

# Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

Thursday, Dec. 14, 2017

138<sup>th</sup> Year — 19<sup>th</sup> Issue — 75 CENTS



Santa Claus came to Starke — bringing with him temperatures that evoked the North Pole — two preside over the city's Christmas parade, which was equal parts Winter Wonderland and 1950s sock hop.



Victory Chapel's float was a tribute to "Kings of Rock" Elvis Presley, Buddy Holly and Ritchie Valens — and the King of Kings. Portraying Jesus was Michael Selph. The float took top prize for a nonprofit entry. For more from the parade, see inside.

## Confusion, anger after discovery of Cooper's body

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

Confusion, shock and anger are among the emotions Lake Region residents expressed in reaction to the discovery of the body of Jordan Cooper, Saturday at her home off Brooklyn Bay Road in Keystone Heights.

The 25-year-old went missing on Nov. 25. The Clay County Sheriff's Office and other agencies searched the area around Little Rain Lake Park before scaling back the search last week.

On Saturday Sheriff Darryl Daniels announced deputies found a body in the missing woman's home. The remains were later identified as Cooper's.

During a press briefing Saturday night, Daniels did not take questions, and only said a body had been discovered in the home, that the body had been concealed, and because of its positioning, investigators suspected foul play.

Former Keystone Heights High School Principal Tina Bullock, who knew the victim when Cooper was

a student at the school, said many community members are perplexed about the investigation into the woman's death.

"People are confused about why we are not getting more information," she said. "Is there a need to be fearful? Is there a person out there we should be concerned about?"

During its search for Cooper, the sheriff's office said it was withholding information about the case from the public to protect its investigation and out of respect for Cooper's family.

Bullock added that she was surprised that the sheriff's office did not ask for volunteers while deputies were searching for Cooper in the woods around Little Rain Lake Park.

"We're a small community," she said. "People would have turned out in droves for that."

While searching the area around the park, the sheriff's office said it did not request volunteers to assist because additional people in the area would have hindered the work of tracking dogs investigators were using.

Nick McLeod, who owns a barber

shop on north S.R. 21 echoed the worries about community safety that Bullock expressed.

"Of course, we should be concerned," he said. "Somebody killed her, didn't they?"

McLeod said he has heard rumors about the investigation since the girl's disappearance last month: some believable, some outlandish.

He also said many of his customers have expressed anger over the woman's death. Authorities said the 25-year-old victim had the mental capacity of a teenager.

"It's bad enough that somebody would do that to anyone," McLeod said of the homicide. "But for someone to do that to a person with a disability makes you mad. People are ticked off."

Sheriff's Office Spokesperson Sgt. Keith Smith said he understands that the community wants answers. "I get it," he said. "We do want to get the information out."

He also said that if the sheriff thought a threat to the community

See COOPER, 8A

## Police recover stolen handgun at school

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
Telegraph Editor

Lawley police worked with the Clay County Sheriff's Office to recover a stolen firearm that wound up in a retention pond at Lawley Elementary School.

Lawley officer Michael Starling was called to the scene of a possible crime around 11 p.m. Dec. 4 by a fellow officer, Brian Jones. Jones was off duty at his residence when he saw a suspect, later identified as 46-year-old Alvin Jenkins of Lawley, rummaging through a car in front of the Lawley Baptist Church parsonage.

The suspect was riding down Adams Street on a bicycle wearing dark clothes and an orange ski mask. Jones said he saw the man lay the bike on the side of the road, enter the yard and being looking through the vehicle.

Starling responded to the area and saw a man on a bicycle who matched the description and who appeared to be in a hurry. The officer saw the suspect turn south onto the sidewalk along U.S. 301 next to Lawley Elementary

School. Starling stopped Jenkins at the Shell Station. Told he was being detained, Jenkins was taken via patrol car to the residence of the alleged crime where Jones was waiting.

Jones identified Jenkins as the suspect he had seen earlier.

Starling spoke to the residents and told them Jenkins was seen prowling around the residence and digging through the car. The car's owner confirmed that the contents had been scattered, that her ATM card had been tampered with and that a Taurus 9 mm handgun was missing from the center console.



Jenkins

See GUN, 5A



Clay County Dive Team members C. Garrison and C. Faircloth search a retention pond at Lawley Elementary School to recover a stolen pistol. Photo courtesy of Lawley Police Department.

## Man dies in Monday crash

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
Telegraph Editor

A Starke man was killed in a Monday night crash in Alachua County, according to the Florida Highway Patrol.

Twenty-five-year-old Austin Tison of Starke was a passenger in the vehicle that crashed at the intersection of County Road 225 and Northeast 199<sup>th</sup> Lane.

The driver, 21-year-old Austin Yarbrough of Melrose, was taken

to UF Shands Hospital in critical condition.

Yarbrough was driving on the north shoulder of C.R. 225 around 9:10 p.m. when the 2017 Volkswagen Jetta stuck a culvert and went airborne, colliding with a tree. The car overturned, landing on its roof.

Tison was a pediatric nurse for Shands. He went to work for the hospital in June 2016 after graduating from Santa Fe College.

FHP is investigating the cause of the accident.

## Shands Starke announces new CEO

Shands Starke Regional Medical Center is pleased to announce the appointment of John Emery, MHA, as chief executive officer effective Jan. 8, 2018.

Emery is currently Chief Operating Officer at Lower Keys Medical Center, a 167-bed hospital in Key West, Florida. During his time there, he was instrumental in leading the hospital's renovation and construction projects and developing several new service lines. He also gained significant disaster preparedness and response experience this fall as the hospital maintained the safety of its patients and prepared the building to sustain and recover from the impact of Hurricane Irma.

"John's tireless energy, dedication and extensive health care administrative background make him an excellent choice to lead our

extraordinary team of professionals at Shands Starke Regional Medical Center," said Rhonda Sherrod, chief executive officer of Shands Market Hospitals.

Emery has been an active member of the Key West community, participating in American Cancer Society's Relay for Life and Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, representing the hospital in chamber of commerce events, and serving as a board member for United Way of the Florida Keys.

Emery holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Florida at Gainesville and a masters of health administration from the University of Florida.

For more information about Shands Starke Regional Medical Center visit ShandsStarke.com.



John Emery



# Starke presents Sock Hop Christmas



Santa can always hitch a ride with the Starke Fire Department.



Scott's Cycles float-sized diorama of a sock hop won first place in the commercial division.



The Cub Scouts put their "Do Your Best" motto in practice with their float, which one the prize in the youth division.



Doing the hand jive on the award-winning Victory Chapel entry were greasers Cory Adams and Dillon Parker with Hanna Linehan and Jamie Griffis in their poodle skirts. Colby Baker portrays Buddy Holly in the background.



Starke City Commissioner Travis Woods and City Manager Bob Milner.



Communities in Schools Director Shannon Rowe and her husband, Jonathan, who was driving for Rep. Bobby Payne staff member Tammy Still and her mother.

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Starke Fire Chief Gary Wise with his daughter, Paxon, to his right and Addison Andrews. And in the back, Sparky the Fire Dog!



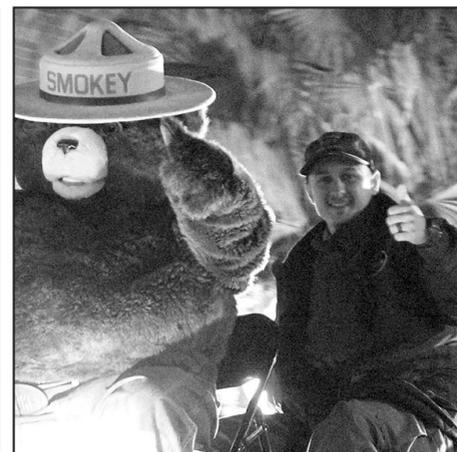
The Kiwanis Builders Club from BMS includes Edward Hawkins, Owen McKinney, Justin Knights and Leon Cribbs.



American Legion Adjutant Mel Koski and Post Commander Raymond Hunt.



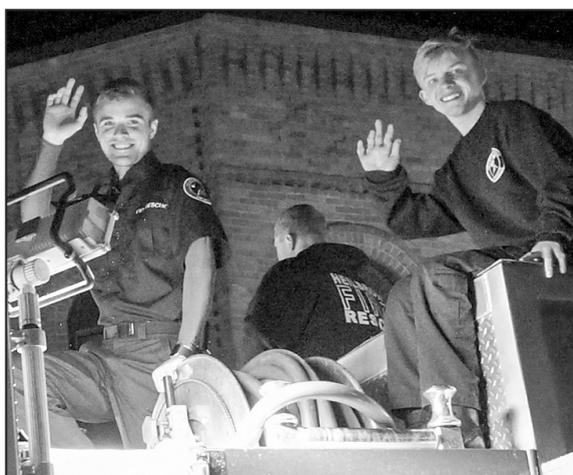
All-Stars Twirling Academy's Elizabeth Stoeber, Maudry Tenly and Logan Andrews.



Smokey Bear and forest ranger Cody Wall



Strawberry Princess Rebekah Milner



Joey Allen, Riley Miller and Kyle Funderburk with the Heilbronn Springs Volunteer Fire Department.



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Starke City Commissioner Danny Nugent and his bucket of Halloween candy!

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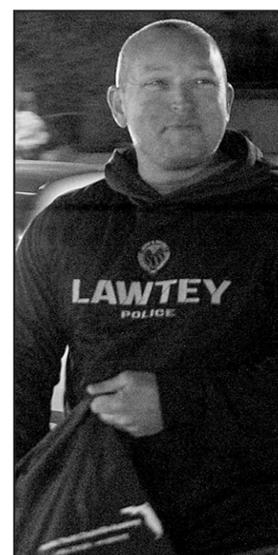
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## Living in camper, code enforcement says no

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
Telegraph Editor

A Bradford County woman is asking for a Christmas miracle after being told by code enforcement that she and her husband cannot continue to live in their travel trailer.

Deborah Prevatt reached out to say she doesn't know what to do after being told the county's land development code doesn't allow travel trailers to be used as permanent residences.

"It's just about ruined Christmas for me," she said of being told the only place they have to live isn't suitable. "I don't know what we're going to do or what's going to happen."

Prevatt said she and her husband had to move into the travel trailer after the roof on their mobile home caved in due to extreme water damage.

The Prevatts' living situation was brought to code enforcement's attention by a complaint. Lt. Raymond Shuford, who oversees code enforcement, said the sheriff's office doesn't actively seek them out, but it's not the first time they've had a travel trailer case like this.

It's not the first time they've dealt with the Prevatts either, he said, calling them repeat violators.

"This is not the first nor the second time we've dealt with them over the same kind of issue," Shuford said.

Prevatt confirmed that they've been back and forth between the camper and the aging 1970 mobile home, but they've been in the travel trailer full time for about a year now.

Their property is located on Southwest 70th Avenue, off of Southwest County Road 227. The neighborhood is a mixture of houses and mobile homes. The two and a quarter acres that make up the Prevatt homestead have a cell phone tower on the north side, houses on the south, and it shares a property line with Sampson City Baptist Church to the east.

Her husband, a former truck driver, has lived in Bradford County his entire life. She's been here 45 years, and they have lived on this property for 27 years. Ironically, their first residence on the property was a travel trailer. It wasn't until they acquired a property next door that they were able to move into a mobile home.

She said her stepson tried to repair the roof several times on the old mobile home but was unsuccessful, so he gave them the travel trailer where they are living now.

"They came out here and told us we're not allowed to live in our travel trailer on our own land," she said.

If they don't find a solution, the family could be facing fines of up to \$250 a day for being in violation of the land development regulations.

"There's nothing we can do. We don't have the money to buy another trailer. That one can't be fixed because it's so bad," she said.

One of the factors now that makes the Prevatt case a problem for code enforcement is the proliferation of travel trailers on the site. There are three now. Prevatt said her sister stays in one and her granddaughter uses another during the day to get some privacy. One she described one as a motor home that wasn't capable of travel.

They were given 30 days to come into compliance, but Shuford said a fine won't happen that quickly, if at all. The code enforcement office doesn't make those decisions; a judge does after listening to the facts during a formal hearing. But code enforcement can take a case to the magistrate if it is not resolved in a reasonable amount of time.

Shuford said code enforcement understands the Prevatts have problems, but that doesn't mean they can live in a camper when doing so violates the LDRs.

"The property is not properly zoned for nor do they have all of the things in place in order to be able to do that safely," he said. Again, this all goes back to health and safety."

There are campgrounds that accommodate travel trailers for six months at a time, Shuford said. Of course, one has to be able to afford that option.

Prevatt said their sole income is her husband's retirement check.

They were encouraged to contact the county's SHIP office to see if there was a housing assistance program that could help them, but Prevatt said there was not. A phone call to the Suwannee River Economic Council was equally fruitless.

Which leaves the Prevatts at the mercy of the county's timeline.

Shuford said they spend a lot of time trying to work with people and helping them find a solution before getting a magistrate involved. If that happens, then the land development code is not in their favor, he said, and daily fines could begin accumulating.

Because the county has faced the issue of residents living in campers in the past, the county manager was granted authority to issue a temporary permit to allow it if the arrangement was transitional. Those permits are not open-ended, and residents must be working toward a permanent housing solution.

"If they need help, we'll find them some help," Shuford said. "But just for us to turn our head away from somebody living in a camper trailer, that's not going to happen."

Prevatt said the situation has left her feeling hopeless, and she hopes that by reaching out they will find someone who can help.

## Lodge travels, holds dinner to honor member's wife



On Nov. 9, Worshipful Master David Kniseley of Bradford Lodge No. 35 in Starke, received the "Traveling Gavel" from Worshipful Mike Hinson, president of the 10th Masonic District Master Masons Association. The "Traveling Gavel" is awarded to the Lodge that has the most members present at the monthly meeting. The 10th District covers Bradford, Union, Alachua, and part of Gilchrist and Levy counties.



The Bradford Lodge No. 35 of Free and Accepted Masons, on Nov. 13, held a dinner and ceremony in honor of Winnie Camacho, whose husband, Francisco Camacho, had been an integral member of Bradford Lodge 35 for decades as well as having been bestowed the high honor of becoming the District Deputy Grand Master for District 10. The ceremony was preceded by a fellowship of many old friends and a meal catered by The Steakhouse in Starke. Pictured (l-r): Bradford Lodge's Worshipful Master David H. Kniseley, Winnie Camacho and Right Worshipful Roy Weiland, who conducted the presentation.

## Starke water restored after main ruptures

### 48-hour boil water advisory began Tuesday night

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
Telegraph Editor

A water outage affecting a portion of Starke eventually spread citywide when the flow had to be stopped completely to address a broken main.

Normally, such an outage would remain isolated to the immediate area of the problem, but the city couldn't find the valve to cut water to that section.

The area south and west of

Orange and Madison streets lost water Tuesday morning when a fire hydrant installation contributed to the rupture of a 12-inch water main on Edwards Road.

It's happened before, City Manager Bob Milner said. The aging pipes are rusted through in some places and work in one area can cause a catastrophe a couple of hundred yards down the line.

At one point, Milner had 15 city employees shutting off every valve they came across to find the one that would cut off the water to the busted line so it could be repaired. They had no luck.

Eventually, they had to bite

the bullet and shut off the entire city. After studying surveys and maps and twisting all those valves, they concluded there was no other way to get the Edwards Road main repaired.

Milner said they waited until the school day was over, notified the hospital and others, and put the word out that the city would be without water until around 6 p.m.

The city manager estimated the water was eight feet deep and still streaming out of the pipes when workers were finally able to begin the repair work.

Water was restored Tuesday

evening, but customers were warned their water could appear cloudy or rusty, or they may experience irregular water pressure. As a precaution, everyone was told to boil all water used for drinking, cooking, making ice, brushing teeth or washing dishes.

A bacteriological survey will determine when water is safe to drink without this precaution, but that could take up to 48 hours, customers were told.

Anyone with questions can contact Starke City Hall at 904-964-5027.

## Lawtey parade Dec. 16

Come see Santa at the city of Lawtey's annual Christmas parade, which will take place Saturday, Dec. 16, at 10 a.m. There will be entries from community and church groups, classic cars and motorcycles, and more.

The parade begins at Lawtey Elementary School and travels east onto Lake Street and crosses U.S. 301. The lineup will turn around at Walk by Faith Ministries and travel back to the school.

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

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# ACROSS THE GARDEN FENCE

Across the Garden Fence is sponsored by the Bradford County Extension Service. Readers who wish to pose gardening questions should forward them to Jim DeValerio at [jtd@ufl.edu](mailto:jtd@ufl.edu).

## Christmas cactus

Right before Thanksgiving I visited a nearby nursery, looking for a Christmas cactus to give as a gift. Not finding any, I spoke with the manager and learned that many of the cactus greenhouses lost their roofs in the hurricane. Sadly, because cactus are affected by light, he predicted that many will not actually bloom in time for Christmas this year.

I found this disappointing and was thankful I'd protected my plants during the storm. So if yours are flowering, congratulations. I'm happy that my plants seem to be thriving this year in their west facing home on my screened porch.

What you can do to get your cactus to bloom in December? I actually went back to the article I wrote last December and was reminded of another way to encourage blooms if the plants haven't had enough darkness. Cactus can be subjected to cooler temperatures of about 50 to 55 degrees. These treatments



Cactus de Noël by Empereur Day.

should have begun in early November. You're in luck if your cactus has been outside, since we've been having cooler nights for a while now.

The most noted way to encourage blooms is to give it an uninterrupted dark period approximately 12 hours each night. This treatment should have begun in mid-October in order to have plants in full bloom by the holidays. I'm

anxious to acquire plants that produce white or yellow flowers, since all of my blooms are in shades of pink and red. Cactus flowers can actually range in color from yellow, salmon, pink, fuchsia and white, or combinations of those colors.

Are you aware there are three different species of holiday cactus? They all look alike at first glance, but knowing which one is which can be important if flowers are expected in any particular seasonal time frame. The majority of the plants labeled and sold as Christmas cactus are actually Thanksgiving cactus, and the Easter cactus is hardest to find for sale. A quick internet search will help you discover the unique characteristics of each kind.

### Planting and care

A low-maintenance plant, Christmas cactus should be watered periodically, but not excessively. A hole in the bottom of the pot is a must. Christmas cactus can be prone to bud drop, so avoid extreme environmental changes. Keep them away from drafts or heat sources (vents, fireplaces or televisions). Avoid letting the plants get too dry between watering. The stems and roots can rot if the soil holds too much water. Fertilize plants only during their growing season (April to September).

Good luck in having blooms on your holiday cactus this year!

Lynn Bryan, Master Gardener

Correction from the last issue: Cedar Lakes Woods and Gardens is in Levy County, not Marion County.

The University of Florida is an equal opportunity institution.



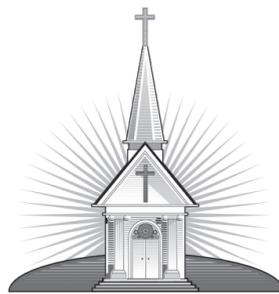
Drawing of *S. russelliana*, the type species, from the Botanical Magazine, 1839.

# CHURCH

The Joyful Voices of Lawtey welcomes you to Lawtey's annual Community Christmas Celebration at Grace United Methodist Church on Sunday, Dec. 17, beginning at 6 p.m. The public is invited to join in the celebration of this holy season.

Madison Street Baptist Church's worship ministry will present "With a Name Like His" on Sunday, Dec. 17, at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is invited.

Francis Chapter No. 140 Order of the Eastern Star cordially invites you to fellowship at its 106th Thanksgiving service and celebration of St. John the Evangelist Day on Sunday, Dec. 17, at 4 p.m. and Ebenezer Baptist Church in Starke.



Greater Bethlehem Freewill Baptist Church of Starke will hold its annual Christmas play, "The Heavens are Telling," on Saturday, Dec. 23, at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome. The church will hold its yearly Watch Night service on Sunday, Dec. 31, beginning at 9:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to help bring in the new year.

St. Edward Catholic Church of Starke invites everyone to join in celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for this holy day will be celebrated on Christmas Eve, Sunday, Dec. 24, at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m., and Christmas Day, Monday, Dec. 25, at 10 a.m.

Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church will hold its Watch Night New Year's Eve Service on Sunday, Dec. 31, from 9:30 p.m. to midnight to bring in the new year. Breakfast will be served following the service. Everyone is invited to attend.

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

# LIBRARY

The Bradford County Public Library is located at 456 W. Pratt St. in Starke. For a full schedule of events, pick up a calendar from the front desk. You can also get the latest news on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/bradfordlibrary](http://www.facebook.com/bradfordlibrary). For more information on these programs or other services, please call 904-368-3911 or visit [www.bcplibrary.com](http://www.bcplibrary.com).

### Holiday hours

In observation of the Christmas holiday, the library will be closed on Friday, Dec. 22, and Monday, Dec. 25. Holiday hours on Tuesday are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Online library resources are available at [www.BCPLibrary.com](http://www.BCPLibrary.com). For your convenience, the drive-thru book drop is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### Craft for children and teens — Dec. 11

Decorate a cup for Christmas to give as a gift or keep for yourself. Amy will provide the markers needed to create designs, candy to fill the cup and cellophane to wrap it up. Participants can bring their own white teacup or pay \$1 prior to the event. Registration is required. The craft begins at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 11.

### Holiday painting — Dec. 12

Paint a canvas to give as a gift or add to your home's décor. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced artist, getting together with others to paint has its rewards. Get inspired by others, learn some new techniques, and meet some new people. Join us in the afternoon at 3:30 p.m. or in the evening at 5

p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 12.

### Stress-free painting — Dec. 13

Take a break from Christmas crowded stores and long checkout lines. Relieve stress with art therapy at the library. Listen to the soothing sounds of musical legends, find inspiration in the artwork of others, and let the brushstrokes bring comfort to your soul. The program begins at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 13. Paper and paints are supplied at no cost. Canvas prices begin at \$1. Registration is recommended but walk-ins are welcome. Children will not be admitted.

### Santa Claus — Dec. 14

Santa Claus will be at the library on Thursday, Dec. 14, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.! Bring a camera to take a family photo with the jolly man. Attendance is free. All children between the ages of birth to 12 years are invited.

### Movie for adults — Dec. 15

The library is showing a free movie that is based on a bestselling memoir by Jeannette Walls. The story is about free-spirited parents whose unconventional ways both inspire and inhibit their four children. The movie begins at 10 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 15.

### Activity day for adults — Dec. 18

Join us from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the library on Monday, Dec. 18, to enjoy a variety of activities for adults. Play cards, participate in board games or relax with adult coloring pages. Attendees

are welcome to bring a lunch. Coffee will be provided.

### Holiday Elf — Dec. 18

Join us for a children's comedy show that will have you laughing out loud. The hysterical Holiday Elf will perform magic at the library on Monday, Dec. 18, from 6 to 7 p.m. Attendance is free. Contact Misty at 904-368-3922 for more information.

### Christmas party — Dec. 19

Celebrate the start of Christmas break with fun holiday games, challenging trivia, delicious snacks and an entertaining superhero television special. Everyone between the ages of 8 to 19 are invited. Attendance is free. The program begins at 2:30 p.m. on Dec. 19.

### Books and brunch — Dec. 21

December is a free read month for the library's book club. Select a book that you would pick out as a gift for somebody else. We will discuss the novels on Thursday, Dec. 21. Bring lunch money; the discussion will take place at a local restaurant. Meet at the library at 11:30 a.m.

### Women's Expo — Feb. 2

To help people connect, the library is hosting a Women's Expo on Friday, Feb. 2, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Space is available for organizations, vendors and demonstrators. To apply for a space, stop by the front desk of the library and request a form. Contact Kathy at 904-368-3921 for more information.

# GUN

Continued from 1A

Jenkins was placed under arrest and agreed to answer questions, admitting he had taken and thrown the gun into a retention pond while passing the

school. He had stolen it while searching the car for valuables, he said.

Lawtey police secured the retention ponds until daylight when they could be searched. Sgt. Michael Gillick reported to the school the next morning and county employees were brought in to begin pumping water from

the ponds.

The Clay County Dive Team arrived that afternoon and searched the northern pond without success. A backhoe removed vegetation and gave them access to the southern pond where, with the help of metal detectors, they were able to locate the pistol.

In a subsequent interview with Gillick, Jenkins again admitted to taking and tossing the gun, saying he made a mistake knowing that there would be children around the school. He said he got scared when he heard the vehicle approaching from behind and that is why he threw the gun.

He denied any involvement in other car burglaries.

Jenkins, who has served time for burglary and grand theft, is facing new charges of burglary, loitering or prowling, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, grand theft of a firearm, fleeing police, obstruction and tampering with evidence. He is in custody at the Bradford County Jail with bond set at \$120,000.

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# HONOR ROLL



SOUTHSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FIRST-GRADERS MAKING STRAIGHT A HONOR ROLL FOR THE FIRST NINE WEEKS: (l-r) Maleah Kohn, Savannah Scott, Chase Small and Jon Wilburn.



SOUTHSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SECOND-GRADERS MAKING STRAIGHT A HONOR ROLL FOR THE FIRST NINE WEEKS: (l-r) Briazia Burch, Hannah Kirksey, Kaedan Parks, Courtni Peaugh and Jayda N. Sambolah.



SOUTHSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL THIRD-GRADERS MAKING STRAIGHT A HONOR ROLL FOR THE FIRST NINE WEEKS: (l-r) Addisyn Breaux and Abrahm Gideons.

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SOUTHSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOURTH-GRADERS MAKING STRAIGHT A HONOR ROLL FOR THE FIRST NINE WEEKS: (l-r) Kameron Crawford, Peyton Griffis, Allyson McCoy, Allison Melton and Amy Prescott.



SOUTHSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FIFTH-GRADERS MAKING STRAIGHT A HONOR ROLL FOR THE FIRST NINE WEEKS: (l-r) Christopher Hall, Desirae Jones, Ashlin Libby and Alexis Setzer.

# TERRIFIC KIDS



KIWANIS TERRIFIC KIDS AT HOPE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY: (front, l-r) Aubrey Scott (K5), Lilliana Drew (3rd), Aashna Patel (1st), (back) Terry Denmark, Afton Mann (2nd), Luke Drew (5th), MacKenzie McRaney (4th) and Kiwanian Linda Lee.



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# SCHOOL

## Hope Christian celebrates homecoming

Hope Christian Academy celebrated homecoming the week of Dec. 4-8. Themed dress-down days, decorated doors, a pep rally and the annual ROAR were enjoyed by students in early education through 12th grade. Homecoming royalty were

presented at the Thursday evening ROAR event where students enjoyed a Parade of Lions, a bounce house, games, lots of prizes and food. The HCA cheerleaders, basketball team members, and the Key Club were all presented at the ROAR.

Laney Sibley and Dawson Rosier were chosen homecoming queen and king; senior Jacob Lowe was selected prince while Ashley Hughes and Jordan Oliver were crowned princesses.



## HCA Key club donates sock for vets

The Key Club at Hope Christian Academy held a sock drive during October where the students collected 800 pairs of socks for veterans. The socks were presented on stage to Barbara Fischer of the Bradford County Veterans Affairs Office at the 12th Annual HCA Veterans Breakfast and Program on Nov. 9. Pictured with two large boxes containing 800 pairs of socks for veterans are (front row, l-r) Riley Carr, Rachel Williams, Jenna Folsom, Barbara Fischer, Haven Harper, Ella Dinkins, (second row) HCA Director of Operations Terry Denmark, Key Club Vice President Hannah Hagan, Ellie Hall, (back row) Key Club President Jordan Oliver, Secretary Preston Denmark, Treasurer Ricky Walker and Shane Moore. Photo by Lindsay Triplett.



Pictured (L-R): Senior court with their parents: Daniel Wolfe, Homecoming Princess Jordan Oliver, Cindy Sibley, Mack Sibley, Homecoming Queen Laney Sibley, Homecoming Princess Ashley Hughes, Cindy Hughes, Howard Hughes, Jennifer Lowe, Daniel Rosier, Homecoming King Dawson Rosier, Kathy Rosier, and (kneeling) Homecoming Prince Jacob Lowe.



Pictured (L-R): HCA Junior Representative Josh Glisson, escorted by English teacher Sissy Lee. HCA Freshmen Representatives Tiffany Williamson and Dawson Morris. HCA Sophomore Representatives Ellie Hall and Wade Johnson.

## COOPER

Continued from 1A

existed, he would have warned the public.

"In past investigations, where we have had information where the public needed to be on the lookout, we have gotten that information out," Smith said.

"Although I can't release information about the investigation," he continued, "I will say this: Keystone Heights, and all of Clay County is as safe as it has ever been."

He also said that in time, questions about the circumstances surrounding Cooper's death and details of the investigation will come out.

"Let the investigation run its course," he said, "and have faith in the sheriff's office."

Joey Tyson of Bald Eagle Bait and Tackle said most of the people he talks to do have faith in the sheriff's office. He added that he has not sensed the confusion or anger Bullock and McLeod described.

"There is a lot of speculation," he said about the woman's death. "I think the sheriff's office knows a lot more than what they're letting on," he added. "They'll figure it out. They're sharp enough."

## Library co-op meeting

The New River Public Library Cooperative Governing Board meeting will take place at the New River Regional Landfill in Raiford on Thursday, Dec. 14, at 4:15 p.m.

## Medical transport to Gainesville available

Suwannee River Economic Council is providing transportation five days a week to Gainesville. If a client has Medicaid, there is a toll-free number to make arrangements for SERC to be their Bradford County transportation provider. If a customer has Medicare and no insurance, they can qualify for the program.

A minimum of a 24 hours' notice is required. For more details and appointments call Natalie at 844-496-0624 or 386-496-0624.

## Melrose Art Walk

On the first Friday of every month, from 6-9 p.m., the Melrose Art Walk encourages patrons to visit exhibits at each of the town's six galleries. The Art Walk is sponsored by the Melrose All Arts Council.

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## Starke man's book is a Christmas present for all kids

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
*Staff Writer*

Mike Qualls received an early Christmas present — one he hopes will bring joy to other families as well.

Qualls, who lives in Starke, wrote a children's book called "O Little Christmas Tree," which is now available for purchase online at Amazon and Barnes and Noble. It's the culmination of an almost two-year process from when his story was first submitted to Faith Christian Publishing Inc. for consideration.

"It kind of makes Christmas more special," Qualls said.

His copies of the book he was supposed to look over to make sure everything was OK arrived at just the right time, it seemed. Qualls was returning home the



This Christmas is extra special for Mike Qualls, whose children's book, "O Little Christmas Tree," is now available online via Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

night of Nov. 24 after a playoff football game at Bradford High School, where he is the public-address announcer. He had just watched his Tornados lose to Raines. When he got home, a box was sitting on his porch.

"I felt like I had gotten kicked in the gut," the 1990 BHS graduate said. "That game just took it out of me. Then, when I got home — I didn't know what (the box) was. It was just sitting there in front of the door.

I opened it and said, 'Well, look here. My goodness.' That was the first time I had actually seen or held the book. It was pretty neat."

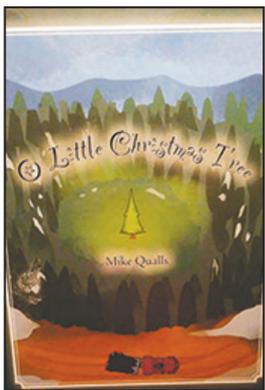
"O Little Christmas Tree" tells the story of Little Tree, who feels neglected as he watches customers buy bigger trees with which to decorate their homes. The story has a happy ending, of course, for Little Tree, with the underlying message that God has a purpose for us all.

Qualls said he feels it's a message important in today's world, citing the fact that children — whether through peer pressure or by watching TV, for example — are basically told they have to meet certain ideals in order to be accepted, to be seen as "cool."

Little Tree, like any child, wants to be adored, Qualls said.

"Not every kid gets up in the morning and feels like they're

See BOOK, 8B



The cover of "O Little Christmas Tree," 20 years in the making and inspired by observing how shoppers bypassed smaller Christmas trees.

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**LEFT:** Student Ashlyn Padgett (right) checks the pulse of instructor Pam Harvey in the Medical Assisting program at the Bradford-Union Technical Center. **BELOW:** Students Tonya Robbins (left) and Amber Garrett practice taking blood-pressure readings.



## B-U Technical Center gives students assist in Medical Assisting

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Staff Writer

Need an assist in getting a job as a medical assistant? The Bradford-Union Technical Center can provide it.

In its continuing role of helping students gain skills and become licensed and certified in a number of career fields, the center has added Medical Assisting to its Health Science program. It was offered for the first time last year, with all three students graduating, passing their national exams and then being hired to work in the field. Seven students are currently enrolled in this year's program.

Instructor Pam Harvey said the number of students has been small, but is hopeful that number will grow over time as more people realize the program is available.

"It's just getting the word out," she said.

The 1,300-hour program, which consists of Monday-Thursday classes from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., prepares students for a career that is growing at a

rate faster than the average of all occupations. According to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the number of medical assistant jobs was expected to increase by 29 percent by 2026. As of 2016, the number of jobs in that field was 634,400.

The reason for that increase is explained on the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics website: "The growth of the aging baby boomer population will continue to increase demand for preventive medical services, which are often provided by physicians. As a result, physicians will hire more assistants to perform routine administration and clinical duties, allowing the physicians to see more patients."

In May 2016, the median pay for medical assistants was \$31,540 per year (\$15.17 per hour), according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

So, what is a medical assistant? Medical assistants are trained in both clinical and administrative duties. Clinical duties include:

See MEDICAL, 10B



Tanner Tyer

## Tyer graduates from UCF

Tom and Sheri Tyer of Callahan are proud to announce that their son, Tanner Jacob Tyer, will be graduating Friday, Dec. 15, from the University of Central Florida with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences—Pre-Medical Track, Cum Laude.

He is the grandson of Tommy and Frances Tyer of Starke and Sherwin and Barbara Carter of Keystone Heights.



Jessica Grimaldo

## Grimaldo graduates from Air Force basic

U.S. Air Force National Guard Airman Jessica A. Grimaldo graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Grimaldo is the daughter of Ana N. Grimaldo of Keystone Heights. She graduated in 2015 from Keystone Heights Junior/Senior High School and earned an associate degree in 2016 from Santa Fe College.



## Bullington receives Wings of Gold

U.S. Navy Lt. j.g. Joseph Bullington, a Lawley native and Bradford High School graduate serving at Helicopter Training Squadron (HT-18), received his Wings of Gold during a winging ceremony on Dec. 15 at Naval Air Station Whiting Field in Milton. Bullington, designated as an aviator, received his wings upon completion of flight school. Winging ceremony is the pinnacle of flight officer training, which lasts approximately a year and a half. The curriculum includes air navigation, pre-flight indoctrination and basic ground and engine systems. The rigorous curriculum forces pilots to retain vital flight operation information.



Dahren Allen and Natasha Hines

## Hines, Allen wed on Nov. 3

Doctor Natasha R. Hines and Dahren D. Allen were united in marriage on Nov. 3 in Miami Beach.

The bride is the daughter of Ophelia B. Hines of Starke and the late Nathaniel Mines. She is the granddaughter of the late Bishop D.L. and Gussie Bright of Lawley.

The bridegroom is the son of Glenda Allen of North Lauderdale and the late Fred Allen. He is the grandson of Myrtle Wright of Pompano Beach and the late David Wright. Natasha is a graduate of

Bradford High School, Florida State University, Hofstra University and University of Phoenix.

Dahren is a graduate of Blanche Ely High School, Florida A&M University and Florida State University.

The couple will reside in Miami.



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## Keystone man arrested for attempted murder

Joseph Allen Stathas, 59, of Keystone Heights was arrested Dec. 6 by Clay deputies for attempted murder and aggravated domestic battery with a deadly weapon.

According to an arrest report, the defendant and victim have lived together as boyfriend and girlfriend for three years. The victim told a deputy that during an argument, the defendant

grabbed the victim's mobile phone and went outside. The victim followed the man into the front yard, where she attempted to get her phone back. She said that during the struggle, the defendant struck her in the face with a closed fist several times.

"The offender then retrieved a handgun from the front, right pocket of his pants," wrote the officer, "pointed the gun at the victim and fired one shot; however, the bullet did not strike the victim."

The woman went to a neighbor's house to call 911.

Deputies later found the handgun in the defendant's front, right pants pocket.

## Man arrested for battery with refrigerator

Russel Allen Suco, 64 of Keystone heights was arrested Dec. 8 by Clay deputies for battery.

According to an arrest report, the victim is the defendant's daughter and the two live together as a family.

The victim told a deputy that while she was getting a drink from the refrigerator, the defendant slammed her head against the appliance, busting

her bottom lip and causing her to lose two front teeth.

"It should be noted," the deputy wrote in the arrest report, "that (the victim) was highly intoxicated at the time of this report."

The defendant told the officer that while his daughter was attempting to get a beer from the refrigerator, he tried to close the icebox to prevent her from getting the drink.

"While doing so," the officer wrote of the defendant's account, "the victim's head was still inside the fridge which resulted in the door hitting her head."

## Woman says she had to use machete to defend herself

Ryan Richard Moore, 33, of Keystone Heights was arrested Dec. 9 by Clay deputies for battery. According to an arrest report, the victim had been married to the defendant for five years. However, the couple has been separated for four years.

The victim said when she and a witness drove to the defendant's home to pick up the separated couple's daughter, the girl was wearing no shoes and a thin dress. She also claimed that when the defendant drove up to the residence with the girl, he got out of the vehicle with liquor and appeared intoxicated.

"The victim stated she became upset because the defendant was drinking and driving, and the two began to argue," a deputy wrote in a report.

Later, according to the victim, the defendant demanded that the child remain with him and

the dispute escalated, while the couple was at the bottom of the defendant's staircase.

She added that after declaring that she was taking the child, the defendant approached her in an aggressive manner.

"The victim stated she picked up a machete that was located by the wall next to the stairs and told the defendant to stay away from her," the officer wrote. "The defendant 'charged' the victim and pushed her to the ground. While on the ground, the defendant pulled the victim's hair and punched the victim on the back of her head several times."

The victim said she then got up and left the home with her daughter and the witness.

The defendant claimed he was defending himself after the victim cut him with a machete, which she retrieved from a shelf over the kitchen sink.

However, the deputy noted that the shelf was too high for the victim to reach, and the scratch on the defendant's arm was not consistent with being cut by a machete.

## ARRESTS

### Bradford

Austin Michael Bruno, 19, of Gainesville was arrested Dec. 8 by Bradford deputies for possession of marijuana and possession of drug equipment. He was released without bond.

Charles M. Chason, 44, of Jacksonville, was arrested Dec. 7 by Bradford deputies for violation of probation. No bond was allowed.

James Tyrone Davy, 44, of Starke was arrested Dec. 11 by Starke Police for three counts of possession of cocaine, three counts of selling cocaine and two counts of public order crimes. Bond was set at \$330,000.

Edward Allen Grover, 50, of Starke was arrested Dec. 7 by Bradford deputies for violation of probation. No bond was set.

Samuel Anthony Hinkle, 33, of Lawley was arrested Dec. 11 by Bradford deputies for possession of marijuana and possession of drug equipment. No bond has been set.

Alvin Jenkins, 46, of Lawley was arrested Dec. 5 by Lawley Police for fleeing/eluding police, possession of a weapon, burglary, larceny, resisting an

officer, loitering and destroying evidence. Bond was set at \$120,000.

Linda Hudnall Johns, 51, of Starke was arrested Dec. 8 by Starke Police for contempt of court. Bond was set at \$5,000.

Jennifer Michele Kelley, 40, of Hampton was arrested Dec. 9 by Bradford deputies for battery. Bond was not set.

Daniel Matthew Mastrollia, 30, of Lawley was arrested Dec. 9 by Bradford deputies for battery, larceny and possession of drug equipment. Bond was set at \$17,000.

Theodore Monroe, 25, of Green Cove Springs was arrested Dec. 8 for destroying evidence. He was released without bond.

Kenneth Grant Outlaw, 36, of Melrose was arrested by Bradford deputies for battery. He was released without bond.

Tyler G. Peraino, 18, of Lawley was arrested Dec. 8 by Lawley Police for resisting an officer. He was released without bond.

William James Reed, 32, of Lawley was arrested Dec. 9 by Bradford deputies for a moving

traffic violation and possession of drug equipment. Bond was set at \$4,000.

Myra Lynn Roberts, 47, of Brookier was arrested Dec. 10 by Bradford deputies for larceny. She was released without bond.

Jennifer Ann Sanders, 18, of Lawley was arrested Dec. 8 by Lawley Police for aggressive assault with a weapon and two counts of resisting an officer. Bond was set for \$10,000.

Joshua Alex Sumner, 32, of Starke was arrested Dec. 5 by Starke Police for burglary and larceny. No bond was set.

Kimberly Michelle Thomas, 32, of Keystone Heights was arrested Dec. 8 by Bradford deputies for a probation violation. No bond was set.

Heather Michelle Thornton, 40, of Lake Butler was arrested Dec. 8 by Starke Police for a moving traffic violation, possession of drugs and possession of drug equipment. Bond was set at \$7,000.

### Keystone/Melrose

Ryan David Fritz, 41, was arrested Dec. 7 by Clay deputies in Melrose for a probation

violation.

### Union

Kristofferson Farmer, 18, of Lake City was arrested Dec. 10 by Union deputies for possession of marijuana.

Allen Jones, 51, of Brookier was arrested Dec. 7 by Union deputies for obstructing justice/retaliation against an informant/victim/witness without injury. No bond was set.

Matthew Bryant Morgan, 31, of Lake Butler was arrested Dec. 7 by Union County deputies for cruelty toward a child/abuse without great harm. No bond has been set.

Steven Richard Rollins, 50, of Lake Butler was arrested on Dec. 9 by Union Deputies for driving while license suspended, third or subsequent offense. No bond has been set.

Phillip Anthony Washington, 15, of Raiford was arrested by Union deputies at the Union Juvenile Residential Facility for two counts of battery on juvenile detention staff. A witness reported that Washington struck one victim with a chair and then kicked another in the side while they were trying to restrain him.

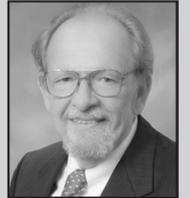
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| Adult General Education, GED, and Applied Academics   | Rudoi       | Call Now  | January 4th - May 25, 2018  | M - F | 9AM - 12PM                               | Vary            |
| Automotive Maintenance and Light Repair Technician    | Rensberger  | Call Now  | January 4th - May 25, 2018  | M - F | 9AM - 3:30PM                             | 600             |
| Automotive Service Technology (AST), AST 1, and AST 2 | Rensberger  | Closed  | January 4th - May 25, 2018  | M - F | 9AM - 3:30PM                             | 1800, 750, 1050 |
| Commercial Foods and Culinary Arts                    | Crews       | Call Now  | January 4th - May 25, 2018  | M - F | M,T,W,F: 9AM - 3:30PM<br>R: 9AM - 7:30PM | 1200            |
| Commercial Vehicle Driving A & B                      | Abercrombie | Call Now  | January 8th - March 1, 2018 | M - R | 7AM - 5PM                                | 320 & 150       |
| Commercial Vehicle Driving A & B                      | Abercrombie | Call Now  | March 12 - May 3, 2018      | M - R | 7AM - 5PM                                | 320 & 150       |
| Computer Systems and Information Technology           | Ledger      | Call Now  | January 4th - May 25, 2018  | M - F | 9AM - 3:30PM                             | 900             |
| Cosmetology   | Kirkpatrick | Call Now  | January 4th - May 25, 2018  | M - F | M,T,W,F: 9AM - 3:30PM<br>R: 9AM - 7:30PM | 1200            |
| Diesel Maintenance Technician                         | Rensberger  | Call Now  | January 4th - May 25, 2018  | M - F | 9AM - 3:30PM                             | 600             |
| Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN)                      | Pusateri    | Course In Progress.<br>Visit www.butc.edu for 2018 application. |                             | M - R | M & T: 8AM - 4:30PM<br>W & R: 7AM - 5PM  | 1350            |
| Medical Assisting                                     | Harvey      | Course In Progress.<br>Visit www.butc.edu for 2018 application. |                             | M - R | 8AM - 4:30PM                             | 1300            |
| Welding Technology                                    | Geiger      | Call Now  | January 4th - May 25, 2018  | M - F | 9AM - 3:30PM                             | 1050            |
| Welding Technology, Advanced                          | Geiger      | Call Now  | January 4th - May 25, 2018  | M - F | 9AM - 3:30PM                             | 750             |

## EVENING CLASSES

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| Adult General Education, GED, and Applied Academics | Rudoi    | January 4, 2018   | January 4th - May 25, 2018 | M, T, R | 6PM - 9PM  | Vary |
| Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN)                    | Pusateri | Course In Progress.<br>Visit www.butc.edu for 2018 application. |                            | M - R   | 5PM - 10PM | 1350 |
| Nursing Assistant - Long Term Care                  | Harvey   | January 8, 2018   | January 8th - May 1, 2018  | M & T   | 5PM - 9PM  | 120  |

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# Tornadoes defeat Taylor 109-42, off to 3-0 start in district

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Staff Writer

It wasn't much of a challenge, but it was still a game the Bradford High School boys basketball team had to take seriously.

Five players reached double figures, with another four right on the cusp of doing so, as the Tornadoes routed visiting Pierson Taylor 109-42 on Dec. 8 to improve to 3-0 in District 4-5A.

Bradford (3-1) is the only area team — boys or girls — with a winning record right now. They're also the only area team with an undefeated district record.

"That's definitely the most important piece right now," Bradford head coach Adrian Chandler said. "During the regular season, take care of your district matchups."

The Tornadoes scored more points in the first quarter than Taylor finished with for the game. Taz Curry and Chris Cummings scored 13 and 10 points, respectively, in the first quarter, which also featured nine points from Jordan Lee and eight points from Tavi'en Young.



Matthew Crawford pulls up for short jumper in the Tornadoes' district win over Pierson Taylor. Crawford scored a game-high 25 points.

Those would be the final point totals for those four players. Matthew Crawford scored 12 points in the second quarter

and 11 in the fourth quarter to finish with a game-high 25. He did a good job of creating opportunities for teammates in the third quarter, rebounding his own miss and feeding Tarrin Jackson for a basket, while his drive to the basket set up another score by J'cobi Harris. Crawford then had a hot start in the fourth quarter, successfully driving to the basket for three scores, while setting up another with a steal.

Harris, Jackson and Dequan Hankerson all had scores off their own rebounds as Bradford never slowed, regardless of who was in the game. Harris and Jackson finished with 12 and 10 points, respectively, while Jordan Hill had nine. Hankerson added eight points, with D.J. Mackey and Jaleen Lane chipping in three and two, respectively.

Crawford and Lee each had six assists, while Hill had five. Harris grabbed 10 rebounds, while Cummings had five steals. Crawford, Lee and Mackey each had four steals.

Bradford opened district play with an 82-43 win over Keystone Heights on Dec. 5 in Starke.

The Indians trailed by just five entering the second quarter,



Tarrin Jackson works himself into position for a shot after grabbing a rebound.

thanks to Eddie Thomas' seven points, but Bradford began pulling away in the second quarter, getting eight points from Curry and outscoring Keystone 19-8 to take a 36-20 halftime lead.

Lee reached double figures in the first half and finished with 17 points, which left him one point shy of team leader Cummings,

See BHS, 6B

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# Kiwanis boys basketball tourney returns Dec. 21-23 at BHS

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Staff Writer

Do you want some hoops to go with your holiday hoopla?

The annual Lake Area McDonald's-Kiwanis Club of Starke boys basketball tournament returns to Bradford High School for three days of action beginning Thursday, Dec. 21.

It's not just a chance to watch eight teams battle for the championship trophy. Paid admission automatically enters spectators into prize drawings. Toys will also be given away to lucky children throughout the event.

Daily admission is \$5. Bradford head coach Adrian

Chandler believes this year's tournament will bring plenty of excitement for spectators.

"If they want a holiday thrill, I think it's going to be fun," he said.

The field consists of the host Tornados, who play in Class 5A, Class 1A Union County and Madison County, Class 6A Santa Fe and Stanton Prep, Class 7A Gainesville, Class 8A Creekside and Class 2A South Carolina team Landrum. Six of those teams (including Bradford) were playoff qualifiers last season, with all six winning at least one postseason game. Creekside, Gainesville, Landrum and Madison County went a combined 94-19 last season.

As has become a tradition, a game between Bradford and Union will be part of the action on the first day, Dec. 21. First, Santa Fe plays Stanton Prep at 4 p.m., followed by Gainesville taking on Madison at 5:30 p.m. Creekside plays Landrum at 7 p.m., with the Tornados and the Tigers then squaring off at 8:30 p.m.

On Friday, Dec. 22, the Santa Fe-Stanton Prep and Gainesville-Madison losers play at 4 p.m., while the Creekside-Landrum and Bradford-Union losers will play at 5:30 p.m. The Santa Fe-Stanton Prep and Gainesville-Madison winners play at 7 p.m., with the Creekside-Landrum and Bradford-Union winners playing at 8:30 p.m.

The seventh- and fifth-place games take place on Saturday, Dec. 23, with the losers of the first two games on Dec. 22 playing at 4 p.m. and the winners of those games playing at 5:30 p.m. The losers of the final two games on Dec. 22 will play for the consolation championship (third place) at 7 p.m. The field's remaining undefeated teams will play for the championship at 8:30 p.m.

Chandler said his players are excited about the tournament and ready for the challenge of trying to win it.

"Our guys are just eager this season to prove a lot of the naysayers wrong who say they can't play on a consistent basis," Chandler said.

Bishop Snyder won last year's championship, defeating Fleming Island 84-75. Bradford went 1-2, losing 52-49 to Oakleaf in the consolation championship. Union went 0-3 to finish eighth.



## Scramble supports KHHS golfers

A fundraising scramble was held Nov. 18 to benefit the golf program at Keystone Heights High School. The winning team, shooting 15 under par, was made up of (l-r) Travis McMurtry, Nolan Julius, Joe Pellerito and Wyatt Thomas.



The second-place team, shooting 12 under par, was made up of (l-r) Camille Jackson, M.J. Rivera, Candace Jackson and Kate Huber.



Placing third, and shooting 11 under par, were (l-r) Ron Beasley, Tyler Thomas, David Thomas and Scott Kicklighter.

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*“Christmas”*

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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

\* A Christmas Wish \* \* A Christmas Wish \* \* A Christmas Wish \*

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## UCHS grad Dukes to play in Division II football championship

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Staff Writer

Sophomore defensive lineman Austin Dukes, a 2014 Union County High School graduate, and his University of West Florida teammates will play for the Division II national championship, taking on Texas A&M-Commerce on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 5 p.m. The game will air on ESPN2.

Dukes, the son of Bruce and Kelly Dukes, has played in all 14 games this season, recording 13 solo tackles and 28 assists. He has four tackles for loss, two quarterback sacks, three quarterback hurries and one pass breakup.

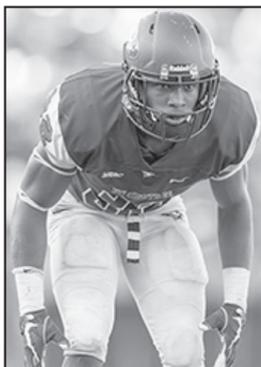
In the Argonauts' first playoff game, Dukes recorded two solo tackles and three assists in a 31-0 win over Wingate. He had one

sack for a 5-yard loss.

Dukes had one solo tackle and two assists in each of West Florida's next two playoff games: a 17-14 win over West Georgia and a 28-21 win over West Alabama.

To get to this Saturday's championship game, the Argonauts defeated Indiana University of Pennsylvania 27-17. Dukes had three solo tackles.

West Florida (11-3) is in its second year of football.



Alden McClellon

(Photo by Kevin Dorsey/  
North Carolina Central  
University Athletics)

## Former Tiger McClellon earns All-MEAC honors

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Staff Writer

Alden McClellon, a 2015 Union County High School graduate, received second-team All-Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference honors following his junior season at North Carolina Central University.

The safety finished third on

the team in tackles with 55 (34 solo), including 7.5 for loss, two sacks and two pass break-ups.

McClellon recorded nine tackles (five solo) in a 60-7 loss to Duke on Sept. 2 and had eight tackles each in a 33-28 win over South Carolina State (Sept. 21) and a 24-17 win over Gardner-Webb (Oct. 14). He had six solo tackles and three tackles for loss against South Carolina State, while his four solo tackles against Gardner-Webb helped him finish as the team's leading tackler that game.

For his career at NCCU, McClellon has 153 tackles (88 solo).

## BHS

Continued from 4B

who scored eight points in the third quarter and finished with 18.

Crawford scored 11 points in the fourth quarter and finished with 13, while Curry and Young had 12 and 11 points, respectively. Mackey and Harris had four and three points, respectively, while Hill and Lane each had two.

Lee and Cummings had eight and six assists, respectively, with Cummings also coming away with 11 steals.

Harris led the team in rebounds with six.

Keystone's Thomas led all scorers with 22 points, while the Indians also got eight points from Sawyer Maxwell. Ray Kirtley had six points, while Marco Flores, Josh Pendergrast and Garrett Stanley each had two. Jarien Woodard added one point.

On Dec. 7, the Tornados got 22 and 21 points from Curry and Cummings, respectively, and held off host team Interlachen for a 73-72 win.

Lee and Cummings scored nine

and eight points, respectively, in the first quarter as Bradford built a 23-9 lead. Eight points from Curry in the second quarter helped the Tornados go into halftime leading by 10, but the Rams outscored Bradford in the second half to make things interesting.

Chandler praised his players for the way they handled Interlachen's second-half run. He said the Tornados did a good job of slowing the ball on offense when they needed to, making good decisions on passing and picking their spots to score, while players did a good job of communicating on defense, making switches to help each other out.

"It definitely showed a lot of maturity and resilience late after God allowed us to get off to a good start," Chandler said.

The coach said Bradford still has room to grow, but the 3-0 district start is beneficial for the players' morale and confidence.

Bradford plays two district games this week, traveling to Newberry on Thursday, Dec. 14, for a 7 p.m. game and then hosting Fort White on Saturday, Dec. 16, for a 7:30 p.m. game.

## Rams hand BHS girls 1st district hoops loss

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Staff Writer

The Bradford High School girls basketball team came up just short in improving to 3-0 in District 4-5A, losing to host Interlachen 32-30 on Dec. 7.

Raynisha Hunter led the Tornados (2-4) with eight points, while Olyvia Griffin and Jah'mya Henderson each had five points. Chloe Raab had four points, while Talia Brown and Regina Roberts each had three. Jade Baker and Dezirae Tabet each added one point.

Baker also had four steals, while Sara Foster grabbed six rebounds.

Bradford played Williston this past Tuesday and will travel to play district opponent Keystone Heights on Thursday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. The Tornados then host Baldwin on Tuesday, Dec. 19, at 7 p.m.

Junior varsity games will be played at 5:30 p.m.

## KHHS boys get 1st district soccer win

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Staff Writer

Goalie Caleb Cushman made six saves as the Keystone Heights High School boys soccer team picked up its first District 5-2A win, defeating visiting Interlachen 2-0 on Dec. 5.

Jay Payne scored a goal off a Landon Ricketts assist, while Matt White scored off a Payne assist.

Keystone (4-4-2) then traveled to play P.K. Yonge on Dec. 11, with the teams playing to a scoreless tie. That put the Indians' district record at 1-3-1.

The Indians played district opponent Crescent City this past Tuesday and will host Fernandina Beach on Thursday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. Keystone travels to play Palatka on Friday, Dec. 15, at 7:20 p.m. and then travels to play district opponent Fort White on Monday, Dec. 18, at 7 p.m.

A home match against Fort White, which was originally scheduled for Dec. 8, will now be played on Tuesday, Dec. 19, at 7 p.m.

Keystone's junior varsity team played Crescent City this past Tuesday and plays at 4 p.m. prior to the varsity team's Dec. 15 Palatka match.

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Glenn Brannen

## Glenn Brannen

LAKE CITY—Glenn Brannen, 70, of Lake City, passed away on Sunday, Dec. 10, 2017, at the Haven Suwannee Valley Hospice Care Center in Lake City with his family by his side. He was born in Lake City to the late Cecil Wilson Brannen and Edith Margaret Thornton Brannen. Mr. Brannen was raised in Lake Butler and was a graduate of Union County High School, Class of 1965, where he lettered in track and football. He made his home in Lake City for the past 39 years and was a member of Southside Baptist Church in Lake City. Mr. Brannen worked for 27 years with Florida Gas, Florida Hydrocarbons (later becoming Enron) and also with the Florida Department of Corrections at Columbia Correctional Institution, retiring with 12 years of service. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, woodworking, making walking canes, raising animals and spending time with his family and friends. He was preceded in death by his loving Dachshund, Roxy.

Survivors include his wife, Delores Box Brannen, Lake City; two daughters, Jackie (Steve) Rossiter, Ocala, and Christie (Chris) Graham, Lulu; four grandchildren, Kailee (Kyle) Markham, Lake Butler, Konnor Rossiter, Ocala,

Natalie Graham and Maysen Graham, both of Lulu; uncle, Dewey (Norma) Thornton, Lake Butler; aunts, Melvina "Bunny" Addison, Gainesville, and June Thornton, Starke; brother-in law, A.C. Box (Johnnie Belle), Lake Butler; sisters-in-law, Emogene Box and Josephine Addison, both of Lake Butler, Alief (Randall) Bryant, Glen St. Mary, and Durelle (Emory) Bailey, Lake City; and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were conducted on Dec. 13 at Southside Baptist Church with Dr. Fritz Fountain, Rev. Herman Hampton and Rev. Larry Sweat officiating. Interment followed at Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, Haven Suwannee Valley Hospice Care Center or Southside Baptist Church Building Fund, Lake City. Arrangements were under the direction of Gateway-Forest Lawn Funeral Home. Please leave words of comfort for the family at [www.gatewayforestlawn.com](http://www.gatewayforestlawn.com).

PAID OBITUARY



Carl Brumbaugh

## Carl Brumbaugh

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Carl R. "Ray" Brumbaugh entered into the arms of Jesus on Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017, at Kindred North Florida Hospital. On Nov. 24, 1933,

he was born to the late Carl and Beulah Brumbaugh in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Ray grew up on a farm in Whitmore Lake and attended a one-room schoolhouse for eight years. Ray was quite young when he accepted Christ at Camp Fahola in Michigan. He graduated from Ann Arbor High School and was the state heavyweight wrestling champion in 1951. Ray attended Bob Jones University, where he met Lovelda Ellison and married her in 1954. He was a brilliant pitcher for fastpitch softball for many years.

In 1960, Ray graduated from Toccoa Falls Bible College with a desire to work with young people. He applied for and was called to be the director of Lake Swan Camp in Melrose. "Uncle Ray" and "Aunt Lovie" served the Lord for 16 years at Lake Swan, leaving behind a legacy of hundreds, if not thousands, entering Christ's kingdom in those days. He and Lovie also served 10 years with the Georgia Sheriffs' Boys Ranch.

Ray became well known throughout the area as a general contractor, being instrumental in constructing many homes and several churches in northeast Florida. In later years, Ray was unable to get out and loved to watch sermons on TV, plus the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. He found great pleasure watching his grandson, Jimmy, coach football at several major universities. He was preceded in death by: his grandson, Todd Brumbaugh; and his sister, Nanci Hanlon.

Ray is survived by: his loving wife of 63 years, Lovie; sons, Gary (Shelley) Brumbaugh, Greg (Kathy) Brumbaugh; daughters, Darla (James Yarborough), Dawn (James) Johnson; sisters, Arlene (Ed) Ayers, Gayle Aseltine, Janelle (Bob) Collins, Becky (Jack) Thompson; "adopted" sons, Paul (Beth) Pendleton, Buddy (Diane) DeGraff; nine grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren; along with many nieces and nephews.

Memorial services for Mr. Brumbaugh will be conducted by: Rev. Frank Smith on Thursday, Dec. 21, at 5 p.m. at Lake Saw Camp in Melrose. The family will receive friends from 4 p.m. until 5 p.m. Following the service, dinner will be provided. The family would

like to invite all to attend. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider making donations to Lake Swan Camp, 647 State Road 26, Melrose, FL, 32666. Arrangements are under the direction and care of Gateway-Forest Lawn Funeral Home, Lake City. Please leave words of comfort for the family at [www.gatewayforestlawn.com](http://www.gatewayforestlawn.com).

PAID OBITUARY

## John Clark

ALACHUA—John William "J.W." Clark, 89, of Alachua died on Sunday, Dec. 10, 2017. He was born in Bland to the late John Bryant and Minnie Lucille Clark. He spent most of his life in Alachua. He sold peanuts in Worthington Springs. He was preceded in death by: his wife of 57 years, Victoria Clark; children, Johnny Clark, David Clark, Kathy Ward and Jeanette Arnold; siblings, Tony Clark, Warren Clark and Gladys Clark.

He is survived by: son, John William (Robin) Clark; daughter, Carol Clark; 10 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Services were held at North Pleasant Grove Church on Dec. 13. Arrangements were under the care of Archer Funeral Home, Lake Butler.

## Wynell Dickens

RAIFORD—Wynell "Nell" Dickens, 83, of Raiford died on Thursday, Dec. 7, 2017. She was born in Sylvester, Georgia, to the late J.D. and Susie Terrell. She lived nearly all her life in Union County. She attended night school to earn her CNA certificate and worked as a sales representative. She attended Evergreen Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by: husband, Patrick Dickens Jr.; and son, Charles David Dickens.

She is survived by: son, Patrick (Barbara) Dickens III; daughters, Sheila (Donnie) Jackson and Julie (Patrick) Berger; six grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Dec. 30, at 11 a.m. at Evergreen Baptist Church. The family will receive friends at 10:30 a.m. Arrangements are under the care of Archer Funeral Home, Lake Butler. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Haven Hospice on Highway 90 in Lake City.

## Robert Glaab

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Robert E. Glaab, 79, of Keystone Heights died Thursday, Nov. 30, 2017, at his home. He was born on Dec. 26, 1937, in Illinois to the late Samuel and Clara (Baine) Glaab. He served

in the United States Army and, prior to retirement, worked for Ford Motor Company.

Survivors are: his wife, Letha (Adams) Glaab of Keystone Heights; children, Kenneth Robinson of Keystone Heights, Marcy Wernig of Plainfield, Illinois, Dorothy Johns of Marshalltown, Iowa, Karla Mueller of Chatham, Illinois, and Dana Robinson of Cairo, Illinois; and sister, Joyce Griffin of Jacksonville. Also left behind are 16 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and many other family members. Services have not been scheduled. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Keystone Heights.

PAID OBITUARY



Malcolm Hill

## Malcolm Hill

STARKE—Malcolm L. Hill passed away Monday, Dec. 11, at age 84.

He is survived by: his wife, Edythe Robinson Hill; his children, Troxie (Mark) Schoenborn of Ocala, Mauriessa Hill and John (Julie) Hill, both of Gainesville, and Robin (Dennis) DiFranco of Huntsville, Alabama; and Edythe's children, Cathy (John) Yax of Sarasota and Mike (Amy) Robinson of Starke. They loved a combined 12 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren and counting.

He was born in Greenwood and raised in south Gainesville. Malcolm served in the U.S. Army in Korea during that war with the 11th Combat Engineers, returned home and graduated from Florida State University and then went on to 31 years in the Florida Department of Corrections before retiring. Malcolm was well known locally for his interests and opinions and often wrote to the paper to express them. Malcolm was a past president of the Florida Peace Officers Association and an active member of the National Rifle Association. Locally, Malcolm especially enjoyed his association and interest with the youth 4-H and FFA groups. He was a life member of the VFW and current member of the Starke American Legion. An avid FSU fan, he made sure the world knew it. Malcolm wanted no memorial and has donated himself to medical research to see what good he can still do.

His family and friends will celebrate his life in the near future. Malcolm also wished that all folks will support youth organizations in their area. He will be missed for all time. Go Noles! Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Starke.

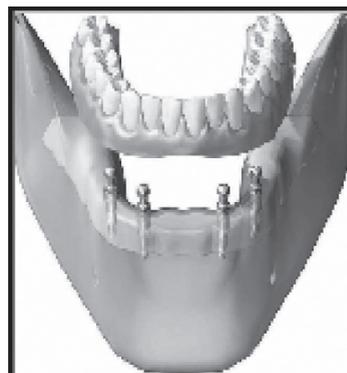
PAID OBITUARY

## Florence Osborn

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Florence Marie Osborn, 95, of Keystone Heights died Friday, Dec. 8, 2017, at Windsor Health and Rehabilitation Center in Starke. She was born in Crawford County, Ohio, on Sept. 18, 1922, to the late Thomas and Mary (Smith) Marsh. She had been a resident of Keystone Heights since 1989 and retired as a toy maker. She attended the Methodist churches in Melrose and Keystone Heights. Her husband of 20 years, William A. Osborn, preceded her in death, along with her daughter, Vera Wilharm, five sisters and one brother.

She is survived by: daughters, Barbara Zeigler of Tennessee and Kae Zueleger of Arizona; stepson, Thomas W. (Mary) Osborn of Keystone Heights; sister, Shirley Barney of Ohio; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The family will be having a private graveside service at Eliam Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family would like for donations to be made to Haven Hospice, 4200 N.W. 90th Blvd., Gainesville, FL 32606. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Keystone Heights.



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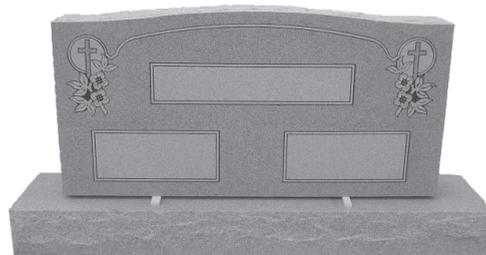
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## OBITUARIES

### Barbara Powell

OCALA— Barbara Louise Powell, 84, of Ocala died on Monday, Dec. 4, 2017. She was born to the late Lawrence and Cedora Gilbert in Jacksonville.

She is survived by: husband, Ray Powell of Ocala; son, John E. (Kay) Jeffers of Chuluota; stepsons, Jonathan (Linda) Powell of Big Canoe, Georgia, David (Lisa) Powell of Lake Butler; daughter, Michelle (Brett) Forte of Jacksonville; stepdaughter, Nancy Powell of Lake Butler; and four grandchildren.

A graveside service was held on Dec. 7 at Varnes Cemetery. Arrangements were under the care of Archer Funeral Home, Lake Butler.

### Mark Robbins

STARKE—Mark Glenn Robbins, 62, of Starke died on Sunday, Dec. 10, 2017, at Shands at the University of Florida in Gainesville. He was born in Independence, Kansas, on Feb. 18, 1955, to the late Lawrence Robbins and Pauline Stephens Robbins. He attended school in Kansas and joined the United States Air Force. Following his discharge from the military, he was an avionics technician. He relocated to Starke in 2012. He was a member of River of Life Church in Starke.

He is survived by: companion, Ethel Storminger of Starke; stepchildren, Mark (Courtne) Bassett of Naples, Joey (Chrissy) Bassett and Amy (Damien) Gagnon, both of Lake City; and three grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life will be held

on Sunday, Dec. 17, at 3 p.m. at River of Life Church, with Pastor Brian Tillman officiating. Interment will follow at Crosby Lake Cemetery. The family will receive friends on Sunday an hour prior to the service at the church. Arrangements are under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services and Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel, Starke.



Austin Tison

### Austin Tison

BROOKER— Austin David Tison, age 25, of Brooker passed away on Monday, Dec. 11, 2017.

He was born in Gainesville on July 4, 1992, to Robert A. Tison and Tammy Guthrie. Austin grew up in Bradford County and graduated from Bradford High School in 2011. Shortly after graduation, Austin attended Santa Fe College, where he earned his Associate of Science degree in Nursing. While attending nursing school, he enjoyed working as a pharmacy technician at Walgreens in Starke. He was currently employed at Shands at the University of Florida as a registered nurse in the Pediatric Oncology department. Austin had a passion for helping others and loved his career. He was due to graduate from West Florida College in a few months with his Bachelor's in Nursing. When Austin wasn't working or studying for school, he enjoyed reading and going to the beach. He also enjoyed all theme parks, but especially loved Disney and Universal Studios. Most of all, Austin loved his family and enjoyed spending time with them. He was preceded in death by: his paternal grandmother, Pamala Sue Tison; and his maternal grandparents, Preston Guthrie and Betty Jo Warren.

Austin is survived by: his loving parents, Robert "Andy" Tison of Starke, and Tammy Guthrie Puckett of Hawthorne; his sister, Brittany Tison of Starke; his nephew, Braxton Smith; and his paternal grandfather, Harry W. and Sharon Tison.

A Celebration of Austin's Life will be held on Friday, Dec. 15, at 11 a.m. at First Baptist Church of Starke, with Pastor Scott Crook officiating. Interment will follow at Crosby Lake Cemetery. The family will receive friends on Thursday, Dec. 14, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Archie

Tanner Memorial Chapel. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in honor of Austin's life to UF Health Shand's Children's Hospital, PO Box 100335, Gainesville, FL 32610. Arrangements are under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services and Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel, Starke. Visit [www.ferreirafuneralservices.com](http://www.ferreirafuneralservices.com) to sign the family's guest book.

PAID OBITUARY



James Walker

### James Walker

MELROSE— James Stanley Walker, 82, of Melrose, passed away Friday, Dec. 8, 2017, at Windsor Manor, Starke. A native of Waycross, Georgia, he moved

to Melrose in 1991 after living in Cocoa for 35 years. He was a retired manager of Southern Bell, member and former director of Lake Region Kiwanis Club and member of Keystone Heights United Methodist Church, Pioneer Club, American Legion, Moose Lodge, Elks Lodge and Jaycees.

He is survived by: his wife, Zolena Lewis Walker, a brother, Frank Walker, Liberty, North Carolina; and a sister, Margaret Ann Outlaw, Patterson, Georgia.

Funeral services will be held 10:30 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 18, at Keystone Heights United Methodist Church, Keystone Heights, with Rev. Jeff Tate and Dr. Tom Farmer officiating. Visitation will be from 9:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. at the church. As a Naval veteran, he will have full military honors at 2 p.m. at Jacksonville National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Lake Area Ministries or E.T. York Hospice Care Center. His care has been entrusted to Forest Meadows Funeral Home, Gainesville.

PAID OBITUARY

### James White

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS— James Edward "J.E." White, 75, of Keystone Heights passed away on

Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2017. J.E. proudly served his country in the United States Navy. He later worked as a master electrician and taught motor electrical engineering. He also owned several small businesses: laundry and dry-cleaning service, print shop and a small-engine shop. J.E. was an active member of the Moose Lodge and the Masonic Lodge. He was also an active Shriner. J.E. was preceded in death by: his father, Edward White; mother, Ruth White; son, Edward White; daughter, Fritzie Galpin; and grandson, Raimon James Stoppelbein. He leaves his beloved family to cherish his memory.

J.E. White is survived by: his beloved wife, Rose Marie White; son, James (Rhonda) White Jr.; daughters, Catherine White, Kimberly (Al) Gonzalaz, Nancy Livenson, and Audrey Brake; one brother and three sisters, Rodger White, Patricia (Glen) Blackston, Deborah (Micheal) Penny and Cheryl (Alford) Fox; 16 grandchildren; and 24 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held in honor of J.E. on Saturday, Dec. 9, at Sardis Baptist Church. Arrangements were under the care of Archer Funeral Home, Lake Butler.

PAID OBITUARY

## BOOK

Continued from 1B

perfect," he said. "All of them are going to have that wish that they could be like this or look like that. This (story) is letting them all know that they're special."

Though Qualls submitted "O Little Christmas Tree" to Faith Christian Publishing in February 2016, the idea for the story was sparked almost 20 years ago when he was watering Christmas trees as part of his job at the old Scotty's in Starke. Every day, he'd see the smaller trees that no one seemed to give a second glance at.

"I'd fluff them up and try to make them look better so you could sell them," Qualls said.

The idea for the story remained in his head, but years later, as he was watering Christmas trees now working for Ace Hardware, it was ready to come out. Qualls said to himself, "You know what? I need to put pen to paper on this idea and see what I can come up with."

Trying to figure out how he would tell the story, developing it from that idea in his head, was the hardest part, Qualls said. After that, actually writing it seemed to come easy. In fact, writing provided a stimulus for more ideas that almost overwhelmed him.

"My ideas were coming quicker than I could write," Qualls said. "I was like, 'OK. Let me take some notes here so I can remember that as we get to the end.' Really, writing it wasn't that hard. It was just getting started and figuring out what story you wanted to tell and then what avenues you wanted to go down."

The story, though, remained tucked away for years. Qualls didn't know what to do with it once he had it written.

That changed one morning in February 2016. Qualls woke up to get ready to go to work. He turned the TV on and immediately heard the following on a Faith Christian Publishing commercial: "Have you written a children's Christian book?"

"I stopped dead in my tracks," Qualls said. "I was like, 'As a matter of fact, I do have a children's Christian book.'"

Qualls did some research on Faith Christian Publishing and read a couple of reviews of the company by authors. He liked what he read and admitted he was ready to "run with it."

"It just opened the door," Qualls said. "It gave me that avenue that I needed to put my book out there."

Upon contacting Faith

Christian Publishing, Qualls was told it would take two or three months for his story to be reviewed and a decision made on whether or not the company would publish it.

"By the third day, after I sent it to them, they were already contacting me, saying, 'Wow. We like it.' That let me know I was on the right path," Qualls said.

As part of his contract with Faith Christian Publishing, a video trailer for the book can be viewed on YouTube (search for "O Little Christmas Tree by Mike Qualls").

"I've never had anything on YouTube before," Qualls said. "That is an absolute first right there."

Could he one day have something on television? Qualls believes his story would work well just like another holiday staple.

"We've watched 'A Charlie Brown Christmas' for eons," Qualls said. "How come we can't make a little television cartoon out of 'O Little Christmas Tree?'"

One of his ideas became a book, so why not?

"I didn't think it could get this far," Qualls said, "but it did. You never know."

Now that he's a published author, could there be another book in the works?

"I've already been toying with the idea, thinking about targeting

Easter this time," Qualls said.

For now, it's all about Christmas, a special time for the Qualls family that just became even more special with the arrival of "O Little Christmas Tree."

"It's just something we can all share as a family," Qualls said.

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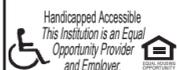
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Amber Langford (left) and Keearah Galvao are two of seven students taking Medical Assisting this year.

Center as Practical Nursing, Commercial Foods and Culinary Arts, Cosmetology, Commercial Vehicle Driving and Welding Technology, just to name a few. It's a way of better meeting the needs of students looking for career opportunities.

"I think it's awesome," Harvey said. "You have students that don't really know what they want in life. They haven't made that decision of what they want to do. We have enough programs that can get their foot in the door."

If you'd like to know more about Medical Assisting, please call the Bradford-Union Technical Center at 904-966-6764, or visit butc.edu.



Lanie Tillman (center) plays the role of the patient, who is being cared for by Lynn Cann (left) and Toby Norris. The three women graduated from the Bradford-Union Technical Center's first Medical Assisting class last year.

## MEDICAL

Continued from 2B

taking medical histories, explaining treatment procedures, preparing patients for exams, assisting physicians during exams, collecting and preparing lab specimens, performing basic lab tests, instructing patients about medications and special diets, preparing and administering medications as directed by a physician, authorizing prescription refills as directed, drawing blood, taking electrocardiograms and removing sutures and changing dressings.

Administrative duties include: using computer applications, answering phones, greeting patients, updating and filing medical records, coding and filling out insurance forms, scheduling appointments, arranging for hospital admissions and lab services, and handling correspondence, billing and bookkeeping.

Harvey said medical assistants can work in doctors' offices and clinics as well as in hospitals in certain areas.

"Most places hire them for the clinical area," Harvey said, "but in a smaller office, like for a doctor or two who would just be independent doctors, they might do the whole office."

Whether looking for a long-term career in the field or not, medical assisting can help students determine what career path in health they'd eventually like to take.

"Sometimes, they come in because they think they want to be in the medical field, but they're not sure what they want to do," Harvey said. "This is like a starting ground for some of them. Some of them will, of course, go on to be nurses and x-ray techs and whatever, but it gives them kind of an idea. It's a good place to be because you get kind of a sample of a lot, especially in the bigger clinics."

Students focus on studying medical terminology, medical law and ethics and general health information as part of the Bradford-Union Technical Center's Medical Assisting program. Then they delve into the hands-on training, which most students would like to do from the get-go.

"They're eager to learn," Harvey said. "All these, for most of them, are new skills. They've seen it on TV, or they've seen it in the doctor's office. They're like, 'Oh, I think I want to do that,' but they don't realize you've got to learn this part before you do this part. As much as you like hands-on, you still have to have that knowledge behind it."

Students learn such things as how to draw blood, do electrocardiograms, provide wound care and perform various lab tests. A computer program that comes with their textbooks gives them a taste of the administrative-type of work they could wind up doing.

"It's actually like a simulator of the computer program that the offices use, so they have practice putting in orders and information and demographics," Harvey said.

Students get externship opportunities at Shands Starke Medical Group during the course's final 200 hours.

Medical Assisting complements such programs at the Bradford-Union Technical

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