

Lake Region Monitor

USPS 114-170 — Keystone Heights, Florida

Thursday, August 9, 2018

45th Year — 14th Issue — 75 CENTS

Lake Region woman accused of stealing over \$250,000 from employer



See Regional news Page 4B

Hunger decreasing in Lake Region, need still exists

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Managing Editor

Lake Area Ministries Co-Director Chip Wester told the Keystone Heights Rotary Club that his organization fed 18 percent fewer people last year than in 2014. He added that with over 13,000 visits to the organization's Commercial Circle headquarters last year, many Lake Region residents still need help feeding their families.

Wester addressed the group during its Aug. 1 meeting and said the food pantry is now in its 29th year. He said the organization got its start in 1989 when area churches wanted a centralized point to send people who needed food.

"They recruited some ladies who were very civic-minded," Wester said.

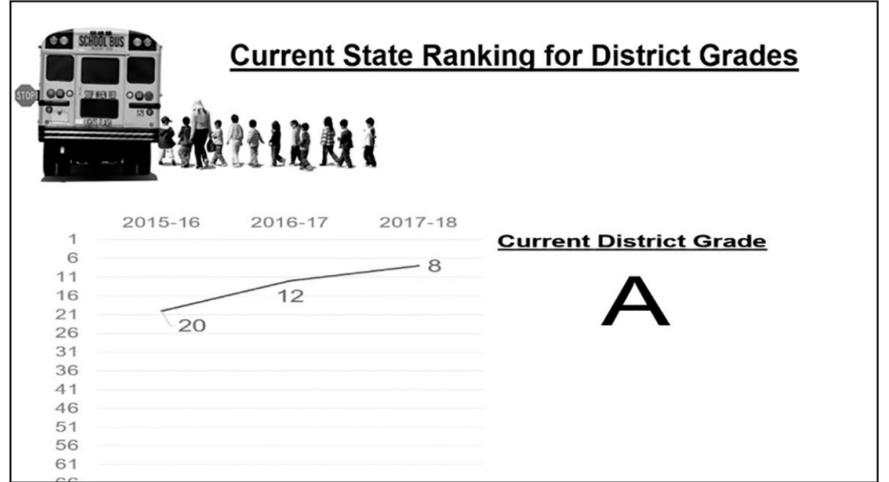
Wester added that throughout its 29-year history, the nonprofit has remained an all-volunteer organization. He said that during the 2008-2009 recession, many organizations similar to Lake Area Ministries went out of business. However, because of broad community support, LAM not only survived the financial crisis, but also moved into a larger facility during the economic downturn.

Wester said the amount of food the organization is able to provide is not, by itself, sufficient to support a family. The ministry



Lake Area Ministries Co-Director Chip Wester spoke to the Keystone Heights Rotary Club on Aug. 2.

Schools superintendent celebrates district achievements



BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Managing Editor

Clay County school superintendent Addison Davis celebrated the district's ranking during the school board's August meeting. He said the district, which was ranked 20th at the end of the 2016 school year now ranks eighth in the state.

"We moved the number of 'A' schools this year," he said, "we moved the number of 'B' schools, we increased it, and we decreased the number of 'C' schools in the school district. We have one 'C' school and one

'D' school, and that's not been done before in the history (of the district)."

Davis added that Clay is continually competing with St. Johns County, the number one public school district in the state.

"They continue to be the leading lady in the area of the State of Florida," he said of Clay County's cross-river neighbor. "They are number one in every component measured. However, if you look at all those components you see that Clay County is ranked second in many of them compared to like counties. So, we

are getting closer to St. Johns and we continue to outperform like counties."

Davis also recognized people he called champions of change during the August school board meeting. Focusing on school leaders who exhibited the highest growth rate in Florida Standards Assessment scores. He recognized McRae Elementary School principal Tammy Winkler and Keystone Heights Junior/Senior high school principal Aaron McWilliams as leaders of two Clay County schools in the top five of FSA growth.

School Names	2017-18 Growth
McRae Elementary School	+123
Wilkinson Elementary School	+96
Clay Hill Elementary School	+91
Keystone Heights Junior/Senior High School	+81
Middleburg Elementary School	+78
Montclair Elementary School	+68
Oakleaf Junior High School	+64
Lake Asbury Elementary School	+56
Oakleaf High School	+54

Origins of Camp Crystal discussed at Fly-in

BY ATHIE SANDERS
Special to the Monitor

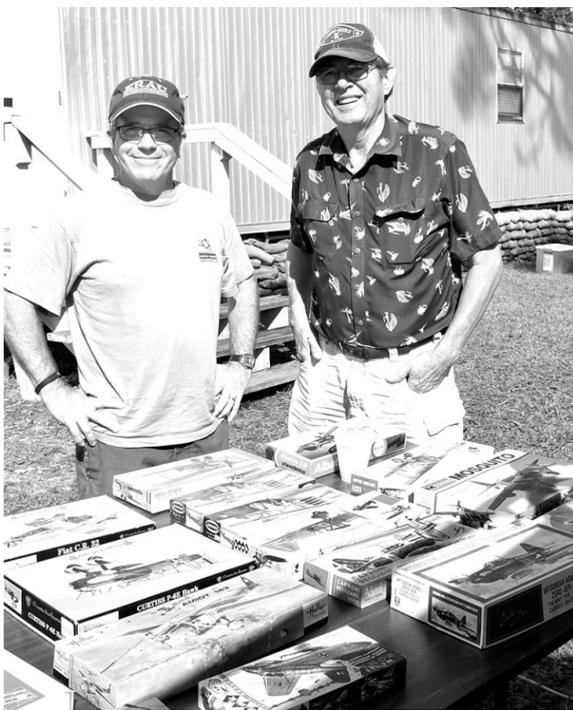
The Wings of Dreams Aviation and Space Museum hosted its monthly Fly-In/Cruise-In Breakfast at the Keystone Airpark in Starke Saturday, Aug. 4 featuring author and historian Wayne Wetherington as guest speaker.

"We served over 90 breakfasts. We were not completely out of food, but we were unable to serve the full breakfast to late comers," said Woody Andrews, general manager. "We had 20 planes fly in. That is nearly a record. Last July we had 24 planes."

Wetherington, a lifelong resident of Gainesville and 40-year veteran of the US Postal system, spoke on the history of Camp Crystal and why it was created during the WWII. He also shared background about writing his latest book, "From Marianna to Moosburg...and Back."

Camp Crystal was developed during WWII as part of the Keystone Army Air Force Base. The 140 acres were used primarily for barracks to house pilots brought in for training. Keystone Airport was a training facility. "During this time Starke was the fourth largest city in Florida because of the war," said Wetherington.

After the war bases and airports were no longer needed, efforts were made to recoup some of the money by liquidation of the facilities. In 1947 the federal



(L to r) Peter Klockenbrink and Ken Church look over the plastic models that are offered for auction. The models had been donated and they are being auctioned off to raise money for the museum.

government put Camp Crystal up for public auction by sealed bid.

"One bid was received, and it was for one dollar," said Wetherington. The Alachua County School Board was awarded the property. "When

Bradford County found out, they hit the ceiling," said Wetherington. "They sued them; Alachua County got a lawyer and lost, so they appealed and

See FLY, 3A

Retired art teacher hosts summer art camp



(L to r) Aislinn Callahan (14), Chloe Dickinson (12), Emylee Moore (7) Gayle Bone, art teacher, and Rigby Morford (9) discuss what they plan to do next on their individual projects. Class age range is six to 15-years-old. Bone has everyone working on individual projects centered around a common theme. Everyone helps everyone else and the class runs smoothly.

BY ATHIE SANDERS
Special to the Monitor

Gayle Anne Bone, a retired public school art teacher, is teaching her 20th annual Summer Art Camp at Faith Presbyterian Church in Melrose during two

daily hour-and-half weekly sessions Monday through Friday. The camp offers children an opportunity to engage in art experiences in a fun and independent way while learning about art elements and principles.

"I started the summer program

back when I first started teaching. We got out for the summer and after the whole year of having kindergarten students on my heels all the time. I really missed them so I started the summer

See CAMP, 2A

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CAMP

Continued from 1A

program," said Bone.

The summer program has been housed in various locations, including the Mossman Center, but Bone finds her home church to be a place she returns to because she can leave the children's art work out all week.

The art room is full of potential art materials such as big and little boxes, paper, all types of scraps, paints, glue, crayons, fabric, magazine and pamphlet pictures, craft embellishments, art tools and glue guns. At the end of each day everyone helps clean up materials but they leave their projects out to be continued the next day.

This year 44 students and helpers are participating over several sessions of camp.

"The first week Sarah Garcia was the helper. She has been my student in the past. This week Mia Neeley (15) and Aislinn Callahan (14) were the student helpers. Aislinn was a student

previously and this is Mia's first time," said Bone.

Neeley travels to Jacksonville to participate as a Junior Docent at the Cummer Museum. As a docent, she has a piece of her art displayed at the museum. "At the end of the year, her work will then be moved to City Hall and be displayed for one more year. After that she is going to donate the piece to a convent in Maine," said Patricia Howell, Neeley's mother.

In a given class the age range of the students varies. This week's class had students age six to 15-years-old. "I use student helpers each year so younger students can be helped more quickly," said Bone.

Students receive whole group instruction through teacher demonstrations and lessons on a featured famous artist. "Each year I feature a famous artist. This year the classes will learn about Leonardo DaVinci, an artist, architect, musician and inventor during the Renaissance period," said Bone.

Students did a Mona Lisa

cartoon as well as many other projects including still life drawings. "As they draw a still life they learn to balance their composition and draw interesting shapes," commented Bone.

"Their favorite project was creating papier mache sea creatures. They made sea turtles, dolphins, whales, jellyfish, octopi and squid. A variety of media are used including tempera and watercolor paints, colored pencils, collage, markers and oil pastels," said Bone.

"Student artists learn problem solving when they must find boxes and materials to form the animal they wish to make. As they draw a still life they learn to balance their composition and draw interesting shapes," said Bone.

Bone said her repeat students gain new skills each year and their work improves. She teaches art classes at the Melrose Library and other venues. She hopes to continue teaching as long as there are interested students and helpers for her class.



It is pouring outside so someone has to do it; dry paper mache projects with a hair dryer. Jimmy Callahan attended classes last week but came back this week. He ended up drying lots of projects so the young artist could use their time working on other projects.



Teacher Gayle Bone checks to see if younger students need help, but they seem to be progressing with help from their peers. Students range in age from six to 15-years-old and work well together.



Mia Neeley (15) adds detail to her papier mache project. (L tor) Jamie Davis (12), Mia Neeley (15) Mallory Sanders (11) and Emylee Moore (7).



Rigby Morford (9) paints the finishing touches on her project.



Right: Mallroy Sanders (11) painted her whale an hour ago and had it dried with the hair dryer. She is now adding details such as banacles made from beads and a smile from a pipe cleaner.



(L to r) Jimmy Callahan, Emylee Moore (7), and Aislinn Callahan (14) work to help each other complete paint and papier mache projects that will require drying with hairdryers because of the rainy weather.



Chloe Dickinson (12) builds a papier mache structure using strips of newsprint dipped into a flour, paste and water liquid.



Art teacher Gayle Bone encourages John Davis (6) as he looks through magazine and pamphlet pictures searching for inspiration for his next project.



Jenna Davis (10) stands and observes Jamie Davis (12) and John Davis (6) as they show her their batik process of using glue made of flour and water on fabric to create a design which they paint with watercolors.

Lake Region Monitor
USPS 114-170
Published each Thursday and entered as Periodical Postage Paid at Keystone Heights, Florida under Act of March 3, 1879.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
Lake Region Monitor
P.O. Drawer A - Starke, FL 32091
131 W. Call Street - Starke, FL 32091
Phone: (904)964-6305 • Fax: (904)964-8628

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Subscription Rate in Trade Area
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FLY Continued from 1A

finally took the case to U.S. Supreme Court. Alachua County was awarded the property for the one dollar, but attorney fees amounted to \$10,000," added Wetherington.

Camp Crystal opened in 1948 and began serving students. Over time the camp has been upgraded and modernized, but several of the original buildings remain. The camp is an outdoor education facility and serves students year-round for fieldtrips and summer camp programs.

Currently over 1,000 campers are served through summer residential and adventure camps. Educational fieldtrips are offered for all 2nd through 5th graders in Alachua County's public schools and groups are able to rent space for weekend retreats from September through April.

Wetherington also shared information about his most current book "From Marianna to Moosburg...and Back."

"I was inspired to write the book after being told war stories from an elderly gentleman; he was in his eighties. He would tell me stories, I would research the facts and find he was totally accurate," said Wetherington.

Leonard Gordy and his brother Paul both served in WWII. Both brothers were captured and became prisoners of war at different times and in different places. The brothers were later reunited and able to return home together.

Wetherington wrote the story of the B-17 crewman's reflections of war, redemption and family reunion. He starts the reader out with childhood background and then moves into the preparation and training of Gordy, covers his war experiences and then brings him home after the war. The story is written in a way

that makes readers feel they were right there. "You will feel like you are sitting in the B-17 bomber," said Wetherington.

A space artifacts tour was led by Bob Oehl while Andrews stayed back and provided an auction of plastic WWI and WWII vintage model kits of aircraft, automobiles and WWII armor dating back to the 50's. "The models were donated to the Museum and we want to auction them off so we can earn money for the museum," said Andrews.

Among the planes that flew in for the breakfast was a 1942 BT13. "It is a friend's plane. He's in Leesburg and let me fly it up here," said Tom Sage of Mt. Dora. "This BT13 was used to train pilots during WWII; it was based in CA," added Sage.

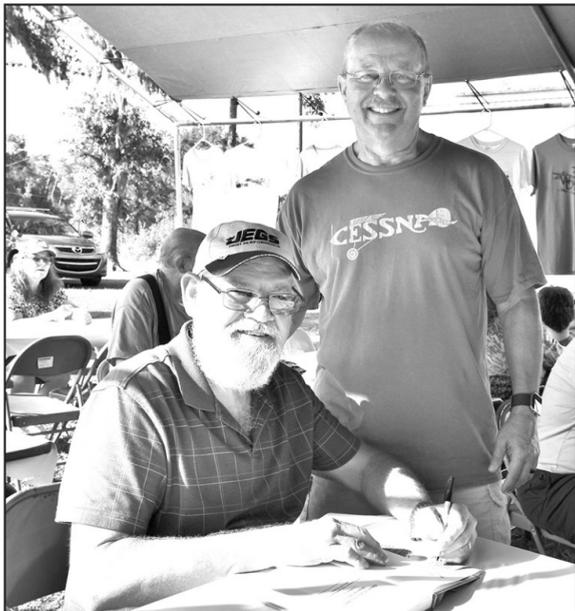
Wetherington's book, inspired by wartime events in the life of Leonard Gordy, "From Marianna to Moosburg...and Back, One

B-17 Crewman's Story of War, Redemption and Family Reunion" can be purchased from the author, on line or will soon be available for sale at the Keystone Airport. For more information contact Wayne or Bernie Wetherington at 352.246.5102 or 352.373.6956. The price of the book is \$25.00.

Wings of Dreams welcomes community members to their monthly Fly-In/Cruise-In Breakfast, 8:00-11:00 a.m. the first Saturday of each month. They also have volunteer community service opportunities. Group tours of the aviation museum can be arranged by appointment and special events can be arranged for your group. Behind-the-scenes tours of the historic aviation and space artifact collection are available by appointment. For further information please call: (352) 256-8037 or (352) 219-2285.



(L to r) Woody Andrews, Charlie Bridgham, Wayne Wetherington and Bob Oehl are happy with the day's attendance. Twenty planes flew in for the event. "The all time record was 24 planes last July," said Andrews.



Wayne Wetherington autographs his book for David Kirkland, Chairman of Keystone Airport Authority.



(L to r) Eric Garrett, Howey in the Hills, Tom Sage, Mt. Dora and Jack Oconnor, Mt. Dora. "This is a friends' plane from Leesburg. He let me fly it up here," said Sage. The plane is a 1942 BT13 used to train pilots during WWII. It was based in California.

Lake Swan Camp dedicating Billy Graham Chapel

Lake Swan Camp, where Billy Graham first started his preaching ministry, will honor America's Preacher and Evangelist, at its 2018 Homecoming Reunion and Vision 2027 Banquet, Saturday, Aug. 25, at 647 State Road 26 in Melrose.

During three days of fun, food, and fellowship (Aug. 24-26) partners, individuals and friends will attend:

- a homecoming reunion.
- the dedication of the Billy Graham Chapel in Minder Hall, the camp's main meeting hall. Keynote speaker will be Gigi Graham Wilson, Billy Graham's daughter. Local, regional and state officials and church leaders will be in attendance.
- the second annual Vision 2027 Banquet, Lake Swan Camp's renewal campaign, in anticipation of its 2027 centennial anniversary.

Free and open to the public.

See SWAN, 4A

LEGALS

LRM Legals 8/9/18

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Florida Self Storage Facility Act Statutes (Section 83.801, 83.809), Lake Area Storage, LLC, will sell the following items to the highest and best bidder on Monday, August 13, 2018 at 9:00 A.M. (EST) at 7101 SR 21, Keystone Heights, Florida 32656: Unit# 354, containing misc. household items. 8/2 2tchg 8/9-LRM

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The Monitor looks back to 2003

While the Columbia shuttle disaster and the Iraq War dominated world and national headlines in 2003, the Lake Region saw several milestones in that year, including the groundbreaking of Santa Fe College's Watson Center, the completion of the airport's fixed operations building and the Clay County Utility Authority's takeover of Keystone Heights-area water companies. Here is a look at the national and local headlines of 2003.

January

— Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's Likud Party defeats the labor Party, led by Amram Mitzna in parliamentary elections.

— Democrats John Edwards and Joe Lieberman announce plans to run for U.S. president in 2004.

— The Keystone Airport holds a grand reopening of its Fixed Based Operator building after a \$300,000 renovation. The event features displays of military, public and private aircraft, antique aircraft and flight-related educational events. Local civic groups hold a variety of food booths to compliment the day.

— Cindy Loose, a mathematics teacher, is named Teacher of the Year for Keystone Heights High School.

— A tractor tips over pulling a utility trailer with 24 students on it during a hay ride at Camp Crystal. The accident resulted in eight students being treated for minor cuts and bruises.

— The Clay County Sheriff's Office announces that crime in the county fell 16 percent, from the prior year.

February

— U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell tells the U.N. Security Council that Saddam Hussein is an imminent threat to the world and possesses chemical weapons.

— Space Shuttle Columbia breaks up as it reenters the earth's atmosphere over Texas, killing all seven crew members.

— Record producer Phil Spector is arrested for the murder in the shooting death of B-movie actress Lana Clarkson.

— The Keystone Heights Rotary Club offers a 3v3 soccer tournament at Twin Lakes Soccer Complex. More than 48 three-player teams entered the tournament which raised \$1,300 for club charities including PolioPlus.

— A 52-year-old Keystone man was shot in the parking lot of Food Lion on S.R. 21 as he opened his car door. The shooter was a young male and ran away from the scene. The victim drove himself to the Putnam County Fire Rescue station in Melrose where he was then transported to a Gainesville hospital. He was treated and released for a gunshot wound to the chest area.

— The Clay County Sheriff's Office investigated the suspicious death of Debra Benedict, 44, when Clay County Fire Rescue and the Keystone Heights Volunteer Fire Department responded to a structure fire and found her body.

— Pizza Hut in Keystone is robbed at gunpoint.

— The Monitor holds a candidate's forum for six individuals vying for three-city council seats.

March

— 911 Attack mastermind Khalid Shaikh Mohammed is captured in Pakistan.

— The United States launches Operation Iraqi Freedom, invading Iraq.

— Kidnapped Utah teen Elizabeth Smart is found with her alleged kidnappers, nine months after vanishing.

— Keystone Heights voters reelect council members Huntley Redfeard and Peggie Dixon and elect Keith Jones to the third seat, ousting incumbent Jack Raligh Sr.

— Clay County voters denied a half-cent sales tax initiative, which county officials say would have helped resolve some of the financial problems of the school district.

— The city council recognized Clay County Sheriff Deputy Gary Cannon for his years of service to the community as Cannon accepted a new assignment based

out of Green Cove Springs.

— A female student involved with one of the suspects of the Feb. 11 Food Lion shooting incident and the Feb. 19 Pizza Hut robbery is removed from Keystone Heights High School.

— Keystone Heights High School Principal Mike Wingate accepted the head job at Orange Park High School while Dr. Susan Sailor stepped into Wingate's shoes at Keystone.

— A 44-year-old Keystone man was arrested for the 1984 murder of an 11-year old Indiana girl.

— The city holds a special meeting to approve a \$100,000 loan to take through eminent domain property owned by Long Lake Enterprises on Nightingale Street for its sewer project.

— The Clay County Sheriff's Office requests help from the public in finding the suspect who threw a homemade acid bomb at a 2001 Dodge Neon parked on Garden Street on March 9.

— Two Keystone residents were killed when their 1999 Harley Davidson motorcycle was struck by a van leaving the Keystone Family Inn on S.R. 100. Two others riding Harley Davidsons were seriously injured.

April

— U.S. Forces enter Baghdad.

— Congress approves the Amber Alert bill.

— CCSO District Deputy Sam Abrahamsen is named as Keystone's newest community officer replacing Deputy Gary Cannon.

— The debate over all-terrain vehicles using dry lake bed heats up.

May

— U.S. declares combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq is over.

— President George W. Bush announces plans to run for reelection. Spokesperson Ari Fleisher announces resignation.

— Olympic bombing suspect Eric Rudolph is arrested in North Carolina after eluding authorities for five years.

— The St. Johns River Water Management District delays plans for a proposed pipeline that would bring water from the upper Etoniah Basin in Camp Blanding to lower lakes in the chain, including the Keystone Heights lakes. The state agency said the plans lacked details.

— The Clay County Utility Authority purchases five water systems around Keystone Heights.

— Three students at Keystone Heights High School sign Take Stock in Children contracts. The agreements with the educational nonprofit provide mentoring and potential scholarships.

— An 11-year-old Keystone Heights girl is returned to her family by Clay deputies after the handicapped child went missing from her home. She was found chin deep in a lake, sinking under the water and unable to swim when Deputy Larry Weiss plunged into the water, fully dressed, to save her.

— Keystone Heights High School graduates 152 seniors.

June

— The Federal Trade Commission creates a Do-Not-Call registry, prohibiting telemarketers from calling numbers on the list.

— Television personality Martha Stewart is indicted for conspiracy, obstruction of justice and securities fraud.

— Keystone Heights officials hold a public hearing on all-terrain vehicles riding on dry lake beds. Three citizens speak in favor of the practice, four speak against.

— Aerobic hopefuls practice in the Keystone sky for the World Aerobic Championships in Lakeland.

— KHHS and McRae Elementary earn A grades in the state's accountability report. Keystone Heights Elementary School narrowly missed an A and appealed its B rating. This was the high school's fourth year as an A school.

— Historic Melrose Inc. took a chunk out of its mortgage on Heritage Park with an auction fundraiser hosted by Keystone Auction Service.

— The Florida Department of

Transportation began work on a left-turn lane on northbound S.R. 21 onto Orchid Avenue.

— Fryer's Chicken announced it is building a new restaurant in Keystone at the corner of Cargo Way and S.R. 21.

— A Keystone Heights man arrested for the 1984 murder of an Indiana girl is cleared of charges and is released.

July

— The Bush Administration admits that Iraqi weapons intelligence was flawed and that a sentence in the president's State of the Union address about Iraq attempting to purchase uranium in Africa was inaccurate.

— U.S. POW Jessica Lynch is rescued from an Iraqi hospital.

— Florida's Department of Transportation identifies the need for a traffic signal at the intersection of East Walker Drive (S.R. 100), Commercial Drive and Sylvan Way.

— Bryan's Ace Hardware starts construction on its 5,000-square foot nursery on East Walker Drive.

— Record crowds attend the Our Country Day Celebration.

— The Clay County Recreation Department signed a five-year lease with Clay Electric to extend services of McDavid Park to the Keystone Recreation Association until the league moves to its new site at Little Rain Lake Park.

— A 27-year-old woman exchanged gunfire with Clay deputies after an argument with her husband. She was later arrested.

— Keystone Heights officials divest themselves of providing city employees to help civic groups run festivals in city parks. The city sets up a festival grant account that groups can apply for to offset set up and cleanup costs.

— A car driven by a 94-year-old man crashed into a Melrose video store at the corner of S.R. 21 and S.R. 26 causing injuries to an 18-year-old female and minor cuts to a 14-year-old-male.

— Keystone Heights doubles its communications services tax.

— Eckerd Drugs purchases land at the corner of S.R. 21 and S.R. 100. In 2004, Eckerd was acquired by CVS.

August

— Arnold Schwarzenegger announces on the Tonight Show that he is running for California Governor during the recall election of incumbent Gray Davis.

— Fifty million Americans go without power in the largest blackout in U.S. history.

— Keystone Heights officials hold a public meeting in its initial step toward applying for a Florida Recreational Development Assistance Program grant for a 3.5-acre recreational park at the corner of Sunrise Boulevard and Nightingale Street. The park will include skateboard facilities as well as a dog park.

— Clay Electric Cooperative geared up its campaign to stop a proposed utility tax considered for the unincorporated areas of Clay County.

— The Florida Rock Gold Head sand plant received its permit from the St. Johns River Water Management District.

— A submerged land lease from the state and an easement with Camp Blanding delay a pipeline project to bring more water to area lakes.

— An official at St. William Catholic Church is arrested for embezzling \$400,000 from church accounts, friends and parishioners.

— Keystone Heights officials close Keystone Beach due to high coliform counts.

— The Clay County Utility Authority announces a 25-percent reduction in water rates for the Keystone Heights area.

— North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Lex Green announces his resignation to pursue an accounting career and spend more time with his family.

— Keystone resident Pfc. Richard Power, is injured in Iraq when his truck hit a landmine, causing the gas tank to explode and sending eight soldiers to Landstuhl, Germany for medical attention.

September

— The U.S. Justice Department opens an investigation into whom revealed the identity of a CIA operative married to former ambassador Joseph Wilson.

— Hurricane Isabel hits North Carolina, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

— The Lake Region Kiwanis Club and the Rotary Club of Keystone Heights join forces to raise money for Lake Area ministries through a silent auction: "Pulling Together."

— Students and teachers of Keystone Heights Elementary School remember Michelle Rhine Mills at a memorial service held at the school after her sudden death in August.

— Melrose poses the question: "To incorporate or not to incorporate?" at a meeting of the Melrose Business and Community Association.

October

— California Governor Gray Davis is defeated in a recall vote and Austrian-born actor Arnold Schwarzenegger is elected governor.

— Keystone Heights High School seniors Gavin Rollins and Lauren Hardin are elected Homecoming King and Queen.

— "Pulling Together" nets Lake Area Ministries more than \$13,000.

— Clay County Fire Chief Jim Corbin said adding paid fire and rescue personnel at the McRae station is a year away.

— Keystone Heights annexed the Nightingale Street sewer property to bring it into the city as, the next step in the sewer project.

November

— D.C. Sniper John A. Mohammad is convicted for the 2002 Washington-area shootings in which 10 people were killed. Mohammad is sentenced to death.

— Alabama Chief Justice Roy S. Moore is removed from office for refusing to comply with a federal order to remove a monument of the 10 Commandments from the Alabama State Courthouse Rotunda.

— The Keystone Jaycees celebrate 25 years of community service.

— Keystone resident Natalie Sullivan is recognized for being the first person in Clay County to earn the Future Farmers of America's highest honor: the American degree.

— Keystone Heights officials test Project Play for arsenic after a student's science project yields above-normal levels.

— The service road cutting into landlocked property on S.R. 100 was under surveyed by 40 feet and will cost an additional \$9,000 which the city will have to pay.

December

— Former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein is found in an eight-foot hole on a farm near Tikrit.

— President George W. Bush signs into law the largest overhaul of Medicare in history, authorizing the federal program for the first time to cover prescription drugs.

— Santa Fe Community College breaks ground for its Bradford County-Lake Region center on S.R. 21. The center will later be named for its benefactors: Alfred B. Watson Sr. and Agnes W. Watson.

— The Keystone-Lake Region Business Association raises \$200 for medical supplies to be used in the Keystone Heights High School clinic.

— The executive director of the Clay County Utility Authority asks local businesses for help in securing easement rights for the utility's sewer project.

— Keystone Heights officials prepare to present its plan for a community redevelopment agency to Clay County Commissioners.

HUNGER

Continued from 1A

sees itself as supplementing a family's food needs.

In a limited number of cases, the ministry also provides transportation, and assistance with medications and utilities.

"Last year we helped about 35 families with gas to get to medical appointments," he said, "and we helped 46 families with utilities assistance, using a Clay Electric grant."

He also said that asking for help is difficult for many people.

"Most folks don't want to come to us," he said. "Most folks don't want to be there, but you know, when your family's hungry, when you're hungry, you will sacrifice your pride and go get help."

He said Lake Area Ministries exists because of the volunteer efforts of around 100 people who contribute 300 hours each year. Seventy-nine percent of its \$9,700 monthly budget goes to purchasing food and other client assistance. The backbone of the organization's support comes from 22 churches in the Lake Region.

"Thankfully, these churches have been very supportive and helpful to us with volunteers and/or money," he said. "We could not operate without them"

He added that since the ministry's founding, a different church provides volunteers each day to pick up, pack and distribute food and to restock inventory.

SWAN

Continued from 3A

the day's festivities on Saturday, Aug. 25, will begin at 10 a.m., but guests must register at <https://lakeswancamp.com/celebration-weekend/>.

The schedule also includes the Gatorland Ski Show Team at 11 a.m., a beach picnic at noon, the chapel dedication at 3 p.m. and the Vision 2027 Banquet at 6 p.m. A special lunch and parking and valet transportation will be provided in anticipation of hundreds of guests and visitors. The camp invites all to participate.

Other guests and speakers

"We are open five days a week," he said, "from 10 to 1:30."

He also said that over the last two years, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints has provided an annual \$40,000 food grant to the Lake Region nonprofit, giving the group access to the church's Jacksonville food warehouse. He added that the Mormon food is high quality, and some Lake Area Ministries clients specifically ask for it.

Wester said that one positive trend occurring now is that the number of clients Lake Area Ministries is serving has decreased over the last couple of years.

"In 2014, we served 16,500 people," he said. "Many of those are repeats; they come each month. Last year we served 13,500."

He said the group does receive some free food from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, but most the food it distributes is purchased. Much is purchased from Feeding Northeast Florida, a part of Feeding America which has low-cost food available for food pantries.

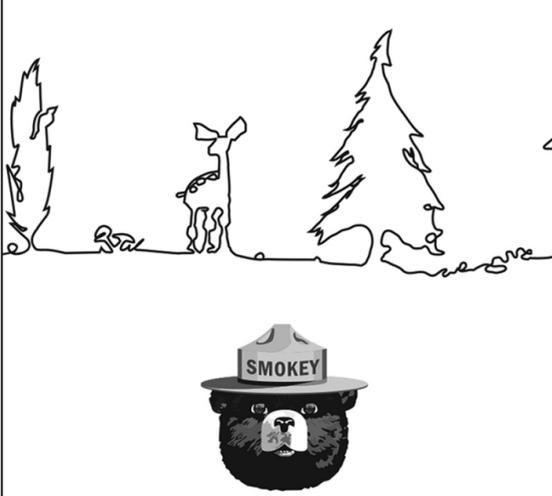
Because the ministry gets favorable pricing with bulk purchasing, it prefers cash donations from the public rather than contributions of food.

He said Lake Area Ministries also hands out school supplies at the beginning of each school year and that LAM volunteers are now preparing this year's school supplies for distribution.

include Congressman Ted Yoho, State Sen. Keith Perry, State Rep. Bobby Payne, and county commissioners from Alachua, Putnam and Clay counties Ken Cornell, Larry Harvey and Gavin Rollins.

Ministry and church leaders will include Mark O'Farrell, president, Trinity College of FL (Graham's alma mater); Chuck Hughes, district superintendent, alliance southeast, Christian and Missionary Alliance; and Paul Alford, friend of Billy Graham, former vice president of Christian and Missionary Alliance, and president of Toccoa Falls College.

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REGIONAL NEWS

NEWS FROM BRADFORD COUNTY, UNION COUNTY AND THE LAKE REGION

FEATURES
CRIME
SOCIALS
OBITUARIES
EDITORIAL

Veterans receive thanks from South Korea ambassador

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

The Korean War ended 65 years ago, but for the people of South Korea, the efforts of U.S. servicemen will not be forgotten. Cho Yoon-Je, the South Korean ambassador to the U.S., expressed his thanks to this country's Korean War veterans during an Aug. 6 ceremony at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center.

"Everybody here today has played a role in the (Republic of Korea)-U.S. alliance," Cho said. "The torch you lit more than 65 years ago will be passed on and protected by the next generation. The U.S. sacrifice and devotion has inspired us."

Cho presented medals to approximately 20 veterans in attendance and personally thanked more who were in attendance but not part of the official ceremony.

"You have contributed more than most to the strengths of Korea-U.S. relations," Cho said. "I wish that I could travel across the U.S. to thank every single veteran in person. I'm very glad to be here with you this afternoon."

Cho said U.S. servicemen fought "in a country they never knew" and pointed out that Americans' involvement continued after the war, with many serving as Peace Corps volunteers in the 1960s and 1970s.

"The devotion and service from Americans have made Korean accomplishments possible," Cho said, adding, "We were able to rise from the ashes of a war and develop an advanced economy and a vibrant democracy. The success of the Republic of Korea today is a shining example of how a joint effort toward the right goal can bring astonishing achievements."

"The Korean people will never forget the help and friendship you have shown us."



Korean War veteran Gary Giles (right) bows to receive a medal of recognition from South Korean Ambassador to the United States Cho Yoon-Je.



Ortho Davis (right) receives a medal from Cho Yoon-Je in recognition of his service in the Korean War.



Eddie Thomas takes a look at the medal he received.



South Korean Ambassador to the United States Cho Yoon-Je (left) is welcomed to the podium by Congressman Ted Yoho.

Congressman Ted Yoho, who introduced Cho, talked of the difference U.S. servicemen made when they "signed a line on a

document that said you would fight to preserve democracies and a way of life second to none around the world."

"It is because of what you have done that has allowed a strict demarcation between North and South Korea," said Yoho, who



Korean War veteran Ken Sassaman (center) shakes hands with Congressman Ted Yoho after receiving a medal from Cho Yoon-Je.

chairs the Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. "All you have to do is look at a satellite picture at night. You can see the difference between what freedom and liberty look like versus repression by a Communist regime."

veterans in attendance, said their "acts of valor" helped in making South Korea the sixth-largest trading partner of the U.S. and a strong ally of the U.S.

"I can't tell you how proud I am to stand here in front of you,"

Yoho, in addressing the

See VETS, 6B

Republicans hold Bradford County rally

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Managing Editor

Bradford County Republican Executive Committee Chair Richard Solze presided over a rally at the Montgomery Presbyterian Center Saturday, where representatives of 12 campaigns made their cases for support in the Aug. 28 primary. A few campaign representatives spoke even though they faced no opposition in the primary.

Joe Pickens for Adam Putnam, candidate for governor

Pickens, the president of St. Johns River State College in Palatka, said he has known gubernatorial candidate and current Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam for 20 years.

Pickens also said that through his prior service in the Florida Legislature and his current job as president of one of the smallest colleges in the state, he believes

that "rural Florida is being gobbled up by urban Florida."

"It's just a fact of life because there are so many more votes, there's so much more money in urban Florida than there is in rural Florida that our issues often get lost," he said.

Pickens said that Putnam will look out for Florida's rural communities.

"The one thing I know for sure about Adam Putnam is he's from Bartow and he knows Bartow, he knows Pahokee, he knows Palatka, he knows Starke," Pickens said. "He knows every inch of rural Florida and the 37 rural counties in Florida."

Amy Pope-Wells for Ron DeSantis, candidate for governor

Pope-Wells is a Clay County businesswoman who participated in President Trump's Small Business Roundtable last year.

See RALLY, 8B



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Tornadoes looking to reload, not rebuild

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Gone are the starting linebackers, four of five of the starting offensive linemen, the second-leading rusher and the starting quarterback.

Brian Tomlinson, head coach of the Bradford High School football team, admitted that on paper, it looks to be a rebuilding year for the Tornadoes, who were one win away from playing for the Class 4A state championship last year. He and his staff look at it differently.

"The mentality we're trying to have is it's more of a reloading year," Tomlinson said.

Still, whatever success the Tornadoes experience this season depends upon the development of inexperienced players.

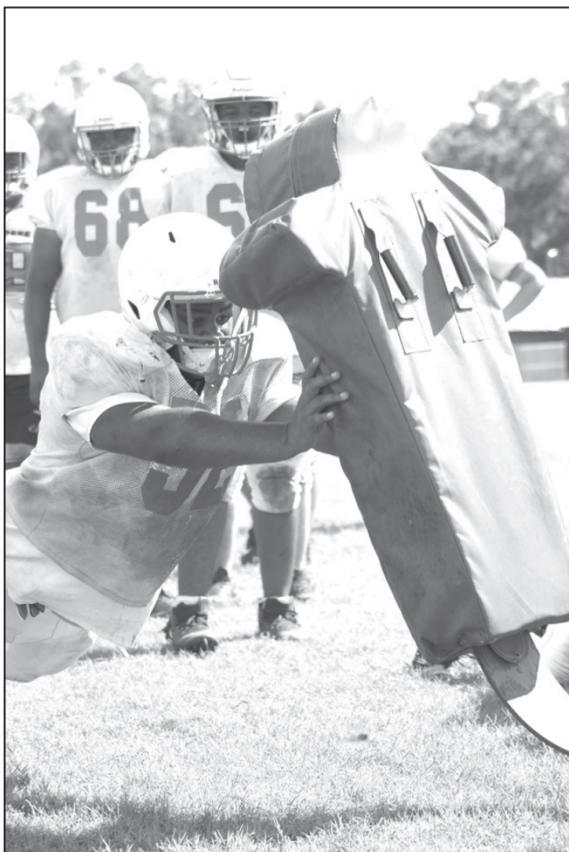
"Like I've told other people, it's going to depend on how fast our young guys develop experience," Tomlinson said. "If they're able to pick up things quickly, then I think we can have a good year. If not, it could be a long year."

With that in mind, he has to feel good about what he's seen so far in practice from his wide receivers and quarterbacks. Though graduate Chris Cummings caught the majority of passes last season (40 receptions, 13 touchdowns), players such as junior Nathaniel Davis (second on the team last year with 10 catches for 195 yards and three touchdowns), senior J'cobi Harris and sophomores Travis Lee and Austin Lovell have shown they're ready to step in and contribute.

"I could see how hard they've worked this summer just in this first week (of practice) when we threw a lot at them," Tomlinson said. "They picked it up quickly. I was impressed with how quickly we were able to install a lot of the passing game."

Tomlinson said he doesn't expect to have one receiver catch 13 touchdowns this season like Cummings did last year.

"If we do, then you know



Sam Simmons is shown during Bradford's Aug. 6 practice.

we're lighting up the scoreboard every Friday night. What I think is going to happen is you're going to have more receivers involved because of just how well they're running routes and how well they're picking up the offense."

New QB, but experienced RB

Who will throw them the ball? That's to be determined as three players are vying for the opportunity to replace Zion Barber, who threw for 1,341 yards and rushed for 805 yards

last year: sophomore Pedro Carter, senior Adrien Ciena and junior Jackson Smith. Though Carter took some snaps last year, Ciena is the most experienced player, having started last year for Keystone Heights. However, Ciena, who in 2017 completed 37-of-94 passes for 560 yards, with four touchdowns and eight interceptions, is having to learn a new offense.

Tomlinson said all three have strong arms, noting that Ciena would probably be the expected starter if the BHS offense was designed for the quarterback to "sit back in the pocket all day and just pass the ball." Carter and



Donte Banks (right) fights his way past Tylan Davis.

Smith are more like Barber in that they're threats in the running game as well.

"It would be a lot easier for me to get a starter named at the end of this week," Tomlinson said. "It probably won't happen, though, but the one thing about it is I'm comfortable that we can put any of those three in and be very successful."

Whoever lines up behind center will be handing the ball off to senior Jeremiah Vaughn, who led the Tornadoes in rushing in 2017 with 975 yards. Tomlinson said that with the possible exception of Raines, no opponent's players were able to get a solid hit on Vaughn, whom he described as "shifty and elusive."

"I'm excited about the fact he's going to be a home-run threat for us," Tomlinson said.

Tomlinson said Vaughn, despite his past success, is always reviewing game video and asking coaches what he needs to do to improve his game.

"He's always wanting to get better," Tomlinson said of the 5-6, 147-pound running back. "Somebody's going to get a steal in him at the next level. Somebody's going to take a chance on his size and realize they've got a playmaker."

Other players in the mix in the backfield include sophomore Erric Smith and junior Malik Hankerson. Tomlinson said Smith is like a younger version of Vaughn, but he's more of a physical runner. In the spring game, Smith, after breaking into the open field, ran through a would-be tackler rather than trying to elude him.

"I think by the time he's a senior, he's going to be a little bit bigger than Jeremiah," Tomlinson said. "I don't think he

has the speed Jeremiah has, but he has enough speed to where if he gets into the open, good luck catching him."

Hankerson's main role is playing linebacker, but he's shown potential at running back in practices when it wasn't his time to take reps on defense.

"There are going to be times where we need to give him a shot," Tomlinson said.

O-line to feature 4 new starters, D-line is experienced

Despite the fact that junior Gavin Woods is the only returning starter on the offensive line, Tomlinson feels good about that unit and its ability to open holes for running backs and protect the quarterback.

"I think this group is going to shock a lot of people because everybody — coaches included — pencils that in as our question mark," Tomlinson said. "I think they're probably going to be one of our strong points."

Tomlinson said Woods' strengths are his knowledge of the game and a mean streak that you'll see only on the field.

"He may not be the strongest one on the offensive line," Tomlinson said, "but he might be the meanest one on the offensive line. Now, you talk to him outside of football, he's a great kid, but when it comes down to it, he's going to block the man in front of him and do what it takes to get the job done."

Players vying for the other line positions include seniors Sam Simmons and Hunter Smith, juniors Drake Barber and David Barrs and sophomore Levontre

Daniel. Tomlinson said Barrs, who started some games last season, is strong like one of last year's starters, who went on to win a state championship in weightlifting.

"He'll not necessarily replace Jakob Alvarez," Tomlinson said, "but he fits that mold."

Flip to the other side of the ball, and you'll find the most experienced unit for BHS — its defensive line, which includes seniors Taurus Coleman, Shaytron Cotton and Jacquez Mosley and juniors Barber and Donte Banks. Cotton and Mosley are the most experienced players that have played for BHS (Coleman played the last three seasons at P.K. Yonge), with Mosley fourth on the team last year in tackles with 83 (40 solo).

"He can take over a game from the inside," Tomlinson said of Mosley. "It's going to get to the point where teams are going to have to double team him. He's quick off the ball. He just has a nose for the ball. He knows where he needs to go."

Cotton was limited last year because of an injury, playing only six games.

"Right now, I think he feels like he has something to prove," Tomlinson said. "He's very quick. He's very physical as well. He's on a mission."

The rest of the defense and holes to fill on special teams

At linebacker, the Tornadoes have such players as Hankerson, senior Tylan Davis and junior

See RELOAD, 3B

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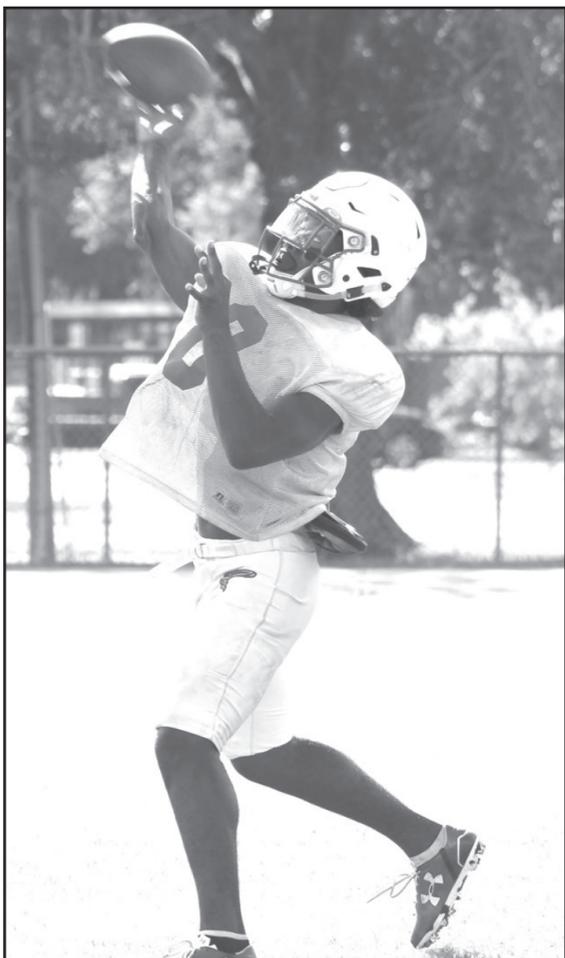
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Households must also meet income guidelines.

Call the Elder Helpline for the emergency home energy assistance service provider in your area — 1-800-262-2243, Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m., Voice mail available after hours.



Pedro Carter, who is one of three players battling for the starting quarterback position, throws a pass.



Erric Smith participates in an agility drill.

RELOAD

Continued from 2B

Gabe Cook. Hankerson is the only player from last year with starting experience, and that was limited to just the state semifinal game against Raines.

"I think he used it as a stepping stone because he worked hard in the off-season," Tomlinson said of Hankerson. "So far in practice, he's worked hard."

Davis, a former BHS player who played in Georgia last year, brings experience, too.

The secondary features last year's third-leading tackler in

Davis (he had 102). He doesn't just have a knack for bringing down ball carriers. He had three interceptions last year and seems to know the right place to be at the right time.

"He's tough for us to pass against (in practice)," Tomlinson said. "He's tough for opposing teams to pass against. He made an interception in the spring game. Honestly and truly, I don't know how he got to that spot, but he did."

Other players that will be counted on in the secondary include senior James Martin, a former BHS player who played at Fleming Island last year, junior Isaiah Crum and sophomore Adonte Balfour. Tomlinson said Crum and Martin are players who want opponents to throw their way, while Balfour, up from junior varsity, "has the raw talent to play that side of the ball. He just understands what needs to be done."

As for special teams, the Tornadoes need to a kicker and a punter to step in for Zion Barber, who handled both duties. Tomlinson doesn't know yet who his kicker will be, but he believes Davis or Lee could step in at punter.

When it comes to returning

opponents' punts and kicks, BHS has a number of options, including Davis, Martin and Vaughn.

Tomlinson said special teams are being emphasized more in practices, saying sometimes that aspect of the game often gets lost in the midst of offensive and defensive work.

"Caleb Dukes is going to kind of be our special-teams coordinator this year," Tomlinson said. "I think he's studied since the game ended against Raines. He's got some ideas I think are going to be great."

Kicking it off

Bradford begins the season with a preseason kickoff classic at Newberry on Friday, Aug. 17, at 7:30 p.m. The Tornadoes open the season in earnest Friday, Aug. 24, at Taylor County at 7:30 p.m. Their first home game is Friday, Aug. 31, against Baldwin at 7:30 p.m.

For Tomlinson, who was recently hospitalized due to a life-threatening infection and underwent open-heart surgery to remove a coiled wire left behind after the removal of a defibrillator, which he needs

2018 BHS Varsity Football Schedule

Aug. 17	at Newberry (KC)	7:30 p.m.
Aug. 24	at Taylor County	7:30 p.m.
Aug. 31	Baldwin	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 7	Keystone Heights	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 14	Santa Fe	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 21	at Fort White	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 28	at University Christian	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 5	at West Nassau	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 12	Cocoa (Sr. Night)	7 p.m.
Oct. 26	at Hamilton County	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 2	Middleburg (HC)	7:30 p.m.

KC Pre-season Kickoff Classic
HC Homecoming



Jeremiah Vaughn, last year's leading rusher, runs a pass route.

because he has hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, it's good to be able to be with his team and readying for his second season as BHS head coach.

"I'm excited to get back and being back to normal,"

Tomlinson said. "Just being around the kids is what has been the best part for me — seeing them and seeing how hard they work. That's pretty exciting."



Adrien Ciena (left) catches a pass as Ian McGowan runs up to make a tackle.

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CRIME

Woman arrested for forging deed

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Managing Editor

Bradford deputies arrested a Georgia woman after she allegedly filed a deed transferring ownership of land from her dead mother to herself, and then failed to prove she had the legal right to do so.

Lilia Diane Cohen, 59, of Atlanta was arrested Aug. 2 for forgery of an official document.



Cohen

According to court papers, the sheriff's office received an anonymous tip that Cohen filed the fraudulent paperwork in an attempt to evict her cousin from her mother's house on Northwest 177th Street.

Sheriff's Lt. Joshua Luke wrote in a warrant affidavit that he compared the owner's signature on the warranty deed to her signature on an image of her driver's license and the two were significantly different.

The defendant told Luke that since she had power of attorney for her mother's affairs, she thought she was entitled to sign her mother's name on the deed.

However, after the defendant failed to meet with Luke for an interview and failed to provide the power of attorney, the officer filed a probable cause affidavit and the State Attorney's Office filed charges against the woman.

BRADFORD COUNTY

Georgina Banzin, 44, of Gainesville was arrested Aug. 1 by Lawtey police for DUI.

Erica Lea Blair, 47, of Sebring was arrested Aug. 4 by Bradford deputies for a probation violation.

Dawn Michelle Brooks, 40,

of Valrico was arrested Aug. 5 by Bradford deputies for driving with a suspended or revoked license, possession of drugs and possession of drug equipment.

Jarvis A. Cure, 28, of Margate was arrested Aug. 1 by Bradford deputies for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Christopher Ryan Demar, 36, of Waldo was arrested July 31 by Bradford deputies for failure to appear and a probation violation.

Robert Demps, 66, of Starke was arrested July 31 by Starke police for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Houston James Fender, 26, of Lawtey was arrested Aug. 2 by Bradford deputies for an out-of-county warrant.

John Lee Hairisen, 51, was arrested Aug. 5 by Starke police for burglary.

According to an arrest report, witnesses saw the defendant walking through the Walmart parking lot, checking cars for unlocked doors. One witness said he saw the defendant reach inside the window of a white van.

Justin Lee Haley, 29, of Starke was arrested Aug. 4 by Bradford deputies for battery.

Jesse Lee Harwell, 28, of Keystone Heights was arrested July 31 by Bradford deputies for possession of drugs.

Ashley Danielle Lee, 31, of Keystone Heights was arrested Aug. 2 by Bradford deputies for a probation violation.

Douglas Orlando Perkins, 25, of St. Petersburg was arrested Aug. 3 by Lawtey police for possession of marijuana.

Trevor Seth Richardson, 23, of Starke was arrested July 31 by Bradford deputies for a probation violation.

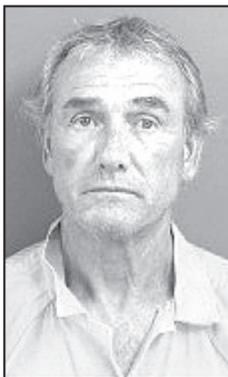
Walter Derek Watts, 28, of Starke was arrested July 31 by Bradford deputies for an out-of-county warrant.

UNION COUNTY

Neighbors: Man fired shotgun

Union deputies arrested a Lake Butler man after his neighbors said he discharged a shotgun.

Edward Thomas Crump, 62, was arrested for firing a weapon and trespassing.



Crump

According to an arrest report, neighbors called 911 after hearing what they thought was a gunshot. The witnesses said they heard a shed struck and saw branches fall from an oak tree right after the sound.

After lining up the shed with the oak tree they determined the shot came from the direction of the defendant's house. After inspecting the shed, they saw the defendant walking toward them.

"They yelled at him that they were calling the sheriff's office and Crump ran back to his house," the arresting officer wrote in a report. "They did not see him carrying a gun, but he did have something in his hand he was concealing next to his leg."

Another neighbor who was sitting on his porch at the time of the incident said he heard one gunshot from the direction of the defendant's home and that it is a common occurrence for the defendant to discharge firearms "at all hours, day or night."

Deputies then interviewed the defendant at his home. Crump denied firing the shot, telling deputies he yelled "boom" in a loud voice to let his neighbors know that he knew they were firing weapons at his home. Deputies then asked Crump to demonstrate the "boom" he yelled and after the demonstration were unconvinced of the man's story.

After deputies arrested the defendant for discharging a firearm and trespassing by projectile, the defendant told them that since they did not find a shotgun shell, they could not prove his guilt.

Man reports neighbor's open gate, arrested for burglary

Union deputies arrested a Lake Butler man after he reported his neighbor's gate open and officers became suspicious about his statements.

Christopher Lynn Whisenhunt, 44, was arrested for burglary and larceny.

According to an arrest report, the victim made a trip to the

grocery store and returned to his home to find two television sets missing, valued at \$440.

Around the same time of the call reporting the burglary, the defendant also called the sheriff's office to report that the victim's front gate was left open.

When deputies interviewed the next-door neighbor, he stated that the gate had been open for three days which was unusual.

"Christopher said he walked up to the front door and knocked but no one answered," a deputy wrote in a report. "He said he



Whisenhunt

checked the door to see if it was locked, and when he turned the knob, the door opened up."

After the defendant consented to a search of his home, deputies found the stolen televisions under two beds.

A deputy wrote in the report that as the defendant was being placed in the back of a patrol vehicle, he said he took the televisions because his neighbor's dogs were always at his residence.

In other Union County arrests:

Junita Amieva, 41, of Lake Butler was arrested Aug. 5 by Union deputies for a probation violation.

William Jackson Anderson, 22, of Lake Butler was arrested Aug. 5 by Union deputies for possession of drugs without a prescription, possession of marijuana and destroying evidence.

Richard Casper, 57, of Lake Butler was arrested Aug. 5 by Union deputies for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Jonathan Lee Cothran, 25, of Lake Butler was arrested Aug. 3 by Union deputies for an out-of-county warrant and failure to appear.

Edgar Allen Emmelhainz III, 29, of Lake Butler was arrested July 30 by Union deputies for battery and fleeing and eluding.

Sandra Denise Patterson, 51, of Jacksonville was arrested Aug. 1 by Union deputies for failure to appear.

James Allen Simmons, 33, of Lake Butler was arrested July 31 by Union deputies for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS AND LAKE REGION

Woman accused of embezzling from Keystone Heights business

Clay deputies arrested the bookkeeper of a Keystone Heights business after accusing her of embezzling over \$250,000 from her employer.

Melinda Dawn Wilkes, 45, was arrested for grand theft and scheme to defraud on Aug. 3.



Wilkes

According to court papers, Wilkes was employed by Keystone Chiropractic when the business opened in 2009 and by Palatka Chiropractic beginning in 2011.

The owner of the two businesses said the defendant stole from the clinics for nearly seven years.

Clay Sheriff's Detective Steven Dugger wrote in an affidavit for arrest warrant that Wilkes wrote checks to herself, made cash withdrawals at her employer's bank, and wrote checks to pay for her children's extracurricular activities, repairs at her home, and gifts to family members and friends.

According to Dugger, Wilkes used one \$10,865 withdrawal to make the down payment on the building that housed Keystone Chiropractic. She then drew on her employer's bank account again to repair the building's floor after she purchased the structure and raised the rent from \$659 a month to between \$1,000 and \$2,000 a month.

Dugger also accused Wilkes of writing unauthorized checks to two businesses owned by Wilkes: Trinity Consulting and Wilkes Building LLC.

In other arrests from the Lake Region:

William Lee Garabrandt, 47, was arrested Aug. 6 in Keystone Heights by Clay deputies for assault and resisting an officer with violence.

According to an arrest report, the defendant and victim got into an argument over marital issues and during the argument, the defendant displayed a .45-caliber



Garabrandt

handgun.

When deputies later found the defendant, he took a swing at one, charged another and was placed into custody after a deputy discharged his Taser.

Melanie Jean Hess, 29, was arrested Aug. 2 in Keystone Heights by Clay deputies for a probation violation.

Michael Raymond Williams, 30, was arrested Aug. 4 in Keystone Heights for violating a domestic violence injunction.



Williams

COURT

Woman gets 3 years for passing bad check

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Managing Editor

Circuit Judge William E. Davis sentenced a Jacksonville woman to three years in prison for using a forged check to buy a lawnmower and trailer from a Bradford County business.

Elizabeth Margaret Childs, 53, pleaded guilty to grand theft, organized fraud and uttering a forged bank check. She was also ordered to pay \$4,598 in restitution.

According to court papers, an employee of Lazenby Equipment received a phone call in 2017 from a woman claiming to work for First Coast Recycling on Beaver Street in Jacksonville. During the phone call, the defendant and employee agreed on a deal for a mower and utility trailer.

See COURT, 6B

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Obituaries

Joel Ash

MACCLENY— Joel Murray Ash of Macclenny passed away Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2018 at the age of 69. He spent his final hours peacefully at home surrounded by his beloved family and friends. Joel was born Jan. 28, 1949 in Lake City to Fred and Annie Smith Ash. Raised in Lake Butler, he eventually settled in Macclenny, where he lived most of his life.

A long-time member of Taylor Church, and then Manntown Church, Joel loved nothing more than joyfully celebrating His Saviour in the company and blessed fellowship of his precious Church family. Praise, prayer and the preaching of God's Word in the House of God were the highlight of his week.

Social by nature, Joel was a people person and especially enjoyed those times when he was surrounded by those nearest and dearest to him. Kindhearted and filled with good humor, he always added laughter and life to the party. Some of his favorite activities were camping, fishing, playing horseshoes, cookouts and family gatherings. Joel also lived a rich and varied life in the job market with careers that included time as a State Trooper with the Florida Highway Patrol, owner and operator of a Chevron service station in Tampa, and Labor Coordinator for CISCO, finally retiring as a Sales Representative for Lance, Inc. Joel is preceded by his parents, and daughter, Amy Dianne Ash.

He is survived by: his beloved wife of 42 years, Nancy Hartley Ash; his children, Joel Marty (Stephanie) Ash of Middleburg, Amanda Ash (Gregory) Kern of Sacramento, California, Jana Marie Ash and Jina Ash (Chris) McDougald both of Macclenny; his sisters, Linda Ann Norris of Orlando, Karen Ash of Lake Butler, Noreen (Mike) Lee of Lulu; his brother, Larry Buddy Ash (Kay) of Lake Butler; and ten grandchildren, Joshua, Caleb, Jordan, Abigail, Micah, Joel, Morgan, Mady-Belle, Braelynn, and Bentley.

Services were held on Aug. 6, at Manntown Church followed by a graveside service at Macedonia Cemetery in Baker County.

Arrangements are under the care of Archer Funeral Home located at 55 North Lake Avenue, Lake Butler, FL. For more information, please call (386)496-2008.



PAID OBITUARY

Mary Austin

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS— Mary "Janet" Austin, 85, of Keystone Heights died Saturday, Aug. 4, 2018 at Community Hospice Bailey Center in St. Augustine. She was born Aug. 30, 1932 in Youngstown, Ohio to Donald and Emily (Duke) Arbuckle and was a homemaker. In 1984 she moved to Keystone Heights. She was a member of Trinity Baptist Church. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by: her son, Paul Austin, Jr.; and her husband of 62 years, Paul Austin, Sr.

She is survived by: children, Dale (Susie) Austin and Jamie (Kim) Austin of Melrose, Tommy Austin and Becki (Jimmy) Morse of Keystone Heights along with Linda (Jimmy) Platt and Donna (David) Cole of St. Augustine; siblings, Danny Arbuckle of Neptune Beach and Jane Fleming of California; 55 grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m., Thursday, Aug. 9 at Trinity Baptist Church with Pastor Scott Stanland officiating. A time of fellowship with the family will immediately follow in the church fellowship hall. Interment will be private at Keystone Heights Cemetery. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Keystone Heights.

Johnnie Covington, Sr.

STARKE— Johnnie "Bully" Covington, Sr., 85, of Starke died Friday, Aug. 3, 2018 at Community Hospice Acosta-Rua Center for Care, Jacksonville. A lifelong resident of Starke, he attended the community churches of Starke and was educated in the local schools of Bradford County. He was employed with SMI Joist as a welder until he retired.

He is survived by: his wife, Gertrude Covington; daughters, Gloria Covington, Sharon Covington, Katherine Covington and Tammy Albritton; sister, Berta Mae Miles all of Starke. A host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins and many sorrowing friends.

Funeral Services will be held at 1:00 pm on Saturday Aug. 11, in the Greater Bethlehem Freewill Baptist Church Starke with Rev. Alvin Green conducting the services. Interment will be held in Freewill Memorial Garden Starke. Visitation will be held on Friday Aug. 10 at Haile Funeral Home Inc Carl D. Haile Memorial Chapel from 3:00-6:00 pm. The Cortège will form at the residence of Covington, 412 Michigan Street, Starke, at 12:30 pm on Saturday Arrangements are under the direction of Haile Funeral Home Inc, Starke.

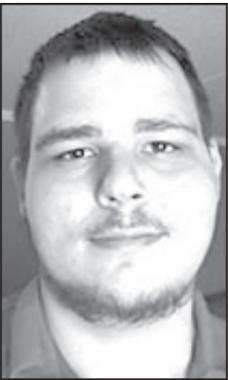


Ray Crews

STARKE—Ray Crews, 83, of Starke died Saturday, Aug. 4, 2018 at E.T. York Care Center in Gainesville. He was born Jan. 16, 1935 in Union County to the late James and Elizabeth Crews and was one of fourteen children. He served in the United States Marines. He moved to Bradford County from Alachua County in the 1970's and worked with the Department of Corrections at New River Correctional. He is preceded in death by: his parents; and son, Kelly Crews.

He is survived by his wife, Darlene Crews of Starke; daughter, Eunice (Chester) Romesburg of Pennsylvania; and two grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life was held on Aug. 8 at the Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel with Pastor Gene Bass officiating. Arrangements are under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services and Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel, Starke.



Charles Geer

STARKE—Charles Dillon Geer, 23, of Starke passed away on Sunday, July 29, 2018. Charles was born in Gainesville to Charles Geer and Joyce Johnson Norman Geer on July 31, 1995. Charles was a certified welder. At the time of his passing, Charles was enrolled at Vo Tech to further his education and his career. He enjoyed fishing and hunting. Charles loved his dogs. He enjoyed riding the dirt roads and he was very adventurous. Charles loved his Momma with all of his heart. Charles leaves his beloved family to cherish his precious memory.

Charles Dillon Geer is survived by: adoring mother, Joyce Geer; and his loving father, Charles Geer. He is survived by: three brothers, Michael (Brittney) Johnson, Drew Geer, and Daryl Geer, three sisters, Aimee (Trenton) Chorba, Kelly Geer, and Kimberly Geer. Charles was loved by many and he will surely be missed.

Leon Harris

STARKE— Leon Harris, 75, died on Saturday, July 28, 2018. He was at home, with his family by his side. He was born on Aug. 6, 1942 to Curtis and Gracie Harris of Raiford. He spent most of his life in Archer until he retired and moved to Starke. He worked for the University of Florida as a Superintendent of the Systems Department. He is preceded in death by: sisters, Bernice Holder and Clarice Griffis.

He is survived by: his wife of twenty-six years, Sharon Bonds Harris; daughter, Kimberly Rust of Payson, Arizona; sister, Genice Reid; brothers, Ray Harris and Joseph Harris; four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A Graveside service was held Aug 4th, at Conners Cemetery with Reverend Randall Griffis officiating. Arrangements are under the care of Archer Funeral Home, Lake Butler.

Fayrene Parrish

WORTHINGTON SPRINGS— Fayrene Rosa Parrish of Worthington Springs died on Tuesday, July 31, 2018. She was daughter of the late P.K. Jackson and Jeanetta K. Smith. She was a member of the Church of Christ in Lake Butler. Mrs. Parrish was preceded in death by: her husband, Lowell Parrish

She is survived by: son, Terry A. (Iris) Parrish of Worthington Springs; daughter, Janice E. McPherson of Ocala; three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Services were held Aug. 4 at The Church of Christ in Lake Butler. Interment followed at Elzey Chapel Cemetery. All arrangements are under the care of Archer Funeral Home.

Vivian Plympton

STARKE— Vivian Nellie Plympton of Starke passed away at the age of 81 on Saturday, Aug. 4, 2018.

Vivian was an avid artist and created beautiful charcoal drawings. She would enter them in the fair where she always won prizes and ribbons. Vivian also was a talented singer who especially loved to sing songs about her faith. She was baptized as one of Jehovah's Witnesses in 1950 and was known for her zeal for her ministry. She would often be out late, passing out the Watchtower and Awake and speaking to all she met of her precious hope for the future. She is preceded in death by her beloved son, Nathan Plympton.

Vivian is survived by: her loving and devoted husband of 63 years, John Plympton; three of her children, Rebecca Barger of Starke; Mylinda (Walter) Webel of Savannah, Georgia, and Naomi (Bobby) Baker of Macclenny; nine grandchildren, Danielle (TJ) Sellers, Heather (Mike) Rhoades, David Barger, Brian (Nikki) Barger, Richard (Kimberly) Plympton, Chelsea (Andrew) Harvey, Leslie Brown, Dorian Webel, and Zachary Webel, and ten great-grandchildren, Zachary, Noah, Cassidy, Sarah, Jacob, Brian, Logan, Harmony, Arlas, and Gabriel.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00 pm, Saturday, August 11th at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Starke.



PAID OBITUARY

Romona Varnes

LAKE BUTLER—Our family lost a beloved member on Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2018, when Romona Varnes returned home to her family in heaven.

Romona was born in Dallas, Georgia, and graduated in 1953 from Dallas High School. She started her professional life, as a secretary to a Dallas attorney, while still in high school. After graduation, she moved to Jacksonville, where she began working with Southern Bell as a long distance operator. She then worked for 15 years with Western Electric before she and her husband, Doyle, owned and operated Devco Premium Finance in downtown Jacksonville, providing financial assistance to insurance agents throughout the state.

She and Doyle then moved to Lake Butler, where she successfully ran Doyle Varnes Insurance Company, providing needed service to her community in Union County. She retired from her professional life in 2000, to enjoy the country life she so loved. She was a member of Insurance Women of Jacksonville, the Jacksonville Antique Bottle club, a painter, and avid genealogist, tracing her family back several generations to include their Native American heritage. She and Doyle continued to maintain homes in both Jacksonville and Lake Butler.

At her request, there will not be any funeral services, and her ashes will be returned to the family plot in Georgia. Anyone wishing to honor her, please do so by reaching out to someone to remind them they are loved.

Romona is survived by: her husband of over 60 years, Doyle Varnes; her many nieces and nephews, great and great-great nieces and nephews, across these United states. We love you Romona and will miss you.

Arrangements are under the care of Archer Funeral Home located at 55 North Lake Ave Lake Butler. For more information, please call (386) 496-2008. Sign Romona's online guest book at archerfuneralhome.com

PAID OBITUARY



Etoile Stidham

ALACHUA— Etoile Davis Stidham, 81, of Alachua passed away peacefully on Thursday at the North Florida Regional Medical Center in Gainesville. She was born in the Santa Fe area of Alachua County where she lived all her life. She was a former School Bus Driver for Alachua County, church pianist, and homemaker. She also helped manage the family farm. She was the widow of Hugh Bert Stidham. She was also preceded in death by: her parents, A.Y. "Sport" Davis and Lola Ellis Davis; a brother, Alvin Davis; a sister, Reba Bryant; a great-grandchild, Leia. Mrs. Stidham was a longstanding member and pianist at North Pleasant Grove Baptist Church of Alachua. She attended the Blackwelder Free Will Baptist Church of Worthington Springs. She enjoyed sewing.



Mrs. Stidham is survived by: two sons, Carl (Kim) Stidham of Alachua and Sidney (Traci) Stidham of Alachua; two daughters, Sharon (Butch) Mullins of Alachua, Patricia Lawson of Alachua; three brothers, Jeff Davis, Charles Davis and Roger Davis, all of Alachua. one sister, Elaine Truluck of Lulu; nine grandchildren, Scott, Sarah, Tabitha, Whitney (Shon), Miles, Christina, Nathan, Erin and Jacob; and great-grandchildren, Trevor, Hunter, Cale, Shon and Ella.

Funeral services were held Aug. 7 at the North Pleasant Grove Baptist Church of Alachua with Rev. Barry Hedrick, Rev. Paul O'Steen and Rev. Bobby Clyatt officiating. Burial followed at the North Pleasant Grove Baptist Church Cemetery of Alachua. Archer Funeral Home of Lake Butler is in charge of arrangements. Family requests in lieu of flowers donations be made to: North Pleasant Grove Baptist Church Cemetery Fund; 25630 N.W. County Road 239; Alachua, FL 32615.

PAID OBITUARY

Mildred Winkler

STARKE—Mildred R. "Millie" Winkler, age 89, of Starke passed away Saturday, July 28, 2018 at Lake Butler Hospital. Millie was born in Riesel, Texas on July 31, 1928 to the late Emil and Helene (Paar) Richter. She was a member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church and served on the Alter Guild. Millie was also a Daughter's of the King Benevolent Committee member and retired from the State of Florida Department of Corrections accounting department.



Survivors are: her husband Edward "Arthur" Winkler, Sr. of Starke; daughter, Cindy (Don) Green of Hardyville, Kentucky; son, Eddie (Christy) Winkler of Melrose; sister, Helen Larsen of Texarkana, Texas; grandchildren, Brittany and Kurtis Wright of Hardyville, Trey Winkler of San Diego, California, Austin Green of Hardyville, Macy Winkler and Ashton Wise of Starke, Emily Green of Hardyville, Dalton Green of Hardyville, Hanna Crane of Melrose and Colton Crane of Melrose; great-grandchildren, Gracie Leigh Wright, Abigail Wright, Arionna Winkler, Adilynn Wise, and Charlie Wright. Also left are her brother and sister-in-law, George and Burney Winkler, sister-in-law, Sue Winkler all of Starke along with a host of nieces, nephews and special friends.

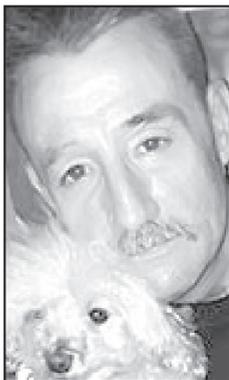
Memorial services were held Aug. 1 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church with Reverend Herbert "Bert" Daly officiating. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to St. Mark's Episcopal Church Memorial Fund, 212 N. Church St., Starke, FL 32091

Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 620 Nona St. Starke. www.jonesgallagherfh.com 904-964-6200.

PAID OBITUARY

Charles Worthington

LAKE BUTLER— Charles Owen Worthington, 51, of Lake Butler passed away peacefully, on Monday, July 30, 2018, at his parents' home in Lake Butler. He was born in Starke on Dec. 2, 1966 to Sandra Lee Holt Worthington and the late Charles Paul Worthington. While attending high school at APHS, Charles played JV football and ran cross country. He excelled at long distance running and hurdles. Charles broke school records in distance running. He loved Florida Gator Football and hunting with his Dad. He was an avid fisherman his entire life. Charles is preceded in death by: his father, Charles Paul Worthington; and his beloved wife, Janet Strobel Worthington. He leaves his loving family to cherish his memory.



Charles Owen Worthington is survived by: his mother, Sandra Lee Worthington; three sons, Charles Arthur David Worthington, Charles Stephen Worthington, Cody Worthington; one sister, Paula Ann Worthington; two nephews, Jacob David Yarbrough, Canaan Bruce Harris; two nieces, Rebekah Leigh Yarbrough, Chloe Lynn Harris.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, Aug. 11, 11:00 am, at Archer Funeral Home Memorial Chapel. The family will receive friends an hour prior for visitation. 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. Sign Charles' online guest book at archerfuneralhome.com

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VETS

Continued from 1B

Yoho said.

As part of the ceremony, a proclamation from South Korea's Ministry of Patrons and Veterans Affairs was read. In part, it said, "We cherish in our hearts the memory of your valiant sacrifices in helping us reestablish our free nation. In grateful recognition of your dedicated contributions, it is our privilege to proclaim you an ambassador for peace."

Yoho said he and Cho, whom he described as "a great friend," look forward to a brighter future for all of Korea. The congressman said those who fought in the Korean War did their part to make that hoped-for future possible.

"Our hopes and our dreams and our prayers are that one day the whole Korean peninsula is



Cho Yoon-Je

denuclearized, and they live in peace and that they have reunification that fulfills the needs of both sides. That's only possible because of what you guys have done."



Enjoying a laugh and clapping at something said by Congressman Ted Yoho are Korean War veterans (l-r) Ron Carbaugh, Jerry Fitzpatrick and Ken Sassaman.

Letters

No access, no tax dollars

Dear Editor:

Beach front property owners want to prohibit access of the masses to what has previously been considered public property and I have no problem with that due to tax savings. By signing a law prohibiting our citizens and visitors from stepping foot on the dry sand of beaches beyond the high tide line, removing the pleasure of enjoying a day at the beach, the state should no longer have to maintain the beaches. Beach replenishment costs taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars over the years. Nature can now resume its relentless march inland and those who want to enjoy the ocean view out their living room window can also enjoy the view of the house or hotel tumbling into the ocean as Neptune claims what is his. Scott signing a document to mitigate the law is only a kneejerk reaction to save his Senate campaign. If he really cared about your access to the shore, he would have never signed the law.

Jack Schenck
Lake Butler

Focus on what we have in common

Dear Editor:

I have invested over half of my life in Bradford County in various ways, with a large part my career in the school system. Children if you will. For the most part we are all of Southern ancestry. Our families, relatives, parents and those that came long before us know heat, bugs and a slower way of life. The heat obviously slowed us down. My intro here is to prove we have much in common.

People from other regions and even distant places have believed us to also be slow in other ways. I know that to be a great falsehood. We may have some of the oddest and unusual characters to walk the earth but some of them are smart as a whip. We just have a way of doing things that annoy some people. I tell people when I have the time after retirement I'm heading to Ohio or New York and will drive slow in the left lane with my turn signal on until I feel vindicated. But enough of my humor. I want to address our current situation.

The real world came to Starke recently with the tragic shooting of a young man who grew up in our county. We have seen the images on TV so often about young men being shot by law enforcement in situations that seem less threatening than ones where others are led away in

handcuffs after actually killing people. It scares us and makes us want to hold our children closer. My best friend was a police chief in Gainesville for many years. I like to think I know what it takes to be a cop. But until you come upon a crime scene or person seemingly out of control with the threat of a weapon we can probably never know. I do know this. LEOs are the ones that go out there at night and are the ones that are supposed to run toward gunfire. And I know this. If I am a cop and come upon a scene where the person we are confronting comes out with a gun in his hand I am going to try my best to be the one that goes home to my family that night.

Each of these tragic things all have one thing in common. People are hurt or die. Nobody wants this to be common place in our country or even town. The other thing in common is a gun is involved.

Guns are unforgiving and in an instant, can change it all. As we see this stuff seemingly escalate each day many of us probably see the need for a gun as a personal safety issue.

I want us all to step back and realize the solution to this is not coming from Washington or Tallahassee with new laws. It will come from us as a people that care about each other and try to do more for our youth in terms of schools and after-school activities and even in our interactions with each other day to day. I have worked with kids over 40 years in this county and many of them are parents and productive citizens. I know how many good people live here and care about these things. When I see black and white folks in the Walmart parking lot hugging and recalling good times at work or at ball games or where ever, I know I am seeing genuine humanity and understanding that we are all in this together.

What I see on the national news is not how I see much of rural America. Fearing our neighbors and allowing people on the news to tell us who bad guys are and who is "tearing down America" is not going to heal our divides. It will come from us as real people living together with our kids in local schools and doing our part to make our community a safe and nurturing place for our children and their children. Kindness and courtesy go a long way in bridging long divides between people and it costs nothing. We can do more focusing on what we have in common and what is good than we can ever do by angrily reacting to that which divides us.

Steve Acree
Brooker

How do we move forward

Dear Editor:

The tragic shooting that resulted in a death, which happened in our community has impacted the immediate family of the victim, the children of RJE Center, Regeneration Church of God in Christ, the witnesses, the law enforcement officers and the community at large. It has caused trauma and post-traumatic stress for those who witnessed or merely heard the sounds of the array of bullets fired. The question is, how do we move forward from here?

How do we help to heal our community and give closure to a grieving family and community? We can start by transparency, releasing the body cam video tapes. It will answer the following questions: a) Was the shooting justified, b) was first aid rendered in a timely manner and was everything possible done to save his life after the shooting. If the response is FDLE has control of the videos/tape and the authority

to release them, we ask that you tell FDLE the people demand the truth: Release the videos.

The truth will not change the circumstances or bring back the life that was lost, but it can set free the minds of the people about what happened, so that everyone can stop speculating and drawing their own conclusion about what law enforcement did or did not do. Sheriff Smith, in the lessons learned in this tragic situation, is there anything that could have been done differently? Could backup have been called once it was known that the chase was heading into District 2 to ensure the safety of children at RJE school and the Regeneration church, as this incident occurred between two known sites where children are usually present?

The impact of what happened goes far and beyond the day of the incident, as some children are now fearful of going back to school because they are afraid somebody might come to their school to harm them because they are related to the people involved. We must get help to them and the other children through counseling and the adults who need it. Listen to them when they need to talk.

For the family, I say to you, you are not responsible for the decisions that your loved ones make when you have given them sound doctrine, and rearing in the Love of God. For every adult is accountable for their own behavior and decisions. But it does take a village, the whole community in the rearing of our children, especially when they leave the safety net of home and family.

Now to my beloved community, I say to you, we all have a role to play in what happens here forward in our community. What we allow our children to be exposed to, and what we tolerate within the walls and boundaries of our communities makes a difference in the wellbeing of the community. If you see something wrong going on and do nothing about it, you are condoning the behavior and sending a message to the young people that what they are doing is OK with you.

The community's role is to protect our future generation. These young people are our future. If we tolerate destructive behavior, we, too, bear some responsibility for the destruction within our own communities. When asking what we can do to help our young people, some have said this is a different generation; they are too hardheaded and unwilling to listen. But I say today, even if only a few listen, we can still make a difference. The truth is, they are no different than the generations before them, we were all hardheaded and didn't want to listen sometimes, but the difference is our community at that time did not give up on us, and whoever in the community saw us acting up, they had the authority and blessing of our parents to straighten us out, and our parents would take care of us again when we got home.

We, too, must not be tolerant of some of the behavior going on around us in our communities. We must stop tolerating the drug trafficking and other crimes happening around us that our children see and are exposed

to on a daily basis. If you see something, say something or do something about it. Our message must be consistent, and the same by everyone. We must respond with one voice. "No, not in our backyard, not now, not ever."

We must learn to speak encouragement to our youth. Don't be afraid to talk to them. Speak hope for them, pray for them, show love toward them, so that even when we have to speak to them about something they are doing that is harmful to themselves and others, they will know that you are saying these things out of love and care for them. We must encourage the young people to stay in school and get a good education so that they can be productive citizens and be able to take care of themselves and contribute back to the community. We must be a resource and help them in obtaining a job. Take them to Work Source. Let them know if you hear of a job opening. Tell them who is hiring. Help them fill out a job application. Help them navigate on the computer to do a job search. We must present them with alternatives to a life of crime and trying so hard to get rich quick. We must speak hope, success and encouragement, and build up their confidence to do something to help themselves.

Christian community, let's speak to them about the love that God has toward them. Let's teach them to love the Lord, themselves and their neighbors. Let's instill hope in them. Let them know that their eyes have not seen, nor their ears heard, neither has the heart of man perceived the good things that God hath prepared for them that love him. We must not give up on them. There is also a greater spiritual understanding that we all must come to understand, and that is there is an appointed time for everyone to die or be changed. The Scriptures teach us in Ecclesiastes 3 there is a time to give birth and a time to die. The 90th Psalm teaches us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

You see, we must do all that we can for the Lord and each other now, because tomorrow is not promised. James 4:13-14 says for what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. God controls the time of birth and death. Death has no respect of person, regardless of the age or status in life. What we do have control over is how we choose to live, whether we choose God or the world. None of us know the moment or hour when the Lord will come back. So, let us live as if Christ is coming back right now. Let us heal our community by sharing the love that Christ has towards. Let us help to soothe the wounded and broken hearts of the family and community by pouring on some "oil" of love. Let us show love toward one another as God so loved the world. God's got this. For God is love.

Sincerely,
Minister

Carolyn Brown Spooner

The Weekly Paw Print:

Do your kids fight like cats and dogs?

As it turns out, a new study from the United Kingdom suggests we may need to come up with a new saying. In most cases, cats and dogs living under the same roof got along just fine . . . as long as nobody ticked off the cat.

Researchers conducted an online survey of 748 pet owners from the United Kingdom, the United States, Australia, Canada, and Europe. More than 80% of respondents said that their pets were comfortable with one another. Only 3% thought that their cats and dogs couldn't stand each other.

Most of the time, things were chummy:

27% of owners said their cats and dogs played together every day.

12% said their dogs groomed their cats every day.

10% said their cats groomed their dogs every day.

82% said their cats and dogs spend time in the same room every day.

When things did get out of hand, the cat was usually the aggressor. Cats were 3 times more likely to threaten their canine housemates than the other way around. They were also 10 times more likely to injure dogs in a fight.

Age appeared to play a factor, too: The younger the cat when introduced to the dog, the greater the likelihood that the two would get along. So the researchers recommend that if a dog owner wants to get a cat, get a young cat—preferably less than a year old.

The researchers believe domestication may play a big role in why dogs are more amenable to sharing space with cats than the other way around: dogs have been domesticated for longer than cats and they're easier to train, so controlling their behavior may come easier to them than to cats.

One thing was clear: Pet owners' perceptions of how well their pets got along were influenced more by "cat factors" than "dog factors."

In other words, if kitty ain't happy, ain't nobody happy.

Excerpts taken from <http://www.aaha.org/blog/NewStat/post/2018/07/25/734522/New-study-Cats-and-dogs-dont-actually-fight-like-cats-and-dogs.aspx>

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COURT



Childs

Continued from 4B

On June 15, Childs came to Lazenby Equipment and purchased the mower and trailer using a business check.

However, the check was later returned by Navy Federal Credit Union in Jacksonville because the account on which it was drawn had been closed.

Due to an oversight, the woman's name was not noted at the time of purchase. However, she allowed a store employee to take her picture to post on the business' Facebook page. A Lazenby employee later found an email address the woman used to communicate with the business, and sheriff's investigators subpoenaed the credit union for records of the checking account.

Through the woman's phone number, a detective was able to identify the suspect and match her signature, which was on the invoice.

"A criminal history was run through dispatch ... and revealed that Child's has an extremely extensive history of fraud, uttering false instruments, false identity, grand theft and other property crimes," wrote Detective Daniel Cassani in a court document.



Norris

License violation, drug possession earns 15 months in prison

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Managing Editor

A circuit judge sentenced Joshua Bruce Norris, 29, to 15 months in prison after Norris pleaded guilty to possession of less than 20 grams of cannabis and to his third conviction of driving with a suspended or revoked license.

According to court records, on March 15, Starke Police Officer Karly Jones responded to a suspicious person call at Starke's AutoZone. Store personnel told Jones that a white male, later identified as Norris, walked in and out of the store several times, setting off the business' security sensors.

The officer then made contact with Norris, who said he did not steal anything and was trying to pay for merchandise in his

possession. Jones ran Norris' driver license through dispatch and was told the license was suspended and that Norris had received notice of the suspension. Store employees verified that all the merchandise in Norris' possession had been paid for, and the man was released.

Jones wrote in an arrest report that after releasing Norris, she parked her patrol car in the parking lot of Subway to observe traffic and saw Norris get into a vehicle and pull out of the AutoZone parking lot.

She conducted a traffic stop and confirmed that the man's license was suspended. Dispatch also told the officer that Norris had been caught twice before driving with a suspended license and also had two previous DUIs.

Jones then conducted a search of the vehicle and found 11 bags containing a green leafy substance that tested positive for marijuana.

Man pleads to selling drugs near church

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Managing Editor

A Starke man was sentenced to 30 months in prison after pleading guilty to selling a controlled substance within 1,000 feet of a place of worship, possession of a controlled substance within 1,000 feet of a church and for a charge related to a separate incident, possession of a controlled substance without a prescription.

Bobby Joe Robinson, 43, was credited for 180 days already served. According to court papers, Robinson sold 0.8 grams of methamphetamine to a confidential informant within



Robinson

1,000 feet of the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church in Lincoln City.

In a separate incident, Robinson was a passenger in a car pulled over for straddling the center line on State Road 100, near the Pine Forest Apartments.

Within a backpack that Robinson identified as his, a deputy found six pills of the muscle relaxant cyclobenzaprine and miscellaneous drug equipment.

In other news from Bradford County felony court on July 26:

Anthony Outland Altman, 33, entered a written plea of not guilty for DUI and felony, habitual driving with a suspended or revoked license for a June 7 offense.

Dennis Ray Asbell, 44, entered a written plea of not guilty for criminal mischief that allegedly occurred on June 18.

Jerry Taylor Atteberry, 22, was sentenced to two years drug offender probation for a May 31 offense of grand theft. According to court papers, the defendant stole a Rolex watch from a family member and another family member saw the watch for sale on Facebook.

Edwin Elisha Baker, 31, was sentenced to 120 days in jail

with credit for 33 days already served for a June 22 offense of felony driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Joseph Benjamin Barnett, 35, was sentenced to 55 days in jail with credit for 55 days already served and to two years' probation for the May 14, 2016, offenses of assault, battery on a law enforcement officer, resisting arrest with violence, resisting arrest without violence and disorderly intoxication.

According to court papers, workers at Whiskey River Saloon called Starke police after employees refused to continue serving alcohol to a belligerent customer.

Employees said the man threatened other customers, made unwanted sexual comments to bar workers and threatened to blow up the establishment and kill everyone inside.

Officer Christopher Keel and Sgt. Jason Crosby encountered the defendant in the bar's parking lot, where Barnett refused to comply with commands to stop walking away. The two police officers used TASERS on the man three times with no effect, and during a fight, used a baton to force his hands from underneath his body where he could be restrained.

Officer Keel wrote in an arrest report that while transporting Barnett to jail, the defendant said he suffered from PTSD and was trained by the military to fight and not flee. Keel added that Barnett also apologized for the incident.

Thomas Clifford Chambers, 53, entered a written plea of not guilty for a May 29 offense of conspiracy to commit a robbery with a weapon. According to court papers, Chambers attempted to rob a patron of Starke's Motel 6 with a B.B. gun. However, the victim subdued the defendant and restrained him

until police arrived.

Daronte Jawaun Corbitt, 24, entered a written plea of not guilty for June 9 offenses of battery by a person detained in prison or jail and battery causing great bodily harm or permanent disability. According to court papers, the defendant, an inmate at the Bradford County Jail, attacked another inmate during a meal at the facility. When another inmate came to the aid of the first victim, Corbitt then attacked the second man.

Kieran Jermain Harden Sharpe, 37, entered a written plea of not guilty for a June 8 offense of possession of cocaine.

Charles David Henley, 19, entered a written plea of not guilty for June 1 offenses of fleeing and attempting to elude, driving with a suspended or revoked license and resisting an officer without violence.

Makalla Nicole Lane, 26, entered a written plea of not guilty for June 21 offenses of felony battery and opposing an officer without violence.

Misty Koehler Lawson, 45, was sentenced to 24 months' probation for a May 25 offense of grand theft. According to court papers, the defendant passed all points of sale at Walmart without paying for \$426.27 in merchandise.

Candice Melody Stein, 34, was sentenced to 84 days in jail and 18 months drug offender probation for driving with a suspended or revoked license and possession of drug paraphernalia. She was credited for 84 days already served.

Angelica M. Tower, 26, entered a written plea of not guilty for a Sept. 1, 2017, offense of failure to return rented property valued over \$300.

New pastor on mission to help those who are hurting

BY KIM BOX
Special to the Telegraph-Times-Monitor

After five months of interim leadership, Starke Community Church has a new pastor. Founding pastor Al Whiddon led the congregation from the time it opened its doors on Nov. 18, 2012, until he retired in February of this year. He spent the final five years of his 25-year ministry with the congregation now located near the intersection of U.S. 301 and Market Road.

After attempting several other unsuccessful church plants in Starke, the Assemblies of God was delighted that Starke Community Church took root and that it has continued to bloom under the denominational umbrella for almost six years. Interim Assemblies of God pastors filled the pulpit each Sunday until the congregation found a permanent pastor.

Stepping into the vacant leadership role, Pastor Michael Smith — known to his church as "Pastor Mike" — is 100 percent positive that the Starke church is where God wants him to serve. He said that he knows because God actually spoke to him and told him so.

"As I looked at the church's website, I heard God direct me here and tell me that the church was a hidden jewel," Smith said.

He and his family are new to Starke as well as the church. His wife, Debbie, wholeheartedly agrees with Smith that Starke is where they should be.

It was not until the Smiths were in transit, literally on the road moving to Starke, that a rental home into which the family could move became available. Their real estate agent called and told them that "out of the blue" someone called, and "bam," they had a home.

This call was just one more confirmation of what the Smiths already had peaceful assurance about — Starke was the place for them.

"We feel at home here already," Debbie said.

Missions-mobilized

While Smith hopes Starke Community Church will experience tremendous growth, he is not much on playing the numbers game. He and Debbie said that about 40 to 50 people attend on Sundays. Smith was pleasantly surprised to find out that some of them drive 30 to 40 minutes to get to the church.

"Thousands in attendance, but just warming pews cannot compare to 100 hot on fire for God," Smith said.

Missions is extremely important

to Smith and, as the church progresses, will be a major emphasis. He said he does not want his church to merely gain knowledge and understanding of places and people in need.

"I want our church to be missions mobilized and not just missions minded," Smith said.

He and Debbie have both been on missions trips to Mexico and El Salvador. Smith has been on five trips, and he organized the last two of them. Debbie has been on two.

The Smiths have also been involved with other missions and relief teams within the United States. Even now, the pastor is prayerfully considering the organization of another missions trip next year.

Helping hurting people

Smith has repeatedly noted and been made aware as recently as his morning drive to work that parts of Starke and some of its residents appear sad and hurting.

The church is "like a triage," Debbie said.

"We believe in healing; we pray over people and see things happen, really happen," Smith said. "We have the medicine to treat life's problems."

"You won't find it in a pharmacy,"

Debbie added.

"God heals, he plans, he sees everything up," Smith said. "We're just his servants."

The couple said that hurting people, and all people for that matter, are looking for authenticity in believers.

"When they find out we're authentic, it's like they're saying: 'Thank you for not judging us,'" Debbie said.

The Smiths said the gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ, but the gospel is also sharing with others our own testimonies of the difference Christ has made in our lives.

"Jesus is so relatable," Debbie said. "He fought the same temptations we fight. That's what people need to know."



Mike and Debbie Smith

With a law degree and a pastor's heart, Smith knows he can reach people in a unique way.

"I can help people see beyond their pain through Jesus

who lives in me," Smith said.

He has been a substance abuse and mental health counselor. He also has experience with Probation and Parole and with the Department of Children and Families.

Smith has served as a pastor before. He has also led a children's ministry and has been a missions pastor.

Debbie dreams of one day being a child psychologist. Her experience with children thus far has come through teaching and through parenting. The Smiths have three chil-

dren: Rebekah, 16, Leah, 14, and Elijah, 13.

Debbie assists her husband in ministry as needed. The couple extends an open invitation to anyone in the community who needs someone to counsel in-confidence with them.

Go therefore and make disciples of

all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Since the National Guard has a strong presence around the community, Smith used the organization as an example. He said that in any battle, the strongest part of the defense takes place in the back where preparations are being made.

"Unless we're prepared, we ought not go into battle," Smith said. "If we're not prepared, we're doomed for failure."

"We just need to do what God calls us to do and let God do his thing. When we do our best, God takes care of the rest."

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~ Michael Schlofman, O.D.

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INDEX		
40 Notice	51 Lost/Found	63 Love Lines
41 Vehicles Accessories	52 Animals & Pets	64 Business Opportunity
42 Motor Vehicles	53 Yard Sales	65 Help Wanted
43 RV's & Campers	54 Keystone Yard Sales	66 Investment Opportunity
44 Boats	55 Wanted	67 Hunting Land for Rent
45 Land for Sale	56 Trade or Swap	68 Rent to Own
46 Real Estate Out of Area	57 For Sale	69 Food Supplements
47 Commercial Property	58 Building Materials	70 Money to Lend
Rent, Lease, Sale	59 Personal Services	72 Sporting Goods
Homes for Sale	60 Secretarial Services	73 Farm Equipment
48 Mobile Homes for Sale	61 Scriptures	74 Computers & Computer Accessories
49 Mobile Homes for Sale	62 Vacation/Travel	
50 For Rent		

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RALLY

Continued from 1B

Pope-Wells told the crowd that Trump endorsed DeSantis during a July 31 rally in Tampa.

She said that when she asked an administration official why Trump was endorsing DeSantis, the official replied that DeSantis is not a politician and is focused on grass roots campaigning.

Pope-Wells said she then looked into DeSantis' background and liked what she saw.

"What I began to study was how he led the charge in Congress on term limits and continues to lead the charge, and how he actually didn't take a congressional pension because he doesn't believe in congressional pensions," she said.

Gordon Smith for Rick Scott, candidate for U.S. Senate

Bradford County Sheriff Gordon Smith said Gov. Rick Scott's staff asked him to speak for Scott.

Smith said he agreed because Scott is the rare public official that follows through on the commitments he makes.

"He also works with those that may not believe the same way that he does," Smith said. "He's proven that. We need more of that in Washington, D.C. I'm tired of the divide because somebody comes up with an idea, and the other side fights it."

He also said Scott has not been swayed by special interests and has made decisions with his heart.

Smith said Scott's efforts as governor have resulted in better roads, more jobs and a lower crime rate.

He also said that throughout Scott's two terms as governor, Scott telephoned him often whenever the area faced a crisis.



Event organizer Richard Solze addresses the crowd.

U.S. Congressman Ted Yoho

Yoho told the crowd that he first ran for Congress because he was frustrated with what he saw happening in Washington.

"Just like you guys, we were fed up with what Congress wasn't doing, or some would claim they were doing," he said. "What I saw, one of the big things was the lack of vision and leadership for the country coming out of the Republican conference. You know, broken taxes, and health care that's still broken, immigration, there should be a solution to that, but it's not being worked out."

Yoho pointed to changes in the Republican leadership in Congress as improvements he supported, with Paul Ryan replacing Speaker John Boehner and with Ryan stepping down at the end of the year.

Yoho also highlighted improvements to the Veterans Administration that he helped push through.

"We have put a tremendous amount of funding into (the VA), not just for doctors and facilities, but to change the whole structure of the VA," he said. "We just passed the VA Mission Act, that gives our veterans more choices where they can go directly to a doctor if they can't get in. This is something that's helping our veterans."

Yoho said he and his colleagues have "rolled back billions of dollars of regulations." He also

said he still hopes to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act.

Yoho said that through his efforts, a study to improve the Shands Bridge near Green Cove Springs was expedited, a key hurricane-evacuation route. He also said he helped the sheriff's office secure a \$2.5 million grant to clean Alligator Creek and alleviate flooding on Sampson Lake.

Yoho addressed claims that he does not support President Trump.

"There are rumors out there that I don't support the president," he said. "The president called me out the other day in Tampa and said, 'We need to keep people like that in there.' You know, we've been with the president over 90 percent of the time. We've had our differences, you know, we'll speak up when we do. But, we've been with this president, and I can tell you this president loves this country as much as everybody in here."

Judson Sapp, candidate for U.S. Congress District 3

Facing Yoho in the Aug. 28 primary is Judson Sapp.

Sapp told the crowd that his family owns a railroad construction company, which he now runs.

"My primary focus when I get to Congress is going to be transportation and infrastructure," he said.

Sapp added that if elected, he

plans to represent all the people in his district and negotiate legislation that benefits the area.

Garrett Mann for Denise Grimsley, candidate for Agriculture Commissioner

Garrett Mann is a staff member on Grimsley's campaign.

He said Grimsley, now a state senator, chaired the Florida House Appropriations Committee before moving to the Senate where she currently chairs the upper chamber's Agriculture Committee.

He added that she has also run her family's business, Grimsley Oil, a chain of convenience stores in south Florida with 10 locations.

Mann said Grimsley got involved in politics after the state agriculture department closed down two of her family's stores.

According to Mann, when Grimsley called the state agency to reopen the stores, she was told, "We're not working today. We'll deal with you next week."

"Basically, almost trying to put her out of business," Mann said. "She was so upset by this, that actually was the catalyst for her to even get into politics. She got into politics because the Department of Agriculture wasn't treating her right, and

the rest is history. She is today trying to run for the Department of Agriculture head."

Mann also said that with her background as a nurse, Grimsley has a track record of caring for others and taking care of people.

Chris Wilson for Attorney General candidate Ashley Moody

Wilson said Moody's career includes stints as an associate at Holland and Knight, an assistant U.S. attorney, and a circuit judge in Tampa.

"Now, she's running for attorney general," said Wilson. "She's endorsed by Pam Bondi, our current attorney general, 43 of 49 Republican chairs in Florida, including right here and 12 out of the 20 state attorneys in Florida."

Wilson also said that of the candidates running for attorney general, Moody is the only candidate that has prosecuted a case.

State Rep. Bobby Payne

Palatka resident Bobby Payne was first elected two years ago. His district covers Putnam, Bradford and Union counties, as well as southern and central Clay County.

Payne told the gathering that he is a 37-year employee of Seminole Electric and a strong believer in the Second Amendment.

Payne touted his working relationships with Sen. Rob Bradley of Fleming Island, Rep. Travis Cummings of Orange Park, Rep. Chuck Clemons of Newberry and Sen. Keith Perry of Gainesville.

"One of my roommates, Paul Renner, is the future Speaker of the House," he said. "We have great opportunities in northeast Florida to see some nice change."

He said he worked with

Bradley to secure appropriations to improve Keystone Heights-area lakes.

"I was proud to sponsor bills that supported raises for our state law enforcement, for our highway patrol, for our correctional officers, and support bills for our firefighters, bills that help them with post-traumatic stress disorder and issues where they're exposed to cancer at a greater rate than an average person," he said.

Payne also said he supported bills that improved school choice and will continue to support the development of technical schools, giving students an alternative to college.

"We believe that students should go through apprenticeship programs," he said. "We have a huge skills gap now with skilled labor, and we want that skills gap to be closed. We want our kids and our families to stay close to us at home and find local jobs, so we're working on improving economic conditions in our rural counties so they can do that."

Kenny Thompson, Bradford County Commission, District 2

Thompson, the owner of a Lawley auto repair shop, said that when running for county commissioner four years ago, he promised to work just as hard for the county as he did for his shop.

He added that the board of county commissioners has accomplished much during his time on the panel, and he wants four more years to continue moving the county forward.

He also said that when Hurricane Irma hit the area last year, he did what he could to help residents recover.

"When Irma hit, it hit Bradford County hard," he said. "Luckily, I was able to leave my shop for nine days, put a chainsaw in my

See MORE, 10B



Gloria Walker Running for Circuit Court Judge

Gloria Walker is the managing attorney and director of litigation at Three Rivers Legal Services, Inc., a nonprofit law firm dedicated to providing quality legal services to the abused, disabled, and elderly in north central Florida. As the managing attorney, Gloria supervises eight attorneys and support staff and as the director of litigation, she directs and oversees litigation in 17 counties, including Alachua, Bradford, Baker, Levy, Gilchrist and Union counties. She has helped over 1,000 families with legal disputes, including evictions, foreclosures, family and domestic disputes, contractual issues, and administrative law matters.

Gloria graduated from both the University of Florida College of Business and College of Law with honors. She is now a leader in the community and legal profession. She is the president of the Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association, the circuit in which she seeks to fill an open seat for a judicial vacancy.

"I am driven by my faith in God, my family, and my desire to help others - I have the heart of a public servant," Gloria said. "I knew that as an attorney, I would have the opportunity to help others. Utilizing my education and legal skills, I have been able to help the residents of this circuit," she said. Gloria's public service in the Eighth Judicial Circuit started in 1996 when she volunteered as a Guardian Ad Litem and continues to this day as she helps the residents of this circuit with their legal concerns, issues and disputes as an attorney.

In 2017, Gloria became more involved with her alma mater, the University of Florida, when she joined the teaching staff at the Levin College of Law as an adjunct professor and began teaching law students pre-trial skills, an essential course that she plans to teach every year. Gloria has held many leadership roles. She was the chair and vice chair of the Florida Bar's Grievance Committee. For the last few years Gloria has been a table captain at the PACE Center for Girls annual fundraiser and she "adopts" a daughter every other year through the Santa Fe College national Take Your Daughter to Work Day. Currently, Gloria is the president of the Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association and a program chair for the Bennett Inn of Courts.

Gloria married her college sweetheart, Rogers Walker, who also serves this circuit as an assistant state attorney at the Office of the State Attorney. Together Gloria and Rogers have two beautiful daughters ages 8 and 11 who attend public school in this circuit. "As a family, we believe we should live in a community where the constitution is revered as the supreme law of the land, the rule of law is upheld and justice is served," Gloria said and added, "It would be an honor and a privilege for me to continue serving the residents of Bradford and Union County as your next circuit court judge."

To learn more about the campaign, please visit our website, www.GloriaWalkerForJudge.com, and like us on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/gloriawalkerforjudge/>.

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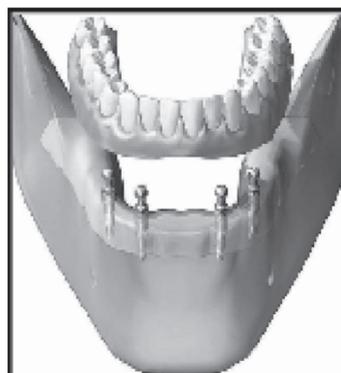
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MORE

Continued from 9B

hand and get out there and work. I'm a working person. I ain't going to sit behind a desk. So that's what I'm here today to do. I want you to know I want four more years, and I feel like I did a good job."

Tom Germano, Bradford County Commission, District 4

Tom Germano, who early in his campaign made his opposition to a proposed phosphate mine the centerpiece of his campaign, did not mention the project during his talk.

Instead he talked about his first encounters with Bradford County, when his parents bought a lakefront cabin in the 1960s.

"We spent all our summers here and many, many, many hundreds of weekends," he said. "It was a very magical place and a place we always felt fortunate to be able to come to. That was way before the Magic Kingdom. This was our Magic Kingdom."

"My wife and I chose to move here several years ago because we loved it," he continued. "I've always loved it, it's always been a magical place for me. I want to run for county commissioner to help our county grow and prosper."

Germano then took on the issue of Stasia Rudolph's write-in candidacy, a topic he called the elephant in the room.

When Rudolph filed to run as a write-in, her action closed the Aug. 28 primary to Republicans only, locking out non-Republicans from the primary.

"You know there were a few (rumors) going around saying I found some loopholes and I did this and did that," he said. "Actually, I really did none of that. I didn't have anything to do with it (the primary) being closed or with the write-in candidate (running)."

Germano also pointed out that his primary opponent, Danny Riddick changed parties from Democrat to Republican in 2016 and that Democrats have had ample time to field a candidate of their own to run for the District 4 seat.

"So, I don't believe I've disenfranchised anyone," he said. "I've said all along that I'm a Republican, I've been a Republican my entire life, although I feel some regret that some people won't be able to vote in the election, I don't feel an obligation, as a Republican that I owe the Democrats a candidate. They should have been aware, and they should have known and been able to put up their own candidate to run against us."

Danny Riddick, Bradford County Commission District 4

Incumbent commissioner Danny Riddick recalled his time growing up near Hampton Lake and his love for the area's waterways.

"There's not an inch of Hampton Lake I haven't been on or probably camped out on when I was a young boy," he said. "I love the lakes, I love the rivers, the springs, and I enjoy them all the time. I never stop talking about them."

Riddick also talked about the infrastructure improvements in the district since he has been in office, including the paving of 7.7 miles of dirt roads, resurfacing County Road 221 between Hampton and U.S. 301, constructing sidewalks on State Road 21 from the Keystone United Methodist Church to the Santa Fe College Watson Center and on County Road 21B between Speedville and State Road 100, a sidewalk near Hampton Lake along County Road 18 from U.S. 301 to Southwest 80th Place, extension of the Palatka-to-Lake Butler State Trail from State Road 100 to the Clay County line and construction of a new Speedville fire station in back of the Santa Fe College Watson Center.

He also refuted rumors that construction of the fire station has stalled.

"I don't care what you've

heard," he said. "The concrete slab is set to be poured Aug. 10 and the metal building is going to be delivered Sept. 14."

Riddick also said that when he heard about the proposed phosphate mine in Bradford and Union counties, he tried to persuade his fellow commissioners to enact a temporary moratorium on any new mines in the county but could not convince his colleagues to go along.

Gayle Nicula, Bradford School Board District 2

Gayle Shuford Nicula told the crowd about her family

background and about her 37-year career in the health care field. She graduated from Lake City Community College in 1981 and then obtained a second degree from the University of Florida 24 years later, which enabled her to become a board-certified family nurse practitioner.

"My experience in the medical profession, caring for the citizens of Bradford County where I grew up, has fueled my passion to extend that same care to the students, parents and faculty of Bradford County," she said.

She said students, teachers and administrators in Bradford County and throughout the country have faced the challenges of school safety, discipline, teacher shortages and mandated testing. She added that

those challenges remain a work in process.

"Our children deserve no less than the best educational opportunity to be able to learn and to graduate and be successful and productive in our workforce," she said.

She added that people have been asking her why she is running and how she is qualified.

"Well, the reason I'm doing this, bottom line, is I love people and I've wanted to do this for several years, and I wanted to make a difference in our school system," she said. "My qualifications are a desire in making a difference in our school system by being a concerned, honest and committed individual."

Jeremy Pilcher, Bradford School Board District 2

School board candidate Jeremy Pilcher told the crowd that he is 39-years-old, born and raised around Bradford County and has lived here all his life.

"I've got three kids: 14, 11 and 4," he said, "one in high school, middle school and pre-K."

He said that concern for his children and the other students in the county is the reason he is running for school board.

Pilcher added that he graduated from Bradford High School in 1997 with honors, serving as student council president. He

worked as a dispatcher at the Bradford County Sheriff's Office before beginning his 14-year career with Jacksonville Fire-Rescue. He is now a lieutenant working in the city's northwest area.

Pilcher said a big issue for him is school safety. He also said teacher retention is important, as is student retention.

"There are students that are leaving to go to other counties," he said. "Is it because of the school system? Is it the superintendent? We don't know. We need to work on that because that's tax dollars that we're losing in our system."

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