

# Bradford County Telegraph

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138<sup>TH</sup> YEAR — 26<sup>TH</sup> ISSUE — 75 CENTS



## Author at Wings of Dreams breakfast

Wayne B. Wetherington will speak about his book "Marianna to Mooseburg" at the Wings of Dreams breakfast on Saturday, Feb. 3, at 8:30 a.m. at the Keystone Heights Airpark.

Wetherington will also sign copies of the book, which is a true story about two brothers. Contact him at 352-219-5102 if you are interested in purchasing a copy.

Tour the Wings of Dreams museum, see planes and artifacts from World War II, and learn about the lives of veterans who served their country.

For more information, contact Bob at 352-219-2285.

## Interested in college? New Student Night is for you

Santa Fe College Andrews Center will host New Student Night in the Cultural Building, 201 E. Call St., on Tuesday, Feb. 6, at 6 p.m. New Student Night is for graduating high school students and members of the community who are interested in attending Santa Fe College.

The session will go over admissions, financial aid, residency and scholarships. Advisors from the Andrews Center, health sciences, business, emerging technologies, zoo, digital media, financial aid and many other departments will be attending to talk with prospective students.

This is a great opportunity to take that first step to becoming a Santa Fe College student; receive a lot of information in a relaxed atmosphere and make contact with people who can help you get started.

## Valentine's Art Party benefits animals

Norman's Produce is sponsoring a strawberry decorating class to raise money for Lake Area Animal Advocates on Tuesday, Feb. 13, at 7:30 p.m. at Bradford Pet Care Hospital.

For a \$25 donation, you will learn how to decorate strawberries perfect for Valentine's Day. Decorate a dozen strawberries with all ingredients provided. Light refreshments will be served. Feel free to bring a snack and/or an alcoholic/nonalcoholic beverage to share.

RSVP by calling 904-964-3906 or emailing animaladvocates17@gmail.com.

The event is held in memory of Hazel Norman, a pet rescued by the Norman family.

## Republicans meet Feb. 8

The monthly meeting of the Bradford County Republicans will be held on Thursday, Feb. 8, in the Capital City Bank community room beginning at 6 p.m. The bank is located at 350 N. Temple Ave. (U.S. Hwy 301) in Starke. All Republicans are invited to attend.

For more information please contact Chairman Richard Solze at 904-964-5803.

## Fire damages Ida Street home

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Managing Editor

Firefighters from Starke and Lawtey, in addition to a county crew based at the Bradford County Fairgrounds, put out a residential fire on Starke's Ida Street Friday afternoon, Jan. 26.

Starke Fire Rescue Capt. Bryan Stephens said that when his four-man crew arrived around 3:45, there was light smoke coming from the trailer.

He added that the fire started at the stove and flames spread to cabinets above and around the appliance. The home suffered smoke damage in the kitchen and living room areas.

Resident Annie Lee McFadden said she was about to start cooking when she saw flames coming from the stove. "I don't know what happened," she said. "It started from the stove. That's all I know."



Starke firefighters meet after extinguishing a residential fire on Ida Street.

Firefighter Ashley Burkhalter interviews resident Annie Lee McFadden (center).



Teachers including Virginia Daugherty (center) don't want to lose contract language protecting them from involuntary transfers.

## Teachers take contract conflict to school board

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
Telegraph Editor

Southside Elementary School teacher Virginia Daugherty became emotional while talking about her job and where she works and whom she works with as a calling.

She and several other teachers spoke to the school board and superintendent at a Jan. 29 meeting about the district's desire to remove language from their contract that offers them some protection from involuntary transfers in assignment.

They said they were fighting for more than a contract clause; they were fighting for stability, openness in collaboration and respect. And, yes, they said these things were worth more to them than additional money.

Although things didn't start out that way — the union wanted four steps and the school board wanted to give them one — both sides of the negotiating table are actually at peace with the current compromise on compensation. The union countered with three steps for teachers and education support professionals, and the district is now willing to offer three — two steps retroactive to July 2017 and the third beginning when the revised contract is ratified by both sides.

The district has said this is a package deal, however, and the employees cannot have the money without giving the superintendent unrestricted authority over job transfers. Currently the superintendent can make those transfers, but is supposed to consider seniority when making those decisions.

Daugherty said she doesn't envy Superintendent Stacey Creighton's job trying to fill positions around the district with the right people, but she wanted to know what Creighton would take into consideration when trying to move someone.

"I would like to see that wording, because it kind of scares me," she said. Would factors like home location, childcare and after-school involvement in mentoring or programs like drama be a part of that decision?

"Southside's just a different cup of tea. We don't get extra pay. That's just about improving morale at the school, loving on the kids, giving them something fun," Daugherty said of their programs. Factors in assignment like personality, how they work and what they bring to a particular team are all taken into account by their principal as well.

"It's a calling, and that's all there is to it," she said. "If I had to go to the

high school and I'm at Southside, and I know that's the place I'm supposed to be, I would not be as effective."

When it comes to teacher retention, she said it's very easy to go somewhere else if you don't like what you are doing and where you are doing it.

Teachers like Robin Frazer, who has been at Southside for 23 years, stick around for a reason. She said teacher morale is important to teacher success and creating an environment conducive to education.

"For there to be a high level of morale, a teacher must feel he or she is empowered, that they have confidence that everyone who works around them has always the best interests of the students, their families and the staff at heart," she said. Teachers need to work in a collaborative environment, she continued, one in which they can talk about different approaches to the challenges they face. They need to know if their ideas aren't in alignment with whoever is in charge that they won't face retaliation.

"There's always the possibility that if any one person is given the ultimate freedom to retaliate against someone whose views are different than theirs, to be able to move educators involuntarily out of their positions

See CONTRACT, 3A

See CASE, 2A

## Truck collides with palm tree

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Managing Editor

A 38-year-old Waldo woman was charged with careless driving after she lost control of her truck and ran into a palm tree.

According to Starke Police Maj. Barry Warren, Mellie Judell Holton was driving a 2007 Chevrolet Silverado around 9 a.m. Tuesday morning southbound on U.S. 301.

Holton's truck ran up on the median between Dollar Tree and Bryan's Ace Hardware and struck the palm, which snapped and came to rest on top of the truck.

Warren said there was no report of injury.



Starke Police Chief Jeff Johnson (left) looks over a Chevrolet Silverado that ran into a palm tree on the median of U.S. 301, between Bryan's Ace Hardware and Dollar Tree.



# LifeSpring Church finds building to call home

BY KIM BOX

Special to the Telegraph

After five moves in five years, LifeSpring Church now has a brick-and-mortar structure to call home. Its new venue is 1404 Bessent Road. The building was previously home to the Church of the Nazarene and before that home to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

LifeSpring — an unaffiliated, nondenominational church that came from what Pastor Ken Weaver described as a “God-given” vision — met for the first time in January 2013. Eighteen adults and three children worshipped together in an improv service led by the pastor at the Weaver residence.

After six months of meeting in the Weaver home, the group moved to Starke Elementary for only five months when it received short notice that it had to move again because of a serious mold problem in the building.

The congregation moved back to the Weaver residence for three months and then, finally, to the high school where it met from December 2013 until this past December.

About 65 to 70 adults now attend the church each week, and about 25 to 30 children are involved in the children’s worship ministry.

Weaver said the numbers fluctuate, and that is just fine with him. He said sporadic attendance is a trait of the younger generation — which is LifeSpring’s target audience.

While earlier generations never missed a service, he feels like once young people have become engaged in church, they readily believe and truly understand that everything they do is an act of worship. They do not feel it is necessary to be inside church walls to serve and worship God.

“Our focus is to reach people who may have given up on church,” Weaver said. “Many of them are young adults.”

## Running from God’s call

Weaver can relate to these people because he himself went through a period of wandering and questioning that led to a burn-out on church service. After completing Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, he served as student pastor at Northwest Baptist Church in Gainesville. He then pastored First Baptist Church of Bushnell for 13 years. But in the fall of 1977, he stepped out of ministry, and he and Gayle moved to Starke where Weaver assisted Gayle’s brother, Harry Hatcher, in running The Steakhouse. He still works there sporadically today, serving LifeSpring as a bi-vocational pastor.

After running from God’s



Ken Weaver

call to minister for a while, Weaver’s passion was renewed for ministry. He began to fill in for local pastors while they were away from their churches.

Next, he considered accepting a transitional role in a new program that the Southern Baptist Convention was implementing.

Not only would he serve as an interim pastor, but he would serve congregations that had been through rough times as they sought to heal and reorganize themselves in preparation for their next permanent pastor. Before he could accept the assignment, the program folded.

Weaver felt that every door back into ministry was closing when he and his wife attended a megachurch called NewSpring where his oldest son was serving in children’s ministry. He and Gayle agree that their experience there was one of the major precursors to the birth of LifeSpring.

“Ken was very impressed with the mix of people in this congregation,” Gayle said. “He pointed out a man in a suit worshipping right beside a heavily tattooed young man in everyday clothes and said, ‘There is not a church in Starke consistently reaching these people.’”

Another major precursor to LifeSpring was a church-planting conference that Weaver attended. He said that during the conference, God opened his heart and mind to His vision for LifeSpring, and ideas began to spontaneously spring up.

“He was so excited that he talked to me by phone his entire drive back to Starke from the conference,” said Gayle. “That’s when I knew all this was about to begin.”

## Welcoming worship

Weaver and LifeSpring never want people to feel unwelcome because they do not “look like traditional church people” or act “like traditional church people.” The doors are always open to what Revelation 7:9 describes as

“all nations, tribes, peoples and tongues.”

Weaver said, “This is the way we will worship for eternity and what we want to practice here and now.”

One visitor brought her three teenage sons to the small informal service held Sunday at the new church building, which is undergoing a renovation. Amidst painting equipment, tools and drop cloths, the praise team led a short but touching service. The drummer actually used paint buckets in place of his drums.

The woman, obviously moved by the service, took her sons home to change into work clothes. All four of them came back and pitched right in with the work being done to ready the building for the first official Sunday service there Feb. 4.

The LifeSpring services are non-traditional, and visitors are always welcome. Check the LifeSpring website ([www.lifespring.cc](http://www.lifespring.cc)) for Sunday service times. Weaver said some visitors come and find that they are looking for a more traditional church service. There are no hard feelings, he added, just thanks for worshipping with them and the hope that those visitors will find another church where they feel more comfortable.

“We are not in competition with other churches,” Weaver said. “We chose to meet at the high school because it is neutral ground.”

## Finding a new home

When the church sought its next venue, its goal was to find a storefront or warehouse church — also neutral ground. All kinds of spaces were considered and then a church realtor from Orlando showed them the property they have now purchased. It was not what they had envisioned, and the price was way more than they could afford.

Discouragement set in and, in fact, the church had pretty much stopped looking for a new space. The Orlando realtor called out of the blue one-and-a-half years later and asked if the church wanted to buy the building for \$200,000, a drastic reduction from the earlier price. LifeSpring could not argue or refuse; the deal was considered miraculous and the answer to countless prayers — especially since everything came together just months before the church’s fifth anniversary.

Weaver said that just because LifeSpring is moving into what some would consider a “traditional” church building does not change anything about the group’s cooperative stance. He sincerely desires that all pastors work together and not against each other since they are all supposed to be playing for the same team: God’s Kingdom.



A new home for LifeSpring in a renovated church on Bessent Road.



(L-R) Jake Prevatt, Ken Weaver and Brenden Jackson move pews within the church building.

“These are not our churches,” Weaver said. “They are God’s churches.”

He added that LifeSpring actively seeks ways to work with other area churches.

“LoveWorks” was one such project during which churches came together to do missions and ministry around Bradford County. Weaver would love to see that program become a weeklong annual summer event during which at least 10–15 churches cooperate in provide helping hands and loving arms to those in need.

LifeSpring has also cooperated with other churches in hosting a community Christmas service for several years. The attendance has almost doubled every year. Weaver hopes to engage the cooperation of even more churches in the area for Christmas 2018.

Weaver credited several mentors and prayer partners with great help and encouragement throughout the process of giving legs to God’s vision for LifeSpring. One of them was Clarence Hackett, then interim pastor of First Baptist Church

of Starke. Hackett shared with him the statistic that 70 percent of Bradford County residents are not affiliated with any church.

Even though the congregation is now settling into a permanent home, church members say the new building is not the group’s focal point.

“It’s nice to have a place that’s constant,” said Esther Massey Lawson, who regularly attends LifeSpring. “The building is not necessary since the people are the church; it’s not necessary but still nice.”

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## CASE

Continued from 1A

that if something happens, I may need them. Until you get some proof, speculation doesn’t work,” Smith said.

So far it hasn’t been obvious that there was any wrongdoing, he said, thus the need for a closer look.

Smith has confidence Milner also wants to get to the truth, whereas Underhill does not, or so she wrote in an email to Smith. She believes the city manager will sweep any wrongdoing under the rug out of spite for her.

“We both know Bob Milner

hates me as much as he hates you,” she told Smith.

Underhill, who is currently suing the city of Starke over her termination and the unequal and biased way she says she was treated, complained to Smith she was investigated by his office and FDLE without any evidence of wrongdoing. Meanwhile she said she has given the city proof of the double dipping in the police department, and no criminal investigation has been launched.

At the sheriff’s response, Underhill once again found herself asking, “Why am I being discriminated against?”

A letter from Underhill’s attorney asking the sheriff

to investigate Johnson and his department came out of frustration that no action has been taken by the city since they unveiled the double dipping.

In the opinion of Underhill and the law firm representing her, the chief and his officers are guilty of fraud and theft.

“As this concerns the veracity and ethical behavior of not only the police officers who are sworn to uphold the law but their leader, the Chief of Police Jeffery Johnson, we should all be concerned,” attorney Bryce Krampert wrote to Sheriff Smith. “To this point nothing has been done about this, and the city continues to operate as nothing has happened and seems unconcerned.”

## Melrose Art Walk

Mossman Hall is welcoming back glass artist Beth Cox for the Feb. 2, art walk showing the photography of Jim Redding, who has worked in collaboration with Beth and whose images are reflected in Beth’s work.

The reception will be held in Mossman Hall, 301 State Road 26 in Melrose, from 6 to 9 p.m.

On the first Friday of every month, from 6 to 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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# School

## Students perform in honor band

On Nov. 14, 2017, more than 300 students from across the five counties of Baker, Bradford, Columbia, Gilchrist and Union participated in competitive auditions to become members of a select group of instrumentalists into the North Florida Honor Band.

This prestigious ensemble boasts the 70 best players at both the middle and high school level from across the region and exists to provide an opportunity to take their school band experience to the next level. These musicians practice, perform and learn from a master-teacher as their guest conductor at the event.

Hailing from Bradford Middle School, 26 students under the direction of Mike Loffredo, participated in this year's ensemble. This number far surpassed the previous seven years at BMS and it was a tribute to the hard work and sacrifice of these extremely talented young musicians.

This year's BMS contingent included: Christine Samons (7th, flute), Cynthia Macedo (8th, clarinet), Autumn DeHoff (7th, clarinet), Melanie Sammons (8th, clarinet), Aaliyah McCloud (7th, clarinet), Darien Williams (7th, clarinet), Astrid Sellars (7th, clarinet), Erika Davis (7th, bass clarinet), Joshua Ackerman (7th, alto saxophone), Shawn Davis (8th, alto saxophone), Gwendalynn Payne (8th, French

horn), Nicholas Teague (7th, trumpet), Abigail Clouser (7th, trumpet), Mia Thomas (7th, euphonium), Judah LeVasseur (7th, euphonium), Rhett Bradley (8th, euphonium), Reagan Weller (8th, tuba), Gavin Sakkinen (8th, tuba), Andrew Crews (8th, percussion) and Omari James (7th, percussion).

In addition to those listed above, BMS also had seven students who auditioned into the coveted first chair position in their respective sections: Madison Taylor (8th, flute), Shaynah Miller (7th, bass clarinet), Sabrina Creighton (7th, alto saxophone), Shelby Burkhalter (8th, tenor saxophone), Ancelmo MacedoBanda (7th, bari saxophone) and Nicolas Jordan (8th, percussion).

Across the street at the high school, BHS also had their highest enrollment in several years under second year director Zachary Sullivan. Their esteemed members included: Ryan Appling (9th, clarinet), Zachary Teague (9th, alto saxophone), Cody Sapp (9th, tenor saxophone), Nadia Perez (11th, bari saxophone), Myles Loper (10th, trumpet), Jewel Stifel (10th, french horn), Dylan Snyder (10th, french horn), Mya Kamienowski (10th, euphonium), and Brooklyn Bays (10th, euphonium).

The free concert took place Jan. 26 at the Union County High School Auditorium.



Bradford Middle School band members (first row, l-r) Astrid Sellars, Autumn DeHoff, Judah LeVasseur, Cynthia Macedo, Madison Taylor, Christine Samons, Shaynah Miller, (second row) Ancelmo MacedoBanda, Sabrina Creighton, Aaliyah McCloud, Erika Davis, Abigail Clouser, Nicholas Teague, Joshua Ackermann, Omari James, Darien Williams, (back row) Gavin Sakkinen, Nicolas Jordan, Mia Thomas, Melanie Sammons, Rhett Bradley, Andrew Crews and Reagan Weller. Not pictured: Shelby Burkhalter, Shawn Davis and Gwendalynn Payne.



Bradford High School band members (l-r) Cody Sapp, Zachary Teague, Ryan Appling, Dylan Snyder, Jewel Stifel, Brooklyn Bays, Mya Kamienowski and Myles Loper. Not pictured: Nadia Perez.

## Lowe to be awarded Eagle Scout rank

Jacob Christian Lowe, 17, earned his Eagle Award on Dec. 12, 2017, and will be presented with scouting's highest award on Saturday, Feb. 3, at Trinity Episcopal Church's Parish Hall at 6 p.m. All family and friends are invited to attend.

The rank of Eagle is the Boy Scouts' highest rank and is earned by less than four percent of all youth who join Boy Scouts of America.

In order to achieve the rank of Eagle, Jacob had to earn 21 merit badges and show leadership by planning, developing and completing a community service project. For his project, Jacob cleared and widened trails in the Welatka State Forest with the help from fellow scouts from his troop, family and friends.

Jacob will also be pinned with three additional Palms during the ceremony: two silver (representing 15 additional merit badges each) and one gold (representing 10 additional merit badges) for earning an additional 45 merit badges above the 21 required for Eagle.

Jacob is the son of Jennifer Elena Lowe of Keystone Heights and Leo Donald Lowe Jr. of Gainesville. He is a member of Troop 109, chartered by Trinity Episcopal Church in Melrose. His mother has served as his acting scoutmaster for the past few months, while Scoutmaster Patrick Somers took a leave of absence. Jacob is a brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow's Echocotee Lodge, Outina Chapter.

In scouting, Jacob serves as junior assistant scoutmaster of Troop 109 and has served in many other positions, including senior patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader, troop guide, bugler, patrol leader, librarian and scribe. He earned his Arrow of Light in 2010, the Religious Award in 2012, the World



Jacob Lowe

Conservation Award in 2014 and went through national youth leadership training that same year. He also served on summer camp staff at Camp Shands in 2015 and 2016.

Jacob and his family are members of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Starke where he enjoys singing in the choir and is trained as a youth leader.

Jacob is a senior and attends Hope Christian Academy where he serves as class vice president, homecoming prince, and is active in weightlifting and the Praise Team.

In his spare time, Jacob enjoys playing his trumpet, reading, singing, writing songs and poems, as well as camping and working with youth. Next year, he plans on attending college and majoring in either chiropractic medicine or education.

## Workshop for candidates

Interested in running for local office in 2018? Bradford County Supervisor of Elections Terry Vaughan will be hosting a candidate workshop to answer questions on Tuesday, Feb. 20, at 6 p.m. in the commission boardroom at the Bradford County Courthouse.

RSVP by calling the elections office at 904-966-6266.

## CONTRACT Continued from 1A

and transfer them at will, that fear will stifle these decisions — fear that they will be separated from their support systems, faced with working in positions that they are not well suited for, and leaving their students and families whose relationships have been developed over time," Frazer said.

She wanted the board to revisit the existing and proposed language for the contract and realize that wording that allows one individual to move any teacher to any position at any time is not good for the district.

"This could lead to gross abuse of power and deflate the morale of the employee, the students and the families. This is not good language for a district that needs fresh ideas and new strategies to meet the challenges we face," said Frazer. "We need to feel we can all work together, not clandestinely or just by doing what we are told without question."

She added that she didn't believe Creighton would abuse this power to retaliate against employees, but she wants the contract to protect employees in the future as well.

"I feel that the message we were given was if we want a raise, we need to give up some of our current contractual safeguards," said Frazer. "Personally, I choose

the confidence to safely speak my mind, give my opinion and work collaboratively with my peers over money any day, but to even consider not giving raises to this dedicated group of educators would be dishonorable."

She asked that the raises not be part of a package deal.

Southside teacher Sarah Zipperer pointed to research to say teacher turnover can have a detrimental effect on student growth and achievement, while improving performance in high poverty area schools is tied to both the school culture and work climate's impact on students and teachers.

The proposed language on involuntary transfers robs teachers of certainty regarding their positions and induces an environment of instability, Zipperer said.

"Students simply cannot learn in an environment where teachers are being moved around, and teachers do not stay in counties where they do not feel valued and respected," she said.

Audrey Murphy graduated from and came back to teach in Bradford County because, as Daugherty said, it was her calling. Making the transfer language part of a package deal with raises is an unfair burden for those who oppose it, she said.

"I have people who want to say, 'Well, you just don't want us to have a raise,' but it's not always about just money; respect is also important," said Murphy.

She claimed that state statute puts the authority for placing teachers in the hands of the school board, with recommendations coming from the superintendent and principals, and that the proposed contract language would contradict that.

"Final say should not be solely one person's recommendation," said Murphy, who chose to teach at Southside after substitute teaching at the other elementary schools because it felt like home to her. Her dissatisfaction at being moved would negatively impact her effectiveness at another school, she said.

Creighton passed out statutory language to the school board that supports her role in directing the work of personnel, particularly in regard to requirements noted in a memo from Florida Education Commissioner Pam Stewart. Those requirements include making sure no D or F schools have a higher average of poorly evaluated, temporarily certified or out-of-field teachers than other schools in the district. Students may also not be assigned to a teacher evaluated as needing improvement or unsatisfactory two years in a row.

The district's argument against the current language is that it could interfere with the superintendent's responsibility to assure these and other state requirements are met.

The school board and superintendent were set to hold a nonpublic executive session with its bargaining team following the meeting Monday. The next negotiating session between the district and union teams will take place Friday, Feb. 2, at 3:35 p.m. in the district boardroom. That session is open to the public.

## Veterans dance for Valentine's

American Legion Post 56 is hosting at Valentine's Dance for veterans and their spouses on Saturday, Feb. 10, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the post home, 715 Edwards Road in Starke. Entry is \$5 for couples and \$2.50 for singles. Finger foods will be provided, and covered dishes are welcome. Door prizes will be awarded. RSVP to 904-769-1221.

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## Starke warns of high utility bills

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
Telegraph Editor

Sustained cold weather combined with higher than normal demand for electricity will cause upcoming utility bills to skyrocket, according to a press release from the city of Starke.

The release warns that customers shocked by the cold weather will be no less shocked when they see their bills.

Starke City Manager Bob Milner said the city experienced one of the largest demand months for electricity in recent memory, surpassing even the kilowatts demanded during a hot Florida summer.

According to the release, "Milner said the amount of electricity supplied to businesses and residences between December 15 and January

15 matched or exceeded the amounts delivered during July and August, the two hottest months when air conditioners are at full capacity."

The result is that many of Starke's utility customers will see their January bills "more than double."

"We had a mild fall and many customers did not have to run their air conditioner or heater for several months. Then they ran their heaters full time for several weeks," said Milner.

Starke has been lenient with cutoffs because of the cold weather. The city typically begins shutting off electricity for unpaid bills on the 29<sup>th</sup> of the month but held off at the end of December because of the extreme cold and the holiday weekend.

One result of the extension,

however, is that those already behind on paying their bill will be even more so, and they could be stunned by just how much the past few weeks of running their heaters has cost them.

"We have attempted to remind customers that severe cold or heat is going to result in a significant increase in their electric or gas bill, but sometimes it doesn't hit home until the utility bill hits home," Milner said.

The city has a program for extending utility payments for low-income residents, but Starke is also encouraging those who may qualify for assistance to reach out to the Suwannee River Economic Council (904-964-4545, ext. 22 or 23) and the Salvation Army (352-375-3235).



## Traffic tie-ups result after rain

A Starke Police patrol car guided southbound vehicles on U.S. 301 into the inside lane early Monday after around two inches of rain fell in the area. Police Maj. Barry Warren said a drainage buffer left by a construction crew caused the backup, and the area quickly drained after the buffer was removed. Pictured is the parking lot of Bradford Pawn and Gun, which also flooded. A short in a circuit caused the traffic signal at S.R. 16 and U.S. 301 to malfunction around 4 a.m. Monday. Starke police directed traffic at the intersection until the device was fixed around 9:30. Photos by Dan Hildebran, managing editor.

## Opponents cannot appeal RV park

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
Telegraph Editor

Attorneys for Tom's High on the Hog Real Pit Barbecue were successful in fending off an appeal of a special exception granted by Bradford County to develop an RV park on County Road 21B near Keystone Heights.

On Monday afternoon, Circuit Judge Stanley Griffis granted Tom's request for a writ of prohibition, barring the county commission from hearing the appeal, the request for which was filed past deadline.

Griffis looked to the county's land development regulations and found that Board of Adjustment decisions are final unless a request for an appeal is filed within 30 days of the decision. Although county attorney Will Sexton had granted an extension to that deadline, Griffis concluded that the LDRs provide for no exceptions to the timeframe.

The opponents, including property owner Donald Morgan and the Santa Fe Lake Dwellers, did not meet the deadline, so their

request for an appeal is untimely, Griffis wrote in granting the writ of prohibition.

The county commission sitting as the board of adjustment approved a special exception for the 400-space RV park development near the intersection of State Road 100 and County Road 21B in October. It was the second time the board heard from the applicant, Tom's High on the Hog Real Pit Barbecue. The first time, the board voted 4-1 to deny the special exception.

Citing a misinformation campaign and chaotic first hearing, Tom's said its due process rights had been violated and planned its own appeal, but later asked the commission to waive a yearlong waiting period to resubmit its application. At the second hearing, Tom's succeeded in convincing the board to reverse its decision and grant the special exception.

Opponents planned to base their appeal in part on the argument they made in October — that the applicant had failed to satisfy the requirements for a special exception. According to them and their attorney, John

Middleton, the Bradford land development regulations do not allow for the type of RV park or resort that has been proposed. They also planned to challenge the qualifications and testimony of the experts who appeared for Tom's as well as argue that the board never made specific findings of fact when granting the special exception.

The request to extend the deadline was based on the claim that the opponents did not have access to all of the exhibits Tom's attorneys presented for at least a week after the hearing.

John Cooper, an attorney for Tom's, said the opponents did have a copy of everything, but whether they did or not should not impact the request for an appeal. All that is required is a letter to the county requesting that appeal within the 30-day period.

While Tom's is free to continue in developing the RV park, all that has unfolded since the initial denial of the special exception has cost them the business they would have received during this, the peak season.

## Chili Cook-off at Kingsley Lake

The Kingsley Lake Property Owners Association invites everyone to its seventh annual Chili Cook-off on Saturday, Feb. 17, at the Kingsley Lake

Civic Center, 6110 Kingsley Lake Drive. The event will get underway at 5:30 p.m. when doors will open to entrants. Tasting and judging will start at 6 p.m.

There is no cost to participate in the competition. Other guests may make a donation if desired, but the event is free and open to the public. Attendees will enjoy a meal of chili, crackers, cheese,

salad, drinks, hot sauce and dessert. Prizes will be awarded to first-, second- and third-place entries.

People wishing to enter the cook-off should contact the association president, Billi West, at 904-449-9460 to register.

The Kingsley Lake Property Owners Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to meeting the social needs of the community and preserving the beautiful and unique lake for which it is named. The association sponsors an annual Fourth of July boat parade, which has become a beloved tradition for area residents. In addition, the association holds monthly community breakfasts for men at 9 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month and for ladies at 9 a.m. on the third Saturday of each month.

## Local employers benefit from adoption of Tobacco-free workplace

Several local workplaces are making big strides in supporting the health and well-being of their employees by adopting tobacco free workplaces.

In 2012, Shands Starke Regional Medical Center adopted a comprehensive tobacco free workplace policy, supporting their employees' efforts to quit smoking and enhancing their current wellness policies.

The tobacco-free policy includes the hospital grounds. Current employees are able to take free cessation classes through the Quit Your Way program offered by Tobacco Free Florida and enjoy the benefits of a tobacco-free lifestyle.

Santa Fe College has a tobacco-free campus. The campuses in Bradford County adopted the

100 policy in August 2017. They are committed to providing a tobacco-free site for employees, students and visitors.

The free Quit Your Way program allows employees to call, go online or even attend face-to-face cessation classes, many of which have been hosted at their places of employment in order to support tobacco cessation efforts.

One of the primary reasons an employer chooses to adopt a tobacco-free workplace is the high cost associated with tobacco use at work. Pack-a-day smokers are estimated to have 75 percent more lost productive time during the work day than their nonsmoking co-workers, and health care costs are an average of 34 percent higher than

those who do not use tobacco. (Estimating the cost of a smoking employee, 2013)

In Florida, the average loss in productivity annually for a tobacco user at the workplace is \$4,056. The average extra medical expense for tobacco users is \$2,056.

Tobacco-free grounds policies also support employees in their attempts to quit, helping them to change their habits and avoid temptations to smoke.

For more information about adopting a tobacco-free workplace, visit [www-tfp-bradford.org](http://www-tfp-bradford.org) or contact [jhwett@quitdoc.com](mailto:jhwett@quitdoc.com). To learn more about the Quit Your Way program, visit [TobaccoFreeFlorida.com/QuitYourWay](http://TobaccoFreeFlorida.com/QuitYourWay).

## Four Chaplains Sunday, and a breakfast Saturday

American Legion Post 56 in Starke is encouraging local church congregations to observe Four Chaplains Sunday on Feb. 4. The occasion marks the sacrifice of four World War II chaplains who gave up their lives to save others.

Post Commander Raymond Hunt said the Legion will be holding a ceremony of its own to commemorate the men following its weekly 8 a.m. breakfast on Saturday, Feb. 3. The ceremony will begin at 9 a.m. at the post home on Edwards Road in Starke.

The American Legion shares

the story of the four chaplains — Methodist, Jewish, Roman Catholic and Dutch Reformed — so their "legacy of brotherhood and selfless service" is remembered.

More than 900 U.S. troops, merchant seamen and civilian workers were crowded onto the USAT *Dorchester* on Feb. 2, 1943. The former luxury ship was one of three in a convoy navigating the icy waters, transporting troops from Newfoundland to a U.S. base in Greenland.

German U-boats were known to stalk the waters and had sunk multiple ships. They were in dangerous territory, and tragedy struck again.

In spite of an order to sleep with their life jackets on, many ignored the warning because of the heat and discomfort. The chaplains — Revs. George L.

Fox and Clark V. Poling, Rabbi Alexander D. Goode and Father John P. Washington — helped distribute life jackets as the *Dorchester* sank that night. When there were no more to hand out, the men took off their own jackets and gave them to four frightened young men.

Survivors in rafts later told of seeing the four chaplains arm in arm on the deck of the sinking ship singing hymns and saying prayers. They were among the 672 who died that night and are remembered for their faith, courage and selflessness.

They were posthumously given the Distinguished Service Crosses and Purple Hearts in 1944, and in 1961, President Eisenhower bestowed the Medal of Heroism, a one-time award intended to have the same weight as the Medal of Honor.



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**Karaoke Saturday: Come and let the good times roll**

**Super Bowl Sunday Party: Finger Foods**




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# 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).

## Writers meetup

Writers, both professional and amateur, meet at the library on the first and third Wednesday of every month to discuss, edit, critique and encourage. Whether you are working on a book, blogging on the internet, or writing as a hobby, review sessions with other writers can be beneficial. The next meeting is at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 7. Walk-ins are welcome.

## Inspire Your Heart with Art Day — Jan. 31

Bring some joy to others or create art to keep for yourself. The library is hosting two programs to celebrate National Inspire Your Heart with Art Day. A heart-themed painting activity for adults begins at 10 a.m. Canvas prices start at \$1. Then, at 3:30 p.m., participants of any age can make pop art Valentine's Day cards to give to someone special. Supplies are free. Sign up at the library or leave a message for Kathy at 904-368-3921.

## 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 3 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.

## Computer Basics class

Improve your computer skills! Get hands on experience and learn the basics of personal computing. Sign up for free computer classes that will be held from 10 a.m. to noon in the enclosed computer lab at Bradford County Public Library on Feb. 2, 9 and 16.

## Gothic Tea and Chocolate Swap

Teens are invited to join Amy and Curtis for hot tea and chocolate on Thursday, Feb. 8. Attendees will need to bring their favorite chocolate candy or snack to share with others in a Gothic setting. The program begins after school at 3:45 p.m.

## Bottle craft — Feb. 9

Forget about the winter blues and get ready for spring. Repurpose an empty wine bottle by turning it into seasonal décor during the Spring Bottle Craft at 9 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 9. The library is furnishing all the supplies for free. Class size is limited. Sign up at the library's front desk or leave a message at 904-368-3921.

## Bunny wreath class — Feb. 16

Learn how to make a pretty burlap bunny wreath for your home décor. Join us on Friday, Feb. 16, at 9 a.m. Supplies cost \$14. Class size is limited. Register and pay for materials by Feb. 1.

## Classical guitarist — Feb. 16

New York based classical guitarist Peter Fletcher is stopping at the Bradford County

Public Library during his national tour. Fletcher's guitar skills are amazing as well as entertaining. The not-to-be-missed performance will begin at 6 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 16. Attendance is free thanks to a sponsorship by the Friends of the Library. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

## Crazy 4 Art — Feb. 22

Crazy 4 Art for ages 5 to 12 has been added to the schedule at Bradford County Public Library. Instruction will be designed for children, however, family members are welcome. All materials, including canvases, will be provided to children between the ages of 5 to 12 for free. On Thursday, Feb. 22, we're going to focus on blending acrylics, working with warm and cool colors, and setting our minds free in the world of abstract. To make sure we provide ample seating, please sign up at the library's front desk or by leaving a message at 904-368-3921.

## Free tax return assistance

The AARP Foundation Tax Aide program has been helping people prepare their tax returns since 1968. Last year, the program helped millions of low/moderate-income taxpayers prepare their tax returns at more than 5,000 sites nationwide. Volunteers from AARP will be at the Bradford County Public Library on Wednesdays and Thursdays starting Feb. 1 to assist with filing tax returns. The service is free for qualified filers. Each filer must bring his/her Social Security Card, photo identification and 2017 tax return. Appointments are available through Thursday, April 12. To schedule an appointment, call 904-368-3911 or sign up at the library's front desk.

# Church

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church,** 212 N. Church Street in Starke, invites you to its Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, Feb. 13, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Suggested donations are \$7 per adult and \$3 per child 3 to 7 years old. Children under 3 eat for free. Proceeds go toward outreach and programs.

**Pine Level Baptist Church** welcomes Travis and Mimi Dykes, missionaries to Ethiopia



and Botswana, who will speak at the 10 a.m. Sunday school and 11 a.m. worship services

on Sunday, Feb. 4. The Dykes minister to the deaf and can share their experiences raising an autistic child to help parents in this area. The public is invited to come learn more with their ministry.

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.

# Garden

The Garden column is sponsored by the University of Florida IFAS Extension Service in Bradford County. Readers who wish to pose gardening questions should forward them to [Jim DeValerio at jtd@ufl.edu](mailto:JimDeValerio@jtd@ufl.edu).

## February in the Garden

### What to plant

Annuals and bedding plants: Plants that can take a chill include dianthus, pansy, viola and dusty miller.

Bulbs: Try dahlia, crinum and agapanthus. Provide adequate water for establishment and protect them from cold with mulch.

Flowering plants: Many trees and shrubs will be in bloom, including red maple and star magnolia.

Vegetables: Plant potatoes now. Start with healthy seed pieces purchased from a local nursery or online seed catalog. Continue to plant cool-season crops.

<http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/lawn-and-garden/florida-gardening-calendar/>

Palms: Give cold-damaged palms proper care to encourage their recovery.

Citrus: Avoid pruning until spring. Cold temperatures may still injure citrus. Fertilize now if not done in January. Frequency and amount of fertilization depend on the age of the tree.

Roses: Prune roses this month to remove damaged canes and improve the overall form. After pruning, fertilize and apply a fresh layer of mulch. Blooming will begin eight to nine weeks after pruning.

Shrubs: Make certain that you know the height and spread of any shrub you plan to install. Not all shrubs are suitable for planting next to homes or under windows.

Lawn: Do you have specific summer lawn weed infestations? Apply a pre-emergence weed killer (not a "weed and feed" fertilizer) when temperatures rise to 65 degrees for four to five days to prevent warm-season weeds. Timing is important for good control.

Make sure to select an herbicide that will control your specific weeds without hurting your turf. You will need to water appropriately to stimulate weed seed emergence timed with herbicide application.

## Wildlife calendar

North Florida woodcocks begin courtship behavior. Listen at dusk for their nasal piping sounds in open fields.

Little blue and tri-colored herons, wood and mottled ducks, and snail kites begin nesting.

Eastern moles are breeding this month in tunnels under our lawns.

Striped skunks begin their breeding season.

Pocket gophers begin their spring breeding season.

Alligator snapping turtles will start mating this month, with nesting activity throughout the spring.

Gopher tortoises are seldom seen outside burrows.

Call 904-966-6299 for more information.

Happy gardening!  
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# Health

## Schools: Please keep sick kids at home

The Florida Department of Health reports that influenza, or "flu," activity levels have increased sharply over the last several weeks. Flu is a contagious respiratory disease caused by influenza viruses. It can cause mild to severe illness. Serious outcomes of flu infection can result in hospitalization or death. Some people, such as young children, the elderly and people with certain health conditions, are at high risk for serious complications from flu. The department is encouraging families to get vaccinated for flu now.

Vaccination is the best way to protect against the flu and severe complications from the flu. Vaccination is most crucial for children with underlying health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease and neurological and neurodevelopmental conditions. The flu vaccine is offered in many locations, including pharmacies, clinics, employers and schools. Contact your health care provider, county health department, or visit <http://www.floridahealth.gov/findaflushot> to find a flu vaccine center near you. The flu vaccine is safe. The

national Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends that all individuals six months of age and older receive the flu vaccine each year. Since infants under six months of age are too young to get vaccinated against influenza, it is important that family members (including pregnant or breastfeeding mothers) and other caregivers for these children be vaccinated to help protect them from the disease.

It is especially important that parents keep sick children at home to prevent spreading the flu virus to others. Additional flu prevention steps include staying away from people who are sick, covering sneezes or coughs with a tissue or your elbow, avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth, and frequent handwashing.

If your child becomes sick with flu-like illness, contact your health care provider as soon as possible. Symptoms of the flu often include fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, body aches, headaches or fatigue. Antiviral medication for flu has been shown to reduce severity and length of disease, decrease

the risk of complications from influenza, and reduce the risk of death among hospitalized patients, particularly in those that start treatment early in their illness. Health care providers can prescribe antiviral treatment if appropriate. Treatment is most effective when started within 48 hours, so contacting your health care provider as soon as your child becomes ill is important, especially if your child has underlying health conditions.

The best way to keep yourself and your family safe and healthy during flu season is to:

- Get vaccinated.
- Keep sick family members home.
- Contact your health care provider if you or your child are experiencing flu-like symptoms.
- Follow your doctor's guidance on treatment.

For more information, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/parents/index.htm>.

## What to do

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Registration forms on website [www.keystoneyouthsoccer.com](http://www.keystoneyouthsoccer.com)

## Soil and water group meets Tuesday

The Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 6, at 9 a.m. at the Bradford County Extension Office.

There will be reports on the status of district projects and activities. The board will be discussing flooding from Irma and exploring options to reduce flooding impacts in the future.

There is a vacant supervisor seat on the Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District. Anyone interested in being appointed to that position should attend the February meeting to learn about the board.

Contact Paul Still at [stillpe@aol.com](mailto:stillpe@aol.com), or call him at 904-368-0291 for more information. The meeting is open to the public.

The board will be holding a poster contest for kindergarten through 12th-grade students and a speech contest for sixth-through 12th-grade students. The theme of both contests is "Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home." Posters must be turned in at the extension office before April 3 and speeches will be given at the April 3 Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District meeting. Contact Paul Still about the rules for each contest.

## Bradford Fest pageant Feb. 17

The eighth annual Miss Bradford Fest Pageant to raise money for scholarships to Santa Fe College will be held Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. at the Bradford High School auditorium.

## 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!

<p style="text-align: center;">From all of us at <b>The STEAKHOUSE in STARKE</b> U.S. 301 South 964-8061</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Suburban Carpet Cleaners</b> Call Us For All Your Professional Cleaning Services <b>MONTHLY SPECIALS</b> 904-964-1800</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>First United Methodist Church</b> <b>200 N. Walnut St. • Starke</b> <b>(904) 964-6864</b> 9:45 am Contemporary Worship 11:00 am Traditional Worship</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Elite</i> <b>Automotive Service Center</b> <i>The Word of God</i> 964-3199 402 N. Temple</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>COMMUNITY STATE BANK</b> <a href="http://www.communitystatebank-fl.com">www.communitystatebank-fl.com</a> <i>"Where today meets tomorrow"</i> Starke • 964-7830 Lake Butler • 496-3333</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Come Worship with us <b>STARKE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH</b> Church • Saturday 11:00 a.m. School • Saturday 10:00 a.m. 1649 W. Madison St. • Starke, FL</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GREATER ALLEN CHAPEL</b> Sunday School 10 a.m. Church Service 11 a.m. <b>746 N. Pine Street Starke, FL</b> <b>904-964-6995</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home</b> <i>Distinguished, Caring Service</i> <i>For Over 80 Years!</i> Joe Gallagher - Owner Starke • 964-6200 Keystone Heights • 473-3176</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">After Church on Sunday Come to <b>Powell's Dairy Freeze</b> "Home of the Foot Long Steak" Stop by for Ice Cream on Wednesday Night! US 301 NORTH • STARKE, FL</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Virgil A. Berry, D.C.</b> <i>Back &amp; Neck Pain Clinic</i> 601 E. Call St. • 964-8018</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>JBS JACKSON BUILDING SUPPLY</b> <b>See Us For All Your Lumber &amp; Plywood</b> Shake 964-6078 • Lake Butler 496-3079</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DOUGLAS BATTERY OF STARKE</b> We rebuild starters, alternators &amp; generators. Auto • Marine • Cycle Batteries <b>407 N. Temple • 964-7911</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Capital City Bank</b> 350 N Temple Ave. Starke, FL 32091 <b>(904) 964-7050</b> FAX (904) 964-1905</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Norman's COUNTRY MARKET</b> 211 S. Temple (301 S.) next to CVS <b>904.964.9799</b> FRESH PRODUCE</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Precision Auto</b> 528 South Walnut St. Starke, FL 32091 <b>904-966-0700</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Be still and know that I am God</i> -PSALM 46:10</p>



# REGIONAL NEWS

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## Emery feels at home as Shands Starke CEO

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Key West provides quite a different atmosphere from Starke, but new Shands Starke Regional Medical Center Chief Executive Officer John Emery said he's fitting in quite comfortably.

"I was born in a small town in Ohio, so I'm kind of used to that," Emery said of small-town life.

Also helping him feel at ease during his transition has been the Shands Starke staff.

"It's been great," Emery said. "Everyone has been very welcoming and has made me feel right at home."

As with anyone moving into a new home, Emery needs a little time to settle into his surroundings. Therefore, he can't speak to any long-range goals he has in regard to Shands Starke, having just arrived on Jan. 8. He said wait 30-60 days to ask him about any future goals.

Basically, the main goal right now is to get up to speed on his surroundings and find out what others feel are the hospital's needs.

"I want to have time to interact with our staff, interact with the physicians and our medical staff, interact with the community and find out what they think need to be our priorities," Emery said.

### Family ties, influence

The Emery name is not new at Shands Starke. Emery's brother, Drew, previously served as CEO from July 2014 through July 2016. John Emery said he and his brother were both inspired to go into the health-care field by their grandfather, who was that small-town doctor who practically did everything, from making house calls to performing surgeries.

Emery's father, who works in business, was also in influence.

"As both my brother and I got older, I think that we wanted to

do something in health care," Emery said. "This was kind of a good bridge between being a physician and just doing something in the business. My dad's in business, so it kind of blended both of those environments together."

It's proved to be a good career choice.

"It's been very rewarding," Emery said. "Being able to help people and to be a part of a community and be active in the community — it's awesome."

### UF to Key West

Emery attended the University of Florida, where he earned both his bachelor's (2008) and master's (2010) degrees. He went to Lower Keys Medical Center, where he began his career as an assistant administrator, what Emery described as an entry level administrative role that had him

heading up a few departments and basically learning the ropes.

What he learned most during his first experience — and it was something he knew was important before taking the job — was the importance of listening to others, regardless of their position. By doing that, you learn something new every day.

"All people have great ideas," Emery said. "All people have that knowledge to share."

That's why to this day, Emery is willing to listen to any proposal brought to his attention. In the end, it may not make sense for the hospital to follow through on the idea, but that's OK. Emery said all involved become stronger by going through the process.

"I think that's probably helped me in my career more than anything else," he said.

After three years at Lower Keys, Emery went to Rockledge

and Wuesthoff Medical Center (now Rockledge Regional Medical Center). It's a much larger operation than Lower Keys, with such components as two hospitals, a skilled nursing facility and an assisted-living facility.

"It was a great environment to continue to learn in and grow in my career," Emery said.

Emery credited that job with broadening his knowledge base. That experience will help him as Shands Starke CEO. For example, Emery said he's better prepared to have discussions with representatives from local nursing homes since he became familiar with the operation of a nursing facility while in Rockledge.

"Now, where I sit down with somebody from Windsor Manor or Riverwood, I think that I can relate to what they do and have



John Emery

some insight into that," Emery said. Emery went back to Lower Keys

A little over two years later,

See EMERY, 2B

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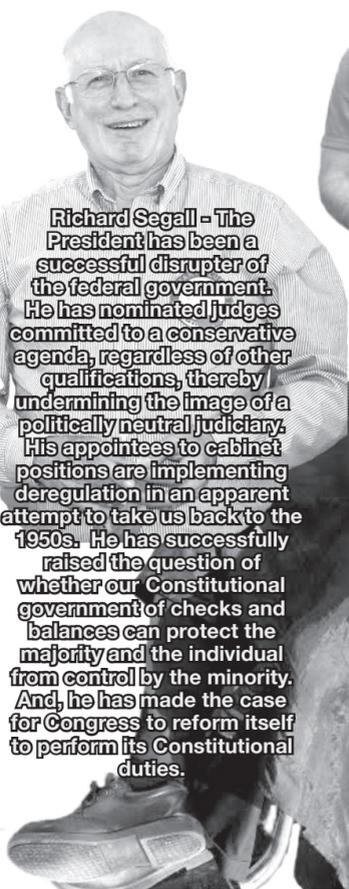
## What do you think of President Trump's first year in office?



**Eva Stout** - "Half of it is good and half of it is bad!"



**Chase Mikell** - "Fantastic first year!"



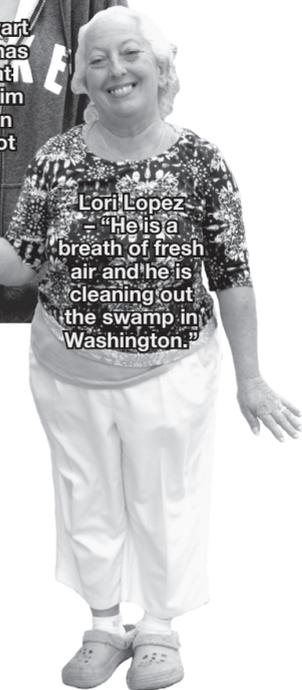
**Richard Segall** - The President has been a successful disrupter of the federal government. He has nominated judges committed to a conservative agenda, regardless of other qualifications, thereby undermining the image of a politically neutral judiciary. His appointees to cabinet positions are implementing deregulation in an apparent attempt to take us back to the 1950s. He has successfully raised the question of whether our Constitutional government of checks and balances can protect the majority and the individual from control by the minority. And, he has made the case for Congress to reform itself to perform its Constitutional duties.



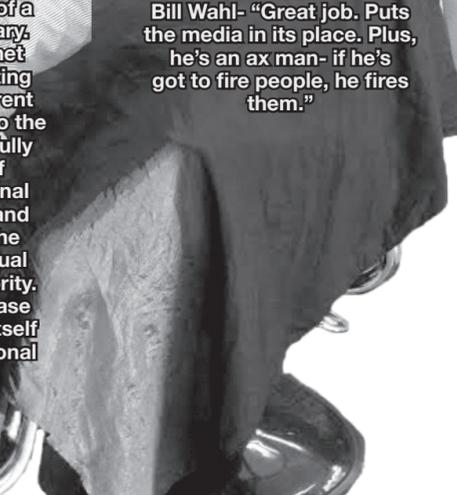
**Nick McLeod** - "Great job. I hope he builds his wall."



**Melissa Stewart** - "I think he has done a great job. I love him and did even before he got elected!"



**Lori Lopez** - "He is a breath of fresh air and he is cleaning out the swamp in Washington."



**Bill Wahl** - "Great job. Puts the media in its place. Plus, he's an ax man - if he's got to fire people, he fires them."

### EMERY

Continued from 1B

Medical Center, this time as its CEO.

"I've had a lot of great experiences throughout my career," Emery said. "I feel very blessed by the teams I've been a part of and people who I've had the opportunity to work with. You're only as strong as your weakest link. It's made my job a lot easier with the teams I've had."

### Excited to be on Shands Starke team

Emery is excited about the team he is a part of now, believing it is one that can take Shands Starke to the highest heights when it comes to meeting patients' needs and making patients feel good about how their needs were met. As with any hospital, the challenge is achieving high patient-satisfaction scores.

"I think there's probably opportunity to improve," Emery said. "Our scores are not terrible. I think much like you see in other places, there are ups and downs — peaks and valleys — but I think we have the right team to achieve where I'd like to see us, and that's at the top of the list in everything."

Making patients feel at home is especially important in a small-community hospital, where doctors, nurses and other staff members are "friends, family and neighbors."

"Here, we really strive to make them feel like part of a family," Emery said. "Oftentimes they are. It's part of our community family. We want them to feel they have that personal care. My door's always open. If someone has a concern or question, I would invite them to come ask. I might not have the direct answer that they're looking for, but I can find out who does and get them an answer."

### Reading, traveling and watching sports

When he's not busy with his duties at the hospital, Emery likes to read, watch sports and travel.

A self-described "history nerd," Emery likes to read a lot of non-fiction. Right now, he's focusing on reading books about ancient civilizations, such as Rome. That interest has been sparked by his own travels to Italy, where he enjoyed such sights as the Colosseum and St. Peter's Basilica.

"I'm really trying to increase my knowledge base when it



**New Shands Starke CEO John Emery (left) talks with nurse practitioner Courtney Kelly.**

comes to the history that goes along with seeing that," Emery said. "Seeing is one thing. Understanding how it got here, what it is, and what it's done since it's been there is kind of the other piece of the puzzle to me."

Emery and his wife, Lexi, planned just one trip to Italy, but they wound up going three times because there just wasn't enough time to experience everything on one trip.

"I think we're ready to pick a new place," Emery said, adding that China, where his father has spent a lot of time on business, is a possible destination that appeals to him.

More travels in Europe are also appealing.

"There's so much history there, from Greece to the British Islands," Emery said. "A lot of cool stuff there to see and explore."

Emery played soccer growing up, but enjoys watching all sports, especially those at his alma mater, UF.

"I was there at the best time to be a Gator fan," he said. "In the six years I was there, we won two basketball national titles, two football national titles, we went to the College World Series a couple of times — it was incredible. I would consider myself spoiled when it came to Gator sports at that time."

It was exciting, of course, to watch the UF baseball team win its first national title this past

season. "Those guys have worked so hard, and they had gotten close so many times," Emery said. "I was thrilled that they were able to kind of push across the finish line and get the victory."

Emery is optimistic about the football team getting back on track with new head coach Dan Mullen, saying, "I think he'll be able to recruit well and call some new plays. I think it's exciting — a bright future for the football program. The pieces are there."

### Feeling at home

Now that he's at Shands Starke, he's able to more easily attend UF athletic events. More importantly, he feels at home at Shands Starke. He couldn't have asked for a better reception.

"Everyone's made me feel so welcome," Emery said. "I can't stress that enough. When you're transitioning to a new place, you don't always get that. I think when you do have that, it's special. I feel very good about having this opportunity to be part of the team here. I'm looking forward to helping them and helping the community any way I can."

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# BHS boys improve to 9-0 in District 4-5A with 68-41 win over KHHS

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Chris Cummings scored 10 of his game-high 17 points in the second quarter as the Bradford High School boys' basketball team built a double-digit lead it never relinquished in a 68-41 District 4-5A victory over host Keystone Heights on Jan. 26.

The Tornados (15-7, 9-0) will attempt to cap an undefeated regular season in district play when it travels to play Fort White on Saturday, Feb. 3, at 7:30 p.m.

Keystone (9-11) fell to 1-8 in the district.

Each team played without one of its starters: Jordan Lee (Bradford) and Eddie Thomas (Keystone).

Bradford led by two points in the first quarter after the Indians' Ray Kirtley made a three-pointer. The Tornados then outscored Keystone 6-2 to take an 11-5 lead into the second quarter. A Matthew Crawford steal led to a basket by Cummings, while Tally Chandler had two offensive rebounds on one possession that eventually ended with a

jumper by J'cobi Harris. The Indians' Bryson Davison scored off an offensive rebound, but the Tornados' Crawford closed the quarter by successfully converting on a drive to the basket.

Crawford opened the second quarter with a three-pointer to give the Tornados a nine-point lead. Kirtley later rebounded his own miss and scored to pull Keystone to within 16-9, but Bradford responded with a 13-0 run. A steal by Jordan Hill led to a basket by Tavi'en Young, while Crawford knocked down his second three-pointer of the quarter. Cummings scored two straight baskets and was fouled on both, making both free throws and putting Bradford ahead 29-9.

The Indians cut their deficit to 17 entering halftime by scoring 10 of the quarter's final 15 points. Sawyer Maxwell had a basket, followed by a three-pointer by Ben Miller. Kirtley had a three-pointer of his own, with Miller adding the final basket of the half to make the score 38-21.

Kirtley and Miller scored

12 of the Indians' 16 second-quarter points.

Cummings got the Tornados off to a fast start when play resumed, scoring the first five points of the third quarter. He hit a pull-up jumper following a turnover and followed that with a three-pointer. Bradford's D.J. Mackey then had a reverse layup along the baseline to make the score 45-21.

Kirtley, who led Keystone with 15 points, scored four of the Indians' eight third-quarter points.

Hill and Dequan Hankerson each had a big second half for Bradford. Hankerson had four field goals in the half, while Hill scored eight points in the fourth quarter. After Keystone's Miller made a three-pointer, Hill made two straight to give Bradford its biggest lead at 64-37. Then, after Davison scored off a Miller assist, Hill made two free throws.

Hill was one of three Bradford players besides Cummings to finish in double figures as he and Hankerson each had 10 points. Crawford finished with 11, while also leading the team in steals with four.

The Tornados also got seven points and five assists from Young, while Harris had four points. Harris and Hill shared the team lead in rebounds with six apiece.

Jaleen Lane added four points for the Tornados, while Mackey, Taz Curry and Tarrin Jackson each had two.

Miller was Keystone's second-leading scorer with 10 points, while Davison had eight. Maxwell, Marco Flores, Josh Hughes and Josh Prendergast each added two points.

It was the third straight win for Bradford, which defeated district opponent Newberry 62-55 on Jan. 23 in Starke and district opponent Taylor 72-22 on Jan. 25 in Pierson.

Young led Bradford against Newberry with 13 points, while Cummings and Mackey had 12 and 11, respectively. Young also had 11 rebounds, with Cummings adding five assists.

Curry and Lane each had seven points, while Crawford had six. Jordan Lee scored four points, with Jackson adding two.

Two players almost had double-doubles against Taylor: Curry with 19 points and nine rebounds, and Harris with eight points and 17 rebounds.

Crawford and Young had 12 and 10 points, respectively, with Hill and Jackson each adding eight. Hankerson and Tally Chandler had four and three points, respectively, with Chandler also dishing out nine assists.



Bradford's J'cobi Harris (far left) gets up high off the floor as he follows up his shot attempt. Also pictured (l-r) are Keystone's Josh Hughes, Bradford's Taz Curry and Keystone's Ray Kirtley.



Bradford's Chris Cummings goes up for a shot between Keystone players (l-r) Ray Kirtley, Garrett Stanley and Sawyer Maxwell.



Keystone's Ray Kirtley puts up a shot between Bradford players (l-r) Tarrin Jackson and Dequan Hankerson.



Above: Bradford's Matthew Crawford drives the baseline against Keystone players (l-r) Bryson Davison, Marco Flores and Josh Hughes.



Left: Bradford's Tavi'en Young (left) pulls up for a shot against Keystone's Marco Flores.



Keystone's Ben Miller (right) handles the ball against Bradford's J'cobi Harris.

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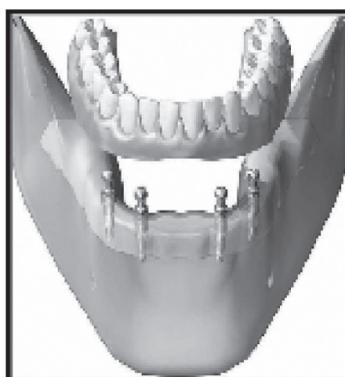
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# Letters

## Disturbed by lack of trail etiquette

Dear Editor,

As a frequent user of the Lake Butler/Palatka Rail Trail, which runs through Keystone Heights, I am concerned about the lack of trail etiquette displayed by some users of the trail. I travel the entire distance of the existing trail 1-2 times weekly and I'm amazed that we don't have more injuries resulting from accidents caused by a simple lack of courtesy. A trail user who is aware and cognizant of the fact that they are not the only ones enjoying the trail at any one particular time and who simply walks, jogs, or rides to the right as much as possible is the best fellow trail user to cross paths with. To some this may sound unnecessary but as one who has enjoyed trails in many parts of our country I can assure you that when this simple courtesy is employed it is a safer experience for all, eliminates guesswork and makes for a more enjoyable time on the trail. I've seen both signage and painted arrows/lines on the asphalt on some trails, which serves as a friendly reminder to adhere to this simple courtesy. Bicyclist's using the standard "on your left" call goes a long way as well, to prevent startling a walker/jogger prior to your pass. Pet owners who walk their

dogs without a leash further endanger fellow trail users as it becomes necessary for cyclists to slow to the point of a complete stop as the dog's intentions are unknown. Will it chase me if I try to pass possibly causing a crash? What if I accidentally hit the dog with my bike? Does it bite? The pet owner who uses a leash shows consideration of others as he or she maintains control of their dog(s). The trail offers an enjoyable, free from vehicular traffic, venue to enjoy the outdoors and it's my hope that we can all enjoy it together. In conclusion, walking, jogging, and riding on the right side of the trail allows safe unencumbered passing of fellow trail users.

Signed,  
Mike Milligan

## Problems with healthcare for all

Dear Editor:

Healthcare for all! Everyone wants healthcare and they want it free or hardly costing a thing. There are some in politics who want to push through this service, but at what cost?

West Germany, 1974: we, a military family, had made great friends with an elderly couple. Our Opa (grandpa) had to go to the hospital for a major medical problem. Now, West Germany

had free medical care for all at that time. What a wonderful institution. We visited Opa in the hospital, he had been there three weeks already and still had not seen a physician for his major problem. We couldn't understand why. Opa explained it to us. "We have free medical service, but we have to wait in line to be seen. Also, if the problem is such that we could die from it, the doctors decide if it is worth the trouble and expense to keep us alive or just make us comfortable."

My husband and I wanted to know if there was any way around that, and Opa told us that if someone had a whole lot of money they could hire a doctor privately and be taken care of immediately and be well cared for. Opa did say that the government was kind enough to provide beer machines in the hallways to ease the patient's discomfort while they waited.

With all the best intentions of those wanting free medical service in the US, I hope it never ends up happening that way.

Edythe Robinson Hill  
Morgan Road

## 2 additional UCHS weightlifters qualify for state finals

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Staff Writer

A total of six members of the Union County High School girls' weightlifting team will compete at the Friday, Feb. 2, state finals, with Breyonce Cummings and Taylor Gainey, as at-large qualifiers, joining automatic qualifiers Kurston Bakken, Josie Godwin, Mia Jackson and Brandy McCoy.

Bakken, Godwin, Jackson and McCoy earned berths by virtue of winning Region 2-1A championships on Jan. 17, but Cummings and Gainey, who earned third- and second-place finishes, respectively, had to wait a week to find out if they made it. The Florida High School Athletic Association looks at the totals of the second- through sixth-place lifters in each weight class from all of the state's regional meets to determine the rest of the state competitors.

See UCHS, 5B

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James 4:12 — There is one  
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# CRIME

## Recent arrests in Bradford, Clay or Union

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

### BRADFORD —



G. Barton

Gregory Scott Barton, 33, of MacClenny was arrested Jan. 29 by Bradford deputies for a probation violation.

Gary Edward Boyd, 37, of Keystone Heights was arrested Jan. 29 by Bradford deputies for an out-of-county warrant, possession of heroin and destroying evidence.

### Suspect: "What? Am I not black enough?"

Travis Marlin Desue, 34, of Starke was arrested Jan. 27 by Starke police for resisting an officer and two probation violations.



T. Desue

According to an arrest report, arresting officer Paul King wrote that he recognized the defendant driving a white Dodge Dart shortly after midnight at the corner of Call and Cherry streets in Starke.

"I knew that the suspect had two active felony warrants for violation of probation out of Bradford County with no bond," King wrote in the report.

King added that after the vehicle stopped in the 100 block of Call Street, he approached the Dart and the driver said, "What (?) Am I not black enough?"

"I asked the suspect what he meant," King continued, "and he said, 'I am the only black guy in that neighborhood.'"

King then asked Desue to turn off the ignition and exit the vehicle. The defendant

complied until the officer attempted to handcuff him.

"As I continued to try and get control of the suspect's arms, he dropped to the ground and laid on the driver floorboard of the vehicle with his right hand under his body," King wrote. "At this point, I maintained a grasp on the suspect and transitioned to my taser. I placed the taser in the suspect's back and ordered him to place his hands behind his back at which time he complied."

### Driver claims he was "just sleeping"

Edward Arnold Eldredge, 44, of Starke was arrested Jan. 24 by Starke police for driving with a suspended or revoked license, resisting an officer and a probation violation.



E. Eldredge

According to an arrest report, arresting officer Christopher Keel was conducting traffic enforcement at St. Clair and East Brownlee Street when he saw a silver Ford passenger vehicle pass him west bound.

Keel ran the plates on the car, which came back as "no vehicle information available."

When the officer attempted to conduct a traffic stop, the driver pulled into a driveway on St. Clair Street, opened the car door and ran away.

"I gave chase on foot," Keel wrote. "While pursuing the driver, I continued to give several loud verbal commands to stop — to no avail."

When the driver ran down the embankment of a creek at East Thomas Street, Keel momentarily lost contact with him.

"I conducted a search of the wooded area west of the creek embankment," he wrote. "I located the driver crouched down, hiding behind a pine tree."

While Keel put the suspect in his patrol vehicle, Eldredge denied driving the Ford, telling the officer he was "just sleeping."

Keel added that he later found the keys to the Ford near where Eldredge was hiding behind the tree.

A dispatcher told the officer that Eldredge's license was suspended and that he had three prior convictions for driving with a suspended or revoked license.



M. Hall

Michael Wilson Hall, 56, of Starke was arrested Jan. 24 by Bradford deputies for two probation violations.

Mellisa Tammaran June Infinger, 35, of Hampton was arrested Jan. 28 by Bradford deputies for battery. According to an arrest report, When Deputy Terrell Williams responded to a disturbance call, he saw the victim standing in the doorway of a residence. The victim said that his girlfriend:



M. Infinger

the defendant, assaulted him several times because she was drunk.

Williams said he made contact with Infinger who was in the residence with

five children.

"Mellisa's statements were all over the place," Williams wrote. "I could smell the odor of an alcoholic beverage emitting

from her person. Mellisa did admit to striking (the victim). However, it was only after he put his hands on her."

The deputy added he saw no evidence of the victim striking the defendant.

Kenneth Ray McCallister, 35, of Interlachen was arrested Jan. 26 for a probation violation.

Therious Orlando McCloud, 36, of Starke was arrested Jan. 24 by Starke police for an out-of-county warrant.

Antonio Tarnell McCray, 34, of Starke was arrested Jan. 29 by Starke police for an out-of-county warrant.

Emily Nicole Middleton, 36, of Raiford was arrested Jan. 24 by Bradford deputies for failure to appear.

Jabez McCray Mitchem, 30, of Safety Harbor was arrested Jan. 26 by Bradford deputies for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Bobby Joe Robinson, 43, of Starke was arrested Jan. 26 by Bradford deputies for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription.

Kansas Lashae Robinson, of Cedar Bluff, Alabama was arrested Jan. 27 by Bradford deputies for a probation violation.

Corey Lee Dylan Thornton, 22, of Lake Butler was arrested Jan. 28 by Starke police for resisting an officer and for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

### UNION COUNTY -

#### Children found in squalid conditions

Caylen S. Deller, 23, of Lake Butler was arrested Jan. 25 by Union deputies for child neglect without great bodily harm.

During the same incident, Marc Jason Pannett was arrested for an out-of-county warrant.

According to an arrest report, Deputy Phillip Sellers



C. Deller



J. Pannett

## The Weekly Paw Print:

What does it take to have the best job in the world? After 28 years, I still love my job and find it just as fun as the day I started. Sure I have more responsibilities. I still get excited delivering puppies and of course sending home pets whom owners thought they would never see again. Yes there are times of sadness like telling someone their beloved companion will not be coming home. That heartache always stings like the first time. However, the good far outweighs the sad. So when I get asked by young people what it takes to get into and through veterinary school, I get super excited. What does it take? First, plan on rejection. As of 2015, there were only 30 accredited veterinary schools in the U.S. That means with an average class size of 100, only 3000 students are admitted each year. As a result, fewer than 50% of all applicants are admitted to a veterinary school. Applying more than once is the norm. Statistically speaking, it is easier to get into medical school. Second, you better like a lot of school. Most schools require a 4 year Bachelors degree or at least a host of prerequisites equivalent to a Bachelors degree. Upon acceptance to a program, there is an additional 4 more years of postgraduate classes often requiring 8 hours a day, 5 days a week. Thirdly, just because you have a degree doesn't mean you can practice. You must first pass your national and state board to be awarded a license to practice. Grades must be high, but you must also be a well rounded student. Experience and professional interest in the field prior to application are all taken into consideration. In plain words, work with or around animals before hand. Determination is needed as you will be discouraged along the way, but the career is so worth it. A love for animals is a good thing. A love of problem solving and helping people is also important. Veterinary medicine is a people oriented career. Sure we treat pets, but it is all about serving people and helping them by treating their pets. So there it is in a 2 minute nutshell, what it it takes to have the best job in the world!

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was called to a Lake Butler residence after DCF workers requested assistance. The workers told Sellers that they were at the residence to conduct an inspection and that no one would answer the door, even though they could hear children crying within the home.

Deller eventually allowed the parties into the residence. Sellers found Pannett hiding in a bedroom closet. The deputy then learned Pannett had an active warrant in Columbia County. After securing Pannett in a patrol vehicle, Sellers then rejoined the case workers in the house.

"There was trash and other items strung throughout the residence in every room," wrote Sellers. "I observed prescription bottles containing prescriptions, cleaning products, alcoholic beverages and tobacco items throughout the residence, all within easy reach of the children. The kitchen sink was filled with dirty dishes and sitting on the counter tops I observed open food items which appeared to have been there for some time. The floors of the residence were extremely filthy and appeared to have not been cleaned for a long time. I also observed open bags of household garbage within the residence."

The two children were turned over to the DCF workers.

Brandon Michael Dickson, 25, of Lake Butler was arrested

Jan. 22 by Clay deputies for failure to appear.

Christina Renee Garrett, 39, of Jacksonville was arrested Jan. 27 by Union deputies for an out-of-county warrant.

Krystal Lynn Geraghty, 24, of Lake Butler was arrested Jan. 24 by Union deputies for obstructing justice.

Joshua Glen Smith, 22, of Lake Butler was arrested Jan. 25 by Union deputies

for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, possession of not more than 20 grams of

marijuana and possession of drug equipment.

Carl Evan Summerlin was arrested Jan. 25 by Union deputies for failure to appear.

Keith Brian Thomas, 39, of Gainesville was arrested by Union deputies for aggravated assault. According to an arrest report, the victims told Deputy David Gladding that the defendant had been drinking and got into an argument with the victims, claiming he had not been paid for work he did. One victim said Thomas threatened to kill another victim, then lit a towel on fire and threw it into a bedroom.

Gladding added that he saw a towel within the residence that was partially burned. The victims said they believe Thomas intended to burn down the home with them in it.

### Deputies: Mom instructed third grader to steal iPads from school



Webb

Charges are pending against a Lake Butler Elementary School student and his mother is out on bail after the Union County Sheriff's Office said

the third grader stole two Apple iPads from the school at the request of his mother.

Camecco Catrice Webb, 36, of Lake Butler was arrested Jan. 22 for larceny, dealing in stolen property and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. She was released two days later on a \$45,000 bond.

According to an arrest report, the school's Assistant Principal: Chris Meckusker told deputies that the student had already confessed to the theft, which occurred on Friday, Jan. 19.

When Deputy Jason L. Lepano interviewed the student, the boy said he took the devices because his mother told him to, explaining that she said she needed money for food and gas. The student added that his mother pawned the devices at American Pawn in Lake City.

Lepano also interviewed the boy's brother who corroborated the third grader's story. "His mother told him several times she wanted the purple iPad," wrote Lepano of the brother's claim.

The brother added that the mother brought up the subject often, and that "(The

third grader) told his mother he would get them, every time she would initiate a conversation inquiring about the iPads."

Deputies found one of the devices at the Lake City pawn shop. An employee told them that Webb had two tablets in her possession, but the shop only accepted one because the other had a cracked screen.

Deputies tracked down the mother on Jan. 22. She told them her sons were responsible for bringing the iPads home and that she thought the tablets were gifts to her.

Capt. Lyn Williams of the Union County Sheriff's Office said that at this time, charges have not been filed against the third grader, who is an ESE student.

He added that the sheriff's office is working with the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Children and Families and the school district to determine the best course of action.

### KEYSTONE HEIGHTS -

### Man arrested for shoving mom into kitchen counter



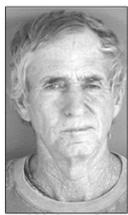
J. Elliott

Joshua Andrew Elliott, 28, of Keystone Heights was arrested Jan. 25 by Clay deputies for domestic battery. According to an arrest report, the victim, who is the defendant's mother, told Deputy G.B. Klidies that her son was on the phone with his girlfriend yelling, screaming and crying.

"The defendant hung up the phone and continued to yell and cry," Klidies wrote in the report. "The victim advised she was scared the defendant was going to get violent, so she attempted to calm him down."

In response, the deputy wrote, Elliott pushed the victim in the upper chest area and she fell into a kitchen counter. The victim's brother then came out of a bedroom and chased the defendant outside while the victim called 911.

### Deputies: Man took shotgun to Wendy's



W. Lamb

William Allan Lamb, 60, of Keystone Heights was arrested Jan. 25 by Clay deputies for possession of a firearm by a felon and violation of a domestic violence injunction.

According to an arrest report, customers of Wendy's told the manager they saw a man sitting in front of the restaurant with a shotgun. The store manager called the sheriff's office and told deputy J.C. Timpe that prior to the officer's arrival, Lamb hid the firearm in nearby bushes.

A dispatcher told Timpe the defendant had four felony convictions in addition to an injunction prohibiting him from possessing a firearm.

Jonathon Paul Nugent, 35, of Keystone Heights was arrested Jan. 28 on an out-of-county warrant for falsely identifying himself as a licensed contractor.

### Deputies: Man punched wife after she complained about him coming home late

Gregory Randall, 40, of Keystone Heights was arrested Jan. 25 by Clay deputies for two counts of battery. According to an arrest report, when Deputy B.A. Ray arrived on the scene, the defendant,

his wife and another family member were arguing in the front yard of the residence. The defendant's wife told the officer that she and Randall got into an argument over him coming home late. During the dispute, the defendant punched the woman on the right side of her face with a closed fist. The defendant's brother tried to calm down Randall, who responded by tackling the brother, causing him to fall down.

Skyler Allen White, 22, of Keystone Heights was arrested Jan. 24 by Clay deputies for possession of not more than 20 grams of marijuana and possession of drug equipment.

### UCHS Continued from 4B

Keystone Heights' Hannah Forshee put herself in contention with a sixth-place finish at the Region 4 finals, did not make the cut. She had a 165 regional total. The lowest total to qualify for state was 210.

In looking at the totals going into state, Bakken, Jackson and McCoy are in good position to win state championships. McCoy, who is aiming for her third straight state title, had a 515 regional total in the 199 class. The next highest total in her class is 360 by Jessica Guadarrama of Zephyrhills.

Bakken has a 505 total in the unlimited class, with Abby Shaffer of Zephyrhills having the next highest total at 425.

Jackson has a 370 total in the 169 class. The next best total is 345 by Seriah Brokenborough of Eustis.

Union's other regional champion, Godwin, looks to

have a shot at winning state as well. She has the second-best total in the 139 class at 350, which is 10 pounds behind Jay's Haylee Watson.

Gainey has the fifth-best total in the 154 class, while Cummings has the sixth-best total in the 183 class.

Bradford's lone qualifier, Kalia Donley, has the third-best total in the 110 class at 255, which is behind River Ridge's Katelyn Kirves (270) and Avon Park's Earlnajah Collins (265). Fivay's Isabel Martinez, like Donley, has a 255 total.

How it all plays out will be determined Feb. 2 at Arnold High School in Panama City Beach. The competition begins at 11:30 a.m. Eastern Standard Time.

### KHHS girls' season ends in district semifinals



The 2017-18 season ended for Haley Phillips (above) and the Keystone Heights High School girls' soccer team with a 9-1 loss to Santa Fe in the Jan. 24 District 5-2A semifinals. Dee Dee Taylor scored the lone goal for the Indians, who finished the season with a 9-9-4 record.

## BHS girls defeat Raiders for 3<sup>rd</sup> win in 4 games

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Olyvia Griffin and Jah'mya Henderson scored 15 points each to lead the Bradford High School girls' basketball team to a 52-27 win over Class 6A Santa Fe on Jan. 25 in Starke.

Regina Roberts had 10 points for the Tornadoes (9-10), while Meghan Harris had eight points. Harris led the team with five steals, while Griffin and Henderson each had four.

Raynisha Hunter led the team with 17 rebounds and finished with two points. Chloe Raab had two points also.

The Tornadoes were coming off a 53-33 loss to District 4-5A opponent Newberry on Jan. 23 in Starke. Henderson led the team with eight points, while Griffin and Britnee Smiley each had seven. Sara Foster had five points, with Hunter, Raab and Dezirae Tabet each adding two.

Raab led the team with seven rebounds, while Hunter had six.

With the loss, Bradford finished 6-4 in the district and will be the number-three seed in next week's district tournament, which Bradford is hosting (see related story).

Bradford played Baldwin this past Tuesday and will conclude the regular season at home against Eastside on Thursday, Feb. 1, at 7 p.m., following a junior varsity game at 5:30 p.m.

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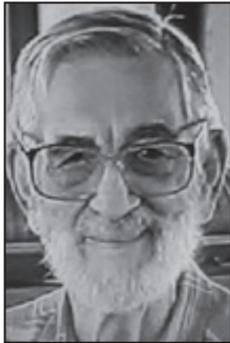
# Obituaries

## James Callahan Jr.

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—James A. "Jim" Callahan Jr., 69, of Keystone Heights died Sunday, Jan. 21, 2018 at Shands Hospital in Gainesville following a lengthy illness. He was born in San Diego, CA on March 2, 1948 to the late James A. and Mary Eugenia (Oldfield) Callahan Sr. and had served in the United States Navy for four years. He was a retired automobile mechanic and craftsman. He was a Parishioner of St. William Catholic Church. He was preceded in death by: his daughter, Colleen Callahan; son, John Callahan; and sister, Kathleen Whipple.

He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Norma (Paranto), and sons, Scott (Tania) Callahan and Jim (Megan) Callahan all of Keystone Heights; brother, Dan (Charlotte) Callahan of Middleburg; and sisters, Mary (Bill) Harris of South Carolina and Barbara (Fred) McClain of Georgia; nine grandchildren; and many other family members.

The family will receive friends on Feb. 2 from 6-8 p.m. at the St. William Catholic Church. Funeral Mass will be held at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 3 at St. William Catholic Church. Interment will follow at 2:00 p.m. at Holly Hill Cemetery in Middleburg. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to either Catholic Charities or March of Dimes in memory of his late daughter, Colleen Callahan. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Keystone Heights.



## Robert Campbell

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Robert L. Campbell, MSGT RET, age 86, of Keystone Heights passed away at Haven Hospice Roberts Care Center in Palatka on Monday, Jan. 22, 2018. He was born in Tampa on Feb. 4, 1931, to the late Etheridge Charles and Edna Jane (Parnaby) Campbell. Mr. Campbell retired from the United States Marine Corps following 37 years of service which included a couple of years with the Department of Defense with which he held top level security. After retiring from the military, he worked for the United States Postal Service. He was a parishioner of St. William Catholic Church who enjoyed hunting, fishing and boating. He loved riding his motorcycle, which he rode across country with the love of his life Shirley. They even rode up to Pikes Peak. Not only did he enjoy auto racing, he also owned and was the mechanic on a car at one time. His wife of 64 years, Shirley preceded him in death, but before that, they were

inseparable and did everything and went everywhere together. Survivors are: his daughter, Mary (John) Westmoreland of Keystone Heights. He is grandpa to Robert Scott (Jessica) Gilbert of Middleburg and Christopher Jon Gilbert of Orange Park. He also leaves behind two great-grandchildren, Bradley Jon Gilbert of Orange Park and Campbell Tyne Gilbert of Middleburg. Graveside services were held Jan. 29 at Jacksonville National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to St. William Catholic Church P.O. Box 721, Keystone Heights or St. Jude Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Keystone Heights. 352-473-3176. www.jonesgallagherfh.com

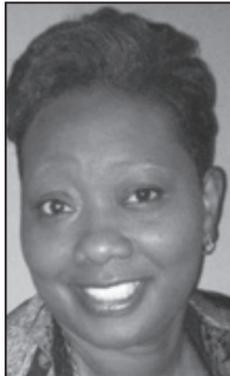
PAID OBITUARY

## Russell LaPointe

STARKE—Russell Howard LaPointe, 90, of Starke died on Saturday, Jan. 27, 2018 at Windsor Health and Rehabilitation Center after a brief illness. He was born in Chicago, IL on March 16, 1927 to Arthur and Mary Margaret (Smith) LaPointe. Formerly of Gainesville, he moved to Starke in January 2005. He was preceded in death by: his parents; and his wife of 40 years, Mercedes M. LaPointe.

He is survived by: daughters, Dawn King and Laura Crews, both of Chicago, IL; and daughter-in-law, Karron Harris of Starke; two grandsons; and many other family members.

No arrangements are scheduled locally. He will be laid to rest next to his wife at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Hillside, IL at a later date. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Starke.



## Unissa King-Moore

LAWTEY—Unissa King-Moore was born Jan. 27, 1971 in Gainesville and is preceded in death by her grandfather Ulysses King and grandmother Eula Mae King, father, Julian Desue III and is survived by her mother, Hazel King-Berry (Fonza Berry). Mrs. Moore passed away Jan. 25, 2018 in the company of her family. Unissa was a mother, wife, daughter, sister, friend and a lifelong educator and student. She is survived by her devoted husband of 25 years, Martella E. Moore Sr.

Unissa dedicated her life to the betterment of others throughout her career at the Bradford County School District and her consistent service to the community. She leaves behind her sons, Martella E. Moore Jr., Malcolm D. Moore, Markael R. Moore; daughters, Marissa L. Moore and Monet C. Moore. Brothers, Jared Scott, and Julian Desue IV. Sisters, Tara Desue-Jackson and LaShawn Mayes.

Viewing will be held at Mt. Zion A.M.E in Lawtey Friday, Feb. 2 from 4-6 p.m. Memorial Service will be held at Bradford High School Auditorium Saturday Feb. 3 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. In lieu of flowers the family asks for donations to establish a scholarship fund.

PAID OBITUARY

## Loretta Matthews

MIDDLEBURG—Loretta Josette Matthews, 66, of Middleburg died on Sunday, Jan. 28, 2018 at Haven Hospice Custead Care Center in Orange Park. She was born in Daytona Beach on May 26, 1951 to the late Alfred T. and Maria (Cavalcante) Rhodes.

She is survived by: daughter, Amanda-Maria (James) Leno of Middleburg; and two grandsons.

Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Keystone Heights.



## Cora Morris

STARKE—Cora Lee Morris, 81, of Starke died Thursday, Jan. 25, 2018 at her residence. She was born in Worthington Springs and later moved to Starke at an early age. She was a member of Church of God By Faith. She attended the local schools of Bradford County. She retired from Northeast Florida State Hospital.

She is survived by: daughter, Jeanette Perry; sons, Lloyd Aldridge, James Aldridge and Freddie Aldridge; sisters, Johnnie Mae Ellis and Betty Lott; 23 grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and many other family members.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 3 in the Church of God by Faith with Pastor Lloyd Aldridge Eulogist conducting the services. Interment will be held in Hawthorne Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of Haile Funeral Home Inc., Starke. Visitation will be held Friday from 3-6 p.m. for friends at the Carl D Haile Memorial Chapel and one hour prior to the service on Saturday at the church.



## Lawrence Oglesby

DURHAM, NC—Lawrence "Larry" David Oglesby, age 61, of Durham, NC passed away on Friday, Jan. 26, 2018 in Bensalem, PA. Larry was born on Sept. 17, 1956 to the late Lawrence Theodore "Ted" and Mary Helen (Rivers) Oglesby. He graduated from Bradford County High School in 1974 and worked for the Bradford County Telegraph as a reporter. Eventually, he started his own publication and with the help of his mother, they ran the Middleburg Press for nearly seven years. Larry

then worked in various types of construction which took him to South Carolina, and then to Durham where he and his wife, Susan called home for the last 22 years.

He is survived by: his wife of 21 years, Susan Stanford Oglesby of Durham; sister, Linda Oglesby (Gerald "Jerry") Wilson of Starke; stepdaughter, Amanda Koehler of Davenport; and nieces, Kristin Pfenniger (Christian) Birkedal of Ormond Beach, and Erica Pfenniger (Brian) Canova of Newberry. Also left behind are numerous nieces, nephews, other family members, and friends.

Family will receive friends from 10-11 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 5 at First Baptist Church of Starke. A Celebration of Larry's Life will follow at 11:00 a.m. with Pastor Ben Bryant officiating. Private family burial will be in Keystone Heights Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made in Larry's name to Parkwood United Methodist Church, 5123 Revere Road, Durham, NC 27713.

Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Starke. 904-964-6200. www.jonesgallagherfh.com

PAID OBITUARY

## Dean Peoples

LAKE BUTLER—Dean Annan Peoples, 60, of Lake Butler died on Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2018. He was born on Oct. 23, 1957 to Charles and the late Josephine Peoples. Dean attended Union County High School. He is preceded in death by his mother, Josephine Crews Peoples.

He is survived by: his father, Charles Peoples; and sister, Sheri (Don) Fortune; and many other family members.

Services were held on Jan. 28 at Archer Funeral Home. Arrangements are under the care of Archer Funeral Home, Lake Butler.

## Nina Robinson

MELROSE—Nina Catherine Robinson, 94, of Melrose died on Monday, Jan. 29, 2018 at Riverwood Health and Rehab in Starke. She was born in Elm Creek, NE on Nov. 7, 1923 to the late Leslie James and Edna Ada (Prime) DeVoe. She was a homemaker. She was a longtime resident of Melrose and a member of Eliam Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by: her husband of 50 years, James Warren Robinson; and brothers, Donavan DeVoe and Eugene DeVoe.

She is survived by: her daughter, Kay K. (Leslie) Domalik of Melrose; and son, Thomas S. (Linda) Robinson of Blackshear, GA; three grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; seven great-great-grandchildren; and many other family members.

Family will receive friends from 1-3 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 2 at Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home. Funeral services will follow at 3:00 p.m. Private family burial will be at Keystone Heights Cemetery. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Keystone Heights.

## Linda Smith

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Linda L. Smith, 71, of Keystone Heights died on Thursday, Jan. 25, 2018 at her daughter's home, surrounded by her family. She was born in Jacksonville on July 2, 1946 to Andrew Jacob and Annie Mae (Stevens) Feaster. A longtime resident of Keystone Heights, she was an administrator for Oak Hill Christian Academy. She was preceded in death by: her parents; and her husband, Billy McCall.

She is survived by: her children, Anthony (Tammy) McCall of LaGrange, GA, Kimberly M. (Thomas) Mitchell of Keystone Heights, and Billy "Dean" McCall of Keystone Heights; siblings, Shirley Sikes of Jacksonville, Andrew Feaster of Jacksonville, and Carol (Robert) Hicks of Jacksonville; eight grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and many other family members.

A celebration life will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 3 at Jones-Gallagher Chapel with Lonnie McDaniel and Leon Johns officiating. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Keystone Heights.

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**Anthony Spatafore**

STARKE— Anthony “Tony” John Spatafore, 84, of Starke died Saturday, Jan. 27, 2018 at Shands University Hospital in Gainesville. He was born in Malanga, NJ and later moved to Starke. He served with the Heilbronn Spring Fire Department in Starke and worked as a store manager. Mr. Spatafore was of the Pentecostal faith and served with the United States Navy.

Arrangements entrusted to Haile Funeral Home Inc., Starke.



**William Stanley**

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS— William Bryan “Billy” Stanley, age 90 years, a native of Keystone Heights passed away at his home with his family at his bedside. He was born on Aug. 6, 1927 to the late William Green and Stella (Sargent) Stanley and grew up in what was then called Brooklyn and graduated from Bradford High School. He served in the United States Army 1945-1946. Mr. Stanley started his 45 year long career with Clay Electric Cooperative as a lineman and through the years worked his way to upper management before his retirement. Mr. Stanley enjoyed spending time outdoors hunting and fishing; he also enjoyed playing cards with friends. He was a long time member of the First Baptist Church. When his health began declining and he couldn’t physically attend church anymore, he then began watching Pastor Arnold Murray from the Shepherd’s Chapel which he very much enjoyed. Mr. Stanley’s most cherished times were being able to spend time with his family and friends. His first wife, Ruth (Tyre) Stanley, of 29 years and the mother of his three sons preceded him in death along with his four sisters.

He is survived by: his wife of 35 years, Muriel (Joyner) Stanley; three sons and their wives, Bryan (Angy) Stanley, David (Susan) Stanley and Glenn (Lyn) Stanley all of Keystone Heights. Also left behind are three step children; Clifford (Susan) Sirman of Fleming Island, LaDonna (Timothy) Perkins of Cartersville, GA and Karen (Glen) Wilson of Keystone Heights. He was also “Papa” to seventeen grandchildren; five step-grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

**UCHS weightlifter Gainey excels during trying family time**

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Staff Writer

During the last three weeks, Union County High School junior Taylor Gainey has won a district championship, earned a runner-up finish at the regional level and qualified to compete in the state finals.

Those accomplishments pale in comparison to what she and her family have experienced in the last year. Thankfully, Gainey can say her parents, Mitchell and Theresa Gainey, are doing

well, with Mitchell having undergone brain surgery and Theresa having had a double mastectomy due to breast cancer.

“It’s great,” Gainey said of her parents’ recovery, “because it is hard to see both of your parents hospitalized and not being able to take care of themselves when you’ve always known them to be able to take care of themselves and others.”

Watching her parents not only come through what they did, but how they handled it as well, has been uplifting, letting Gainey know she can do anything she wants if she sets her mind to it and also showing her how important it is to rely on God.

“They inspire me to know that they didn’t let cancer and brain surgery hold them back,” Gainey said. “Of course, they didn’t let it hinder them spiritually, either. Right now, they praise God for having to go through what they went through.”

A happy Taylor Gainey (front, center) poses for a picture with her family after winning the District 4-1A championship in her weight class. She is between her parents, Theresa and Mitchell Gainey, while her brother, Philip, is pictured in the back.



**Handling what the world throws at her**

Weightlifting was a great way for her to handle what was going on with her parents.

See GAINNEY, 9B

Graveside services for Mr. Stanley will be held at 11 o’clock on Saturday, Feb. 3 with Pastor Paul Coleman officiating. Interment will be at the Keystone Heights Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, make a donation to either the Shepherd’s Chapel, P.O. Box 416, Gravette, AR 72736 or to a local charity of your choice. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Keystone Heights. 352-473-3176. www.jonesgallagherfh.com

PAID OBITUARY

**Andrew Timmons Jr.**

LAWTEY— Andrew Timmons Jr., 50, of Lawtey died Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2018 at his residence. He was a life long resident of Hampton. He was a member of Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, Hampton. He attended the local schools of Bradford County. He was self employed.

He is survived by: son, Andrew Timmons III; parents, Andrew Timmons Sr. and Freddie Timmons of Hampton; brother, Kerry White of Alachua; sister, Natalie Timmons Thomas; one grandchild; and many other family members.

Funeral services will be held at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3 in the True Vine Outreach Ministries Church with Pastor James Crawford conducting the services. Interment will be held in Hampton Cemetery, Hampton. Arrangements are under the direction of Haile Funeral Home Inc., Starke. Visitation will be held on Feb. 2 in the Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, Hampton, 4-6 p.m. and one hour prior to the services on Saturday at True Vine Outreach Ministries Church. The Cortège will form at the home of Timmons Jr. Parent’s home on Saturday at 2:00 p.m. at 4523 Southeast 101st Street, Hampton.

*In Memory*



**Daisy B. Williams**

*I thought I saw her face today in the sparkle of the morning sun. And then I heard the angel say, “Her work on earth is done.”*

*I thought I felt her touch today in the breeze that rustled by. And then I heard the angel say, “The spirit never dies.”*

*I thought that she had left me for the stars so far above. And then I heard the angel say, “She left you with her love.”*

*I thought that I would miss her and never find my way. And then I heard the angel say, “She’s with you every day.”*

*We still miss you every day, gone but forever remaining in our hearts and memory...*

*Love, Ed Sr., Deitra, Ed Jr., Mamie, Lonnie, Cynthia, Reginald Green and Family.*

**LEGALS**

**NOTICE**

The New River Community Health Center Board of Directors will meet February 14, 2018 at 395 West Main Street, Lake Butler, FL 32054 from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

2/1 1tchg-B-sect

**KEYSTONE AIRPARK MEETING**  
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# Impacting youth is fulfilling for CIS' Boyette, Fox

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

You won't find the letters C, I or S in the words Dream Job, but as far as Martha Boyette and Michelle Fox are concerned, you can't spell those two words without them.

Boyette and Fox are site coordinators for Bradford County's Communities in Schools, or CIS. Those jobs enable them to fulfill a passion — to help children to the best of their abilities, with the hopes of putting them on the path toward a better future.

For Boyette, who is the site coordinator at Bradford Middle School, the job allows her opportunities she couldn't fully take advantage of as a teacher. She once told Kathy Hobbs, the former CIS director, that as a teacher, she wanted to adopt every child she knew that needed some kind of help.

"This is the kind of job you can really get personal with the kids and do something for them," Boyette said. "We're allowed to do things that as teachers we're not allowed to do."

Boyette and her family lived several places when she was a youth on account of her father being in the Navy. She grew up mostly in Texas, but her family eventually moved to Bradford County. She attended Bradford High School her junior and senior years. Boyette's mother was also a BHS graduate, having grown up in Lawley.

"I started teaching in '94," Boyette said. "I started in Putnam County and then came back to Bradford. I've been here ever since."

She taught third grade and fifth grade at Starke's Southside Elementary. She was approaching retirement time, but Hobbs reached out to her in regard to the job with CIS.

"Kathy Hobbs offered this job to me," Boyette said. "She knew all the things I enjoyed doing with the kids. She said, 'This is right up your alley. You need to do this.' So I retired from teaching and came to this. It is perfect. If there's a perfect job, it's this one. I love it."

## Job is like an extension of the ministry for Fox

Fox, like Boyette, is passionate about working with youth, having a background as a youth pastor. She said she realized the job of CIS site coordinator was perfect for her as soon as she sat down with current CIS Director Shannon Rowe for her interview.

"I get a lot of ministry done without ever having to preach," said Fox, who is the site coordinator at BHS. "You just love on kids and be there for them."

Fox grew up in Keystone Heights, where she's lived since she was 5. The Keystone Heights High School graduate served approximately 20 years as a youth pastor. She's worked at Keystone's First Assembly of God and Starke Community Church.

"I'm still the associate pastor at Starke Community Church," Fox said. "When I stepped away from doing youth ministry, I started kind of doing everything else in the church. I missed the teenagers, but I didn't really want to be a youth pastor again."

Fox became aware that CIS was looking for a site coordinator at BHS and was "thrilled" at the opportunity.

"I actually feel so much more comfortable with teenagers than I do with any other people in the world," Fox said. "It's just a natural fit."

## Discovering and meeting needs

So what is a CIS site coordinator? As Fox explained as a guest speaker at the meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Starke (see related story), site coordinators help CIS work with individual students to make improvements in three areas: attendance, behavior and course performance.

"Case managing students is what we do," Fox said during her talk in front of Kiwanis members. "It means we go in, and we find out what the students' needs are."

The site coordinators have their own rooms on their respective campuses. There, they talk to students and address whatever issues they may be facing. Sometimes it's talking to students about conflict resolution and getting them to

understand they don't have to respond with anger or violence. Other times, it's finding out why certain students are chronically absent and figuring out how to keep them coming to school. CIS offers tutoring services in the site coordinator rooms.

Boyette said she saw one student who should've started her freshman year at high school this year, but who had been retained. The student was embarrassed by that and missed the first two weeks of school because of that. Boyette asked the student to come see her so she could help her, which that student did every day for a month.

"She did so well that she was able to finish up her core classes that she missed and moved on up to the high school half a year early, so she was back where needed to be with her grade," Boyette said.

If students aren't progressing in school like they should, why aren't they? Do they need school supplies? Boyette and Fox can provide those. Maybe they don't have good-quality clothing to wear or appropriate attire, such as cold-weather clothing to offer (Boyette's room even has a dryer). Do they need mental-health counseling? CIS has an arrangement where a counselor is available to students.

Maybe a need can be met by simply giving the student something to eat. Boyette and Fox know students who do not get enough to eat at home. Therefore, they have food in the rooms.

What happens oftentimes is that while a child is eating, he or she will open up to Boyette or Fox about whatever they're struggling with at home and/or school.

"They love that I have raviolis," Fox said. "I spend \$1 on a can of raviolis, and it's worth a lifetime because a kid sitting there eating raviolis will sit there and talk to me about all manner of things that have happened in their life."

## Caring adults who have the time to help

Fox said it's part of the process of building relationships with students, which better allows her and



Martha Boyette, the CIS site coordinator at Bradford Middle School, talks with student

Boyette to help students.

"They have to know they can trust you," Fox said. "I tell them, 'Anything you say in here stays in here unless it's something that will harm you or someone else.'"

Boyette said a site coordinator is described as "a caring adult at the school to offer support."

That in no way is meant to minimize the impact of teachers. Fox said teachers sometimes don't know how to help a particular student's need and don't have the time to try to find out. Fox and Boyette have the time to make phone calls or go out into the community, seeking whatever resources are available to help a particular child.

"We had kids after the hurricane that were homeless," Fox said. "Their families had no place to go. They didn't qualify for (assistance). I started calling everybody."

Boyette said, "These teachers are always caring adults, but we are the caring adults that have the time to do the extra things, and that makes the difference."

## A rewarding job despite emotional ups and downs

It's hard to meet so many

children who have struggles and are on emotional roller coasters. Fox said it makes her job sometimes emotionally overwhelming, while Boyette said, "One day you're crying because you're happy for somebody. One day you're crying for them because they're down."

about the possibilities: "What is this day going to bring? Who am I going to see succeed? Who's going to be brought to me today who I can help or do something for?"

It's heartbreaking that they can't reach or help every student in need, the site coordinators said, but

it is great to see those children who do respond. Sometimes when she gets to school, Boyette finds children waiting for her outside her room.

"I hate to say things like that because we're not pinning medals on ourselves," Boyette said, "but that's just what this does for these kids. That's what makes it so rewarding."

Yet they wouldn't give up their dream jobs. They want to give children hope for the future. That hope starts with experiencing success at school. Boyette said it means so much to hear a child tell her, "I wouldn't be able to do this if it wasn't for you."

Boyette said each day she goes to work, she gets excited



Martha Boyette

"This is the kind of job you can really get personal with the kids and do something for them. We're allowed to do things that as teachers we're not allowed to do."



Jovarus Harris about how he's progressing in school. Kiley Powell discusses her grades with Michelle Fox, the CIS site coordinator at Bradford High School.

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# GAINEY

Continued from 7B

Gainey said she was able to receive support from her teammates, who were there to listen to anything she needed to say. Plus, the weight room is the one place where Gainey feels the most confident. For her, peace comes with confidence.

"When I'm in here, I know I'm strong physically," Gainey said, "but it also gives me the confidence that I can handle this, and I can handle whatever else the world is throwing at me."

Gainey's father had brain surgery in February due to a cyst, which Gainey said was the size of an egg.

"It wasn't cancerous, but the doctors said that surgery was going to be inevitable because he was going to keep

having migraines," Gainey said.

She and her older brother, Philip, who graduated from UCHS last year, helped to take care of their father during his recovery. Gainey said she'd sometimes stop on her way home from school to get her father some type of food he'd requested of her earlier that day.

Gainey said her father had mostly recovered by the time her mother went through her bout with cancer. Because of Mitchell's work schedule, Gainey said she and her brother would take on the responsibility of cooking meals, washing dishes, etc., while she also made a chart that kept track of her mother's various medications and what times of the day she was supposed to take them.

"I would lay them out for her in the morning and make

sure she took them, then lay out what she needed that evening," Gainey said.

Theresa recently had reconstructive surgery and doesn't have to undergo chemotherapy or radiation.

"I only saw her cry like once or twice through the

Grace Christian Fellowship Baptist Church family. Joy Williams, the wife of Pastor Philip Williams, would share scripture with her, Gainey said. She took heart in reading about how God is in control.

"That was the one thing I really leaned on," Gainey said.



Taylor Gainey

"It wasn't cancerous, but the doctors said that surgery was going to be inevitable because he was going to keep having migraines,"

## Family support through weightlifting and life

whole experience" Gainey said. "She was just so strong." Helping Gainey stay strong through it all was not just lifting weights with her teammates, but also relying upon her faith and her

It means a lot to Gainey to share her weightlifting

accomplishments with her parents, who are both supportive of the endeavor.

"My mom, she just thinks that's really cool," Gainey said, adding, "She's just proud of me and the woman I've become."

Her father really delves into the sport. Gainey said he's gone online and downloaded the state handbooks for girls' weightlifting and read all of them.

"He gets really excited," Gainey said.

Her father hasn't been able to watch her during most of the team's competitions because of his work schedule, though he did make it to the District 4-1A finals just in time to see her receive her championship medal, Gainey said. Her mother has made it to all of the team's home meets as well as the district meet.

As for what her parents will say to her prior to leaving

for Panama City Beach and the state finals, Gainey said, "Of course, my mom tells me always just to give it to God and let him work through me. Something I know my dad will tell me — and what has told me before my past meets — is that when I go out there, I just have to give it my best. If my best isn't great enough (to win), I can say I left it all out there."

Earning a medal at state would be a great accomplishment, but Gainey has learned what's really important — taking advantage of the time you have with loved ones. She said she and her family pray together every day before they go their separate ways to school and work, making sure they express their love for each other.

"We just now realize how precious life really is, and we don't take anything for granted," Gainey said.

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# Bradford County-- frontier to car culture

BY JAMES WILLIAMS  
*Special to the Telegraph*

This is an excerpt from a forthcoming book, "Four Florida Roads," by James Williams, a former Lake Region Monitor Editor. As the title suggests, the book covers the history and impact of Bellamy Road, The Tamiami Trail, U.S. 301 and I-95. Williams hopes to have the book available in print and/or digital by the end of this year.

## The Age of Livestock

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century insurance maps in the UF Smathers Library's Digital Collection give us a picture of Starke, Florida; before and after several fires, between 1890 and 1910.

The maps show a collection of livery stables, cattle barns, a blacksmith, carriage and harness shops for the sale and repair of transportation in an age when horsepower meant real horses.

Maps aren't the only artifacts of the horse-and-buggy era. Early photos of Starke show improvised hitching posts along Call Street, Starke's commercial main drag back in the day. Like the maps, some photos show a fountain in the middle of the street; it served as a hitching post and watering trough for passing livestock.

The Telegraph's January 4, 1918 edition--the first of the year--carries a large ad for Andrews and Sons Horses and Livestock: a third train carload of animals was on its way, the ad said. The same edition also carried a smaller insurance company ad--perhaps the one that ordered those Smathers Library maps. The company offered fire, home, life, plate glass and--a new product--auto insurance.

The county's isolated farm families tended to stay put, in part because of the roads. Small five- to ten-family churches and elementary schools were built nearby to avoid travel. Never entirely self-sufficient, families hitched the horse and buggy to go shopping only when necessary.

Off and on, Starke had been the Bradford County seat since at least 1872, when Eugene S. Matthews was born in Providence. But in part because of roads and difficult transportation, he had never been to Starke until one day in 1893 he (probably) took a train from Ocala, at 21 years of age, to buy the county newspaper.

Once it was his, if Matthews' paper reported Miss Sew and Sew from Hampton visited Mrs. Lotta Doe of Starke last Sunday, and they had a delightful luncheon, it wasn't because Matthews was filling space or thought it important news, or because the two ladies would buy his paper to see their names in print. Matthews was encouraging social behavior, building community, putting the urban balm of socializing on ossifying rural isolation.

In 1915, it was common for in-county travelers from as little as six to thirty miles away--Hampton or Lake Butler, say--to make their laborious way in a buggy to do business at the county seat and stay overnight with friends or in a hotel. This was preferable meeting some dire emergency while returning home on lonely, treacherous roads at night.

The Bradford County Telegraph reported on these business visitors, too, and their overnight stays. More than a social note--such items spoke to the state of the local economy.

Intentionally or not, Eugene Matthews was leading Bradford County readers out of a horse-and-buggy era toward a 20<sup>th</sup> Century car culture, a get-out-of-the-house and travel culture, and step-by-step, into a larger world.

On another page in the 1918 first-of-the-year edition, readers found a small notice that new auto and chauffer licenses and tags had to be purchased and attached to a vehicle by January 1. Applications could be made only by mail to the state comptroller in Tallahassee.

The last Telegraph edition of that same year, Dec. 27, 1918, was filled with stories of "our doughboys over there" and World War I, but now carried a notice that 1919 auto taxes were due. The legislature had changed the rates: there was now a \$2 motorcycle fee and a \$100 tax for vehicles seating 10 or more. Forms could be picked up at a local garage or the tax collector's office, but still had to be submitted by mail to the state comptroller in Tallahassee.

Elsewhere in the December paper, was a page two ad for the Ford Garage, "the universal car" with "the best trucks on the market" (\$550.) A back page ad showed a hand-operated, gas-powered garden tractor.

There were no horse-related ads in the yearend edition.

## The dawn of the horseless carriage

In 1920, the Telegraph announced the opening of another new garage and machine company, to be located in a fireproof building south of the Bradford County Bank. A few months later, another Ford garage went up.

A September 1921 Telegraph reported that the F.L. Sherman family had driven in their Ford truck over 2,000 miles from Maine to Starke to visit relatives. Mr. Sherman, a civil engineer and former railroad man, had built a small house on the back of the family truck:

"...no trouble was experienced before Middleburg was passed," the Telegraph said, "and the deep, sandy roads began. There, another car had to be engaged to help them progress as far as to Kingsley Lake, where A.S. Strickland's truck helped the travelers through the sand hills."

It wasn't only out-of-state travelers who ran into trouble on Central Florida roads; everyone did. In good weather, the roads were sandy; when wet they became quicksand with deep ruts and rivers of mud.

Twenty-one years into the new century, much of Bradford was still making do with bad roads, a problem for all, but easier for real horse power than new-fangled automobiles. Many complained about roads, but good roads were expensive.

In 1922, Matthews sadly noted the total absence of horse traders at a recent agricultural exposition. When the last of Starke's old livery stables was torn down, the Telegraph reported on it. The water fountain in the middle of Call Street had long since been removed.

Ready or not, like it or not, in only four years it seemed as if much of Bradford County had dumped old Dobbin and gotten itself a horseless carriage. The Woman's Club began to ask businesses to decorate automobile parking lots with trees, shrubs and flowers.

In February 1924, Matthews published a list of "30 Don'ts for Autoists." It had been compiled by an association of Florida cities, all of which were seeing the same offenses happening repeatedly thanks to an untutored, ill-mannered driving public.

"1. Don't park on the wrong side of the road," it said. "2. Don't back up without blowing your horn. 3. Don't speed up when anyone asks for the road. 4. Don't pass anyone on a curve...7. Don't run over a child. 8. Don't drive on the wrong side of the road. 9. Don't try to mix whiskey and gasoline; they won't mix. 10. Don't forget to dim your lights when passing another car...12. Don't forget that the pedestrian has as much right to street crossings as you have...15. Don't neglect your brakes as they are very handy at times. 26. Don't hog the road as you may hit someone. 17. Don't forget to signal when turning to the left and when stopping...20. Don't leave your car unlocked...24. Don't forget there are jay

walkers. 25. Don't permit bicycle riders to "catch on" to your car. 26. Don't fail to stop, look and listen at (railroad) crossings. 27. Don't forget to have both your lights burning at night. 28. Don't permit any child under 14 years of age to drive your car...30. Don't fail to read and obey traffic signs."

## New prohibitions

Children of course, would be the chief recipients of the good and ill effects of 20<sup>th</sup> Century progress--including its automobiles. Instead of walking to school, they began to ride in a school bus. Going for a drive in the family auto was always great fun, and kids looked so cute taking over the steering wheel. Children had always played in whatever roads existed. But traffic was more frequent; the dangers intensified.

The Telegraph went from occasional notices of transportation-related accidents prior to the 20s to a never-ending 1930s horror show of reports on the deaths of one child after another: children hit by passing cars, children driving automobiles that overturned, children falling or being thrown from parent-driven automobiles in collisions. One Bradford boy was killed when he leaned from an auto window and hit his head on a passing pole.

A 1922 item warned parents not to allow any child under 16 to operate a vehicle unless a parent was present. This was as good an idea then as now, but there was no actual law against youngsters "learning to drive." Nor outside of town, was there any agency to enforce such a law had there been any. It was three years after Prohibition began before intoxicated driving was suddenly against the law.

In 1924, Bradford's school superintendent declared that he wanted all autos kept away from Bradford schools. A new law required motorists to stop before passing a stationary school bus or face a \$300 fine.

The new automobile meant new crimes and misdemeanors. "Speeding on the highways must stop," said the sheriff in a 1922 Telegraph. Municipal law enforcement was constantly looking for reckless drivers, like the one that demolished park benches in the City of Starke.

The state legislature established a statewide, in-town speed limit of 20 mph in cities and towns. But what you did with your car between towns was another matter entirely.

Matthews frequently published stories of motorists driving on wheel rims; the perpetrators often drunken Negroes whom Matthews identified as such. But to include the (white) farming and logging communities and spread the guilt around where it also belonged, in April 1928, he published this notice, on a front page without comment:

## Criminal Liability for Damage to Roads

Chapter 9375 Special Acts 1923 makes it a misdemeanor, punishable as provided by general law to (operate) vehicles, trucks, tractors and log carts, disc harrows and cutters in a manner injurious to roads of Bradford County Florida... the Bradford County Road

Department hereby gives notice that it shall seek to bring to justice all future offenders.

By 1924, there were reports of auto thefts, and a nighttime robbery of a stranded motorist on Lake Butler Road. In 1928, locals and out-of-towners alike were dumping trash along the highways.

After a reckless driver tore up the Waldo Bridge connecting Bradford and Alachua Counties, for the third time, the bridge would have to be rebuilt.

Traffic deaths and serious injuries were reported two and three at a time on the Telegraph's front page by the 1930s. Matthews could be charged with the alleged news maxim, "If it bleeds, it leads," but he was just telling readers, "Be more careful out there."

## Safety first

Over a four year period in the 1920s, the Telegraph ran items suggesting it would be a good idea for motorists to move to the side of the road when a fire truck was coming. Then, it suggested "hospital cars" be given the same courtesy and finally police cars with lights and sirens. Eventually it wasn't just a good idea, it was a law.

As both a member of the state legislature and a member of the state utility board, Matthews helped regulate the railroads.

But as a newspaper editor, he also knew the danger to automobiles and drivers at railroad crossings. When he was older, one of his own adult children died in an automobile on a railroad track.

He also knew trains often hit cattle wandering on the tracks. Such slaughter was always the railroad's liability. Hundreds of thousands of dollars were being paid annually to Florida stockmen, as their unfenced cattle roamed the land.

In the Telegraph's March 2, 1923 edition, railroad advocate J.H. Moore of Lawtey, defended the safety of railroad travel:

"Safety First.... Anyone who reads the daily papers will agree with me that there are more people killed in our state by not looking out before driving cars on railway crossings than... killed (while riding) all the railroads in our state. If there is anyone interested in a law to protect our women and children from being killed in those joy wagons, tell it to the papers."

As if to drive home Moore's point, that week Matthews also printed two front page stories of drivers and their passengers killed at a railroad crossing. A mother and daughter had

been hit by a train in Alachua. In Hampton, it was the son of a noted shingle mill owner: that story included a gruesome description of bystanders collecting body parts to put in a box until a coffin arrived.

In a June, 1927 edition, Matthews told readers: "The bill passed by the legislature provided for motor vehicles to come to a stop at all grade railroad crossings was signed by Govern Martin Wednesday and is now a law of the state."

Railroad men were already unhappy that horseless carriages were killing business on their passenger trains. It would be another twenty years before the state would shift the onus of responsibility for safety at railroad crossings off the public and onto the railroads.

## Autos and the state

In 1905, auto owners made their own license plates. In 1918, Florida began providing standardized plates for each vehicle--for a price. The automotive public would pay for tags, naturally, but who could affordably manufacture them?

Why prisoners of course! Gov. Hardee outlawed convict peonage in 1923; inmates could no longer be leased to corporations as cheap labor; but they could be compelled to work for the state. By 1927, most Florida correctional institutions had license plate manufacturing equipment. By 1928, every vehicle owner had to buy a license plate from the State.

But who would sell those license plates? With 24.7 million motor vehicles in Florida, the Comptroller in Tallahassee couldn't keep up any more. Each county would sell the plates; and it seemed appropriate the county tax collector to get the job.

Not surprisingly, license plate theft became a frequent crime, even after the motor vehicle department found a way to render stolen tags useless.

The public never understood that the state determined the price of a tag, not by the cost

of making the license plate, but by the cost of building and maintaining roads over which the autos would drive. By 1930, auto owners had resigned themselves to buying not a one-time auto license, but one a year.

Then, Federal, state and local governments discovered gas and oil taxes. The .8 cent per gallon gas tax of 1920 had risen to seven cents per gallon by 1931, and continued to climb. As with license plates, auto owners might find their gas tanks empty one morning when they'd filled the tank just the night before. Gas theft was especially common during The Great Depression; if Matthews heard about it, he reported on it.

In the Dec. 27, 1929 edition, Matthews told readers neglect of their auto was their own worst enemy. "We pour alcohol into our radiator... in winter," he said, "and forget to drain it out again when the weather gets warm.... we put oil in the crankcase, (when) a gas station attendant reminds (us)..."

In November, 1931, Matthews told Bradford readers that the sheriff of Starke was now issuing tickets to all who double-parked on Call Street.

In 1932, the Telegraph reported that the state motorcar inspector came to town "...to aid local agents in their work.... He urges those who have purchased 1932 tags to place them on their cars at once as it proves annoying to all concerned to find many carrying them in their cars, and is in violation of the law not to properly place them on their cars as they should be."

In 1939 the Florida Highway Patrol was created. Also that year, every driver was required to have a driver license. There was no test involved; anybody could get one from a county judge. A head of household could by several and distribute them to members of his or her family.

Bradford and Florida's transition to a car culture was, nearly, but not yet entirely complete.

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