

UNION COUNTY TIMES

USPS 648-200 — LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA

THURSDAY, JAN. 16, 2014

101ST YEAR — 38TH ISSUE — 75 CENTS

etc.



Brett Fest, Jan. 18

A concert to benefit **Brett Williams** (above) will be held at the Union County High School Auditorium on Saturday, Jan. 18, at 7 p.m. Williams is 20 years old and is fighting a rare and life-threatening type of cancer called NUT midline carcinoma (NMC). It is often resistant to treatment with the average survival period being less than one year from the point of diagnosis.

Performing will be Truth or Dare, Heavy Petty and Cliff Dorsey.

Tickets are \$15 per person. While tickets may be available at the door, seating is limited, so you can pre-purchase wristbands at Kirby & Company RX and Spires IGA Grocery Store in Lake Butler. Or contact Danny Plumlee at 352-494-2190 or pwdap2814@yahoo.com.

Join them in celebrating and supporting Williams.

American Legion meeting on Jan. 16

The American Legion is meeting on Thursday, Jan. 16, at 7 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge in Lake Butler.

Revival in Worthington Springs, Jan. 16-19

Wayne and Lydia Spratlin will hold a revival nightly at 7 p.m., Jan. 16-18, and at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 19, at United Methodist Church in Fellowship with New Jerusalem Full Gospel Church on S.R. 121 in Worthington Springs.

Everyone is welcome. For more information call 386-496-1461.

Food4Kids fundraiser bake sale, Jan. 18

A bake sale to raise funds for Food4Kids will be held at the Spires IGA in Lake Butler on Saturday, Jan. 18, from 8 a.m. till sold out.

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.

UC board to meet on Jan. 21 due to holiday

The next meeting of the Union County Board of Commissioners will take place on Tuesday, Jan. 21 at 7 p.m. since Jan. 20 is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

School out, Jan. 20-21

School is out Monday, Jan. 20, in recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Tuesday, Jan. 21, for a teacher workday, giving students a much-welcome four-day weekend.

Roberts Insurance buys out Maines, moves into offices

Union County Times moves with Roberts group

BY VINCENT ALEX BROWN
Times Editor

After 41 years in business, Harriett Maines is retiring as an insurance agent, but keeping her hands in real estate. She recently sold her agency to Roberts Insurance, which moved into her offices on Jan. 15, one block west, to serve Union County residents even better.

The Union County Times, which shared an office with Roberts Insurance, also made the move to 25 East Main Street in Lake Butler.

Maines took over the agency in 1973 from her father, Hal Y. Maines, which was named after him and who in turn had been in business

since 1927. She decided last year to retire and approached Scott Roberts, owner of Roberts Insurance, about purchasing the business.

The Lake Butler Community Center is officially named after her father, who was also an attorney, for his longtime service to Lake Butler. The idea was proposed by then city councilwoman Lynn Bishop.

"I am very happy that Scott is purchasing the agency," Maines said. "And I look forward to working with his staff during the transition and encourage all of my customers to continue to come to this location and continue to do business with Scott

See ROBERTS, 2A



Scott Roberts and Harriett Maines in front Maines Insurance at 25 East Main Street in Lake Butler, the new offices of Roberts Insurance and the newspaper.

CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS

Union County students give their best through dance and song at home and beyond

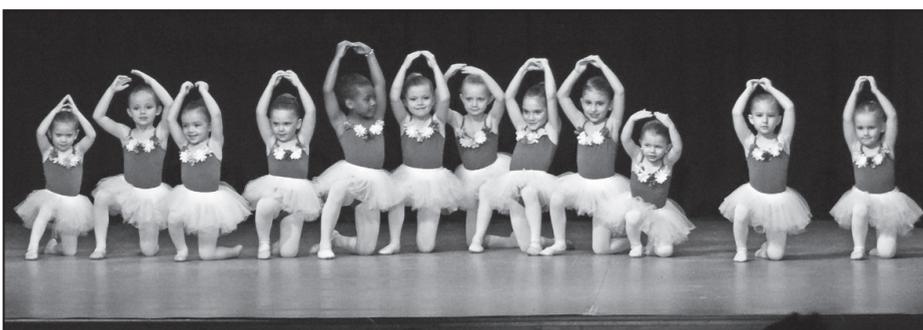


Students and adults with the Kelly Christie Dance Academy performed "The Great Commission: Sharing God's Word With All Nations" on Saturday, Jan. 11, at the Union County High School Auditorium. Based on Matthew 28:18-20, it featured music and costumes to present different countries and cultures.

ABOVE: United States of America — "National Emblem March; Stars and Stripes: Fifth Campaign," by Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops Orchestra — Pre-pointe & Pointe: (In alphabetical order) Summer Atteberry, Lauren Britt, Chelsey Crews, Kate DeShong (in the air), Klara Fletcher, Carlin Poyner and Audyn Woodington.

LEFT: Saudi Arabia — "Arabian Dance: The Nutcracker" by Tchaikovsky — Intermediate Ballet 3: Kimberly Palmer and John Dekle.

BELOW: Ireland — "The Games" by Patrick Doyle — Pre-Ballet: (In alphabetical order) Carmyn Barringer, Natalie Campbell, Molly Christmas, Addison Graham, Emily Hann, Kylie Henry, Gracelyn Jackson, Isabella Kennedy, Emily Pilcher, Chloe Sharrah, Eva Sharrah, Selah Tompkins and Saige Waters.



Two UCHS students were selected to the All-State High School Honor Band at the Florida Music Educators Association Professional Development Conference in Tampa, Jan. 8-11.

LEFT: Waylon Griffis plays trombone during the two days they had to learn four new pieces.

RIGHT: William Brown plays timpani during the concert (above).



Two LBMS students charged with bringing airsoft gun to school

Usual orange tip removed, making firearm look real

BY VINCENT ALEX BROWN
Times Editor

Shortly before school was letting out on Friday, Jan. 10, two Lake Butler Middle School students, ages 11 and 12, were charged and entered into the civil citation program of the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice for carrying a toy airsoft gun to school, modified to look like a real firearm.

Airsoft guns are usually sold with a 6 mm (nearly a quarter inch) or longer orange tip on the barrel in order to distinguish them from real McCoy. In fact, the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, Title 15, Part 1150, requires that any toy or imitation firearm that uses compressed air, spring, or any other non-powder propellant, have at least 6 mm of an orange tip permanently affixed to the tip of the gun.

According to the Union County Sheriff's Office, the students had visibly removed the orange tip to make it look like a real Walther P22, which the gun was modeled after. Airsoft guns shoot plastic pellets at velocities from 98 ft/s for a low-end spring pistol.

One student had the gun and brought it to the other student. They both received a maximum and automatic 10-day suspension and will either be sent to the Outpost or will be expelled, which will be determined after a hearing.

Carrying a gun that looks real, even outside of school, can have serious and fatal consequences.

Last October, Andy Lopez was walking to a friend's home on the outskirts of Santa Rosa, California, when a sheriff's deputy shot and killed him, mistaking the eighth-grader's plastic airsoft gun for a real AK-47 assault weapon, which can fire at least 100 rounds a minute.

Two years before that, another 13-year-old boy, in Los Angeles, was shot by an officer while playing with friends in Glassell Park and was left a paraplegic. The teen had an airsoft pistol that was a replica of a Beretta handgun.

After last Friday's incident here in Lake Butler, UCSO's Lt. Lyn Williams had this stern warning for students: "Don't bring a plastic, realistic-looking gun to school or you will be charged."

etc.

Girls softball signups every Saturday in Jan.

The Union County girls softball signups happen at the O.J. Phillips Sports Complex every Saturday in Jan. from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for ages 6-16. Registration fee is \$75.

Bring copy of birth certificate.

For questions, call Tommy Mobley at 904-796-2039.



Strawberry Pageant hopefuls can apply now

The 52nd annual Bradford-Union Strawberry Pageant is scheduled for Saturday, March 1, and applications for contestants are available now.

This year's pageant will award more than \$4,000 to the young ladies ages 13 to 24 who will be participating, including \$2,000 to the 2014 Strawberry Queen.

Applications are available at Capital City Bank in Starke, Bradford Middle School, Bradford High School, Lake Butler Middle School, Union County High School and Keystone Heights Junior-Senior High School.

The deadline to enter is Sunday, Feb. 2, and there will be an orientation for contestants on that day at 2 p.m.

For more information, visit www.strawberrypageant.org.

ROBERTS

Continued from 1A

and show him their support, and likewise he'll show them his."

The building that Roberts Insurance and the Times occupied was jointly owned by Roberts and Times publisher John Miller. It used to house city hall and the fire department, which now reside in separate, newer facilities. Roberts and Miller sold the building to First Baptist Church next door.

"I think it's going to work out great and I'm very pleased that the church ended up with the building," Roberts said. "It's a win-win situation."

(At press time, plans were unknown regarding the future of the Union County Food Pantry, which still occupies the building in the old fire station bay.)

The Maines Insurance building, which Roberts will rent from Maines and her sister, Barbara Maines DeVoe, was actually the Tomlinson-Maines Drug Company started by her grandfather many years ago. The current Maines Insurance building was at some point renovated to become the drugstore and then original building was torn down

to make way for a parking lot, which sits across the street from the courthouse.

The drugstore closed in the mid-1970s. After Rivers Hardware, which was next to the Maines Insurance building, burned, Maines cleaned out the drugstore in the mid-1980s and renovated the building to house Maines Insurance. Before that, the agency was located in her father's law office and then at 160 South Lake Avenue in Lake Butler.

Today an updated soda fountain bar with stools still sits near the back of the Maines Insurance building, complete with dining booths.

Roberts has been in business for over 31 years, originally operating out of Starke where he still maintains an office, while writing business here in Union County. He bought out his father, George Roberts, in 1995, who had been doing business nearly 20 years before that. Roberts Insurance gained a physical presence in Lake Butler when Roberts bought out Doyle Varnes Insurance Agency around 2000.

"Roberts Insurance has been very fortunate, and has had great success in Lake Butler," Roberts said. "I love the opportunity I have here, and just growing and



expanding makes it that much better."

Roberts has known Harriett and the Maines family all his life.

"I have great respect for Harriett and the way she runs her business," Roberts said, "and I feel like the merger of the two agencies is something that the insured will benefit from. Harriett can be commended for the many years of service that she's

provided for Union County."

Roberts, who is also president of Lake Butler Rotary Club, majored in insurance through the Warrington College of Business Administration at the University of Florida.

He's been married to his wife, Cindy, for 28 years. They have two daughters—Priscilla Roberts Dow, 24, who is married and a schoolteacher, and Darbyann Roberts, 22, who is a student

majoring in business at the University of North Florida.

"I want to personally thank the people of Union County for allowing me to serve them, and also allowing me to grow," Roberts said. "Again, I have great respect for Harriett and what she's done. She can be proud of the agency that she's built.

"She's doing what I hope to do one day—retire," he added, laughing.



ABOVE: A crew from Starke helped the Union County Times make the one-block move: Terry McBride (pictured), Rodney Carmichael and Jonathan Douglass. The Times is owned by the Bradford County Telegraph which also owns the Lake Region Monitor.

LEFT: The former offices of the Roberts Insurance and the Times is in the foreground. The new location, Maines Insurance, can be seen in the background.

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USPS 648-200

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UCHS students explore local fish ponds

They 'learn by doing' as part of summer STEM program

BY BASIL BACTAWAR
UC Extension Director/Agent

Last summer, the Union County Extension Office was glad to host three students from Union County High School: Lethia Johnson, Kamil Mazol and Autumn Ray under the supervision of their teacher Angela Johnson. They spent eight days learning why fish die suddenly in ponds. They participated in this training under the Science, Technology, Engineering and Science (STEM) Program Talent Development Summer Field Experience.

One of the major problems with growing fish in ponds is sudden death or overnight fish kill due mainly to inadequate levels of dissolved oxygen and buildup of ammonia nitrogen, and other undesirable pond conditions.

The students learned to collect water samples from the ponds. Then they brought the samples to the Extension Office. Extension Director Basil Bactawar taught them how to analyze for pH, dissolved oxygen and ammonia

nitrogen, etc. Their training was complemented with a tour of the School of Forest Resources and Conservation as part of the Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Programs at the University of Florida, and a canoe trip down the Santa Fe River, led by 4-H Program Assistant Colan Coody, where they took water samples and did more analysis.

In addition to their field and analytical work, they collectively researched and wrote an article on "Tilapia, What Potential Farmers Need to Know." At the end of the session they completed a survey to evaluate them on what they learned.

But the proof of the pudding is in the eating, or should we say, in the telling. So back in July they shared their summer experience at the Lake Butler Rotary Club by means of a PowerPoint presentation.

This is an excellent opportunity for students to learn about solving an issue within the community. The Extension Office always welcomes projects like this one, and is looking forward to working with more students during the summer.

The Extension Office is located at 25 Northeast First Street in Lake Butler. Contact them at 386-496-2321 or union@ifas.ufl.edu, or visit <http://union.ifas.ufl.edu>.



Autumn Ray and Lethia Johnson presenting at Rotary.

Landfill changes direction in pursuit of energy revenue

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

Will the three counties who make up the New River Solid Waste Association be involved in establishing their own power plant at the landfill?

Maybe, and they might partner

with Alachua County to share the wealth.

The association members voted Jan. 9 to give Landfill Energy Services the leave-ho. After months of negotiations to have LES build a landfill gas-to-energy project at New River, the two sides could not come to an

agreement.

While the proposal promised to earn the landfill close to \$3 million over the next 20 years from the sale of electricity generated on site, in truth, that was only enough to cover the landfill's costs of collecting the gas created by decomposing waste, which its air permit requires.

The association board members, culled from the county commissioners in Bradford, Union and Baker counties, are eager to turn a profit on the gas, and the longer the landfill is simply burning the gas off, the more anxious some are becoming.

After terminating negotiations with LES, the board voted to open talks with Florida Energy Partners, which also responded to the association's request for proposals last year.

FEP doesn't want to build a

project for the landfill. Instead, the landfill would spend or borrow millions of dollars to build the generation plant itself. FEP's job is to find someone to purchase the electricity, and then run the plant.

While staff liked the earning potential of the proposal—more than \$1 million a year—the risk turned the board off. Now they're singing a different tune. Even after recouping its investment, the project could bring in \$7 million or more over 15 years, according to the estimate, or \$4 million more than what LES had proposed.

Executive Director Darrell O'Neal said staff has saved the counties millions of dollars by constructing its own additions at the landfill, and he said working with its engineer, they could build the electric plant as well.

Union County Commissioner Karen Cossey said it would make for a lot of work. She asked O'Neal if they were up to the job.

"It's completely different than burying garbage, but we didn't build (disposal) cells before either," he said.

Bradford Commissioner Eddie Lewis was taken back by the amount of New River's potential investment if it went with FEP, more than \$8 million of escrowed funds, unless it sought to finance the project, which

would significantly impact the profit margin.

But on the topic of risk, Assistant Director Perry Kent said FEP is not new to the game.

"FEP has done a lot of these projects. We're not playing the stock market," he said in defense of the large investment. "They've done plenty of these projects, and they've all been successful that I know of."

O'Neal said the association could use its own funds to build the plant and then finance the purchase of the generation equipment. As a government entity, they have certain advantages, he said, such as better loan rates and the avoidance of sales tax.

After discussion, Lewis said the project would provide a better return than the money is getting sitting in the bank.

Before anything happens, FEP must come up with a power purchase agreement from someone willing to pay for the electricity generated and come up with some firm numbers for the board. Baker County's Mark Hartley wanted that by February.

Speaking in favor of going the FEP, he said the main objective of the project from the beginning was to make money. While LES would provide some cost savings to the landfill by paying for its gas collection, the difference in

behavior when treated after hours at Dr. Johnson's office.

In late November, Armengol was then taken into custody by Alachua County after searching his residence in Gainesville.

Armengol has stated that he is a doctor in the country of Honduras but not licensed to practice in the United States.

The charges against Armengol are not proven and he is presumed innocent until adjudicated guilty by a court.

Armengol bond increases to \$1 million

BY VINCENT ALEX BROWN
Times Editor

After a second victim came forward claiming inappropriate behavior from Oscar Armengol, the Union County Sheriff's Office got a warrant approved on Jan. 9 by a judge for additional charges, with a \$400,000 bond on top of the current \$600,000. That means that when Armengol is released from the Alachua County Jail, he will then be arrested and held in

the Union County Jail.

The 53-year-old medical practitioner now faces a record-setting \$1 million bond.

The former 18-year employee of Dr. Marvin W. Johnson, who operates a family practice clinic located next to Lake Butler Hospital, has been charged twice for sexual assault and practicing medicine without a license for two victims that came forward in November and December accusing Armengol of inappropriate

Sheriff Whitehead scholarship being established

BY VINCENT ALEX BROWN
Times Editor

Billy Ray Foister, the Union County board member for the Foundation for Florida Gateway College, said that citizens of the county wanted to start an annual scholarship as a memorial for Sheriff Jerry Whitehead who passed away suddenly last month after a brief illness. Whitehead was a graduate from FGC when it was called Lake City

Community College.

At the weekly Lake Butler Rotary Club meeting on Jan. 14, Foister said that an anonymous donation of \$11,000 was given to seed the scholarship, which went a long way toward the \$25,000 needed to make an endowed scholarship that would be limited to Union County students. Foister said he's since received some checks from others and still others who want to get the word out, such as the Florida Sheriff's Association, and donate as well.

Because of that he's confident the goal will be quickly met for the scholarship that will be awarded this May to a deserving Union County High School senior who attends FGC.

All donations to the scholarship are tax deductible.

To contribute or for more information, contact Foister at 386-496-240 or billyfoister@hotmail.com, or Foundation Executive Director Mike Lee at 386-754-4201 or mike.lee@fgc.edu.



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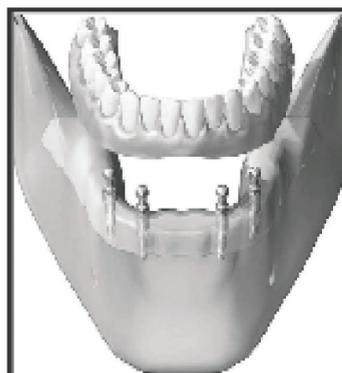
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UCI



Clemons, Davis earn top marks in November

Union Correctional Institution recently named Sgt. Matthew Clemons and Ashley Davis as its top officer and employee for the month of November.

Sgt. Clemons began his corrections career in 2004 at UCI, but he has also worked at Lowell Correctional Institution, Lawtey CI and Florida State Prison. He was promoted to the rank of sergeant in 2007, while at FSP.

Clemons also recently became certified as a field training officer and assists with training new recruits as correctional officers.

Sgt. Clemons is now the administrative sergeant in U Dorm, one of UCI's mental health dorms. Dealing with inmates who are both close management inmates and mental health patients can be very challenging, but Clemons' supervisor, Lt. John Sandlin, said Clemons is more than up to the task.

Sandlin said Clemons "displays a positive team-building attitude" and is an outstanding officer. "He is constantly coming up with new and inventive ways to complete daily tasks in U Dorm so that all staff work more effectively," said Sandlin.

Clemons participated in the development and implementation of UCI's new residential treatment unit, a different type of housing unit for mental health inmates.

Clemons also assisted in establishing a program that can be used by institutions who wish to cut their food costs by growing some of their own produce in farm operations.

"He is someone I would not hesitate to recommend for promotion," said Sandlin.

Davis is a senior clerk in the classification department. She

has worked for the Department of Corrections for seven years and has spent her entire career at UCI.

Davis is responsible for scheduling visits and official calls between the nearly 2,000 inmates at UCI and their attorneys.

She also handles requests for legal documentation and processes paperwork needed by the court system in relation to a wide variety of legal actions involving inmates. She runs background checks on people who are requesting entry into the institution for various purposes and keeps track of a huge morass of paperwork related to all those tasks.

Her supervisor, Darlene Chapman, said Davis does all of that extremely well – and with a smile. "She is always willing to help anyone who needs some assistance... she goes above and beyond to help anyone, not only classification staff, but any staff

here at UCI," said Chapman.

"I am her supervisor in the records office and I can say without reservation that, if it wasn't for (Davis), this office would not run as smoothly as it does," said Chapman. "She is always professional and courteous to the public... she is a great asset to the classification department and I am blessed to have her."

ABOVE: Ashley Davis, a clerk in the classification department, was selected as November Employee of the Month. Congratulating her are Class. Supervisor Mike Davis (right) and Asst. Class. Supervisor Tommy Dicks.

BELOW RIGHT: Sgt. Matthew Clemons was chosen as November Officer of the Month at UCI.



LEGLALS

UCT Legals 1/16/14

NOTICE

The Union County EFSP/FEMA Phase 31 Local Board has been awarded \$3,600 in federal funds made available through the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/ Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program.

The Union County EFSP/FEMA Phase 31 Local Board has been chosen to receive \$3,600 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the county.

The selection was made by a National Board that is chaired by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from American Red Cross; Catholic Charities; USA, National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA; The Jewish Federations of North America; The Salvation Army; and, United Way Worldwide. The Local Board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the county.

A Local Board made up of representatives of various community agencies will determine how the \$3,600 awarded to Union County are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service agencies in the area. The

Local Board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds and any additional funds made available under this phase of the program.

Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must:

- 1) be private voluntary non-profits or units of government,
- 2) be eligible to receive Federal funds,
- 3) have an accounting system,
- 4) practice nondiscrimination,
- 5) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and
- 6) if they are a private voluntary organization, have a voluntary board.

Qualifying agencies are urged to apply. Public or private voluntary

agencies interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds must contact United Way, 352-331-2800, for an application. The deadline for applications to be received is midnight on January 22, 2014.

1/16 11chg-UCT

REQUEST FOR BIDS

TOWN OF RAIFORD

is taking bids for a Town Auditor to conduct the financial requirements meeting the Department of Revenue Florida Statutes for the current fiscal year 2012-2013. Please send your resume and proposed contract to the Town of Raiford PO Box 428 Raiford, Florida 32083. Bids will close Friday, January 31, 2014.

1/16 2tchg 1/23-UCT

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Thurman, Griffis, Barnett chosen as top staffers

Union Correctional Institution recently named Officer Robert Thurman, Kimberly Barnett and Eva Griffis as its top staffers for the month of December.

Officer Thurman was chosen as Officer of the Month. Barnett was named Employee of the Month for the Main Unit and Griffis was named Employee of the Month for the UCI Work Camp.

Thurman has worked for UCI since 2005 and has served the institution in a wide variety of capacities during his career. He worked as an officer in both general population and close management settings, including Death Row. He served as a vehicle gate officer, supervising the movement of vehicles onto the secure compound. He also served as a security and recreation officer for inmates in the institution's mental health dorms.

Thurman is a member of the Rapid Response Team and, as such, undergoes intensive extra training every month to prepare him to respond to any emergency situation at a moment's notice.

Thurman is currently the "lock and key" officer for the institution. In a facility with 3,000-plus locks that need to remain secure—in order to protect the safety of the public, staff and inmates—being the lock and key officer is a very challenging position. Thurman and Sgt. Bradley Chapman are tasked

with ensuring all the locks remain operational, all the keys remain accounted for and every cell, control room, office and building remain secure at all times – not an easy job by any measure.

Recently, the two officers had to get all the buildings in the new UCI Work Camp ready to house inmates – hundreds of additional locks and keys that had to be meticulously prepared, tested and accounted for.

Sgt. Chapman nominated Thurman for Officer of the Month because he said Thurman "did an outstanding job of getting the work camp up and running." Chapman also noted that Officer Thurman often gets called to the institution during his off hours – nights, weekends, holidays – to repair critical locks in order to maintain the security of the institution. "He gets called in all the time and he never complains," said Chapman.

Chapman said Thurman's hard work and positive attitude make him an ideal candidate for Officer of the Month.

Prior to working for DOC, Thurman served in the U.S. Army, 82nd Airborne Division, for 13 years. He was involved in Operation Just Cause (Panama) and Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm (Southwest Asia).

When he first left the military, he served as store operations manager for Food Lion, supervising several stores in Jacksonville and the surrounding area for approximately six years.

Barnett has worked for the Department of Corrections for nearly 10 years, spending all of

her career at UCI. She has worked as administrative assistant to the major, the assistant warden and the warden. She served as the institution's recruiter, ensuring that prospective staff members completed all of the necessary steps in order to be hired.

Barnett currently works in the institution's mail room, processing incoming and outgoing mail for inmates and staff members. This is a meticulous job since it also entails processing legal mail to and from attorneys and court systems.

Gary Grainger, Barnett's supervisor, characterized her as efficient, diligent and helpful. "She goes out of her way to help others. She makes sure the mail is properly distributed, as well as ensuring legal mail is logged and signed for daily," he said. "I can depend on her to run the mail room when I am not there. She goes above and beyond her duties in the performance of her job."

"Mrs. Barnett ranks within the top 10 percent of UCI's staff for a job well done."

Griffis is the food service director for the newly opened UCI Work Camp. Overseeing a brand new kitchen and food service system is a real challenge, but Griffis rose to the occasion and has the department up and running at full steam.

Food service administrative assistant Sibi Johnson said, "Mrs. Griffis is a very determined and hard-working woman who sets a great example for all other staff members. She is always early and always stays late to lend a helping hand. She is always



Reminders

In 2 Peter 1:12-15, Peter points out one of the reasons for that letter being written is to remind the people of the things they already knew. It is important we are reminded of several things we may already be aware of from time to time. We need to be reminded all have sinned (Romans 3:23). We need to be reminded that faith without works will not save a person (James 2:24). We need to be reminded what Jesus teaches one must do to be saved, "He who believes and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16). We need to be reminded one must remain faithful unto death to receive the crown of life (Revelation 2:10).

We have been running an article like this one in the paper every week for quite some time. However, we have made the decision to begin placing the article in the paper on a monthly basis, on the first week of the month, at this time.

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UCI



in a great mood and is such a pleasure to work with! I feel very blessed to have her, not only as a supervisor, but as a lifelong friend.”

Griffis has worked at UCI for five years. She previously supervised the staff dining room, where employees could enjoy an inexpensive—but delicious—lunch without having to drive several miles during a limited lunch hour.

In her current position as food service director at the work camp, she trains staff and inmates assigned to work in the kitchen. She supervises the cooking, baking and meal preparations each day, ensuring that good hygiene and food service standards are adhered to at all times. She trains inmates in skills they can use in the food service industry once they have re-entered society.

She is also responsible for the efficient and economic operation of the food service department at the work camp.

LEFT (facing page): Col. Kevin Box and Asst. Warden David Maddox (at left) join Warden Diane Andrews (at right) in congratulating Officer Robert Thurman on being named December Officer of the Month for UCI.

ABOVE: Asst. Warden David Maddox (at left) joins Warden Diane Andrews, Food Service Director Jeffrey Andrews and Dr. Rodolphe Lafontant (at right) in congratulating UCI Work Camp Food Service Director Eva Griffis after she was named the Employee of the Month for December from the work camp.

BELOW: Warehouse Supervisor Gary Grainger (at left) joins Warden Diane Andrews and Asst. Warden Stephen Rossiter (at right) in congratulating Kim Barnett, UCI Main Unit's Employee of the Month for December.



Major Michael Mitchell left UCI in November to go to his new post at Hamilton CI. He was serving UCI as a captain when he was tapped for promotion. His co-workers presented him with a Gator nameplate.

UCI says farewell to another major

Union Correctional Institution bid farewell to Capt. Michael Mitchell recently as he left UCI, bound for his new position as major at Hamilton CI.

Mitchell is a veteran officer, serving 24 years with the Department of Corrections at Wakulla, Madison and Columbia CIs before transferring to UCI in October of last year. He was welcomed at UCI as the shift supervisor for one of the institution's two day shifts, B Shift.

He began his career as a correctional officer and was promoted to sergeant in 1995 at Madison CI. In 2009, he was tapped for a lieutenant's position at Columbia CI and made captain a year later.

Mitchell has spent his career working primarily in confinement settings, dealing with the more difficult-to-manage inmates, including those with mental health issues. He has been specially trained in crisis negotiation as part of his duties in those settings.

Warden Diane Andrews said she was very pleased when she heard about the promotion – although it meant that her institution was losing a seasoned and competent captain. “I am very proud of you,” she told Mitchell at a breakfast gathering in his honor. “I pray that God will continue to bless you. We certainly expect great things from you as you enter this new phase of your career.”

Mitchell told his UCI colleagues, “The time has come to start a new chapter in my life. Although I am excited about starting my new journey, I am also saddened to be leaving the staff here at UCI.

“The things I have experienced at UCI have been positive influences on my life and my career... I believe that God has a design for my life and UCI has been an important part of that design. You have all walked shoulder-to-shoulder with me on this part of my journey and now – as I embark on a different path – I pray that God will put people in my path as admirable as those I found here at UCI.”

Supreme Court upholds Bradford judge's ruling on execution drug

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

The Florida Supreme Court upheld a decision by a Bradford County circuit judge allowing the state to use a new drug for lethal injections.

Judge Phyllis M. Rosier ruled that the state's new sedative, midazolam hydrochloride, adequately prevents inmates from experiencing pain during the procedure.

Previously, the state used

pentobarbital sodium in its three-drug cocktail for lethal injections. However, the maker of the drug, Danish-based Lundbeck, banned its sale to the state after media in Denmark reported that Danish law prohibits its use in executions.

Lawyers for Askari Abdullah Muhammad, formerly known as Thomas Knight, had argued that the state failed to prove the substitute sedative was effective. They said that during William Frederick Happ's execution in October, the inmate remained

conscious for an unusually long time and moved his head late in the procedure showing he may have experienced pain during the execution.

The Supreme Court stayed Muhammad's Dec. 3 execution, and ordered Rosier to rule on Muhammad's motion.

The 60-year-old inmate has been on Florida's death row for almost 40 years. He was first sentenced to death for the 1974, Miami murders of Sydney and Lillian Gans.

While awaiting trial, he escaped from the Dade County Jail and was accused by Georgia authorities of killing a Cordele, Ga. liquor store clerk during an armed robbery. Authorities did not prosecute Knight for those crimes, citing his Florida death sentence.

While back on Florida's death row, Knight killed correctional officer Richard Burke in 1980. He was sentenced to death for a second time in 1983.

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* These statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease.



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SCHOOL

UCHS ag students attend Animal Science Industry Tour

On October 23, 17 students enrolled in the Animal Science III course at Union County High School loaded a bus and headed to the University of Florida for an Animal Science Industry Tour.

Students first stopped at UF's Meats Lab and Processing Unit. At the Meats Lab, students had the opportunity to watch a hog harvest. The students studied common misconceptions related to the production and harvesting processes within the food animal industries. The students were able to see that the hogs are not mistreated in anyway, and are protected under the Humane Slaughter Act of 1978 in addition to being federally inspected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture throughout the harvest.

Following the hog harvest, students traveled to the university's Swine Teaching Unit.

There, students aided Tommy Crawford in breeding four sows using the artificial insemination technique. The students were a bit shocked to learn that this breeding process was so easy to complete. Before breeding these sows, the students were able to put the skills they learned in class to work to check for signs of estrus in the sow group they bred, as well as two additional groups of sows nearing breeding.

Afterwards, Amie Imler then took the students to the farrowing barn and nursery where they were able to see two newborn litters and several recently weaned litters. In the farrowing barn, the sow and piglets were kept in a farrowing crate, which has several animal welfare benefits. Since the piglets are much smaller than the sow, the farrowing crate protects the sow from accidentally crushing her piglets.

Additionally, producers can apply more individualized management and health care to the sow and her litter when kept in the farrowing crates as opposed to an open field.

Once the piglets are weaned, they are sent to the nursery where they learn to eat a solid diet of mostly corn and soybean meal. The students learned that when the piglets

reach seven to eight weeks of age they are moved to the growing-finishing barn at the unit. There, they stay for approximately 16 weeks until they reach a harvest weight of 275 pounds.

Following lunch, students then had the opportunity to tour UF's Dairy Research Unit. At the dairy, the students went through the milking parlor, where they were able to see just how technologically advanced the milking machine has become.

The students learned that each cow has an identification bracelet on their ankle, which allows the milking machine to automatically register the cow's ear tag number and record important information as it milks the cow. This technology lets producers type in the cow's individual number into the computer and pull up the history and milking records of that cow. While in the parlor, several students got the opportunity to place these advanced milking machines on the cows with the help of the unit's parlor crew.

Following the stop at the parlor, the students toured the unit's free-stall barn where they saw first-hand how dairy producers work to keep cows comfortable during the milking period. Fans with misters, bedding areas

equipped with water-filled mats and sand and 24-hour access to a complete ration designed specifically for the cow's nutritional requirements by an animal nutritionist all work together to improve cow comfort throughout the year. Students also took a tour down to the unit's lagoon.

Although it was not a pleasant smell, they were able to learn how the dairy gets rid of and manages its waste in an environmentally friendly manner.

The students rounded off the trip with a tour of the Calf Unit, where they saw how dairy heifer calves are raised until they go into milk production.

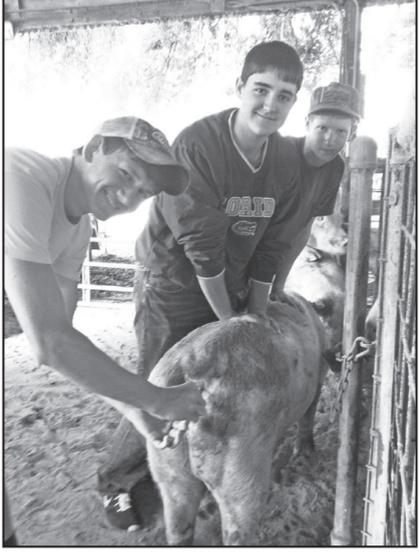
Overall, the students had a great experience and learned a lot of information. They enjoyed seeing everything they learned in the classroom in a real-world setting, as well as the various stages from birth to harvest.

The class hopes to go on another industry tour to see the beef and equine industry segments in action later this year.

Additionally, the class thanks Crawford of the Swine Teaching Unit, Byron Davis of the Meats Lab and Eric Diepersloot of the Dairy Research Unit for allowing them to come out and tour their units.



ABOVE: Animal Sciences & Services III students at the University of Florida Dairy Research Calf Unit in Hague. (Back row, l-r) are Chase Wilkerson, Tide Molina, Parker Hodgson, Witt Thomas, Travis Kitzman, Brandon Ames, Ethan Box, Garrett Hersey, Colton McAlister, Corey Hersey, Trey Owen, Trey Spitze and Case Emerson. (Front row, l-r): Taylor Crosby, Kelsey Thornton, Shelby Barber and Trystin Southerland.



LEFT: Ethan Box works to breed a sow using the artificial insemination method, while students Case Emerson and Brandon Ames apply pressure to the back of the sow to simulate the weight of the boar during the natural mating process.

BELOW: Student Ethan Box works diligently to place the high-tech milking machine on the cow at the UF Dairy Research Unit's milking parlor.



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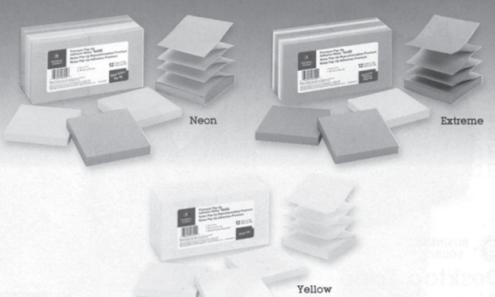
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BSN 63105	Canary	8 1/2" x 11 1/2"	Legal	\$6.69 DZ
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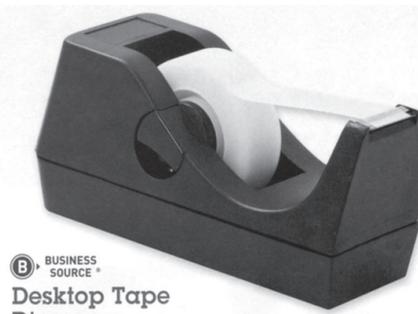
ITEM: ITA 60233
\$6.19 PK



White Correction Tape

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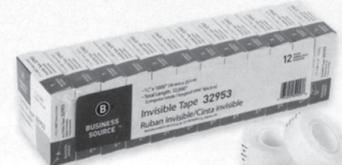
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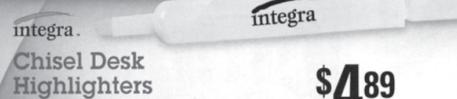
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REGIONAL NEWS

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NEWS FROM BRADFORD COUNTY, UNION COUNTY AND THE LAKE REGION

Take a walk on the wild side

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer

At first glance, it could be a Norman Rockwell-type take on family life in small-town America: Dawn Strickland in the kitchen, baking goodies for her loved ones.

It's probably a safe assumption Rockwell never envisioned the type of response Strickland is apt to give to her eager children (Preston and Madeline) and husband (Mark): "It's got monkey vitamins in it, but if you want it, you can have it."

Strickland is the loving owner of not only monkeys, but various creatures ranging from birds to reptiles. She has more than 50 exotic animals in all, some of which—parrots, iguanas and porcupines, for example—would be familiar to most people.

And if you have heard of a Reeve's muntjac, Patagonian cavy or Eurasian eagle-owl, you

surely never thought such creatures could be found at a home in Starke.

Strickland said she has heard plenty of remarks that her home is a zoo, but the animals there are not for public display. They are for her enjoyment.

"They're my babies," she said. "I don't breed. I don't sell."

The Strickland home does consist of domesticated animals, including seven dogs, but the turn toward the unusual began with a trip to a pet store in Jacksonville.

"They had a small monkey in there," Strickland said. "I've always loved monkeys."

Thus, Strickland's first pet monkey. She said she probably never would've acquired primates larger than the monkey she bought at the pet store, but a trip to an animal sanctuary changed that. She went with some friends, who noticed her interest in capuchin monkeys.

Strickland said it was love at first sight.

"I fell in love with this capuchin," she said. "Her name was Bella Donna."

Strickland's friends, who live in the Miami area, wound up giving her a baby capuchin monkey on a visit.

"I don't know if I ever would've made that big leap, be-



Molique is an African porcupine. Dawn Strickland also has a porcupine from South America.

cause that's a big leap," Strickland said. "Capuchins are extremely intelligent."

How intelligent? Intelligent enough to where their enclosures have to be double locked, and things that Strickland doesn't want them to have are kept out of reach of their long arms. Strickland said she can walk into her capuchins' enclosure and later exit with half of the things in her pockets gone if she's not careful. Her male capuchin, Zahavi—or simply Havi—has swiped her cell phone many times.

Being the animal lover that she is, though, she can't get mad at him.

"He's so freaking cute it kills me," Strickland said.

By becoming an owner of exotic pets, Strickland became immersed in a network of people who own such animals. Her husband, Mark, likened it to people



Dawn Strickland shows off a couple of her "babies." Above, she holds Bibiana, a kinkajou. At right, she holds Azalea, a capuchin monkey.



See WILD, 8B



Caretaker John Allen plays with one of Home Sweet Bone's boarders.

A home away from home for those with fur, feathers and scales

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer

Dawn Strickland pointed to a wall in her office adorned with approximately 100 photographs of dogs and proclaimed that she could describe a characteristic of each one as well as tell you its name.

They are not her pets, but they very well could be, considering the level of care she wants every

animal to experience upon walking—or being carried—through the doors of her boarding business, Home Sweet Bone, which is located at 5041 S.W. C.R. 100A in Starke.

"If anyone knows me in this town, they know that I love animals," Strickland said. "That's something that's kind of synony-

See HOME, 8B

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Birth: Waylon Brian Parrish

Colby Tyler Parrish and Abigail Jones announce the birth of their son, Waylon Brian Parrish. Waylon was born Dec. 31, 2013 at North Florida Regional Hospital. He weighed 8 pounds 13 ounces and measured 21 inches long.

Grandparents are Denise Parrish of Providence, and Eric and Melissa Jones of Raiford. Great-grandparents are Don and Pat Parrish of Providence, Edward and Senie Addison of Raiford, and Violet Doolittle of Lake Butler.

Talent Fest Showdown is Jan. 25 at BHS

The annual Bradford Fest Talent Fest Showdown is scheduled for Jan. 25, 2014, at 6 p.m. at the Bradford High School auditorium.

Admission is \$7 for adults and \$5 for 17 and under. Children 5 and under are admitted free.

Prizes for contestants are as follows: \$1,000 for first place, \$300 for second place and \$200 for third place. In addition, the top three will participate in final auditions April 18 for a chance to perform at the 2014 Suwannee River Jam as well as receiving a radio opportunity with WEAG. The first-place individual will also be invited to perform at a May 17 Santa Fe College concert.

The deadline for participants to enter is Jan. 15.

For more information on entry fees and requirements, please contact Cheryl Canova at the Santa Fe College Andrews Center at cheryl.canova@sfcollege.edu or 352-395-4410.

All profits will go toward funding Santa Fe College scholarships for Bradford County students.

4th annual Miss Bradford Fest is Feb. 8

The fourth annual Santa Fe College Miss Bradford Fest, which was originally scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 18, will now be held Feb. 8 at the Bradford High School auditorium at 7 p.m.

Contestants will compete in Western wear, talent, party dress, evening wear, photogenic and on-stage question categories in the following age divisions: 4-7 (Little Miss), 8-12 (Junior Miss), 13-17 (Teen Miss) and graduating high school seniors-22 years old (Miss). The winner of the Miss division could win a two-year Santa Fe College scholarship. (Must meet eligibility requirements for college enrollment.)

An orientation will be held Tuesday, Jan. 28, at 7 p.m. at the Starke Golf and Country Club.

The deadline to enter the pageant is Friday, Jan. 24. Entry forms may be obtained via email. Please send email requests to thorn99@embarqmail.com.

Miss Bradford Fest funds Santa Fe College scholarships for Bradford County students.

For more information, please call Lisa Tatum at 904-966-1514 or Brenda Thornton at 904-364-8266.

Lennard Register to be honored at Boy Scouts dinner

Lennard Register will be presented with the first-ever Distinguished Citizen Award from Starke at the Boy Scouts of America's American Values Dinner on Thursday, Feb. 27, at the National Guard armory on Edwards Road in Starke.

A social is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., followed by the dinner at 7 p.m.

Register, who was a longtime coach in Bradford County schools, earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 1943 and was the first person in Hamilton County to achieve such a rank.

There is no admission, but those interested in attending are asked to consider a \$150 donation to support Scouting in Bradford County.

Please RSVP by calling Barry Warren at 352-494-3326 or Terry Vaughan at 904-966-6266.

LETTERS EDITOR@BCTELEGRAPH.COM

Why is school board contracting with negotiator?

Dear Editor:

I attended the last meeting at the school board office on the topic of salary increase for the employees of the Bradford

School District. I must admit that I was left with many questions when the meeting was over. The most pressing question was this: Why on earth would the school board enter into a contract or agree to pay a professional negotiator \$1,400 per meeting? According to our representative, he gets paid \$1,400 per meeting. In the last meeting he did not come to the table with any answers. He talked about 12-month para's getting a \$512 increase

per year.

When asked how much the other employees would get, he had no idea. He really did not have any idea that most of our employees are not 12-month. He said often, "I will get you that information," but did not come ready to discuss or come with an end to this process in mind. It seems to me that he should get one base salary. I would think that he would wrap up the deal much quicker if he was spending his money

on gas and traveling without a paycheck.

We had a great turnout at the last meeting. I would love to see more of us there. It would be nice to receive the money that has nothing to do with the county spending anything out of pocket. There are many benefits of teaching; one of them is getting a paycheck. We do have children to feed and gas to buy just like everyone else.

Virginia Daugherty

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Bradford welcomes Judge Davis during Jan. 9 reception

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer

Judge Richard "R.B." Davis Jr. had the opportunity to meet community leaders and courthouse personnel during a reception at the Bradford County Senior Center on Jan. 9.

Davis was appointed as county judge on Dec. 2, 2013, by Gov. Rick Scott to serve the remainder of Judge Johnny Hobbs' term following Hobbs' death on Aug. 7, 2013.

During the reception, Davis,

who had his wife, Cecil, by his side, said he didn't think he had ever received such a welcome.

"I'm delighted with the number of folks who sought us out and came to meet us," Davis said. "It's a very welcoming county."

Davis, who was a judge for the Florida Army National Guard and appointed to the Hamilton County bench in 2004 by then Gov. Jeb Bush, was encouraged to apply for the position in Bradford County by longtime friend and Bradford County resident



Kathy Hobbs (far left), the widow of Judge Johnny Hobbs, talks to Judge R.B. Davis and his wife, Cecil.

Butch Redding, Redding, his wife, Mary, and family hosted the reception.

"I think we're very fortunate to get him," Redding said. "I've known him for a long time. He's one of the most honorable men that I've ever met."

Davis admitted he was hesitant about applying for the position because he thought he was too old. However, after giving the matter some thought, he said he realized he was really the perfect person to step in and finish

out the term, which expires in 2017.

His appointment allows those who are interested in running for the position the time necessary to develop a campaign and creates a level playing field for all candidates, Davis said.

"It takes about three years for someone to wind down a practice and to gin up an election campaign," Davis said. "I think we're doing the right thing. I think the governor's done the right thing by accepting this ap-

proach."

Redding said, "When Judge Hobbs passed, I thought that Judge Davis would be the kind of guy who could carry on in his footsteps."

Of course, the reception had an underlying sadness because of the death of Hobbs, whom Redding described as "a great man."

Davis said he met Hobbs once—albeit briefly—at a conference, but added he knew a lot about Hobbs anyway just from

talking to Redding and Eighth Judicial Circuit lawyers, "who thought the world of him."

"He was just highly regarded by his peers," Davis said.

Hobbs' wife, Kathy, made an appearance at the reception, which touched Davis.

"It's really a great tribute to him that she would come out and do this," Davis said. "A lot of widows wouldn't be able to."

"She's a terrific lady, she really is."



Judge R.B. Davis (right) and Eighth Judicial Circuit Judge Toby Monaco applaud after a few words shared by Eighth Judicial Circuit Chief Judge Robert Roundtree Jr.



Judge R.B. Davis (far right) meets Will Sexton, the attorney for Bradford County, and Rachel Rhoden, deputy county manager.

BMS student Strong shines in all-star game

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer

It was a run worthy of multiple replays. Announcers gushed about the player's speed and athletic ability, while fans in the stands were cheering.

Charles Strong Sr. of Lawtey, though, admitted he was rather quiet when his son, Charles Jr., broke loose for a 67-yard touchdown run.

"I was just amazed, with my mouth open," Strong Sr. said.

The younger Strong, who is an eighth-grader at Bradford Middle School, had quite a performance during the eighth annual Offense-Defense Bowl Week festivities at the Citrus Bowl in Orlando. He participated in one of several all-star games on Jan. 2, scoring both of his team's touchdowns as part of a 16-6 win.

Strong was selected as an all-American for the second straight year after participating in an Offense-Defense Football Camp during the summer. More than 1,300 youth of various ages throughout the U.S. participated in Offense-Defense camps.

It did not take long for the elder Strong's jaw to drop open once his son's game began. The younger Strong carried the ball on his team's (the Americans) first play from scrimmage, resulting in a gain of 4 yards. Strong got the ball again on second down, stiff-arming one defender, eluding a diving defender and sprinting down the sideline, outracing four defenders in the process.

"It was a play going to the right," Strong said. "That first play, I didn't get it, so the second play, I told myself I was going to get it."

He did "get it," leaving announcers—the game was streamed live online—heaping praise on him for what they credited as a 67-yard run, though the run seemed more along the lines of 72 yards as witnessed by a Telegraph-Times-Monitor writer who watched game video.

Strong would also carry the ball on a successful two-point conversion.

"That was all running back, wasn't it?" one announcer asked his partner. "I mean, he just made the corner and, boom, turned on the speed."

The other announcer said,

"Once he turned that corner—boy, it was all speed. You talk about great opportunity to showcase your talent, and that's what Strong did on that touchdown run. He outdistanced the defense and loped into the end zone."

Strong, who also played defensive end in the game, made a tackle for a 1-yard loss on a fourth-down play, prompting one of the announcers to say, "He pretty much overpowered two blockers along the edge there."

It was an 8-6 game when Strong's team recovered a fumble, setting up a first down at the opponents' 32-yard line. Strong took a handoff from there, followed a blocker, bounced outside and split two defenders as he sprinted his way toward another long touchdown.

Strong's performance left the announcers wondering just where Lawtey is. One of the announcers, apparently going online to find out, said from what he could tell it was between Gainesville and Tallahassee, which prompted him to speculate about the University of Florida and Florida State University battling each other in the future for Strong's services.

"It kind of feels good," Strong Jr. said in reference to the prospect of major universities recruiting him. "It's really exciting."

Strong, who is 6-0, 195, has had quite a year. He helped the Bradford Middle School football team go undefeated and win its first-ever Suwannee Middle Athletic Conference championship. Strong had four touchdowns in a 40-16 championship win over



Charles Strong

Williston.

"My smile was like ear to ear," Strong said.

Participating in the Offense-Defense camp helped Strong's performance during the middle school season, Strong Sr. said. The camp consisted of the best of the best—kids who were big, strong and fast.

"You were competing against kids who were just as good as you on defense, running the ball against kids who are all-Americans," Strong Sr. said to his son.

The younger Strong admitted, "It was a challenge."

Strong's participation in the Offense-Defense camp came about when he and his father were looking for a full-contact camp to participate in.

"Basically, there's no other contact camp in the state of Florida," Strong Sr. said. "That is the only one. All others are pretty much combines, where you're just doing agility, running—anything like that."

"He loves contact," Strong Sr. said of his son. "He shines a lot

better when there's contact."

Strong Sr., who's had the opportunity to coach his son as a member of the Bradford Middle School staff, described Strong Jr. as someone who's humble, but who also possesses a strong work ethic and is highly self-motivated.

"I don't have to tell him to work out or train for the sport," Strong Sr. said. "It's something he loves to do. I don't have to talk to him about, 'What are your plans for getting yourself better?' He already has his mind made up what he's going to do."

Perhaps Strong Jr.'s makeup can be best summed up by a tag he wears around his neck, inscribed with words his grandfather

See STRONG, 10B

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Aktion Club members in action...



Members of the Aktion Club of Starke, which is under the umbrella of the Kiwanis Club of Starke, attended the state convention in Haines City, participating in fun activities with members of nine other clubs. Aktion Clubs are for adults who, despite their disabilities, are dedicated to community service. The Starke club has 24 members, 19 of which attended the state convention.



Boarding the bus in Starke to travel to Haines City for the Florida Aktion Club convention are Richard Miller (left) and James Searcy.

ABOVE: Starke Aktion Club member Josh Adkins (left) has a good time during a dance. Barker enjoy themselves during a dinner. BELOW: Kim Lee and Mary Witt chill out after a full day of activities. BELOW RIGHT: Arc of Bradford Executive Director Sherry Ruszkowski (right) chats with Aktion Club member Sharon Hamilton.



MIKEY DEYOT HOLDS THE SCAVENGER HUNT TROPHY CLAIMED BY THE STARKE CLUB.



MIKEY DEYOT (FOREGROUND) LEADS THE PACK IN THE SCAVENGER HUNT. ALSO PICTURED (L-R, BACKGROUND) ARE: RICHARD MILLER, T.J. BARKER, RONALD BAYLISS, ARC OF BRADFORD STAFF MEMBER TONY SELLARS AND JOSH ADKINS.



STARKE AKTION CLUB MEMBER T.J. BARKER (FAR LEFT) PREPARES TO GIVE BELOVED ARC OF BRADFORD STAFF MEMBER MR. PICKLE (STEVE DARA) A PIE IN THE FACE AFTER WINNING THE RIGHT TO DO SO IN A FUN AUCTION.



CHRIS BALLANCE IS HAVING A BLAST.



LEFT: FOUR OF THE AKTION CLUB OF STARKE MEMBERS WHO ATTENDED THE STATE CONVENTION WERE (L-R) CHRIS MILLER, MARY WITT, PAT PURSLEY AND MISSY CORBETT.



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FINS, FUR & TAILS

Springs and manatees

One of the great natural resources we have in Florida are the natural springs that form an open connection between the surface ground and the underwater aquifers that meander underground like giant, water-filled honeycombs.

The water that fills the underground aquifers is generally plentiful enough that it forms a degree of pressure that forces the water through the open spring connections to the ground's surface. There, the water erodes the surface ground into a collection pond that is comparable in size to the amount of water pressure typical to that particular spring.

Eventually, if the water pressure is significant enough, the crystal-clear water will overflow the collection pond and seek eventual release into the Gulf of Mexico on the west or the Atlantic on the east.

One of the most significant features of the springs and their runs is the magnificent view they provide into the underwater world of freshwater Florida, obstructed only by a bluish tint and slight



This manatee seems intent on shaking hands.

distortion of shape caused by the way light is reflected as it runs through the crystal-clear product.

Another unique feature of the springs is the constant temperature (72-73 degrees) of their waters. During the summer, when the ambient temperature is much higher, the spring water feels like it is ice cold. During the winter, when the ambient temperature is much colder, the spring water feels relatively warm, and that attracts another great natural resource: the manatee. During

the colder weather, these large and gentle animals herd into the warmer spring water, providing Floridians the unique opportunity to observe these animals in their natural habitat.

Generally, people who have been privileged to observe the manatees up close in a natural setting are amused at the animal's gentle and curious attempts at interaction. Due to the threat of outboard motors, Florida conservation personnel discourage proactive attempts to pet the animals. As evidenced by

the accompanying photograph, however, it is difficult to ignore an extended flipper that appears to be a handshake attempt. (Very little further explanation is needed to illustrate the manatee's vulnerability to outboard motors.)

Florida has one of the largest concentrations of freshwater springs on the face of the earth. Do remember that the larger of Florida's 700-plus freshwater springs are also attractive during the winter when they provide a warm retreat to the gentle manatees, and do remember to follow the wake and speed restrictions, and look out for these great animals.

Outdoors outlook

The freeze is the big news for the week. Even though it was not as bad as anticipated, it was bad, and it was an inconvenience to people and an inconvenience to the crappie population as well.

Most of the specks have been trying to move into the shallows and shoreline cover for their spawn, but the shock of the freeze will probably move them temporarily to some deeper holes. Hopefully, they will be able to move back in by the 15th, which is a full moon, and the 30th, which is new moon.

The same pattern will probably take place on both coasts, with the trout seeking some relative

warmth from the deeper holes.

Noel Kuhn tells us the cold weather will pretty much shut down the surf fishing, but the reds and the trout will still be available in the deeper holes in the creeks and waterways.

The best inshore saltwater play at this time still seems to be sheephead around rocks and pilings.

The freeze did not stop Ed Allen from finding the bass on Sampson Lake last week. He just located the flocks of seagulls chasing shad and moved into their location. When it was all over with, he landed approximately 12, with the largest going about 4 pounds. His bait choice was a deep-diving lure.

The best part of hunting is behind us this year, and many of the individual game seasons will close this month. However, that transition will not impact Ernest Grider, because he only hunts feral hogs; their season is open year round. While removing hogs from a local Brooker farm recently, he brought in six of the tuskers in one day. He estimates that over the last six weeks, he has taken about 16 out of San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park in Alachua County.

UF biologist to talk about bobcats, coyotes at Crosshorn Ministries

meeting

Crosshorn Ministries welcomes University of Florida biologist Lauren Watine to its Thursday, Jan. 16, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Starke Golf and Country Club.

Watine will give a presentation on what UF is doing with a two-year study to determine how much of a predation problem coyote and bobcat are to Florida wildlife, especially whitetail deer. Her department is collecting stomachs, jawbones and coyote carcasses for study and analysis.

There will be a question-and-answer period at the presentation's conclusion. Tight lines and safe hunting until next week.

Outdoors calendar

- Jan. 15, deer season ends in south Georgia;
- Jan. 16, Crosshorn Ministries meeting, 7 p.m., at the Starke Golf and Country Club;
- Jan. 19, antlered deer season ends in Florida's Zone C;
- Jan. 30, new moon;

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

Lady Indians advance in district soccer tournament

Hanna Crane scored four goals for the Keystone Heights High School girls' soccer team, which moved a step closer to a regional playoff berth with a 9-1 win over Newberry in the quarterfinals of the District 5-2A tournament on Jan. 13 at Citizens Field in Gainesville.

The second-seeded Indians (16-7-1) will play either third seed Eastside or sixth seed Crescent City in a semifinal match on Thursday, Jan. 16, at 5 p.m. (Eastside and Crescent City played each other this past Tuesday.) If Keystone wins, it will play for the championship on Friday, Jan. 17, at 7 p.m.

All district tournament games are played at Citizens Field.

Crane scored three of her goals in the first half as Keystone built a 6-1 lead. Madison Colaw assisted on two of those goals and finished the match with three

assists.

Raychel Trimble had two goals, while Colaw, Kendall Addison, Caroline Dixon and Julia Osteen each had one.

Crane, Lauren Hovsepian, Rachel Lee and Dakota Puls each had an assist.

In the week leading up to the district tournament, Keystone recorded a 3-0 win over St. Francis on Jan. 7, while losing 5-0 to Nease on Jan. 10.

Crane had two goals and one assist in the home win over St. Francis. Colaw scored the other goal and had an assist, while Dixon added an assist on the final goal of the match.

KHHS boys, Fernandina play to 1-1 tie

It was the first time in 20 matches that the Keystone Heights High School boys' soccer team didn't record a win,

but it wasn't a loss either.

The Indians hosted Fernandina Beach on Jan. 13. After a scoreless first half, each team scored a goal, with the result being a 1-1 tie.

Cory Hedding scored Keystone's goal off of an assist by Juan Grimaldo.

It was the 39th goal of the season for Hedding.

Prior to the match, Keystone (19-1-2) defeated District 5-2A opponents P.K. Yonge and Newberry 5-0 and 8-0, respectively, as well as defeating Nease 2-1.

Hedding scored three goals in the Jan. 8 home win over P.K. Yonge, while Ben Jones and Eric Wood each had one goal.

Grimaldo had two assists, while Wood had one.

Jones and Dylan Beard each scored two goals in the win over Newberry on Jan. 9 in Keystone. Hedding, Karl Dionisi, Wyatt Graziano and Nacho Grimaldo each scored one goal.

Graziano and Hedding each had two assists, while Jones, Zac Fairbanks, Nacho Grimaldo and Brandon Hannah each had one.

The Indians traveled to play Nease on Jan. 10, with Hedding scoring both goals in the 2-1 win. Zac Hawkins assisted on both goals.

Wood made eight saves in the net.

Keystone caps the regular season with a home match against Bolles on Friday, Jan. 17, at 7 p.m.

The District 5-2A tournament begins Monday, Jan. 20, hosted

by Eastside High School at Citizens Field in Gainesville. Keystone, the tournament's number-one seed, will play eighth seed Fort White in a quarterfinal match on Jan. 20 at 7 p.m. If Keystone wins, it will play a semifinal match on Wednesday, Jan. 22, against either fourth seed Crescent City or fifth seed P.K. Yonge at 7 p.m.

The championship match is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 24, at 7 p.m.

3 from area earn 1st-team all-state honors in football

Bradford High School wide receiver Kenny Dinkins and Union County High School linebacker Austin Dukes and defensive lineman Alden McClellan were first-team selections with the release of the all-state football teams.

Dinkins had one teammate also honored in Class 4A: defensive back Keearis Ardley, who was a second-team pick.

Union had a total of six earn honors in Class 1A. Besides Dukes and McClellan, running back Daquin "Buddy" Edwards, offensive lineman Talon Tyler and defensive back Geordyn Green were second-team picks, while quarterback Caleb Cox received honorable mention.

Keystone Heights High School linebacker Darein Gilio earned honorable mention in Class 4A.



Nyasia Davis (foreground) penetrates the lane for the Tornadoes against Keystone's Karla Casas.

Bradford girls defeat Keystone for district win

Nyasia Davis and Tracey Kemp scored a combined 23 points in the first half, helping the Bradford High School girls' basketball team build a 31-7 halftime lead en route to a 50-32 District 5-4A win over visiting Keystone Heights on Jan. 10.

Davis, who scored 12 first-half points, led all scorers with 19 points as the Tornadoes (11-5 overall) improved to 5-2 in District 5. Kemp scored 11 points in the first half and finished the game with 16. She also had eight assists, while Davis had 14 rebounds.

Keshanna Ardley added 11 points for Bradford.

Keystone (8-13, 2-6) got nine second-half points—all on 3-pointers—by Caroline McCormick, who led the Indians with 13.

Visit www.starkejournal.com to view more photos from this game. (Membership necessary.)

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CRIME

Alert property owner helps catch burglar

A property owner on C.R. 225 in Bradford County helped law enforcement catch a burglar on Jan. 10 after spotting him entering a residence across the street.

According to the arrest report, the property owner was sitting on his front porch when he saw a person come out of the woods across the road from his residence. The suspect ran across an open field to a mobile home the property owner rents, entered it for about 10 minutes and then ran back across the field.

At this point, the property owner got into his vehicle and started driving down the dirt road by the wooded area when he spotted a truck parked in the road. He pulled behind the truck when the same man came out of the woods and walked toward the parked truck. The man ignored the property owner's question about what he was doing on his property, jumped in the truck and took off through the ditch before turning on to C.R. 225. Law enforcement was called by the property owner, and the victim renting the mobile home arrived to search his place and see if anything had been stolen. He reported that a .22-caliber revolver and prescription medication were missing.

The property owner had written the truck's license plate number down, and with that information, a deputy was able to locate the truck at the home it is registered in in Bradford County. There, he encountered Gary Alvin Weeks, 29, of Starke, who was staying for a few days at the home with his sister and her boyfriend, the owner of the truck. Weeks apparently borrowed the truck, and, according to his statement to deputies, had gone to collect cans along the road near the victim's residence. Weeks said he knew the victim, and when he saw him leave, decided to go in the home. He admitted he took the revolver and some pills from the mobile home.

The revolver was recovered and Weeks was charged with burglary. Bond was set at \$15,000.

Disturbance leads to arrest for past crime, story of feeding gun to alligator

Starke police were able to solve a June burglary after they were called to a residence on Jan. 8 because of a disturbance between roommates.

According to the arrest report, Tillman Arthur Erwin III, 42, and William Douglas Ambrose, 58, were arguing after Ambrose tried to kick Erwin out of the residence for a second time in the same day.

When the Starke officer arrived, he was trying to explain to Ambrose that he couldn't just kick Erwin out since he had been living there three to four months. At that point, Ambrose became agitated with the officer and stated he was tired of all this, and if no one could do anything about it, he would do something about it. He then walked into his bedroom, grabbed a 13-inch butcher knife and started coming at the officer in an aggressive manner, according to the report. The officer pulled out his firearm and ordered Ambrose to drop the knife, which he did. He was arrested for aggravated assault, with bond set at \$1,000.

Several days later, Erwin was arrested by Starke police for the burglary case dating back to June. According to the arrest report, on June 21, a residence on Glendale Street in Starke was broken into, and a handgun and several pieces of costume jewelry and rings were stolen from the home. The owners of the home told police at that time that they believed Erwin might be the burglar, as he had lived in

their home previously for several months and had made threats to "get them back" after they made him leave the residence. Police were unable to locate Erwin at the time of the burglary.

Several days after the Jan. 8 incident with the roommate, police questioned Erwin about the burglary, and he said that he had talked about robbing the Glendale Street residence with Ambrose in order to sell the jewelry and firearm for crack cocaine back in June. He admitted to the burglary and said he and Ambrose traded the jewelry items for \$30 worth of crack cocaine. He told police he couldn't find a buyer for the handgun, so he went to Gainesville to try and sell it. He was unsuccessful, so he decided to get rid of it by placing it in a loaf of bread and feeding it to an alligator in Payne's Prairie.

Erwin was charged with burglary, two counts of larceny, criminal mischief-property damage, dealing in stolen property and possession of a weapon by a felon.

Ambrose, in addition to his assault charge, was charged with dealing in stolen property.

Panhandling in Starke leads to arrest of 3

Three Middleburg residents were arrested Jan. 12 for drug charges after causing a disturbance and asking customers for money at the Kangaroo convenience store at S.R. 16 and U.S. 301 in Starke.

According to the arrest report, two males and a female were at the store at around 1:30 a.m., asking customers for money in the parking lot and stopping vehicles at the red light to do the same. Before law enforcement could arrive, they left in a purple Honda. A Bradford deputy spotted the car on U.S. 301 near Edwards Road a few minutes later and conducted a traffic stop.

When the deputy approached the vehicle, he could smell a strong odor of marijuana coming from the car, and several of the occupants were reaching under the seats with their hands. A Starke police officer had arrived to assist, and they removed the three people from the vehicle, searching the Honda and turning up marijuana and cocaine.

Arrested were Paul Jerome Nash, 56, for possession of marijuana, David Dewitt Thompson, 41, for possession of cocaine, and Leslie Katherina Turner, 49, for possession of marijuana. Bonds for Nash and Turner were set at \$1,000 each, while bond for Thompson was set at \$1,500.

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

Dianna Louise Barney, 42, was arrested Jan. 13 by Lawtey police for driving under the influence, refusing to submit to testing and driving while license suspended or revoked.

Curtis G. Bennett, 49, of Macclenny was arrested Jan. 10 by Bradford deputies for battery. According to the arrest report, the victim of the battery came home and found her porch screen door had been forced open, with broken glass and empty liquor bottles on the porch and Bennett asleep on the floor. When Bennett awoke, he started cursing at the victim and followed her after she picked up a phone and went into a bedroom. Bennett then struck the victim in the face with his hand and took her cellular phone and the house phone. The victim told the deputy she was able to get Bennett to calm down and go back to sleep, at which time she called law enforcement. Bennett's bond was set at \$50,000.

Nathaniel Kendrick Brown, 44, of Gainesville was arrested Jan. 8 by Bradford deputies for withholding child support.

William Thomas Conley, 45, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies for probation violation.

Cordell Dewayne Cray, 27, of Starke was arrested Jan. 9 by Starke police for battery. Bond was set at \$1,000. According to the arrest report, Cray admitted to slapping his girlfriend in the face with an open hand after the two got into an argument.

Dena Sherell Cummings, 29, of Starke was arrested Jan. 11 by Bradford deputies for failure to appear. Bond was set at \$2,000.

Kevin Andrew Donley, 36, of Melrose was arrested Jan. 13 by Bradford deputies for failure to appear.

Rachael Elizabeth Durkin, 35, of Jacksonville was arrested Jan. 7 by Starke police for driving while license suspended or revoked.

Barry Kenneth Ely, 39, of Keystone Heights was arrested Jan. 8 by Starke police for driving under the influence. Bond was set at \$7,500.

James Michael Harper, 32, of Starke was arrested Jan. 8 by Bradford deputies for two charges of probation violation. Bond was set at \$10,000 for each charge.

Michael Rodney McCarter, 36, of Starke was arrested Jan. 11 by Bradford deputies for driving while license suspended or revoked. Bond was set at \$500.

Mary McCray, 41, of

Hawthorne was arrested Jan. 13 by Bradford deputies for probation violation. Bond was set at \$10,000.

William Charles Rhoden, 29, of Starke was arrested Jan. 8 by Starke police for disturbing the peace. According to the arrest report, Rhoden caused a disturbance at Whispering Oaks apartments, repeatedly yelling and banging on the victim's front door and waking up her and several children inside the apartment. Police arrived and later located Rhoden at another residence in Starke. He had a strong smell of alcohol coming from his person, according to the arrest report, and admitted to going to the apartment at Whispering Oaks. He was arrested and bond was set at \$1,000.

Kwadwo Nkrumah Sefah, 21, of Fleming Island was arrested Jan. 12 by Starke police for driving while license suspended or revoked.

Jesse Catherine Wessner, 22, of Gainesville was arrested Jan. 13 by Bradford deputies for driving under the influence. Bond was set at \$1,000.

Wesley Nole White, 41, of Lawtey was arrested Jan. 9 by Bradford deputies for an out-of-county warrant from Union County for failure to appear on a driving while license suspended or revoked charge. Bond was set at \$2,500.

Keystone/Melrose

Bruce Hunt, 36, of Melrose was arrested Jan. 8 by Clay deputies for grand theft.

Nicole Blanche Hunt, 25, of Keystone Heights was arrested Jan. 11 by Putnam deputies for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession of drug equipment.

Christopher Ryan Isherwood, 31, of Keystone Heights was arrested Jan. 7 by Palatka police for driving with a suspended, revoked, cancelled or disqualified license.

Kimberly Osborn, 39, of Keystone Heights was arrested Jan. 10 by Clay deputies for battery.

Redus Parks, 31, of Keystone Heights was arrested Jan. 11 by Clay deputies for battery.

Thomas Robinson, 20, of Keystone Heights was arrested Jan. 9 by Clay deputies for DUI.

Jerry Tate, 59, of Starke was arrested by Clay deputies for retail theft.

Union

Jailon Markese Couch, 19, of Lake Butler was arrested Jan. 13 by Union deputies on four charges of felony probation violation and on a warrant for fraud by swindle. According to the offense report associated with the warrant, Couch is accused of taking a driver's license and a bank card from an acquaintance's home in June 2012 and charging over \$100 to the card in several locations the same day. One of the charges was later verified by UCISO at the S&S Store in Lake Butler, using security camera photographs to identify Couch using the card to make a purchase. Bond was set at \$5,000.

Mamie Beatrice Brown, 31, of Lake Butler was arrested Jan. 11 by Union deputies for disorderly intoxication. According to the arrest report, Brown was near the intersection of S.R. 238, S.R. 231 and Southwest First Way in Lake Butler, walking and screaming in the air and at people nearby, and wouldn't calm down when a deputy arrived on scene. She had a strong odor of alcohol coming from her, had blood on her lips (possibly from a fight before law enforcement arrived) and was near a can of beer that bystanders said was hers, according to the arrest report.

Robert Lynn Goode, 55, of Lake Butler was arrested Jan. 8

by Union deputies for failure to appear. Bond was set at \$5,000.

Joshua Oneal Perry, 18, of Lake Butler and a 16-year old male from Lake Butler were arrested Jan. 9 by Union deputies for disorderly conduct and disturbing the peace. According to the arrest report, both are UCHS alternative school students that started fighting during class and didn't stop after attempts by a teacher and an administrator to break things up. Law enforcement was called, and both were treated by EMS for visible head injuries before being transported to jail by the deputies.

Eric B. Pierce, 48, of Jacksonville was arrested Jan. 11 by Union deputies for disturbing the peace. According to the arrest report, Pierce arrived at the home of his ex-girlfriend, had a bottle of rum in his hand and slung rum at her when she refused to let him come in and while she was attempting to shut the front door. The ex-girlfriend kept telling Pierce to leave the property, but he refused and continued to try and get into the home. Law enforcement was called, and Pierce was transported to the jail.

Wilbur Anthony Webb, 30, of Lake Butler was arrested Jan. 9 by Union deputies for driving while license suspended or revoked.

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OBITUARIES

Vivian Boehnlein

MELROSE—Vivian Celeste Boehnlein, 73, of Melrose died, Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2014 at the Good Samaritan Retirement Home in Williston. She was born on July 11, 1940 in Jacksonville to the late Raleigh D. and Alma (Cole) Harrell. She was a homemaker and a longtime member of EIAM Baptist Church in Melrose before moving her membership to Trinity Baptist Church in Keystone Heights. She was a member of the Melrose Women's Club. She was preceded in death by her husband, Joe Boehnlein. She is survived by: sons, Joseph (Brenda) Boehnlein of Lake City and Tim (Tracey) Boehnlein of Melrose; brother, William Robert "Bill" Harrell of Texas; and three grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held on Friday, Jan. 17, at 6:00 pm in Trinity Baptist Church with Pastor James Peoples officiating. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Keystone Heights.

Ella Bond

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Ella M. Bond, 98, of Keystone Heights died on Saturday, Jan. 11, 2014 at the Willey Manor in Keystone. She was born in Chester County, Pa. on Feb. 2, 1915 to the late Elmer and Mary (Laird) Moore. In 1986 she and her late husband moved to the Park of the Palms from Ocean City, N.J. She was a retired LPN, a member of the Park of the Palms Church and she had over 10,000 volunteer hours as a Pink Lady with Shands Hospital. Her husband, Amos Bond preceded her in death.

She is survived by: children, Nancie (Duer) Smedley of Jonesborough, Tenn.; Ronald (Suzann) Bond of Bellevue, Neb.; four grandchildren; and ten great-grandchildren.

There will be no local services held. Graveside services and burial

will be at East Brandywine Church Cemetery in Downingtown, Pa. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Keystone Heights.

William England

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—SKC William "Bill" England, USN (Ret), 86, of Keystone Heights, died Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2014.

Please sign the family's online guestbook at broadusraines.com. Broadus-Raines Funeral Home of Green Cove Springs is in charge of arrangements.

Iris Hall

UNION COUNTY—Iris Crews Hall, widow of Sidney R. Hall, beloved mother, sister and grandmother, lovingly called "Mema", was granted her angel wings and danced her way into heaven on Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2014 at the age of 91. She passed surrounded by loved ones at Haven Hospice of Gainesville. Her final days were spent visited by family members and loved ones that she had touched in some way throughout her life. Iris was born in Union County to Gurnie and Annie Crews. She was the oldest daughter of six children. Iris was always ready to go dancing, hit the open road or just go! She liked watching the birds from her kitchen window with her favorite being cardinals. Her smile could light up a room and cheer any mood. Her down home Southern cooking was enjoyed by many family members and friends. Family meant everything to her and that was evident in the warm, welcoming and beautiful home she provided her family.

Iris is survived by: her sister, Mrs. Ed (Carolyn) King of Gainesville; two daughters, Mrs. John (Sandra) Cannella of Erie, Colo. and Mrs. Raymond (Sherrie) Dyal of Gainesville; five grandchildren,

Joe Cannella of Arvada, Colo., Troy Cannella of Erie, Colo., Cory Cannella of Houston, Texas Vickie Dyal of Alachua, and Valorie Cason of High Springs; and nine great-grandchildren.

The viewing was held at Archer Funeral Home in Lake Butler on Friday, Jan. 10th. Funeral services were held at LaCrosse Baptist Church on Saturday, Jan. 11th at 11 a.m. followed by a graveside service at New Hope Primitive Baptist Church in LaCrosse. If preferred, donations in memory of Iris may be made to Haven Hospice of Gainesville, or the LaCrosse Baptist Church Building Fund.

PAID OBITUARY

Ulysses Harmon

TAMPA—Ulysses Harmon, 79, of Tampa, died Saturday, Jan. 11, 2014 at his residence. Born in Moultrie, Ga. on Sept. 11, 1934, he was a member of Mt. Olive Baptist Church of Pierson, Ga. and a retired teacher of Atkinson County Board of Education.

He is survived by: daughter, Sonia Harmon of Tampa; sons, Vernon Harmon of Gainesville, Keith Harmon of Pierson, Ga., Brian Harmon of Lawrenceville, Ga., and Craig Harmon of Atlanta; sister, Fannie Lou Gray; many grandchildren; in-laws, Catherine Johnson, Shirley Johnson, and Janice Johnson all of Lawtey, Jeremiah Johnson of Starke, Rev. Joseph Johnson of Hollandale, and Edmond Johnson.

Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18, in the Philadelphia Baptist Church with Rev. Charles Green Jr. conducting the services and Pastor Scott Eulogist. Interment will be held in Peetsville Cemetery in Lawtey. Arrangements are under the direction of Haile Funeral Home Inc of Starke. Visitation will be held on Friday, Jan. 17, at the Carl D. Haile Memorial Chapel. Family from 4-5:00 p.m. and friends from 5-7:00 p.m. and viewing 1 hour at the church prior to the service. The cortege will form on Saturday at 12:30 p.m. at the Johnson Residence of Lawtey.

Ronald Isbell

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Ronald James Isbell, 73, of Keystone Heights died Sunday, Jan. 5, 2014 at North Florida Regional Medical Center. He was born in Chicago on April 5, 1940 to the late Aaron Robert and Marie Isbell. He had retired as 1st Sergeant from the United States Marine Corps.

He is survived by: daughters, Stephanie Bloomfield of Fernandina Beach and Julie Pritchard of West Palm Beach; and two grandchildren.

The family will be holding a private service at the Jacksonville National Cemetery at a later date. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Keystone Heights.

Ellen Mason

EARLETON—Ellen Paul Mason, 81, of Earleton died Friday, Jan. 10, 2014 at Shands UF in Gainesville. She was born in Chattanooga, Tenn. on Dec. 8, 1932 to the late Burnett

and Lillie (Koger) Paul, and had moved to Earleton from Chicago in 1987. Prior to her retirement, she did administrative and secretarial work. She was an active member of Trinity Baptist Church where she was the church organist and a member of the choir for 25 years.

She is survived by: her husband of 63 years, Robert "Bob" Mason; children, Robert Steven "Steve" (Kathy) Mason of Bradenton, Deanna Louise (Ernie) Mason-Dee of Orland Park, Ill., and Paula Mason Schubert of Jacksonville; brother, George R. (Peggy) Paul of Olathe, Kan.; six grandchildren; and numerous great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on Jan. 15, in Trinity Baptist Church with Pastor James Peoples and Pastor Scott Stanland, officiating. Burial followed at the Keystone Heights Cemetery. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Keystone Heights.

Robert McGuinn

LAKE BUTLER—Robert Lawrence McGuinn, 77, of Lake Butler died Monday, Jan. 6, 2014. He was the son of the late John McGuinn and Laura McGuinn. He was a retired veteran of the United States Army. He was born in White Plains, N.Y., and worked at the Reception Medical Center in Lake Butler for 14 years. He is preceded in death by sons, William Chase and James McGuinn; and sister, Barbara Staples.

He is survived by: his wife, Rose McGuinn; daughters, Deba (Steve) Wojciechowski, Rosemary Marten; sons, John Chase, Arthur Chase, Shawn McGuinn, Robert McGuinn, Thomas McGuinn, Edward (Linda) McGuinn, and sister, Karen Fulford.

Services were held Jan. 10th, at the Archer Funeral Home Memorial Chapel with Pastor Dan Search officiating. Archer Funeral Home is in charge of all arrangements.



Bryan Sheffield Jr.

Bryan Sheffield Jr.

STARKE—Bryan Keith Sheffield, Jr., age 30, of Starke passed away Dec. 25, 2013 suddenly. Mr. Sheffield was born on Aug. 10, 1983 in Gainesville and was a butcher's aide in a meat market and was a member of the First Christian Church of Starke.

He is survived by: his parents, Patricia Ann Jordan of Starke and Bryan Keith Sheffield, Sr. of Bell; sister, Crista Lynn Sheffield Rhoden of Starke; aunts and uncles, Deborah Sumner of Starke, Hilda Morris of Atlanta, Ga., Jerry Goodman of Pomona, Calif., Virginia Gibbons of Tampa, Iona Lippa of Chapel Hill, Evelyn Peterson of Atlanta, Rayburn Scott of Weeki Wachee, Mary Valdez of Pomona, Calif., Patty Sheffield of Worthington Springs, Wanda Cason of Lake Butler.

Memorial services were held on Jan. 4, in the First Christian Church of Starke. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke. 904-964-6200.

PAID OBITUARY

Jane Siegmund

STARKE—Jane T. Siegmund, 66, of Starke died Friday, Jan. 10, 2014, at Shands of Starke after an extended illness. She was born in Quincy Mass. and moved to Starke in 1947 from Pompano Beach. She is the daughter of the late Leroy and Kathryn Decelle, and is a member of the Catholic Church. She is preceded in death

by her husband, John William Siegmund.

She is survived by: sons, Edward David (Michelle) Siegmund of Starke, John Robert (Dana) Siegmund of Middleburg, and Joseph W. Siegmund of Starke; three grandchildren; and three brothers.

Burial will be at a later date at Highland Cemetery in Norwood, Mass. Archer Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Rodney Skaggs

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Rodney L. Skaggs, 83, of Keystone Heights died Sunday, Dec. 29, 2013 in Palatka. He served in the United States Air Force, was a member of the AmVets Post 86 in Keystone Heights, and a member of the Moose Lodge. Prior to retirement, he owned and operated Skaggs Landscaping in Jacksonville.

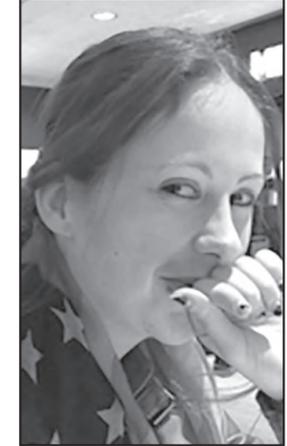
A memorial service will be held 2:00 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 26, in the Keystone Heights AmVets Post 86. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Haven Hospice, Robert's Care Center, 6400 St. Johns Ave. Palatka, FL 32177. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Keystone Heights.

Geraldine Smith

MELROSE—Geraldine Raines "Geri" Smith, 63, of Melrose died Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2014 at her home. She was born June 7, 1950 in New Port, Tenn. to the late Lester and Eunice (Cogdill) Raines and was a homemaker.

She is survived by: her husband of 28 years, Bob Smith of Melrose; children, Lori Davis of Miami and Eddie Davis of White River Jct, Vt.; siblings, Elmedia, Judy "Squirt", Gene, Lorine, Darlene, and Jimmy; and four grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held at the Melrose Church of God Mountain Assembly located at 24715 State Road 26 in Melrose on Saturday, Jan. 18, at 1:00 pm. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Keystone Heights.



Morgan Walters

Morgan Walters

STARKE—"Piper" Morgan Walters, 21 of Starke passed away Saturday, Jan. 4, 2014. She was a loving and giving person. No matter what she was going through in her own life, she always put the needs of others ahead of hers. She loved to make people happy and from their happiness, found her own. She was a very talented writer; writing as a sheriff, a mermaid, and even a woman who could change into a dragon. She let her imagination run wild when she wrote and it was always a beautiful thing to watch and to read. In addition to writing, she loved art, music, and television. If it was creative in anyway, Piper loved it. She had a heart of gold and a wicked sense of humor; when you were around her, there was never a dull moment.

She left behind parents, Glenn and Joanne Walters; best friend, "Briar" Sydney Gray; sister, Sherry Hunter; nephews, and niece, Coleby Hunter, Logan Hunter, and Layla Bradley; aunt and godmother, Carol Carroll; aunt's, Monica Darrah, Molly Darrah, Maggie Darrah, Vicki Hughes, and Barbra Lee; grandparents, Lorie and H.B. Ray. A memorial service will be planned at a later date. Archer Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. 386-496-2008,

please sign the guestbook at archerfuneralhome.com.

PAID OBITUARY



Kenneth Wood

Kenneth Wood

MACCLENNY—Kenneth "Kenny" Leo Wood, age 49, of Macclenny, passed away on Sunday, Jan. 12, 2014 at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Jacksonville. Kenny was born in Jacksonville, on Jan. 30, 1964 to the late Leo Eugene Wood and Nina Lee Hurst Wood. Kenny was the last active resident of Baker County and graduated from Baker County High School in 1982. Kenny worked in the banking profession for the past 35 years and was an original associate of SunTrust Bank, currently TD Bank; he was the last active employee of that era. Kenny enjoyed living life to the fullest, traveling and seeing the world to include the Caribbean, Hawaii, Australia, New Zealand, and the United States. Kenny was described as an outstanding tennis player and enjoyed dancing and competing all over the country with West Coast Swing. His other hobbies included snow and water skiing and drawing with pencil and paints. Kenny was preceded in death by his sister Pamela Lynn Crews.

Kenny is survived by: his wife of eight years, Patty Wood of Macclenny; his sister, Paula (Henry) Crews of Glen St. Mary; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held Thursday, Jan. 16, at Souls Harbor Church of God at 2:00 pm at with Bishop Daniel Sturgill of Souls Harbor Church of God officiating. Interment will follow at South Prong Cemetery. The family will receive friends on Wednesday, January 15, 2014 from 5 pm - 8 pm at the funeral home. The arrangements are under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services, 250 North Lowder Street, Macclenny, FL 32063 (904) 259-5700. Visit www.ferreirafuneralservices.com to sign the family's guest book.

PAID OBITUARY

Card of Thanks

To the many friends, neighbors, co-workers, caregiver Jeanette Stowe, Pastor Herman Griffin and wife, we cannot express how much we thank you all for the concern and compassion shown to our mother and family during her extended illness and death. The calls with words of encouragement, cards, flowers, food, support and prayers were all deeply appreciated. Our heartfelt thanks are extended to Dr. Martha Lloyd, Dr. Kima, doctors at North Florida Regional Hospital, Lake Butler Hospital, the Suwannee Valley Haven Hospice staff and all the nurses for all the ways they went above and beyond the call of duty to comfort and care for our mother and grandmother. Thanks to anyone that we might have forgotten to mention. Thanks to Doyle Archer and staff for all your assistance with the final arrangements. It is at a time like this that we realize how blessed we are with so many wonderful friends and neighbors and may God bless each of you.

The Family of Nanazee Thomas Pinkston

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53A Yard Sales MOVING SALE SAT JANUARY 18, 2014 FROM 7-3 Boys clothes size 4-7, womens clothes, some fur-

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57 For Sale FOR SALE, due to illness, all good condition. 1994 6400 John Deer Tractor w/canopy-MFWD 95 hp, 3 hitch-2 remotes. 640 loader 1964 Gallop, 1995 Ferguson roller. 1989 Ford 350 Dually diesel truck. 1996 Hallmark 8x16.5 ft enclosed trailer. 1970 F 750 single-axle Ford dump truck w/ equipment trailer. 12 ft. Jon boat. Table saw, Fert. spreader, Wurliizer-Melville-Clark spinet piano, Hammond spinet organ L-133 has LES LER speakers. Call 386-496-0683.

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59 Personal Services CLARK FOUNDATION REPAIRS, INC. - Correction of termite & water-damaged wood & sills. Leveling & raising Houses/Buildings. Pier Replacement & alignment. We do all types of tractor work, excavation and small demolition jobs. Free Estimates: Danny (Buddy) Clark, 904-545-5241.

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TEMPORARY FARM LABOR: Selby Honey, Poplarville, MS has 6 positions for honeybees; 3/

mo. experience required for job duties listed; must be able to obtain a driver's license within 30 days; must not have bee or honey related allergies; tools, equipment, housing and daily trans provided for employees who can't return home daily; trans & subsistence expenses reimb.; \$9.50/hr; three-fourths work period guaranteed from 02/10/2014-05/15/2014. Apply at nearest FI Workforce Office with Job Order MS87534 or call 850-245-7105.

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Gaston's Tree Service is accepting applications for an Experienced Tree Crew Member. This includes the operation of bobcats and bucket trucks with occasional climbing. For full time year around work with great benefits in an established company and a great team.

- * Experience in tree work
- * Must have a valid driver's license
- * Must be willing to leave town on occasion for emergency storm work
- * Must work well with others
- * Subjected to background checks and random drug tests

Send resume to JoAnn Phillips at jgphillips@woodresourcesrecovery.com or call (352) 258-8668

Heavy Equipment Operator Needed

Gaston's Tree Service is accepting applications for an Experienced Heavy Equipment Operator. This includes the operation of cranes, knuckle booms, bobcats, and bucket trucks. For full time year around work with great benefits in an established company and a great team.

- * Experience in tree work is a plus
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- * Must be willing to leave town on occasion for emergency storm work
- * Must work well with others
- * Subjected to background checks and random drug tests

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SALARY: \$39,375 annually plus benefits

DEADLINE FOR RECEIVING APPLICATIONS: 1/29/14

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Human Resources
Florida Gateway College
149 S.E. College Place
Lake City, FL 32025-2007
Phone (386) 754-4314
Fax (386) 754-4814
E-Mail: human.resources@fgc.edu

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SALARY: \$110,250 annually plus benefits

DEADLINE FOR RECEIVING APPLICATIONS: 2/14/14

Persons interested should provide College application, vita, and photocopies of transcripts. All foreign transcripts must be submitted with official translation and evaluation. Position details and applications available at: www.fgc.edu

Human Resources
Florida Gateway College
149 S.E. College Place
Lake City, FL 32025-2007
Phone (386) 754-4314
Fax (386) 754-4814
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Lady Tornadoes defeat Ft. White 63-29

Prior to its 50-32 victory over Keystone Heights, the Bradford High School girls' basketball team hosted District 5-4A opponent Fort White on Jan. 7, winning 63-29.

Nyasia Davis scored 22 points and grabbed 15 rebounds, while Tracey Kemp had 18 points and 12 assists.

Keshanna Ardley scored 13 points, while Mackenzie Gault and Danique Hudson each scored four. Faith Anderson added two points.

Union girls defeat Baldwin 38-33

Keyambre Cobb scored 15 points and had four assists as the Union County High School girls' basketball team won for the second time in four games, defeating Baldwin 38-33 on Jan. 13 in Baldwin.

The Tigers (3-12) got 11 points from Michelle Johnson and five points and 11 rebounds from Nancy Slocum. Madison McCellan had four points, while Jordan Howe and Janisha Jones had two and one, respectively.

On Jan. 7, Union hosted District 7-1A opponent Dixie County, getting 12 points and 20 rebounds from Jones in a 31-27 win.

Cobb scored seven points, while Slocum and McCellan scored five and four, respectively. Qushawn Smith added three points.

The Tigers got 16 points from Cobb on Jan. 9, but came up short in a 57-45 road loss to district opponent Newberry.

Jones had eight points and eight rebounds, while Johnson and McCellan had seven and six points, respectively. Smith had three points, while Howe and Slocum each had two.

On Jan. 10 the Tigers hosted Columbia County, losing 52-20.

Cobb had eight points, while Jones and McCellan had five and four, respectively. Slocum had two points to go along with six rebounds, while Smith added one point.

Union hosts district opponent Williston on Friday, Jan. 17, at 6 p.m. and then hosts Interlachen on Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 6 p.m.

BHS boys stop 2-game slide with 5-point win over UCHS

Caleb Jones made five 3-pointers and finished with game highs in points and rebounds, helping the Bradford High School boys' basketball team defeat visiting Union County 50-45 on Jan. 11.

Jones, who also tied Union's Geordyn Green for a game-high five assists, had 22 points and seven rebounds as Bradford stopped a two-game losing streak.

Don Jeffers and Benjamin Nichols scored eight and seven points, respectively, for the Tornadoes, who also got four points each from Shawn Aaron and Tyler Wainwright. Drian Jenkins and Kearris Ardley scored three and two points, respectively.

Bradford's Kenny Dinkins had six rebounds, while Aaron and Jenkins had five each.

Princeton Alexander, who made four 3-pointers, led Union with 14 points, while Buddy Edwards had 11 points. Austin Dukes and Kyle Mosher scored nine and seven points, respectively, while Green and Daryl Watkins each had two points.

Green and Mosher had six and five rebounds, respectively, with Green also coming up with four steals.

The Tornadoes played District 5-4A opponent Interlachen this past Tuesday and will travel to play district opponent Keystone Heights on Thursday, Jan. 16, at 7:30 p.m. Bradford plays in the MLK Inspire Challenge in Tallahassee on Saturday, Jan. 18, and Monday, Jan. 20, before returning home to play Eastside on Wednesday, Jan. 22, at 7:30

p.m. Union played District 7-1A opponent Chiefland this past Tuesday and will host district opponent Williston on Friday, Jan. 17, at 7:30 p.m. The Tigers host Crescent City on Jan. 18 at 7:30 p.m.

P.K. Yonge hands BHS 2nd straight district loss

The Bradford High School boys' basketball team fell to 3-4 in District 5-4A after a 54-23 loss to P.K. Yonge on Jan. 10 in Gainesville.

After beating Santa Fe 49-47

on Jan. 4, the Tornadoes have now lost two straight district games. Prior to playing P.K. Yonge, they lost 67-55 to Fort White on Jan. 7.

Caleb Jones scored five points in the loss to P.K. Yonge, while Shawn Aaron, Don Jeffers and Benjamin Nichols each had four points. Drian Jenkins and Brenton Ruise scored three and two points, respectively, while Rodderick Broomfield added one point.

Tigers split district games, remain at .500

The Union County High School boys' basketball faced

two District 7-1A opponents last week, defeating Dixie County 60-52 and losing 73-56 to Newberry.

Union (3-3 in District 7) got 18 points from Kyle Mosher and 14 points, nine rebounds and five assists from Austin Dukes in the Jan. 7 win over Dixie County in Lake Butler. Geordyn Green had five assists as well and finished with 10 points, while Zak Lee and Daryl Watkins had eight and six points, respectively. Larry Collins added four points.

On Jan. 9, Mosher made five 3-pointers and poured in 24 points, but it wasn't enough in a road loss to Newberry.

Green and Dukes scored nine and eight points, respectively, while Collins, Lee and Parker Hodgson each scored four

points. Brennan Clyatt scored three points.

Dukes and Lee each had six rebounds.

STRONG

Continued from 3B

passed on prior to his death approximately six months ago: "You can be whatever you want to be if you just stay focused."

"Before every game, he wears that and kisses it," Strong Sr. said.

Strong Jr. looks forward to moving up to the high school next year along with 24 of his BMS teammates. He thinks they can accomplish some good things at the high school. After all, they've been playing together since Pop Warner.

"We know how each other plays," Strong said.

Perhaps he'll get the chance to play major college football. Strong, who would prefer to keep playing running back, likes UF, FSU, Auburn, LSU and Alabama.

"I'm an Alabama fan," he said, adding that he was a fan of running back Trent Richardson.

If he follows his grandfather's advice and maintains his work ethic, Strong Jr. could have many options available to him.

"He's got the ability to go somewhere in life," Strong Sr. said. "It's all up to him to do it."

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