

UNION COUNTY TIMES

USPS 648-200 — LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA

THURSDAY, FEB. 27, 2014

101ST YEAR — 44TH ISSUE — 75 CENTS

etc.

Education scholarship available to women

The Alpha Nu Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma is offering a \$500 scholarship for a Bradford-Union area female graduate and/or resident. The purpose of the scholarship is to encourage and enable them to obtain a degree in the field of education.

Applicants must be enrolled full time at an accredited college or university and near completion of two years (four semesters) of undergraduate coursework. An official copy of an applicant's transcript and three letters of recommendation are required.

For more information and an application, please call 904-964-6186 or 352-468-6884.

Special Union County Commission meeting, Feb. 27 at noon

The Union County Board of County Commissioners will hold a special meeting on Thursday, Feb. 27, at noon.

The Tea Party hosting meeting, Feb. 27

A Tea Party is hosting a meeting on Thursday, Feb. 27, at 6:30 p.m. at the Townsend-Green Building.

LBES annual spring play, Feb. 27

Lake Butler Elementary School will host their annual spring play on Thursday, Feb. 27, at 7 p.m. at the Union County High School Auditorium.

This one-hour musical entitled "Joust!" will be performed by third- and fourth-grade students under the direction of LBES Music Director Pam Higginbotham.

Tickets are \$2 each and all LBES students are free.

FBLA fundraiser, Feb. 28 and March 1

Dimple's and FBLA invite you to attend "Kick off to Spring" Shopping Days. Shop at Dimple's on Friday Feb. 28 and Saturday, March 1, and 15 percent of your pre-tax purchase will support FBLA for its state competition.

Dimple's is located across from Spires IGA on the north side of State Road 100.

UF Early Steps spring festival, March 1

University of Florida North Central Early Steps, a support program for children with special needs and their families, will co-host a Spring Festival and Agency Fair with Children's Medical Services and Alachua County Public Schools.

This free event will feature hearing and vision screenings as well as face painting, arts and crafts and a puppet show. Representatives from more than 30 agencies and businesses will be on hand with information about their services for people with developmental delays and/or disabilities.

Early Steps serves several counties including Union.

Festival will be at Lincoln Middle School, 1001 SE 12th St. in Gainesville, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 1.

Congressman Yoho visits new Republican club at UCHS

Shares thoughts on the American Dream

BY VINCENT ALEX BROWN
Times Editor

A month ago, Case Emerson pulled off a coup: He was able to get Rep. Ted Yoho to come speak to his new Teen Age Republican Club he and friends are starting at Union County High School. Admittedly Emerson had a little help from his mother, Charlotte, who got the ball rolling thanks to her connection to a Yoho staff member.

Later, the congressman invited Case and fellow students Kent Coburn and Reed

Cothren to attend a Young Republicans event at Yoho's home for Super Bowl night, giving them an opportunity to mingle with fellow high school and college Republicans.

All that will prove to be a big help to Emerson and his friends grow the new club, which he co-founded with Cobrun because they felt there was a need.

"We just got to talking in one of my classes—a few buddies of mine—and we wanted to start a Republicans



Rep. Ted Yoho speaks to members of the new Teen Age Republicans Club at UCHS and other students attending for extra credit. School Board Vice Chairperson Becky Raulerson and club co-founder and president Case Emerson listen in the foreground.

See YOHO, 2A



ABOVE: Prom King Brent Norman and Queen Kristin Akers



LEFT: Danielle Perry and Ossie Williams dance the night away.

BELOW: Noah Kight with his mom Gwen.



BACK TO THE FUTURE

Students enjoy 5th Annual Celebration of Abilities Prom

BY VINCENT ALEX BROWN
Times Editor

The 5th Annual Celebration of Abilities Prom was held on Friday, Feb. 21, with a theme of "Shake, Rattle and Roll," remembering the '50s with classic cars out front and students dressed in rock 'n' roll getups.

The new 2014 Prom King and Queen were crowned: Brent Norman and Kristin Akers

Special guests in attendance were the 2014 Bradford Fest Queen and Strawberry Queen Kelsey Harrison—who created the prom four years ago—2014 Miss U-Co High 1st Runner-Up and Strawberry Princess Alexa Rae Park, 2014 Bradford Fest Teen Queen Ashley Harris and 2014 Miss U-Co High Savannah Woodall.

This prom is a special celebration for students of exceptionalities in Union County, allowing them to celebrate their special abilities and to have a special night dedicated just to them.

Sponsors for this event were Knuckle Draggers, Odom & Moses, Royals Homes, Union Medical Supply, Love-N-Care Preschool, Gainell Elixson, Spires IGA, Alvin Griffis, Ronnie Pruitt, Dipped Delights, TD Bank, Union County High School Athletic Departments, Peggy Cason, George Green, Lisa Johnson, Pritchett Trucking, Robert Osborne, Christine Kight, Kammy Highland, Lola Lacy and CareerSource Florida Crown.



ABOVE: Akers (center) is surrounded by royalty: (L-r) Strawberry Princess Alexa Rae Park, Miss U-Co High Savannah Woodall, Bradford Fest Queen and Strawberry Queen Kelsey Harrison and Bradford Fest Teen Queen Ashley Harris.

BELOW: Deanna Truett with her mom Danna.



Collins Institute report warns of tougher choices ahead for Florida

Finds need for stronger leadership and engaged citizens to improve Florida

On Feb. 20, Florida State University's LeRoy Collins Institute (LCI) released a new research report, "Tougher Choices: Shaping Florida's Future," which examines the past and predicts the future in state revenues, demographics, the Florida Retirement System, K-12 education, higher education and infrastructure.

The report, which is authored by economists from the Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR) at the University of Florida, is an update of the Tough Choices series of reports that have been released by LCI since 2005.

Tougher Choices revisits the findings of the original "Tough Choices" report concluding that Florida is not on course to realize its true economic potential. While the outlook is unsettling, "Tougher Choices" homes in on the "tough decisions" Florida's leaders and citizens can make to put the state on the right path.

"Almost 10 years ago, the LeRoy Collins Institute published "Tough Choices: Shaping Florida's Future," which analyzed Florida's revenue and spending trends and found that, while Florida certainly has boundless economic potential, there were tough decisions to be made to achieve that potential," said Dr. Carol Weissert, LCI Director and political science professor at Florida State University. "This report, 'Tougher Choices,' revisits these concerns and, unfortunately, finds that Florida has made little progress in addressing the key issues outlined in our initial report. We hope this new report will help to further illustrate the challenges facing the state and inspire appropriate reforms."

The report's eight chapters re-examine Florida's past and future economic state and draw conclusions that can be used to create positive action in the areas of education, health care, infrastructure, retirement and more. Key findings include:

- Florida's education system is struggling across the spectrum—from K-12 through higher education. Funding for the state's public schools is lagging, and Florida's high school graduates are becoming less likely to earn a college degree than their peers in other states.

- Florida's reliance on retirees and tourists comes at a price as the demands of older residents and vacationers are disproportionately linked to lower-paid service jobs. To make matters worse, growing Medicaid demands due to baby boomer

See REPORT, 2A

etc.

Critical meeting for Project G.R.A.D. being held on March 3

To the parents of the Class of 2014: Project G.R.A.D. is in need of your involvement in order for it continuing to be a great tradition for Union County High School's graduating students.

The few parents that have been involved in the monthly meetings and fundraisers are considering canceling the event. At this time, there are not enough parents to put this event on safely.

In order to continue preparing for Project G.R.A.D., they must have all parents of graduating seniors involved.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 3, at 6:00 p.m. at Lake Butler Middle School. A decision to cancel or to continue will be made at that time. They hope to see all parents of this year's graduating class at that meeting.



UCHS and LBMS football banquets, March 4

The Union County High School and Lake Butler Middle School football banquets will be held Tuesday, March 4, at 6:30 p.m.

The Varsity & JV team dinners will be at the UCHS cafeteria. The middle school teams will be at LBMS cafeteria.

Both teams will join together at 7:30 p.m. in the UCHS auditorium for the awards ceremony.

Revival in Worthington Springs, March 5-8

Evangelist Charles Hunt will give the prophetic word out during a revival each night at 7 p.m., March 5-8, at United Methodist Church in Fellowship with New Jerusalem Full Gospel Church on S.R. 121 in Worthington Springs.

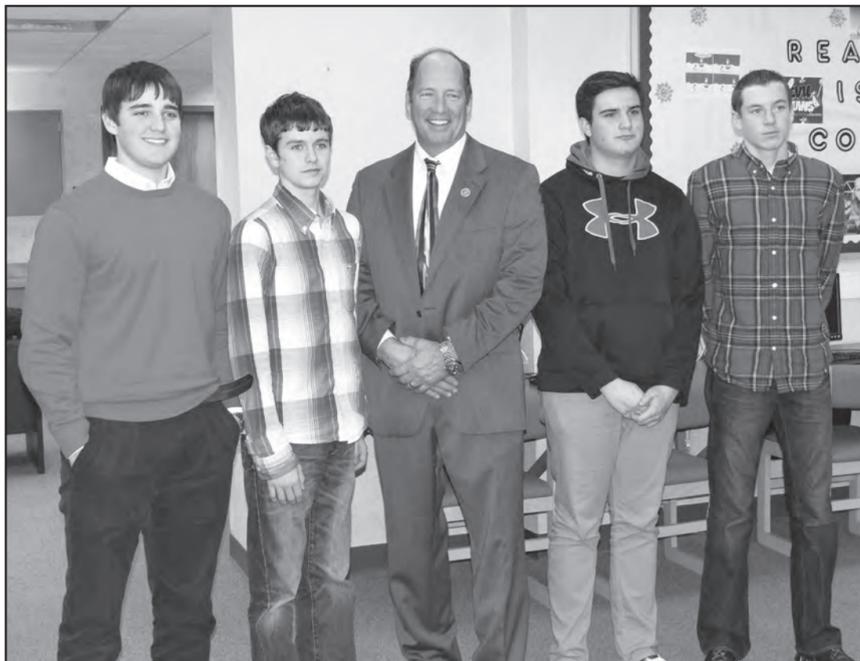
Everyone is welcome. For more information call 386-496-1461.

Classic car cruise-in at the lake, Mar. 7

North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce is hosting a classic car cruise-in down by the lake in Lake Butler on Friday, March 7, from 5 to 8 p.m.

Besides, of course, classic cars from the area, the year's first Friday Fest Cruz will feature train rides, door prizes, a 50/50 drawing, food and music.

There are no entry fees. Learn more at www.starkecruz.com.



Club officers: (L-r) Case Emerson, Noah Wright, Yoho, Reed Cothren and Kent Coburn.

YOHO

Continued from 1A

club here at the high school," Emerson said. "We kind of felt the need, and we felt like we had enough interest."

He added, "Florida's actually pretty big in the Teen Age Republicans. It's a pretty good showing—kind of one of the larger of all the states. And we kind of wanted to be a part of that."

According to Emerson, this is the first politically based club at the high school.

The new organization actually has to go through a probationary period to prove they have enough interest to warrant becoming an official club.

Emerson serves as president, Coburn as vice president, Cothren as secretary and Noah Wright as treasurer. Their adviser is science teacher Renae Allen.

And though membership is only at about a dozen so far, it's a start that Emerson is committed to growing throughout the year.

The club members will help with elections by doing things like holding campaign signs and assisting candidates, and members will gain an understanding of the political process, develop leadership skills and participate in community service.

According to the Teen Age Republicans (TARS) website, "TARS is a national, youth-based organization challenging, training and assisting teens to become involved in their local, state and national political processes. ... TARS, College Republicans and Young Republicans are the only auxiliaries of the Republican Party."

At the high school's new club meeting that Yoho spoke at, Emerson thanked the Union County School Board, UCHS Principal Mike Ripplinger and Allen for allowing them to start the club, and then introduced the congressman by presenting a brief bio of the former large

animal veterinarian.

(According to his official website, Yoho and his wife, Carolyn, sold his practice in 2010 "to focus their time and energy on a new passion—Our Nation." She owned court reporter agencies; he veterinarian practices.)

Yoho, 58, represents Florida's 3rd District, which includes the entire counties of Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Suwannee and Union, along with the majority of Alachua and Clay counties, half of Madison county and a section of Marion county.

He spoke to the new club members and other students and adults there in attendance.

"It's a great turnout," Yoho began. "It must have been the Rice Krispies Treats, right? That, and you guys are getting credit for showing up here, right—extra credit for your grade?"

"We are?" one student asked, to much laughter.

"I appreciate the introduction and I appreciate your emails that you sent us," the congressman told Emerson.

Yoho then told everyone, "I want to congratulate you and commend you being here, getting involved. This is so important."

Yoho says it surprises people when he tells them he first met his wife of 39 years in the fourth grade. They eventually married on Valentine's Day, which is fitting for such a romantic tale. "It's been a great ride," he said. "They have three grown children: Katie, Lauren and Tyler."

The congressman described him and his wife as "broke, busted and disgusted," saying they both came from broken homes. For example, his family's house was repossessed when he was 15 and "there wasn't anybody to fall back on."

"But we knew this: We knew if we got an education; we knew if we worked; and if we applied ourselves—because we lived in America, we could take advantage of that opportunity that is so unique to this country—and if we kept working that we could achieve that thing we call 'the American Dream,'" he said.

"And some people talk about the American Dream as bygone era. What do you guys think? Is the American Dream irrelevant? Don't ever let it not become relevant."

He then introduced his chief of staff, Kat Cammack, who "put our campaign together and got us off on the right track," he said, praising her.

"But don't ever let anybody say the American Dream is dead," Yoho continued.

He relayed an encounter he had with a couple from Great Britain while visiting Washington, D.C., shortly after being elected to Congress.

After the woman finished berating America, "I said, 'Ma'am, when you were a little girl growing up "across the pond," did you aspire to achieve "the English Dream?"'

"She goes, 'Well, of course not, there is no such thing.'"

"And I pulled out my (U.S.) Constitution—a small bound copy that Yoho carries in his pocket everywhere—"I said, 'Ma'am, we've got a thing called "the Constitution" that allows us to have the American Dream. And I think I'll hold on to both of these and you have a nice time while you're in America,'" at which the audience laughed.

He drove home the point, saying, "The uniqueness of what we have in this country—and I do believe that America is unique and that we are exceptional, for

that document, because it says, 'All men are created equal.'

"Our rights come from a creator, not from government."

"Government is instilled by men and women to protect those God-given rights. I mean that's in our founding papers, that's in our document."

"This document just didn't develop with our founding fathers," the congressman continued. "This document came from hundreds of years of trial-and-error, starting with the Magna Carta, the Mayflower Compact and a couple other in-between."

"Now we've got this"—Yoho said while holding up his pocket-sized copy of the U.S. Constitution. "Is this a perfect document? No! It's the best thing on the planet, though."

"And through the processes that were set up, we can refine and change it as needed, and it's something that can't be done rapidly. And that's a good thing, because you can't get somebody who just wants to come in there and change it."

"And so the uniqueness of America is that anybody, regardless of your background or regardless of where you come from or your political affiliation, or what your parents did or didn't do for you; you know, what your coach or teacher did or didn't do for you or say for you; or where you even come from—in this country, you take advantage of that opportunity—and when I say, 'advantage,' it's taking work and applying work to that opportunity—and if you do that, you can achieve for the level of achievement you desire."

"No place else on the planet can you reach that level of success. I believe that with all my heart, and I feel it's under attack in this country," adding that others believe that too.

Yoho then went on to explain why, talked about issues in Congress, shared his voting record and discussed the future, challenging everyone to vote, on whomever they decide, but to vote nonetheless.

Afterward he answered questions, talked with students and adults in attendance and signed autographs. Cammack handed out a thin, book-size bound copy of the U.S. Constitution to anyone who wanted it.

To learn more about Yoho, his voting record and Florida's 3rd Congressional District, visit <http://yoho.house.gov>.

To learn more about TARS, visit www.teenagerepublicans.org.

REPORT

Continued from 1A

retirements and labor market polarization will likely lead to greater expenditures for the state in the near future.

• Florida's transportation congestion is among the worst in the country, especially in urban areas. The state continues to lack an appropriate amount of roads for its growing population, which is only compounded by its aging infrastructure and overcrowded highways.

"Twenty-five years ago Florida was closing in on building a diversified economy that could attract high-skill jobs, and modest continued investment might have gotten us there. Now, we have fallen far behind, and the investment needed to close the gap is huge," said Jim Dewey, a co-author of the report and Director of Economic Analysis for BEBR.

"Providing great vacations and comfortable golden years for retirees can provide a happy enough life for many Floridians. But, we could have done better. Perhaps we still can, but the cost will be much higher. We hope this report helps Floridians and their leaders make informed decisions that move the state in a positive direction."

Through the release of 'Tougher Choices,' LCI seeks to encourage public conversation on the future of the state and policies that can help it live up to its potential.

"Though recovery from the Great Recession is near at last, Florida now faces even tougher challenges than in 2005," said David Denslow, a co-author of the report and a Research Economist at BEBR.

"By highlighting structural trends and data-driven interpretative comparisons with other states, the LeRoy Collins Institute will help citizens make their own judgments about how their state can meet these challenges and what direction it should choose."

A full copy of the report can be viewed here: <http://fla.st/1JRY6gK>.

For more information about this report and others published by the LeRoy Collins Institute, visit www.collinsinstitute.fsu.edu.

Russ WADE

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Princess contestants



Shannon Rosier
Daughter of Donald and Linda Rosier of Raiford.
She is sponsored by Nicaragua Missions & Outreach Foundation, and Geraldine Griffis Hair Salon.



Shelby McDowell
Daughter of Cordellia McDowell of Lake Butler and Tearle McDowell of Tampa.
She is sponsored by North Florida Cheer Camps.



Bobbie Grace Barber
Daughter of Robert and Rhonda Barber of Lake Butler.
She is sponsored by Decker & Pomeranz Dentistry, and Stan and Bobbie Lehman.



Ciarra Hopkins
Daughter of Chris and Angie Hopkins of Starke.
She is sponsored by Knuckle Draggers and Bradford Preschool.



Madison Gibson
Daughter of Bobby and Narie Gibson of Lake Butler.
She is sponsored by Gene and Shary Gordon, and GatorForce Technologies.



Mykayla McLeod
Daughter of Nick and Kellie McLeod of Keystone Heights.
She is sponsored by Allstars Twirling Academy and Alyssa Chappell Photography.

Queen contestants

52nd Annual Miss Bradford-Union Strawberry Pageant, March 1
Six of 10 contestants come from Union Co.

The 52nd Annual Miss Bradford-Union Strawberry Pageant will be held next Saturday, March 1, in the Bradford High School auditorium beginning at 7 p.m. There are 10 amazing contestants between the ages of 13 and 24 this year, according to Executive Directory Laruen VanDuzer, and contestants will take home more than \$4,000 in prizes. Six contestants are vying for Strawberry Princess, and four are in the running for Strawberry Queen.



Farrah Duhart
Daughter of Anthony and Ireta Duhart of Lawtey.
She is sponsored by Brenda Thornton and Lisa Tatum.



Hannah Tucker
Daughter of Jay and Marcie Tucker of Lake Butler.
She is sponsored by Emerson Nursery and Rental Plants, and Hair Biz.



Allayna Norris
Daughter of Michael Smith and Tori Norris-Smith of Starke.
She is sponsored by Charmelle Whittemore Realty.



Ashley O'Steen
Daughter of Paul O'Steen of Lake Butler.
She is sponsored by Shatto Heating & Air Inc., and Kirkland Concrete LLC.

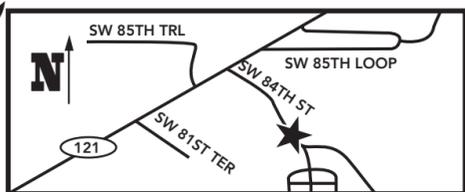


The Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Union County Commission are sponsoring a project to collect, recycle, treat and properly dispose of these **Household Hazardous Wastes.**

WANTED

Aerosol Cans	Gasoline	Photographic Solutions
Antifreeze	Household Cleaners	Poisons
Batteries	Household Electronics	Pool Chemicals
Computers	Insecticides	Propane Tanks
Corrosives	Medications	Televisions
Diesel/Transmission Fluid	Oil Filters	Used Oil
Emergency Flares	Paint & Paint Products	
Fertilizers	Paint Thinners	
Fluorescent Lamps	Pesticides	

Saturday, March 8th
Union County Road/Solid Waste Department, 9am-3pm



CALL JIMMY BEASLEY AT 386-496-2180
FOR MORE INFORMATION.

- !DANGEROUS!** **!NOT WANTED!**
- If a container leaks, pack it in a larger container with an absorbent material such as cat litter or oil absorbent.
 - Do not mix different or unknown materials together.
 - Containers **MUST** be labeled.
 - If you cannot identify the contents then label it unknown.
 - Pack the containers in boxes with dividers.
 - Explosives such as ammunition, dynamite and blasting agents.
 - Reactives such as crystallized ethers, picric acid and sodium and phosphorus metals.
 - Radioactive or infectious wastes.

UC Riding Club saddles up to support St. Jude Hospital

17th annual event to raise funds for kids

BY JOHN JOHNS
Special to the Times

The Union County Riding Club is hosting their 17th Annual Saddle Up for St. Jude 10-mile trail ride on Saturday, March 1, at 9 a.m. at Swift Creek Cemetery located north of Lake Butler on County Road 231 North. The event gives equestrians the opportunity to mount up and

raise funds to help support the lifesaving mission of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Located in Memphis, Tenn., it is one of the world's premier pediatric cancer research centers. The event will include free lunch at the halfway point of the trail, complements of Avery Roberts, and a raffle drawing at the completion of the trail with prizes donated and purchased by the riding club and their members. Local businesses have also donated prizes.

Members and volunteers have raised thousands of dollars for St. Jude since the club's first event in 1998. This year's goal is \$8,000. "We look forward to this event to help raise awareness and funds for the kids of St. Jude," said event coordinator John Johns. "The Saddle Up for St.

Jude event brings together horse enthusiasts in Union and the surrounding counties for a good cause to support the mission of St. Jude of finding cures to treat deadly childhood diseases.

"We get to enjoy what we do—ride our horses—while helping those in need."

Since its founding in 1962 by entertainer Danny Thomas, St. Jude has treated children from all 50 states and around the world. No child is ever denied treatment because of a family's inability to pay. With a daily operating cost of \$1.9 million, St. Jude depends mostly on public contributions and fundraising events such as Saddle Up for St. Jude.

The riding club's event is sponsored by many local businesses. Individuals may also contribute by sponsoring the event or riders online, and learn more about the event at <http://tinyurl.com/saddleupstjude>.

To learn more about the Union County Riding Club, visit www.unionridingclub.com. For more information about the club or event, contact John Johns at 352-222-0203 or johnsmel@gmail.com.

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RMC, DOC find success with Florida GED program

Record number of inmates earning diplomas

The Education Department at the Reception and Medical Center in Lake Butler is showing great success with the Florida GED program. They currently have 72 students enrolled in Inmate Tutor Assisted Classes.

Frank Quinn is ITA teacher and he has seven inmate tutors that assist him between RMC – Main Unit, RMC – West Unit and RMC – Work Camp.

Evan Brown is the Special Education teacher. He works with those inmates that are verified as Special Education from school records and are under the age of 22. RMC currently has a dozen Special Education students.

These inmates attend classes throughout the week and are TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education) tested every three months to check progress. Once they receive qualifying scores on their TABE, they are given the Pre-GED, in preparation for the Florida GED.

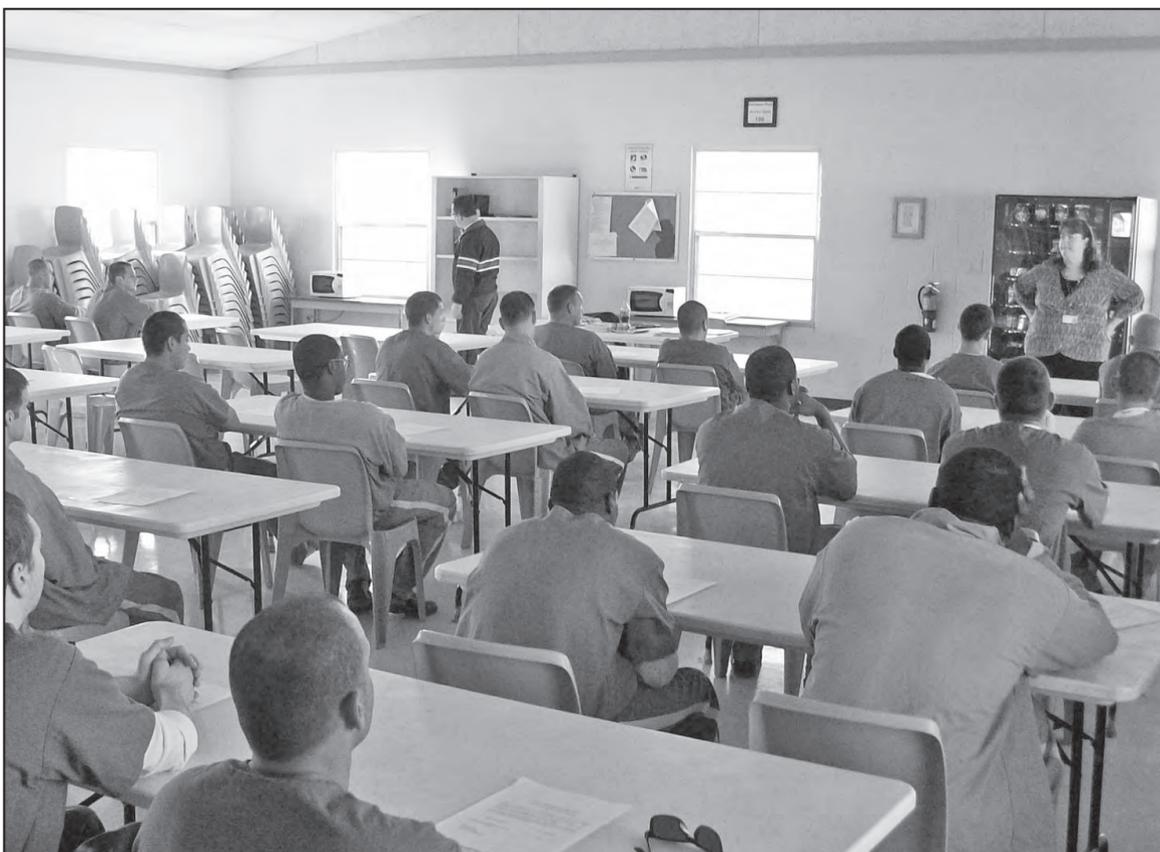
In the past year RMC has

had 40 inmates participate in formal graduation services and this month they will have seven others graduate. This program supports the Dept. of Corrections' motto of "Changing Lives to Ensure a Safer Florida."

This week RMC received outstanding news from Region 2 Program Manager Nathan Herrod, who said, "Congratulations to you and your staff. Because of the combined efforts of staff members across departments, inmates earned 1,025 GED diplomas in the second quarter of 2013. This is the largest quarterly GED total on record."

"Many of your facilities earned the highest number of diplomas in your institution's history."

RMC was also informed that the statewide count for GEDs awarded in the first two quarters of this fiscal year is 1,720. This shows progress toward DOC's re-entry efforts.



WS man deploys to Afghanistan

Senior Airman Kody Williams was deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan, on Feb. 22 from MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa. This is his second deployment to Afghanistan, as well as being deployed to Qatar and South Korea. Williams has been enlisted in the U.S. Air Force since 2007 prior to graduating from Buchholz High School in Gainesville. He is the son of Jack and Debbie Asbury of Worthington Springs (pictured) and Phillip Williams of Arizona; siblings, Nichole (Aron) McRae of Providence and John Johnson of Worthington Springs. He is also the grandson of the former John and Evelyn Brackett of Worthington Springs.

LBMS baseball team defeats Chiefland after late game double, 12-7

Also takes down P.K. Yonge, 5-4

BY AARON TETSTONE
LBMS Head Baseball Coach

The Lake Butler Middle School Tigers baseball team and Chiefland Middle exchanged the lead six times on Monday, Feb. 24, but the Tigers ended up on top with a 12-7 win in five innings over Chiefland.

Lake Butler finally managed to grab the lead after a strong fourth inning. The Tigers scored on a two-run double by Marcus Howard, plating Caden Cox and A.J. Russell.

Marcus reached base three times in the game for the Lake Butler. He scored two runs and had two RBIs.

The Tigers jumped out to an early 3-0 lead in the top of the first. A single by Garrett Allen, bringing home Caden started the inning off. They then tacked on more runs when Russell and Trevor Rogers scored on a wild pitch.

Chiefland survived Tigers' surge and put up two runs of its own in the third. Chiefland Middle scored on an error and a wild pitch.

A.J. recorded the win for Lake Butler. He allowed zero runs and struck out two over 1 2/3 innings.

The Tigers tacked on another six runs in the fifth. A sacrifice fly scored Matthew Starling and Wyatt Lugenbeel to get Lake Butler on the board in the inning. That was followed up by Garrett's single, scoring Caden.

Due to the two-hour time limit rule, the game only lasted five innings. Colton Elixson and the Tigers were able to hold Chiefland to two runs in the bottom of the fifth inning. Colton struck out two and forced a fly ball to end the game.

The Tigers defeated P.K. Yonge on Tuesday, 5-4, at home and now face Lake City Middle on Thursday, Feb. 27, also at home. Game time is 4:30 p.m.

Truck catches fire in 3-car accident

BY VINCENT ALEX BROWN
Times Editor

At 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 19, Michael Christopher Frishkorn of Lake Butler, stopped while traveling northbound on State Road 121 in a 2000 Ford F-150 pickup to turn left, or west, onto Southwest 85th Trail just south of the ball fields. As Frishkorn, 19, waited on traffic to make his turn, Erin Elizabeth Brewer of Lake Butler slammed her 2008 Ford Edge into the back of Frishkorn's truck, according to a crash report

from the Florida Highway Patrol.

Her vehicle came to rest in the northbound lane facing northwest. Brewer, 36, pushed Frishkorn's truck into the southbound lane into oncoming traffic, causing him to collide with the left, or driver's, side of a 1999 Chevy C1500 pickup truck driven by Hope Ann Reinke, 47, of Lake City. That caused Frishkorn's truck to rotate counter-clockwise and then hit the right rear of the Reinke's truck and then continued on to the southbound, or west, shoulder.

Reinke's truck rotated clockwise and onto Southwest 85th Trail, coming to rest facing west.

Frishkorn's truck, owned by Jeff Personette of Lake Butler, "caught fire and was completely destroyed," according to Lt. Lyn Williams with the Union County Sheriff's Office.

According to the FHP report, "Brewer stated that she was distracted by the crying baby and she took her attention off of the roadway prior to the initial collision."

The baby was Jesse S. Acree, 14 months, who was accompanied by Anne Brewer Acree, 33. Both reside in Alachua.

The front airbag deployed in each vehicle and occupants in each one were wearing a seatbelt; the baby was in a forward-facing car seat. All five individuals were transported to UF Health Shands with minor injuries except for Reinke, who had more serious injuries.

Williams said that units responded from UCSO (five in total), FHP, the Dept. of Corrections (to help with traffic control), the city and county fire depts. and Union County EMS.

LB man dies in accident on I-75

Three others injured in wreck involving pickup and tractor-trailer

BY VINCENT ALEX BROWN
Times Editor

Early in the morning on Tuesday, Feb. 18, Lake Butler resident, Ronald Wayne Sapp, Jr. died in a two-vehicle accident on Interstate 75.

According to a Florida Highway Patrol media release, at around 1:45 a.m., Sapp, 33, was traveling southbound in a 1998 GMC Sierra 1500 pickup truck in the center lane of I-75 near Archer Road in Gainesville. He

moved into the right lane in front of a 2014 International ProStar tractor-trailer and abruptly stopped. The tractor-trailer collided into the rear of the pickup and both veered off the roadway onto the right, or west, shoulder.

Sapp's pickup overturned and ended up on its left, or driver's, side, facing west. The tractor-trailer finally stopped at a group of trees, and ended up facing south.

Sapp was pronounced dead on the scene shortly after 2 a.m. According to Sgt. Tracy Hisler-Pace, he did not have a seatbelt on.

Kristopher Doski, 29, of Ormond Beach, and Michael P. Hammer, 52, of Lake City, were passengers in the pickup and

taken to UF Health Shands with serious but non-life-threatening injuries. According to FHP's report, neither was wearing a seatbelt.

James A. Gloss, 62, of Longwood, was driving the tractor-trailer. He was also taken to UF Health Shands with serious but non-life-threatening injuries. Sapp leaves behind a fiancé, Michelle Lobenthal, sons, daughters and stepsons, as well as his two parents and two siblings.

According to the website TheTruckersReport.com, a fully loaded tractor-trailer can weigh up to 80,000 pounds or 40 tons and takes 40 percent more time to stop than the average car. By comparison, the website says the average automobile weighs around 5,000 pounds.

UCSO arrests drug trafficker

According to the Union County Sheriff's Office, on Monday evening, Feb. 24, after receiving a tip, sheriff's deputies searched

a residence at 10209 SW 48th Terrace in a neighborhood near State Road 121 just north of Worthington Springs. They arrested 41-year-old James Lamont Jones on several warrants stemming from an ongoing investigation and surveillance with

the North Florida High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA).

Sheriff Brad Whitehead advised that Jones, originally from Pennsylvania, had been living in the area and was also a registered sex offender. Sheriff Whitehead stated that deputies began watching the residence, and after a lengthy surveillance the deputies arrested Jones without incident.

Jones is currently in the Union County Jail and awaiting transfer to Alachua County.

Jones faces several charges, including cocaine trafficking, cocaine possession and using two-way communication devices while in the commission of a felony. His bond is set at \$55,000.

The investigation is continuing on other subjects.

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SCHOOL

Lake Butler Elementary School "Perfect A" Honor Roll – First Grade



(Top row, l-r) Nolan Beighley, Harrison Cunningham, Owen Johnson, Garrison Ritch, Michael-Ann Smith, Kamryn Southerland, Jameson Tetstone, Campbell Webb and Carter Whitehead. (Front row, l-r) Yasmine Givens, Rylan Jackson, Trenton Klein, Jeremiah McKenzie, Gabe Tallman, Maggie Wade, Jake Walker and Ava Walker. Not pictured is Tifton Roseke.



(Top row, l-r) Brian Clifflin, Lucas Forsgren, Kaylie Hendricks, Alexander Johnson, Jacob McBride, Austin Ray, Taylor Smith, Maddox Wheeler and Krista Young. (Front row, l-r) Connor Williams, Jonathon Kirsten, Kaylee Romero, Rani Bell, Lexie M'Sadoques, Joseph Harris, Cali McMahan and Ashlyn Benefield. Not pictured is Kailyn Thompson.



ABOVE: (Top row, l-r) Jaylynn Moates, Jolene Moore, Branden Smith, Alexia Staffieri, Gabe Castlen, Blayne Hendricks, Eli Hendricks, Jolena Rogers and Krista Tanner. (Front row, l-r) Braden Adams, Darby Andrews, Layla Barber, Eliza Cabral, Ya'Kayla Jenkins, Ashton Newsom, Nadia Norman and Mack Smith. Not pictured is Leah Norcross.

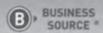
LBES A/B Honor Roll – First Grade

Dallen Cox, Dailynn Croft, Alec French, Miranda Hedrick, Andrew Mohl, Hannah Sepherd, Ansleigh Worrell, Landon Biddix, Kutter Durrance, Nash Kelley, Jalisia McMillian, Alyssa Gaspy, Reece Hendricks, Stephen Heslar, Emmalee Hollingsworth, Taylor Seay, Sonya Gutierrez, Emily Whitehead, Cian Smith, Shane Smith, Anthony Holmes, Desiree Thomas, Chloe Camarena, Nemecio Chavarria, Curtis Austin, Jalynn Brown, Karen Compton, Mikayla Shenk, Matthew Weston, Yalorie Wilds, Landon Barrett, Rachael Bloodsworth, Dillon Duenas, Kaitlin Mann, Americus Rocha, Heaven Scott, Destiny Thomas, Callie Combs, Emily Higginbotham, Landen Miller, Scarlet Stroud, Savannah Thompson, Addisyn Worrell, Jenna Bielling, Allen Carlisle, Jesse Chaikin, Morgan Rogers, Alexia Sapp, Lance Seay, Surie Sharp, Barron Walden, Jade Crawford, Beth Crawford, Kaitlyn Parrish, Colin Thomas, Jasper White, Raylyn Gunter, Jesse Harden, Carli Trent, Libbie Brant, Seth Cox, Kevin Crawford, McKenzie Flick, Cailynn Mattox, Kane Middleton, Karsen Middleton and Tyson Woodland.



RIGHT: (Top row, l-r) Shyla Crowe, Devin Diggs, Zoe Elixson, Patrick Maxwell, Chainberlin Watts, Ava Westmoreland, Leah Brannen, Anabelle Dugard and Wyatt Keen. (Front row, l-r) Jelissa Garcia, Savannah Miller, Joshua Tyre, Bo Wilson, Camilia Carter, Preston Cranford, Syler Moates, Aubrie Muse, Hayley Sherrod, Taley Smith and Nathan White.

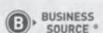
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BSN 63110	White	5" x 8"	Jr. Legal	\$4.69 DZ
BSN 63105	Canary	8 1/2" x 11 1/2"	Legal	\$6.69 DZ
BSN 63108	White	8 1/2" x 11 1/2"	Legal	\$6.69 DZ
BSN 63106	Canary	8 1/2" x 14"	Legal	\$10.99 DZ
BSN 63109	White	8 1/2" x 14"	Legal	\$10.99 DZ

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REGIONAL NEWS

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Diane Gaskins leads Linda Hildebrand, Betsy Price and Kay Morrison through yoga poses at Bradford County's Senior Center.

Overstreet to be honored as Woman of Distinction

Bradford County's Dimple Overstreet is one of five who will be honored as a Santa Fe College Woman of Distinction during a Thursday, March 13, ceremony at 5 p.m. at the Fine Arts Hall on the college's Northwest Campus in Gainesville.

Tickets are \$35 per person and are available online at www.sfcollge.edu/finearts or through the Santa Fe Box Office at 352-395-4181.

The annual ceremony recognizes outstanding female service in Alachua and Bradford counties, and was created by the Women's History Committee at Santa Fe College in 1987.

Women of Distinction has honored more than 100 outstanding women in the community since its inception.

Overstreet and her husband, Grady, have one daughter, Catrell Cooney, and three grandsons.

Overstreet has been the owner of A&G Gifts in Starke for 21 years. She is an active member of First United Methodist Church, where she served as the finance treasurer for more than 20 years. Overstreet currently serves as GROUP 5 Treasurer for United Methodist Women.

She was the event chair for the local Relay for Life from

See HONOR, 2B

Unifying mind and body for better health

BY MARY W. BRIDGMAN
Special to the Telegraph-Times-Monitor

The Starke area has a number of options for fitness buffs who want to improve overall health by unifying mind and body in activities such as yoga and Tai Chi.

The word "yoga" comes from a Sanskrit word meaning union, to join together. Yoga is one of the oldest mind/body activities

in the world, having originated in ancient India. It has become very popular in the United States. A 2012 study indicated that 8.7 percent of American adults—20.4 million people—practice yoga. Hatha yoga—the yoga most widely practiced in the West—centers on physical poses held for varying lengths of time. Modern yoga classes often include warm-up, poses, deep stretches and contemplation.

Starke offers two yoga classes

that are specifically geared to seniors, for which it is not necessary to get out of your chair. The Bradford County Senior Center (1805 N. Temple Ave.) offers Energizing Chair Yoga by Sherry Zak Morris. It incorporates yoga poses and sequences that bring energy to the body and encourage movement in every muscle and joint. The format is an easy-to-follow DVD that plays on a large screen. Senior Center Director Diane Gaskins said classes are offered Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 10 a.m., in combination with DVD Tai Chi instruction.

Similarly, participants in the Medicare Silver Sneakers program at Anytime Fitness (448 W. Madison St.) can practice yoga without leaving their chairs, although there are opportunities

See HEALTH, 6B



Karen Hardesty performs a "boat" pose during a Bradford-Union Technical Center stretch class.



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Madison Colaw (pictured with her parents, James and Robin) signs her letter of intent to play soccer at Lakeland's Florida Southern College.

Keystone's Colaw to play soccer at Florida Southern College

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer

Keystone Heights High School senior Madison Colaw signed a letter of intent on Feb. 25 to play soccer at Lakeland's Florida Southern College.

Colaw, a forward/midfielder, said "thankful" best described her feelings.

"Thankful and humble because I feel like God has blessed me with so many opportunities," she said.

She also expressed a tremendous appreciation for her parents, James and Robin Colaw.

"I don't think a lot of people understand how much they've had to sacrifice financially and just driving so long for tournaments every weekend," Colaw said.

Colaw, who has played at KHHS since the seventh grade, said she was also excited about the future and what was in store for her at Florida Southern. She said when she first began considering colleges, she thought of big schools like the University of Florida.

However, being a dual-enrolled student at Santa Fe College gave Colaw an appreciation for smaller classroom sizes.

Colaw, who wants to become a pediatric oncologist, said she loves the academic program at Florida Southern, but said soccer coach Brittany Jones is a big draw as well.

"I think the coach really stood out," she said. "That was a big

part of my decision because she seems like she really wants to get to know the girls and connect with them."

Former KHHS soccer coach David McCollum said Colaw, who has played premier club level ball since the age of 13, brings great skills to the field as well as the ability to put the team first.

"She's just a great player and just a great person all around," McCollum said. "She's always supportive of her teammates. She was never one to put anybody down. It was always for the team. I guess I appreciated that more than anything."

McCollum said another attribute of Colaw's is her understanding of the game.

"She sees all of the field, and she understands the schematic as to how each player has specific responsibilities," McCollum said. "She really took that in."

Current KHHS coach Kenny Seneca said Colaw proved to be a good leader and was certainly missed when she wasn't on the field.

"She made her teammates so much better," Seneca said. "She can draw the defense and dish the ball off. She can score goals, but she can also just make everybody around her better."

Despite missing approximately 10 games this past season while recovering from an injury, Colaw still scored 24 goals, while dishing out 15 assists.

It takes a lot to keep Colaw off the field.

"I always had to question her if I thought she was injured in any way because she had to be on that field," McCollum said. "She'd crawl on the field if that was part of it."

When she takes to the field for the first time at Florida Southern, Colaw said she's sure she'll be nervous and excited, while mulling over the many scenarios that can happen on the field and how she'll act in regard to each one.

"Also, I'm going to be really grateful," she said. "I already am."

BHS student competes in Science Olympiad, qualifies school for state

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Staff Writer

Though Bradford High School was not represented by a full team, it earned the right to advance to the state-level Science Olympiad after student Shane Shuman competed at the regional Olympiad on Feb. 1 at Lake City's Florida Gateway College.

BHS chemistry teacher Chelsea George said schools ideally take 15 students to the Olympiad to compete in events designed for two-student teams.

The Friday before the event, George said she had six students who were going to compete. However, one backed out of the event, two got sick and another two got lost on the way to the event.

That left Shuman, who was allowed to compete on his own. "He was very nervous," George said.

Despite that, Shuman, a sophomore, earned a second-place finish in the anatomy and physiology event, while placing third in five other events: designer genes, rocks and minerals, technical problem solving, circuit lab and dynamic planet.

The regional event was made up of teams from Union and Dixie County high schools (Union placed first) and also featured two Leon County



Bradford High School sophomore Shane Shuman is pictured with chemistry teacher Chelsea George.

middle school teams.

This is Bradford High School's first participation in a Science Olympiad. George is excited about getting BHS more involved, saying the Olympiad gets students to think outside of the box, as well as giving them a different set of experiences.

"With the Olympiad, they get exposed to a lot more stuff they may not necessarily see at Bradford," George said.

The state-level Olympiad will be held at the University of Central Florida on March 15. George's goal is to take a full team.

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HONOR

Continued from 1B

2011 to 2013, with a record of more than \$72,000 in donations being recorded during that span. Overstreet is now a Relay for Life team retention and monitoring chair until 2015.

Overstreet is the current first vice president of Altrusa of Starke and is serving her second year as president of the Bradford County Educational Foundation. She has been in the mentoring program for Take Stock in Children for the past five years.

Doris Weatherford, who is well known for her literary works and public service, will be the featured speaker at this year's ceremony. Her writings include "American Women and World War II," "Women and American Politics: History and Milestones"

and "The Women's Almanac."

Weatherford currently serves as a columnist for LaGaceta, the nation's only trilingual newspaper (published in English, Italian and Spanish), and sits as the only woman on the selection committee for historical statues on Tampa's Riverwalk.

Copies of Weatherford's new book about the history of women in Florida will be for sale at the reception. She will be available to sign copies.

Other honorees at this year's Women of Distinction ceremony are Patti Fabiani, Margaret Maples Gilliland, Shelley Fraser Mickle and Yvonne C. Rawls.

This year's event will also honor one Woman of Promise (ages 16-21): Haley Johnson.

For more information on Women of Distinction, please contact event coordinator Teri McClellan at 352-395-5201.

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SOCIALS



Ellen Bloodworth Roberts and James Flynn

Roberts, Flynn wed Jan. 25

Saturday, January 25th, Ellen Bloodworth Roberts and James Reginald (Reggie) Flynn of Starke were united in marriage in Savannah, Ga., at the Foley House Inn. The bride is the daughter of James F. Bloodworth of Starke, and the late Betty Bloodworth. The groom is the son of George Flynn of Starke, and the late Neva Flynn. Attending the celebration were the bride's son, Adam Roberts, Oviedo, sister, Carol Bloodworth Busby, Oviedo, the

groom's daughter, Molly Flynn, Raleigh, N.C., brother, Gray Flynn, Middleburg, sister and husband, Neva and Jerry Kidd, Tallahassee, Lisa Richards, Middleburg, Richard and Marilyn Powers, Tallahassee, Ryan Dunson, Raleigh, N.C., and Richard and Pam Ritch, Brevard, N.C. The reception was held at the Foley House Inn, after which the wedding party toured the historic town. The newlyweds will reside in Starke.



Drew Carroll and Lindsey Smith

Smith, Carroll to wed March 8

Lindsey Smith of Starke and Drew Carroll of Keystone Heights announce their engagement.

Lindsey is the daughter of Jerry and Denise Smith of Starke. She is a 2003 graduate of Bradford High School, and a 2007 graduate of Santa Fe College in Dental Hygiene.

She is employed by Talisha Cunningham, D.M.D.

Drew is the son of Freddie and June Carroll of Keystone Heights. He is a 2001 graduate of Keystone Heights High School and is self-employed.

The wedding will be March 8, 2014 at the Florida Agricultural Museum in Palm Coast with reception to follow. Invitations have been sent.

Andrew Crosby family reunion is March 1

The Andrew Crosby family reunion is Saturday, March 1, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bring a covered dish to the National Guard Armory on Edwards Road.

Starke to host Relay for Life yard sale on Saturday

The Bradford-Keystone Heights Relay For Life teams are hosting a yard sale this Saturday, March 1, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Starke City Square in downtown Starke.

Proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society.

Local DAR chapter to meet March 3

Norm Myers of the Sons of the American Revolution will present a program on "Writing Your Memoirs" at the Col. Samuel Elbert Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution's next meeting, which will be Monday, March 3, at 10:30 a.m. at IHOP in Starke.

In addition, VetSpace of Alachua County representative Natalie Packnick, accompanied by her service dog, Eiesel, will accept two plam (plastic yarn) mats made by DAR members for homeless, female veterans. (The Florida State Society Daughters of the American Revolution three-year project is centered on homeless, female veterans.)

Visitors are welcome to attend this meeting.

Any woman 18 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.

Fair offers chance to exhibit plants

The University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences and the Bradford County Extension Service would like to invite you to enter plants in the March 11-16 Bradford

County Fair. There will be three divisions this year. Along with the adult amateur division, there will also be an adult professional division for nursery owners and professional growers and a youth division.

Entries can include potted houseplants, hanging plants, patio plants, cut or potted edible or food-producing plants, vegetables, fruit and nuts. There will also be a section for honey, cane syrup and eggs.

Plants may be entered at Building 2 of the fairgrounds on Monday, March 10, from 8:30 a.m. until 6 p.m.

For more information about the agriculture/horticulture show, please call Laurie Compton at the Bradford County Extension office at 904-966-6299.



Bradford High School/Bradford-Union Technical Center students competing in the Skills USA regional contest were (front, l-r): Cole Johnson, Kristie Yates, Brandon Rhue, Teddy Stanze, Marshall James, Bryce Tibbitts and (not pictured) Dana Carney. Also pictured (back, l-r) are technical center instructors Teresa Jackson, Jeff Ledger and Mike Rensberger.

2 BHS students place 1st at Skills USA event

Seven Bradford High School students in the Bradford-Union Technical Center's Automotive, Computer and Health Science programs competed in the Skills USA regional contest on Feb. 21 at Florida State College in Jacksonville, with Cole Johnson placing first in Computer Maintenance and Kristie Yates placing first in Medical Terminology.

Johnson and Yates have now earned the right to compete in the state competition, which will be held April 27-29 in Pensacola.

BHS students Dana Carney, Marshall James, Brandon Rhue, Teddy Stanze and Bryce Tibbitts also competed.

"After the competition, the students seemed very excited to come back next year," said Jeff Ledger, the technical center's Computer Systems

Cole Johnson (left) and Kristie Yates earned the right to compete in Skills USA's state-level event.



and Information Technology well behaved. This competition instructor. "One thing I have to really sparked a new excitement say is that all the students were for the students."

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LETTERS

EDITOR@BCTELEGRAPH.COM

Citizens want to be heard in regard to UC Sheriff's Office

Dear Editor:

Is the Sheriff's Office a family business or do the citizens have a voice in the matter? Explain to us how five people put in for the appointment for the Sheriff's position, four have more experience, and the one with the least amount of experience gets the interview, and also the Appointment. Furthermore what good is the Undersheriff when he can't even carry out the duties of being sheriff when the unthinkable happens? That's not saying much for our county. This is not a family business and there has to be a change. When you apply for a job, all qualified applicants usually get an interview and then the decision is made on the position, but in our case it was not like that. We the citizens of Union County have a choice to make this election and we think the decision is clear. Change is for the better.

Concerned citizens of
Union County

Florida moving in opposite direction in regard to death penalty

Dear Editor:

Mr. Buster Rahn's editorial "Capital Punishment in Florida: time for a new look?" in your 2/20/14 edition was much appreciated by me and, perhaps, others who are struggling with this emotional question.

The State's responsibility is to provide security for society but does it have to kill its inmates to protect its citizens from convicted, first degree murderers? Most penal authorities agree that this security can be assured when a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole is given. Thus the question, "Why does the State kill individuals? And further, "How does the State promote a reduction in senseless killings among its citizens when it kills its prisoners even though a non-killing option is available!"

As one who has been present in the designated "Protest" area across the road from the death chamber on S.R. 16 for many executions, I have never been there three times in just two months. If Gov. Scott continues this pace, there will be 18 executions in 2014 – the most since capital punishment was re-instituted in 1979. Our nation and the civilized world is moving away from the death penalty as Florida is going in the opposite direction.

I have a sick feeling in my

stomach that this dramatic acceleration in state-sponsored killings is a part of Gov. Scott's re-election strategy. If so, this is not only morally and ethically reprehensible but, also politically short-sighted in my view.

Mr. Rahn's closing thoughts in his perceptive editorial suggests that Floridians may be considering another way. "There may be an alternative to capital punishment. If so let us move forward into a new era in which the sacredness of life is paramount, even for those who do not share our values."

John X. Linnehan
Hampton

Remembering 'everyday life heroes'

Dear Editor:

On (Feb. 13), as I sat under the hair dryer correcting my gray challenged hair, I looked across the room and I could see two ladies facing each other talking. Over the roar of my hair dryer, I couldn't hear what they were saying and could only imagine. You might ask what did these ladies have in common. Well within just a few days of each other they both lost their spouses. And who were these two ladies; Sherry Strickland and Sharon Jones.

But in reality their husbands led very similar lives; both were long time business owners. One was the owner of Leonard's Outboard Shop here in Keystone and the other in Jacksonville, Economy Printing. Leonard repaired the motors and Bobby loved fishing. Their word and handshake meant more than any signed contract. Both served our country in the United States Navy. While in my eyes that certainly makes them heroes, but they are what I call everyday life heroes. They got up each morning went to work, paid their bills, loved their families, served their community, supported the schools, and held integrity to the highest level. When they were around people felt secure and safe.

Sherry and Sharon must have had a lot to share and I am glad that these two gentlemen shared their lives with my family and the entire Keystone Community.

Rest in Peace Bobby Strickland and Leonard Jones.

Sincerely,
Tina Bullock

Expand Medicaid as called for by Affordable Care Act

Dear Editor:

The botched rollout of the Health Insurance Marketplace last October per provision of

the Affordable Care Act added momentum to Republican attacks against "Obamacare." Mind you, the Republican Party has been trying to dismantle or defund the Affordable Care Act from the time it was signed into law by President Obama in 2010. I think the Republicans have been largely successful in creating distrust so much so that many have probably forgotten that the American people have long been asking for health care reform.

When President Obama was elected in 2008, 49 million U. S. residents had no health insurance. The United States is the only industrialized nation that does not guarantee access to health care for all their citizens. 45,000 uninsured Americans die every year for lack of medical treatment. Medical bills are a leading cause of bankruptcy in the U.S. Surprisingly, most of medical bankruptcy filers are from the middle class.

The Affordable Care Act was a political compromise to change some of the shortcomings of our health care system but without dethroning the powerful for-profit health care industry. The law does not regulate, or place caps on, health insurance premiums, medical treatment costs, or prices of prescription drugs. Supposedly competition in the market will drive down those costs. I believe, on the other hand, that we will not see reasonable health care costs because capitalistic greed will continue to find ways to make their profits.

The Affordable Care Act provides subsidy in the form of advanced premium tax credit for insurance purchase on the Health Insurance Marketplace. However said subsidy is available ONLY to people with income ABOVE 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Level.

The Affordable Care Act intended to provide health insurance to people BELOW the Poverty Level through expansion of the Medicaid program. The federal government will pay 100 percent of the cost of Medicaid expansion for the first three years, and 90 percent thereafter.

Here's the rub. The Medicaid

program is administered by each individual state although funding comes from both federal and state funds. In 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of most of "Obamacare" but ruled that the federal government could not require states to expand their Medicaid program. Instead, individual states could choose whether or not to expand Medicaid in their state.

Nearly 4 million Floridians have no health insurance. Medicaid expansion will provide health coverage to 1.2 million low-income Floridians who do not earn enough to qualify for premium tax credit but are too poor to afford insurance without financial help.

The Florida Senate passed a Medicaid expansion plan in the 2013 legislative session. However the bill died in the Florida House of Representatives on the pretext that our Republican legislators doubted the ability of the federal government to finance Medicaid expansion.

It is my opinion that the decision by our Florida Legislature to opt out of Medicaid expansion is politically driven and certainly not in the interest of the people. Florida has the second highest percentage of uninsured in the U.S. If Florida were to expand the Medicaid program, our state can gain 50 billion dollars in additional revenue for the next ten years. Such revenue would be an economic boost to Florida.

At the same time, Medicaid expansion will benefit individuals and families living at and below the poverty level. By opting out of Medicaid expansion, Florida legislators are choosing to deny care to the neediest of the needy. It should be pointed out that, in anticipation of Medicaid expansion, the Affordable Care Act drastically reduces funding for hospitals mandated to provide uncompensated emergency room care, again penalizing uninsured Floridians.

To bring the issue closer to home, allow me to share statistics who could be our relatives, or friends, or neighbors, or simply persons we have encountered in our community. According

to the 2010 census, 16 percent of Bradford residents live in poverty. This figure is higher than the statistic for Florida in general (15.6 percent) and significantly higher than the statistic for the U.S. (14.9 percent). Bradford County is predominantly white. The median age of Bradford County residents is 39.5 years. To me, it means that, under present circumstances, many of the uninsured in our county will likely remain uninsured for a long time.

The next regular Florida legislative session will start on March 4, 2014 and will continue for 60 days until May 2, 2014. I urge Floridians to tell Florida Legislature to expand the Medicaid program as provided by the Affordable Care Act so that low-income Floridians, the neediest of the needy, can gain access to health care. Some readers may be interested to know that the law does not provide health coverage to illegal immigrants.

A group in Gainesville called

"Just Health Care" is circulating a petition for the expansion of Medicaid in Florida without privatization. The organization believes that access to health care should be considered a human right and should be available to ALL citizens. The petition is available at www.justhealthcareflorida.org.

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Mrs. Fe Ripka
Hampton

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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

Joseph Heath Beavins, 26, of Brooker was arrested Feb. 20 by Bradford deputies for an out-of-county warrant. Bond was set at \$2,500.

Jerry David Bradham, 48, of Cleveland, Tenn., was arrested Feb. 23 by Bradford deputies for three charges of probation violation for original charges of grand theft, grand theft motor vehicle, and battery. He was also arrested for failure to appear for original charge of driving while license suspended or revoked. Bond was set at \$3,000 for the failure to appear charge, while bond was not allowed for the other three charges.

Tyrone Syrus Brazle, 58, of Jacksonville was arrested Feb. 19 by Bradford deputies for an out-of-county warrant. Bond was set at \$15,003.

Nathaniel Kendrick Brown, 45, of Gainesville was arrested Feb. 23 by Bradford deputies on a warrant for withholding child support. Brown was already in the Alachua County Jail and was transported to Bradford with bond set at \$3,070.

Chad Austin Carpenter, 27, of Lake Butler was arrested Feb. 18 by Bradford deputies for obstructing justice. According to the arrest report, the victim was calling law enforcement as she was concerned for her safety during an argument with Carpenter over a bill. Carpenter grabbed the phone from the victim and told dispatch everything was OK. A deputy

was dispatched to the home, and Carpenter was arrested for the obstruction charge. Bond was set at \$5,000.

Jacob Sabaistian Crews, 23, of Starke was arrested Feb. 19 by Bradford deputies for possession of marijuana and possession of drug equipment. According to the arrest report, Crews was stopped for a traffic infraction by several deputies, including one with a K9 drug dog. During the stop, the K9 alerted on the vehicle, and the drugs and equipment were found. A 14-year old in the vehicle was also arrested for possession of marijuana and drug equipment. Bond for Crews was set at \$2,000, while the juvenile was released to his mother, and his charge was forwarded to the Department of Juvenile Justice.

Jessie Lee Dell, 56, of Lawtey was arrested Feb. 24 by Bradford deputies for battery. According to the arrest report, the victim was trying to leave a residence with her things when Dell grabbed her by the arms and pushed her to the floor. Bond was set at \$1,000.

Levi Zebulon Gaylord, 33, of Starke was arrested Feb. 19 by Starke police for shoplifting. According to the arrest report, Gaylord was observed putting headphones in his pocket at Walmart and then walking out without paying for them. He was detained by a Walmart employee until police arrived. Bond was set at \$500.

Autumn Lafferty, 33, of Lancaster, Ohio, was arrested Feb. 21 by Bradford deputies for disorderly intoxication. According to the arrest report, a deputy was called to the Kangaroo at U.S. 301 and S.R. 16 in Starke for an intoxicated person in the store. At the store, the deputy observed Lafferty yelling and causing a disturbance inside. Once outside, Lafferty continued to raise her voice and place her hand on the deputy. She wouldn't remove her hand when ordered to do so. Lafferty was

arrested and, after being placed in the police vehicle, began to hit her head and shoulder against the glass while transported to the jail.

Christopher Lee Malone, 26, of St. Cloud was arrested Feb. 20 by Bradford deputies for two charges for failure to appear. Bond was set at \$5,000.

Demetrius A. Martin, 20, of Starke was arrested Feb. 20 by Starke police for failure to appear on an original charge of possession of paraphernalia for storage.

Crystal Shiko Masters, 29, of Starke was arrested Feb. 21 by Starke police for larceny. According to the arrest report, police were called to Cato Fashion in Starke about a possible shoplifting by Masters. A store employee said Masters entered the store and was trying on many items in the fitting room. The employee was assisting in handing her things to try on in the fitting room when she noticed Masters had not returned a pair of shoes and several necklaces. Masters left the store, but by then the officer had arrived and approached her at her vehicle before she left. After the officer asked to speak with her, she put her purse in the vehicle and wouldn't retrieve it for the officer. After several minutes and several requests by the officer, she reached in to get the purse, but dumped the contents on the floor in the back of the vehicle. The officer saw a pair of shoes and later found the two necklaces in the vehicle. Masters was arrested, with bond set at \$500.

Grover Lewis Norton, 38, of Orange Park was arrested Feb. 23 by Bradford deputies for driving while license suspended or revoked, possession of marijuana and possession of drug equipment. According to the arrest report, Norton was stopped for an expired tag and tag not assigned to vehicle when

the officer smelled marijuana coming from the car. A search of the vehicle turned up the drugs and drug equipment. A passenger in the car, Kyle Edward Sweeny, 27, of Jacksonville, was also arrested and charged with possession of marijuana and drug equipment. Bond for Norton was set at \$1,500, while bond for Sweeny was set at \$1,000.

Cody Scott Qualls, 19, of Starke was arrested Feb. 23 by Bradford deputies for carrying a concealed weapon and for possession of marijuana and drug equipment. According to the arrest report, Qualls was stopped for a headlight not working by a deputy. The deputy smelled marijuana coming from the vehicle, and a search turned up the drugs, equipment and the concealed weapon.

Efrain Rodriquez Jr., 44, of Keystone Heights was arrested Feb. 19 by Bradford deputies on an out-of-county warrant for original charge of lewd or lascivious molestation, battery, tattooing a minor without consent of parent or legal guardian and exposure of sexual organs. Bond was set at \$115,015.

Cody Patrick Smith, 21, of Starke was arrested Feb. 24 by Starke police for fraud by swindle. According to the arrest report Smith, a former Walmart employee, was observed taking two bags of bird feed from the garden section (value of \$27.73) and returning them at the service desk for a refund. Smith was detained by a Walmart loss-prevention employee until police arrived.

Amanda Shae Stevens, 32, of Hawthorne was arrested Feb. 24 by Bradford deputies for possession of marijuana and possession of drug equipment. According to the arrest report, Stevens pulled into the Do Not Enter side of McDonald's in Starke and almost hit a deputy's vehicle, then continued to the adjacent gas station. When the deputy went to speak with her, he could smell marijuana coming from the vehicle. A search of the vehicle turned up the drugs and drug equipment. Stevens told the deputy she had been pulled over by the Gainesville police the day before and issued a sworn complaint for possession of marijuana, and told someone on the phone she had forgotten the drugs and other stuff were in

the vehicle. She was also issued a citation for her tag being expired less than six months.

Trevor James Wall, 22, of Starke was arrested Feb. 22 by Bradford deputies for driving under the influence.

Rebecca Lynn Wheeler, 42, of Starke was arrested Feb. 22 by Starke police for battery and criminal mischief-property damage. According to the arrest report, Wheeler was in an argument with the victim and struck and damaged his vehicle's window with a stone candlestick holder. The victim stated that when he went to stop her from further damaging his vehicle, she threw the candleholder at the truck and missed. She then struck him in the side of the neck with her fist. Wheeler left, but police arrested her later at her residence.

Keystone/Melrose

Thomas Baker, 30, of Starke was arrested Feb. 18 by Clay deputies for a probation violation.

Kurt Helmich, 43, of Keystone Heights was arrested Feb. 20 by Clay deputies for possession of child pornography and for soliciting a parent or guardian to allow a child to participate in sexual activity.

Timothy Hobgood, 47, of Keystone Heights was arrested Feb. 24 by Clay deputies for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and battery.

Shane Merritt, 21, of Keystone Heights was arrested Feb. 24 by Clay deputies for contempt of court.

Chadwick Richardson, 25, of Keystone Heights was arrested Feb. 23 by Clay deputies for a probation violation.

Frank Toms, 44, of Keystone Heights was arrested Feb. 20 by Clay deputies for leaving the scene of an accident and driving with a permanently revoked license.

Tony Wills, 22, of Keystone Heights was arrested Feb. 22 by Clay deputies for contempt of court.

Union

Joseph Anthony Gillihan, 18, of Lake Butler was arrested Feb. 24 by Union deputies for failure

to appear.

James Lamont Jones, 41, of Lake Butler was arrested Feb. 24 by Union deputies on out-of-county warrants from Alachua for cocaine trafficking, for using two-way communications device to facilitate a crime and for possession of cocaine. Bond was set at \$55,000.

Derek Scott Nipper, 28, was arrested Feb. 22 by Union deputies for driving under the influence. According to the arrest report, a deputy first heard a vehicle squealing its tires near Meridian Health Center, and then he observed it spinning its tires, power braking and spinning the tires again in front of Full House Saloon in Lake Butler. Once the deputy stopped the vehicle, with Nipper driving, he observed several open beer cans in the truck and then conducted field sobriety tests and took breath samples, which came back at .181 and .171 above the legal limit for alcohol consumption.

Benjamin James Sherrod, 30, of Lake Butler was arrested Feb. 23 by Union deputies for assault-intent threat to do violence and for battery. According to the arrest report, deputies were called to a disturbance, where family members of Sherrod said they thought he was high on meth and alcohol. He was making threats to do bodily harm to them. He also grabbed a family member when he tried to escort him out of the home, and once outside, he threw chairs, clothes and many other items off a porch onto the ground. Sherrod is already on felony probation, according to the arrest report.

Thomas Robert Bruce, 28, of Lake Butler was arrested Feb. 20 in Alachua County on a warrant from Union County for failure to appear.

Astrid Leonard Watkins, 40, of Lake Butler was arrested Feb. 17 by Union deputies for felony battery-strangulation. According to the arrest report, deputies were called to a residence in Worthington Springs about a disturbance. The victim told deputies Watkins got mad at her because she wouldn't do some laundry and then started throwing clothes out of the door. Watkins and the victim started arguing, and Watkins grabbed her around the neck, choking her and shoving her into a closet. The victim's brother was at the home, and he intervened between the two before the deputy arrived.

Brandon Joseph Croft, 28, of Lake Butler was arrested Feb. 21 by Union deputies for contempt of court-child support. Bond was set at \$500.

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HEALTH

Continued from 1B

to do a variety of standing poses. Yogastretch Classes are led by Ben Bridgman, a certified group fitness instructor who is also certified by the Silver Sneakers program.

"I really enjoy working with senior adults, many of whom have never had a fitness regimen before they became active with Silver Sneakers," Bridgman said. "There are Silver Sneakers classes especially for cardio fitness and weightlifting, but Yogastretch is different. Participants may feel that there isn't any benefit to a class where they don't break a sweat, but all they need to do is try it. They always leave feeling better, more flexible and more relaxed after the session."

Bridgman also teaches a combination yoga/Pilates stretch class following his popular indoor cycle classes at the Bradford Union Technical Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Indoor cycle classes start at 5:15 p.m. and typically last an hour. Following that, cyclers are ready to stretch and tone their muscles.

"It's really the best thing to do after an hour on a stationary bike, which can cause muscles—especially the large muscles of the legs—to become shortened and tight," Bridgman said. "The Pilates work emphasizes strengthening the core muscles, such as the abdominals and back muscles, but the yoga work really helps increase flexibility and decrease muscle tightness."

"We do a few minutes of relaxation at the end, and I am constantly amazed at how effective it is. You wouldn't think lying on a thin yoga mat on a hard tile floor would be relaxing, but it is. People don't want to get up, mainly because it's the only time they allow themselves to be completely relaxed."

Tai Chi is a traditional Chinese exercise practiced in slow motion for relaxation, vitality, health and grace. Described paradoxically as a non-aggressive martial art, it is based on yielding and awareness rather than force and resistance. Tai Chi takes seven to 10 minutes to practice, requires no special equipment except flat shoes and open space, and can be enjoyed by people of all ages.

Starke does not currently have live Tai Chi instruction, although Bridgman has been studying the martial art for several years and hopes to be able to add it to his offerings. The Bradford Senior Center offers DVD Tai Chi training in combination with its chair yoga classes.

If you're willing to travel to Gainesville, there are plenty of options for in-person Tai Chi training. Paul Campbell, who is also a licensed massage therapist and licensed mental health counselor, runs the School of Tai Chi Chuan at 1409 N.W.



Sixth St., Suite 220 (352-371-3718). Anthony Korahais directs the Flowing Zen Studio at 5127 N.W. 39th Ave. (352-672-7613, flowingzen.com.)

Campbell, who teaches 10 classes a week, often starts students with a course called the Eight Ways of Tai Chi Chuan, a gentle exercise program developed especially for elderly people, although it is appropriate for anyone who would like an introduction to Tai Chi. Unlike exercises which use exertion and stress to build muscular strength, the Eight Ways uses gentle, flowing movements to relax and loosen the body and the joints, to stimulate circulation, to build stability in the legs and feet, and to develop an awareness of one's internal strength. For seniors, this can translate into grace in walking, better balance and greater confidence in movement. Everyday tasks such as lifting, reaching into cupboards, opening doors and walking up and down stairs or curbs are emulated in movements taught in the class.

This simplified version of Tai Chi is ideal for people who are unable or unwilling to make the commitment to learn the complete Tai Chi form, a process that can take several years.

Each of the exercises of the Eight Ways has an image associated with it, such as "sculling," which mimics the motion of an oarsman rowing a gondola on a canal. These mental images enhance the learner's experience, making it imaginative and enjoyable.

Regular practice of the Eight Ways, like the Tai Chi form, builds a firm foundation by exercising the legs and feet, developing stability and balance, stimulating circulation by sending warmth to the extremities of the body, and loosening and relaxing the joints. Participants develop internal awareness and confidence that provides a sense of well-being.

Campbell began his journey with Tai Chi in 1973 as part of a personal search for the life he wanted to live.

"I was in a state of intense indecision about how to proceed," Campbell said. "I recognized that what was between me and living the life I wanted to live was fear. I was looking for ways of dealing with that fear that weren't just theoretical."

"My fear was of not living for real—living a life that was not really by my choice, but what was acceptable, what I was taught to want, a pre-programmed agenda."

He started to get results through the practice of Tai Chi and meditation, realizing "what was generating the fear in my mind was ignorance, not understanding how to work with the mind, how to process the existing fear and how to awaken the natural human state that is fearless."

Finding both religious dogma and exclusively rational approaches to living lacking because they failed to satisfactorily address ethical principals for decisions as well as man's "profound spiritual nature," Campbell found a home at the Shr Jung Tai Chi School in New York City's Chinatown section, studying under the legendary Cheng Man-ch'ing. Cheng, who died in 1975, was known for Tai Chi Chuan and his "Yang-style short form," which is composed of 37 movements that take less than 10 minutes to practice instead of the 20 to 30 minutes required by the Yang long form.

Campbell also had the benefit of the teachings of Oscar Ichazo, the Bolivian-born founder of the Arica School, a human potential movement group that teaches "a body of techniques for inherent consciousness-raising and an ideology to relate to the world in an awakened way." Ichazo eventually introduced his school to Cheng's school.

Anthony Korahais, like Campbell, was attracted to the spiritual, healing aspects of Tai Chi, which he hadn't found in other martial arts such as karate and kung fu. He began his Tai Chi journey, also in New York City, as a result of an inner struggle, specifically a debilitating case of clinical depression. He recalled living with a "fog of despair" that returned each morning, engulfing him in darkness.

Through the study of Qigong—a practice of aligning breath, movement and awareness for exercise, healing and meditation—as well as Tai Chi, he found relief. In Malaysia, studying with Grandmaster Wong, Korahais learned that when human energy systems

were functioning optimally, it was possible to reach a state that Chinese masters called a harmony of yin and yang. When this happened, he said, "the energy that mobilizes and powers the immune system, produces the proper enzymes for digestion, repairs damaged cells, flushes away toxic wastes and balances the emotions—all of this energy starts to flow harmoniously, thus keeping us happy and healthy."

After Korahais began to experience harmonious energy flow and balance for himself, he quit his job as a network engineer at the school of architecture at Columbia University in New York City. He said it was the right

job for many years, especially with a schedule that gave him the freedom to travel and learn the discipline of his true calling—teaching Qigong and Tai Chi. Eventually, he earned the title of "Sifu," a Chinese word that means "father and teacher."

Korahais followed his parents, who were professional musicians, when they retired and relocated to Florida. He enrolled in an acupuncture school in Gainesville, where he met his wife, Akemi, a native of Venezuela. Eventually, Korahais dropped out of school to teach Qigong and Tai Chi full time. Akemi continued her acupuncture studies and later opened the Painless Acupuncture Center, which is located in the same building as her husband's studio, Flowing Zen.

Now, Korahais teaches 12 classes per week at Flowing Zen. "Zen means meditation," said Korahais. "Meditation can be drinking coffee, eating food, not just sitting meditation, which is difficult for a lot of people. Everything I do has a flowing component."

All students at Flowing Zen begin with a three-hour Qigong workshop that costs \$47. Also available are monthly memberships, which

include classes and one-on-one instruction. Most of Campbell's classes cost \$100 for 10 weekly one-hour sessions.

Campbell notes that in a culture which celebrates youth, Tai Chi offers a more positive perspective on growing older.

"Understanding the training of the human body as the ground for training the human spirit, Tai Chi tunes us to inner principles that lead to continually fuller, healthier life," Campbell said.

The first principle is uprightiness, which means being in perfect equilibrium with gravity and facing reality without pretense. The second principal is relaxation, meaning that at rest, a person is serene and attentive, while in action every cell is available for the simplest, most complete response. The third principle is the Tan Tien—the body's physical center of gravity.

"Having our heart-mind focused at the Tan Tien means harmony in all aspects of our life, means our full being, our spirit, our internal unity can manifest," Campbell said. "Seeing the human body as an exact expression of the maturing human spirit and training it accordingly, Tai Chi Chuan is like fine wine—the older you get, the better you get."

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Women of Distinction

Thursday, March 13, 2014, in SF's Fine Arts Hall

The Women of Distinction award has recognized over 150 outstanding women in Alachua and Bradford Counties since its inception in 1987, and acknowledges new women each spring at a formal ceremony.

Santa Fe College is proud to welcome Doris Weatherford to speak at the 2014 Women of Distinction reception. Weatherford is most well known for her literary works and public service on behalf of women and has received several awards for her dedication to the field of women's studies, making her a natural fit as the Women of Distinction reception speaker.

Copies of Weatherford's new book about the history of women in Florida will be available at the 2014 Women of Distinction Ceremony on Thursday, March 13, in SF's Fine Arts Hall. The reception and book signing begin at 5 p.m. The program begins at 6:30 p.m. with an after-reception at 7:15 p.m.

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Dr. Anubha Gupta
to our staff!

Dr. Anubha Gupta received her family medicine training from Jamaica Hospital Medical Center in New York City and her fellowship training in geriatric medicine from the VA Medical Center in Gainesville. She received her medical degree from Terna Medical College, Navi Mumbai, India. Dr. Gupta will be joining the staff of PALMS MEDICAL GROUP in Starke every Tuesday. She will be seeing pediatric and adult clients for routine health maintenance and sick visits.

Dr. Gupta's husband is attending the University of Florida with a Fellowship in Pediatric Cardiology & Pediatrics ICU.

The joy in the doctors lives is their toddler son. They are making their home in Gainesville, for hopefully a very long time!



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OBITUARIES

Roger Elixson

LAKE BUTLER—Roger Lee Elixson, 68, of Lake Butler died on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2014 at the Haven Hospice in Gainesville surrounded by his family. He was born in Worthington Springs where he lived his entire life. He graduated from Union County High School. He was a member of the Woodman of the World and of Sardis Baptist Church. He is preceded in death by his father, Roy Elixson.

He is survived by: his mother, Mary Seay Elixson; daughters, Tina (Stacy) Lloyd of Worthington Springs and Lynn Parrish of Lake Butler; sons, Johnny Ray Elixson of Worthington Springs and Brad (Julie) Elixson of Providence; one brother, Clifford (Willene) Elixson of Providence; six grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter. Funeral services were held Feb. 25 in the Archer Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Brandon Elixson officiating. Burial followed in Elzey Chapel Cemetery. Archer Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



Lori Hall

Lori Hall

STARKE—Lori Elaine Hall, age 46, of Starke, passed away on Feb. 20, 2014 at Park Meadows Health and Rehabilitation Center in Gainesville. Lori was born on Feb. 14, 1968 in Lakeland. She was raised in Lakeland and recently moved to Starke this past year. Lori enjoyed writing biographies and poetry. She had a big heart and a passion for helping people. Lori was an advocate for people with disabilities and she enjoyed teaching people how to read. She also enjoyed listening to music.

Lori is survived by: her mother, Mae Hall of Lakeland; her son, Zachary Hall of Lakeland; her two brothers; one granddaughter; and her three loving close friends, Rebekkah

Baker, Samantha Luke, and Dorothy Luke all of Starke.

Memorial services were held on Feb. 23 at Archie Tanner Funeral Services Chapel with Reverend Jimmy Scott officiating. Arrangements are under the care and direction of Archie Tanner Funeral Services of Starke. 904-964-5757. Visit www.archietannerfuneralservices.com to sign the family's guest book.

PAID OBITUARY

Max Hearst

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Max Ray Hearst, 75, of Keystone Heights died Thursday, Feb. 20, 2014 at Shands in Gainesville. He was born on July 14, 1938 in Norfolk, Va. to the late Ray and Debra M. (Roundtree) Hearst and was a longtime area resident. Prior to retirement he worked as a tool and die maker for the Civil Service and served in the United States Army.

Survivors are: wife of 21 years, Patricia (Mentzer) Hearst of Keystone Heights; son, Charlie Edward Hearst of Keystone Heights.

Memorial services will be held at a later date. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Keystone Heights.

Gere Johns

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Gere Howard Johns, 82, Mother, Creative Designer, Needlepoint Artist, and Conservationist. Gere Howard Johns died at home peacefully on Thursday Feb. 20, 2014 after a courageous battle with lung cancer and pulmonary fibrosis. She was born April 26, 1931 in Dukes at her Grandfather's home. Gere was predeceased by her beloved husband Jerome of 56 years, her mother and father, John Marcus and Blanche Roberts Howard.

Gere graduated from Union County High School in 1949 as the Class Valedictorian. She was active in extracurricular activities (State and National Officer of the Future Homemakers of American (FHA), a captain of the basketball team, and was a cheerleader). She attended Stetson University where she was Captain of the Cheerleaders, a member of Alpha Xi Delta Sorority, and the Glee Club. She also attended the University of Florida. Gere completed a 10 year study of the piano at the St. Louis Institute of Music, St. Louis, Mo. Gere was a founding member and president of the Crystal Lake Environmental Organization (CLEO). She was a self-taught water and ecosystem expert. She was a member and past President of the Starke Women's Club, past

President of the Friends of the Library, a Girl Scout Leader, a Boy Scout Den Mother and a teacher at Youth Camp. Gere was a master of Needlepoint. She created six pieces of needlepoint entitled, "The Creation" and donated the work to the United Methodist Church in Keystone Heights, where she was a member and was loved by many. This work took hundreds of hours to complete. Over the years she used her talent of needlepoint to create personal gifts to show her love for family and friends.

She is survived by: daughter, Debra (Frank Williams) Johns of Pomona, Calif.; son, Phillip (Linda) Johns of Santa Fe Lake; her brother, John Marcus (Cheryl) Howard of Dukes; seven grandchildren; nine great grandchildren; one great-great grandchild, and many cousins and friends.

A Celebration of Gere's Life will be held Sunday, March 2, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. Keystone United Methodist Church on State Road 21, Keystone Heights. A private interment for immediate family will be prior to the Celebration of Life. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Haven Hospice, 4200 NW 90th Blvd, Gainesville, FL 32606. Arrangements are under the direction of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke 904-964-6200. On-line condolences may be left at www.jonesgallagherfh.com.

PAID OBITUARY

Amber Lawson

HAMPTON—Ms. Amber Nicole Lawson age 24, of Hampton suddenly passed away Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2014. Amber was born on Feb. 6, 1990 in Gainesville and was a homemaker. She was a member of Madison Street Baptist Church, enjoyed singing, dancing, and making people smile. She was preceded in death by her paternal grandfather Henry Lawson.

Survivors are: children, Trenton Holt and Trinity Holt both of Starke; her father, Marvin "Marty" (Sharon) Lawson of Starke; her mother, Misty (Koehler) Lawson and sisters' Johnnie Holton of Hampton; fiancée, Destini Lawson, Chasiti Lawson, both of Starke; brother, Chad Lawson of Starke; paternal grandmother, Janice Lawson of Starke; maternal grandparents, Steve and Gail Varnum of Hampton; aunts, Lori (Paul) Bateman of St. Augustine, Randee (J.J. Strickland) Varnum of Hampton, Lisa (Michael) Giles of Lawtey; uncles, Mike (Ron Evans) Lawson of Starke, Stanley (Jennifer) Varnum and Brad Varnum both of Hampton; special niece, Sereniti.

Services were held on Monday, Feb. 24 at Dewitt C. Jones Chapel. Interment followed at Hope Cemetery with Reverend Matt Dyal officiating. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke 904-964-6200. On-line condolences may be left at www.jonesgallagherfh.com.

PAID OBITUARY

Dwight Lintz Sr.

LAKE BUTLER—Dwight O. Lintz Sr. 86 of Lake Butler died Friday, Feb. 21, 2014 at the Haven Hospice in Lake City. He was born on Sept. 10, 1927 in Deerfield, Michigan to the late Howard and Georgiang Rutherford Lintz. He worked at Lockheed Martin as a computer engineer. He was also a proud Veteran of the U.S. Navy. He is preceded in death by two brothers.

He is survived by: his wife, Betty Jane Lintz; sons, Dwight (Paula) Lintz, Jr. of Portville, Colo. and Charles (Jean) Lintz of Lake Butler; daughters, Delilah (Karl) Fike of Belfair, Wash. and Rebecca Ann Lintz of Lakewood, Colo.; nine grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren; brothers, George (Geraldine) Lintz of Harrison, Michigan; sisters, Twila (Richard) Stone of Oxford, Mich., Caorl (Jim) Cooper of Apoka, Nona (Elijah) Childers Glanvin of Michigan and Shirley Gurganious (Robert) Atkinson, North Carolina.

A memorial service will be held Thursday, March 13, at 11:00 am in the Chapel at Archer Funeral

Home, with Bro. Ralph Durham officiating. Burial will be at a later date. Family ask that in Lieu of Flowers please make donations to the Haven Hospice Lake City - Suwannee Valley Care Center 6037 W US Highway 90, Lake City, FL 32055, or to the National Parkinson Foundation. Archer Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Diane McNeal

Diane McNeal, Our Beloved, Wife, Mother, Great and Grandmother, Sister and Aunt, passed away on Feb. 13, 2014 at the age of 77. She gave a valiant fight but lost her battle to cancer. She was preceded in death by: her daughter, Lori Diane McNeal; granddaughter, Terra Michelle Hunter; mother, Edith Agnes Register Trowbridge Hunt; step-father John Hunt; niece, Carolyn Aldridge; and nephew, Roderic Yepp.

Mrs. McNeal is survived by: her husband, Norman McNeal, Sr. and her four children, Terrie Vernon, Norman McNeal, Jr., Nancy Mitzel and Kenneth McNeal; and also survived by two grandchildren, Roger Mitzel, Jr. and Candise McNeal; two great-grandchildren, Madison and Ty Mitzel; her sisters, Nancy Aldridge and Miriam Trowbridge; and nieces, nephews and cousins.

At Mrs. McNeal's request there will be no services held. There will be a memorial posted online in the near future at Crevasses Cremation Services in Gainesville. It will be open for comments to be posted by those who would like to. Family will be sent information once the memorial is posted (link). In lieu of flowers you can make a donation to the following: Norman McNeal, Sr., or her great-grandchildren, thru Nancy Mitzel, or her grandchildren, Roger Lee Mitzel, Jr. (RJ), thru Nancy Mitzel and Candise McNeal, thru Terrie Vernon, or Haven Hospice E.T. York Care Center, 4200 NW 90th Blvd., Gainesville, FL, 32606. Haven Hospice also has memorial bricks that can be purchased in her name to be placed on their memorial walkway with the funds going to their operating account as they are a non-profit organization. Thank you Haven Hospice Center staff and nurses for the loving care given to Mrs. McNeal and the extra help given to the family in this time of need.

PAID OBITUARY



Dakota Mobley

Dakota Mobley

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Dakota Jacob "D.J." Mobley, age 15, of Keystone Heights passed away at his home Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2014. D.J. was born in Gainesville on March 18, 1998 and was a 10th grade student in Clay County. He was an Explorer at the Keystone Heights Fire Department, involved with the Clay R.O.T.C., and Boy Scout Troop 146. D. J. also enjoyed being outdoors hunting and fishing. D.J. was preceded in death by his twin brother Austin Jesse Mobley.

Survivors are: his loving parents, Kevin and Raquel (Singletary) Mobley; one brother, Matthew Kaleb Singletary; maternal grandparents, Keith and Debbie Singletary; paternal grandparents, Don and Kit Mobley all of Keystone Heights; paternal grandmother, Linda Brophy of Palm Coast; aunt, Rhonda Singletary of Gainesville and uncle, Brian (Tara) Singletary of Keystone Heights; aunt, Lauren (Griff) Thomas of Atlanta, Ga.; along with additional aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Funeral services for D.J. were

held Saturday, Feb. 22, at Trinity Baptist Church with Pastor Marty Franks and Pastor Rob Morford officiating. The burial followed at the Keystone Heights Cemetery. In lieu of flowers the family has requested contributions be sent to the Clay Electric Credit Union, P.O. Box 308, Keystone Heights, FL 32656, where an account has been set up for D.J. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 340 E. Walker Dr., Keystone Heights, 352-473-3176. www.jonesgallagherfh.com

PAID OBITUARY

Ronald Sapp Jr.

LAKE BUTLER—Ronald Wayne Sapp Jr., 33, of Lake Butler, died suddenly on Feb. 18, 2014 from injuries sustained in an automobile accident. He was born in Jacksonville on May 9, 1980 to Ronald Wayne Sapp, Sr. and Regina Grace Price. He lived most of his life in the Lake City area, having moved to Lake Butler eight years ago, and was a carpenter.

He is survived by: his father, Ronald Wayne Sapp, Sr. of Callahan; mother, Regina Grace (Gregory) White of Lake City; fiancé, Michelle Lobenthal of Lake Butler; sons, Brandon Wayne Sapp of Lake Butler, Jacob Allen Sapp of Lake City and Kage Brady Sapp of Lake Butler; daughters, Christian Alese Harvey of Wellborn and Lana Darlene Sapp of Lake Butler; step-sons, Sean Lobenthal and Kaleb Renaldi both of Lake Butler; brother, Richard Lee (Chelsea) Sapp of Branford; and sister, Robin Renee Sapp of Orlando.

Memorial services were conducted on Feb. 25 in the chapel of the Dees-Parrish Family Funeral Home with Rev. John Welkner officiating. Arrangements are under the care of the Dees-Parrish Family Funeral Home of Lake City.

William Singletary

JACKSONVILLE—ISGT William Samuel "Sambo" Singletary, age 47, of 499 McMath Mill Rd., died Saturday, Feb. 22, 2014. A native of Jacksonville, he was born March 5, 1966, the son of William S. and Sandra M. Singletary, Sr. Mr. Singletary was employed at Southerfield Aviation as an A & P-Mechanic. He served in the United States Army for 22 years at several locations including Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo., Ft. Benning, Ga., Ft. Eustis, Va. and ending with the 1/11th AVN REDT in Jacksonville. He did several tours of duty in Egypt, Kuwait, Bosnia and Iraq. Mr. Singletary was an avid genealogy and history researcher and enjoyed "looking for long lost relatives." He loved motorcycles and riding the open road. Mr. Singletary was a 1984 graduate of Southland Academy. He received an Associates degree from Florida Community College Jacksonville, A & P certificate from South Georgia Technical College and attended Florida Theological College. He also was a member of the Sons of the Confederate Veterans, St. John's Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville and attended First Presbyterian Church of Americus.

Survivors in addition to his parents are: his wife, Angie Bass Singletary of Americus; a daughter, Ashton Singletary of Atlanta; three sons, Caleb Singletary of Atlanta, Jake Hood of Americus and Justin Hood of Americus; one grandson, Brantley Singletary of Jacksonville; a sister and brother-in-law, Kim Singletary Christmas and Charles of Riverview; a brother and sister-in-law, Doug Singletary and Charlotte of Jacksonville; one niece and two nephews. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, William and Mollie Singletary, and Lewis and Eva Akins.

Graveside services were held Feb. 25, at Ebenezer Baptist Church Cemetery on Crisp Academy Dr. in Cordele, Ga., with Rev. Donny Loffredo officiating. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions be made to Southland Academy Athletic Fund, P.O. Box 1127, Americus, Ga. 31709.

You may sign the online guest book and share your own special thoughts and memories by visiting www.greg Hancockfuneralchapel.com. Greg Hancock Funeral Chapel is in charge of these arrangements.

PAID OBITUARY



Anna Stephens

Anna Stephens

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Mrs. Anna Rita Stephens, age 82, of Keystone Heights passed away Monday, Feb. 17, 2014 at North Florida Regional Medical Center following a brief illness. She was born in New York City, N.Y. on Feb. 19, 1931 to the late Henry and Anna (Oskey) Haberman, and had moved to Keystone Heights 13 years ago from Coral Springs. Prior to retirement, Mrs. Stephens was a Customer Service Representative at AT&T Telephone Company for 36 years. She attended the Keystone United Methodist Church where she was actively involved with the Women's Circle; she was a member of the Keystone and Melrose Woman's Clubs and the Red Hats Society. Mrs. Stephens enjoyed playing Bridge; she was always looking for a good bargain, and she loved going to garage sales.

Survivors of Mrs. Stephens are: her husband of 59 years, Donald C. Stephens; one son, Don (Cheryl) Stephens all of Keystone Heights; three grandchildren, Jessica, Nicole, and Austin; and one great granddaughter, Madylinn.

Services for Mrs. Stephens were held Friday, Feb. 21, in the Keystone United Methodist Church with Dr. Craig Moore and Dr. Tom Farmer officiating. The burial will follow at a later date. In lieu of flowers the family has requested contributions to be made to the Keystone Heights Woman's Club 6747 Woman's Club Dr, Keystone Heights, FL 32656 or the Melrose Woman's Club, 303 Pine Street, Melrose, FL 32666.

Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 340 E. Walker Dr. Keystone Heights. 352-473-3176. www.jonesgallagherfh.com

PAID OBITUARY

Wendell Thomas

ALMA, GEORGIA—Brother Wendell Ray Thomas, age 75, passed away Monday, Feb. 24, 2014.

Brother Wendell was a native Alma and pastored his first church Shiloh Congregational Methodist Church in Homerville for nine years, and then moved to Gordon where he pastored Snow Hill Congregational Methodist Church for nine years. In 1985 Brother Wendell fulfilled his vision for building a non-denominational church in Milledgeville, Ga. which led to the formation of Freedom Church where he was the senior pastor. He was preceded in death by his parents Prentis and Vodice Thomas, a granddaughter Mary Ashley Thomas and his sister Debbie. He had a love for Hunting, Fishing and Gardening.

Survivors include: his wife Patricia "Pat" Thomas of Milledgeville; three sons, Kelly Thomas of Interlachen, Rev. Randal (Patsy) Thomas and Rev. Tim (Heidi) Thomas of Milledgeville; and a daughter, Tammy (Rev Carol) Smith of Milledgeville; two brothers, Dwain Thomas and Novack Thomas both of Florida; one sister, Joann Vines of Ga., seven grandchildren; and four great grandchildren.

The family will receive friends Wednesday evening from 5-8 at Freedom Church 500 Underwood Rd. Milledgeville, Ga.

Services will be held at 2:00 P.M. Thursday, February 27, at Freedom Church with burial to follow at Scenic Memorial Gardens.

Visit moorefuneralhome.com to express tributes. Moores Funeral Home & Crematory has charge of arrangements.

PAID OBITUARY

Charles Vickory

HAMPTON—Charles Addison Vickory of Hampton passed away Monday, Feb. 24, 2014 at E.T. York Hospice Care Center in Gainesville. He was 57.

Mr. Vickory was born Aug. 27, 1956 in Gainesville, to Billie Vickory and Frances Vaughn Vickory. He was a graduate of Rolling Green Academy class of 1974 and pastor of Hampton Baptist Church for 18 years.

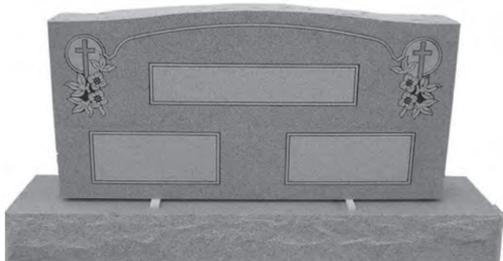
He is survived by: his wife, Marcia Vickory of Hampton; son, Charles J. Vickory of Hampton; two daughters, Melissa Taylor of Keystone Heights and Mindy Vickory of Orange Park; sister, Linda Jaffray of Lake Butler; and grandson, Kyle.

Graveside funeral services will be at 1:00 pm Friday, Feb. 28, at Newnansville Cemetery. Arrangements are in the care of Evans-Carter Funeral Home, High Springs, FL (386) 454-2444.

PAID OBITUARY

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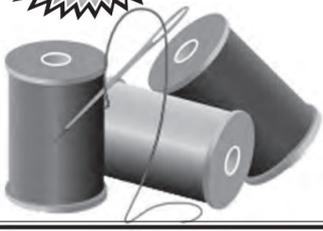
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Avoiding pin bones when filleting fish

Among people who have eaten fish, there are few who will not acclaim their culinary value. There are many, however, who will mention the complication of bones. It also follows that many of those complainers will have eaten small fish, or they will have eaten fillets that were not boneless.

The above conundrum is usually due to a row of small bones that runs along the lateral line connecting the rib cage with the outer skin. These bones, which are usually referred to as pin bones, are quite small and are easily overlooked until they are in your mouth.

Because of this issue, some fishermen will discard all meat on the fillet that is south of the rib cage. Others will cut through the pin bones and rib cage and will use a pair of bone removers to remove the rib cage and pin bones. Obviously the latter would be rather involved.

Another alternative is to cook the fish whole and remove the bones while eating. This is most often done when cooking smaller pan fish, and it is more functional for those who are familiar with the location of the bones.

Another alternative that is highlighted here will maximize the salvaged flesh and remove the rib bones and pin bones efficiently during the filleting process. J.T. Prevatt, who credits



J.T. Prevatt starts the fillet along the dorsal fin and fillets through to the ribs. Shortly beyond this point, he will encounter the row of pin bones.

Cut upward to the top of the pin bones and cut between the pin bones and skin.



Remove the remainder of the fillet from the rib cage.



his son Jimmy Prevatt with teaching him, illustrates the process.

Prevatt starts his fillet along the dorsal fin and cuts vertically to the rib cage. Once he cuts adjacent to the end of the rib cage, he pushes the fillet knife through the entire width of the fish and fillets through to the tail. He then pulls the northern part of the fillet

back carefully along the rib cage until he feels the knife touch the pin bones. From there he will follow the pin bones outward until he reaches the skin.

Subsequently, he fillets the flesh from the skin until he cuts the pin bones from the skin. After that, he returns the knife edge to the unfilled edge of the pin bones and cuts adjacent to the pin

bones and back to the rib cage. From there, he uses the knife tip to complete the fillet process.

He emphasizes that a sharp blade and recognition of blade contact with bones are important.

The accompanying photos are made while filleting crappie, but the shape of the pin bones will vary somewhat according to the fish species. The largest anomaly will present with the plain pickerel, locally known as a jack. The pin bones in the jack are actually Y bones and better resemble small wishbones in a chicken breast. This results in the jack being labeled as too bony to eat, but once the Y bones are removed, you might be surprised that the mild, delicate flesh will rival that of a crappie.

the lake shallows is from male bass.

Ed Allen also reported last week that Sampson Lake was not providing any action from the larger females.

Local bass fishermen can also look forward to an active year for tournaments. The Bald Eagle open tournaments will start on March 12 at Santa Fe Lake. Shortly afterward, the Sampson Lake open tournaments will start. The Murphy's Law Relay for Life Bass Tournament is scheduled for March 15.

Mike Oglesbee is co-director of the OGS Tournament Trails in Palatka, and he has teamed up with Gene Crossway to greatly increase the reach of the organization. The organization

is working with the Wolfson's Children's Hospital Tournament and the NEFAR Haven Hospice Tournament with hopes of increasing the reach of both events. Those two charity tournaments are traditionally the largest bass fishing events in North Florida.

Tight lines until next week.

Outdoors calendar

- Feb. 27-March 2, Florida Challenge at Bradford Sportsmen's Farm.
- March, turkeys and quail begin breeding in North Florida;
- March 2: Florida's Zone C squirrel and quail season ends.
- March 8-9, youth spring turkey season.

Outdoors outlook

This winter's late cold weather seems to have complicated a good understanding of the crappie spawn. In deeper lakes like Kingsley, the spawn is actually taking place in deeper water. Newnan's has been the most productive local lake, and it is has been giving up a lot of spawning fish along the shoreline cover.

The crappie bedding activity should diminish somewhat from this last full moon.

As crappie season wanes, the bass bite will escalate in the next few weeks, but most reports indicate that the only bass fanning beds in our area are the smaller bucks.

Len Andrews is now staying at Kingsley Lake and sight fishing from his originally designed boat with a ladder attached and stabilized in the bow. Andrews specifies that the only action in

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Union Correctional program seeking 'forever' home for Shanti

Union Correctional Institution is looking for a forever home for one dog that has been trained by the ROCK Hounds (Rehabilitation of Castaway K-9s) program.

Shanti is a female boxer-beagle mix that stands about knee high and weighs approximately 29 pounds. She is about three years old and has an easy-going personality. Her trainers describe her as an intelligent dog that loves to be petted.

The dogs in the ROCK Hounds program are all former strays rescued from a kill shelter. The dogs are trained by UCI inmates, ensuring they are fully housebroken, trained to walk on a leash and obey voice commands, and trained to behave themselves around other dogs and people they don't know. The dogs are trained to sleep in a crate/kennel at night.

Cost to adopt a dog is \$50,



Shanti's floppy ears fly as she comes running when she is called. The brindled dog is mostly boxer, but her beagle mom gave her a smaller size.

which includes spaying or neutering and all needed shots.

According to Re-entry Officer Rachelle Parrish, UCI's dog training program has two major objectives. One is to train the dogs and make them more adoptable – thus preventing them from being euthanized. The second is to provide inmates in

UCI's veterans' dorm – many of whom suffer from depression or PTSD – with a program that will improve their mental state.

If you are interested in adopting Shanti, contact Officer Parrish at 386-431-2000, ext. 2248 or Officer Marcia Miller at 386-431-2168 during work hours.

BHS grad McBride earns American Athletic Conference honor

University of Central Florida freshman center and 2013 Bradford High School graduate Justin McBride was named the American Athletic Conference's Rookie of the Week following his performance in games against Memphis (Feb. 12) and South Florida (Feb. 15).

McBride averaged 9.5 points

and 6 rebounds off the bench, shooting 72.7 percent from the field (8-of-11) as the Knights split a pair of American Athletic Conference games. He scored six points and had seven rebounds in a 76-70 loss to Memphis, while scoring 13 points and grabbing five rebounds in a 75-74 win over South Florida.

In the South Florida game, McBride was 5-of-6 from the field.

McBride has played in nine games and is shooting a team-high 73 percent from the field. He's averaging 6 points and 3 rebounds per game.

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Cook wins conference track and field championship

Defiance (Ohio) College freshman Samantha Cook, a 2013 Bradford High School graduate, won the shot put at the Feb. 22 Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Indoor Championship.

Cook's throw of 12.39 meters set a Defiance school record as well as Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference record. By winning the event, she was named to the All-HCAC first team.

Defiance, which won the team championship, also got a seventh-place finish from Cook in the weight throw.

Tornadoes even district record in baseball

Jacob Luke and Jackson Reddish each had an RBI as the Bradford High School baseball team improved to 1-1 in District 5-4A with a 3-1 over Santa Fe on Feb. 20 in Alachua.

Pitcher Wyatt Barnes (2-0) threw a complete game, giving up four hits and striking out five.

Reddish finished 2-for-3 at the plate, while Luke was 2-for-4.

Bradford (2-3) hosted Gainesville prior to playing Santa Fe, losing 8-4 on Feb. 18. Barnes and Carson Yowell were each 2-for-3. Both of Barnes' hits were doubles, while Yowell hit one double and had an RBI.

Reddish and Cody Tillman each had an RBI.

The Tornadoes played district opponent Interlachen this past Tuesday and will travel to play Suwannee on Thursday, Feb. 27, at 6 p.m. On Friday, Feb. 28, Bradford hosts Middleburg at 7 p.m.

Bradford hosts Forrest on Monday, March 3, at 6 p.m.

BHS edges Santa Fe in softball

Ashton Adkins struck out 16 batters and went the distance in a 12-inning, 3-2 win over District 5-4A opponent Santa Fe on Feb. 19 in Starke.

Santa Fe scored both of its runs in the top of the third, with Bradford answering with a run in the bottom half of the inning.

The Tornadoes (4-0, 3-0 in District 5) scored again in the fifth before finally getting the winning run in the 12th.

Adkins, who gave up six hits, also hit a double and drove in a run. Jaci Atkinson, who was 2-for-5, scored twice.

Mackenzie Gault went 2-for-5, while Lainie Rodgers hit a double.

Bradford played Gainesville this past Tuesday and will host Providence on Thursday, Feb. 27, at 6 p.m. On Friday, Feb. 28, the Tornadoes host district opponent P.K. Yonge at 6:30 p.m.

Bradford takes on Santa Fe again on Tuesday, March 4, in Alachua at 7 p.m.

2 late runs propel Indians to 10-9 win

Keystone Heights High School scored two runs in the final two innings to defeat visiting St. Augustine 10-9 in a Feb. 18 baseball game.

Kyle Hix, who was 2-for-3, hit the second of his two home runs to lead off the bottom of the sixth, tying the score at 9-all. In the seventh, Blake Valenzuela drew a lead-off walk, advanced to third on an error and scored the winning run on a wild pitch.

Hix drove in a total of two runs, while Bryce Plummer, who was 2-for-4, had three RBI. Blake Richardson added an RBI, while Morgan Bass was 2-for-2.

Storm Miller, who pitched two innings of relief, earned the win.

Keystone (2-1) played Buchholz this past Tuesday and will travel to play Williston on Thursday, Feb. 27, at 7 p.m. On Saturday, March 1, the Indians travel to play District 5-4A opponent Santa Fe at 1 p.m. before returning home to play district opponent Fort White on Tuesday, March 4, at 6:30 p.m.

Tigers drop 2 in baseball

It was a tough week for the Union County High School baseball team, which suffered a 5-0 loss to District 7-1A opponent Williston on Feb. 18 and a 6-1 loss to Fort White on

Feb. 20.

T.J. Rogers hit a double in the loss to Williston, but Union (3-2, 0-1 in District 7) was held to just three hits.

The Fort White game was tied at 1-1 going into the fifth, but the visiting Indians scored two runs in the fifth and another three in the sixth.

Chris Starling drove in the only run, while Colten McAlister hit a double.

Again, the Tigers were held to three hits.

Starting pitcher Corey Hersey gave up one run on four hits and two walks in three innings of work.

The Tigers will travel to play district opponent Dixie County on Friday, Feb. 28, at 7 p.m. Union then returns home to play district opponent Newberry on

Monday, March 3, at 7 p.m.

Union stops losing streak

Jordan Howe homered and drove in four runs as the Union County High School softball team earned its second win of the season, defeating District 7-1A opponent Williston 16-1 on Feb. 20 in Lake Butler.

The Tigers (2-5, 1-2 in District 7) had lost five in a row, but got back in the win column, with Kaylyn Ingram, who was 2-for-2, Kendallyn Johns and Madison McClellan each driving in two runs, while Devin Lewis, Kaylan Tucker and Katie Zipperer each drove in one.

Pitcher Holly Tucker (2-2) threw a complete game (four innings), giving up two hits and one walk.

Prior to playing Williston, the Tigers lost 9-8 to host Suwannee on Feb. 18. Kaylan Tucker was 3-for-4, while Lewis was 2-for-3 with a double and two RBI. Johns, Jordyn Driggers and Valerie Seay were each 2-for-4, with Johns hitting a double and driving in three runs, and Driggers hitting a home run.

Ingram added an RBI.

Union played district opponent Newberry this past Tuesday and will host district opponent Chiefland on Thursday, Feb. 27, at 7 p.m. On Monday, March 3, the Tigers host Newberry at 6 p.m. before traveling to play district opponent Dixie County on Tuesday, March 4, at 7 p.m.

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