



# UNION COUNTY TIMES

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THURSDAY, DEC. 26, 2013

101<sup>ST</sup> YEAR – 35<sup>TH</sup> ISSUE – 75 CENTS

## Sheriff Whitehead passes away suddenly at 60

*A community, in shock once again, remembers a friend, counselor, guardian and servant to all*



**UNION COUNTY SHERIFF GERALD M. "JERRY" WHITEHEAD**  
September 27, 1953 – December 18, 2013

BY VINCENT ALEX BROWN  
*Times Editor*

When a man dies, a picture begins to emerge about what kind of man he was. If he's the respectable sort, a common theme develops that shines through, speaking volumes about the legacy he leaves. Union County Sheriff Gerald M. "Jerry" Whitehead was such a man, and even a legend.

Whitehead died suddenly from cardiac failure at North Florida Regional Hospital after a brief illness at the age of 60 on Wednesday, Dec. 18. Even in the midst of shock, friends, colleagues, and those in the community used words such as friend, counselor, and pillar.

Word quickly spread amid the shockwave of everyone wondering how this could be true.

Within the hour, Art Peterson, minister

of First Christian Church of Lake Butler, was with the family to console them in another great loss within just four months—and put his own chance to grieve on hold till others were attended to, but nonetheless hurts like they do.

Peterson has been minister at First Christian as long as Whitehead was sheriff. Peterson arrived in Union County in 1985, the year Whitehead took his office. Whitehead and his second wife, Tammy, invited Peterson and his wife, Janis, to Whitehead's home and immediately offered to help Peterson with something right off the bat—a pattern that would repeat itself in the life of Peterson's and countless others' throughout the years.

In Peterson's "Manna in the Morning" devotion sent out via email and heard weekdays on Union County's only radio station, WUCR 107.9 LPFM, the minister honored his friend:

*The Bible says, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord." Once again those words provide some comfort to the family and many friends of Sheriff Jerry Whitehead who passed away yesterday afternoon while at North Florida Regional Hospital. I don't know of anyone who will be missed any more in our county than Jerry Whitehead. This past August Jerry lost his mother, Vivian, and then a few weeks later lost his uncle, Marvin Pritchett. So our prayers are for the whole Whitehead. ...*

*It is never easy to lose a loved one but at this time of year, so close to Christmas, it is especially difficult. Part of the message of Christmas is that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. That means that Jesus came here to share with us in our struggle... to be with us in our*

See SHERIFF, 2A



## Major Garry Seay appointed interim sheriff

BY VINCENT ALEX BROWN  
*Times Editor*

As directed by Governor Rick Scott, Major Garry Seay was sworn in by Union County Court Judge Bo Bayer at approximately 7:20 p.m. as interim sheriff of Union County for a term beginning December 18, 2013, and ending January 17, 2014.

This provides the governor with a full month to appoint a new sheriff for the coming year. The race for sheriff will be added to the midterm election on Nov. 4, 2014. Whoever is elected in November will have to run again in the general election in 2016.

Seay, who was chief deputy or undersheriff, stated at the press conference announcing Whitehead's death, "The Union County Sheriff's Office will continue to operate in a professional manner, just as Sheriff Whitehead would insist.

"Garry will be our sheriff for sure, we know till the 17th," Bayer said. "And at the whim of the governor, hopefully be our sheriff, at least, for the remainder of 2014."

Garry, accepted the appointment, but never sought it. "Besides the sadness of Jerry not being here with us. This is something Garry and I talked about a couple of hours ago. And neither one of us want to do this," Bayer said. "I know he sure never wanted to be sheriff. I sure didn't want to swear in a new sheriff."

If appointed by the governor for the year, Seay said he would accept for the sake of consistency at the sheriff's office as it mourns the loss of its leader of nearly three decades and the Whitehead sheriffs of over 60 years.

After being sworn in, Seay thanked those in attendance and said, "We're going to run this sheriff's office just like normal, under Sheriff Whitehead's policies. We're going to do the best we can, and we're going to do all we can. It's just a sad time in all of our lives."

Seay has training certificates in many aspects of law enforcement. He worked for John Whitehead for 15 years, has since served as Jerry's lead investigator, especially on the major cases, including the fatal Pritchett shootings.

"That's what I like to do, and I enjoy doing that," Seay said, "and he was comfortable with me doing that. Him and I were kind of hands-on on especially on every major crimes we were hands-on, trying to make sure everything was carried out and done properly."

Seay misses collaborating with Whitehead on cases and working with him on a daily basis—and leaning on him as a friend and mentor.

"I got a lot of my guidance from Jerry, even for just a friend to talk to," Seay said. "Back in January of this year, I lost my twin brother. Jerry's been a big part of my life, to help me fill that void."

With Whitehead gone, "It's like a big, heavy hole in my heart."

Governor Scott said, "I am confident that Chief Deputy Sheriff Garry Seay will keep the families of Union County safe during this interim period."

"It's something I didn't ask for," Seay told those who witnessed his appointment. "But it's something I will do and will do it to the best of my abilities."

## WORTH NOTING

### Union County Times holiday schedule

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

### Seeking "Guardian Angels" for children

GPC Missions (Giving Peace to Children) is seeking local "Guardian Angels" to help Union County children of all ages receive at least one of the gifts on their wish list this year.

The families selected cannot afford Christmas for them.

GPC is also accepting donations of winter clothes (new and used). Call for size sizes, and diapers for the little ones.

Call or text Sue Raper at 386-984-6072 or email her at [sraper73@gmail.com](mailto:sraper73@gmail.com). Learn more about GPC Missions at [www.gpcmissions.org](http://www.gpcmissions.org).

### Substitute teacher training, Jan. 9

Substitute training will be held for new substitutes and for those who did not substitute teach for at least 10 days during the 2012-13 school year, Thursday, Jan. 9, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Union County Adult Education building.

Contact Pam Pittman at 386-496-2045 ext. 230.

### North Florida Cattlemen's Association quarterly meeting, Jan. 9

The North Florida Cattlemen's Association will hold its quarterly meeting on Thursday, Jan. 9, at the Lake Butler Community Center.

The social starts at 5:30 p.m. and the program is 6:15 to 6:40 p.m. Presenting will be Tim Wilson, UF/IFAS Extension Bradford County; Basil Bactawar, UF/IFAS Extension Union County; Brad Muse, Bradford-Union Cattlemen's Association; and Tom Bryant, NFCA.

It will be followed by a steak dinner, 6:40 to 7:15 p.m., and another program, 7:15 to 8 p.m. Presenting will be Dr. Todd Thrift, UF/IFAS Extension Beef Cattle Specialist.

RSVP by noon on Tuesday, Jan. 7, by calling 386-752-5384 or 386-496-2321, or emailing [columbia@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:columbia@ifas.ufl.edu).

### Growing & Caring for House Plants Workshop, Jan. 21

A Growing & Caring for House Plants Workshop will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 21, at the Union County Extension Office from 5:00 to 5:45 p.m.

To register, call 386-496-2321 or email [union@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:union@ifas.ufl.edu).

## SHERIFF

Continued from 1A

*grief... to stand beside us in the storms...and to help us with our burdens. In fact one of the most beautiful things Jesus ever said was, "Come unto Me all you who are weary and heavy-laden and I will give you rest."*

*Jerry Whitehead now rests in the arms of Jesus and we look forward to seeing him again... because of Christ!*

He is survived by his wife, Tammy and six children, Matt (Michelle); Brad (Jennifer); Chelsea; Jake, Jack Henry and Presley Vivian; one brother John Henry (Brenda); and one sister Cynthia "Sis" Whitehead and four grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents, John Henry and Vivian Whitehead.

He was currently serving as the dean of sheriffs, as the longest-serving sheriff in the state of Florida. He was elected sheriff of Union County in 1984 and served from 1985 until his death. He followed in his long legacy of his father, John H. Whitehead, as a law enforcement officer and sheriff. John served as sheriff from 1953 until Jerry took office.

"Sheriff Whitehead was a well-respected man and a humble sheriff who believed a man was only as good as his word, and who was dedicated to doing things the right way," Steve Casey, executive director of the Florida Sheriffs Association, said in a statement. "Today, we pray for his family that they may celebrate his life and his legacy, and we send our appreciation for all that the Whitehead family has given and sacrificed for the safety and welfare of our citizens."

Jerry graduated from Union County High School and attended Lake City Junior College and Forest Ranger School (now known as Florida Gateway College). He also completed Florida Department of Law Enforcement Executive Institute and received numerous law enforcement training and certifications throughout his career. He was also a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigations National Academy.

The sheriff received the Distinguished Service Award from the Florida Council on Crime and Delinquency, the Paul Harris Fellow Award for his dedication and leadership to Rotary and the Shining Star Award from Florida Education Foundation.

He served the Florida Sheriffs Association as Secretary 1987-88; Treasurer, 1989; Vice President, 1990; and President 1991; as well as a member of the board of directors for many years.

He was very active in the Lake Butler Rotary Club and served as President from 1989-1990.

He was currently serving on the Board of Directors for the Florida Sheriffs Self Insurance Fund since

2002 and the Board of Directors of the Sheriffs Automobile Risk Program since 2002, as well as the Florida Sheriff's Multiple Employer Trust.

He was a longtime supporter of the Florida Department of Corrections. He was also a member of the Lake Butler Masonic Lodge. He was a strong supporter of the Union County schools system.

He was a lifelong member of the First Christian Church of Lake Butler.

One might even say that Whitehead was the dean of Union County.

"He was the face of Union County," said Gordon Smith, sheriff of neighboring Bradford County. "When you think of Union County, you think of Jerry Whitehead."

"The man is loved by this community."

At a press conference held at approximately 5 p.m. on Wednesday by Major Garry Seay of the Union County Sheriff's Office, sheriffs the following counties were on hand to show their support: Baker, Bradford, Suwannee, Lafayette, Dixie, Hamilton, Columbia and Gilchrist.

Also present was Union County Court Judge Bo Bayer and State Attorney of the 8th Judicial Circuit, Bill Cervone.

Seay opened the press conference saying, "Today we are here, grief-stricken over the unexpected death of Sheriff Jerry Whitehead. ...

"A dedicated family man, a servant to the citizens of Union County, our thoughts are with his wife and with his entire family."

Seay said that Whitehead was a mentor for sheriffs across the state.

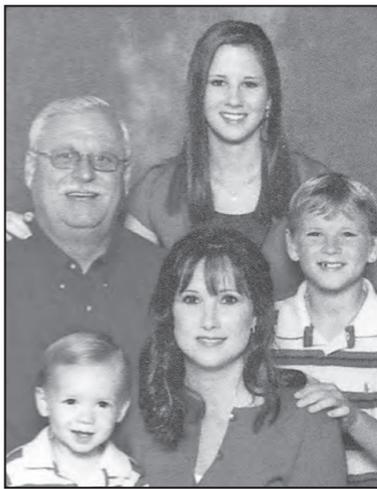
"I've served with Jerry since 1988. Jerry was a mentor to me, when I was first elected, said Hamilton County Sheriff J. Harrell Reid. "He was a people person. He loved this county and he loved the people of this county."

"First off, Sheriff Jerry Whitehead was my friend," Smith said. "Growing up here in this neck of the woods, most of my life, he's been the face of Union County—him and his father."

"I just want to say, he's just been a friend to all the sheriffs—not just North Florida but all the sheriffs. There wasn't a week that went by that he didn't give some words of wisdom, or we'd help each other across the county line."

"He's just going to be sorely missed as a mentor to all of us."

"My heart goes out to his family and the people of Union County, and we're going to here for them."



ABOVE: (Clockwise from top left) Jerry, Chelsea, Jake, Tammy and Jack Henry Whitehead. ABOVE RIGHT: Presley Vivian and Jack Henry Whitehead.



## DOC remembers Sheriff Whitehead

Mike Crews, secretary of the Florida Department of Corrections, sent the following letter to employees:

*It is with deep respect and gratitude for a life of commitment to the values of integrity and leadership that DOC remembers Jerry Whitehead, sheriff of Union County. We are saddened to learn of the untimely passing of Sheriff Whitehead...*

*Whitehead (was) a true friend to DOC.*

*"Those of us at (DOC), and law enforcement communities across this state, are devastated to learn of the untimely death of Jerry Whitehead. He was a true friend to me personally and to the agency, having numerous opportunities to partner with Sheriff Whitehead on public safety initiatives, dating back many years including my time served at FDLE," said Secretary Michael Crews. "To the family... and on behalf of the Florida Department of Corrections, our deepest sympathy and prayers are with you."*

*A special prayer goes out to the family of Sheriff Whitehead who currently or previously served as employees DOC: Sons Brad Whitehead (assistant warden, Florida State Prison) and Matt Whitehead (lieutenant, Reception and Medical Center), daughter Chelsea Whitehead (former dental assistant at Lawtey*

*Correctional Institution) brother John Henry Whitehead (retired colonel, New River Correctional Institution) and sister Cynthia "Sis" Whitehead (retired captain, RMC).*

*Sheriff Whitehead's relationship and support of Corrections dates back many years as he worked to support corrections in his local community and statewide by serving on the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission from 1991-2001. There, he was instrumental in setting the standards and ethics for all law enforcement and correctional officers throughout the state of Florida.*

*"Sheriff Whitehead was a great friend to our agency, dedicating his life to public safety, attending community partnership events at surrounding institutions, and displaying genuine qualities of being a people person with his open door policy" said DOC Deputy Secretary Timothy Cannon. "While his untimely death will create a void, Sheriff Whitehead's legacy will transition future generations as a true leader in the law enforcement and corrections profession for years to come."*

*DOC remembers the life and legacy of a true servant, dedicated to a life of commitment to public safety. Please keep this family in your thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time.*

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out of his way to help people," Seay said. "He was just like his dad. I worked for his dad for 15 years, and have been with Sheriff Whitehead ever since."

"He was a friend to me, and a brother to me. We have worked together for many years," Seay said. "Our hearts are heavy, and everyone in the sheriff's office and the whole entire county and state are numb."

"When you have what I call a monarch of a community, that passes, it's pretty tough," said Mark A. Hunter, sheriff of neighboring Columbia County. "I'm a second-term sheriff, and when I first got elected, the wisdom that Jerry was able to pass on was, just, immeasurable."

"He always took time with the younger sheriffs, when we first came on, and passed on a lot of wisdom."

"Although Union County may be small, I can tell you this: Jerry had a lot of experience, a lot of life experience, and what I call country logic. But he was always able to instill that in us younger sheriffs and help us get through some pretty tough times, because he experienced a lot in his life."

"He is going to be sorely missed, statewide."

"We've got all these monarchs, these pillars, falling this year," said Allen Parrish, EMS director for Bradford County. G.W. Green said he had heard someone else say the exact same thing.

They were referencing the death of Marvin Pritchett who, along with two other employees, was slain by a long-time friend and employee on Aug. 24—less than four months before. Pritchett was the founder and owner of Pritchett Trucking, a successful businessman and a highly respected philanthropist who helped many throughout Union County.

"These are the people I've known all my life, that I grew up with," Parrish said. "I don't know how much a community can take before it disintegrates." But he added that decades ago, the community dealt with the same thing.

Green also mentioned how Whitehead knew everyone in Union County. "He probably knew things about your family you didn't know!"

"He learned that from riding around in his dad's truck," said Bill Thomas, who is an elder at First Christian a long-time friend of Whitehead's who joined Peterson in ministering to the family within hours of hearing the tragic news of Whitehead's death.

Thomas shared how Jerry befriended him when he moved to Union County at the age of 12, and felt like an outsider. It exemplified and echoed what others said.

"I guarantee you that almost everyone in that room felt like Jerry Whitehead was a personal

friend, and he was," said Russ Wade, a Lake Butler lawyer who is the attorney for the Union County Board of Commissioners and for the New River Solid Waste Association.

Whitehead grew up as the son of an even longer-serving sheriff, his father, John H. Whitehead, who passed away on February 9, 2007. Jerry hung around the Union County Jail and went around the county with his dad, learning the importance of knowing those you serve and serving those you know.

"Sheriff (Jerry) Whitehead was genuine," said Bruce Dukes, property appraiser for Union County. "He treated the lowest person and the highest person with dignity."

Whitehead could often be found sitting at the front desk of the sheriff's office and Wade remarked that Jerry would actually answer the phone. "Now how many sheriffs do you know who would do that?"

Whitehead was accessible and approachable, to those in the sheriff's office and all across the county.

"Sheriff Jerry Whitehead was an outstanding boss and a close personal friend. He was a father-figure and mentor to my law enforcement career," said Lt. Lyn Williams, patrol/administrative lieutenant who has been with the department for 22 years. "His death is a tremendous loss to our county and state. I will miss his wisdom and humor every day. I pray for comfort to his family during this sad time for us all."

Support immediately came from all corners after the news spread.

"We have been flooded with phone calls," Seay said. "Everybody in the county's calling. Everybody in the state's calling."

"A sad day for Union County," said Union County Court Judge Bo Bayer.

Union County deputies were grim and tense that afternoon and through the weekend, grappling with the shock of losing their boss of nearly three decades and friend—a somber mood the understandable continued into the next week.

When asked on Wednesday night, one deputy admitted he wasn't doing well and didn't know what to think.

Another repeated a common refrain of others: "A sad day," Deputy John Riggs said. "The county lost a good friend today."

"We've got us a sad, sad, sad situation," said Bill McGill, who's seen it all. He was dropping off a card at the sheriff's office to offer condolences to the family before heading out to town for

Christmas with the family.

"The community really lost a good man," said Ted Barber.

"I'm floored," said Mary Brown, director of the Union County Public Library. "I've known Jerry for a long time. It's going to be difficult for the community."

Whitehead was a counselor to many, a sage who was wise beyond his years.

"I've been knowing Jerry for a long time," said Ena Peacock who works in the Environmental Department

at Bradford Terrace in Starke. "I always went to him with my problems. He was a great man."

Like many others, Bill Thomas, was eager to ask Whitehead for advice regarding an employee—and to commend his deputies for looking out for him one recent evening—but never got the chance.

David Tompkins, associate minister at First Christian, said he often asked Whitehead for advice when a teenager would come to him to tell his his or her.

"I really felt comfortable with him," Tompkins said. On a lighter note, added, "He definitely had the best chicken-and-rice in the area." Whitehead's signature dish was legendary, and he would make a large batch of it for Tompkins' youth fundraisers and many functions throughout the county.

"He was extremely intelligent," Peterson told his weekly Promise Keepers breakfast group at First Christian. "I'm saying that from firsthand knowledge. You couldn't pull the wool over his eyes."

And Peterson remarked, too, that, "He had a strong faith not a lot of people knew about."

Jerry loved his church family, his community and the schools.

"(Whitehead) was a great friend, someone you could always talk to, get advice from on how to handle situations," said Union County Superintendent of Schools Carlton Faulk. "He is truly going to be missed."

Under Whitehead's leadership, Faulk appreciated how involved the sheriff's office was in the schools, from putting deputies on patrol when school started and ended, to keeping students safe, to being there for football games.

The sheriff's office provides a school resource officer, Jason Lepanto, and each year escorts the football players and marching to every away football game.

Back in mid-September, State Rep. Charles Van Zant, accompanied Whitehead, Faulk and school board member Alvin Griffiths to a meeting with the Florida Department of Transportation after "shrinking" the school zone, as Whitehead described it, by installing a new school zone sign in front of Lake

Butler Elementary School about 100 yards west of where it should be. Worse yet, DOT did not tell the sheriff or the school board.

Parents started calling and the DOT engineer in charge of the project refused to budge on moving the sign, claiming the placement was based on DOT's definition of a school zone.

Unsurprisingly, Whitehead swung into action, bringing those officials with him and of course got DOT, and that engineer, to reverse course.

Union may be the smallest county in the state, but it had a sheriff who was bigger than life.

Whitehead's body was brought back to Union County with a deputy escort shortly before 7 p.m. on Wednesday. It was protected by a round-the-clock honor guard while the body was being embalmed at Archer Funeral Home in Lake Butler.

One of those was Sgt. Chuck Johnson with the Bradford County Sheriff's Office.

"He was good to all of us," Johnson said. "I've known Jerry a long time. He'll be truly missed."

Area sheriff's offices provided deputies to support Union County during this difficult time.

"He was a friend to our sheriff's office," Johnson added. "Jerry was always willing to help. He's been at it a long time, been doing it a long time. It's an honor to be here, to do anything we can."

An honor guard stood watch over Whitehead's casket while it sat in the sanctuary of First Christian for both the visitation and memorial service.

The family received friends for six-and-a-half hours on Friday night, Dec. 20.

At least 1,200 attended the memorial service on Saturday, Dec. 21. Those in attendance included Florida Governor Rick Scott, Congressman Ted Yoho, Bayer and former Union County Court Judge David L. Reiman, Cervone, and hundreds of sheriffs and deputies from across the state and beyond.

In a statement from his office, Gov. Scott said, "Ann and I are saddened by the passing of Sheriff Whitehead. He was a sheriff's sheriff. Sheriff Whitehead dedicated his life to protecting the families of Union County, and we are grateful for his nearly 30 years of service as sheriff. Our hearts and prayers are with Sheriff Whitehead's family during this difficult time."

At noon, a cavalcade of over 120 family members, escorted by police motorcycles and cars, arrived at First Christian Church for a lunch provided by church members.

Afterwards, officers formed two rows through which the family walked to the sanctuary for the memorial service, saluting the mourners while bag pipes played in the background.

As the service began, Jeffrey Whitehead sang "The Old Rugged Cross."

Retired Union County Sheriff's Office Deputy Terry Cranford, now a reserve deputy, recounted Whitehead's biography, peppering it with stories that most in

attendance could relate to.

Then Jerry's sons, Brad Whitehead and Matt Whitehead, from the sheriff's first marriage, to Bobbie Jo Morgan, spoke about their father and mentor.

"Jerry Whitehead, sheriff, was in many words an example of the best sheriff any county could have, and I know I'm biased," Brad said. He is the assistant warden at Florida State Prison. "My dad was a man who had big shoes to fill, having followed behind my grandfather, the sheriff for 32 years in this office."

"But fill those shoes he did, making our entire family proud—a true leader and a public servant in his own right," Brad said. "Not only because of my grandfather's mentoring, but because of his character, integrity, work ethic and great people skills."

"My dad was a people person who loved this community. ..."

"If you didn't know him, you go to know him. That's just the kind of man he was," Brad added. "He wanted to know you, where you were from, who your parents and grandparents were," at which the audience laughed.

Brad said he watched his father build his career on the motto, "There is no substitute for work."

"He worked many long nights with deputies searching for criminals," Brad said. "Then turned around and spent most of the following day with their families, assisting them in getting their loved ones out of jail," at which the audience laughed again.

"I watched as my dad comforted and reassured our community, making everyone feel safer because his presence during times of tragedy."

Brad recounted the sheriff as saying what others have repeated: "All a man has is his word."

Brad concluded by saying, "Tomorrow is not promised to anyone, and he untimely loss of our father reminds me that we must live our lives, each day, with our priorities in order. I'm happy to say that my father had his priorities in order: his faith, his family and his friends."

Matt then spoke: "It goes without saying that, if you knew him, he was 'Union County strong.' He loved Union County."

"My dad and I had a challenging relationship, to say the least," he said. "In the last few years, he became my tower of strength and somebody who I would really lean on. I'm going to miss him."

Peterson read Psalm 23 and words from Jesus and the Apostle Paul.

After Jeffrey sang "In the Garden," Peterson read from Psalm 37 and Psalm 1, "that, in my judgment, are especially appropriate today."

It was yet another difficult eulogy for Peterson to deliver this year for another great and unexpected loss the community has experienced.

"Well here we are again," Peterson said. "None of us gathered here today are wise enough to understand why."



John and Vivian Whitehead

"Our hearts are heavy, our spirits are sagging, our minds are filled with questions in which we find no easy answers."

"It's difficult for any of us to even begin to fathom what this family is going through. Brutal honesty causes us to cry out with you and ask, 'How much more can one family take?'"

"I know that you are saying, in your heart of hearts, 'This just isn't right. It isn't fair. It's too soon for him to die. Why?'"

Peterson said that while he couldn't answer many tough questions, he wanted the family to focus on what he does know: that they are loved, deeply, by God and the community, which would stand by them; that Jerry is in God's care, at home with the Lord, enjoying a reunion with those who have gone before; and that sin and death have been defeated at the cross of Jesus Christ, that death is not the end, there's so much more, for those who trust in Christ.

"Through the years I've been amazed at the ability Jerry had to balance a demanding job with being so involved in people's lives," Peterson said. "There is not a person gathered here today, who has not in some way been helped by this man."

"He knew when to have fun, and he knew when and how to be serious," Peterson said of Whitehead. "Jerry had a quiet strength and an ability for leadership that was needed in the job he did so well."

"He brought to the sheriff's office a quality of professionalism, but he never forgot why he was doing it: And that is, to protect and to serve."

"He had a servant's heart, and he shared that same spirit with those who worked with him."

Peterson recounted the last time he spoke to Whitehead, the day he went to the hospital before dying the next day.

Whitehead was in bed with an oxygen mask covering his face, and he was crying. "I said, 'Jerry, what's wrong?' And through tears he said, 'I miss Momma. I miss Momma,'" Peterson said. "I don't think Jerry ever really had a chance to work through his grief, after Vivian's passing," because about a week later, Jerry was thrust into the investigation of the tragic Pritchett shootings.

Whitehead was laid to rest at the family's Whitehead Cemetery, just east of Lake Butler on S.R. 100. The final prayer was capped off by a four helicopter flyover by the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, to honor a man who is irreplaceable: the dean of sheriff's, the sheriff of Union County, a leader to many, and a friend to all.

"Your presence today," Peterson told the standing-room-only crowd at the beginning of Whitehead's memorial service, "is a testament to the stature of the man we honor today."

Peterson later added, "I don't know anybody who will be more missed in this county than Jerry Whitehead."

Peterson concluded by saying, "Many of us grew up with our heroes and our legends," borrowing from his eulogy for John Whitehead. "Some might think of Jerry as Matt Dillon, of Dodge City. Others might see him as Andy Griffith, or Mayberry."

"Yes, these are legends that are fictional. But you and I have been privileged to know a legend that was real—not a myth, not fiction, but a real, live hero."

Good Luck, Good Health.  
May you prosper in every way.

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As God discusses the various commandments He gives the Children of Israel, He points out these commands are given, "for our good always" (Deuteronomy 6:24). The commandments are said to be given "for your good" (Deuteronomy 10:12). Sadly, many people view God's commandments as restrictive or harsh. Some even consider His commandments a burden. However, God's "commandments are not burdensome" (1 John 5:3). The commands of God are given for our good because they keep us from falling into the pitfalls of sin. Many people who think God's commands are or oppressive need to remember "the way of the unfaithful is hard" (Proverbs 13:15). Sadly many people spend their whole life wearing themselves out in sin only to wake up and realize sin offers no hope (Isaiah 57:10).

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# Pine Hill Lodge holds second annual "Why I Love America" Banquet

BY TED BARBER  
Secretary, Pine Hill Lodge No. 9

Pine Hill Lodge No. 9, Free and Accepted Masons, sponsored their second annual "Why I Love America" Contest and Awards Banquet. The banquet was held at Pine Hill Lodge, on Charlotte Avenue in Brooker, on Tuesday, Dec. 17.

Lodge Secretary Ted Barber thanked Deborah Parmenter, principal of Brooker Elementary School, her staff and the students for their participation. He thanked Lake Butler Chapter No. 40, Order of the Eastern Star, for helping with the meal, and welcomed 60 attendees.

Barber told the audience that the "Why I Love America" Contest at BES was an outgrowth of a statewide program that the Grand Lodge of Florida has been sponsoring for many years. He said Pine Hill Lodge adapted this program for the elementary school level where the drawing, rather than the written essay, was most important.

BES responded by providing some historic and patriotic instruction to the students from kindergarten through 5th grade. For example, the "Pinta," "Santa Maria" and the "Nina," Barber said, are now associated with Christopher Columbus and his desire to bring back to Spain valuable spices. They know about George Washington and his wooden false teeth, his ability to command troops and that he was the first president of the United States. And, they know that "Freedom is not free" and have an appreciation for our

men and women in the armed forces. In short, Barber said the contest has a positive impact.

Barber told the audience that he recently learned that William Francis Malphurs was the first Worshipful Master of Pine Hill Lodge No. 9 in 1881. He also served the Grand Lodge of Florida as the Grand Chaplain for seven years.

Barber said Pine Hill Lodge is a small county Fraternal Lodge that has a long and rich history over the past 133 years. He said that the Lodge is oriented on educational and charitable endeavors and not religion. The Lodge members enjoy each other's company and strive to help each other, the families and the community. He said the Lodge name came from what Brooker had been named in the past: the Pine Hill Settlement.

To be a Freemason one has to believe in God and believe in the immortality of the soul and the need for the Holy Bible to guide the actions of its members.

Following a pledge of allegiance and the blessing for a fried chicken supper, Barber called Corbin Lane Perry, Stephanie Diane Crews, Gavin Cyrus Cook, Kenneth Michael Outlaw and Ryland Joseph Rike to the stage for their comments on their winning entries.

Perry, Crews, and Godwin each took first place in their grade categories and Ryan Wyatt Godwin (not available), Cook and Rike took second place.

Barber stated that all the students were winners and that the grading of the event was enjoyable.



CONTEST WINNERS: (L-r) Corbin Perry, Ryland Rike, Gavin Cook, Kenneth Outlaw, and Stephanie Crews.

## LEGALS

UCT Legals 12/26/13

### NOTICE OF EXCHANGE PROPOSAL

Notice is hereby given that the Forest Service (FS), United States Department of Agriculture, is considering an exchange of interests in land (surface use easements) with Columbia County and Plum Creek Timberlands (the Non-Federal Parties) under the authority of the National Trails System Act of October 2, 1968 (16 USC 1241) and the Federal Land Exchange Facilitation Act of August 20, 1988 (43 USC. 1716). Publication of this notice is required by land exchange regulations (36 CFR 254.8) and will contribute to the public scoping effort to identify any issues associated with this project (40 CFR 1501.7). The interest in land under the jurisdiction of the FS that is being considered for exchange can be described as: A railroad easement being 50 feet either side of the centerline of the proposed rail line located in T. 3S., R. 18E, Section 31, Tallahassee Meridian, Columbia County, Florida. The interest in land under the jurisdiction of the Non-Federal Parties that is being considered for exchange can be described as: An easement for the Florida National Scenic Trail being a 10 foot wide strip of land lying 5 feet on each side within portions of Section 36, Township 3 South, Range 18 East and Section 1, Township 4 South, Range 18 East, Columbia County Florida and portions of Sections 6, 7, and 18, Township 4 South, Range 19 East, Baker County, Florida, and portions of Sections 19, 29, 30, and 32, Township 4 South, Range 19 East and a portion of Sections 5 & 8, in Township 5 South, Range 19 East, Union County, Florida. Both easements are approximately 6.27 acres and legal descriptions are located at the Forest Supervisors Office in Tallahassee, Florida. Maps and a more detailed description of the proposed exchange may be found on the project website (<http://goo.gl/aID2s4>) or are available upon request (contact Matthew Trager at [mdtrager@fs.fed.us](mailto:mdtrager@fs.fed.us) or 850-523-8582). The FS requests comments to determine if the exchange is in the public interest and if the lands are affected by liens, encumbrances or other claims. Comments may be sent to Susan Jeheber-Matthews, Forest Supervisor, by mail (National Forests of Florida, 325 John Knox Road, Suite F-100, Tallahassee, Florida 32303-4160) or by email ([comments-southem-florida@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-southem-florida@fs.fed.us)) within 45 days after the initial date of publication of this notice. Comments will be placed in the public record for this project and individuals who submit comments will receive future project updates unless otherwise requested.

12/19 4tchg 1/9-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO.: 2013-CA-000024

VANDERBILT MORTGAGE AND FINANCE, INC., a Tennessee corporation authorized to transact business in Florida, Plaintiff, vs. WILLIAM EDWARD HINSON A/K/A WILLIAM E. HINSON; UNKNOWN TENANT(S) IN POSSESSION OF 9266 Northwest 148th Trail, Lake Butler, FL 32054; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF WILLIAM EDWARD HINSON A/K/A WILLIAM E. HINSON and CAPITOL ONE BANK (USA), N.A., Defendants.

**CLERK'S NOTICE OF SALE**  
NOTICE IS GIVEN that, in accordance with the Plaintiffs Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered on in the above-styled cause, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash on February 20, 2014 at 11:00 AM (EST), at UNION County Courthouse: Exhibit "A" LOT 1, COUNTRYSIDE ESTATES, A SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 14, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Property Address: 9266 NW 148th Trail, Lake Butler, FL 32054  
ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE.  
Dated: December 13, 2013

CLERK OF THE COURT  
UNION COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT  
By: Crystal Norman  
Deputy Clerk

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**  
If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator at (352) 337-6237, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance. If you are hearing or voice impaired, please call 711. If you are deaf or hard of hearing and require an ASL interpreter or an assisted listening device to participate in a proceeding, please contact Court Interpreting at [interpreter@circuit8.org](mailto:interpreter@circuit8.org) Sonya K. Daws, Esq. Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A. 215 South Monroe Street, Suite 600 Tallahassee, FL 32301  
12/19 2tchg 12/26-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA, CIVIL ACTION

CASE NO.: 63-2012-CA-000099  
BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., Plaintiff vs. LEROY SCOTT A/K/A LEROY L.

SCOTT, et al., Defendant(s)

**NOTICE OF SALE**  
Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to an Order Rescheduling Foreclosure Sale dated 20th day of November 2013, entered in Civil Case Number in the Circuit Court for Union, Florida, wherein BANK OF AMERICA, N.A. the Plaintiff, and LEROY SCOTT A/K/A LEROY L. SCOTT, et al; are the Defendants, I will sell the property situated in Union Florida, described as: LOT 31, SADDLEBROOK ESTATES, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGES 32 AND 33, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA. MFG. SERIAL # FLFLT79AB12229HE21 3643B, HUD CERT # FLA583299 AND FLA583300, MFG. NAME FLEETWOOD HOMES OF FLORIDA, MODEL N/A, DATE OF MFG. 11/11/96, SIZE 66.5 X 23.0. THIS MANUFACTURED HOME IS AN IMPROVEMENT TO THE LAND AND AN IMMOVABLE FIXTURE. At public sale, to the highest and best bidder, for cash, at the in Room 103 at the Union County Courthouse, 55 West Main Street, Lake Butler, FL 32054 at 11:00 AM. on 23rd day of

Jan., 2014. Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale. Dated November 20, 2013

Crystal Norman  
Union County Clerk of Court  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT  
FLORIDA FORECLOSURE ATTORNEYS, PLLC  
4855 Technology Way, Suite 500  
Boca Raton, FL 33431  
email: [service@ffapl.com](mailto:service@ffapl.com)  
Telephone: (727) 446-4826  
If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assis-

Persons with a disability who need any accommodation in order to participate should call Jan Phillips, ADA Coordinator, Alachua County Courthouse, 201 E. University Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601 at (352) 337-6237 within two (2) working days of your receipt of this notice; if you are hearing impaired call (800) 955-8771; if you are voice impaired, call (800) 955-8770.

12/26 2tchg 1/2-UCT

### NOTICE

Lake Butler Mini Storage has scheduled an auction for Jan. 4, 2014 @ 10 AM, located at 1015 SW 3rd Street, Lake Butler, FL 32054, Hwy 121. The following units will be foreclosed, Unit # 30 - 5x5, Unit # 53 - 10x15, Unit # 62 - 10x15, Unit # 81 - 10x20.  
12/26 2tchg 1/2-UCT

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Fax: (386) 496-4705  
[UnionLasteel@Hotmail.com](mailto:UnionLasteel@Hotmail.com)  
[www.UnionLasteel.com](http://www.UnionLasteel.com)

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of Lake Butler

**Happy New Year**

**2014**  
*We hope you have a Safe and Wonderful New Year!*

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## Less fortunate UC children get a Christmas

BY VINCENT ALEX BROWN  
Times Editor

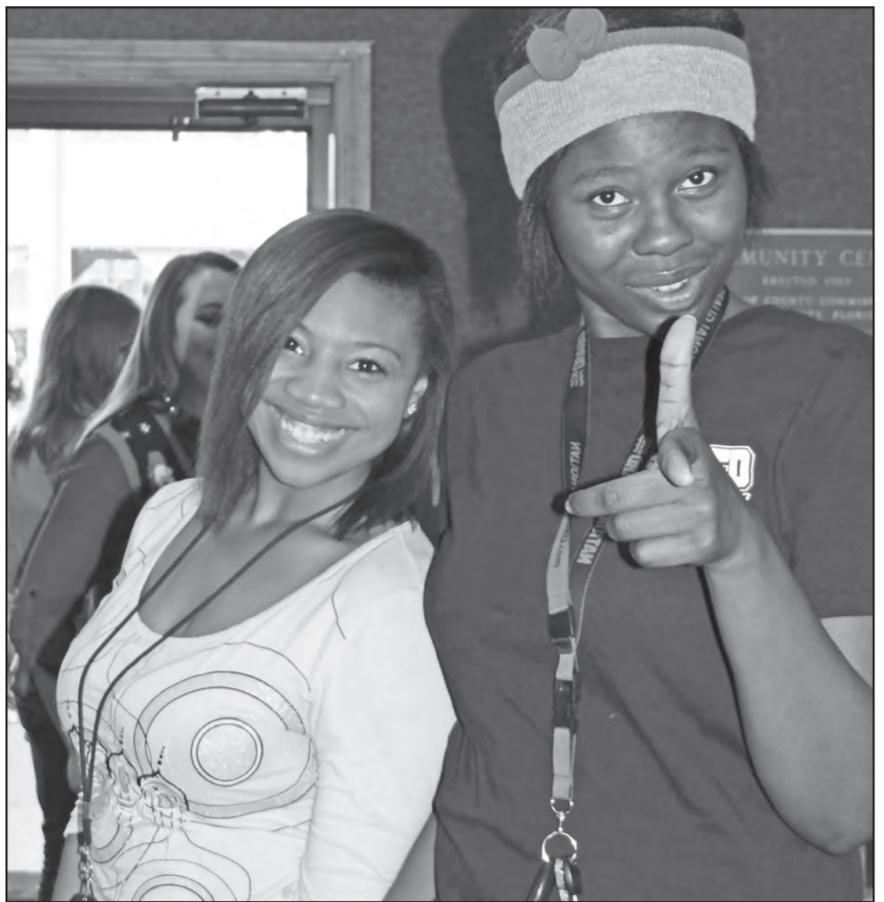
The 12th Annual Big Red Christmas Drive giveaway on Monday, Dec. 23, at the Lake Butler Community Center meant even less fortunate children in Union County got a Christmas—not only through gifts but also through the gift of giving. Toys lining tables along the wall were handed out to children in need by other children volunteering at the event.

Ryon Shaw was there volunteering with his daughter, Summer. “She needs to learn there’s someone less fortunate than her,” he said.

The program is for needy families in Union County only, children ages 2-12. It was started 12 years ago in cooperation with the Union County Volunteer Fire Department, named after their engine, “Big Red,” though the fire dept. participate much anymore, said Mindy Goodwin, a deputy with the Union County Sheriff’s Office. Her daughter, Randa, was on hand to help too.

“(Mindy’s) always been in that thing pretty big,” said Interim Sheriff Garry Seay.

In order to qualify, each family must bring proof of residency (driver’s license or a piece of mail) and also must provide each child’s birth certificate or social security card. Children must be present.



TOP LEFT: Children await their turn with parents to keep it from being chaotic inside. TOP RIGHT: (L-r) Brooklyn Barnes, Loni Lilliston, Summer Shaw and Jerri Barnes

ABOVE: Quanesha Edwards, whose “little brother” is Union County High School football star Daquin “Buddy” Edwards, and Zorria Corbitt, who said, “I love helping the kids.”

## 6 UCHS players selected for all-star games

Union County High School Dec. 21, in Sebring, while two seniors Austin Dukes and Daquin other all-star games in the new “Buddy” Edwards participated year will feature UCHS seniors in an all-star football game on as well.

Dukes and Edwards, who has committed to Liberty University, played in the Florida Athletic Coaches Association North-South game this past weekend. Edwards will later participate in the Florida-Georgia Border Wars game in Valdosta along with teammate Princeton Alexander.

The annual Columbia Youth Football Association all-star game in Lake City will feature UCHS players Alexander, Dukes, Geordyn Green, Andrew Jones, Phillip Lillie and Talon Tyler. Edwards was also invited to play, but can’t do so because of his commitment to the previously mentioned games.

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (LCMS)** 

Children’s Church 10 a.m.  
Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship Service at 10 a.m.  
4900 NW 182nd Way • Starke  
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• Stacking weight up to 350 lbs. • Light-duty constructed boxes for storage on shelving units • Lift-off lid • Contains 60% recycled content • Letter/Legal size • 12" x 15" x 10" • Packed 12 per carton  
ITEM: BSN 42051

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• Basic round ring borders with two triggers on the ring mechanism that provide easy access to your documents • Two inside pockets for extra document storage • PVC free • Contains 35% post-consumer materials • 11" x 8 1/2"

ITEM	CAPACITY	SALE PRICE
BSN 09976	1"	\$1.29 EA
BSN 09977	2"	\$2.99 EA
BSN 09978	3"	\$4.69 EA

**\$52<sup>89</sup>**  
CT

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**Storage Boxes**®

• Stacking weight up to 350 lbs. • Sturdy corrugated construction for strength and value • String and button box closure • Contains 60% recycled content • Letter size • 12" x 24" x 10" • Packed 12 per carton  
ITEM: BSN 42050

**B BUSINESS SOURCE**  
**Heavy-Duty Clasp Envelopes**

• Open-end style with metal clasp • Superior gumming on flap • 28 lb. • Brown Kraft • Packed 100 per box

ITEM	SIZE	SALE PRICE
BSN 36660	6" x 9"	\$7.19 BX
BSN 36663	9" x 12"	\$6.59 BX
BSN 36666	10" x 15"	\$15.79 BX

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**Board Cleaner**

• Nontoxic cleaner for use in classrooms and conference rooms • Certified AP Nontoxic formula conforms to ASTM D4263 • 8 oz.  
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• Soft pile removes markings quickly and cleanly from dry-erase surfaces  
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AVE 11444	8-Tab	\$89.99 BX
AVE 11446	5-Tab	\$79.89 BX
AVE 11447	8-Tab	\$92.29 BX

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ITEM	INK COLOR	SALE PRICE
PIL 31020	Black	\$14 <sup>99</sup> DZ
PIL 31021	Blue	
PIL 31022	Red	

**B BUSINESS SOURCE**  
**Ballpoint Retractable Pens**

• Smooth write • Nonrefillable • Translucent gray barrel • Medium point

ITEM	INK COLOR	SALE PRICE
BSN 25050	Black	\$2 <sup>19</sup> DZ
BSN 25051	Blue	

**B BUSINESS SOURCE**  
**General Purpose Package Sealing Tape**

• Fits most 3" core dispensers • Resists moisture, abrasion and splitting • 1.8 mil • thickness • 1 1/2" x 54.7 Yds. • Packed 6 per pack  
ITEM: BSN 32951

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2nd PLACE: Junior Class



3rd PLACE: Senior Class



4th PLACE: Sophomore Class

## UCHS students give back to community by way of Christmas trees, gifts and meals

BY KRYSTAL GUNTER  
Business Teacher, UCHS

Students enrolled in the Union County High School Business Academy sponsored a Christmas Tree Contest this year between the four classes: freshman, sophomores, juniors and seniors. The purpose of this contest was to not only provide some competition between the classes at UCHS but to donate the trees to four local less fortunate families.

Each class was given the theme of "Sugar and spice and everything's nice at Christmas" to use to decorate the trees. Classes were also asked to supply four wrapped presents for their family to go with the tree. Trees were decorated throughout last week and judged on Friday, Dec. 13. The freshmen class was the winner of the contest. Juniors were second, seniors third and sophomores fourth.

"This project turned out to be a huge success and far exceeded our vision. Students chipped in to donate more than four gifts and the trees were beautifully decorated," said Krystal Gunter, business teacher at UCHS. "The students went above and beyond and we were able to not only send a tree and four presents, but there was an abundance of gifts including a new bicycle, gift cards for gas and restaurants, canned food, a frozen turkey and many gifts for children."

The Union County Sheriff's Office was even able to help with this project by supplying additional gifts for the children.

Trees were delivered on Monday, Dec. 16, to the families. "It was such a rewarding experience to show up on the doorstep of one of our families and surprise them with a brand new Christmas tree, gifts for his children and food for a Christmas meal," said business student Savannah Woodall. "It was such an honor to provide a Christmas blessing to four families, especially 13 children, this year."

A special thanks goes to Maria Kish and the Lake Butler Elementary School administration for helping choose the four families. Each one had children enrolled at LBES.

"This project was a huge success and we look forward to sponsoring it again next year," said Gunter.



Sardis Baptist Church members like Brady Testone, above, rang the bell for The Salvation Army red kettle on Dec. 20, 21 and 24. Monies collected come right back into Bradford and Union counties and is handled through the Suwannee River Economic Council.

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### Pop-Up Adhesive Notes

• 3" x 3" • Stays firmly in place and removes without marks or spots • Solvent-free • 100 sheets per pad • Packed 12 pads per pack

ITEM	COLOR	SALE PRICE
BSN 16452	Neon	\$6.99 PK
BSN 16450	Extreme	\$6.99 PK
BSN 16454	Yellow	\$4.39 PK

### Legal Ruled Pads

• Feature microperforated sheets for clean tear out • Sturdy 30 pt. chipboard backing • Each pad contains 50 sheets of 16 lb. paper.

ITEM	COLOR	SIZE	RULED	SALE PRICE
BSN 63107	Canary	5" x 8"	Jr. Legal	\$4.69 DZ
BSN 63110	White	5" x 8"	Jr. Legal	\$4.69 DZ
BSN 63105	Canary	8 1/2" x 11 1/2"	Legal	\$6.69 DZ
BSN 63108	White	8 1/2" x 11 1/2"	Legal	\$6.69 DZ
BSN 63106	Canary	8 1/2" x 14"	Legal	\$10.99 DZ
BSN 63109	White	8 1/2" x 14"	Legal	\$10.99 DZ

### Standard Paper Clips

• Made from quality steel wire • Coated to resist rust and corrosion • Packed 1000 per pack

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	SIZE	SALE PRICE
BSN 65638	033 Wire Gauge	Regular	\$1.49 PK
BSN 65639	041 Wire Gauge	Jumbo	\$4.99 PK

### Side-ApPLY Correction Tape Value Pack

• Write or type immediately after application • Tear-resistant film • 1/2" x 32 1/2"

ITEM: ITA 60233

**\$6.19 PK**

### White Correction Tape

• Write or type on it immediately after application • Nonrefillable • 5 mm x 6 m

ITEM: ITA 60032

**\$1.15 EA**

### Desktop Tape Dispenser

• Weighted, non-skid base • Holds 1/2" or 3/4" wide tape on a 1" core

ITEM: BSN 32954

**\$1.39 EA**

### Premium Invisible Tape Refills

• Tape resists splitting, tearing, and is easy to handle and apply

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	SIZE	PACKED	SALE PRICE
BSN 32953	Value Pack	1/2" x 1000'	12	\$8.79 PK
BSN 32952	Tape Refill	1/2" x 1296'	1	\$0.75 RL

### Chisel Desk Highlighters

• Transparent liquid ink stays bright and resists fading • Fluorescent yellow

ITEM: ITA 30004

**\$4.89 DZ**

### Recycled Sheet Protectors

• Top-loading so no need for hole punching • Polypropylene material is archival safe, acid free and won't lift print

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	PACKED	SALE PRICE
AVE 75530	Clear	25	\$5.79 PK
AVE 75536	Semiclear	100	\$13.49 BX

### Staple Remover

• Durable with nickel plated teeth and reinforced, heavy-duty riveted plastic grip

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# REGIONAL NEWS

NEWS FROM BRADFORD COUNTY, UNION COUNTY AND THE LAKE REGION

## Local teams struggle in McDonald's-Kiwanis tournament

*Tornadoes can't hang onto late 4th-quarter lead in consolation game*

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Staff Writer

A basket by Caleb Jones put the Bradford High School boys' basketball team up by two with less than three minutes to play, but the International School of Broward scored the game's final 10 points in defeating the Tornadoes 49-41 and claiming the consolation trophy of the Lake Area McDonald's-Kiwanis of Starke tournament on Dec. 21 at Bradford High School.

It was another game in which the Tornadoes (3-9) came up just short in going 0-2 in the tournament. They opened with a 45-39 loss to eventual tournament

See BHS, 8B



Bradford's Alex Mejias fights his way to the basket through a group of Englewood players in the Tornadoes' 45-39 loss on the second day of the three-day Lake Area McDonald's-Kiwanis of Starke tournament. Vero Beach won the tournament championship. (See page 8B for story.)

*Tigers bow out of tournament with 2 double-digit losses*

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Staff Writer

Kyle Mosher got the Union County High School boys' basketball team off to a quick start, but the Class 4A P.K. Yonge Blue Wave turned a six-point first-quarter deficit into an eventual 27-12 halftime lead en route to handing the Tigers a 55-28 loss in the Lake Area McDonald's-Kiwanis of Starke tournament on Dec. 20 at Bradford High School.

Mosher scored six of the game's first seven points, getting a basket in transition and scoring twice in the lane as the Tigers (3-8) went up 6-1. A rebound putback by Zach Lee put Union up 8-2.

See KHHS, 8B

*Indians have toruble scoring in 2 30-plus-point losses*

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Staff Writer

The Keystone Heights High School boys' basketball team was looking to bounce back from a 63-25 loss to Vero Beach, but P.K. Yonge scored the first 16 points en route to handing the Indians a 43-7 loss on Dec. 21 in the Lake Area McDonald's-Kiwanis of Starke tournament at Bradford High School.

Keystone (2-9) committed 19 first-half turnovers as the Blue Wave built 30-4 lead.

Buck Shobris provided some memorable moments for Keystone, grabbing a couple of defensive rebounds in the first quarter and blocking a shot in the second. His free throw with 1:05 left in the first quarter gave the Indians their only point of

the quarter and left them trailing 19-1 heading into the second



Union County's Geordyn Green (left) looks for a pathway to the basket in the Tigers' loss to P.K. Yonge.



Keystone's Brandon Nicholas (left) drives to the basket against P.K. Yonge's Josh Gebhardt.

The Blue Wave made it an 8-6 game heading into the second quarter before getting a spark off the bench from Dedrick Vanover. Vanover opened the second quarter with a 3-pointer

See UCHS, 8B

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# Glory to the Newborn King!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Luke 2:4-14



## MERRY CHRISTMAS

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**SOCIALS**



**Lauren DeVico and Cecil Litton**

**DeVico, Litton to wed in April**

Lauren DeVico of New Jersey and Cecil J. Litton of Starke announce their engagement.

Lauren is the daughter of Mary and Wayne DeVico of New Jersey. She is employed by Meridian Behavioral Health.

Cecil is the son of Patricia Lawhorn and Cecil A. Litton of Starke. He is employed by Walmart.

The wedding will be held at Fort Castillo de San Marcos in April of 2014.

**Local DAR chapter recognized for 28 years**

To commemorate the Col. Samuel Elbert Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution's 28th anniversary on Dec. 4, Keystone Heights city council presented the chapter with a proclamation that Mayor Mary Lou Hildreth read to the chapter members at the Dec. 2 meeting. The proclamation reads: "Henceforth and forevermore, Dec. 4 will be recognized by the citizens of Keystone Heights as 'Col. Samuel Elbert Chapter NSDAR Day.'"

The chapter donated 203 books of general interest to the Bradford County Library, with bookplates commemorating the 28th anniversary.

The chapter was honored to present and fly the chapter flag at Wreaths Across America on Dec. 14.

The next chapter meeting is Monday, Jan. 6, at IHOP in Starke at 10:30 a.m. Visitors are welcome. The program topic is "Colonial Witches," presented by Janet Messer and her sister, Janice.

Any woman 18 years of age or older, regardless of race, religion or ethnic background, who can prove direct descent from a person who aided in achieving American independence between April 19, 1775, and Nov. 26, 1783, is eligible for membership. Contact Konnie Beauregard for more information at 352-475-1865.



**Catrell Cooney**

**Cooney takes part in Jillian Michael's BosdyShred training**

Catrell Cooney, the daughter of Dimple and Grady Overstreet of Starke, was selected for an opportunity to go through a nine-hour training session with Jillian Michaels of "The Biggest Loser" fame and become certified to teach Michaels' BodyShred class.

Cooney, who lives in Cape Canaveral, went through an application/qualification process and was selected to attend a BodyShred training class in October in South Beach at the Miami Convention Center. She described the class as "very intense" and noted she had to pass a practical test and a written exam to receive certification.

BodyShred is a high-intensity, endurance-based, 30-minute workout based upon Michaels' 3-2-1 intervals (three minutes of strength, two minutes of cardio and one minute of abs).

Cooney said she became more interested in holistic health and fitness prior to taking an around-the-world trip with her husband, Michael, and sons Morgan, Zach and Harrison. During that trip, which was chronicled in the Telegraph-Times-Monitor, her passion for both only increased, she said.

After returning home, Cooney became a certified health coach and personal trainer, specializing in weight loss and healthy lifestyles. She's also a licensed Zumba instructor and started the healthy living website [www.thewanderingcocount.com](http://www.thewanderingcocount.com).

**Christmas greetings...from the year 1963**

With this week's issue dated Dec. 26—but actually hitting the streets on Dec. 24—why not take the time to look back 50 years ago to another issue published on Dec. 26?

The Dec. 26, 1963, issue of the Bradford County Telegraph certainly had a holiday feel to it as several items related to Christmas, ranging from the volume of mail at the post office to what Christmas is like in prison. The issue also included a story that noted "the Yuletide spirit prevailed" when Judge Y.A. Yawn handed down a \$50 fine instead of jail time for a man who was speeding.

We start this look back with a Starke man who was accustomed to donning a red suit and beard as a "Santa Helper."

**Spreading holiday joy, making children happy**

Starke has a commissioned Santa Claus helper with 20 years' experience helping Santa get Christmas messages from all over the world.

With ruddy cheeks and proportions to fit, city police dispatcher Tillman McIntosh began his Santa Claus service in 1945 right here.

"Santa Helper McIntosh has appeared to represent Santa Claus every year since then, including a real big entrance made at Langley AFB in Virginia, where 2,500 kids turned out to greet him.

As a badge of merit, he got his own suit in 1954.

"Those helper outfits can get expensive. A good beard can cost \$30," McIntosh said.

Helper McIntosh has represented Santa at drive-in theaters, for merchants, for clubs, at churches, for chambers of commerce and even at private parties.

He's also put in special personal appearances.

"The most heartwarming thing that ever happened to me as

Santa's Helper was when I went to see a 9-year-old boy who was bedridden with polio. The boy's father approached me when I was appearing at a theater and told me about the boy. I made a special trip out to his house. The boy was so happy he cried.

"It made me feel real good to make a child so happy," Helper McIntosh said.

Sometimes, though, things turn out funny, or even embarrassing, for Santa's Helper.

"Like the time I was appearing on radio in Virginia. Over 600 children had come for our show—a kiddie show I was doing at that time for radio. There I was in front of all those kids, and my pants fell down. I had springs attached to my pants legs and then attached to my garters so that my pants would spring up and down when I jumped.

"The springs broke, and down came my pants. All the kids saw Santa attired in dungarees. It brought the house down," Helper McIntosh said.

Asked what kind of problems Santa might encounter on his yearly rounds, out came the answer warm to the hearts of Santa's Florida representatives.

"Hot weather is the biggest problem. With a fur suit and a beard, things can get mighty hot, especially inside buildings. That beard can really make you perspire," Helper McIntosh said.

Some advice to future Santa's Helpers—"Get in and out as quick as you can. Kids ask too many questions if you stay too

long. They want to know if your beard is real, if you're real, and just about anything you can think of. You always have to have an answer.

"I always tell the kids that I'm just Santa's Helper. The real Santa Claus comes all over the world on Christmas Eve. That's his secret as to how he does it. Not even the Helpers know."

Why does Helper McIntosh like his job?

"I like making children happy," he said.

**Christmas time at state prison pretty much like anywhere**

The spirit of Christmas isn't too much different inside a prison than "outside," according to Florida State Prison Assistant Superintendent L.E. Dugger.

State prison inmates celebrate Christmas almost like anyone else does—with Christmas trees, presents, a Christmas church

program and a family visit.

Inmates have a Christmas program each year with carols and the Christ story. This year, on Thursday, Dec. 19, their Christmas program will be held in the prison auditorium. Slides will be shown depicting the story of Christ's birth, narrated by inmates with the prison choir singing appropriate carols. One inmate will sing a solo, "The Holy City," and the congregation will sing other Christmas hymns.

"Almost all of the prisoners attend the program. After all, it is their program," Dugger said.

The prison at Raiford "lights up" with trees in different areas decorated by the inmates. Each different section of the prison has a tree, and all the hospital floors have one.

"There is also a very large tree in the family visiting area. We call it our family tree," Dugger said.

See 1963, 5B



This graphic adorned the top of one of the pages of the Dec. 26, 1963, issue of the Bradford County Telegraph.

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## CRIME

### 4 arrested for fight at bar

Robert Warren Craven, 43, of Starke, Duane McWee, 53, and John Edward McWee, 54, both of Amity, Pa., and Raymond Rodney Sorrells, 46, of Starke were all arrested Dec. 20 at Whiskey River in Starke for disorderly intoxication and disorderly conduct.

According to the arrest reports, Whiskey River employees asked Craven and Sorrells to leave the business after they were arguing with the McWees, apparently over college football. The two left, but before the bar could close the tab out for the McWees, Craven and Sorrells returned, and all four began fighting, including swinging bar stools at each other during the physical altercation.

When officers arrived, all four were arrested after Duane McWee signed a medical waiver declining further treatment from EMS, which was also called to the scene.

### 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

Hector Manuel Aviles, 28, of Hampton was arrested Dec. 18 by Starke police for possession of drugs.

Tavaris Devaghn Boykin, 23, of Jacksonville was arrested Dec. 20 by Bradford deputies for failure to appear.

Sherry Kristine Bradley, 28, of Starke was arrested Dec. 21 by

Bradford deputies for failure to appear.

Ross D Brandt, 32, of Jacksonville was arrested Dec. 21 by Starke police on two out-of-county warrants.

Eduardo Gonzalez, 23, of Jacksonville was arrested Dec. 21 by Bradford deputies for driving under the influence and for operating a vehicle without a valid driver's license.

Jason Patrick Griffis, 40, of Macclenny was arrested Dec. 16 by Bradford deputies for three charges of possession of drugs and for production of drugs.

According to the arrest report and BCSO, Griffis was suspected of manufacturing and selling methamphetamine out of a Starke home from information obtained from the drug unit out of the Baker County Sheriff's Office. With help from the Baker County unit, an undercover operation to purchase meth from Griffis was conducted, then a search/arrest warrant was obtained within several hours of the purchase due to the nature of the hazardous materials he was using in the home. Officers found approximately 9 grams of methamphetamine powder in the home, along with several other chemicals and equipment used in its production.

Bond for Griffis was set at \$80,000.

Michael Leonard Hankerson, 32, of Starke was arrested Dec. 18 by Starke police on an out-of-county warrant.

Charles Lamont Henderson, 36, of Starke was arrested Dec. 17 by Starke police for vehicle theft. According to the arrest report, Henderson was causing a disturbance at a residence when police were called. Before the police arrived, Henderson left in a white Nissan belonging to a

relative of the person who called the police about the disturbance. Henderson was located a short time later at his girlfriend's home in Starke and was arrested.

Elizabeth Holland, 43, of Starke was arrested Dec. 17 by Starke police for battery. According to the arrest report, Holland confronted an acquaintance in the Walmart parking lot, arguing about an issue between the two. After the victim turned to walk away, Holland came up behind her, and when the victim turned back around, she was shoved in the chest, causing her to go airborne and land on her back, hitting her head on the pavement. The victim was transported by EMS to Shands Starke, and Holland was arrested after police confirmed what happened by witness accounts and video from Walmart. Bond was set at \$10,000 for Holland.

Martius Develle Holland, 31, of Macclenny was arrested Dec. 21 by Starke police for disturbing the peace.

Lisa Marie Lutz, 52, of Starke was arrested Dec. 22 by Starke police for child neglect. According to the arrest report, Lutz was at the Subway in Starke with her 6-year-old grandson when she passed out several times in her food. The grandchild asked the Subway employee to call his mom and help wake up his grandmother. When Lutz awakened, she went outside with the grandchild, got into her vehicle and passed out again.

The Subway employee called the police, and when they arrived, the vehicle was running, but Lutz was still passed out. Lutz said she had taken medication at home and hadn't been drinking, but could not complete field sobriety exercises conducted by the officer. The

officer found the grandson in the back seat without a seat belt on, and sweating from the heat in the vehicle. A relative picked up the child, while Lutz was transported to jail.

Scott Alan Maas, 49, of Starke was arrested Dec. 22 by Starke police for simple assault and for trespassing. According to the arrest report, Maas had been at a local bar earlier in the evening, was dropped off on Edwards Road, then walked to an acquaintance's home on Myrtle Street in Starke. He entered the home and threatened a child with physical violence. Police were called, and Maas was arrested and transported to jail, with bond set at \$5,000.

Christopher Lee Malone, 26, of Lawtey was arrested Dec. 17 by Bradford deputies on two out-of-county warrants.

Curtis Quintin Matus, 19, of Keystone Heights was arrested Dec. 18 by Starke police for possession of marijuana and possession of drug equipment.

Jonathan Mark Neville, 37, of Starke was arrested Dec. 18 by Starke police for battery. According to the arrest report, Neville and a roommate were arguing, and Neville raised a stun gun to the victim's face and turned it on. Neville stated that the victim had become aggressive during the argument and that he was afraid he would

be attacked, so he used the stun gun. Several other roommates that were present told the police officer that the victim never made any aggressive moves toward Neville. The officer arrested Neville for battery.

Alvin Chadwick Padgett, 42, of Jacksonville was arrested Dec. 22 by Starke police on an out-of-county warrant.

Dawn Michelle Prescott, 25, of Gainesville was arrested Dec. 20 by Bradford deputies for battery.

Joseph Allen Robbins, 31, of Starke was arrested Dec. 19 by Starke police for driving while license suspended or revoked, possession of marijuana and possession of drug equipment.

Krystal Lashawn Troutman, 29, of Starke was arrested Dec. 21 by Starke police for disturbing the peace.

Jeremy Quinton West, 34, of Starke was arrested Dec. 17 by Bradford deputies for trespassing and two charges of criminal mischief-property damage.

#### Keystone/Melrose

Joe Cirerol, 28, of Lawtey was arrested Dec. 18 by Clay deputies for non-support.

Curtis Miller, 43, of Keystone Heights was arrested Dec. 21 by

Orange Park police for DUI.

#### Union

Austin Donnie Thomas, 19, was arrested Dec. 17 by Union deputies for possession of marijuana.

Robert Donald Fowler, 49, of Nicholls, Ga., was arrested Dec. 19 by Union deputies for driving under the influence.

Chad Michael Bennett, 23, of Lake Butler was arrested Dec. 22 by Union deputies for possession of marijuana and driving under the influence.

Jamaal Lamar Edwards, 20, of Lake Butler was arrested Dec. 22 by Union deputies for possession of marijuana.

James Barney Dowdy, 49, of Lake Butler was arrested Dec. 20 by Union deputies for battery and disorderly intoxication. According to the arrest report, Dowdy walked up to a vehicle parked in Sprinkle Field in Lake Butler, reached in through the passenger side and grabbed the victim and started kissing her on neck. The victim told him to stop, and as she was pushing him away, he bit her on the neck. When the officer confronted Dowdy at his residence, he had a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage and was arrested for the battery and disorderly intoxication for his actions at the public place of Sprinkle Field.

## LEGALS

**PUBLIC MEETING**  
KEYSTONE AIRPARK AUTHORITY'S REGULAR SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS WILL BE HELD ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 6:00 P.M. LOCATION IS: 7100 AIRPORT ROAD, STARKE, FL. AGENDAS AND NOTICE OF CANCELLATION WILL BE POSTED ON THE AUTHORITY'S WEBSITE AT [www.keystoneairport.com](http://www.keystoneairport.com) NO LATER THAN 72 HOURS IN ADVANCE.  
12/26 1tchg-B-sect

**NOTICE OF ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a proposed ordinance, which title hereinafter appears, will be considered for enactment by the Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida at a public hearing on January 6, 2014, at 9:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, at the County Commission Chambers in the North Wing of the Bradford County Courthouse, located at 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida. Copies of said ordinance may be inspected by any member of the public at the Office of the County Clerk, located at 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours. On the date, time and place first above mentioned, all interested persons may appear and be heard with respect to the proposed ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING A NEW ARTICLE V OF CHAPTER 18 OF THE BRADFORD COUNTY CODE AND CREAT-

ING THERE UNDER SECTIONS 18-91 THROUGH 18-95 WHICH PERTAIN TO THE SALE AND USE OF E-CIGARETTES AND LIQUID NICOTINE AND PROVIDING THEREIN FOR DEFINITIONS, PROVIDING FOR A PROHIBITION ON THE SALE WITHIN BRADFORD COUNTY OF E-CIGARETTES AND LIQUID NICOTINE TO PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN, PROVIDING FOR A PROHIBITION ON THE USE WITHIN BRADFORD COUNTY OF E-CIGARETTES WHERE SMOKING IS PROHIBITED, PROVIDING FOR A PROHIBITION ON SELF-SERVICE MERCHANDISING IN THE SALE OF E-CIGARETTES AND LIQUID NICOTINE, PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES; PROVIDING FINDINGS IN SUPPORT OF THE ADOPTION OF THE ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING DIRECTION TO THE CODIFIER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. The public hearing may be continued

to one or more future dates. Any interested party shall be advised that the date, time and place of any continuation of the public hearing shall be announced during the public hearing and that no further notice concerning the matter will be published. All persons are advised that, if they decide to appeal any decision made at the public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Persons with disabilities who require assistance to participate in the meeting are requested to notify the Clerk of the Court, Bradford County Courthouse, Starke, Florida, 904-966-6280 at least two business days in advance; if you are hearing or voice impaired call 1-800-955-8771.  
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# FINS, FUR & TAILS

## Lil Nut, Bob Tebow and outdoors outlook

The weather has been mild this winter, but a few cool fronts have made their way through north Florida.

Robins, gold finches and cedar waxwings have not yet invaded our backyards as they typically do at this time of the year. There have also been few reports of spawning crappie in our area lakes. T.C. Lloyd indicates that he expects the crappie will probably bed during the January full moon in many lakes. Joey Tyson reports that he continues to sell Missouri minnows to crappie fishermen in the Keystone area, primarily to Santa Fe Lake fishermen.

Cody Douglas, from Lake Butler, tries to spend time fishing and hunting; however, this year he has sacrificed some of his crappie fishing for duck hunting. He primarily uses Rowell, Palestine and a few small ponds for the sport. He says that the



Dale Boyette displays one of his many hunting bows at his Keystone Heights Lil Nut Archery Shop.

small ponds are easier to build blinds on than the larger lakes. He reports that the flight speeds of the birds present a good hunting challenge.

Inland waters on the east coast are producing their share of speckled trout, whiting, blues and smaller black drum. Sheepshead, especially, have been plentiful around the rocks and pilings, according to Jim Sutton in St. Augustine.

Captain Randy Harris indicates that trout and reds are available on the west coast near

Steinhatchee. The inconsistent weather, however, will probably keep them moving from the shallows to deeper holes and back again.

### Dale Boyette and Lil Nut

Dale Boyette has always enjoyed bow hunting, especially prior to gun season each year when game is more visible and less vigilant. Despite the fact he primarily hunted his own property in central Georgia,

he networked a lot with local hunters and seemed to always be assisting them with their archery equipment

In 1999, he opened a cabinet shop at 150 Commercial Circle in Keystone Heights. Through the years, his archery skills continued to be in demand until 2011, when he decided to open his own archery shop in front of his cabinet business in Keystone. Motivated by a nickname acquired by his youngest son, the archery shop is known as "Lil Nut Archery."

In 2013, after the opening of the Keystone Shop, Boyette opened another similar—but larger—archery shop in Middleburg. His son-in-law, Tyler Mills, runs that shop.

Boyette is quick to point out that his shop is the only archery shop providing professional service such as stringing, sighting and other modifications from Jacksonville to Daytona on the east coast. He does carry a good inventory of new and used bows, but he always emphasizes the services provided by his shops.

Bow hunting has a specific period prior to gun season in which only bows can be used. After gun season opens, bow hunting slows considerably. However, bow fishing replaces some of that lost interest,



Bob Tebow

especially in central and northern Florida, where spring runs are common.

When the larger Florida water bodies cool, the warm-natured tilapia crowd into the spring runs, and as an invasive species, they can be legally hunted with bows and arrows rigged with a fishing reel. Boyette provides the necessary bow fishing modifications and rigs at both of his shops.

So if any of you bow hunters are interested in the stores' inventories, accessories or services, stop by and talk bow hunting.

### Bob Tebow speaks at Crosshorn banquet

Tim Tebow's father, Bob, was the guest speaker before a full house at the Starke Country Club banquet room at the Crosshorn Ministries Christmas banquet on Dec. 19. He tied the outdoors mission of Crosshorn Ministries into the Biblical challenge of making "fishers of men."

The feature presentation was followed by Christmas carols, making a full evening of seasonal devotion.

Tight lines, safe hunting, merry Christmas and happy holidays.

### Outdoors calendar

- Jan. 1, deer season ends in north Georgia;
- Jan. 12, second phase of Florida's dove season ends;
- Jan. 15, deer season ends in south Georgia;
- Jan. 19, antlered deer season ends in Florida's Zone C;
- March 2, squirrel and quail seasons end in Florida's Zone C.

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

## 1963

Continued from 3B

On Christmas Eve, each prisoner is given a gift box containing five packs of cigarettes, handkerchief, nuts, apples and oranges.

"The reason we give prisoners a present is so that everyone will receive something. Some prisoners—in fact the majority—receive presents from home that are mailed to them, but we don't anyone to be left out," Dugger said.

On Christmas day, an inmate's immediate family can visit him at the prison from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. The family can bring a picnic lunch and eat with the inmate. Mothers, fathers, wives,

children, brothers and sisters are welcome. An average of 400 to 500 people visit the prison on Christmas.

Prisoners can also select presents to give to others from the handcraft shop or they can make presents for their friends and family.

A Christmas dinner with all the trimmings is served in the afternoon. Dinner this year starts off with tomato juice cocktail and a relish tray, plus a fresh fruit dish. Turkey with giblet gravy, garnished with cranberry sauce, is the main dish, accompanied by bread dressing, snowflake potatoes, buttered English peas, creamed corn, hot cross buns and whipped butter. Dessert features pumpkin pie and hot coffee.

Sports have a field day o

Christmas at the prison. Twenty matches are scheduled for the 25<sup>th</sup>. They include basketball, volleyball and boxing.

There are 2,800 inmates to celebrate Christmas at Raiford this year.

Does Santa Claus visit the prison? "No," says Dugger. "Our boys are a little too old for that."

### Christmas volume at post office running below par so far

Starke residents are "slow" in mailing packages and Christmas cards this year as compared to the last holiday season. Assistant Postmaster Blake Jackson said yesterday.

"Last year, people seemed to be mailing packages and cards

much earlier," Jackson said.

The parcel count for Starke's post office from Dec. 1 until now is 2,397 packages against 3,744 packages received in the same period last year. Jackson said this could indicate better shopping facilities here with more persons trading at home rather than ordering gifts.

Another indication that the Christmas mailing rush has not hit full force yet is mail handling man hours that post office workers have put in here. So far, 862 man hours have been spent handling Christmas mail and regular mail since Dec. 1. Last year at this time, 1,025 hours had been spent by postal workers.

The canceling machine readings, showing how many first-class stamps have been canceled, is about the same as last year. Around 67,000 first-class letters have been sent through the post office.

"We do expect more first-class letters this year than last, however. A lot of businesses are using postage meters. These stamps won't be canceled at the

office here," Jackson said.

Jackson also urges the use of ZIP code numbers. He said the post office has a complete list and that anyone could obtain a number by calling the post office.

"ZIP numbers are a big help to us. Everyone should include them in address books for next year and write his own ZIP number on return addresses.

"Packages and letters with ZIP numbers are distributed faster," he said.

The post office also urges use of 5-cent Christmas tree stamps. Jackson said, "When a card goes first class, we can forward it. It will receive preferred handling and if the sender's return address is on it, it will come back."

### Christmas lights change with signals

Keystone Heights is playing it safe with Christmas lights used for decorations around the intersection traffic light between Highway 100 and Highway 21.

When the traffic light is red,

the lights are red on that side. When the traffic light turns green, the Christmas lights also turn green.

Councilman Gene Williams got the idea and carried it through. He said that too many colored lights, strung around traffic lights, created a traffic hazard and suggested using the red-red, green-green system, which he had observed in another town.

### Big Dad employees are entertained at country club

Employees of Big Dad Manufacturing Co. were guests at the annual Christmas dinner given by the company at 1 p.m. last Thursday at the Starke Golf and Country Club.

The dinner, featuring turkey and baked ham, was served buffet style. Christmas carols were sung, after which the employees returned to the plant for their gifts.

D.S. Siceloff, president of the company, was here from Lexington, N.C., for this occasion.

### Slade Gas Co. Christmas party

The Slade Gas Co. of Starke held its Christmas party Saturday night at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sawyer.

The dinner guests were seated at three large tables decorated with red and white flower arrangements and red candles.

During the evening, party games were led by Mrs. A. Russell Norman. The employees' bonuses were given, and gifts were exchanged.

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# OBITUARIES



Hiram Chappell

## Hiram Chappell

STARKE—Hiram Junior Chappell, age 69, of Starke, went home to be with the Lord on Dec. 18, 2013 at his residence surrounded by family. He was born in Santa Rosa County, on Sept. 26, 1944 to the late Ernest Hiram Chappell and Hester Mayo-Chappell. Hiram was a 1962 graduate of Andrew Jackson High School in Jacksonville, and relocated to Starke in 1976, where he and his family have been an active part of the community ever since. For over a dozen years, Hiram was a mentor who helped to mold many young men through his coaching of various levels of baseball and softball. Hiram was a member of Local 597 and retired as President of 5-Star Construction. He was a member of Madison Street Baptist Church and in his spare time enjoyed woodworking. Hiram is preceded in death by his sister, Louise Scott and brother, Harry Padgett.

Hiram is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Vivian Chappell of Starke; his children, Lorrie (Gerald) Chappell, Michael (Lilly) Chappell, and Cory (Megan) Chappell all of Starke; his sisters, Ernestine Edgeworth of Effingham, S.C., Betty Warren of Starke, and Christine (Bill) Barrett of Lexington, S.C.; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were held on Dec. 21 at Madison Street Baptist Church with Brother Charles Warren, Brother Harry Hatcher, Jr., and Brother Chub Johnson officiating. Arrangements are under the care and direction of Archie Tanner Funeral Services, Starke. 904-964-5757. Visit [archietannerfuneralservices.com](http://archietannerfuneralservices.com) to sign the family's guest book.

PAID OBITUARY

## Thomas Larkin II

RAIFORD—Thomas A. "Tommy" Larkin II, 64, passed away peacefully Saturday, Dec. 21, 2013 in the ET York Hospice Care Center in Gainesville. He was born Jan. 1, 1949 in Gainesville to Nancy Christ Larkin and Thomas Allen

Larkin, and was the second of five children. Tommy graduated from Bishop Kenney High School in Jacksonville. He served in the U.S. Navy and the Merchant Marine. He was a long-time employee of PRIDE and the Florida Department of Corrections.

Tommy was a resident of Raiford, and is survived by: his three children, Dawn Larkin Delwiche of San Francisco, Nicole Larkin and Erika Larkin Hyzer of Raiford; five grandchildren; and four siblings.

Per his wishes, no services will be held. Donations in Tommy's memory may be made to:

ET York Hospice Center  
4200 N.W. 90th Boulevard  
Gainesville, Florida 32606

PAID OBITUARY

## Vita Quiett

STARKE—Vita Juanita Quiett, 73, of Starke died Thursday, Dec. 19, 2013 in Jacksonville. She was born on Nov. 14, 1940 in Pisgah, Ala. to the late Jack and Dorothy (Culpepper) Robertson and moved to Starke 21 years ago. She retired from the Clay County School Board as a cook in 2000. Preceding her in death was her husband of 44 years Walter J. Quiett, Sr., and her brother Parks Robertson.

She is survived by: children, Renee (Jeff) DeAngelo of Jacksonville; Walter (Tiffanie) Quiett, Jr. of Orange Park, Walter Daniel Quiett of Melrose, Darlene (Vernon) Turner, Darrell (Linda) Quiett, Philip (Yvonne) Quiett all of Middleburg, Tommy (Ann) Quiett of Jacksonville; sisters, Marie Hartman and Jackie Lawson both of Tennessee and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were on Dec. 23, in the Dewitt C. Jones Chapel of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home with Brother B.B. Barwick officiating. Interment followed in Crosby Lake Cemetery. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke.

## Herman Russell

STARKE—Herman Russell, 88, of Starke died Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2013 in Shands at the University of Florida following an extended illness. He was born in Michigan on April 18, 1925. He attended Bethel Baptist Church, and was a retired owner/operator of an automobile body shop.

He is survived by his close friend, Travis Wynn of Starke. Memorial services have not been scheduled. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke.

## Cedric Smith

LAKE BUTLER—Cedric Conway Smith, 29, of Lake Butler died at his home Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2013. He was born in

Gainesville, living all of his life in Lake Butler. He graduated from Union County High School in 2003 and enjoyed the F.F.A. He was a member of the Lake Butler Church of God. He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents; Henton and Edna Smith.

He is survived by his wife of eight years, Crystal Berles Smith; daughter, Daina Smith; son, Branden Smith; mother, Sharon Presley; father and step mother, Tim and Judy Smith; brothers, Christopher (Pauline) Smith and Timothy Smith, Jr.; and maternal grandparents, and Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Presley.

Funeral services were held Dec. 21, at 3 p.m. in the Lake Butler Church of God, with Rev. Lemuel Lane officiating. Burial followed in Old Providence Cemetery. The arrangements are under the care of Archer Funeral Home in Lake Butler.



Gerald Whitehead

## Sheriff Gerald Whitehead

LAKE BUTLER — Sheriff Gerald "Jerry" Whitehead of Lake Butler, passed away at the age of 60 on Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2013 after a brief illness. He will always be remembered for his servant's attitude and helping others. He was currently serving as the Dean of Sheriffs, as the longest serving Sheriff-in-the-State of Florida. He was elected Sheriff of Union County in 1984 and served from 1985 until his death. He followed in his father's John H. Whitehead long legacy as a law enforcement officer and Sheriff. He graduated Union County High School and attended Lake City Community College. He also completed Florida Department of Law Enforcement Executive Institute and received numerous law enforcement training and certifications throughout his career. He was also a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigations National Academy.

He is survived by: his wife,

PAID OBITUARY

Tammy; six children, Matt (Michelle), Brad (Jennifer), Chelsea, Jake, Jack Henry, and Presley Vivian; one brother, John Henry (Brenda); one sister, Cynthia "Sis" Whitehead; and four grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents, John Henry and Vivian Whitehead.

He was surrounded throughout life by many close family and friends. He was a lifelong Union County native and gave his life and service to those in Union County.

Sheriff Whitehead received the Distinguished Service Award from the Florida Council on Crime and Delinquency, the Paul Harris Fellow Award for his dedication and leadership to Rotary, the Shining Star Award from Florida Education Foundation. He served the Florida Sheriff's Association as Secretary 1987-88; Treasurer, 1989; Vice President, 1990; and President 1991, as well as a member of the board of directors for many years. He was very active in the Lake Butler Rotary Club and served as President from 1989-1990. He was currently serving on the Board of Directors for the Florida Sheriffs Self Insurance Fund since 2002 and the Board of Directors of the Sheriff's Automobile Risk Program since 2002, as well as the Florida Sheriff's Multiple Employer Trust. He was a longtime supporter of the Florida Department of Corrections. He was also a member of the Lake Butler Masonic Lodge. He was a strong supporter of the Union County schools system. He was a lifelong member of the First Christian Church of Lake Butler.

Funeral services were held Dec. 21, at the First Christian Church of Lake Butler with Bro. Art Peterson officiating. Burial was in Whitehead Cemetery. Under the care of Archer Funeral Home of Lake Butler. In Lieu of flowers the family requests that memorial contributions be made to the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches Inc., P.O. Box 2000, Boys Ranch, Florida 32064. Please sign guestbook at [archerfuneralhome.com](http://archerfuneralhome.com)

## Gary Whiteneck

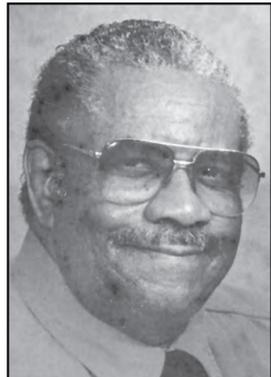
KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Gary A. Whiteneck, 54, of Keystone Heights died Friday, Dec. 6, 2013 at the VA hospital. He was born in Lawrence, Mass. on July 18, 1959 to the late Norman and Nancy Whiteneck. He served in the United States Army.

He is survived by: his wife of 28 years, Barbara Whiteneck; children, Crystal Belt, Joshua Whiteneck, and Keri Whiteneck; four brothers; and three grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held at Trinity Episcopal Church of

Melrose on Jan. 11, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. with Father John officiating. Arrangements are under the care of Moring Funeral Home, Melrose.

## In Loving Memory



Eugene Bristow

In memory of the love of my life - the love that we shared will always feel right... I loved you then and I love you now - I thank God Almighty you chose me as your wife... I don't know what tomorrow will bring - but I do know that my life will never be the same... We love you, Eugene Bristow Mary and Family

## Card of Thanks

We the family of our beloved Charlii McCastle, would like to express our sincere and heartfelt thanks for all of your kind acts, words of comfort, prayers and sympathy during this most difficult time in our lives. We would like to especially thank Mr. Doyle Archer, Mr. Allen, and Deana and all at Archer Funeral Home for their excellency. Thank you to True Vine Outreach Ministries, all of the clergy and all of Union, Bradford and surrounding communities. And thank you to Mr. Mike Ripplinger and everyone at Union County High School. Thank you all and God bless you all.

With love,  
Charlii McCastle  
and the McCastle Family

# OBITUARIES

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# Vero Beach is tops in McDonald's-Kiwanis tournament

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Staff Writer

Englewood did its best to give Vero Beach a battle, but in the end, the Class 8A Indians pulled away for a 67-47 win in the championship game of the Lake Area McDonald's-Kiwanis of Starke basketball tournament on Dec. 21 at Bradford High School.

Vero Beach went 3-0 in the tournament, winning by an average margin of 21 points. The Indians, who opened the tournament with a 63-25 win over Keystone Heights, did get a scare on the second day of the tournament from the International School of Broward, which pulled to within five points in the fourth quarter after trailing by 20-plus points. Vero Beach, though, held the Class 3A Pumas off for a 49-45 win to advance to the championship game.

A basket and free throw by tournament MVP Brannon Shaw helped the Indians build an 18-9 second-quarter lead over Englewood in the championship game. Vero Beach then increased that 24-14 with the help of a jumper and free throw by David Marine.

All-tournament team selection



**Bradford High School graduate and current Florida International University student-athlete Ya'Keem Griner (left) presents the MVP trophy to Brannon Shaw of Vero Beach. Griner, who plays football at FIU, is a former tournament MVP.**

Drushaun McLaurin scored five points late in the quarter, with his turn-around jumper in the lane bringing Englewood to within 24-21.

Englewood's Gary Grant would tie the score at 29-all early in the third quarter, but Vero Beach closed out the quarter by outscoring the Rams 16-6. Vontravious Richardson, an all-tournament selection, scored five points during that

span, while Brenton Wade made the last basket of the quarter—a 3-pointer that sent Vero Beach into the fourth up 45-35.

Richardson scored two baskets early in the fourth as the Indians continued to pull away.

Joining Richardson, Shaw and McLaurin on the all-tournament team were Bradford's Kearsis Ardley and the International School of Broward's Nate Johnson.

## KHHS

Continued from 1B

quarter. Shobris made another free throw at the 4:09 mark of the second quarter to make it a 23-2 game.

The Indians just couldn't get a basket in the few offensive opportunities they had. Finally, C.J. Rogers, who had a couple of steals and a block in the second quarter, knocked down a baseline jumper with eight seconds left in the first half.

It would be the only field goal of the game for the Indians.

Keystone's first game in the tournament was another struggle. Eventual tournament champion Vero Beach—a Class 8A Final Four team two seasons ago—outscored the Indians 34-6 in the first half en route to a 63-25 win on Dec. 19.

The Indians did score 15 points in the fourth quarter after being held to 10 the rest of the game. Rogers drove the baseline for one basket, while later hitting a 3-pointer. Shobris was able to get a score in the paint off of an assist by Brandon Nicholas.

Shobris and Rogers finished with eight and seven points,

respectively.

Brannon Shaw, who would go on to win tournament MVP honors, led Vero Beach with 23 points.

Keystone will be back in action on Tuesday, Jan. 7, when they host P.K. Yonge at 7 p.m. in a game that counts toward the District 5-4A standings. The Indians then host district opponent Santa Fe on Thursday, Jan. 9, at 7 p.m. before traveling to play district opponent Interlachen on Friday, Jan. 10, at 7:30 p.m.

On Monday, Jan. 13, Keystone hosts Crescent City at 7 p.m.

## UCHS

Continued from 1B

before scoring on a drive to the basket following Union's second turnover of the quarter. Mosher made a jump shot as he was falling to the court to pull the Tigers to within 11-10, but Vanover answered with the first of two consecutive 3-pointers for P.K. Yonge. The Blue Wave closed the half with a 16-2 run.

Geordyn Green had a couple of nice plays late in the third quarter for the Tigers, scoring on a drive to the basket and then setting up another eventual score by Princeton Alexander following a steal. P.K. Yonge, despite those two baskets, led 38-21.

Mosher led the Tigers with nine points, while Alexander finished with seven. Green and Lee each had four.

Vanover and Stephen Brown led the Blue Wave with 12 and 11 points, respectively, while Anthony Andrews added eight points.

the floor and scored following both. Mosher's second basket was set up by a nice pass from Alexander that made the score 16-13.

That was as close as the Tigers would get, though a 3-pointer by Dairon Alexander helped Union stay within five at the half.

Englewood scored the first three baskets of the second half, so by the time Princeton Alexander drained a 3-pointer, the Tigers still trailed by 10.

Alexander made two 3-pointers in the second half and finished with eight points.

Union will host District 7-1A opponent Dixie County on Tuesday, Jan. 7, at 7:30 p.m. and travel to play district opponent Newberry on Thursday, Jan. 9, at 7:30 p.m. before traveling to Starke to play Bradford on Saturday, Jan. 11, at 7:30 p.m.

On Tuesday, Jan. 14, Union travels to play district opponent Chiefland at 7:30 p.m.

## BHS

Continued from 1B

runner-up Englewood.

Two 3-pointers in the fourth quarter by Jones and another by Jaquez Ivey helped Bradford stay close before Jones knocked down a jump shot following a Broward turnover to tie the score at 39-all with approximately three minutes remaining. A steal by Kearsis Ardley led to another basket by Jones, giving Bradford just its second lead at 41-39.

Bradford would go on to miss its final five shot attempts, while Broward went 7-of-9 from the foul line in the final two minutes. Nate Johnson also made a 3-pointer down the stretch to help the Pumas' cause.

Johnson, who finished with 18 points and was named to the all-tournament team, had five points in the first quarter, while teammate Tachaka Ray made three 3-pointers to help the Pumas go up 15-6.

Kenny Dinkins made Bradford's second field goal of the game at the 7:17 mark of the second quarter and had five points in the quarter as the Tornados cut into the lead and trailed 20-16 at the half.

Bradford missed its first five field-goal attempts of the third quarter, but two free throws and a jumper by Jones helped the Tornados pull to within 22-20 before Ardley tied the game with a basket following his own steal.

A 3-pointer by Jones gave Bradford a 25-24 lead, but Broward's Johnson answered with a trey of his own.

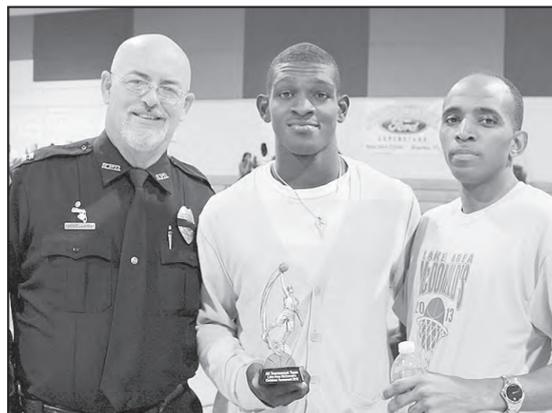
Jones, who made four 3-pointers overall, led all scorers with 20 points, while Ardley and Dinkins finished with eight and six, respectively.

Ardley was named to the all-tournament team, joining Broward's Johnson, Englewood's Drushaun McLaurin and Vero Beach's Vontravious Richardson and Brannon Shaw (MVP).

## 3rd-quarter struggles hurt BHS against Rams

Bradford scored just three points in the third quarter as Class 6A Englewood turned a two-point deficit into a nine-point lead and eventual 45-39 win over the Tornados on Dec. 20 in the Lake Area McDonald's-Kiwanis of Starke tournament.

A 3-pointer by Dinkins to start the third quarter provided the Tornados with their only points



**Bradford's Kearsis Ardley accepts a trophy for being named to the all-tournament team. He's pictured with Kiwanis Club of Starke President Barry Warren (left) and Bradford head coach Adrian Chandler.**

of the quarter. Englewood's McLaurin and Tavon King combined to score 10 points to help send the Rams into the fourth quarter with a 30-21 lead.

Ardley scored five points during a 9-2 run to open the fourth. His two free throws made it a 32-27 game. The Rams failed to score on the other end of the floor, despite grabbing three offensive boards. Ardley was able to corral a loose ball and take it the distance, driving to the basket for a score and picking up a foul. He made the ensuing free throw to pull Bradford to within 32-30.

Englewood increased its lead to seven, but another driving score and free throw by Ardley

made the score 39-35 with approximately two minutes to play. A steal and successive layup by Ardley made the score 41-37 with one minute left. The Rams, though, made four straight free throws to help hold off the surging Tornados.

Ardley scored 10 points in the final quarter and finished with a team-high 12. Ivey scored eight points in the first half and finished with 10, while Dinkins and Jones each scored eight.

Bradford returns to action Saturday, Jan. 4, in a home game against District 5-4A opponent Santa Fe at 7:30 p.m. On Tuesday, Jan. 7, the Tornados host district opponent Fort White at 7:30 p.m.

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### Indians get 2 district shutouts in soccer

Cory Hedding scored five goals for the Keystone Heights High School boys' soccer team in 6-0 and 7-0 District 5-2A wins over Santa Fe and Interlachen, respectively.

Hedding, who has 30 goals on the season, had two goals off of assists from Juan Grimaldo and Zac Hawkins in the Dec. 17 win over visiting Santa Fe. Zac Holman assisted on goals by Grimaldo and Dylan Beard, while Shaw Fuller assisted on

a goal by Wyatt Graziano. Eric Wood also scored on a penalty kick.

On Dec. 20, Hedding recorded the hat trick over visiting Interlachen, scoring three goals off of assists by Grimaldo, Nacho Grimaldo and Zac Fairbanks. Holman scored two goals, one of which received an assist from Juan Grimaldo. Grimaldo also scored on a goal assisted by Fairbanks. Wood successfully converted on a penalty kick for the second straight match.

Keystone (15-1-1, 12-0) travels to play Palatka on Saturday, Jan. 4, at 2 p.m. The Indians then host district opponent P.K. Yonge on Tuesday, Jan. 7, at 7 p.m.

### KH girls fall to Raiders again, but beat Rams

Unbeaten District 5-2A leader Santa Fe swept the season series against the Keystone Heights High School girls' soccer team, but the Indians bounced back with a win over district opponent Interlachen.

The Indians (14-6, 13-3) hosted Santa Fe on Dec. 17, losing 2-0. The Raiders scored a goal in the 11<sup>th</sup> minute and added another in the final eight minutes.

Keystone was able to find the net in its next outing—a 3-0 win over visiting Interlachen on Dec.

20. Hanna Crane scored two goals off of Raychel Trimble assists.

Trimble scored the first goal of the match in the ninth minute, with Julia Osteen getting the assist.

Keystone will travel to play Palatka on Saturday, Jan. 4, at noon. The Indians will then host St. Francis on Tuesday, Jan. 7, at 5 p.m.

### UC boys even district mark in basketball

Prior to playing in the Lake Area McDonald's-Kiwanis of Starke tournament (see related story), the Union County High School boys' basketball team defeated visiting Newberry 59-56 on Dec. 17 to even its District 7-1A mark at 2-2.

Kyle Mosher led the Tigers with 17 points, nine of which came on 3-pointers. Austin Dukes and Princeton Alexander had 14 and 10 points, respectively, with Alexander hitting two 3-pointers. Daquin Edwards and Daryl Watkins added six and five points, respectively, while Geordyn Green and Parker Hodgson had four and three, respectively.

Edwards grabbed seven rebounds, while Green had four assists.

### Davis, Kemp combine for 61 points in BHS girls' win

Nyasia Davis and Tracey Kemp scored 33 and 28 points, respectively, as the Bradford High School girls' basketball team defeated Nease 78-66 on Dec. 19 in Ponte Vedra.

Danique Hudson and Keshanna Ardley added seven and five points, respectively, for the Tornadoes (9-5). Faith Anderson and Meghan Woods each scored two points, while Mackenzie Gault had one point.

Prior to playing Nease, Bradford hosted Gainesville on Dec. 17, losing 55-44. Davis and Kemp scored 22 and 13 points, respectively, while Woods had six points. Hudson added three points.

Bradford will host District 5-4A opponent Fort White on Tuesday, Jan. 7, at 6 p.m. before hosting district opponent Keystone Heights on Friday, Jan. 10, at 7:30 p.m.

On Saturday, Jan. 11, the Tornadoes will play in the Corey Blue Invitational at P.K. Yonge in Gainesville before returning home to play district opponent Interlachen on Tuesday, Jan. 14, at 6 p.m.

### Union girls still seeking 1st district win

Keyambre Cobb made six 3-pointers and scored 20 points, but the Union County High School girls' basketball team remained winless in District 7-1A, losing 50-38 to visiting Newberry on Dec. 17.

Qushawn Smith and Nancy Slocum scored eight and four points, respectively, with Slocum grabbing 11 rebounds. Michelle Johnson, Janisha Jones and Madison McClellan each scored two points.

The Tigers (1-7) fell to 0-4 in District 7, also losing to district opponents Dixie County (47-37 on Dec. 5), Chiefland (48-34 on Dec. 10) and Williston (62-33 on Dec. 13).

In the closest of all of their district games—the Dec. 10 home game against Chiefland—the Tigers got eight and seven points from Cobb and Smith, respectively. Cobb had four assists, while Smith had nine rebounds.

Jones and Slocum each added six points against Chiefland, with Johnson and McClellan scoring four and two points, respectively.

Union will host Dixie County on Tuesday, Jan. 7, at 6 p.m. before traveling to play Newberry on Thursday, Jan. 9, at 6 p.m.

On Friday, Jan. 10, the Tigers host Columbia County at 6 p.m. before traveling to play Baldwin on Monday, Jan. 13, at 7 p.m.



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<b>05 FORD F150 4X4</b> .....	<b>\$12,995</b>	<b>13 CHEVY CRUZ LTZ</b> .....	<b>\$17,995</b>	<b>10 CHEVY AVALANCHE 4X4, LT</b> .....	<b>\$28,995</b>
		<b>05 FORD F350 DUALLY, DIESEL, 4X4</b> .....	<b>\$18,995</b>	<b>13 CHEVY TRAVERSE LT</b> .....	<b>\$26,995</b>

\*All prices net of rebates, dealer retains all rebates if any. See dealer for details. \*\*Art for illustration purposes only, prior sale subject to early deadlines.



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\* Includes all rebates and incentives, plus tax, tag and \$695 dealer fee. See dealer for details.