

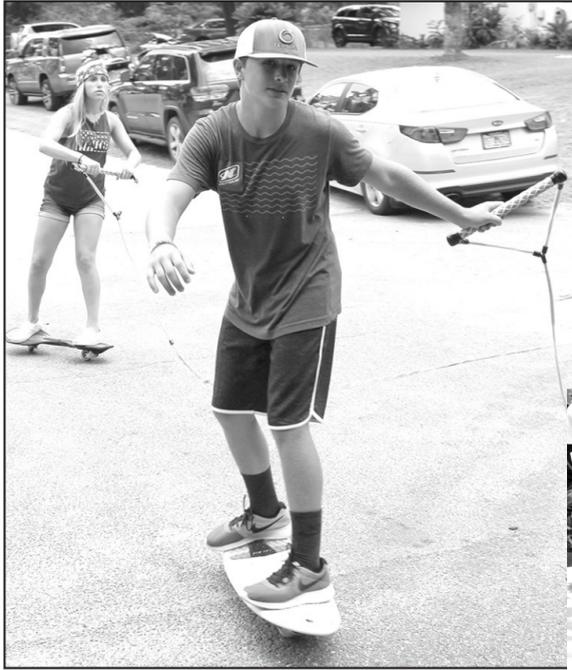
Lake Region Monitor

USPS 114-170 — Keystone Heights, Florida

Thursday, July 12, 2018

45th Year — 10th Issue — 75 CENTS

Lake Region celebrates nation's independence



events, clockwise from top, left: Lindsay and Landon Hovsepian trailing the Lake Area Watersports Boat. Photo: Dan Hildebran
 Brad Harvey of the Keystone Golf and Country Club. Photo: Dan Hildebran
 Last-minute watermelon eating contest entries Julia Wilcox and 17-year-old son Johnathon Wilcox started gingerly, but mom ended up as the third-place winner. Photo Athie Sanders.
 Todd and Debbie Beals of Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty. Photo: Dan Hildebran
 With the Firepower Coffee Roasters float: (l-r) Lake Beck, Tara Farnsworth, Emily Farnsworth and Eric Farnsworth. Photo: Dan Hildebran

AMVETS Post 86 host July 4th family event

BY ATHIE SANDERS
 Special to the Monitor

Keystone Heights AMVETS Post 86 hosted a community family event July 4 after the parade and into the night.

"This is our first time being able to put on such a family event for the 4th of July," said Keri Judge, president of the Woman's Auxiliary. "We want families to come here and make memories."

AMVETS members participated in the parade and then came to the post and opened their grounds to everyone in the community to come for fun and fellowship.

There was a gigantic water slide for adults and older children. In a separate area, small children had several age-appropriate water-play and blow-up slide areas to choose from.

The building committee refurbished the outside bar to better serve members and guest. Hamburgers and hotdogs were offered from the grill and a variety of adult and children drinks were available.

"Families are growing up. A new generation of veterans is coming on and we want to be welcoming," said Judge.



(L-r) Gail Wooten, Gerry Wooten and Kim Willis show their American pride at the AMVETS July 4 event. AMVETS building committee replaced the outside bar to provide a more serviceable area for people to eat, drink and be merry.

Judge added that AMVETS's main goal to embrace and support veterans but that they also want to serve their community.

AMVETS members will host a Back-to-School Bash Aug. 4 when they will give away school supplies to anyone who

comes. The event is open to the community.

Business group drops Halloween event

Cites increased security costs

Kiwanis re-evaluating parade sponsorships

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
 Managing Editor

The Keystone-Lake Region Business Association said it is dropping its sponsorship of the town's annual Boo-on-the-Boulevard Halloween event because of increasing security costs.

KLRBA board member Deborah Strickland made the announcement during the group's July meeting Monday.

President Harold Gilstrap said in an interview the following day that prior to this year, the group's primary cost for producing the event was liability insurance of around \$750. He added that the organization's board estimated that security charges from the Clay County Sheriff's Office would double the association's costs for the downtown candy giveaway this year.

"With three to five cops out there for 2 to three hours, we just don't have the money for that," Gilstrap said.

Gilstrap said that the board agreed to use the \$750 to help the Lake Region Kiwanis Club

finance the Our Country Day Parade and to assist the Lions Club with providing eyeglasses to area youth.

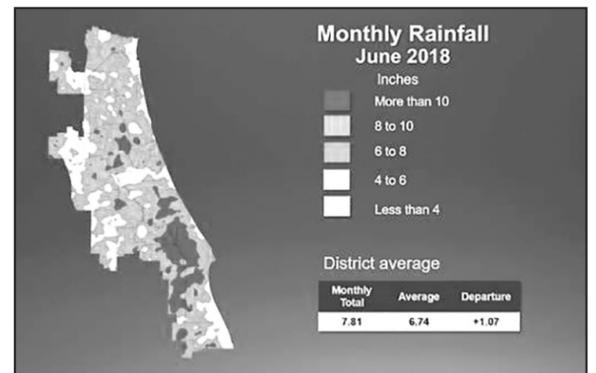
During the July 9 business association meeting Lake Region Kiwanis President-elect Tina Bullock said that her organization is re-evaluating its role in the community's two parades because of increasing security costs. She said that between the two events, the group is looking at a \$3,000 security bill. The club organizes the Our Country Day Parade on July 4 and a nighttime Christmas parade in December.

In June, the Keystone Heights City Council, acting as the city's community redevelopment agency, contributed \$500 toward security costs for this year's July Fourth parade. Council member Steve Hart said the group estimated this year's total security bill for the Independence Day event at \$1,500.

Sheriff's Office spokesman Sgt. Keith Smith said that in the past, his agency has relied on reserves to staff special events. However, with dwindling participation in the office's reserve program, the sheriff now uses sworn officers for the events and charges its standard \$30-an-hour off-duty rate to cover deputies' pay and other costs.

See SECURITY, 3A

Above average rainfall continued in June



Seminole County had the highest monthly rainfall, at 8.8 inches, followed by Putnam, with 8.7 inches, and Brevard, with 8.6 inches.

While rainfall has not reached record-breaking levels, June continued a trend of higher-than-average rainfall for counties within the St. Johns River Water Management District. A full hydrological report was presented during Tuesday's governing board meeting.

The district has received above-average rain for nine of the past 12 months, with areas of unusually high rainfall in parts of St. Johns, Flagler and Brevard counties. The districtwide 12-month rainfall total is 13.5 inches above average.

Flagler County had the highest 12-month rainfall total, with 72 inches.

Seminole County had the highest monthly rainfall, at 8.8 inches, followed by Putnam, with 8.7 inches, and Brevard, with 8.6 inches.

Even the driest counties, which include Alachua, Bradford and Indian River, experienced more than 6 inches of rain during June.

In other news from the July meeting of the St. Johns River Water Management District:

The St. Johns River Water Management District's Governing Board Tuesday approved a tentative budget that reduces the millage rate for taxpayers for a sixth consecutive year.

"This tentative budget reflects the district's continued commitment to our core missions of water supply, water quality, flood protection and natural systems," said St. Johns River Water Management District Executive Director Dr. Ann Shortelle. "We continue to invest taxpayer dollars and focus our efforts on cooperative projects that are helping to restore and protect our water resources."

The tentative 0.2562 millage rate would result in nearly \$87 million in revenue toward a total \$142.5 million budget for fiscal year 2018-2019, which begins Oct. 1, 2018. The budget is also funded through state, federal and other district sources (including timber sales, cattle leases, interest earnings and permit fees).

The millage rate adopted by the board is approximately six percent less than the current year's tax rate.

Under a 0.2562 millage rate — 25.62 cents for every \$1,000

See WATER, 3A

Governing board lowers millage rate for sixth consecutive year

Deadline Monday 5 p.m. before publication • Phone 904-964-6305 • Fax 904-964-8628

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Stars on the Boulevard

Photos from the Our Country Day Parade



AMVETS Post 86 Commander Bob Beinlich. All photos: Dan Hildebran



Realtor Helen Hersey and Clay Electric board member Dewitt Hersey.



Miss Keystone Heights High School Ellen Reddish and Nathaniel Smith,



Adam Gilhousen and Clay County School Board member Ashley Gilhousen.



Clay County School Board member Betsey Condon.



Adults riding with Attorney VeRonica Owens (backseat) are Steven and Sarah Milligan (front).



(Left) Bradford County Democrats Chair Kate Ellison and Clay County Commission candidate Cheryl Owen.



Parade Grand Marshal Tina Bullock.



Clay County Commission Candidate Smitty Huffman and Katherine Webb.



Bradford County Commission candidate Tom Germano.



Clay County Commissioner Gavin Rollins.



Congressman Ted Yoho.



Jamie Stokes of Celebrate Recovery at Fresh Start Fellowship.



Shriners (l-r): David Kensley, David Outten, Bruce Ford and Richard Geraci.



On Clay County School Board member Janice Kerekes' float (l-r) Michael Kerekes, Clay County School Board candidate Lynne Hirabayashi Chafee, School Board member Janice Kerekes, Lucy Hoover and Clay County School Board member Carol Studdard.

Infant repeats Dad's baby crawl win from 29 years ago



(L-r) Father Blake Wilson, Berenger "The Bear" Wilson (8 months), Grandfather J-Pa Wilson, Mother Natalie Wilson, Shae Wilson (4), Great grandpa Jimmy Wilson and Kai Wilson (6).

BY ATHIE SANDERS
Special to the Monitor

An 8-month-old won the Our Country Day Baby Crawl behind City Hall on July 4, repeating the same feat his father accomplished 29 years ago.

Berenger Wilson, known by family members as The Bear, beat out two other infants in the annual event.

After the race, Wilson's father Blake said he won the baby crawl in 1989, making the 8-month-old a second-generation winner.

Four generations of Wilsons cheered The Bear on.

The other two contestants: Leland Hobbie (9 months) and Kensley Seneca (10 months) did not like being left at the start line and protested baby-style while Wilson shot across

the mat and was declared the winner.

Babies that have not begun to walk were eligible to participate in the contest. The first baby to crawl across the designated finish line would be the winner. Competitors were not required to stay in their lanes.

Parents could not walk alongside their babies or step on the mat. Cheering and enticement were strongly encouraged but babies could not be nudged off the start line. Props such as toys were encouraged except no food, bottles or drinks were to be used.

All babies were lined up and appeared ready to go. At the start of the race parents darted to the other end of the mat to entice their child to crawl to them.

Dow wins watermelon-eating contest for 4th consecutive year

Cozine wins youth class



DQ! Stacey Dow (center) is disqualified after picking up her watermelon to get better positioning.



Adult winners (l-r) 2nd Place: Owen Fagan, First Place: Brian Dow and 3rd Place: Julia Wilcox.



Winners of the youth class (l-r) Second Place Jade Budny, First Place: Jacob Cozine and Third Place: Becca Noble.

BY ATHIE SANDERS
Special to the Monitor

Young and old gathered behind City Hall to participate in Keystone Heights' Sixth Annual Watermelon Eating Contest on July 4.

Contestants registered in two age categories: 10 to 15 and 15 plus. One rule variation between the classes allowed the kids to use their hands to lift and position their watermelon whereas adults could only touch their melon to stabilize it on the table.

The goal was to eat a quarter slice of watermelon quicker than the other contestants. A time limit of 15 minutes was given. Judges called winners as they saw white rind showing in more than one spot on the watermelon bed. The judges' calls was deemed final.

First-place winner for the

youth class was Jacob Cozine. As soon as he was declared winner Cozine laid out flat on the sidewalk and groaned.

Jade Bundy took second place and third went to 10-year-old Becca Noble.

The 15-year-and-over class was reminded that they were restricted to using their hands only for stabilizing their watermelons on the table. Any other use of hands would result in disqualification.

First place went to Brian Dow. Dow claimed the distinction of being the winner for the fourth consecutive year.

Owen Fagan came in second and third went to Julia Wilcox.

Stacey Dow was in the running to win when she was declared disqualified because she picked up her watermelon. "I picked it



Jacob Cozine was declared winner of the youth class. He dropped his watermelon slice and sprawled out on the sidewalk, groaning.



(L-r) Jade Budny and Becca Noble hear the first-place youth winner called and know they are close to winning second place.

up because I was trying to get a better positioning to get down to the rind," said Dow. "I'm OK with being disqualified. If I can't win, I'd rather be disqualified. Brian is my nephew."



Baby crawl start line (l-r) Blake Wilson and son Berenger Wilson (8 months), Rayna Hobbie and son Leland Hobbie (9 months) and Kenny Seneca and daughter Kensley Seneca (10 months) get ready to start the race. Parents set babies on the start line then dash to the finish line to entice their baby to crawl to them. Lanes are not important and the first baby to cross the finish line at the other end of the mat wins.

WATER

Continued from 1A

of assessed property value — the owner of a \$200,000 house with a \$50,000 homestead exemption would pay \$38.43 in the coming year in property taxes to the district.

The proposed budget will fund the district's major programs, such as priority water body and springs restoration and continued cost-share partnerships.

Public hearings will be held at 5:05 p.m. Sept. 11 and 25. Final budget adoption will occur at the Sept. 25 Governing Board meeting.

The St. Johns River Water Management District is one of five districts in Florida managing groundwater and surface water supplies in the state. The district encompasses all or part of 18 northeast and east-central Florida counties. District headquarters are in Palatka.

Correction

In the June 28 Monitor, we misidentified a contributor to school board candidate Tina Bullock's campaign. We identified the supporter as Michael Kerekes, a school district administrator. The Michael Kerekes who contributed to Bullock's campaign is not employed by any school district and is not a school district administrator. We apologize for the error.

SECURITY

Continued from 1A

"I would love to be able to say we could do it for free," Smith said. "In today's world, it's hard to get people to do police work for free."

He also said that for some holiday events, such as the Fourth of July, several groups throughout the county have scheduled their events at the same time, putting an additional strain on staffing security.

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Lake Region Monitor

USPS 114-170

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From the Our Country Day parade



Marching with the Keystone Sports Association were Ryder Thomas, Savannah Koppert Piper Pescara, Ryleigh Thomas, Alexis Brown, Larry Brown, Allianna Stevens, Brody Stevens, Tyler Griffin, Ray Paddock, Jackson Parmeter, Bentley Cooper, Willie Pollard, RJ Rosario and Ben Ulsch.

Palatka hospital partners with brain surgeons

Putnam Community Medical Center, an HCA North Florida hospital since 2015, has recently collaborated with the Neurosurgical Specialist of North Florida. The physicians at the Neurosurgical Specialists of North Florida provide comprehensive neurosurgical care using cutting-edge technology and advanced techniques to perform brain, spine, or nerve surgery.

The Neurosurgical Physician team, comprised of neurosurgeons Dr. Gregory Sherr and Dr. Siva Sriharan, will be holding clinic from the property known as Putnam Surgical Group located at 414 Zeagler Dr, in Palatka.

The group brings years of experience in the neurosurgical treatment of patients including Cervical Spine/Neck procedures, Thoracic Spine/ Mid Back & Lumbar Spine/

Lower Back, tumor removal and other Brain-related procedures, Peripheral Nerve Procedures, and neurosurgical critical care.

Dr. Gregory Sherr, Board Certified in Primary Neurological Surgery. Dr. Sherr attained his graduate Degree New York Medical College in 2004 prior to completing his residency and fellowship with the University of Minnesota in 2010. Dr. Gregory Sherr is an accomplished Neurosurgeon who has special experience in building trauma, complex stroke, and vascular programs, and he acts as the Neurosurgery Medical Director for North Florida Regional Medical Center. Dr. Sherr is recognized as being accomplished at performing surgeries in all subdivisions of Neurosurgery and all phases of care for Stroke and Trauma patients.

Dr. Siva Sriharan, Board Certified with American Board of Neurological Surgery, attained his graduate degree from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland prior to completing his fellowship in Complex Spinal Surgery at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He has also completed residencies at University of Alberta Hospitals, Walter C. McKenzie Sciences Center, St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center, McLaren Bay Region Hospital and Hotel-Dieu Grace Hospital. His main research interest includes the use of viral vectors in the transfer of various genes into human brain tumors. He has attained awards including the J.J. Fitzsimmons Gold Medal in Surgery, Sir William Wheeler Memorial Prize in Surgery, among other achievements.

LEGALS

LRM Legals 7/12/18

NOTICE

This is to inform George Miller, of 1478 Balkin Road, Tallahassee, FL 32305, he has 30 days to recover abandoned 1995 Harley Davidson, VIN # 1HD1BUL4XSY010783, located at 8136 State Road 100, Keystone Heights, FL 32305. This vehicle will be released to George Miller only. Storage fees of \$ 25.00 per month since Oct. 2013 totaling \$1425.00. A certified copy will be sent to above address.

7/5 4tchg/7/26-LRM

NOTICE OF AGENCY ACTION TAKEN BY THE ST. JOHNS RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Notice is given that the following permit was issued on June 19, 2018: Keystone Airpark Authority, 7100 Airport Rd., Stark, FL 32091-9347 permit# 93470-4. The project is located in Clay & Bradford County, Section 31 and 36, Township 7S South, Range 23E & 22E East. The permit authorizes a surface water management system on 20.6 acres for the rehabilitation of the existing roadway and apron known as Rehabilitate TW A & B New Apron Connector & Related Work. The receiving water body is Crystal Lake. A person whose substantial interests are or may be affected has the right to request an administrative hearing by filing a written petition with the St. Johns River Water Management District (District). Pursuant to Chapter 28-106 and Rule 40C-1.1007, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), the petition must be filed (received) either by delivery at the office of the District Clerk at District Headquarters, P.O. Box 1429, Palatka FL 32178-1429 (4049 Reid St., Palatka, FL 32177) or by e-mail with the District Clerk at Clerk@sjrwmd.com, within twenty-one (21) days of newspaper publication of the notice of District decision (for those persons to whom the District does not mail or email actual notice). A petition must comply with Sections 120.54(5)(b)4. and 120.569(2)(c), Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Chapter 28-106, F.A.C. The District will not accept a petition sent by facsimile (fax). Mediation pursuant to Section 120.573, F.S., may be available and choosing mediation does not affect your right to an administrative hearing.

A petition for an administrative hearing is deemed filed upon receipt of the complete petition by the District Clerk at the District Headquarters in Palatka, Florida during the District's regular business hours. The District's regular business hours are 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., excluding weekends and District holidays. Petitions received by the District Clerk after the District's regular business hours shall be deemed filed as of 8 a.m. on the District's next regular business day. The District's acceptance of petitions filed by e-mail is subject to certain conditions set forth in the District's Statement of Agency Organization and Operation (issued pursuant to Rule 28-101.001, Florida Administrative Code), which is available for viewing at www.sjrwmd.com.

These conditions include, but are not limited to, the petition being in the form of a PDF or TIFF file and being capable of being stored and printed by the District. Further, pursuant to the District's Statement of Agency Organization and Operation, attempting to file a petition by facsimile (fax) is prohibited and shall not constitute filing.

The right to an administrative hearing and the relevant procedures to be followed are governed by Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, Chapter 28-106, Florida Administrative Code, and Rule 40C-1.1007, Florida Administrative Code. Because the administrative hearing process is designed to formulate final agency action, the filing of a petition means the District's final action may be

different from the position taken by it in this notice. Failure to file a petition for an administrative hearing within the requisite time frame shall constitute a waiver of the right to an administrative hearing. (Rule 28-106.111, F.A.C.)

If you wish to do so, please visit http://www.sjrwmd.com/nor_dec/ to read the complete Notice of Rights to determine any legal rights you may have concerning the District's decision(s) on the permit application(s) described above. You can also request the Notice of Rights by contacting the Director of Business and Administrative Services, 4049 Reid St., Palatka, FL 32177-2529, tele. no. (386)329-4570.

7/12 1tchg-LRM



Bradford County Telegraph

BUSINESS DIRECTORY 2019

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The Bradford County Telegraph/Union County Times/Lake Region Monitor newspaper group is putting together a free three-county Business Directory 2019, printed in full color, which will offer your business an opportunity to be listed in this product free of charge.

The Directory will be placed in all three newspapers as an insert in the late fall, printed in an elite production process that will encourage readers to keep it, placing it by their phone book as an easy reference. A listing in the directory can be yours as easily as filling out a form with the information for your free listing. Should you desire to provide readers with more information about your business, paid display ads and advertorials will also be available.

A Business Directory listing is an inexpensive way to keep your business name and information "in front" of customers for the entire year - making the most of your advertising dollar should you choose to purchase an ad in addition to your free listing. Free copies will be made available to all advertisers so they can hand them out to their customers. We are estimating a circulation of about 9,000 for the directory, and that's a lot of customers.

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REGIONAL NEWS

NEWS FROM BRADFORD COUNTY, UNION COUNTY AND THE LAKE REGION

FEATURES
CRIME
SOCIALS
OBITUARIES
EDITORIAL

Bradford County Sheriff's Office training 13 to be school guardians

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

School employees receiving training to prepare for the new school year is nothing unusual, but some who work in the Bradford County School District are learning skills outside of the norm in an effort to better protect students.

As part of the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program, which falls under Florida's newly created Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act, 13 Bradford school employees are in the midst of being trained by the Bradford County Sheriff's Office in weapons proficiency and how to act in an active-shooter scenario.

Guardians are volunteers who must have concealed-weapons permits. They will be armed while on campus, with guns issued to them by BCSO. By law, though, a guardian can only aid in the prevention or abatement of an active-shooter incident on campus. They are not to use their weapons in any other situation. They also cannot make arrests.

"Their powers are very limited," said BCSO Detective Sgt. Brad Witt, who is one of several BCSO employees who helped devise the training the Bradford guardians are going through.

Bradford County Sheriff Gordon Smith said, "This is basically the last line of defense."

As of June 29, 21 Florida sheriff's offices (including BCSO) were involved in training guardians, though in some counties, not all of the schools will have guardians. For example, guardians will be at elementary schools only in Clay County and at charter schools only in Alachua and Sarasota counties.

Not just any school employee can become a guardian, which seems to be a misunderstanding some people have. By state law, full-time classroom teachers cannot become guardians, though there are exceptions: JROTC instructors, current military members and current or former law-enforcement officers.

Also, the guardians have to undergo rigorous training, with BCSO requiring them achieve a higher percentage rate of success (85) than what its own deputies have to achieve (80). They must pass background checks and psychological evaluations.

"The standards these folks are getting held to are extremely high," Witt said. "A lot of people thought this was going to be a Wild-West kind of thing — teachers running around with guns — but it's not. There are standards set forth by law, and there are standards set forth by our policy. They have a six-page policy by the Bradford County Sheriff's Office that they have to adhere to along with our other policies about use of force, firearms — anything like that."



Bradford County Sheriff's Office Lt. Kevin Mueller observes a guardian program participant. Bradford's guardians' identities are being kept confidential, though that is not the case in every county.

The state requires ongoing training at least annually, but BCSO will require guardians to do more than the minimum.

"We plan to hold as much training as we can for them," Witt said. "The number of how many

a year has not been set in stone, but we will hold training, where we continue to reinforce what they were taught and continue to develop their skills."

Some sheriff's offices that are training guardians are issuing

them uniforms that identify them as such, but the guardians in Bradford will wear plain clothes and be anonymous. It also won't be revealed how many guardians are at a specific school.

Smith said whereas an active shooter can easily identify a school resource officer, he or she will not be able to identify a guardian by sight.

"Now when you come onto campus, when you start shooting, you don't know who's going to be shooting back at you," Smith said.



Sgt. Brad Witt

"A lot of people thought this was going to be a Wild-West kind of thing — teachers running around with guns — but it's not. There are standards set forth by law, and there are standards set forth by our policy."

areas to increase their chances of hitting their targets. "That's a lot of what we call aim-small, miss-small drills," Witt said.

—Eight hours of discretionary shooting instruction via

See SCHOOL, 2B

Guardian requirements

State law dictates that guardians will receive 144 hours of training, which are broken down into the following:

—80 hours of firearms instruction based on the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission's Law Enforcement Academy training model, which includes 10-20 percent more rounds fired than in academy training.

—16 hours of precision pistol instruction, where those training learn to zero in on smaller target

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Bradford County Sheriff's Office Detective Sgt. Brad Witt displays a target and points out the area guardian trainees will aim for.



Church prays for the best and prepares for the worst



SCHOOL Continued from 1B

simulator exercises. "In this virtual shooting range, they can do everything from displaying a static target up there to (displaying) a moving scenario," Witt said. "This simulator forces them to do reloads. It's CO2-equipped. It'll actually give the simulated guns recoil to make it realistic to shooting."

—Eight hours of instruction in active-shooter scenarios. "We will actually take them to the school and put on some live scenarios, where somebody will play a suspect," Witt said. "They will hear shots and have to respond to them and confront that suspect."

—Eight hours of instruction in defensive tactics. "If they get to a suspect, and this person stops shooting — the deadly force situation is gone — they have to be able to safely defend themselves should something occur or have to be able to safely help law enforcement detain this suspect," Witt said, adding, "Also, a big part of defensive tactics are your use-of-force laws and knowing when you're justified in using force."

—12 hours of instruction in legal issues.

—Pass a psychological evaluation.

—Submit to and pass initial and subsequent drug screenings.

—Successfully complete ongoing training, weapon inspection and firearm qualification on at least an annual basis.

—Successfully complete at least 12 hours of a certified, nationally recognized diversity training program.

"You're going to be trained just like our deputies," Witt said.

Guardians will not only be responsible for going through

and passing subsequent training. They are expected to act appropriately in the role of guardian.

"They are subject to being removed from it at any time should they not be operating in a manner that's consistent with what we're looking for," Witt said.

Witt said he and BCSO Sgt. Joe Shiller were tasked with creating the training program for the Bradford guardians. They consulted with the Polk County Sheriff's Office because it was going through the same process, Witt said. Then he and Shiller turned to members of their own office, such as Lt. Kevin Mueller.

"He's kind of the lead instructor on anything firearms-related because of his tactical background," Witt said of Mueller. "He's our SWAT commander. He's a law-enforcement firearms instructor."

Capt. George Konkel, Sgt. Terrell Williams and Cpl. Hannah Haas of the BCSO have also been instrumental in instructing guardians. Plus, BCSO is getting the services of Sgt. Scott Andrews of the Union County Sheriff's Office.

"We don't have a defensive tactics instructor in house," Witt said. "(Andrews is) right next door in Union County. They were very gracious and have allowed him to participate in helping us."

Many others within the BCSO have assisted in tasks such as processing applications and assisting with background checks.

"It's been a huge team effort," Witt said.

A lot of material in a short amount of time

The instruction guardians are

going through is intensive and makes for long days. They are completing everything in a three-week period prior to the start of school. Smith said weekend training can consist of at least 12-hour days.

It's a testament to the commitment of those who want to become guardians Witt said. It's not like they get four days of instruction during the week, with time at night to study, before taking a test on the material on the fifth day.

"They'll go through a 12-hour legal section and then be handed a test and be immediately expected to pass at 85 percent," Witt said. "You are expected to work to retain this information. They're doing a phenomenal job of that so far."

Those who were interested in volunteering attended an interest meeting, which detailed the amount of training, the number of hours and the various other requirements necessary to become a guardian. Several people who attended that meeting decided not to pursue the training, Witt said.

The ones who stuck with the program went into it knowing that regardless of the hours they put in, if they didn't meet the established criteria to pass or if they didn't pass the psychological evaluation, they would not be certified as guardians.

"This is not something where just because you're here, it's going to be handed to you," Witt said. "It's something that's going to be earned. It's going to be something you're going to work hard for."

Witt said those going through the current training have been enthusiastic.

"They're putting in very good work right now," Witt said. "Every test that has been taken to this point has been passed

For events that draw large numbers of children, like Vacation Bible School, the team notifies the local probation and parole office which then schedules an officer familiar with registered sex offenders and predators to work the event.

BY KIM BOX
Special to the Telegraph-Times-Monitor

Most of the recent headlines about mass shootings have focused on public schools, following the tragedy at Marjorie Douglas Stoneman High School in Parkland, Florida. However, last November, a Texas shooting underscored another class of organizations vulnerable to violence when 26 people were killed at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas.

"No church should assume that 'It will not happen here,'" said Bob Milner, who leads the safety team at Madison Street Baptist Church in Starke. "The last 20 years have demonstrated that all churches are at risk for crimes and critical incidents, regardless of denomination or size."

well beyond the 85-percent (requirement). They're doing a very good job of retaining a lot of information that they're being given in a very short period of time."

It's all about BCSO doing what it can to better ensure the safety of students. Witt said he's glad Smith made the decision to train guardians to complement the resource officers.

"With the training these folks are receiving and having that school resource deputy in every school, I can't imagine a safer Bradford County School District unless you're going to put a 10-foot barbed-wire fence around the place and make it look like a prison," Witt said.

Milner, who is Starke's city manager and a former Bradford County sheriff, said the church's pastoral staff did not walk blindly into its decision to develop a team to handle church security and safety issues. They had been discussing ideas and exchanging information for several years prior to 2017 when they formed the current safety unit.

"From the parking lot to the pulpit, our goal is to help create a place where members and guests can freely worship the Lord with

Training and recruiting

In implementing the congregation's security plan, Milner first completed two church security training sessions. Three other members of the initial team then attended two training sessions: "Church Intruder Awareness" and "Response and Conflict Management for Church Personnel and Volunteers."

Next, Milner recruited



Bob Milner

"While active shooters tend to get most of the headlines, the fact is that churches are more likely to experience conflict from marital disputes and child custody battles."

fellow believers," Milner said. "Anyone entering a service of any kind at MSBC will find a very warm and welcoming environment for them and their children — they should not have to give any thought as to whether they are safe or may be threatened."

captains for four teams, one team for each week of the month. Each team captain has either a public safety or an emergency management background. The existing safety team, including the newly appointed captains, then recruited 10 members for each of the four teams.

See CHURCH, 3B

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Dealer executive: The future of driving is here

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Managing Editor

The vice president of Beck Automotive Group told a Keystone Heights business association about the future of driving, during its July meeting.

Wayne McClain said many features of self-driving cars are already apart of today's newer models, like adaptive cruise control, automatic parking, lane-departure warning and steering assistance, blind spot detection and lidar systems.

He also predicted that in the future, most traffic injuries and fatalities will be pedestrian-related.

"You're not going to see fatal car crashes with cars crashing into each other," he said. "You're going to see pedestrians getting hit, bicyclists and that type of news. Great news for some people, not so great for other people."

McClain said that one of the most dangerous practices on the road today: texting while driving, will be a thing of the past in the next 20 years.

He said that the federal government has mandated to all automobile manufacturers that by 2019, new cars come with technology that makes texting while driving impossible.

"Those that text while driving are 23 times more likely to be in a crash," he said.

He said that back in the 1970s and 1980s, auto manufacturers were convinced that consumers didn't care about safety features.

"If you look now at any commercial that's going on television, 60 percent of all automobile manufacturers feature safety in their commercials," he said. "It's what people are interested in now, especially younger people."

McClain went over some of the technologies available as options in luxury cars today that he said will be standard equipment in the future, including:

— Lane departure warnings:

CHURCH Continued from 2B

A team's rotation is completed in one week, which consists of Sunday morning, Sunday evening and Wednesday evening. The team conducts security sweeps of all buildings during church services, locks all side entrances and posts team members in the sanctuary ready to respond as necessary. When that group's rotation is complete, team members then have the rest of the month free to worship and serve in their normal capacity while the other three teams cover the remainder of the month in one-week rotations.

"We also have a safety team present at any major church event, such as Vacation Bible School and the Fall Festival," Milner said.

For events such as these two that draw large numbers of children, the team notifies the local probation and parole office which then schedules an officer familiar with registered sex offenders and predators to work the event.

If the church wants still more of a uniformed presence, they may also pay an off-duty Starke Police officer or a Bradford County deputy sheriff to cover the event or service.

Protecting children

"While active shooters tend to get most of the headlines," Milner said, "the fact is that churches are more likely to experience conflict from marital disputes and child custody battles."

The church has systems in place to ensure children's safety; only authorized adults have access to them. The nursery area is monitored by closed circuit television, and children's workers must undergo background



Wayne McClain, vice president of Beck Automotive Group, talks to Keystone-Lake Region Business Association member Janet Temple after the association's July meeting.

"It alerts you when you're out of the lane," said McClain. "We have a lot of people that buy cars and they'll bring it back after two or three days, and say, 'I go to change lanes, and the steering wheel just (vibrates).' Well, that's telling you to get back in your lane."

McClain said that one of the most dangerous practices on the road today: texting while driving, will be a thing of the past in the next 20 years.

— Blind spot monitors:

"One of my favorites," said McClain "I drove my uncle's older pickup when I went to see him, and I'm so used to all these gadgets that I went to get into the right lane and there was a car in the blind spot there and I pulled on over. The driver talked to me a little bit about that."

— Adaptive cruise control:

This feature speeds the car up or slows it down to maintain a safe distance between your vehicle and the ones in front of yours. "If you have a newer car now," he said, "if you get too close to the car in front of you, red lights will go off and it'll start telling you to slow down. In a lot of Volvos, Cadillacs, Acuras, (the vehicle will) actually stop you from running into a car in front of you."

screening. Additional security measures, undisclosed for safety reasons, are also in place for the nursery and children's area.

A motto verse for the safety team is: "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock that the Holy Spirit has appointed you to as overseers, to shepherd the church of God, which He purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:28)."

"While we truly believe we should pray for the best, we must also prepare for the worst," Milner said.

Safety team members are trained to recognize potential threats, manage conflict and de-escalate crisis situations. Further training about fire drills, lockouts-lockdowns and basic first aid is also underway.

"Although we do not like to think about the risk of violent acts or other crimes occurring within the church walls, it is something that we, as leaders, are obligated to prepare for," said Milner.

Medical team being organized

Several nurses, paramedics and EMT-firefighters are volunteering to form another safety team. That group should be in place shortly. The church already has two automated external defibrillators for the team to use but are hoping two more are soon donated.

Milner said, "There are no plans to phase out the safety teams but rather to strengthen and expand the training and involvement of as many members as we deem necessary to continue providing an inviting and fulfilling worship experience for everyone who sets foot on the campus of MSBC."

—Tire pressure monitoring:

This warns the driver when the tires are over or under inflated. McClain said that the government has mandated that by 2021, all new cars must be sold with self-inflating tires.

— Fatigue warnings:

"On the Lincolns now," McClain said, "there's a little icon of a coffee cup that comes up if the car notices that your eyelids are drooping. Cadillac has that also on some of its models."

— Backup rear view camera:

"This is almost the standard now on cars," he said. "This was done some years ago because a young boy was hit in a driveway and his mom and dad advocated to the government. They were the ones that got the rear camera (into cars). Great tool."

— Automatic parallel parking:

"If you are driving down a street and you see that open spot, you can press the button on your console, and it'll back the car in there," he said. "There's a commercial on television now of a young kid that's trying to impress his girlfriend's parents, and they watch him (parallel) park the car, but it ain't him, it's the car."

— Young driver key:

"Here's one for those of you who have grandkids and teenagers," McClain said. I'm just using this one, but other manufacturers also have them. This one is the My Ford Key. It's a separate key for teenagers that has a seat belt reminder that will not let them play music if their seatbelt's not on. It has a top speed indicator. You can set it for how fast you want it to go. It screens radio content and can have them tone it down.

"We have kids that come in after their parents have bought a car and they get the key and they'll come in to the service department and they'll go, 'This car will only go 65 miles an hour!' We'll just tell them to call their parents, and they say, 'Oh, no, don't call my parents!' Great, great

— Adaptive headlights:

"Really a great little tool," he said. "If you turn a corner, the headlights kind of turn with you so you can see what you're supposed to be seeing."

— Traction control:

"Helps prevent cars from getting stuck," he said. "Goes on when the wheels start to slip. When would you turn off the traction control? When



"It's a separate key for teenagers that has a seat belt reminder that will not let them play music if their seatbelt's not on. It has a top speed indicator. You can set it for how fast you want it to go. It screens radio content and can have them tone it down." - Wayne McClain

you're stuck. Because if you're stuck in the mud, the traction control's trying to get you going, so it's got the wheels going independently, so you want to turn it off."

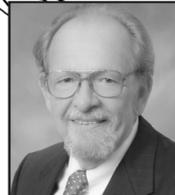
thing."

McClain also gave the business group car buying tips. He advised the crowd to get prepared before visiting a vehicle seller, arrange for financing in advance and take a prospective used car to a

mechanic. He also advised business owners to consider leasing instead of buying for tax advantages, and he said purchasers should carefully analyze extended warranty offers before getting into such contracts.

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The Weekly Paw Print:

If eyes are windows into the soul, then cats' whiskers are a telescope into their mind. A cat's whiskers are important mood indicators, danger detectors, and used for navigational systems. What are your cat's whiskers trying to tell you?

Whiskers are known in the veterinary anatomy world as "vibrissae". Most cats have 10 to 14 of these long, stiff hairs projecting from four straight lines along their jaw. While human hair is fairly inert and limp, a cat's whiskers are connected to vitally important sensory tissues buried within the skin.

Whiskers help inform the cat about surrounding objects, air movements, and other important environmental information. Cats also have tiny whiskers on the underside of the front paws which allow a cat to accurately assess when prey is in their grasp. This is important because felines can't see objects up close that well (cats suffer from short-sightedness). Think of whiskers as cat glasses.

You can also use face whiskers to "read" what mood your feline friend is in. Typically, if a cat is nervous or angry, the face whiskers will be pointing forward at a potential threat. Relaxed and droopy whiskers signal a calm and contented kitty.

Food and water bowls for cats need to be designed with sensitive whiskers in mind. Narrow bowls can be uncomfortable if they cause the whiskers to bend and flex excessively. Sometimes it's enough discomfort to cause them to not want to eat or drink much.

While it's true dogs also use their whiskers a little, cats are at a much higher level. It's similar to using an old rotary-dial telephone vs. a smartphone. Both allow you to talk, but one connects you to the world in astonishing detail. Tap into the secret world of cats starting with those pointy facial hairs. They're telling you quite a bit.

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Obituaries

Marilyn Arroyo-McRae

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Marilyn "Kay" Arroyo-McRae, 62, of Keystone Heights died Friday, July 6, 2018 at Community Hospice in Jacksonville. She was born March 21, 1955 in Flint, Michigan to the late Kenneth and Gloria Eleanor (Barr) Burkett. She moved to Keystone Heights from Jacksonville where she attended Florida Junior College and was store manager for Chevron-Texaco and Shell convenience stores until her retirement. She was a member of Hope Baptist Church in Starke.

She is survived by: her husband of 17 years, Richard McRae of Keystone Heights; children, Amber McRaney of Keystone Heights, Zoey Knight of Green Cove Springs and Saul Arroyo who is serving in the United States Army in Colorado; sister, Cheryl Friend of Michigan; and seven grandchildren. There are no services scheduled at this time. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Keystone Heights.

Marlene Conaway

MIDDLEBURG— Marlene Conaway, 84, passed away on Sunday, July 1, 2018. She was born to the late Ellery and Gladys (Hicks) Sapp on July 24, 1933 in Starke.

Marlene was a resident of the Middleburg area for 37 years and a member of Long Branch Baptist Church where she was a Sunday school teacher and enjoyed playing the piano. She was a charter member of the Gideons International, holding every office in the auxiliary Gideons of Clay County. Marlene was a clerk in the Professional Library at Duval County School board and a member of the Cattleman's Association of Clay County.

Marlene was preceded in death by her husband, James Conaway, and is survived by her sons, Everett (Edith) Conaway, Harry (Sharon) Conaway and Charles (Tammie) Conaway; daughter, Cindy (David) Rhoads; sister, Katrina (Gilbert) Lawson; 11 grandchildren and 45 great-grandchildren.

Services were held July 6 at Long Branch Baptist Church with her son, Pastor Harry Conaway officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Gideon International. Please sign the family's online guestbook at www.broadusraines.com.

Arrangements are under the care of Broadus-Raines Funeral Home, 501 Spring St., Green Cove Springs. (904) 284-4000

PAID OBITUARY

Carl Dickerson

LAKE CITY— Carl Edward Dickerson, 74, of Lake City passed away on Sunday, July 8, 2018. Carl was born in Charlotte Court House, Virginia on Sept. 24, 1943 to the late John and Hallie Dickerson. Carl enjoyed leatherwork, gardening, dancing, and traveling. Carl especially enjoyed spending time with his family. He leaves his beloved family to cherish his memory.

Carl Dickerson is survived by: his loving wife, Janie Dickerson; two sons, Jim (Tana) Godwin of Lake Butler, and Ben (Shawn) Godwin of Lake City; four daughters, Cathy (Rick) Ryan of Newberry, Karen (Stan) Tileson of Gainesville, Jami (Larry) Cochran of Lake Butler, and Pam Dickerson of Virginia; one very special niece, Gwen Allen; three brothers, Walter Dickerson, Franklin (Esther) Dickerson, and William (Agnes) Dickerson; one sister, Mabel D Allen. Carl is survived by: 16 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren, he is also survived by several nieces and nephews. Carl was loved by many and will be missed.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Haven Hospice in Lake City.

A Memorial Service was held on July 11 at First Christian Church in Lake Butler. Arrangements are under the care of Archer Funeral Home located at 55 N Lake Ave Lake Butler. For more information, please call (386) 496-2008.

PAID OBITUARY



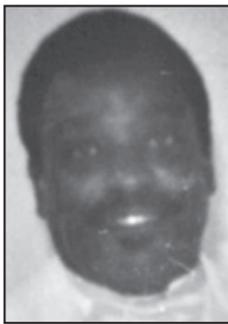
Henry Filer

LAKE BUTLER— Minister Henry William "H.W." Filer, 74, of Lake Butler passed away on Monday, July 9, 2018. Henry was born on July 5, 1944 to the late Johnnie and Ethel Mae Filer in Alachua. At a very young age, Henry worked as a farmhand on the Whitehead family's farm. Later he gained employment with the Union County Sheriff's Department, where he worked as a chef, for more than 30 years. Even after his retirement, Henry continued to cook for the sheriff's department. He also catered events and cooked for Union County schools. He was famous for his chicken and rice. He loved to help people. Together with his beloved wife, Mama Catherine, Henry started a local food bank. He especially enjoyed spending time with his friends and his family. Henry Filer is preceded in death by: his wife, Catherine Filer; one son, Glendale Filer. He leaves behind his loving family to cherish his memory.

Filer is survived by: four sons, King Solomon (Doris) Grigger, Anthony J. (Sarah) Filer, Charlie (Kashandra) Filer, Harold Young; three daughters, Henrietta (Kenneth) Williams, Sonya Filer, Angela Filer; brothers, Napoleon Filer, David Leroy (Lillian) Filer; sisters, Catherine Mills, Geraldine Blake, Ruthie Mae Merricks, Lillian Mitchell, Judy Anderson, Patricia Jones, Bernice Folston. He is survived by: 117 grandchildren and great-grandchildren and a host of nieces and nephews.

A visitation will be held at Archer Funeral Home on Friday, July 13, from 6 pm until 8 pm. A funeral service will be on Saturday, July 14, 11:00 am at Little Rock Church in Lake Butler. Arrangements are under the care of Archer Funeral Home located at 55 N Lake Ave Lake Butler. For more information, please call (386) 496-2008.

PAID OBITUARY



Anna Galan

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS— Anna Iris Galan, age 80, of Keystone Heights passed away at her home Monday, July 2, 2018. She was born to Augusto and Lydia (Molina) Serrano on June 29, 1938. She resided in Keystone Heights since 1980 and was a parishioner of St. William Catholic Church. Anna had a great love of children and her daycare; owning and operating Anna's Loving Care before working at Midway Learning Center until her retirement. She was a beloved, wife, mother, and grandmother. She touched many lives with her love and friendship. She enjoyed painting, good music (Elvis) laughing and spending time with her family. In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by: her husband, Antonio "Tony" Galan, Sr.; and her daughter, Zeldia Nelson.

Survivors are: two daughters, Kris Patrick of Keystone Heights and Sandra (Greg) Slaughter of Palatka; three sons, Tony Galan, Jr. of King George, Virginia, Frank Galan of Keystone Heights and Danny (Cindy) Galan of Louisiana; a son in-law Gary Nelson of Great Mills, Maryland; twelve grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren to whom she was lovingly known as Nana. A special note of appreciation to her granddaughter Molina Schebell, who tenderly loved and took care of her unselfishly during her last two years. We are forever grateful.

The family will receive friends on Saturday, July 14 starting at 10:00 a.m. with A Celebration of Anna's Life beginning at 11:00 a.m. in the Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home Chapel with Father Mike Williams presiding. Interment will follow at the Keystone Heights Cemetery. The family is requesting that you please dress casual using Anna's favorite colors red or purple. In lieu of flowers please make a donation to VITAS Healthcare, 7406 Fullerton Street Suite 105, Jacksonville, FL 32256. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 340 E. Walker Dr. Keystone Heights. 352-473-3176. www.jonesgallagherfh.com

PAID OBITUARY



Tammy Keim

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS— Tammy Lynette Keim, 45, of Keystone Heights died Monday, July 2, 2018 at Shands Hospital in Starke unexpectedly. She was born April 29, 1973 in Gainesville and was of the Baptist faith. She was a lifelong resident of the Keystone Heights and Melrose area; and worked briefly as a cook in the Harvey's Deli. She was a wife and mother. She was preceded in death by: her mother Rosella (Dowling).

She leaves behind her husband of 21 years, Robert "Bob" Keim; children, Justin Lee (Holly) Martin, Emily Ann Martin and Ty Robert Keim all of Keystone Heights; her father and step-mother, Albert and Addie (Melton) Pons of Melrose; siblings, Teresa Peterson of Windsor, Albert Lee Pons, Jr. of High Springs, Lynn Starling of Starke and Steven Starling of Melrose; and many other family members. A memorial service was held July 11 in the Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home Chapel with Reverend Jim Dubois officiating. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Keystone Heights.

Barbara Kicklighter

GAINESVILLE— Barbara Jean Kicklighter, age 73, of Gainesville passed away Friday, July 6, 2018 at Haven Hospice Custead Care Center in Orange Park. Barbara was born in Jacksonville on Jan. 27, 1945 and spent most of her adult life working in Gainesville. She worked for Pinewood Daycare and multiple area dry cleaners. She lived a quiet life and was loved by many. She was preceded in death by: her husband, Joseph Kicklighter; and father, Steve Starling.

Survivors are: children, Lorraine Alexander of Maryland, Sheri Crumme of Kansas, her mother, Vivian (Tyre) Vogan, siblings, Joy and Bill Carter, Karen and Preston Sullivan and Pam and Don Hall. Also left are six grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Services were held at the Dewitt C. Jones Chapel of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home on July 8. Interment followed in Lawtey Cemetery with Pastor Steve Conner officiating. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made in her memory to St. Jude's Children's Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home 620 Nona Street, Starke. 904-964-6200 www.jonesgallagherfh.com.

PAID OBITUARY

John Long

GRAHAM— John William Long, 65, of Graham, died on Monday, July 2, 2018 at the E.T. York Care Center in Gainesville. He was born on May 9, 1953 in Graysville, Tennessee to the late Edgar and Ruth (Garrin) Long. He was a long-time resident of Graham and retired from the V.A. Hospital where he worked as a cardiac technician. He was a member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church of Starke. He was preceded in death by his son, Danny Long; parents, Edgar and Ruth (Garrin) Long; sisters, Sherry Burton and Audrey Burton; and his brother, Chris Long.

Survivors include: his wife, Lyn Long of Graham; daughter, Cassie Long of Graham; sister, Becky of Starke; brother, Glenn Long; brother-in-law, Victor (Patty) Glisson of Nashville, Tennessee; and sister-in-law, Debbie (Glisson) Wales of Starke.

Graveside services were held on July 5 at Santa Fe Cemetery and officiated by Victor Glisson. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke.

Monte Moore

HAMPTON— Monte "Pickle" Dannel Moore, 54, of Hampton, died on Sunday, July 8, 2018 at Shands at the University of Florida in Gainesville. Monte was born in Dunedin on Feb. 16, 1964 to the late Alvin D. Moore, Sr. and Marian Moody Bates Moore. He was raised in Bradford County and graduated from Bradford High School in 1982. Shortly after graduation, he started working at U.S. Solar Plant as a glazer in Hampton and also worked as a train engineer at CSX until he retired due to health issues. He was preceded in death by: his parents; and his brothers, James Randall Moore and Larry Wayne Moore.

He is survived by: brothers, Derrial Moore of Rising Fawn, and Barry Moore of Hampton; and several nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life was held on July 11 at The Hampton Christian Church with Pastor John Hodges officiating. Arrangements are under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services and Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel, Starke.



Victoria Therriault

HAWTHORNE— Victoria Marie Therriault, 67, passed away on Monday, July 2, 2018. She was born Feb. 23, 1951 in Bennington, Vermont. Viki is the daughter of George and Helen Therriault.

Viki is survived by: her wife, Robynn Trautmane and son, Jordan Therriault. Sisters, Edy Therriault and Denise Seavers. Mother and father, George and Helen Therriault.

Viki attended a diploma school and earned her RN license and further went on to receive her master's in psychology at Saint Thomas University and a MS in nursing at UF. For which she became an advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner.

Viki worked as an ARNP for almost thirty years. The last twenty years were spent at Lake Butler Hospital where she touched many lives.

Viki was diagnosed with lung cancer two years ago. Her biggest regret was having to leave her family and friends, and the work that she loved.

A celebration of life will be held on July 13, 2018 at 2:00 pm at Archer Funeral Home. Arrangements are under the care of Archer Funeral Home located at 55 N Lake Ave Lake Butler, FL 32054. For more information, please call (386) 496-2008.

In lieu of flowers, we encourage you to donate to Haven Hospice, Palatka.

PAID OBITUARY



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Raymond Griffis

LAWTEY— Raymond "Big Daddy" Nathan Griffis, age 67, of Lawtey passed away on Thursday, July 5, 2018 at Shands Regional Medical Center in Starke with his loving family by his side. He was born in Starke, Florida on Jan. 3, 1951 to the late Joe Melton Griffis and Dorothy Lee Cadle Griffis. Ray was a lifelong resident of Bradford County. He graduated from Bradford High School in 1971 and started his longtime career as a truck driver with the Department of Transportation. Through his career, Ray met the love of his life, Dee Sheri Padilla, and happily married her on June 10, 1989. Ray was a devoted husband and loving father to his six children. His main passion in life was his family and spoiling his grandchildren. After 33 years of dedicated service as a truck driver, Ray retired. With his free time, Ray enjoyed riding the roads with his brother, Mitchell. He also enjoyed fishing, teaching his grandsons how to fish, and spending time with his family at family functions. Ray was preceded in death by: his parents; his sisters, Hazel "MiMi" Johnson and Patsy Luke; his brothers, Robert and Jimmy Griffis; and his brothers-in-law, Butch Willingham, Acie Johnson, and Earl Luke.

Ray is survived by: his loving wife of 29 years, Dee Griffis; his children, Amanda Lema (Jeffrey Deese) of Middleburg, Jessica (Jeremy) Davis of Starke, Angela Griffis (Tevin Smith) of Lawtey, Linda (Stanley) Brown of Lake Butler, Kenny DeWitt of Starke, and Cindy (Nate) Davis of Gainesville; his brother, Mitchell (Sheila) Griffis of Lawtey; his sister, Juanita Willingham of Lawtey; his grandchildren, Wyatt, Bryce, Abby, Dawson, Grant, Doot, Zach, and Jeffrey; his great-granddaughter, Brylee; and many nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Ray's Life was held on July 9 at the Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel with Pastor Terry E. Qualls officiating. Interment followed at Crosby Lake Cemetery in Starke. Arrangements are under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services and Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel, Starke. 904-964-5757. Visit www.ferreirafuneralservices.com to sign the family's guest book.

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CRIME

Recent arrests in Bradford, Clay or Union

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

BRADFORD –

Nicolis Chase Altman, 28, of Starke was arrested July 8 by Bradford deputies for driving with license suspended or revoked and attaching a tag nor registered to a vehicle.

Alexandria Bodden, 28, of Somerville, SC was arrested July 6 by Bradford deputies for possession of marijuana and possession of drug equipment.

Alan Eugene Crawford, 35, of Keystone Heights was arrested July 6 by Bradford deputies for driving while license suspended or revoked.

Matthew Justin Ellis, 32, of Brooker was arrested July 6 by Bradford deputies for two counts of violation of probation, possession of drugs and possession of drug equipment.

Christina Elizabeth Gibbs, 37, of Hampton was arrested July 7 by Bradford deputies for resisting an officer.

Blanche Dironda Hayes, 43, was arrested July 6 by Bradford deputies for violation of probation.

Frank L. Hernandez, 39, of New Port Richey was arrested July 6 by Bradford deputies for violation of probation.

Gharrett Andrew Herres, 27, of Starke was arrested July 3 by Bradford deputies for violation of probation.

Andre Maurice Johnson, 30, of St. Petersburg was arrested July 2 by Lawtey police for driving with license suspended or revoked.

Mark A. Kimbrell, 42, of Hampton was arrested July 3 by Bradford deputies on an out-of-county warrant.

Curtis Lee Moody, 47, of Hawthorne was arrested July 6 by Bradford deputies for violation of probation.

Sara Jade Morton, 32, of Ocala was arrested July 2 by Starke police for possession of drugs, possession of marijuana and possession of drug equipment.

Paid \$1 for 6-pack of Bud Light

Colton William Poulette, 23, of West Palm Beach, was arrested July 2 by Bradford Deputy Corey Turner for larceny - petit theft first degree, at least \$100 but less than \$300.

The current incident is connected to a previous one which occurred on June 2. According to the arrest report, at that time Turner had responded to the MJM Food Store on U.S. 301 in reference to a shoplifting incident. He made contact with Poulette, who was standing in front of the business. When Turner approached, Poulette is reported to have gotten down in his knees, put his hands behind his head and said, "Take me." At that time Turner noticed a six-pack of beer sitting next to Poulette. The report states that Turner believed that Poulette had been drinking since some of the beer bottles were empty and his breath smelled of an alcoholic beverage.

Poulette did not want to talk about the incident at that time, simply saying that he knew he was going to jail and "just do what you need to do." He also told Turner that the bicycle he



C. Poulette

was riding had been stolen. He told Turner that "what I did was foolish." He was detained and patted down for weapons while Turner investigated the incident further.

Turner entered the business and contacted the complainant, who told him that Poulette had entered the business, walked to the alcohol section and picked up a six-pack of Bud Light that was worth \$9.41, then approached the counter and handed her a \$1 bill and told her to "call the police - I will be waiting outside." Two witnesses claimed to have seen Poulette throwing beer bottles outside, but Turner saw no evidence of that.

The complainant was asked to sign a sworn statement and she agreed, noting that she had called the business owner after she had called the police. The owner informed Turner that he wanted to have Poulette trespass and to press charges for the stolen beer. Poulette was placed under arrest for retail theft and searched.

Kansas Lashae Robinson, 35, of Cedar Bluff, Alabama was arrested July 6 by Bradford deputies on an out-of-county warrant, violation of probation, two counts of possession of drugs, possession of marijuana and possession of drug equipment.

Edward Laverne Tipton, 55, of Jacksonville was arrested July 6 by Bradford deputies for violation of probation.

Failed to return rented merchandise

Angelica M. Tower, 26, of Starke had a warrant issued for her arrest on July 7 for fraud in connection with an investigation by Starke police.

Starke Police Officer Paul King responded to Rent-A-Center in reference to failure to redeliver rental property. According to the warrant affidavit, King contacted a store employee who said Tower had rented a queen-size mattress and box spring and a 55-inch smart television and was at that time 31 days past due on the rental payment. She was not answering or returning phone calls. King was also told that store representatives had tried to contact Tower at her home to retrieve the property, with negative results.

A certified letter had been sent to Tower, requesting her to return the items or to contact Rent-A-Center. The letter was delivered and signed for by Tower's grandmother. A sworn complaint was filed on Tower for failure to redeliver leased property valued at over \$300.

Samantha Wells, 21, of Jacksonville was arrested July 5 by Bradford deputies for disorderly intoxication.

Bobby Ihan Williams, 40, of Starke was arrested July 4 by Bradford deputies for driving with a license suspended or

revoked and possession of marijuana.

UNION COUNTY –

Lothario Emmanuel Dennard, 38, was arrested July 3 by Union deputies on a Union County warrant for possession of methamphetamine, possession of cocaine with intent to sell, manufacture or distribute and possession of a controlled substance without a prescription.

Willie Robinson, 45, of Lake Butler was arrested July 6 by Union Deputy Robert Fipps for battery-touch or strike and disorderly intoxication.

Fipps was dispatched to the apartments at 715 W. Main Street in reference to a reported disturbance. According to the arrest report, upon arrival Fipps made contact with the victim, who was also the reporting party. The victim stated that Robinson was outside the apartment complex, yelling. She said she went outside and asked him what was going on. She said Robinson came up outside her apartment and asked her for her cell phone. She also reported that he seemed to be intoxicated.

The report states that the victim said that Robinson struck her on the right wrist (on which she had recently had surgery) when she told him he could not have her phone. She added that she was attempting to call law enforcement when Robinson struck her.

The victim told Fipps that Robinson was inside an apartment and when Fipps made contact with him he appeared to be intoxicated. He was arrested for battery and disorderly intoxication, handcuffed and escorted to Fipps' patrol car. Robinson became belligerent and refused to comply with Fipps' orders, but finally complied.

According to a note in the arrest report, this was Robinson's third arrest in a 12-month period and the second in a 7-day period.

Caught with gun and drugs on DOC property

Marquita Letres Smith, 35, of Palatka was arrested July 7 by Union Deputy David C. Gladding for two counts of smuggling contraband into a prison, in the form of



M. Smith

a controlled substance and a firearm/weapon or explosive. According to the arrest report, Gladding responded to the Regional Medical Center Work Camp in reference to assisting another agency. Upon arrival, Gladding made contact with Correctional Officers Tucker and Johnson, both of whom are K-9 Handlers for the DOC. Tucker advised that his K-9 had alerted to a vehicle in a parking lot on state grounds. He said the owner of the vehicle, identified as Smith, had been located and had given consent for the vehicle to be searched.

Johnson told Gladding that, prior to the search, Smith had advised that there were a few marijuana blunt ends on the passenger floorboard and a firearm next to the central console. The items were located, along with a bag of a green leady substance in the center console that Smith denied was hers. The substance weighed 3.5 grams and was field-test identified as marijuana. The firearm was a 9mm handgun, found with a magazine and ammunition next to it.

Smith was charged based on the items found in her vehicle, placed in wrist restraints and transported to the Union County Jail without incident.

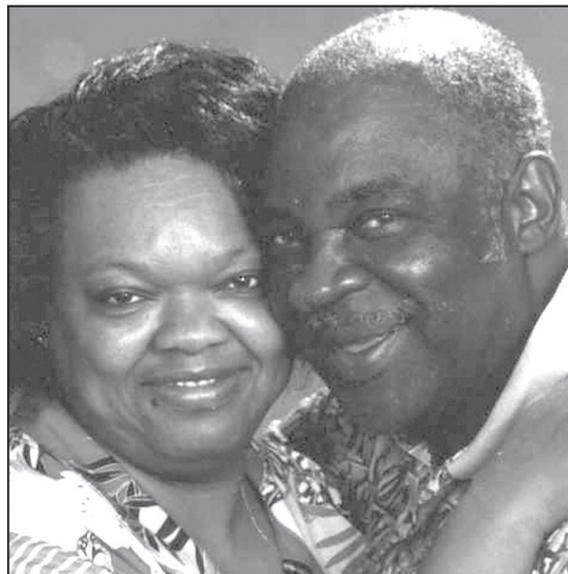
KEYSTONE HEIGHTS AND LAKE REGION –

Tracy Lyndon Rigdon, 57, was arrested by Clay deputies on July 5 for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs and driving while license suspended - first offense.

Jillian Kimberly Miranda, 36, was arrested by Clay deputies on S. Lawrence Blvd. in Keystone Heights for resisting/obstructing/opposing an officer without violence and driving while license suspended - third or subsequent offense.

William Homer Scott, 36, was arrested by Clay deputies on Temple St. in Keystone Heights for simple battery (domestic).

Socials



Happy Birthday Frank.

You will be 76 on July 10. It's been 10 years since you passed on July 14. I think about you every day. The love I have for you will always be there.

Your wife
Caroline
and Family

Card of Thanks

Card of Thanks

The family of Betty J. DiPaulo would like to friends and family who thank the following: to the so generously provided administration and staff prayers, food, flowers and of Riverwood Health & visits during Bill's recent Rehab, there are not enough illness and death. Please ways to thank you for the continue to keep us in your love and caring extended thoughts and prayers.

Lovingly from the family of Bill Wilson "The Tomato Lady" Marie, his wife, daughters, Deborah (Donya), Rhonda O'Steen (Stephan), brother, Fred Wilson, grandson, Ryan Benitez and two great-grandsons, Haven and Luna Benitez.

Lovingly from the family of Bill Wilson "The Tomato Lady" Marie, his wife, daughters, Deborah (Donya), Rhonda O'Steen (Stephan), brother, Fred Wilson, grandson, Ryan Benitez and two great-grandsons, Haven and Luna Benitez.

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Letters

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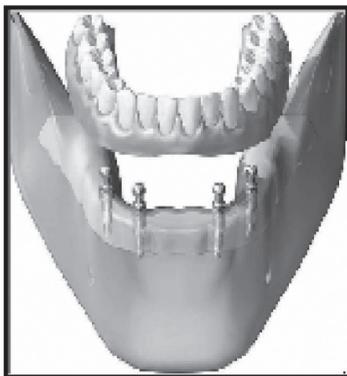
In 1905 a young pharmacist by the name of Jim Mitchell came to Starke from Madison with his new bride to open a drugstore. Drugstores in those days were known as a meeting place. A place for people to gather, gossip, and settle all life's problems, especially politics. Some candidates didn't realize they were running until they went to the drugstore that day. This held true until there were no more of us and the "little man" was gone. Doc Mitchell died tragically in an automobile accident in 1935. His wife and daughter survived. His pharmacy partner Powell Carpenter bought the store and ran it until 1940 when he passed away from pneumonia. The store remained empty until a young pharmacist attending the University of

Florida appeared. In those days rooms were rented as a source of income and with Camp Blanding and a war going on rooms were in high demand. Mr. Crews was one of those tenants and this is where he met my mother. And the rest is history.

That is when I decided to have ice cream sundaes on the first Thursday of each month to bring a little of that nostalgia back. This is also to thank the citizens of Starke and Bradford County on behalf of Doc Mitchell and my dad for the support we have received from the community through the years.

We have five generations living in Bradford County all because of you. Thank you and come have an ice cream sundae made the way it's supposed to be!

Carolyn Crews



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Tomlinson recovering and ready to be on the sideline

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Brian Tomlinson will be victorious on Aug. 17.

The Bradford High School head football coach has said as much regarding his team's preseason kickoff classic, which will be played that night at Newberry, but he's not making a bold prediction on which team will be ahead on the scoreboard. In fact, if Bradford loses, that doesn't change his thinking.

You see, Tomlinson understands that standing on the sideline coaching a football game is not a given. He's approximately three weeks removed from open-heart surgery. His body has been fighting a deadly infection for longer than that.

Tomlinson is grateful to be alive.

"That first game, I think, for me, will be a win, no matter the outcome of the game," he said.

Win or lose, that Friday night will become another piece of a life being re-assembled into a sense of normalcy.

"It'll feel like our life is finally back to what we're used to," Tomlinson's wife, April, said. "It's been really thrown out of whack the last two months."



Brian Tomlinson pictured during a spring practice in 2017 after he had been hired as head coach. He hopes to at least observe the first week of fall practices this year and be on the field by possibly the second week as he continues to recuperate from open-heart surgery and a serious infection.

Unexpected results

In December 2009, Tomlinson's father, Marvin, went into cardiac arrest. He was resuscitated and diagnosed with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy — a thickening of the heart muscle that can make it difficult

for the heart to pump blood. The condition is hereditary, so Tomlinson was encouraged to get tested for it.

Tomlinson did have the condition and had an internal defibrillator implanted in April 2010. Sometimes it bothers him that he has the defibrillator. He wants to be "normal," he said, but he realizes the defibrillator allows him to be just that.

"It's never limited me except for MRIs. I don't get to do those anymore, which doesn't hurt my feelings because I'm claustrophobic," Tomlinson said with a laugh.

His defibrillator had to be replaced this past April. What happened afterward wasn't normal.

Tomlinson's incision was taped shut, but the area began to itch. His assistant coaches noticed that he was constantly reaching up and scratching around the area, Tomlinson said. When removing the surgical tape, the entire area around the incision was red. Part of the incision was still open and oozing.

That was on May 13, the Saturday before Mother's Day. Tomlinson called his cardiologist at 8 a.m. on Monday, May 15. That led to Tomlinson being put on a couple of antibiotics. When his condition didn't improve, it was determined that his defibrillator needed to be removed. That occurred on May 25. A wire coil snapped off when the defibrillator was removed and

remained embedded in Tomlinson's heart.

Still, the infection, which would only get worse, remained. Tomlinson said it was like he had the worst-ever case of flu.

"He even looked gray," April Tomlinson said. "You could tell he was pretty sick."

Doctors thought the wire coil left behind after the defibrillator removal could be infected, thus preventing Tomlinson from getting better. Still, other tests were performed first to determine if the infection was from another source rather than go straight into removal of the coil, which would require open-heart surgery.

Tomlinson was re-admitted to the hospital on June 15, a Friday night. On June 17, his cardiologist told him the plan, after one last test ruled out infection from another source, was to proceed with open-heart surgery. When he and April asked when that would be, the cardiologist said the next day.

"You feel like the air is just knocked out of you because that's not what you want to hear," April said. "You didn't have time to mentally prepare for it."

God's plan

Tomlinson and his wife prayed that he would not need to undergo open-heart surgery. They had others praying the same thing. Therefore, it was a little disheartening to hear that he would need to have the surgery.

"I kind of sat there going, 'Why is this happening?' I just didn't understand," April said.

On the morning of June 19, Tomlinson underwent surgery. His wife described the time as the "longest four hours of my life."

"Thankfully, I had a lot of family around me," April said. "(BHS Athletic Director) Lamar (Waters) actually came and sat with me through the surgery as

well — he and his wife (Erin)."

It was discovered during the surgery that the embedded coil was in a position where it was blocking one of the valves of Tomlinson's heart, preventing blood from going where it needed to go.

That surgery that so many prayed wouldn't happen was necessary in more ways than one. "Either way, the surgery needed to happen," Tomlinson said. "God's plan was better than ours."

April said, "When the doctors came and told us, I was more than grateful my plans weren't fulfilled because His were better than ours."

What if events unfolded differently? Tomlinson has thought about that. Supposed the antibiotics worked or he had never developed an infection? It wouldn't have been discovered that he had a blocked valve.

"He's the great physician," Tomlinson said of God.

Tomlinson feels like God's plan is also for him to become a better person through this experience and better impact the lives of young people.

"I honestly believe it's for me it's to be able to reach the kids and help lead them — show them how a Godly person is supposed to live," Tomlinson said. "I feel that's what I'm called to do."

Of course, Tomlinson's outlet for doing that is as a coach. Now, he's working to get better so he can join his team.

Road to recovery

Once he was taken off post-surgery medication, Tomlinson said the pain was the worst he's ever experienced. Things are better now as long as he follows doctors' precautions. Yawning, though, he can't help. After doing that once during the interview for this story, he said, "I wish I didn't have to do that all the time because it hurts."

He's not allowed to push, pull or pick up anything during the four weeks post-surgery. He can't drive or even ride in the front seat of a vehicle right now due to what could happen in the event of an airbag deploying.

When he stands up out of his recliner, he clutches the red heart pillow he was given to his chest with both hands, relying upon his abdominal muscles rather than

his arms to get up.

"I guess probably the thing I've had the adjust to the most is depending on April to do everything for me," Tomlinson said. "She goes above and beyond."

April said her husband's a good patient.

"Sometimes he can get needy," she said, "but for the most part, he's pretty easy."

Tomlinson will eventually have another defibrillator implanted (he's relying on a wearable defibrillator at the moment). That will occur in four to five weeks, following the antibiotics regiment he is undergoing intravenously at home.

Barring no further complications due to an infection, Tomlinson would like to attend the first week of football practice, which begins July 30. If there, he won't be on the field, but observing while seated in his truck.

"The doctors have said that first week is a no-go," he said. "Now, they haven't heard my plan of sitting in my truck on the track in air-conditioning."

Tomlinson said he thinks he can actually on the field for the second week of practice, but said if not, he should definitely be on the field for the third week, which concludes with the kickoff classic.

He has given thought to not coaching anymore because of what he's gone through, but April was having none of that. She said if he's healthy enough to do it, then he's coaching.

"He's hard to live with when he doesn't coach," she said. Then, looking at her husband, she said, "That's who you are."

"It is," Tomlinson said, "but the family you see in this house — that's more important to me than football. It's like I tell the players. Their families are more important than football ever will be."

During his illness and recovery, it must have appeared to Tomlinson that his family has grown so much larger if you consider all the people who've prayed for him and supported him and his family in some way.

Amazed, grateful and emotional

Since he's been recuperating, Tomlinson has more down time, so he's been logging onto Facebook more than he normally would. What he's seen is enough to bring tears to his eyes, he admitted.

Numerous posts about his condition have been shared and commented on. A campaign known as "#Prayers4CoachT" was circulated, as people near and far prayed for Tomlinson and his family. Lindley Adkins, one of Bradford High School's assistant principals, told him people all over the country were praying for him.

"I don't know half of these people," Tomlinson said. "I probably don't know a quarter of these people, but they're all talking about me and praying for me, and they're praying for my family. It was humbling. It was just, wow."

See COACH, 8B

His Way

When you think of the past does it bring regret?
Do you think of things you can't forget?
Could things have been different in your past?
Did you put things first you should've put last?
Does the harder you try, the more you fail?
You work in vain to no avail.
Have you checked your past from whence you came?
Do you wonder why things never stay the same?
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Pictured at home 17 days after undergoing open-heart surgery is Bradford High School Head Football Coach Brian Tomlinson and his family (l-r): wife April, daughter Emery and son Brysen. Tomlinson expects to be on the sideline coaching the Tornados when the season starts with a preseason kickoff classic at Newberry on Friday, Aug. 17, at 7:30 p.m.

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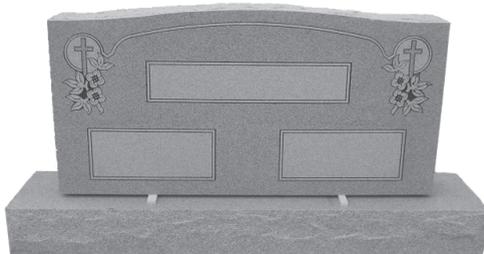
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UCHS has top girls' athletic program in Class 1A

BHS boys, KHHS girls finish 4th, 13th in 5A



Union County High School's volleyball team, which was the state runner-up, earned 16 of the school's first-place 42 points in the Floyd E. Lay Sunshine Cup All-Sports standings in Class 1A for girls. Pictured after winning the District 6 championship are: (front, l-r) Madelyn Kish, Madison Adams, Brooke Waters, Taylor Beatty, (back, l-r) Head Coach Jordan Windham, Shelby Spratlin, Kylie Stevens, Mackenzie Bradley, Summer Fulgham, Abi Ripplinger, Emily O'Neal and Assistant Coach Owen Beatty.

Grandson of Lake Region man recovers from gunshot



People Magazine reported on the recovery of Joey Slaight in its May 28 issue. The 11-year-old is the grandson of Lake Region resident Troy Stephens.

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Managing Editor

In January 2015 Lake Region residents Troy and Lisa Stephens experienced an ordeal few can imagine. Troy's daughter Morgan had shot and killed her own 6-year-old son Jaxon and critically injured herself and her other son Joey.

Troy, then the owner of Keystone's Frozen Pelican Restaurant, made the 21-hour drive to Wisconsin while Lisa stayed in Keystone to run the family business.

While Troy was in Wisconsin, family members decided to take Morgan off

life support after doctors advised the family that there was no chance she would survive her injuries.

Physicians also told the family that the remaining survivor of the shooting: Joey had a less than five-percent chance of survival. If he survived, doctors added, he would have no sight in his left eye. He might not be able to speak, and his memory center was destroyed.

Now, three-and-a-half years later, Joey is thriving. He is undergoing speech and physical therapy and his

grandmother, a retired first-grade teacher, is teaching him to read again.

In May, People Magazine highlighted Joey's recovery in the story: "Shot by his Mother, a Boy's Brave Fight."

Troy and Lisa's restaurant is no more. Troy is now the pastor at The Church

See **BOY**, 8B

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

For the second year in a row, Union County High School's accomplishments in girls' athletics have placed the Tigers on top of the Class 1A standings in the Florida High School Athletic Association's Floyd E. Lay Sunshine Cup

All-Sports awards. Schools earn points based upon postseason results. Union had the top girls' program in 1A with 42 points, which was 10 points better than second-place Sneads.

"In a small town, it goes in cycles," UCHS Athletic Director Ronny Pruitt said. "Right now, our girls' cycle is

really strong. We've got a lot of numbers participating right now."

The bulk of the Tigers' points were earned by the weightlifting and volleyball teams.

"Our girls' weightlifting is the one that really hit it out of

See **UNION**, 8B

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SUBSTITUTE TEACHER TRAINING:

WHO:
Substitute training for new substitutes and for substitutes that did not substitute teach for at least 10 days during the 2017-2018 school year

WHEN:
August 14, 2018 Tuesday and August 29, 2018, Wednesday

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

WHERE:
Adult Education building/Outpost

Please contact Pam Pittman, pittmanp@union.k12.fl.us or 386 496-2045 ext 230

40 Notices

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

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45 Land for Sale

FOR SALE. Home site lot located in Starke Golf Course off of 17th Ave. financing available. Call 904-364-9022.

47 Commercial Property (Rent, Lease, Sale)

OFFICE BUILDING FOR RENT. Keystone Heights next to W.D. Beck Ins. 3 offices, large conference room, kitchen, 2/BA, parking. \$1000/per mo. on contract. For info call 904-364-9022.

48 Homes for Sale

2 HOUSES FOR SALE/LEASE TO BUY. Must have credit score of 660+ 3BR/2BA house. Tile floor, granite counters, Jacuzzi tub, gas fireplace, 2-car garage. Lake access. Post Masters Village in Keystone Heights. \$1000/mo.-\$1050/mo. plus 1 month deposit. Call Dave 352-473-3560.

50 For Rent

WE HAVE 2 OR 3 bedroom MH, clean, close to prison. Call 352-468-1323.

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

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AVAILABLE NOW! 3BR/1BA house in Raiford. Handicap accessible. No pets. 650/mo. 750/ security deposit. 1st, last & deposit. Call 904-964-4309.

53 A Yard Sales

YARD SALE: Saturday 8am-1pm. Desk, china cabinet, lamps, clothes, books, dresser, misc. hardware and lots more. 21248 NW SR 16 (next to Heilbronn Springs Church).

BIG YARD SALE. Fri. & Sat. 7am-? Bayless Hwy (follow signs).

YARD SALE: 8am-12pm. Saturday only. Multi-family. Starke Country Club (follow signs). Rain or shine.

GARAGE SALE: Saturday 8am-3pm. 806 Parkway Place, follow signs. Furniture, household items, baby items, wheelchairs/walkers, women & children's clothes, etc.

65 Help Wanted

THE BRADFORD COUNTY SOLID WASTE Department is accepting applications for a qualified, part-time, Site Attendant/Relief Driver at a pay rate of \$14.00 per hour. Applicants must possess a High School Diploma or G.E.D. and a CDL Class B License. Applications along with a detailed job description may be obtained from the Solid Waste Department, located at 925 N. Temple Avenue, Suite E, Starke, Florida 32091 or from the county's website www.bradfordcountyfl.gov. Completed applications must be turned in at the Solid Waste Department. The

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UNION

Continued from 7B

the park," Pruitt said.

The weightlifting team earned 20 points by winning the program's first-ever state championship. Four individual champions — Kurston Bakken, Josie Godwin, Mia Jackson and Brandy McCoy — made that possible.

In all, the weightlifting team accounted for 24 points by factoring in its district and regional titles.

The volleyball team accounted for 16 points, 12 of which were earned by finishing as state runner-up.

Pruitt said the school has been blessed with a number of talented girls' athletes, but something he believes is also



"In a small town, it goes in cycles. Right now, our girls' cycle is really strong. We've got a lot of numbers participating right now." — UCHS AD Ronny Pruitt

factoring into the equation is the fact that weight training is a part of the school's PE classes.

"We have a group of girls that loves to work out," Pruitt said. "They're not all on the weightlifting team."

Union placed fifth overall (girls and boys combined) in the 1A standings with 46 points.

The Gainesville Sun, which has devised a formula to recognize the top 10 small-school and big-school programs, recently announced Union as its top small school.

In Class 5A, Bradford placed fourth in the boys' standings with 19.3 points, finishing behind Raines (32), West Florida (30.8) and LaBelle (24.5). The football team was the biggest reason for that finish, earning 11 points by winning a regional

championship and finishing as a state semifinalist.

Keystone Heights placed 13th in the 5A girls' standings with 13 points. All but two of those were earned by the softball team, which won a regional championship and finished as a state semifinalist.

When combining boys and girls, Bradford placed 16th with 18.8 points, while Keystone was 18th with 18 points. The Bradford girls' program finished with a sub-zero number after having half a point deducted due to a Level 2 ejection/unsporting conduct. Keystone was 22nd in the boys' standings with five points.

Keystone finished tied for eighth in The Gainesville Sun's top big-school rankings.



Union County High School weightlifters (l-r) Kurston Bakken, Josie Godwin, Mia Jackson and Brandy McCoy won state titles, which led to the program earning its first-ever team state title. By winning championships at the state, regional and district levels, the weightlifting team earned 24 points in helping UCHS place first atop the Floyd E. Lay Sunshine Cup All-Sports standings in Class 1A for girls. Union compiled 42 points overall, with points being awarded for postseason results.

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Troy Stephens serves a customer at his restaurant, the Frozen Pelican. The eatery went out of business in September 2015.

BOY

Continued from 7B

Courageous in Keystone Heights.

He is well known in the area for helping people with substance abuse problems, victims of domestic violence and those needing a helping hand.

Even while he was waiting on customers at the Frozen Pelican, Troy was engaged in counseling customers through difficult times in their lives.

Early in 2015, Stephens, who has a background in ministry, began mentoring Tim Carlson, who had just launched Riptide Family Church. The new congregation met in the building that used to house St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

In August 2015, Carlson accepted a position at a church in Baxley, Georgia, so Stephens filled in for him at Riptide.

Soon thereafter, he reorganized the church, changing the name to the Church Courageous.

He said that helping people through difficult times was

COACH

Continued from 6B

"Why me? Really? Who am I? It was unreal."

Some of that support came from former players, including those who played for him when he was the head coach of the Lake Butler Middle School football team from 2000 through 2006. It let Tomlinson know that as a coach he does have an impact on young people's lives.

"I guess when you're in the middle of it, you don't realize you're making a difference," he said. "Heck, sometimes I feel like I'm just being mean. To have them text you and tell you how much they love you — it's just very humbling."

April said one of her friends held a fundraiser as a way of assisting the family with its medical costs. People have cooked meals for the family and are still cooking meals she said.

"We've even had people come and offer to mow the yard for us," April said. "Tons of people have reached out to help in any way."

Tomlinson is amazed by the support and extremely grateful.

"I just want to tell them all thank you," he said. "They have no idea how much they're appreciated."

the most rewarding part of running the Frozen Pelican.

"This is my 14-foot pulpit," he said while the restaurant was still operating, pointing to the wood counter with a half-dozen bar stools lined up in front.

As for Joey, Stephens calls the boy his miracle kid.

"He is doing things now the doctors said he would never do," said Stephens.

Last week Stephens suffered another hardship, surviving a heart attack while driving a forklift. This week he was back at work.

KHHS girls' golf meeting set for Friday, July 13

A meeting for students — and their parents — interested in playing for the Keystone Heights High School girls' golf team will be held at the home of Head Coach Billy Jackson on Friday, July 13, from 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

Interested students will receive vital information about the requirements to play as well as a schedule of practices and matches.

Please RSVP by Monday, July 9.

Call Jackson at 352-494-9430.

BHS to host volleyball camp July 28-29

Bradford High School will host a volleyball camp, featuring Prostyle Volleyball Academy coaches, on Saturday and Sunday, July 28-29.

The camp is open to rising sixth-12th-graders.

Times are 6:30-9 p.m. on July 28 and 1-4 p.m. and 5-7:30 p.m. on July 29.

Participants are asked to bring water, lunch and extra socks, shirts and shorts.

The cost is \$75.

Please register by Tuesday, July 24, at BHS or by contacting BHS Head Coach Katie Crews at 904-408-6345.