The Sweetest Strawberries This Side Of Heaven

Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 – STARKE, FLORIDA | THURSDAY, DEC. 19, 2013 | 134TH YEAR – 21ST ISSUE – 75 CENTS

Worth Noting

Early deadline announced

The offices of the Bradford County Telegraph, Union County Times and Lake Region Monitor will be closed on Wednesday, Dec. 25, and Wednesday, Jan. 1, for the Christmas and New Year's holidays. There will be an early deadline for the Dec. 26 and Jan. 2 papers—Monday, Dec. 23, and Monday, Dec. 30, by noon. Both papers will be published in time to be on the street on Tuesday and in mailboxes on Thursday.

Lawtey parade, party planned for Dec. 21

The Lawtey Christmas Parade will take place Saturday, Dec. 21, beginning at 10 a.m. and will feature church and community groups, custom cars and motorcycles, horses and Santa himself.

The parade will begin at Lawtey Elementary School and travel east on Lake Street, across U.S. 301, then turn around at Walk By Faith Ministries and head back to the school.

Immediately following the parade, Lawtey's annual Christmas Party at the school.

For more information, please call Benjamin Ross at 904-782-3130 or Cynthia Ross at 904-769-1147.

Something for you at the senior center

The Bradford County Senior Center has something for everybody. If you like games, there's bingo every Monday at 10 a.m., Wii bowling on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 3 p.m., Cards Group (Hand and Foot) every Friday at 10 a.m., and Bunco every Friday at 1:30 p.m.

Feel the need for some low-impact exercise? Every Tuesday, 1:30-2:30 p.m., and Thursday, 10-11 a.m., we have Chair Yoga and Tai Chi Hour. If you want a little more active exercise, come Mondays at 1:30 p.m. and Tuesdays at 10 a.m. for Zumba. Starting in January, a Zumba class will be added on Fridays at 10 a.m. The center also offers line dancing every other Wednesday at 10 a.m. and every other Monday evening at 6:30 p.m. The next line dancing class will be Monday, Dec. 23, at 6:30 p.m.

The senior center has arts and crafts classes, too. Every Wednesday, 9 a.m. to noon, join the wood carvers and whittlers. The knit and crochet group meets every Thursday at 3 p.m. Want to learn how to draw and paint? Join Art with Elisa, on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 2:30 p.m.

Coming in January, basic computer classes will return. If you are interested in taking a computer class, please call the senior center at 904-368-3955 to reserve your spot.

Bradford County Senior Center is located at 1805 N. Temple Ave. in Starke. If you have any questions or would like further information on activities or events, please call 904-368-3955. A calendar of events can be found at www.bradfordcountyfl.gov.

Here comes Santa Claus

Rudolph would have come in handy during the rain, but Santa Claus parked his sleigh and hopped a ride with the Starke Fire Department during the city's annual Christmas parade. For more from the event, see inside.

Grad rate continues climb

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

Numbers released by the state last week show that Bradford High School has raised its graduation rate once again.

The rate has been up and down for Bradford County over the past 10 years, the latest results represent three straight years of improvement. According to the numbers, the graduation rate was 67.5 percent for the 2012-13 school year. That's an increase of 3.3 percent over the 2012 school year, 6.4 percent over 2011 and 15.7 percent over 2010.

The 2009-10 school year was the low point for the district over the past 10 years, which has improved from 53.5 percent in 2004.

School Year	Graduation Rate
2004	53.5%
2005	58.5%
2006	51.4%
2007	54.8%
2008	56.9%
2009	59.0%
2010	51.8%
2011	61.1%
2012	64.2%
2013	67.5%

See GRAD, 6A

'Ridiculous!'

Both sides in teacher pay debate slam proposals

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

The latest bargaining session over compensation for school employees got as far as hearing the district's new counteroffer before insults were hurled and talks ended until after New Year's.

While the district bargaining team did emerge from the Dec. 9 executive session with the school board with a revised offer, for employees, it's still not enough money. According to the school district, however, there's no more money to go around.

The district wanted to discuss other contractual issues but was pressed by negotiator George Bowen, representing the Bradford Education Association, to move directly to compensation. It still took some time to hear the latest counteroffer, as school board negotiator Walter Carr went over the budgetary issues that have been raised but not fully explained in prior meetings.

He began with the continuing decline in student enrollment. The student count has been going down every year for 10 out of the past 11 years, and every student lost represents another deduction from the revenue provided through the state funding formula. At the same time, Carr said the district's costs remain the same, which Bowen challenged by pointing to the reduction to the district in pension costs when employees began contributing 3 percent.

The questions led to conflict over who was interrupting whom before Carr moved on to address questions about increases in this year's budget, including the additional salary and benefit costs associated with a partial step increase given last year. This year the board had to budget to cover the cost of the step for the entire year. Additional personnel costs included hiring a band director for the middle school and the community relations coordinator, and the general fund had to begin paying for some positions when grant money dried up. More was budgeted for utility costs, and there were categorical awards and rollover for capital outlay and supplies. Those funds aren't available for any other use.

The discussion of categorical money was raised again when talking about the district's fund balance. Most of that funding is reserved for specific purposes,

See PAY, 6A

Those who helped the Bradford Athletic Association's U9 cheerleaders get to Tampa will be happy to know their investment paid off. The girls returned with a national championship, having earned first place in the United 9 Large Division competition. The champs are pictured with their coaches (front to back, left to right): Briana White, Nari Cray, Jaydn Lee, Destiny Lauramore, Aailiyah Jones, Abby Clouser, Kylie Britt, Josie Cannon, Janika Raymond, Destiny Crum, Laney Griffis, Takeirra Bakken, Skylyn Cooper, Jayla Reed, coach Tiara Tyson, head coach Stephanie Scott, coach Kenya Crum and coach Brooke Cannon.

Legislature to decide New River reopening

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

Sen. Rob Bradley told the Keystone Heights Rotary Club that a decision on whether to reopen New River Correctional Institution would be made in March or April.

The Florida Department of Corrections closed the prison in 2012, in addition to other facilities, because of a decline in the statewide inmate population. However, in November, the department asked the legislature for $59 million to reopen New River, along with eight other facilities it also closed last year. Corrections officials said forecasts showed an uptick in the prison population, which would create demand for more beds.

"That certainly is something that is being discussed," Bradley said of reopening the shuttered lockups, "but it is very premature to make any predictions about what facilities will or will not be reopened."

Bradley chairs the senate's Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice. His district includes Bradford, Clay and Alachua counties.

Bradley said the decision on New River would depend on updated forecasts for prison populations and projections for state revenues for the 2014-15 fiscal year.

He also said that pending legislation to reform sentences for nonviolent, nonrepeat offenders might also impact prison population forecasts.

Several influential organizations,

See OPEN, 6A

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints float featured a nativity scene, and a scene from Dr. Seuss. They won best youth float.

Carrie Townsend, Winston Barber and Matt Barber say hi from the LDS Church float.

Hope Baptist presented Jesus as a gift. Pictured are Tevin Smith and Ashley Daniels. The float was tops in the nonprofit category.

How about snuggling outside your igloo at the North Pole? The Cooper Law Firm had the winning commercial float.

Lori McLeod, Vina Hutchinson, Virginia Denmark and Michelle Daniels from Hope Baptist cheer on Christmas.

Joy Johnson cheerfully waves leading the CVS Candyland entry.

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Victory Chapel's float featured a Jesus as a child and an adult. Pictured are Mindy Medford, Braden Baker and Steve Stanton.

Community State Bank's Jeff Oody and his wife, Beth, are wrapping presents on in this scene from "A Christmas Story" while Scott Snyder sneaks down the stairs. But who asked Santa for the tacky lamp?

Northside Christian Academy class royals include Kayla Tusa, Shelby Parrish, Hunter Shannon, Ashlyn Pilcher, Jon Norman, Nicole Gordon and Shane Worten.

First Christian Church brought angels Krislynn Faulkner and Karlee Chandler and shepherds Lindsay Templeton, Gabe Wells and Lexie Wells.

Pets enjoy a parade, too!

A family gathered by the fireplace on First Presbyterian's float. Pictured are Eden Srivibul, Donna Jackson and Tashina Wells.

Stephanie Shinn and friend represented Tractor Supply Company.

WCA New Collection Services for 2014

"Our loyalty lies in the health of our community and customers we care for each and every day"

WCA is excited and proud to serve the City of Starke. We will be bringing you the same great customer experience you have come to expect from your solid waste service provider. With WCA, your community will have the benefit of using our trash and recycling collection services.

New Garbage Carts and Recycling Bins will be delivered to each of the residential homes in the City starting the 2nd of January and completed on the 4th of January. Each Garage Cart and/or Recycling Bin will have literature and instructions on where to place the Cart and Bins at the curb. The Literature will have information on the items that are part of the Recycling Program.

In the meantime, please refer to the updates below. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call us. Thank you.

- The WCA Team

Updates for trash and recycling collection:

- Each household will get One (1) Cart and One (1) Bin during the initial roll-out process. If a household desires another Cart or Bin they can call either the City or WCA for them to be delivered.
- The garbage and yard waste collection days will remain the same. The Recycling collection day will be on Friday.
- If homeowners do not want their old trash containers, they can put them inside the new 96 gallon carts for disposal. It is recommended that they should keep them for their yard waste.
- After January 6th, WCA will only be servicing the New Carts, but will give a short grace period for homeowners using their old containers.
- The New CNG – Compressed Natural Gas powered trucks will be servicing the City of Starke on the 6th of January 2014.

Items that can be recycled:

Paper

Aluminum Cans

Plastic Bottles

www.wcawaste.com

For questions, please call:
1-800-535-9533

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Kim Aldredge and Judy Dukes of Communities in Schools of Bradford County were the featured speakers.

CIS visits with Woman's Club

BY DENISE DURBAN
Starke Woman's Club

The November meeting of the Woman's Club of Starke was held on Nov. 13. The clubhouse was beautifully decorated for fall by club member Nancy Roberts with colorful fall leaves and pumpkins. Punch along with an appetizer of pumpkin soup was enjoyed by early arrivals. Club members Patricia Evans, Penny Pearson, Helen Marshall, Connie Tillis and Nancy Roberts served as hostesses for the meeting.

President Mary Bridgman began the meeting with a tribute to John F. Kennedy, commemorating the 50th anniversary of his assassination. She concluded her remarks with Kennedy's famous imperative, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

Following the reading of the Club Collect, club members and guests enjoyed a delicious buffet luncheon prepared by local caterer David Elder. The menu included turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, mustard greens, cranberry salad, broccoli salad and rolls. For desert, pumpkin cream cheese roll and caramel apple spice cake were available.

During the luncheon, Bridgman introduced the guests present at the meeting. The Woman's Club is actively seeking new members so current members are encouraged to bring a guest to each meeting. Stacey Creighton, local attorney and Bradford County School Board member, was introduced as the club's newest member.

Bridgman introduced the speakers, Kim Aldredge and Judy Dukes. Aldredge is the executive director of Communities in Schools of Bradford County. Dukes also works at CIS and is program coordinator for Take Stock in Children and Girls Clubs.

Aldredge explained that CIS is a private, nonprofit organization that connects resources from public and private sectors with at-risk students. The mission of CIS is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. CIS provides after-school programs at both Bradford Middle School and Bradford High School. These projects provide middle and high school students with assistance in homework, academics, attendance and behavioral/ social skills. CIS currently has four programs to assist students: FCAT tutoring, CISTO, Take Stock in Children, and Girls Club.

FCAT tutoring provides assistance to students who need remediation on FCAT skills at Bradford High School and Bradford Middle School utilizing instructors and computer software. Capital City Bank provides a grant to fund the tutoring program at the high school and TD Bank provides the funds for the middle school program.

CISTO offers free transportation for eligible Bradford County residents who are employed, seeking employment or taking adult education classes and is funded through FloridaWorks.

Take Stock in Children provides scholarships and mentoring for middle and high school students and operates at Bradford Middle School and Bradford High School. Participants, recommended by a teacher or administrator, are students who show a desire to do something with their lives but need some help. Volunteer mentors from the community work with the individual students beginning in seventh grade and continuing through graduation. Students who graduate while in this program have a guaranteed paid post-secondary education.

Girls Club meets weekly at Bradford Middle School and Bradford High. CIS staff members oversee the meetings and a national curriculum is used. The focus is on empowering the girls to make good decisions in order to succeed in school and in life. The Woman's Club of Starke has been providing refreshments for the Girls Club meetings for several years. Aldredge said the snacks get the girls to the meetings, and the program keeps them there. The Woman's Club also collects toiletry items for distribution to girls in need.

Dukes spoke about the work being done with School Superintendent Chad Farnsworth on acquiring a three year $327,000 grant for a program called "Choices," which targets fifth- and sixth-graders. She told us that during the 14 years CIS has been active in Bradford County, more than $6.9 million has been raised for use locally.

Bridgman presented each of the speakers with a gift on behalf of the club.

Laura Massicotte and her son Brock, 6, pick up pancakes and sausage in the lunchroom at Hampton Elementary's Breakfast with Santa.

Hampton Elementary hosts Breakfast with Santa

BY JAMES WILLIAMS
Special to the Telegraph

Many local families, students and teachers showed up at the Hampton Elementary School Dec. 7 for breakfast with Santa. They paid the entry fee, signed in at the door, got a pancake and sausage breakfast, and sat down to eat while waiting for Santa to arrive. A clock on a video screen counted down the anxious minutes.

At the stroke of 9 a.m., the jolly old elf showed up as promised to whoops and cheers from a full lunchroom.

The program was presented by the Parent-Teacher Organization. The nominal cost at the door will help support activities, purchase classroom supplies and even technology for the school.

Some parents paid a little extra to have their children's picture taken while sitting on Santa's lap. Kindergarten teacher Lindsey Detweiller did the photographic honors.

"Pastor Jim" Dubois from the First Baptist Church at Waldo got Santa into his suit and stayed close as youngsters came up to sit on Santa's lap and have their pictures taken.

Pastor Jim and Santa also drop in at Waldo Elementary and attend an annual Waldo celebration at the railroad park.

And of their annual visits, Pastor Jim added that he and Santa "absolutely enjoy it."

Lily Maust, 3, is ready to give Santa her wish list of presents.

Dalycs and Kylee Farr paid to have their photos made with Santa. Mom Cheryl looked on.

Ministry needs volunteers

Psalms 91 Nursing Home Ministry is looking for musical volunteers to assist with its ministry. There are four locations to volunteer, including Windsor Manor in Starke. For more information, visit www.elderlyministry.com, or call 904-334-3654.

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SCHOOL

HAMPTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KIWANIS TERRIFIC KIDS: (front to back, left to right) Morgan Murphy, Chelsie Buckley, Liam Maust, Shyann Bresee, Lilly Torez, Ryan Appling, Dalycs Farr, Madison Mitzel, Tessa Caulk and Race Black. They are pictured with Terrific Teacher Carol Baier and Principal Brenda Donaldson.

Starke Christian School recently recognized its Dolphins of the Month for the month of November. Students are chosen by their teachers and are recognized for exhibiting the characteristics of friendliness, responsibility, respectfulness, truthfulness and enthusiasm. The Starke Christian School Dolphins of the Month for November pictured (front to back, left to right) are Jack Jackson, Stephanie Tison, Mya Smith, Cheyenne McKenzie and Nathaniel Smith.

CHURCH

First United Methodist Church will present a Christmas musical, "Glory in the Highest," Sunday, Dec. 22, at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will follow in the firehouse. On Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, at 6:30 p.m. the church will celebrate Christmas Under the Stars. Bring a lawn chair and a friend and enjoy the Christmas story, a live nativity, candlelight, communion and carols. The celebration will take place on the church parsonage lawn at 1307 Raiford Road, and there might even be snow.

First Presbyterian Church, 921 E. Call St. in Starke, welcomes all to the Christmas Eve candlelight service with communion at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 24, featuring heartwarming carols and an inspirational message.

Victory Baptist Church, 5340 Pine St. in Hampton, is having a Happy Birthday Jesus Party on Saturday, Dec. 21, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for children ages 4 to 12. There will be hot dogs, chips, cupcakes and ice cream, fun games and gifts, the Christmas story, and much more.

True Vine Ministry, 422 N. Saint Clair St., will be hosting a New Year's Eve Celebration service on Tuesday, Dec. 31, with services beginning at 10 p.m. For transportation or more information, please call 904-964-9264 or visit www.truevinemin.org. The public is invited to attend.

St. John Missionary Baptist Church, C.R. 200 B in Lawtey, invites you to a celebration banquet in honor of its pastor and first lady, the Rev. James and Sis. Ernestine Rackley, which will take place Saturday, Jan. 11, at 5 p.m. at the Bradford County Fairgrounds. A donation of $20 is suggested.

Email the details of your congregation's upcoming special events to editor@bctelegraph.com. DEADLINE IS MONDAY AT 5 P.M.

LIBRARY

At the Package Decorating Class held at Bradford County Public Library on Dec. 3, Donna Marie Youngblood taught attendees how to properly wrap gift boxes and enhance the appearance of wrapped boxes with ribbon and other embellishments. Several creatively wrapped packages were on display to encourage gift-givers to think outside the box when wrapping gifts.

Holiday open house

Celebrate the holidays with your family and friends at the Bradford County Public Library Holiday Open House at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 19. Enjoy free crafts, delicious refreshments, and photos with Santa Claus. Photos enhanced with holiday graphics will be available for purchase. A 4" x 6" will cost $2.50, and the charge for a 5" x 7" will be $5.50. The event is co-sponsored by the Friends of the Library and the Bradford County Public Library.

Silent auction

The Friends of the Library is holding a Christmas Tree Silent Auction to raise funds for the Bradford County Public Library. All 13 miniature trees are on display at the library until 8 p.m. on the final day of bidding, Dec. 19.

Holiday schedule

The library will be closed on Dec. 24 and 25 for the Christmas holiday. On Dec. 23 and 26, the library will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Solid waste collection site closings

All six solid waste collection sites will be closed Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 24 and 25, for the Christmas holiday. All sites will reopen on Thursday, Dec. 26. The sites will also close New Year's Day, Jan. 1, but reopen on Thursday, Jan. 2.

Pleased with the results so far, Jean Patray holds her holiday bow as she listens to instruction on what to do next.

Learn about trees with the garden club

Do you want advice on planting native trees in your yard? On Thursday, Dec. 19, County Forester Andy Lamborn will speak on this topic for the Alligator Creek Garden Club. The public is invited.

The club meets at the Bradford County Extension Office on U.S. 301 North in front of the fairgrounds at 6:30 p.m. There will be special refreshments at this Christmas meeting, and all who attend will receive a free plant. For more information, contact Pat Caren at 352-485-2666 or pmrc423@aol.com.

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Worship in the House of the Lord... Somewhere this week!
The churches and businesses listed below urge you to attend the church of your choice!
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Suburban Carpet Cleaners Call Us For All Your Professional Cleaning Services MONTHLY SPECIALS 904-964-1800
First United Methodist Church 200 N. Walnut St. • Starke (904) 964-6864 9:45 am Contemporary Worship 11:00 am Traditional Worship
The River of Life Church of God Sunday School....9:45 am Morning Worship....10:45 am Family Training, Wed....7:00 pm 2225 N. Temple Ave., Starke • 964-8835
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To announce your church event, mail pertinent information, typed or printed legibly, to Bradford Co. Telegraph P.O. Drawer A, Starke, FL 32091

A Christmas Wish
"Christmas"
It's Christmas time, oh the good spirit,
In it a message, let us hear it.
He came down and dwelled among us,
In Him let us trust.
A sign, a sign He is here,
The angels tell us He is near.
Oh wonderful child — God in flesh,
In Him let us rest.
Oh Savior Lord, you are here,
To save us from eternal fear.
The Christ Child — became a man,
To fulfill His master plan.
To save the world from their sin,
He is the beginning and the end.
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
Christmas is all about the Christ Child.
— Henry Hodges, Lawtey, FL

PAY

Continued from 1A

although an explanation of what all of those categories were was not immediately provided. That being said, just over $1.1 million of the $3 million fund balance was unreserved. However, once again, Carr said the district would be forced to use a portion of that unreserved funding to meet this year's expenses. This year's revenue amounts to $24.4 million, but expenses exceed $25.5 million.

As the district's unreserved fund balance, which peaked in 2010-11, has been used to meet expenses, including the $600,000 cost of last year's raise package, the balance has dropped. Setting aside the 3 percent of revenues the state requires to be kept in reserve means the unreserved fund balance is anticipated to be down to $43,655 by the end of this school year, or just 0.18 percent of the total budget. Cass said Bradford County schools are dangerously close to dipping below the 3 percent requirement.

And that, according to the district, is why the $521,000 teacher raise allocation from the state is all that is being offered during contract negotiations this year.

"It's just not there, and I know that you don't want to agree with that, but it's not there," Carr said of any additional money.

The district's new proposal added $100 more dollars a year to what was offered before to teachers, for a total of $1,500, plus it adds a 29th step awarding the most experienced teachers $1,000.

The union has requested a four percent raise, plus a step for teachers as well as assistance with increased health insurance costs. That request covered noninstructional employees as well.

The district's proposal for its education support staff is a step and 25 cents more an hour, which Superintendent Chad Farnsworth defended in a recent memo, pointing out the 25 cents was worth more than $500 a year for 12-month employees. (The district bargaining team couldn't say how many of the ESPs were actually on duty for 12 months, but BEA's rep said it wasn't many.)

Farnsworth also defended the public relations position as important in getting students to return to the school system and reverse the decline in students and student funding.

"Increased FTE (enrollment of full-time students) is the only sure way to increase and support salary expenditures with recurring funding as opposed to dangerously depleting the unreserved fund balance," Farnsworth said in his memo.

In that statement, Farnsworth also clarified the cost of the PR position (at least in terms of salary, saying it wasn't as much as a top-tier teacher), but the teacher's union believes that any amount spent on a new administrative position at a time when the district is saying there's no more money for teachers and ESPs is unacceptable.

By comparison to Clay County, Farnsworth said Bradford is investing a fraction in its public relations effort. But this comparison to Clay County has set off a wave of new criticism. The union points out that Clay County schools have more employees than Bradford County has students. Clay is a district serving more than 35,000 students in 27 elementary schools, six middle schools and eight high schools. There is significantly more for a public relations person to deal with in over there, according to the union. The most salient difference to its members, however, is this: Beginning teachers and teachers at the top of the scale in Clay are both paid more than $5,000 more a year than those in Bradford County.

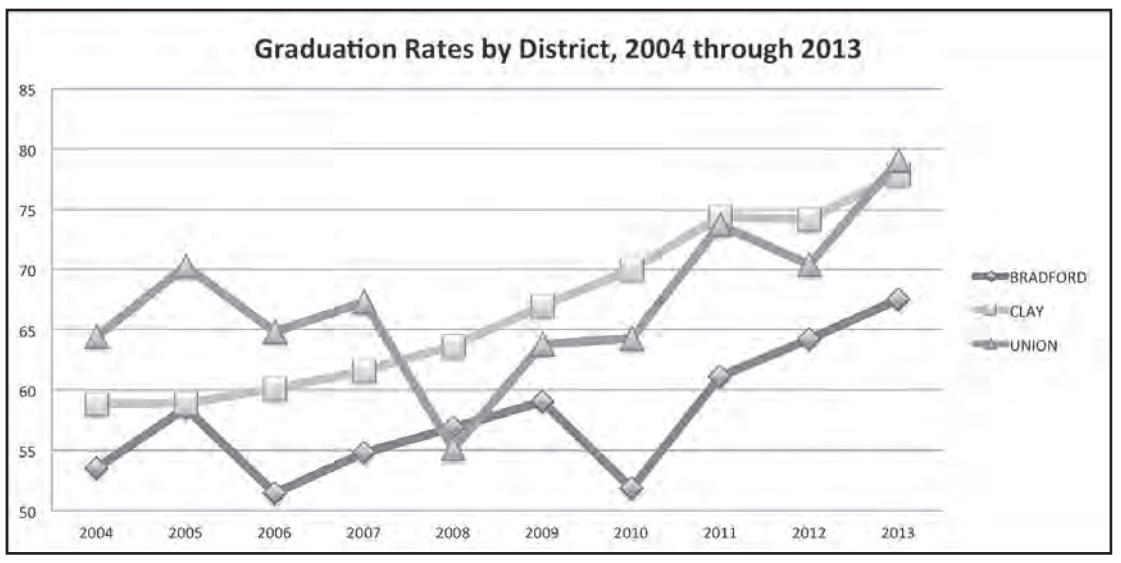
Union members are also criticizing the money the district is spending on negotiation instead of settling. In the most heated moments of the bargaining session, Carr and Bowen argued over which side cared most for the employees and both said the other side's proposal was ridiculous.

After less than an hour, both sides broke for separate caucuses, but they never came back together. Bowen announced that the next session would be scheduled for January, after the third student count. Then more will be known about how that number is going to impact what has been budgeted. The district budgeted for a decrease of 100 students, but is only down 67 students, which to the union means the district will be getting more money than expected. But the district is anticipating that increased student enrollment in other counties is going to result in the per-student funding being leveled to cover the difference.

Teachers and other employees continue to show a strong turnout at the sessions. They said they were tired of expressions of gratitude that begin and end with verbal commendations. As one veteran teacher said, when you appreciate someone, you pay them.

Just in time for Christmas, the union's latest newsletter compares the district to Ebenezer Scrooge for only offering the money the state specifically sent for raises and nothing more.

The governor continues to wade into the debate, mailing out another release to highlight the fact that 14 more school districts have come to an agreement with their employees over raises. That brings the total to 52.



At a glance, Bradford's graduation rate over the past decade compared to Clay and Union counties.

GRAD

Continued from 1A

This was Bradford's highest graduation rate in a decade.

"I am pleased to see our graduation rates continuing to rise," said Superintendent Chad Farnsworth. "We will continue the work of improving graduation rates and student performance in Bradford County. Our goal is to prepare every Bradford High School graduate with the necessary skills to succeed in college or in a career of their choice."

By comparison, Baker County was down 4 percent to 68.8 percent, Clay County was up 3.7 percent to 77.9 percent, and Union County was up 8.6 percent to 79 percent. Both Clay and Union are above the state average.

The state also posted its highest graduation rate in a decade—75.6 percent. That was up from 74.5 percent the year before and represents nearly 10 years of increases since 2004, when the statewide graduation rate was 59.2 percent. The last time the rate slipped was 2006.

Out of 67 counties, 15 counties had a lower graduation rate than Bradford County, including Columbia, Putnam and Suwannee. Jefferson was the lowest in the state with a 35.1 percent graduation rate. Nassau County, at nearly 91 percent, had the state's highest graduation rate.

The current graduation rate utilized recognizes standard diplomas, but not special diplomas or GEDs. Those and similar students are considered non-graduates and represent 19.8 percent of the state total. The other 4.6 percent are dropouts.

Bradford's dropout rate was 2.7 percent. This was a five-year low, down from 3.3 percent last year. Baker County's dropout rate was 1.1 percent, Clay was 1 percent and Union was 1.3 percent.

Additionally, Bradford's graduation rate improved for both white and black students. The rate was 69.7 percent for white students, up from 62.4 percent, and 65.7 percent for black students, up from 63.6 percent.

The four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate adopted by the U.S. Department of Education allows for more accurate state-to-state comparisons and is used in the calculation of high school grades in Florida. High school grades are typically released shortly following the graduation rates.

OPEN

Continued from 1A

including Florida TaxWatch and Associated Industries of Florida are pushing prison reforms that would divert nonviolent offenders away from longterm incarceration and toward drug treatment programs and other alternatives. Backers of the initiative claim the reforms would save the state millions of dollars and reserve prison beds for offenders that threaten public safety.

"That is a very serious discussion we are having in Tallahassee right now," Bradley said of the proposed reforms. "We need to start treating people that we are afraid of differently than people we are just mad at."

Bradley added that he did not favor DOC's original decision to close New River. He said that if the state needed to reduce prison beds, he preferred an approach that closed dormitories at several facilities instead of shuttering an entire site.

Sen. Rob Bradley speaking to the Keystone Heights Rotary Club.

LEGALS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA ,
CASE NO: 04-2013-CA- 606
HAROLD LEVERSON and
EVA LEVERSON, his wife,
Plaintiffs,
vs.
JOHN HENRY LOGGINS, DECEASED;
THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF JOHN HENRY LOGGINS; THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, CREDITORS, LIENORS, AND TRUSTEES OF JOHN HENRY LOGGINS. DECEASED, and ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST JOHN HENRY LOGGINS,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: JOHN HENRY LOGGINS, DECEASED; THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF JOHN HENRY LOGGINS; THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, CREDITORS, LIENORS, AND TRUSTEES OF JOHN HENRY LOGGINS. DECEASED, and ALL OTHER PERSONS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST JOHN HENRY LOGGINS,

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that a COMPLAINT TO FORECLOSE MORTGAGE has been filed regarding real property in Bradford County, Florida, in the above styled Court and you are required to serve a copy of your written response to JOHN S. COOPER, The Law Offices of John Cooper, P.A., 704 North Lake Street, Suite A, Starke, Florida 32091, on or before 13th day of Jan., 2014, and file the original with the Clerk of the Court, either before service on the above-named attorney or immediately thereafter, otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.

WITNESS my hand and official seal of this Court on the 27 day of Nov., 2013.

RAY NORMAN,
CLERK OF THE COURT
By: Lisa Brannon

John S. Cooper
The Law Offices of John S. Cooper, P.A.
704 North Lake Street, Suite A
Starke, Florida 32091
(904) 964-4701
Fax: 964-2216
Florida Bar No: 0910340
Attorney for Plaintiffs
eservice@johnscooperpa.com

12/12 2tchg 12/19-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY
CIVIL ACTION
CASE NO. 04-2013-CA-000073
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
acting through the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, f/k/a Farmers Home Administration, a/k/a Rural Housing Service,
Plaintiff,
vs.
THOMAS O'BRIAN, et al.,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF BRADFORD

TO: Any and all unknown minors, heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, lienors, creditors, trustees, or other claimants claiming by, through, under or against the Estate of ORA C. BEEBE, Deceased.

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage regarding the following property in BRADFORD County, Florida:

A portion of Lots 1 and 2, Block 6 of J.M. Johns Subdivision in the City of Starke, as per plat recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 12, of the Public Records of Bradford County, Florida; said parcel being more particularly described as follows: Commence at an iron rod at the Northeast corner of said Block 6 and run North 89°26"30' West, along the Northerly boundary thereof, 408.00 feet to a set iron rod; thence South 02°02"30' East, parallel with the Easterly boundary of Block 6, a distance of 104.98 feet to a set iron rod for the Point of Beginning. From Point of Beginning thus described continue South 02° 02" 30' East, parallel with said Easterly boundary,

See LEGALS, next page

Merry Christmas from

Bradford Pre-School

Owner: Linda Bryant

Open Mon-Fri 6:30 am – 6pm

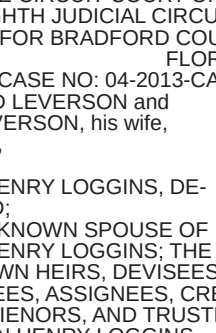
407 W. Washington St.
Starke
964-4361
Lic# 30969

Merry Christmas!

May you experience all the magic and wonder of the season!

from
Amanda, Georgia & Sungmi

Cutt'n Up
HAIR SALON
Located next to Pizza Hut
US Hwy 301 N. • Starke
Lic. #CE0086694
904-966-0699



Merry Christmas to one and all!

Archie Tanner Funeral Services

"Our Family Serving Your Family"

wwwArchieTannerFuneralServices.com

904.964.5757

14397 Hwy 301 South
Starke, FL 32091

Merry Christmas!

May the glow of our warm wishes be with you this happy holiday.

We prize your continuing patronage and say "thanks."

Bradford County Telegraph
135 W. Call Street, Starke, FL
904-964-6305
Fax 904-964-8628

Best Wishes to You and Yours!

We at Capital City Bank would like to wish you a Blessed Christmas and Wonderful New Year!
Thanks to our clients and friends for a terrific year ... we sincerely appreciate your business.

Capital City Bank
www.ccbg.com

350 N. Temple Ave. • Starke
(904) 964-7050

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

MEMBER FDIC

LEGALS

102.06 feet to a set iron rod; thence North 89°27”30’ West, parallel with the Southerly boundary of said Block 6, a distance of 151.25 feet to an iron rod set on the Easterly boundary of the right of way of Colley
Road; thence North 01°05”15’ West, along last said Easterly boundary, 102.00 feet to a set iron rod; thence South 89°27”30’ East parallel with said Southerly boundary, 149.55 feet to the Point of Beginning.
has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on: FREDERICK J. MURPHY, JR., Esquire, Attorney for Plaintiff, Boswell & Dunlap, LLP, 245 South Central Avenue, Post Office Drawer 30, Bartow, FL 33831, E-Service: ijmefiling@bosdun.com, within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this Notice Of Action, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiffs attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint or Petition.
DATED on this 4 day of December, 2013.

RAY NORMAN
Clerk of Circuit Court
P.O. Drawer B
Starke.FL 32091
BY: Lisa Brannon
Deputy Clerk

Frederick J. Murphy, Jr., Esquire
Boswell & Dunlap LLP
Post Office Drawer 30
Bartow, FL 33831
E-Service: fjmefiling@bosdun.com
Attorneys for Plaintiff
(863)533-7117
Fax (863) 533-7255

12/12 2tchg 12/19-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA.
CASE No. 042012CA000580XXXXXXX
BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.,
PLAINTIFF,
VS.
NANCY R HARRIS, ET AL.
DEFENDANT(S).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclsure dated in the above action, I will sell to the highest bidder for cash at Bradford, Florida, on January 30, 2014, at 11:00 AM, at East front door of courthouse- 945 North Temple Ave., Starke, FL 32091 for the following described property:
Lots 26 and 27, KEYSTONE CLUB ESTATES UNIT 1 REPLAT, as per Plat thereof, recorded in Plat Book 3, page 50, of the Public Records of Bradford County, Florida.
Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within sixty (60) days after the sale. The Court, in its discretion, may enlarge the time of the sale. Notice of the changed time of sale shall be published as provided herein.
DATED: December 4, 2013

By: Lisa Brannon
Deputy Clerk of the Court

Prepared by:
Gladstone Law Group, P.A.
1499 W. Palmetto Park Road,
Suite 300
Boca Raton, FL 33486
If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator, Alachua County Family and Civil Justice Center, 201 East University Avenue, Room 410, Gainesville, FL 32601 at (352) 337-6237 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less that 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

12/12 2tchg 12/19-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL DIVISION
Case No.: 04-2012-CA-0642
Division:
ONEWEST BANK. FSB
Plaintiff,
v.
LYDIA C. WALLACE; ET AL,
Defendants,

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Summary Judgment dated November 14, 2013. entered in Civil Case No.: 04-2012-CA-0642, of the Circuit Court of the EIGHTH Judicial Circuit in and for BRADFORD County, Florida, wherein ONEWEST BANK, FSB, is Plaintiff and LYDIA C. WALLACE; R. ELIZABETH LEIF; ALL OTHER UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING INTERESTS BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST A NAMED DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAME UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS are Defendants.
RAY NORMAN, the Clerk of Court will sell to the highest bidder for cash in the lobby of the Courthouse located at 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, FL 32091 at 11:00 am. on the 13 day of March, 2014 the following described real property as set forth in said Final Summary Judgment, to wit: LOT ELEVEN (11), GENEVA LAKE ESTATES, ACCORDING TO MAP OR PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGES 36A AND 36B, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
This property is located at the Street address of: 497 SE 28th Loop, Melrose, FL 32666
If you are a person claiming a right to funds remaining after the sale, you must file a claim with the clerk no later than 60 days after the sale. If you fail to file a claim you will not be entitled to any remaining funds. After 60 days, only the owner of record as of the date of the lis pendens may claim the surplus.
WITNESS my hand and the seal of the court on December 4, 2013.

RAY NORMAN
CLERK OF THE COURT
By: Lisa Brannon
Deputy Clerk

Attorney for Plaintiff:
Elizabeth R. Wellborn, P.A.
350 Jim Moran Blvd. Suite 100
Deerfield Beach, FL 33442
Telephone: (954) 354-3544
Facsimile: (954) 354-3545
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, if you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Ms. Jan Phillips, Human Resources Manager, 201 East University Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601, at (352) 337-6237, within 2 working days of your receipt of this summons. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call (800) 955-8771; if you are voice impaired, call (800) 955-8770.

12/12 2tchg 12/19-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
Case No. 2013 -CP-065
IN RE THE ESTATE OF:
IDA ALLENE MALLORY,
deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of IDA ALLENE MALLORY, deceased, whose date of death was August 20, 2012, and whose last four digits of her social security number is 0208, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division; the address of which is P.O. Drawer B, Starke, Florida 32091. The names and addresses of the personal representative and attorney for the personal representative are set forth below.
All creditors of the decedent and other persons who have claims or demands against decedent’s estate, including un-matured, contingent or unliquidated claims, and who have been served a copy of this notice must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF
SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent’s estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.
NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT’S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
THE DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE IS the 12 day of December, 2013.
BRUCE E. HOFFMAN,
Attorney for Personal Representative
3400 NW 13th Street, Gainesville, Florida 32609
(352) 373-2411 Fla. Bar No. 330647
Email: bhoffman_10@hotmail.com
Chad Mallory
Personal Representative
924 Raiford Road
Starke, FL 32091

12/12 2tchg 12/19-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 2013CA000179
VANDERBILT MORTGAGE FINANCE, INC., a Tennessee corporation authorized to transact business in Florida
Plaintiff,
vs.
MARY CONTOIS AKA MARY J. CONTOIS NKA MARY FENLEY, UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF MARY ACONTOIS AKA MARY J. CONTOIS NKA MARY FENLEY NKA BRYAN FENLEY and UNKNOWN TENANT(S) IN POSSESSION of 11357 SW 92nd Street, Hampton, FL 32044
Defendants.

CLERK’S NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS GIVEN that, in accordance with the Plaintiffs Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on in the above-styled cause, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash on Jan. 23, 2014, at 11:00 AM (EST), at BRADFORD County Courthouse:
Lot 4
A parcel of land lying in the SW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 29, Township 7 South, Range 21 East, Bradford County, Florida, said parcel being more particularly described as follows:
Commence at a concrete monument found at the Southwest corner of said SW 1/4 of NW 1/4 and run North 88 degrees, 40 minutes, and 53 seconds East, along said Southerly boundary thereof, 300.69 feet to a set iron rod for the Point of Beginning. From Point of Beginning thus described, run North 01 degree, 19 minutes, and 33 seconds West, parallel with the Westerly boundary of said SW 1/4 of NW 1/4, a distance of 434.60 feet to a set iron rod; thence North 88 degrees, 40 minutes, and 53 seconds East, parallel with said Southerly boundary, 100.23 feet to a set iron rod; thence South 01 degree, 19 minutes, and 33 seconds East, parallel with said Westerly boundary, 434.60 feet to an iron rod set on said Southerly boundary; thence South 88 degrees, 40 minutes, and 53 seconds West along said Southerly boundary, 100.23 feet to the Point of Beginning. Containing 1.00 acre.
Less and except any portion lying within the right of way of SW 92nd Street (formerly SW 67th Street).
TOGETHER with that certain 1997 Admiral Mobile Home ID# GMHGA 2389612977 A & B.
Property Address: 11357 SW 92ND STREET, HAMPTON, FL 32044
ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTERST W THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.
Dated: 11-26-13

RAY NORMAN, CLERK
BRADFORD COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT
By: Lisa Brannon
Deputy Clerk

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT
If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator at (352) 337-6237, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance. If you are hearing or voice impaired, please call 711. If you are deaf or hard of hearing and require an ASL interpreter or an assisted listening device to participate in a proceeding, please contact Court Interpreting at interpreter@circuit8.org
SONYA K. DAWS, ESQ.
QUINTAIROS, PRIETO, WOOD & BOYER, P.A.
215 S. MONROE ST., SUITE 600
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32301
EMAIL: SERVICECOPIES@QPWBLAW.COM

12/12 2tchg 12/19-BCT

NOTICE

Pursuant to the Florida Self Storage Act Statutes Sec. 83.801-83.809, NOTICE: A Public Auction will be held on December 28, 2013 @ 10:00 A.M. at C & C Mini Storage 1670 S. Walnut Street, Hwy 301 South in Starke, Florida. The following units contents will be sold to the highest bidder, and continuing day to day thereafter until sold.
1-60 & 65 S. Barnes
2-3A A. Wright
2-6A L. Hendrieth
2-13 & 47 B. Harper
2-42 M. Varnum
2-45 C. Kwarteng
2-58 T. Devlin
2-65 J. Smith
2-75 A. Wall
2-81 J. Heinz

12/12 2tchg 12/19-BCT

LEGAL NOTICE
BRADFORD COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING AND BUSINESS MEETING

The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council announces a public hearing and business meeting to which all persons are invited.
DATE AND TIME: January 7, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.
PLACE: City of Starke Commission Meeting Room located at 209 N. Thompson Street in the City of Starke
GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED: To conduct a public hearing and the regular business of the Bradford County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.
A copy of the agenda may be obtained by contacting: North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603.
Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 2 business days before the meeting by contacting 352.955.2200. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1.800. 955.8771 (TDD) or 1.800. 955.8770 (Voice).
If any person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the meeting, he/she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence from which the appeal is to be issued.

12/19 1tchg-BCT

CITY OF STARKE
INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR PROJECT 2014 - 02
SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that the City of Starke, Florida, offers for sale to the public three separate parcels of land as previously described as the Playground Area on plat of Green Acres Annex No. 2, located at. Gene Drive, in Starke, Florida. The property is zoned “R-l-C.”
The property is offered for sale on an “as is” basis. No actual or implied warranties of habitability, condition, merchantability or fitness for any general or specific use are hereby given. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids without qualification or limitation. Buyer will be responsible for all expenses necessary and incident to the recording of the deed.
All bids shall be submitted on the form provided on the City’s website www.cityofstarke.org. All bids must be in a sealed envelope and clearly marked as “Sealed Bid, Project 2014-02 Green Acres” and submitted to the City Clerk, at Post Office Drawer C, Starke. Florida 32091, or in person at City Hall, 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida.
Sealed bids will be received until 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 2, 2014, at City Hall, located at 209 North Thompson Street, in Starke, Florida. All received, acceptable bids will be opened at 9:30 a.m.
Acceptable bids will be presented to the City Commission Meeting on Tuesday, January 7, 2014 at 7:00 PM

12/19 2tchg 12/26-BCT

NEPA/S106 PUBLIC NOTICE

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 260’ tall self-support Communications Tower. Anticipated lighting application is Dual Red/White Medium Intensity Strobe. The Site location is 4155 State Road 100, Starke, Bradford County, FL, 32091, at Latitude N29-50-44.03, Longitude W82-03-29.33. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Antenna Structure Registration (ASR, Form 854) filing number is A0866038.
ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS – Interested persons may review the application (www.fcc.gov/asr/applications) by entering the filing number. Environmental concerns may be raised by filing a Request for Environmental Review (www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest) and online filings are strongly encouraged. The mailing address to file a paper copy is: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554.
HISTORIC PROPERTIES EFFECTS - Public comments regarding potential effects on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Virginia Janssen, Principal Archaeologist, Dynamic Environmental Associates, Inc., 3850 Lake Street, Suite C, Macon, GA 31204, (877) 968-4787, Sec106@DynamicEnvironmental.com. Re: 2131001

12/19 1tchg-BCT

PUBLIC NOTICE
CONCERNING FAIR HOUSING

On January 7, 1991, the Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida adopted Ordinance No. 90-11, which established the policy of the County to promote equal opportunity to obtain adequate housing by all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, familial status, handicap or national origin.
This ordinance is available for public inspection at the Office of the Community Development Director located at 925-E North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091 Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.
Any aggrieved person may file a complaint of a housing discrimination act with the:
Florida Commission on Human Relations
2009 Apalachee Parkway, Suite 100
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
Toll-free Telephone: 1.800.342.8170
or
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20410
Toll-free Telephone: 1.800.669.9777
To request information or assistance locally, you may contact Kelly Canady, Community Development Director, or telephone 904.966.6382.

12/19 1tchg-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 04-2013-CP-87
PROBATE DIVISION
IN RE: ESTATE OF
JESSIE RITCH,
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the Estate of JESSIE RITCH, deceased. File Number 04-2012-CP-87, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is P. O. Drawer B, Starke, Florida 32091. The name and address of the Personal Representative and the Personal Representative’s Attorney are set forth below.
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent’s Estate, including unmatured, contingent or unliquidated claims, on whom a copy of this Notice is served must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent’s Estate, including unmatured, contingent or unliquidated claims, must file their claims with this Court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED!
The date of first publication of this Notice is December 19, 2013.
Attorney for Personal Representative:
PAUL SANDERS, P.A.
403 Georgia St.
Starke, Florida 32091
Telephone: 904/964-5701
Florida Bar No.: 0557463
Personal Representative:
JIMMY RITCH
1855 County Road 18
Starke, Florida 32091

12/19 2tchg 12/26-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL DIVISION
Case #: 2013-CA-000304
JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association
Plaintiff,
-vs.-
Donald Nelson King Jr. a/k/a Donald King and Carrie Jo King f/k/a Carri Jo Hodge, Husband and Wife; et al.
Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION FORECLOSURE PROCEEDINGS-PROPERTY

TO: Carrie Jo King f/k/a Carri Jo Hodge; CURRENT ADDRESS UNKNOWN: LAST KNOWN ADDRESS, 7700 Northwest 205th Street, Starke, FL 32091
Residence unknown, if living, including any unknown spouse of the said Defendants, if either has remarried and if either or both of said Defendants are dead, their respective unknown heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, creditors, lienors, and trustees, and all other persons claiming by, through, under or against the named Defendants); and the aforementioned named Defendant(s) and such of the aforementioned unknown Defendants and such of the aforementioned unknown Defendants as may be infants, incompetents or otherwise not sui juris.
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action has been commenced to foreclose a mortgage on the following real property, lying and being and situated in Bradford County, Florida, more particularly described as follows:
A PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND SITUATED IN THE SOUTH 1/2 OF THE SOUTHWEST OF 1/4 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4, SECTION 35, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCE AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE AFORDESCRIBED SOUTH 1/2 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4, AND RUN THENCE SOUTH, ALONG THE EASTERLY BOUNDARY THEREOF, A DISTANCE OF 68 FEET, TO A POINT; RUN THENCE WEST, PARALLEL TO THE NORTHERLY BOUNDARY OF SAID SOUTH 1/2 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4, A DISTANCE OF 379 FEET, TO A POINT; RUN THENCE SOUTHWEST, A DISTANCE OF 100 FEET, TO A POINT MEASURING 777 FEET FROM THE WESTERLY BOUNDARY OF SAID SOUTH 1/2 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4, THENCE RUN WEST, 777 FEET, TO THE WESTERLY BOUNDARY, THENCE RUN NORTH, 148 FEET, ALONG THE WESTERLY BOUNDARY TO A POINT; THENCE RUN EAST, 1320 FEET; MORE OR LESS, TO THE POINT OF THE BEGINNING, ALL LYING AND BEING IN SECTION 35, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA.
more commonly known as 7700 Northwest 205th Street, Starke, FL 32091.
This action has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defense, if any, upon SHAPIRO, FISHMAN & GACHE, LLP, Attorneys for Plaintiff, whose address is 4630 Woodland Corporate Blvd., Suite 100, Tampa, FL 33614, within thirty (30) days after the first publication of this notice and file the original with the clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiffs attorney or immediately there after; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.
WITNESS my hand and seal of this Court on the 11 day of Dec., 2013.

Ray Norman
Circuit and County Courts
By: Lisa Brannon
Deputy Clerk

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator; 201 East University Avenue, Room 410, Gainesville, Florida 32601 (352) 491-4490 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification of the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

12/19 2tchg 12/26-BCT

May your heart be happy and light, and may all your Christmases be bright!
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Starke, FL 32091
(352) 375-1212

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When is Candy Dangerous?

When it is Used to Flavor Tobacco!
Tobacco companies are using candy and fruit flavors to sweeten their products and make them more attractive to our children and teenagers.
But this is a dangerous bait-and-switch designed to addict younger and younger kids to tobacco creating life-long customers.
Don’t Let Your Kids Fall for the Trap.
Tobacco Free Partnership Of Bradford County
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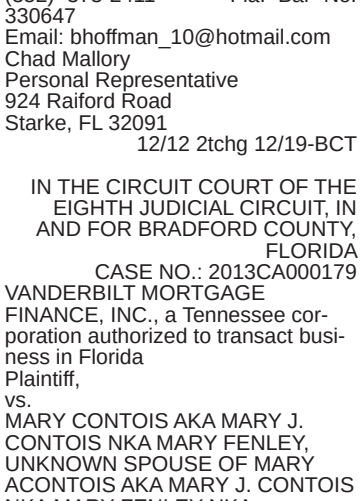
Happy Holidays!

We wish you great tidings of comfort and joy this season and always.
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904.964.9253

Season’s Greetings!

May you experience the magic and blessings of the joyous holiday season.
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(904) 966-6266
www.bradfordelections.com

DIABETES OR PROSTATE CANCER?
Your sex life and erection can now survive
FREE book by doctor reveals what the drug companies don't want you to know!
Dr. Kevin Hornsby, MD, will mail the first 37 men that respond to this ad a free copy of his new thirty dollar book “A Doctor’s Guide to Erectile Dysfunction.” He’s so sure this book will change your life he will even pay the postage and handling. If the popular pills don't work for you, regardless of your age or medical history, you owe it to yourself and your lady to read this book now! Call Toll Free **800-777-1922** 24-hrs. and leave your name and address (only).

Glory to the Newborn King!

(4) And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

(5) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

(6) And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

(7) And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

(8) And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

(9) And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

(10) And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

(11) For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

(12) And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

(13) And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

(14) Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Luke 2:4-14

MERRY CHRISTMAS

from **beck**

CHEVROLET, CHRYSLER, DODGE, & JEEP

REGIONAL NEWS

NEWS FROM BRADFORD COUNTY, UNION COUNTY AND THE LAKE REGION

FEATURES
CRIME
SOCIALS
OBITUARIES
EDITORIAL

You have the right to have a merry Christmas

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Regional News/Sports Editor

If the Grinch lived in Bradford County instead of adjacent to Whoville, chances are his heart still would've grown three sizes if he witnessed the Starke Police Department's annual Shop With a Cop program.

Starke Elementary School student Malik Lucas gets some assistance in selecting a toy from Derrick Sapp of the Corrections Corporation of America.

Starke Elementary School student Anna Hallan and Brandy Roberts of Florida State Prison prepare to check out.

Every year community donations and fundraisers, plus grants from Walmart, allow children identified by their teachers as having a need—but still doing everything that is required of them in school—to participate in a shopping spree at Walmart of Starke. As you would guess by the name, each child is accompanied by a "cop."

The event began in 2005 with 43 children. This year's event, which was Dec. 17, was made up of 213 children.

"I didn't expect it to be quite this large," said Union County Sheriff's Office Deputy Mindy Goodwin, who was participating for the first time. "I'm amazed at the number of kids out here."

Starke Police Department Capt. Barry Warren, who organizes the event, has received so much in donations this year that he has allowed smaller groups of children to participate in shopping sprees outside of the Dec. 17 event, since space limitations prevented Walmart from hosting every single child at once. Next year, though, plans are to have an official two-day event.

Warren said the support he has received makes him proud to be a part of this community.

"You can call this a small county if you want," Warren said, "but when it comes to heart, there's not a county in this state that compares."

Starke Police Department Officer Michael Tew, who was participating in the event for the first time, said, "We have a lot of people in the community who look out for the children. That's always good."

Starke Police Department officer Scott Taylor follows Brooker Elementary student Jasmine Mabry in one of Walmart's toy aisles as she looks for something that captures her fancy.

Since the event has grown to include so many children, it takes personnel from several agencies to provide a "cop" for each child to shop with. Besides local law-enforcement officers, the event included officers from Gainesville and Alachua, as well as agencies such as the Florida Highway Patrol, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and CSX.

Brooker Elementary student David Hinds tries on a bicycle helmet as Mark Williams of RMC looks on.

As usual, the Department of Corrections came through in a big way. Warren said he asked the department for 147 correctional officers, but it was obvious the department sent a lot more than that. The department's involvement meant the event actually had a surplus of "cops."

"We ran out of kids and baskets before we ran out of officers," Warren said. "(DOC officers) come in force. To have them contribute is great."

Judy Sumpter was one of those correctional officers. She sounded as if she had as much fun as any of the children.

"I really enjoyed it," she said. "If I can do it again, I'll do it again every year."

See SHOP, 10B

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Now Showing
Will Ferrell in
ANCHORMAN 2
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CLOSED CHRISTMAS EVE
PG-13

SCREEN 2
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Martin Freeman in
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THE DESOLATION OF SMAUG
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CLOSED CHRISTMAS EVE
PG-13

UFHealth
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As an infant, Sydney Thomas was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes. Mark Atkinson has been working for more than 25 years developing treatments to prevent – and even cure – diabetes. Dr. Atkinson's work at UF Health is shedding new light on Sydney's disease. And it's an invisible connection that's helping us move medicine forward.
UF Health and Shands Starke Regional Medical Center, an innovative alliance to enhance our community.

Bennett: leaving a job, but remaining part of a family

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Regional News/Sports Editor

Community State Bank in Starke has been a part of Sharon Bennett's life for 44 years, and retirement won't change that.

Bennett is set to end a career she began at the age of 17. She went from simply answering the phone to working in lending for 33 years and eventually becoming senior vice president.

"I'm leaving the work part of it, but I don't feel like I'm leaving the family," Bennett said. "I'll still be a part of the Community State Bank family."

Perhaps it was fate that Bennett's parents, Jeff and Maude Prevatt, started banking at Community State Bank when it first opened. She remembers accompanying her parents to the bank as a girl and thinking, "Maybe I'll work at that bank one day."

The Lawtey native, after graduating from Bradford High School, actually applied for a job at both Community State Bank and the old Florida Bank. Reflecting upon it today, Bennett said there weren't many opportunities for a 17-year-old. People didn't want to hire you until you were 18, she said.

Sharon Bennett is retiring after a 44-year career at Community State Bank, where she began working as a 17-year-old fresh out of Bradford High School.

Community State Bank did hire her, and thus began a lifelong education of the banking world. It was an education Bennett embraced. When quitting time rolled around, she was more apt to stay late and help others with their work.

"I was willing to put in the work that was required to learn the different positions at the bank," Bennett said.

She fondly remembers Margaret Miller, who also encouraged her to learn as much as she could.

"She was the one who really took me under her wing, I guess, and said, 'You're going to learn this,'" Bennett said.

Many people—past and present—have helped Bennett, but she said the two who probably had the greatest impact on her career were Miller and Ray Norman. In fact, it was because of Norman she wound up working in lending.

"Ray talked me into that one," Bennett said. "He told me I could do it."

Bennett admitted the thought of working in that area intimidated her, but once she got into it, she found she really liked it. She has enjoyed the relationship with her customers, whether they were looking to start a business or purchase a home or vehicle.

"I've been able to help a lot of people," Bennett said. "I'm going to miss that."

In fact, Bennett said her customers have become her

See BENNETT, 3B

Arc staff: closing thrift store a tough but right, decision

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Regional News/Sports Editor

It has been a great way to interact with the community and, more importantly, an avenue of employment training for its consumers, but the thrift store opened by the Arc of Bradford County in October 2008 will be closing its doors on Friday, Dec. 20.

Sherry Ruszkowski, the executive director of the Arc of Bradford, and Tony Sellars, the Arc's operations director, said the decision to close the store has been a sad one for all involved with the Arc, but the bottom line is the thrift store is a business, and it was one that was losing money.

"We've had many faithful customers," Sellars said, "but the time has come where it doesn't support itself anymore."

Ruszkowski said the thrift store was operating at a deficit every month this year, which, of course, made it tough to cover overhead and pay the consumers who worked there.

The decision was put off for months, but eventually the decision to close the store had to be made.

"It's a no-brainer," Ruszkowski said. "Any responsible business owner would be making this decision."

The mission of the Arc of Bradford County is to provide support such as adult day training, residential services, community employment and supported living services for individuals with varying disabilities. Yet it was getting difficult for the Arc to provide those services and maintain staff cuts in state funding year after year.

"We needed to branch out

See STORE, 7B

What's so special about Christmas?

Christmas brings back fond memories as a child growing up and wondering what was under the Christmas tree.

Special memories and a season of joy and excitement. I still enjoy Christmas with my children and grandchildren.

But as I got older I realized there is a lot more to celebrate. The Bible says "Thanks to God for his indescribable gift" — 2 Cor. 9:15 NIV

So as we celebrate this special season called Christmas, let's really remember the baby born in a manger. Isaiah 9:6 says, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders and He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." This is who we celebrate. What a tremendous encouragement — what a promise of hope.

If ever we needed hope we need it now. So the Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace, gives you and I hope, in spite of our circumstances.

Jesus said in Acts 20:35, it is "more blessed to give than to receive." God gave it all when Jesus was born in the manger. The Savior of the World.

What a gift — what a reason to celebrate Christmas. Thats what's so special about Christmas.

Merry Christmas
Harry & JoAnn Hatcher
& all of us at
Western Steer

Gift Certificates
Buy $50 Gift Certificate
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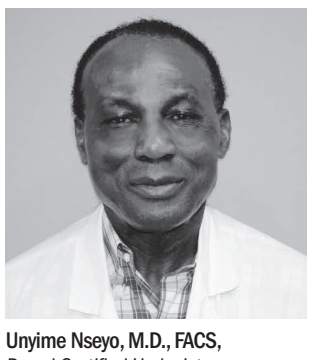

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SOCIALS

Corwine treated to surprise 95th birthday party

Ruth Corwine (center) is pictured with daughter Margaret Anderson and son-in-law Win Armstrong during a birthday celebration on Dec. 13.

The Woman's Club of Starke was the location for a surprise 95th birthday luncheon and bridge party for Ruth Corwine on Friday, Dec. 13. The party was hosted by Ruth's daughter, Margaret Anderson and son-in-law, Win Armstrong, Shea Huey (who flew in from Seattle) and Judy Disoso who came in from Austin, Texas. Shea and Judy are Margaret's college buddies. Pictured above are: (seated, l-r) were Muriel Wilson, Virginia Darby, guest of honor Ruth Corwine, Peggy Godwin, (standing, l-r) Joyce Green, Marsha Welch (from Savannah), Mille Haynes, Marty Berry, Joann Rowe, Sonja Anderson, Del Dougherty and Liz Jarmon.

BENNETT

Continued from 2B

friends, but many don't know she's retiring. She admitted she just doesn't have the heart to tell them.

"Some of them have been here as long as I have," Bennett said. "It's kind of hard to say, 'Oh, I won't be here to serve you when you come in again.'"

If you talk to Bennett, you will get the impression that such a caring attitude is—and has been—a part of Community State Bank. She has experienced it under three generations of leadership of the Johns family—founder Charley Johns, his son, Jerome, and Jerome's son, Phillip.

Charley Johns didn't work in the bank as he was busy with his insurance agency, but he did drop in to chat with employees who had the time to do so, Bennett said.

"He always was interested in your family and how you were doing," Bennett said.

She saw the same kind of concern from both Jerome and Phillip Johns. If something tragic ever occurred to a bank employee's family, Bennett said you could count on one of the Johns men to be the first to call you.

"They like to think the people who work for them are family," Bennett said, adding, "Everybody that you work with here is that way. It makes it nice."

Bennett is excited, though, about retirement, which she made up her mind to do in October. She has nothing specifically planned for this next phase of her life, though, other than spending more time with her only grandchild (Madison Bennett). Bennett said she's one of those people who doesn't know what each day holds in store for her until she wakes up that morning.

"Anybody who knows me knows I don't make plans," she said.

Bennett's husband, Dean, who worked for Plum Creek for 39 years and also did some work as an emergency medical technician, is currently the maintenance director for Bradford County.

"My husband's not going to retire at the present time, so if I decide to go somewhere, I'll leave him a note and let him know where I'm at," Bennett said with a laugh.

Whatever she decides to do, it will make up what she refers to as the next chapter in her life. If it's anything like her life's previous chapter, it should be enjoyable.

"This has been a long chapter, but a good one," Bennett said in regard to her work at Community State Bank. "Hopefully, this next chapter will be a long chapter, too, and a good one."

LETTERS

EDITOR@BCTELEGRAPH.COM

Media quick to report wrongdoings in Hampton

Dear Editor:

I find it extremely upsetting over the publicity received concerning the Mayor of Hampton. Any trickle of wrong doing, in Lawtey or Hampton, brings quick media attention from the Gainesville Sun (front page) and the Bradford Telegraph. Even embezzlers to small business and our County receive little to no media coverage. I do not condone Moore's actions, but cannot equate the difference given to a Hampton Mayor and an admitted cocaine using State Legislator by our Governor.

Living in the Hampton vicinity for 55 years, some of Bradford's finest reside in Hampton and its vicinity, along with one of the best schools in our County.

Joe Riddick

Why did BC commissioners turn away Starke animals?

Dear Editor:

In the past few months Bradford County has stopped accepting animals from Starke residents at the Bradford County Animal Control and Adoption Center because of the lack of an interlocal agreement between the City of Starke and Bradford County. The question is WHY? Is it because they think that Starke residents are not citizens of Bradford County? Do they think that Starke residents are not paying taxes to Bradford County already? Why would we need an interlocal agreement before Starke residents would be allowed to take animals to the Bradford County Animal Control and Adoption Center?

Wouldn't Starke residents be just like Brooker, Hampton and Lawtey residents?

In looking at my tax bill for the current year I was taxed by Bradford County at the same millage rate that someone in the unincorporated parts of the county is taxed by Bradford County. I verified this with the Bradford County Tax Collector just to make sure. As a Starke resident I also have a Bradford County Commissioner who represents me. I verified that with the Supervisor of Elections just to make sure. If we are taxed and represented, shouldn't we be able to take advantage of the services provided by that taxing authority?

If Bradford County knows that Starke residents are citizens of Bradford County then I am confused as to what their reasoning could be. Maybe they wanted to provide other services to the animals with the Animal Control and Adoption Center but couldn't do it with the money they received through taxes already. Maybe the bad economy is making it difficult for them to budget their monies to cover all of the services that they need to provide to ALL the citizens of Bradford County. That is why, I guess, they wanted to enter into the interlocal agreement. An interlocal agreement allows government agencies in an area to share their budgets to reach a common goal they may be unable to reach separately. What a wonderful concept it is when government agencies work together on issues. But wouldn't we want Brooker, Hampton and Lawtey to participate as well? Wouldn't there need to be a discussion of what the reasoning for the interlocal agreement is? This is where we look to our elected leaders to provide direction. But it is also where citizens communicate to their elected officials what they feel is important.

My hope is that the animals of Starke and all of Bradford County are important to someone.

While Starke citizens wait to see how this situation will resolve, animals are at risk. How many have been dumped on a country road or worse while this situation continues?

Tracy C. George
Founder/President
Supporters of Sheltered Animals Inc.

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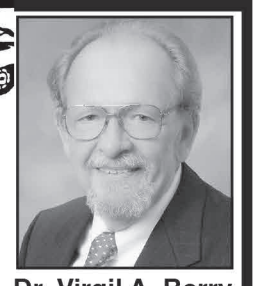

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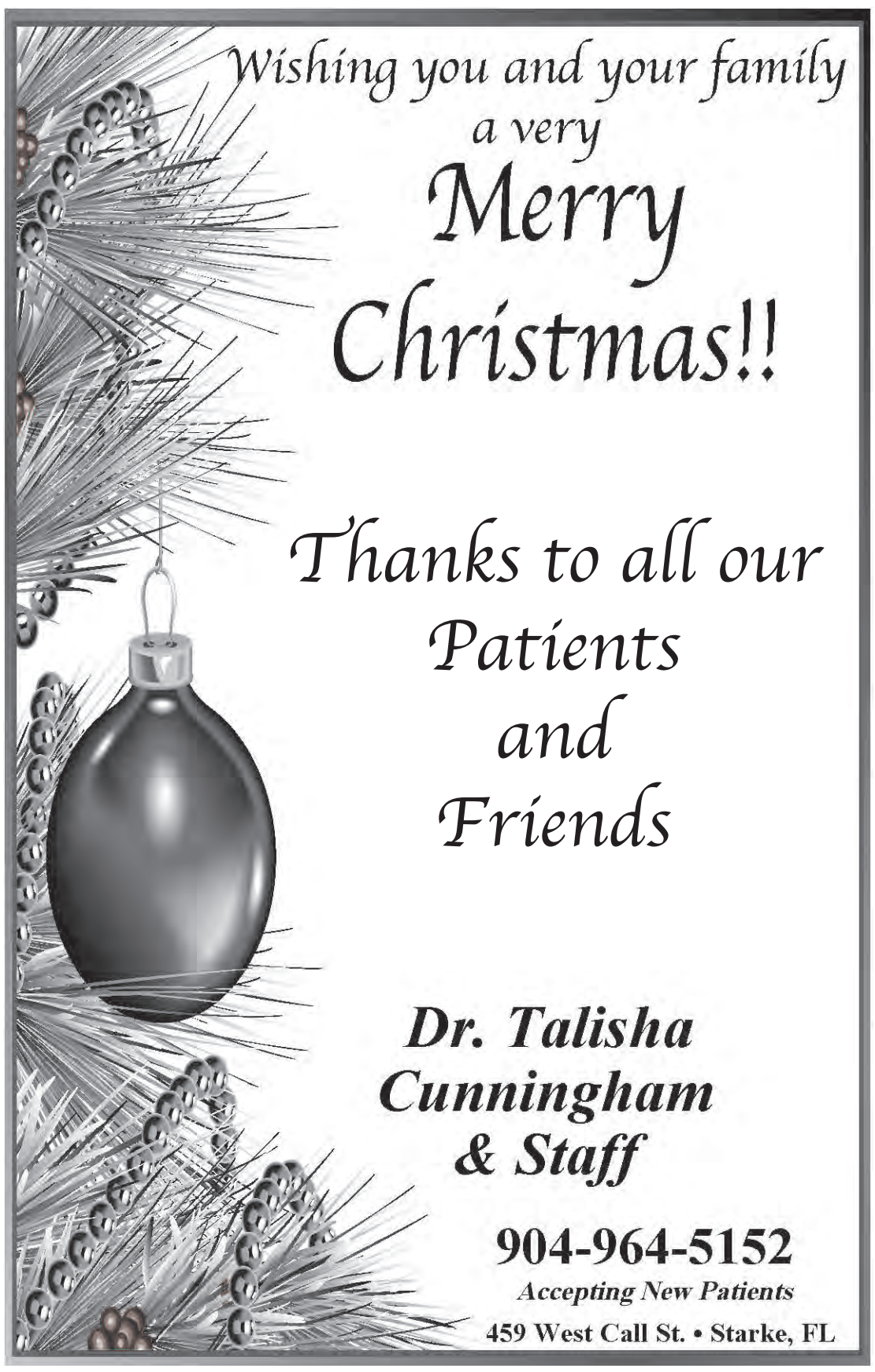

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UNDER
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Mon • Dec 24th • 6:30pm

The Service will be held at the
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We will gather out in the cool brisk night air to celebrate the birth of the Savior with family and friends. This year's celebration is themed "Christmas Wonderland Under the Stars". Who knows, there might even be SNOW! All you need to bring is a lawn chair and a friend to enjoy the Christmas story, candlelight, live nativity, communion and lots of carols. The grand finale of our celebration will be the releasing of Christmas lanterns. It's going to be spectacular!

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964-6864

FINS, FUR & TAILS

Wilbur and Matt Waters share the glory with this nice trophy taken during a trip to Llano, Texas—a hunting destination for the family for 28 years.

Deer hunting with the Waters family

There is a bumper sticker that says, "I say we fish five days a week and work two." Unfortunately, many people fail to see the humor in that exaggeration because they fail to realize the passion that surrounds the activities of hunting and fishing. Only those who have experienced the solitude of the woods, rivers and lakes can appreciate how relaxing the hunting and fishing environments can be.

It is probably that same fervent passion that leads so many hunters to take that hunting trip to Texas, Colorado, Montana or some other northern or western state during the winter. It was that noted motivation that led Wilbur Waters and his brother (and fellow Lawtey native), Danny, to join their brother Mike Waters on a yearly trip to Llano, Texas. This same trip is now going on a 28-year tradition.

Hunting by itself would not have attracted Mike Rhoden to join the Waters' Texas Trip, but talk about a great bass fishing lake on the same property was enough for him to join up.

Rusty Davis and Rudy Waters (Danny's son) also frequently make the trip. Norman Dowdy and his son, Derrick Dowdy, have made the trip on a visitors' basis, so it obviously has a lot of appeal to deer hunters.

Florida is a great location for many outdoors activities with its tropical and subtropical climate. It does come up short, however, when compared to many other locations for deer hunting. Deer grow larger in northern and western locations, and they are more plentiful.

Wilbur Waters indicated that his party of eight hunters brought home 38 deer from their seven-day hunt in Texas this year. When reminded that the conversation was about deer hunting and not dove hunting, he confirmed that his party legally harvested 38 deer. So the entire party filled 38 out of 40 possible tags, and apparently a return trip is planned for the two unfilled tags.

The Waters family does not plan to change its work-week schedule, but there is also no danger of it forgetting when hunting season comes around and where Llano, Texas, is located.

Outdoors outlook

Despite our recent warm weather, the crappie bite remains strong in nearby lakes. T.C. Lloyd, a pan fish guide from Middleburg, reports good catches from Lochloosa and Newnan's, but the catch in Santa Fe remains moderate to this point.

Joey Tyson of Bald Eagle Bait and Tackle reports good crappie catches from Lowry, and he is building his reserves of shiners for anticipated bass action with the warm weather. Additionally, Tyson indicates that the sunshine bass bite remains strong around the Santa Fe Pass.

David Shannon has made good crappie catches from Camp Blanding lakes that he fishes via Rod and Gun Club contact members.

Both Gulf and east coast guide services provide a diverse picture of the coasts.

Noel Kuhn, a surf-fishing guide from Jacksonville, says to remind our readers to fish the front end of the low-pressure fronts because they are a lot more productive than the back.

Captain Randy Harris has done well with trout and reds, especially during the cooler weather. However, the wind has been difficult.

Do not forget the sheepshead around the pilings, oyster bars and rocks.

Squirrel hunters should keep their eyes open for woodcocks during December and January. They will be performing their courtship rituals, but will return north shortly after.

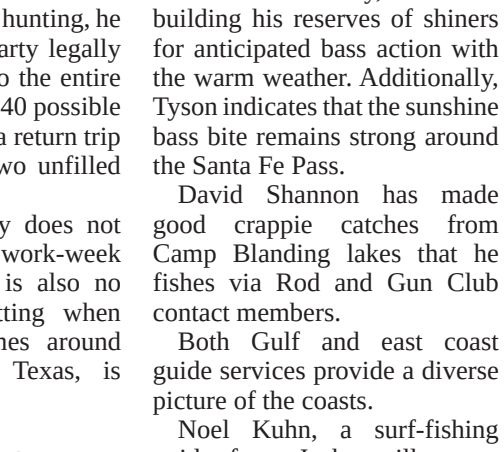
Tight lines and safe hunting until next week.

Outdoors calendar

- Dec. 19, Crosshorn Ministries Christmas banquet, 7 p.m., Starke Golf and Country Club;
- Dec. 14-Jan. 12, second phase of Florida's dove season;
- Jan. 1, deer season ends in north Georgia;
- Jan. 15, deer season ends in south Georgia;
- Jan. 19, antlered deer season ends in Florida's Zone C;
- March 2, squirrel and quail seasons end in Florida's Zone C.

If you have a story, idea or photo to share, please contact Mickey Agner via email at mka@maoutdoors.com, or by phone at 904-964-1488. *Photos may also be submitted in person at the Bradford County Telegraph, Union County Times or Lake Region Monitor.*

Derrick Dowdy displays a nice Texas buck.



Matt Waters shows off a buck full of points.

A trophy buck for Rusty Davis.

Another prize with a full rack, shown off by Rudy Waters.

Merry Christmas to Everyone!

Jesus is the reason for the season!

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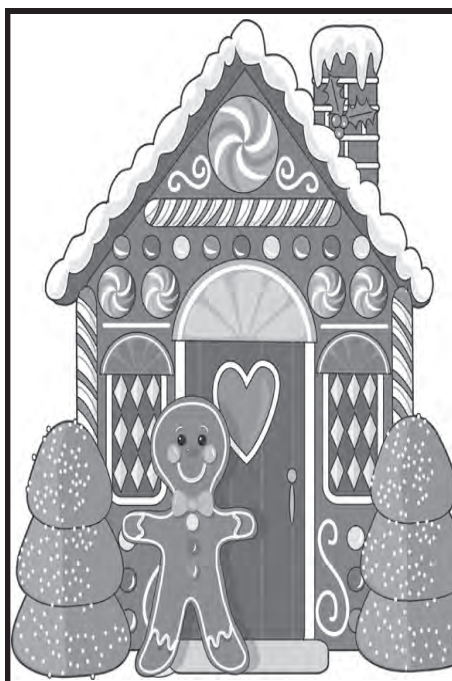

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We as teachers also recognize the importance of make-believe in children's emotional, cognitive and overall social development.

My teachers are allowed to pray with our children. We try to teach them the real meaning of Christmas. We let them be little and believe.

Linda Bryant is the owner of Bradford Preshool located at 407 W. Washington St. in Starke, FL. She may be reached at 904-964-4361.

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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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At this time of year our attention is focused on Christmas. On behalf of the stockholders, officers, directors and employees of Jackson Building Supply, I would like to thank you all for your support. We realize that without you and more importantly, without the Grace and Mercy of Almighty God, we could not exist as a business or even as individuals. Because you have been so good to us and likewise God has been, we feel that we need to share with you what we believe Christmas is all about.

Christmas is surely a time of giving, as is evidenced by the giving or exchanging of many gifts. When we think about Christmas giving we need to remember, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life," (John 3:16). God gave that we might believe on His Son and have a place In Heaven. Jesus paid our sin debt and rose again to show that His payment was enough. However, if we reject what He gave, we have a place in Hell.

Christmas needs to be a time for receiving, for no one can give a gift unless it is received. The Bible says that the Gift of God, His Son, Jesus, "came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God. Even to them that believe on his name; Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (John 1:11-13) Christmas is a time of happiness, as evidenced on the face of many. Happiness depends on happenings and can be short lived — to gain real Joy and Peace this Christmas, why not right now receive thegreatest gift ever given, The Lord Jesus Christ? Jesus loves us and invites us to believe in Him. If you have not made this commitment, you should right now receive Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. If you have just now received Him...you can know the real Joy of Christmas for the first time. For those of us who already know Him — may we be drawn to a closer walk this Christmas.

We thank God for the opportunity He has given us to serve your building supply and hardware needs — we also thank Him for allowing us to share Jesus Christ with you. After all, without Christ there would be no Christmas.

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CRIME

Man's drugs end up at school in backpack

Darrick Swafford, 37, of Lake Butler was arrested Dec. 12 by Union deputies after his children unknowingly took drugs and drug paraphernalia to Lake Butler Elementary School in their backpacks.

According to the arrest report, LBES Principal Stacy Rimes called the sheriff's department after the two students came to her and said they needed to contact their father to give him his medicine back. The students told Rimes and the deputy they didn't know what the medicine was, but knew they weren't to touch it, and one said the father had placed it in a backpack before when he would leave home to conceal it. The students said that morning they were running late for school, and that their father must have forgotten it was in the backpack.

Before the deputy contacted Swafford, he and his wife had arrived at school requesting the kids come to the office for early dismissal. A sheriff's investigator then came and questioned Swafford, who admitted the drugs were his, and that they must have fallen from a shelf in his closet into the child's backpack.

Swafford was then placed under arrest at the school, and it was discovered by the deputy that he had a large fixed-blade knife concealed under his shirt. At his home, deputies also found more marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

Swafford was charged with felony possession of a weapon on school property, possession of marijuana, two possessions of narcotic equipment and child neglect (by placing his children in a position of possible but not great harm).

Stop for no seatbelt leads to arrest for drugs

Amy Nicole Martin, 24, of Jacksonville was arrested Dec. 11 by Bradford deputies after being initially stopped for a seatbelt violation.

According to the arrest report, a deputy noticed Martin didn't have a seatbelt on at the traffic light at S.R. 16 and U.S. 301 in Starke. After pulling her over, the deputy discovered Martin didn't have a license on her and that she has never had a driver's license. He also noticed a plastic baggy on the front seat, and a further search revealed drug paraphernalia and drugs in the vehicle.

Martin was charged with possession of cocaine, possession of drug equipment and driving without a valid license. Bond was set at $4,500.

Man arrested after robbing store with pellet gun

Anthony Randall Arnett, 31, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies for armed robbery of the Kangaroo store at the intersection of S.R. 100 and Griffis Loop just outside the Starke city limits.

According to the arrest report, Arnett went into the store Dec. 14 just after midnight, displayed his firearm (later identified as a pellet gun) to the clerk, and took cash from the register. He then fled the store on foot and ran to a nearby house, where he called a friend for a ride.

The friend called the sheriff's office, and deputies were able to locate Arnett at a residence near the store and take him into custody. While searching Arnett, a bag of cocaine weighing approximately 4.5 grams was found in his jacket. He later admitted to the deputy that he had robbed the Kangaroo.

He was charged with robbery with a firearm and possession of cocaine. Bail was set at $200,000 for the robbery and an additional $5,000 for the cocaine possession charge.

Burglars caught by Starke Police

An 18-year-old Starke man and a 16-year-old Starke juvenile were arrested by Starke police Dec. 16 for burglary and several other charges after they ransacked a home and stole several weapons and other items.

Lawrence Leon Cleesen, 18, of Starke has been charged with two counts of burglary, two counts of larceny, possession of a weapon during a felony, criminal mischief-property damage and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. The juvenile has been charged with burglary, possession of a weapon during a felony, larceny and criminal mischief-property damage.

The incident occurred on Dec. 15 when the homeowner arrived at his residence and found the rear door open and the screen torn out. He called police, not sure if the suspects were inside, and advised the officer that he has various weapons in the home. The officer didn't find anyone in the home, but noted that every room had been ransacked, with drawers, cabinets, desks, etc., in disarray. Numerous firearms were gone, along with several knives, military style boots, a camo backpack, a camcorder, a laptop computer and other items.

While discussing the missing items, one of the police officers present said he had spoken with the juvenile earlier in the day and had observed him with some of the stolen items. Cleesen was also with the juvenile earlier, and the officers knew he lived only a block from the residence that was broken into.

The officers went to Cleesen's home. After questioning him and finding a bike in his possession that had been stolen a week earlier from the same residence, Cleesen admitted his involvement in the burglary and led the officers to a creek where most of the stolen items were recovered.

The officers also went to the juvenile's home and then questioned him at the police station. The police also obtained a "selfie" from the juvenile's phone with him holding one of the stolen weapons.

Cleesen's bond was set at $40,000 at the Bradford jail, while the juvenile's detention is being handled by the state department of juvenile justice.

Recent arrests in Bradford, Clay or Union

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

Bradford

Eddie John Allen, 19, of Lawtey was arrested Dec. 14 by Bradford deputies for failure to appear.

Bernard Vantaurous Beard, 27, of Starke was arrested Dec. 15 by Starke police for probation violation and by Bradford deputies for failure to appear.

Jason Junior Bratcher, 21, of Graham was arrested Dec. 13 by Bradford deputies for failure to appear.

Nathaniel Kendrick Brown, 44, of Gainesville was arrested Dec. 16 by Bradford deputies for withholding child support.

David Jim Browning, 47, of Jacksonville was arrested Dec. 11 by Starke police for disorderly intoxication, trespassing and resisting an officer.

Anthony P. Burch, 36, of Baldwin was arrested Dec. 10 by Bradford deputies for driving while license suspended or revoked.

Coy Allan Busby, 27, of Starke was arrested Dec. 10 by Bradford deputies for driving while license suspended or revoked.

Jessica Clark, 29, of Lake City was arrested Dec. 10 by Starke police for an out-of-county warrant.

Ryan Edward Davis, 23, of Brooker was arrested Dec. 16 by Bradford deputies for probation violation.

Jennifer Nicole Hazen, 28, of Brooker was arrested Dec. 10 by Starke police for larceny and trespassing at Walmart.

Nanette Michelle Honsberger, 52, of Lawtey was arrested Dec. 14 by Bradford deputies for battery.

Meagan Meleah James, 25, of Wildwood was arrested Dec. 15 by Lawtey police for possession of synthetic narcotics.

Antonio Antwayn Lott, 20, of Starke was arrested Dec. 10 by Bradford deputies for driving without a valid license.

Steven Andrew Nugent, 30, of Starke was arrested Dec. 15 by Starke police for not having vehicle licensed/registered with the state and for driving while license suspended or revoked.

Daniel Paul Pacetti, 39, of Pamona Park was arrested Dec. 15 by Bradford deputies for probation violation.

Enrique Perez-Lopez, 26, of East Palatka was arrested Dec. 12 by Bradford deputies for not having vehicle licensed / registered with the state.

Willie James Perry, 30, of Starke was arrested Dec. 11 by Bradford deputies on two charges of manufacturing cocaine and two charges of selling cocaine. Bond was set at $60,000.

Wendy McMaster Pettit, 47, of Middleburg was arrested Dec. 10 by Bradford deputies for driving while license suspended or revoked.

Jennifer Irene Rhoden, 27, of Hampton was arrested Dec. 10 by Bradford deputies for possession of marijuana.

Steven Wade Robbins, 26, of Lawtey was arrested Dec. 10 by Starke police for larceny at Walmart.

Deon Anthony Smith, 37, of Jacksonville was arrested Dec. 10 by Bradford deputies for driving while license suspended or revoked.

Matthew Leon Wilkerson, 29, of Raiford was arrested Dec. 10 by Bradford deputies for driving while license suspended or revoked.

John Patrick Williamson, 47, of Lawtey was arrested Dec. 10 by Bradford deputies for driving while license suspended or revoked.

Keystone/Melrose

Rebecca Bates, 25, of Keystone Heights was arrested Dec. 10 by Putnam deputies for possession of drugs, possession of drug equipment and smuggling contraband into a detention facility.

Tyler James Guay, 19, of Keystone Heights was arrested Dec. 15 by Palatka police for two out-of-county warrants.

Jeffery Wade Raulerson, 47, of Melrose was arrested Dec. 16 by state troopers for DUI.

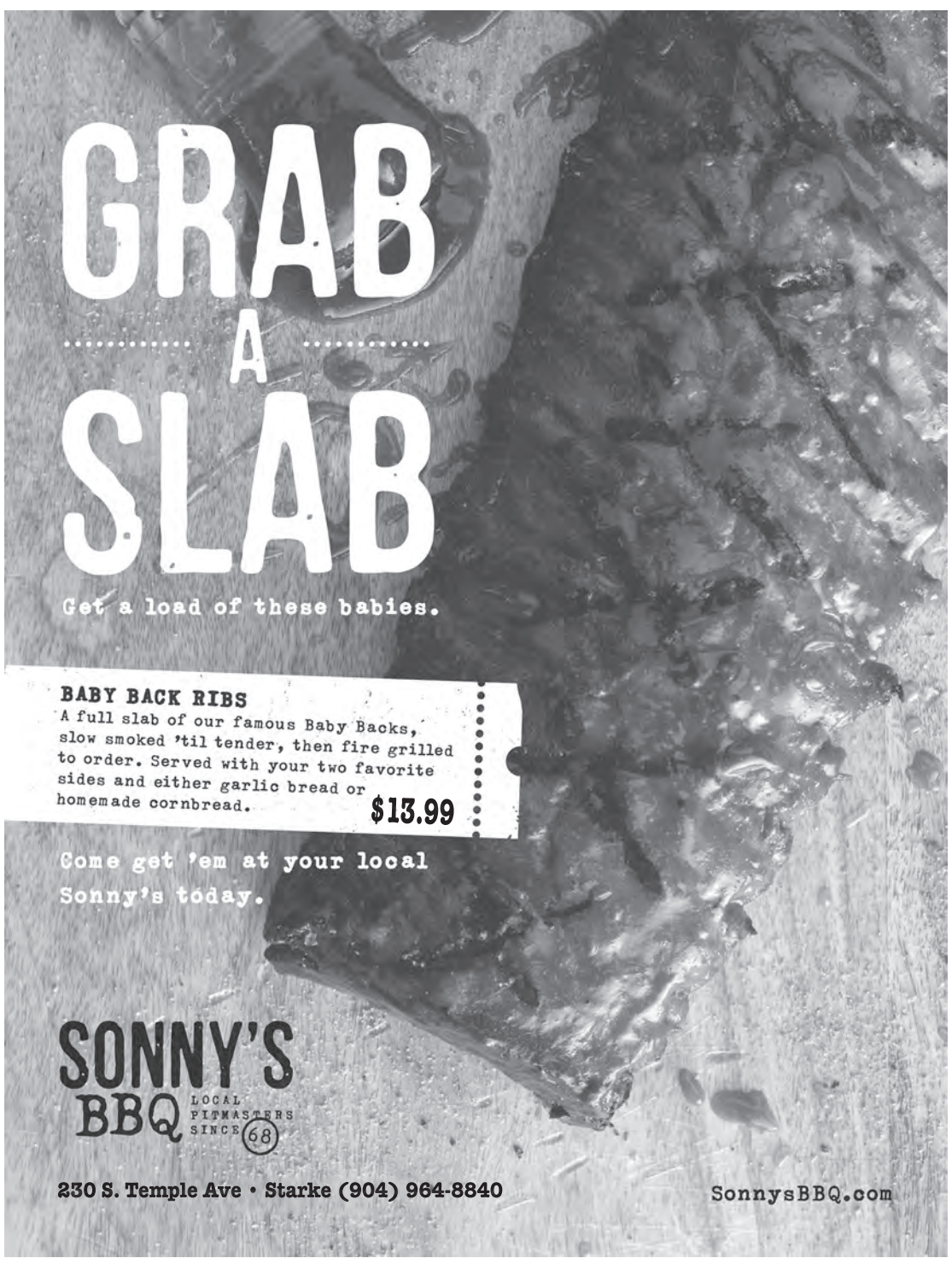
Thomas Stanton, 25, of Keystone Heights was arrested Dec. 14 by Clay deputies for driving with a suspended license.

Union

Isaac Denorries Johnson, 21, of Lake Butler was arrested Dec. 11 by Union deputies on an out-of-county warrant from Alachua County for lewd and lascivious molestation. Bond was set at $75,000.

Tony Ervin Paytee, 57, of Lake Butler was arrested Dec. 14 by Union deputies for battery.

Teavon Lee Williams, 23, of High Springs and Patrick Roosevelt Stoutamire, 45, of Lake Butler were arrested Dec. 15 by Union deputies for larceny. They were observed by the deputy taking bottled water and Pepsi products from the front of the Kangaroo store on S.R. 121 in Lake Butler and loading them into their vehicle without paying for them. The deputy was on patrol and sitting across the road at Sprinkle Field when he observed the criminal activity.



OBITUARIES

Mildred Cherry

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Mrs. Mildred F. Cherry, 83, of Keystone Heights passed away, Friday, Dec. 13, 2013 at the Haven Hospice Robert's Care Center in Palatka. Mrs. Cherry was born Oct. 12, 1930 in Green Cove Springs to the late Henry and Alice (Sweat) Bohannon. She has been a lifelong resident of Clay County and was a homemaker. She was of the Baptist Faith and enjoyed traveling on vacations, and taking care of her puppies.

Mrs. Cherry is survived by her husband of 47 years, Walter L. Cherry; six children, Marchell Gilmore, Tyna Cherry, Nancy Waldrup, Roger Gilmore, Rodney Gilmore, and Mary Garrison; one brother, Glenn Bohannon; five grandchildren, Jessica Cherry, Tessa Searels, Tammy Morton, Charles Waldrup II, and Salina Mannion, along with numerous great and great great grandchildren.

A memorial service for Mrs. Cherry will be held on Thursday, Dec. 19, at 1:00 p.m. in the Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Charlie Hunt officiating. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 340 E. Walker Dr. Keystone Heights, 32656. 352-473-3176. www.jonesgallagherfh.com

PAID OBITUARY

Ann Fountain

Ann Fountain

STARKE—Ann Carol Fountain, age 75, of Starke, passed away at her residence on Dec. 16, 2013. She was born in Cochran, Ga. on April 8, 1938 to the late Alexander Vorndran and Voncille Roberts-Vorndran. Ann was a member of Evergreen Baptist Church in Lawtey and always took a special interest in the needs of the children of the church. Ann was also described as a shoe fanatic, as she owned many pairs of shoes. Ann had a kind spirit and will be missed by all that knew her.

Ann is survived by: her loving husband of 28 years, Gerald Fountain of Lawtey; her daughters, Bambi Lynn Copeland of Deland, Gerri Lynn Bolhuis of Virginia Beach, Va., and Melissa Marie Prochnow of Germany; seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, Dec. 21, 2013 at 11:00 am at Evergreen Baptist Church with Pastor Ben Bryant officiating. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service. In lieu of flowers, the family request that donations be made to the Florida Baptist Children's Home at www.fbchomes.org in Ann's name. Arrangements are under the care and direction of Archie Tanner Funeral Services, Starke, FL. 904-964-5757. Visit archietannerfuneralservices.com to sign the family's guest book.

PAID OBITUARY

Walter Larry

RAIFORD—Walter Lee "Pookie" Larry died Friday, Dec. 13, 2013 at his residence. He was born Aug. 7, 1957 in Raiford to the late James Handy and Elizziebeth Larry. He was a laborer for many years. He is preceded in death by: his brothers John, Wallace, Rufuse, David and James Larry; and sisters, Helen Singatary and Mary Lee Gaines.

He is survived by: daughter, Latishila (Frederick) Jackson; sons, Lance (Toccura) Larry of St. Mary, Ga., Tavaris Donaldson of Sanderson, and James (Sabrina) Watkins of Mayo; sisters, Frances (Bobby Dean) Majors of Starke, and Bobby Jean Larry of Georgia; brothers, Eddie Kirk and Willie Jean Larry of Georgia; sister-in-law, Edna Mae Singatary of Raiford; and ten grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held Saturday, Dec. 21, at Archer Memorial Chapel, with Gerald Warren officiating. Burial will be at a later date. Archer Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Carmine Lombardi, Jr.

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Carmine Anthony Lombardi, Jr., 82, of Keystone Heights died Sunday, Dec. 15, 2013 at Shands UF Hospital. He was born in Nyack, N.Y. Nov. 19, 1931 to the late Carmine A. and Carmella (Capobianco) Lombardi, Sr., and moved to Keystone Heights from Spokane, Wash. in 1993. United States Air Force retired, he had 33 years of service overseeing Nuclear Missile Maintenance. He was a member of St. William Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus. He was preceded in death by: his former wife, Clara E. Lombardi; a brother, Mario Lombardi, and a step-daughter, Patty Fillmon.

He is survived by: his wife of 20 years, Patsy (Miller) Lombardi; children, Julie A. (Steve) Pangburn, James A. Lombardi and Robert A. Lombardi all of Spokane, Wash., Rhonda (Sandy) Knudsen of Orange Park and Donna (Terry) Lewis of Englis; brother, Richard A. Lombardi of New York City, N.Y.; nine grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.

Funeral Mass will be 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 19 in St. William Catholic Church with Father Mike Williams presiding. Viewing will be held one hour prior to beginning of services. Interment is to follow at Keystone Heights Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the American Cancer Society, 2119 SW 16th Street, Gainesville, FL 32608. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home.

Larry Murphy

RAIFORD—Larry Patrick Murphy, 70, of Raiford died Sunday, Dec. 15, 2013 at his home in Raiford after an extended illness. He was born in Coffeyville, Kan. and lived most of his life there, until he moved to Raiford in 2007. He was the son of the late Joseph and Pauline Murphy, and was a WWII Army-Airforce Veteran. He was preceded in death by his son Sean Murphy.

He is survived by: his wife, Rose Ann Murphy; daughters, Trisha (Al) Parker of Port Richey; Lisa (Mike) Lamb of Pittsburg, Kan.; Mariam Parker of Starke; Jessica (Darrell) Kennington of Raiford; Rebecca (Wes) David of Rivert, Kan.; son, Ben Bradford of Jacksonville; brother, Paul Murphy of Kansas; sister, Sheryl (Don) Gatlia of Okla.; 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Graveside funeral services were held Dec. 17 at the Dekle Cemetery in Lake Butler, under the care of Archer Funeral Home of Lake Butler.

Annette Norman

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Annette Norman, 82, of Keystone Heights died Thursday, Dec. 12, 2013 at Windsor Manor Nursing Home in Starke. She was born in Fort Gaines, Ga., June 15, 1931 to the late Emmett and Tamzy (Hasty) Gill, Sr. Prior to retiring, she ran the soda fountain in a local drug store since 1971. She was a member of Gadara Baptist Church.

She is survived by: her husband of 27 years, Bob Norman; three sons, Dean (Pam) Slocumb, Dale (Alicia) Slocumb, all of Keystone Heights and Harvey (Cindy) Slocumb, of Senoia, Ga.; two stepdaughters, Angelia (Dan) Gardner, of Oviedo and Kim (Phil) Rand, of Ormond Beach; brother, Earl Gill of Dawson, Ga.; sister, Melba Sands of Dowling Park; and twelve grandchildren.

Funeral services were Dec. 17, in Gadara Baptist Church with her son, Pastor Dean Slocumb and Pastor Sean House officiating. The burial followed at Gadara Cemetery. In lieu of flowers contributions can be made the Gadara Baptist Church, 6779 CR 315C, Keystone Heights, FL 32656. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Keystone Heights.

James Patterson

STARKE— James Lyel "Bennie" Patterson, 90, of the Starke area died Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2013 at the Veterans Medical Center in Lake City. He was born on Sept. 18, 1923 in Trent, Texas to the late James Edward and Inez (Statser) Patterson and was a longtime resident of the Starke and Lake City area. He was a retired farmer, and was of the Baptist faith. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by: his son, Jimmie Patterson and two sisters.

He is survived by: his wife of over 60 years, Vivian (Morris) Patterson of Starke; sons, Frank (Karen) Patterson and Danny (Deborah) Patterson all of Starke; sister, Peggy Ohler of Claremore, Okla; five grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Funeral services were on Dec. 14, in the Dewitt C. Jones Chapel of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home with Mr. Johnny Frampton officiating. Interment will be private in Crosby Lake Cemetery. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke.

Ettamae Peeples

LAKE BUTLER—Ettamae Josephine Crews Peeples, 75, of Lake Butler died on Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2013 at Suwannee Haven Hospice of Lake City after an extended illness. She was born in Belle Glade and lived in Clewiston before moving to Lake Butler. She worked at the former Andrews Drugs of Lake Butler before retiring. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Lake Butler. She was preceded in death by: her parents, Andrew A. and Mavie M. Thornton Crews; and a brother, James A. Crews.

She is survived by: her former husband, Charles Peeples; daughter, Sheri L. (Don) Fortune; son, Dean A. Peeples; sister, June (Cecil) Ayers; sister-in-law, Carolyn Jarrard; and two grandchildren, all of Lake Butler.

Funeral services were held Dec. 13, in the Chapel of Archer Funeral Home of Lake Butler with Pastor Jason Johns officiating. Burial followed at Dekle Cemetery of Lake Butler. Archer Funeral Home of Lake Butler is in charge of arrangements.

Patricia Russell

HAWTHORNE—Patricia Ann Russell, 69, of Hawthorne died Dec. 14, 2013 at he residence. She moved to the Hawthorne area from Miami in 1981. She was a past member of the American Legion in Keystone Heights.

She is survived by her husband Thomas Gordon Russell of Hawthorne; daughters, Jacqueline Russell of Hawthorne and Julie Kurowski of Ormond Beach; and six grandchildren.

Arrangements are under the care of Moring Funeral Home of Melrose.

Ola Scott

Ola Scott

STARKE—Ola Beatrice Scott, 87, of Starke died on Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2013 at ET York Haven Hospice Care Center Gainesville. She was born in Lake City on May 6, 1926 moved to Starke in 1943. She was a member of Mt. Pisgah AME Church. She attended the local schools of Bradford County and was a homemaker.

She is survived by: daughter, Janie M. Scott of Daytona; sister-in- law, Luree Jackson of Starke; adopted children; Mamie Artis, Daisy Williams, Cynthia Tyson, all of Starke, Nettie M. Keith of Ft. Lauderdale, and Cynthia Burton of Daytona Beach.

Funeral Services will be 2:00 p.m. on Saturday Dec. 21, in the Mount Pisgah AME Church, Starke with Rev Gary Slaughter Pastor conducting the services and Rev. J. W Warren Presiding. Interment will be held in Oddfellow Cemetery Starke. Arrangements are under the direction of Haile Funeral Home Inc. Family hour will be held on Friday Dec. 20, from 4-5:00 p.m. at the Carl D. Haile Memorial Chapel. Friends from 5-7:00 p.m. at the Mount Pisgah AME Church. Visitation will be held 1 hour at the church prior to the service. The Cortege will form at the home of Mrs. Ola B. Scott at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Patsy Silcox

Patsy Silcox

STARKE—Patsy Lee Roberts Silcox, 88, a lifelong resident of Starke, passed away Dec. 16th, 2013, at her son's home in Lake City. Patsy was born February 28th, 1925 in Lawtey, to George W. and Jewel Tatum Roberts. She graduated from Bradford High School in 1942 and married Vernon Silcox that same year. They were happily married for fifty-six years until Vernon's death in 1998.

Patsy was employed for seventeen years in Starke by Dr. J. E. Denmark as a dental assistant. Later she joined her son in business, working twenty-five years at Community Jewelers in Lake City. Patsy was a consummate people person, and made many friends throughout her work life. What she cherished most about her two careers was helping people, building relationships, and seeing smiling faces. She said many times that she "enjoyed every minute of work." She loved being with friends and family, and maintained many life-long friendships. Her faith and her friends brought her great joy and support throughout the years and she was a model of resilience.

Patsy was a member of the First Baptist Church of Starke for seventy years where she taught Sunday school. She was former member of the Junior Woman's Club of Starke and served as a past president. Patsy was an active member of the Woman's Club and a member of several local bridge clubs.

Survivors are: her brother, George W. (Nancy) Roberts of Starke, her son David (Sheryl) Silcox of Lake City, her grandson, Christopher David Silcox of Gainesville, her granddaughter, Emily Ann (Peter) Gaines of Sarasota and many beloved family members.

The family will receive friends at Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 620 East Nona Street in Starke on Thursday, Dec. 19th from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. A funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 20th at the First Baptist Church, 163 W. Jefferson St., Starke, FL 32091 with a reception immediately following in the fellowship hall. Interment will be at 1:30 p.m. in Crosby Lake Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to The American Cancer Society, 2121 SW 16th St., Gainesville, FL 32608 or The American Heart Association, 3324 W University Ave., #128, Gainesville, FL 32607. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke 904-964-6200. On-line condolences may be left at www.jonesgallagherfh.com.

PAID OBITUARY

Peace and Joy to all

Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home

Joe, Gayle & Staff

STARKE

904.964.6200

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS

352.473.3176

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

Thank God and our Savior for All the blessings that He has given us throughout the year 2013. Sometimes we neglect in giving Him the praise for all that He does for us. But thank God He is always with us and gives us what we need!

Please remember what Christmas is all about, giving and receiving gifts is fine — but remember, our Savior was born — and died that we all may live!!! And how we live, depends on where we will spend our eternity after we die.

We at Archer Funeral Home want to thank our friends and loved ones for all the prayers, calls, and love to us during our sickness. It means so much to know we are cared for. We hope everyone has a Merry Christmas...and may 2014 be a blessing to all of us.

Doyle, Mary, Family and our staff

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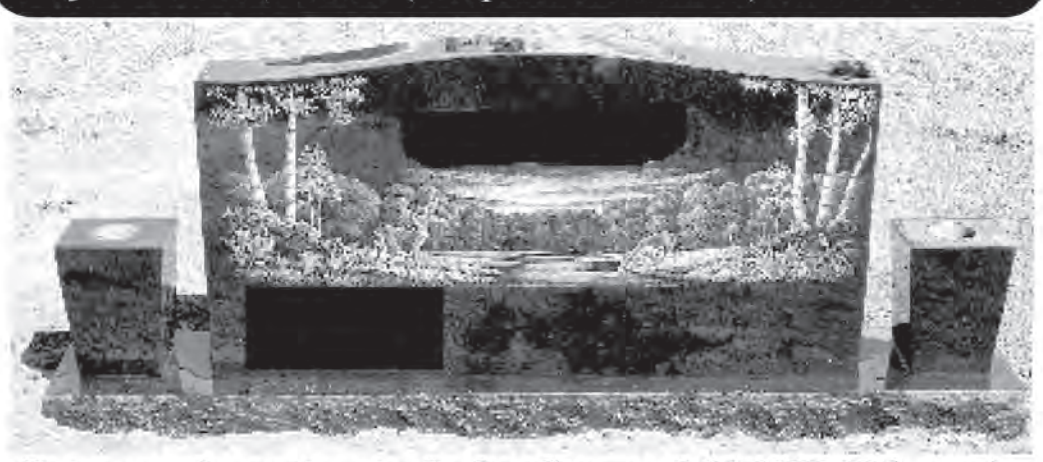

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OBITUARIES

Billy Warren, Sr.

JACKSONVILLE—Billy Warren, Sr., 73, went to be with the Lord on Dec. 11, 2013. Billy was a 1958 graduate of Bradford County High School. He was loved and respected by many and all who knew him will miss him deeply. He loved to listen to Bluegrass, sing the gospel, garden, paint, fish and play with his dogs, Katie, Kotchi and Kippy. He earned his Associates from FCCJ, Jacksonville. Billy retired from Dixie Tank and Galvanizing in 1975. He was preceded in death by: his parents, Harvey and Myrtice Warren; his son, Billy Warren, Jr.; three sisters; and six brothers.

Billy is survived by his wife, Joyce; his brother, John Warren; sister-in-law, Margaret; his son, Daniel (Deborah) Warren; his daughters, Julie (Harry) Pickett and Janet (Mark) Ellison; and step-daughter Carol (Dennis) Bailey; and step son, John Chaney; and numerous grandchildren; great-grandchildren; nieces; nephews; and friends. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Community Hospice organization. A special thanks to the loving caregivers that allowed Billy to remain at home as long as possible.

PAID OBITUARY

Kathryn West

LAKE BUTLER—Kathryn J. West, 64, of Lake Butler died Friday, Nov. 29, 2013 at Shands Hospital UF in Gainesville after a brief illness. She was born in Orlando and lived in Lake Butler most of her life. She graduated from Union County High School and was preceded in death by her parents, Sidney West, Jr. and Lucille Keller West, and sister Charlene B. West. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Lake Butler.

She is survived by her caregiver, Harriett Maines of Lake Butler.

Funeral Services were held Dec. 4 in the chapel of Archer Funeral Home with Pastor Jason Johns officiating. Burial took place in Woodlawn Cemetery of Ocoee. Archer Funeral Home is in charge of all arrangements.

STORE

Continued from 2B

and look for other sources of revenue," Ruszkowski said. "We saw the thrift store as a means to do that. That's what it was set up for—to replace the government funding that we were losing."

Ruszkowski and Sellars said the store enjoyed a successful first couple of years, but it eventually had to compete against a growing number of thrift stores operating in the area.

"All of a sudden, you've got this flooding of thrift stores opening," Ruszkowski said. "Bradford County is small. We can't keep up with the growing competition."

The announcement of the store's closing has not been received well by some members of the community. The Dec. 12 issue of the Bradford County Telegraph-Union County Times-Lake Region Monitor featured a letter to the editor by Miriam Blankenship voicing her displeasure at the store's closing and stating that a petition had been signed by more than 200 people against the store's closing.

The letter also takes issue specifically with the Arc's board of directors for making this decision.

"I know that people have pointed out that the board of directors made this decision," Ruszkowski said. "Well, yes, they did, and rightfully so because it's their responsibility to make sure that this agency runs efficiently and effectively. When there are problems, yes, they are charged with the responsibility of making those difficult decisions."

Sellars said, "It's not like they just came in here and said, 'All right, we're going to close the thrift store.' We have talked about this for months. They asked our opinion.

"We had a good run, but we can't compete with everybody else. Just think, if we were one of only three or four (thrift stores in the area), we would probably still be making money."

Ruszkowski said she does appreciate the concern and support of Blankenship and others. Enough can't be said of the support the store received, especially considering the store relied solely upon donated items to sell.

"We want them to know how much we appreciated their support throughout—everybody who came to buy something, everybody who visited, everybody who donated…That's how we survived for as long as we did," Ruszkowski said.

Ruszkowski and Sellars also wished to thank volunteers Murley Blankenship and Kellie Hagen, who worked in the thrift store for approximately three years.

"Without them, our expenses would've been even greater than they were," Ruszkowski said.

Other jobs will be found for the Arc consumers who worked at the store so that they can continue to receive work experience and earn a paycheck.

"That's what we're all about, training those people to be self-sufficient, self-supporting individuals in our community," Ruszkowski said.

Come Celebrate Christ This Christmas!

This Sunday - December 22, 2013 10:30am
Musical Presentation and Worship - *Bethlehem Morning*
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Christy Reddish - Director
David Harrtis - Adult Ed Coordinator

DAY CLASSES

Course	Instructor	Early Registration	Course Dates	Day	Hours	Est. Res.Cost
Accounting Operations	Thomas	Dec 11-13,16-18	Open enrollment beginning 1/7/14	M - F	900	$ 2,850.00
Administrative Office Specialist	Thomas	Dec 11-13,16-18	Open enrollment beginning 1/7/14	M - F	1050	$ 3,234.00
Adult Basic Ed & GED Preparation	Rudoi	Dec 11-13,16-18	Open enrollment beginning 1/7/14	M - F	8am to Noon	$ 30.00
Applied Welding Technologies	Geiger	Dec 11-13,16-18	Open enrollment beginning 1/7/14	M - F	1170	$ 3,998.00
Automotive Service Technology	Rensberger	Dec 11-13,16-18	Open enrollment beginning 1/7/14	M - F	1800	$ 5,846.00
Commercial Vehicle Driving A & B	Abercrombie	Dec 11-13,16-18	1/13/14-3/6/14, 3/24/14-5/15/14, 5/20/14-7/10/14 (8 wk course)	M - TH	320 & 150	$ 2,819.00
Computer Systems and Info. Technology	Ledger	Dec 11-13,16-18	Open enrollment beginning 1/7/14	M - F	900	$ 3,215.00
Cosmetology	James	Dec 11-13,16-18	Open enrollment beginning 1/7/14	M - F	1200	$ 4,276.00
Medium & Heavy Duty Truck/Bus Tech 1(diesel)	Rensberger	Dec 11-13,16-18	Open enrollment beginning 1/7/14	M - F	1050	$ 5,775.00
Medium & Heavy Duty Truck/Bus Tech 2(diesel)	Rensberger	Dec 11-13,16-18	Open enrollment beginning 1/7/14	M - F	750	$ 5,775.00
Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN)	Pusateri		Info for 14-15 class at www.butc.edu	M - TH	1350	$ 6,146.00

EVENING CLASSES

Course	Instructor	Early Registration	Date	Day	Hours	Est. Res.Cost
Early Childhood Education	Devalerio	Dec 11-13,16-18	Enrollment Beginning 1/6/14	M	600	$ 1,910.00
Child Growth and Development	Devalerio	Dec 11-13,16-18	January 6,13, 2014	M	6	$ 28.50
Behavior, Observation, and Screening	Devalerio	Dec 11-13,16-18	March 3, 10, 2014	M	6	$ 28.50
DAP Preschool	Devalerio	Dec 11-13,16-18	April 7,14,21, 28, 2014	M	10	$ 37.50
Special Needs	Devalerio	Dec 11-13,16-18	May 5, 12, 17, 2014	M	10	$ 37.50
DAP Infant/Toddler	Devalerio	Dec 11-13,16-18	June 2,3,9,10, 2014	M	10	$ 37.50
Adult Basic Ed & GED Preparation	Harden	Dec 11-13,16-18	Open enrollment beginning 1/7/14	T / TH	6:00-9:00pm	$ 30.00
Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN)	Johnson	www.butc.edu	Course begins March 3, 2014	M-Th	1350	$ 6,146.00

COMMUNITY EDUCATION CLASSES

Indoor Cycling	Miller	Open	Open Enrollment	M,W	4:00-5:00pm	$ 3.30
Indoor Cycling	Bridgman	Open	Open Enrollment	T,Th	5:15-6:15pm	$ 3.30
Pilates/Yoga	Bridgman	Open	Open Enrollment	T,Th	6:15-7:00pm	comp w/spin
Intro to Prezi and PowerPoint	Thomas	Open	Mar. 24, 31, Apr. 7, 14, 21, 28	M	4:00-5:30 pm	$ 30.00

2014 TESTING DATES

	Time	January	February	March	April	May	
Morning TABE Test	9:00 am	7,8,9,10,13,21,27	6,18,	6,18,27,	1,3,7,8,10,21,	12,29	$ 20.00
Evening TABE Test	5:00 pm	7,9,16,21,27	6,18	6,18	1,7,8,21	12,29	$ 20.00
Morning TEAS Test	9:00 am	29	12,26,	26	2,9	N/A	$ 35.00
Evening TEAS Test	5:00 pm	N/A	N/A	27	3,10	N/A	$ 35.00
GED Test				Visit www.gedtestingservice.com to schedule			

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More money equals less hair

Rising to the challenge of surpassing last year's $1,500 total, employees at Community State Bank of Starke donated $5,500 to this year's Starke Police Department Shop With a Cop program. The bank hosted several fundraisers, such as bake sales, to generate an amount that resulted in bank employees James Eison and Brian Woodall losing their beards. The two men pledged to do so if at least $3,000 was raised. Starke Police Department Capt. Barry Warren, who organizes Shop With a Cop, agreed to have his head shaved if the bank raised at least $5,000. ABOVE: CSB employees Pamela Roberts, Tammie Woodard, Phillip Johns, Fate Harper, Lezlie Kirkland, Jessica Brown, Angie Phillips, Susan Nicklas, Andrea Bailey, Carolyn Reddish, Joyce Thiemann, Jeff Oody and James Eison, SPD Capt. Barry Warren and CSB employees Sharon Bennett, Eugene Richardson, Wendy Eunice, Sherrie Norman, Sharon Brown, Kaitlynn Derkman and Brian Woodall. LEFT: CSB President Jeff Oody shaves James Eison's beard.

Starke Police Department Capt. Barry Warren gets his head shaved by Hairy Business' Dave Holland, while Starke Police Chief Jeff Johnson gives Warren a little grief.

McDonald's-Kiwanis hoops tourney starts Dec. 19

The Kiwanis Club of Starke will once again host the annual Lake Area McDonald's Christmas Tournament, which will be played at Bradford High School Thursday through Saturday, Dec. 19-21, and feature seven high school boys' basketball teams.

Besides Bradford, the field will include Keystone Heights, Union County, Broward International, Englewood, P.K. Yonge and Vero Beach.

Play begins at 4 p.m. on Dec. 19 with Union taking on Englewood, while Keystone will play Vero Beach at 6 p.m. Broward International and P.K. Yonge will play at 8 p.m.

Bradford will have a bye the first day due to the field consisting of only seven teams. (Lake Wales Vanguard was part of the field originally before backing out.)

A complete tournament bracket detailing matchups on the second and third days was not available at press time.

Daily admission is $5.

BHS gets double-doubles from Davis, Kemp in win over KHHS

Nyasia Davis and Tracey Kemp scored 22 and 15 points, respectively, in the Bradford High School girls' basketball team's 46-32 District 5-4A win over Keystone Heights on Dec. 10 in Keystone.

Davis added 18 rebounds, while Kemp had 12 assists for the Tornadoes, who improved to 3-2 in district play. It was the third district win in a row for Bradford, which was coming off of 51-26 and 49-37 wins over Interlachen and Fort White, respectively.

Keshanna Ardley scored three points for Bradford, while Mackenzie Gault, Danique Hudson and Meghan Woods each scored two.

Keystone was led by Caiylen Gonzales' 10 points, while Caroline McCormick had nine. Bailey Zinkel scored seven points, with Sierra Moore and Karla Casas adding four and two points, respectively.

KHHS boys keep rolling in soccer with 8-0 district win

Cory Hedding scored two goals, while Juan Grimaldo had three assists in the Keystone Heights High School boys' soccer team's 8-0 win over District 5-2A opponent Newberry on Dec. 16 in Newberry.

The Indians (13-1-1, 10-0 in District 5 prior to Dec. 17) have now won 13 straight matches after opening the season with a tie and a loss.

Zach Holman scored two goals, while Karl Dionisi, Zach Fairbanks, Wyatt Graziano and Nacho Grimaldo each had one. Graziano, Holman and Ray Trimble each had an assist.

Prior to playing Newberry, the Indians defeated Crescent City 6-1 and district opponent Eastside 3-0.

Hedding scored two goals in the Dec. 10 road win over Crescent City. Fairbanks, Graziano, Nacho Grimaldo and Ben Jones each scored one goal. Dionisi and Juan Grimaldo each had two assists, while Nacho Grimaldo and Zach Hawkins each had one.

The Dec. 13 home match against Eastside was a scoreless affair until the Indians scored three goals in the final 20 minutes. Holman scored first off of a Juan Grimaldo assist before Holman recorded an assist on a goal by Nacho Grimaldo. Brandon Hannah added the final goal, with Nachol Grimaldo getting the assist.

Keystone played district opponent Santa Fe this past Tuesday and will host district opponent Interlachen on Friday, Dec. 20, at 7 p.m.

Against Newberry, Hanna Crane and Raychel Trimble scored three and two goals, respectively, while Julia Osteen had four assists. Kendall Addison, Moriah Combass and Brianna Zayas each scored a goal, while Crane and Trimble each had one assist.

Keystone played district opponent Santa Fe this past Tuesday and will host district opponent Interlachen on Friday, Dec. 20, at 5 p.m.

Lady Indians split district matches

The Keystone Heights High School girls' soccer team suffered just its second District 5-2A loss on Dec. 13, losing 2-1 to visiting Eastside, but bounced back to defeat district opponent Newberry 6-2 on Dec. 16 in Newberry.

Rachel Lee gave the Indians (13-5, 13-2 in District 5 prior to Dec. 17) a 1-0 first-half lead against Eastside, but the Rams scored twice on free kicks in the last 14 minutes to get the win.

KH girls defeat Rams for 2nd straight win

The Keystone Heights High School girls' basketball team won its second straight game, defeating visiting Interlachen 63-39 for a District 5-4A win on Dec. 16.

Keystone (6-9, 2-5 in District 5) outscored the Rams 20-5 in the second quarter to build a 34-14 halftime lead.

Caroline McCormick and Bailey Zinkel led the Indians with 18 and 16 points, respectively, while Alexa Born had 13 points and 13 rebounds. McCormick had eight rebounds.

Sierra Moore scored six points and had nine assists, while Karla Casas, Caiylen Gonzales, Naomi Proctor, Abbigail Winters and Kristen Wood each scored two.

Prior to playing Interlachen, the Indians suffered a 62-25 loss against district opponent P.K. Yonge on Dec. 12 in Gainesville. Moore and Born scored six and five points, respectively, to lead the team, while Gonzales and Winters each scored four points. Kristin Loznicka and McCormick scored three and two points, respectively, with Zinkel adding one.

Keystone then stopped what was a two-game losing streak by defeating St. Francis 43-35 on Dec. 13 in Gainesville. The Indians trailed 26-18 at the half, but outscored St. Francis 15-8 in the third quarter and 9-1 in the fourth.

Gonzales scored a game-high 21 points, while Moore and McCormick scored nine and eight, respectively. Born added five points.

The Indians travel to Orange Park to play Ridgeview on Thursday, Dec. 19, at 6 p.m.

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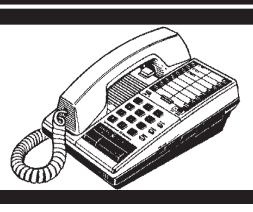

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40 Notices

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41 Auctions

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45 Land For Sale

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46 Real Estate (Out of Area)

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49 Mobile Home For Sale

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, Big roll in ceramic handicap shower, plus bath # 2 doublewide, fully fenced yard, # 3 gates. Florida room. $39,600, trade in your old single wide for down payment. 352-473-5745.

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53B Keystone Yard Sales

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ABOVE: Danielle Warren of Florida State Prison helps Lawtey Community School student Angelina Prevatt try on shoes. LEFT: Brooker Elmentary kindergartener April Albritton gets help selecting the right bike from Carrie Johnson of Florida State Prison.

RIGHT: James Molina of Florida State Prison grabs a gift from the top shelf for Starke Elementary student Adam McCaulley. BELOW: Starke Elementary student Kaylyn Johnson looks over toys as Crystal Young of Lawtey Correctional follows with a shopping cart.

RIGHT: Southside Elementary student Constance Brogdon shops with Paul Rodgers of the Bradford County Sheriff's Office. BELOW: Lawtey Community School student Aden Williams points out what he wants to Chub Johnson of Union Correctional.

SHOP

Continued from 1B

Such sentiments are common. Tew said, "I can't wait until next year," while Goodwin said, "I want to do it every year. I wish I had done it before."

Sgt. Tom Bowen of the Florida Highway Patrol was a repeat participant. He remembers being in awe his first year as he witnessed children enjoying the moment.

"They forget about their worries and things, and they just have a good time," Bowen said. "That's what it's about."

It's also awe inspiring to shop alongside children who think of others when it comes to selecting items to buy.

"What a humbling experience for the kids to come out and not want anything for themselves, to only want to shop for other people in their family," Goodwin said. "It's amazing."

Warren said the children, of course, can buy things for their family members, but he also stresses to the officers participating that he wants to make sure the children buy things for themselves.

"When I brief the officers," Warren said, "I tell them, 'You're going to find that these kids want to buy for everybody but themselves, which is fine to an extent, but I'm counting on you to steer them toward themselves.'"

The amount each child could spend was approximately $100 when the event first began, but as donations have grown, the average amount has fluctuated between $100 and $130, dependent upon how many kids are actually shopping.

Though there is technically a limit, Warren said he factors an overage into the donations made to the program so that a child's shopping total is never below—even by a few cents—whatever that limit is. Children can still get that one last gift, even though it may technically exceed a given year's limit.

Whatever the amount, it's always a given that officers accompany children who want to buy shoes, socks, underwear and other clothing more than they want to buy toys simply because they have a need of such clothing.

"You just don't know how good you have it until you come out and experience something like this," Goodwin said.

Warren said he has seen the experience bring tears to officers' eyes.

"They get to come here and do a good thing for these kids," Warren said.

This was the first Shop With a Cop experienced by Kimberly Austin, who became the manager of Walmart of Starke in February. She described the event as "magical."

"Some of (the children) wouldn't have Christmas, and now they do," Austin said. "It touches your heart.

Surely, even the grinchiest Grinch couldn't help but be affected.

Southside Elementary student Alyssa Murphy and her escort, Amanda Wallace of the Bradford County Sheriff's Office, are both enjoying their shopping spree.

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Indians defeat Tigers by 3

Anton Noble scored 10 of his game-high 18 points in the second half, helping the Keystone Heights High School boys' basketball team defeat Union County 49-46 on Dec. 12 in Lake Butler.

The Indians used a 19-1 run—featuring the second of two first-half 3-pointers by Noble and a 4-of-5 showing at the foul line by Kyler Teague—to take a 27-17 lead into the half. Union, though would rally and take the lead, getting six points from Austin Dukes in the third quarter and 3-pointers from Princeton Alexander, Kyle Mosher and Geordyn Green in the fourth quarter. Green's 3-point basket put the Tigers up 41-40 with 3:25 to play.

Union would make it a 43-40 lead when Dukes converted a layup following a steal by Green. The Indians would tie the score on a free throw by Brandon Nicholas and a basket by Noble following his own steal. Nicholas drove the lane for a basket to put Keystone up 45-43, but the Tigers' Daryl Watkins hit a 3-pointer with just under a minute to play to give Union a 46-45 advantage.

Noble drove the length of the court and scored to put Keystone up by one. He then hit a jumper in the lane following a Union turnover to cap the scoring.

Nicholas finished with eight points for Keystone, while Juwan Crum and Buck Shobris each had seven points. Teague scored five points, while Micah Brown and Fletcher Teague each scored two points.

Watkins led the Tigers with 14 points, while Dukes, Green and Mosher each scored eight. Parker Hodgson and Trey Spitze added three and two points, respectively.

Each team was coming off of a loss earlier in the week. The Indians lost 77-27 to District 5-4A opponent Fort White on Dec. 10, while the Tigers lost 70-60 to District 7-1A opponent Chiefland that same night.

Keystone's loss dropped the Indians to 1-3 in district play.

Mosher made three 3-pointers and scored 18 points to lead Union in the loss to Chiefland, with Green and Alexander scoring 12 and 11 points, respectively. Alexander also had three 3 pointers, while Green had two.

Dukes added eight points for the Tigers, while Watkins and Larry Collins scored six and five points, respectively.

Indians drop 54-27 game to St. Francis

The Keystone Heights High School boys' basketball team couldn't ride the momentum of a three-point victory on the road against Union County, losing 54-27 to St. Francis on Dec. 13 in Gainesville.

Keystone (2-7), playing its third road game in a four-day span, got 15 points from Buck Shobris. Austin Bass had three points, while Micah Brown, Juwan Crum, C.J. Rogers and Kyler Teague each had two points. Anton Noble had one point.

The Indians will begin play in the three-day (Dec. 19-21) Lake Area McDonald's-Kiwanis of Starke tournament on Thursday, Dec. 19, against Vero Beach at 6 p.m.

Williston hands Tigers 2nd straight district loss

The Union County High School boys' basketball team was outscored 38-5 in the third quarter of a 71-29 loss to Williston in a District 7-1A matchup on Dec. 13 in Williston.

Austin Dukes had 10 points to lead the Tigers, who were 1-2 in district play prior to Dec. 17.

Princeton Alexander and Daryl Watkins each scored five points, while Geordyn Green scored four. Kyle Mosher and Brennan Clyatt had three and two points, respectively.

The Tigers (2-6 overall) played district opponent Newberry this past Tuesday and will take part in the three-day Lake Area McDonald's-Kiwanis of Starke tournament, which is scheduled for Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 19-21, at Bradford High School in Starke. The Tigers play the first game on Dec. 19 at 4 p.m. against Englewood.

Tornadoes drop 3 straight home games

Bradford High School's boys' basketball team lost all three games of a three-game home stretch, capped by a 62-26 loss to Ed White on Dec. 16.

Oliver Griffin and Alex Mejias each scored six points for the Tornadoes (3-7) against Ed White, while Caleb Jones and Larry Highsmith had five and four points, respectively. Joquez Ivey had three points, while Don Jeffers had two.

Highsmith and Jeffers each had five rebounds.

Prior to playing Ed White, the Tornadoes lost 63-50 to District 5-4A opponent P.K. Yonge on Dec. 12 and 60-41 to Palatka on Dec. 13.

Ivey and Mejias scored 17 and 12 points, respectively, in the loss to P.K. Yonge, which dropped Bradford to 2-2 in District 5. Jones had seven points, while Griffin and Kenny Dinkins each scored six. Tyler Wainwright added two points.

Jones finished with eight rebounds, while Ivey and Mejias each had four assists. Ivey also had seven steals.

In the loss to Palatka, Jones was the high scorer with 10 points, while Mejias scored nine points. Jeffers and Griffin scored six and four points, respectively, while Wainwright, Shawn Aaron and Roderick Broomfield each scored three points. Dinkins had two points, while Ivey had one.

Ivey and Mejias had six and four assists, respectively, while Jeffers had six rebounds. Dinkins and Jones each added five rebounds.

Bradford hosts the Lake Area McDonald's-Kiwanis of Starke tournament, beginning Thursday, Dec. 19, and running through Saturday, Dec. 21. The Tornadoes have a bye the first day and will not play until Friday, Dec. 20.

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