keystone Heights 20 years ago. He was preceded in death by his father, Marion.

He is survived by: his children, Mark “Greg” (Stephanie)

Wainwright, Jr. of Keystone Heights, Matthew T. (Claire) Wainwright of Bishop, Georgia, and Abigail Wainwright of Crescent City; mother, Martha Cowan of Crescent City; and brother, Mike Wainwright of Lake City. Also left behind are five grandchildren; and many other family members.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 7, at AMVETS Post 86, 6685 Brooklyn Bay Road, Keystone Heights. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Keystone Heights.



Betty Wyatt

STARKE—Betty Lois Wyatt, age 68, of Starke formerly of Jacksonville passed away Monday, March 26, 2018 at Windsor Health & Rehabilitation Center in Starke. Mrs. Wyatt was born on Sept. 18, 1949 in Montgomery, Alabama to the late Carlos Dalton and Annie Lois (Nelson) Batson and was a resident of Starke for 14 years. Betty was a Baptist and prior to retirement, was an Ombudsman Military Wife with the United States Navy and was the

owner/operator of Ms. Bee’s Day Care at Mayport Naval Station in Jacksonville. She enjoyed fishing, cooking, playing cards, attending yard sales, and sewing. Her greatest joy was spending time with her grandchildren. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by: her siblings, Dalton Batson, Jr., Mary Ellen Bennett, Ann Herrin; and her granddaughter, Casey King.

Survivors are: her husband of thirty-four years, Brian William Wyatt of Starke; daughter, Tammy King of Starke; brother, Charles “Buddy” Batson, of Alma, Georgia; and her sister, Mary Lois Crews of Jacksonville. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Brandi Nicole King, and Donald “Donnie” King, III; great-grandchildren, Hunter “Hunter Man” King, Colby “Pooky” King, Mason King, Kyra King, Amaya King, and Alyse King.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, March 29 in the DeWitt C. Jones Chapel from 5-7:00 p.m. Funeral services will be at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, March 30, at the DeWitt C. Jones Chapel with interment following at Crosby Lake Cemetery. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke. 904-964-6200.

PAID OBITUARY

Alvarez wins Region 1-1A title for BHS



Bradford's Jakob Alvarez won the Region 1-1A championship in the unlimited class to automatically qualify for the state finals. Photo by Shelley Rodgers.

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

All seven Bradford High School boys’ weightlifters placed, with Jakob Alvarez winning the unlimited class at the Region 1-1A finals, which were held March 24 at Baker County High School.

Alvarez, who was a state runner-up last year, punched his ticket to this year’s state finals,

which will be held Friday, April 6, at Arnold High School in Panama City Beach. He had a 465 bench press and a 300 clean and jerk for a 765 total.

“I wasn’t surprised by Jakob’s performance because I see the work he puts in on a daily basis,” Bradford coach Caleb Dukes said. “Jakob is very self-motivated, which sets him apart from most other kids, and is very coach-able. He told me he was feeling good before the meet during warm ups, so I was expecting a big day from him. I know how bad he wanted to win regionals, and he put on a show.”

Zion Barber, a state qualifier last year, was the runner-up in the 169 class. He had a 335 bench press and a 295 clean and jerk for a 630 total.

Tyric Oliver had a 440 total (225 bench press, 215 clean and jerk) to finish third in the 154 class, while Jordan “Biscuit”

Luke, a state qualifier last year, was fourth in the unlimited class with a 725 total (380, 345). Luke actually tied Union County’s Agelu Nunu for third, but Nunu was awarded third outright due to the weigh-in tiebreaker.

Taro Ward earned a fourth-place finish in the 169 class with a 560 total (310, 250), while Maurice Hewitt and Ian McGowan each placed sixth. Hewitt had a 280 total (155, 125) in the 119 class, while McGowan had a 405 total (200, 205) in the 154 class.

The seven lifters’ efforts helped Bradford place third in the team standings, just three points behind runner-up Suwannee.

More lifters will probably join Alvarez at state. A total of 12 at-large qualifiers will be chosen in each weight class by comparing all of the second- through sixth-place totals recorded at the regional meets.

UCHS baseball team drops 1-run district game

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

A two-RBI single by Crescent City’s Wes Owens in the bottom of the third proved to be the difference in the Union County High School baseball team’s 3-2 District 6-1A loss to the host Raiders on March 23.

Tripp Davis had an RBI, but the Tigers (7-5) were limited to four hits in falling to 1-2 in the district.

Union entered the game off a 15-7 loss to visiting Hamilton County on March 21.

Davis drove in two runs in the bottom of the fifth on a single to pull the Tigers to within 8-7, but the Trojans scored seven runs in the sixth and seventh innings.

Whip Davis went 2-for-3 with three RBI, while Braxton Dukes and Skyler Shatto each had one RBI.

The Tigers played Bradford this past Tuesday and will host district opponent Hilliard on Friday, March 30, at 7 p.m. Union plays at Duval Charter on Monday, April 2, at 6 p.m. before hosting Episcopal on Tuesday, April 3, at 7 p.m.

Card of Thanks

Thank you for your kind expressions of sympathy. Our family deeply and sincerely appreciates your thoughts and prayers.

The Family of Mary “Yvonne” Brown

Letters

Thankful for the Whole Wide World (& Starke)

Dear Editor:
I would like to first thank Ms. Warren for reading my initial letter to the editor. When prompted to write the letter, I poured my heart into it and sincerely appreciate it finding an audience. Unfortunately, I feel like Ms. Warren might have perceived the letter as a personal attack or an attack on Starke. The letter was not intended to “preach to the choir” and certainly not intended to corner a choir member in such a way that she needed to restate every good deed she had ever done for the community.

The letter was instead intended to spark constructive conversation about issues that have existed in Starke longer than Ms. Warren has been a “Starkette” or I have been an earthling. Throwing money and time at situations does not solve issues left long unaddressed that cause problems to continue to snowball from generation to generation.

These issues — poor infrastructure, poverty, unemployment, racism, narrow mindedness, teen pregnancy, alcohol and substance abuse to name a few—stem from a failure to open our hearts and minds and lend our ears to people who can help us address the issues and ultimately solve the problems.

These solutions may come from individuals and/or organizations that may be different than those “from around here;” they may very well come from those considered outsiders who have already experienced the same issues and already solved the same problems.

I, too, want Starke to be a great place but know that if we don’t remove stumbling blocks to progress, we will ultimately dry up and blow away. Change can be good. If we are not moving forward, we are rolling backward.

Fear paralyzes, and Starke fears change! We are reminded more than 365 times in the Bible to “fear not.” (That’s a reminder for each day of the year.) We must embrace constructive change while rejecting destructive change, but nevertheless, we must change!

I know Ms. Warren will agree that there is always room for improvement. Let’s ALL work toward making Starke the best it can be for generations to come!

Still hopeful,
Kim Lawson Box

Clay schools must be brought to heel

Dear Editor:

I’ve read in recent local papers about students threatening to shoot up schools. These young people swamped in nihilism will copycat high-profile events (or threaten to), especially if it

means going out with a well-publicized bang. Give ‘em some PRESS, baby.

Also, a consistent thread running through mass shootings is the use of antidepressants and other drugs that cause psychotic breakdowns. I’d be curious to know if drugs were involved in any local threats, or if these students simply wanted to cause a stir.

Regardless, it shows that Clay County is not exempt from the degeneracy of our age. The shadow of purposelessness and hedonism shrouds the school hallways as much as the marijuana smoke does, and without vision or virtue, it will set in for total decay. Even if you take the guns, the sickness remains.

The Clay school system still rides on a reputation for excellence, but that is simply no longer the case. It can’t be. Teachers and other staff get up in school board meetings and whine about salaries, hot school buses, hot classrooms, insurance costs, and also promote transgenderism as a viable option for grade-schoolers. They’ve also revealed that there are queers in the classrooms right now teaching your children. Never mind the cronyism going on within the administration that uses the public budget as a loot chest. Stop getting played like a punk.

Now, I can rail and rail against the useless people running the schools and the dykes running the unions, but plenty of you will get caught up in the theatrics and rhetoric of the upcoming

election for school board. You’d be crazy to consider for even one second that these people will help improve education for your children. Or even provide anything at all but weak, corporate, platitudinous, global multiculturalism — and that goes for any politician out to con suckers this year.

When a superintendent or an administrator publishes some slick piece of garbage for you, the parent, to read or hear, he will often refer to you as a “stakeholder.” Well the stakes are high and the game is fierce. Fixing the schools will require strength, will, and action. Behind each of these shooters and those threatening to shoot is a parent without a clue. Get a clue and get fanatical about the future for your children. What could possibly be more important?

If your child spends most of his or her time in front of a screen, he or she is almost assuredly mentally unhealthy in some way (not to mention physically as well). The only question is the severity. Contact lists, endless images, videos, and chat boxes are all vicarious surrogates for meaningful experiences. When you combine these dramatic, virtual worlds with subsequent peer pressure and drugs (prescribed or otherwise), you end up with a distraught young person who is experiencing a false world meant to enthrall him. Social media systems admittedly use Pavlovian feedback systems against human insecurities to enforce this paradigm.

Strive to be role models; strive

for strength and virtue. Bend the school system to your will — not with votes and bureaucracy, but with foaming mobs—or break it trying. If the schools are betraying your values and your trust, then the whole thing is illegitimate and must be brought to heel.

When the progeny who make it through and manage to avoid becoming brain-dead grey blobs look back on these grim seasons, how will they view your legacy?

Will they see a couch potato—a veritable satellite spud nugget fusing to the furniture bathed in blue light being dictated to by effeminate squinters and puckerers? Or will they see a hardcore exemplar and gush with ancestral pride? Choice is yours.

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The Weekly Paw Print:

Cute and cuddly is the Easter bunny. With the impending arrival of the Lagomorph of Lent I thought it might be fun to deliver some facts about the rabbit. Rabbits and hares are “lagomorphs,” not rodents. Lagomorphs were originally classified as rodents, but in 1912 the distinction was made between rabbits and rodents. Hares and rabbits are in the same family, Leporidae, but they are different species, like sheep and goats are different species. Rabbits live underground while Hares live above ground. The notable exception is the American Cottontail (not Peter), which lives above ground like the Hare. Rabbits live 10 to 12 years. They reproduce at a tremendous rate: in one year a single female rabbit can produce as many as 800 children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren! A baby rabbit is called a kit, a female is called a doe, and a male is a buck. A group of rabbits is called a herd. Jackrabbits have been clocked at speeds of 45 miles per hour. Happy rabbits practice a cute behavior known as a “binky”—they jump up in the air and twist and spin around! Rabbits are herbivores, eating a diet entirely of grasses and other plants. Because their diet contains so much cellulose, they pass two different kinds of feces to completely break down their food. While other grazers will chew and swallow their feed, then “burp” it back up (as cows chew cud), rabbits will re-ingest their feces on the first pass to get all of the nutrients they need. Bunnies cannot vomit, so it is super important to feed them only healthy, fresh, appropriate food. A rabbit’s teeth never stop growing! Many people believe they need to chew to keep their teeth short. While they do enjoy chewing, it’s the normal wear from where their top and bottom teeth meet that keeps a rabbit’s teeth short. Can you guess what other domestic animal is similar to rabbits? A horse! They have similar eyes, teeth, and ears (those belonging to many prey animals), as well as a similar diet and behavior. Clearly, their size is much different...

Happy Easter!!

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BHS beats KHHS 6-5, improves to 5-2 in district

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Sterling Raab hit a two-out line-drive single to center field that scored two runs in the top of the seventh to help the Bradford High School baseball team defeat host Keystone Heights 6-5 and improve to 5-2 in District 5-5A on March 23.

Raab's hit put the Tornados up 6-3, but the Indians scored two runs in the bottom of the seventh before pitcher Cayden Martin eventually earned the save.

Jacob Polk earned the win for Bradford (7-4), giving up two runs (one earned) in 4.2 innings on three hits and two walks. He had six strikeouts. Martin gave up three hits and no walks in 1.1 inning.

Polk excelled at the plate as well, going 2-for-3 with two RBI and two runs scored. Both RBI

were part of a three-run second inning that put the Tornados up 4-0.

The Tornados' Brandon Sanford, like Raab, had one RBI. Sanford also scored twice.

Will Yeldell and Gary Searle went 2-for-2 and 2-for-3, respectively, for Keystone (4-8, 2-4). Yeldell and Nate Gagnon each had one RBI, while Stevie Rodriguez scored two runs.

Keystone pitcher Connor Osteen struck out seven in 6.2 innings.

Bradford entered the game on a roll, having won two straight following an 11-3 loss to visiting Baker County on March 13.

Polk and Tucker Stack each had an RBI in the Baker loss, with Garfield Johns and Peyton Welch each going 2-for-4.

On March 12, Welch drove in three runs in a 12-5 win over visiting West Nassau. Welch went 2-for-4, while Trent Bryant

had two RBI. Sanford and Kanler Vann each went 2-for-3. Sanford, who hit a double, had one RBI, as did Raab, Brandon Anders and Dakota Mathews.

Bryant earned the win on the mound, giving up eight hits and three walks in a complete-game effort. He had six strikeouts.

The Tornados traveled to play district opponent P.K. Yonge on March 16, with Polk pitching a strong five innings and Sanford in a groove at the plate in a 5-1 win.

Polk gave up one run on six hits and no walks, while striking out seven. Johns gave up one hit and one walk in the final two innings, striking out four.

Sanford drove in two runs, going 3-for-4 with two doubles and one triple. Bryant and Polk each had an RBI, with Bryant going 2-for-3.

Bradford played Union County this past Tuesday and will host



Keystone shortstop Stevie Rodriguez waits for a throw that's too late as Bradford's Brandon Anders steals second.



Keystone's Gary Searle watches a pitch come in.



Sterling Raab makes a play at shortstop for the Tornados.



Keystone catcher Alex Kanos prepares to make a throw.



Bradford's Brandon Sanford makes a throw from third.



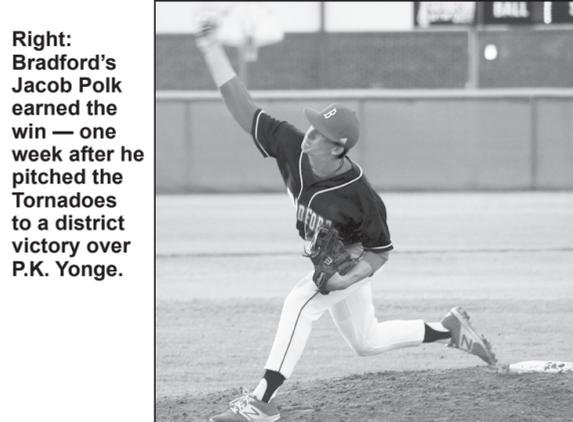
Stevie Rodriguez dives across home plate to score a run for Keystone in the third inning.



Left: Kanler Vann crosses home plate for Bradford during a three-run second inning.



Keystone second baseman Colton Crane prepares to field a grounder.



Right: Bradford's Jacob Polk earned the win — one week after he pitched the Tornados to a district victory over P.K. Yonge.

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Crawford is runner-up for UCHS at Region 1-1A finals



Union's Chase Crawford was the Region 1-1A runner-up in the 139-pound class. Photo by Shelley Rodgers.

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Two Union County High School boys' weightlifters earned medals, with Chase Crawford finishing as the runner-up in the 139-pound class at the Region 1-1A finals, which were held March 24 at Baker County High School.

Crawford had a 245 bench press and a 215 clean and jerk, finishing with a 460 total.

Agelu Nunu tied with Bradford's Jordan Luke in the unlimited class, but was awarded

third outright due to the weigh-in tiebreaker. Nunu had a 450 bench press and a 275 clean and jerk for a 725 total.

The two lifters wait to find out if they are at-large qualifiers for the state finals, which will be held Friday, April 6, at Arnold High School in Panama City Beach. Their efforts helped Keystone score 52 points as a team, but the Indians settled for the Region 5 runner-up trophy as Tavares scored 57 points.

Dodd won the unlimited class with a bench press of 340 and a clean and jerk of 295. His 635 total was 20 pounds better than Tavares' John Douglas. Semione won the 219 class with a bench press of 300 and a clean and jerk of 280. His 580 total was 25 pounds better than teammate Cameron Musselman, who had a bench press of 300 and a clean and jerk of 255.

Region 2 runner-up KHHS will send at least 3 to state

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Three earned automatic state berths for the Keystone Heights High School boys' weightlifting team, which came up just shy of winning the team championship at the Region 5-1A finals, which were hosted by Keystone on March 24.

Dan Dodd, Carter Semione and Brandon Spivey won their respective weight classes, which puts them in the state finals, which will be held Friday, April 6, at Arnold High School in Panama City Beach. Their efforts helped Keystone score 52 points as a team, but the Indians settled for the Region 5 runner-up trophy as Tavares scored 57 points.

Dodd won the unlimited class with a bench press of 340 and a clean and jerk of 295. His 635 total was 20 pounds better than Tavares' John Douglas. Semione won the 219 class with a bench press of 300 and a clean and jerk of 280. His 580 total was 25 pounds better than teammate Cameron Musselman, who had a bench press of 300 and a clean and jerk of 255.

Spivey, who was the state runner-up in his class last season, won the 139 class with a bench press of 265 and a clean and jerk of 235. His 500 total was 75 pounds ahead of Tavares' Kamron Patterson.

"I'm excited for all three of them," Keystone coach Lantz Lowery said of his individual regional champions. "They work hard. They're good kids. They do what they're supposed to do, and it pays off."

Lowery was also pleased with the performances of the lifters who earned second-place finishes: Musselman, Alex Cruz and C.J. Parks, who were runners-up in their classes. Cruz had a 580 total (305 bench press, 275 clean and jerk) in the 183 class, finishing 20 pounds behind Tavares' Nikolas Gonzales. Parks had a 315 total (200, 195) in the

129 class, finishing 5 pounds behind Tavares' Kaleb Leafers.

Keystone had a pair of fourth-place finishers in Tucker Kicklighter, who had a 310 total (165, 145) in the 129 class, and Briar Smith, who had a 455 total (240, 215) in the 154 class.

Four earned fifth-place finishes: Holden Knapp with a 285 total (140, 145) in the 119 class, Jesse Donahue with a 375 total (195, 180) in the 139 class, Hunter Stitt with a 450 total (235, 215) in the 154 class and Josh Hughes with a 525 total (260, 265) in the 199 class.

Also earning points for Keystone were sixth-place lifters Briar Schenck and Kaleb Vojnovski. Schenck had a 240 total (115, 125) in the 119 class, while Vojnovski had a 440 total (230, 210) in the 183 class.

Winners at all of the state's regional meets qualify for state. A total of 12 at-large qualifiers will be chosen in each weight class by comparing all of the second- through sixth-place totals recorded at the regional meets. Lowery said he feels pretty good about Cruz's chances of advancing, but hated to venture a guess as to whether any other of his lifters would qualify. "You have no idea," he said. "That's why they line them up and pick them."

Keystone had 18 lifters competing at the Region 5 meet, half of which are sophomores or younger. Among those who earned points, Schenck is a seventh-grader, while Donahue, Kicklighter, Knapp, Parks and Vojnovski are freshmen.

Lowery said he hopes competing at the regional level was a positive experience for those younger kids, but he also hopes that finishing second as a team doesn't sit well with them. "We've got a whole slew of young kids that'll be back," Lowery said. "I hope they're excited about what happened today, but I also hope it sticks in their stomach a little bit, that you shouldn't lose."



Brandon Spivey, who was a state runner-up last year, returns to this year's state finals after winning the Region 5-1A title in the 139-pound class.



Carter Semione automatically qualified for state by winning the 219-pound class at the Region 5-1A finals.



Dan Dodd was one of three Region 5-1A champions for Keystone. He won the unlimited class and will compete in the April 6 state finals.

BHS girls, UCHS boys tennis teams victorious

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Union County High School hosted Bradford High School in tennis on March 26, with Bradford's girls winning 4-3 and Union's boys winning 7-0.

Bradford's Chelsea Creighton defeated Anabell Miller 8-3, while Union's Erin Stidham defeated Rilynn Kelley 8-2. Bradford's Morgan Bradley was leading Gracie Crook 7-3 before winning by forfeit, while Union's Anna Shealy defeated Kiersten French 8-1. Union's Lauren Britt defeated Cassidy Howard 8-0.

It was the third win in six matches this season for Creighton, while Bradley picked up her second win in four matches.

Britt and Shealy, with their wins, now have .500 records. Britt is 3-3, while Shealy is 6-6. Stidham improved to 5-8 with her win.

In doubles, Bradford's Creighton and



Bradford's Chelsea Creighton



Bradford's Dustin Jones



Union's Anabell Miller



Union's Sidney Johnson

Shealy 8-1, giving the Bradford team its third win in six matches. Union's Britt and Stidham defeated Bradley and French 8-4.

On the boys' side, Union's Sidney Johnson defeated Dustin Jones 8-1, while Union's Alex Perez defeated Nate Caraway 8-0. The Tigers' A.P. Griffis and Griffin Whiteley won 8-1 and 8-3, respectively, over Bradley Henderson and Earl Green. Union's Dalton Hutchinson defeated Gabe

Wells 8-0.

Griffis improved to 5-5, while Perez inched closer to .500, improving to 7-8. Hutchinson is now 6-8, while Whiteley picked up his fifth win in eight matches.

In doubles, Johnson and Perez defeated Caraway and Jones 8-3, while Griffis and Hutchinson defeated Green and Henderson 8-1.

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'I didn't know you had this many tools'

Jackson Building Supply keeps rolling out the improvements

Lately, a lot of Jackson Building Supply customers have said they are surprised by the large selection of power tools the Starke-based hardware store has on hand.

Eric Jackson said the store has always sold drills, saws, sanders, nailers and other power tools, but until recently, they were kept behind the counter. Now, the tools are displayed in a dedicated section in the front of the store. And the family has expanded the selection of DeWalt, Hitachi, Bostitch, Arrow and Skil tools in addition to lowering prices.

It's just one more improvement the Jacksons have implemented to provide

quality, local service to Starke, Lake Butler and the Lake Region.

However, power tools aren't the only thing that people are talking about. Recently, Marc and Eric Jackson discussed some of the most frequent comments they've heard through the years from their customers and employees.

"They're going to put us out of business"

Back in 1955, when Billy Jackson first started selling the remnants of buildings he demolished to the public: used lumber, nails, plumbing fixtures, electrical items and more, Starke Builders



(L-r) Jackson Building Supply employees: (l-r) Marc Jackson, Kelly Outlaw, Greg Jackson, Eric Jackson, Priscilla Jackson, Eric Noegel, Bill Bosier and Bill Moody. Not pictured: Mike Shemer, James Balkcom and Billy Rehgerg.

and Pangborn Lumber were Bradford County's and the Lake Region's primary building suppliers.

Since that time, Marc and Eric have seen many competitors come and go, and each time a new arrival entered the market, customers and employees would always say: "they're going to put us out of business."

From Scotty's to Ace; from Do It Best to True Value; and from Home Depot to Amazon—some have left, some have remained.

Marc and Eric said that while they respect the competition, they focus on the customer and that has led to the company's 62-year track record.

"I wish I came here first"

Eric said he wishes he had a quarter for every phone call he has received from a customer in Middleburg or Gainesville, searching for an item and

discovering that after driving miles without success, the very thing they were looking for was five minutes from home.

With six decades in the building and hardware business, Marc knows what to stock. And Eric has built a reputation for hitting the phone and internet, relentlessly searching for something they might not have.

Think about it. If you go to Jackson's first, and they don't have what you are looking for, you've lost nothing. The other way around, and you've wasted hours.

"I didn't know you were here"

Seems hard to believe. They've been in the same location since 1975, on Bradford County's busiest

road: U.S. 301, just past the new Burger King. Yet, some customers still say: "I didn't know you were here."

"The store looks different"

A few years ago, the Jacksons approved a complete store reset, replacing shelving and signs, flooring and more. The sales desk went from the back of the store to the front, and the entrance went from the middle of the building to the side.

But the changes didn't stop there. Recently, Eric upgraded the store's interior lighting with LED bulbs. An alert customer can probably notice something different every time he walks through the door.



Jackson Building Supply has expanded its selection of DeWalt, Hitachi, Bostitch, Arrow and Skil tools in addition to lowering prices.

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Hamilton has 4 RBI in Tigers' 12-3 win over Indians

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Kensley Hamilton drove in four runs, three of which occurred on a bases-loaded double in the fifth inning as the Union County High School softball team defeated visiting Keystone Heights 12-3 on March 27.

Hamilton went 3-for-5 with two doubles as the third-ranked Class 1A Tigers (9-2) knocked off the second-ranked team

in Class 5A. Hamilton's fifth-inning double scored three of six runs in the inning as Union built a 10-2 lead.

Winning pitcher Lexi Androlevich got in on the scoring, too, driving in two runs, one of which occurred on a solo home run in the sixth inning.

Kamaya Cohen went 4-for-4 with a double and an RBI, while Teala Howard and Brooke Waters each had an RBI, with

Howard going 3-for-5. Shelby Spratlin went 2-for-4.

Androlevich gave up seven hits and two walks.

Keystone (12-4) got a two-run homer from Molly Crawford to make it 4-2 in the fourth inning. She finished with the two RBI, while Makayla Smith added one RBI. Bailey Story went 2-for-4.

Prior to playing the Indians, the Tigers traveled to Hawthorne on March 22, coming away with an 18-0 District 6 win in

three innings.

Waters had four RBI, while Hamilton and Randa Godwin each had two. Hamilton and Godwin went 3-for-3 and 2-for-3, respectively.

Androlevich, Cohen, Howard, Spratlin, Reah Jones and Madelyn Kish each had one RBI. Howard went 3-for-3, while Kish and Spratlin each went 2-for-3.

Androlevich hit a double, while Cohen hit a triple.

Pitchers Waters and Howard combined to give up no hits and just one walk. Waters had three strikeouts in one inning, while Howard had four in two.

The Tigers, who improved to 5-0 in District 6, travel to play Class 5A Bradford on Thursday, March 29, at 7 p.m. They then return home to play Bradford on Monday, April 2, at 7 p.m.

Keystone travels to play District 5 opponent Fort White on Thursday, March 29, at 6 p.m.



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Top: Union second baseman Angela Shope (right) makes a throw to first as Keystone's Bailey Story runs to second base, which is covered by Kamaya Cohen.

Middle: Keystone's Ashleigh Jennings (left) beats out an infield single. Union first baseman Brooke Waters awaits the throw, as pitcher Lexi Androlevich looks on in the background.

Bottom: Kensley Hamilton slides home for a Union run in the fifth inning. Also pictured are Keystone catcher Bailey Story and Keystone pitcher Megan Moncrief.

KHHS softball team still unbeaten in district with 5-2 win over BHS

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Bailey Story's RBI double, Savannah Channell's solo home run and an error that allowed Skylar Rollins to score put the Keystone Heights High School softball team up 3-0 in an eventual 5-2 District 5-5A win over Bradford on March 23 in Starke.

Story went 2-for-3 with two doubles to help keep the Indians (12-3) undefeated in the district with a 10-0 record. Ashleigh Jennings and Lexi Northway each went 2-for-4, while Molly Crawford had an RBI.

Daelynn Eatmon threw a complete game for Keystone, giving up five hits and one walk, while striking out seven.

Bradford (6-7, 4-4) got one RBI each from Savana Shealey and Brooklyn Wiggins. Emily McCoy hit a double.

Keystone entered the game off a 9-2 loss to defending Class 8A champion Oakleaf on March 22 in Keystone. Story had an RBI, while Jennings went 2-for-4.

The Tornados were coming off a 7-3 district loss to host Newberry on March 22. Shealey, who hit a double, had two RBI, while Gracie Blankenship, who also hit a double, drove in one run. Wiggins went 2-for-3, while Harli Phillips hit a double.

Bradford played district opponent Fort White this past Tuesday and will host defending Class 1A champion Union County on Thursday, March 29, at 7 p.m. The Tornados then travel to play Union on Monday, April 2, at 7 p.m. before hosting district opponent Palatka on Tuesday, April 3, at 7 p.m.