

# UNION COUNTY TIMES

USPS 648-200 — Lake Butler, Florida

Thursday, February 1, 2018

105<sup>th</sup> Year — 41<sup>st</sup> Issue — 75 CENTS

## etc.

### UCHS Class of

#### 1963 to Meet

The Union County High School Class of 1963 is having a lunch on Wednesday, Feb. 7 at 12 noon at the Steakhouse in Starke. All members of the Class of '63 are invited to attend.

### Faith Baptist Church to Hold a Revival

Faith Baptist Church, located at 104 SW 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. in Lake Butler, is continuing to hold a revival with Evangelist Tim Green on Jan. 18-19. Services are at 7 p.m. For more information please call 386-496-3384.

### Lake Butler American Legion to Meet and Seeking Members

Lake Butler American Legion Post 153 will meet on Thursday, Jan. 18 at 7 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge in Lake Butler. The post is asking U.S. military veterans to contact Thomas Fortner, Adjutant, at 386-496-2473 or Ted Barber, Post Commander, at 386-496-2744 for information and possible membership.

### Santa Fe Baptist to offer Food to Those in Need

Bags of groceries will be distributed to those in need from Alachua and Union counties on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at Santa Fe Baptist Church from 6-8 p.m. Santa Fe Baptist Church is located at 7505 Northwest C.R. 236 in Alachua.

### Free clothes at Fellowship Baptist

Free clothing for all sizes and ages at Fellowship Baptist Church in Raiford. Winter coats are also available. Open in the second Saturday of each month from 9:30 to 11 a.m.

### Lake Butler Social Club on Saturdays

Lonely? Looking for something to do on Saturday evenings? Non-smoking, non-drinking, good clean fun? The Lake Butler Social Club offers a live band, dancing, a potluck dinner and good fellowship.

Doors open at 6 p.m., dinner is served at 7 p.m. and the dancing begins at 7:30 p.m., all at the Lake Butler Community Center. Admission is \$10 for members and \$12 for guests. Call Joe Miller at 352-284-9473 for more information.

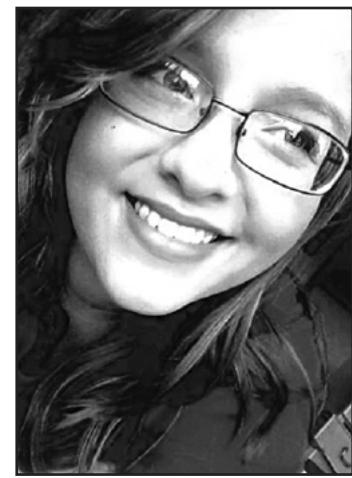
### UC Recreation Board meets monthly

Union County's Recreation Board meets every second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. in the Pop Warner building.

VFW Post 10082 plays bingo

The VFW Post 10082, located off S.R. 231 in Lake Butler, has bingo on Thursdays at 7 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to come on out and play.

## 8 to compete for crown of Miss U-Co High on Feb. 2



Avila



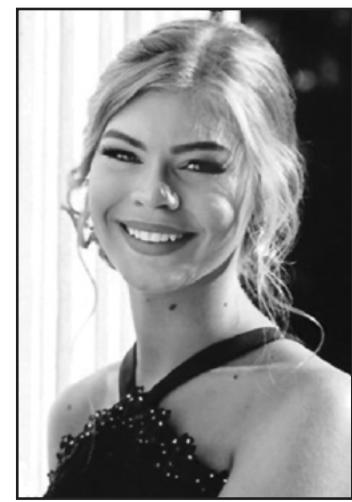
Beatty



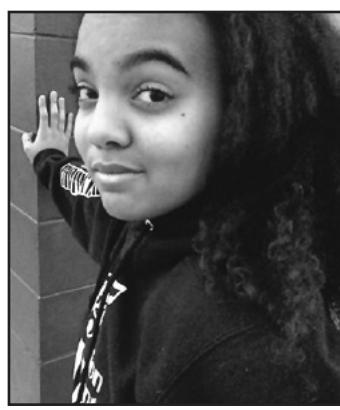
Hardee



Holtzendorf



Hopkins



Murray



O'Neal



Woodington

place, spreadsheet applications, at 2014 district FBLA; third place, impromptu speaking, at 2015 district FBLA; second place, impromptu speaking, at 2016 district FBLA; first place, entrepreneurship, second place, impromptu speaking, at 2017 district FBLA; 2017 FBLA Business Achievement awards (Future, Business, Leader); 2017 FBLA Community Service awards (Community and Service); participant in 2013-17 Florida Bandmasters Association District Marching Music Performances; participant in Florida Bandmasters Association District/State Symphonic Music Performances; 2017 Star Student (most improved) in band; 2013-14 Microsoft Office Specialist certifications (Excel, Word, PowerPoint 2010); 2015 National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists Award of Excellence nomination; and 2017 Washington Journalism and Media Conference nomination for National Youth Correspondent.

Avila's community/church activities include: 2014-16 March of Dimes fundraisers through FBLA; 2015 Salvation Army bell ringer through FBLA; 2016-17 Celebration of Special Abilities baseball game through FBLA; read to elementary students on Free Enterprise Day in 2017 through FBLA; 2017-18 participant in American Cancer Society fundraisers through FBLA; 2017 Small Business Corridor.

Honors and awards she's received are: first place, medical assistant, at 2016 district HOSA; certified in CPR/first aid through HOSA in 2016; third

Expo participant through FBLA; 2017 Rotary Farm Shares participant; 2014-17 band concessions worker; 2017 band summer volunteer; 2017 SWAT food drive participant; and 2015-16 teacher aide/volunteer for the UCHS business department.

Her hobbies are poetry, drawing and painting, and playing the flute.

Avila's future plans are to attend Florida Southern College, majoring in Criminology. She hopes to work in forensic/criminal sciences.

### Taylor Beatty

The daughter of Owen and Allyson Beatty is sponsored by Brenda and David Beatty.

Beatty is a member (or was a member) of the following clubs/activities: Beta Club (current secretary), HOSA, FBLA, varsity volleyball, club volleyball (Vision Volleyball in Gainesville) and student government (current senior class president, class secretary freshman, sophomore and junior years).

Honors and awards she's received are: Scholar Athlete Award all four years of high school for having at least a 3.5 GPA during and after volleyball season; member of Gainesville Sun All-Area volleyball team as a junior (honorable mention) and senior (second team); Health

Academy's Health Science Award as a freshman, sophomore and junior; first place, public speaking, and fourth place, business law, at district FBLA as a freshman; second place, public speaking, and second place, business law, at district FBLA as a sophomore; and Borlaug Scholar as a senior, participating in the University of Florida College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Florida Youth Institute Program and earning the opportunity to work at lab and research facilities across the U.S.

Beatty's community/church activities include: helps lead worship at her church on Sunday mornings; volunteered with youth group to help local homeless shelters; and participated in a high school worship arts camp in Keystone Heights, using her talents and abilities to better the community and serve the Lord.

Her hobbies are reading, spending time with her family and being physically active, whether it's riding her bicycle around time or spending time in the gym with friends.

Beatty's future plans are to pursue a degree in Applied

### See MISS, 2A

### County Served with Suit Challenging Moratorium

BY TRACY LEE TATE

Times Editor

Legal action has been filed against Union County by HPS Enterprises II LLC in response to the recent extension of the moratorium on the acceptance and review of applications for phosphate mining in the county.

A previous suit which sought to force the county into mediation over the matter has been dropped and now HPS is seeking to have the court "declare that the moratorium violates HPS' substantive due process rights under the Florida Constitution; declare that the Moratorium is unconstitutional and invalid; permanently enjoin the County from violating HPS' due process rights through enforcement of the Moratorium; require the County to process HPS' phosphate mining special permit application; and grant any other relief the Court deems appropriate."

The complaint document

## Deputies: Mom instructed third grader to steal iPads from school

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Managing Editor

Charges are pending against a Lake Butler Elementary School student and his mother

is out on bail after the Union County Sheriff's Office said the third grader stole two Apple iPads from the school at the request of his mother.

Camekco Catrice Webb, 36, of Lake Butler was arrested Jan. 22 for larceny, dealing in stolen property and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. She was released two days later on a \$45,000 bond.

According to an arrest report, the school's Assistant Principal: Chris Meckusker told deputies that the student had already confessed to the theft, which occurred on Friday, Jan. 19.

When Deputy Jason L. Lepano interviewed the student, the boy said he took the devices because his mother told him to, explaining that she said she needed money for food and gas. The student added that his mother pawned the devices at American Pawn in Lake City.

Lepano also interviewed the boy's brother who corroborated the third grader's story.

"His mother told him several times she wanted the purple iPad," wrote Lepano of the brother's claim.

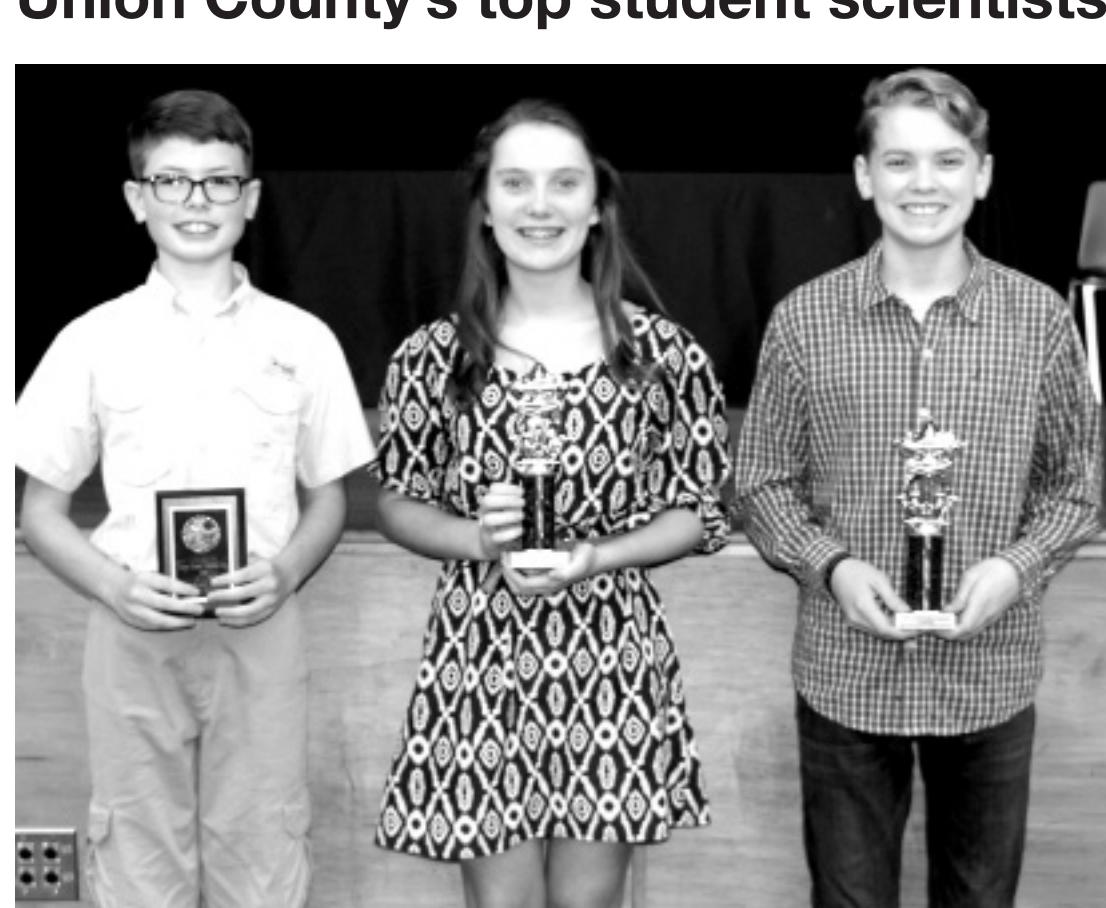
The brother added that the mother brought up the subject often, and that "(The third grader) told his mother he would get them, every time she would initiate a conversation inquiring about the iPads."

Deputies found one of the devices at the Lake City pawn shop. An employee told them that Webb had two tablets in her possession, but the shop only accepted one because the other had a cracked screen.

Deputies tracked down the mother on Jan. 22. She told them her sons were responsible for bringing the iPads home and that she thought the tablets were gifts to her.

Capt. Lyn Williams of the Union County Sheriff's Office said that at this time, charges have not been filed against the third grader, who is an ESE student.

He added that the sheriff's office is working with the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Children and Families and the school district to determine the best course of action.



The top overall winners at the county science fair were (l-r) Caleb Ripplinger (Best in Fair), Ciara Woodall (Best Physical Science Project) and Jackson Crook (Best Biological Science Project). See page 2A for other students advancing to the regional science fair.

### See SUIT, 2A

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## My personal tech: Carlton Faulk, Union County Superintendent of Schools



**Overall, I am not a fan of all the technology we have to deal with today. I really dislike all the computer equipment they are putting in cars these days – making it so you cannot work on your own vehicle and have to spend more money to pay for the dealer to do it."**

**"I think social media is both good and bad – it can serve useful purposes, but it can also create many problems. I don't think our founding fathers ever intended for 'freedom of speech' to mean what we have to deal with today."**

**Mobile phone:** "I never had a cell phone before I was elected Superintendent in 2000. In a way, it is a convenience, and in a way an aggravation. You feel as though you are always on duty. You get to the point that, if you leave it at home, you almost feel as if you are missing an arm or a leg. I have a Samsung Galaxy S-7. I use it to keep my calendar, keep track of school email, send texts and make calls. I have made my number available to the public, so I often get calls from parents and citizens with questions."

**Laptop:** "I use the same Chromebook that our students use – comes in handy at staff meetings."

**Internet:** The school district now uses Skyward: an internet-based student management system which features student and parent engagement tools and automation of administrative tasks. "The Skyward system is a real innovation which is showing great results. It allows parents to communicate with teachers and administrators, as well as keep track of their child's progress as to grades, attendance, behavior and other factors. This is a real plus for our district."

**Mug:** Yeti Tumbler – "I would never have believed that these things would really work and would never have bought one for myself, but I received one as a gift and now would not want to do without it."



## MISS

Continued from 1A

Physiology and Kinesiology at UF. She then intends to attend medical school in hopes of becoming a physical therapist.

### Macey Hardee

The daughter of Steven and Heather Hardee is sponsored by Hardee Timber Inc.

Hardee is a member (or was a member) of the following clubs/activities: TARS, Beta Club, SWAT and American Students Bettering the Community (ASBC).

Honors and awards she's received are: A honor roll as a freshman and junior and A-B honor roll as a sophomore.

Hardee's member of First Baptist Church of Lawtey; helps her family clean the church; works in the church nursery; with a group from school, distributed lunches and blankets to the homeless in Gainesville during her freshman year; and with the same school group, donated canned foods, packed bags and organized clothing for a goodwill and soup kitchen that feeds and clothes people trying to obtain jobs.

Her hobbies, aside from studying and engaging in her school work, are playing the piano (which she has done since middle school), exploring her interest in photography, which includes taking photos for a sibling's blog, and traveling. Her love of travel and desire to find new photographic locations allow her to combine two passions into one exciting weekend.

Hardee's future plans are to complete her associate's degree through dual enrollment at Santa Fe College, earn a bachelor's degree in nursing and obtain her license as a registered nurse. She wants to work at a local hospital, where she will apply to become a code-team nurse. Hardee wants to continue furthering her education by becoming a certified registered nurse anesthetist. She then would like to work in a labor and delivery unit.

### Tara Holtzendorf

The daughter of Alan and Lisa Holtzendorf is sponsored by AAA Hay.

Holtzendorf is a member (or was a member) of the following clubs/activities: 4-H (currently on the state executive board and the reporter for both the Union County 4-H and district councils, has co-led a Cloverbud goat club and has served on Day at the Capitol, State Project and University committees), Beta Club, TARS (current secretary) and Future Farmers of America (FFA).

Honors and awards she's received are: 2011 and 2016 4-H'er of the Year; 2015 Chris Allen Award at 4-H Legislature for Most Outstanding Media Correspondent; second in state for Horse Public Speaking two years in a row; eighth in region for Horse Public Speaking; second in state for Horse Quiz Bowl; seventh in region for Horse Quiz Bowl; second, with

team, in state for Horse Judging; received a \$500 grant to start a juvenile rehabilitation program; and 2016 award for 208 hours of community service.

Holtzendorf's community/church activities include: donating to a food drive and helping her 4-H club take part in 4-H's Month of Service in October (making rugs out of old 4-H T-Shirts for nursing homes, making fun bags for cancer patients, cleaning up roads and lakes, and having a clothing/food drive for those affected by Hurricane Irma).

Her hobbies are being involved in 4-H and her cattle business (My Precious Cattle), playing tennis, horseback riding, art, public speaking and traveling.

Holtzendorf's future plans are to attend Santa Fe College before transferring to Florida State University to study International Law. She wants to be a part of an FSU's study abroad program as well as the school's equestrian team. Holtzendorf wants to get a job with the United Nations and become an international lawyer in the field of public welfare.

### Ciarra Linn Hopkins

The daughter of Chris and Angie Hopkins is sponsored by Bradford Pre-School.

Hopkins is a member (or was a member) of the following clubs/activities: student government (president of the freshman class), National Honor Society, Educational Talent Search, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, HOSA, TARS, Beta Club, gifted/STEM program, marching band, symphonic band, jazz band and band leadership team (current librarian and drumline co-captain).

Honors and awards she's received are: A average during all three years of high school and ranked in top 5 percent of class each year, while taking honors, Advanced Placement and dual-enrollment courses; won school's literacy fair contest as a freshman; Superior ratings for Grade 4 four-mallet marimba solo and Grade 4 timpani solo at the district level Solo and Ensemble Music Festival as a freshman; Superior ratings for Grade 4 snare drum solo and Grade 6 mallet duet at Solo and Ensemble Music Festival as a sophomore, receiving a scholarship from her judge for two music camps at the University of South Florida, which she attended in 2017; Superior with Distinction rating for Grade 6 mallet duet at Florida Bandmasters State and Solo Ensemble Festival; successfully auditioned for North Florida Honor Band the last three years (third chair in percussion as a freshman and sophomore, and first chair in percussion as a junior); and selected this year to compete in the school science fair with her research study on identical twins.

Hopkins' community/church activities include: helps at the schools her parents teach at, putting items on hallway bulletin boards, serving as an SAT tutor and volunteering in the middle school band room to help students prepare for solo and ensemble events; volunteers

at every opportunity with the Beta Club; and volunteered with Trinity Outreach Food Pantry in Jacksonville, serving Thanksgiving meals to the homeless.

Her hobbies are playing and listening to music, attending band concerts with her father, baking and cooking, creating new recipes by using healthier ingredients, exercising, Zumba, yoga, traveling and attending summer music camps at various colleges.

Hopkins' future plans are to attend the University of South Florida to study Pre-Med and major in Biomedical Sciences. She'd like to be part of a study abroad program or honors college. After earning her bachelor's degree, she plans to apply to medical school. Hopkins would like to work in a hospital research facility to study the development of diseases. She plans to work specifically with cancer research and hopes to find a cure.

### Naomi Murray

The daughter of Timothy and Hope Murray is sponsored by Sony Holmes.

Murray is a member (or was a member) of the following clubs/activities: JFOL, ASBC, FBLA, High-Q, Beta Club, marching band, symphonic band, jazz band and band leadership team.

Honors and awards she's received are: superior rating for French horn solo as a freshman and sophomore.

Murray's community/church activities include: participation with Children's Table.

Her hobbies are music, reading, songwriting, singing, cooking, baking and collecting state quarters.

Murray's future plans are to attend FSU and earn a master's degree in Music Performance and Psychology.

### Emily O'Neal

The daughter of Darrell and Susan O'Neal is sponsored by Faulkner Realty.

O'Neal is a member (or was a member) of the following clubs/activities: FFA, ASBC, TARS, Beta Club, 4-H community service organization and varsity volleyball. She is also a member of Chrys Rowe Music Studio and Nashville Songwriters Association International.

Honors and awards she's received are: People's Choice Award at 2016 Bradford Fest Talent Showdown; Superior Plus at 2017 Federation Music Competition; first place at 2016 Florida Parent Educators Association Sacred Music Competition; captain on 2015 Bradford High School volleyball team; member of district runner-up volleyball team at BHS in 2016; 2016-17 Scholar Athlete Award for volleyball; member of district champion, regional champion and state runner-up volleyball team at UCHS in 2017; honorable mention on 2017 Gainesville Sun All-Area volleyball team; Union County School Board recognition for achievement in volleyball in

2016; 2016-17 Scholar Athlete Award for volleyball; voice performance, playing piano and guitar, songwriting, interior design/decorating and music production.

## SUIT

Continued from 1A

states that the matter will be heard in Union County (the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and For Union County) because the cause for the suit arose in Union County, as does the affected property. The document lists 13 separate allegations against the county.

The complaint states that the Union County Comprehensive Plan was first enacted in 1991 and has gone through nine subsequent iterations which all treated mining as an activity which was allowable in the county. They state the land on which they plan to mine falls within areas where mining is allowed on the Future Land Use documentation.

The document states that the county's Land Development Regulations expands and adds requirements to what they claim is a normal mining master plan and the Commission's review of it.

They make the claim that they acted in accordance with the Plan and LDRs when they began the process of developing the property for the mining of phosphate in December 2014 and that HPS has spent a significant amount of money in land acquisition, performing due diligence on the proposed mining sites and hiring consultants. They also mention

their experimental program for recombining the sand and clay which becomes separated in the mining process.

The document states that HPS approached commission members in January of 2016 to begin conversations concerning their mining plans and that the commissioner then acknowledged that they had been approached and were instructed by County Attorney Russ Wade that, although no permit application had been filed, they should only address the matter in public meetings.

The complaint reports the public meeting on Feb. 15 where a group of citizens made a presentation expressing their opposition to phosphate mining in the county. At this time, the board was advised that, since no formal permit application had been submitted, that it could prevent HPS from mining by adopting a moratorium. The board agreed to the idea of a moratorium and directed Wade to draft a document for it. It claims that, at the time, HPS was the only concern known in the county to be proposing a mining operation.

The rest of the document is a history of the original and subsequent moratoriums the county as enacted. In all three moratorium ordinances, the board has voted unanimously and without a great deal of discussion. HPS submitted an application package in July

2017, but this was rejected and returned the application without consideration, citing the moratorium as the basis for the rejection. The county also rejected attempts by HPS to engage it in a dispute resolution process in the courts.

Throughout the first two years of the moratorium, the county had been working with the North Florida Regional Planning Council to amend its comprehensive plans and land use regulations. On Jan. 16 of this year the board voted to extend the moratorium for a third year – an extension that HPS finds unreasonable. The lawsuit states that "the Moratorium is an arbitrary and irrational exercise of the County's authority aimed at preventing HPS from lawfully conducting mining operations on its Property, in violation of HPS' due process rights." The company claims that the moratorium deprives them of a constitutionally protected property interest in the ownership and use of its real property. They claim that the sole purpose of the moratorium is to keep them (HPS) from the lawful mining of their property and is asking that the court find the moratorium unconstitutional and invalid.

No date has been set for the hearing to be associated with this action. Attempts were made to contact Wade for his opinion on this latest action in the ongoing phosphate issue in the county but he was unavailable for comment.

## Science whizzes move on to regionals



Here are the students advancing to the senior regional science fair. (L-r) Kneeling; Baler Waters, Jonathan Edwards, Caleb Ripplinger, Garrett Dicks. Middle row - Ciara Woodall, Lily Neal, Jewel Dekle, Karli Jenkins, Lily French. Back row - Laura Park, Daegan Gainey, Eli Hendricks, Rylie Parrish, Jackson Crook, Chaz Strayer.

2017; props manager for Hope Christian Academy's production of "Tom Sawyer" in 2017; 4.0 unweighted GPA throughout high school; and member of 2017 Hope Christian Academy's A honor roll.

O'Neal's community and church activities include: member of First United Methodist Church of Starke; has been a member of student-led worship band; volunteers with Guardian Foundation Inc., which supports Guardian ad Litem; participant in 2018 district science fair; volunteer singer/performer at 2016 and 2017 Miss Bradford Fest; volunteer singer-performer at 2017 Arc of Bradford fundraiser; volunteer with Advantage Point Performance, providing after care for children (K-4<sup>th</sup> grade); multiple performances at Mudville Grille in 2016 and 2017; volunteer performance at 2017 Strawberry Festival; volunteer performance at 2016 Relay for Life in Jacksonville; volunteer performance at 2017 Newberry Watermelon Festival; volunteer performance at 2017 Starke Kiwanis 5K Glow Run; and participation in Nashville Songwriters Association International songwriting evaluation.

Honors and awards she's received are: member of state-winning and 10<sup>th</sup>-place nationally FFA agricultural sales team, 30<sup>th</sup>-placing individual at the national event and recognized as a gold competitor; on state-winning FFA poultry and parliamentary procedure teams, with the parliamentary procedure team earning the right to put on demonstration at the national convention; attended state FBLA convention since freshman year, competing in sales and parliamentary procedure events; and earned gold, platinum and double-platinum awards for individual and team dance performances.

Woodington's community and church activities include: member of Harmony Free Will Baptist Church in Lake Butler; participates in Samaritan's Purse Operation Shoebox mission; recently assisted with organizing the Special Abilities baseball game; with her fellow FBLA members, read to Lake Butler Elementary School students on American Enterprise Day; participated in FFA chapter's Food for America program; she and family hosted two students from New York as part of FFA Chapter Agricultural Exchange Program; student at Kelly Christie Dance Academy and involved in its Christian ministry; and member of Global Impact Dance Group, which will allow her to travel to Costa Rica this summer to share the gospel.

Her hobbies are dancing, reading, socializing with friends, traveling with family and relaxing on the beach.

Woodington's future plans, based on her experience in sales through FFA, are to seek a career in agricultural sales or medical sales. She hopes to attend UF and earn a degree in Agricultural Communications, while also being involved in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences program.

Audyn Woodington

She is sponsored by her parents, Billy and Pam Woodington.

Woodington is a member (or was a member) of the following clubs/activities: FFA (current Lake Butler chapter vice-president, officer as a freshman and sophomore), FBLA (Union County chapter parliamentarian, district parliamentarian), TARS, Beta Club and student government (junior class treasurer).

Honors and awards she's received are: member of state-winning and 10<sup>th</sup>-place nationally FFA agricultural sales team, 30<sup>th</sup>-placing individual at the national event and recognized as a gold competitor; on state-winning FFA poultry and parliamentary procedure teams, with the parliamentary procedure team earning the right to put on demonstration at the national convention; attended state FBLA convention since freshman year, competing in sales and parliamentary procedure events; and earned gold, platinum and double-platinum awards for individual and team dance performances.

Woodington's future plans, based on her experience in sales through FFA, are to seek a career in agricultural sales or medical sales. She hopes to attend UF and earn a degree in Agricultural Communications, while also being involved in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences program.

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# Lake Butler Elementary School Straight A's for 2<sup>nd</sup> Nine Weeks



Kindergarten (McDaniel) – (back row, l-r) Adilyn Mabrey, Alyssa Lee, Emily Parrish and Jacob Ferguson. (front, l-r) Kinley Phillips, Madelyn Feltner, Miles Andersen-Davis and Nathan Martin.



First Grade – (back row, l-r) Canon MacFarlane, Kaylee Jewell, Ra'mone Randolph, Riddhi Patel and Trenton Norman. (front row, l-r) Emery Muse, Hayden Snyder, Kolton Crews, Collin Alvarez, Trinity Dyess, Chloe Foerman and Elijah Haltam. Not pictured: Sophia Elixson and Maddison Russell.



Kindergarten (Merwin) – Andrew Hurst, Hazel Ginn, Jalie Walker, Madison Manning and Serena Reeves.



Second Grade (boy with glasses bottom right) – (back row, l-r) Grade Mullins, Alexis Wills, Allaya Blocker, Brylee Elixson, Chloe Sharrah, Mark Cooper and Jade Gregory. (front row, l-r) Brodie Garmon, Javian Smith, Kiptyn Shuler, Presley Whitehead and Rylan Hughes. Not pictured: Blakely Sellers.



Kindergarten (Griffis C.) – (l-r) Austin Rainey, Elijah Jones, James Webb, Matthew Elliot, Ethan Rainey and Mia Norris. (in front) Eva Vinci. Not pictured: Tucker Dampier, Jacob Thompson and Mason Griffis.



Second Grade – (back row, l-r) Carlton Hall, Carter Perkins, Mariah Griffis, Riley Trowell, Yegor Chumarov, Annabelle Ripley and Brysen Tomlinson. (front row, l-r) Emily Hann, Fisher Thomassen, Adrian Chandler, Andy Gomez, Ayden Beckham and Holden Webb.



First Grade – (back row, l-r) Addyson Kelley, Ansley Ward, Brylee Gay, Bryson Bratcher, Dawson Ellis, Gracelyn McGee and Harper Rogers. (front row, l-r) Jackson Jenkins, Jeneva Tallman, Jesse Bielling, Reagan Williams and Trip Connell.



Second Grade – (l-r) Briana Jensen, Georgia Bridges, Noah Visel, Amanda Darr, Melanie Elixson and Tripp Norris. Not pictured: Peyton Courson.



First Grade (girl with crocheted hat bottom right) – (back row, l-r) Veronica Mann, Zane Mott, Allyson Jenkinson, Bailyn Kent, Brianna Wimpy, Cadenz Merriex and Ian Griffis-Futch. (front row, l-r) Jessa Dekle, Jordan Burgess, Kylie Jo Harrison, McKenzie Fortner, Reagan Dicks, Westyn Miller, Jade Brown and Kiley Jo Gibson. Not pictured: Brody Stephenson.

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

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## FBLA Chapter Talent Show a Hit



Winner w/t check – Talent show winner Emily Davison (center) with Delaney Sweat and Derrick Searcy helping her hold up that big check.

**BY SAM WARREN**  
Special to the Times

The FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) chapter at Union County High School sponsored the 7th annual "Showcase of Talent" talent show last Thursday, January 18 in the school's auditorium. Nine competitors gave it their all to get a shot at winning the grand prize of \$100. From singers, to dancers, to speed artists, the showcase of talent was just that... filled with talent, excitement, applause and thoughtful words from all, including the judges. The auditorium was filled with the likes of Lauren Daigle, Kari Jobe, Ellie Holcomb, Bebe Rexha and Florida Georgia Line, and even Colbie Caillat.

The FBLA students and advisors worked hard backstage, behind the sound booth, at the door, and all throughout the show,

in order to give the audience a show full of entertainment, and the contestants a victory. The show was emceed by FBLA members Derrick Searcy and Delaney Sweat. The chapter president and state officer, Ashley Harris, welcome the guests and spoke about FBLA.

The audience was able to learn about the American Cancer Society, Florida FBLA's charity for the year, throughout the program. A portion of the proceeds from the event were donated to a local team, some of which are breast cancer survivors, who will be participating in the Donna Hicken marathon in Jacksonville in February. The team is being led by Mrs. Cathy Sams. She can be contacted at the Union County School Board office for more information on how others can personally get involved. The team was presented a check worth \$300

after the show.

At the end of the night, the winner was Emily Davison! She ballet danced to the song "Come Alive" by Lauren Daigle. She was given a standing ovation and was excited to take a picture with the giant check worth \$100. Emily says that dance is one of her biggest passions and she saw the talent show as a chance to practice her choreography. When interviewed, Emily said, "I'm very thankful for getting first place and it was really unexpected. All of the other competitors and I became friends and supported each other so it didn't seem like we were even competitors." Emily says she plans to use the prize money to fund her trip to Costa Rica this summer with her dance team at Kelly Christie's Dance Academy.

Parrish compiled the report after direct observation of the department, exit interviews of recent former employees and a review of departmental records for response times and operational practices. He outlined a number of problem areas and suggested some ways in which they might be dealt with.

The first area to be discussed was pay. Parrish noted that the starting pay for both paramedics (\$10.32/hour) and Emergency Medical Technicians (\$8.91/hour) was significantly lower than all of the area EMS agencies. He reported that most of the tenured full-time paramedics were making only \$10.84 per hour. He said such pay rates were one of the largest contributing factors in making Union County what is known as an "entry-level department," meaning a department where newly trained care providers come to gain real-world experience before moving on to better paying jobs elsewhere. He said that unless something is done, this will continue to be a continuous cycle, where service in Union County will provide experience needed on a resume for a better paying position elsewhere.

To correct the issue of competitive pay, Parrish suggested a starting hourly rate of \$11/hr. for paramedics and \$10/hr. for EMTs, the increase of all current personnel's hourly rate by \$2/hr. and the establishment and adherence to a step-pay plan to be adjusted as needed to provide incentive for retention.

Parrish told the board that most of the newly hired paramedics and EMTs had never before worked in the field. He said this lack of experience, coupled with the lack of both in-house department training and continuing education opportunities has resulted in workers with low confidence levels which eventually leads to burn-out, a lower level of provided care or leaving the department to seek employment in a department where there are opportunities for training and continuing education.

To deal with the training deficit, Parrish said that a commitment must be made to provide at least four hours a month of structured training and/or continuing education on-duty for each employee. He recommended the budgeted amount for training be increased from the current amount of \$6,500 to \$10,000 and to give the EMS director the authority to "allow, sponsor and compensate UCEMS personnel to attend outside training."

Fatigue and frustration were two problems in the department that Parrish said were a direct result of the recent employee turnover (which has led to an increased workload) is a growing problem in the department. He said such problems would eventually lead to complacency, poor customer service and a general disregard for level of performance. He also said that such conditions were often the cause of employees seeking a job elsewhere.

Parrish said the solution to this problem is to allow the director to hire to fill vacancies by maintaining an open hiring process (as opposed to having a periodic hiring process) and the possibility of incentives such as sign-on bonuses, retention bonuses and other incentives designed to retain current employees and attract needed new ones.

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## County Board Hears Report on EMS Dept.

**BY TRACY LEE TATE**  
Times Editor

The Union County Board of County Commissioners heard a report from former Union County EMS director and current EMS director for Bradford County, Allen Parrish concerning his observations of the Union County Emergency Medical Services department and any problems therein.

Parrish compiled the report after direct observation of the department, exit interviews of recent former employees and a review of departmental records for response times and operational practices. He outlined a number of problem areas and suggested some ways in which they might be dealt with.

The first area to be discussed was pay. Parrish noted that the starting pay for both paramedics (\$10.32/hour) and Emergency Medical Technicians (\$8.91/hour) was significantly lower than all of the area EMS agencies. He reported that most of the tenured full-time paramedics were making only \$10.84 per hour. He said such pay rates were one of the largest contributing factors in making Union County what is known as an "entry-level department," meaning a department where newly trained care providers come to gain real-world experience before moving on to better paying jobs elsewhere. He said that unless something is done, this will continue to be a continuous cycle, where service in Union County will provide experience needed on a resume for a better paying position elsewhere.

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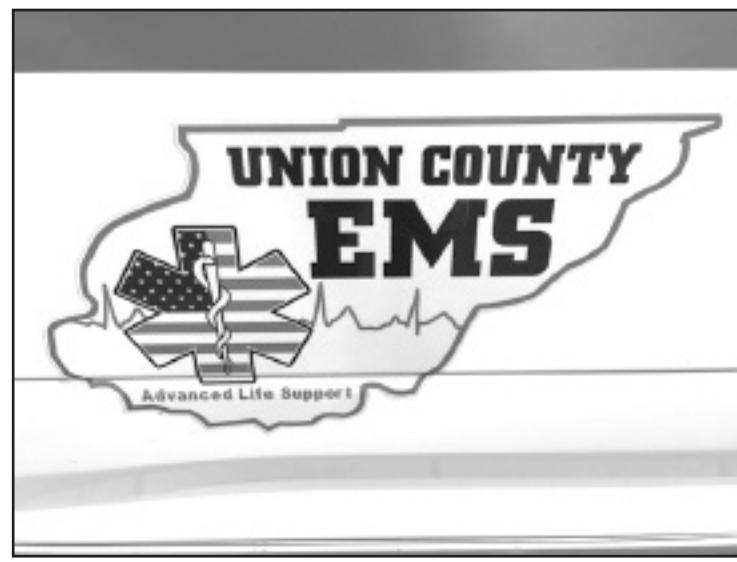
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Parrish told the board that department service and interaction with two other



local agencies has begun to cause problems as well. He noted that the Department of Corrections uses UCEMS resources to transport inmates from one facility to another and that such use has reached the level of being irresponsible on the part of DOC because it creates a void in service for county residents. He said this can and has led to situations where there was no EMS unit or personnel to respond to a call in the county because of being tied up with a DOC transport. Even though the DOC pays the county for services (\$400,000 per year), this does not remedy the problem of having units tied up and not available for resident's needs.

Parrish also said interactions with Lake Butler Hospital were a problem, with the facility taking advantage of UCEMS resources by "inappropriately utilizing response units to provide inter-facility transports of patients that are non-medically necessary to be transported by ambulance. He noted that the administration of the hospital has refused to enter into an agreement with the county for payment for these services. He said that legally UCEMS was under no obligation to provide inter-facility transports in non-emergency situations and that the hospital is responsible for the moving of their patients should the need arise, not UCEMS.

Parrish said the issue with DOC could be handled by immediately stopping a non-required inter-facility transports, with EMS providing only those services required by law. He noted that while this could cause a loss of revenue from DOC to the county, it was necessary to ensure that the citizens of Union County had priority at all times.

As to the issue with Lake Butler Hospital, he said that all inter-facility traffic should cease except in cases of critical patients where the transport was emergency in nature until the county could enter into an agreement for payment for services with the hospital.

"Both the DOC and the hospital situations present a dilemma, since there is a moral obligation for us to transport patients who need our services medically, but not to allow ourselves to be used as a taxi service for these institutions," Parrish said.

Interim EMS Director Wayne Clemons agreed with Parrish, citing several instances where UCEMS was pressured into doing a stable transport (one where the presence of medical personnel was not necessary) and a situation occurring in the county during the time the unit was tied up with this transport and unable to respond.

The final area that Parrish identified as needing work to bring UCEMS into good shape involved the tension caused for the director by lack of communication with the members of the Board of County Commissioners. He said this lack of communication created an environment where it was too easy for misinformation and rumor to be passed along and the lack of concrete communication has led to creating an "Environment of Uncertainty" in the department.

Parrish said he would like to see the board require a monthly report to be given to it at its regular meetings and entered

## Lake Butler Elementary School A/B Honor Roll for the Second Nine Weeks

The following Lake Butler Elementary students earned their place on the A/B Honor Roll for the second nine-week grading period. Way to go, kids!

### Kindergarten

Aelias Strickland, Aubrey Park, Aubrielle Gist, Avery Ward, Brantley Bennett, Bryce Keen, Brylee Harden, Cameron Freeman, Conner Rye, Dalton Morgan, Drayton Paige, Fayla Holmes, Francesca Thomas, Gavyn Smith, Giavanna Thomas, Greyson Johns, Hailey Rainey, Harper Forbes, Ian Hadlock, Isabella Keith, Jace Forbes, Jeremy Salisbury, Joseph Tyler, Ka'layah Odom, Cassidy Maloney, Kaylee Crawford, Kendra Harrison, Kenly Combs, K'mari Jackson, Kyleigh McSpadden, Landon Ford, Mackenzie Patrick, Marley Robbins, Matthew Wylin, Mikayla Johnson, Naliana Hampton, Naomi Croft, Nolan Stokes, Pamela Dobbs, Rashawn Edwards, Sutton Sharp, Wade Christie, and Zandin Wise.

### First Grade

Aaliyah Jackson, Abigail Melton, Aiden Mitchell, Ashlyn Williams, Brale Schill, Brantley Johnson, Brayden Alexander, Braylen Sellers, Bryar Stair, Christopher Sweat, Clayton Perry, Corbin Neal, Eleonora Boccanfelli, Ella Brannen, Emily Hunt, Emily Watts, Eric Hall, Gage Burnett, Gracelyn Jackson, Gracin Sharp, Harley Johnson, Hayleigh Andrews, Issac Johnson, Janessa Jenkins, Jaxson Thornton, John Keen, Kayla Poston, Kaylana Cummings, Ken Cox, Khalia Ross, Kieren Seay, Kynley Tomlinson, Leigha Bell, Levi Zukowski, Malana Patrick, Marya Kelly, Nyla Smith, Peyton McRannolds, Phillip Watts, Preston Graham, Raegan Godwin, Rhylee Schaffer, Rylen Cox, Suniyah Henderson, Tristan Kelley, Tyler Irmarti Green, Jacee Box, Judd

### Second Grade

Alaina Tanner, Alexander Pascual, Alona Davis, Autumn Burnette, Ayden Klein, Ayden Tomlinson, Ayleana Reeves, Breanna Barringer, Canaan Harris, Cane Reddish, Conner Atwater, Damon Ferrer, Delana Barton, Elauna Roberts, Eli Perkins, Elijah Llanes, Ella Griffis, Emily Croft, Eugene Moppert, Gabriel Hunlock, Gabrielle Bradley, Garrison Smith, Gracie Crawford, Hayden Robinson, Isabella Hayes, Ivy Wilson, Izabella Preston, Jackson Andersen-Davis, Jackson Crawford, Jason Burnette, Jaycee Elixson, Jayden Johnson, Joshua Davis, Kage Sapp, Kanaan Waters, Kayden Cone-Howard, Kayleb Graham, Kaylin Taylor, Kelsey McSpadden, Kendalyn Hall, Kennedy Smith, Khloe Larsen, Kielee Leet, Kullen Barnett, Madysen Van Leeuwen, Lillian Jacobi, Lillyanna Cowger, Lindsey Nash, Madison Adams, Malachi Bennett, McKinleigh Barringer, Morgan Smith, Owen Parrish, Paislee Stalnaker, Peyton Bennefield, Rachel Harris, Randy Randolph, Russel Wade, Rylee McDowell, Sabrina Barnes, Saige Waters, Sophia Patterson, Taylor Hunsinger, Taylor Lesch, William Wilkerson, Zachary Jackson, and Zavier Roberts.

### Third Grade

Adrian Tucker, Aislynn Smith, Alexia Cyr, Anthony Todd, Antonio Geist, Ashton Pierce, Bella Crawford, Brayden Williams, Brianna Taylor, Bristol Tetstone, Bronson Haight, Brooke Hunt, Brooklyn Gay, Cameron Bacon, Carmyn Barringer, Casey Morris, Cole Fillyaw, Dalton Bacon, Derrick Mann, Edward Durant, Elijah Preston, Gabriella Parrish, Irmarti Green, Jacee Box, Judd

### Fourth Grade

Aiden Hancock, Allison White, Amry Sullivan, Aniya George, Ashlyn Thomass, Aubree Gay, Aubree McDowell, Bailey Varnes, Baylie Cubbedge, Bella Johnson, Braelyn Slater, Brianna Elixson, Brooklyn Barnes, Brycen Sapp, Carolena Rangila, Carsyn Dukes, Chelsea Waters, Cheyenne Carrigg, Chloe Gartman, Chloie Harris, Codie Huntley, Dallas Cason, Dallas Walker, Delani Harden, Derrick Brock, Devin Brown, Ella McRae, Grace Hobson, Hailey Garrison, Hannah Rollins, Harbor Belot, Indi Knox, Isabella Kalback, Isabelle Kirsten, Jackson Hipps, Jackson Thamess, Jacob Scott, Jailyn Simmons, Ja'kari Hill, Jayden Godmark, John Boyette, John Brannen, Justus Erwin, Katelyn Seay, Kelley Rollins, Kendall Crawford, Kenli Jenkins, Kerissa Seay, Kierston Clemons, Landon Jones, Cooper Van Leeuwen, Lillie Lane, Lilly Hall, Logan Johnson, Lucas Thompson, Mason Fassett, Matthew Walin, Natalie Campbell, Preston Griffi, Quinton Patterson, Rachel Archer, Sandra Schaffer, Sarah Baker, Selah Tompkins, Shane Stokes, Skylah Smith, Stefani Nash, Summer Shaw, Sydni Faulk, Terriana Holton, Thomas Mobley, Trent Hines, Vanessa Raymond, Wyatt Barber, and Wyatt Elixson.

Parrish said the solution to this problem is to allow the director to hire to fill vacancies by maintaining an open hiring process (as opposed to having a periodic hiring process) and the possibility of incentives such as sign-on bonuses, retention bonuses and other incentives designed to retain current employees and attract needed new ones.

Parrish told the board that department service and interaction with two other

local agencies has begun to cause problems as well. He noted that the Department of Corrections uses UCEMS resources to transport inmates from one facility to another and that such use has reached the level of being irresponsible on the part of DOC because it creates a void in service for county residents. He said this can and has led to situations where there was no EMS unit or personnel to respond to a call in the county because of being tied up with a DOC transport. Even though the DOC pays the county for services (\$400,000 per year), this does not remedy the problem of having units tied up and not available for resident's needs.

"I have never not been involved in Union County EMS," Parrish said. "I care about this county and its people. I am committed to seeing that the citizens of Union County receive the highest level of emergency medical service and response possible. What I have done here is not an indictment of the people that have served the county in the past or now, it is, rather, an analysis of why certain problems keep occurring in the department and suggestions of ways to correct these weaknesses. I have done this not as a person in authority, but as a private citizen working on his own personal time."

In discussion, the Commissioner Jimmy Tallman noted that the current special assessment for EMS services in the county was less than that for garbage.

"As usual, money is the root of all evil here," Tallman said. "Union County is a target for people looking for experience to take elsewhere. I feel like we are a training facility."

County Clerk of Court Kellie Connell noted that the special assessment for EMS has not changed since it was established in 1987 and that, given the change in the value of the dollar, the amount of the assessment needed to be changed.

Tallman added, "I am tired of putting Band-Aids on this. I am not concerned about the money. The bottom line is the citizens need to be taken care of and they deserve the service they are paying for."

Parrish said that the county needed to have two ambulances, with staff, on duty 24/7. He noted that the department received an average of seven 911 calls per day (which did not include its being called out for fires and wrecks), as well as two prison calls (each of which tied a unit up for an average of 2.5 hours).

Parrish offered to work with the board and Clemons to get the EMS department back on track so that a new director would not be starting out with a big mess on his or her hands. He said he did not feel that he should replace Clemons, as he was doing the job and "stepped up when needed." Parrish said he would be on hand in an advisory capacity, through the authorization of an interlocal agreement. Motion was made by Tallman to approve this agreement and seconded by Willie Croft. The motion passed unanimously.

The board plans to have a workshop in the near future to discuss and attempt to deal with some of the many problems discovered by Parrish, as well as to select picks from the applications received for the position of EMS director. The hiring issue was tabled on a motion by Tallman, who said he wanted at least some of the problems solved before bringing in a new-hire.

# REGIONAL NEWS

NEWS FROM BRADFORD COUNTY, UNION COUNTY AND THE LAKE REGION



## Emery feels at home as Shands Starke CEO

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Key West provides quite a different atmosphere from Starke, but new Shands Starke Regional Medical Center Chief Executive Officer John Emery said he's fitting in quite comfortably.

"I was born in a small town in Ohio, so I'm kind of used to that," Emery said of small-town life.

Also helping him feel at ease during his transition has been the Shands Starke staff.

"It's been great," Emery said. "Everyone has been very welcoming and has made me feel right at home."

As with anyone moving into a new home, Emery needs a little time to settle into his surroundings. Therefore, he can't speak to any long-range goals he has in regard to Shands Starke, having just arrived on Jan. 8. He said wait 30-60 days to ask him about any future goals.

Basically, the main goal right now is to get up to speed on his surroundings and find out what others feel are the hospital's needs.

"I want to have time to interact with our staff, interact with the physicians and our medical staff, interact with the community and find out what they think need to be our priorities," Emery said.

### Family ties, influence

The Emery name is not new at Shands Starke. Emery's brother, Drew, previously served as CEO from July 2014 through July 2016. John Emery said he and his brother were both inspired to go into the health-care field by their grandfather, who was that small-town doctor who practically did everything, from making house calls to performing surgeries.

Emery's father, who works in business, was also in influence.

"As both my brother and I got older, I think that we wanted to

do something in health care," Emery said. "This was kind of a good bridge between being a physician and just doing something in the business. My dad's in business, so it kind of blended both of those environments together."

It's proved to be a good career choice.

"It's been very rewarding," Emery said. "Being able to help people and to be a part of a community and be active in the community — it's awesome."

### UF to Key West

Emery attended the University of Florida, where he earned both his bachelor's (2008) and master's (2010) degrees. He went to Lower Keys Medical Center, where he began his career as an assistant administrator, what Emery described as an entry level administrative role that had him

heading up a few departments and basically learning the ropes.

What he learned most during his first experience — and it was something he knew was important before taking the job — was the importance of listening to others, regardless of their position. By doing that, you learn something new every day.

"All people have great ideas," Emery said. "All people have that knowledge to share."

That's why to this day, Emery is willing to listen to any proposal brought to his attention. In the end, it may not make sense for the hospital to follow through on the idea, but that's OK. Emery said all involved become stronger by going through the process.

"I think that's probably helped me in my career more than anything else," he said.

After three years at Lower Keys, Emery went to Rockledge

and Wuesthoff Medical Center (now Rockledge Regional Medical Center). It's a much larger operation than Lower Keys, with such components as two hospitals, a skilled nursing facility and an assisted-living facility.

"It was a great environment to continue to learn in and grow in my career," Emery said.

Emery credited that job with broadening his knowledge base. That experience will help him as Shands Starke CEO. For example, Emery said he's better prepared to have discussions with representatives from local nursing homes since he became familiar with the operation of a nursing facility while in Rockledge.

"Now, where I sit down with somebody from Windsor Manor or Riverwood, I think that I can relate to what they do and have



John Emery

some insight into that," Emery said.

A little over two years later,

See EMERY, 2B

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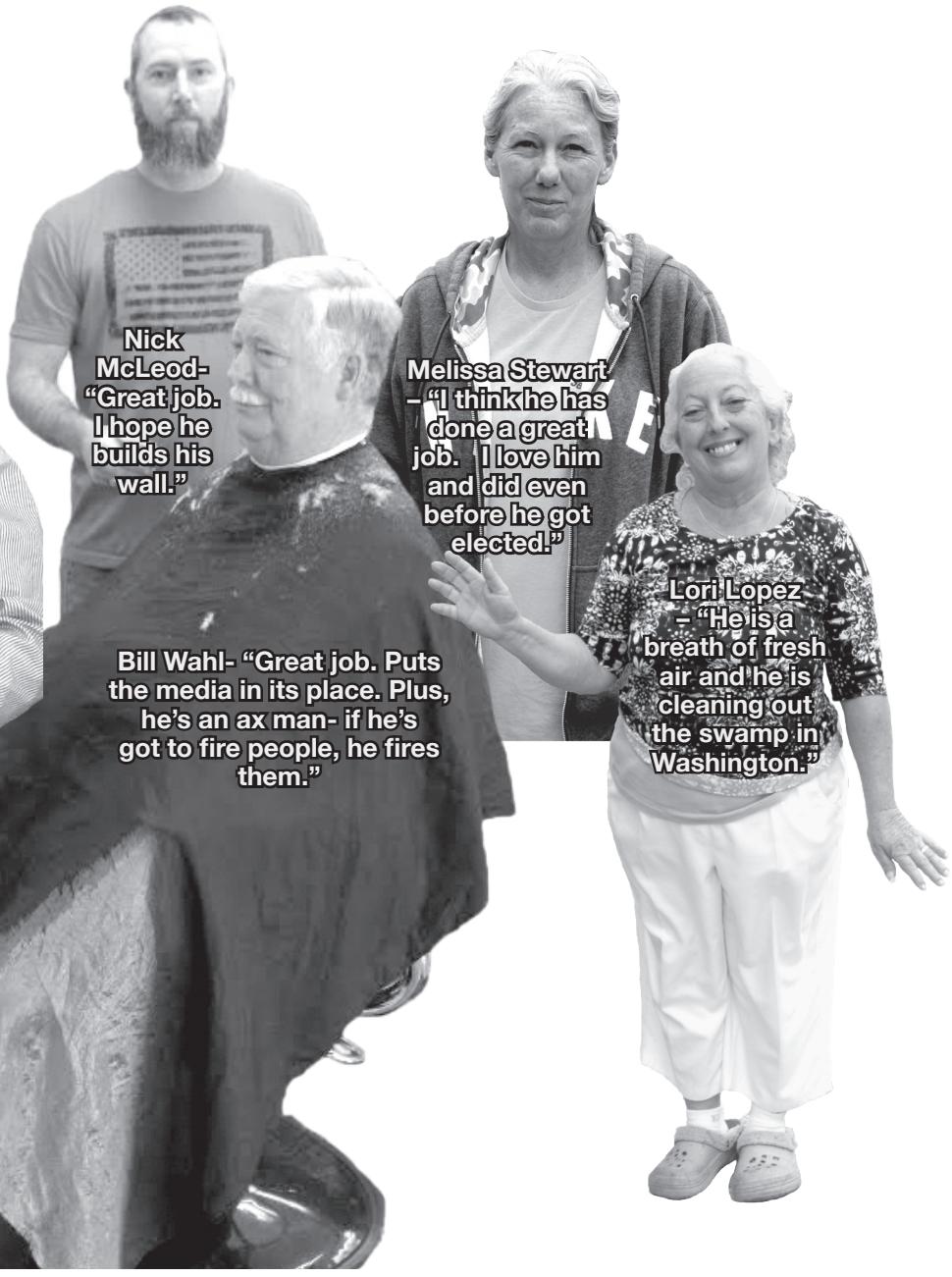
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# Have your say!

**What do you think of President Trump's first year in office?**



**Richard Segall** - The President has been a successful disrupter of the federal government. He has nominated judges committed to a conservative agenda, regardless of other qualifications, thereby undermining the image of a politically neutral judiciary. His appointees to cabinet positions are implementing deregulation in an apparent attempt to take us back to the 1950s. He has successfully raised the question of whether our Constitutional government of checks and balances can protect the majority and the individual from control by the minority. And, he has made the case for Congress to reform itself to perform its Constitutional duties.



## EMERY

Continued from 1B

Medical Center, this time as its CEO.

"I've had a lot of great experiences throughout my career," Emery said. "I feel very blessed by the teams I've been a part of and people who I've had the opportunity to work with. You're only as strong as your weakest link. It's made my job a lot easier with the teams I've had."

## Excited to be on Shands Starke team

Emery is excited about the team he is a part of now, believing it is one that can take Shands Starke to the highest heights when it comes to meeting patients' needs and making patients feel good about how their needs were met. As with any hospital, the challenge is achieving high patient-satisfaction scores.

"I think there's probably opportunity to improve," Emery said. "Our scores are not terrible. I think much like you see in other places, there are ups and downs — peaks and valleys — but I think we have the right team to achieve where I'd like to see us, and that's at the top of the list in everything."

Making patients feel at home is especially important in a small-community hospital, where doctors, nurses and other staff members are "friends, family and neighbors."

"Here, we really strive to make them feel like part of a family," Emery said. "Oftentimes they are. It's part of our community family. We want them to feel they have that personal care. My door's always open. Our staff's door is always open. If someone has a concern or question, I would invite them to come ask. I might not have the direct answer that they're looking for, but I can find out who does and get them an answer."

## Reading, traveling and watching sports

When he's not busy with his duties at the hospital, Emery enjoys reading, watching sports and traveling.

A self-described "history nerd," Emery likes to read a lot of non-fiction. Right now, he's focusing on reading books about ancient civilizations, such as Rome. That interest has been sparked by his own travels to Italy, where he enjoyed such sights as the Colosseum and St. Peter's Basilica.

"I was really trying to increase my knowledge base when it



New Shands Starke CEO John Emery (left) talks with nurse practitioner Courtney Kelly.

comes to the history that goes along with seeing that," Emery said. "Seeing is one thing. Understanding how it got here, what it is, and what it's done since it's been there is kind of the other piece of the puzzle to me."

Emery and his wife, Lexi, planned just one trip to Italy, but they wound up going three times because there just wasn't enough time to experience everything on one trip.

"I think we're ready to pick a new place," Emery said, adding that China, where his father has spent a lot of time on business, is a possible destination that appeals to him.

More travels in Europe are also appealing.

"There's so much history there, from Greece to the British Islands," Emery said. "A lot of cool stuff there to see and explore."

Emery played soccer growing up, but enjoys watching all sports, especially those at his alma mater, UF.

"I was there at the best time to be a Gator fan," he said. "In the six years I was there, we won two basketball national titles, two football national titles, we went to the College World Series a couple of times — it was incredible. I would consider myself spoiled when it came to Gator sports at that time."

It was exciting, of course, to watch the UF baseball team win its first national title this past

season.

"Those guys have worked so hard, and they had gotten close so many times," Emery said. "I was thrilled that they were able to kind of push across the finish line and get the victory."

Emery is optimistic about the football team getting back on track with new head coach Dan Mullen, saying, "I think he'll be able to recruit well and call some new plays. I think it's exciting — a bright future for the football program. The pieces are there."

## Feeling at home

Now that he's at Shands Starke, he's able to more easily attend UF athletic events. More importantly, he feels at home at Shands Starke. He couldn't have asked for a better reception.

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## BHS boys improve to 9-0 in District 4-5A with 68-41 win over KHHS

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Chris Cummings scored 10 of his game-high 17 points in the second quarter as the Bradford High School boys' basketball team built a double-digit lead it never relinquished in a 68-41 District 4-5A victory over host Keystone Heights on Jan. 26.

The Tornadoes (15-7, 9-0) will attempt to cap an undefeated regular season in district play when it travels to play Fort White on Saturday, Feb. 3, at 7:30 p.m.

Keystone (9-11) fell to 1-8 in the district.

Each team played without one of its starters: Jordan Lee (Bradford) and Eddie Thomas (Keystone).

Bradford led by two points in the first quarter after the Indians' Ray Kirtley made a three-pointer. The Tornadoes then outscored Keystone 6-2 to take an 11-5 lead into the second quarter. A Matthew Crawford steal led to a basket by Cummings, while Tally Chandler had two offensive rebounds on one possession that eventually ended with a

jumper by J'cobi Harris. The Indians' Bryson Davison scored off an offensive rebound, but the Tornadoes' Crawford closed the quarter by successfully converting on a drive to the basket.

Crawford opened the second quarter with a three-pointer to give the Tornadoes a nine-point lead. Kirtley later rebounded his own miss and scored to pull Keystone to within 16-9, but Bradford responded with a 13-0 run. A steal by Jordan Hill led to a basket by Tavi'en Young, while Crawford knocked down his second three-pointer of the quarter. Cummings scored two straight baskets and was fouled on both, making both free throws and putting Bradford ahead 29-9.

The Indians cut their deficit to 17 entering halftime by scoring 10 of the quarter's final 15 points. Sawyer Maxwell had a basket, followed by a three-pointer by Ben Miller. Kirtley had a three-pointer of his own, with Miller adding the final basket of the half to make the score 38-21.

Kirtley and Miller scored

12 of the Indians' 16 second-quarter points.

Cummings got the Tornadoes off to a fast start when play resumed, scoring the first five points of the third quarter. He hit a pull-up jumper following a turnover and followed that with a three-pointer. Bradford's D.J. Mackey then had a reverse layup along the baseline to make the score 45-21.

Kirtley, who led Keystone with 15 points, scored four of the Indians' eight third-quarter points.

Hill and Dequan Hankerson each had a big second half for Bradford. Hankerson had four field goals in the half, while Hill scored eight points in the fourth quarter. After Keystone's Miller made a three-pointer, Hill made two straight to give Bradford its biggest lead at 64-37. Then, after Davison scored off a Miller assist, Hill made two free throws.

Hill was one of three Bradford players besides Cummings to finish in double figures as he and Hankerson each had 10 points. Crawford finished with 11, while also leading the team in steals with four.

The Tornadoes also got seven points and five assists from Young, while Harris had four points. Harris and Hill shared the team lead in rebounds with six apiece.

Jaleen Lane added four points for the Tornadoes, while Mackey, Taz Curry and Tarrin Jackson each had two.

Miller was Keystone's second-leading scorer with 10 points, while Davison had eight. Maxwell, Marco Flores, Josh Hughes and Josh Prendergast each added two points.

It was the third straight win for Bradford, which defeated district opponent Newberry 62-55 on Jan. 23 in Starke and district opponent Taylor 72-22 on Jan. 25 in Pierson.

Young led Bradford against Newberry with 13 points, while Cummings and Mackey had 12 and 11, respectively. Young also had 11 rebounds, with Cummings adding five assists.

Curry and Lane each had seven points, while Crawford had six. Jordan Lee scored four points, with Jackson adding two.

Two players almost had double-doubles against Taylor: Curry with 19 points and nine rebounds, and Harris with eight points and 17 rebounds.

Crawford and Young had 12 and 10 points, respectively, with Hill and Jackson each adding eight. Hankerson and Tally Chandler had four and three points, respectively, with Chandler also dishing out nine assists.



Bradford's J'cobi Harris (far left) gets up high off the floor as he follows up his shot attempt. Also pictured (l-r) are Keystone's Josh Hughes, Bradford's Taz Curry and Keystone's Ray Kirtley.



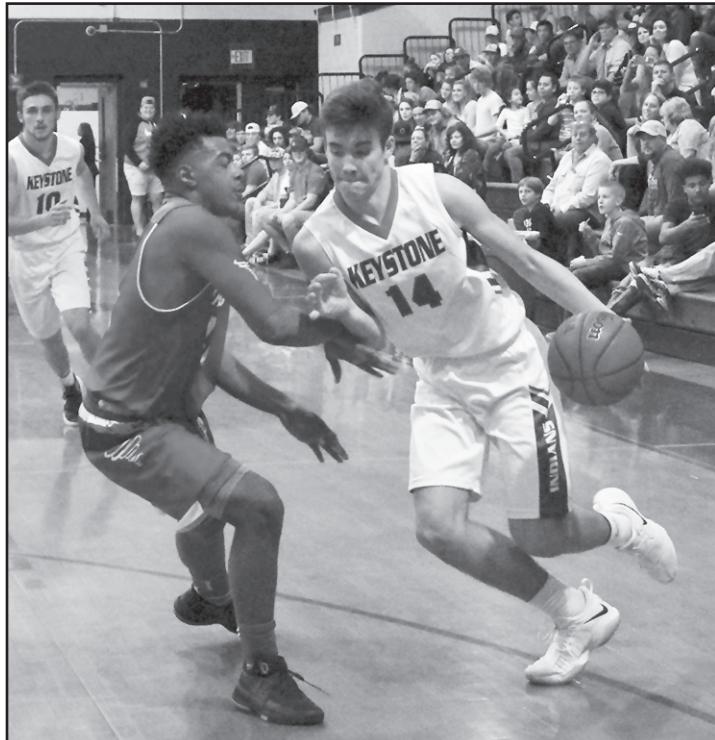
Bradford's Chris Cummings goes up for a shot between Keystone players (l-r) Ray Kirtley, Garrett Stanley and Sawyer Maxwell.



Keystone's Ray Kirtley puts up a shot between Bradford players (l-r) Tarrin Jackson and Dequan Hankerson.



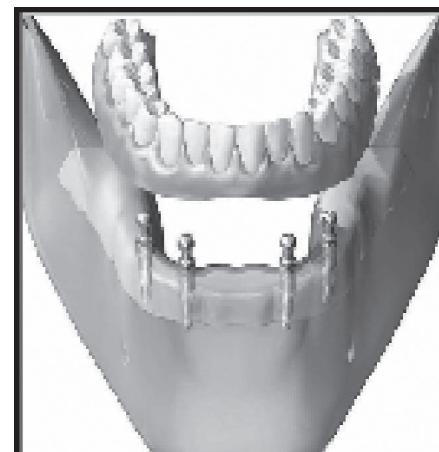
Above: Bradford's Matthew Crawford drives the baseline against Keystone players (l-r) Bryson Davison, Marco Flores and Josh Hughes.



Keystone's Ben Miller (right) handles the ball against Bradford's J'cobi Harris.



Left: Bradford's Tavi'en Young (left) pulls up for a shot against Keystone's Marco Flores.



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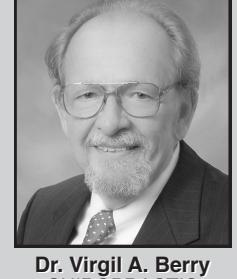
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# Letters

## Disturbed by lack of trail etiquette

Dear Editor,

As a frequent user of the Lake Butler/Palatka Rail Trail, which runs through Keystone Heights, I am concerned about the lack of trail etiquette displayed by some users of the trail. I travel the entire distance of the existing trail 1-2 times weekly and I'm amazed that we don't have more injuries resulting from accidents caused by a simple lack of courtesy. A trail user who is aware and cognizant of the fact that they are not the only ones enjoying the trail at any one particular time and who simply walks, jogs, or rides to the right as much as possible is the best fellow trail user to cross paths with. To some this may sound unnecessary but as one who has enjoyed trails in many parts of our country I can assure you that when this simple courtesy is employed it is a safer experience for all, eliminates guesswork and makes for a more enjoyable time on the trail. I've seen both signage and painted arrows/lines on the asphalt on some trails, which serves as a friendly reminder to adhere to this simple courtesy. Bicyclist's using the standard "on your left" call goes a long way as well, to prevent startling a walker/jogger prior to your pass. Pet owners who walk their

Signed,  
Mike Milligan

## Problems with healthcare for all

Dear Editor:

Healthcare for all! Everyone wants healthcare and they want it free or hardly costing a thing. There are some in politics who want to push through this service, but at what cost?

West Germany, 1974: we, a military family, had made great friends with an elderly couple. Our Opa (grandpa) had to go to the hospital for a major medical problem. Now, West Germany

dogs without a leash further endanger fellow trail users as it becomes necessary for cyclists to slow to the point of a complete stop as the dog's intentions are unknown. Will it chase me if I try to pass possibly causing a crash? What if I accidentally hit the dog with my bike? Does it bite? The pet owner who uses a leash shows consideration of others as he or she maintains control of their dog(s). The trail offers an enjoyable, free from vehicular traffic, venue to enjoy the outdoors and it's my hope that we can all enjoy it together. In conclusion, walking, jogging, and riding on the right side of the trail allows safe unencumbered passing of fellow trail users.

Signed,  
Mike Milligan

My husband and I wanted to know if there was any way around that, and Opa told us that if someone had a whole lot of money they could hire a doctor privately and be taken care of immediately and be well cared for. Opa did say that the government was kind enough to provide beer machines in the hallways to ease the patient's discomfort while they waited.

With all the best intentions of those wanting free medical service in the US, I hope it never ends up happening that way.

Edythe Robinson Hill  
Morgan Road

## 2 additional UCHS weightlifters qualify for state finals

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Staff Writer

A total of six members of the Union County High School girls' weightlifting team will compete at the Friday, Feb. 2, state finals, with Breynice Cummings and Taylor Gainey, as at-large qualifiers, joining automatic qualifiers Kurston Bakken, Josie Godwin, Mia Jackson and Brandy McCoy.

Bakken, Godwin, Jackson and McCoy earned berths by virtue of winning Region 2-1A championships on Jan. 17, but Cummings and Gainey, who earned third- and second-place finishes, respectively, had to wait a week to find out if they made it. The Florida High School Athletic Association looks at the totals of the second- through sixth-place lifters in each weight class from all of the state's regional meets to determine the rest of the state competitors.

See UCHS, 5B

# CRIME

## Recent arrests in Bradford, Clay or Union

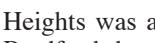
The following individuals were arrested recently by local law enforcement officers in Bradford, Union or Clay (Keystone Heights-area) counties.

### BRADFORD -



Gregory Scott Barton, 33, of MacClenny was arrested Jan. 29 by Bradford deputies for a probation violation.

### E. Eldredge



Gary Edward Boyd, 37, of Keystone Heights was arrested Jan. 29 by Bradford deputies for an out-of-county warrant, possession of heroin and destroying evidence.

### K. McCallister



Christopher Keel was conducting traffic enforcement at St. Clair and East Brownlee Street when he saw a silver Ford passenger vehicle pass him west bound.

Keel ran the plates on the car, which came back as "no vehicle information available."

According to an arrest report, arresting officer

When the officer attempted to conduct a traffic stop, the driver pulled into a driveway on St. Clair Street, opened the car door and ran away.

"I gave chase on foot," Keel wrote. "While pursuing the driver, I continued to give several loud verbal commands to stop — to no avail."

When the driver ran down the embankment of a creek at East Thomas Street, Keel momentarily lost contact with him.

"I conducted a search of the wooded area west of the creek embankment," he wrote. "I located the driver crouched down, hiding behind a pine tree."

While Keel put the suspect in his patrol vehicle, Eldredge denied driving the Ford, telling the officer he was "just sleeping."

Keel added that he later found the keys to the Ford near where Eldredge was hiding behind the tree.

A dispatcher told the officer that Eldredge's license was suspended and that he had three prior convictions for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

King then asked Desue to turn off the ignition and exit the vehicle. The defendant

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M. Hall

was called to a Lake Butler residence after DCF workers requested assistance. The workers told Sellers that they were at the residence to conduct an inspection and that no one would answer the door, even though they could hear children crying within the home.

Deller eventually allowed the parties into the residence. Sellers found Pannett hiding in a bedroom closet. The deputy then learned Pannett had an active warrant in Columbia County. After securing Pannett in a patrol vehicle, Sellers then rejoined the case workers in the house.

"There was trash and other items strung throughout the residence in every room," wrote Sellers. "I observed prescription bottles containing prescriptions, cleaning products, alcoholic beverages and tobacco items throughout the residence, all within easy reach of the children. The kitchen sink was filled with dirty dishes and sitting on the counter tops I observed open food items which appeared to have been there for some time. The floors of the residence were extremely filthy and appeared to have not been cleaned for a long time. I also observed open bags of household garbage within the residence."



The two children were turned over to the DCF workers.

**B. Dickson**  
Brandon Michael Dickson, 25, of Lake Butler was arrested Jan. 22 by Clay deputies for failure to appear.



Christina Renee Garrett, 39, of Jacksonville was arrested Jan. 27 by Union deputies for an out-of-county warrant.



**K. Geraghty**  
Kristal Lynn Geraghty, 24, of Lake Butler was arrested Jan. 24 by Union deputies for obstructing justice.



**J. Smith**  
Joshua Glen Smith, 22, of Lake Butler was arrested Jan. 25 by Union deputies for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, possession of not more than 20 grams of

C. Summerlin

marijuana and possession of drug equipment.

Carl Evan Summerlin was arrested Jan. 25 by Union deputies for failure to appear.

Keith Brian Thomas, 39, of Gainesville was arrested by Union deputies for aggravated assault. According to an arrest report, the victims told Deputy David Gladding that the defendant had been drinking and got into an argument with the victims, claiming he had not been paid for work he did. One victim said Thomas threatened to kill another victim, then lit a towel on fire and threw it into a bedroom.

Gladding added that he saw a towel within the residence that was partially burned. The victims said they believe Thomas intended to burn down the home with them in it.

### Deputies: Mom instructed third grader to steal iPads from school



Charges are pending against a Lake Butler Elementary School student and his mother is out on bail after the Union County Sheriff's Office said the third grader stole two Apple iPads from the school at the request of his mother.

Camekco Catrice Webb, 36, of Lake Butler was arrested Jan. 22 for larceny, dealing in stolen property and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. She was released two days later on a \$45,000 bond.

According to an arrest report, the school's Assistant Principal: Chris Meckusker told deputies that the student had already confessed to the theft, which occurred on Friday, Jan. 19.

When Deputy Jason L. Lepano interviewed the student, the boy said he took the devices because his mother told him to, explaining that she said she needed money for food and gas. The student added that his mother pawned the devices at American Pawn in Lake City.

Lepano also interviewed the boy's brother who corroborated the third grader's story.

"His mother told him several times she wanted the purple iPad," wrote Lepano of the brother's claim.

The brother added that the mother brought up the subject often, and that "(The

third grader) told his mother he would get them, every time she would initiate a conversation inquiring about the iPads."

Deputies found one of the devices at the Lake City pawn shop. An employee told them that Webb had two tablets in her possession, but the shop only accepted one because the other had a cracked screen.

Deputies tracked down the mother on Jan. 22. She told them her sons were responsible for bringing the iPads home and that she thought the tablets were gifts to her.

Capt. Lyn Williams of the Union County Sheriff's Office said that at this time, charges have not been filed against the third grader, who is an ESE student.

He added that the sheriff's office is working with the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Children and Families and the school district to determine the best course of action.

### KEYSTONE HEIGHTS -



### Man arrested for shoving mom into kitchen counter

Andrew Elliott, 28, of Keystone Heights was arrested Jan. 25 by Clay deputies for domestic battery. According to an arrest report, the victim, who is the defendant's mother, told Deputy G.B. Klidies that her son was on the phone with his girlfriend yelling, screaming and crying.

"The defendant hung up the phone and continued to yell and cry," Klidies wrote in the report. "The victim advised she was scared the defendant was going to get violent, so she attempted to calm him down."

In response, the deputy wrote, Elliot pushed the victim in the upper chest area and she fell into a kitchen counter. The victim's brother then came out of a bedroom and chased the defendant outside while the victim called 911.



### Deputies: Man took shotgun to Wendy's

William Allan Lamb, 60, of Keystone Heights was arrested Jan. 25 by Clay deputies for possession of a firearm by a felon and violation of a domestic violence injunction.

According to an arrest report, customers of Wendy's told the manager they saw a man sitting in front of the restaurant with a shotgun. The store manager called the sheriff's office and told deputy J.C. Timpe that prior to the officer's arrival, Lamb hid the firearm in nearby bushes.

A dispatcher told Timpe the defendant had four felony convictions in addition to an injunction prohibiting him from possessing a firearm.

Jonathon Paul Nugent, 35, of Keystone Heights was arrested Jan. 28 on an out-of-county warrant for falsely identifying himself as a licensed contractor.

### Deputies: Man punched wife after she complained about him coming home late

Gregory Randall, 40, of Keystone Heights was arrested

Jan. 25 by Clay deputies for two counts of battery. According to an arrest report, when Deputy B.A. Ray arrived on the scene, the defendant,

his wife and another family member were arguing in the front yard of the residence. The defendant's wife told the officer that she and Randall got into an argument over him coming home late. During the dispute, the defendant punched the woman on the right side of her face with a closed fist. The defendant's brother tried to calm down Randall, who responded by tackling the brother, causing him to fall down.



Skyler Allen White, 22, of Keystone Heights was arrested Jan. 24 by Clay deputies for possession of not more than 20 grams of marijuana and possession of drug equipment.

20 grams of marijuana and possession of drug equipment.

In looking at the totals going into state, Bakken, Jackson and McCoy are in good position to win state championships. McCoy, who is aiming for her third straight state title, had a 515 regional total in the 199 class. The next highest total in her class is 360 by Jessica Guadarrama of Zephyrhills.

Bakken has a 505 total in the unlimited class, with Abby Shaffer of Zephyrhills having the next highest total at 425. Jackson has a 370 total in the 169 class. The next best total is 345 by Seriah Brokenborough of Eustis. Union's other regional champion, Godwin, looks to the fireman in nearby bushes.

have a shot at winning state as well. She has the second-best total in the 139 class at 350, which is 10 pounds behind Jay's Haylee Watson.

Gainey has the fifth-best total in the 154 class, while Cummings has the sixth-best total in the 183 class.

Bradford's lone qualifier, Khalia Donley, has the third-best total in the 110 class at 255, which is behind River Ridge's Katelyn Kirves (270) and Avon Park's Earlnajah Collins (265). Fivay's Isabel Martinez, like Donley, has a 255 total.

How it all plays out will be determined Feb. 2 at Arnold High School in Panama City Beach. The competition begins at 11:30 a.m. Eastern Standard Time.

### KHHS girls' season ends in district semifinals



The 2017-18 season ended for Haley Phillips (above) and the Keystone Heights High School girls' soccer team with a 9-1 loss to Santa Fe in the Jan. 24 District 5-2A semifinals. Dee Dee Taylor scored the lone goal for the Indians, who finished the season with a 9-9-4 record.

## BHS girls

## defeat Raiders for 3rd win in 4 games

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Olyvia Griffin and Jah'mya Henderson scored 15 points each to lead the Bradford High School girls' basketball team to a 52-27 win over Class 6A Santa Fe on Jan. 25 in Starke.

Regina Roberts had 10 points for the Tornadoes (9-10), while Meghan Harris had eight points. Harris led the team with five steals, while Griffin and Henderson each had four.

Raynisha Hunter led the team with 17 rebounds and finished with two points. Chloe Raab had two points also.

The Tornadoes were coming off a 53-33 loss to District 4-5A opponent Newberry on Jan. 23 in Starke. Henderson led the team with eight points, while Griffin and Britnee Smiley each had seven. Sara Foster had five points, with Hunter, Raab and Dezirae Tabet each adding two.

Raab led the team with seven rebounds, while Hunter had six.

With the loss, Bradford finished 6-4 in the district and will be the number-three seed in next week's district tournament, which Bradford is hosting (see related story).

Bradford played Baldwin this past Tuesday and will conclude the regular season at home against Eastside on Thursday, Feb. 1, at 7 p.m., following a junior varsity game at 5:30 p.m.

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### UCHS Continued from 4B

Keystone Heights' Hannah Forshee put herself in contention with a sixth-place finish at the Region 4 finals, did not make the cut. She had a 165 regional total. The lowest total to qualify for state was 210.

In looking at the totals going into state, Bakken, Jackson and McCoy are in good position to win state championships. McCoy, who is aiming for her third straight state title, had a 515 regional total in the 199 class. The next highest total in her class is 360 by Jessica Guadarrama of Zephyrhills.

Bakken has a 505 total in the unlimited class, with Abby Shaffer of Zephyrhills having the next highest total at 425.

Jackson has a 370 total in the 169 class. The next best total is 345 by Seriah Brokenborough of Eustis.

Union's other regional champion, Godwin, looks to

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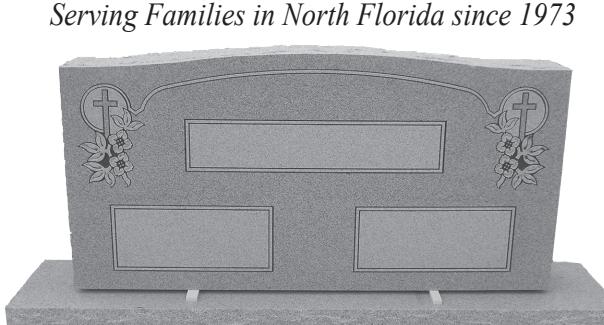
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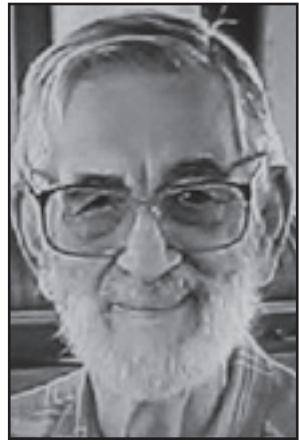
# Obituaries

## James Callahan Jr.

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—James A. “Jim” Callahan Jr., 69, of Keystone Heights died Sunday, Jan. 21, 2018 at Shands Hospital in Gainesville following a lengthy illness. He was born in San Diego, CA on March 2, 1948 to the late James A. and Mary Eugenia (Oldfield) Callahan Sr. and had served in the United States Navy for four years. He was a retired automobile mechanic and craftsman. He was a Parishioner of St. William Catholic Church. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Colleen Callahan; son, John Callahan; and sister, Kathleen Whipple.

He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Norma (Paronto), and sons, Scott (Tania) Callahan and Jim (Megan) Callahan all of Keystone Heights; brother, Dan (Charlotte) Callahan of Middleburg; and sisters, Mary (Bill) Harris of South Carolina and Barbara (Fred) McClain of Georgia; nine grandchildren; and many other family members.

The family will receive friends on Feb. 2 from 6-8 p.m. at the St. William Catholic Church. Funeral Mass will be held at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 3 at St. William Catholic Church. Interment will follow at 2:00 p.m. at Holly Hill Cemetery in Middleburg. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to either Catholic Charities or March of Dimes in memory of his late daughter, Colleen Callahan. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Keystone Heights.



## Robert Campbell

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Robert L. Campbell, MSGT RET, age 86, of Keystone Heights passed away at Haven Hospice Roberts Care Center in Palatka on Monday, Jan. 22, 2018. He was born in Tampa on Feb. 4, 1931, to the late Etheridge Charles and Edna Jane (Parnaby) Campbell. Mr. Campbell retired from the United States Marine Corps following 37 years of service which included a couple of years with the Department of Defense with which he held top level security. After retiring from the military, he worked for the United States Postal Service. He was a parishioner of St. William Catholic Church who enjoyed hunting, fishing and boating. He loved riding his motorcycle, which he rode across country with the love of his life Shirley. They even rode up to Pikes Peak. Not only did he enjoy auto racing, he also owned and was the mechanic on a car at one time. His wife of 64 years, Shirley preceded him in death, but before that, they were

inseparable and did everything and went everywhere together.

Survivors are: his daughter, Mary (John) Westmoreland of Keystone Heights. He is grandpa to Robert Scott (Jessica) Gilbert of Middleburg and Christopher Jon Gilbert of Orange Park. He also leaves behind two great-grandchildren, Bradley Jon Gilbert of Orange Park and Campbell Tyne Gilbert of Middleburg.

Graveside services were held Jan. 29 at Jacksonville National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to St. William Catholic Church P.O. Box 721, Keystone Heights or St. Jude Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Keystone Heights. 352-473-3176. www.jonesgallagherfh.com

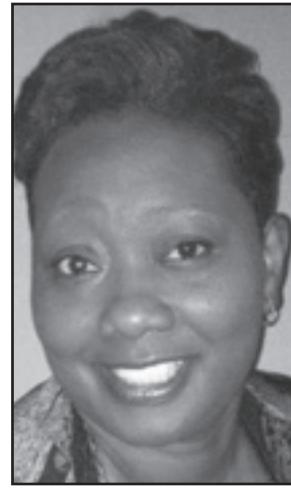
PAID OBITUARY

## Russell LaPointe

STARKE—Russell Howard LaPointe, 90, of Starke died on Saturday, Jan. 27, 2018 at Windsor Health and Rehabilitation Center after a brief illness. He was born in Chicago, IL on March 16, 1927 to Arthur and Mary Margaret (Smith) LaPointe. Formerly of Gainesville, he moved to Starke in January 2005. He was preceded in death by his parents; and his wife of 40 years, Mercedes M. LaPointe.

He is survived by: daughters, Dawn King and Laura Crews, both of Chicago, IL; and daughter-in-law, Karron Harris of Starke; two grandsons; and many other family members.

No arrangements are scheduled locally. He will be laid to rest next to his wife at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Hillside, IL at a later date. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Starke.



## Unissa King-Moore

LAWTEY—Unissa King-Moore was born Jan. 27, 1971 in Gainesville and is preceded in death by her grandfather Ulysses King and grandmother Eula Mae King, father, Julian Desue III and is survived by her mother, Hazel King-Berry (Fonza Berry). Mrs. Moore passed away Jan. 25, 2018 in the company of her family. Unissa was a mother, wife, daughter, sister, friend and a lifelong educator and student. She is survived by her devoted husband of 25 years, Martella E. Moore Sr.

Unissa dedicated her life to the betterment of others throughout her career at the Bradford County School District and her consistent service to the community. She leaves behind her sons, Martella E. Moore Jr., Malcolm D. Moore, Markael R. Moore; daughters, Marissa L. Moore and Monet C. Moore. Brothers, Jared Scott, and Julian Desue IV. Sisters, Tara Desue-Jackson and LaShawn Mayes.

Viewing will be held at Mt. Zion A.M.E. in Lawtey Friday, Feb. 2 from 4-6 p.m. Memorial Service will be held at Bradford High School Auditorium Saturday Feb. 3 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. In lieu of flowers the family asks for donations to establish a scholarship fund.

PAID OBITUARY



## Cora Morris

STARKE—Cora Lee Morris, 81, of Starke died Thursday, Jan. 25, 2018 at her residence. She was born in Worthington Springs and later moved to Starke at an early age. She was a member of Church of God By Faith. She attended the local schools of Bradford County. She retired from Northeast Florida State Hospital.

She is survived by: daughter, Jeanette Perry; sons, Lloyd Aldridge, James Aldridge and Freddie Aldridge; sisters, Johnnie Mae Ellis and Betty Lott; 23 grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and many other family members.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 3 in the Church of God by Faith with Pastor Lloyd Aldridge Eulogist conducting the services. Interment will be held in Hawthorne Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of Haile Funeral Home Inc., Starke. Visitation will be held Friday from 3-6 p.m. for friends at the Carl D. Haile Memorial Chapel and one hour prior to the service on Saturday at the church.

then worked in various types of construction which took him to South Carolina, and then to Durham where he and his wife, Susan called home for the last 22 years.

He is survived by: his wife of 21 years, Susan Stanford Oglesby of Durham; sister, Linda Oglesby (Gerald “Jerry” Wilson of Starke); stepdaughter, Amanda Koehler of Davenport; and nieces, Kristin Pfenniger (Christian) Birkedal of Ormond Beach, and Erica Pfenniger (Brian) Canova of Newberry. Also left behind are numerous nieces, nephews, other family members, and friends.

Family will receive friends from 10-11 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 5 at First Baptist Church of Starke. A Celebration of Larry’s Life will follow at 11:00 a.m. with Pastor Ben Bryant officiating. Private family burial will be in Keystone Heights Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made in Larry’s name to Parkwood United Methodist Church, 5123 Revere Road, Durham, NC 27713.

Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Starke. 904-964-6200. www.jonesgallagherfh.com

PAID OBITUARY

## Dean Peeples

LAKE BUTLER—Dean Annan Peeples, 60, of Lake Butler died on Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2018. He was born on Oct. 23, 1957 to Charles and the late Josephine Peeples. Dean attended Union County High School. He is preceded in death by his mother, Josephine Crews Peeples.

He is survived by: his father, Charles Peeples; and sister, Sheri (Don) Fortune; and many other family members.

Services were held on Jan. 28 at Archer Funeral Home. Arrangements are under the care of Archer Funeral Home, Lake Butler.



## Nina Robinson

MELROSE—Nina Catherine Robinson, 94, of Melrose died on Monday, Jan. 29, 2018 at Riverwood Health and Rehab in Starke. She was born in Elm Creek, NE on Nov. 7, 1923 to the late Leslie James and Edna Ada (Prime) DeVoe. She was a homemaker. She was a longtime resident of Melrose and a member of Eliam Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by her husband of 50 years, James Warren Robinson; and brothers, Donavan DeVoe and Eugene DeVoe.

She is survived by: her daughter, Kay K. (Leslie) Domalik of Melrose; and son, Thomas S. (Linda) Robinson of Blackshear, GA; three grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; seven great-great-grandchildren; and many other family members.

Family will receive friends from 1-3 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 2 at Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home. Funeral services will follow at 3:00 p.m. Private family burial will be at Keystone Heights Cemetery. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Keystone Heights.

## Linda Smith

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Linda L. Smith, 71, of Keystone Heights died on Thursday, Jan. 25, 2018 at her daughter’s home, surrounded by her family. She was born in Jacksonville on July 2, 1946 to Andrew Jacob and Annie Mae (Stevens) Feaster. A longtime resident of Keystone Heights, she was an administrator for Oak Hill Christian Academy. She was preceded in death by her parents; and her husband, Billy McCall.

She is survived by: her children, Anthony (Tammy) McCall of LaGrange, GA, Kimberly M. (Thomas) Mitchell of Keystone Heights, and Billy “Dean” McCall of Keystone Heights; siblings, Shirley Sikes of Jacksonville, Andrew Feaster of Jacksonville, and Carol (Robert) Hicks of Jacksonville; eight grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and many other family members.

A celebration life will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 3 at Jones-Gallagher Chapel with Lonnie McDaniel and Leon Johns officiating. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Keystone Heights.

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## Loretta Matthews

MIDDLEBURG—Loretta Josette Matthews, 66, of Middleburg died on Sunday, Jan. 28, 2018 at Haven Hospice Custead Care Center in Orange Park. She was born in Daytona Beach on May 26, 1951 to the late Alfred T. and Maria (Cavalcante) Rhodes.

She is survived by: daughter, Amanda-Maria (James) Leno of Middleburg; and two grandsons.

Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Keystone Heights.

## Lawrence Oglesby

DURHAM, NC—Lawrence “Larry” David Oglesby, age 61, of Durham, NC passed away on Friday, Jan. 26, 2018 in Bensalem, PA. Larry was born on Sept. 17, 1956 to the late Lawrence Theodore “Ted” and Mary Helen (Rivers) Oglesby. He graduated from Bradford County High School in 1974 and worked for the Bradford County Telegraph as a reporter. Eventually, he started his own publication and with the help of his mother, they ran the Middleburg Press for nearly seven years. Larry

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## Anthony Spatafore

**STARKE—** Anthony "Tony" John Spatafore, 84, of Starke died Saturday, Jan. 27, 2018 at Shands University Hospital in Gainesville. He was born in Malanga, NJ and later moved to Starke. He served with the Heilbronn Spring Fire Department in Starke and worked as a store manager. Mr. Spatafore was of the Pentecostal faith and served with the United States Navy.

Arrangements entrusted to Haile Funeral Home Inc., Starke.



## Andrew Timmons Jr.

**LAWTEY—** Andrew Timmons Jr., 50, of Lawtey died Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2018 at his residence. He was a life long resident of Hampton. He was a member of Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, Hampton. He attended the local schools of Bradford County. He was self employed.

He is survived by: son, Andrew Timmons III; parents, Andrew Timmons Sr. and Freddie Timmons of Hampton; brother, Kerry White of Alachua; sister, Natalie Timmons Thomas; one grandchild; and many other family members.

Funeral services will be held at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3 in the True Vine Outreach Ministries Church with Pastor James Crawford conducting the services. Interment will be held in Hampton Cemetery, Hampton. Arrangements are under the direction of Haile Funeral Home Inc., Starke. Visitation will be held on Feb. 2 in the Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, Hampton, 4-6 p.m. and one hour prior to the services on Saturday at True Vine Outreach Ministries Church. The Cortège will form at the home of Timmons Jr. Parent's home on Saturday at 2:00 p.m. at 4523 Southeast 101st Street, Hampton.

## LEGALS

### NOTICE

The New River Community Health Center Board of Directors will meet February 14, 2018 at 395 West Main Street, Lake Butler, FL 32054 from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

2/1 1tchq-B-sect

**KEYSTONE AIRPARK MEETING**  
Keystone Airpark Authority's regular scheduled board meetings will be held on the 1st Tuesday of every month at 6:00 P.M. Location is: 7100 Airport Road, Starke, FL. Agendas and notice of cancellation will be posted on the authority's website at [www.keystoneairport.com](http://www.keystoneairport.com) no later than 72 hours in advance.

2/1 1tchq-B-sect

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## UCHS weightlifter Gainey excels during trying family time

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Staff Writer

During the last three weeks, Union County High School junior Taylor Gainey has won a district championship, earned a runner-up finish at the regional level and qualified to compete in the state finals.

Those accomplishments pale in comparison to what she and her family have experienced in the last year. Thankfully, Gainey can say her parents, Mitchell and Theresa Gainey, are doing

well, with Mitchell having undergone brain surgery and Theresa having had a double mastectomy due to breast cancer.

"It's great," Gainey said of her parents' recovery, "because it is hard to see both of your parents hospitalized and not being able to take care of themselves when you've always known them to be able to take care of themselves and others."

Watching her parents not only come through what they did, but how they handled it as well, has been uplifting, letting Gainey know she can do anything she wants if she sets her mind to it and also showing her how important it is to rely on God.

"They inspire me to know that they didn't let cancer and brain surgery hold them back," Gainey said. "Of course, they didn't let it hinder them spiritually, either. Right now, they praise God for having to go through what they went through."

A happy Taylor Gainey (front, center) poses for a picture with her family after winning the District 4-1A championship in her weight class. She is between her parents, Theresa and Mitchell Gainey, while her brother, Philip, is pictured in the back.

### Handling what the world throws at her

Weightlifting was a great way for her to handle what was going on with her parents.

See GAINAY, 9B



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# Impacting youth is fulfilling for CIS' Boyette, Fox

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

You won't find the letters C, I or S in the words Dream Job, but as far as Martha Boyette and Michelle Fox are concerned, you can't spell those two words without them.

Boyette and Fox are site coordinators for Bradford County's Communities in Schools, or CIS. Those jobs enable them to fulfill a passion — to help children to the best of their abilities, with the hopes of putting them on the path toward a better future.

For Boyette, who is the site coordinator at Bradford Middle School, the job allows her opportunities she couldn't fully take advantage of as a teacher. She once told Kathy Hobbs, the former CIS director, that as a teacher, she wanted to adopt every child she knew that needed some kind of help.

"This is the kind of job you can really get personal with the kids and do something for them," Boyette said. "We're allowed to do things that as teachers we're not allowed to do."

Boyette and her family lived several places when she was a youth on account of her father being in the Navy. She grew up mostly in Texas, but her family eventually moved to Bradford County. She attended Bradford High School her junior and senior years. Boyette's mother was also a BHS graduate, having grown up in Lawtey.

"I started teaching in '94," Boyette said. "I started in Putnam County and then came back to Bradford. I've been here ever since."

She taught third grade and fifth grade at Starke's Southside Elementary. She was approaching retirement time, but Hobbs reached out to her in regard to the job with CIS.

"Kathy Hobbs offered this job to me," Boyette said. "She knew all the things I enjoyed doing with the kids. She said, 'This is right up your alley. You need to do this.' So I retired from teaching and came to this. It is perfect. If there's a perfect job, it's this one. I love it."

## Job is like an extension of the ministry for Fox

Fox, like Boyette, is passionate about working with youth, having a background as a youth pastor. She said she realized the job of CIS site coordinator was perfect for her as soon as she sat down with current CIS Director Shannon Rowe for her interview.

"I get a lot of ministry done without ever having to preach," said Fox, who is the site coordinator at BHS. "You just love on kids and be there for them."

Fox grew up in Keystone Heights, where she's lived since she was 5. The Keystone Heights High School graduate served approximately 20 years as a youth pastor. She's worked at Keystone's First Assembly of God and Starke Community Church.

"I'm still the associate pastor at Starke Community Church," Fox said. "When I stepped away from doing youth ministry, I started kind of doing everything else in the church. I missed the teenagers, but I didn't really want to be a youth pastor again."

Fox became aware that CIS was looking for a site coordinator at BHS and was "thrilled" at the opportunity.

"I actually feel so much more comfortable with teenagers than I do with any other people in the world," Fox said. "It's just a natural fit."

## Discovering and meeting needs

So what is a CIS site coordinator? As Fox explained as a guest speaker at the meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Starke (see related story), site coordinators help CIS work with individual students to make improvements in three areas: attendance, behavior and course performance.

"Case managing students is what we do," Fox said during her talk in front of Kiwanis members. "It means we go in, and we find out what the students' needs are."

The site coordinators have their own rooms on their respective campuses. There, they talk to students and address whatever issues they may be facing. Sometimes it's talking to students about conflict resolution and getting them to

understand they don't have to respond with anger or violence. Other times, it's finding out why certain students are chronically absent and figuring out how to keep them coming to school. CIS offers tutoring services in the site coordinator rooms.

Boyette said she saw one student who should've started her freshman year at high school this year, but who had been retained. The student was embarrassed by that and missed the first two weeks of school because of that. Boyette asked the student to come see her so she could help her, which that student did every day for a month.

"She did so well that she was able to finish up her core classes that she missed and moved on up to the high school half a year early, so she was back where needed to be with her grade," Boyette said.

If students aren't progressing in school like they should, why aren't they? Do they need school supplies? Boyette and Fox can provide those. Maybe they don't have good-quality clothing to wear or appropriate clothing, such as cold-weather attire. Boyette and Fox have clothing to offer (Boyette's room even has a dryer). Do they need mental-health counseling? CIS has an arrangement where a counselor is available to students.

Maybe a need can be met by simply giving the student something to eat. Boyette and Fox know students who do not get enough to eat at home. Therefore, they have food in the rooms.

What happens oftentimes is that while a child is eating, he or she will open up to Boyette or Fox about whatever they're struggling with at home and/or school.

"They love that I have raviolis," Fox said. "I spend \$1 on a can of raviolis, and it's worth a lifetime because a kid sitting there eating raviolis will sit there and talk to me about all manner of things that have happened in their life."

## Caring adults who have the time to help

Fox said it's part of the process of building relationships with students, which better allows her and

understanding they don't have to respond with anger or violence. Other times, it's finding out why certain students are chronically absent and figuring out how to keep them coming to school. CIS offers tutoring services in the site coordinator rooms.

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Martha Boyette, the CIS site coordinator at Bradford Middle School, talks with student

Boyd to help students.

"They have to know they can trust you," Fox said. "I tell them, 'Anything you say in here stays in here unless it's something that will harm you or someone else.'"

Boyette said a site coordinator is described as "a caring adult at the school to offer support."

That in no way is meant to minimize the impact of teachers. Fox said teachers sometimes don't know how to help a particular student's need and don't have the time to try to find out.

Fox and Boyette have the time to make phone calls or go out into the community, seeking whatever resources are available to help a particular child.

"We had kids after the hurricane that were homeless," Fox said. "Their families had no place to go. They didn't qualify for (assistance). I started calling everybody."

Boyette said, "These teachers are always caring adults, but we are the caring adults that have the time to do the extra things, and that makes the difference."

children who have struggles about the possibilities: "What is this day going to bring? Who am I going to see

coasters. Fox said it makes her job sometimes emotionally overwhelming, while Boyette said, "One day you're crying because you're happy for somebody. One day you're crying for them because they're down."

It's heartbreaking that every student in need, the site coordinators said, but it is great to see those children who do respond. Sometimes when she gets to school, Boyette finds children waiting for

"This is the kind of job you can really get personal with the kids and do something for them. We're allowed to do things that as teachers we're not allowed to do."

Yet they wouldn't give up their dream jobs. They want to give children hope for the future. That hope starts with experiencing success at school. Boyette said it means so much to hear a child tell her, "I wouldn't be able to do this if it wasn't for you."

Boyette said each day she goes to work, she gets excited



Martha Boyette

"I hate to say things like that because we're not pinning medals on ourselves," Boyette said, "but that's just what this does for these kids. That's what makes it so rewarding."

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Jovarus Harris about how he's progressing in school. Kiley Powell discusses her grades with Michelle Fox, the CIS site coordinator at Bradford High School.



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**GAINNEY**

Continued from 7B

Gainey said she was able to receive support from her teammates, who were there to listen to anything she needed to say. Plus, the weight room is the one place where Gainey feels the most confident. For her, peace comes with confidence.

"When I'm in here, I know I'm strong physically," Gainey said, "but it also gives me the confidence that I can handle this, and I can handle whatever else the world is throwing at me."

Gainey's father had brain surgery in February due to a cyst, which Gainey said was the size of an egg.

"It wasn't cancerous, but the doctors said that surgery was going to be inevitable because he was going to keep

having migraines," Gainey said.

She and her older brother, Philip, who graduated from UCHS last year, helped to take care of their father during his recovery. Gainey said she'd sometimes stop on her way home from school to get her father some type of food he'd requested of her earlier that day.

Gainey said her father had mostly recovered by the time her mother went through her bout with cancer. Because of Mitchell's work schedule, Gainey said she and her brother would take on the responsibility of cooking meals, washing dishes, etc., while she also made a chart that kept track of her mother's various medications and what times of the day she was supposed to take them.

"I would lay them out for her in the morning and make

sure she took them, then lay out what she needed that evening," Gainey said.

Theresa recently had reconstructive surgery and doesn't have to undergo chemotherapy or radiation.

"I only saw her cry like once or twice through the

"That was the one thing I really leaned on," Gainey said.



Taylor Gainey

"It wasn't cancerous, but the doctors said that surgery was going to be inevitable because he was going to keep having migraines,"

### Family support through weightlifting and life

whole experience" Gainey said. "She was just so strong."

Helping Gainey stay strong through it all was not just lifting weights with her teammates, but also relying upon her faith and her

It means a lot to Gainey to share her weightlifting

accomplishments with her parents, who are both supportive of the endeavor.

"My mom, she just thinks that's really cool," Gainey said, adding, "She's just proud of me and the woman I've become."

Her father really delves into the sport. Gainey said he's gone online and downloaded the state handbooks for girls' weightlifting and read all of them.

"He gets really excited," Gainey said.

Her father hasn't been able to watch her during most of the team's competitions because of his work schedule, though he did make it to the District 4-1A finals just in time to see her receive her championship medal, Gainey said. Her mother has made it to all of the team's home meets as well as the district meet.

As for what her parents will say to her prior to leaving

for Panama City Beach and the state finals, Gainey said, "Of course, my mom tells me always just to give it to God and let him work through me. Something I know my dad will tell me — and what has told me before my past meets — is that when I go out there, I just have to give it my best. If my best isn't great enough (to win), I can say I left it all out there."

Earning a medal at state would be a great accomplishment, but Gainey has learned what's really important — taking advantage of the time you have with loved ones. She said she and her family pray together every day before they go their separate ways to school and work, making sure they express their love for each other.

"We just now realize how precious life really is, and we don't take anything for granted," Gainey said.

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Classified Advertising should be paid in advance unless credit has already been established with the newspaper. A \$3.00 service charge will be added to all billing to cover postage and handling. All ads placed by phone are read back to the advertiser at the time of placement. However, the classified staff cannot be held responsible for mistakes in classified advertising taken by phone. The newspaper reserves the right to correctly classify and edit all copy or to reject or cancel any advertisements at any time. Only standard abbreviations will be accepted.

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Notices

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY. All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 in which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate in which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777, the toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275. For further information call Florida Commission on Human Relations, Lisa Sutherland 850-488-0782 ext #1005

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Motor Vehicles &

Accessories \$CASH\$ FOR JUNK cars, up to \$500. Free pick up, running or not. Call 352-771-6191.

47

Commercial Property (Rent, Lease, Sale)

DOWNTOWNSTARKE Affordable Office Space for rent, 113 E. Call St. Call Freddie American

Dream Realty at 904-509-9893.

BUILDING FOR RENT. Keystone Heights next to W.D. Beck Ins. 3 offices, large conference room, kitchen, 2/BA, parking, \$1000/ per mo. on contract. For info call 904-364-9022.

50

For Rent

LIVE IN THE COUNTRY. 2BR/1BA DW. CH/A, very clean. \$300 deposit. \$550/mo. Call 904-451-5236 or 904-718-6643.

2BR/1BA APT. CH/A. Electric range, refrig, hardwood floors, W/D hook-up, close to schools, \$650/mo. 1st mo. and sec. deposit. Service animals only. References. Call 904-966-1334.

WE HAVE 2 OR 3 bedroom, MH, clean, close to prison. Call 352-468-1323

NEWLY RENOVATED mobile homes. 3 BR/2 BA DW and 2 BR/2 BA. (One) 16x80 2 BR/2 BA. Lake Butler. 1-678-438-6828

HOMES IN KEYSTONE HEIGHTS & STARKE. All are 2BR/2BA Great location. CH/A. Extra clean. From \$650 up to \$950/mo. Senior & mil-

itary discounts offered. Call 904-513-5715 or 352-478-8321.

2BR/1BA TRAILER FOR RENT on private lot. No pets in or outside. \$480/mo. plus \$150/deposit. 904-964-7865

53 A

Yard Sales MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE: Saturday only, 8am-1pm. Rain or shine. Country Club, follow signs. Youth girl's shoes and clothes (Miss Me, Justice, Abercrombie, Toms, Nike), girls Disney dress up, like new toys, junior's clothes and shoes, decorations, lots of misc. items.

YARD SALE Saturday 2/3 starting at 8am 821 Parkwood Pl., Starke

Men and Women's clothing, Women's scrubs, handbags, dishes and other household items

GARAGE SALE: Fri. & Sat. 8am-1pm. Lots of really good stuff. Collectibles, books, DVD's, puzzles, ammo, guns, knives, TV & DVD player, clothes, medical supplies, a really great scooter, on an on. CR 233 Morgan Rd. Rain or shine, look for signs.

CHURCH YARD SALE at Community State Bank. Furniture, clothes, dishes & misc. Weather permitting. Saturday 8am.

57

For Sale COW HAY for sale. Stored in barn. 904-364-6846 or 904-964-8356

1997 FORD MOTOR HOME. 29' long, 47k original miles. \$7000 OBO. Please call 518-

METAL FRAME STUDS. 6" w/16 gauge. 36 studs at 14' & 16 studs at 9' long. 1/2 price on retail/will deliver. Call Brad 904-769-6314 or 904-263-2420.

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Help Wanted DRYWALL: Metal framers and drywall hangers needed. Apply to J.E. Abercrombie, Inc. at 9111 Galveston Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32211 between 7:00am and 9:30am or email contact info to info@jeainc.com. Great pay with benefits. EOE. Drug Test Required.

DRYWALL FOREMAN: J.E. Abercrombie, Inc. is currently seeking Drywall Foremen to join our team. 4+ years of experience and ability to layout required. Top Pay, Vacation Pay and benefits. Call (904)-724-4411, email

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# Bradford County--frontier to car culture

BY JAMES WILLIAMS  
*Special to the Telegraph*

*This is an excerpt from a forthcoming book, "Four Florida Roads," by James Williams, a former Lake Region Monitor Editor. As the title suggests, the book covers the history and impact of Bellamy Road, The Tamiami Trail, U.S. 301 and I-95. Williams hopes to have the book available in print and/or digital by the end of this year.*

## The Age of Livestock

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century insurance maps in the UF Smathers Library's Digital Collection give us a picture of Starke, Florida; before and after several fires, between 1890 and 1910.

The maps show a collection of livery stables, cattle barns, a blacksmith, carriage and harness shops for the sale and repair of transportation in an age when horsepower meant real horses.

Maps aren't the only artifacts of the horse-and-buggy era. Early photos of Starke show improvised hitching posts along Call Street, Starke's commercial main drag back in the day. Like the maps, some photos show a fountain in the middle of the street; it served as a hitching post and watering trough for passing livestock.

The Telegraph's January 4, 1918 edition--the first of the year--carries a large ad for Andrews and Sons Horses and Livestock: a third train carload of animals was on its way, the ad said. The same edition also carried a smaller insurance company ad--perhaps the one that ordered those Smathers Library maps. The company offered fire, home, life, plate glass and--a new product--auto insurance.

The county's isolated farm families tended to stay put, in part because of the roads. Small five- to ten-family churches and elementary schools were built nearby to avoid travel. Never entirely self-sufficient, families hitched the horse and buggy to go shopping only when necessary.

Off and on, Starke had been the Bradford County seat since at least 1872, when Eugene S. Matthews was born in Providence. But in part because of roads and difficult transportation, he had never been to Starke until one day in 1893 he (probably) took a train from Ocala, at 21 years of age, to buy the county newspaper.

Once it was his, if Matthews' paper reported Miss Sew and Sew from Hampton visited Mrs. Lotta Doe of Starke last Sunday, and they had a delightful luncheon, it wasn't because Matthews was filling space or thought it important news, or because the two ladies would buy his paper to see their names in print. Matthews was encouraging social behavior, building community, putting the urban balm of socializing on ossifying rural isolation.

In 1915, it was common for in-county travelers from as little as six to thirty miles away--Hampton or Lake Butler, say--to make their laborious way in a buggy to do business at the county seat and stay overnight with friends or in a hotel. This was preferable meeting some dire emergency while returning home on lonely, treacherous roads at night.

The Bradford County Telegraph reported on these business visitors, too, and their overnight stays. More than a social note--such items spoke to the state of the local economy.

Intentionally or not, Eugene Matthews was leading Bradford County readers out of a horse-and-buggy era toward a 20<sup>th</sup> Century car culture, a get-out-of-the-house and travel culture, and step-by-step, into a larger world.

On another page in the 1918 first-of-the-year edition, readers found a small notice that new auto and chauffeur licenses and tags had to be purchased and attached to a vehicle by January 1. Applications could be made only by mail to the state comptroller in Tallahassee.

The last Telegraph edition of that same year, Dec. 27, 1918, was filled with stories of "our doughboys over there" and World War I, but now carried a notice that 1919 auto taxes were due. The legislature had changed the rates: there was now a \$2 motorcycle fee and a \$100 tax for vehicles seating 10 or more. Forms could be picked up at a local garage or the tax collector's office, but still had to be submitted by mail to the state comptroller in Tallahassee.

Elsewhere in the December paper, was a page two ad for the Ford Garage, "the universal car" with "the best trucks on the market" (\$550.) A back page ad showed a hand-operated, gas-powered garden tractor.

There were no horse-related ads in the yearend edition.

## The dawn of the horseless carriage

In 1920, the Telegraph announced the opening of another new garage and machine company, to be located in a fireproof building south of the Bradford County Bank. A few months later, another Ford garage went up.

A September 1921 Telegraph reported that the F.L. Sherman family had driven in their Ford truck over 2,000 miles from Maine to Starke to visit relatives. Mr. Sherman, a civil engineer and former railroad man, had built small house on the back of the family truck:

"...no trouble was experienced before Middleburg was passed," the Telegraph said, "and the deep, sandy roads began. There, another car had to be engaged to help them progress as far as to Kingsley Lake, where A.S. Strickland's truck helped the travelers through the sand hills."

It wasn't only out-of-state travelers who ran into trouble on Central Florida roads; everyone did. In good weather, the roads were sandy; when wet they became quicksand with deep ruts and rivers of mud.

Twenty-one years into the new century, much of Bradford was still making do with bad roads, a problem for all, but easier for real horse power than new-fangled automobiles. Many complained about roads, but good roads were expensive.

In 1922, Matthews sadly noted the total absence of horse traders at a recent agricultural exposition. When the last of Starke's old livery stables was torn down, the Telegraph reported on it. The water fountain in the middle of Call Street had long since been removed.

Ready or not, like it or not, in only four years it seemed as if much of Bradford County had dumped old Dobbin and gotten itself a horseless carriage. The Woman's Club began to ask businesses to decorate automobile parking lots with trees, shrubs and flowers.

In February 1924, Matthews published a list of "30 Don'ts for Autoists." It had been compiled by an association of Florida cities, all of which were seeing the same offenses happening repeatedly thanks to an untutored, ill-mannered driving public.

"1. Don't park on the wrong side of the road," it said. "2. Don't back up without blowing your horn. 3. Don't speed up when anyone asks for the road. 4. Don't pass anyone on a curve...7. Don't run over a child. 8. Don't drive on the wrong side of the road. 9. Don't try to mix whiskey and gasoline; they won't mix. 10. Don't forget to dim your lights when passing another car...12. Don't forget that the pedestrian has as much right to street crossings as you have...15. Don't neglect your brakes as they are very handy at times. 26. Don't hog the road as you may hit someone. 17. Don't forget to signal when turning to the left and when stopping...20. Don't leave your car unlocked...24. Don't forget there are jay

walkers. 25. Don't permit bicycle riders to "catch on" to your car. 26. Don't fail to stop, look and listen at (railroad) crossings. 27. Don't forget to have both your lights burning at night. 28. Don't permit any child under 14 years of age to drive your car....30. Don't fail to read and obey traffic signs."

## New prohibitions

Children of course, would be the chief recipients of the good and ill effects of 20<sup>th</sup> Century progress--including its automobiles. Instead of walking to school, they began to ride in a school bus. Going for a drive in the family auto was always great fun, and kids looked so cute taking over the steering wheel. Children had always played in whatever roads existed. But traffic was more frequent; the dangers intensified.

The Telegraph went from occasional notices of transportation-related accidents prior to the 20s to a never-ending 1930s horror show of reports on the deaths of one child after another: children hit by passing cars, children driving automobiles that overturned, children falling or being thrown from parent-driven automobiles in collisions. One Bradford boy was killed when he leaned from an auto window and hit his head on a passing pole.

A 1922 item warned parents not to allow any child under 16 to operate a vehicle unless a parent was present. This was as good an idea then as now, but there was no actual law against youngsters "learning to drive." Nor outside of town, was there any agency to enforce such a law had there been any. It was three years after Prohibition began before intoxicated driving was suddenly against the law.

In 1924, Bradford's school superintendent declared that he wanted all autos kept away from Bradford schools. A new law required motorists to stop before passing a stationary school bus or face a \$300 fine.

The new automobile meant new crimes and misdemeanors. "Speeding on the highways must stop," said the sheriff in a 1922 Telegraph. Municipal law enforcement was constantly looking for reckless drivers, like the one that demolished park benches in the City of Starke.

The state legislature established a statewide, in-town speed limit of 20 mph in cities and towns. But what you did with your car between towns was another matter entirely.

Matthews frequently published stories of motorists driving on wheel rims; the perpetrators often drunken Negroes whom Matthews identified as such. But to include the (white) farming and logging communities and spread the guilt around where it also belonged, in April 1928, he published this notice, on a front page without comment:

## Criminal Liability for Damage to Roads

Chapter 9375 Special Acts 1923 makes it a misdemeanor, punishable as provided by general law to (operate) vehicles, trucks, tractors and log carts, disc harrows and cutters in a manner injurious to roads of Bradford County Florida... the Bradford County Road

Department hereby gives notice that it shall seek to bring to justice all future offenders.

By 1924, there were reports of auto thefts, and a nighttime robbery of a stranded motorist on Lake Butler Road. In 1928, locals and out-of-towners alike were dumping trash along the highways.

After a reckless driver tore up the Waldo Bridge connecting Bradford and Alachua Counties, for the third time, the bridge would have to be rebuilt.

Traffic deaths and serious injuries were reported two and three at a time on the Telegraph's front page by the 1930s. Matthews could be charged with the alleged news maxim, "If it bleeds, it leads," but he was just telling readers, "Be more careful out there."

## Safety first

Over a four year period in the 1920s, the Telegraph ran items suggesting it would be a good idea for motorists to move to the side of the road when a fire truck was coming. Then, it suggested "hospital cars" be given the same courtesy and finally police cars with lights and sirens. Eventually it wasn't just a good idea, it was a law.

As both a member of the state legislature and a member of the state utility board, Matthews helped regulate the railroads.

But as a newspaper editor, he also knew the danger to automobiles and drivers at railroad crossings. When he was older, one of his own adult children died in an automobile on a railroad track.

He also knew trains often hit cattle wandering on the tracks. Such slaughter was always the railroad's liability. Hundreds of thousands of dollars were being paid annually to Florida stockmen, as their unfenced cattle roamed the land.

In the Telegraph's March 2, 1923 edition, railroad advocate J.H. Moore of Lawtey, defended the safety of railroad travel:

"Safety First.... Anyone who reads the daily papers will agree with me that there are more people killed in our state by not looking out before driving cars on railway crossings than... killed (while riding) all the railroads in our state. If there is anyone interested in a law to protect our women and children from being killed in those joy wagons, tell it to the papers."

As if to drive home Moore's point, that week Matthews also printed two front page stories of drivers and their passengers killed at a railroad crossing. A mother and daughter had

been hit by a train in Alachua. In Hampton, it was the son of a noted shingle mill owner: that story included a gruesome description of bystanders collecting body parts to put in a box until a coffin arrived.

In a June, 1927 edition, Matthews told readers: "The bill passed by the legislature provided for motor vehicles to come to a stop at all grade railroad crossings was signed by Governor Martin Wednesday and is now a law of the state."

Railroad men were already unhappy that horseless carriages were killing business on their passenger trains. It would be another twenty years before the state would shift the onus of responsibility for safety at railroad crossings off the public and onto the railroads.

## Autos and the state

In 1905, auto owners made their own license plates. In 1918, Florida began providing standardized plates for each vehicle—for a price. The automotive public would pay for tags, naturally, but who could affordably manufacture them?

Why prisoners of course! Gov. Hardee outlawed convict peonage in 1923; inmates could no longer be leased to corporations as cheap labor; but they could be compelled to work for the state. By 1927, most Florida correctional institutions had license plate manufacturing equipment. By 1928, every vehicle owner had to buy a license plate from the State.

But who would sell those license plates? With 24.7 million motor vehicles in Florida, the Comptroller in Tallahassee couldn't keep up any more. Each county would sell the plates; and it seemed appropriate the county tax collector to get the job.

Not surprisingly, license plate theft became a frequent crime, even after the motor vehicle department found a way to render stolen tags useless. The public never understood that the state determined the price of a tag, not by the cost

of making the license plate, but by the cost of building and maintaining roads over which the autos would drive. By 1930, auto owners had resigned themselves to buying not a one-time auto license, but one a year.

Then, Federal, state and local governments discovered gas and oil taxes. The .8 cent per gallon gas tax of 1920 had risen to seven cents per gallon by 1931, and continued to climb. As with license plates, auto owners might find their gas tanks empty one morning when they'd filled the tank just the night before. Gas theft was especially common during The Great Depression; if Matthews heard about it, he reported on it.

In the Dec. 27, 1929 edition, Matthews told readers neglect of their auto was their own worst enemy. "We pour alcohol into our radiator... in winter," he said, "and forget to drain it out again when the weather gets warm.... we put oil in the crankcase, (when) a gas station attendant reminds us..."

In November, 1931, Matthews told Bradford readers that the sheriff of Starke was now issuing tickets to all who double-parked on Call Street.

In 1932, the Telegraph reported that the state motorcar inspector came to town "...to aid local agents in their work.... He urges those who have purchased 1932 tags to place them on their cars at once as it proves annoying to all concerned to find many carrying them in their cars, and is in violation of the law not to properly place them on their cars as they should be."

In 1939 the Florida Highway Patrol was created. Also that year, every driver was required to have a driver license. There was no test involved; anybody could get one from a county judge. A head of household could by several and distribute them to members of his or her family.

Bradford and Florida's transition to a car culture was, nearly, but not yet entirely complete.

**405 S. Lawrence Blvd  
Keystone Heights, FL  
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Fax: (352) 478-2059**  
**Mon - Fri  
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