



# UNION COUNTY TIMES

USPS 648-200 — LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA

THURSDAY, AUG. 14, 2014

102<sup>ND</sup> YEAR — 16<sup>TH</sup> ISSUE — 75 CENTS

## etc.

### School supplies for fines, August only

Bring school supplies in new/original packaging to the library and earn up to \$10 per account toward late fees. Don't have late fees? Donate on behalf of someone else. Help students get a good start this school year!

Visit [www.facebook.com/unioncountylibrary](http://www.facebook.com/unioncountylibrary).

### TDAP shots required for 7th graders

All students entering 7th grade must have their TDAP shot. Lake Butler Middle School must have a copy of the shot record before entering.

### Project Grad meeting, Aug. 14

The next Project Grad meeting will be Thursday, Aug. 14, at 6:30 p.m. in the Lake Butler Middle School library. Seniors may pick up their senior breakfast T-shirt at the meeting.

### LBMS volleyball tryouts, Aug. 14 & 15

Lake Butler Middle School volleyball tryouts: Aug. 14 & Aug. 15, 3-5 p.m.

For girls entering 6th, 7th or 8th grade. Both days of Tryouts are required to be considered for the team.

For more information, contact Coach Julee Ricketson at 386-431-1260 or [ricketsonj@union.k12.fl.us](mailto:ricketsonj@union.k12.fl.us).

### Bingo in WS, Aug. 15

Bingo is coming again to the Worthington Springs Community Center on Friday, Aug. 15, from 6 to 9 p.m. They will be selling refreshments and will raffle a \$50 gift card. You do not have to be present. Tickets are only \$1 each.

### Gospel meeting at Danville, Aug. 15

The Church of Christ at Danville is hosting a Gospel Meeting featuring Verlin Cox from the Lake View Church of Christ in Lake City. He will preach on the book of Revelation Aug. 15 & 16 at 7:30 p.m., Aug. 17 at 9 a.m., 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The church is located just south of Lake Butler on State Road 121.

For more info contact the church at 352-318-8879 or [danvillechurchofchrist@yahoo.com](mailto:danvillechurchofchrist@yahoo.com).

### Back-2-School Bingo at library, Aug. 16

The Union County Public Library is hosting Back-2-School Bingo on Saturday, Aug. 16, from 3 to 5 p.m. It offers fun for the whole family. Bingo cars are 3 for \$1 and they'll have free snacks.

All proceeds benefit the Junior Friends of the Library Scholarship Fund.

### Pleasant Grove Baptist anniversary, Aug. 17

North Pleasant Grove Baptist Church is celebrating its 158th anniversary on Aug. 17.

Visiting ex-pastor Beaver Twist will deliver the morning message. Dinner afterwards.

The church is located at 25330 Northwest C.R. 239 in Alachua.

For info, call Rev. Steve Hutcheson at 352-213-0037.

## Colan Coody inducted into Florida 4-H Hall of Fame



Lisa Parrish, 4-H volunteer; Heather Futch, 4-H Extension Agent for Hamilton County; Coody; Alison Jones, 4-H volunteer; and Donna Harris, 4-H volunteer.

**EVENT: 4-H Auction/Supper on Friday, Aug. 15, at 6 p.m. at Lakeside Community Center. This funds two-thirds of 4-H's annual budget.**

Union County 4-H Program Assistant Colan Coody was nominated this year into the Florida 4-H Hall of Fame and was inducted on July 31 in Gainesville at the 4-H state convention. During two decades of service, Coody has led and facilitated many clubs through 4-H. These clubs include cooking, shooting/archery, poultry, meat judging and many more. He is considered an asset to the youth in the community.

Along with leading clubs, he has conducted camps each summer for the youth. These camps include canoeing trips, rocket building, cooking, arts and crafts and many more. In addition he has worked very closely with the schools in by volunteering with environmental education programs and helping set up grants for the schools. He teaches many lessons in the classrooms from ice cream making every year to

explaining to students about states of matter to planting flowers to explaining the life cycle of the plant.

He has facilitated the Florida 4-H/Tropicana Public Speaking Contest for grades 4-6. The winner is awarded a trip to Camp Cherry Lake each year.

He has come every year for the past decade to plant trees at Lake Butler Elementary School for Arbor Day.

Along with leading many programs in the community, he has been a major supporter and helper to all the youth that show animals in the Bradford County Fair each year.

"He was always there to answer questions that I had about my hog, and when my hog quit eating one year, he knew exactly what to do to make her eat again," said Brooke Waters, senior 4-H member.

Coody will be sorely missed after he retires in October.

## PRIMARY ELECTION 2014

### Early voting begins Aug. 16

BY VINCENT ALEX BROWN  
Times Editor

Early voting for the 2014 Primary Election starts on Saturday, Aug. 16, through Saturday, Aug. 23, at the Union County Supervisor of Elections office located at 175 West Main Street in Lake Butler. Hours are Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The regular Primary Election is on Tuesday, Aug. 23, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. throughout the county. Polling locations are located on your voter information card, or check "Where Do I Vote?" under "Voter Information" at the office website,

[unionflvotes.com](http://unionflvotes.com). Or contact Supervisor of Elections Debbie Osborne with any questions at [debbie.osborne@unionflvotes.com](mailto:debbie.osborne@unionflvotes.com) or 386-496-2236.

At stake for the primary are one seat on the county commission and two seats on the school board. Nonpartisan voters will only decide on the school board seats, which are nonpartisan races.

All voters get to decide whether or not to continue funding the library by taxation of up to one-half mill of ad valorem taxes.



Judge Bo Bayer, as chair of the Union County Canvassing Board, tests out the new AutoMARK voting machine for the blind and visually impaired as part of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) accessibility requirement. An AutoMARK will be available at each polling place.

## UC Commission District 2

BY VINCENT ALEX BROWN  
Times Editor

The Union County Board of County Commissioners District 2 has three Democrats running in the 2014 Primary Election: Channing Dobbs, Nancy Griffis and Woodrow "Woody" Kitler. All three candidates were given questions, with only Kitler responding. Kitler's answers are printed below.



Woodrow "Woody" Kitler

**Provide a brief biography of yourself.** I am Woodrow "Woody" Kitler. I am 42 years of age and am a lifelong resident of Union County. I have been married to my wife Nicole for 16 years and we have three sons Chase, Dalton and Dawson. My family and I are members of First Baptist Church of Raiford. After graduating from Union County High School in 1990, I joined the U.S. Army where I served honorably until 1993. I then joined the 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.

**Why do you want to be a county commissioner? Has it been a long-term ambition? Why now?** I want to be Raiford's county commissioner because I have a deep sense of pride for this great county and its community and I want to ensure the citizens of Raiford are represented in a respectful manner. Being county commissioner has been an ambition of mine for the past five years. The solid foundation that my personal and professional life are built on leads me to believe that now is the right time for me to take on the role of county commissioner.



Channing Dobbs



Nancy Griffis

See KITLER, 2A

## UC Commission District 4

BY VINCENT ALEX BROWN  
Times Editor

The Union County Board of County Commissioners District 4 has two Republicans running in the 2014 Primary Election: Jeff Andrews and Eugene Dukes. Both candidates were given questions, with only Dukes responding.



Jeff Andrews



Eugene Dukes

See DUKES, 2A



## UCSO unveils new highway sign, campaign

Deputies arrest nine during drug sweep

BY VINCENT ALEX BROWN  
Times Editor

Tuesday, Aug. 12, after the Union County Sheriff's Office unveiled the county's first-ever "Zero Drug Tolerance" highway sign, members of the Drug Task Force and deputies served arrest and search warrants, arresting nine offenders. This is the result of months of investigation, leading to the seizure of thousands of illegal drugs and one weapon.

Earlier in the day, at the county line on State Road 121 in Worthington Springs, Sheriff Brad Whitehead was joined by area sheriffs, local Department of Corrections officers and county officials to inaugurate the installation of 23 signs throughout the county as part of the same named campaign.

Included in the related arrests were:

1. Robert Todd Sheldon, 50, a white male from Lake Butler, was arrested for two counts of selling drugs within 1,000 feet of public housing and two counts of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription. He is in jail under a \$120,000 bond.

2. James B. Dowdy Jr., 49, a white male from Lake Butler, was arrested for two counts of possession of drugs without a prescription. He is in jail under a \$60,000 bond.

3. Bobby Dean Major, 67, a black male from Lake Butler, was arrested for selling drugs within 1,000 feet of a park, possession of drugs without a prescription and trafficking in drugs. He has further charges pending. He is in jail under a \$110,000 bond.

4. Doris J. "Wendy" Rewis, 39, a white female from Lake Butler, was arrested on selling drugs within 1,000 feet of public housing and possession of drugs without a prescription. Rewis is in jail under a \$60,000 bond.

5. Thomas Earl Powell, 60, a white male from Lake Butler, was served a search warrant of his residence where deputies discovered numerous illegal narcotics. He was arrested on warrants for two counts of selling illegal drugs and possession of drugs without a prescription. He also has further charges pending. Powell is in jail under a \$90,000 bond.

6. Donald C. Fortune, 30, a white male from Lake Butler, was arrested on selling drugs within 1,000 feet of a place of worship, possession of drugs without a prescription and trafficking in illegal drugs. Fortune is in jail under a \$110,000 bond.

7. Jerome H. Addison, 46, a black male from Lake Butler, was arrested on additional charges of cocaine distribution within 1,000 feet of a public park and possession of drugs without a prescription. Addison remains in jail and his bond just increased another \$60,000.

8. James C. Perry, 50, a black male from Lake Butler, was arrested on additional charges of cocaine distribution within 1000 feet of a place of worship and possession of drugs without a prescription. Perry remains in jail and his bond just increased another \$60,000.

9. Irving Lilliston, 43, a white male from Lake Butler, was arrested during a traffic stop for driving while license suspended and other traffic charges. During the arrest a lawful search of his vehicle revealed illegal drugs and drug manufacturing equipment. He is in jail awaiting first appearance where a bond will be set.



# etc.

## LBMS Open House, Aug. 18 & 19

Lake Butler Middle School will have Open House for 5th/6th grade Monday, Aug. 18, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the gym. The 7th/8th grade Open House will be the following night Tuesday, Aug. 19, also at 6:30 p.m. in the gym.

## Tea Party hosting political debate, Aug. 19

The Tea Party is hosting a political debate with our local candidates on Tuesday, Aug. 19, at 6:00 p.m. at the Lakeside Community Center.

They have invited all candidates to come and speak.

## The flamingos are coming, Aug. 21!

Beginning Aug. 21 Union County residents will start to see flocks of flamingos around Lake Butler! The Class of 2015 will be flocking yards with pink flamingo yard art as a fundraiser for Project Grad. If you would like to arrange to have the birds visit someone's yard call 352-575-8405 or email [ucprojectgrad2015@gmail.com](mailto:ucprojectgrad2015@gmail.com). If you are worried about waking up to pink flamingos in your yard, flock insurance is also available.

## VFW Back-to-School Bash, Aug. 23

The VFW Post 10082 Ladies Auxiliary President Annie Pittman announces the 2014 Back-to-School Bash on the Saturday, Aug. 23, at 11 a.m. at the VFW Post off of C.R. 231. Lunch will be served and then school supplies will be handed out. If you plan on attending, please call Barbara Fischer at 904-263-0647 so she can ensure she has enough school supplies to hand out. Be prepared to let her know the grade your children are in. To receive the supplies you should attend the bash.

If anyone is interested in making a donation to this great cause, please contact her.

The VFW Post also has bingo on Thursdays at 7 p.m.

## Prayer walk for our schools, Aug. 23

Several local churches — First Baptist, Victory Christian, Sardis Baptist, Harmony Free Will Baptist and First Christian — are joining together to participate in a prayer walk for our schools on Sunday, Aug. 24, at 6 p.m.

A prayer walk encourages us to walk the campus and pray for people, places, activities, etc., throughout the campus.

Prayer teams will meet at the following locations: Lake Butler Elementary School, Lake Butler Middle School, Union County High School, First Baptist Church HOMEschool Cooperative, Union County School District offices, Little Rainbow Learning Center and The Tiger's Den Day Care.

This event is open to anyone in the community that would like to pray for our schools and those touched by them.

## Join the Quarterback Club, first meal Aug. 29

Support your Union County Tiger football team by joining the Quarterback Club. The first pre-game meal will be on Friday, Aug. 29. You can get a registration form at [union.k12.fl.us](http://union.k12.fl.us). \$50 per family.

## KITLER

Continued from 1A

**Why should people vote for you?** I believe the citizens of Raiford should vote for me because I will be committed to this community and to them. I will work tirelessly to instill confidence, build trust and represent the community to the best of my ability. The people want someone that will listen, and ultimately put their wants and concerns at the forefront. I am committed to do just that.

**What sets you apart from your opponents?** I'm not sure I can outline what sets me apart from my opponents. I can only share with you what I have to offer. I am truly excited for the opportunity to serve the citizens of this community in this capacity. I have a passion for politics and a passion for the community in which my family and I live. I am committed to being a true servant and will do my best to represent the people in a way that they would be proud.

**What have you learned from the voters on the campaign trail?** During my time campaigning, I have visited with the citizens of this community and have made it my mission to listen. I believe the voters want a county commissioner who is engaged in all aspects of local government. They want a problem solver, an individual who is available and willing to reach out and check on them. Most importantly, they want someone that will listen and speak for them.

**What are some of the biggest concerns of county government and how do you propose the commission address them?** I believe how and what the city/county's budget money is being spent on is one of my biggest concerns. We have an obligation to monitor spending at all levels of local government to ensure tax payers money is being used in a manner they approve while maintaining the safety and security of our residents. I would implement actions to ensure that the budget money is benefiting the community and its citizens in a positive manner.

**How would you ensure county government is transparent?** I want to educate the citizens

of this community about the tools that are available to keep them informed of discussions and decisions being made in the board meetings without them physically having to attend. County officials have an obligation to make themselves available to citizens to address any concerns or questions they may have.

**How would you evaluate the manager and department heads who work for the board and hold them accountable?** I would hold these individuals accountable by implementing periodic reviews of each manager and department head to discuss performance and budget concerns to ensure everything is running as efficiently as possible. Accountability is as simple as setting expectations and goals and making sure those expectations and goals are achieved.

**How would you support a better working relationship between the county and each city commission/town council?** I feel the county commissioner should be in regular contact with each city commission/town council to evaluate the concerns and needs of the community. Communication is a key element in developing strong, productive working relationships.

**What more could the county be doing to encourage economic development?** I feel the county can always look for ways to attract additional small businesses and encourage growth within the marketplace. The addition of small businesses would add more jobs, it would increase the amount of money brought into the local economy and would in turn help every citizen both directly and/or indirectly.

**What is your personal vision for Union County?** My vision is that the citizens of Union County are represented by their elected officials in a manner that is selfless, professional and respectful. I want to see the county and the city of Raiford flourish. Setting goals and putting into place the steps to achieve those goals will be one of the most important ways to achieve this. Raiford is our home and we need to see that we take care of our home and the people who live in it.

## DUKES

Continued from 1A

Dukes' answers are printed below.

**Provide a brief biography of yourself.** I am a lifelong resident of Union County. I am married to Penny Dukes, son Matt Dukes and daughter-in-law Kristen, granddaughter Caroline and daughter Whitney. I have been employed by the Union County School Board for 39 years. I hold bachelor's and master's degrees in administration.

**Why do you want to be a county commissioner? Has it been a long-term ambition? Why now?** I believe that now is the time for progressive but conservative change for a more positive outlook for the future of Union County and its citizens in regards to Union County's economic, employment and controlled growth.

**Why should people vote for you?** The skills and knowledge that I have gained over the many years working with the residents of Union County and my interaction with the legislative process in Tallahassee, enables me to work together with citizens, commissioners and county and city leaders with determination in order to solve the county's economic problems, controlled growth for increasing employment possibilities and the everyday needs of the citizens.

**What sets you apart from your opponent?** Years of experience working with the adults, parents and children of Union County along with bachelor's and master's degrees in administration, everyday life experience. A vision for the future of Union County, which is needed for economic development, creation of more jobs and a conservative approach to spending.

**Why do you see a need for new leadership? How would your leadership differ from what has come before?** My leadership style would be a common sense approach, conservative fiscal policy, an open door policy, and I would be willing to talk to anyone about the county's business at any place and time, and all decisions would be made in a public forum. I would operate in an open and transparent manner of conducting county business.

**What have you learned from the voters on the campaign trail?** Some of the issues that have been discussed are as follows:

- Lack of cooperation.
- The needs of the citizens not being met.
- Questions go unanswered
- Urgent needs, such as Providence area fire department, not being met.
- Severe county financial issues.
- Unconcerned decision-makers.

**What are some of the biggest concerns of county government and how do you propose the commission address them?** My biggest concerns are the current commissioner's lack of cooperation, the needs of the taxpayer citizens not being met, better use of the taxpayer's dollars to be used to utilize and maximize every tax dollar expenditure. A lack of vision for the future economic, commercial and job growth for Union County, while maintaining and improving basic services such as fire and rescue and other needs of the citizens.

**How would you ensure county government is transparent?** I would ensure it by demanding it.

**How would you evaluate the manager and department heads who work for the board and hold them accountable?** By observation and a "hands on" approach, talking to employees and citizens and monthly meetings.

**How would you support a better working relationship between the county and each city commission/town council?**

I would develop an open and productive working relationship to meet the personal and economic needs of the citizens so that all concerned can benefit from the available recourses provided by the cities and county.

**What more could the county be doing to encourage economic development?** Networking and exploring the possibilities of business expansion through recruitment, incentives, availability of large tracks of land and cooperation between the county commissioners and interested businesses especially in District 4 where the county boundary lies within minutes of Interstate 75. All of this would encourage economic growth, job creation and a larger tax base.

**What is your personal vision for Union County?** My personal vision for Union County is a secure and permanent financial position, control growth to provide jobs, an increased tax base, increased business opportunities in order to continue and increase basic goods and services as needed for each citizen of the county.



**EARLY VOTING**  
for  
**Primary Election 2014**  
**Union County, Florida**

**Starts**  
**Saturday, August 16, 2014**  
at the  
**Supervisor of Elections Office**  
**175 West Main Street**  
**Lake Butler, Florida**

**Runs**  
**August 16, 2014 - August 23, 2014**  
**Monday thru Saturday**  
**8:00 am - 6:00 pm**  
**Sunday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm**

**For more information call**  
**(386) 496-2236**

Get extra news and full-color photos at [facebook.com/unioncountytimes](http://facebook.com/unioncountytimes).

*Sandra Langley Tyre, CPA*

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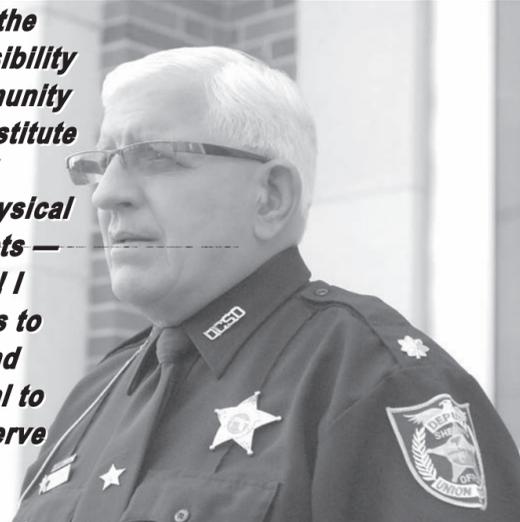
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## Vote Garry Seay for Union County Sheriff

*When it comes to the tremendous responsibility of keeping our community safe, there is no substitute for the experience of decades of direct, physical presence on the streets — where it really counts! I have worked 36+ years to gain the experience and training that are crucial to properly protect and serve the citizens of Union County as Sheriff.*



One week from today, Union County students will be back in school. This is an exciting time of new beginnings, and I wish each of you much success this academic year.

I would like to thank all who have volunteered to wave my campaign signs on the first day of school. Your overwhelming outpouring of support humbles me. I am truly thankful for your willingness to help, however, having worked opening days of school for over three decades, I know that this is not the proper time for politics. We all know this is the busiest day of the year in our school zones. The safety of our children must come first! I do not want anything we do to become a distraction to drivers and compromise the safety of our kids.

I sincerely hope that 2014-15 will be the best year ever for LBES, LBMS and UCHS students, teachers and administrators.

*"The philosophy of the school room in one generation will be the philosophy of government in the next."*

—Abraham Lincoln

Pd. Pol. Adv. paid for and approved by Garry Seay for Sheriff of Union County.

## Union County Times

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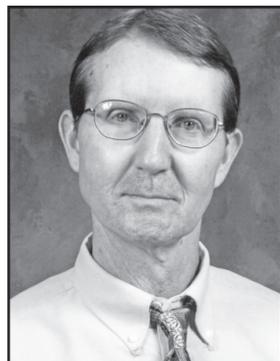


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# PRIMARY 2014 UC School Board District 1

BY VINCENT ALEX BROWN  
Times Editor

The Union County School Board District 1 has three candidates running in the 2014 Primary Election: Carl Drake, Allen Parrish and Steve Peacock. All three candidates were given questions, with two of the three responding — Parrish and Peacock. Their answers are printed below.



Carl Drake



Allen Parrish

**Provide a brief biography of yourself.** I am 47 years old, married to Carolyn Griffis Parrish, and we have (4) children: Branden, Brittney, Kyle and Seth. All graduates of Union County Schools. I am a 1985 honor graduate of UCHS. I have committed my life to public service in Union County as a forest ranger for the Florida Forest Service serving Union

and Bradford counties, the EMS director for Union County and I currently serve as the EMS director for Bradford County. I have served as the Union County School Board District 1 member for the past 12 years. I am a Christian and a member of First Baptist Church of Lake Butler.

**Why do you want to be a school board member? Has it been a long-term ambition? Why is now the time?** I decided to become a school board member in 2000. My decision to become a school board member was primarily based upon two reasons: First, at the time I decided to become a school board member, the Union County School District was in financial crisis and I was dissatisfied with the district leadership at the time. So, rather than complaining, I spent the next two years learning the roles and responsibilities of a school board member. Once I was more educated about the roles and responsibilities, I ran for the school board in 2002 and was elected.

**Have you held other public offices?** I have served as the District 1 school board member for the past 12 years.

**What is a school board member's role in local education?** A local school board member's role in education is to provide leadership and oversight in the area of budget and policy. A school board member's main role in the area of budget is to assure an appropriate annual budget is prepared to include all state, local and federal funds and to assure that all funds are used appropriately. A local school board member's role in policy is to create, establish and assure compliance with all state, local, and federal laws. A local school board member is responsible to assure that these policies are up to date and that these policies are adhered to at all times. In addition to the primary roles of budget and policy, a school board member's role in education is to advocate for all students in the areas of safety, curriculum, self-development, and to provide an environment that allows students to be successful.

**How would your leadership differ from what has come before?** My leadership differs largely due to my transparency. It is my fundamental belief that any public servant must be willing to communicate openly with the public that he or she serves. I have demonstrated this belief in many ways during my tenure including actively seeking input and actively disclosing information to all stakeholders when a difficult decision is pending. I have demonstrated this by openly communicating with parents, faculty and staff when change is pending within our school district. In addition, my leadership differs due to my passion to assure that the school board works in harmony, not discord. I have demonstrated this by initiating frank and open discussions during workshops and trainings and by my willingness to accompany new board members to certified board training classes.

**Why should people vote for you?** I believe that I not only have a proven record of providing leadership that has allowed for

Union County schools to excel, but that I have demonstrated my passion to see all Union County students succeed. I believe in action, not words. I believe that I have demonstrated this belief by actively working with my school board colleagues to manage the school board's budget responsibly during these lean economic times. I am the only candidate with 12 years of experience as a school board member during which Union County schools have excelled with unprecedented success. Most importantly, I believe that people should vote for me because I am willing to listen and act upon their input to keep Union County schools a "Top Ten" Florida school district

**What sets you apart from your opponents?** Experience. As a school board member with 12 years of experience, I have experience specific to Union County schools that none of my opponents have. I have the experience of not only managing your tax dollars during these extremely tough economic times, but doing so as our schools continue to excel. I have the experience of successfully governing during a time when there seems to be no end to the ever-changing guidelines from our state and federal department of education. I have the unfortunate experience to govern while our students, schools and community have faced the most devastating loss of students, community leaders, as well as other tragedies and disasters. None of my opponents have this experience.

**How do you balance the desire for employee raises with restricted resources?** Transparency. As a school board member, we are faced with ever decreasing funding and are faced with these type decisions each year. The most effective way that I know of is to be open and honest with all employees in regards to the amount of money available for employee raises. By providing the most up-to-date information concerning the financial status of the district, our employees realize that our resources are limited. While it is never popular to not provide employee raises, a school board member has the responsibility to assure that the district is financially solvent regardless of the available resources.

**What have you learned from the voters on the campaign trail?** I have learned that the citizens of Union County take

great pride in our schools and they recognize our school system as one of the best school systems in the state. I have learned that the citizens of Union County will not accept excuses in regards to being financially responsible or in regards to assuring Union County students are successful. I have learned that the citizens of Union County support Union County schools and that they are ever mindful of the decisions that I make as a board member.

**How do you feel about merit pay and employee evaluations?** Well, it is really not a matter of how I feel about this merit pay program or tying the employee evaluations to their pay. The fact is, the voters within our state have expressed their desire to have this system within education and our legislative body has made it a reality. Your local school board is tasked with overseeing the implementation of this system. Overall, I am cautiously optimistic about the merit pay and the employee evaluations model that we are responsible to oversee. While I certainly understand the idea of rewarding those teachers and employees that excel in their performance, it is a new model that has many, many variables. Our administrative team has done a great job of development and continues to provide in-depth training to our faculty and staff. I have supported our administration during the development of this system. I do believe that Union County has the highest quality teachers in the state and that they will continue to rise to the challenge

**Why do you believe in public education?** Public education is the very foundation of our modern society. Without public education, many if not all of our communities would be unable to exist. Public education provides an equal opportunity

for every American to develop academically, socially, and to develop those skills necessary to be productive members of our society. Without public education, those that are financially or otherwise unable to seek private education would not be able to succeed. Public education provides opportunities that allow Americans to realize their dream in life.

**Should public funding go to private schools?** Absolutely not. While it is certainly the prerogative of each parent as to how they would like to provide education for their children, public funding should not be allocated for private schools. There are many reasons that parents choose to not participate in public schools. However, it has been my experience that many of these folks choose to opt out of public schools because of a dislike of administration or a particular program. If a parent is not pleased with the local public schools, then they have the right to get involved in the governing of local schools or the right to relocate to a more acceptable public school. I respect those that choose to not participate in public schools, but I am a firm believer that public funding should remain in public schools.

**Are you in favor of school uniforms at any of the schools? Why?** No. I have spoken to many, many citizens of our county regarding the thought of school uniforms. Overwhelmingly, the citizens do not believe that school uniforms make a difference in the overall educational process. I do believe that school uniforms would help with some disciplinary problems with dress code, distractions or inappropriate clothing. However, it is the will of the people that I have spoken with to not have uniforms.

**What grade would you give Union County schools, and why?** "A+." I believe that no matter what grading system or benchmark that is used to "grade" our schools, Union County schools are "A+." Primarily, Union County schools are "A+" because of our outstanding teachers, school support staff, administrators and our parental involvement. In addition, our community provides outstanding support of all of our school programs. Simply put, Union County schools remain synonymous with excellence because the school board, superintendent, school administrators, parents and community work together. That rarely happens in other school districts.

**What is your personal vision for Union County schools?**

My vision for Union County schools remains clear. It is my passion and desire to see Union County schools continue to excel academically. Specifically, I would like to see the trend of more students obtaining industry certificates continue. I would like to see the trend of more students obtaining their college degree prior to graduation from our high school. I would like to see our school district continue to offer higher-level courses at our middle and high schools to allow for our students to challenge themselves. Overall, it is my vision that Union County schools continue the progress and continue to provide students with the opportunities to be successful.



Steve Peacock

**Provide a brief biography of yourself.** I was born in 1973 as the second of five children to Ernest and Gail Peacock. My siblings are Lance, Clay Jeff and Jill. I was raised in Union County and had the pleasure of attending Lake Butler Elementary School, Lake Butler Middle School and UCHS. Some fond memories of grade school are Third Grade Campout in elementary school, FFA Parliamentary Procedure in middle school along with basketball, tennis and FFA at UCHS. After graduating with honors in 1991, I moved to Southern California and worked as a full-time volunteer missionary for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for two years. I remained in California to attend college and graduated from Orange Coast College with an A.A. in General Studies followed by a B.S. in Business Management from California Coast University. I married Kristy Jackson of Lake City in 1997 and worked throughout the Florida Panhandle as a corporate sales executive while Kristy attended Florida State University. I moved back home to Lake Butler in 2001 after welcoming our first of five children into the world. The decision to move back home was prompted by several factors: Being close to family was one and the safety and security which our county and school system provides was another. Professionally, I work for a large international company and manage our University of Florida account. We help provide the tools and supplies necessary to further the medical research at UF and Shands, namely the work conducted to study and cure cancer and Alzheimer's disease. Personally, I enjoy being a dad to four rowdy boys and a sweet baby girl. I also spend time as a youth group leader at church where I help teenage boys learn the value of respect, integrity, and the importance of making good choices early in life.

See PEACOCK, 4A

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# KEEP



"A PROVEN LEADER FOR UNION COUNTY SCHOOLS"

# ALLEN PARRISH

Union County School Board, District 1

## Your School Board Member MUST:

- ✓ Provide Leadership that is **FOCUSED UPON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT.**
- ✓ Provide Leadership that is **ACCOUNTABLE** to you at all times.
- ✓ Provide Leadership that is **ACCESSIBLE** to all parents, students, faculty and Staff.
- ✓ Provide Leadership that uses **YOUR TAX DOLLARS** responsibly.
- ✓ Provide Leadership that is **ACTIVE** in ALL aspects of our Schools.
- ✓ Provide Leadership that is **WILLING** to set aside personal bias and act upon your input.

It has been a privilege to visit with many of you during the past few weeks. I thank you for sharing your vision of Union County Schools and I appreciate your hospitality.

On August 26, 2014, you will choose your District 1 School Board Member. Before you cast your vote, I humbly ask that you examine my record of performance during the past 12 years and that you consider the outstanding achievements of our School District.

I remain committed to providing leadership that ENCOURAGES, ENABLES, and EMPOWERS STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT.

I ask for your continued support of Union County Schools and I ask for your vote. Please contact me for questions or concerns that you may have at (386) 496-1371.

**EARLY VOTING BEGINS SATURDAY AUGUST 16, 2014**

Pd.Pol.Adv. for & approved by Allen Parrish Campaign

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Bradford County Telegraph  
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## UC School Board District 3

The Union County School Board District 3 has two candidates running in the 2014 Primary Election: Curtis L. Clyatt and Marvin Seay. Both candidates were given questions, but neither responded.



Curtis L. Clyatt



Marvin Seay



## Jimmy Beasley resigns from LB city commission

BY VINCENT ALEX BROWN  
Times Editor

On Monday, Aug. 11, Jimmy Beasley announced his resignation from the Lake Butler City Commission. In his letter he stated: *Citizens of Lake Butler, After much thought and consideration, I am announcing my resignation from the Lake Butler City Council effective today, August 11, 2014.*

*I want to thank all the citizens who have supported me. You are ones who made it possible for me to serve this great city as a City Councilman for 14 years.*

*I give my best to all remaining Council members and hope they continue to serve the citizens of Lake Butler.*

*Thank you, Jimmy Beasley*

Before the recent city election, Beasley served as acting mayor and as vice mayor before that. He has served on the commission since 2000.

Beasley, 63, graduated from Union County High School in 1970 and began working for the city of Lake Butler while still a student. In 1972 he took a full-time position with the Union County Road Department as an equipment operator. He held that position until he was promoted to assistant road superintendent. Then a departmental division took place between the road department and solid waste where he was given the title of solid waste department director, which he has held for the past 22 years.

His letter was read at the Lake Butler City Commission meeting. However, no decision was made on filling his seat for the term ending in 2016.

## PEACOCK

Continued from 3A

**Why do you want to be a school board member? Has it been a long-term ambition? Why is now the time?** I want to be a school board member because I am a difference-maker. I have never been one to sit on the sidelines while others dictate important factors in my family's life. I would not particularly say that serving on the school board has been a long-term ambition. However, for years I have always strived to influence young people for the better and now the opportunity to serve as a school board representative lends me a different type of platform on which to do just that. Right now is the right time for me because my new work schedule permits me the flexibility to be involved in our schools and because my children are very active in their schooling.

**Have you held other public offices?** No. I have never held a public office, but there is always a first time for everything, right?

**What is a school board member's role in local education?** A school board member's role in local education is multifaceted. In addition to maintaining a healthy budget, a good school board member remains focused on what is best for the student. They implement policies which will ensure safety and success for the students. A good school board member is continually aware of the unique challenges the schools face and works in harmony with the board and administration to overcome such challenges.

**Why should people vote for you?** People should vote for me for multiple reasons:

1. I am fiscally responsible and will work with our fellow school board members to ensure that our school system maximizes and stretches its available funds.
2. I truly care. My wife and I are already very involved in our children's education and have a vested interest in our school system for many years to come.
3. I know and understand

today's technology and will work to ensure that our children are not at a disadvantage when it comes to technology. I will also look to implement technology which would make a parent's role in school more convenient.

4. I am not only concerned with my own children but also your children which have a direct influence on mine. I will always make myself available and listen to parents, grandparents and guardians who have questions or concerns about the state of their child's education.

**What sets you apart from your opponents?** One of the things which sets me apart from my opponents is the fact that I have a unique vested interest in our school system. With children ranging in age from 13 years to 9 months, I will have children in the Union County school system for the next 17 years.

**How would your leadership differ from what has come before?** I wouldn't necessarily say that I see a need for new leadership. Our current leadership has done a great job and our county's school system is in good hands regardless of the outcome of our election. What I have is a desire for new leadership. My leadership would differ in a way that connects me to the community in a more open fashion. I also want to be able to carry on the strong tradition which our incumbent has demonstrated over the last 12 years.

**What have you learned from the voters on the campaign trail?** I have learned that more people than a few families are homeschooling their children

for various reasons. I have also learned that we have a great share of families which care deeply for our public school system and are thankful to our current school board, our teachers and our administration for providing a safe and sound environment for their children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

**How do you feel about merit pay and employee evaluations?** Regardless of how I feel, merit pay and employee evaluations are a law and local school boards abide by the law and have minimal control. Therefore, it is of the utmost important that our district works to achieve higher teacher evaluations by supporting those teachers who need additional assistance and in-service training to improve their skills. As teachers' skills improve, more student growth will occur which will result in higher compensation for our faculty.

**How do you balance the desire for employee raises with restricted resources?** It is an embarrassment that our county has one of the lowest overall salaries for employees. However, we must also recognize that our tax base is one of the smallest and that our small student population limits the amount of public funds received. As a board, we must take a close look at the budget and, as mine and many other local households have had to do, find areas that could be trimmed which would "free up" funds for employee raises.

**Why do you believe in public education?** As far back as the early 1700s education has been deemed a crucial part of the success of our country and thus "public education" developed. If we as a nation are to continue to

strive and compete in the global economy, all children must have the opportunity to receive an education that places minimal strain on a family's budget. Public education is the best way to achieve that objective for the majority of families in our community.

**Should public funding go to private schools?** I believe private schools should have a right to a portion of public funds only if the public schools in the area are not meeting a required academic standard set forth by the state.

**Are you in favor of school uniforms at any of the schools?** Why? I am not in favor of school uniforms in any of our schools

because I believe uniforms would be an additional financial burden on parents. Parents would still need to purchase casual clothes for their kids to wear when outside of school.

**What grade would you give Union County schools, and why?** An "A." Because not only do we have assessment test scores which merit an "A" but also because our school spirit is high, our teachers are welcoming and open to listening to parents, and our administration holds both one another and the students accountable for their actions. There is always room for improvement but I feel the grade of an "A" recently awarded to Union County from Tallahassee is fully justified.

**What is your personal vision for Union County schools?** My personal vision of Union County schools is a vision of promise. A vision which begins with my own children and their classmates learning lessons of faith, respect, hard work and pride. As this foundation is built in their early years they will have an opportunity to set goals, work to achieve those goals and realize that they can be whatever they set their mind to be. They can do this because their school system provided the social and academic structure necessary to foster such aspirations. My personal vision is one which our county's children are well prepared to welcome life after graduation and build a successful life upon the foundation which they built in Lake Butler as a Union County Tiger.



**Russ WADE**  
Attorney at Law

275 West Main Street, Lake Butler, FL 32054  
(Suwannee Medical Building)

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## We Need to Hear Your Voice!

Dear Residents of Union County:

The Union County Health Advisory Group (UCHAG) and the Florida Department of Health in Union County (FDOH) have been hard at work trying to identify the most pressing health issues in Union County. But we need your help.

Together the UCHAG and the FDOH are launching the 2014 Union County Health Survey so that we can hear the views of all residents in Union County when it comes to the health of our great county. This survey will give everyone the opportunity to provide input that will go into the development of the 2014 Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan.

And in addition to doing something for the good of our community, you also have a chance to win one of three (3) \$50.00 Visa gift cards should you choose to participate and we draw your survey from among those surveys of individuals who indicate that they wish to be included in the drawing.

There are **three ways to obtain the survey**:

1. Go directly to the following website (please note that you can also forward this link to others who you think should complete the survey):  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2014unionhealthsurvey>
2. Call Dan Mann at (904) 964-7732, ext 1602 or email at [john.mann@flhealth.gov](mailto:john.mann@flhealth.gov) for information on where you can pick up a printed copy of the survey to complete by hand.
3. Scan the Quick Response (QR) code below with your mobile phone to be taken directly to the link for the survey.

On behalf of the UCHAG and the FDOH, I would like to thank you for taking the time to consider this very important survey.

**Joe Pietrangelo, Administrator**

Florida Department of Health in Union County

**Florida Department of Health in Union County**

495 East Main Street  
Lake Butler, FL 32054  
(386) 496-3211



Union County Public Library

Keep a good thing going!  
Vote FOR continued funding.

FOL



Union County Friends of the Library

# 'Fizz, Boom, Splash!'

The Union County Public Library's end-of-summer bash, "Fizz, Boom, Splash!" was held Thursday, Aug. 7, to close out this year's program theme, "Fizz, Boom, Read."

Hundreds of children and their families enjoyed cooling off in the provided water spray and visiting vendor booths from all over the county that turned out to provide information to parents and gave away lots of cool, free stuff to the children.

Katie Oden, the children's program assistant for the library, was slimed by the children as their reward for accumulating 5,000 days of reading over the summer. Fire Chief Mike Banks of the Lake Butler Volunteer Fire Department provided the "splash" through a fire truck hose and a sprinkler. The latter was enjoyed by both children and adults.

Vendors were New River Community Health Center, Alachua County Victim's Services, ACORN Clinic, Lake Butler Hospital, Union County Supervisor of Elections Office and TD Bank. Volunteers included teen members

from the Junior Friends of the Library and missionaries from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The library gives "many, many thanks to these guys and gals for all their hard work."

Prizes given away throughout the summer and at the bash were provided through a generous donation from Billy and Norma O'Steen. "Thank you and we love you!" says Library Director Mary Brown and her staff.

Once again, they thank all the folks who helped out throughout the summer. Without the help and support of such a wonderful community the programs would not have been the absolute success which they were.

Library staff member Tennille Brannen, who brought her own children to the programs prior to the start of her employment three years ago, said, "This was the busiest and most attended summer of my five-year experience. This summer has been awesome! It was definitely hard work but we (the staff) had a great time and we hope everyone who came out and participated did as well."



LEFT: Slime finale: Deonte Jones, Nakayla Staten, Bristol Tetstone, Kynley and Kayley Tomlinson and Jeremiah Owens and Library Director Mary Brown enjoying laying it on thick as Katie Oden, the children's program assistant for the library, takes it with a smile as a reward to the children who accumulated 5,000 days of reading over the summer.

ABOVE: Oden receives help removing all the slime from the children and Fire Chief Mike Banks.

## Mastering their moves

Kelly Christie Dance Academy will have numerous "master classes" for students throughout the season. A master class is when a dance professional comes into the studio to teach a class in the genre in which they specialize. The first one was on Aug. 2, taught by Autumn Morgenstern who specializes in Broadway style musical theatre and jazz dancing.

PICTURED: (Back row, l-r) Ciarra Hopkins, Carley Libby, Klara Fletcher, Chelsey Crews, Sunshine Scaff, Kate DeShong and Summer Atteberry. (Middle row, l-r) Kimberly Palmer, John Dekle, Ciara Woodall and Hailey Britt. (Front row, l-r) Kelly Christie (owner/director), Macy Christmas, Mia Christie, Morgenstern, Jewel Dekle, Karly Ann Raulerson and Abigail Andrews.



### Little Rainbows

LEARNING CENTER INC.

**Openings Now Available for 2-year olds & up**

**OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE**

- Free VPK (4-yr olds):** Monday Aug. 18 • 6:30pm  
VPK classes are Mon-Fri 8am - 11am
- Three year olds:** Tuesday, Aug. 19 • 6:30pm

**After School Classes • School-age Children**

- CDA Teachers
- Meals & Snacks

<b>CURRICULA</b> (2 are new):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ABeka</li> <li>• Beyond Cribs &amp; Rattles</li> <li>• Beyond Center &amp; Circle Time</li> </ul>
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## LEGALS

UCT Legals 8/14/14

**NOTICE**

The Union County Board of County Commissioners is seeking Request for Proposals (RFP) from professional companies to provide general liability, public official's liability, property, inland marine and business auto insurance. RFPs must be received by 4:00 PM on Monday, September 8, 2014. All proposals will be opened Tuesday, September 9, 2014 at 9:00 AM in the Union County Board's office, which is located at 15 Northeast 1st Street, Lake Butler, Florida 32054. Bid packages are available by calling the Board's office at 386-496-4241.

8/7 2tchg 8/14-UCT

**NOTICE**

The Union County Board of County Commissioners is seeking Request for Proposals (RFP) from professional companies to provide Worker Compensation Insurance. RFPs must be received by 4:00 PM on Monday, September 8, 2014. All proposals will be opened Monday, September 9, 2014 at 9:30 AM in the Union County Board's office, which is located at 15 Northeast 1st Street, Lake Butler, Florida 32054. Bid packages are available by calling the Board's office at 386-496-4241.

8/7 2tchg 8/14-UCT

**LEGAL NOTICE**

The Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc. Board of Directors will hold a Planning Evaluation Committee Meeting on Tuesday, August 26th at 9:30 A.M.; and Executive Committee Meeting will follow at 10:00 A.M. at the Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc. Administration Office located at 1171 Nobles Ferry Road NW in Live Oak, Florida.

8/14 1tchg-UCT

**NOTICE**

Lake Butler Mini Storage will hold an auction on Saturday, August 23, 2014 at 10:00 AM. Located at 1015 SW 3RD ST, Lake Butler, FL. Hwy 121. We have 9 units up for auction, 4- 5x10s, 4- 10x10s, and 1- 10x15.

8/14 2tchg 8/21-UCT

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## Band camp begins

While the Union County High School Tiger football team was practicing across campus (See more in the *Regional News section*.) the Spirit of Union County Tiger Marching Band and the Tigerettes began learning their sets for this year's program on the first full day of band camp, Aug. 11.



## Log truck overturns on SR 100

Monday, Aug. 11, while traveling westbound on State Road 100 just outside of Lake Butler, a log truck lost control and then tipped over in the muddy, rain-soaked ground by the shoulder. The driver only sustained minor injuries.



(L-r) Ryan Mauga, Alexis Lukatz, Smokey Bear and Rilie Lukatz in front of the splash park.

## Smokey Bear turns 70

Smokey Bear celebrated his 70th birthday at Lakeside Park in Lake Butler on Thursday, August 7.

Smokey Bear is America's wildfire prevention icon. He has educated generations of Americans about their role in preventing human-caused wildfires. Created in 1944, the Smokey Bear Wildfire Prevention campaign is the longest running public service advertising campaign in U.S. history.

As one of the world's most recognizable fictional characters, Smokey's image is protected by U.S. federal law and is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, the National Association of State Foresters and the Ad Council.

The campaign's original catch phrase was "Smokey Says - Care Will Prevent 9 out of 10 Forest Fires." In 1947 it was changed to "Remember... Only YOU Can Prevent Forest Fires." Most recently, in 2001, it was again modified to "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires" in response to a massive outbreak of wildfires in natural areas other than forests. The term "wildfire" applies to any unwanted, unplanned, uncontrolled outdoor fire.

Despite the campaign's success over the years, wildfire prevention remains one of the most critical issues affecting our country and Smokey's message is as relevant today as it was in 1944.

Learn more about Smokey Bear at [smokeybear.com](http://smokeybear.com).

## OFFICIAL SAMPLE BALLOT - PRIMARY ELECTION

UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA AUGUST 26, 2014

UNLESS INDICATED BELOW THESE RACES WILL APPEAR ON ALL DEMOCRATIC BALLOT STYLES

**GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**  
(Vote for One)

Charlie Crist (Not Yet Designated) DEM

Nan H. Rich (Not Yet Designated) DEM

**ATTORNEY GENERAL**  
(Vote for One)

George Sheldon DEM

Perry E. Thurston DEM

THE RACE BELOW WILL APPEAR IN PRECINCTS 2A and 2B ONLY

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2**  
(Vote for One)

Channing Dobbs DEM

Nancy Griffis DEM

Woody Kitler DEM

**CIRCUIT JUDGE 8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, GROUP 11**  
(Vote for One)

William E. Davis

William Falik

THE RACE BELOW WILL APPEAR IN PRECINCTS 1A and 1B ONLY

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER DISTRICT 1**  
(Vote for One)

Carl Drake

Allen Parrish

Steve Peacock

THE RACE BELOW WILL APPEAR IN PRECINCTS 3A, 3B and 3C ONLY

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER DISTRICT 3**  
(Vote for One)

Curtis L. Clyatt

Marvin Seay

**UNION COUNTY LIBRARY REFERENDUM**

For the continued funding of the Union County Special Library District by taxation of up to one-half (1/2) mil of ad valorem taxes.

Against the continued funding of the Union County Special Library District by taxation of up to one-half (1/2) mil of ad valorem taxes.

UNLESS INDICATED BELOW THESE RACES WILL APPEAR ON ALL REPUBLICAN BALLOT STYLES

**REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS DISTRICT 3**  
(Vote for One)

Jake Rush REP

Ted Yoho REP

**GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**  
(Vote for One)

Yinka Aboosed Adeshina (Not Yet Designated) REP

Elizabeth Cuevas-Neunder (Not Yet Designated) REP

Rick Scott (Not Yet Designated) REP

THE RACE BELOW WILL APPEAR IN PRECINCTS 4A, 4B and 4C ONLY

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 4**  
(Vote for One)

Jeff Andrews REP

Eugene Dukes REP

**CIRCUIT JUDGE 8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, GROUP 11**  
(Vote for One)

William E. Davis

William Falik

THE RACE BELOW WILL APPEAR IN PRECINCTS 1A and 1B ONLY

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER DISTRICT 1**  
(Vote for One)

Carl Drake

Allen Parrish

Steve Peacock

THE RACE BELOW WILL APPEAR IN PRECINCTS 3A, 3B and 3C ONLY

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER DISTRICT 3**  
(Vote for One)

Curtis L. Clyatt

Marvin Seay

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UNLESS INDICATED BELOW THESE RACES WILL APPEAR ON ALL NONPARTISAN BALLOT STYLES

**CIRCUIT JUDGE 8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, GROUP 11**  
(Vote for One)

William E. Davis

William Falik

THE RACE BELOW WILL APPEAR IN PRECINCTS 1A and 1B ONLY

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER DISTRICT 1**  
(Vote for One)

Carl Drake

Allen Parrish

Steve Peacock

THE RACE BELOW WILL APPEAR IN PRECINCTS 3A, 3B and 3C ONLY

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER DISTRICT 3**  
(Vote for One)

Curtis L. Clyatt

Marvin Seay

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Against the continued funding of the Union County Special Library District by taxation of up to one-half (1/2) mil of ad valorem taxes.

## THREE CHOICES FOR VOTING

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EARLY VOTING

ELECTION DAY

### Want to Vote By Mail?

For your convenience, any registered voter may vote by absentee ballot. A voter, member of the voter's immediate family or legal guardian may request an absentee ballot in person, by mail or by telephone. One request can cover all elections through the next two regularly scheduled general elections.

Call the Elections Office at (386) 496-2236.

### Early Voting Dates:

Begins: Saturday, August 16th  
Ends: Saturday, August 23rd  
Monday - Saturday  
8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Sunday  
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**EARLY VOTING LOCATION:**  
Supervisor of Elections Office  
175 W. Main St., Lake Butler

### AUGUST 26, 2014

**POLLS OPEN**  
7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Polling locations are listed on your voter information card, or check the "Where Do I Vote" link on our website.

If voting at the polls, you must vote in the precinct of your legal residence.

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# REGIONAL NEWS

NEWS FROM BRADFORD COUNTY, UNION COUNTY AND THE LAKE REGION

FEATURES  
CRIME  
SOCIALS  
OBITUARIES  
EDITORIAL

## Countdown to kickoff...



Area high school students have donned their helmets and pads, preparing for another season that's right around the corner.

Practices began Aug. 4, and it's just one more week until teams take the field. Bradford will play Buchholz in a preseason kickoff classic on Thursday, Aug. 21, at 7 p.m. at Citizens Field in Gainesville. Keystone and Union County will play their preseason games on Friday, Aug. 22, with the Indians hosting Ridgeview at 7 p.m. and the Tigers traveling to play Hilliard at 7:30 p.m.

The regular season begins Friday, Aug. 29, with games slated for 7:30 p.m. Bradford and Union will host Suwannee and Potter's House, respectively, while Keystone will travel to play West Nassau.



ABOVE: Union running back Darion Robinson barrels his way through a set of tires. LEFT: Chris McLean (center) gets his hands on quarterback Wyatt Harvin during a Keystone practice. Matthew Stovall is also pictured.

See page 5B for a preview of the Union County varsity team. Previews of Bradford and Keystone will follow in future weeks.



Trevor Shannahan works on shedding blockers during a Bradford practice.



Darion Robinson (right) gets a handful of jersey as he attempts to disrupt wide receiver Zach Lee's route during a Union practice.



ABOVE: Keystone's Brighton Gibbs makes a fingertip grab. RIGHT: Bradford's Don Deffers runs upfield after making a catch.



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<p><b>SCREEN 1</b> STARTS FRIDAY</p> <p><i>Sylvester Stallone</i></p> <p><b>Expendables 3</b></p> <p>Fri 7:00, 9:00 Sat 5:00, 8:00 Sun 5:30 Wed - Thur 7:15</p>	<p><b>SCREEN 2</b> NOW SHOWING</p> <p><i>Megan Fox</i></p> <p><b>TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES</b></p> <p>Fri 7:10, 9:15 Sat 4:55, 7:00, 9:05 Sun 4:55, 7:00 Wed - Thur 7:30</p>
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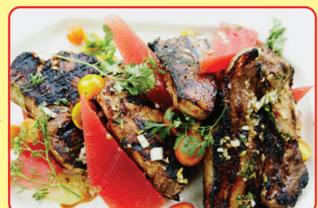
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# Residents fearful despite no new snake sightings at Crystal Lake

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Special to the Telegraph, Times and Monitor

No new sightings of the giant snake seen a few weeks ago at Crystal Lake have been reported, but members of the community are still fearful of what may be lurking in the water.

As reported in the July 31 issue of the Bradford County Telegraph and the Lake Region Monitor, three different people in the area sighted a large snake.

Jeffrey McRae got a good look at the reptile after hearing about it three days before his sighting. The snake was seen crossing 18A by local resident Casey Brunt and was said to be as long as the road was wide – 20 feet. McRae saw the snake on a neighboring property and described it as light and dark green; the colors of an anaconda. He further reported that the snake's body was as thick as his thigh.

Crystal Lake resident Jenese Russell saw a large snake with a head about two fists wide swimming near her property, but said the snake was darker in color than that reported by McRae and that she could not get a real idea of its total length.

According to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission representative Karen Parker, none of the three reports received by them have been verified and no legitimate photos have been turned in. The single photo given to the agency, showing an anaconda eating a deer in Venezuela was taken from an Internet site.

A man reported that two of his neighbors had seen the snake and that he thought it might be near his house made the first report May 27. The second report was from another man saying that he was concerned about the snake. The third call to Fish and Wildlife was from a woman with relatives in the area who was concerned about them. This last person was also the source of the Internet photo.

Devon Wheeler, local snake expert and licensed conditional species holder for Burmese pythons and other large constrictors said he is waiting to see what happens next.

"From what I've been told, my best guess would be that this is a Burmese or rock python that has been held illegally in captivity and has either been turned loose or has escaped," Wheeler said. "It could belong to someone who has just found out that possessing such an animal without proper permitting is illegal, or it could simply be a snake belonging to someone who could no longer feed or handle it."

Wheeler guessed the snake was a Burmese python because it had been one of the most widely sold constrictors in the pet trade prior to the Federal ban. Anacondas were far less common offerings as pets.

According to the website "The Top 10 Largest Snakes in the World," the green anaconda is the second largest snake that has ever lived, and the largest species not extinct. It lists the average length of the species as 15-17 feet, with the record being 28 feet. The anaconda is a heavy snake, with many large specimens weighing over 200 pounds. It is aquatic in

nature and prefers to spend little time on land.

The Burmese python is listed as the world's fourth largest snake ever, averaging 13 feet in length, with the record set at 20 feet –

the reported length of the Crystal Lake specimen. It is more of a land- and tree-dwelling species.

An article in the Miami Herald on Feb. 4 cites the capture of an 18-foot, eight-inch Burmese python last May in

**A full-grown green anaconda, showing the characteristic top-edge-of-head eye placement, which is an adaptation for their aquatic lifestyle.**



the Everglades. Another article, posted on the Internet by The Slate Group, titled "The Largest Snake in the World Has Invaded the United States," documents the presence of green anacondas in the Everglades as a breeding population, possibly surpassing the Burmese python in terms of danger to people and the environment.

Both Parker and Wheeler stress that if someone should encounter a large snake they should not approach it, but should call the Fish and Wildlife 24-hour Wildlife Alert Number 888-404-3922, Wheeler at 904-964-8640, the Exotic Species Reporting Hotline 888-IVE-GOT1 and/

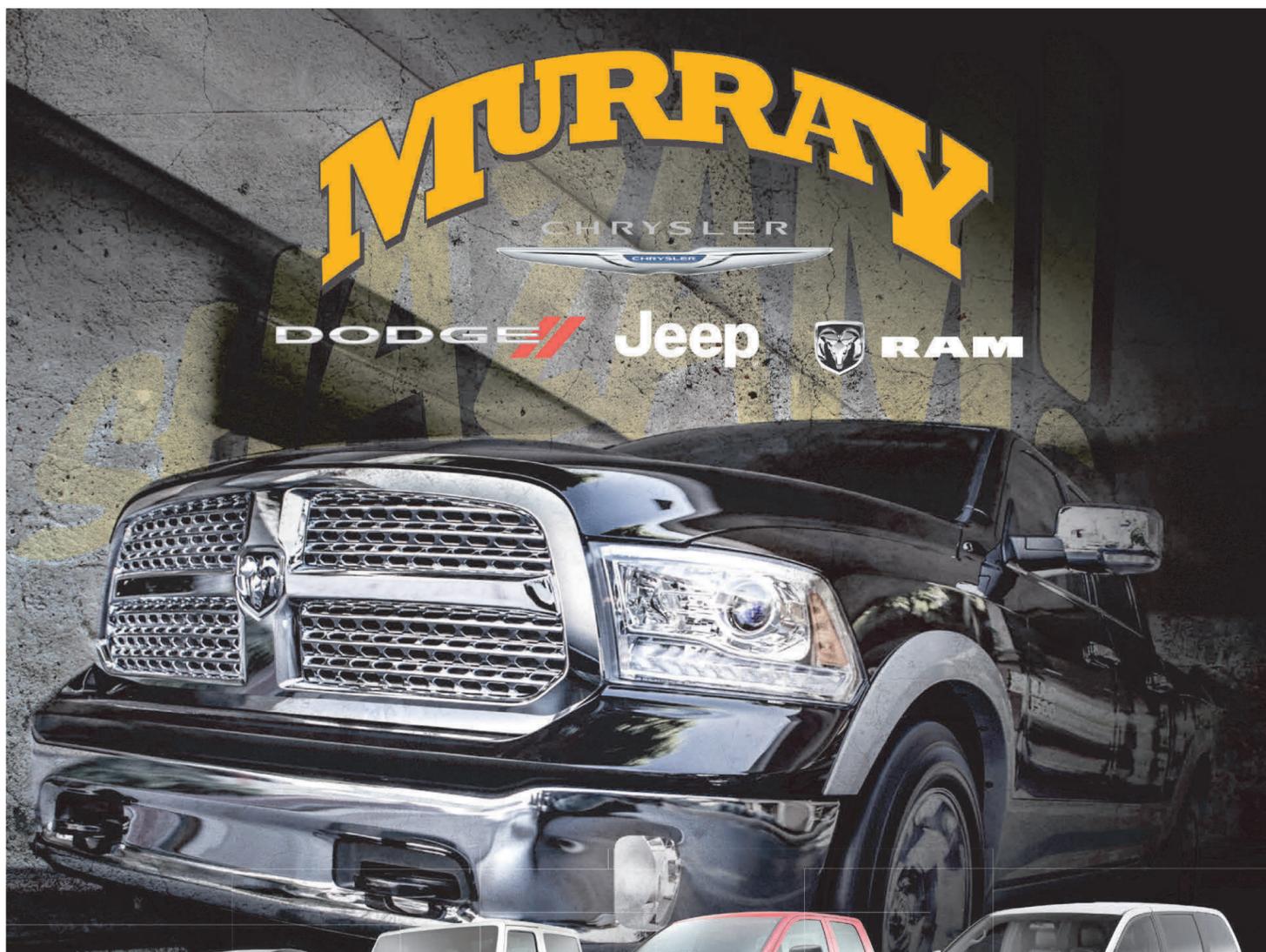
**A healthy, well-fed Burmese python, at one time one of the most popular pet snakes in America.**



or local law enforcement. A report can also be filed online at [www.ivegot1.org](http://www.ivegot1.org) and an app is available for smartphones. Trying to get a photograph of the snake is encouraged if it can be done safely as it will help identify the species.

Parker also said that people who have small pets should consider bringing them inside and not to let them wander around their backyards unaccompanied.

"It would be devastating to lose a pet this way," Wheeler said.



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## Reagan Day Dinner is Aug. 19

The Bradford County Republican Executive Committee welcomes keynote speaker Sen. Rob Bradley to its Reagan Day Dinner, which will be held Tuesday, Aug. 19, at the Starke Golf and Country Club. A reception will begin at 5:30 p.m., with a Western Steer-catered dinner to follow.

Leslie Dougher, the chairman of the Republican Party of Florida, will also present an update on what is happening throughout the state.

Local candidates who are present will be allowed three minutes to address their constituents.

Tickets are \$37. Tables for eight are available for \$250.

Checks or money orders should be made payable to BCREC and mailed to PO Box 213, Starke, FL 32091.

RSVP to Donna Solze at 904-964-5803 or [dssolze@embarqmail.com](mailto:dssolze@embarqmail.com).

A limited number of tickets are also available for purchase at the North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce in Starke.

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# Bryant: heeding God's call leads to a life of loving service

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Special to the Telegraph, Times and Monitor

A lifelong calling to the ministry is often not at all what the recipient plans for his or her life, but once answered can lead to a life of joy and satisfaction and that is exactly what Rev. Ben Bryant said he has had.

Born in Fitzgerald, Georgia, the county seat of Ben Hill County, Bryant doesn't talk much about his life before his conversion (becoming a Christian) at the age of 14. At that time he became a member of the First Baptist Church of Fitzgerald. He continued to live with his grandmother in Georgia until he graduated high school in 1953, then he moved to Miami to live with his mother and attend the University of Miami in the mechanical engineering program.

After about 1.5 years, Bryant decided that engineering was not what he really wanted to do, so he went to work for the Seaboard Railroad in Miami, helped along by an uncle who was in upper-level management of the company. He married and started a family, but said he knew he was not doing what he was supposed to be doing.

"I got the call from the Lord about the time I left college, or maybe a little before," Bryant said. "I knew that's what I was meant to do, but I resisted. After about five years it grew on me until I couldn't deny it any more, so I quit the railroad, was ordained in December 1962 at the Westview Baptist Church in Miami and enrolled in the Florida Baptist Theological College in Graceville, Florida."

At the time of his enrollment, Bryant and his wife, Dorothy, already had three children and another on the way. His wife had been a bank teller before their first child was born, but hadn't worked since then, so he was his family's sole support.

Bryant became a student pastor almost immediately after his enrollment, serving at the Rocky Creek Baptist Church in Marianna — starting out with a congregation of about 11 people (but getting the number up to 60 during his tenure).

"Working while attending school is always a challenge but the work as student pastor was really a wonderful way to gain experience while learning," Bryant said. "It also provides smaller churches with a pastor that they can afford and helps out the student with a little income."

He was paid \$25 a week as pastor, and made an additional \$15 a week working as a janitor at the theater in Graceville. He also earned \$10 a week as a janitor in the men's dormitory at the college, but this money was applied to his tuition.

Bryant and his growing family moved into a federal housing complex near the college, where they were able to rent a three-bedroom half of a duplex for \$15 a month, including utilities.

"It was a really nice home," Bryant said. "The complex had just been built, so everything was brand new. It was a real blessing



Rev. Ben Bryant, who served as pastor at First Baptist Church of Starke for approximately 32 years, is pictured with his wife, Dorothy.

to be able to find housing so inexpensive and so close to school."

Bryant next attended the William Carey College in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, taking a bachelor of arts degree in 1965. He became student pastor of Big Level Baptist Church in Wiggins, Mississippi, a larger church.

"Big Level was a strong church," Bryant said. "It had about 400 members, of which about half usually were in attendance. Although we first rented a house near the school when we moved to Mississippi, we soon moved into the church's parsonage. This gave us free rent and, combined with a salary increase to \$65, we were able to do well."

Bryant continued at Big Level while he attended the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, where he graduated with a theological masters degree in 1968. He left Mississippi in 1969 to accept a full pastorate at the Olivet Baptist Church in Milton. His fifth child was born right about the time he graduated.

"Olivet was a church of about 600 members located across the bay from the Pensacola naval base," Bryant said. "It was a fairly new church that had started out as a mission of another church, but it had been constituted into a church of its

own and I was hired as pastor." Bryant said that even though the congregation at Olivet was larger, it was easier to manage since he now had help — a minister of music. That did not decrease his responsibilities, however.

"In the baptist church the pastor is responsible for everything, no matter how large the additional staff," Bryant said. "Every church calls its own pastor, there are no assignments. Each church has its own search committee, and does its own interviewing, observation and hiring."

In 1973, Bryant received a letter from the First Baptist Church of Starke informing him that the church was conducting a pastor search and asking him to submit a resume. He said he prayed about it and then sent one to the search committee. At the time, he said he wasn't really even sure where Starke was.

Bryant was to learn that the First Baptist Church of Starke was founded in 1877 and he would be only the sixth pastor to serve there.

A few weeks later, Bryant said he noticed five people in the congregation whom he did not know as members of Olivet. Four were sitting as couples and one man was sitting alone. After

See BRYANT, 6B

## SOCIALS



Rachael Massey and Everett Padgett III

### Massey, Padgett to wed

Rachael Massey and Everett Marklee Padgett III of Starke announce their engagement.

Rachael is the daughter of Felix and Christy Ramos-Vargas of Starke.

Everett is the son of Everett and Glenda Padgett, Jr. of Starke.

The wedding and reception is planned for Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm at the Starke Golf and Country Club. Invitations will be sent.

the university's history. Nearly 600 of those students crossed the stage to receive their degrees during Spring Commencement exercises on Friday, May 6 at JSU Stadium.

Among those receiving degrees was Ashley Harden of Starke, who graduated with a Educational Specialist.

### Blakeslee is new pastor at New River Baptist

Pastor Terry J. Blakeslee has been called as Pastor of New River Baptist Church Aug. 10, 2014. Brother Terry and Lois (his wife) have been long time residents of Starke and have served in several Churches of the past years in the Starke area.

Brother Terry is working on his Doctor of Education from Trinity College of the Bible and Theological Seminary, Club. Invitations will be sent.

Newburgh, Indiana.

### Recognition for Kiser to be held Aug. 31

A recognition will be held for retired Capt./Co-Pastor Emanuel "Joe" Kiser will be held Sunday, Aug. 31, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Florida National Guard on Edwards Road in Starke.

The event is sponsored by Bradford County Sheriff Gordon Smith, Starke Police Chief Jeff Johnson, Mt. Moriah Community Church Pastor Edward Hines and Truevine Ministries Pastor Ross Chandler.

## LEGALS

**NOTICE**  
The New River Community Health Center Board of Directors will meet August 20, 2014, at the Union County Library, located at 250 SE 5th Ave, Lake Butler, FL 32054 from 12:30 – 1:30 pm.

8/14 11chg-B-sect

### Quattlebaum graduates from Western Governors

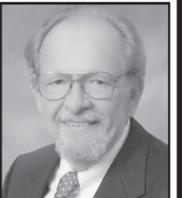
Victoria Quattlebaum of Keystone Heights has received her B.A. Interdisciplinary Studies from Western Governors University in Salt Lake City.

### Harden a member of Jacksonville State's largest class

Seven hundred twenty-eight candidates received degrees from Jacksonville State University in Alabama this spring, making up the largest graduating class in

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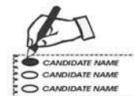
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# EDITORIAL/OPINION

BRADFORD COUNTY TELEGRAPH • UNION COUNTY TIMES • LAKE REGION MONITOR

## Getting a foot in the door

I once knew a retired house-to-house salesman who called on homes in a northern city. He said if a woman opened the door, he stuck his foot in the opening to keep her from slamming the door in his face.

When the legislature recently passed a bill to make the sale of marijuana legal for medicinal purposes, the question arose: "Will they be back next year to expand the approval to include recreational marijuana sales?"

Were proponents of the permissive bill honest in their approval of the sale of marijuana, or is it the first salvo in a series of attempts to broaden the availability of the weed?

It has been reported in newspapers and magazines that a South Florida attorney has spent a million dollars in the quest to get the sale of marijuana on the ballot. He will have to defend many, many clients to recover his contributions. Could his interests be other than the medicinal value of marijuana?

I remember the ill-advised experiment by the United States to ban the sale and use of

intoxicating beverages, generally any drink containing 2 percent or more of alcohol. It was a grand experiment, doomed for failure from the first get-go. It was known as the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which was later superseded by the 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment in 1933.

The 13<sup>th</sup> is the only amendment in the American Constitution to be repealed, or seriously contested. It was a great social experiment, but it never gained the support of the people, in spite of its good intentions.

I see the legalization of marijuana as opening the door for a repeat of the prohibition days, with the distinct possibility of bootleggers growing marijuana and processing it for an illicit market. If the public wants to make marijuana available, then, like the alcohol business, it should be put under very strict control for its production and sale, and taxed enough to pay for the cost of surveillance.

Buster Rahn  
Telegraph editorialist

## LETTERS

EDITOR@BCTELEGRAPH.COM

### City manager responds to concerned citizen's letter

Dear Editor:

Mr. Spitzer: I, Dave Mecusker, City of Lake Butler City Manager, offer the following in regards to your questions and inquiries:

Your input to the 2014/15 Budget process is appreciated and is well noted. No final decisions have been made as the 1st. reading of the final Budget will be on September 8th and the 2nd, approval being at a special meeting at the end of September, to be announced.

It is noted that Mr. Banks is an extremely dedicated and professional Fire Chief. I consult with him on all decisions affecting the fire department. Just recently we were able to squeeze the money to construct a badly needed staircase to the upper section of the Fire Station. I am unaware and it has not been requested of Mr. Banks for the purchase of any worn out equipment. In fact, during my four years I have no recollection of his not getting anything he didn't need, if he followed the proper procedures.

I'm not sure of your statement in your fourth paragraph but I want to assure you that there are job training opportunities in all areas of the City Operations. All City employees have been given opportunities for receiving much deserved pay adjustments for their participation. "Take a class" is a very general statement, but I am very happy to advise that meaningful certifications with prior approval by the Council, benefits both the employees and the City of Lake Butler. There has never been an adjustment in pay for, "Taking a Class".

In the past, I have included the Commissioners, along with part time employees to be awarded for their service in the giving of an annual raise October 1st. The Commission, almost always, votes to defer their raise back to the employees, or had it taken out of the budget entirely. I believe that Mayor Beasley, remarks were taken out of context as historically they, the Commission, have had the opportunity to return their raise to the employees or refusing the raise. Last year, it was recommended by the council that they (the motion made by Mr. Beasley), return their raises back to the employees in the form of a Christmas Bonus to all staff, full time and part time in the amount of \$25.00 each. This was a very generous and supportive gesture of the Council showing their support of all city employees. We did not have the funds to give this bonus this year and I didn't put the issue in the budget. I assume responsibility for this confusion and I certainly owe Mr. Beasley an apology for not having discussed this with him prior to the meeting.

You are not the only citizen that has recently brought to our attention the shortcomings of our web site. It is actually very refreshing to know that individuals are using the web site and care. There is no excuse for the shape the website is in and corrective action is being taken. I was surprised

at the misinformation, lack of information and absence of information on the web. Your remarks are well taken and warranted. The webmaster will be returning from his honeymoon and we have scheduled a meeting with him. You should see an improvement within a week and I sincerely appreciate your much deserved comments.

The Council meetings are every 2nd Monday of each month at 5:15 pm in the City Council Chambers. The average attendance has been around 20.

The annual budget has always been a challenge. Be assured though, that any adjustments, either added to or transferred from, various budget entities, are not done lightly or discriminatorily. We want to provide the very best service to assure the protection and public safety as our top priority.

Again, I wish to thank you for your comments and would welcome your meeting with me to discuss these or any other issues. I will gladly meet with you either at night or on weekends, per your convenience.

Thanks  
Dave Mecusker  
Lake Butler city manager

### Resident puzzled over road work

Dear Editor:

On August 6th, 2014, at around 1545 hours, I observed a Bradford County owned road grader spreading millings and finish grading a privately owned lot at the intersection of SW 104 Ave and CR 18 in Graham. The lot, according to the Property Appraisers website, is owned by a citizen that has lived in Graham her whole life and a Church.

It looks as though the majority of this lot is owned by the citizen and just a small triangle is owned by the church.

The citizen pays taxes, the church does not.

So I ask Mr. Funderburk, why a county owned piece of machinery would be doing such work. His reply "we were asked to do it". I took that as if a resident here in Bradford County asks for dirt or millings to be spread, then all we have to do is ask. I asked him, "does that mean if I get the materials, they would come out and build me a driveway"? His reply was "that was a not for profit organization". Then told me "I'm just doing what I am told". How admirable.

Now, I am not against helping out a church or a citizen, but if you're gonna pull a stunt like that, you had better be prepared to do it for everyone. If I want that same work done, I have to pay for it.

Here is what sticks in my craw....4 years ago I asked the County Road Dept to come

fix an erosion problem on the shoulder of our road in front of my residence. It had gotten so bad that the asphalt was breaking apart and the road had just been resurfaced. The mail and paper carrier could no get to my box because it had gotten so rough the cars were bottoming out. What help did I receive? ZERO. I was told by the County Manager and the Road Dept. to "move my mailbox out to the edge of the road" Gee thanks fellas.

So my questions are these.. Who told you to go do that job, Sir? Who paid for the material? Is this a common practice. If this was done for an NPO, (the Church), does this mean we are going to have another Ten Commandments debacle?

Is there not enough work for the road department to do, that they have time for private projects on county time?

Is the County liable while on that property if they damage it? (YES)

Could you come out to my house and smooth my driveway for me?

Paul McDavid  
District 5, Bradford County resident

## LETTERS

EDITOR@BCTELEGRAPH.COM

### Candidate coverage an 'eye opener' in school board race

Dear Editor:

I wanted to thank the Telegraph for the election coverage of the candidates. It was a real eye opener for me regarding the District 5 race for School Board. The responses by the two candidates to the Telegraph questions were as different as night and day. One candidate has the knowledge and experience in education to make a difference as board member. The other candidate does not. I hope the voters of Bradford County are paying attention.

Sincerely,  
Mark Well

### District 5 school board choice is 'crystal clear'

Dear Editor:

After the election article in last week's paper, it should be crystal clear who the voters of District 5 need for their school board member. One candidate for District 5 clearly understands the issues facing our teachers and students today. One candidate's answers to the Telegraph questions were clear, concise and on target because of years of experience in the education field. The other candidate meandered through the questions with no evidence of understanding the current issues in education whatsoever. What good is being a voice for parents if you cannot help with their concerns?

Sincerely,  
Doug Stammer

### 'Interpretation' of Gaza events raises blood pressure

Dear Editor:

I have to thank Mr. Arnie Harris of Lawtey for helping my low blood pressure to rise, when "his" interpretation of the event in Gaza.

Mr. Harris who was it that

broke the peace treaties, time after time, when the Israelis called for a ceasefire? What were they to do when a thousand rockets landed in Jerusalem? I agree with you on one thing, the peace loving people of Palestine, suffered at the hands of hate mongers in their own land.

I want to vomit when I see how Israel was treated by the liberal TV news media. They make it sound like it was the Jews that are wrong for defending their country. I would bet you would never have written your letter to the editor, if the Jews had the higher death toll.

Jesus told us a time will come, when yes, yes, is no, and no no will be taken as yes. Mr. Harris you should thank God, you live in a country where you and I are free to express our opinion. But when you bend the truth, that's all it is, your opinion!

Frank the Baker

### Benefits outweigh drawbacks in marijuana legalization

Dear Editor:

I have never done drugs. Never smoked weed, never snorted crack (or whatever you do with crack), never injected heroine, never taken pills, and never done whatever you do to do meth. Obviously, I'm not even well versed on the topic of drug use. I have never done any of them, apart from the sparing use of prescribed medications, and I have no plans to start. Despite this, I support the legalization of marijuana. Just like cigarettes, just because I support the legality of it doesn't mean I intend to use it. Allow me to explain my standpoint.

It will come as no surprise to anyone that, basically, we're broke. Our country has too little money to go around, and too little manpower as it is. Estimates on how much the War on Weed costs us each year vary from \$20 billion to \$72 billion, but most of them seem to like the number \$42 billion, which I'm rather fond of myself because of the number 42 (Hitcher's Guide? Anyone?). That's \$42,000,000,000 every year spent fighting a losing battle. That's 16 probes to Mars, full cost, with a nice chunk left over. That's nearly 3 London Olympics, total cost. Not up to a Sochi Olympics, but they spent way too much money for some

reason. That could buy you around 11 billion Big Macs.

The point is, that is a huge chunk of money. Imagine if we put that to something more useful. Say, proper pay for police force. Education. Help for the homeless. The space program, which creates jobs. Granted, it would probably go to something somewhat less noble, but at least there would be a chance. The benefit, however, does not end there.

By legalizing marijuana, you would be opening up whole new industries. Foods are made from it, oil, its fibers can be used in paper, canvas, rope, concrete, insulation, plastics, and more. In paper, it's preferable to wood. In concrete, it works as a durable insulator and can replace wood for many construction needs. Medical uses abound, including evidence that it helps fight cancer. It can be used by farmers to crowd out weeds. Fuels can be made from it. So you see, it's not just the farms and the drug users who would benefit, although the revenues from those alone would be staggering. But you would be creating the foundation of entire new industries to supplement our struggling economy. On top of that, you have the taxes. Taxing the businesses, the labor, the products and sales. Weed destined to be smoked would, of course, be taxed highly, just like cigarettes are. So you go from saving the government money and manpower to actually gaining money for the government and the economy. Let's not kid ourselves, there are many people out there who spend a whole lot of money on weed every year. Imagine how much we're missing out in taxes alone.

As far as the effects of the drug go, no, I'm not a fan of it. There are drawbacks to its use, including memory problems when it's abused. However, cigarettes give you cancer and alcohol destroys your liver. Use your head. Do it in moderation, when the time is appropriate. If you don't want to at all, like I don't, then don't do it. Nobody's forcing anyone to use it. Many say it's a gateway drug. The facts on this are unclear, and few truly objective studies can be found. Most resources simply tell you it is and let you assume it. The research there is shows that there are three gateway drugs: marijuana, alcohol, and tobacco. And some of them seem to show that it's more alcohol than either of the other two. In my opinion, there are only three things that make marijuana a gateway

See LETTER, 11B



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# Will 2014 see smaller, stronger Tigers?

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Staff Writer

It was another good season for the Union County High School football team in 2013. The Tigers may have failed to win their third straight District 7-1A championship, but they did advance to the playoffs for the third straight season.

Several key players return from last season's 10-2 campaign, but it could be a season of change for Union.

Head coach Ronny Pruitt said his teams have been getting smaller over the past couple of seasons in regard to individual player size. Because of that, plans are to operate out of the spread offense some to complement the team's usual wing-T approach.

"We're still going to run the wing-T," Pruitt said, adding, "We're going to try to use our smallness to our advantage and try to be in shape and try to speed the game up a little bit. Mainly,

a lot of the same looks, but just different twists to them.

"Basically, we're in a shotgun wing."

Pruitt mentioned having his players be in shape, and he's excited about the progress players have made under new strength coach Mark Williams. The coach said some players have gained 30-35 pounds of muscle, and unlike years past, players are not dropping the weight once they begin participating in summer camps and fall practices.

Williams is demanding, Pruitt said, but the players seem to enjoy doing what he asks of them. Pruitt goes so far as to say that in his time as head coach, Williams has been the program's biggest asset.

"He gets the work out of the kids, and they're excited to do more," Pruitt said.

He's hoping that work and dedication in the weight room pays off in helping players avoid injuries. When asked what he would like to change from last season, Pruitt puts the number of injuries right up there with the number of penalties and the play of special teams.

Pruitt said Union doesn't have a lot of depth, so it's vital for a program of its size to avoid players going down.

"Overall, I'm thinking injuries are going to be our blessing or our curse," Pruitt said.

In regard to blessings, the Union offense brings back quarterback Caleb Cox, who passed for 1,500 yards and 14

touchdowns last season, and center Charlie Watkins, who plays a pivotal role in the Tigers attempting to run some different offensive plays. Pruitt said he has two or three players who can fill the role of center when the quarterback is under center, but Watkins is the one who can get the ball to the quarterback in the shotgun.

Watkins' play after the ball is snapped is a plus as well.

"He's like a bowling ball," Pruitt said. "Real low center of gravity, big kid, kind of hard to move. When he gets his feet planted, he's difficult to move."

As for Cox, the goal is still for him to play within himself. He's not asked to do too much; simply to put the team in positions where it can keep moving the chains.

Pruitt said Cox has put in a lot of work in preparation for this season. That includes accompanying coaches to several clinics so that he can study offenses.

"Mainly, he's devoted a lot of his time," Pruitt said. "You'll drive by here, and he's out there on the field throwing the ball. He wants to have a very successful year."

The Tigers lose leading rusher Daquin Edwards, as well as second-leading rusher Geordyn Green, but do return Isaiah Johnson, who averaged 6 yards per carry last year.

"He's very explosive," Pruitt said. "He has good vision. When I say he's shifty, he sees things past the (defense's) first level.



Isaiah Johnson (far left), who will play multiple positions, including running back, participates in a drill.



Running back Dairon Alexander tries to elude the grasp of Casey Driggers.

He's reading the linebackers and DBs. He sets things up well.

"I think the combination of (the wing-T and the spread) is going to really benefit him. He does both of them very well."

One of the team's "hardest-nosed kids," Pruitt said, is returner Parker Hodgson, whom Pruitt describes as a "glorified" fullback, tight end, wide receiver and lineman. Hodgson is the one player besides Cox who knows every aspect of the offense, Pruitt said, and he was one of 40 players who attended all of the team's summer workouts.

"He's an old-school player," Pruitt said. "He's just a physical

kid who's got decent speed and decent hands, and does everything at 100 percent. That's what gives him the edge over most people."

Pruitt said some other key returners are Brennan Clyatt, who's a "very intelligent kid" who can play anywhere on the line, and receiver Zach Lee, who averaged 12 yards per catch last year. Pruitt said Lee was a standout at some seven-on-seven tournaments this summer.

"We're expecting him to be a standout there on the outside edge," Pruitt said.

See TIGERS, 12B

## Tigers rarely trailed in 10-win, playoff season

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Staff Writer

There were only five games in which Union County ever trailed in 2013, and the Tigers only trailed twice at the half in putting together a 10-2 season that resulted in being the District 7-1A runner-up and playing for the Region 4 championship.

Here is a recap of the Tigers' 2013 season played out:

### UC 34 PHCA 0

What's more impressive about the Tigers' season-opening win is that the game only lasted a half, eventually being called due to the weather.

Quarterback Caleb Cox tossed two touchdowns to Isaiah Johnson to start the scoring, with a fumble recovery by Daquin Edwards setting up the first score. A 58-yard touchdown pass from Cox to Geordyn Green opened the second quarter and

capped a 90-plus-yard drive.

Edwards and Phillip Lillie each added a touchdown run in the second quarter.

### UC 13 W. Nassau 10

Union was held scoreless for three quarters, but Lillie found the end zone twice in the fourth quarter, giving the Tigers a come-from-behind 13-10 win over Class 4A West Nassau.

West Nassau scored all 10 of its points in the first half, with a Union fumble setting up the first score on a field goal.

Lillie scored on a 1-yard run with 7:56 to play. Union's defense then recovered a fumble at its own 45-yard line. Lillie eventually scored on a 14-yard run on a fourth-and-inches play.

The Union defense sealed the win with an interception with 39 seconds left to play.

### UC 21 Keystone 7

Union scored all of its points in the first half, while holding Class 4A Keystone Heights without a score until the fourth quarter of a 21-7 win.

Edwards had the game's first score, followed by two Cox touchdown passes to Cody Miller (33 yards) and Parker Hodgson (11 yards). A punt block by Alden McClellon set up Hodgson's touchdown reception.

Union's defense held the Indians without a first down until late in the first half.

### UC 39 Interlachen 0

A 9-yard touchdown run by McClellon at the 10:13 mark of the first quarter would have been all the Tigers needed in a 39-0 win over Class 4A Interlachen.

Edwards added a 21-yard touchdown run after McClellan's score approximately three minutes later. Casey Driggers

and Josh Hedman each had an interception on defense before Union scored again on a 46-yard pass from Cox to Dairon Alexander.

Edwards added another touchdown run of 5 yards, while Cox tossed an 80-yard touchdown to Andrew Jones and a 28-yard touchdown to Princeton Alexander.

Jones also had an interception on defense.

### UC 35 Hamilton Co. 6

Hamilton County shut the Tigers out in the first quarter and took a 6-0 lead, but Union scored 35 unanswered points en route to a 35-6 win.

Johnson had a 5-yard touchdown run to tie the game with 1:35 remaining in the first half. Talon Tyler's PAT sent the team into the half up 7-6.

Edwards, who rushed for 150 yards, had a touchdown run to put the Tigers up 21-6 in the third quarter. The score was set up by a botched punt attempt by the Trojans.

### Dixie County 30 UC 12

Dixie County took advantage of two fumbles and held the Tigers scoreless until the fourth quarter in Union's 30-12 district loss.

Union's first fumble occurred at its own 19 with 3:13 to play in the first quarter. That led to a Bears touchdown pass.

The Tigers' second fumble was returned for a score in the third quarter.

Union's scores came on a touchdown pass from Cox to Green and a fumble return by Dairon Alexander.

### UC 49 Newberry 14

The Tigers fell behind 14-6 in the first quarter, but really had

no trouble in a 49-14 district win over Newberry.

Newberry's two scores came on a 23-yard fumble return and a 79-yard kickoff return.

The Panthers' offense, though, was held to 90 yards and four first downs.

Union blocked Newberry's first two punt attempts. McClellon blocked the first, which set up a 31-yard touchdown run by Edwards. Josh Smith blocked the second, which Green scooped up and returned for a touchdown.

Lillie and Edwards had touchdown runs of 21 and 8 yards, respectively, in the second quarter. Lillie added a 5-yard touchdown run in the third quarter, while Princeton Alexander caught an 18-yard touchdown pass from Cox in the fourth quarter.

Johnson capped the scoring with a 60-yard touchdown run.

### UC 28 Chiefland 7

The Tigers committed three turnovers, but still recorded a 28-7 win over district opponent Chiefland.

Lillie scored two first-half touchdowns, including one on a 17-yard reception from Cox.

Chiefland made it a one-score game after recovering a Union fumble at the start of the second half. The Tigers responded by adding touchdowns on a run by Edwards and a pass from Cox to Green.

### UC 28 Williston 10

Union's defense made a goal-line stand in the second quarter as part of a 28-10 district win over Williston.

The Tigers led 14-0 at the half thanks to two touchdown runs by

See 2013, 11B

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# BRYANT

Continued from 3B

the service he found out that the couples were George Pierce and Ann Green and Jimmy Peek and Mona Canova. The other man was Jim Duncan and the group comprised the First Baptist Church of Starke's pastor search committee. The committee liked what it saw and invited Bryant to come to Starke and preach to see if the congregation liked him. He came and preached both a morning and an evening service. Two weeks later he was informed that the congregation had voted to hire him and he was formally offered the job.

Bryant and his family moved to Starke in 1973 and he began what would become an almost 32-year tenure as pastor. He settled in then became active in the area's religious community, serving as president of the Bradford County Ministerial Alliance, chairman of the Education Committee of the State Board of Missions, and stewardship director and member of the missions committee of the New River Baptist Association, all in 1975. He continued to remain just as active in subsequent years.

Throughout his years in Starke, Bryant had an eventful and productive pastorate. The church won an award for Sunday school growth in 1981 and Bryant was voted Stetson University's Minister of the Year in 1988. The high points for him, however, include achievements made by the church and its growth.

"First Baptist Church had the first Christian FM radio station in Northeast Florida," Bryant said. "WTLG, 88.3 FM, went on the air in February of 1981. We broadcast services and member Virginia Darby presented Sunday school classes. We had our first tower where the education building is now. I remember people complaining that our signal was messing up their television reception."

Television reception problems were remedied in 1989 when the new three-story education building was erected, at a cost of \$1.2 million. The radio station's antenna was moved out of town to Forsythe Road.

First Baptist Church had a history of establishing new churches as a mission program. In October 1988, it constituted a mission-program church in Hampton into an independent church, the Victory Baptist Church of Hampton.

Next on the agenda was the construction of a new worship center, replacing the then existing sanctuary, which had been built in 1950. The construction required that the old sanctuary be torn down, so services were held in the fellowship hall for a time. The new worship center was built at a cost of over \$2 million, with the first service held there on Aug. 19, 2001.

In 2003 the church purchased the building and parking lot behind it from Capital City Bank. This purchase allowed the expansion of some church programs and provided more parking for services.

Another matter of pride for Bryant is the number of members of his congregation, who have gone on to become, pastors themselves. There were a total

of six over his 32 years: Chuck Register, Chuck Coburn, Charlie Green, Terry Blakeshee, Wailon Haston and Lynn Wood Walters.

For many people, both in his congregation and in the community at large, Bryant was an influential figure whose opinions were valued and considered. While he said he never actively campaigned for any political candidates, he felt it was his duty to point out good choices to his flock.

"A preacher's job is to influence people and he is useless if he does not have any influence," Bryant said. "The main point of this influence is to get people to love the Lord, but if I saw something that needed to be commented on, I spoke up. I never tried to tell anyone who to vote for."

As part of his duties, Bryant remembers spending at least two days a week visiting church members who were sick at home or in the hospital, usually accompanied by his wife. Both Dorothy and church members Virginia Darby, Margaret Peek and Mona Canova saw to it that he was made aware of any people who needed his special attention.

Monday evenings were set aside for evangelistic visits, often in the company of his visiting partner of many years, Marion Payne. These were visits to people who had visited the church, or had been mentioned to Bryant as being in need of comfort. Bryant and Payne worked with these people to bring them to Jesus and into the church. Another helper in church endeavors was Ernie Jones.

The list Bryant gives of all of the people, who made his tenure at First Baptist Church of Starke both easier and more memorable, is long and detailed; much too long to mention all the people and the services they provided for their pastor and church. He asked simply that a huge thank you be directed at everyone who had been of help to him throughout the years.

Along the way, the church held special celebrations for its beloved pastor on the 20th and 30th anniversaries of his taking the post. Bryant retired in 2004, but that didn't mean he was going to get much rest. He has been

chairman of the Salvation Army for Bradford County from 2004 to the present. He also served as president of the State Board of Missions of the Florida Baptist Convention for 2004-2006. In addition, he has served as interim pastor at eight different churches throughout the area for various periods of time between 2005 and the present. He is currently interim pastor at Francis Baptist Church in Palatka.

"Being an interim pastor is fun," Bryant said. "You get to do all the good stuff and you don't have to attend any committee meetings."

Bryant is also called upon to perform wedding and funerals for friends and former members of his congregation. He sheepishly admits that he lost count several years ago of exactly how many of each service he has performed.

Bryant said he also enjoys the time he has to spend with Dorothy and their five grown children. Benjamin works at Merritt Island with his wife at NASA. James is part owner of Elixson Wood Work in Starke. Matthew works in Starke as an Ameriprise financial adviser. His sister, Angela Barber, works with her brother as an administrative assistant. Daughter Dorothy Evans Bryant works in the correctional system. Among the five of them they have presented their parents with nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Bryant also enjoys senior league bowling, where he maintains and average between 180 and 200. He spends the month of October each year with Dorothy in North Carolina on a personal retreat, and goes there in the spring also when he can.

"The only time I have off is that which I take," Bryant said. "When I take a job as interim pastor, I let them know right up front that I can't work in October. Sometimes I get some time in the spring, sometimes not. But it really doesn't matter. When you are doing something you love, then it doesn't seem that much like work anyway. My calling, although I tried to ignore it for a while, was a true one. If I had 10 lives to live, I would want to live them all as a preacher."

# OBITUARIES

## Bobby Adkins

STARKE—Bobby G. Adkins, 78, of Starke died at his home, Saturday, Aug. 9, 2014. He was born in Caryville, Tennessee to the late James and Hazel (Wilson) Adkins. He moved to Bradford County in 1976 from Jacksonville and was a member of the Grace Baptist Church in Starke. Prior to his retirement, he was a correctional officer for 15 years at Lawtey Correctional Institute. He was preceded in death by his grandson Bobby Thompson.

He is survived by: his wife of 35 years, Mona Adkins; children, Delene "Louise" Stoner of Jacksonville, James Adkins of Port Orange and Robert Adkins of Starke; and seven grandchildren.

The family will be having a private graveside service at Crosby Lake Cemetery with Rev. Todd Foster officiating. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke.



Jesse Barbour, Sr.

## Jesse

## Barbour, Sr.

LAWTEY—Jesse Eugene Barbour, Sr., age 75, of Lawtey, passed away Aug. 10, 2014 at his residence. Jesse was born in Selma, North Carolina on Feb. 12, 1939 to the late Jesse Green Barbour and Amanda Batton Barbour. He was raised in Selma, where he met the love of his life, Doris Mae Watts and later married her on Dec. 22, 1962. Jesse was a loving husband and also a loving father to both his children, Jesse Jr. and Michele. He served his country proudly in the United States Navy for four years. He retired after over 20 years of dedicated service as a corrections

officer at the Union Correctional Institute. Jesse has been a resident of Lawtey for the past 40 years where he was a longtime member of the Highland First Baptist Church. In his younger years, Jesse enjoyed hunting and fishing. Most of all, Jesse loved spending time with his family. He was preceded in death by: his parents; and his sister, Shelby Brown.

Jesse is survived by: his loving wife of 52 years, Doris Mae Barbour of Lawtey; his children, Jesse Barbour, Jr. and Michele Barbour both of Lawtey; his sister, Judith Williams of Kinston, North Carolina; and his granddaughter, Jayden Barbour.

Graveside services will be held on Friday, Aug. 15, at 11:00 am at Highland First Baptist Church Cemetery with Pastor Gary Melvin officiating. The family will receive friends on Thursday, Aug. 14, from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at Archie Tanner Funeral Services Chapel. Arrangements are under the care and direction of Archie Tanner Funeral Services, Starke, FL. 904-964-5757. Visit www.archietannerfuneralservices.com to sign the family's guest book.

PAID OBITUARY

Larry and Valarie's sweet Sunday School class at Madison Street Baptist Church. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 620 E. Nona St. Starke, FL 32091. (904) 964-6200. www.jonesgallagherfl.com

PAID OBITUARY



Thelma Carter

## Thelma Carter

MAXVILLE—Thelma Lorraine Carter, 79, beloved mother, sister and friend, went home to be with the Lord on Friday, Aug. 8, 2014. She was born Feb. 26, 1935 to the late Edward and Leona Hatcher. She retired after 30 years of service as a bus driver from Clay County School Board, was a faithful prayer warrior, compassionate to those in need, and had a special love for animals, especially her devoted pet dog and companion, Duke. Thelma was predeceased by her husband of 58 years, Fred Carter.

She is survived by: her children, Kathy (Wayne) Hardee, Angie (David) Parrish, Alicia Crawford and Faron Carter; sisters, Ida Jeffers, Linda Reynolds, Phylla Joy Brown, Judy Young, Janice Stevens; brother, Charles Hatcher. Ms. Carter was a loving grandmother to eight grandchildren, Karen (Josh) Crawford, Steven (Heather) Hardee, Jody (Alisa) Parrish, Jason (Megan) Chesser, Michael (Amanda) Hardee, Justin Parrish, Jennifer (Travis) Higginbotham, and Jessica (Kyle) Hannah, and 16 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on Aug. 12 at First Baptist Church of Maxville, with Bro. Charlie Hunt officiating. Interment followed in Long Branch Cemetery.

Arrangements are under the direction of Cedar Bay Funeral Home, Jacksonville, 904-714-1110.

PAID OBITUARY

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# OBITUARIES

## In Memory



**Clara Wynn**

Born: March 3, 1927  
 Departed: August 19, 2013  
 And we pause on the path of the year to pay honor and worshipful tribute to the Mother our heart holds dear.

For, whether here or in heaven, her love is our haven and guide, for always the memory of Mother is a beacon light shining inside. Time cannot destroy her memory and years can never erase the tenderness and the beauty of the love in a Mother's face.

And, when we think of our Mother, we draw nearer to God above, for only God in His Greatness could fashion a Mother's love.

The Wynn Family



**Michael Cotheran**

## Michael Cotheran

MIDDLEBURG— Mr. Michael Andrew Cotheran, 53, of Middleburg died Thursday, July 31, 2014 at the St. Vincent's Medical Center in Middleburg. He was born in Tampa and a graduate of the local schools. He was of the Baptist faith. He was employed with Storm Engineering Company. He was preceded in death by parents, James Cotheran and Ruth Addison

Michael A. Cotheran is survived by: his wife, Theresa H. Cotheran of Middleburg; step-sister, Florence Hatfield of Jacksonville; aunt, Sheryl Burns Kingston of Zephyrs; grandchildren, Chasity Fharpev, Victoria Moody, Zander Lee, Hagen Tippins Destiny and Mathew Dillion all of Beebe, Arkansas, Samuel and Robert Trippitt, Ashley C. Jones, Justin Cotheran and Alexandria Cotheran all of Jacksonville; niece, Tina McKinley; and nephew, Johnny Craig both of Middleburg; cousin, Tammy Higginbotham of Zephyrs; in-laws, Lisa Phillips of Beebe, Arkansas, Regina Craig of Searcy, Arkansas and Thomas Howard of California.

Memorial services will be held at

a later date. Arrangements entrusted to Haile Funeral Home Inc 802 North Oak Street, Starke, FL 32091 (904) 964-7905.

PAID OBITUARY

## Charles Green, Jr.

LAKE BUTLER— Charles Lyman Green, Jr., 72, of Lake Butler died Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2014 at his residence. He was born Aug. 16, 1941 in Jacksonville to the late Charles Lyman Green Sr. and Vestine Howard. He worked and lived in Lake Butler most of his life, owning and running Lyman Greens Bar-B-Que Restaurants. He served in the Air Force. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Lake Butler.

He is survived by: his daughter, Elizabeth (Michael) Frigo, of Macclenny; son, Charles L. (Karen) Green, III, of Macclenny; two grandchildren; brother, AC Green of Glen St Mary, Eddie Roberts of Palatka, Dennis Roberts of Lake City, and Bill Roberts of Madison; and sister, Ruth Green of Macclenny.

Funeral services were held Aug. 9 at Archer Funeral Home with Rev. Donald Thompson officiating. Burial will take place at a later date. The arrangements are under the care of Archer Funeral Home of Lake Butler.



**Vera Nugent**

## Vera Nugent

STARKE—Vera Lee Starling Nugent, 89, of Starke died Thursday, Aug. 7, 2014 at the Riverwood Health & Rehab in Starke. She was born in Bradford County on Dec. 26, 1924 to the late Benjamin James and Daisy Starling and was a homemaker. She was a member of Pine Level Baptist Church and had attended Air Park Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by: her husband Paul C. Nugent, Sr.; brothers, William, Johnny and Benjamin; sister Lucille; and a daughter in law, Carol Nugent.

Survivors are: her children, Paul Nugent, Jr. of Starke, Donna (Ralph, Sr.) Martini of Port

Charlotte, Diane (Mike) Tierney of Starke, Linda (Larry) Roberts of Brookier, James "Jimmy" Nugent, Sr., Glenda (Marty) Padgett, and Ronald Nugent, all of Starke, Elaine (Buddy) Collings of Debarry, Richard Nugent and Daniel (Missy) Nugent all of Starke; sisters, Thelma Moss, Ardelia Gossett and Eunice Gunter all of Starke; 28 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren; and great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were August 12 in the DeWitt C. Jones Chapel with Reverend Roman Alvarez officiating. Interment followed at Crosby Lake Cemetery. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke.

## Gilbert Reed

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS— Gilbert A. Reed was born Aug. 11, 1931 and went to Heaven Aug. 1, 2014. He was a retired engineer from Clay Electric, past Master of Melrose Lodge #89; Past District Deputy of the 11th Masonic District of Florida; Past President of the Keystone Heights Shrine Club and the Keystone Kops; past Worthy Patron of Keystone Heights Chapter #279 Order of the Eastern Star; former Chairman of the Keystone Heights Air Park Authority; past president of the Melrose PTA, Scout Master for Boy Scout Chapter 109 in Melrose; Assistant Scout Master of Boy Scout Troop 105 in Keystone Heights and he led Children's Church at Eliam Baptist Church for quite a few years. He was a member of Fresh Start Fellowship in Keystone Heights but was baptized at Eliam Baptist Church in Melrose. He graduated from Melrose High School and completed three years of continuing education in Engineering at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. He was an avid turkey hunter all his life and in more recent years killed a few deer as well. For years he had a home at Johnson Beach where he caught many red fish and in recent years the North Carolina home was his favorite "cool place." He loved NHRA Drag Racing and enjoyed seeing both his son and grandson race and until ill health prohibited, he was the "Pit" Crew for them. He also enjoyed NASCAR and was a lifelong Gator fan.

He is survived by: his wife of 62 years, Josephine "Jo" Brannen Reed; son, Arnold (companion Vicki Strong) of Loganville, Georgia; daughter, Deb (Joe Strickland) of Melrose; grandson, Clint (Betina), granddaughter, Alison; great-granddaughters, Audrey Reed and Hanna McKenzie; sisters, Charlyene Brantley and Barbara Kinzer; and brother, Kenneth Reed; Leona Guthrie his loving caregiver who he called his girl "Friday" and Eric Sales of Asheville, North Carolina whom he considered his adopted son. His grandchildren and now great-grandchildren were the love of his life.

Visitation was held Aug. 5 at

Moring Funeral Home with the funeral having been Aug. 6 at Eliam Baptist Church in Melrose. Burial was at the old cemetery in Keystone Heights. Services were conducted by Pastor Steve Conner of Fresh Start Fellowship, Mike Stanley and Eric Sales.

For those who prefer donation in lieu of flowers, the family welcomes donations to Racers For Christ, Region II, 36316 East Eldorado Lake Drive, Eustis, FL 32736.

PAID OBITUARY

## Veta Royston

CLAY HILL— Veta Rae Royston, 58, died on Monday, Aug. 11, 2014. She was a lifelong resident of Clay Hill. She was a longtime member of Clay Hill Baptist Church.

She is survived by: brothers, William Royston and Tommy Royston; sisters, Lyndette "Linda" Padgett and Letha Daniel; and many nephews and nieces.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, Aug. 15 at 2:00 pm at Clay Hill Baptist Church with Pastor Rick Crews officiating. Interment will follow at Long Branch Cemetery. The family will receive friends on Friday, August 15 from 1:00-2:00 pm at the church. Arrangements are under the care and direction of Archie Tanner Funeral Services of Starke.

## Mildred Tristani

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS— Mildred "Mickey" Adele S. Tristani, 82, of Keystone Heights died Friday, Aug. 8, 2014 at the V.A. Hospital in Gainesville. She was born in Freeport, Iowa to the late Chester and Louisa (Ploeger) Sheetz, Sr. and served in the United States Air Force. She was a retired clerk from the Duval County School Board. She was a member of Trinity Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by: her first husband, Harold Stabler in 1988; and her second husband, Carlos Tristani in 1996.

Survivors are: sons, Claude Francis Stabler of Keystone Heights, John Richard Stabler of Kathleen, Georgia, Paul Davis Stabler of Easley, South Carolina; daughters, Iris Marie (Stabler) Hall of Elgin, South Carolina, Karen Adele Stabler of Hastings, and Celia Ann (Stabler) Vencil of Keystone Heights; brother, Chester "Chet" Vernon Sheetz, Jr. of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; and stepchildren, Carlos M. Tristani II, Eric Tristani, and Valerie Tristani Thompson; ten grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, eight step-grandchildren, and three step-great-grandchildren.

Services were held Aug. 12 at Trinity Baptist Church. Dr. James Peoples and Reverend Scott Stanland officiated. Interment followed at Riverside Memorial Park in Jacksonville. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Keystone Heights.

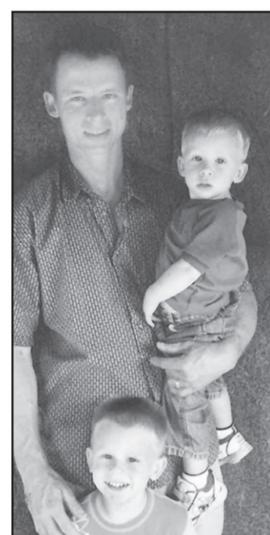
## Cloyd West, Jr.

STARKE— Cloyd Thomas "Tommy" West, Jr., 60, died Monday, Aug. 11, 2014. He was born on July 24, 1954 in Jacksonville and was a longtime area resident. He was disabled and attended Madison Street Baptist Church. He was preceded in death by his father, Cloyd Thomas West, Sr.

Survivors are: mother, Jeanette (Norman) West of Jacksonville; sister, Jerrie Sell of Fernandina Beach; brothers, Wayne West of Glen St. Mary and Michael West of Jacksonville.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, Aug. 14, from 10:00 am to 11:00 am at Long Branch Baptist Church in Clay Hill with funeral services beginning at 11 o'clock. Interment will follow in Long Branch Cemetery with Pastor Harry Conaway officiating. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke.

## In Memory



**Steven Thornton**

Steven Lane Thornton  
 Sept. 4, 1969—  
 Aug. 16, 2009

My Brother's death was by suicide on my birthday. Things for me were forever changed and a part of my heart was gone. Mental abuse by a spouse is deadly the end result was suicide because the only person he thought loved him was taken hours prior to his death. Please stop mental abuse.

Big Brother Gone  
 Day by Day I think of you  
 How can all of this be true? I can't believe you're really gone. I still can't accept it. Even after so long. Just the thought of you makes me cry. I never even got the chance to say goodbye. Every picture, every letter, I don't know if it will ever get better. I always smell your familiar scent. It makes me think of all the times we've spent.

I know we didn't always get along, and every time we talked, it would always go wrong. So many things I never got to say, I never imagined you'd ever be so far away. You were my brother, and I loved you like no other. In my heart you'll always be. You'll be my guide and help me see. I'll never forget your soothing voice, I would take your place if I had a choice. But now I have to let you rest, although without you my world's a mess. I miss you with all my heart. I wish we never had to part. I know you're always by my side so now I guess this is my goodbye.... Rest in peace

Steven Thornton

Your sister Stacie

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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 and Clay (Keystone Heights area) counties:

#### Bradford

Anthony Leonard Aaron, 55, of Starke was arrested Aug. 11 by Bradford deputies on a warrant for possession of cocaine and for selling cocaine. Bond was set at \$100,000 for the charges.

Latasha Renee Addison, 31, of Starke was arrested Aug. 7 by Bradford deputies for driving while license suspended or revoked. Bond was set at \$500 for the charge.

Crystal Danielle Anderson, 32, of Starke was arrested Aug. 10 for battery. According to the arrest report, Anderson committed domestic battery by striking the victim in his head and right arm with a closed fist, causing minor injuries. Bond was set at \$500 for the charges.

Shane Christian Antalick, 20, of Jacksonville was arrested Aug. 11 by Starke police for hit and run—leaving the scene of a crash involving property damage, possession of liquor by a person under age of 21 and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. According to the arrest report, Antalick was driving north on U.S. 301 near Captain D's in Starke when he sideswiped a vehicle in the right lane heading in the same direction. Antalick didn't stop, instead continuing on to Hardee's, then back onto U.S. 301 before being stopped by police at Sonny's BBQ. In the car with Antalick were two passengers: a 20-year-old female and a 16-year-old female. Police also found a cold case of beer, and all three admitted to drinking several beers after purchasing it earlier. Antalick was arrested, while sworn complaints were filed against the two passengers for underage drinking.

William M. Armstrong, 56, of Gainesville was arrested Aug. 7 by Bradford deputies for withholding child support. Bond was set at \$2,000 for the charge.

Dennis Ray Asbell, 40, of Starke was arrested Aug. 5 by Bradford deputies during a traffic stop for possession of cocaine and fraud—giving a false identification to law enforcement. According to the arrest report, Asbell was a passenger in a vehicle stopped for running a stop sign and was asked for his identification and name as he wasn't wearing a

seat belt. He gave a false name the first time, then admitted he had his ID in his pocket. A later search of Asbell's shoes revealed a small packet with cocaine residue in it. Bond was set at \$6,000 for the charges. On Aug. 11, he was also arrested by Bradford deputies on a warrant for possession of cocaine and for selling cocaine. Bond was set at \$30,000 for those charges.

Atavius De'quan Barnes, 22, of Starke was arrested Aug. 11 by Bradford deputies on a warrant for possession of marijuana and for possession of drug equipment.

Ciara Shawnetta Bradley, 25, of Gainesville was arrested Aug. 7 by Bradford deputies for probation violation. No bond was allowed for the charge.

David Byon Brauchle, 26, of Starke was arrested Aug. 9 by Bradford deputies for possession of marijuana. According to the arrest report, deputies were called to a residence about a domestic dispute involving Brauchle, his girlfriend and another female. None wanted to press charges over some pushing and hitting between the three, but when asked by the deputy if he had anything illegal on him, Brauchle admitted to having marijuana in his pocket. He was arrested, with bond set at \$500 for the charge.

Gregory Chandler, 51, of Starke was arrested Aug. 11 by Bradford deputies on a warrant for two counts of possession of cocaine and two counts of selling cocaine. Bond was set at \$100,000 for the charges.

Emanuel Collier, 65, of Starke was arrested Aug. 8 by Bradford deputies on a warrant for possession of cocaine and for possession of marijuana. Bond was set at \$31,000 for the charges.

Albert Cecil Covington, 33, of Starke was arrested Aug. 6 by Bradford deputies on a warrant for possession of marijuana, possession of cocaine and driving while license suspended or revoked. Bond was set at \$1,006,000 for the charges.

Michael Jared Dilas, 33, of Lake Butler was arrested Aug. 7 by Starke police on an out-of-county warrant from Union for probation violation on original charge of possession of cocaine. No bond was allowed for the charge.

Jennifer Laurel Emanuel, 63, of Lawtey was arrested Aug. 10 by Bradford deputies for failure to appear. Bond was set at \$500 for the charge.

Tara Nichole Fender, 29, of High Springs was arrested Aug. 8 by Starke police for larceny.

According to the arrest report, Fender was in the Starke Walmart and placed several items in her purse before trying to leave the store without paying. She was detained by an employee until police arrived. Bond was set at \$500 for the charge.

Anthony Dwayne French, 51, of Starke was arrested Aug. 11 by Starke police on a warrant for possession of cocaine and for selling cocaine. Bond was set at \$10,000 for the charges.

Ricky Elijah Gainey, 57, of Starke was arrested Aug. 11 by Bradford deputies on a warrant for possession of cocaine and for selling cocaine. Bond was set at \$20,000 for the charges.

Cynthia Louann Gibson, 42, of Starke was arrested Aug. 11 by Bradford deputies on a warrant for two counts of selling opium or derivative, two counts of possession of opium or derivative, possession of cocaine and selling cocaine. Bond was set at \$200,000 for the charges.

Andrew Michael Green, 25, of Gainesville was arrested Aug. 9 by Starke police during a traffic stop for possession of drugs and possession of drug equipment. Bond was set at \$25,000 for the charges.

Daniel Smith Griffis, 29, of Starke was arrested Aug. 5 by Bradford deputies during a traffic stop for possession of drug equipment and on a warrant for failure to appear on felony battery charges. Bond was set at \$51,000 for the charges.

Linda Hankerson, 34, of Starke was arrested Aug. 11 by Starke police on a warrant for possession of cocaine and for selling cocaine. Bond was set at \$20,000 for the charges.

Robert Allen Harvey, 36, of Starke was arrested Aug. 5 by Starke police for driving while license suspended or revoked. Bond was set at \$1,000 for the charge.

Marjorie Griffis Havard, 47, of Starke was arrested Aug. 11 by Bradford deputies on a warrant for possession of synthetic narcotics, possession of cocaine and selling cocaine. Bond was set at \$75,000 for the charges.

Barbara Alexander Highland, 56, of Raiford was arrested Aug. 8 by Bradford deputies for driving while license suspended or revoked. Bond was set at \$500 for the charge.

Chandria Shirlonda Hill, 18, of Gainesville was arrested Aug. 7 by Bradford deputies for failure to appear. Bond was set at \$1,000 for the charge.

Donald Link Hill, 41, of Starke

was arrested Aug. 11 on a warrant for possession of cocaine and for two charges of possession of marijuana.

Frankie Gene Holland, 63, of Monticello was arrested Aug. 10 by Bradford deputies for driving while license suspended or revoked.

Willie David Houston, 54, of Lake Butler was arrested Aug. 8 by Bradford deputies on an out-of-county warrant from Union for failure to appear on original charge of driving while license suspended or revoked. Bond was set at \$10,000 for the charge. On Aug. 11, he was also charged on a warrant from Bradford for selling cocaine. Bond was set at \$50,000 for that charge.

Tory Danielle Hunter, 36, of Lawtey was arrested Aug. 11 by

Bradford deputies on a warrant for two charges of possession of cocaine, possession of drugs and drug equipment, and selling cocaine. Bond was set at \$50,000 for the charges.

Dennis Charles Jackson, 38, of Starke was arrested Aug. 11 by Bradford deputies on a warrant for two charges of possession of cocaine, two charges of selling cocaine and dealing in stolen property. Bond was set at \$250,000 for the charges.

Roy Shane Jackson, 42, of Starke was arrested Aug. 8 by Bradford deputies on a warrant for four charges of possession of cocaine, two charges of manufacturing cocaine and trafficking and selling cocaine. Bond was set at \$1,101,000 for the charges.

Micahel Lloyd James, 40, of Lake Butler was arrested Aug. 6 by Bradford deputies during a traffic stop for possession of drug equipment. Bond was set at \$5,000 for the charge.

James Jawan Jamison, 22, of Starke was arrested Aug. 11 by Bradford deputies on a warrant for three charges of possession of drugs, three charges of selling drugs, possession of cocaine and selling cocaine. Bond was set at \$270,000 for the charges.

Natalie Renee Kulbacki, 25, of Starke was arrested Aug. 11 by Bradford deputies on a warrant for two charges of possession of drugs, possession of drug equipment and selling synthetic narcotics. Bond was set at \$50,000 for the charges.

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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 and Clay (Keystone Heights area) counties:

### Bradford

Lacey Francis Lavane, 33, of Keystone Heights was arrested Aug. 6 by Bradford deputies for driving while license suspended or revoked. Bond was set at \$500 for the charge.

Rebecca Lynn Lawson, 44, of Starke was arrested Aug. 11 by Bradford deputies on a warrant for manufacturing cocaine and selling cocaine. Bond was set at \$20,000 for the charges.

Ashley Danielle Lee, 27, of Lawtey was arrested Aug. 8 by Bradford deputies for failure to appear.

Kenneth Lamar Lewallen, 54, of Starke was arrested Aug. 7 by Starke police during a traffic stop for possession of marijuana and possession of drug equipment.

Shawn Aymara Martin, 42, of Starke was arrested Aug. 8 by Starke police for operating a vehicle without a valid driver's

license. Bond was set at \$500 for the charge.

Robert Wayne Masey, 26, of Starke was arrested Aug. 10 by Bradford deputies for two probation violations. No bond was allowed for the charges.

Connie Ann Morrison, 51, of Starke was arrested Aug. 5 by Starke police for probation violation. Bond was set at \$2,000 for the charge.

Jesse Dale Pack, 29, of Orange Park was arrested Aug. 7 by Bradford deputies for driving while license suspended or revoked.

Amy N. Parrish, 34, of Keystone Heights was arrested Aug. 6 by Bradford deputies during a traffic stop for three charges of possession of drugs without a prescription and possession of drug equipment. Bond was set at \$2,000 for the charges.

Gregory Lenard Pittman, 43, of Starke was arrested Aug. 8 by Bradford deputies on a warrant for possession of a weapon, two charges of possession of cocaine and selling drugs. Bond was set at \$205,000 for the charges.

Joseph Bernard Ray, 41, of Jacksonville was arrested Aug. 11 by Bradford deputies on a warrant for possession of

marijuana.

Randell Deavan Risby, 26, of Starke was arrested Aug. 11 by Bradford deputies on a warrant for three charges of possession of cocaine, possession of marijuana, possession of drug equipment, selling drugs and three charges of selling cocaine. Bond was set at \$250,000 for the charges.

Marvin Christopher Slocum, 42, of Starke was arrested Aug. 11 by Bradford deputies on a warrant for possession of cocaine and possession of drug equipment.

Aaron Frank Taylor, 28, of Starke was arrested Aug. 11 by Bradford deputies on a warrant for three charges of possession of marijuana and two charges of selling marijuana. Bond was set at \$130,000 for the charges.

Brenda Elizabeth Taylor, 53, of Waldo was arrested Aug. 7 by Starke police for larceny. According to the arrest report, Taylor was observed removing tags from clothing at the Starke Walmart and putting the clothing in her purse. She then paid for several other items before trying to leave the store. She was detained by an employee until police arrived. Bond was set at \$500 for the charge.

Sean Joseph Whelehan, 38, of Starke was arrested Aug. 6 by Starke police for criminal mischief—property damage and destroying evidence. According to the arrest report, police were called to Whelehan's residence about a domestic disturbance with his girlfriend. The disturbance started when the girlfriend saw a phone under the bed that didn't belong to her or Whelehan, and she tried to retrieve it. A physical altercation ensued before Whelehan grabbed the phone and threw it down, breaking it. When police arrived, while they were interviewing the girlfriend, Whelehan took the phone and put it in a drainage culvert outside

the residence, attempting to hide it. Police found it and eventually determined Whelehan found it at Camp Blanding the day before and made no attempt to contact the owner. He was arrested and bond was set at \$5,000 for the charges.

### Keystone/Melrose

Shaunda Allen, 46, of Lake Butler was arrested Aug. 26 by Clay deputies for retail theft.

Michael Butka, 47, of Keystone Heights was arrested Aug. 9 by Clay deputies for felony domestic battery.

Michael Hall, 39, of Keystone Heights was arrested Aug. 10 by Clay deputies for failure to appear.

David Hilliard, 26, of Keystone Heights was arrested Aug. 9 by Clay deputies for contempt of court.

Justen Kelley, 25, of Melrose was arrested Aug. 8 by Clay deputies for a probation violation.

Sheena Mosley, 29, of Lawtey was arrested Aug. 8 by Clay deputies for contempt of court.

Kristina Woody, 25, of Keystone Heights was arrested Aug. 6 by Clay deputies for a probation violation.

### Union

Chad A. Ferris, 39, of Lake Butler was arrested Aug. 11 by Union deputies on a warrant for possession of drugs—controlled substance without prescription, including marijuana over 20 grams, smuggling contraband into prison—any currency or coin to inmate and two public order crimes—criminal attempt to solicit a conspiracy of a felony.

Bruce Lee Hernandez, 39, of Lake Butler was arrested Aug. 9 by Union deputies for disorderly intoxication. According to the arrest report, Hernandez was

causing a disturbance at his girlfriend's residence, arguing with her and her child, and yelling, cursing and disturbing other residents in the area. He was arrested and transported to jail.

Tony Dwaine Jones, 48, of Lake Butler was arrested Aug. 6 by Union deputies on two warrants for failure to appear for a misdemeanor and a felony offense. Bond was set at \$510,000 for the charges.

A 16-year-old male was arrested Aug. 6 by Union deputies for felony probation violation.

Cleveland Scott Moore, 49, of Lake Butler was arrested Aug. 8 by Union deputies for driving under the influence.

Jennifer Cone Norviel, 31, of Lake Butler was arrested Aug. 9 by Union deputies for petit theft and disorderly intoxication. According to the arrest report, a man was at Dowling Lake when Norviel, another man and three children arrived and started swimming in the lake. The man joined them swimming, but not before placing his wallet and cigarettes on the roof of his car. While they were swimming, Norviel asked the man if she could have a cigarette, which he agreed to. When they all got out of the water, Norviel and the others left, while the victim soon discovered his wallet was no longer on the roof of his vehicle. The victim followed Norviel to the liquor store in Lake Butler, but she denied taking the wallet when confronted by the victim. He called law enforcement, and a deputy later found Norviel and the others at the splash park in Lake Butler. Norviel again denied taking the wallet, saying she went into the victim's car to get a beer. She also admitted to drinking more alcohol during the day. While the deputy was questioning the man with Norviel and searching his vehicle, Norviel came over

and started yelling and cursing, causing a disturbance at the park. She was arrested and eventually transported to the jail in Bradford County.

Shawne David Seiberling, 20, of Raiford was arrested July 31 by Union deputies on a warrant for stealing an ATV from a Raiford residence. He now faces additional charges of burglary and larceny for taking a golf cart from a different residence and leaving it in the Piney Bay Hunting Club. According to the arrest report dated Aug. 5, several weeks ago Seiberling and a 17-year-old male went to the residence where the golf cart was located. Seiberling went into a shed and pushed the cart outside, then the juvenile helped push it to C.R. 229, where they used a key to start it. They rode it in the hunting club until it became disabled. The juvenile will also be charged with one count of grand theft, according to the arrest report.

Matthew Edward Odom, 39, of Lake Butler was arrested Aug. 5 by Union deputies on a warrant while in jail for probation violation.

Kevin Charles Varnes, 36, of Lake Butler was arrested Aug. 7 by Union deputies for possession of drugs—controlled substance without prescription or marijuana over 20 grams. According to the arrest report, Varnes was skateboarding on South Lake Avenue in Lake Butler when a deputy observed him stumbling off the board, then skating in an unsteady manner down the middle of the roadway. The deputy stopped and questioned him, and after a few minutes, Varnes said he didn't have any drugs on him, just prescription medication. The deputy found several controlled substances in a prescription bottle on Varnes, but the information could not be read, and Varnes couldn't produce a prescription for the pills. He was arrested and transported to jail.

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**THE BRADFORD COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT** is currently accepting applications for a Full-Time qualified dump truck driver at a pay rate of 10.00 per hour. Applicants must possess a High School Diploma or G.E.D. and have a valid current Class B Florida Driver's License minimum. Applications along with a job description may be obtained from the Bradford County Road Department, 812 B N. Grand St. in Starke. The deadline for accepting applications is Monday, August 18, 2014. Bradford County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. For all inquiries, please call (904) 966-6243.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIV-**EN The City of Starke will be accepting applications for the position of cashier. This is a non-exempt position, which involves a highly skilled individual who can multi-task in various functions. This position is responsible for taking daily payments from customers, opening accounts, transfers, garbage complaints, customer files and applications, monthly reports, assisting in mailing customers bills and prepare warrants. This position reports directly to the

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the position may be obtained from Ricky Thompson, City Clerk, by fax 904-964-3998 or email request to rthompson@cityofstarke.org. Qualified applicants should submit resume and cover letter to CITY MANAGER POSITION, Ricky Thompson, City Clerk, PO Drawer C, Starke, FL 32091. Resumes must be received by 10:00 AM Friday, August 22, 2014. THE CITY OF STARKE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER REGARDLESS OF RACE, COLOR, CREED, NATIONAL ORIGIN, OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION. The city reserves the right to accept or reject any or all resumes.

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 3. Call 904-964-5278 to register to take the FBAT test cost \$40 cash  
 4. Attend recruitment event at 1610 N. Temple Ave. Starke, FL 32091

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 -Criminal Record Information Documents (if applicable); Copy of arrest/policies report (arresting agency), Copy of case disposition and completion, (Clerk of Court) and a signed statement from you explaining events.

[careersourcencfl.com](http://careersourcencfl.com)

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## UCI ROCK Hounds program has 1 dog for adoption

Union Correctional Institution's ROCK Hounds program will soon be celebrating its first year of operation with the graduation of nine more rehabilitated shelter dogs. Eight of those nine have already been adopted by families, but one is still looking for a forever home. Shelby is a 3-year-old Bassett Hound and bulldog mix. She stands about knee high to an adult. She has completed the training and will graduate on

Shelby is a 3-year-old Bassett Hound/bulldog up for adoption through UCI's ROCK Hounds program.



Aug. 22. The training ensures the dog is housebroken and teaches the dog to walk on a leash, obey voice commands like "sit" and "stay," sleep in a crate/kennel at night and behave itself around people it doesn't know. Shelby is a medium- to low-energy dog that loves people and wants to have them all to herself. She doesn't like to share. Shelby

was heartworm positive but has had the first of her treatments and, with monthly medication, she will be heartworm free. If you are interested in giving Shelby a forever home, please contact Officer Rachelle Parrish at 386-431-4077 or Officer Marcia Miller at 386-431-4090. E-mail address is parrish.rachelle@mail.dc.state.fl.us.

## 2013

Continued from 5B

Green and that defensive stand. Williston made it 14-3 with a field goal at the 1:49 mark of the third quarter, but Green put the Tigers up 21-3 with a 47-yard touchdown run.

Cox completed a 50-yard touchdown pass to Johnson with 6:37 to play before Williston added the game's last score on a 30-yard touchdown pass.

### UC 56 Eagle's View 18

Darion Robinson had four touchdowns in a 56-18 win over Eagle's View to cap the regular season.

Green returned a punt 70 yards for the first score, followed by a 14-yard touchdown run by

Dairon Alexander.

Union's starters sat out most of the game, allowing some younger players, such as Robinson, to shine. Robinson scored the team's third touchdown on a 10-yard run with 24 seconds left in the first quarter.

Union's offense fumbled the ball away on two straight possessions, with Eagle's View turning one into a score. However, the Tigers closed the first half with a 6-yard touchdown run by Robinson and a 50-yard touchdown pass from Ty Cook to Spencer Williams.

Tyler kicked a 28-yard field goal in the third quarter, while a Union fumble set up Eagle's View for another score on a 9-yard touchdown pass.

Robinson added two more touchdown runs of 10 and 19 yards, sandwiched around a 29-

yard touchdown pass by Eagle's View.

Taz Worrell capped the scoring with an 8-yard touchdown run.

### UC 41 Crescent 13

Turnovers threatened to keep the game close, but in the end, the Tigers won their first-round playoff game against Crescent City by a score of 41-13.

Union had the first two scores of the game on a 23-yard touchdown pass from Cox to Lillie and a 17-yard touchdown run by Edwards. Crescent City, though, recovered a Union fumble and scored on a 17-yard run to make it a one-score game in the second quarter.

Cox tossed another touchdown pass, this time a 15-yarder to Johnson.

The Raiders had another opportunity after intercepting a pass. They drove to the Union 2-yard line, but failed to score.

In the second half, the Tigers had three touchdowns: a 70-yard run by Green, a 1-yard run by Edwards and a 4-yard run by Robinson.

Crescent City had a 1-yard touchdown run to stay within two touchdowns prior to the final two scores by Edwards and Robinson.

### Dixie County 30 UC 20

It was a good start for the Tigers in their regional championship matchup against Dixie County, but the Bears outscored Union 18-7 in the second half in handing the Tigers a 30-20 loss.

Dixie scored the game's first touchdown on the second play from scrimmage, but the Bears committed four first-half turnovers.

Edwards scored on a 6-yard run on a fourth-and-3 play that put the Tigers up 7-6 after Tyler's extra point. Following an interception by Driggers, Lillie scored on a 16-yard run two minutes into the second quarter.

The Bears pulled to within one point after scoring on a 40-yard touchdown pass with 18 seconds remaining in the first half.

It was a bad third quarter for the Tigers. Dixie scored on a 25-yard field goal, then drove into scoring position again after a Union fumble. Union's defense did make a stand as Dixie couldn't score on first-and-goal from the 5, but Cox was sacked for a safety after the turnover on downs. The Bears then received the ensuing free kick and drove downfield for another score to make the score 23-13 with 9:15 to play.

Union, which ran only three plays from scrimmage in the third quarter, did make it a three-point game with 3:46 to play when Miller caught a 15-yard touchdown pass from Cox. However, the Tigers could not recover an onside kick, and the Bears tacked on one final score on a 20-yard run.

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## LETTER

Continued from 4B

drug. One, it's already illegal, so it's a small step to something else illegal. Two, they have no self control, so once they find something that makes them feel good they'll look for something to feel even better. That's a parenting issue more than anything else. And three, an excuse. Many kids just want to do something bad that they know is wrong. So when they're asked why they went down that road, it's easy to point to something early on that we want to hear.

Addiction is hell for a lot of people. Yes, you can abuse and get addicted to weed, just like alcohol and cigarettes. Control. Support. Moderation. These things can help. But as far as dangers to society? Stoners really don't do that much, they mostly sit around and eat. The dangers are comparable to alcohol, and I hear few people supporting a return to prohibition, which was very much a failed experiment. With the widespread use of the drug, it would likely change very little in society, apart from the openness about the habit and the benefits to the economy.

Like I've said, I don't use and don't intend to ever start using marijuana. But I feel that the benefits of legalizing it outweigh the drawbacks. Stop spending money fighting a war we cannot win, stop sending out officers who would be of more benefit elsewhere, and start making money off of something that is not, in truth, particularly dangerous. If you don't want any dangerous products around, prohibition is just the start, you'll have to criminalize cigarettes, glue, spray paint, and a whole lot more, and we'll spend even more money and time fighting all of that as well.

Steven Spitzer

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**AUDIBEL**



**Caleb Cox, who prepares to throw a pass during Union's Aug. 7 practice, returns as starting quarterback.**

**TIGERS**

*Continued from 5B*

Dairon Alexander and Darion Robinson bring experience to the offensive backfield, but they will probably be utilized more on the defensive side of the ball, Pruitt said. Johnson, too, will see quite a bit of playing time on defense. Antwan Durn, a transfer from Sneads High School who used to live in Union County, will help with the running-back rotation. Durn was the leading rusher in Class 1A last season, but he has to earn his touches this season.

"As of right now, he hasn't beaten out Isaiah," Pruitt said. "I've got to see it, but there's not a whole lot of difference between him and Isaiah."

The two big key returners on the defensive side of the ball are Casey Driggers and Alden McClellan, Pruitt said, adding that if he had 11 of each player, he could put a successful team on the field.

McClellan earned all-state recognition at defensive end last season, recording 120 tackles, which was second on the team. He led the team with 35 tackles for loss.

This season will see McClellan play at the Sam linebacker and strong safety positions.

"He's going to play a little bit of everywhere," Pruitt said. "He can cover the field sideline to sideline and get up in there with the big guys. He's a real strong kid. He benches 340 pounds and probably weighs 170."

"He's just one of those freaks of nature you get every now and then."

Linebacker Casey Driggers is about 170 pounds, too. Pruitt calls him "little dynamite," saying he "brings a hammer" when he makes a tackle. Driggers is not afraid to take on 250-260-pound defensive tackles in space.

"What he's going to give up in size and speed, he makes up for in technique and beating the other guy to the spot," Pruitt said.

Pruitt cited returners Johnson and Joseph Merriex as key players as well. Johnson will play in the defensive backfield, while Merriex will be an anchor on the line at tackle.

"He's a very fundamentally sound kid," Pruitt said of Merriex. "He's one of those players who can take on a double team and move them. He's just a strong kid. For the first 5 yards, he's pretty explosive."

Pruitt cited a couple of newcomers he's excited about, such as Andrew Peterson, a tackle, who is currently ahead of a starter from last season. James Ford is another newcomer who looks to play at defensive end, while Franklin Williams, a transfer from Gainesville High School who used to live in Union County, will help out in the secondary.

Clay Hall is another player who could make an impact at defensive end or linebacker when he recovers from an injury sustained in an automobile accident.

"He's just an around-the-ball-type kid," Pruitt said. "A blue-collar kid is what I'd call him. He's just a worker."

As for his concerns on both sides of the ball, Pruitt said they are the offensive line and linebackers.

"I'm always concerned about the offensive line," Pruitt said, while in regard to the position of

linebacker, he said, "I don't have 220-pound middle linebackers like I've had in years past that can cover sideline to sideline."

Besides a new strength coach, Union adds Chris Duguid to its offensive staff (line) and a

new defensive coordinator in Jonathan Mauk, who replaces Steve Hoard. Hoard is still coaching the defensive line, but stepped down as defensive coordinator so he'd have more time to devote to his duties as the new assistant principal at Lake Butler Elementary School.

What hasn't changed from last year is the fact that the district schedule will be competitive. Last year's district champ, Dixie County, who eliminated Union in the regional finals, loses a few key players, but returns its defensive front. Chiefland and Williston won seven and six games, respectively, while Pruitt believes Newberry, which won four games last year, "has gotten through some of their growing pains."

Outside of the district, Union will have to take on such teams

as Keystone Heights, a Class 4A playoff team, West Nassau, another 4A team, and fellow 1A team Hamilton County, which qualified for the playoffs last year.

Pruitt said it's a tough slate for a team still identifying who a lot of its players are going to be and for a team that is trying to avoid injuries.

"This year, there are a lot of unanswered questions," Pruitt said. "A lot of young kids are going to have to fill a lot of shoes, and there's not a lot of depth behind them."

Union travels to play Hilliard in a preseason classic on Friday, Aug. 22, at 7:30 p.m. The Tigers open the regular season on Friday, Aug. 29, with a 7 p.m. home game against Potter's House.



**Dairon Alexander takes a handoff from head coach Ronny Pruitt as Darion Robinson looks on.**

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