



# UNION COUNTY TIMES

USPS 648-200 - LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA

THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2014

102<sup>ND</sup> YEAR - 6<sup>TH</sup> ISSUE - 75 CENTS

## etc.

### Raiford Town Council meeting, June 6

The Raiford Town Council will conduct its monthly meeting on Friday, June 6, at 5:30 p.m.

### WS bingo fundraiser, June 6; bake sale, June 14

The Worthington Springs Senior Citizens Activity Program will host a fundraiser on Friday, June 6, from 6 to 9 p.m. It will include bingo, where they'll sell refreshments, and dinners for \$6.

They will also have a bake sale on Saturday, June 14, at Spires IGA from 8 a.m. till sold out.

### Clothes giveaway, June 7

Sanderson Christian Revival Center, located at C.R. 229 and Sapp Road, will give away clothes and other items Saturday, June 7, beginning at 8 a.m.

### UCHS Class of 1956 reunion, June 7

The Union County High School Class of 1956 will have its 58th year class reunion and invite anyone who would like to join them for a Dutch treat luncheon at 1 p.m. at Cedar River in Starke on Saturday, June 7.

### "To the Ends of the Earth," June 7

Kelly Christie Dance Academy will present "To the Ends of the Earth," featuring local dancers and internationally acclaimed guest artist from Dance Alive National Ballet, on Saturday, June 7, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., at the Union County High School auditorium.

Admission is \$7.00 for ages five to adult.

### LB Commission meeting, June 10

The Lake Butler City Commission will conduct its monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 10, at 5:15 p.m., following the Planning and Zoning Board meeting at that time.

### Pop Warner sign-ups, June 7 & 21

Union County Pop Warner has opened registration for football and cheerleading during select Saturdays: June 7 & 21 and July 12 & 26—and on July 4. Sign-ups are at the Pop Warner building at the O.J. Phillips Recreation Complex.

Football fees are \$100 for May 23 to July 4 and \$150 for July 5 to 26.

Cheerleading fees are \$125 and \$175, respectively.

Coaches, volunteers and sponsors are needed.

### Canoe the Santa Fe, June 12

Will leave at 8 a.m. Cost is \$25 and a maximum of 16 youth. Bring bag lunch.

### Menu for one, two or more, June 12

Union County Extension Office at 1:30 p.m. Call to pre-register at 386-496-2321.

## UC schools tops in FCAT Writing and third-grade math

BY VINCENT ALEX BROWN  
Times Editor

On May 23, the Florida Department of Education released the FCAT 2.0 Writing and third grade Reading and Mathematics scores. The Union County School District took the top spot in several categories.

"All three schools scored above the state average," said Carlton Faulk, superintendent of schools. "As a district, fourth grade students tied for number one in the state, eighth grade students ranked number twelve in the state and tenth grade students tied with three other districts for number one in the state. The tenth grade students also had the highest percentage passing the FCAT Writing."

He noted that the third grade students' math scores tied with four other districts for highest percentage of students scoring Level 3 or above in the state.

To be considered a proficient writer,

a student should score an average of 3.5. While the state average fell short at 3.3, students at Lake Butler Elementary School scored an average of 3.6, which has Union County tied for first in the state with two other public school districts. The percentage scoring at Level 3.5 and above dropped from 81 percent last year to 70 percent this year. Those at Level 4 and above dropped from 65 to 47 percent.

For math, the state average was 58 percent with Union County coming in at 73 percent proficiency—the same as last year—and an average score of 207. Once again, this ranks them first in the state tied with two other public school districts.

According to the scale score in reading, LBES came in with a score of 200, which was at state average. However, the percentage of students at Level 3.5 and above dropped from 59 percent last year to 51 percent this year.

"At LBES we strive to incorporate more

innovative teaching techniques to help our students develop higher order thinking skills to prepare them for these rigorous state assessments," said Principal Stacey Rimes. "We are very proud of the hard work and dedication of both our students and staff."

Lake Butler Middle School eighth grade students made great gains over last year's FCAT Writing scores by improving 13 percentage points from 47 percent to 60 percent—a gain of nearly 28 percent. Most impressive of the gains was the drop in Level 1 and 2 from 2013 of 69 students to a 2014 level of 18 students in these categories.

There was also a significant gain in the number of Level 4, 5 and 6. In 2013 there were only 11 students who scored at level 4 or above with all 11 students being a Level 4. This year's eighth-graders had

See FCAT, 3A

## UC cleared in public records request lawsuit

Received same email sent to other counties

BY VINCENT ALEX BROWN  
Times Editor

On Oct. 30 of last year Dianne Hannon, executive secretary for the Union County Board of County Commissioners, received an email addressed to Union County from ask4records@gmail.com with a public records request. Bradford County, Sarasota County, Leon County and possibly others received the exact same email that same day.

The sender, "on behalf of a Florida company," demanded that the county provide "a complete list of all the work email addresses of all the employees that work for your county that have email addresses."

That Florida company is Consumer Rights LLC out of Lake City, managed by attorney Robert Earl Case Jr.

The county had no further contact from the sender nor received any follow-up until slapped with a lawsuit on March 4 demanding enforcement of Chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes, more commonly known as Florida's "Public Records Act."

"It was very, very, very odd," said Clerk of Court Kellie Hendricks Connell, "which is why it was thought to be an attempt to hack or phishing scam or one of these dozens of attempts to somehow create problems—in some way, shape or form—which is why it was disregarded."

"Furthermore, it was never followed up by phone call, a second email, a written notification—there was never any follow-up from that email to indicate that it truly was a legitimate request and not an attempt at phishing or hacking."

Phishing is the attempt to acquire sensitive information such as usernames, passwords, credit card details (and sometimes, indirectly, money), etc., by masquerading as a trustworthy entity through email, instant messaging and websites.

She made it clear that the email was not ignored, but rather "it was purposely decided that it was in the best interest of the county to not answer, because we thought it was a potential for exploitation."

At the time, the county did not maintain a list of email addresses, and so was not obliged to provide a document that did not exist. Public records requests only pertain to what is already available, or on record—"all documents, papers, letters, maps, books, tapes, photographs, films, sound recordings, data processing software or other material, regardless of the physical form, characteristics or means of transmission, made or received pursuant to law or ordinance or in connection with the transaction of official business by any agency," as stated in the statute.

In his ruling dated May 21, Circuit Judge Stanley H. Griffis III, referenced *State v. Clearwater*, 863 So.2d 149 (Fla. 2003), wherein the Florida Supreme Court ruled that email addresses do not qualify as a public record because email headers, which contain the addresses, were neither purposely compiled nor maintained in the course of the agency's operations.

"However, even if such email lists are public record subject to disclosure," Griffis wrote in his ruling, "Plaintiff must prove that a specific request for public records was made, the agency received the request, the requested public records existed and the agency improperly refused to produce the public records in a timely manner. See *Hillier v. City of Plantation*, 935 So.2d 105, 106 (Fla. 4th DCA 2006)."

"Here, the public records requested did not exist at the time of the request. Defendant did not improperly refuse to produce public records in a timely manner. Defendant was under no duty to create to satisfy Plaintiffs (sic) request."

See LAWSUIT, 5A

## Class of 2014 celebrates on a stormy night



Though afternoon storms delayed graduation for 133 anxious Union County High School seniors Friday, a few more raindrops weren't enough to dampen their Tiger spirit as they ended one chapter in their lives and began another. Here, valedictorian Taylor Cross encourages classmates during her speech as her father, Assistant Principal Bill Cross, looks on (far left) with pride. Thankful for "18 years of a beautiful life," she then hugged him when done (inset), and again when she received her diploma. Kamil Mazal was the salutatorian.

### Valedictorian encourages classmates to live, run and leap

BY TAYLOR CROSS  
UCHS Class of 2014  
Valedictorian

As tradition follows there are some muchly owed thank you's that I would like to give. First, I want to thank God for truly blessing me with 18 years of a beautiful life. It is through this grace that I stand where I am today. I have been surrounded by amazing people who have

nothing but their entire hearts to give, I have made friends that make every day an adventure, and I now have the privilege to be speaking to you all this evening.

There are two special people however that deserve to know just how great they are and that is my mom and dad. Mappy, Pappy, there is not a day that goes by that I

See CROSS, 4A

### Salutatorian challenges classmates to 'make it happen'

BY KAMIL MAZAL  
UCHS Class of 2014  
Salutatorian

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen.

Welcome to all the parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends. My name is Kamil Mazal and I am honored to have the privilege of addressing you tonight.

I've taken many classes throughout high school.

I've taken some courses that people considered "hard." The hardest one, for me, was probably public speaking, so please bear with me on this.

When Mr. Ripplinger let me know about being salutatorian, I thought about the message I could give to my fellow graduates. It seemed important as it did

See MAZAL, 4A

## Be prepared as hurricane season begins

BY JOHN WALKER  
Director, Union County Office of Emergency Management

Hurricane season started June 1 and ends Nov. 30. The Union County Office of Emergency Management would like to remind residents that taking time to prepare each year can prevent injury and damage to property. It's best to know our vulnerabilities and what actions to take to reduce the effects of these storms.



We would like to assist the residents of our county be prepared in the event a hurricane should affect our area. Preparation is the key; know what to do, what

supplies to have, and how to stay informed.

We recommend three major steps that could help you and your family prior to and during a hurricane:

**1. Prepare an emergency kit.** Make sure you include prescription medications, and other medications that your family needs. You will need one gallon of water per person per day, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food and battery-powered radios (AM/FM and weather radio). Other items to consider in your kit include flashlights, batteries, a first aid kit, plastic bags and ties for sanitation, cellphone chargers, tools, a can opener and maps. Make sure your kit is portable in case you have to evacuate.

**2. Make an emergency plan.** Plan how you will contact family and friends just before and during the event. Keep contact information (including work information) for all members of your household. Record social security numbers and medical information for each family member as well. Prepare an evacuation plan and include a common meeting place near

your neighborhood in case anyone gets separated. Plan to protect your property. Cover windows with plywood, store anything not tied down inside your residence or storage and try to keep trees and shrubs trimmed to minimize damage to property.

**3. Stay informed.** A hurricane can affect us with lightning, tornadoes, flooding and high winds. Use local news outlets, weather radios and any information received from local government to keep up-to-date on the latest status of any storm. Start getting prepared and monitor news outlets.

Familiarize yourself with the terms that are used to identify an impending hurricane. A Hurricane Watch means the effects of a hurricane are possible in your area. A Hurricane Warning means a hurricane is expected in your area. If instructed to evacuate, leave immediately. In almost every case, a Hurricane Watch will be issued before the Hurricane Warning in order to give you time to prepare. Hurricanes are classified into five categories: Category 5 being the most severe and

Category 3 and higher are considered major hurricanes, though Category 1 and 2 still can produce major damage.

Following these steps can minimize the effects a hurricane has on you and your family.

Please take time to visit [www.unionsheriff.us](http://www.unionsheriff.us), and click on the "CodeRED" button near the bottom right-hand side of the main page. This will allow you to enroll in community notifications of significant weather events using Union County's CodeRED alert notification system. Enter your information so that you may stay informed. After entering your home address and phone, you can also enter your GPS-capable cellphone number. This will provide you with location specific alerts based on your cellphone's location. For more detailed information, checklists and forms to help you prepare, please visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov). You can also visit Florida's site at [www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org).

The State of Florida has initiated a Sales Tax Holiday

See PREPARE, 5A



etc.

**Revival, June 8;  
homecoming, June 15**

New River NC Methodist Church is hosting a revival from Sunday, June 8, to Wednesday, June 11.

Sunday night service will begin at 6:00 p.m. with Rev. Randy Ogburn. Monday service will begin at 7:30 p.m. with Rev. Tommy Richardson. Tuesday service will be at 7:30 p.m. with Rev. Tommy Anderson. Wednesday service will be at 7:30 p.m. with Rev. Cody Griffis.

The church will celebrate homecoming on Sunday, June 15, with lunch following the morning service.

Everyone is invited to come and enjoy spirit-filled preaching and singing. The church is located on C.R. 125.

Rev. Jimmy Scott is the pastor.

Call 386-431-1536 for directions. For more info, call the front office at 386-496-3040.

**VBS at FCC, June 16**

Starting Monday, June 16, First Christian Church of Lake Butler will host its annual Vacation Bible School program, each weekday from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

This year's theme is "The Long Shot Faith," with a great marketplace and lessons on seeing the long shot into greatness. There will be games, crafts, snacks and great lessons about the mighty faith of Deborah.

There are programs for ages pre-K to sixth grade.

For more info, call Associate Minister David Tompkins at 386-496-3956.

**Library's summer  
programs start June 19**

**10 & Under, Thursdays  
at 10 a.m.**

**June 19:** "Fizz, Boom, Science" at Union County Public Library – Mad science with mad scientists!

**June 26:** "Fizz, Boom, Todd Kay" at Lake Butler Elementary School – Juggling with a magical twist!

**Teens & Tweens, 11 & Up**

**June 24, 3-5 p.m.:** "Electrifying Electricity" workshop. Limited seating; pre-registration recommended.

**June 30, 5-7 p.m.:** "Ballad of America," featuring special guest Matthew Sabatella. Refreshments will be served.

Follow the library's Facebook page for updates on programs and more at [www.facebook.com/unioncountylibrary](http://www.facebook.com/unioncountylibrary).

**Get ready to vote**

On Tuesday, (l-r) Tiffany Rollins and Tammy Roddenberry and from the Union County Supervisor of Elections office went door-to-door in Lake Butler to let residents know that their voting precinct had changed for the county elections due to redistricting.

If anyone needs to get registered to vote the books will close July 28. If you have moved and need to change your address or you have married and need to change your name don't wait until election day. You can change your address by phone or at the elections office.

Regular qualifying will start at noon Monday, June 16, through noon Friday, June. This is when someone can pay to run for office instead of the petition method.

**Channing Dobbs  
running for UC  
commission**

*(The following is a statement of intention to run for public office, submitted by the candidate.)*

My name is Channing Dobbs and it is with extreme enthusiasm that I announce my candidacy for District 2 Union County Commissioner.

For those of you who do not know me I was born and raised in Raiford and am blessed to call Union County home. After my mother's death I was raised by my uncle and aunt, Lamar and Marjan Griffis, as well as my grandparents, Bud and Marjorie Dobbs. My family is deeply rooted in Raiford myself being fourth-generation. I am a member of Fellowship Baptist Church in Raiford. I have a beautiful 2-year old daughter whose name is Pamela "Ela" Dobbs and might

I add she has my heart. I am a 2007 graduate of Union County High School.

After school I began a career with the Department of Corrections at Union Correctional Institution in 2008 and was recently promoted to sergeant. It was a great honor to begin serving the Town of Raiford as a councilman in 2009. In 2010 I obtained a law enforcement certification from Lake City Community College. In 2011 while serving the Town of Raiford I became mayor—the youngest in Florida to do so. After much thought and prayer I have decided to run for this position for several reasons.

I love my community and the people in it. I am blessed beyond words to call Union County my home. I look forward to raising

my child here and never intend on leaving. I feel that I am without a doubt qualified for this position. As councilman and mayor of Raiford I was given the opportunity to receive your comments and suggestions regarding this district. I have used this information to make profound decisions concerning your tax dollars and policies outlined in the charter. I am experienced in the field of budget analysis, ordinance preparation, charter compliance, community developmental grants and audits. I have worked hand-in-hand with the board of county commissioners as well as the DOC community partnership program on several occasions and to both I am greatly appreciative.

I believe in order to reach goals we must work as a team. I am, have been and will continue to be honest, hardworking and dedicated to serve in the most professional manner possible. I am committed to serve you in every aspect within my span of control.

I promise if elected to be available, accountable and welcoming to comments and suggestions to enhance our community as a whole. Please feel free to contact me any time at 904-263-8058. Thank you for your support.

*I look forward to seeing you soon,*

*Channing Dobbs*

**DECISION 2014**

**Woody Kitler  
running for UC  
commission**

*(The following is a statement of intention to run for public office, submitted by the candidate.)*

I am Woodrow "Woody" Kitler, and I am both humbled and excited to announce my candidacy for Union County Commissioner, District 2.

I was born and raised in Union County, as was my wife Nicole. Both of our families are proud lifelong residents of this county. Nicole and I have been married

for 16 years, and we are raising our family here as well. Our three sons Chase, Dalton and Dawson all attend Union County High School.

After graduating from UCHS in 1990, I joined the U.S. Army where I served honorably until 1993. I then joined the Army National Guard until 1996. I am currently employed by US Foods in Jacksonville as a driver and have been driving trucks for the past 18 years.

If elected as your county commissioner, my formal commitment to you will be to make myself accessible and listen to your thoughts and opinions. I will work hard to earn your trust and represent you to the best of my abilities. I have a strong belief in the need for elected officials to work alongside the people of the community to accomplish goals, both large and small.

Over the next couple of months leading up to the primary election, I look forward to meeting and talking with each of you individually. I am anxious to hear your concerns and gather your thoughts and ideas regarding our community. I believe in this community and the people who live in it. We need to work hard today to build a strong community for our

children tomorrow.

My family and I are proud to congratulate the UCHS Class of 2014 on their great accomplishments!

Please remember to vote August 26th. Let your voice be heard.

**DECISION 2014**



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**Robert Osborne**  
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Lake Butler  
City Commissioner Seat 3  
on  
**June 24, 2014**



- As a taxpayer I believe that our tax dollars should be utilized wisely and within the allotted budget.
- I have been involved with the youth for several years and would like to see some type of programs for them.
- Also, I have worked with non-profit organizations that involved the youth as well as the community as a whole.
- Most importantly I've worked in the financial and accounting field for over ten years working with various types of budgets.
- Vote with confidence for someone you can trust as your vote can make a difference at local levels.

Vote Robert Osborne on  
June 24, 2014  
to make a difference.

Political advertisement paid for and approved by Robert Osborne for  
Lake Butler City Commissioner Seat 3



**Russ  
WADE**  
Attorney at Law

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# SCHOOL

## 2014 FCAT WRITING SCORES

	Fourth Grade		Eighth Grade		Tenth Grade	
	MEAN	Levels 3.5 and Higher	MEAN	Levels 3.5 and Higher	MEAN	Levels 3.5 and Higher
<b>STATE AVERAGE</b>	3.3	53%	3.4	56%	3.5	64%
<b>UNION</b>	3.6 (1st in Region)	69% (1st in Region)	3.5 (Tied for 2nd)	59% (Tied for 5th)	3.7 (Tied for 1st)	76% (1st in State)

### NEFEC DISTRICTS (North East Florida Educational Consortium)

	Fourth Grade		Eighth Grade		Tenth Grade	
	MEAN	3.5^	MEAN	3.5^	MEAN	3.5^
BAKER	3.2	44%	3.5	60%	3.4	55%
BRADFORD	3.2	48%	3.2	47%	3.4	56%
COLUMBIA	3.2	48%	3.3	46%	3.3	52%
DIXIE	3.2	51%	3.2	47%	3.4	58%
FLAGLER	3.5	63%	3.5	59%	3.5	63%
GILCHRIST	3.5	63%	3.3	54%	3.7	71%
HAMILTON	3.0	39%	2.8	22%	3.5	71%
LAFAYETTE	3.4	54%	3.6	72%	3.5	62%
LEVY	3.0	40%	3.5	61%	3.4	61%
NASSAU	3.4	60%	3.4	58%	3.7	72%
PUTNAM	3.0	40%	3.1	39%	3.2	44%
SUWANNEE	2.9	37%	3.1	44%	3.2	52%

### STATE RESULTS

Fourth Grade		Eighth Grade		Tenth Grade	
MEAN	3.5^	MEAN	3.5^	MEAN	3.5^
Tied for 1st with Hillsborough	Tied for 1st with Hillsborough	10 districts higher; 10 districts tied	17 districts higher; 2 districts tied	3 districts tied for 1st	No district was higher

## 2014 THIRD GRADE FCAT MATH SCORES

	Level 3 and Above	Mean Score
STATE AVERAGE	58%	201
<b>UNION</b>	<b>73%</b> (Tied for 1st)	<b>207</b> (Tied for 1st)

### NEFEC DISTRICTS (North East Florida Educational Consortium)

BAKER	67%	206
BRADFORD	46%	196
COLUMBIA	61%	202
DIXIE	67%	204
FLAGLER	63%	204
GILCHRIST	66%	205
HAMILTON	63%	202
LAFAYETTE	38%	193
LEVY	58%	200
NASSAU	73%	207
PUTNAM	51%	198
SUWANNEE	41%	194

\*not including lab schools

<b>Mean Score</b> 6 districts higher Tied for 7th	<b>STATE RESULTS</b>	<b>Level 3 and Above</b> No districts higher Tied with 4 districts
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## 2014 THIRD GRADE FCAT READING SCORES

	Level 3 and Above	Mean Score
STATE AVERAGE	57%	200
<b>UNION</b>	<b>51% (9th)</b>	<b>200 (6th)</b>

### NEFEC DISTRICTS (North East Florida Educational Consortium)

BAKER	64%	204
BRADFORD	57%	198
COLUMBIA	62%	201
DIXIE	64%	203
FLAGLER	65%	205
GILCHRIST	60%	202
HAMILTON	35%	191
LAFAYETTE	39%	193
LEVY	46%	196
NASSAU	73%	206
PUTNAM	48%	196
SUWANNEE	52%	198

\*not including lab schools

<b>Mean Score</b> Tied with 4 districts 33 districts higher	<b>STATE RESULTS</b>	<b>Level 3 and Above</b> Tied with 4 districts 45 districts higher
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## SMITH & SON'S FEED AND SEED

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## FCAT

*Continued from 1A*

79 students at Level 4 and above with 11 at Level 5 and one student who scored the perfect Level 6. The percentage scoring at Level 4 and above improved 11 points over last year—from 36 percent to 47 percent. “The credit is due to the hard work the LBMS students put into

improving their writing skills and the driven instruction provided by the language arts faculty,” said Principal David Campbell. “The LBMS family couldn’t be prouder of their efforts and congratulate them on their accomplishment.”

At Union County High School, tenth-graders tied other districts in the state with the highest average writing score of a 3.7—up from 3.3 last year—and the district had the state’s highest percentage of students passing—Level

3.5 and above—with 76 percent, which was a dramatic improvement over last year at 54 percent. Even more dramatic was the percentage scoring Level 4 and above, which increased went from 30 percent last year to 52 percent.

“I would like to congratulate our teachers and students for their outstanding performance on this year’s FCAT Writing exam,” said Principal Mike Ripplinger. “Our teachers worked hard in preparing our students for success on the exam and our students performed at a high level of achievement.”

“I am very pleased that our students are making steady progress as we continue to transition to more rigorous standards,” said Commissioner of Education Pam Stewart. She also complimented the daily work of students and teachers to improve.

More test scores should be released in the next few weeks.



## Elect Ray Crawford to Lake Butler City Commission

Hi. My name is Ray Crawford and I am running for Lake Butler City Commissioner, Seat 4.

I am a Veteran and a longtime resident of Lake Butler and I was privileged and honored to serve as a City Commissioner in the years 2006 — 2009 and as a Mayor in the years 2009 — 2010. My future is tied up here and I want to contribute to make Lake Butler a prosperous Community for all.

On a personal note, for the people that do not know me, I would like to reassure you that the main reason why I am running — it’s because I love Lake Butler — it is where I live with my family and where I have run a successful business until a few months ago, I am here to stay.

Just for the record I would like to point out that, while I was serving my previous term, I was approached by Mr. Leroy Stalvey and asked to step aside to allow him to serve four more years as City Commissioner, in order for him to be eligible to collect his full retirement. I honored Mr. Stalvey’s request out of respect for his age and health conditions; his Seat was vacated due to his recent death. I am running for the same Seat.

I have recently retired and my desire is to regain Seat # 4 as a City Commissioner and dedicate full time to the challenges and most of all the opportunities of our little City.

I love to solve problems and I want to be part of the solution to the problems facing our City. I try to lead by example. I work well with others to accomplish goals; I know when to listen and when to follow; I will stand up for the concerns of Lake Butler Citizens; I am not afraid to say “I don’t know, let me find out and I will get back to you.” I want our tax dollars spent carefully and wisely. I strongly believe in fiscal responsibility, preservation, conservation and integrity.

Cities exist to create environments in which people can succeed with their life, with their families, with their businesses; I believe that Elected Officials and Citizens alike should treat each other with dignity to produce constructive outcomes.

A Commissioner must take the time to be fully informed on all issues at all times, in order to serve his Citizens properly. A Commissioner must be a credible and effective Ambassador for our City. I feel I can proudly be your Commissioner again. Please give me your vote.

Our people know a thing or two about hard work, determination and often, hardship. I am ready to work with everybody to understand the true nature of problems and develop the strategies which will best deal with these problems. I will work hard to identify the highest priorities in City matters and make sure that the services will be delivered in a manner that preserves our Citizens rights and best reinforces the strength and respect of all of us. Again, I believe that if we follow the vision of a “Great Lake Butler”, people of all ages and backgrounds will benefit. In the end, we should all remember that we are friends.

Please know that I truly encourage, welcome and value your questions and comments, and look forward to hearing from you at anytime.

I am asking for your support at the polls if you agree with my ideals. I will do everything I can to meet every single one of you personally and answer your questions and concerns. Only you, residents of Lake Butler, have the power to write the next chapter in our History, so please give me your consideration.

Thank you,

**Dallas Ray Crawford** • Seat # 4 Lake Butler City Commission

Pd. Pol. Adv. paid for and approved by Dallas Ray Crawford for Lake Butler City Commission



**Kelly Christie  
Dance Academy**

Presents

## “To the Ends of the Earth”

Featuring local dancers of KCDA and internationally acclaimed guest artist from Dance Alive National Ballet

**Saturday, June 7, 2014  
2:00pm and 7:00pm**

**Union County High School Auditorium**  
Admission \$7.00 for Age 5-Adult

# Annual 4th of July Celebration

Sponsored by Rotary Club of Lake Butler

## Lakeside Park on Lake Butler Lake

Friday • July 4 • 2014

### BIG BASS FISHING TOURNAMENT

at safe light on Lake Butler

**\$1000 Grand Prize**  
Additional cash prizes

- Registration begins at 3:30am at the boat ramp.
- \$50 entry fee per boat.
- 18yrs and older or accompanied by an adult.
- Valid FL fishing license required.
- 15hp motor minimum.
- Must have aerated livewell.

Weigh-in at 11:00am

### Fireworks at Dusk!

**Antique Car Show**  
9-12pm  
12pm Car Show Winners Raffle Ticket Prizes

**One Mile Family Fun Run**  
7:00am  
5K Run 8:00am  
Register at Lake Ave & NW 3 St.

**Bungee Trampoline  
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# SCHOOL



## CROSS

Continued from 1A

don't know just how lucky I am to have two individuals as strong, passionate, and loving as you are guiding me and supporting me. You may be proud of me right now but know that I'm so proud of you both each and every day for not only being parents and providers, but also for being my rock and my friend. I love you both so much.

Finally I want to personally thank everyone that I face now. The saying it takes a village to raise a child is embodied in the town of Lake Butler. In my eyes you all have been a part of my life and I'm so thankful for everyone's contribution.

Now, I'd like to point out that

there's something about a small town unique to any other. All of the young adults who gather on this field here today are the same people I walked into kindergarten with. Eighteen years of memories have been made as we have watched each other grow from pencil boxes to cap and gowns and I have to tell you all it has been an honor. But it also makes this day just a little bittersweet. You don't realize just how close you become to your classmates as we have all traveled down the street together one school at a time. It wasn't that far of a walk either.

But let's talk a little about what so many call the best years of our life: high school.

It's crazy to think that it's all over. I can personally still remember not having a worry in the world as a freshman. At that time I had a personal chauffeur and the word job was completely taboo to me. Then came sophomore year—the big Sweet 16 for us all. This may have been when our parents started to find out we really could cause them to gray.

But don't worry, we totally knew how to drive right? Unfortunately, it turns out I really can't drive, or at least that's what my friends say, but as far as I can see they're all here so no harm done.

Now, onward to junior year where the word responsibility became just a little bit more real.

Turns out you needed money for gas and food. It was around this time that we learned the true power of the dollar menu. But at the same time we were starting to evolve into unique individuals, slowly we had begun making our own paths.

Now, here we are—senior year. Everyone tries to tell you just how fast it goes by but you'll never realize it until one day the entire town is looking back at you as you walk across stage. But, I'd like to point out that the Class of 2014 has endured quite a bit of hardship this year as we have lost some of those closest to us. However, I hope everyone knows just how strong they really are. Through the hurt, we have prevailed.

And now as we prepare to turn our tassels and say goodbye to the one and only UCHS, I only have a few wishes for us all. It is my hope that everyone who gathers with me here today may never see a day wasted because there was no laughter. It is my hope that we never prioritize anything over happiness, and it is my hope that each and every one of us live to our full potential. It turns out life really is too short to let it be a sedentary one. We are blessed every time we get to see the sun come up.

So go out in the real world, see extraordinary views, be inspired, fall in love, make friends who

will stay with you for the rest of your lives, never try to be perfect because there isn't such a thing, and of course put your heart into everything you do. There will be times that we may stumble but know this is only a time to learn. Always pick yourself up and push harder into tomorrow because you'll eventually run out of them. Let each day from here on out be an adventure as you not only find yourself but what makes you truly at peace. And when you do, hold onto that and go as far as you can go. Run with happiness until your legs grow weak and then crawl even farther. Because in the end, the question won't be what we did and didn't have.

In the end, the most important thing we can ask ourselves is, "Did I do the best I possibly could with what I had in front of me?" You see, we aren't all given the same set of circumstances but we all have the potential to be great. Life is what you make it. So make it fun. Make it memorable and make it your own. The path in front of us is wide open. Go now, get a running start. Leap over all the obstacles that try to slow you down and never look back.

Life has only just begun my friends. It's our time to make our mark in the world. Let it be one that no one forgets, and thank you again for the last 18 years. I will forever cherish them.



## MAZAL

Continued from 1A

imperative for me to share with you something I discovered in 2011 that has kept me motivated since.

It is my favorite poem, and it is called "Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening" by Robert Frost. I'll read the short poem for you:

*Whose woods these are I think I know.*

*His house is in the village though;*

*He will not see me stopping here*

*To watch his woods fill up with snow.*

*My little horse must think it queer*

*To stop without a farmhouse near*

*Between the woods and frozen lake*

*The darkest evening of the year.*

*He gives his harness bells a shake*

*To ask if there is some mistake.*

*The only other sound's the sweep  
Of easy wind and downy flake.*

*The woods are lovely, dark  
and deep,*

*But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep,  
And miles to go before I sleep.*

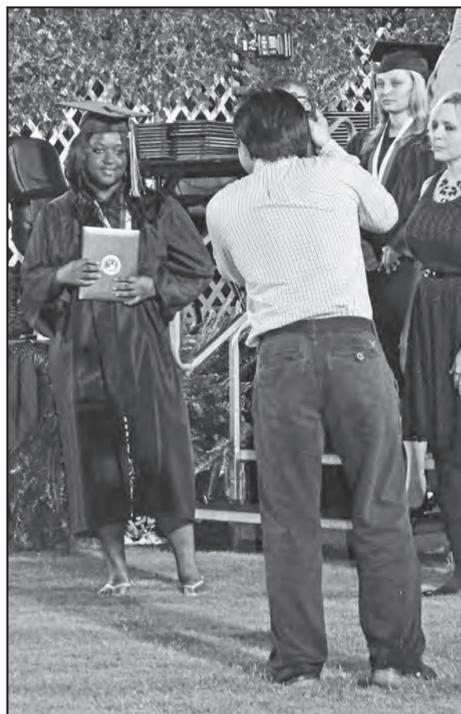
"How has this kept her motivated?" you may ask. Well, I believe that the message here is to not settle for something that merely makes you content, but to make promises to yourself, lofty goals that you will strive to reach. I want you to ask yourselves, "What do I want to accomplish?" After you have your answers, set out to make it happen.

I chose to share this message with you because I believe that a passionate individual can accomplish anything. And when obstacles are presented, follow Sir Winston Churchill's advice to "Never give up."

Along the way, please never forget the people who helped you get there, and give thanks to them. I, personally, would like to thank my mom, dad, and brother, LTC Steverson, CSM North, MSG Black, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Sharma, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Imler, Congressman Yoho and Greg Rawson, Ms. Mackey, Mrs. Tana, Mrs. Dot, Mr. Rip, Mr. Cross, Hannah, my fellow classmates and everybody else at this wonderful institution who has given me a hand.

I hope you'll find what I just said useful, and that you remember it through all of the endeavors you embark upon in life.

Thank you.



## Tragedy and triumph

TOP: As it does every year, the Spirit of Union County Tiger Band played "Pomp and Circumstance"—a series of marches composed by Sir Edward Elgar—as graduates filed in. ABOVE: Miranda Merritt, senior class president and homecoming queen, started things off. RIGHT: During the benediction, a moment of silence was held in memory of senior Charlii McCastle, who drowned last year. Later, cheers went up when Marissa Griffin walked across the stage to receive her diploma. Just a week before she and her mother Lakesha Mills were both shot by her stepfather, Mills' husband. Mills was also able to attend the ceremony and share the momentous occasion with her daughter.

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CITY OF LAKE BUTLER  
JUNE 24, 2014

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**CITY OF LAKE BUTLER  
GENERAL ELECTION**

CITY COMMISSIONER- SEAT 3

ROBERT OSBORNE	
ANNETTE REDMAN	

CITY COMMISSIONER- SEAT 4

DEBRA BROWNING	
DALLAS RAY CRAWFORD	

# CUB SCOUTS



## Cub Scouts check things out

Cub Scout Troop 140 visited the Lake Butler Volunteer Fire Department on April 28 to get a tour of the trucks and equipment and learn some firefighting techniques.

**FAR LEFT:** The scouts pose on the bumper Lake Butler's fire engine. (L-r) Fire Chief Mike Banks, Lanie Sargent, Devin Duenas, Jeremiah Denmark, Dillon Duenas, Cameron Christie, Sonny Sargent, Izzy Hedrick and Volunteer Firefighter Christian Vineyard. Not pictured are Den Leader Dan Malcolm and Cubmaster Nellie Sargent.

**BELOW FAR LEFT:** The scouts learn some firefighting technique as Banks shows why using a fire extinguisher is better than water in cooking situations, here spraying a garden hose on an outdoor grill engulfed in flames. Especially when directed at grease or oil fires, water can splash the oil and also turn to dangerous steam, making matters much worse. A fire extinguisher actually helps suppress the fire.

**BELOW LEFT:** Jeremiah Denmark uses a fire extinguisher to put out the grill fire.

Then on May 13 they headed over to the Union County Public Library. The scouts began their tour at the library's flagpole where they stated their Cub Scout Promise as well as the Pledge of Allegiance. The boys learned a bit about library operations and toured the staff-only areas of the library including going behind the front desk where they each had the opportunity to "check out" books.

**ABOVE RIGHT:** Brown shows Dillon Duenas how to check out a book to fellow scout Sonny Sargent.



# COUNTY

## LAWSUIT

Continued from 1A

The judge further noted what Connell also pointed out: that the email was not even addressed to the proper records custodian for the county but sent to a decidedly generic BOCC address. Hannon did forward the original email to Justin Stankiewicz, chief financial

officer for the Clerk of Court, which is the correct agency. Hence, "Plaintiff made no effort before the request to confirm it was being sent to the proper person or entity," Griffis observed.

The judge agreed with the county that the email seemed to be an attempt at phishing.

Ironically, since the lawsuit was first and only verification that the original email was in

fact valid, the county did actually create a record to satisfy the request and then provided that to Plaintiff.

"Once we determined that it truly was a legitimate request and not some kind of hacking scam, we made a 'good faith' effort to give the information; we actually created the document when we didn't have to," Connell said. "So, we're trying to be transparent. ...

"Until we had a suit we did not realize it was a legitimate request," Connell added. "We thought it was an attempt to attempt to abuse the government. ..."

"And understand that after four months (between the time of the email and the lawsuit) of receiving no follow-up correspondence, that confirmed our suspicion that that was an illegitimate—that it was not truly a public records attempt. It was an attempt to hack emails."

Connell said that Bradford County also did not respond to the email was similarly ruled in favor and not obligated to pay Plaintiff.

Finally, in denying Plaintiff's lawsuit and in not awarding attorneys fees and costs, Griffis

concluded that, "Plaintiff has failed to establish that Defendant unlawfully refused to permit a public record to be inspected or copied. Defendant did not possess, nor did a record exist to fulfill Plaintiff's public records request."

Connell said the county received legal representation at no cost. Fred Baggett, an attorney for Greenberg Traurig LLP is the general counsel for Florida Court Clerks and Comptrollers, a statewide association. Connell called him regarding the lawsuit and Baggett connected her

with an attorney in his firm that "knew (Chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes) very well, and did not charge the county for the representation," she said.

"The day that (the attorney) contacted the Plaintiff," Connell said, "the Plaintiff offered to settle for \$4,800."

However, the county declined.

"We talked about it and decided that we did nothing wrong, that we were absolutely legitimate and that we were not going to spend the county's dollars—for that," Connell said. Apparently the judge agreed.

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## PREPARE

Continued from 1A

that started May 31 and ends at 11:59 p.m. on June 8. Qualifying

items are listed as follows:

- Selling for \$10 or less: Reusable ice (reusable ice packs).
- Selling for \$20 or less: Any portable, self-powered

light source, battery-powered flashlights, battery-powered lanterns, gas-powered lanterns (including propane, kerosene, lamp oil, or similar fuel), tiki-type torches, candles.

• Selling for \$25 or less: Any gas or diesel fuel container (including LP gas and kerosene containers).

• Selling for \$30 or less: Batteries, including rechargeable batteries, and excluding automobile and boat batteries; AA-cell, C-cell, D-cell, 6-volt, 9-volt; coolers (food-storage; nonelectrical) ice chest (food-storage; nonelectrical), self-contained first-aid kit (already tax-exempt).

• Selling for \$50 or less: Tarpaulins, visqueen, plastic sheeting, or plastic drop cloths, and other flexible waterproof sheeting, ground anchor systems, tie-down kits, bungee cords, ratchet straps, radios (self-powered or battery-powered),

two-way radios (self-powered or battery-powered).

• Selling for \$750 or less: Portable generators that will be used to provide light, communications, or to preserve food in the event of a power outage.

The Atlantic Hurricane Season runs from June 1 through November 30.

You may reach the Union County Office of Emergency Management at 386-496-4300, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. till 5 p.m.

The Union County Sheriff's Office can be reached 24/7 at 386-496-2501. In the case of an emergency, always call 911.

Online resources:

- [www.unionsheriff.us](http://www.unionsheriff.us) (Click CodeRED button to sign up for alerts.)
- [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) (Detailed information, checklists and forms to help you prepare.)
- [www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org)

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The churches and businesses listed below urge you to attend the church of your choice!

## LEGALS

UCT Legals 6/5/14

### NOTICE

The Union County Board of County Commissioners are accepting bids for a Wind Retrofit of the Providence Community Center. Interested contractors should send sealed proposals to 15 NE 1st Street, Lake Butler, FL 32054 by June 12, 2014. Request for bid packets and all questions should be directed to John Walker at 386-496-4330.

5/29 2tchg 6/5 UCT

### LEGAL NOTICE

The Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc. Board of Directors will hold a Finance Audit and Executive

Committee Meeting on Wednesday, June 18, 2014; Finance Audit Committee Meeting will be held at 10:00 A.M.; and Executive Committee Meeting will follow at 10:30 A.M. at the Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc. Administration Office located at 1171 Nobles Ferry Road NW in Live Oak, Florida.

6/5 1tchg-UCT

### NOTICE

Lake Butler Mini Storage will hold an auction on Saturday, June 14, 2014 at 10 AM, located at 1015 SW 3RD Street, Lake Butler, FL. Hwy 121. We have 3 units up for auction #62 10x10, #28 5x10, #27 5x10.

6/5 2tchg 6/12-UCT

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## Are Miracles Being Performed Today?

The Bible records several miracles performed by God. They were given to show God's power and confirm the word being spoken by those performing the miracles (Mark 16:20; Hebrews 2:3-4). For example, the miracles performed by Jesus were given so people "may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God" (John 20:30-31). They confirmed the claim being made by Jesus. God has finished revealing His will to mankind (Galatians 1:6-9) so miracles are not needed to confirm that one is receiving revelation from God. Instead, the word of God is confirmed by the signs recorded in the text. In the Christian age, the ability to perform miracles was limited to the apostles and those on whom they laid hands (Acts 8:14-18). Since there is no one on earth today who is an apostle or who received the laying on of the apostles' hands, no one has the ability to perform miracles today.

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 Worship at 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM on Sun.

## Florida announces longleaf pine incentives for landowners

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Florida Forest Service is accepting applications now through June 27 for its Longleaf Pine Landowner Incentive Program, which offers Florida's non-industrial private landowners incentive payments for longleaf pine restoration.

"Longleaf pine forest once covered some 70 million acres (more than 60 percent of all the uplands) on the southeastern coastal plain from Southeast Virginia to Central Florida to East Texas. Today only about three million acres remain, mostly due to conversion to other land uses," said Jay Tucker, Union County Senior CFA Forester with the Florida Forest Service. "Longleaf pine forests are highly valued for their resistance to damage by insects, disease, wildfire and storms and for their yield of high quality wood products, biological diversity and scenic beauty."

He said that people often underestimate where longleaf will

grow, thinking it only thrives in on dry, well-drained sites.

"In the contrary, it is native to a wide range of sites from wetter flatwoods (commonly found throughout the county) to dry, rocky mountain ridges," he said.

As a general rule of thumb, if a site will burned every two to five years then longleaf pine will most likely grow there.

The longleaf pine forest is fire-dependent ecological community. This means without frequent fires, other less fire tolerant plant species (i.e., such as oak species, red maple and slash pine) will invade and out-compete the longleaf pine. Historically fires would burn through the upland forest every year or two on dryer site and three to five years on the wetter flatwoods sites. As fire frequency decreases, naturally or manmade, longleaf pine is replaced by slash and woody shrubs replace native grass understorey.

"In recent years, we have learned a lot about planting, growing and managing longleaf

pine," said Tucker. "Some areas that have greatly improved are seedling quality, survival rates and tree growth in the first one to three years."

The program works to increase the acreage of healthy longleaf pine ecosystems in Florida by helping non-industrial private forest landowners to make the necessary investments required to establish and maintain longleaf pine ecosystems. Funding is provided through a grant and support by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Southern Company, U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Program participants receive incentive payments for various land improvements completed including invasive species control, prescribed burning, longleaf planting, and other practices that improve longleaf pine ecosystems and associated wildlife habitat. The program

is offered for private lands in Florida counties located west of the Apalachicola River and those near the Ocala and Osceola National Forests.

Interested applicants should visit their local Florida Forest Service office or visit [www.floridaforestservice.com](http://www.floridaforestservice.com) for program requirements and procedures.

For more information or questions, landowners in Union County can contact Tucker at [jay.tucker@freshfromflorida.com](mailto:jay.tucker@freshfromflorida.com) or 386-496-2190.

Qualifying applicants will be evaluated and ranked for funding approval.

The Florida Forest Service manages over one million acres of public forestland while protecting over 24 million acres of homes, forestland and natural resources.

For more information about the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, visit [www.FreshFromFlorida.com](http://www.FreshFromFlorida.com) or follow Commissioner Adam Putnam on Facebook, Twitter or Google+.



## Woman's club celebrates annual federation day

BY CHRISTY HENDRICKS  
PR Chairperson, LBWC

GFWC Federation Day is an annual celebration of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, which was officially formed on April 24, 1890, in New York City.

The history of GFWC is traced back to 1868 when a pioneering woman journalist named Jane Cunningham Croly (1829-1901) sought to attend a dinner honoring British novelist Charles Dickens at an all-male press club. Croly was denied admittance based on her gender, and in response, she formed a club for women. In 1890, Croly extended an invitation to women's clubs throughout the United States to attend a convention in New York City. Representatives from 63 clubs throughout the nation attended the convention and took action to form the GFWC.

The "Civic League" was the forerunner of the Lake Butler Woman's Club. The club was organized in 1912 and federated in 1914. Mrs. S.A. Draper, wife of high school principal S.A. Draper, was the first president. Meetings were held in homes of the members and later at the Masonic Lodge until Union County built a new brick courthouse and gave the two-story wooden building to LBWC in 1935.

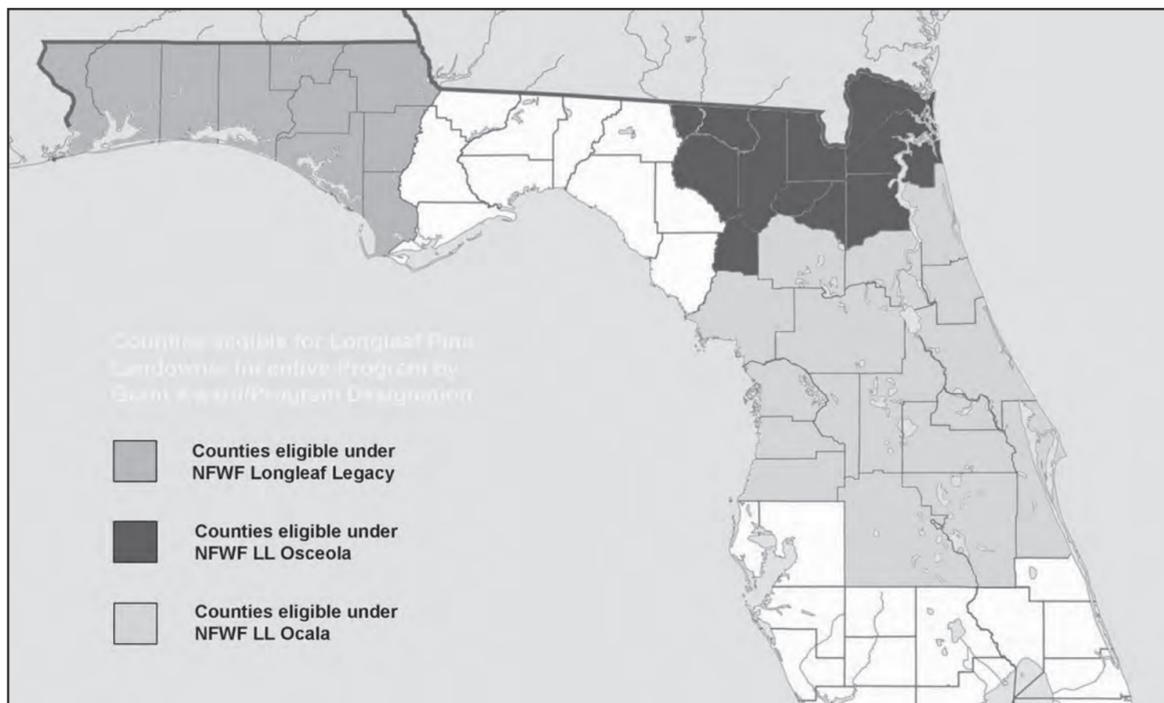
In the early years and today, club members did civic, school, health-related and community activities.

The club installed the first dock at Butler Lake. They donated a tennis court, which was on the lot across the street from the current park. They held Teen Town at the clubhouse and many of the local residents remember the fun and activities held at that time.

At one time the clubhouse was the home to the Union County Health Department and the members moved to the current Hal Y. Maines (Lake Butler) Community Center and managed the building. Along with the Lake Butler Rotary Club, LBWC purchased acoustical tile that was installed in the community center. The first library in the county was started by LBWC.

More recent projects have included Operation Smile, Heifer International, recycling, scholarship, Relay for Life, HOBY student leadership and monetary donations for local, state and national projects.

Presently the club holds its meetings at the clubhouse at 6 p.m. on the third Monday of each month, September through May. The woman's club seeks new members and visitors are always welcome.



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# REGIONAL NEWS

NEWS FROM BRADFORD COUNTY, UNION COUNTY AND THE LAKE REGION

## Soon-to-be BHS grads soak up fun on last day

Bradford High School seniors were able to enjoy a field day on May 30, eating pizza, running through an inflatable obstacle course, playing kickball and getting wet, among other things. Once the first student got doused, no one was safe... not even Principal Bryan Boyer, who gets a cooling off, courtesy of senior Bradley Davis.



Senior shower? Kenneth "Doot" Brown gets a surprise drenching from Kenny Dinkins. Please see page 6B for more photos. Photos are also available for viewing at [www.StarkeJournal.com](http://www.StarkeJournal.com). (Membership required.) All photos by Cliff Smelley.

## Ricker earns medal at international science fair

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Staff Writer

Bradford High School freshman Tessa Ricker earned a silver medal at this year's International Sustainable World (Energy, Engineering, Environment) Project Olympiad, an international science fair held annually in Houston.

Ricker, whose project, "The Rate of Decomposition of Compostable Packing Materials," received one of 40 silver medals in the Environment division, shared her I-SWEEP experience with the Kiwanis Club of Starke on May 27.

"I wasn't expecting this at all, to say the least," Ricker said of earning a medal.

Ricker was one of more than 600 participants—some of whom were part of group projects—from more than 40 states and more than 70 countries at the April 30-May 5 event.

More than 300 medals (gold, silver, bronze) and honorable-mention awards were presented, which made for a long awards ceremony. Ricker admitted she almost didn't accept her medal. After sitting through a portion of the ceremony, she told her older sister Hannah, who accompanied her on the trip, "I'm not going to get anything. Let's go."

Her sister persuaded her to stay just a little longer, which was good. Ricker heard her name called and went up to accept her award, though according to her sister, you couldn't tell she was excited about it.

"When I got back, Hannah was like, 'Why didn't you smile at



Tessa Ricker is shown with her project, "The Rate of Decomposition of Compostable Packing Materials," at the April 30-May 5 I-SWEEP Olympiad in Houston. Photo provided courtesy of I-SWEEP.

all?" I thought I did," Ricker said. "I don't know. I wasn't expecting it."

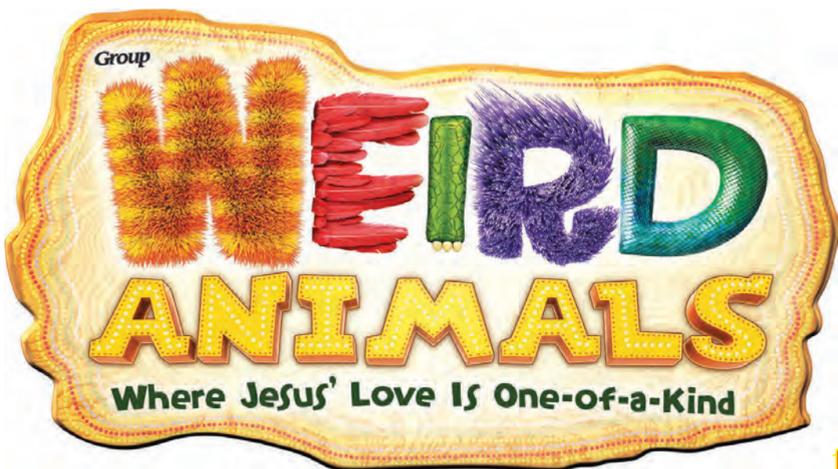
It proved to be an interesting experience from start to finish. Ricker was told beforehand there

wouldn't be a problem with her carrying her project onto the plane for the flight to Houston. When she got to the airport,

See RICKER 12B

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# Academy of Academics students recognized for their efforts

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Staff Writer

John Andrews looked forward to going to school after enrolling in the Bradford County School District's Academy of Academics. Four years later, he is preparing to accept his high school diploma.

Andrews said he wouldn't have gotten through school were it not for the Academy of Academics, a voluntary performance-based program for middle-school and high-school students that are behind in terms of grade level, and at risk for dropping out of school. Andrews enjoyed the

environment and being exposed to more one-on-one attention from teachers who seemed compassionate in helping him and other students.

"It's like family here," Andrews said. "You don't see teachers—they're just like my moms and dads. I love it here."



John Andrews receives a certificate for overall excellence from Bradford-Union Technical Center Director Christy Reddish. Also pictured (foreground to background) are Academy of Academics teachers Peg Stanwix-Hay, Linda Rudoi, Cindy Bagley, Anna Kirley and Bish Bishop.



ABOVE: Academy of Academics students who received certificates during a May 29 luncheon are pictured with guidance counselor Cynthia Ross. Pictured are: (front, l-r) Charlotte Carter, Ross, Shania Rosier, Justin Mann, (back, l-r) Joshua Hundley, John Andrews, Javone Blackshear, Aaron Akridge and Jacob Slayton. LEFT: Also receiving a certificate was Kristen Harris. NOT PICTURED: Students Markayla Smith and Tahlera Sweeting also received certificates, but were not present.

Teachers handed out certificates of achievement on May 29, with Andrews receiving several, including one for overall excellence.

Teacher Peg Stanwix-Hay said Andrews really blossomed in the program and took advantage of the welding program at the Bradford-Union Technical

Center as well. Andrews has one more welding area to become certified in.

See ACADEMY, 4B

## BHS junior Yates earns 3rd place at SkillsUSA Florida event

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Staff Writer

Bradford High School junior Kristie Yates earned a third-place finish in the area of medical terminology at the April 27-29 Skills USA Florida Leadership and Skills Conference in Pensacola.

Teresa Jackson, a health sciences teacher at the Bradford-Union Technical Center, said, "I am very proud of Kristie. I had no doubt that she would be successful."

Yates, who advanced to the state event after placing first at the Feb. 21 Region 2 SkillsUSA Florida Conference in Jacksonville, had to take a 100-question multiple-choice test. A college medical terminology class was a big help to her.

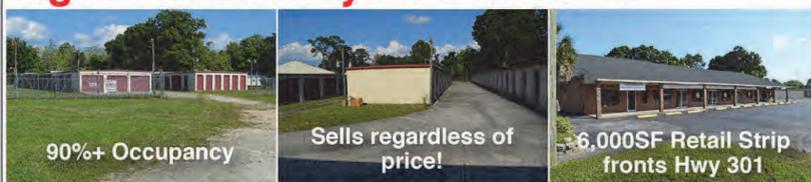


Kristie Yates

"I was confident on about 75 percent of it," Yates said. "The other 25 percent were some

See YATES, 9B

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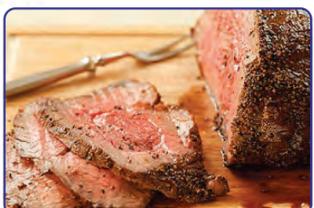
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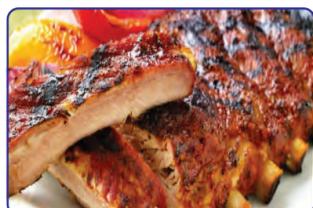
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# Remembering D-Day 70 years later

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

The men who landed on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day during World War II and lived to tell about it are quickly fading into history, yet the significance of their sacrifices and valor will be remembered, especially this year, the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the invasions.

The commemorations will culminate Friday, June 6, in Ouistreham, France, where President Barack Obama, French President Francois Hollande and Britain's Queen Elizabeth II will gather to remember the more than 9,000 Allied soldiers killed or wounded on June 6, 1944.

Frank W. Towers of Alachua County will also be there. Towers, hale and hearty at 97, was there on D-Day "plus six," landing in France on his 27<sup>th</sup> birthday. He reminisced about his experiences recently at a meeting of the D-Day Veterans of North Central Florida at Conestoga Restaurant in downtown Alachua.

"I was on a Liberty ship, taking packets from the Isle of Wight to the beaches," Towers said.

Towers' unit was supposed to land on Omaha Beach, but ended up at Utah Beach, 40 miles to the west, by mistake. Because there was a foot-long drop to the beach from the landing ramp, the service vehicles could not be reloaded. They traveled by land and met the ship when it landed at Omaha Beach later that day, the only unit to "land" at both beaches.

There was no fighting at Omaha Beach when Towers landed. He could hear artillery fire, and he saw the carnage.

"There were wrecked vehicles and ships and stacks of bodies waiting to be shipped to England," he said. "There were a lot of wounded and field hospitals. It was not pleasant."

For the five months leading up to D-Day, Towers had been training in England.

"It was all play—dummy bullets," he said. "But this was the real thing."

Towers' wife of 71 years, Mary, remembers how she felt back home in the U.S., waiting to



**ABOVE: Frank Towers, pictured with his wife, Mary, is a co-founder of Les Fleurs de Memoire, an organization that arranges for French families to "adopt" the graves of Americans interned in French soil. LEFT: Don Mandeville of Gainesville made 26 trips ferrying soldiers across the English Channel during the Normandy invasions.**

hear from Frank with his mother in Boston.

"I was scared to death," she said. "I pictured him in every one of the pictures."

Because there was no TV in those days, she went to the movie theatre to see newsreels.

"We wrote letters to each other each day," Mary said, noting that the first letters arrived about 10 days after her husband's landing. They numbered their letters, so when several arrived at once, she could put them in order for reading.

Towers served in Europe for 18 months and was due to go to the Pacific when atomic bombs dropped over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, ending the war. His commission was deactivated, although within six months he returned to Germany, where he was stationed for three years.

Mary went with him, and their three children were born there. The family settled in Alachua County, where they raised chickens and eventually opened a country store. Years later, Frank took a computer course and went to work at the University of Florida.

and part of his hand. "I thought he probably didn't want this war any more than I did," Mandeville said. "The people that want it the least suffer the most."

Art Butler of Lake City also participated in the D-Day invasions, landing on Utah Beach on June 19. Like Towers, he was 27.

"We didn't know what we were getting into," Butler said. "It was noisy. There was shelling over us all night."

Butler said he didn't worry about making it home because he had a wife and two children and knew he had to. He settled in Lake City after the war, pursuing a career in lumber and building and construction supply.

Asked about whether he felt "the eyes of the world" upon him during those harrowing days, Butler paused before answering.

"We went over there knowing we had a big job to do," he said. "We were hell-bent to make good."

## Remembering those who served and sacrificed their lives

Towers is one of the founders of Les Fleurs de la Memoire, an association that arranges for French families to adopt the grave of an American soldier buried in Normandy in perpetuity, making at least one visit annually to place flowers on it.

The association's website includes an excerpt from a letter Towers wrote to Claude Lavieille, a co-founder of the association: "When I come to Europe, it is most difficult for me to visit the American cemeteries wherein my comrades lie at eternal rest. As a liaison officer, I knew many of them personally. Each of these visits is hard on me...for when I am standing in silence in front of a tomb, images of my comrade's life come to mind, and it is like that for each visit. But I have to do it. I can't miss visiting each of them. Soon, neither I nor any of my companions will be able to visit the graves of American service men and women at eternal rest in Europe. Then what? Will they be



The American monument on Omaha Beach commemorates those who lost their lives during the bloody D-Day battle.

forgotten?"

Thanks to the efforts of Towers and other American and French citizens who share his concern, approximately 95 percent of the graves have been adopted.

Towers also works hard to keep the memories alive at home, volunteering every Tuesday afternoon at the Camp Blanding museum.

## Wings of Dreams to remember D-Day at fly-in breakfast

D-Day will be commemorated at the Keystone Heights Airport on Saturday, June 7, at 8 a.m. with a Wings of Dreams fly-in breakfast. All veterans will

receive a free breakfast, which will be followed by a program honoring those who participated in the Normandy campaign.

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**LETTERS**

EDITOR@BCTELEGRAPH.COM

**Some information regarding CCFR Station 11**

Dear Editor:

In response to your article about the temporary fire station in Keystone for CCFR Station 11, I would like to offer the following information.

1. CCFR has been living in the house and utilizing the facilities owned by KHVFD rent free for 30 years! In 2004 CCBOCC entered into a 15 year agreement/contract with KHVFD to resolve the inadequate living quarters for the paid crews that are assigned there when the county staffed a paid fire engine in Keystone in addition to the rescue unit which increased staffing from 2 to 5. This allowed them to renovate the twostory building to resolve those issues that were recognized and were rushed due to the important nature in 2004. When the contract was signed by the County Commissioners, a quote was provided for the amount of \$250,000 in which Clay County had budgeted for the project. Had your county administration followed through with the contract they entered into (for their benefit) none of this nonsense would be taking place today. Had the County administration completed the renovation as contracted to do they could have had this problem

solved 10 years ago.

I would also remind you that CCBOCC vetoed the contract in April of 2013 with KHVFD, yet KHVFD continues to allow the career CCFR staff to reside there and to continue to use the facilities to store the fire engine, spare engine, and spare rescue all while paying no rent. Clay County is kind enough to pay the utilities, insurance, and partially maintain the buildings while they continue to use KHVFD to operate from. KHVFD has yet to file or enter into any litigation for the breach of contract in hopes Clay County would resolve the deficit they have caused.

Over the last 12 months, KHVFD directors and individual Volunteer firefighters have made several attempts to work things out with Clay County and put KHVFD back to work to provide fire and first responder services to the area and Clay County will not even respond to our phone calls or emails any longer. KHVFD is negotiating with Bradford County to serve Southeast Bradford County as the primary fire protection and that would reduce homeowner's insurance rates for all of those that are "uninsurable" in Bradford County because they are more than 5 road miles from Theresa Station 2. Yet Bradford's County Manager wants permission from Clay County to allow a non-profit fully functional, self-sustaining fire department to provide additional fire/rescue services to the citizens of Bradford County. (Clay County does not even recognize KHVFD as a department any longer) If you

were not aware, Bradford Station 2 is covering fire/rescue services for Hampton now on a regular basis which has them spread thin due to lower manpower and a larger response area.

In closing, I would encourage and challenge each person in Clay County and Bradford County to contact your respective County Commissioners, and Manager and express to them how much KHVFD could save the property owners in insurance rates, provide fire and medical response quicker and more efficiently supplementing the services provided by Bradford County currently, and why Bradford County needs "permission" to use KHVFD for the benefit of the citizens which Clay County Commissioners took from the Lake Region last year.

*Kevin Lee Mobley  
Firefighter/Paramedic/  
Instructor/Inspector/Officer*

**Nepotism OK for county, but not Hampton?**

Dear Editor:

So one of the issues that the town of Hampton was scolded for was nepotism...ok. What makes Bradford County so superior?

Chapter 112.3135 Florida Statutes clearly defines that law. Yet, Bradford County thumbs their nose at that law and employs a County Commissioner's Niece and the County Manager's Son.

The County Attorney, who

apparently is supposed to be smarter than everybody else, allows the BOCC to adopt resolutions (2012-04 and 2012-10), to circumvent the state statutes, and no big deal.

So.. if I'm clear on this, the local governments can adopt resolutions to circumvent any law the State of Florida has set forth? That's convenient.

Not a single Commissioner questioned the legality of this... no surprise, being as the two public officials whose relatives benefit from this have a history of termination from the DOC scandal and Ethics Commission violations.

So what else are they up to? Hampton was nearly abolished for wrong doing...

Think about this as an election is coming up.

Change is needed, and there is competition out there against the "way we always do it"

*Paul McDavid  
Resident, Bradford County  
District 5*

**Storm a time of reflection on faith**

Dear Editor:

Last night as we were going to church, the weather got real stormy. The wind was blowing rain and limbs in sheets across the roads. Lightning and thunder came as we got into the church.

The preacher was preaching about the miracle of creation,

which I liked a lot, but I was distracted by the sounds of the storm and the words of the 19<sup>th</sup> Psalm kept running through my head. "The Heaven's declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth His Handiwork" Music of the spheres: God's orchestra blessing the earth and all we who are aware of it!

It is no wonder that I like stormy weather. When I got

home, I read the whole Psalm and found it so familiar, I think I know most of it by heart. In the night, I lay there saying it over and over. The last verse: "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight O Lord. My strength and my Redeemer."

Those are good words to go to sleep on.

*Hazel Wall*

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**ACADEMY**

Continued from 2B

Andrews really excelled in the subject of math and helped assist other students who were having problems understanding it.

"You would not believe how many kids today give John credit for them knowing their multiplication tables," said Stanwix-Hay, who also said she has many photos of Andrews up at the board teaching fellow students how to do math problems.

Basically, Andrews demonstrates what good citizenship is all about, Stanwix-Hay said.

"He's the kind of kid everybody wants to help because he's so helpful himself," she said.

Andrews just never fit into a regular classroom setting, which is true of many students, Stanwix-Hay said. Some students just can't maintain the same level as others.

"Many, many kids aren't cut out for that, which is why kids drop out of school," Stanwix-Hay said. "They just can't sit in a class where everyone is on page 51 at the same time. Some of them should be on page 98, and some of them shouldn't even be in that book."

The Academy of Academics use of an individual educational plan is beneficial to a lot of students. Like Andrews, Jacob Slayton is set to graduate, and it wouldn't have been possible otherwise. Slayton was so behind on his credits he didn't think it

would be possible to graduate after enrolling in the academy this school year.

Slayton gave a lot of credit to the academy teachers, saying, "Everybody here cares and wants to help you out."

An appreciation for teachers Stanwix-Hay, Cindy Bagley, Harold "Bish" Bishop, Anna Kirley, Linda Rudoj and Robin Tatum—as well as guidance counselor Cynthia Ross—seems to be share by many of the academy students. Charlotte Carter, who said she would be sitting at home doing nothing if not for the program, stressed how the individual attention students receive is a big plus.

"They want you to succeed," she said of the teachers.

Aaron Akridge said the teachers have helped him make tremendous progress since he joined the program last year.

"They've brought me a long way," he said.

Like Andrews, Akridge has been participating in the Bradford-Union Technical Center's welding program. He became certified in two areas this past year.

Akridge now sees a future for himself. If not for the Academy of Academics, he said, "I probably would've left (school)."

Akridge and Andrews received certificates at the May 29 ceremony for the achievements in welding. Andrews and Slayton received Florida Ready to Work certificates, while Shania Rosier received a certificate for meeting the requirements to become a Microsoft Office specialist. Certificates of achievement

were also awarded in the following areas:

- Math: Rosier, Joshua Hundley, Justin Mann and Markayla Smith.
- History: Smith, Javone Blackshear and Tahlera Sweeting.
- English: Andrews and Smith.
- Science: Carter, Rosier and Slayton.
- Edmentum (online learning program)/Reading: Sweeting and Kristen Harris.

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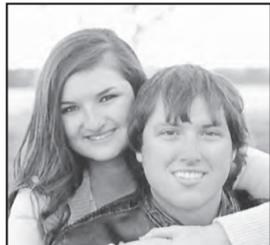
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**Davin Crews and Chelsey Collins**



**Brandi Barrington and Jackson Tatum**



**Margaret Peek and family**

**Collins, Crews to wed June 20**

Chelsey Marie Collins of Starke and Davin Sloan Crews of Lawtey announce their upcoming wedding.

Chelsey is the daughter of Rex and Lisa Collins of Starke. She is a Graduate of Bradford High School.

Davin is the son of Herman and Sandra Crews of Lawtey. He is a graduate of Bradford High School, Santa Fe College, Criminal Justice.

The wedding will be on June 20, 2014 at Crystal Lake in Keystone Heights at 11:00 am. Roy Spaulding is the minister. The bride will be given in marriage by Clinton Collins, her brother. Lisa Collins will be Maid of Honor. The Best Man will be Herman Crews, groom's grandfather.

**Barrington, Tatum to wed June 21**

Brandi Barrington of Starke and Jackson Tatum of Lawtey announce their wedding on June 21 at 3 p.m. at Madison Street Baptist Church in Starke.

Brandi is the daughter of Halbert and Nadine Barrington. She attended Bradford High School (Class of 2010) and just graduated from the University of North Florida in April, earning a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education.

Jackson is the son of John and Christina Tatum. He attended Bradford High School (Class of 2008) and works at his family's business.

All friends and relatives are invited to attend.

**Peek celebrates 94th birthday**

Born in 1920 when the life expectancy was only 66 years, Margaret Peek has definitely defied the odds by 28 years. Four generations of her family came together to celebrate her 94th birthday with lunch in the park. We all enjoyed reminiscing about previous get-togethers

throughout the years. A highlight of the celebration was watching her great-grandchildren interact with each other and the adults. We all delighted in sharing new and old memories as we celebrated the 94th birthday of our mother, mother-in-law, and nana.



**Drew Andrews is the new director of exceptional student education with the Bradford County School District.**

**Andrews passionate about students with disabilities**

**BY MICKEY AGNER**  
*Special to the Telegraph-Times-Monitor*

Drew Andrews is the new director of exceptional student education with the Bradford County School District, and he knows and loves his job. He will answer any related question and transition into new, but related, topics extemporaneously and without hesitation.

Discussing the recent growth specifically in the autism spectrum area during a May 30 interview, Andrews said, "The question quickly arises as to whether environmental issues are causing a growth of autism spectrum disorders, or have we just become better at evaluating and identifying them? I don't know the answer to that question, but what I do know is that in the last few years, we have gained massive amounts of information about how people learn and how to help those with disabilities grow."

Andrews indicated that the requirements and regulations for the ESE program are mandated and regulated according to the Individuals with Disabilities

Educational Act. Moreover—and according to that disabilities act—the necessary instruction required for identified disabilities was previously provided in separate classes, but research indicates that including the students with disabilities in the regular class—a process known as "inclusion"—is much more effective.

When reminded that many people say that inclusion lowers the standards of the regular class, Andrews quickly responded that the claim is "simply not true." Each student with disabilities is given a weight based upon the complexity and severity of the identified disability, and every public school is provided additional funding to address those needs according to the disability. The classes with more noted disability presence are provided additional teacher support. With that additional teacher support, the class is better able to address the skill diversification of each class, whether that is the student with educational disabilities or the

See ESE, 10B

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**John Parker**

**Parker graduates from Elon University**

John Edward Parker graduated Magna Cum Laude from Elon University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics. He is a member of Sigma Pi Sigma, the national physics honors society.

John is the grandson of Mary Ann Soud of Keystone Heights.

His parents are Tim and Esther Parker, and sister, Laura Soud Parker, all of Raleigh, N.C.

**Sucsy named to Bates' dean's list**

Anna Sucsy of Keystone Heights, was named to the Dean's List at Bates located in Lewiston, Maine, for the winter 2014 semester -- a distinction earned by students whose cumulative grade point average is 3.71 or higher.

"Dean's List students at Bates are exemplary high academic achievers. They model the good things that come from being goal-oriented, hard-working and persistent," said Matthew R. Auer, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty at Bates.

Sucsy is the daughter of Peter V. Sucsy Ph.D. of Keystone Heights, and is a 2013 graduate of Eastside High School.

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		<b>UNCLE RAYS ASSORTED POTATO CHIPS</b> PKS <b>10/\$10</b>	<b>RED BARON ASSORTED PIZZAS</b> 12 INCH <b>3/\$10</b>

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# Going out with a fun day of memories

Bradford High School seniors enjoyed food and lots of fun during a May 30 field day. **BELOW:** Brenton Ruise (left) and Hannah Hildebran compete in a sack race.



**LEFT:** Running through a gauntlet of balls are (foreground to background) Jaquita Richardson, Alexis Graham and Janell Lennon. **RIGHT:** Danielle Clark (left) and Beverly Detlefsen seem to have the hang of it in the three-legged race. **BELOW:** Mackenzie Gault (left) and Whitney Flanders don't quite have the hang of it as they go crashing to the ground.



DeQuan Blount goes tumbling out of an inflatable obstacle course.



Holden Huggins (left) and James Young are taking it easy.



**TOP LEFT:** Zach DeWitt competes in tug of war. **LEFT:** Caleb Blankenship goes plummeting down an inflatable slide. **ABOVE:** Lindsey Wiggins gets the last laugh as she makes sure BHS football coach Steve Reynolds gets dunked.



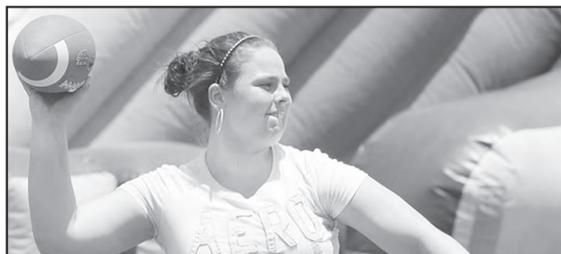
**LEFT:** Lariann Tillotson (foreground) and Haleigh Clary are all smiles as they look for unsuspecting victims to squirt. **BELOW LEFT:** Cameron Chadwick has a water gun ready to go. **BELOW:** Scotty Peirce looks as if he's up to no good. He has a tub full of water balloons.



**BHS graduation: June 6, 8 p.m.**



**LEFT:** Justin Williams prepares to put some power into it during kickball. **BELOW:** Shannon Mikell throws a football.



## NEWS Flash!

# FUTCH'S POWER DEPOT HONORS SALES TAX HOLIDAY!

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<p><b>Ariens Max Zoom 60" Fabricated Welded Deck</b> Reg. \$5349.00 FUTCH PAYS Sales Tax 374.43 <b>YOUR TOTAL \$5349.00</b></p>	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>Futch's Power Depot will pay the sales tax up to \$10,000 on our already low marked price.</p> <p><b>Eligible equipment:</b> All hand-held equipment in stock, Echo, Shindaiwa, all Ariens Zero Turn Mowers, all Kubota Z100 Series and Z700 Series Zero Turns, all Husqvarna, Poulan and McCoulogh Riding Lawn Mower Tractors, Generators and Log Splitters.</p> </div>

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**CRIME**

**Recent arrests in Bradford, Clay and Union**

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

**Bradford**

Thomas Henry Anderson, 63, of Jacksonville was arrested May 28 by Lawtey police for driving a vehicle not registered or licensed with the state.

Jeremy Christopher Brewer, 21, of Starke was arrested May 31 by Bradford police for battery. According to the arrest report, Brewer slapped his wife and pulled her to the ground by her hair before almost pushing her down the steps of the front porch as she tried to get away from him. The police were called, and Brewer was arrested. Bond was set at \$5,000 for the charge.

Chad Austin Carpenter, 27, of Lake Butler was arrested June 2 by Starke police for trespassing. According to the arrest report, Carpenter went to an auto parts store in Starke where a relative works and caused a disturbance, yelling obscenities and threatening several employees. He had been trespassing already in February from the same store.

Tonya Gisela Carter, 32, of Starke was arrested June 2 by Bradford deputies for battery. According to the arrest report,

Carter was irritated with a male at the residence. He was sitting outside on the front porch when she ran out the door, head-butted the victim and then tried to shove him off the porch. The victim was able to catch himself before falling and called law enforcement. A witness verified the victim's account, and Carter was arrested.

Rolando Carreno of Miami was arrested May 30 by the Florida Highway Patrol on two out-of-county warrants. Bond was set at \$7,000 for the charges.

David Orman Cox, 52, of Starke was arrested June 1 by Bradford deputies for aggravated assault with a weapon. According to the arrest report, Cox had been drinking and got into an argument with his son. Cox had purchased a new knife and had it in a sheath on his side, and threatened to stab his son with it during the argument. The son called law enforcement after Cox passed out on the couch. Bond was set at \$50,000 for the charge.

Elmer Ray Cox, 47, of Keystone Heights was arrested May 29 by Bradford deputies on an out-of-county warrant for Clay for domestic battery. Bond was set at \$5,002 for the charge.

Brittany Mae Daugherty, 18, of Keystone Heights was arrested May 27 by Bradford deputies on a warrant for making a false report of child abuse. Bond was set at \$10,000 for the charge.

Willie Kevin Dolison, 35, of Lawtey was arrested May 28 by

Bradford deputies for battery. According to the arrest report, Dolison was arguing with his girlfriend when he came up behind her and grabbed her, pushed her against the wall and took her cell phone. He then threw the phone in the yard. Bond was set at \$20,000 for the charge.

Marc Howard Duncan, 21, of Lawtey was arrested May 28 by Lawtey police during a traffic stop for possession of cocaine, possession of marijuana and destroying evidence. According to the arrest report, Duncan threw a bag of marijuana out of the vehicle before being pulled over by the officer. Crack cocaine was found during a search of the vehicle, along with more marijuana. Bond was set at \$17,000 for the charges.

Nicholas Shane Faulkner, 27, of Jacksonville was arrested May 30 by Bradford deputies for probation violation. No bond was allowed for the charge.

John Anthony Faust, 28, of Salisbury, N.C., was arrested May 27 by Lawtey police during a traffic stop for two charges of possession of marijuana and for five charges of possession of drug equipment. Bond was set at \$29,000 for the charges.

Timothy Lavain Floweres, 33, of Starke was arrested May 29 by Bradford deputies on four warrants for probation violation. No bond was allowed for the charges.

Christopher Daniel

Geistlinger, 27, of Starke was arrested May 29 by Bradford deputies for possession of marijuana, producing marijuana, possession of drug equipment and destroying evidence. According to the arrest report, deputies received a tip that Geistlinger had a marijuana-growing operation at his residence, and after going to the residence once and smelling the marijuana, they returned later to speak with him. After gaining entry into the home and observing marijuana plants, they obtained a search warrant for the residence and found six pots with marijuana growing in them, along with other equipment used to grow the plants. Bond was set at \$62,000 for the charges.

Aaron Roy Griffis, 21, of Lawtey was arrested June 1 by Bradford deputies on a warrant for possession of a weapon or ammo by a convicted felon. Bond was set at \$50,000 for the charge.

Danielle N. Hamm, 36, of Starke was arrested May 29 by Starke police for failure to appear.

Lucella Hill, 37, of Starke was arrested June 1 by Starke police for driving while license suspended or revoked. Bond was set at \$5,000 for the charge.

Tyrise D. Jackson, 19, of Lawtey was arrested May 28 by Lawtey police for battery. According to the arrest report, Jackson got into an argument with a 14-year-old relative over the use of a phone and slammed her head into a dresser, causing a knot the size of a baseball on the back of her head.

Richard Kelly, 24, of Lady Lake was arrested June 1 by Bradford deputies for driving while license suspended or revoked. Bond was set at \$500 for the charge.

Jeremy James Manning, 35, of Starke was arrested May 30 by Bradford deputies on a warrant for battery. Bond was set at \$50,000 for the charge.

Demetrius A. Martin, 20, of Starke was arrested May 28 by Lawtey police during a traffic stop for possession of marijuana. Bond was set at \$5,000 for the charge.

Richard Craig Nipper, 46, of Brooker was arrested May 27 by Bradford deputies on a warrant for larceny-petit theft second degree, third subsequent offense. Bond was set at \$15,000 for the charge.

Shynequia M. Oneil, 18, of Starke was arrested May 30 by Bradford deputies for driving while license suspended or revoked. Bond was set at \$5,000 for the charge.

Mathew R. Padgett, 24, of Jacksonville was arrested May 31 by Bradford deputies during a traffic stop for possession of marijuana and possession of drug equipment.

Alphonso Leon Pernel, 34, of Starke was arrested May 28 by Bradford deputies for aggravated assault with a weapon, two charges of battery, kidnap-false imprisonment, criminal mischief-property damage, resisting an officer, disturbing the peace and obstructing justice. According to the arrest report, the police were called to a residence about a disturbance. Pernel was at his mother's home in Starke washing his clothes when he became irate over something and started threatening to shoot and kill everyone in the house. While his mother was on the phone calling 911, Pernel snatched the phone out of her hand and broke it. Police arrived shortly thereafter, though, with several deputies and a K-9 unit to assist.

Pernel refused to come out of the home and threatened that he had "something" for the officers if they went in the home. Pernel's mom then snuck out of the house in the back and was talking to the officers from the front porch when Pernel stepped out onto the porch. She quickly went back inside and locked the front door, leaving him outside.

After Pernel wouldn't comply with the officers to get on the ground, they released the K-9, but Pernel hit and kicked the dog several times. An officer then used a Taser, but Pernel continued to resist. Another officer used a Taser before Pernel was handcuffed and arrested. Bond was set at \$1,102,000 for the charges.

Timothy Warren Potts, 31, of Starke was arrested May 31 by Bradford deputies on a warrant for larceny-grand theft of a dwelling. Bond was set at \$50,000 for the charge.

Dennie Rae Randolph, 34, of Starke was arrested May 27 by Bradford deputies for possession of marijuana and possession of drug equipment. Bond was set at \$1,500 for the charge.

Daryl S. Risby, 40, of Starke was arrested May 29 by Bradford deputies on a warrant for violation of conditional release by the Florida Parole Commission. No bond was allowed for the charge.

Ronald Eric Sawyer, 42, of Starke was arrested May 29 by Bradford deputies for possession of opium or derivative. According to the arrest report, during a traffic stop it was discovered that Sawyer had 19 Methadone pills he intended to distribute to another individual. Bond was set at \$20,000 for the charge.

Rosamarie Denise Simmons, 34, of Starke was arrested May

30 by Bradford deputies on an out-of-county warrant from Putnam. Bond was set at \$500 for the charge.

Rachel Marie Smith, 24, of Jacksonville was arrested May 30 by Bradford deputies for failure to appear. No bond was allowed for the charge.

Robert Gerald Swanson, 41, of Baldwin was arrested May 31 by Bradford deputies for driving while license suspended or revoked. Bond was set at \$500 for the charge.

**Keystone/Melrose**

Jacqueline Fraga, 49, of Melrose was arrested May 30 by Putnam deputies for DUI.

Dana Charles Hoffman, 55, of Melrose was arrested May 30 by Putnam deputies for perjury.

Justen Kelley, 24, of Keystone Heights was arrested June 2 by Clay deputies for failure to appear.

Jessica Nail, 21, of Keystone Heights was arrested May 30 by Clay deputies for burglary.

Amanda Smith, 44, of Keystone Heights was arrested May 30 by Clay deputies for failure to appear.

Derick Luther Phillips, 23, of Melrose was arrested June 1 by Putnam deputies for an out-of-county warrant.

Ronnie Allen Stratten, 49, of Melrose was arrested May 28 by state troopers for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

John Waters, 18, of Keystone Heights was arrested May 28 by Clay deputies for lewd or lascivious battery.

**Union**

Marion Eugene York, 52, of Lake Butler was arrested May 28 by Union deputies for battery. According to the arrest report, deputies were called to a disturbance, where it was eventually determined that York struck his girlfriend in her face during an argument. According to the victim and a friend staying at the residence, this wasn't the first time York struck the victim during arguments. He was arrested and transported to jail.

Stephen Louis Heslar, 27, of Lake Butler was arrested May 30 by Union deputies on an out-of-county warrant from Bradford.

A 16-year-old juvenile from Lake Butler was arrested May 27 by Union deputies for three charges of possession of marijuana, possession of narcotic equipment and obstructing justice-tamper or destroy evidence.

**NEW DOCTOR IN TOWN**



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 facilities 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, hopefully for a very long time!



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Commercial Vehicle Driving	Abercrombie	5/20/14-7/10/14	M-Th	7:30 AM- 5:30 PM	Closed	\$2,836.56
Spinning (Indoor Cycling)	Bridgman	6/10/14-8/14/14	T, Th	5:15 PM	Open	\$3.30/spin
Pilates/Yoga	Bridgman	6/10/14-8/14/14	T,Th	6:20 PM	Open	free w/spin
Hunter Education	FWC	8/14/2014	Th	6:00 PM	Open	free
Introduction to Publisher	Thomas	6/16,23,30 & 7/7,14,21	M	3:00 PM- 4:00 PM	closing 6/12/14	\$15.00
Introduction to Computers	Thomas	6/16,23,30 & 7/7,14,21	M	4:00 PM-5:30 PM	closing 6/12/14	\$15.00
I.V. Certification Course	TBA	6/19/2014	Th	9 AM-5 PM	closing 6/6/2014	\$ 300.00
I.V. Certification Course	TBA	6/26/2014	Th	9 AM-5 PM	closing 6/9/2014	\$ 300.00
Practical Nursing	Johnson	In Progress	M-Th	5:00 PM- 10:00 PM	Closed	
Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE)	Bishop	6/9/2014	M	1:00 PM	closing 6/6/14	\$ 20.00
Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE)	Bishop	6/11/2014	W	1:00 PM	closing 6/10/14	\$ 20.00
Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE)	Bishop	6/16/2014	M	9:00 AM & 1:00 PM	closing 6/12/14	\$ 20.00
Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE)	Bishop	6/18/2014	W	9:00 AM & 1:00 PM	closing 6/17/14	\$ 20.00
Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE)	Bishop	6/23/2014	M	9:00 AM & 1:00 PM	closing 6/19/14	\$ 20.00
Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE)	Bishop	6/25/2014	W	9:00 AM & 1:00 PM	closing 6/24/14	\$ 20.00
Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE)	Bishop	7/9/2014	W	9:00 AM & 1:00 PM	closing 7/7/14	\$ 20.00
Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE)	Bishop	7/14/2014	M	9:00 AM & 1:00 PM	closing 7/10/14	\$ 20.00
Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE)	Bishop	7/16/2014	W	9:00 AM & 1:00 PM	closing 7/15/14	\$ 20.00
Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE)	Bishop	8/4/2014	M	9:00 AM & 1:00 PM	closing 7/31/14	\$ 20.00
Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE)	Bishop	8/6/2014	W	9:00 AM & 1:00 PM	closing 8/5/14	\$ 20.00

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# 3 KHHS football players receive college opportunities

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Staff Writer

Three recent Keystone Heights High School graduates signed letters of intent to play football during a May 22 ceremony.

Tight end Micah Brown, who also played safety, will join former teammate Nate Smith—a 2013 KHHS graduate—at Kentucky Christian University in Grayson, Ky., while quarterback Blake Valenzuela will attend Wilmington (Ohio) College. Fullback/kicker Michael Carroll, who also played the linebacker-defensive end hybrid position, will join the first-year program at Lakeland's Southeastern University.

Each player generated interest from more than 20 schools through the Athletes for College recruiting service.

Brown said it was a stressful time, talking to various coaches every day, but it was an experience he also enjoyed.

It was a mixture of feelings at the signing ceremony as well.

"I'm nervous and excited—really excited," Brown said.

Brown said he believes the small, Christian school will be a good fit for him. Plus, he enjoys the fact he gets to join a friend in Smith.

Keystone head coach Chuck Dickinson said Brown possesses a 6-3, 6-4 frame that could use a little more weight. He said Brown probably weighs approximately 200 pounds now, but could see him putting on 25 to 30 pounds.

As it was, though, Brown did the job he needed to do at tight end.

"Even though he wasn't real heavy, he came off the ball," Dickinson said. "We ran quite a bit to his side. He was able to get people moved out of there just because of leverage."

Brown already catches the ball well, though Dickinson said that's something he'll have to continue to work on.

"He's got above-average hands," Dickinson said, "but that's something he can improve on."

Brown feels good about his chances to contribute.

"I think I'll get the opportunity

to play a lot at this school," he said.

Carroll seemed almost at a loss for words in describing what it felt like to get a chance to keep playing.

"I don't know, it's just mind blowing getting this far," he said. "It's crazy to think of."

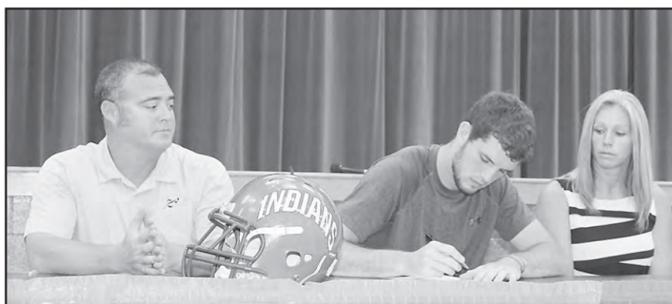
It was a hard decision to choose a school, Carroll said. He narrowed his choices to Southeastern and Faulkner University in Montgomery, Ala. In the end, Carroll said he liked Southeastern's commitment to academics and its closer location to home.

As far as the football side of Southeastern, Carroll said he's not sure where he'll end up playing, though he does have a preference for lining up in the offensive backfield.

"I'd like to get the ball, but it's just wherever the coaches need me," Carroll said.

Dickinson said Carroll is a strong blocker, with an emphasis on "strong."

"Michael benches 335, 340, and cleans over 300," Dickinson



Micah Brown, seated between Athletes for College's Kevin Wright and mother, Holly Hudson, signs his Kentucky Christian University letter of intent.

said. "From a strength standpoint, he's already there. He's just got to fit into their system. It's a new system in the sense of being a first-year program, so maybe he'll have a chance to get in and have some early playing time."

Carroll proved his worth at KHHS as a kicker as well with his ability to kick off into the end zone.

"He was a very big asset to the team," Dickinson said.

Valenzuela admitted he didn't like talking during his interview with the Telegraph-Times-Monitor, but he had no trouble putting into words what the day meant to him.

"I'm pretty happy," he said. "I've always wanted to go play a sport in college. It's always been my dream. Now, it's happening."

Valenzuela helped lead the Indians to the District 4-4A championship last season. That accomplishment will only help as he attempts to make his mark at the collegiate level.

"It helped me because it showed that anything can

happen," Valenzuela said. "Nobody determined that we would go as far as we did (in 2013). We were supposed to be the underdogs, and we proved everybody wrong."

Dickinson said Valenzuela was a big part of that district championship by adding another dimension to his game. Valenzuela showed the ability to run the ball and did so

successfully in key games, such as a win over district opponent Bradford.

"I think that helped our offense tremendously with him being able to be a run threat," Dickinson said. "He still was able to throw, but I think that's part of the game he'll have to work on a little bit more at the next level. Hopefully,

See SIGNINGS, 10B



Michael Carroll signs his letter of intent to attend Southeastern University. He is joined by sister, Courtney, and parents, Jodi and Sean Carroll.

Blake Valenzuela, between parents, Wayne Musselwhite and Jennifer Valenzuela, and brothers Josh (far left) and Jacob Musselwhite, signs to play at Wilmington College.



## Keystone girls' basketball/softball camp starts June 30

A girls' basketball/softball camp will be held at the Keystone Heights High School gym from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. starting June 30 and running through

July 2.

A session will be offered for girls in second through fourth grade, while another will be offered for those in fifth through seventh grade.

The cost is \$130 (or \$65 for those who want to do only one sport) and includes lunches, drinks, T-shirts and awards.

Applications may be obtained at Keystone Heights Elementary School.

For more information, please call Keystone Heights Elementary School at 352-473-4844 and speak to either Jessica Carter (ext. 2315) or MaryAnne McCall (ext. 2270).

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# OBITUARIES

## Mildred Copeland

LAKE BUTLER—Mildred Dansie Copeland, 93, of Lake Butler passed away Wednesday, May 28, 2014 at her residence from an extended illness. Mrs. Copeland was born on Jan. 23, 1921 in Salt Lake City, Utah to the late Mahonri Dansie and Estella Starling Dansie. She was a homemaker. She was a lifetime member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, currently of the Lake Butler Ward. She is preceded in death by a son, David Copeland.

Mrs. Copeland is survived by: her loving husband of 72 years, William O. Copeland; seven daughters, Ellen Virden, Mary (Robert) Porter, Donna (Glenn) Milton, Christine (George) Bradberry, Nancy (Tom) Price, Barbara Trambley, and Sarah (Mark) Hill; two sons, Tommy Copeland and James (Carolyn) Copeland; brother, Wesley Dansie; sisters, Dorothy Dansie and Stella Benson; 36 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services for Mrs. Copeland were held May 31 at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Lake Butler Ward. Burial took place after the funeral in the Jacksonville Memory Gardens, 111 Blanding Blvd. Orange Park. Archer Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. 386-496-

2008, please sign the guestbook at [archerfuneralhome.com](http://archerfuneralhome.com)

PAID OBITUARY



Wanda Jones

## Wanda Jones

STARKE—Wanda Leen Jones, age 77, of Starke passed away at E.T. York Hospice Care Center in Gainesville on Friday, May 30, 2014. She was born on Nov. 18, 1936 in Kings Mills, Ohio to the late Edward and Edith Robinson. Wanda was preceded in death by her husband of 54 years, Reverend Reed Jones.

While a resident of Starke, Wanda worked as a Preschool Teacher at St. Mark's Daycare and Little People's Daycare. She and Reed then moved to Shelby, North Carolina where

they pastored New Bethel Nazarene Church for 22 years. Wanda's two favorite things were spending time with her family and sharing the love of the Lord through time spent with her church family.

Wanda is survived by: her children, Rhoda (Wayne) Wainwright, Danny Jones and Jeanetta Skinner all of Starke; her brother, Jimmy Robinson of Manchester, Ohio; her sister, Beulah Reese of Little Valley, N.Y.; her grandchildren, Kenneth Wainwright, Kristen Quinones, Tarah Jones and Daina Skinner; her great-grandchildren, Tyler, Carson and Kencie Wainwright, Ava and Luka Quinones, and Libby and Hannah Jones.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, June 7, at 11:00 am, with visitation beginning at 10:00 am, followed by a memorial service at Madison Street Baptist Church. Wanda lovingly requested donations be made to Haven Hospice, 4200 N. W. 90th. Blvd. Gainesville, FL 32606, in her memory. Arrangements are under the care and direction of Archie Tanner Funeral Services of Starke. 904-964-5757. Visit [www.archietannerfuneralservices.com](http://www.archietannerfuneralservices.com) to sign the family's guest book.

PAID OBITUARY



Roy Knight

## Roy Knight

BROOKER—Roy Edward Knight, 63 of Brooker passed away Monday, June 2, 2014 at ET York Haven Hospice in Gainesville. He was born Dec. 11, 1950 in Brooker to the late James Knight and Geraldine McNeal Knight. Mr. Knight was a heavy equipment operator. He enjoyed gardening, his dogs, and being a mechanic. He was preceded in death by his brothers, David and Jack Knight.

Mr. Knight is survived by: his

loving wife, Bethany Goodrich Knight; three brothers, Richard Knight, John Knight, and Vernon Knight; two sisters, Alice Sanford and Thelma McQuaig.

Archer Funeral Home is in charge of the funeral arrangements. 386-496-2008

PAID OBITUARY



Shirley Marshall

## Shirley Marshall

STARKE—Shirley Tyson Marshall, 64, of Starke, died on Thursday, May 29, 2014 at Shands at University of Florida Hospital Gainesville. She was a lifelong resident of Starke. She was a member of Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church. She was a graduate of RJE High School Class of 1968. She was also employed with Head Start and Episcopal Children Services for 34 years.

She is survived by: son, Mark A. Marshall; and daughter, Stacy L. Marshall, both of Starke; sisters, Helen Pitts of Cocoa, Gloria Mack and Hazel Hamilton, both of Starke; brothers, Clinton Kelly of Cocoa, Vernon Tyson of Gainesville, Oliver Tyson of Starke, and Gad Tyson Jacksonville; and three grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at

2:00 p.m on Saturday, June 7 in the Church of God by Faith in Lawley with Rev Carl Tyson Presiding and Rev. Alvin Green Eulogist conducting the services. Interment will be held in Bob-Love Cemetery in Starke. Viewing Family Hour, Haile Funeral Home Chapel Friday June 6, 2014 3-4:00 p.m. Viewing for Friends will be held at Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church 5-7:00 p.m. and 1 hour prior to the services on Saturday at the church. The Cortege will form at the Home of Ms. Shirley Marshall 17285 N. W. 55th Avenue in Pleasant Grove at 1:15 p.m. Arrangements are under the Haile Funeral Home, Inc. of Starke.

## Lujune Southerland

LAKE BUTLER—Lujune Rush Southerland, 56, of Lake Butler died Monday, June 2, 2014 at ET York Haven Hospice in Gainesville after an extended illness, surrounded by her family. She was born on June 15, 1957 in Ocala to the late James Rush, Sr. and Velda Gay Rush. She was employed with medical records at Shands in Gainesville for many years.

She is survived by: her husband of 35 years, John Earl Southerland, Jr.; daughter, Jennifer Dawn Southerland; one granddaughter; brother, James Rush, Jr.; sisters, Penni (Anthony) Williams and Teresa McGill.

Funeral services will be held Friday, June 6 at 11:00 a.m. in the chapel of Archer Funeral Home, with Rev. Steve Hutchinson officiating. Burial will be at New Zion Cemetery following the services. Family invites friends for visitation Thursday, June 5 from 6 to 8 pm at the funeral home. Archer Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

## Daniel Williams

LAWTEY—Daniel Wayne Williams, 67, of Lawtey died June 3, 2014 at the V.A. Medical Center

in Lake City. He was born July 27, 1946 in Jacksonville. He is preceded in death by his brother, Dale Walker Prescott and his mother, Lavada Ivey Prescott. He served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War.

He is survived by: his brother, Eugene Prescott of Lawtey.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of Archie Tanner Funeral Services of Starke.

### Card of Thanks



Malcom Crews, Jr.

1954—2014

On behalf of the family of Malcom H. Crews, Jr. we would like to thank all those who surrounded us with prayer, encouragement, food and flowers during this most difficult time. We are truly overwhelmed with gratitude for the love you have shown us.

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## YATES

Continued from 2B

things I had never seen before, so I just kind of guessed."

BHS sophomore Cole Johnson also competed at the state event in the area of computer maintenance. He placed fifth after earning a first-place finish at the Region 2 event.

The winner in each area at the state event will compete in the SkillsUSA national event.

This was the first year of SkillsUSA competition for Johnson and Yates.

SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry representatives working to provide the U.S. with a skilled labor force.

Yates said she wasn't expecting to come out on top at the Region 2 event, which featured 12 other students competing in medical terminology. In fact, she said she was hesitant about even placing due to a soccer injury that had her on crutches.

"I was recovering from an

ACL reconstruction," Yates said. "They were going to make me walk up to the stage and walk across it. Mrs. Jackson walked up (to the stage) with me and went on stage and got my award. I was thankful for that."

By virtue of a top-three finish, Yates earned the right to compete at state along with Johnson, who also placed first at the Region 2 event.

"I was really excited because I had never been to Pensacola before," she said.

At the time of the SkillsUSA event, though, the area was deluged by rain and experienced flooding.

Jeff Ledger, a computer systems and information technology teacher at the Bradford-Union Technical Center who went on the trip, said it was the "craziest" weather he's ever seen. The electricity at the Bay Center, where the SkillsUSA event was held, went out halfway through the competition.

"When it came back on," Ledger said, "they said, 'Just so you know, there's a funnel cloud

about a mile from us. We'll keep you alerted.'"

Yates said, "We got like 21 inches of rain overnight. There was actually a lightning bolt that hit the hotel and shook the whole building. It woke me up from a dead sleep."

Still, the SkillsUSA event was fun, Yates said. She competed against approximately 20 people in medical terminology.

She was off crutches by that time, but that didn't make hearing her name announced as a third-place finisher any less intimidating as the state event had more competitors overall than at the Region 2 event.

"I was a bit more nervous," Yates said. "I was off crutches, but I still had to walk down about three flights of stairs and get on stage with all those people looking at me. It was nerve-racking."

Yates believes competitions hosted by such organizations as SkillsUSA and Health Occupations Students of America can help students plan out a career path. However, she made up her mind to do something in medicine years ago, citing her parents as influences. Her father, Rusty, works for Philips and provides service for medical equipment, while her mother, Susan, works for the Cardiac and Vascular Institute in Gainesville as a nuclear technologist.

"I've known from a young age I always wanted to go into the medical field," said Yates, who is contemplating becoming either an obstetrician/gynecologist or a neonatologist. "I think these classes here (at the Bradford-Union Technical Center) help solidify that."

Ledger said he wished to thank the following for their support in allowing Yates and Johnson to compete in the SkillsUSA events: George Roberts Insurance, Starke Chiropractic, Mosley Tire, Denmark Enterprise, Knuckle Druggers, Capital City Bank, State Farm, Community State Bank, Bradford County Education Foundation, Tatum Brothers Saw Mill, Jackson Building Supply and Ameriprise Financial.

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# SIGNINGS

Continued from 8B

he'll continue to progress." The fact that Valenzuela progressed each year while at KHHS has the coach believing he can do the same at Wilmington. "I think if he does what he's supposed to, he'll have an opportunity to do well," Dickinson said. The three players can't wait to suit up for their respective schools.

"It's something I've always wanted to do," Valenzuela said, while Brown said, "I can't wait. It's so exciting." Carroll said, "It's going to be an adrenaline rush, definitely." Dickinson, of course, is proud of all three for achieving their goals and putting in the work necessary in the classroom to do so. "Hopefully, they found the (school) that will best fit them, and they'll have success," Dickinson said.

# ESE

Continued from 5B

student with gifted skills. Additionally, those classes with additional teacher support are better able to intensify the support for students learning new skills and gradually withdraw that support as the student progresses, a successful process known as "scaffolding." That, Andrews said, is not his opinion, but the "conclusion of research." From there, his conversation with the Telegraph-Times-Monitor quickly flowed into the area of specific learning disabilities because it is by far the largest area of disabilities in every public school district. According to the National Center for Learning Disabilities, nearly 2.5 million school-age children in the United States today have been identified as having learning disabilities, and this does not include the students enrolled in private or religious schools. That number of students represents about 42 percent of

all U.S. students enrolled in any kind of ESE class. Unlike many common perceptions, these disabilities are not a discriminator of people. They are caused by genetics and problems in pregnancy, at birth or after birth. Additionally, they can be caused after birth by head injuries, poor nutrition or chemical exposures to elements such as lead. According to Andrews, a major factor in the student's educational growth, regardless of the relevant type or severity of disability, is early detection. Even when a young child encounters brain damage from accidents, he or she has a better chance of regaining the original neurological function compared to adults. Likewise, the younger the child is when a disability is identified, the better chance he or she has of overcoming those disabilities educationally. Consequently, the district

places much emphasis upon its relationship with childcare programs, voluntary pre-K programs and early organizations like Child Find and Early Steps. Andrews indicated that good communications between parents and people who work with children in preschool organizations are very important. Those professional childcare workers have been trained to recognize disability indicators that are age specific to those children. Some of the more profound and physical disabilities are easily identified, but specific learning disabilities are manifested in subtle expressions. Andrews concurred that the identifying behaviors and skills listed on the idonline.org website are good indicators of the less-obvious learning disabilities of preschool-age children to look for. Those identifying skills and behaviors are:

- Speaks later than most children.
  - Pronunciation problems.
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  - Difficulty rhyming words.
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  - Trouble interacting with peers.
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# RICKER

Continued from 1B

however, she was told her project would have to be considered checked baggage.

"We got it back when we were in Houston, and there was this black line down the back of it," Ricker said.

The black line could be removed, though, so no harm done.

Upon arriving at the Hilton Americas-Houston, where she was supposed to be staying, Ricker found out her name was not on the hotel list. She was asked if she could provide her I-SWEEP project code, but she didn't have it on her.

"I had to call my parents, but they were in Gainesville," Ricker said. "There was no way they could get me the project code on time. I'm calling random people and asking them if they are in Starke. I finally got a hold of one of my youth directors. She was like, 'Yeah, I'll get it for you.' She had to break into our house and get my project code for me."

Ricker said it was intimidating showing up at the George R. Brown Convention Center with her project. There were so many people and so many projects she thought looked better than hers, she said. She said she didn't feel good about her chances.

"Then you start to talk to the kids," Ricker said. "It's not like you're in a competition with them. You're friends. I didn't meet a single rude person while I was there. It wasn't that kind of environment. Everyone was so nice."

Prior to the project judging, there was a flag ceremony in which some of the I-SWEEP participants showed off their countries' flags and traditional attire. It was interesting, Ricker said. She said she saw kids from Mexico wearing reindeer headaddresses, while Bangladeshi kids wore what she could only describe as Mrs. Claus-type outfits.

"The girls from Puerto Rico had these huge, pink dresses," Ricker said. "I was wondering how they walking."

More interesting attire awaited Ricker when I-SWEEP participants visited Johnson Space Center on May 4, which happens to be "Star Wars Day." She said there were "crazy" people dressed in costumes from Wookies to Galactic Empire stormtroopers.

"It was an interesting cultural experience," she said.

Ricker got to visit the Houston Museum of Natural Science, at which she found a vending machine that sold flavored crickets. She bought salt and vinegar and bacon and cheddar varieties and offered them to any Kiwanis member who was bold enough to try them. (Two members did.)

"I brought them back originally for my dad, but he wouldn't eat them," Ricker said. "I ate one for him. I got like cricket stuff in between my teeth. It was not fun. I was one and done."

A STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) Expo was held prior to project judging as well. It was an event open to the public that featured more than 100 physics, chemistry and math demonstrations. Ricker said there was a robotics competition in which you raced against another person to build a robot and then use the finished robot to pick up balls and place them in a bin.

"I was going up against this kid who looked like he was 5," Ricker said. "I'm like one third of the way through my robot, and he's already putting balls into the bin. It was not fair, so I just gave up. It was embarrassing."

The expo also featured the Texas A&M University Chemistry Roadshow, a public-service program designed to entertain as well as educate students.

Dr. Jim Pennington, a senior lecturer and research associate at Texas A&M who coordinates the roadshow, made quite an impression on Ricker with his colorful tie-dyed smock and propensity for scaring people with a contraption that made loud noises.

"He was insane because he kept blowing things up and not telling you (beforehand)," Ricker

said.

At one point, Pennington called Ricker to the stage and asked her to provide him with a monetary bill.

"I gave it to him and he sprayed something on it and lit it on fire," Ricker said, adding, "Then he just handed it back to me, and it wasn't even hot. It was the coolest thing, but he really scared me."

Ricker got her money back safely, plus went home with a little extra, receiving a \$400 check for earning a silver medal after project judging.

Despite a rough beginning with the inability to carry her project on the plane and not being on the hotel list, it turned

out to be quite a trip.

"I really did just have so much fun at I-SWEEP," Ricker said.

Medals and honorable-mention awards are given to participants in three divisions: Environment, Engineering and Energy. A grand winner is named in each division.

This year's grand winners were Albert Kim—a student at Manhasset High School in Long Island, N.Y.—in Environment, Drew Prevost—a student in the Huntsville, Ala., Covenant Christian Academy home-schooled program—in Engineering and Raymond Yin—a student at Ward Melville High School in East Setauket, N.Y.—in Energy.



Tessa Ricker was called on by Texas A&M University's Dr. Jim Pennington to be a volunteer in the university's Chemistry Roadshow. Here, Ricker watches as her money seemingly burns, but Pennington coated the bill with something to prevent the fire from consuming it. Photo provided courtesy of I-SWEEP.

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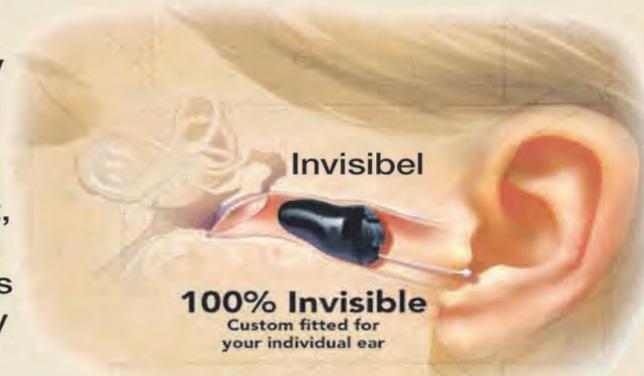
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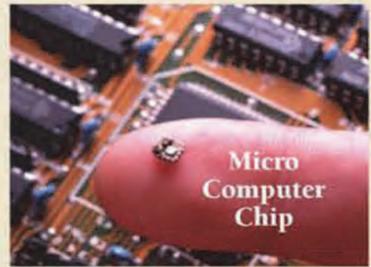
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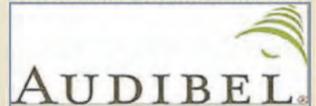
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