

UNION COUNTY TIMES

USPS 648-200 — LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA

THURSDAY, JAN. 23, 2014

101ST YEAR — 39TH ISSUE — 75 CENTS



We've moved! Union County Times office in new Roberts Insurance location, one block west

The Union County Times continues to share an office with Roberts Insurance, which recently made the move to 25 East Main Street in Lake Butler, just one block west, when Roberts Insurance took over the offices of Maines Insurance.

After 41 years in business, Harriett Maines is retiring as an insurance agent, but maintaining her real estate business. She recently sold her agency to Roberts Insurance, which moved into her offices on Jan. 15.

The Roberts Insurance office is open during normal business hours every weekday. The Times office is open every weekday except all day Wednesday and Thursday through lunch—and of course anytime the editor is out pursuing a story.

As always, you can still reach us at 386-496-2261 or uctimes@windstream.net. The weekly deadline is Monday at 5 p.m.



B-U Technical Center is proud owner of two new trucks

The Bradford-Union Technical Center celebrated the gift of two trucks to its commercial vehicle driving program with a reception featuring school personnel, community leaders and Congressman Ted Yoho on Jan. 17.

Robert Lyons (above) one of tech center's commercial vehicle driving instructors, looks on as somebody checks out the inside of one of the new trucks. (Full story, 1B.)

LBMS baseball car wash, Jan. 25

The Lake Butler Middle School baseball team is having a car wash to raise money on Saturday, Jan. 25, from 9 a.m. to noon at Spires IGA.

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.



Ann Scott visits LBES

First lady reads to students as part of literacy tour

BY VINCENT ALEX BROWN
Times Editor

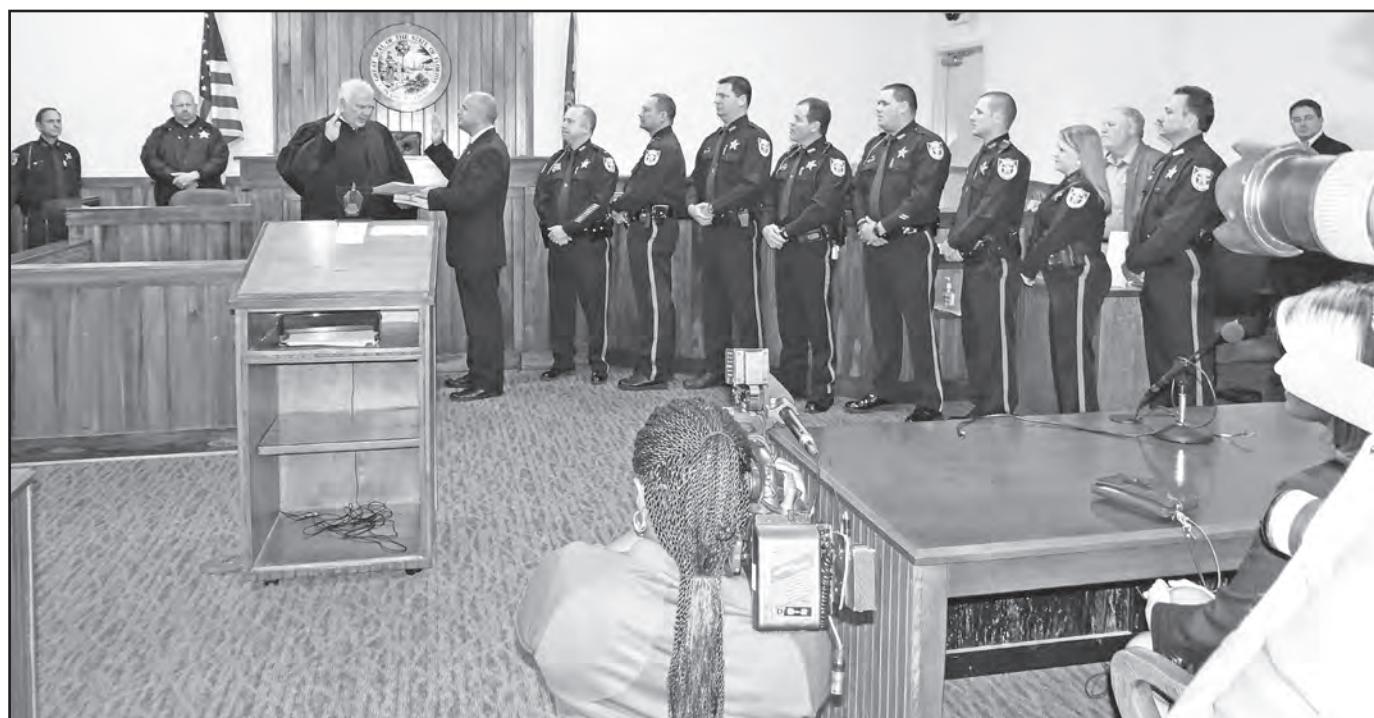
First Lady Ann Scott and the Florida Department of Education wrapped up her statewide literacy tour highlighting the 6th annual Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida, visiting Lake Butler Elementary School on Friday, Jan. 17.

"Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! provided many wonderful and interactive opportunities for our students, parents and schools to get excited about reading," said Scott. "I encourage parents to maintain

See SCOTT, 6A

Brad Whitehead appointed sheriff

37-year-old is the third generation in family to hold the office



BY VINCENT ALEX BROWN
Times Editor

On Jan. 15, Gov. Rick Scott appointed Brad Whitehead as the new sheriff of Union County till an election can be held on November 4.

Scott stated in his press release, "I am confident that Brad Whitehead will be a great sheriff. His experience in law enforcement has prepared him to serve the families of Union County."

By the governor's appointment, Major Garry Seay had served as interim sheriff since Dec. 18 after Sheriff Jerry Whitehead passed away suddenly at the age of 60 from cardiac arrest after a brief illness.

"It is a great honor to work for three generations of the Whitehead family with the Union County Sheriff's Office," Seay said. "I back and support Sheriff Brad Whitehead 100 percent and look forward to continuing serving the sheriff's office."

Brad is Jerry's second oldest son, after Matt, through his first marriage to Bobbie Jo Morgan (now married to Ken).

The 37-year-old becomes the third generation of the Whitehead family to hold the seat of sheriff of Union County.

His grandfather and Jerry's father, John, passed away on Feb. 9, 2007, and served as sheriff from 1953 until Jerry took office in 1985.

Jerry was the longest serving sheriff in Florida at the time of his death.

"To many, he was Sheriff Whitehead, but to me and my siblings, he was dad, and our hero," Brad said at Jerry's memorial service. "My dad was a people person who loved his community, which he served for 29 years as sheriff. And he loved his family and friends. If you didn't know him, you got to know him. That's just the kind of man he was."

The new sheriff has worked as assistant warden for the Florida Department of Corrections since 2009, most recently at Florida State Prison in Raiford. He previously served as senior prison inspector within the Office of Inspector General from 2005 to 2009. From 2003 to 2005 he worked as correctional services administrator. From 1998 to 2003 he worked as a law enforcement investigator for the State Fire Marshal's Bureau of Fire and Arson Investigations.

He received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Florida State University.

Brad was sworn in at the Union County Courthouse on Jan. 17 at 1:00 p.m.

At the beginning of the ceremony, Art Peterson, minister of First Christian Church of Lake Butler, prayed, "Brad stands here where his father stood and where his grandfather has stood, and I know that is a humbling experience. We pray for him, we are proud of him, as a community."

Things were delayed slightly to procure a Bible, to which everyone laughed. "Forgeting a Bible is like forgeting the rings at a wedding," quipped County Court Judge Bo Bayer, who presided over the ceremony. He went to his office and brought back a paperback version that is the one he uses every day.

After the swearing in concluded with a standing ovation, Brad told the packed courtroom, "Let me start by saying what an honor and privilege it is to serve the citizens in this capacity as sheriff of Union County. I'm both humbled and honored that Gov. Scott would entrust me to this opportunity by appointing me to sheriff after the untimely death of my father, and appreciative of the outpouring of support from this community."

"Thirty days ago, prior to Dec. 18th, I had no idea I would be standing here," he continued. "While I ultimately knew that one day it was a life goal to become sheriff, after my father and grandfather, I also envisioned doing so with my father standing beside me."

See SHERIFF, 2A



TOP: Brad Whitehead getting sworn in as the new sheriff of Union County.
ABOVE: Whitehead with his wife, Jennifer.

Sheriffs oppose legal pot

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

The spokesperson for Clay County Sheriff Rick Beseler said the sheriff supported a resolution passed by the Florida Sheriff's Association opposing the legalization of marijuana in Florida.

In a Jan. 16 statement, the association said "Florida's sheriffs believe that approving broad exceptions to current state and federal law that would allow doctors to authorize use of marijuana for virtually any reason with little regulation will hurt children and families and lead to a lower quality of life for all."

Mary Justino, public information coordinator for Beseler, said he and the rest of the state's sheriffs supported the resolution.

The association said that the Los Angeles and Denver police departments have reported increased crime rates since their states legalized marijuana. It also said that marijuana use among teens in Colorado is 50-percent higher than the national average.

Rash of petty thefts plagues Lake Butler

BY VINCENT ALEX BROWN
Times Editor

Recently Lake Butler has seen a rash of petty thefts.

"Most of it involves loose change and small amounts of paper currency left in unlocked cars, making it very easy targets for thieves," said Lt. Lyn Williams with the Union County Sheriff's Office.

A couple of weeks ago an unknown suspect entered a vehicle and stole a \$100 GPS unit. The black male ran from the vehicle owner and UCSO and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission FWC K-9 Units tracked the suspect a short distance before losing the scent. Investigative units interviewed a suspect matching that description the next day, Williams said.

Other vehicles in have been broken into in a similar scenario.

A vehicle owner saw a white male run from his vehicle around Northeast Ninth Avenue. K-9 units tracked the suspect to a local mobile home park before loosing the scent. Williams said investigators interviewed two possible suspects in those break-ins.

Residents are encouraged to lock their cars.



etc.



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.

Talent takes the stage this weekend at BHS

The Santa Fe College Bradford Fest Talent Showdown will take place this weekend, Saturday, Jan. 25, in the Bradford High School auditorium at 6 p.m.

Up to 20 talented acts will be performing in competition and a chance to try out for the Suwannee River Jam, and country band Crewsn Myles of Lake Butler will also entertain. The annual event is sponsored by Lake Area McDonald's.

Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for youth 17 and under. Children 5 and under enter for free. Get your tickets at the Santa Fe College Andrews Center, or pay at the door.

The funds raised by Bradford Fest events helps send students to college.

Fifteen acts are currently slated to perform.

Archer to present at UC Historical Society, Jan. 27

The Union County Historical Society will host Doyle Archer on Monday, Jan. 27, at 7 p.m., who will provide a history of the Archer Funeral Home.

Archer is the last man in Union County to "ever let you down." He will review the funeral business as it applies to the old or young, rich or poor. A question-and-answer session will follow.

The Historical Society meets at the Townsend-Green Building at 400 West Main Street in Lake Butler.

'Tools to Quit' smoking, UC library, Jan. 28

For details, call Jim at 866-341-2730.

SHERIFF

Continued from 1A

"Standing here today, I know that it will not be easy, and nothing worth having is."

"But I draw strength from knowing that God makes no mistakes—my dad's passing and that fact that I'm standing here today must be God's plan for Union County at this moment."

"I do not know what tomorrow will hold, and no man does. But I do know that I vow to the citizens of Union County to operate the office of the sheriff with the highest degree of professionalism, character and integrity. I take the responsibility for protecting and serving the citizens of Union County very seriously."

"May God bless this county and I look forward to making my father and this community proud through my actions, not just my words."

"Thank you all for coming."

Bayer responded, "Thank you, Brad, from all of us."

Brad added, "When Gov. Scott called me, he said, I don't know you that well, but I've had a lot of people call on your behalf and say great things about you and your family." And that just shows what this community wanted and needed at a time like this. I appreciate the outpouring of support and for being there for me and my family. It's been a tough time, and we're moving

Union County in the right direction.

"This is our home. This is what we do. And we love everyone and we're going to support the special citizens of Union County."

Afterwards, Jason Johns, pastor of First Baptist Church of Lake Butler, prayed, "Father, we do give you thanks today, because your word says that every good and perfect gift comes down from the father of lights (James 1:17). I say 'amen' to what Brad said, that you are in control, and that you work out your plans, and we are here today according to your good purposes."

"God, thank you for the Whitehead family. Thank you for what they have meant to this community over the years, decades and generations. And I have full confidence that that service is going to continue, and they are going to continue to be a blessing to this community."

At the end, Bayer added, "Brad, you're going to do a wonderful job. Thank you everyone for coming."

Brad and his wife, Jennifer, have two children: Carter, 7, and Eva Grace, 6. After the ceremony they greeted friends and family and posed for photos.

Then they made their way to the steps outside the sheriff's office where reporters set up their cameras, hoping to ask the new sheriff some questions on his first day on the job.

In answering a question about carrying on his family's legacy,



Brad, with Jennifer, obliged reporters who set up outside to ask him a few questions.



After the ceremony, Brad and Jennifer greeted friends and family and posed for photos.

Brad said that his father and grandfather "taught me to always do the right thing, do what's right for this community and people, and just treat people fair—firm and fair. Do the right things for the right reasons and the rest of it is in God's hands."

When asked about Brad continuing the legacy of his father, who was known as 'the people's sheriff,' Brad said, "He always had an open door policy. He would actually sit at the front desk, like he was the secretary, and he loved that. He loved talking to people; he loved being able to help them, in all facets of their lives. He just enjoyed that. He enjoyed life, enjoyed helping people, and that was his passion. And I want to follow in his footsteps."

Department staff applauded Brad's appointment as sheriff.

"I am very excited to work

with Brad Whitehead as sheriff and look forward to the insight that he will bring to our agency and carrying on his father's work with helping others while providing professional law enforcement services to the citizens of Union County," said Lt. Lyn Williams.

"It's a great day for Union County," said retired Deputy Willie Lee said. Lee was named October's officer of the month at

Union Correctional Institution where he is a sergeant.

"The governor made a good choice," added Deputy John Riggs.

When pressed, Brad said he would run in November when the next sheriff will be elected during the mid-term election. That term will be for two years and then the next regular election, in 2016, will be during the normal cycle for a full four-year term.

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Published each Thursday and entered as Periodical Postage
Paid at Lake Butler, Florida under Act of March 3, 1879.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

UNION COUNTY TIMES

125 E. Main Street • Lake Butler, FL 32054

(386) 496-2261

John M. Miller, Publisher

Editor:

Sports Editor:

Advertising:

Typesetting:

Advertising and

Newspaper Prod.

Classified Adv.

Bookkeeping:

Vincent Alex Brown
Cliff Smelley
Kevin Miller
Darlene Douglass
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Subscription Rate in Trade Area
\$39.00 per year:
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UCHS cheerleaders regional champs

The Union County High School competition cheer team competed in the Providence Cheer Challenge at the Providence School of Jacksonville. They placed 1st in their division and 1st overall. This competition took place Jan. 11. Members of the team are Ashley Mock, Mikayla Chandler, Jessica Brown, Valerie Seay, Kinedy Johnson, Shelby McDowell, Lexi Whitehead, Emilee Southwell, Karlie Hodgson, Kayla Geraghty, Chloe Bailey, Montana Jenkins and Fayln Rimes.

On Jan. 18 the team competed at the FHSAA regional. This competition was held at Ridge View High School in Orange Park. They placed 1st in their division, making them regional champs.

They will now compete on Jan. 30 in Kissimmee at the Silver Spurs Arena for the FHSAA state championship.



Neighborhood sandhill crane to get a new lease on life

Howells Angels, local residents step in to help

BY REGINA O'HERN
Special to the Times

Have you seen the beautiful sandhill cranes that reside in Union County?

These cranes have become very loved and admired by our neighborhood around Butler Lake. The Florida sandhill

crane is protected by the U.S. Migratory Bird Treaty Act and as a state-designated threatened species by Florida's Endangered and Threatened Species Rule. These birds are territorial and mate for life. This pair of cranes in the accompanying photos has had several chicks over the years. We believe the female is currently nesting an egg.

On Sunday, Jan. 19, several concerned neighbors noticed that the male crane was injured. His leg was snapped in two and dangling as he hopped on the other. I began a two-day task of calling several agencies in surrounding counties and people I personally knew to help this bird.



There are just not that many agencies that have funding to come capture and treat these animals.

My heart was breaking for this beautiful creature. Just as I was beginning to lose hope, I received a call back from Howells Angels

Wildlife Rehabilitation and Rescue in Fort White. They were arranging for him to be seen by a surgeon and would come transport him for us. I was amazed at the concern and compassion this agency showed for our bird.

Within a couple of hours I received word that the crane was very ill. He has fluid on his lungs and a broken leg, and probably wouldn't have survived much longer without proper treatment. He has been given medication to calm him and make him comfortable. He will undergo surgery to repair his broken leg on Tuesday morning.

Once our crane is well enough to be released, he will be brought back here to his mate and possibly a brand new baby.

Howells Angels is a non-profit agency funded solely by donations. Their goal is to rescue, rehabilitate and safely release wild animals in distress.

I ask the residents of Union County to please make a tax-deductible donation to this agency. Several donations have already been made. Thank you to everyone who has supported our efforts to save this bird.

Please support and pray for our Union County sandhill crane.

Learn more about the work and mission of Howells Angels at www.howellswildliferecuse.com. Or send donations to them at 1344 SW Nebraska Terr., Fort White, FL 32038-4678.

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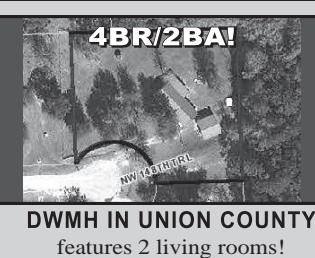


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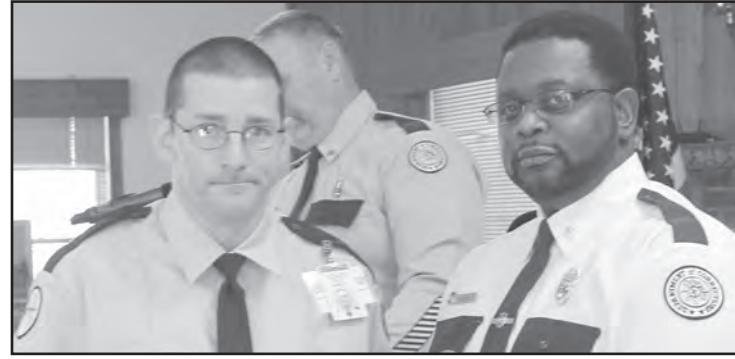
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The Top Academic Award went to Officer Darrell Beasley. He earned 97.2% on the tests. The award was presented by UCI's Major Stanley Peterson.



The Top Gun Award, for the officer who had the best scores on the firing range, went to Officer Michael Buchanan. He received his award from Peterson.



There was a tie for the top Defensive Tactics Award. The award was shared by Officer Robert Carter, pictured here receiving his award from Peterson, and Officer Jasmine Pernell.

TOP LEFT: (Seated, l-r) Justin Clemons, Michael Kroft, Allan Holmes, Mark Shelby, Robert Carter, Christopher Hannah, Steven Cook and Jeffrey Fugate. (Middle row, l-r) Asst. Warden Stephen Rossiter, Col. Kevin Box, Michael Buchanan, Darrell Beasley, Kenneth Longcoy, Javon Boddie, Joshua Barron, Andy Bobien, Lodel Jamison, Michael Kennedy, Asst. Warden David Maddox, Major Daniel Manning, Major Stanley Peterson. (Back row, l-r) Savannah Chittum, Darresha Matthews, Takeyla Clayton, Arlene Crews, Monique Brown, Jasmine Pernell, Shaunte Carter, Lakay Link-Johnson, Margaret Cook, Latavia Harvey, Tierney Olive and Warden Diane Andrews. **TOP RIGHT:** There was a tie for the top Defensive Tactics Award. The award was shared by Officer Jasmine Pernell, pictured here receiving her award from UCI's Major Stanley Peterson, and Officer Robert Carter.

31 graduate from Basic Recruit Training

A total of 31 recruits from two area institutions successfully completed Correctional Officer Basic Recruit Training and were recognized in a graduation ceremony on Dec. 2.

Because Union Correctional Institution is still in the process of staffing its new work camp, almost all of the recruits were from UCI. Only four members of the class were from another institution, Baker Correctional Institution.

Four recruits earned special awards for excelling in various aspects of the 11-week training program—which incorporated

both classroom learning and physical demonstration of the skills being taught. All four award winners were from UCI.

Beasley earned the Top Academic Award with a 97.2 percent average on the numerous tests given during the training.

Two recruits shared the Top Defensive Tactics Award for consistently giving a top performance in demonstrating the tactics being taught in the training. The award went to R. Carter and Pernell.

Buchanan earned the Top Gun Award by turning in the top scores on the range during the weekly firearms training.

UCI's Kroft was chosen as class president and, as such, he spoke briefly to his fellow graduates at the ceremony. The class vice-president, Kennedy,

also took part in the ceremony. UCI's Major Stanley Peterson acted as keynote speaker for the ceremony and congratulated the graduates on their achievement.

He urged them to rely on the training they had received, both in basic training and at the institution, in guiding their careers.

He told them not to let themselves get discouraged. Peterson quoted Henry Ford, who said, "Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goal."

Peterson told the recruits "Don't take your eyes off your goal. Do your job to the best of your ability, adhere to established procedure and remain professional at all times. Cultivate your own personal character. Put all of these things together and you will not encounter an obstacle that you cannot overcome."

Following the ceremony, the

recruits enjoyed a variety of refreshments and enjoyed time with their families.

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UCI**UCI promotions**

TOP LEFT: Union Correctional Institution promoted 11 officers to the rank of sergeant on Nov. 22. One of those, Latricia Rodriguez came to UCI from Florida State Prison West Unit. The others were promoted from UCI's own staff. (Back row, l-r) Sgts. Channing Dobbs, Frederick Crews, Glenn New, Chad Hope, Kevin Walton, Steven Vickery, Laura Stewart and David Burger. (Front row, l-r) Sgts. Latricia Rodriguez, Thomas Starling, Debra Cox and Stephen Henley. **TOP RIGHT:** Union Correctional Institution welcomed three new supervisors to its staff on Nov. 22 – with two of those also celebrating promotions. (l-R) Lt. Eric Roberts transferred to UCI on Nov. 22. Latonya McCray was promoted to lieutenant at UCI, coming from Florida State Prison West Unit. Robert Kirkland was promoted to lieutenant from UCI's own staff of sergeants.



Major Stanley Peterson (right) presented Sgt. Keith Cavanagh with his pin.



Food Service Director Annette Griffis (left) received her pin from Warden Diane Andrews.



Classification Officer Laura Redd (left) received her pin from Asst. Warden Stephen Rossiter.



Officer Christy Long (left) received her pin from Peterson.

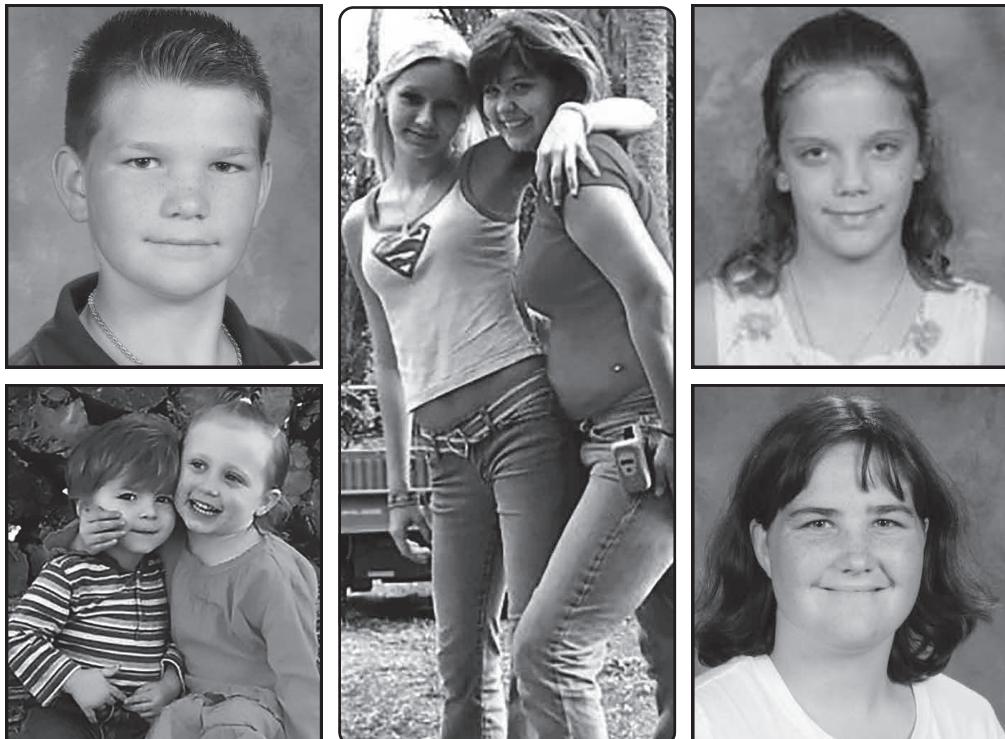


Officer Walter Sands (left) received his Peterson.

UCI

In Loving Memory

"We remember eight years ago January 25, 2006. We will forever miss and love you. Nikki Mann 6/8/90, Elizabeth Mann 03/14/90, Johnny Mann 07/30/92, Heaven Mann 10/6/02, Anthony Mann 05/23/04, Ashley Keen 02/24/91, Miranda Finn 05/20/95. Til we meet again. Psalms 23."



Officer Amanda Walter (left) received her pin from Peterson.

UCI recognizes 6 for state service

Union Correctional Institution recognized six staff members on Nov. 22 for providing years of service to the state of Florida.

Each staff member received a shirt pin that denoted the number of years he or she had spent working for the state.

Sgt. Keith Cavanagh and Classification Officer Laura Redd have 10 years of service each. Union CI Work Camp Food Service Director Annette Griffis, Officer Amanda Walter, Officer Walter Sands and Officer Christy Long have five years of service each.

All six were congratulated by the leadership staff and their co-workers on this milestone accomplishment.

LEGALS

UCT Legals 1/23/14

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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(2nd place – Crawford)



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Alexis Cox, 3rd grade
(52 activities – Sharpe)



Ethan Graham, 3rd grade
(50 activities – Rapp)



Brett Tucker, Kindergarten
(3rd place – Ferris)



Layla Barber, 1st grade
(1st place – Norman)



Andrew Laux, 4th grade
(131 activities – Stidham)



Patrick Graham, 4th grade
(123 activities – Faulk)



Callie Combs, 1st grade
(2nd place – Norman)



Scarlett Stroud, 1st grade
(3rd place – Norman)

SCOTT

Continued from 1A

good reading habits with their children all year round so they become lifelong readers and learners."

Scott kicked off the week at American Senior High School in Hialeah on Monday where she led students in the Million Minute Marathon, a special program that encourages students to read for an additional 20 minutes a day during the school day in celebration of literacy. The goal for 2014 is 33 million minutes, up from the 2013 goal of 30 million minutes. The results will be tallied and submitted by district reading contacts to the Department of Education's Just Read, Florida! Office.

Traveling more than 780 miles in five days, the first lady spoke to more than 1,000 students throughout the week to promote the importance of reading and to inspire students and their families to set aside time to read together.

While reading to the kindergarten and first graders at LBES, Scott asked the students what rambunctious meant. "It means you're wild and crazy!" a girl yelled out.

The first lady read, "Winston the Book Wolf," authored by

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■ I feel like another person with no more frustrations! It is phenomenal! It's unbelievable. I'd like to thank Bell. I will get other Bell products. Thank you again! Richard Dorvius, 55, Elmont, NY. ■ Ezee Flow tea gave back good sleep and health! I feel like I'm 30 years old. During the night I hardly have to go to the toilet anymore. What a feeling. Because I sleep well, I'm not tired anymore during the day. "Old age" was bearing down on me. Now I feel great again and healthy. Jerry H. Cole, 73, Lansing, IL.

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REGIONAL NEWS

NEWS FROM BRADFORD COUNTY, UNION COUNTY AND THE LAKE REGION

Participating in a Jan. 17 "key exchange" are (l-r) Congressman Ted Yoho, Tracy Hickman, Florida Gateway College's vice president, operational programs, Bradford County Superintendent of Schools Chad Farnsworth and Bradford-Union Technical Center Director Christy Reddish.



B-U Technical Center is proud owner of 2 new trucks

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer

Kirk Abercrombie and Robert Lyons are too old to ask Santa Claus for toy trucks.

How about the real thing, then?

The two men are the instructors for the Bradford-Union Technical Center's commercial vehicle driving program, which received a gift in the form of two semi trucks from Florida Gateway College.

Christmas may have passed, but the timing was perfect for the technical center program. The three trucks students take out on the road each have at least 1 million miles.

"Christmas was a little less than a month ago, but this is truly Christmas in January," Bradford County Superintendent of Schools Chad Farnsworth said during a Jan. 17 reception and

"key exchange."

Added Abercrombie: "It's been a long time coming."

Farnsworth and Bradford-Union Technical Center Director Christy Reddish both thanked Congressman Ted Yoho, who was present, for helping speed up the process. Approval of the transfer of titles had to be gained from the Department of Labor, which funded a grant

Florida Gateway College used to purchase the vehicles. The request wound up sitting on a desk for months, Reddish said.

That's when Yoho stepped in. "He helped them to understand how critical it was—the timeliness of this transfer," Reddish said. "We were towing our trucks in every other week

See TRUCKS, 6B

Lisa Prevatt, Bradford County's assistant superintendent of schools, enjoys a view from behind the wheel.



{ Michael may not recognize Lowyn. But 8 months ago his cooling technique saved her life. }



A woman with blonde hair tied back in a ponytail is sitting on a green park bench, holding a baby in a white onesie. They are in a park with trees and a playground in the background.



A man with glasses and a dark hoodie is sitting on a green park bench, petting a brown and white dog. They are in a park with trees and a playground in the background.

UFHealth
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UFHealth.org

When Lowyn Yancey was born, a pinched umbilical cord kept her brain from getting oxygen for several minutes. A cooling technique developed by Dr. Michael Weiss at UF Health helped her brain recover, and today she's a healthy little girl. Michael and Lowyn share an important, if invisible, connection – one that helps us move medicine forward. UF Health and Shands Starke Regional Medical Center, an innovative alliance to enhance our community.



Jolley graduates from Flagler College

Victoria Jolley, of Keystone Heights, was awarded a bachelor of arts degree from Flagler College. Jolley was one of approximately 177 Flagler seniors at the spring commencement ceremony held Dec. 14 on the college campus in St. Augustine.

Kirksey graduates from basic training

Army Pvt. Bruce R. Kirksey Jr. has graduated from Basic Combat Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Waynesville, Mo.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier received instruction in drill and ceremony, weapons, rifle marksmanship qualification, bayonet combat, chemical warfare, field training and tactical exercises, marches, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, and Army history, traditions, and core values.

Kirksey is the son of Pamela Spegal of Keystone Heights.

He is a 2012 graduate of Keystone Heights High School.

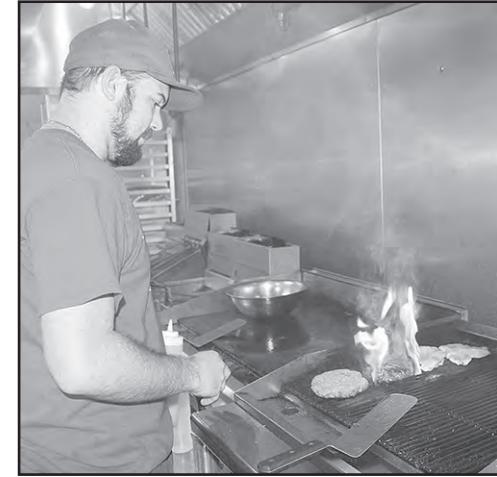
Destiny? Prevatt's serving food, fun in Starke

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer

Word on the street was the Prevatt family, which owned Prevatt's Sports Bar and Grill in Middleburg, was going to open a restaurant in Starke.

Jackson Prevatt and his son Brandon said they weren't sure how those rumors started, but after hearing them they thought they'd take a ride to Starke and see if there was a location that would suit their purposes.

The result made rumor become reality. The family, which also includes Jackson's son, Jason, opened its second restaurant—located on Call Street in the



Cory Tennant mans the grill in the kitchen at Prevatt's. All menu items are prepared upon order.

former Mama Mia's location—in late November.

"We wanted to expand and take on new responsibilities and challenges," Brandon said.

Brandon said the family kept getting asked all kinds of questions about opening a restaurant in Starke and even closing the restaurant in Middleburg. It was strange as the family had no plans of expanding at that point in time.

"We heard a bunch of different versions of how we were ultimately moving to Starke, and everybody was sure of it," Brandon said. "We didn't want to let anybody down."

Starke was at the top of Jackson Prevatt's list anyway when it came to possible sites for a second restaurant. He was born and raised there.

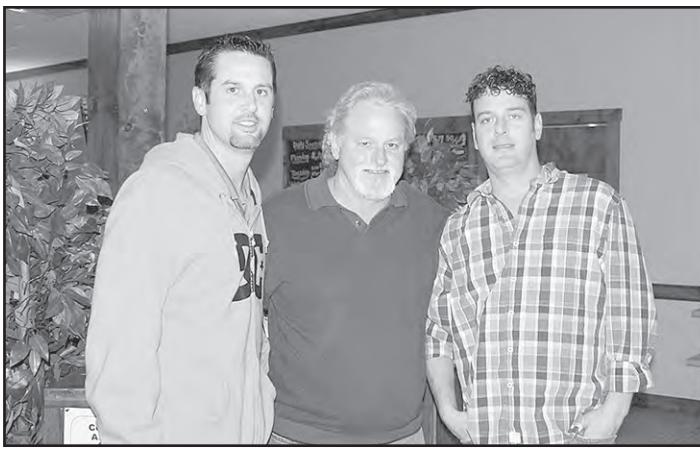
"My dad was a preacher here in town and had a little church called Airpark, right there between the high school and the middle school," Jackson said. "I grew up about a block from there on Collins Street off of Pratt (Street). I walked to every school I've ever been to. I walked to Starke Elementary, walked to the middle school and then walked to the high school."

"I've been here all my life up until I got to be an adult."

It was Middleburg where Jackson's sons primarily grew up. The strip-mall site where the family opened the first Prevatt's had been the site to a couple of different restaurants covering a period of more than 30 years. Brandon said the only reason those previous restaurants closed was health issues with the owners.

"It had proven it was going to do all right," Brandon said.

Brandon said he and his brother used to hang out at the restaurant that preceded Prevatt's, so they were familiar with the locale. The brothers,



ABOVE: Jackson Prevatt (center) is pictured with sons Jason (left) and Brandon. LEFT: Jenny Moss prepares a pitcher of beer.

who had experience in sales, thought opening a restaurant there would be a fun thing to do.

For Jackson, the business seemed like a good way to

reconnect with his sons. His job in sales and marketing for Delta Airlines kept him away from

See PREVATT, 4B

Talent Fest Showdown is Jan. 25

The annual Bradford Fest Talent Fest Showdown is Saturday, Jan. 25, 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.

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

BHS to host alumni softball game Jan. 25

The 2014 Bradford High School Tornado alumni softball game is this Saturday, Jan. 25, at the high school stadium behind Bradford Middle School and the Bradford-Union Technical Center.

A homerun derby starts the event at 5 p.m., followed by the game at 6 p.m.

Come out and watch BHS players of the past and present.

Archaeology, weaving to be topics at Feb. 3 DAR meeting

Judy Jull, a master weaver and colonial archaeologist, will be featured at the Monday, Feb. 3, meeting of the Col. Samuel Elbert Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, which will be held at IHOP in Starke at 10:30 a.m.

Jull will share her experiences at a dig and talk about the art of

weaving, which the colonists brought to America.

Visitors are welcome. Any woman 18 years of age or older—regardless of race, religion or ethnic background—who can prove direct descent from a person who aided in achieving American independence between April 19, 1775, and Nov. 26, 1783, is eligible for membership.

Please contact Konnie Beauregard at 352-475-1865 for more information.

Deadline to enter Feb. 8 Miss Bradford Fest is Jan. 24

The fourth annual Santa Fe College Miss Bradford Fest is scheduled for Saturday, 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.

Boy Scouts dinner to honor Register, feature Hudson River crash survivor

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.

Casey Jones will be the event's keynote speaker. Jones was a passenger on US Airways Flight 1549 that crashed into the Hudson River in New York on Jan. 15, 2009.

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.

River Rats team seeking players

The North Florida River Rats

12U travel baseball team is seeking three to four committed players to complete its spring roster.

Players cannot turn 13 before

May 1.

For more information, please contact Kim Albritton at 386-365-0950.

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CRIME**Recent arrests in Bradford, Clay or Union**

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

Bradford

Christopher Dewayne Alexander, 41, of Gainesville was arrested Jan. 15 by Bradford deputies for driving while license suspended or revoked. Bond was set at \$500.

Samuel Reese Box, 19, of Starke was arrested Jan. 19 by Starke police for trespassing. Bond was set at \$2,000.

Marcus Kevin Bradley, 57, of Starke was arrested Jan. 19 by Starke police for battery. According to the arrest report, Bradley attacked an acquaintance after accusing him of trying to steal his phone. The victim was in Bradley's home at the time of the incident and started to leave on his bicycle after Bradley had become angry about the phone. Bradley grabbed the victim, pulled him off the bike and kicked him several times in the face with a steel-toe boot, according to the report.

He then made several threats to the victim as he rode away, following him for several miles. The police officer later found Bradley at his home and noted in the report he was highly intoxicated and uncooperative during the arrest. Bond was set at \$25,000.

Dameon Daquen Butler, 36, of Starke was arrested Jan. 17 by Bradford deputies on a warrant for eight charges of possession of cocaine. Bond was set at \$100,000.

Aaron Marshall Copeland, 36, of Starke was arrested Jan. 20 by Starke police for trespassing. According to the arrest report, police were called to Walmart after someone wearing a striped shirt was observed walking through the parking lot trying to open car doors. The officer spotted Copeland in the Dickey's BBQ parking lot wearing a striped shirt. Copeland stated he was waiting for a friend to pick him up. After checking system records, the officer found that Copeland had been trespassing from Walmart last February and arrested him for trespassing. Bond was set at \$500.

Ronald W. Nugent, 55, of Starke was arrested Jan. 17 by Starke police on a warrant for possession of drugs. The warrant

while license suspended or revoked.

Ted Bernard Curtis, 34, of Brooker was arrested Jan. 18 by Bradford deputies for driving while license suspended or revoked. Bond was set at \$5,000.

Rebecca Lynn Gerdig, 40, of Hampton was arrested Jan. 20 by Starke police for driving while license suspended or revoked.

Janeka Breanne Greene, 24, of Starke was arrested Jan. 13 by Starke police for larceny. According to the arrest report, Greene was observed by a Walmart compliance officer taking a phone case and charger off the shelf, walking around the store and taking the items out of the packaging, and then putting them in her purse. When she walked past the final point of sale, she was detained and police called. Several other stolen items were also found in her purse. Bond was set at \$2,000.

Stephen Louis Heslar, 26, of Lake Butler was arrested Jan. 18 by Bradford deputies for failure to appear.

Lisa Michelle Mackey, 23, of Sanderson was arrested Jan. 18 by Bradford deputies for driving while license suspended or revoked.

Carlis Manning, 48, of Maxville was arrested Jan. 18 by Bradford deputies for possession of marijuana after a traffic stop for a headlight being out on U.S. 301 and Adams Street in Starke.

Therious O. McCloud, 32, of Starke was arrested Jan. 19 by Starke police on a warrant for battery, burglary and obstructing justice. According to the offense report for the warrant, McCloud went to an ex-girlfriend's apartment on Jan. 9 and pushed his way in, demanding she return his phone charger. The victim told McCloud she had thrown it away, but would buy him a new one. McCloud then became angry and started yelling at the victim. He then punched her in the face before leaving the scene. While police were interviewing the victim the same day, McCloud called the victim, asking why she called the police. The victim put the phone on speaker, and they heard McCloud threaten the victim and her family if she didn't do something to get the police to "back off of him." After his arrest, bond was set at \$50,000 for the three charges.

Kimberly Mae Cornwall, 37, of Lawtey was arrested Jan. 20 by Bradford deputies for driving

while license suspended or revoked.

Nugent was observed leaving a residence known for drug activity and stopped later by the officer. After questioning, Nugent gave the officer a cigarette pack containing crack, but he was released at the time due to health conditions. Bond was set at \$2,500.

Lakeefia Ke'anna Risby, 25, of Starke was arrested Jan. 15 by Starke police for child neglect. According to the arrest report, police were called to Orangewood Apartments about an unsupervised 4-year-old. The report said the child knocked on a neighbor's apartment door and told the person that answered that she was home alone and scared, and that her mother had left her to go to the store. Risby, the mother, was reached at her place of employment by the police officer and returned to her home. She told the officer she had briefly gone to her workplace to retrieve some paperwork. Risby was arrested and the child was turned over to her aunt for care.

Kevin Laroy Sullivan, 34, of Brooker was arrested Jan. 19 by Bradford deputies for driving under the influence and for driving while license suspended or revoked. Bond was set at \$10,000.

Troy Blaine Tetstone, 25, of Brooker was arrested Jan. 16 by Bradford deputies for possession of drugs. A deputy was called to a residence in the Graham area for a dispute and went to speak with Tetstone, who was seated in a vehicle. The deputy smelled marijuana from the car, and a search turned up a small bag with marijuana residue and two pills that were identified as morphine. Bond was set at \$5,000.

Marquise Rashad Williams, 19, of Lake Butler was arrested Jan. 16 by Union deputies for burglary, battery, trespassing, aggravated battery on law enforcement officer, resisting an officer and criminal mischief-property damage. According

to the arrest report, the charges stem from several incidents that occurred in the past four weeks in Union County. On Dec. 24, deputies were called to investigate a domestic violence call at Santa Fe Mobile Home Park. The victim accused Williams of choking her during an argument. She also said he broke into her home and trashed it, and stole some items from the residence. Also, a person at the mobile home park told deputies he and Williams were arguing outside the victim's home when Williams kicked the person's car, putting a large dent in the side. Williams could not be located at the mobile home park, but deputies did find him several days later near the intersection of S.R. 238 and S.R. 231 in Lake Butler. Williams took off

Matthew Leon Wilkerson, 29, of Raiford was arrested Jan. 14 by Bradford deputies for probation violation.

Ernest Dyal, 51, of Keystone Heights was arrested Jan. 20 by Clay deputies for a probation violation.

David Frew, 53, of Keystone Heights was arrested Jan. 14 by Clay deputies for felony battery and resisting arrest without violence.

Cynthia Roberts, 50, of Keystone Heights was arrested Jan. 15 by Clay deputies for an out-of-county warrant.

Hannah Thomas, 18, of Keystone Heights was arrested Jan. 14 by Clay deputies for failure to appear.

Matthew Torrent, 29, of Melrose was arrested Jan. 16 by Clay deputies for contempt of court.

Union

Johnny Lee Thomas Jr., 43, of Douglas, Ga., was arrested Jan. 15 by Union deputies on a warrant for two charges of felony probation violation. Bond was set at \$50,000.

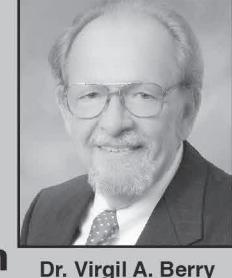
Marquise Rashad Williams, 19, of Lake Butler was arrested Jan. 16 by Union deputies for burglary, battery, trespassing, aggravated battery on law enforcement officer, resisting an officer and criminal mischief-property damage. According

running when he spotted the deputies, and one deputy was injured during the chase in the dark when he ran into a metal clothesline. Williams escaped again, and on Jan. 12 he showed back up at the female victim's home and slapped her in the face and left. He turned himself in to the sheriff's office Jan. 16 and was arrested.

Dwight Delano Parker, 38, of Lake Butler and Latisha Diane Parker, 38, of Lake Butler were arrested Jan. 14 by Union deputies, and both were charged with battery and disorderly conduct. According to the arrest report, the married couple got into an argument that escalated to a physical fight at the Kangaroo in Lake Butler.

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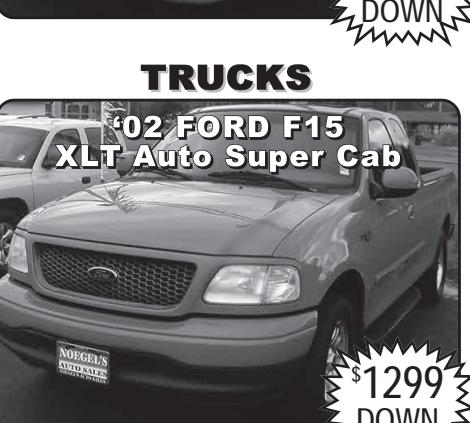
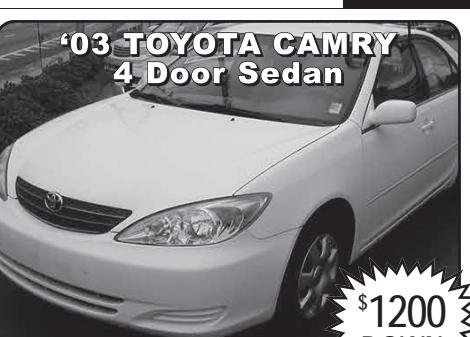
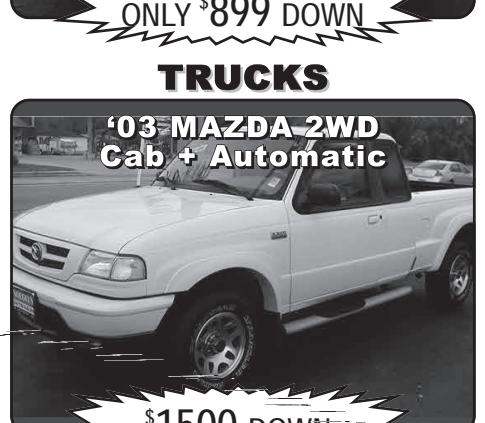
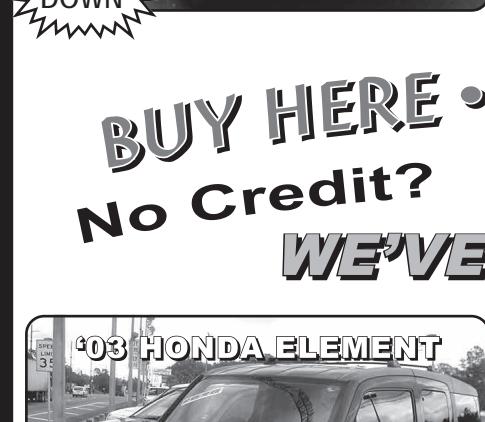
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Important info for 2014 Bradford County Fair

Vendor applications are now being accepted through the end of February for the Bradford County Fair, which is scheduled for March 11-16. (The side gates of the livestock barn will be open on March 8 for the annual 4-H goat show.)

Vendors can apply online by visiting www.bradfordcountyfair.net.

Rabbit and poultry entries will be accepted on March 8, while home division and arts and crafts entries will be accepted March 10 from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m.

The theme of this year's fair is "Bradford Big Top." Circus-type shows will be held twice daily and three times on Saturday on the midway.

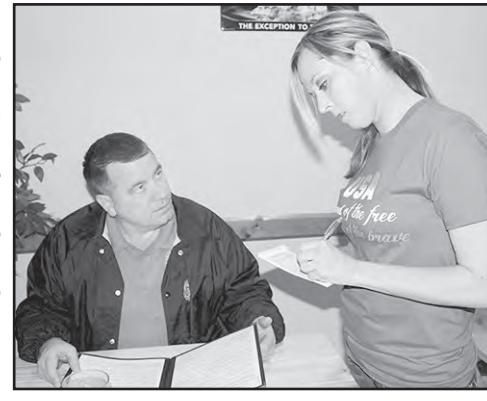
This year's fair also features a new midway provided by Deggeller Attractions, which

also provides the midway for the Clay County Fair.

For more information on the fair, please visit the aforementioned website, or call the fair office at 904-964-5252.



Katie Collins is ready to serve up a tray of drinks to get your meal started.



Bryant Gay, who was in town from Panama City to undergo training at the Bradford-Union Technical Center's truck-driving range, gives his order to Tammy Cooper.

PREVATT

Continued from 2B

home.

"It just seemed like a great opportunity for us to be together," Jackson said. "I mean, really, that was my whole goal—just to spend time with them."

The lack of restaurant experience and a bad time to open a business in light of the economy at the time did nothing to deter the family, which opened Prevatt's Sports Bar & Grill approximately four years ago.

"We just jumped in like idiots," Brandon said, laughing, with Jackson adding, "Yeah, we're not the smartest group in town. We just decided to go with it."

The start of the restaurant kept Brandon pretty busy.

"When we first opened the restaurant, technically Dad was still working full time for Delta, and my brother was still working full time for a mortgage company," he said. "I ran the restaurant pretty much night and day and lived in it for about a year."

"I don't think we really had time to figure out if we were successful or not. We just kind of rolled with it. There was just a ton of stuff to do all the time."

Now, there's a lot of work involved in trying to get a second restaurant established.

"You constantly have something to do," Brandon said. "There's a lot of responsibility."

Not only that, to have a successful restaurant in these smaller towns, you have to provide the customers with entertainment and things to do. Just coming and eating dinner isn't enough."

Prevatt's hosts poker and pool tournaments, for example, and offers cornhole on Tuesday nights.

Live music is also a staple of Prevatt's.

"We want you to come in and eat, but we want you to hang out for a little while, too," Brandon said. "Grab a beer, enjoy your friends, watch some sports, play a game."

Offering various activities and entertainment does not mean the Prevatt family members do not take pride in the food they serve. Prevatt's cuts its own chicken strips and steaks, and makes its own sauces and dressings.

Everything is cooked to order. "We cook everything fresh," Brandon said. "There's nothing under a heat lamp ever."

The menu offers the usual items you would find in any similar restaurant, but there are differences.

"We tried to make it a little different than your typical sports bar that specializes in wings and burgers," Jackson said. "I mean, we have those, and we have very good ones, but we came up with stuffed potatoes, which you don't see in many other places."

Brandon said the common belief is the simpler the menu, the better. Well, that doesn't

necessarily work in a small town where some people are apt to eat at a restaurant almost every day.

Therefore, Prevatt's offers quite an extensive list of items as well as rotating daily specials.

"We have options," Brandon said. "If you can't find three or four things on our menu you like, you might not like food much."

For the Prevatts, Starke is home; Middleburg is home. They want their restaurants to feel like home. It's why Jackson says employees work "with" the Prevatts instead of "for" the Prevatts.

"I don't really ever look as anybody working 'for' me," Jackson said. "They work 'with' us. We make it more of a family. You're part of it. You're not just an employee; you're part of this place."

The same goes for those who choose to stop and dine. The Prevatts want to chat with you and get to know you if they don't already.

Really, that's what makes the effort required to run a restaurant worth it.

"It's a lot of hard work, but it's fun work," Brandon said. "It's not really hard to get up and go hang out with your friends."

In the end, the Prevatts want to be more than restaurant owners. They want to become immersed in the communities they serve.

"You don't want to just be a business," Jackson said. "You want to be part of the fabric of what makes the community what it is. To do that, you need to participate. You need to be part of it."

It seems the Prevatts were destined to become a part of the Starke community. They don't know how those rumors of opening a restaurant in Starke began, but they're happy to now be there.

"It's like coming back home," Jackson said.



Gavin Cook (right) of the 8-10-year-old Bobcats chases after Carson Knight's (Panthers) flag.



Incredibles (5-7-year-old division) players (background, l-r) Bryson Huggins, Grayson Jennings and Foster Smith wait for the ball to be hiked by Ryland Rike.

Photos courtesy of Patricia Cook.

Bradford Parents Athletic Association flag football season is under way

The Bradford Parents Athletic Association kicked off its inaugural season of recreation flag football—open to boys and girls—on Jan. 11.

Two teams compete in the 5-7-year-old division, two teams compete in the 8-10 division and four teams compete in the 11-13 division.

Games, which are expected

to run through Feb. 22, are held on Saturday mornings at the Edwards Road Sports Complex.

This was offered as a winter sport because not much is available from Thanksgiving to Valentine's Day to keep kids physically active.

Members of the association said they were pleased with the turnout.

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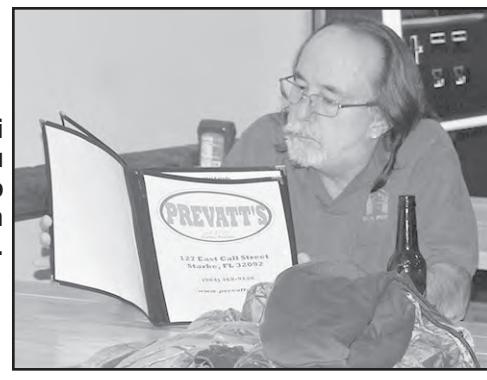
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Al Stefanelli looks the menu over during a trip to Prevatt's on Jan. 20.

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Jackson Prevatt and his girlfriend, Dreda Stone, look over the burger he ordered for dinner.

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**Keystone's
Brianna
Verschaeve puts
her foot into
it during the
Indians' 3-0 loss
to Santa Fe in
the District 5-2A
final. The Indians
will travel to
play Ocala
Trinity Catholic
in a regional
quarterfinal
match on
Thursday, Jan.
23.**

DISTRICT

Continued from 1B

saves on others. Perhaps Arzie's best play was a deflection of a hard shot up and over the goal in the 21st minute to keep the match scoreless.

Keystone's Hanna Crane had a one-on-one opportunity against the Santa Fe goalie approximately seven minutes into the second half, but couldn't convert.

Arzie made a nice leaping save of one shot in the second half, but the Raiders were able to put two balls into the net in the 11th and 15th minutes.

The Indians earned their 12th regional berth in their 14-year history by first defeating Newberry 9-1 in the district quarterfinals on Jan. 13 and then defeating Eastside 3-2 in the Jan. 16 semifinals.

Crane gave the Indians a 2-0

lead against Eastside, scoring two goals in the first 13 minutes of the second half. (Madison Colaw earned an assist on the second.) The Rams, though, would tie the score, with Emily Lam converting a penalty kick in the 60th minute and Courtney Rouse scoring in the 70th minute.

With approximately six minutes remaining, Crane added her third goal to give the Indians the win.

"They fought through and didn't give up," Seneca said.

The winner of the Keystone-Trinity Catholic regional quarterfinal match will play the winner between Santa Fe and Umatilla in a regional semifinal match on Tuesday, Jan. 28, at 7 p.m. If Keystone wins, it would have to travel to play either team.

Visit www.starkejournal.com to view more photos. (Membership required.)

KHHS boys advance to district soccer semifinals

Juan Grimaldo scored two



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- Pension, retirement income (1099-R)
- Social Security income (SSA-1099)
- Unemployment (1099-G)
- State tax refund (1099-G)
- Last year's tax return
- Childcare expenses and provider information
- Moving expenses
- Interest (1099-INT) & dividend (1099-DIV) income
- Commissions (1099-MISC)
- Sales of stocks or bonds (1099-B)
- Self-employed business income & expenses
- Lottery or gambling winnings/losses (W-2G)
- Alimony paid or received
- Education expenses (1098-T) & student loan interest (1098-E)
- Payments from qualified education programs (1099-Q)
- Rental property income and expenses
- Record of purchase or sale of residence (HUD and/or 1099-S)
- Medical and dental expenses
- Real estate and personal property taxes paid
- Estimated taxes or foreign taxes paid
- Cash and non-cash charitable contributions
- Mortgage or home equity loan interest paid (1098)
- Unreimbursed employment related expenses

goals, while Nacho Grimaldo had three assists in Keystone Heights High School's 7-0 win over Fort White in the quarterfinals of the District 5-2A tournament on Jan. 20 in Gainesville.

All matches are at Citizens Field in Gainesville.

In the win over eighth seed

seed Crescent City or fifth seed P.K. Yonge in a semifinal match on Wednesday, Jan. 22, at 7 p.m. If Keystone wins that matchup, it will play for the championship on Friday, Jan. 24, at 7 p.m.

All matches are at Citizens Field in Gainesville.

Prior to the start of the District 5 tournament, Keystone hosted defending Class 2A champion Bolles on Jan. 17, losing 3-1. Graziano had the lone goal.

BHS girls lose 2 of 3 district games

P.K. Yonge handed the Bradford High School girls' basketball team its second District 5-4A loss of the week, defeating the Tornadoes 60-24 on Jan. 17 in Gainesville.

Bradford (12-8, 6-4 in District 5) got nine and six points from Nyasia Davis and Tracey Kemp, respectively. Keshanna Ardley and Meghan Woods scored four and three points, respectively, while Mackenzie Gault had two points.

The Tornadoes started off the

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Original

OBITUARIES

Michael Hintz

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Michael K. Hintz, 60, of Keystone Heights, went to be with the Lord on Saturday, Jan. 18, 2014, at home surrounded by his family.

He was born on Sept. 21, 1953, in Leer, Germany, the son of Herbert Hintz and the late Marga Hintz. He was the oldest of three siblings, who include Rita (Hintz) Newnan and Frank Hintz.

He attended C.W. Post College in Long Island, N.Y., and later graduated from the University of Florida College of Pharmacy in 1996. He married his wife, Christine Hintz, on Oct. 9, 1976.

Some of Michael's favorite hobbies were golfing with friends at Keystone Golf and Country Club, hiking, traveling and spending time with his family.

He is survived by: his wife, Christy; daughter and son-in-law, Kimberly and Nathan McKnight; son and daughter-in-law, Matthew and Amalia Hintz and sons Mark Hintz and Kyle Hintz; grandson Leo Hintz; siblings Rita (Hintz) Newnan and Frank Hintz; nephews and niece Jim and Joe Schueler and Lilia and William Hintz; and father, Herbert Hintz.

A celebration of life service will be held at Keystone United

Methodist Church on Thursday, Jan. 23, 2014, at 3 p.m. Arrangements in the care of Countryside Funeral Home of Anthony.

PAID OBITUARY

William Hofmann

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—William Frank "Bill" Hofmann, 90, of Keystone Heights died in Starke Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2014. He was born July 24, 1923, in Chicago to the late William and Florence (Gillispie) Hofmann and had been a resident of Keystone for the past four years. He served in the United States Army during 1943–1946, and prior to retirement, he was an inspector for AT&T. He attended St. William Catholic Church in Keystone Heights.

He is survived by: his wife of 65 years, Glennette "Glenn"; children Debbie (Bill) Pransky of Elmhurst, Ill.; Denise (Bill) Teeter of Keystone Heights, Gary (Cindi) Hofmann of Algonquin, Ill.; and Rick (Karen) Hofmann of Crystal Lake, Ill.; and five grandchildren.

A funeral mass was held Jan. 17, at St. William Catholic Church, with Father Mike Williams officiating. Burial for Mr. Hofmann will be at later date. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral

Home of Keystone Heights.



Jeannette Mundell

Jeannette Mundell

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Mrs. Jeannette Mary Mundell, 71, of Keystone Heights passed away Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2014, at E.T. York Care Center in Gainesville. She was born Dec. 30, 1942, in Daytona Beach to the late George

and Theresa (Ahrendts) Meyers and has been a resident of the Keystone Heights area for the past 43 years. Prior to her retiring, she was an administrative assistant for Mid-Florida Area Agency on Aging. She was also a homemaker, member of Freedom Baptist Church and was an avid reader. She enjoyed shopping and watching movies, but most of all, she enjoyed spending time with her family. Mrs. Mundell was preceded in death by her grandson, Justin Curtis Disharoon.

Survivors are: her husband of 53 years, George H. Mundell; and their three children, Heather (Len) Bilton of Savannah, Ga., Shawn Mundell of Alpine, Tenn., and Tiffany (Kevin) Crowe of Roswell, Ga. Also left behind are five grandchildren, who knew her as "Memom," Austin Disharoon of Savannah, Ga., Nicolas Mundell and Tyler Mundell, both of Alpine, Tenn., and Errin Crowe and Payton Crowe, both of Roswell, Ga.

Funeral services were on Jan. 18 at Freedom Baptist Church, with Pastor Ken Herring officiating. The burial followed at Keystone Heights Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested contributions to be made to Radical Life Missions, P.O. Box 1248, Keystone Heights, FL 32656. Arrangements are under the care of

Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Keystone Heights.

PAID OBITUARY

Rodney Skaggs

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

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 26, at Keystone Heights AMVETS Post 86. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to 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.

Card of Thanks



Jerry Whitehead

Dear Union County Friends,
Only one month ago,
my children and I lost my
husband and their father,
Jerry Whitehead. It has been
a devastating personal loss to us.
Our focus has been solely
on grieving his loss and adjusting
to life without the genuine love
we all felt from and for him.

But this community has been
there for us. You can't imagine
how much you have helped us get
through this extremely painful
experience. We can't thank you
all enough for the outpouring
of love and support you have
shown our family. You calls,
visits, prayers and caring hearts
have helped us survive. There is
no way we could or can make it
without you.

I know Jerry is looking down
with deep gratitude for all you
have done for us in our grief.
How he loved the people of
Union County!

With truly grateful hearts,
Tammy, Chelsea, Jake, Jack-
Henry and Presley Whitehead

TRUCKS

Continued from 1B

to be repaired. I'm telling you, those repairs were not cheap. They were definitely on their last legs.

"Congressman Yoho made contact with the Department of Labor and told them of our predicament. He encouraged them to make a timely approval and transfer. The very next week, we had the go-ahead."

Added Farnsworth: "I want to thank him for his efforts in facilitating this transfer and help everyone understand this guy is truly dedicated to Bradford County."

For his part, Yoho said he was "excited to be able to partake in the transfer of the keys. This is an awesome thing." However, he deflected a lot of the credit to Clay Martin, his district director.

"Clay's one of those guys who sits in the background," Yoho said. "You don't hear much from him, but he's a worker. He does a lot of work. He gets things done. He knows how to work stuff through the system."

Reddish said thanks also go to Florida Gateway College's Tracy Hickman (vice president, operational programs), who was also present for the Jan. 17 key exchange.

Florida Gateway College once offered a truck-driving program, but it was last offered approximately two years ago, Reddish said. The two trucks the Bradford-Union Technical Center received from the college are 2008 models and each has approximately 21,000 miles on it. (The three road trucks the center has been using are 2000 models.)

"They're not really broken in until about 100,000 miles, so they're brand new to us," Abercrombie said. "They still smell new inside."

Now, the three trucks the Bradford-Union Technical Center was taking out on the road can be utilized strictly for training at the school's driving range.

"It worked out good because I don't know if the other ones could've made it on the road for another class," Abercrombie said. "Every student gets 1,000 miles (on the road). Right now, we have 12 students."

Farnsworth and Yoho both took an opportunity to look at the big picture. Farnsworth said the Bradford-Union Technical Center's commercial vehicle driving program has a graduation percentage in the high 90s and an employment rate of 100 percent, with many students getting



Robert Lyons, one of the Bradford-Union Technical Center's commercial vehicle driving instructors, looks on as somebody checks out the inside of one of the new vehicles.

hired prior to the program's completion.

"What our community will thrive on is putting people to work and helping people get behind the wheels of these trucks," Farnsworth said. "Currently, there are over 500,000 jobs across the United States in truck driving.

"For our community to be able to tap into those opportunities—it's just immeasurable the impact that can have."

Yoho said the commercial vehicle driving program is part

of the backbone of this country and is key to making this part of the state "recession proof."

"Has anybody here ever bought anything? We go to a store, right? That stuff just doesn't show up there," Yoho said. "It's got to be driven there. The freight line and the truckers are the backbone of getting product around this country. Yeah, the rails are out there, too, and they do a fantastic job, but it's got to go from the rail to the store. If it wasn't for the truckers of this great country of ours and our road system, we

wouldn't have the convenience and the products we have on our shelves.

"These programs are so important. It creates jobs. It makes this community stronger. Our goal is to make North Central Florida—the Third Congressional District of Florida—the economic driver, not just for the state, but for the Southeast."

The commercial vehicle driving program at the Bradford-Union Technical Center has been helping supply drivers toward that end since the 1970s.

"It was the first truck-driving program in the state of Florida," Farnsworth said. "That's saying a lot. The fact that we're honoring this program with two beautiful, new trucks is just a great thing to see."

It was an event to match the child's excitement of waking up on Dec. 25.

"Like the superintendent said, it's like Christmas all over again," Reddish said. "We couldn't believe it. We were pinching ourselves on (Jan. 15) when we actually transferred the titles."

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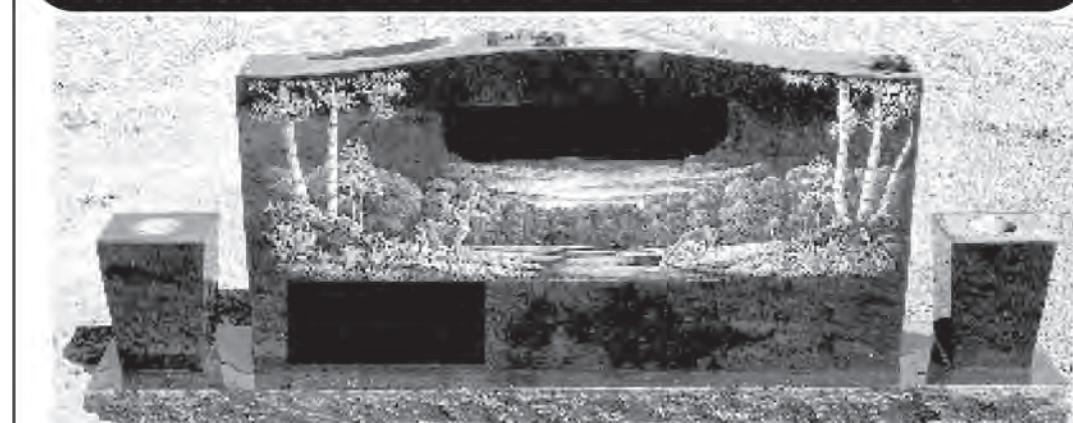


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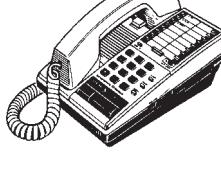
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40 Notices

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY. All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777, the toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275. For further information call Florida Commission on Human Relations, Lisa Sutherland 850-488-7082 ext #1005.

YARD SALE BENEFIT FOR LAURA CROFT Family, friends and Palestine Hunting Club is sponsoring a Yard Sale, Cake Auction & Chicken Pilau Dinner sale at the Lulu Community center on February 1st, at 8:00 am. Cake Auction to begin @ 11am. If you would like to reserve a table or donate items, contact Connie Davis @496-3058 or 496-3062.

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ABOVE: Luci Hamm gets a successful lift for Bradford. **RIGHT:** Bradford's Jordan Davis competes in the bench press.



LIFT

Continued from 5B

total (95, 105) in the 110 class; Olivia Archer 190 total (199, 90), Lauryn Hill 180 total (90, 90), Taylyn Jackson 180 total (80, 100) and Amanda Young 170 total (85, 85) in the 119 class; Leah Bryant 205 total (90, 115) and Kayla Johns 160 total (75, 85) in the 129 class; Carson Elder 180 total (80, 100) in the 139 class; Brittany Broome 160 total (65, 95) and Janie Perry 145 total (70, 75) in the 154 class; Ryann Clemons 205 total (95, 110) and Sydnie

Davis 200 total (105, 95) in the 169 class; Courtney Stanton 215 total (115, 100) and Shannon Mikell 185 total (90, 95) in the 183 class; Brooke Shireman 225 total (105, 120) in the 199 class; and Ashleigh Williams 235 total (130, 105) and Morneca Campbell 200 total (110, 90) in the unlimited class.

Keystone's results were as follows: Juliana Kraemer 100 total (50, 50) in the 101 class; Julia Sorano 195 total (115, 80), Blair Graff 125 total (60, 65) and Rebecca West 120 total (60, 60) in the 110 class; Kayla Baker 175 total (85, 90) in the 119 class; Alyssa Sorano 175 total

(105, 70) in the 129 class; Jolene Miller 190 total (95, 95) in the 139 class; Rachael Maddox 140 total (75, 65) in the 154 class; Tylyn Davis 220 total (110, 110) in the 183 class; and Victoria Gilio 210 total (100, 110), Ashlee Smith 210 total (105, 105) and Ciera Conley 195 total (110, 85) in the unlimited class.

The team standings from third place through 12th place were: Fleming Island (28), Lecanto (20), Bradford (19), Ridgeview (17), Interlachen (11), Bellevue (6), Bishop Snyder (4), Keystone (2), Forest (2) and Santa Fe (1).

Visit www.starkejournal.com for more photos. (Membership required.)

Tornadoes took perfect record into invitational

Bradford High School had a 5-0 record in girls' weightlifting for the first time in school

history prior to competing in the Keystone Heights High School Invitational.

In a 46-39 win over Palatka, Karen Clark, Christin Hopkins, Autumn Rodgers, Jordan Davis and Haley Sweat won their respective weight classes, while Luci Hamm, Kierston Boatwright, Olivia Archer, Leah Bryant, Courtney Stanton, Shannon Mikell and Ashleigh Williams each placed second. Third-place finishes were earned by Carson Elder, Brittany Broome and Ryann Clemons.

Five lifters placed first in a 49-36 win over Ridgeview: Hamm, Clark, Rodgers, Mikell and Sweat. Boatwright, Hopkins, Bryant, Jadeja Chandler, Brooke Shireman and Williams each placed second, while Archer, Davis, Broome and Stanton each placed third.

In a 55-33 win over Interlachen, Hamm, Clark, Hopkins, Davis, Stanton and Sweat each placed first, while Boatwright, Archer, Rodgers, Broome, Clemons, Mikell and Shireman each placed second. Bryant, Elder, Chandler and Williams each placed third.



ABOVE: Julia Sorano competes in the clean and jerk for Keystone. **LEFT:** Keystone's Jolene Miller is pictured during the bench press.



Bradford's Brittany Broome gets a successful clean-and-jerk attempt as teammate Janie Perry looks on.

Crosshorn meeting

Lauren Watine, a biologist with the University of Florida, was the guest speaker at the Jan. 17 Crosshorn Ministries meeting. Watine covered the results of a two-year study on the impact of coyote predation on the local wildlife population. The study leaves little doubt that the coyote is having no good influence on our native wildlife.

Another suggestion Fitts gives fishermen and hunters is to fish and hunt according to the solunar charts. He emphatically stresses that one can surely see more game activity during the major and minor feeding times. When asked about a correlation between cattle grazing and fish/game activity, he was careful to not dismiss it, but he did say that he thought wild game and birds would be a better indicator than domestic cattle.

Fitts is an honest outdoorsman who truly knows his business, and he works hard at making the activities he is passionate about into a living. If you ever want some assistance or want to entertain a friend with turkey hunting, bass fishing, crappie fishing or alligator hunting, this man can help.

Coyotes are the talk at

Springtime is just around the corner. Many of our small

wildlife are already getting romantic or will be in the next month.

Watch out on the roads at night for foxes, bobcats, raccoons and

skunks. They are like teenage humans at this time of the year and somewhat irrational.

Likewise, many of the songbirds will also become territorial. Woodpeckers will start drumming their amorous tunes on trees, posts and even housing metal.

The crappie spawn will soon be over, and bass will soon be fanning.

For just a little longer, the crappie bite will maintain its number-one spot in the freshwater fishing world—at least until the bass start fanning. Appropriately so, the professional USA Crappie Tournament was held on Jan. 18 at Crescent Lake near Palatka. T.C. Lloyd, a local crappie resource and guide from Middleburg who fished the tournament, tells us that the crappie spawn is still delayed this year due to the cold, and he names Newnans Lake as the best performing crappie lake in our area.

If you are interested in bow fishing or freshwater sight fishing, this is a great time of the year. Mullet and tilapia are attracted to the relatively warm water of the spring runs that eventually connect to the east and west coasts. The two fish are easily seen, and the tilapia are easily hit with a fishing bow. The mullet are much harder to target with arrows, but they readily bite small, natural baits and small flies. Once hooked, they provide a great fight.

Tight lines and safe hunting until next week.

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.

FINS, FUR & TAILS

Fulfilling a passion for the outdoors

Ever since the age of 12, Jeff Fitts has been a resident of Keystone Heights and an avid outdoorsman. Fitts' wife is a teacher in Gainesville, and his two daughters are attending the University of Florida. Also, his son is a junior at Keystone Heights High School.

"Well diversified, but solid outdoors" seems to be a good description of Fitts. Even his self-employment work of removing unwanted vegetation like lake grass is easily scheduled around his guide trips and fishing tournaments.

During the winter, he likes

Jeff Fitts displays a tournament catch. Fitts is a competitive fisherman throughout the year.



to hunt and guide for turkey. Throughout the year, he is a competitive bass fisherman with the Rayovac FLW professional series.

As if that wasn't enough, he guides and hunts alligators during the summer.

If he had to choose between those activities, he would probably be in trouble, but he

In looking for ideas that would

admitted that he has a really strong passion for bass fishing.

When prodded about other outdoors activities, Fitts indicated that he had worked with Shaw Grigsby and Kim Stricker on some television programs. Apparently, Fitts provides information and equipment for their camera crews.

In looking for ideas that would

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