

# UNION COUNTY TIMES

USPS 648-200 — Lake Butler, Florida

Thursday, February 8, 2018

105<sup>th</sup> Year — 42<sup>nd</sup> Issue — 75 CENTS

## etc.

### Rules for Valentine Deliveries to UCHS

Deliveries to Union County High School will be accepted on Feb. 14 in the Media Center from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. Deliveries after 1 p.m. will not be accepted. Signs will be posted directing deliveries to the east entrance of the Media Center. Student will receive their items during 7<sup>th</sup> period.

Latex balloons are not allowed, but Mylar or metallic balloons are acceptable. Keep in mind that glass containers and balloons will not be allowed on buses. Candy and other food items must be sealed from the manufacturer and not home-wrapped. If several gifts are for one student they must be tied together or place in a single gift bag. All deliveries must be marked with the student's name and grade level.

Students leaving school early may pick up their items when they sign out. Delivered items must be picked up by the person they are addressed to on the card. Items not picked up on Feb. 14 may be picked up the next day and UCHS assumes no responsibility for lost or undeliverable items.

For more information please contact Linda Norcross at 496-4194.

### FarmShare Food Distribution Feb. 10

The monthly FarmShare food distribution for February will take place on Feb. 10 at the big pavilion at Lakeside Park. Volunteers are asked to arrive at 7 a.m. and the distribution will take place from 8:30-10:30 a.m., or until supplies run out. Come early as the distribution is first come, first served.

### Woman's Club to Host Annual Valentine Lunch

The Lake Butler Woman's Club will hold its annual Valentine Lunch on Feb. 13 at the newly remodeled (but not yet finished) clubhouse from 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Meals are available dine in or take out. There is a suggested \$8 donation. The proceeds from this lunch will be used to continue the clubhouse renovation project and fund the club's annual scholarship.

### UC Veteran's Service Office Special Hours

The Union County Veteran Service Office will be closed on Wednesday, March 7, 2018. It will reopen the next Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. until noon.

### UCBOCC to Hold Public Hearing

The Union County Board of County Commissioner will be holding a public hearing on Monday, Feb. 19 at 5:30 p.m.

See ETC., 1A

## Flu is here

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Times Editor

It's flu season once again and everyone is running around, trying to avoid being breathed on by anyone who looks even remotely ill, shunning those who obviously are and chugging orange juice like it is going out of style. This is one annual event no one wants to be a part of!

This year's flu is more virulent and deadly than expected. Reports that this year's flu vaccine may be ineffective, or a little as 10% effective are false. The "10 percent report" comes from Australia and is one report of the effectiveness of the vaccine used there for the most common strain of flu circulating there (H3N2). The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has not yet determined the effectiveness of the vaccine used in the United States and the strain of flu we are facing {A(H3)}. In any case, according to the Florida Department of Health, any flu inoculation can be of some benefit, even if it is not for the specific strain going around. It seems that a flu vaccination, for any strain, can provide protection, in the form of antibodies which are effective against other strains — after all, these strains are all types of influenza.

This flu season has been bad, one of the worst of the past decade. The Florida Department of Health manages a website called "The Flu Review" ([www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/influenza/index/html](http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/influenza/index/html)) that is updated weekly with flu news. For Week 3, this newsletter reported Bradford County as having elevated cases reported (the only county in the state for that week). Week Four, which concluded Jan. 24, shows Bradford County, shows activity as moderate to slightly elevated in Bradford County, moderate in Union County and mild in Clay County. As far as outbreaks, in this case sharp increases in flu cases connected with a setting where people congregate (schools, churches, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, etc.), Bradford is listed as having only one or two, Union listed at zero and Clay also listed at one or two.

Statewide, the numbers have been more frightening. The percentage of emergency room visits for flu-like symptoms is the highest it has been in the past four flu seasons at almost seven percent. As of Week Four statistics, there have been 317 deaths from influenza in the state, including at least five children. State sources said they do not believe the health crises to continue and more deaths are expected. Just during Week 4 (Jan. 21-27) there were 82 outbreaks in 33 counties in the state.

Avoiding the flu is the only means of not getting sick. Vaccinations can help (see above) but avoiding places where people congregate and trying to avoid people infected with the virus are the best means. Unfortunately, the most common places listed above where people often congregate are also those places where the people considered to be most at risk from the virus.

At risk persons include children younger than five-years of age and especially under age 2 (it should be noted that most child deaths occur in unvaccinated children with underlying health conditions), adults 65 year of age and over, pregnant women, residents of nursing homes and long-term health care facilities, people with chronic medical conditions, such as asthma, neurological conditions, lung disease, heart disease, blood, kidney or liver disorders and

See FLU, 2A

# State Champions



Can you say best in the state? Union County High School had four individual champions and won the school's first-ever team title in girls' weightlifting. Pictured (l-r) are: Taylor Gainey, Breyonce Cummings, Josie Godwin, coach Bryan Griffis, Brandy McCoy, Kurston Bakken and Mia Jackson. More on this story in the Regional section.

## 41 Years and They Are Still Valentine Sweethearts

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Times Editor

Love is funny. Sometimes it can rise and then fall in a short time, remembered fondly, or less so, as people move on to the next thing or person. Real love, the kind remarked by St. Valentine's Day, is different, mostly because it is love with staying power, sometimes referred to as commitment.

Patti and Dave Mecusker have been married for 41 years, but, according to Patti, "the honeymoon is not over. I love him more now than I did when I married him and I didn't think that was possible." Dave reciprocates the feeling, saying "Patti is my best friend. She is the most compassionate and non-judgmental person I know. Besides that, she is just wonderful!"

Dave and Patti came from different areas as children.

See 41 YEARS, 2A

## Emily O'Neal the New Miss U-Co High

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Times Editor

In a pageant full of glittering dresses and talented performances, Emily O'Neal stood out among the seven young ladies in competition to take the title of Miss Union County High School 2018.

O'Neal won the overall contest, as well as the talent, casual wear (co-winner with Ciarra Hopkins), on-stage question (co-winner with Macey Hardey) and most photogenic competitions.

First runner-up Ciarra Hopkins won the interview, casual wear, most photogenic, Miss Congeniality, Highest Academic Achievement, Best Evening Gown events and the activities award. Second runner-up standing went to Macey Hardey, who also won the one stage question and opening number presentation events. Audyn Woodington took honors as third runner up. Elizabeth Avila took home the Directors Award.

Congratulations from the Times to all the young ladies who participated in this year's pageant.



Miss U-Co High: Emily O'Neal. Photo: Sam Warren

## LBMS Busy Bees Know How to Spell

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Times Editor

Lake Butler Middle School students have once again proven they know how to spell as a number of them made a show of the 2018 Union County District Spelling Bee.

During the latter part of last school year and the first couple of months of the current year it was questionable as to whether there would be spelling bees in north Florida schools at all. Long-time spelling bee sponsor, the Florida Times Union, had said they would no longer sponsor the event. It was only at the last minute a new sponsor stepped up to keep the bees buzzing. JAX Sports (the Jacksonville Sports Council) sponsored the bees this year and it is hoped they will continue to do so in the future.

The process of a spelling bee is simple. One student is selected from each class at LBMS. All of these students are given, in advance of the competition, a list of words to learn. When the big day arrives, the students assemble in the media center and are called to the podium one at a time and a word from the list is read to them. If the student is not sure of the word they can request a definition be given.

The student will then attempt to spell the word. If they succeed they move on to the next round, if they cannot spell it they are eliminated from competition.

This year's event was judged by Sherry Bennett, who has served as a judge for more than 20 years, and Kevin Thornton, a four-time LBMS Spelling Bee winner himself.

Thirty-eight students participated in this year's bee. The fifth-grade classroom winners were: Braden Adams, Terry Bryant, Harrison Cunningham, Malena Dillow, Bryce Hunt, Jeremiah Mckenzie, Savannah Miller, Hayley Sherrod, Krista Tanner and Nathan White.

Sixth-grade classroom winners were: Jewel Dekle, Grant Dicks, Gabriel Fillyaw, Chase Galatin, William Johnson, Calista Law, Kearstin Leet, Kersey McSpadden, Gracy Parrish and Kody Stalnaker.

Seventh-grade classroom winners were: Cole Anderson-Davis, Drew Manning, Faith Pringle, Mike Ring, Reagan Robinson, Makayla Tate, Savana Tucker, Mikah Wilson and Caleb Zapp.

Eighth-grade classroom winners were: Kyla Boney, Sierra Garland, Jesse Kelly, Joseph

Kirby, Landon Klein, Amelia Long, Aidan Newsom, Tenli Parrish and Logan Williams.

Competition went on for three rounds and 84 words, coming down to a final five students. The four runners-up and the word that defeated them were:

Grant Dicks — 6<sup>th</sup> Grade — "yieldable."

Calista Law — 6<sup>th</sup> Grade — "Crusoe."

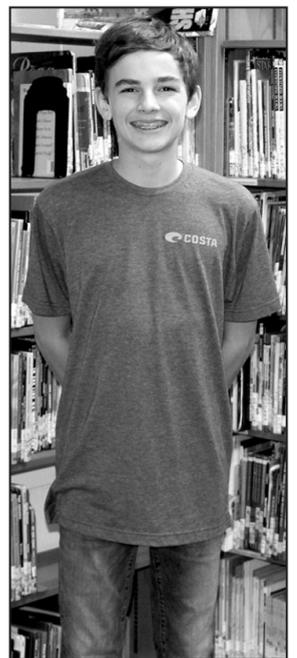
Cole Anderson-Davis — 7<sup>th</sup> Grade — "matinee."

Faith Pringle — 7<sup>th</sup> Grade — "feldspar."

The Union County District Spelling Bee champion for 2018 was eighth-grader Aidan Newsom. First, he spelled the word "adjacent" correctly and then, for the win, spelled "lunatic."

Aidan and one of the runners-up, who will be selected through a "spell-off," will travel to Jacksonville on March 9 to compete in the First Coast Regional Spelling Bee, to be held at the Florida Theatre. Although the National Spelling Bee is televised on ESPN, everyone is wondering about the regional competition as the entry packet has a television release form in it.

As in previous years, all the LBMS competitors were



Aidan Newsom

Deadline Monday 5 p.m. before publication • Phone 904-964-6305 • Fax 904-964-8628

uctimeseditor@gmail.com • www.StarkeJournal.com • www.facebook.com/unioncountytimes



# FPL Plans Solar Farms in UC

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Times Editor

Florida Power and Light is in the planning stages for locating two solar “farms” in Union County and the Union County Board of County Commissioners is excited about the prospect, which could bring jobs and additional property tax revenue to the county.

Since 2009 FPL has been committing itself to more and more solar power generation. Its parent company, Nextera Energy, FPL’s sister company, is the world’s number one producer of renewable energy from the wind and the sun and operates in more than 25 states and Canada, although it is based in Florida. It consistently ranks in Fortune Magazine’s Worlds Most Admired Companies.

FPL itself is the largest of Florida’s 55 electric utilities, powering about half the state. In Florida, the company has 4.8 million customer accounts

which serve nearly 10 million people. It is the third largest utility company in the United States. Current solar power generating installations include Next Generation Solar Energy Centers, and the years in which they were established include: Desoto (2009), Space Coast (2010), Martin (2010), Babcock ranch (2016), Manatee (2016) and Citrus (2016).

FPL is committed to continuing its growth in solar power generation, especially since the cost of solar power generation is in decline. FPL’s plans for 16 solar sites in Florida have been approved by the Florida Public Service Commission. They plan to produce 300 megawatts of power per year from 2017 to 2020 and to have units installed to generate over 1,500 megawatts per year by 2020. In January 2018, they plan to have an additional 300 megawatts in service, generated at centers in Alachua/Putnam, Putnam, Desoto and Indian River counties and an additional 300 MW in March with the addition of Brevard, another Indian River facility, St. Lucie and Hendry counties.

In Union County, FPL plans to execute a project in two phases. FPL engineer Scott Scolville told commissioners that the company has secured the use of 1,200 acres

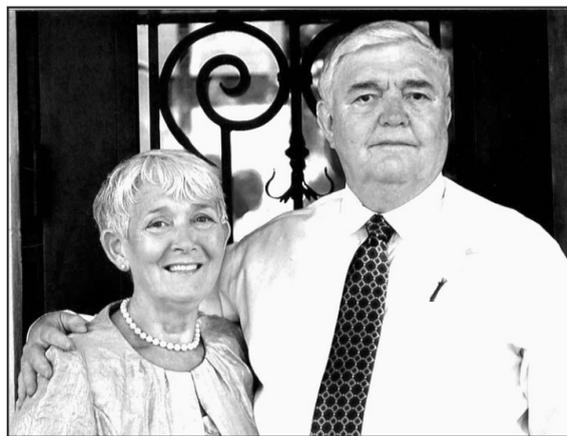
of forested land for use in the project. He said that the majority of this land was already zoned for industrial use, but a small portion was currently zoned for agriculture. He said that over the next year FPL would be approaching the commission with requests for changes to the comprehensive land use plan, zoning changed and permitting for the project.

FPL plans to spend much of 2018 in planning and securing the needed changes and permits, 2019 in construction of an initial 400-acre project and begin energy generation from these 400 acres in 2020, while pursuing developing more of the land they have secured the use of. Scolville said this first 400-acre phase will produce 75 megawatts of power when it is brought on line. This is enough power generated to run about 15,000 homes. The construction phase of the project will provide about 200-250 jobs.

The project, once completed, is silent, shows no lighting at night, causes no increase in traffic and uses no water or fuel. The solar panels sit low to the ground on a rack system. The only disturbance to the ground is the post which support the rack, which are driven into the ground. There is no digging, fill or concrete work at all.

The installation takes into consideration the preservation of wetlands, environmental concerns and effects on pollinators.

“I think this is a good thing for the county,” said Commission Chairperson Karen Cossey. At the end of the FPL presentation she told the representatives that they could expect cooperation and support from the county in any way possible.



Patti and Dave Mecusker – 41 years and still going strong.

## 41 YEARS Continued from 1A

Dave’s family moved to Lake Butler in 1960 from Gainesville after retiring there from Jacksonville. Patti came from Oklahoma by way of Seattle.

The couple met through mutual friends – a husband who worked with Dave at the RMS and a wife who worked with Patti at the Tacachale Center. They had been dating a while when Patti decided to join the Navy. They continued to date (she was stationed in Gainesville at the Reserve Center), then got married during her second tour of duty. The couple married in the church they both attend, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Their marriage was sealed in the Washington, D.C. temple “for all time and eternity.”

Patti stayed in the military for six and one-half years, until they closed the Navy Reserve Center in Gainesville and wanted her to move to Jacksonville or Orlando and she decided to opt-out.

Dave had started working in the DOC in 1971. He was

transferred to Glade Correctional Institution in Belle Glade and the couple set up housekeeping there. Patti went to work at the institution as well, as the assistant to the medical director. The couple then moved to Tamoka CI where Dave worked as the institution’s business manager and Patti worked as a correctional officer to the Volusia County DOC. She advanced from CO all the way to being the first female warden in Volusia County jails in just seven years.

Dave was given a promotion to Chief of Regional Administrative Services, a job located in Tampa. He took the job but commuted for four years while Patti stayed with her job in Daytona. She continued to work in Daytona, commuting for a year, when the couple moved to Lake Butler so Dave could take a position as Assistant Warden at the RMC. Patti took a voluntary demotion and took a job with the Florida Department of Corrections as an inspector in Gainesville, then she was promoted to Assistant Warden at FSP, the first woman to hold the position at that facility. In 1999, she was promoted to Warden at Lawtey Correctional, again the first female warden at that institution.

Before long the couple was on the move again. Dave was promoted to Director of Internal Auditing with the state in Tallahassee and Patti was promoted to Warden at Waculla CI in Tallahassee. The couple lived in state housing until she retired in 2005. Dave took a voluntary demotion to Assistant Warden at Lawtey CI to “get the family back to Lake Butler.” The family lived in state housing in Raiford for a time before building their home. Dave retired from the DOC in 2009.

Dave stayed retired for about a year, but a job he had always wanted from the time it was created came open and he just had to apply – the city manager of Lake Butler. He applied and was hired, first as acting city manager for three months and then in the official position with a 3-year contract. That contract has been renewed for a total time of service to the city of seven and one-half years and now Dave is getting ready for his second retirement on Feb. 24.

The couple is looking forward to more time together and, after all their traipsing around with their respective careers, another little change is easy to take in stride. The Mecusker’s have four children: Brad, Chris, Amanda and Megan. These four

children have given them 12 grandchildren (seven boys and five girls, ages two months to age 16). Both of them enjoy spending time with their grandchildren, who spend most of their time at their grandparent’s home. As of yet, the couple has no great-grandchildren, both agree they will welcome them when they arrive.

Dave has a special activity he likes to engage in with his grandchildren and he is looking forward to having more time in which to do it.

“I select one grandchild and take them out to dinner – we both dress up and I let them choose the restaurant,” Dave said. “They pick what they want to eat and we enjoy some one-on-one time. They all look forward to their next turn.”

The couple plans to do a little traveling and spend time on their “hobby” farm in Union County. Patti enjoys working in the house, but also likes to mow and do yard work. Dave loves to mow as well, so races to the lawn mower can be anticipated. “We will have to take turns,” Dave said. Patti gardens and Dave plants fruit trees. Both are very home oriented and their home was custom designed for family living. Dave said the family had strong bonds with one another and they all loved spending time together whenever possible.

“The romance is still alive,” Dave said. “It is like we were married yesterday. I can’t believe it’s been 41 years. Time really dies fly. I told Patti that one day we both would retire and we would be on permanent vacation. I’m really eager to see how that works out.”

Patti already has some ideas about how things will work once Dave is retired.

“I am so happy about his retirement,” she said. “I have already developed several year’s worth of ‘honey do’ lists.”

Dave is a little melancholy about leaving his position with the city, but is also looking forward to the freedom it will bring.

“I will miss the people I work with and many of the citizens of the city,” Dave said. “I may not have been able to make everyone happy, as that is really an impossible goal, but I have done my best and I think I have done some small measure of good for the city of Lake Butler. Now, the love of my life and I are going to jump in the car and drive to Maine and eat lobster . . . just as soon as I talk her into it.”

Bon voyage!

## Me and My Shadow

Hosting a Career Shadowing Student

BY TRACY LEE TATE

Times Editor

Career shadowing is an interesting concept. It allows students to select a vocation in which they may be interested and spend a few hours following



Taylor Whitaker

someone around who does that job for a living and seeing what the job involves.

The idea of being selected for this exercise is ego-building for the followee, but also a little daunting. We all know that many jobs have a few good days, a few bad days and the majority are mediocre. For a student experience like this, you really want it to be a good day – which in this job means setting up an interview with someone you know will give you a good

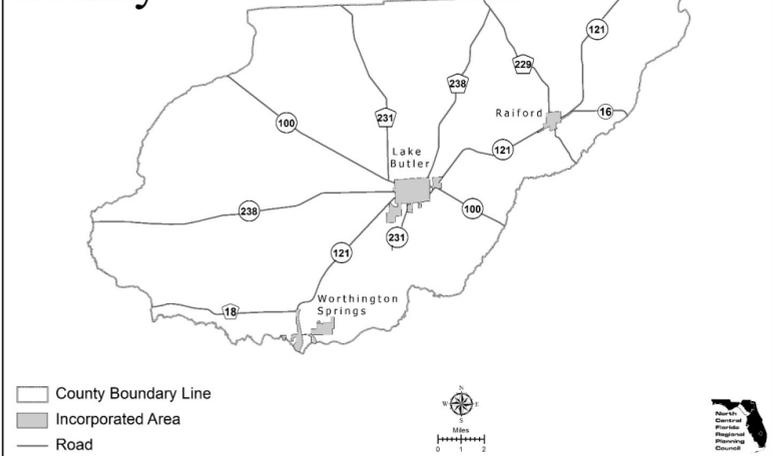
See SHADOW, 3A

## NOTICE OF LAND USE CHANGE

The Board of County Commissioners of Union County, Florida proposes to regulate the use of land within the area as shown on the map below by amending the text and the Future Land Use Plan Map Series of the Comprehensive Plan, hereinafter referred to as the Comprehensive Plan, as follows:

CPA 17-02, an application by the Board of County Commissioners to amend the text and the Future Land Use Plan Map Series of the Comprehensive Plan by deleting Policy I.3.2 of the Future Land Use Element; by adding Objective I.3 and associated policies to the Future Land Use Element to regulate extraction activities, and renumbering the sequential objectives and associated policies; by amending the objectives and policies of the Suwannee River System 100-Year Floodplain Special Planning Area section of the Future Land Use Element to add the Santa Fe River and the New River; by amending the Policy S.3.4 of the Suwannee River System 100-Year Floodplain Special Planning Area section of the Future Land Use Element to comply with buffer standards established for mining activities pursuant to the policies of Objective I.3 of the Future Land Use Element; by deleting Illustration A-X of the Future Land Use Plan Map Series, entitled Mining Areas; by amending Policies V.2.1 and V.2.6 of the Conservation Element to add mining activities; by amending Policy V.2.8 of the Conservation Element to replace regulating mining operations within wetlands to prohibit mining operations within wetlands; by amending Policy V.4.7 of the Conservation Element to add language to include the applicant, any proposed mining activity, and mining operation permit to the requirements of this policy.

### Union County



The first of two public hearings on the proposed amendment will be held on February 19, 2018 at 5:45 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the Boardroom of the Union County Courthouse at 55 West Main Street, Lake Butler, Florida. The Board of County Commissioners will hold the public hearing to consider the amendment, conduct a first reading of the ordinance adopting the amendment and consider transmittal of the amendment to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. The title of said ordinance reads, as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA, RELATING TO AN AMENDMENT TO THE TEXT AND FUTURE LAND USE PLAN MAP SERIES OF THE UNION COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION, CPA 17-02, BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, UNDER THE AMENDMENT PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED IN SECTIONS 163.3161 THROUGH 163.3248, FLORIDA STATUTES, AS AMENDED; PROVIDING FOR DELETING POLICY I.3.2 OF THE FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT; PROVIDING FOR ADDING OBJECTIVE I.3 AND ASSOCIATED POLICIES TO THE FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT TO REGULATE EXTRACTION ACTIVITIES, AND RENUMBERING THE SEQUENTIAL OBJECTIVES AND ASSOCIATED POLICIES; PROVIDING FOR AMENDING THE OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES OF THE SUWANNEE RIVER SYSTEM 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN SPECIAL PLANNING AREA SECTION OF THE FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT TO ADD THE SANTA FE RIVER AND THE NEW RIVER; PROVIDING FOR AMENDING THE POLICY S.3.4 OF THE SUWANNEE RIVER SYSTEM 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN SPECIAL PLANNING AREA SECTION OF THE FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT TO COMPLY WITH BUFFER STANDARDS ESTABLISHED FOR MINING ACTIVITIES PURSUANT TO THE POLICIES OF OBJECTIVE I.3 OF THE FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT; PROVIDING FOR DELETING ILLUSTRATION A-X OF THE FUTURE LAND USE PLAN MAP SERIES, ENTITLED MINING AREAS; PROVIDING FOR AMENDING POLICIES V.2.1 AND V.2.6 OF THE CONSERVATION ELEMENT TO ADD MINING ACTIVITIES; PROVIDING FOR AMENDING POLICY V.2.8 OF THE CONSERVATION ELEMENT TO REPLACE REGULATING MINING OPERATIONS WITHIN WETLANDS TO PROHIBIT MINING OPERATIONS WITHIN WETLANDS; PROVIDING FOR AMENDING POLICY V.4.7 OF THE CONSERVATION ELEMENT TO ADD LANGUAGE TO INCLUDE THE APPLICANT, ANY PROPOSED MINING ACTIVITY, AND MINING OPERATION PERMIT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS POLICY; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

The public hearing may be continued to one or more future dates. Any interested party shall be advised that the date, time and place of any continuation of the public hearing shall be announced during the public hearing and that no further notice concerning the matter will be published, unless said continuation exceeds six calendar weeks from the date of the above referenced public hearing.

At the aforementioned public hearing, all interested parties may appear to be heard with respect to the amendment.

Copies of the amendment are available for public inspection, at the Office of the Board of County Commissioners, located at 15 Northeast First Street, Lake Butler, Florida, during regular business hours.

All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact Dianne Hannon, Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners at 386.496.4241 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 1.800.955.8770 or 1.800.955.8771.

## FLU Continued from 1A

immune or metabolic disorders.

Flu shots are still available and are recommended. For persons who cannot afford one there are programs at county health departments to assist them, with no-cost or low-cost shots available. Anti-viral drugs are also recommended in many cases and there are also programs though the CDC for those who cannot afford them.

It is highly recommended that persons with the flu stay home until the fever had dropped and stays down for at least 24 hours. One person can infect an entire office or classroom in just a short time.

Most sources encourage seeking medical assistance if someone develops flu symptoms, mainly to prevent common complications such as pneumonia. Symptoms include a fever over 100 degrees F, headache, extreme tiredness, dry cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, muscle aches and stomach symptoms such as nausea or diarrhea. Danger signs include: fast or difficult breathing, a bluish skin color, not drinking enough fluids, not being able to wake up or interact with others, irritability (especially in children when they refuse to be held), symptoms which abate then return with fever and a worse cough and a fever accompanied by a rash. If a person shows any of these danger signs they should immediately seek medical attention.

Flu is a part of the winter season and we all must deal with it every year. Key is to know just what we are dealing with, what to expect and when to ask for help. If everyone does this then we can all come through this dreaded season in safety.

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Daniel Hildebran, General Manager

Editor:	Tracy Lee Tate
Sports Editor:	Cliff Smelley
Advertising:	John R. Tillman
Typesetting:	Eileen Gilmore
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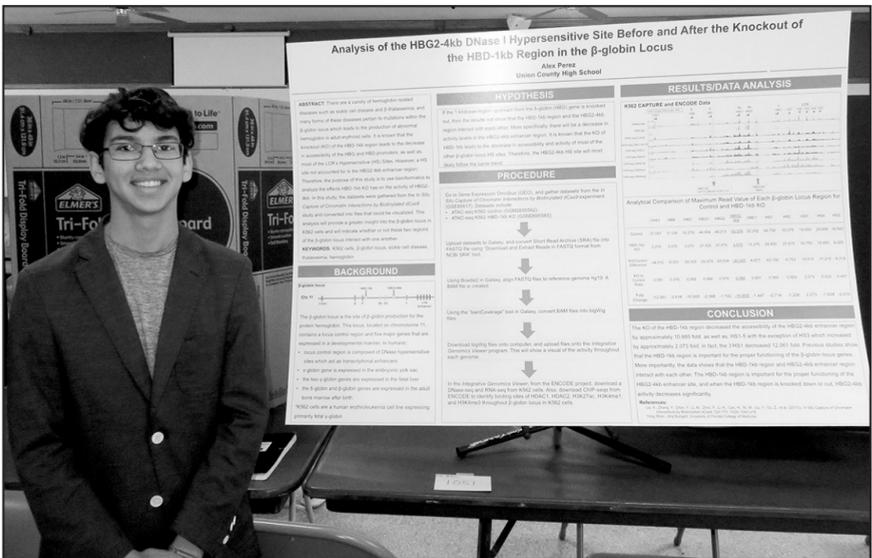
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# County Science Fair Senior Division Winners

# Minor Fire Scare at West Fraser in UC



**Best Overall Senior, Division Project: Emily O'Neal – Methane Production from Animal Waste**



**Best Overall Physical Project: Alex Perez - Analysis of the HGB2-4kb Dnase I Hypersensitive Site Before and After the Knockout of the HBD-1kb Region in the Beta-globin Locus**



**Best Overall Biological Project: Ryan Hardin - A Sticky Situation: Analysis of Resin Canal Volume and Quantities in Pines**



The following students are in the group photo of Senior Division students progressing to regional competition. (L-r) front row: Roberto Saravia, Ryan Hardin, Colton Cox, Alex Perez, Mark Seager, Braxton Dukes  
Middle row: Hannah Perron, Ciara Hopkins, Madelyn Whitehead, Erica Roseke, Emily O'Neal, Summer Atteberry, Kasie Murphy  
Back row: Millinea Jennings, Katherine Dorsey, Brian Kish, Madelyn Kish, Andrew-Paul Griffis, Jon Johnson, Abigail Ripplinger, Kiana Paytee

## SHADOW

Continued from 2A

interview and appreciate the fact that you are trying to give your student a positive experience. First you must meet the student, in this case a sophomore named Taylor Whitaker. Taylor is 15, a member of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and performs in Winter Guard and the Union County High School Band, where she plays also saxophone. She has also been a Tigerette. When asked how she came to pick journalism as the career

to shadow, she said she had a number of possible career interests, including photography, but that when discussing the exercise with her mother, she was advised to “do something you have never done before.” Putting a quiet and demure young lady in the same room as the editor of the Union County Times for three hours was an experience for both. We discussed the job, the future of the job and topics such as interview techniques and how to develop good questions (or more precisely, how to ask questions that get good answers). Lake Butler City Manager

Dave Mecusker had agreed to be interviewed for the project and proved, as always, to be patient and amiable. Taylor got the chance to observe a relaxed and productive interview and said later she enjoyed the experience. Taylor has said she would be interested in writing a few prices for the Times and it is hoped she does as she seems to have potential. As for the editor, seeing your shadow is not a bad thing, if for no other reason than the editor is not a groundhog. Thanks Taylor!



**Firefighters from Union and Bradford counties responded to a fire hazard at the West Fraser sawmill Feb. 5.**

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Times Editor

Fire suppression units from Union and Bradford counties, as well as one EMS unit from Union, were called to West Fraser on Feb. 5 after workers there feared a smoldering kiln situation could get worse.

West Fraser employees said that some of the wood in the kiln was smoking and they were worried about opening the door (and possibly supplying a potential fire with oxygen), so they called the Union County Fire Department to be on the safe side.

Union County Fire Chief Mark Hughes said that the company was acting out of caution and

that calling for assistance was an appropriate response to the situation.

“Last year a similar situation went the other way and resulted in a fire,” Hughes said. “By the units being there and augmenting the sprinkler system with water from our hoses, we were able to avert a situation that had the potential to be a fire.”

A kiln system is used to dry or cure wood by using heat and smoke to remove moisture from it. A system normally has a building where wood chips are burned using propane fired burners with the resulting heat and smoke traveling through special duct work into one or more other buildings where

the wood needed to be dried is stacked.

“To create a fire you need heat, fuel (in this case, wood), and oxygen,” Hughes said. “They had the heat and the fuel and were afraid if they opened that door they would be supplying the oxygen.”

Kilns are equipped with sprinkler systems to offer a quick cooling of the wood in the building if needed and the two Bradford County and one Union County units added more cooling with their hoses.

Units were on hand at West Fraser for one and one-half to two hours just to make sure things got cooled down properly and the situation rendered safe.

## ETC.

Continued from 1A

### Performance at LBES

Third and fourth grade Lake Butler Elementary students have been practicing for the past few months for an upcoming play, “Broadway Beat.” The play is open to the public. There will be one public performance on Thursday, Feb. 8 in the Union Count High School auditorium, beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$2 each and are available at the door. All elementary school students and younger will be admitted free. For more information, please contact LBES at 386-496-3047.

### Concert at Fellowship Baptist

Dove nominated and award-winning Tribute Quartet from Nashville, TN, which includes local talent Josh Singletary, will be in concert at Fellowship Baptist Church in Raiford on Saturday, Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 18 at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. The church is located one mile south of Raiford on SR-121 on the right. For more information, call 386-431-1732.

### Let's Have Fun at the Library!

Beginning Feb. 1, the Union County Public Library will be hosting Makerspace After-School Programs on the first and third Thursday of each month. Programs will feature

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) themes. Programs will run from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. each session.

Adult programs are continuing in the new year, on the second Tuesday of each month. On Feb. 13 will be “Art for the Heart,” while on March 13 attendees will learn that “It Ain't Easy Being Green.”

Preschool Storytime continues on Thursdays at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Upcoming programs include Happy Hearts (Feb. 8), Perfect Pets (Feb. 15) and Crazy Cowpokes (Feb. 22).

For more information about these programs or other offerings at the library please call 386-496-3432 or visit the library's website at [www.unioncountypubliclibrary.org](http://www.unioncountypubliclibrary.org).

See EVENTS, 4A



## Russ WADE

### Attorney at Law

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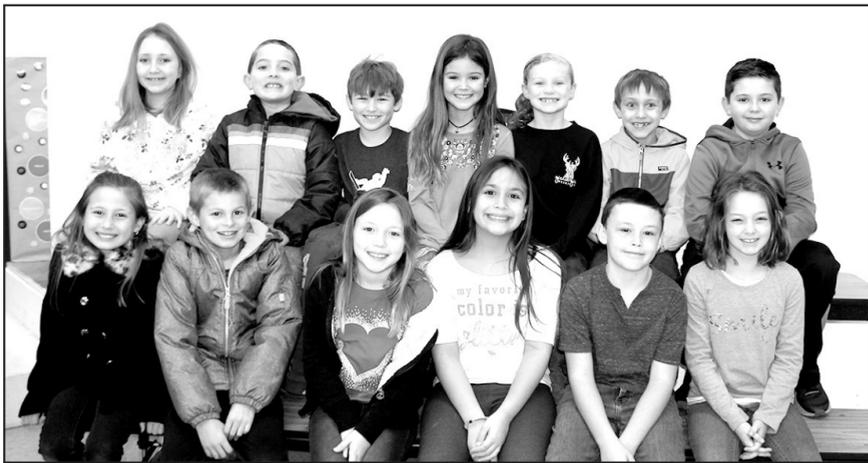
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# Lake Butler Elementary School Straight-A Students



**Third Grade (13 kids in pic) – (back row, l-r) Kendyl Brannen, Tucker Dortch, Ashton Bunkley, Emma Handley, Miley Wilson, Seth Thomas and Brady Tetstone. (front row, l-r) Marley Trowell, Reese Harrison, Cali Tomlinson, Ava Bernal, Grayson Sikes and Rebecca Langkau. Not pictured: Lucy Cabral.**



**Fourth Grade (back row, l-r) Rhett Prevatt, Garrett Keen, Keegan Shuler, Makaylin Randolph, Cash Cox, Erick Lasseter and Seth Norcross. (front row, l-r) Hayden Anderson-Davis, Leanne Dicks, Parker Parrish, Ayden Stout, Eva Sharrah and Holly Halfacre. Not pictured: Shayna Durrance, Alayah Boykin and Case Denson.**



**Third Grade (8 kids in pic) – (back row, l-r) Bayley Staier, Mackenzi Huggins, Matthew Rogers, Caylee Harrison, Barry Anderson-Davis and Cody Andrews. (front row, l-r) Jayce Short and Riley Gibson.**



**Fourth Grade (back row, l-r) Blake Wimpy, Amia Bethea, Dylan Daniels, Case Elixson, Abigail Williams, Addison Graham and Addison Wright. (front row, l-r) Ayden Dicks, Eva Whitehead, Jacob Stidham, Lacy Fipps and Macie Wilson. Not pictured: Aidan Welz.**

## EVENTS

Continued from 3A

### Open Mic Night at VFW

VFW Post 10082 in Lake Butler will hold an open mic night on Saturday, Feb. 10 from 7 p.m. until ? Junior Crews and the Raiford Boys will be there. The Post is located just off CR 231 S in Lake Butler (look for the sign at the turn). Everyone is encouraged to attend and participate – you do not have to be a member to do so.

### NWTF/New River Gobblers to hold Auction and Banquet

The National Wild Turkey Federation, New River Gobblers Chapter of Lake Butler, will host their 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Hunting Heritage Banquet and Auction on Saturday, Feb. 24 at the Lake Butler Elementary School cafeteria. Door open for fun and games (with chances to win a variety of hunting merchandise) at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. with a live auction to follow. Your support of this event provides funding for our local scholarships and outreach programs dedicated to informing, educating and involvement in wildlife conservation and the wise stewardship of our natural resources.

Tickets will be available at the door for \$50 per person or \$90 per couple. For more information contact: Paul Waters 352-258-9726, Josh Thomas 352-258-9727 or Austin Thomas 352-494-3907.

### Lake Butler American Legion Seeking Members

Lake Butler American Legion Post 153 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. All veterans are welcome!

### 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.

## LEGALS

UCT Legals 2/8/18

### NOTICE OF FINAL AGENCY ACTION TAKEN BY THE SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given that the Suwannee River Water Management District has issued Water Use Permit Number 2-125-231558-1-2 authorizing the withdrawal of a maximum of 0.2497 million gallons per day of groundwater for agricultural use in 1-in-10 year drought conditions to Union Land & Timber, Corp., PO Box 238, Lake Butler, FL 32054. The project is located in Sections 12, 13, & 14, Township 5S, Range 19E, Union County.

### NOTICE OF RIGHTS

A person whose substantial interests are affected or may be determined has the right to request an administrative hearing by filing a written petition with the Suwannee River Water Management District (District). Pursuant to Chapter 28-106 Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), the petition must be filed (received) at the office District Clerk at District Headquarters, 9225 C.R. 49, Live Oak FL 32060 within twenty-one (21) days of newspaper publication of the notice of District decision (for those persons to whom the District does not mail or email actual notice). A petition must comply with Chapter 28-106, F.A.C.

A petition for an administrative hearing is deemed filed upon receipt of the petition by the Office of the District Clerk at the District Headquarters in Live Oak, Florida during the District's regular business hours. The District's regular business hours are 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., excluding weekends and District holidays. Petitions received by the District Clerk after the District's regular business hours shall be deemed filed as of 8 a.m. on the next regular District business day. The right to an administrative hearing and the relevant procedures to be followed is governed by Chapter 120, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Chapter 28-106, F.A.C. Failure to file a petition for an administrative hearing within the requisite time frame shall constitute a waiver of the right to an administrative hearing pursuant to Rule 28-106.111, F.A.C.

If you wish to do so, you may request the Notice of Rights for this permit by contacting the District Headquarters, 9225 CR 49, Live Oak, FL 32060 or by phone at 386.362.1001.

2/8 1tchg-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PROBATE DIVISION  
File Number: 63-2018-CP-0002  
Division:

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF DANIEL THOMAS JENKINS, H, Deceased.

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Daniel Thomas Jenkins, II, deceased, whose date of death was January 26, 2017, is pending in the Circuit Court for Union County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 55 West Main St. Lake Butler, FL 32054. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the Decedent and other persons having claims or demands against Decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM. All other creditors of the Decedent and other persons having claims or demands against Decedent's estate must file their claims with this Court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of first publication of this notice is February 8, 2018. THE HINSON LAW FIRM, P.A. Matthew H. Hinson, Esq. Florida Bar No. 94017 300 West Adams St., Suite 500 Jacksonville, FL 32202 Telephone: 904-679-5671 Facsimile: 904-355-8088 Matt@HinsonLawPA.com Attorney for Personal Representative

Personal Representative  
Courtney Personette  
13016 Southwest 89th Street  
Lake Butler, Florida 32054  
2/8 2tchg 2/15-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CIVIL ACTION  
CASE NO.: 63-2017 CA-000039  
DIVISION:

ALLY BANK,  
Plaintiff,

vs.  
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST HAROLD J. GARNER, ct. al.,  
Defendant(s).

### NOTICE OF ACTION

To:  
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST HAROLD J. GARNER  
Last Known Address: Unknown  
Current Address: Unknown  
ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN, PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS.  
Last Known Address: Unknown  
Current Address: Unknown

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in Union County, Florida: COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SOUTHEAST 1/4 SECTION 7, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST, AND RUN NORTH 0 DEGREES, 33 MINUTES, 25 SECONDS WEST, ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SOUTHEAST 1/4, ALSO BEING THE CENTERLINE OF STATE ROAD NUMBER S-229, 744.23 FEET FOR A POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE NORTH 0 DEGREES, 33 MINUTES, 25 SECONDS WEST, 197 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES, 19 MINUTES, 35 SECONDS EAST, 233 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 0 DEGREES, 33 MINUTES, 25 SECONDS EAST, PARALLEL TO STATE ROAD NUMBER S-229, 197 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES, 19 MINUTES, 35 SECONDS WEST 233 FEET TO POINT OF BEGINNING. SAID LAND LYING IN THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SOUTHEAST 1/4, SECTION 7, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST, UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA AND CONTAINING 1.05 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

SAID PROPERTY ALSO DESCRIBED AS: BEGIN AT NORTHWEST CORNER OF SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 7, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST AND RUN SOUTH 208 FEET TO POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE SOUTH 197 FEET, THENCE EAST 233 FEET, THENCE NORTH 197 FEET, THENCE WEST 233 FEET TO POINT OF BEGINNING, EXCEPT RIGHT OF WAY OF STATE ROAD 229.  
A/K/A 13726 NORTH COUNTY ROAD 229, RAIFORD, FL 32083

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses within 30 days after the first publication, if any, on Albertelli Law, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is P.O. Box 23028, Tampa, FL 33623, and file the original with this Court either before March 7, 2018 service on Plaintiff's attorney, or immediately thereafter; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint or petition.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this court on this 31st day of January, 2018.

Clerk of the Circuit Court  
By: C Norman  
Deputy Clerk

Albertelli Law  
PO. Box 23028  
Tampa, FL 33623  
\*\*See the Americans with Disabilities Act

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Persons with a disability who need any accommodation in order to participate should call Jan Phillips, ADA Coordinator, Alachua County Courthouse, 201 E. University Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601 at (352)337-6237 within two (2) working days of receipt of this notice; if you are hearing impaired, please call 1-800-

955-8771; if you are voice impaired, please call 1-800-955-8770.  
2/8 2tchg 2/15-UCT

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING AN AMENDMENT TO THE UNION COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA, SERVING AS THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND THE LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY OF UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Sections 163.3161 through 163.3248, Florida Statutes, as amended, and the Union County Land Development Regulations, as amended, hereinafter referred to as the Land Development Regulations, objections, recommendations and comments concerning an amendment, as described below, will be heard by the Board of County Commissioners of Union County, Florida, serving as the Planning and Zoning Board of Union County, Florida, and the Local Planning Agency of Union County, Florida, at public hearing on February 19, 2018 at 5:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the Boardroom of the Union County Courthouse at 55 West Main Street, Lake Butler, Florida. This amendment was previously noticed for a public hearing on September 18, 2017.

CPA 17-02, an application by the Board of County Commissioners to amend the text and the Future Land Use Plan Map Series of the Comprehensive Plan by deleting Policy 1.3.2 of the Future Land Use Element; by adding Objective 1.3 and associated policies to the Future Land Use Element to regulate extraction activities, and renumbering the sequential objectives and associated policies; by amending the objectives and policies of the Suwannee River System 100-Year Floodplain Special Planning Area section of the Future Land Use Element to add the Santa Fe River and the New River; by amending the Policy S.3.4 of the Suwannee River System 100-Year Floodplain Special Planning Area section of the Future Land Use Element to comply with buffer standards established for mining activities pursuant to the policies of Objective 1.3 of the Future Land Use Element; by deleting Illustration A-X of the Future Land Use Plan Map Series, entitled Mining Areas; by amending Policies V.2.1 and V.2.6 of the Conservation Element to add mining activities; by amending Policy V.2.8 of the Conservation Element to replace regulating mining operations within wetlands to prohibit mining operations within wetlands; by amending Policy V.4.7 of the Conservation Element to add language to include the applicant, any proposed mining activity, and mining operation permit to the requirements of this policy.

The public hearing may be continued to one or more future dates. Any interested party shall be advised that the date, time and place of any continuation of the public hearing shall be announced during the public hearing and that no further notice concerning the matter will be published, unless said continuation exceeds six calendar weeks from the date of the above referenced public hearing.

At the aforementioned public hearing, all interested parties may appear to be heard with respect to the amendment.

Copies of the amendment are available for public inspection, at the Office of the Board of County Commissioners, located at 15 Northeast First Street, Lake Butler, Florida, during regular business hours.

All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact Dianne Hannon, Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners at 386.496.4241 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 1.800.955.8770 or 1.800.955.8771.

2/8 1tchg-UCT

# REGIONAL NEWS

NEWS FROM BRADFORD COUNTY, UNION COUNTY AND THE LAKE REGION

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## Schaefer found their romantic spark at BMS

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
 Telegraph Staff Writer

Though there was no electricity, there was a spark. Raymond and Melissa Schaefer have been married six years after first meeting each other as teachers at Bradford Middle School. It wasn't until a day in which the power went out for an extended period of time that they really began talking to each other.

"It was out for so long we had to take all of the kids into the gym," said Melissa, who is currently a teacher at Paterson Elementary School in Fleming Island. "We were there just managing the crowds. That's when we first started talking. That's when I first noticed him."

Melissa, who is the niece of Randy and Cindy Whytsell, confessed to not having noticed Raymond before just because she was focused on her career. Entering into a possible relationship simply wasn't on her radar, she said.

Raymond, who is currently the assistant principal at Starke Elementary School, had noticed Melissa, though, starting with a trip teachers took in the summer to Fort White for a training session. As a new teacher, he was also made aware of Melissa by his colleagues at BMS.

"The first thing they want to do is hook you up with somebody," Raymond said. "They had success doing that in the past, so they saw me as the next one on the list."

Despite the circumstances, that day in the gym with the electricity out seemed a good time to strike up a conversation since they were both in the same building.

"I think I was just trying to act calm and cool," Raymond said. "It was kind of a stressful situation. We didn't know when the lights were coming on. The kids were all in an area, and you're watching them like hawks."

"Then I saw the chance to just start up a side conversation. It was kind of like a how's-the-weather type of conversation, just to start somewhere."

Besides, Raymond knew he was being watched by those matchmakers on campus. It was time to act.

"I had pressure from ladies who were working there," he said. "There was like a shot clock on me. I had to make some kind of move."

Thinking back to that day, Melissa said what appealed to her about Raymond were his kindness and his humor.

"Anybody who knows Ray knows he's got the driest sense of humor," she said. "He is so funny, and he has a way of making you laugh and making you feel comfortable."

Displaying his humor, Raymond, when asked what initially appealed to him about Melissa, said, "I knew she was single, so that was a start." Seriously, though, he said he kept hearing from others about how nice she was, which he found to be true.

"It was her kindness that really brought me to her," Raymond said.

### No tricks, just a date

It was Halloween time when Raymond asked Melissa out for a date. The couple were at a mutual

friend's and took a walk along Walnut Street during Starke's Great Pumpkin Escape.

"This was probably a couple of months since we'd known each other," Raymond said. "We'd just been kind to each other and talking to each other a little bit."

With the Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks coming up, Raymond said he knew he needed to go ahead and ask Melissa out and see how things worked out.

The first date was at Leonardo's 706 in Gainesville.

"We got to the table, and it had a wobble in it, so we had to put a couple of sugar packets under the table," Raymond said. "Then it seemed like every date after that, we always ended up at a table with a wobble in it. It was the strangest thing."

Melissa said, "It makes us laugh."

The tables may have been wobbly, but the relationship was not. They fell into a comfort with each other. Melissa's kindness was still a big appeal to Raymond, while as she got to know him better, Melissa really began to appreciate how important family was to Raymond.

"The more we got to know each other, I got to know his family," Melissa said. "I got to see how he was with them. That, to me, was a huge attraction, just the way he treated his nieces and nephews and how he got along so well with his brothers and sisters and his parents. That whole family dynamic really made me understand who he was. It just kind of solidified to me that he was just a solid, strong person."

### Popping the question...finally

After a couple of years of dating, Melissa was eagerly awaiting the day when Raymond would ask her to marry him.

"I think I knew pretty early on," she said. "I was set that I knew I was going to marry him early on. I told him that. He was like, 'Wait a minute.'"

It wasn't that Raymond didn't want to get married. It's just that he wanted to make sure everything was in order financially and that there would be some stability when they did get married.

"He wanted to have all his ducks in a row," Melissa said.

Raymond said, "Once I got those man type of things lined up, then I said, 'All right. Let's do this.'"

The proposal was simple so he could eliminate as much stress as possible.

"I was really nervous, so I thought the smaller the audience, the better I was going to be and not mess up and drop the ring or something like that," Raymond said.

He chose a morning in November 2010. He was renting a house on Crosby Lake and had picked Melissa up so they could go to church. However, Raymond told Melissa he wasn't feeling well, so they stayed at his house. Then he said he wanted to show her something on the lake. Raymond said maybe he told her he wanted to show her an alligator. He couldn't quite remember. So they walked out onto his dock.

"I didn't know what he was talking about," Melissa said. "I kept looking and looking. Then



Melissa and Raymond Schaefer are pictured with their son, Henry. The Schaeferes began dating each other when they both taught at Bradford Middle School. Photo by Matt Whytsell Photography.

I turned around, and he was on one knee."

Though she was waiting for that moment, she said it was a surprise.

"I was not expecting it that morning at all," Melissa said.

### Time together the best Valentine's gift

Valentine's wasn't expected to be a big to-do this year. Melissa's sister and brother-in-law were arriving in the area to visit, so when not visiting with them, the

couple expected to enjoy a quiet time at home after putting their young son, Henry, to bed.

"I think this Valentine's Day, with company coming in, we'll keep it very relaxed and easy going," Raymond said.

That's really no different from the quality time they spend together on any day.

"We love cooking together," Raymond said. "We love most of the same music now, which is great. We love the same TV

See SCHAEFFER, 2B

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\*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of 1/2/18. You must ask for this offer. Terms, restrictions and conditions apply. See account agreement for current rates, terms and account requirements. Open to both personal and commercial members. New money market account must be opened during the time period of 1/2/17 - 12/31/18 and must be funded with money currently not on deposit at Florida Credit Union. \*\*Minimum balance to open account is \$50,000.00. Introductory APY will apply from account opening until 12/31/18 regardless of account opening date. Balances \$10,000.00-\$24,999.99 will earn 0.15% APY, 0.15% rate; \$25,000.00-\$49,999.99 will earn 0.20% APY, 0.20% rate; \$50,000.00 - \$4,999,999.99 will earn 1.25% APY, 1.24% rate; \$5,000,000.00+ will earn 0.15% APY, 0.15% rate. On 1/1/19, all introductory rates/APYs will adjust to the then current money market rate/APY as stated on www.flcu.org at that time. Dividends are compounded and credited monthly. You may not make more than a combined six transfers and/or withdrawals per month from this account. Withdrawals may reduce APY and fees may reduce earnings. Limited time offer subject to change or cancellation at any time without notice. Rates are subject to change at any time including after the account has been opened. Visit www.flcu.org for membership eligibility requirements. Federally insured by NCUA.



Melissa and Raymond Schaeffer are pictured at their wedding in July 2011. Photo by Matt Whytsell Photography.

shows, for the most part. There are a few I won't touch."

Melissa laughed and said, "I love reality TV. I can't get enough. He does not."

They love watching shows on

Netflix, which they didn't have until her brother-in-law signed them up.

"I'm slow to pull the trigger a lot of stuff," Raymond said.

Melissa said having the

## SCHAEFFER

Continued from 1B

service has been life changing. "We've just touched the surface of Netflix," she said. "The sky's the limit."

Sometimes they won't watch TV. They'll play whatever music fits the mood. It could be Ray Charles or the Allman Brothers Band or John Coltrane. Then they'll talk, just enjoying their time together.

"It's free, and you get so much out of it," Raymond said.

For one Valentine's Day, Raymond surprised Melissa with a night out. He encouraged her to give Henry a bath as soon as they got home from work, while he went into the kitchen and started preparing macaroni and cheese, which he said is a sure sign to Henry that his babysitter is coming over. The babysitter did indeed come, and off the couple went for a special evening.

"I had no idea what was going on," Melissa said, adding, "That was probably the most surprising Valentine's Day because it was a long day at work."

Aside from flowers and cards, you won't see Raymond and Melissa buying much for each other on Valentine's Day. They don't go for cute, plush animals or whatever else you see on

shelves this time of year. Melissa said that's partly because she throws away everything.

"We don't hoard," Raymond said. "We chuck stuff."

Well, that's not entirely true. Melissa keeps a box full of cards and love letters Raymond's given her over the years. Those are precious and make the best Valentine's gifts.

"My parents did that with each other," Melissa said. "I found their box when I was older. It was fun to see their lives at different stages. I want to have that for our kids one day."

Raymond admitted that since Henry was born more than three years ago, he hasn't written any letters to her, which he used to do a lot. He said his interview by the Telegraph-Times-Monitor might just be the thing to "kick me in gear."

"I've been slacking," he said.

### It was meant to be

Being married isn't always easy, and Raymond and Melissa do have their quirks that bug each other. For example, Melissa said it's funny to her how when she asks Raymond to do something around the house, he says first he has to do some other task.

"My biggest pet peeve, and it doesn't make sense, is he always has to do something before he

does something," Melissa said.

Raymond's pet peeve?

"I have to say it would have to be either losing or dropping the cell phone all the time," he said. "It's a nice cell phone. We just got a new one."

Like anyone else, they may have their disagreements, but Raymond said it has helped them to realize they are different people, so those kinds of things are going to happen. The key is to move past those disagreements, and that doesn't mean not talking about them, which is what Raymond, by nature, prefers.

"I'm realizing more and more every year, the more I ignore something that I don't want to talk about, it doesn't go away," Raymond said. "Now I've learned how to talk about something I don't want to talk about. To me, that was life changing. I thought silence was perfectly fine."

Melissa admitted she's stubborn and she doesn't like to be the first to apologize or speak when it comes to a disagreement. Her faith has helped her in that regard.

"I think, for me, it's just the maturing process of learning you're with the person that God gave you," Melissa said. "Above all else, he should be respected more than anything."

That's what their marriage is

about. Respect. Something as simple as complementing each other or thanking each other for something they've done around the house goes a long way.

"Those are the easiest things to forget," Raymond said, "but they have the most mileage to them. They're so easy to forget in the daily routine."

Melissa said, "I think there's so much value in really encouraging your spouse."

Whatever happens in the course of life, Raymond and Melissa can't help but feel that being together was simply meant to be. They're both from the Midwest — Raymond moved from Missouri, Melissa moved from Ohio — and met each other at Bradford Middle School.

"We always talk about how crazy it is that we came to Starke," Melissa said.

So maybe the electricity going out one day at BMS wasn't necessary to provide the spark, but Raymond and Melissa are glad it happened.

"I wasn't expecting to find Ray when I did," Melissa said. "Now, I'm just so thankful I was in the right place at the right time."

## UF learning center named for Bradford native

BY KIM BOX  
Special to the Telegraph-Times-Monitor

Just a few miles past Fairbanks, motorists who are heading north on Waldo Road (SR 24) whiz by a sign for the Austin Cary Forest Campus. Chances are they may have caught a quick, peripheral glance at the all-too-familiar University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) logo topping the sign; some may even have wondered what was going on in them thar woods; but most have never turned in at the entrance to further investigate.

As the newest addition to that sign hints, most, if not all, of your questions may now be answered by heading about a mile into the forest to the "Roland T. Stern Learning Center," named after Bradford native and BHS graduate Roland T. Stern. The \$2.3 billion learning center, completed and dedicated April 4, 2014, was built after fire totally consumed the previous conference center and all of its contents. Half of the building funds came from UF, but the other half came from 225 private donors.

While the old conference center served a maximum of 7,000 annual users, it is anticipated that the Roland T. Stern Learning Center will annually serve as many as 25,000. In addition to its primary purpose of serving as nature's classroom and forest conservatory, the center also provides the backdrop of rustic elegance — the oxymoron with which its builders were tasked — and a serene forest environment for scheduled Women's Club, Alachua County Commission, Alachua County Sheriff, Gainesville City Council, Santa Fe College and other community events and private weddings.

Attendees can enjoy the lake and also learn a little about why forests are important in their lives. The forest and center

connect people from all walks of life with Florida's forests. Event reservations can be made, and further information can be found at [sfrc.ufl.edu/forestcampus](http://sfrc.ufl.edu/forestcampus).

After his death in 2017, the learning center was rededicated and named after Roland T. Stern. The lettering that denotes the building's new name was literally "unveiled" in a January 27, 2018, on-site ceremony. About 100 invited guests joined Stern's widow, the couple's children, grandchildren and great grandchild for a brief tribute, the unveiling ceremony and lunch afterward.

### A kind-hearted man

All attended in memory of Stern, whom his grandchildren described in writing for his memorial dedication plaque as "a kind-hearted man, known for his generosity and his ability to be understood in just a few words. He loved his Christian faith, his family, his farm and watching the sun rise over Kingsley Lake."

Stern's commitment to the forest industry, an industry that has a \$25 billion impact on Florida's economy, is worthy of admiration and footstep-following. He was involved in forestry from his 1960 graduation from Lake City Forest Ranger School in Lake City, until his

death last year.

His father even cut and sold timber to fund Stern's education. But Stern himself definitely did his part to ensure his father's investment was profitable.

"He hitch-hiked back and forth to Lake City," Stern's widow, Lucinda, told the *Bradford County Telegraph* in a 2012 article about the history of the Stern family. "He'd stay there through the week. Every weekend, he would hitch-hike back home."

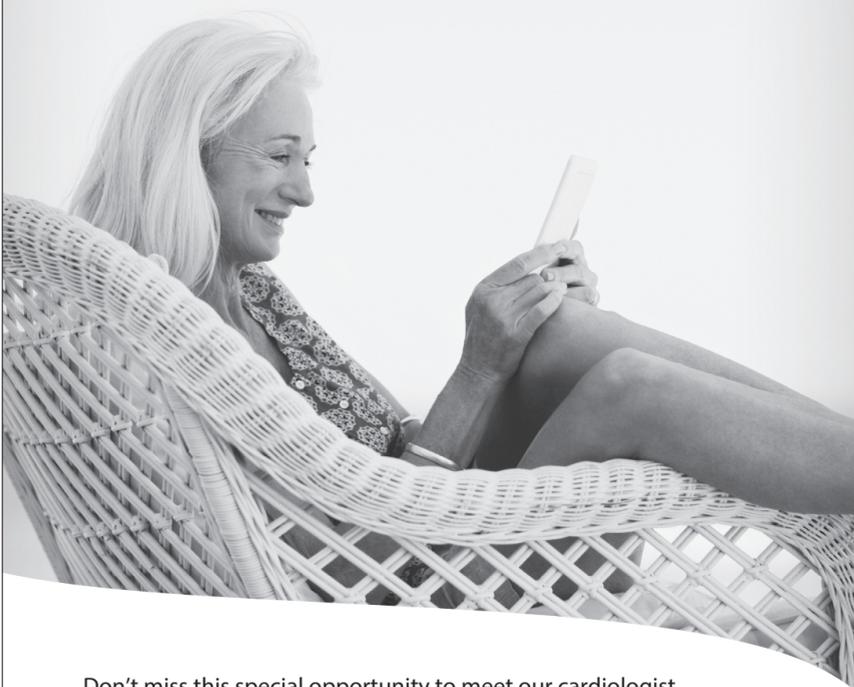
More than 100 years ago Stern's forefathers settled and cut timber on the same land that much of the Stern family still lives on today. From the first of that timber, they built a two-story house, which still sits behind the Stern family homestead in which Roland and Lucinda raised their daughters. A sawmill operation was established on site as well.

"Roland's father cut timber used in building many homes in Starke and the Kingsley Lake area," Lucinda told the *Telegraph* in 2012. "In fact, Harry Stern cut the timber used for the old Strickland's Landing on Kingsley Lake."

Lucinda's husband was always involved in some form of timber business. He formed Great South Timber, Incorporated, with a

See STERN, 4B

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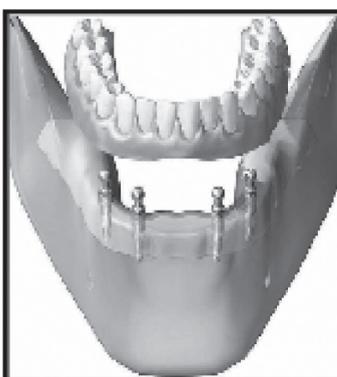
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(L-r) Ashley and Derek Browning, Amber and Hunter (holding Andi) Reichert, Ronda Stern Crawford, Lucinda Epperson Stern, Robin Stern Knox and Steve Knox, Charles Knox, Kevin Knox and Marcus Knox (not pictured: Austin & Katelyn Crawford)



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# Tigers cap season by lifting 1<sup>st</sup>-ever state trophy

**BY CLIFF SMELLEY**  
Telegraph Staff Writer

The good news for the Union County High School girls' weightlifting team? Brandy McCoy won her third straight state championship.

The even better news? Three of McCoy's teammates won titles as well, which helped the program win its' first-ever team championship at the Class 1A finals on Feb. 2 in Panama City Beach.

In describing the scene when she and her teammates heard UCHS announced as the team champion, McCoy said, "It was a lot of emotion. It was just really, 'Oh, my gosh. What did we just do? We won.'"

With Kurston Bakken, Josie Godwin and Mia Jackson winning their weight classes as well, the Tigers finished with 28 points to finish ahead of runner-up Baker County, which had 16 points. Union County is the smallest school in regard to student population to ever win a state title in girls' weightlifting.

"It shows that a small school can do big things," Jackson said.

Coach Bryan Griffis said Gerard Warren, the former UCHS football great who played at the University of Florida and in the NFL, spoke to the team prior to the start of the season about how it takes hard work and dedication to achieve success. Griffis said the girls told Warren, "Our goal is to win a state championship for little Union County."

"We worked really hard for it, really hard," Godwin said. "We sacrificed a lot of days for it. I wouldn't go back and trade any of those days."

Bakken said the championship proved nobody worked as hard as she and her teammates.

"It made me realize if you want it, you've got to go get it because nobody's getting it for you," Bakken said.

Griffis said the team had a lot of support, estimating 100 people from Union County were there cheering the girls on.

"You couldn't explain the feelings with all those fans rushing the floor as the kids won," he said.

Griffis coaches the team with Kepa Sarduy, but said credit for

the team's success also goes to his wife, Tammy, whom the girls have developed a close bond with.

"If it was not for her helping me, I don't know what I would've done," Griffis said.

## 3 in a row for McCoy

After winning state championships in dominating fashion as a freshman and a sophomore, it was expected McCoy would win again as a junior. She had a 275 bench press and a 225 clean and jerk in the 199 class for a 500 total, which was 165 pound ahead of runner-up Ramika Scott of Lake Weir.

McCoy, who is always low key in regard to discussing her accomplishments, said, "It feels great, I guess. I don't really know how to explain it."

Actually, she did show a little more emotion when it came to talking about her bench-press performance. McCoy was looking to break the state and national records in her class. She did 305 pounds — the current state and national records — at the Region 2 finals.

"I wasn't there to really win as much as I wanted to break that record," McCoy said. I was really mad."

Griffis said McCoy got sick and missed four days of workouts leading up to the state finals. She wasn't at full strength and neither she nor Griffis really knew what she would be capable of. Therefore, Griffis had her open at 275, which he knew she could get. Then she attempted 305, but just couldn't do it as her shoulders slipped on the bench. She brought the weight halfway up before stopping.

"That's never happened to me," McCoy said.

Still, McCoy, with her latest title, has put herself in position to become the only girls' weightlifter to win four championships if she wins next year.

McCoy, though, was more excited about the fact that she shared the spotlight this year with three of her teammates.

"Four of us won. That's really awesome to me," she said.

Godwin was the only UCHS lifter to compete in the first session at state, so she set the tone for the other state champs that followed. McCoy said, "After she won, we were like, 'We've definitely got to win now.'"

## First time's the charm for Godwin

Godwin, a junior, was making her first appearance at state. It was special, to say the least.

"It felt definitely worth it," she said. "All those long hours. All those yells (from Griffis)."

Godwin had a bench press of 190 and a clean and jerk of 165 in the 139 class for a 355 total, which was 5 pounds better than runner-up Haylee Watson of Jay.

She missed her second bench press attempt, but was able to get a personal record on her third attempt. Then, in the clean and jerk, Godwin again missed her second attempt, which Griffis said put his heart in "panic mode." The attempt was 165 pounds, which Godwin had done multiple times at UCHS leading up to state.

Godwin said she wanted to attempt 175 on her third attempt because she was worried about Watson catching her, but Griffis told her to attempt 165 again, which she successfully lifted. Griffis said the way he explained it to Godwin was, "We've got to get what we know we can get. Get pounds on the board and make that girl beat you."

Prior to this season, Godwin said she was going to win state. She did. So, what's next? She



How do you win a team state championship? Having four individual lifters win the championships of their weight classes is a great way to accomplish it. Placing first at the Class 1A finals for Union County High School were (l-r) Kurston Bakken, Josie Godwin, Mia Jackson and Brandy McCoy. McCoy, a junior, has now won three straight state titles.

says she's going out with a bang her senior year.

"I'm going to set records," Godwin said.

## Bakken, Jackson go out with a bang

Seniors Bakken and Jackson had one more chance to try to win state titles, and they did it, with Bakken winning the unlimited class and Jackson winning the 169 class.

Jackson made a vow after last year's state finals that she would return to win it all.

"It feels good to know I put my mind to something, and I completed a task," she said.

Jackson had a bench press of

200 and a clean and a personal record of 185 in the clean and jerk to finish with a total of 385, which was 25 pounds ahead of Seriah Brokenborough of Eustis.

Griffis was especially proud of Jackson. He gave her the responsibility of being a team captain this year, which meant she made sure her teammates knew when workouts were and held them accountable when

they missed any. The coach said it's a stressful position to take on, but Jackson handled it well and still achieved personally at the highest level.

"She's done an excellent job," Griffis said. "I'm very proud of her for what she's done this year. She has really grown up

See CHAMPS, 4B



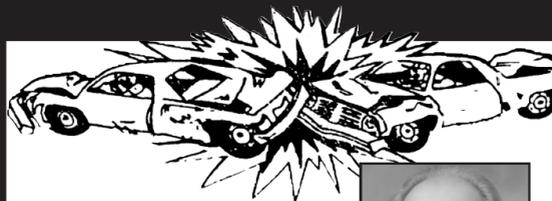
Union County's Josie Godwin competes in the clean and jerk en route to winning her first-ever state title. Photo by Shelley Rodgers.



Josie Godwin competes in the bench press, with coach Bryan Griffis spotting. Photo by Shelley Rodgers.

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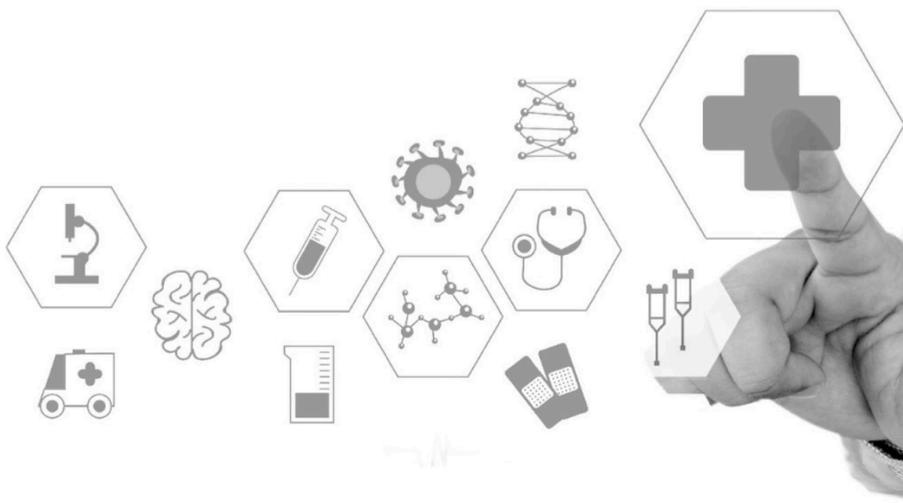
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The Roland T. Stern Learning Center

## STERN

Continued from 2B

group of men in 1985 and retired as company president in 2015.

Following Stern's death, the UF Board of Trustees adopted an Aug. 29, 2017 resolution (R17-90) to name the learning center the "Roland T. Stern Learning Center." That resolution, framed with a photograph of the center, will hang inside the building for all time. Before the curtains were drawn back for the official unveiling of the lettering that adorns the front entrance, Terrell T. "Red" Baker — director and professor, School of Forest Resources and Conservation,

UF/IFAS — read the resolution aloud in its entirety to Lucinda while everyone listened.

### Respect for the land

The dedication ceremony preceding the unveiling was simple, direct and honest just like the values of living that Stern held in high regard and instilled in his two daughters — Ronda Stern Crawford and Robin Stern Knox — who, in turn, instilled those values in his grandchildren who are already beginning to instill them in the first of the great-grandchildren.

Stern also taught his family, friends and colleagues to love and respect the land by demonstrating

his own love and respect for it. Six generations of Sterns have now lived on the Stern farm off SR 16 for more than 100 years, a fact of which Stern could not have been prouder or any more thankful.

"We'd like to be here all the days of our life," said Lucinda in the 2012 *Telegraph* article. "We love the land," she said. "That sounds corny, I know, but we do. One thing we continue to be amazed at is that we are blessed that God has given us this piece of land to be stewards of. We try to do the best we can with it."

Before the ceremony, Stern's daughter Robin gazed up at the soaring vaulted ceilings of the center and said her dad would not

have liked such a big deal being made about him. But she agreed that the gift itself would have been exactly what he wanted, especially the funds being used to support student scholarships.

Baker thanked the Stern family for their "incredible generosity and gifts" of \$750,000 in endowments that will go to support the Stern Learning Center and provide scholarships for students from Bradford, Union, Baker and Columbia counties.

Baker said, "The scholarships will help us build a new generation of foresters to follow in his footsteps."

## Former pro player, college coach Mullins ready to guide Tigers

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

He's played professional baseball and coached at the collegiate level. Now, Greg "Boo" Mullins is happy to have the opportunity to be more of a family man, while still devoting his time to the sport he loves, as the new head baseball coach at Union County High School.

Mullins, who played in the Milwaukee Brewers organization for four years, was the head coach at Brewton-Parker College in Mount Vernon, Georgia, for seven years (2009-15). Though he enjoyed the experience, it was time to be there for his wife, Shannon, and their three

children: Garrett, Gabriele and Grace.

"College and pro ball is a lot of time on the road," Mullins said. "I kind of neglected (my family), if you will, during those years, being on the road so much. It's just very time consuming and very physically and mentally draining, honestly."

"I wanted to be a good father and a good husband."

Mullins actually spent approximately two years out of coaching, but looked to return to the high school level, where he previously coached at Nease and University Christian. It wouldn't take so much time away from his family. Plus, Mullins' son, Garrett, who is a

freshman, expressed the desire to be coached by him.

What followed was a search for the right fit for Mullins and his family. It just so happened the Palatka native discovered the job opening at UCHS, where Ronny Pruitt is the athletic director. Pruitt coached the football team at University Christian when Mullins coached baseball there.

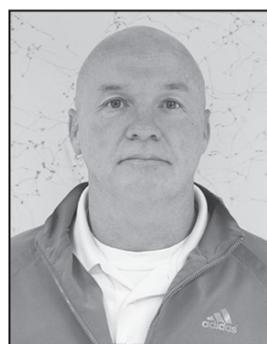
Also, right down the road is the University of Florida. UF assistant coach Brad Weitzel was an assistant coach at the University of North Florida when Mullins played there.

"He's been my mentor for 25 years," Mullins said. "He taught me everything I know. He taught me how to work, taught me how to be a leader, taught me how to be a good man — lifelong lessons that he taught me."

Plus, the opportunity at UCHS just presented him and his family the "total package" in terms of academics, a good support system and a nice community to be a part of.

Now, he's ready to do something positive for his son and everyone else who elects to play baseball at UCHS.

"I want to see kids smile



Greg "Boo" Mullins

and live the dream I got to live because it's a fantastic life," Mullins said. "That journey — I wish I could do it again."

### 'Boo' develops into college, pro player

Mullins grew up in Palatka and earned the nickname "Boo"

## CHAMPS

Continued from 3B

immensely over the summer until now. I think she could be a coach one day."

For now, she's content with being a state champion.

"It just felt good to know all the hard work paid off," Jackson said. "All the soreness and getting up early some days and working out — it paid off."

Bakken earned medals for a sixth-place finish as a sophomore and a fifth-place finish as a junior when she attended Bradford High School. The transfer made a huge jump this year in winning her class with a total of 525, which was 100 pounds ahead of runner-up Jolie Miller of Nature Coast. Bakken had a 385 total last year.

"It was just crazy I improved that much in one season," she said.

Bakken's bench press of 300 set a state record in her class, while she set a personal record of 225 in the clean and jerk.

"It was overwhelming," Bakken said of winning. "I cried a lot. Tears of joy."

## FHSAA expands play-off football field

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

The Florida High School Athletic Association approved a couple of changes in regard to football that will affect the classifications Bradford, Keystone Heights and Union County are in, including expanding the number of teams that will make the playoffs.

As part of the new points system that was instituted last year to determine playoff qualifiers, the teams with the top four point totals in each region in classes 1A-4A advanced to the playoffs. This year, the top six point totals in each region will advance.

Now, the top two teams in each region will earn first-round byes. For example, last year, in Class 4A's Region 2, Bradford, Dunnellon, Trenton and Keystone Heights advanced to the playoffs with the top four point totals. Bradford, the top seed, played fourth seed

Keystone in the first round, which also consisted of second seed Dunnellon playing third seed Trenton. If this year's system had been in place, The Villages and Mount Dora would've qualified for the playoffs as the fifth and sixth seeds. Trenton would've played Mount Dora, while Keystone would've played The Villages. Bradford and Dunnellon wouldn't have played until the following week against those games' winners.

The FHSAA has also increased the number of points teams accrue for losses during the season by five points in each category. A loss to a team in Category 1 (won at least 80 percent of its games) now earns a team 35 points, a loss to a Category 2 team (won 60-79 percent of its games) earns 25 points, a loss to a Category 3 team (won 40-59 percent of its games) is 20 points and a loss to a Category 4 team (won 39 percent or less of its games) is 15 points.

## BHS boys' cap perfect season in district

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Chris Cummings scored 26 points and had four steals as the Bradford High School boys' basketball team put the finishing touch on an undefeated season against District 4-5A opponents, defeating host Fort White 71-52 on Feb. 3.

Jordan Lee and D.J. Mackey scored 16 and 10 points, respectively, with Mackey grabbing eight rebounds. Tavi'en Young had seven points and six assists, while J'cobi Harris had four points. Tally Chandler and

Taz Curry each had three points, with Jordan Hill adding two points.

Bradford (16-7, 10-0) played Palatka this past Tuesday and will conclude the regular season with a road game against Baker County on Thursday, Feb. 8, at 7:30 p.m., following a junior varsity game at 6 p.m.

The Tornadoes enter next week's District 4 tournament, hosted by BHS, as the number-one seed. They will play either fourth seed Fort White or fifth seed Keystone Heights on Tuesday, Feb. 13, at 7 p.m. Fort White and Keystone play each other on Monday Feb. 12, at 6 p.m.

If Bradford wins, it will play for the championship on Friday, Feb. 16, at 7 p.m. They would play either Interlachen or Newberry, who play each other in the Feb. 13 semifinals at 5:30 p.m.

while playing youth baseball. Mullins pitched, while his brother Brian played first base.

"He would just yell, 'Boo,'

See MULLINS, 8B

## Cummings, Gainey gain experience

Juniors Breyonce Cummings and Taylor Gainey also competed for UCHS. Cummings was 13<sup>th</sup> in the 183 class with a 305 total (165 bench press, 140 clean and jerk), while Gainey was ninth in the 154 class with a 300 total (155, 145).

Cummings said the state meet was "crazy and exciting" and that the experience will motivate her next year.

"It'll help me to push myself more," she said.

Gainey, too, described the event as "crazy," but she settled in like any other meet and set a personal record in the bench press. Like Cummings, Gainey is looking forward to next year.

"It just makes me excited for what's next," she said.

Until then, she and her teammates can revel in being a part of school history. They brought home the first-ever girls' weightlifting state championship trophy.

"It was kind of like the ending to the perfect fairy tale," Gainey said.

## KHHS boys defeat Taylor for 2<sup>nd</sup> straight win

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Eddie Thomas scored 26 points and grabbed nine rebounds in the Keystone Heights High School boys' basketball team's 61-27 District 4-5A win over host Pierson Taylor on Feb. 2.

Ben Miller and Garrett Stanley had nine and eight points, respectively, while Sawyer Maxwell had six. Marco Flores had four points, nine assists and five steals, with Ray Kirtley scoring three points. Josh Hughes and Josh Pendergrast each had two points. Tyler Cumbs added one point.

The Indians (11-12, 2-8) got 12 points and 10 rebounds from Thomas in a 61-46 win over visiting Cedar Key on Jan. 30. Hughes and Maxwell each had 10 points, while Flores had nine. Miller and Stanley had eight and six points, respectively, with Kirtley adding two.

Keystone played Middleburg this past Tuesday and will conclude the regular season by hosting Oak Hall on Friday, Feb. 9, at 7 p.m.

The Indians are the fifth seed in the District 4 tournament at Bradford High School next week. They'll play fourth seed Fort White in a quarterfinal game on Monday, Feb. 12, at 6 p.m. If Keystone wins, it will play top seed Bradford in a Tuesday, Feb. 13, semifinal at 7 p.m. A win there, and the Indians would advance to the championship game on Friday, Feb. 16, at 7 p.m.

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# Obituaries

## Terry Akins Sr.

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS— Terry Lewis Akins Sr., 65, of Keystone Heights died Monday, Feb. 5, 2018 at E.T. York Care Center in Gainesville. He was born June 25, 1952 in Jacksonville to the late Lewis Watson Akins and Eva Mae Joyner Akins. He graduated from Terry Parker High School and enlisted in the United States Navy. He then went to FCCJ for Law Enforcement Certification and worked for the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office. He is preceded in death by his parents; and sisters, Hildreth Carpenter, and Lavenia Singletary.

He is survived by: his wife of 40 years, Anita Barnes Akins of Keystone Heights; son, Terry Lewis (Dorothy) Akins Jr. of North Carolina; daughter, Angela (Derrell) Keaton of Keystone Heights; sisters, Sandra (Sam) Singletary of Lawley, Sadie (James) Witt of Ridgecrest, CA; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, Feb. 9 at 9:30 a.m. at the Woodland Acres Community Church in Jacksonville with Pastor Gene Eberhardy officiating. Interment will follow at Jacksonville National Cemetery at 11:30 am where military honors will be rendered. The family will receive friends Thursday, Feb. 8 from 6-8:00 pm at the church. Arrangements are under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services and Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel, Starke.

## Mary Boyd

LAKE BUTLER—Mary Bess Roberts Boyd, age 86, a very loving mother and grandmother, passed away, Thursday, Feb. 1, 2018. Mary was a born Oct. 9, 1931 in Lake Butler to parents Matthew and Bessie Roberts. She worked as a surgical assistant for 25 years, was a member of the Daughters of the Confederacy and loved to travel. Mary was preceded in death by: her parents; her husband, Charlie Clarence Boyd; one brother and four sisters.

She is survived by: her sons, Michael Charles (Brenda) Boyd and Andrew Richard (Gretchen) Boyd; and a daughter, Janet Karen Boyd Richendollar; 15 grandchildren; 44 great-grandchildren; and seven nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held, Friday, Feb. 9 at 11:00 am in the chapel of Fraser Funeral Home, 8168 Normandy Blvd., Jacksonville, (904)781-4314

with Michael Boyd officiating, followed by interment in Bethel Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery, Fargo, GA. The family will receive friends at the funeral home one hour prior to the service.

PAID OBITUARY

## Marianna Cooney

STARKE— Marianna C. "Ban" Cooney, 89, of Starke died Sunday, Feb. 4, 2018 at Haven Hospice in Gainesville. She was born in Westminster, MD on June 10, 1928 to the late Milton and Mary Cook, and moved to Starke almost 50 years ago from New Windsor, MD. She was a homemaker and of the Methodist Faith.

She is survived by: her husband of 70 years, Harry E. "Skip" Cooney; children, Daniel (Pamela) Cooney of Stanley, VA, Michael (Catrell) Cooney of Cocoa Beach and Rebecca Cooney of Ocala; sisters, Jean Means of Westminster, MD and Carlein Harris of Hanover, PA; four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Services were held Feb. 7 with Harry Hatcher officiating. Interment followed at the Jacksonville National Cemetery. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Starke.

## Curtis Hall

HIGH SPRINGS— Curtis R. "Papa" Hall, 87, longtime High Springs resident departed this life Friday, Feb. 2, 2018 at North Florida Regional Medical Center. He was a Godly man who loved his family. He was a Veteran of the US Air Force where he served as an aircraft mechanic during the Korean War. He was preceded in death by his son, Terry Hall.

Survivors include: his wife of 67 years, Susan Hall, High Springs; one daughter, Kathy Sue Hall, Lake Butler; daughter-in-law, Diana Hall, High Springs; one brother, William (Chubby) Hall, Tampa; eight grandchildren, Tina, Mike, Edward, Misty, Lisa, Derek, Dana, Alesha; 13 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Memorial services will be conducted at 2:00 pm, Saturday, Feb. 10th at Sardis Baptist Church, Worthington Springs with Military Honors. Interment will be at Jacksonville National Cemetery at a later date. Arrangements by: Evans-Carter Funeral Home, High Springs. (386)454-2444

PAID OBITUARY

MA and, coming from Savannah, had lived in Palatka from 1971 until 2001 when she moved to Keystone Heights. She was formerly employed by Union Camp in Savannah, GA where she met her future husband. She had worked as station manager at the former Greyhound Bus Station in Palatka.

She was a member of First Baptist Church of Keystone Heights where she was involved in several activities. She enjoyed reading, solving crossword and jigsaw puzzles, scrapbooking and going to the beach.

Preceding her in death were her husband, L.G. Jasperson; a son, Glen Jasperson; a daughter, Barbara Gail Jasperson; and a grandson, Duane Jasperson.

Surviving are three daughters and sons-in-law, Brenda and L.D. Osteen of Hollister, Lisse Jasperson of Palatka, and Rebecca "Becky" and Harold Strom of Keystone Heights; a son, Ernest "Andy" Jasperson of Gainesville; a daughter-in-law, Iva Jasperson of Foley, AL; six grandchildren and spouses, Darrell and Tisha Jasperson of Loxley, AL, Krissi and Jay Smith of Hollister, Timothy Paul (Jamie Wagner) of Palatka, Travis and Tori Osteen of Trenton, Elizabeth Ann and Russ Gregston of Copper Center, AK, and Tyler M. Strom of Ft. Myers.

Funeral services were held Jan. 31 at Masters Funeral Home with Dr. L.D. Osteen officiating. Burial followed in Palatka Memorial Gardens.

Memorial gifts may be sent to Windsor Health and Rehab Center (for needy patients), 602 East Laura St., Starke. Friends may sign the online register at [www.themastersfuneralhomes.com](http://www.themastersfuneralhomes.com). Masters Funeral Home of Palatka is in charge of arrangements.

PAID OBITUARY

## Renee Linville

STARKE— Renee Antoinette Louise Linville, 84, of Starke died Monday, Feb. 5, 2018 at Shands Hospital in Starke. She was born in St. Etienne, France on June 24, 1933 to the late Jean Claude and Catherine (Bonnin) Montagne and had moved to Starke ten years ago from Gainesville. She was a retired clinical pathologist.

She is survived by: her husband of 56 years, Richard A. Linville; two sons, Charles (Lori) Linville of Starke and Patrick Linville of Seattle, WA; and one grandchild. A private burial was at the Evergreen Cemetery in Gainesville. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Starke.

of Water Survival. Peggy was a very active longtime member of First Baptist Church and touched many lives as a surrogate grandmother. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 65 years, Donald Everett Neel who passed on Jan. 16, 2018; and her brother, Jimmy Wiggins.

Survivors are, her sons, Donald A. (Cindy) Neel of Houston, TX, Kevin S. (Tamara) Neel of Albany, GA, sister: Susan (Phillip) Nichols of Starke; brothers, Gene (Paula) Wiggins of Newnan GA, and Bobby (Nancy) Wiggins of Virginia Beach, VA; sister-in-law, Carolyn Wiggins of Jacksonville. Also left behind are grandchildren, Nicole Neel (Nicholas) Williamson, Ami Joanna (Benjamin) Lansford, John-Paul Everett Neel and Chelsie (Beau) Hammock, great-grandchildren, Ashlyn Piper Edwards and Nolan Randy Williamson.

The family will receive friends at the Dewitt C. Jones Chapel on Sunday, Feb. 11 from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Funeral services will be at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 12 at First Baptist Church, 163 W. Jefferson Street in Starke with Pastor Justin Durrance and Pastor Ben Bryant officiating. Interment will follow at Crosby Lake Cemetery. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to: First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1258, Starke, FL 32091 or Haven Hospice, 4200 NW 90th Blvd, Gainesville, FL 32606. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Starke. [www.jonesgallagherfh.com](http://www.jonesgallagherfh.com). 904-964-6200

PAID OBITUARY

## Katherine Oliver

STARKE— Katherine L. Oliver, 86, of Starke and recently of Monticello, MS died on Monday, Jan. 29, 2018 after a long illness caused by lung disease. She was born Oct. 30, 1931 to the late Alto and Nona Price of Pensacola. She was a Godly woman. Her daughter Kathy Oliver preceded her in death.

She is survived by: her husband of 68 years, Dewey G. Oliver of Monticello, MS; son, Michael G. (Debbie) Oliver of Pennsylvania; daughter, Jacqueline O. (David) Wainwright of Starke; and a brother, Keith G. Tullius of MS. Also left behind are nine grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, five great-great-grandchildren; six sisters in law, three brothers in law and many other family members.

Graveside services will be held on Saturday, Feb. 10 at 11:00 a.m. with Reverend Roman Alvarez officiating. Interment will be at Crosby Lake Cemetery. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Starke.

## Doris Starling

STARKE— Doris M. Thomas Starling, 97 years of age, went to Heaven on Thursday, Feb. 1, 2018. She was born on Sept. 21, 1920, to the late Herman and Jessie Thomas. With the exception of three years in Texas, she was a lifelong resident of Starke. She was a member of the Southside Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by: her loving husband of 46 years, Joe Starling; and her parents, Herman and Jessie Thomas; her brothers, Russell Thomas, Carl Thomas, and M.J. Thomas; and her great-grandson, Cole Gibson.

She is survived by: her sister, Agnes Thomas Wainwright. She is also survived by her daughter, Betty (Roman) Alvarez; sons, Frank (Linda Sue) Starling and Marty (Jessie) Starling; her nine grandchildren, Greg (Stephanie) Alvarez; Derek (Sherree) Alvarez; Stefanie (Gordon) Smith; Shelley (Tommy) Thornton; Jason (Sabra) Starling; Dennis (Misty) Hanson; Joseph Starling; Michael (Christie) Starling; and Rebecca Marie (Tim) Billups; her twenty great-grandchildren, Justin (Brittany) Alvarez; Heather Alvarez; Kylie Alvarez; Macy Alvarez; Hailey (Chris) Coffey; Hayden Smith; Anna Grace Thornton; Braden Thornton; Tyler Starling; Caleb Starling, Brylie Starling, Tanner Hanson; Anna (Knox) Strawbridge; Jordan Starling; Chase (Brooke) Starling; Skyler Starling; Spencer Starling; Sicilie Starling; T.J. (Allison) Billups; Tyler Billups; and Tobey Billups; and her seven great, great grandchildren Colin Alvarez, Harper Alvarez, Ridge Alvarez, Jack Gibson, Bryce Gibson, Caden Coffey, and Cobey Coffey. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews. Funeral services for Doris M. Starling were held on Sunday, February 4 at Jones-Gallagher Funeral Chapel in Starke. The family will receive friends from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. followed by the memorial service at 3:00 p.m. Arrangements were by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Starke. [www.jonesgallagherfh.com](http://www.jonesgallagherfh.com) (904) 964-6200.

PAID OBITUARY

## Esta Underhill

STARKE— Esta Mae Manning Underhill, 96, of Starke died on Monday, Jan. 29, 2018 at Shands UF in Gainesville after a brief illness. She was born in

Raiford on Oct. 21, 1921 to James and Della (Nettles) Manning. A longtime resident of Starke, she was a homemaker and a member of Bayless Highway Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by: her parents; her husband of 56 years, Jack H. Underhill; granddaughter, Jaclyn Tomlinson; and eight siblings.

She is survived by: her daughter, Mary Sue Tomlinson of Jacksonville; one grandson; three great-grandchildren; and many other family members. A graveside service was held on Feb. 7 at Crosby Lake Cemetery with Pastor Steve Conner officiating. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Starke.



## Joe Usher

WELLBORN— Joe Usher, 90, of Wellborn, passed away on Thursday, Feb. 1, 2018. The Lakeland native moved to Wellborn from Lake City in 1992. He was a Veteran of WWII, serving in the Navy, an independent insurance agent, a rancher and was of the Baptist faith.

Mr. Usher is survived by: his wife of fifty-one years, Jane Usher, Wellborn; half-sister, Willow Mae Wagoner; half-brother, Rufus Carroll; and several nieces and nephews.

Burial will be held at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell. A memorial service will be announced at a later date. Please sign the guestbook at [www.danielsfuneralhome.com](http://www.danielsfuneralhome.com).

PAID OBITUARY

# Letters

Dear Editor:

My son Ryan, a 5th grader at Starke Elementary, has been selling donuts for school for his end of year field trip to Universal/Islands of Adventure. He collected \$91 out of the \$120 needed for his trip. A couple days ago, his money was stolen. I called Starke P.D. to file police report in hopes the person who took his money would return it. Well, they didn't. Tonight, four of our finest officers showed up at our door and told us they took up a collection for Ryan. Not only did they collect his trip money, but also collected enough from the P.D. to send him with plenty of spending money. A huge thank you to Sgt. Keel and our awesome men and women in blue.

Sandi White



## Carola Jasperson

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS— Carola T. Jasperson, 91, of Keystone Heights passed away Monday, Jan. 29, 2018 at Windsor Health and Rehab Center in Starke following an extended illness.

Carola was born in Everett,

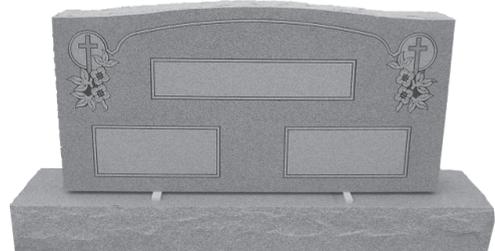


## Peggy Neel

STARKE— Peggy Ann Neel, age 86, of Starke passed away Monday, Feb. 5, 2018 at Lake Butler Hospital and Hand Surgery Center. Peggy was born on Oct. 29, 1931 in Starke to the late Alva and Laura (Hemingway) Wiggins. Prior to retirement she worked for the Naval Air Station in Jacksonville as a secretary for the Department

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# CRIME

## Recent arrests in Bradford, Clay or Union

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

### BRADFORD –

Jerry Taylor Atteberry, 22, of Lawley was arrested Feb. 5 by Bradford deputies for burglary and criminal mischief with property damage. Deputies responded to a call in reference to a burglary. Contact was made with the grandson of the property owner, Robert Atteberry, who stated that his grandfather was out of town. He said he had noticed a broken window in the north side of the residence. Deputies notices broken glass on the ground and heard someone inside the residence. Additional units were requested to respond, then the deputy tried to get the individual to come out, with negative results. When Lt. Luke Hass arrived, he was able to get the individual to come out and he was identified as Jerry Atteberry. Atteberry had willingly left the residence over a week before and taken his belongings. He had been told not to return. He was arrested due to the burglary call and the breaking of the window.



J. Atteberry

Angela Kay Black, 55, of Starke was arrested Feb. 2 by Starke police for an out-of-county warrant.



A. Black

Dameon Daquen Butler, 41, of Starke was arrested Jan. 31 by Bradford deputies for maintaining a place where controlled substances are kept, sold or used, selling cocaine and possession of cocaine.



D. Butler

Jeyson Steven Callejas Diaz, 22, of Houston, Texas was arrested Jan. 31 by Bradford deputies for driving without a valid license.



S. Callejas

According to an arrest report, arresting officer Franklin Ehrnreiter was monitoring traffic on U.S. 301 near C.R. 233 at 10:35 p.m. when he saw silver Toyota travelling southbound at a high rate of speed in a 45-mph zone. Radar indicated a speed of 68 mph.

The defendant was identified by his El Salvador passport. He told the deputy that he had no license. The officer checked Texas and Florida databases for a license and the search results were negative.

Thomas Chambers, was arrested Jan. 31 for two by Bradford deputies for probation violations and possession of drug paraphernalia. Chambers was approached by Deputy Hunsinger concerning a county warrant. Upon being searched the deputy discovered a clear glass pipe with burn marks on each



T. Chambers



K. Davis

end in Thomas' left front pants pocket.

Kenneth Warren Davis, 52, of Starke was arrested Feb. 1 by Bradford deputies for a probation violation.



T. Davis

Terry Preston Davis, 31, of Sanderson was arrested Feb. 5 by Bradford deputies on a warrant issued by Judge Davis for burglary of an unoccupied dwelling during a state of emergency and grand theft of a firearm, both felonies. He was transported from the Department of Corrections to the Bradford County jail.

The warrant stems from a Feb. 26, 2017 incident which led to the arrest of Davis on multiple charges of grand theft of a firearm and burglary of an unoccupied dwelling. The victim called Bradford deputies and reported his guns missing and said he had not locked the deadbolt on his back door the night before.

The investigation into the matter was lengthy and yielded no results until almost five months later when a call came in from the Suwannee County Sheriff's Office reporting that one of the guns had been recovered in a traffic stop. The driver, Samantha Nickerson was arrested and the gun confiscated. She eventually said the gun was given to her by two friends, one of who was Davis. Davis was serving a four-year sentence at the RMC Work Camp for carrying a concealed weapon and possession of a controlled substance. Davis admitted to serving as a lookout for the burglary and assisting in its planning.



J. Gaines

Joshua Gordon Gaines, 28, of Perry was arrested Feb. 1 by Bradford deputies for non-support.

Stephanie Dawn Gooderham, 25, of Keystone Heights was arrested Feb. 1 by Starke police for driving with a suspended or revoked license, possession of cocaine, possession of drug equipment and destroying evidence.

According to a police report, arresting officer Paul King observed the suspect driving



S. Gooderham

without a seatbelt west on Estelle Street around 5:09 p.m. When King asked Gooderham for her license, she said it had been suspended, and King confirmed

though dispatch that not only was the license currently suspended, it had been suspended eight previous times for failure to pay court financial obligations. "I advised the suspect not exit the vehicle at which time I observed her chewing on something," King wrote in the report. "Due to my previous contacts with the suspect, I know that she is a user of crack cocaine and was leaving a residence known for narcotics activity. Due to my experience, I know that crack cocaine is often hid inside the mouth."

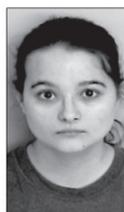
King ordered Gooderham to open her mouth, and when she refused, he grabbed her jaw and "was able to get a small piece of a white substance from inside her mouth."

In a field test, the substance tested positive for cocaine, and while preparing Gooderham's vehicle for towing, King found a glass crack pipe with residue, between the driver seat and center console.

Riley Leonard Griffis, 60, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on Feb. 5 for first degree battery-touch or strike. He was involved in an altercation with a woman at their residence, putting his hand over her mouth aggressively and telling her to shut up. The victim was not injured.

Mug shot not available

R. Griffis



C. Hall

Cassandra Elisabeth Hall, 23, of Keystone Heights was arrested Feb. 4 by Bradford deputies for resisting an officer.

James Daniel Lewis, 23, of Starke was arrested Feb. 5 on a warrant for felony violation of probation. He was transported by Bradford deputies to the Bradford County jail.



Lewis, J.

David Bridges Prescott, 40, was arrested



D. Prescott



N. Prosser



X. Qelemeni

South Walnut Street after a store employee called 911.

A store employee told Jones that the suspect took several items from the store's automobile aisle without paying. The worker attempted to stop Qelemeni from leaving the business but was unable. After the worker called 911, the suspect returned several of the items to the shelf.

Jones searched the suspect's backpack and found several cleaning products taken from the store. The total value of stolen items was \$20.45.



D. Saunders



P. Sheffield-Nester



L. Terrell

David Burton Saunders, 31, of Keystone Heights was arrested Jan. 31 by Bradford deputies for a probation violation.

Patricia Renee Sheffield-Nester, 50, of Jackson, Georgia was arrested Feb. 3 by FHP troopers for an out-of-county warrant.

Lynzi Michele Terrell, 25, of Starke was arrested Feb. 5 by Bradford deputies for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, possession of drug equipment and a probation violation.

Ryan Matthew Walker, 26,



R. Walker



T. Wichterham



K. Wilson

homeless was arrested Feb. 3 by Starke police for larceny.

Thomas E. Wichterham, 34, of Keystone Heights was arrested Feb. 5 by Bradford deputies for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Kimberly Diane Wilson, 37, of Lawley was arrested Jan. 30 by Bradford deputies for an out-of-county warrant.

Ethan Etienne Anderson, 37, of Raiford was arrested by Union deputies on a warrant stemming from Nov. 3, 2017 charges for selling cocaine within 1,000 feet of a house of worship or business and possession of cocaine with intent to sell within the same area.

John A. Carney, 32, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on a warrant stemming from an Sept. 16, 2017 charge of theft of \$300 or more but less than \$5,000, a third-degree felony.

Bradley Spiegall, 15, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on Jan. 29 on a warrant stemming from Jan. 11 charges of burglary of a structure or conveyance without a person inside, a third-degree felony.

Shane Ryan Summers, 27, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on Feb. 2 on a warrant stemming from Nov. 29, 2017 charges for larceny, theft of \$300 or more but less than \$5,000, a third-degree felony, and vehicle theft, a grand third-degree offense.

The theft of a 2011 Dodge Ram 3500 white flatbed truck and a 2005 ANDS Gooseneck 25-foot trailer from Smith and Sons Sod Company was reported at midnight on Nov. 29. In the report, the owners stated that the vehicle was usually kept unlocked with the keys inside. Union deputies had been in pursuit of another stolen vehicle, which they lost sight of for a short time. When this vehicle was found it was abandoned and it was discovered that the suspects had taken another vehicle from Smith and Sons. The truck and trailer were not found at the time. The truck was located in Cook County, GA by the Adel Police Department in the possession of Summers and a female accomplice named Ceceilia Hall, also of Lake Butler. They had been arrested on local charges, so UCSO Sgt. Townsend traveled to GA to interview the suspects. Summers did not admit to the theft, but divulged information that only the person involved in the theft would know. He also revealed where he had disconnected and left the trailer (in Columbia County). The total value of the truck, trailer, cargo on the trailer, fuel burned and recovery expenses exceeds \$39,000, with the figure not including delaying in production for the business caused by the lack of the truck and equipment.

Sylvester Warren, 41, of Gainesville was arrested Feb. 4 by Union deputies for two counts of larceny, petit first-degree property \$100 to \$300, both misdemeanors. Deputies responded to a call at Hungry Howies on West Main St. in Lake Butler concerning the theft employees of a tip jar. The suspect had fled the scene before the deputies arrived, but was described to them by the manager as a tall, black male who had been observed standing

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**The Weekly Paw Print:**
  
 This week I was in Orlando attending the 2018 VMX conference. It is one of the largest veterinary conferences in the US and Canada. Florida veterinarians are required to get 30 hours of continuing education every two years. This means we have to continue our education by attending classes either live, as in the VMX, or online. I go every year because information is expanding so quickly that I don't want to get left behind. This was a very exciting year as delivery of care for patients is now moving more to digital resources. Right now I already consult with my specialists through digital formats. In the future we will be able to have consultations with our pets and their parents through digital format. These products are in their infancy right now but are already becoming available. Over the next coming months I will be highlighting on Facebook and WEAG New products in the digital world that we think will be a benefit to our pet parents. So stay tuned.
   
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# CRIME

Continued from 6B

outside of a long time. When the employee on duty went to the back of the store, the suspect entered and grabbed the money out of the tip jar and he walked out of the store, despite being told by the employee, who had returned to the front in response to a noise, to put the money back.

The store manager followed the suspect and caught up with him near the intersection of SW First St. and SW Sixth Ave. She told the suspect to give the money back and he handed her part of it and told her to stop bothering him. The manager reported that the suspect still had the majority of the money in his possession. He walked away in the direction of Spires IGA.

The manager reported the suspect had gone into a convenience store just before coming into Hungry Howies and they had surveillance of him. Deputies were shown pictures of the suspect taking a case of liquor from the store the day before. He was identified by employees of the store as Sylvester Warren.

Deputies canvassed the area and the suspect was observed walking west bound on SW Third St. carrying a Spires grocery bag containing several recently purchased items. He stated he has just come from Spires and was going home. The suspect was restrained and arrested at that time.

## KEYSTONE HEIGHTS AND LAKE REGION—

Leighann Helen Baker, 27, of Hampton was arrested Feb. 1 by Alachua deputies for larceny.

According to an arrest report, arresting officer William Jones observed the suspect conceal merchandise inside her purse while inside the Pilot Travel Center in Waldo.

“This was clearly an effort to conceal the items and remove them from the store,” Jones wrote in the report.

Store employees told Jones that they saw Baker take clothing items off the shelf, walk to the bathroom and hide the merchandise in her purse.

The value of merchandise recovered from the purse totaled \$340.91.

Alejandro Manuel Brown, 27, of Keystone Heights was arrested Feb. 4 by Clay deputies for battery.

The suspect was in an argument with his live-in girlfriend and prevented her from leaving their residence when she attempted to do so. He bumped against her hard enough that she was knocked into the door frame and hit her head against it. He then shoved her with both hands in the chest so hard that she fell onto the bed than onto the floor. The victim claimed that he also spit in her face three times. She said she attempted to use the suspects iPad to call 911, but he snatched it away from her and threatened to hit her with it, but then shattered the device over his knee.

The victim was able to get out of the residence, accompanied by her 15-year old cousin. The suspect followed her outside, got into his vehicle and left. She walked to a nearby business and called her family who responded

to the residence and called 911. The victim stated she had redness and swelling to her chest and harm from the encounter.

During the course of the investigation the suspect called one of the victim's family members and was convinced by them to meet them at the family's home. Deputies responded to that residence and took the suspect into custody.

Jessica Marie Sue Ernest, 28, of Melrose was arrested Jan. 29 by Putnam deputies for possession of drug equipment, possession of marijuana, possession of cocaine and possession of a controlled substance without a prescription.



J. Ernest



K. Fowler



S. Hall



Hardee, D.



S. Hoskinson



Hurley, D.



J. Loper



J. Roberson

Kaylee Marie Fowler, 27, of Keystone heights was arrested Jan. 29 by Putnam deputies for possession of drugs and possession of drug equipment.

Stanley Joseph Hall, 53, of Melrose was arrested by Putnam deputies for failure to appear.

David Payne Hardee, 36 of Melrose was arrested Feb. 3 by Clay deputies for driving with a suspended or revoked license and failure to appear.

Sherry Louise Hoskinson, 53, of Melrose was arrested Feb. 5 by Putnam deputies for battery.

Delson Ray Hurley, 44, of Keystone heights was arrested Feb. 5 by Clay deputies for failure to appear.

Jacob Ryan Loper, 36, of Keystone Heights was arrested Jan. 30 by Clay deputies for violating a domestic violence injunction.

According to an arrest report, arresting officer T.J. Hayden found the defendant at the home of a family member after the victim called 911. Earlier that same day, another deputy served a temporary injunction order to the defendant, prohibiting him from being near the family member.

John Kenneth Roberson, 41, of Melrose was arrested Feb. 2 by Putnam

# KHHS girls' season ends in district quarterfinal game

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Keystone Heights High School allowed an opponent to receive an inbounds pass all alone under the basket for a layup with less than eight seconds remaining, resulting in a 49-48 loss to Fort White in the District 4-5A girls' basketball quarterfinal game on Feb. 5 in Starke.

The Indians (8-15) got a combined 19 points from Destiny Bright and Savannah Channell in the fourth quarter to erase a seven-point deficit and take a lead, but they couldn't hold on. It didn't help that Keystone went 3-of-8 from the foul line in the final quarter, including missing the front ends of two one-and-one opportunities in the last 30 seconds.

Bright and Channell each scored 14 points, while Victoria Snider had 11. Haley Julius and Skylar Rollins added seven and two points, respectively.

Keystone entered the tournament off of wins in its final two regular-season games.

In a 41-24 win over visiting



Lexi Northway sets up for a shot.

Cedar Key on Jan. 30, Julius and Channell had 14 and 11 points, respectively, with Snider adding 10. Victoria Bannon and Lexi Northway each had two points.

Channell scored 17 points in a 45-38 win over visiting West Nassau on Feb. 2. Snider and Bright had 11 and 10 points, respectively, while Julius had five. Carissa Gagnon added two.



Keystone's Savannah Channell (right) drives to the basket.

deputies for failure to appear.

Kyle Ross Weaver, 32, of Keystone Heights was arrested Feb. 2 by Clay deputies for failure by a sexual offender to report internet identifiers.

According to an arrest report, arresting officer R.M. Ellis received information from the social media company: Pinterest that Weaver had posted an image of child pornography to the site.

Through a subpoena, the deputy also received information that the image was uploaded from a device located at Weaver's permanent residence on Deer Springs Road.

As a registered sexual offender, Weaver is required to register all internet identifiers with law enforcement, including email addresses and social media accounts. Ellis determined that the defendant had only registered two email addresses with the sheriff's office, and no Pinterest account.

Ellis, with Detective Jeremiah Gosila, then interviewed Weaver and searched his laptop and mobile phone. The officers found no contraband on the defendant's devices, but did determine he had Pinterest, Facebook, and Kik accounts that he failed to register with the sheriff's office.

# NCA is SECC girls' basketball runner-up



Northside's Karissa Lawrence (left) drives to the basket in the first half.

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Caroline Smith outscored the entire Brunswick Christian Academy team 10-5 in the third quarter, but Northside Christian Academy had too big of a deficit to overcome, losing 36-21 in the finals of the South Eastern Christian Conference Middle School Girls' Basketball championship on Feb. 3 at Northside.

Smith scored 17 points for the Eagles, who trailed 21-6 at the half. Harli Mosley added four points.

Northside, which was the number-one seed in the east half

of the bracket, advanced to the championship by defeating Old Plank 29-22. Smith and Tatiana Coleman each had 10 points, while Karissa Lawrence had nine.

This year's Northside team was composed of Coleman, Lawrence, Mosley, Smith, Krislynn Faulkner, Arianna Norman, Grace Sefcik, Chloe Templeton, Miya Warren and Krysta Wheeler. The Eagles were coached by Shelsea Rickman and Kristi Faulkner.

Northside hosted the two-day championship event for girls' and boys' teams. Eleven schools, including NCA, participated.



The Eagles' Grace Sefcik (center) battles for a rebound.

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## BHS girls advance to District 4-5A title game

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Bradford High School held Interlachen to one field goal and four points in the third quarter to pull away and ride Jah'mya Henderson's 22-point effort in a 45-31 win in the Feb. 6 semifinals of the District 4-5A girls' basketball tournament in Starke.

Olyvia Griffin and Raynisha Hunter had seven and five points, respectively, as the third seed Tornadoes (11-11) now play top seed Newberry

for the championship on Thursday, Feb. 8, at 7 p.m. at BHS.

Jade Baker and Meghan Harris each had three points in the win over second seed Interlachen, while Chloe Raab and Dezirae Tabet each had two points. Brittnee Smiley added one point.

Prior to the tournament, Bradford closed the regular season with a 50-12 road win over Baldwin on Jan. 30 and a 51-27 loss to visiting Eastside on Feb. 1.

Smiley scored 16 points in

the win over Baldwin, while Regina Roberts and Baker had eight and seven points, respectively. Meghan Harris and Henderson had six and five, respectively, with Griffin and Hunter each scoring three. Raab added two points.

In the loss to Eastside, Griffin and Roberts scored seven and five points, respectively. Henderson and Raab each had four points, while Hunter and Tabet each had two. Baker, Harris and Smiley each added one point.



The Tornadoes' Dezirae Tabet (left) fights for possession of the ball.



Jah'mya Henderson drives to the basket in the Tornadoes' 45-31 district semifinal win.



Bradford's Raynisha Hunter (left) goes up for two.

## MULLINS

Continued from 8B

when he wanted me to pick the guy off," Mullins said. "For some reason, I don't know why, it just stuck."

Mullins would go on to pitch for Palatka High School. He said he wasn't the prototypical athlete, describing himself as little and skinny with no strength, so he wasn't necessarily envisioning a baseball career after graduating in 1990.

What Mullins did have was a work ethic, thanks to parents James and Patricia Mullins.

"We were a poor family," Mullins said. "Money didn't matter. Nothing mattered but your name and your work ethic. For some reason — and it can be cliché — that just stuck with me. I was going to be the hardest working kid on every team I played on."

Mullins' career did continue. He played at St. Johns River College and then for UNF, where he said head coach Dusty Rhodes and the aforementioned Weitzel "turned me into a professional baseball player."

Again, his work ethic was still evident.

"I had to be better than the bigger, stronger guys because I was the little guy," Mullins said. "I had to work harder, I had to lift more weights and I had to throw more because every scout wants a 6-4 guy. I was the 5-9 guy. I was the guy who wasn't supposed to make it."

He wasn't drafted, but Mullins, did sign with the Milwaukee Brewers in 1995 as a free agent.

### Getting called up

The greatest days of Mullins' life are when he got married and when his children were born. After those events, though, his best day was getting called up to the big leagues.

He started off his professional career in the minor leagues, recalling how he roomed with seven guys during rookie ball, making approximately \$342 a month. He remembered an incident during his second year, when he played for the Stockton Ports of the California League, when his team bus broke down at midnight in California's High Desert, leaving the team stranded until someone else happened along.

"It was a grind," said Mullins, who compiled 55 saves in the minors.



Jake Worthington (far left) and Trevor Rogers (far right) get some instructions from new head coach Greg Mullins.

He was called up by the Brewers in 1998, joining the team on Sept. 18, 1998. Though he didn't play, that first game with the team was memorable. It was against the Chicago Cubs at Wrigley Field during the year where the Cubs' Sammy Sosa and the St. Louis Cardinals' Mark McGwire broke Roger Maris' home run record. Mullins watched Sosa hit two home runs that day.

Mullins' first appearance in a game occurred three days later against the Cardinals. He struck out Delino DeShields, the first-ever batter he faced.

During one game of a home series against the Cubs, Mullins retired batters Jeff Blauser and Lance Johnson. Though not off of him, he watched Sosa hit another couple of home runs.

It was during that series that Mullins injured his shoulder. Three surgeries and extensive rehab followed. A fourth surgery was recommended by a doctor, but Mullins knew he had reached his limit. He retired in 1999.

"You know your own body," he said. "It wasn't happening again."

It may not have played out like he wanted it to, but he's thankful for God blessing him with the time he did spend in the big leagues. Whether it's Sosa, McGwire or any other Major League Baseball superstar you want to name, he and Mullins both made the same dream come true.

"I played against them and with them," Mullins said. "Even though they played longer than me, I was still as good as them. That's not being boastful. It's being very humble because I'm very thankful for the God-given abilities and the opportunity that he gave me."

### A new career

Mullins and his family moved to Jacksonville, where he resumed his studies at UNF (he had one course to complete to earn his degree). Then UNF assistant baseball coach Scott Benedict asked head coach

Dusty Rhodes why a former Major League pitcher who was on campus was not part of the Ospreys' staff. Mullins said Rhodes dragged him out of class and told him, "You're my new pitching coach."

He worked in that capacity for two years, then got his first head-coaching opportunity at Nease High School. Nease went 49-12 in Mullins' two seasons (2005-06), setting school records for wins in each of those seasons, advancing to the regional finals both seasons and playing in the state semifinals in 2005.

Mullins said he was blessed by having Joey Russell as an assistant coach and having the support of players and their parents.

"I had good players at that place," Mullins said. "I had a great team. It was the best baseball team I've ever had."

One of his players was Tim Tebow, who played for Mullins as a junior in 2005. Tebow didn't play in 2006 because he enrolled early at the University of Florida, where he excelled in football.

Mullins would've loved to have seen Tebow stick with baseball, saying, "He would've been in the big leagues by now."

"I tried my hardest to get him to play baseball, but his heart, his passion, was football," Mullins said.

Mullins took the head-coaching job at University Christian. The baseball program was down at that time, but in his two seasons there (2007-08), the Christians went 40-12.

### Big leagues of another sort

Just like going from the minors to the bigs as a player, Mullins moved up a level in coaching, taking the head baseball job at Brewton-Parker College in 2009. He compiled a 248-113 record in seven seasons, with the Barons winning one conference championship and advancing to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics postseason six times.

He enjoyed his time at

Brewton-Parker, which also included serving as athletic director and baseball coach at the same time during his final two years.

"We won," Mullins said. "Kids got drafted. Kids were graduating. The camaraderie was good."

However, Mullins just needed to step away and focus on his family.

"The moral of this story — I wanted to be a good daddy and a good husband," he said.

### Back on the diamond at UCHS

Now, Mullins has rejoined the coaching ranks, ready to guide the Tigers. So far, he's received overwhelming support from parents and the community, saying, "It's as equal to the most support I've ever had at any place."

He describes his team as having "a bunch of good, young talent." The Tigers lost a lot to graduation, so Mullins said many may be expecting a down year.

The number of wins and losses remains to be seen. What Mullins expects is the same work ethic he possessed as a player. He had his team participate in extensive conditioning during 5:30 a.m. workouts in the fall.

"Someone might have more talent for us," Mullins said, "but we will not be outworked."

What will excite Mullins most about watching his players take the field for the first time is watching them get that opportunity to showcase the result of their hard work to this point. The Tigers participate in a preseason tournament at P.K. Yonge on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 16-17, before opening the regular season with a home game against Interlachen on Tuesday, Feb. 20, at 7 p.m.

"We have a long ways to go to where I want to be," Mullins said, "but we're already on the right track."

His "right track" in regard to the successes he's experienced as a player and coach was paved by so many people. That's why Mullins wishes to express his thanks to all who played a part, whether it be the coaches and mentors he had as a player or his family — his wife, children, in-laws Bill and Betty Saunders, brothers Brian, Jimmy and Richard, and, of course, his parents. If it wasn't for James and Patricia Mullins, he wouldn't be where he is today.

"My parents were the most important two people in my life," Mullins said. "They were my two best friends, and I wanted to reward them for what they sacrificed for me. I didn't need to give them anything. I just wanted to reward them with seeing me be successful."

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# BHS' Donley places 4<sup>th</sup> at state finals

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Illness prevented Bradford High School's Khalia Donley from competing the Class 1A girls' weightlifting finals last year — her first time qualifying — but the senior was well enough this year, placing fourth in the 110 class to earn a medal for a top-six finish.

"I'm just very grateful," Donley said. "I felt very honored to even go to state let alone place at state."

Donley had a bench press of 130 and a clean and jerk of 125 to finish with a 255 total. She entered the meet hoping to place in the top three and actually had the third-best total. However,

Fivay's Isabel Martinez was awarded third place due to the weigh-in tiebreaker. Martinez weighed four-tenths of a pound less than Donley.

"It was (frustrating), but that's just how it works," Donley said.

She joked that if she had known how heavy the weight would feel in the bench press, she would not have attempted 130 pounds. Instead, she wished she had done 125 and saved up some strength for possibly doing 10 pounds more in the clean and jerk.

Still, a medal is a nice way to cap a senior season.

"It was pretty memorable," Donley said. "The whole entire experience of this year was



**Khalia Donley**  
Photo by Shelley Rodgers  
memorable."



Bradford's Khalia Donley competes in the clean and jerk en route to placing fourth in the 110 class at the state finals. Photo by Shelley Rodgers.

Avon Park's Earlnajah Collins won the class with a 280 total, while River Ridge's Katelyn Kirves was runner-up with a 260 total.

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# Keystone softball team aiming for the top

BY BRANDON LUDWIG  
Monitor correspondent

1989. While the year is the name of a popular Taylor Swift album, it also carries significance in that it was the last time the Keystone Heights Indians Softball Team won a state championship.

Now this isn't to say that the team hasn't been successful since then. The Indians have been district champions many times in the years after, were regional champions as recently as 2012 (making it to the state final four that year) and have been a regional softball powerhouse.

Last season, the Lady Indians went 19-10, were district champions, beat South Sumter 6-0 in the regional quarterfinal and made it to the regional semifinal, where they lost to the eventual state-runner up: Eustis. The squad had significant victories over prominent teams, including the Santa Fe Raiders, Bradford Tornadoes, Middleburg Broncos, and perhaps most importantly, a win over the Class 1A State Champions, the Union County Tigers. The Indians and Tigers have a competitive team rivalry, despite the fact that Keystone plays in Class 5A.

In an exclusive interview with the 2018 team, I was fortunate enough to get to meet with the players and Head Coach Jessica Marquart to find out their winning philosophy, and how they hope to translate that philosophy back into on field success this season.

## Senior core leads team

The team took last year's disappointing loss to Eustis in the regional semifinal to heart.

Junior Cami Worley phrased it best when she said that, "You know, we've been trying to work even harder since then, and really, since the start of our high school careers, it's just who we are as a team."

Senior Pitcher Megan Moncrief then chimed in, saying with the agreement of the team that, "When it comes to our whole team, we've all really bonded together pretty well over the past few years. We all work hard, we have fun, and we're all focused on the same goal... becoming the Class 5A State Champion before we graduate, and we want this to be the year

that we make that happen."

The team is comprised of a core group of eight seniors, seven of which are returning from last season. These seniors are Megan Moncrief, Bailey Story, Ashleigh Jennings, Skylar Rollins, Molly Crawford, Lexi Northway, Makayla Smith, and Emily Pressley. Along with these seniors, the team also features juniors Cami Worley and Savannah Channell, sophomores Ashton Ludwig and Madison Heskett, and freshman Daelynn Eatmon, along with preseason player Britney Hollingsworth.

Marquart is not one to mince words either, saying that she expects the best out of her team, both on and off the field. When it came to finding out the qualities that she expected from her players, Coach Marquart stated that, "I want to see hard work, dedication, and the girls working together as team players at all times. Every player is going to have their own personalities, but if they can't get past them for the sake of the team, we'll never be able to get to the level of success we want. Luckily, these girls are doing just that, and I know they're definitely ready."

When asked about her expectations for this season, Marquart echoed the sentiments of her team as well, having this to say about their goals. "Many of these girls have been on varsity since their freshman year and have been working hard to get to this point. Our biggest goal is taking games one at a time, focusing on each opponent, and working our way to a state championship."

## Tough opponents await Indians

This season though will be no cakewalk for the team, as they face what could potentially be one of the toughest schedules in the state. The Indians will kick-off their season with a big home matchup against the aforementioned Union County Tigers on February 12th at 7 p.m.

After this game, they'll go on to face several important district matchups against teams such as Palatka, PK Yonge, Newberry, and Fort White. Along with these, they'll have critical games against two district powerhouses: Santa Fe and Bradford, in

matchups that determine seeding for districts in the postseason.

These schools were both ranked in the top-20 teams in Class 5A for at least a month last season, with Keystone finishing seventh and Santa Fe finishing 10th, according to the Miracle Sports Softball Poll.

Along with these matchups, the Indians will face inter-county rivals, Clay High and Oakleaf, the latter of which is the defending Class 8A State Champion, and the team that the Indians believe presents the biggest hurdle for them this season.

Said Centerfielder Ashleigh Jennings: "Each team that we take on this season is tough in their own way, but Oakleaf is even more challenging, because they are built as a team similar to how we are, but we plan on working hard, and hopefully shocking the local softball world later in the spring."

Other noteworthy games come against Gainesville High School, a 2016 Class 7A State Champion, and against Trenton, a contender in Class 1A that made it all the way to their state class's final four last season.

They will play each of these schools at least once at the Lady Indians' home field known as Beulah Land, located adjacent to the KHHS football stadium parking lot, which has also undergone significant renovations this offseason in preparation for 2018.

## Facilities upgraded

Highlighted by what will be a fully-renovated concession stand, newly-painted dugouts, trimmed-up trees, and cleaned-up bleachers, the biggest improvement is the addition of a large paved area between the home bleachers and concession stand, which will make the venue more handicap accessible, and allow for an increased capacity of fans.

With so much at stake this year and a challenging schedule, how will the Indians be ready to take it all on? The answer to that question lies in an explosive offense, and a stifling defense.

According to MaxPreps, the team scored 193 runs while



Top left: 2017 Indians softball team celebrates with the District Championship Trophy after defeating the Santa Fe Raiders, Top right: Indians shortstop, Molly Crawford getting ready to steal third base in a win over PK Yonge. Bottom Left: Indians Catcher, Bailey Story, attempts to slap bunt in a win over Union County. Bottom Right: The 2017 team celebrates a final-inning, five-run comeback win over Middleburg, 7-6 on Senior Night.

allowing just 95 runs, over 29 games last season. With nine homeruns, 89 stolen bases, and 16 games that the Indians held their opponents to three runs or less in 2017, Keystone should be ready to compete yet again with some of the best teams from

around the state.

Senior Centerfielder Ashleigh Jennings will be signing to play college softball at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton on Monday, Feb. 12 at 2 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.

For any fans wishing to find

out the schedule of the softball team, visit MaxPreps.com, search Keystone Heights High School and click Softball, then click "Schedule" on the left menu. You can also visit the front office at KHHS.

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