

# UNION COUNTY TIMES

USPS 648-200 — Lake Butler, Florida

Thursday, February 15, 2018

105<sup>th</sup> Year — 43<sup>rd</sup> Issue — 75 CENTS

## etc.

### Free Clothing Event at Victory Christian Center

Victory Christian Center will be hosting a community clothing give-away on Saturday, Feb. 24 from 9-11 a.m. There will be clothing for men, women and children available and all are free to the public. Victory Christian Center is located at 705 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Street in Lake Butler (across from Lake Butler Elementary School). Everyone is welcome. For more information, call the church office at 386-496-2115.

### 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.

### LB City Commission to Meet Feb. 20

The Lake Butler City Commission will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2018 at 5 p.m. for its regular February meeting. The meeting will be held in the commission meeting room located in the Lake Butler City Hall.

### Commissioners 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.

### 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.

### The Browders in Concert at SCRC Feb. 18

The Browders will be in concert on Sunday, Feb. 18 at the Sanderson Christian Revival Center, located at the corner of S.R. 229 and Sapp Road. The concert will take place at 11 a.m. to be followed by dinner on the ground.

### 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

See ETC., 4A



Union County Teacher of the Year Kenneth North (right) with Superintendent Carlton Faulk.

### LB Commission Agrees on Contract for New City Manager



Outgoing Lake Butler City Manager Dave Mecusker (left) and incoming manager Dale Walker.

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Times Editor

With the retirement of current city manager Dave Mecusker looming near (Feb. 23), the city commission is through discussing the contract for his replacement and ready to go ahead with the final signing of the document by Dale M. Walker, the applicant chosen by the commission to take Mecusker's place.

Walker has already signed a draft of the contract, but is aware that the commission had not then approved the text of the document and might desire to make some changes in it. This proved to be the case at a special meeting of the commission on Feb. 6.

The document considered followed standard wording for a professional services agreement with the city of Lake Butler and was, in fact, quite similar to the contract signed by Mecusker when he first took the job. The commission decided to make a few changes, however, making some features which have been automatic now a matter for vote by the commission and adding language to ensure that adherence to the budget was understood.

The contract is for a term of three years and is between the city of Lake Butler and Walker for the provision of professional services in the position of city manager/clerk. The document will take effect Feb. 22, 2018. Mecusker told the commission that he would provide two days of training for the new manager (Feb. 22-23) and would be available to him for additional information at no charge to the city.

The contract is binding in

that Walker agrees to stay in the employ of the city for the three-year term, barring any termination activity. He will be required to work full-time exclusively for the city, but, with approval by the commission, might be allowed to take part-time employment as a teacher or consultant.

Walker's starting salary will be \$78,166.40 annually and will be paid on the same schedule as other city employees. One change in the contract is the removal of language declaring automatic annual salary increases (which Mecusker routinely declined) and instead leaves the matter of any salary increase to be determined independently by the commission.

Benefits include the use of a city car for all city business, but the personal use of the car is limited to travel inside Union County and only to driving back and forth from home to work. The city will pay reasonable expenses for professional development activities for the new manager, including the participation in professional associations and attending professional conferences so long as these expenses are within the annual budgetary allowance earmarked for such activities.

Walker will receive a salary supplement of not less than \$6,510.40 for use in securing family group insurance, supplemental retirement or other uses deemed appropriate. He will be allowed to be exempt from the Florida Retirement System, with some provisions for city contribution to an approved

See MANAGER, 4A

### UCHS and District Teacher of the Year Seeks to Help Teens Become Better Citizens

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Times Editor

After a 23-year career in the United States Army, CSM Ret. Kenneth North has found another way to serve his country, this time as a military instructor with the JROTC at Union County High School — a position which has earned him honors as both the UCHS Teacher of the Year and the Union County School District

Teacher of the Year.

North said he joined the Army straight out of high school in Ft. Lauderdale. He did his basic training at Fort Benning, GA and then began a career full of deployments, all of which he said he enjoyed.

First, he went to the Canal Zone in Panama to complete his Jungle Training, then on to combat tours in the Gardez region of Afghanistan, and Kuwait (the only deployment

where he said he did not have to sleep on the ground). He said he found his experience in the Arab countries to be generally positive and has found that the cultural experience he gained has helped in later situations.

"The Arab countries are not that difficult to work in," North said. "They understand that we don't understand a great deal

See TEACHER, 3A

### Broadway lights shine in Union County



The fourth graders were assigned the speaking and dancing roles.

BY KIM BOX  
Special to the Times

An enthusiastic chorus of third- and fourth-graders brought Broadway to Union County the evening of Feb. 8. The "big stage" in this instance was the Union County High School auditorium where about 65 Lake Butler Elementary School students presented the musical "Broadway Beat."

The fourth graders were assigned the speaking and dancing roles. Changing into costumes that visually set the tone for each of seven numbers, they took center stage in leading the audience down memory lane. Third-grade students provided a background of gold T-shirts as they used various props in unison and backed the fourth-graders up from risers behind them.

The performance began with "You Can't Stop the Beat"

from "Hairspray," followed by "Give My Regards to George M. Cohan." Next, the students sang and danced to lively renditions of "Seventy-Six Trombones" from the "Music Man" and "I Whistle a Happy Tune" from "The King and I."

The tempo slowed with "For Good" from "Wicked" and "Seasons of Love" from "Rent." Obviously loving the final song, students excitedly wrapped things up with "We Go Together" from "Grease."

"The last song, when we dance, is my favorite part," said fourth-grader Kenli Jenkins, one of a four-member dance team who kicked things off at the beginning of the play and returned for an encore in the final song.

"This was fun," another member of her team, Dakota Gathright, said. "It was

awesome!"

Fun is exactly what elementary music instructor and part-time high school band director Pam Higginbotham had hoped her students would remember about this performance. Higginbotham has shared the joy of participating in musicals with LBES students for the past 20 years. She and Barbara Zipperer, assisted by Brittany Gulbrand and Katie Zipperer, directed "Broadway Beat."

"Everyone (students and adults) has worked really hard, and I hope the students had a lot of fun," Higginbotham said.

She humbly credited all of her helpers and the LBES staff and thanked them profusely. Other unsung heroes recognized by Higginbotham were the parents.

"It was not easy for them to

See MUSIC, 3A

### Old Building May Find New Life in City



BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Times Editor

A piece of Lake Butler history was sold last week, but it is hoped by the buyer that it may form a foundation for new economic developments in the city.

The 7,257 sq. ft. building, located at 225 W. Main Street was constructed in 1969 to serve as a home for Andrews' Drugstore. It continued its role as a drugstore for quite a few years, first as a Rite-Aid Pharmacy, then an Eckerd's (when that company bought out Rite-Aid), then as a CVS Pharmacy (when that company bought out Eckerd) for a short time until CVS built their own building at the corner of S.R.

100 and S.R. 121. When CVS moved out, the building stood vacant for a time, then became a restaurant, first as Carter's Fried Chicken and then as a BBQ establishment. In recent years, it has stood empty.

The building and all of its contents were put up for auction by owner Holloway Properties LLC, on Wed., Feb. 7 by Campen Auctions. During the week before the auction, the main speculation around town was as to who would buy the building and how much it would sell for. The Union County Property Appraisers office lists the property as 0.787 acres, paved, zoned commercially and valued

at (both just value and taxable value) \$199,040.

The building sold for \$132,500 to local businessman Avery Roberts. Sources in Robert's business office said that title for the building will be taken under Roberts Capital Ventures LLC. He bought the property as an investment and hoped to work with the city of Lake Butler to bring in a business of some sort that would help stimulate economic development in the city.

After the building/property auction was done, items inside were auctioned. These items consisted of restaurant supplies and furnishings.

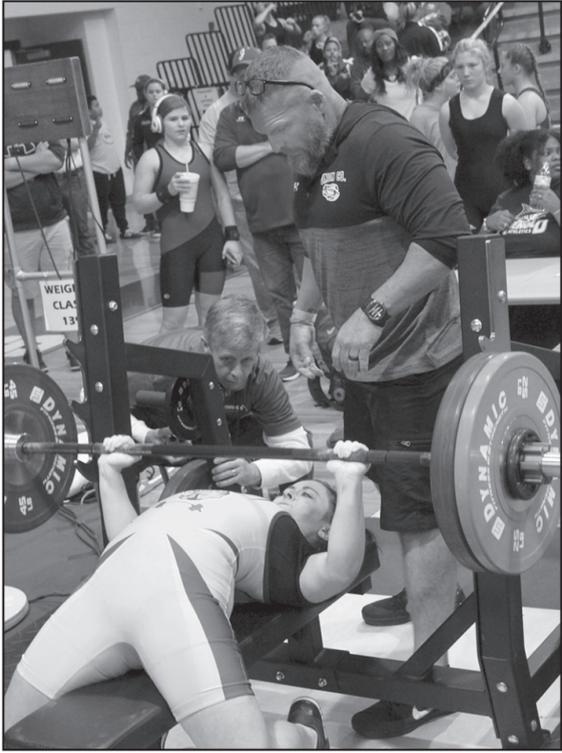
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# Congratulations to our new State Champions



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



Left: 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.



Kurston Bakken



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



go tigers

## Girls Weightlifting State Champions!

Carita S. Wall Congratulations!



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**Photos from the Lake Butler Woman's Club Valentine Luncheon**



Cathy and Barry Sands took the time from their jobs with the school district to share a lunch for a day dedicated to romance.



Bill and Fayanne Spitzer cutting-up a little for the camera as they celebrate Valentine's Day.



Shane and Kimberly Collins share a Valentine lunch at the annual Women's Club event.



Lake Butler Rotary Club President Ted Barber and his wife Lila Seay Barber had a nice lunch and she got surprised with a bouquet of flowers from her best admirer. In lieu of their regular weekly meeting, members of the Rotary Club showed their support for the Womans's Club and Cupid by meeting there instead.



The honeymoon is not over for Bill and Lonita McGill as they celebrate together.



Ruth Tyre will be 87 on Feb. 14, making her a Valentine baby. She was on hand to enjoy the wonderful food and fellowship at the Women's Club as well.

**Shriner awarded for distinguished service**



Starke Shrine Club President David Kniseley presented Scott Roberts with a distinguished service plaque for leading the Starke Shrine Club for two years (2016 and 2017) at the Feb. 1 meeting.

**Saying "No" to tobacco**



During Literacy Week, SWAT member- Carissa Griffis introduced curriculum to the students at LBES and UCHS on KidsHealth in the Classroom. Students were read to, asked questions and developed No Smoking T-Shirts to learn the truth about cigarette smoking and the long term side effects. Pictured are Back row: Matthew Phillips, Hunter Lee, Madison Suggs, Meagan Owens Front Row: Alyssa Mann and Carissa Griffis

**MUSIC**

Continued from 3A

rework their schedules around our practices," Higginbotham said. "But they did."

Parents, friends and other family members could not help but recognize that the time had been well-spent as they all clapped, tapped and snapped to the Broadway beat.

Many of the 27 third graders and 36 fourth graders involved in this production had never been on such a big stage. The entire group seemed to really enjoy the experience, and one of them echoed an idea that many must have shared with their families on the way home.

"It was the start of being an actress," third-grader Kendyl Brannen said. "I might be an actress when I grow up."

Other aspiring actors and actresses from the third grade are as follows: Jarred Bennett; Ava Bernal; Kendyl Brannen (quoted above); Lucy Cabral; Lexi Crews; Halen Davis; Brennen Dukes; Edward Durant; Abigail Fishburn; Deion Givens; Briena Haight; Reese Harrison; Zelaia Jackson; Mia Kent; Rebecca Langkau; Princess Maxwell; Sierra Mohl; Gabrielle Moore; Gabriella Parrish; Jayce Short; Tywana Smith; Bayley Staier; Jaslyn Thomas; Lynn Thomas; Marlee Trowell; Zekie Velazquez; and Malia Williams.

The fourth-grade performers involved were: Rachael Archer; Sarah Baker; Brooklyn Barnes; Amia Bethea; Alaya Boykin; Devin Brown; Kierston Clemons; Jhailynd Cooper; Jesse Dicks; Carsyn Dukes; Brianna Elixson; Dakota Gathright (quoted earlier); Zariya Green; Chloe Griffis; Ja'kari Hill; Terriana Holton; Codi Huntley; Kenli Jenkins (quoted earlier); Bella Johns; Indi Knox; Erick Lasseter; Kayla Manucy; Parker Parrish; Carolena Rangila; Vanessa Raymond; E'shawna Rollins; Brycen Sapp; Eva Sharrah; Jaily Simmonds; Karli Tanner; Kayla Thomas; Lynze Thomas; Lucas Thompson; Eva Whitehead; Abigail Williams; and Ayden Williams.

**TEACHER**

Continued from 1A

about them and they know we are there to help them. I didn't have any problems."

During his active duty career, North earned Bronze Stars, Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year for Florida recognitions and conducted many training sessions for soldiers to prepare them for combat.

During the course of his Army career, North had the chance to help with a JROTC Leadership class one summer and was impressed with the program and the results it produced. When he retired he sought employment as an JROTC instructor.

"The whole ROTC program is about helping young people become better citizens," North said. "We as instructors use all of our Army experience to teach young people about diversity, conflict resolution, reading for meaning, study habits, thinking maps and other techniques which will serve our students throughout their lives. We are not recruiting for the military. In the first year of ROTC there are 38 lessons in the program, and only 11 are specific to Army learning."

North works with and under the command of LTC. Ret. Kevin Stevenson, the senior Army instructor in the program. North is in his sixth

year working with ROTC and says he enjoys everything about it, but he does have one special memory.

"A couple of years ago I had the opportunity to work with Mrs. Harrison and her ESE students," North said. "They taught me so much about how people are people no matter what skills they have or don't have. My most memorable moment was watching them wait in my room to present the Colors for a baseball game. We had practiced a lot, but they were nervous, like a paratrooper on his first jump. I called them all together in a huddle, calmed them down and they broke with the cry 'Team Work.' It was the first time they were part of a team. They were in heaven and so was I."

North said he has always followed some advice given to him years ago – that passion and drive are what is needed for success. He said he has worked to apply this to both of his careers and has found that it works. Teaching is his current passion and, although he does not claim that he will have it forever, he does say that this is what drives him in his work.

"I am so honored to have been selected as Teacher of the Year for both Union County High School and the Union County School District," North said. "I will be pleased and proud to represent Union County in Orlando in the competition with all of the other state district winners."



**Russ WADE**  
**Attorney at Law**

620 East Main Street  
Lake Butler, FL 32054  
(Across from Subway Plaza)

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(Documentation Required)
- Veteran or First Responder Service-Connected Total and Permanent Disability Exemption or Surviving Spouse of Military Veteran.
- \$5,000 Exemption for Disabled Ex-Service member or Surviving Spouse  
(Documentation Required)
- Exemption for Surviving Spouse of Military Veteran who died from Service-Connected Causes while on Active Duty or First Responder who died in the line of Duty and who was a Permanent Resident of Florida as of Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> of the Year the Veteran or First Responder Died  
(Please contact office for required documentation)

**For more information, please contact our office:**  
55 West Main Street, Room 109  
Lake Butler, FL 32054  
PH 386-496-3431  
FAX 386-496-2925

**THE DEADLINE FOR FILING ANY TAX EXEMPTION APPLICATION IS MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup>**

**UNION COUNTY TIMES**  
USPS 648-200

Published each Thursday and entered as Periodical Postage  
Paid at Lake Butler, Florida under Act of March 3, 1879.

**POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:**  
**UNION COUNTY TIMES**  
131 W. Call Street • Starke, FL 32091  
uctimeseditor@gmail.com  
904-964-6305 • fax 904-964-8628

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Subscription Rate in Trade Area  
\$39.00 per year;  
\$20.00 six months  
Outside Trade Area:  
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# LEGALS

UCT Legals 2/15/18

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

D6970. Preliminary details were sent out by email to Lake Butler Rotarians this morning.

On April 28, 2018, we have a District Assembly for Rotarians and especially for our Club's Officers for 2018-2019. Last year four Lake Butler Rotarians attended the training and we learned a lot of helpful things. Donna Harris, PE, will be providing more information very soon.

## Lake Butler Rotary Enjoys Valentine Lunch at Women's Club

Each year the Lake Butler Rotary Club enjoys a Valentine Luncheon with the Lake Butler Women's Club. This year the event was held at the newly renovated Women's Club. The meal was really terrific and the members of the Lake Butler Women's Club should be very proud of their building not only with us Rotarians but to the many other people that had carry outs and that ate their lunches in the building. This year we had 12 Rotarians and 4 quests from our group that enjoyed the luncheon and fellowship.

Ann Hendricks, President of the Women's Club, surprised Lila Barber with a bouquet of yellow roses that her husband Ted Barber had arranged to be presented. Ted

earned a few "good husband" points from Lila for this surprise. Ted in turn presented Ann with a Lake Butler Rotary Club Banner in appreciation for the work the Women's Club does to prepare for this annual event. Ms. Hendricks thanked the Lake Butler Rotary Club and told the crowd that she would have Monika Bayer put the Banner in a prominent place in their Clubhouse.

Our next luncheon meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 20 at the First Christian Churches' old Sanctuary. The luncheon meal begins at noon and Russ Miller, a Past Rotary District Governor, will present a program on The Rotary Foundation. His expertise is terrific and well worth our time from the estate planning perspective. At 1:00 PM we will have a short break for those who can't remain for the conclusion of his training.

Donna Harris, our President Elect, informed me that our Clay Electric Grant for assisting the Farm Share Program in Union County was approved. A mobile hydraulic lift will be a major purchase to assist offloading the donated food. We'll have a plaque designating the equipment as belonging to the Lake Butler Rotary Club and it will be maintained by the City for Farm Share Operations only.

Our International Project for a learning Center in Nicaragua is moving along fine for a Rotary Global Grant thanks to the work Joe Stephenson, Past LBRC President, is doing in Nicaragua.

# MANAGER

Continued from 1A

retirement plan at the same rate as it would have contributed to the state program on his behalf.

Under the contract, Walker can accumulate up to 480 hours of annual leave each year and this can be converted to sick leave if required. Annual sick leave will be 103 hours. Walker will be expected to work 40 hours per week or more, as required by the duties of his position and will earn no comp time or overtime for hours over 40.

The contract states that while the commission would prefer that

Walker find a residence in the city, it would consider allowing him to live outside the city limits, so long as his residence was still in Union County. This allowance has been made for several city managers in the past, including Mecusker.

Mecusker said he felt that the changes, approved unanimously by the commission, would not be a deal-breaker with Walker, who has already traveled to Lake Butler, at his own expense, to spend a couple of days starting to learn his way around the city and meet the people he will be working with.

Although it was noted by the commission that this contract had

the highest starting pay for the position ever offered by the city, Commissioner Jack Schenck said he felt it was appropriate.

"We are not hiring someone to come and mow a yard," Schenck said. "We are hiring someone for professional services and, quite simply, you get what you pay for."

Once the changes in wording were made to the contract, the commission voted to allow Mayor Fred Sirmones and Mecusker to make the desired amendments to the contract and to execute it with Walker at the earliest date possible.

# ETC.

Continued from 1A

p.m. each session.

Adult programs are continuing in the new year, on the second Tuesday of each month. 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 Perfect Pets (Feb. 15), Crazy Cowpokes (Feb. 22) and Human Health (March 1). There will be no program on March 8, but the series will continue with Funny Fairy Tales in March 15. 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.

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

The National Wild Turkey Federation, New River Gobblers Chapter of Lake Butler, will

## LBMS A/B Honor Roll for the Second Nine Weeks

Students who worked hard and made the A/B Honor Roll for the second nine-weeks grading period at Lake Butler Middle School were:

**Fifth Grade –**  
Joseph Andrews, Rani Bell, Jenna Bielling, Racheal Bloodsworth, Emmalee Boyette, Jesse Chaikin, Aubrianna Clark, Callie Combs, Dallen Cox, Seth Cox, Dailynn Croft, Shyla Crowe, Judson Davis, Dyshawn Dawsey, Devin Diggs, Dillon Duenas, Kutter Durrance, McKenzie Flick, Jelissa Garcia, Isaac George, Kaylynn Goldie, Aiden Hart, Eli Hendricks, Kaylie Hendricks, Stephen Heslar, Ya'kayla Jenkins, Jahkeria Johnson, Owen Johnson, Lily Kelley, Justin Kerschner, Trevor King, Jonathan Kirsten, Kaylee Knight, Zachary Lane, Patrick Maxwell, Jeremiah McKenzie, Cali McMahon, Kane Middleton, Karsen Middleton, Landen Miller, Savannah Miller, Skyler Moats, Natalie Piggott, Troy Presley, Makenzie Radford, Josie Regar, Elijah Roberts, Kaylee Romero, Tifton Roseke, Heaven Scott, Hayley Sherrod, Cian Smith, Michael-Ann Smith, Shane Smith, Taleya

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.

## 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

Smith, Taylor Smith, Kamryn Southerland, Alexia Staffiri, Scarlet Stroud, Jameson Tetstone, Desiree Thomas, Savannah A. Thompson, Jeffrey Tomlinson, Carli Trent, Violet Tucker, Jake Walker, Ava Westmoreland, Maddox Wheeler, Emily Whitehead, Connor Williams, Philip Williams, Bo Wilson, Tyson Woodland, Jamari Young, Krista Young and Adam Zlourhi.

### Sixth Grade –

Janiah Albritton, Kyler Barnett, Miranda Beard, Emilee Benton, Cailynn Boggs, Brycen Boney, Sydney Box, Alena Boyer, Tuxie Brannen, Kayli Carlisle, Gavin Chapman, Vivian Coldiron, James Cox, Kiran Crawford, Gracie Crawford, Dawson Crews, Dalton Dampier, Grant Dicks, Duncan Dugger, Abigail Gainey, Lyndee Griffis, Kendal Hamilton, Taliyah Harper, Karlie Jenkins, Kларыssa Kennington, Morgan Kirby, Kearnstn Leet, Madison Locke, Kersey McSpadden, Alyssa Monnett, Bobbie Montford, Lily Neal, Makayla Nelson, Alexis Panozzo, Tucker Parrish, Patricio Perez, Layla Piggott, William Poppell, Mackenzie Ring, Sawyer Roberts, Konner Rossiter, Soleimy Sanchez, Foster Smith, Robert Smith, Kody Stalnaker, Jason Thomas, Kaylee Thompson, Kayley Tomlinson, Kylee Williams and Lily Young.

### Seventh Grade –

Joshua Agner, Hope Andrews,

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.

Cassandra Brannen, Ian Brannen, Ben Cabral, Bionca Cummings, Jaycee Davis, Ella Dicks, Kristen Dyess, Zoey Fillyaw, Emma Fulton, Natalie Gay, Ethan Graham, Grace Griffis, Jayda Hendrieth, Hance Jones, Kasen Junior, Dylan Lovelace, Drew Manning, Miranda Martin, Ethan Moody, Jordan Norris, Spencer Nugent, Ty Patas, Emma Perron, Karly Raulerson, Emily Richards, Caleb Ripplinger, Carson Rogers, Auntrell Ross, Karly Shatto, Hannah Sherrod, Kale Waters, Karleigh White, Cameron Williams, Emily Wilson and Tamia Young.

### Eighth Grade –

Christopher Alvarez, Abigayle Andrews, Gavin Barfield, Summer Bridges, Alauana Brown, McKenzie Clemons, Josie Croft, Jody Dubose, Reghan Dukes, Jean Dure', Desmond Edwards, Hailey Fishburn, Lily French, Sierra Garland, Patrick Graham, William Harden, Camrin Hillard, Trinity Hines, Tatiyana Holmes, Sabrena Howard, Nathan Humphreys, Kyra Jordan, Gracie Kitchens, Landon Klein, La'Tianna Lee, Adam Maddux, Alaurie McClellon, Makayla Mckenzie, William Mello, Tahj Merriex, Jake O'steen, Kimmie Palmer, Megan Parrish, Victoria Polbos, Eli Rimes, Tyler Shea, Hunter Sherrod, Lauren Smith, Keith Stanley, Jaydn Starling, Chaz Strayer, Ethan Thomas, Anna Ward, Natalie Waters, Ariana Watts and Alexis Winn.



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# REGIONAL NEWS

NEWS FROM BRADFORD COUNTY, UNION COUNTY AND THE LAKE REGION

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## UPS' Pierson makes his last delivery

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Before anyone files a missing-persons report, please be advised that Ken Pierson is still around, alive and well.

Pierson has been such a familiar sight around Starke and Bradford County, having delivered packages for UPS, but he's now retired after 44.5 years. He did not spread the word that he was retiring.

"Everybody's just shocked," he said. "They thought I would die in the truck."

His final day even caught those at UPS in Gainesville by surprise.

"Human resources did not tell them," Pierson, 65, said. "I went in on Tuesday and said, 'You people don't know this is my last day?' They did not. So my wife and my stepdaughter and my stepson knew. That was it."

After working through January, Pierson stepped away from the lifelong career that didn't start out as such. The Polk County native was attending the University of Florida when he began working part-time for UPS in the mornings before classes.

"I paid for school just by doing that," he said.

Pierson was studying psychology and sociology, but said he decided he wasn't going to continue his studies at medical school and go into psychiatry. He gave thought to moving

to Denver just to experience something different, but he would need money for any such move.

As it turned out, one of Pierson's co-workers at UPS was fired, so the company needed a full-time employee. Today, someone filling such a position would spend three or four days in Orlando being trained, but that's not how it worked then when Pierson said he'd take the job.

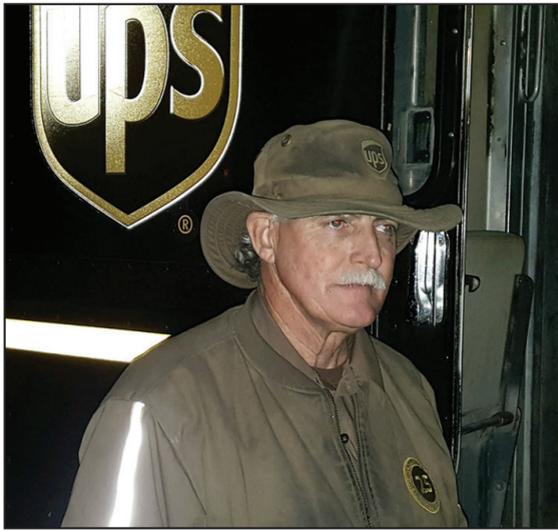
"I said, 'Let's go.' I didn't go to training school," Pierson said. "The supervisor got in the car with me, and we went."

What helped him was the fact he knew how to drive the truck, thanks to the fact he had been driving a "hippie van" that he had bought. Pierson said two part-time employees working in Gainesville today want to move up to full time, but what's keeping them from doing so is their inability to drive a stick shift.

"I could already drive," Pierson said. "I just got in and went."

### Covering ground day and night

Pierson's main route starting out was northwest Gainesville, eventually branching out to service Waldo, Brooker and LaCrosse. He said one person used to cover Starke and Lawtey, but that was getting to be too



Ken Pierson made his last delivery in January, retiring after a 44.5-year career with UPS.

much for one person, so he began coming into Starke to service the area around Sampson Lake.

"He needed more and more help," Pierson said of the employee who was covering Starke. "I came farther and farther into town."

For the last 20 years or so, Pierson mainly covered the Starke area, branching out at times to go into Brooker and the Montecocha area.

A typical day had him making 100 stops. Toward the end of his career, he was working 13-hour days. This past year, DOT allowed UPS employees to work 70-hour weeks during the holidays, so Pierson said he would work past midnight most every night during that time. However, that wasn't much of a variance in his normal schedule.

"It was not that big a difference for me because even during the year, they knew I liked long hours," Pierson said. "I was

working late anyway."

Whereas others might want to get home to spend time with their families, Pierson said he was working late just like his wife, Linda, who is the manager at CVS in Starke.

"I wasn't neglecting her too much," he said.

Pierson said he's found that a lot of people don't realize UPS drivers work late into the night. He recalled how he delivered a package to one home at 7:30 p.m. The resident remarked, "Gosh. You work so late."

"I still had five more hours to work," Pierson said.

### Hazards: from getting lost to avoiding dogs, guns

Driving for UPS comes with some hazards. A common one is getting lost. Pierson said

he's gotten lost many times in Bradford County, especially in the days when there was no 911 mapping system, making it hard to find certain addresses.

"You did your best," Pierson said. "You tried to find a neighbor who knew them. You tried to, if you could, find a number and call them. If not, you just took (the package) back. (UPS) sent a note in the mail to the address: 'We need more directions.'"

Getting his truck stuck was sometimes an issue, Pierson said, alluding to mud.

"It's not that uncommon around here," he said.

Pierson said he did a good job overall in avoiding getting bitten by dogs, but it still happened. He recalled a recent incident where it looked as though he was going to successfully back away from three dogs, but one managed to get behind him and bite his leg.

"I had to go get stitches," he said.

Sometimes, threats came from people, who didn't know who was coming up to their doors.

"I have had guns drawn on me," Pierson said, adding, "We had three people quit over the holidays. Part-time people got guns drawn on them. They quit on the spot."

Pierson said he didn't think he was in any real danger of getting shot with the exception of one incident involving an elderly man, though that wasn't much of a threat due to the man's physical limitations.

"That's the only one I thought would've shot me," Pierson said, "but he couldn't lift the gun high enough to shoot me."

Plenty of people were kind to Pierson, which is what he'll remember most. Sometimes, when people knew he was

coming, they'd have something to eat or drink ready for him so he could grab it quick and go.

Meeting strangers was nice, too.

"It kept the job from getting completely boring by seeing new people every day," Pierson said.

### Enjoying life

Now, Pierson, who lives in Starke, has more time to devote to refereeing lacrosse, which he does at various levels up through college. He used to play the sport, starting at UF in the early 1970s when a couple of guys from New York were looking for those interested in joining a team.

"I had grown up in Florida, where there was baseball, basketball and football," Pierson said. "I was completely bored with those by the time I got to Gainesville."

In fact, Pierson played alongside former UF Athletic Director Jeremy Foley on Florida all-star teams that would play all-star teams from Texas in New Orleans. Foley played the sport when he was a student at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York.

When not busy with lacrosse, Pierson said he'll work on all the things at home he didn't get to while he was with UPS and work on improving a lake house he has outside of Hawthorne.

"Then, just enjoy life with my wife," Pierson said.

So Pierson may not seem as present to those individuals who were so used to seeing him on a regular basis, but don't fret. He's still here, though maybe you won't recognize him without his uniform.

"I'll be around and out of brown," Pierson said.



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## Shands Starke to host heart lecture Feb. 22

Cardiologist Lucien Abboud will be the featured speaker at a heart lecture in the Shands Starke Regional Medical Center atrium on Thursday, Feb. 22, from noon until 1 p.m. The event is free.

Please RSVP by calling 904-368-2349. You may also register online at shandsstarke.com.

## Hunter safety internet-completion courses offered in March

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is offering free hunter safety internet-completion courses in nine counties in March, with opportunities in Keystone Heights and Graham.

Students who have taken the online course and wish to complete the classroom portion must bring the online-completion report with them.

All firearms, ammunition and materials are provided free of charge. Students should bring a pen or pencil and paper. An adult must accompany children younger than 16 at all times.

Anyone born on or after June 1, 1975, must pass an approved hunter safety course and have a hunting license to hunt unsupervised. The FWC course satisfies hunter-safety training requirements for all other states and Canadian provinces.

The dates and times are:

—Clay: March 1 (6-9 p.m.), Keystone Heights, March 3 (8 a.m. until complete), Graham, March 8 (6-9 p.m.), Orange Park, March 10 (8 a.m. until complete), Graham, March 15 (6-9 p.m.) Fleming Island, and March 17 (8 a.m. until complete), Graham.

—Alachua: March 4 (10 a.m. until complete), Gainesville.

—Baker: March 10 (8 a.m.-noon), Macclenny, and March 10 (1 p.m. until complete), Lake City.

—Citrus: March 3 (9 a.m. until complete), Lecanto.

—Columbia: March 1 (6-9 p.m.) and March 3 (8:30 a.m. until complete), Lake City.

—Duval: March 8 (6-9 p.m.) and March 10 (8:30 a.m. until noon), Jacksonville.

—Levy: March 25 (3 p.m. until complete), Chiefland.

—Madison: March 10 (9 a.m. until complete), Pinetta.

—Nassau: March 3 (8 a.m.-noon), Callahan, and (1-3 p.m.), Bryceville.

The specific locations for these classes will be given to those who register in advance. Those interested in attending a course can register online and obtain information about future hunter safety classes at MyFWC.com/HunterSafety or by calling the FWC's regional office in Lake City at 386-758-0525.

## Attend national-certified bowhunter course in Lake City March 31

Florida bowhunters will have an opportunity to attend a National Bowhunter Education Foundation-certified bowhunter education course at Osceola Shooting Range in Lake City on March 31, beginning at 9 a.m.

The course will be conducted using the online, distance-learning format. A bowhunting enthusiast can access the program on the NBEF website, enter through the Florida portal and complete the online classroom topics before attending a shortened, interactive field day at Osceola Shooting Range. The Florida course is found at bowhunter-ed.com/florida/.

The course is offered by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Hunter Safety Section and the Florida Bowhunters Council.

While these courses do not satisfy the hunter education requirements for Florida, they are educational, informative and well worth taking, according to FWC officials.

Participants must bring their own equipment, including bow and field-tipped arrows. Students should register for the course they choose by calling the FWC's North Central Regional Office at 386-754-1654 or by visiting MyFWC.com/Bowhunt.

Students of all ages may participate.

# Need spare parts? Just print them out

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Normally, a print job at the Bradford County Sheriff's Office is like a print job in any other office. The result is ink and paper.

A recent print job resulted in something that's not going to eventually be balled up and thrown away, as the office's network administrator, Chris Hamer, used his personal 3-D printer to create face plates for 60 floor electrical boxes.

"I'd never done anything like that for here (at the office)," Hamer said, "but it was a problem that needed to be solved."

The office installed new electrical boxes and went through a general upgrade. Hamer said the office didn't have enough face plates for all of the boxes. Plus, the existing plates were old and warped.

However, the office couldn't find a supplier which had the type of plates it was using. Hamer said that type had actually been recalled at some point. Holding up one of the old plates during his interview with the Telegraph-Times-Monitor, he said, "These are pretty rare."

Hamer had the solution. He took measurements of the existing face plates and printed new ones at home.

"It worked very well," Hamer said. "The units came out, and they're very resilient. The plastic is very strong. What's funny is it's a biodegradable plastic. It's actually made out of vegetable material."

It took approximately an hour to create one face plate, Hamer said. However, it took approximately 75-80 hours to create all of the 60 plates as opposed to 60 hours. As Hamer put it, the digital world doesn't always match the real world.

"I had mistakes," Hamer said. "I had a few that I printed out

that the measurements were off, or my input into the software was incorrect. I had to go back and modify it."

## How does 3-D printing work?

Hamer said the fused deposition model of 3-D printing is an additive process as opposed to a removal process. Using a router to cut wood and create a finished product, for example, would be a removal process. In 3-D printing, the finished product is created by adding layers of extruded material on top of each other. Hamer said it's like playing with a glue gun, drawing circles on top of circles. The glue begins to rise from whatever surface you're applying it to.

The process of 3-D printing is the same, except instead of glue, you're using a melted material.

You have what is called slicer software (Hamer used Autodesk Fusion), raw material in the form of filament, a printer platform upon which the material is applied and a heated nozzle or printer head from which the material is extruded.

"What it does is, it just draws a line, and it melts the lines together so they form a solid," Hamer said. "It does it just one line at a time. Then it builds up layer by layer, one line at a time."

If the office needs another face plate, Hamer is all set to create another one, even without having to leave the office.

"Even remotely right now, I can initiate one of these print jobs because the 3-D printer is standing by and ready," Hamer said. "If one of those breaks or something like that, I can simply log into the server and

say load this and start printing."

## Uses and benefits of 3-D printing

Hamer said one of the biggest benefits of 3-D printing is it allows individuals and small businesses to quickly develop a prototype to determine if a concept is feasible.

"I'm actually working with my cousin right now because he has a concept for a motorcycle accessory," Hamer said. "In 3-D, I'm designing and mounting hardware. We're going to print them out just as a prototype thing just to see if it's workable. If it is, he'll take that design — that same 3-D file — and we'll have them mass produced."

For artists, 3-D printing is a draw because it allows them to experiment without wasting a lot of material first. It also enables them to create objects without using physical tools that are expensive and require a learning curve if they don't already know how to use them.

Hamer has created his version of lithopanes — translucent porcelain with molded designs images that are revealed through backlighting — with his printer. He's given his works to friends, though he noted, "Apparently, that's a thing on the internet. You can charge \$40 to \$50 a pop for some of these smaller ones."

You can also say 3-D printing results are out of this world — literally. Hamer said the international space station has a 3-D printer, which allows its crew to create tools. Thus, whenever a certain tool is needed, it doesn't have to be transported from Earth.

"This way, all they did was they 3-D printed it," Hamer said. "When they were done, they could melt it down and

dispose of it."

Hamer said SpaceX is using 3-D printing to build rocket engine parts, though rather than utilizing fused deposition modeling, SpaceX uses the selective laser sintering type of 3-D printing, which is more accurate.

"It's being used in jet engine parts," Hamer said of selective laser sintering. "It's being used in any type of really precision manufacturing."

Still, with all of its attributes, Hamer doesn't believe 3-D printing will take the place of injection molding in mass-scale productions any time soon.

"It's still very time consuming and resource intensive," he said, "but it has an amazing capacity to bring something out of the 3-D world into the real world — the stuff science fiction's made out of."

## Just another example of yesterday's 'future'

Hamer bought his 3-D printer in early 2017, saying he paid \$380 for it. It wasn't bought with the vision of its practical uses, say building electrical box face plates for the sheriff's office. Instead, he wanted to build knickknacks for the home and make things for his children. For example, he said he used the printer to create Baymax, the inflatable robot from the movie "Big Hero 6."

"It was always meant as a fun thing," Hamer said. "I don't really do a lot of fabrication for customers, for clients, for anybody, but it's been something I've wanted for a

long time."

It's as if Hamer equipped himself with just one more piece of today's technology that reminds him of watching "Star Trek" as a child. In fact, those responsible for such technology share a similar childhood.

"A lot of the engineers and designers of today, credit 'Star Trek' with putting in their heads that not only is it feasible, but it's acceptable and usable," Hamer said. "Cell phones, tablets, 3-D printers — these 3-D printers are the closest we've gotten to 'Star Trek's' replicators."

A 3-D printer may not be able

to create food or drink as a 'Star Trek' replicator could, but it can match the replicator in creating spare parts, such as electrical box face plates. Hamer said he could see using his 3-D printer in some other ways to help the sheriff's office because of the printer's capacity to produce something that either is no longer manufactured or to produce something for a single, unique application.

When you're not located in a major metropolis, that can come in handy.

"It just brings a little more available resources," Hamer said.

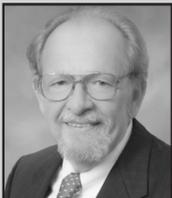
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Above: Chris Hamer compares one of the office's old face plates to the model he designed on computer. Sheriff Gordon Smith shows off one of the office's new floor electrical boxes, which have face plates designed and created on a 3-D printer by Network Administrator Chris Hamer.



Right: Sheriff Gordon Smith shows off one of the office's new floor electrical boxes, which have face plates designed and created on a 3-D printer by Network Administrator Chris Hamer.

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# Crews has History of Public Service

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Times Editor

Many people have the impulse to go into politics and most of them do so for the good of their fellow citizens. Public service seems to run in families in fact, and it is not unusual to see several generations serve their community, one after another. What is of interest is when a person gets into public service and then finds out, after the fact, that she is carrying on a family tradition of which she knew nothing at all.

Life-long Bradford County resident Carolyn Crews found herself in that exact position a few years ago. She ran for a seat on the Starke city commission and won in 1997 – a position she served in for eight years until she lost the seat to Tommy Chastain in 2005. Before that, in the 1980s, she participated in the Downtown Progress Committee, a program run through the chamber of commerce, which was responsible for the revitalization of the downtown area accomplished through a grant.

“We had a meeting with the Santa Fe Endowment Corporation,” Crews remembered. “They came to us and said if we could get a redevelopment grant they would put a college in the old courthouse. Many people did not want to contribute money to help with the project because they did not believe that a college would come to town. John Miller and I worked to collect the money we needed to make it happen, renovating the downtown streets

and through Guy Andrews, Gene Matthews and lots of hardworking volunteers, Santa Fe kept their word and opened the Andrews Center in downtown Starke.

It was not until Crews began making a detailed study of her family history that she discovered she was not the first in her line to want to serve their fellow citizens and make their lives better.

“My great-grandfather, Frederick P. Schaffer, fought in the war of Northern aggression, making my mother a true daughter of the Confederacy. After the war, he served in the Florida legislature. I had no idea that I was not the first in my family to go into politics.”

Crews’ grandfather, James Mitchell, started out in Madison County, but came to Starke in 1905 after graduating from the Southern College of Pharmacy in Atlanta the previous year. He brought his wife, Lucille Schaffer, to Starke with him from Madison and the couple married in Bradford County. Mitchell opened a pharmacy in Starke, located in the previous location of Norma’s Florist Shop. The couple had a daughter, Lucille Carolyn Mitchell, and set about making both their business and family a success.

Mitchell was also active in his community. He went before the Bradford County Commission and asked them to start a farmer’s market in the county. His request was granted, but he did not live to see it. Mitchell, his wife and daughter were in a tragic car accident in 1936. They survived.

He survived in the hospital for two weeks, where he kept telling the doctors and nurses that he was going to get pneumonia and die. And he did.

Mitchell is remembered, not only as a trusted community figure, but also as a great jokester. Crews related one story about him.

“There was no fire alarm system in tow he got word that someone’s barn was on fire,” she said. “He went out into the street yelling FIRE! and no one believed him because he was such a practical joker. Undaunted, he went back inside and got a pharmacist who was working for him to go out and yell FIRE! so he would be believed and the barn owner could get help.”

After Mitchell’s death, the pharmacy was sold to the pharmacist, David Powell Carpenter. Lucille married Lester Thomas Crews (of Venus, FL) in August of 1951 and the couple reopened the store (which had closed a few years earlier). In her paternal grandfather, Crews found yet another link to a tradition of public service in her family.

“My grandfather, Thomas Crews, was a county commissioner in Highland County at the time the Sebring Courthouse was built,” she said. “He was well known in that area for his service to the community.”

Crews was born in December of 1952 and is an only child. She spent a great deal of time while she was growing up in her family’s pharmacy. At the time, there were several other pharmacies in town – Koch’s, where Walgreens is located now and Canova’s across from the current location of the Florida Twin Theater. She attended Bradford County schools until the ninth grade, when she transferred to Keystone Heights High School because her father wanted her to attend a smaller school than Bradford High School.

After graduation Crews married Bobby Autry, who was working in the store for her father



Carolyn Crews

and then went on to pharmacy school at the University of Florida. Crews worked while Autry was in school and then became a stay-at-home wife and mother. The couple had two children: Cassie in 1970 and Jim in 1976. They divorced in 1991, but still kept the pharmacy going until it was bought out by Eckerd’s in 1998.

“Big business came to town and took over,” Crews remembers.

Both Crews and Autry went to work for Eckerd’s. She worked as an assistant manager in Gainesville while he was the pharmacist at the Starke store. She was transferred to Lake Butler and while there, she became a pharmacy technician. During this time, she married

again in 1994 and divorced in 2001. CVS bought out Eckerd’s and Crews stayed on with them and was working for the company while she served on the city commission. She continued with CVS until she was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease in 2015, when she retired.

Crews needed something to do and to occupy her time and mind, so she got the idea to open a gift shop in her home, featuring many items which she makes herself. She opened Carolyn’s Creations 3 in September of 2017 in her home’s old recreation room. She calls the store her personal occupational therapy and seems quite at home as a shopkeeper and craft artist.

The store is furnished with items saved from the old

Mitchell’s Drugstore, including tables, a desk and several old doors. Crews has filled the space with an assortment of items which she has made herself, such as jewelry and wreaths, as well as other merchandise. One of her signature items are necklaces made to reflect the personality and passions of the wearer. These are designed and created by Crews and are called “This is Me,” or “What I Love” necklaces. She also carries an eclectic assortment of gift items, ranging from exotic meat jerkies (ostrich, anyone?), a selection of gourmet sauces, jellies and jams, floral arrangements, a diverse assortment of jewelry, bath bombs, small gifts and wreaths.

Crews is happy with her life and is enjoying her newest career as a businesswoman, waiting to be noticed in the business community so the traffic to her shop will increase. She lives with Don Baker, a man who fell in love with her in high school, even though she was already taken as the time. They have been together for 12 years. She also takes the time to express her love of animals, taking care of her own as well as feeding the occasional stray that drops by her door.

Crews has done her duty, by her family and community and now she is settled in to enjoy a little “me time,” surrounded by her interests and the things and people she loves, including her two teenage grandchildren, Emma and Will. After taking care of so many others, today she is concentrating on taking care of herself.

Carolyn’s Creations 3 is located on the corner of Bessent and Valley roads in Starke. Just look for the pink and white signs. The shop is open Wednesday through Friday from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. and on Saturday from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.

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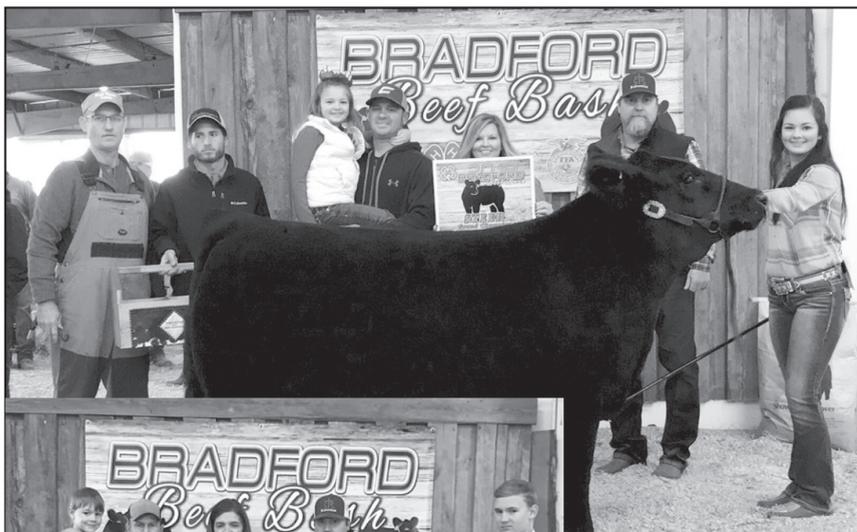
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## Bradford 4-H Beef Bash a success for youth and the community



Above: Bailee Sheppard (far right) showed the top steer at the fifth annual 4-H Bradford Beef Bash. Also pictured (l-r from far left) are Randy Conner, Tyler Roddenberry, Lakelyn Sheppard, Clint Sheppard, Elizabeth Sheppard and judge Michael Berry.

Showing the top heifer at this year’s Beef Bash was Walker Thompson (far right). Also pictured (l-r from far left) are Weston Thompson, Kevin Thompson, Elizabeth Thompson and judge Michael Berry.

BY DEBBIE NISTLER  
Bradford County Extension Director

Recently, 60 4-H and FFA youth from across northeast Florida participated in the fifth annual 4-H Bradford Beef Bash. Youth demonstrated skills in fitting and showing animals as well as their skills selecting and growing a strong production herd of cattle.

Youth brought 89 animals to the Bradford County Fairgrounds and competed in Showmanship, which evaluates

their skill at showing and fitting. Four age divisions competed for the top three spots. The collegiate Showman winners were Cheyenne Donaldson (first) Courtney Paul (second). The top three senior winners were Bailee Sheppard (first), Garison Breeden (second) and Nathan Boone (third). Intermediate winners were Emma Moxley (first), Harley Seay (second) and Maci Whitehead (third). The junior top three were Lane Whitehurst (first), Linden Teague (second) and Rance Moxley (third).

Participants also competed

for Grand Champion Steer and Heifer. Both top spots this year were earned by local youth. Sheppard earned top Showman as well as top Steer. Walker Thompson earned Grand Champion Heifer.

The remaining top five steers were owned and shown by J.D. Peavy, Chase Roberts, Brooklyn Williams and Katherine Nemcovic. The remaining top five heifers were owned and shown by Abbie Whittington, Kody Stalnaker, Katherine Nemcovic and Boone.

Thanks go to all who volunteered their time and energy as well as the following, who donated generously toward the event: Clemons Field Services, Cargill Feed and Nutrena (Pete Dola), Sealing Resources of Jacksonville, American Dream Realty (Jessie Gathright), Grimes Utilities Inc., Thompson’s Garage, Thompson Auto Sales, 3<sup>rd</sup> Cattle, Save-A-Lot, Boone Septic, Capital City Bank, New River Cattle, Bradford Farm Bureau Federation, Jordan and Grace Williams, and Umbarger Show Feed.

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# Obituaries



## Jack Crawford

STARKE— Jack Merrell Crawford, age 76, of Starke passed away Monday, Feb. 12, 2018 at Haven Hospice E.T. York Care Center in Gainesville. Mr. Crawford was born on July 15, 1941 in Lawtew to the late Jack and Lettie Beatrice (Edwards) Crawford and was a lifelong area resident. Jack was a member of Hampton Baptist Church and prior to retirement worked for the Florida Department of Corrections for 38 years. He enjoyed spending time outside, watching western movies, and spending time with family. Preceding him in death were his siblings, Loyd H. Crawford and Betty Rosenberry.

Survivors are: his wife of fifty years, Virginia Ann (Brown) Crawford of Starke; sons, Mark Jason Crawford of Starke, Adam Derek (Crystal) Crawford of Hampton; siblings, Gloria Shuford of Lawtew, Hazel Muse of Keystone Heights, Vivian Scott of Starke, and Leo Darold Crawford (Dale) of Douglasville, GA.

The family will receive friends at Dewitt C. Jones Chapel of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home on Thursday, Feb. 15 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 16 at Hampton Baptist Church with Brother Johnny Goodwin officiating. Interment will follow at Keystone Heights Cemetery. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to Hampton Baptist Church, P.O. Box 181, Hampton, FL 32044. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke. 904-964-6200 www.jonesgallagherfh.com.

PAID OBITUARY



## Thelma Dicandio

STARKE— Thelma June Dicandio, age 75, of Starke, passed away on Monday, Feb. 12, 2018 at Windsor Health and Rehabilitation Center in Starke. She was born in Dothan, AL on Aug. 30, 1942 to the late Clinton Boatwright and Thelma Williams Boatwright. June was raised in South Bay until relocating to Starke as a teenager. Shortly after attending Bradford High School, June started working at What-a- Burger Restaurant where she met the love of her life, Leonardo Veto Dicandio, Jr. On Oct. 27, 1960, Leon and June were happily married. They lovingly raised their three children in Bradford County and enjoyed the many years they had together. June enjoyed working at Burlington Yarn in Green Cove Springs and Cadillac Uniforms in Starke, but she especially loved her longtime career as a Mail Clerk at Nation-Wide Insurance in Gainesville, where she served 28 years. She enjoyed fishing and watching science fiction movies but more than anything, June loved her family, grandkids, and puppies. June was preceded in death by: her parents, Clinton Boatwright and Thelma Williams Boatwright; her brothers, Wayne and Terry Boatwright; and her sister, Joann Eaves.

June is survived by: her loving husband of 57 years, Leonardo Veto "Leon" Dicandio, Jr. of Starke; her children, Deborah Denise (John) Lewis of Keystone Heights, Leonardo Veto "Buddy" (Alison) Dicandio, III of Jacksonville, and April (Jason) Pilcher of Starke; her sister, Gail (Tommy) Thomas of Starke; her grandchildren, Leonardo Veto "Bud" Dicandio, IV, Hiram Michael Dicandio, Matthew Larson, Kenneth Larson, Jason (Keri) Lewis, Brandi (Chris) Crawford, Katie (Chris) Lewis, John Lewis, Jr., Stephen Lewis, Ashlyn Pilcher, Amberlyn Pilcher, and Aniston Pilcher; her great-grandchildren, Christian Crawford, Caleb Crawford, Breanna Jo Crawford, Rexi Lewis, Luke Lewis, Saverio Logiurato, IV, Kalee Logiurato, Olivia Leith, Xander Leith, Maicee Dicandio, Nolan Dicandio, Leonardo "Veto" Dicandio, V, and Malaya Larson; and great-granddaughter, Emerson Blake Crawford.

A Celebration of June's Life will be held Saturday, Feb. 17 at 11:00 am at Northside Baptist Church with Pastor Toby Roehm officiating. Interment will follow at Pine Grove Congregational Methodist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends on Saturday an hour prior to the service at the church. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Haven Hospice, 4200 NW 90th Boulevard, Gainesville, FL 32606. Arrangements are under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services and Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel, Starke. 904-964-5757. Visit www.ferreirafuneralservices.com to sign the family's guest book.

PAID OBITUARY



## Larry Ford

HAMPTON— Larry Edison Ford, age 58, of Hampton passed away on Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2018 at Shands at the University of Florida in Gainesville. He was born in Lake City on April 10, 1959 to the late John Edison Ford and Glennis Mae Truman Ford. Larry was raised in Gainesville and relocated to Hampton as a teenager. After high school, Larry started working at Tacachale as an Occupational Therapy Assistant where he served for 10 years until starting his longtime career as an asphalt repair technician. Larry was taught asphalt repair by his good friend, Donnie Dick, and after his training, Larry opened Ford and Wood Asphalt in 1983. He was the proud owner and operator for over 35 years and thoroughly enjoyed his profession. Larry was an avid Gator fan who enjoyed watching college football and was highly skilled at shooting pool. He also enjoyed fishing in his spare time, but most of all, Larry loved his family and enjoyed spending time with them and playing with his grandchildren. He had a huge smile and big hug for everyone. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Larry is survived by: his maternal grandmother, Gladys Barnes Truman of Hampton; his loving daughters, Audrey Ford (Shane) Reddish and Hannah Ford (Shane) Reddish and Hannah Ford both of Starke; his sister, Shelia (John Randy) Reynolds of Vincent; his brother, Eugene Lamar Ford of Melrose; and his four grandchildren, Haven Ames,

Lane Reddish, Taylor Reddish, and Hadley Moody.

A Celebration of Larry's Life was held on Feb. 12 at Siloam United Methodist Church Cemetery in Lake City with Mr. Skip Lounge officiating. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the funeral home to assist with expenses. Arrangements are under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services and Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel, Starke. 904-964-5757. Visit www.ferreirafuneralservices.com to sign the family's guest book.

PAID OBITUARY

## Audrey Kelley

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS— Audrey Mann Kelley, 88, of Keystone Heights died at her home, Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2018. She was born in Jacksonville on July 21, 1929 to the late Richard Kelly and Agnes (Brochmann) Mann; she was raised in Mayport and graduated from Fletcher High School. She was a homemaker and a Christian. Her husband of 32 years, Byron C. Kelley had preceded her in death along with her brothers, John R Mann, Byron Mann; and her sister, Barbara Mann Tuten.

Her survivors are: daughter, Kelly Curry of Keystone Heights; step children, Matt Kelley of California, Jon Kelley of Texas, Jane Kelley Moore of Indiana; sister, Betty Mann McNamara of Ponte Vedra Beach; eight grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren; and many other family members.

Memorial services will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday, Feb. 24 in the Melrose Trinity Episcopal Church with Rev. Tony Powell officiating. A reception will be held following the service at the Beef O' Brady's, 502 N. Temple Ave., Starke. Interment will be at a later date at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Keystone Heights.

PAID OBITUARY



## Robert Molchan

ALACHUA—Robert Anthony Molchan, 86, of Alachua died on Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2018. He was born to the late John and Marie Molchan in Uniontown, PA. He is preceded in death by his wife of 11 years, Carolyn Molchan.

He is survived by: sons, Robert Molchan, John (Shauna) Molchan, and Todd (Mashell) Molchan; sister, Bernie Poling; one granddaughter; step sons, Rusty Wackerman, Mike, Robert, and Scott Snyder; step daughters, Gloria Bihn, Debbie Hayes, Jackie Burhans, Shelly Ditty, Linda Hullinbarger; and many other family members.

A Memorial Service was held Feb. 9 at Archer Funeral Home. Arrangements are under the care of Archer Funeral Home, Lake Butler.

PAID OBITUARY



## James Pombier

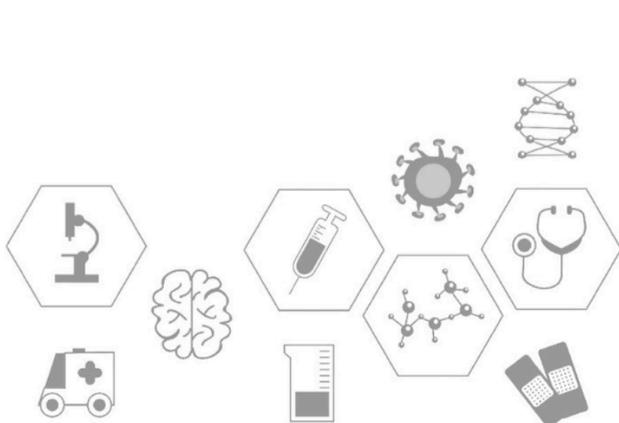
JACKSONVILLE— James O. Pombier, 87, of Jacksonville passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2018. He was born in Albion, MI on June 17, 1930. He retired from the U. S. Marine Corps and Western and Southern Life Insurance, and was a member of St. Matthews Catholic Church. He was preceded in death by: his parents, Louis Pombier and Wetah (Van Dyke) Pombier; and his nine brothers and sisters.

He is survived by: his loving wife of 65 years, Margaret A. Pombier; five children, James (Terri) Pombier, Mary Hoffman Rabb, Patricia (Lowel) Nash, Linda (Sam) Drelles and Philip (Lexa) Pombier; 15 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; and many very special nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews. During his 20-year military career, he served honorably in both the Korean War and Vietnam War. Beginning as a sales associate with Western and Southern, he worked his way up to District Manager retiring after 20 years in Jacksonville. He was called back from retirement with Western and Southern and worked as an auditor for another five years. Jim had a great love for his family and extended family, which included pretty much everyone he met. He loved watching his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren participate in all sports. Jim loved outdoor hobbies such as fishing and hunting, and during his later years developed a love for gardening.

Graveside services will be held Friday, June 15, 11 a.m. at the Jacksonville National Cemetery, 4083 Lannie Road, Jacksonville, with military honors. In lieu of flowers please make memorial donations to: Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, The Cooper Center, 18251 Quantico Gateway Drive, Triangle, VA 22172-1776; toysfortots.org, or Wounded Warrior Project, P. O. Box 758517, Topeka, Kansas 66675-8517; woundedwarriorproject.org. Arrangements by Hardage-Giddens Rivermead Funeral Home, 127 Blanding Blvd, Orange Park. Please post words of comfort at www.hardage-giddensrivermead.com.

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# Meet Your Merchants

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### Starke Sears Hometown store #1 in U.S.

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Jo Clark has won too many awards to mention in her nine years as the owner of the Sears Hometown store in Starke. But this year, the business reached a new milestone when Sears Hometown named the Starke store its number one store in the country, beating over 800 other stores in the U.S.

The store has been classified as a Sears premier store almost since its opening, and Jo and her team consistently earn the company's Five-Star Excellence Award.

Because of these achievements, the Starke Sears Hometown store is the training site for new Florida and Georgia store owners. Last week, Jo spent four days training new store owners from Michigan who were visiting Florida.

Over the past six months, she has trained new store owners from New Smyrna Beach, Fernandina Beach and Clermont, Florida and Fitzgerald, Georgia, in addition to the team from Michigan.

But as successful as the Starke Sears Hometown store has been, it almost didn't happen.

#### Sears says "no"

The first time Jo and her business partner Steve Denmark applied to become a Sears Hometown store, the company

turned them down, saying the facility was not wide enough to meet company standards.

However, the company was willing to make an exception for the Starke team, if Jo could prove she had what it took to succeed.

"They had me send an email explaining why we would be a good location for a Hometown Sears," recalled Jo. "I told them I did not want to compete with local businesses. We were losing sales to Sears stores in Gainesville and Orange Park, so why not bring those tax dollars to our community?"

Jo also added that she was a lifelong customer of Sears, explaining in her email that she grew up on a farm near Leesburg, and that her father died when she was a baby.

"Sears was the only place that we bought anything from," she said. "We went to town one time a month, and that was to Sears. The Allstate office was on the second floor of Sears, and that is where we had our insurance."

All the family appliances came from Sears. The roof on the house came from Sears. The family's first furnace came from Sears.

"Sears was a big part of our lives," she said.

However, as Jo explained in her email, not all of her experiences with the retailer were positive. She wrote that when her husband Bo retired, the couple went to three different Sears mall stores

looking for new appliances, and because of the way they were treated, ended up buying from Lowe's.

"I wrote in my email that if I — someone who loved Sears — chose to go somewhere else, how many other people were going to the competition because of bad customer service?"

The day after she sent her email, the company replied. They had the store.

#### Appliances, home and Garden and tools

Although Jo can order any product Sears carries, like clothing and televisions, the strongest sellers in the Starke store are appliances, home and garden merchandise like lawn mowers and tools.

This year, the company is adding Husqvarna and Poulan Pro to its home and garden line.

The store carries Kenmore, Whirlpool, LG, Samsung and other brands of appliances.

One factor that helped the Starke location earn the number 1 ranking was higher sales in 2017. Jo credits much of the sales increase to several local home builders who are now buying appliances through Sears' bulk purchase program.

Most customers finance their purchases through a Sears credit card, but the company recently started offering leasing.

"We offer 30, 60 and 90-day



Jo Clark with some of the awards her store has won.

payouts," Jo said. "So, if you pay it off within 90 days, you are not paying that much more than the cash price."

Leasing is available for up to 18 months at which time the customer owns the merchandise.

The store can also get credit for goods purchased through SearsHometownStores.com, and Jo's delivery team, led by Bo, can deliver the merchandise. In many cases, free delivery options are available.

But the biggest advantage of the Sears Hometown Store

is that customers deal with the owner, and in Starke, that is Jo Clark.

"We don't work for Sears," she said. "We are independently owned, and we work for the customer."

"You can't have anything without the customers," she added. "The customers drive everything."

#### What Sears is all about

Seven months after Jo opened, she and Bo attended their first

Sears Hometown Celebration: a conference for dealers.

There, they ran into Will Powell, who was then vice-president, and is now CEO of the company.

Powell told Jo that it was he who read her email and immediately approved her store. He also told Jo that her email is framed in his office.

"He told me that he keeps it in his office to tell people that this is what Sears is about," Jo recalled, "loving your community, caring about the people and wanting to give great customer service."

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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 –

Charles Lamont Henderson, 40, of Starke was arrested Feb. 6 by Starke police for a moving traffic violation and possession of cocaine.

Tavius Lamor Shanks, 27, of Port St. Lucie, was arrested Feb. 12 by Starke police for probation violation and obstruction, resisting without violence. He ran from an officer after being informed that there was a warrant for violation of probation for him. He eventually surrendered and thereafter cooperated with officers.

Rebecca Lee Barnhill, 42, of Lake Butler was arrested Feb. 12 by Bradford County Sheriff's Office for larceny.

Fred Cobb, 54, of Jacksonville was arrested Feb. 7 by Bradford County Sheriff's Office for probation violation.

Matthew Justin Ellis, 32, was arrested Feb. 6 by Bradford County Sheriff's Office for failure to appear, moving traffic violation, larceny and fraud.

David Dunn Flurry, 54, was arrested Feb. 7 by Bradford County Sheriff's Office for failure to appear and out of state fugitive.



**Monica Denise Thomas, 30,** of Starke was arrested Feb. 7 by Starke police for larceny. She was reported to Starke police officers to have concealed Walmart property in her purse in an attempt to not pay for it. She had passed the last point of sale and made contact with the officer at the front door of the store and was taken to the asset protection associates' office where it was discovered that she had more than 35 items hidden in her purse, for a combined value of \$189.57. She was arrested and transported to the Bradford County Jail.

Alan Eugene Crawford, 34, of Keystone Heights was arrested Feb. 8 by Bradford County Sheriff's Office for a non-moving traffic violation and moving traffic violation.

Johnathan Lloyd Douglass, 26, of Starke was arrested Feb. 8 by Starke police for marijuana possession and drug equipment possession.

Kenneth Michael Lowe, 36 of Lawtey was arrested Feb. 9 by Lawtey police for out of county warrant.

Jaimee Paige Starling, 38, was arrested Feb. 9 by Bradford County Sheriff's Office for probation violation.

Vincent Dwight Green, 41, of Welbourne was arrested by Bradford County Sheriff's Office for failure to appear and probation violation.

Alvin Jerome Fayson, 63, of Lawtey was arrested Feb. 10 by Starke police for cocaine



**Fayson, A.**

possession and drug equipment possession. He was contacted by officers after being observed parked partially in the roadway on Crum Street, an area of known drug activity. The vehicle pulled out and was observed to swerve as the driver tried to put on his seatbelt. When contacted the suspect was reported to be nervous and shaking and he denied the presence of any illegal weapons or narcotics in the vehicle, giving the officer permission to search it. When the suspect exited the vehicle, he grabbed a cigarette box and when questioned about its contents he responded "crack." A field test of the substance proved him to be telling the truth. When searched he was found to have a metal crack pipe wrapped in foil in his pocket and several pieces of a white substance suspected to be crack cocaine were found in the vehicle. In addition to the above charges he was also issued a written warning for driving without a seat belt.

Christian Devone Lee Kates, 26, of Green Cove Springs was arrested Feb. 10 by Starke police for operating a vehicle without a valid license and smuggling contraband into a detention facility. He was stopped for having a tag light out. Once arrested he was caught trying to enter the Bradford County Jail with 1.4 grams of marijuana concealed on his person.

William Austin Smith, 49, of Starke was arrested Feb. 11 by Bradford County Sheriff's Office for DUI, unlawful blood alcohol and a moving traffic violation.

Stephen Byron Eley, 28, of Jacksonville was arrested Feb. 11 by Bradford County Sheriff's Office for a moving traffic violation.

Justin Elijah Mountain, 25, of Jacksonville was arrested Feb. 11 by Lawtey police for a moving traffic violation.

### UNION COUNTY –



**Bailes, A.**

insufficient funds by uttering an instrument under \$150 on Sept. 18, 2017, failure to appear for a misdemeanor offense and for larceny - theft of \$300 or more, but less than \$5,000. In the third warrant she was charged, along with John A. Carney (see below), for the removal of a stove and refrigerator from a residence from which they were being evicted.



**Carney, J.**

John A. Carney, 32, of Lake Butler, was served with a warrant for third-degree felony theft of \$300 or more, but less than \$5,000 by Union deputies. Also arrested for the same incident was Angela Castlen Bailes (see above).

Brittany Lorene Cohens, 29,

of Lake Butler, as arrested by Union deputies on Feb. 8 on an out of county warrant (Columbia County). The warrant was for a charge of resisting an officer without violence on Dec. 06, 2017.



**Franklin, Q.**

Qouston Armethia Celest Franklin, 25, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on Feb. 10 for first-degree misdemeanor battery – touch or strike. The charge arose out of a domestic disagreement between Franklin and her boyfriend. He said Franklin had hit him several times in the presence of their six-year-old daughter and had then gotten a knife and had threatened him with it, as well as damaging a television set in the residence with the weapon. Franklin admitted to deputies that she had struck her boyfriend, but said he had grabbed her and pushed her as well. She was transported to Union County Jail and the incident was reported to the Department of Children and Family Services.

Krystal Lynn Geraghty, 24, of Lake Butler was arrested Feb. 6 by Union deputies on a warrant for felony violation of probation.

Dalila Gonzalez-De Leon, 44, of Lake Butler, was arrested in Feb. 10 by Union deputies for resisting and interfering with a law enforcement officer without violence. The suspect repeatedly interfered with the investigation of a single-car accident and refuse to follow direction from investigating officers.

Noel Martinez, 49, of Wesley Chapel, was arrested by Union deputies on Feb. 6 as a fugitive from justice, resulting from an active Illinois warrant. The arrest took place at her release from FDOC custody.

John Kevin Michaels, 28, of Jacksonville was arrested by Union deputies on Feb. 10 for three misdemeanors – one second degree and two first degree. The suspect was stopped for a non-functioning tag light. He admitted to the officer that he did not have a valid driver's license and that

## Cars, classrooms, cash



**Nick Merizzi of Murray Chrysler and Principal John Green**



**Matt Jobin and McKenzie Dougherty**

**BY CLIFF SMELLEY**  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Chrysler's Cars 4 Classrooms does not put cars in the classroom, but it does put money into participating schools.

Bradford Middle School and Murray Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep-Ram of Starke participated in a Cars 4 Classrooms event on Jan. 26. From 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., all one had to do was show up, fill out a short form and test drive a Chrysler Pacifica. Each

person taking a test drive (up to five per vehicle) generated a \$10 donation from Chrysler, with the maximum total limit being \$2,000. Each person who posted a photo of themselves at the event on social media generated an additional \$10 donation (up to \$1,000).

Also, Bradford Middle School will be entered in a grand-prize sweepstakes, which will give the school a chance to earn an additional \$7,000 or \$3,000 for being picked first or second.

his was suspended. He also admitted to having under 20 grams of marijuana in a pill bottle under the driver's seat. The charges were knowingly driving without a license, possession of marijuana less than 20 grams and possession of narcotic equipment.

Cori Lynn Redding, 29, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on Feb. 9 for knowingly driving without a license and attaching a tag not assigned to the vehicle – both second degree misdemeanors. It was discovered that her license had been suspended since 2014 for child support issues. Although she was not the owner of the vehicle she was legally responsible for any violations related to it. She was found to have a white pill that had been quartered in a plastic



**Warren, S.**

Sylvester Warren, 41, of Gainesville was arrested Feb. 5 by Union deputies for petit theft or a subsequent offense – a third-

degree felony. He had been reported by the owner to have stolen a case of liquor from the store located at 450 West Main St. in Lake Butler on Feb. 3. When he was arrested, two bottles of the same brand of liquor that was reported stolen by him was on a coffee table in his residence.

## OBITS

Continued from 5B

### Mary Smith

MIDDLEBURG— Mary L. Smith, 70, of Middleburg, died on Monday, Feb. 12, 2018 after a lengthy illness. She was born at home on April 9, 1947 in Patterson, MO. She was a retired dietary manager in the health care field for over 40 years. She is preceded in death by: her parents Earl and Zella Martin; mother-in-law, Lila Smith; two brothers; one brother-in-law; and five sisters.

She is survived by: her husband of 31 years, Steven Smith of Middleburg; daughters, Lori (Johnny) Godwin of Callahan, Robin (Rusty) O'Quinn of Hilliard, and Judy Keathley (Danny) of Hilliard; sons, Chris (Keri) Keathley of Callahan, Danny (Jill) Keathley of Jacksonville and Steven (Erin) Smith Jr. of Jacksonville; 18 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; five brothers; three sisters; and many other family members.

A service will be held at Archer Funeral Home, Friday, Feb. 16 at 2 pm. The family will receive friends an hour prior. Arrangements are under the care of Archer Funeral Home, Lake Butler.

### Rosa Taylor

The Celebration of Life Service for Rosa "Juanita" Taylor will be held on Saturday, Feb. 17 at 11:00 a.m. at The Apostolic Church of Jesus New Deliverance Ministries 1251 School Street, Cocoa, FL. Information provided by Haile Funeral Home Inc.

See CRIME, 9B

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## The Weekly Paw Print:

Valentines day is over and the days following certain things remain. I am not talking about grief from selecting the wrong gift or worse...forgetting. I am talking about leftover chocolate. Questions about chocolate always seem to pop up whenever someone finds out you are a veterinarian. Let's discuss this delicious problem.

It's all about methylxanthines. What are those? Chemicals like caffeine and theobromine. Because pets do not breakdown theobromine it causes rapid heart rates and in some occasions heart failure. Not all chocolate is created equal. Baker's chocolate and dry unsweetened cocoa are the strongest. The more processed and mixed forms such as milk chocolate contain much lower amounts of theobromine and therefore less toxic. Size and amount matters! The smaller the dog the more likely toxicity can occur. Likewise the larger the dose increases chance for toxicity. So keep the chocolate safe from little muzzle mouths. Here is a great website page that has a chocolate toxicity calculator to help you decide how much is too much: [www.petmd.com/dog/chocolate-toxicity](http://www.petmd.com/dog/chocolate-toxicity). As for forgetting giving your valentine a gift, you are on your own.

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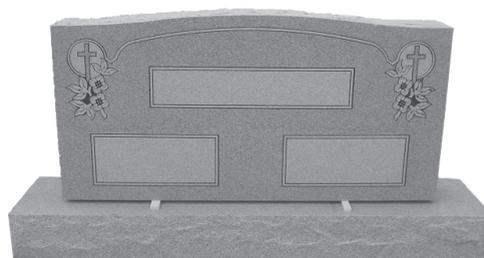
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# BHS girls are District 4-5A runners-up after 52-44 loss

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Jah'mya Henderson scored 47 points in two District 4-5A girls' basketball tournament games, but she needed more help from her teammates in the championship game as Bradford High School lost 52-44 to top seed Newberry on Feb. 8 in Starke.

Henderson was the game's second-leading scorer with 25 points, but the rest of the Bradford players made just eight of 37 field-goal attempts, combining to score 19 points.

Newberry, meanwhile, had two players score all but three of their points: Courtney Moore with 27 points and Angel Hunt with 22.

The Tornadoes (11-11), who were the tournament's third seed, have now finished as the district runner-up for the third straight year and will travel to play Fernandina Beach (23-4) for a Region 1 quarterfinal game on Thursday, Feb. 15, at 7 p.m. If they win, they will either host Bolles (16-9) or travel to play Newberry (18-5) in a Region 1 semifinal game on Tuesday,

Feb. 20, at 7 p.m.

Despite just two field goals in the first quarter, Bradford trailed by just five entering the second as Newberry missed eight of 11 field-goal attempts and made just 3-of-6 free-throw attempts. The Tornadoes' Brittnee Smiley had a chance to make it 10-7 going into the second quarter, but she missed two free throws with four seconds on the clock.

Henderson knocked down a jumper off an Olyvia Griffin assist to open the second quarter, while Meghan Harris scored following her own steal to make the score 10-9. The Panthers answered with four straight points, only to see Bradford score another four straight. The Tornadoes got a basket each from Griffin and Regina Roberts to make the score 14-13 in favor of Newberry.

That's as close as Bradford would get the remainder of the way. The Panthers reeled off seven straight points before Bradford's Jake Baker scored with a baseline floater, which made the score 21-15 at halftime.

Henderson did her part to

keep Bradford in the game. Her three-pointer early in the third quarter made the score 23-18, but the Panthers' Moore answered with her own trey. Henderson then hit a pull-up jumper before dribbling the length of the floor — after a Roberts defensive rebound — and scoring on a layup to make it 26-22.

Newberry put together a 10-3 run before Harris made a three-pointer, which left the Panthers leading 36-28. Moore made it a 10-point game when she scored on a drive to the basket, but Bradford's Talia Brown scored before the end of the quarter to make the score 38-30.

Brown made a three-pointer following one by Newberry's Moore to make the score 41-33 in the fourth. However, Bradford missed four of its next five field-goal attempts as Newberry increased its lead to 12. Henderson made a couple of baskets midway through the quarter to make it a 10-point game, but the quarter was a struggle overall for the Tornadoes, who went 5-of-16 from the field and turned the ball over nine times. Newberry's Hunt blocked three Bradford shots in the final three minutes.

A Henderson basket with 1:01 to play made the score 50-41. After Moore made a free throw, Henderson made a three-pointer to make it 51-44 with 23 seconds remaining. By then, the Tornadoes simply didn't have enough time to overcome their deficit.

Brown and Harris each finished with five points, while Raynisha Hunter had three. Baker, Griffin and Roberts each had two points. Griffin and Harris each had three assists, with Harris also coming away with four steals. Roberts had six rebounds.



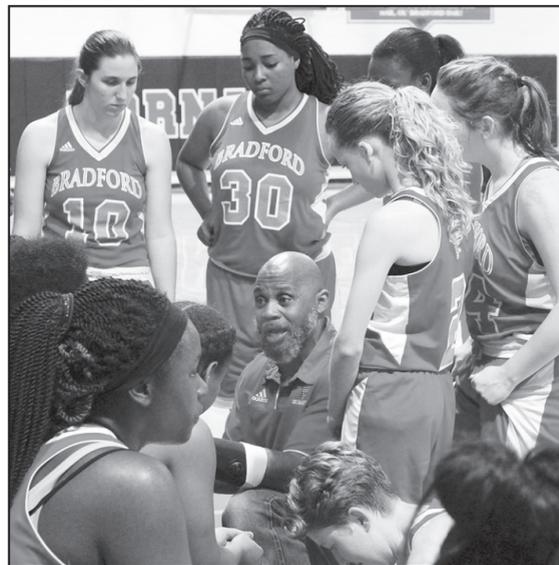
Dezira Tabet puts up a shot for Bradford.



Bradford's Chloe Raab (left) drives to the basket against Newberry's Emily Barras.



Jah'mya Henderson gets set to attempt a three-pointer for the Tornadoes.



Bradford head coach Edward Hamilton talks to his team during a time out. Players facing the camera are (l-r) Dezira Tabet and Regina Roberts.

Bradford travels to play Fernandina Beach in a Region 1 quarterfinal game on Thursday, Feb. 15, at 7 p.m.

## Tigers beat Indians 3-2 to open softball season

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

With the bases loaded in the top of the fourth, the Union County High School softball team drew two walks to force in two runs, while an illegal pitch forced in another to give the Tigers a 3-2 win over host Keystone Heights in the season opener for both teams on Feb. 12.

Teala Howard went 3-for-4 for the Tigers, while Kamaya Cohen and Kensley Hamilton each had an RBI. Pitcher Brooke Waters gave up two runs (one earned) on eight hits. She allowed no walks in going the distance.

Bailey Story went 3-for-4 with a double for Keystone, while Molly Crawford and Ashton Ludwig went 2-for-2 and 2-for-3, respectively. Crawford, who hit two doubles, and Ludwig each had an RBI.

The Indians' Megan Moncrief gave up three hits and no runs in 3.1 innings of relief.

Union played District 6-1A opponent Hilliard this past Tuesday and will travel to play district opponent Crescent City on Friday, Feb. 16, at 7 p.m. The Tigers then host Gainesville on Tuesday, Feb. 20, at 7 p.m.

Keystone hosts District 5-5A opponent P.K. Yonge on Thursday, Feb. 15, at 7 p.m. and travels to play Clay on Friday, Feb. 16, at 7 p.m. The Indians then host district opponent Newberry on Tuesday, Feb. 20, at 7 p.m.



Bradford's Jade Baker (left) drives past Newberry's Emily Barras.



Olyvia Griffin (left) races Newberry's Angel Hunt to the basket.

## Socials

### BHS class of 1968 looking for classmates for 50<sup>th</sup> reunion

Below are the names of classmates, whose invitation for our 50<sup>th</sup> class reunion was returned or for which organizers have lost contact. If you have any information on how to contact any of these classmates, please call Kay Colson Waters at 904-964-8159 or Randy Jones at 904-964-5927. If you are a classmate and have not received your invitation yet, please call. Thank you.

Joann Leach, Edward Coleman, Danny Waller, Donald Harris, Raymond Thomas, Debbie Lavender, William

Barrett, Wanda Britt, Catherine Brown, Debbie Clark, Darrell Crawford, Marshall Eaves, Susan Fogg, Gilda Graham, Bernice Griffis, Catherine Griffis, Eloise Hines, Jean Hodges, Beverly Hollingsworth, Jimmy Horton, Catherine Johnson, Gwen Jones, Margaret Kelly, Willard Kelly, Wayne King, Bill Lamprecht, Larry Martin, Rita Meng, Charles Norman, Bobby Jo Parrish, Gail Prevatt, Alice Proctor, Linda Rowe, James Small, Susie Taylor, Carolyn Taylor, Hattie Mae Terry, Eileen Wheeler and Elane Brown.

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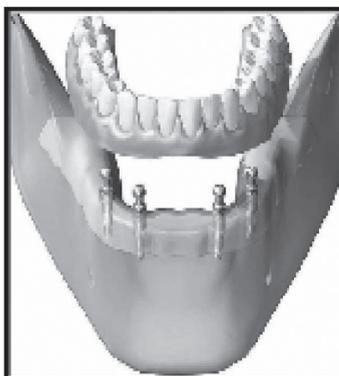
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## SoldChyld's Black History Extravaganza is Feb. 17

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Jimmy Hankerson is set to host his third annual Black History Extravaganza, which will take place Saturday, Feb. 17, at Lincoln City Park in Starke, beginning at noon with a parade that will proceed along Southeast 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue from Mt. Pisgah AME Church to the park.

A full day of activities is planned. The event will feature various games (3-on-3 basketball, sack race, three-legged race, etc.), an antique car show, with prizes awarded for first, second and third places, and live entertainment.

Hankerson will, of course, be part of the entertainment in the guise of SoldChyld, the name he adopts for his ministry, which is composed of interpretive dancing. He will showcase a new part of his ministry as well — gospel rapping.

"I see that as a real, real strong

aspect to reaching out to the younger generation," Hankerson said.

Visitors may want to bring their appetites because there will be plenty of food, including "Cooter" Brown's Cooter Burgers. Hankerson said he tried to make his own Cooter Burgers at home one time, but they just weren't the same.

"I always tease (Brown)," Hankerson said. "I say, 'Man, you must have seasoning in your fingertips.'"

Hankerson's father, Jimmy Hankerson Sr., and uncle Leroy Hankerson will be frying fish as they do at various community events. They'll have a variety of fish, such as bass and bream, that Hankerson said his father catches himself.

"If my dad's not working, that's what he's doing — fishing," Hankerson said.

What excites Hankerson the most about this year's event is seeing the people, whether they be familiar faces or not.

He especially enjoys watching people who haven't seen each other in years re-connect.

"I just call it like a big, old family reunion," Hankerson said.

He's also looking forward to black-history presentations by the special-needs children he works with at Bradford Middle School.

The extravaganza is all about celebrating Black History Month, but it's also about bringing people of all races, ages and backgrounds together. Hankerson also wants the event to be a draw for those living outside of the local area. He has reached out to people and churches in Baker, Clay and Columbia counties, for example, and envisions one day bringing people from ever farther away.

"Right now, I just want to make it a northern Florida thing," Hankerson said, "but in the near future — like within the next two to three years — I see it being like statewide."



Jimmy Hankerson, as SoldChyld, is pictured with Bradford County Sheriff Gordon Smith at the 2017 Black History Extravaganza.



### Jimmy Hankerson Jr. Correction

In last week's Regional News, we incorrectly reported that the cost to build the Roland T. Stern Learning Center at the Austin Cary Forest UF campus was \$2.3 billion. The correct amount was \$2.3 million. We apologize for the error.

## KHHS' Jennings to play softball at FAU



Ashleigh Jennings (second from right) signs her letter of intent to play softball at Florida Atlantic University. She is seated between her parents, Jennifer Fender and Keith Jennings. Her stepfather, Richie Fender, is pictured at far left.

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

The softball regular season began this past Monday, but Keystone Heights High School senior center fielder Ashleigh Jennings made her biggest play before then, accepting a full scholarship from Florida Atlantic University and signing her letter of intent during a Feb. 12 ceremony at the KHHS media center.

"My emotions are crazy," Jennings said. "I'm so excited. I'm ready to be in college, ready to start working hard."

Keystone head coach Jessica Marquart said she believed Jennings was just the second softball player at the school to receive a scholarship to play at the Division I level.

"She deserves it," Marquart said. "She has worked so hard. I know this has been a lifelong dream of hers."

Jennings said she realized as a sophomore that playing at the collegiate level was a possibility. Though she hoped to get a chance with a D-I school, she said it was hard to envision that becoming a reality.

"I had been looking (at D-I schools)," Jennings said, "but I never wanted to get my expectations too high."

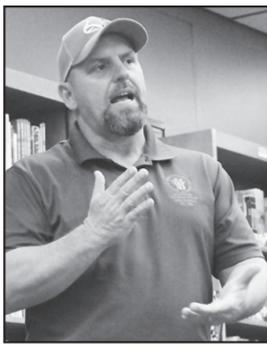
As it turned out, she received interest from schools such as Arkansas, Mississippi State, South Florida and Florida Gulf Coast. Jennings described FAU as her "dream school," saying a big appeal was the school's coaching staff and players.

"They're all amazing people down there," Jennings said. "It's just such a beautiful campus. It just fits me perfectly."

The school is also a good fit academically in regard to her planned course of study, which is majoring in biology and then



Jessica Marquart



Bobby Granville

attending veterinarian school.

Jennings is coming off a 2017 campaign in which she led the Indians in batting average (.475), runs scored (33) and stolen bases (30). She had the third highest fielding percentage of players who played all 29 games.

"Offensively, she just puts the ball in play and is on base," Marquart said. "I feel that when she gets on base, we're going to score. She's that fast and quick and smart."

"Defensively, it's like a ball gets hit anywhere in her vicinity and she's catching it. We have that confidence in her. We're already up and running toward her saying, 'Good job,' because we know she's going to catch the ball."

"She's just an all-around really great player."

If you listen to Marquart and Jennings' Jacksonville Storm travel coach Bobby Granville, she makes her mark off the field as well.

"She gets along with everybody," Marquart said. "She is a leader. She just really has a big heart for everybody. Just a great person all around."

Granville described Jennings

as one of the most moral and God-loving girls he's been around, saying whereas as a coach he's supposed to influence young people, it was Jennings who influenced him.

"She may start (at FAU), she may not," Granville said. "Whether she does or does not, she has the chance to affect so many lives with her personality and the way she serves God. Whether she starts another day in softball or not, it doesn't matter. She's going to affect lives."

Of course playing in college will affect Jennings' life. She can't wait for that first time she steps on the field as an FAU Owl.

"I think it's going to be so exciting and so amazing," she said. "I can just see all those emotions hitting me. It's just going to be an exciting experience for me."

"I know I'm going to fall sometimes, but I'm ready to get back up and just keep going."

For now, though, she still has her senior season to play at KHHS. She told her teammates, "We have worked hard to get where we are. Let's make this season the best one yet."

## CRIME Continued from 7B

**KEYSTONE HEIGHTS AND LAKE REGION—** Danny Ray Boree, 32, of Keystone Heights was arrested Feb. 7 by Clay deputies for failure to appear.



Dustin D.

the victim was able to get the defendant outside and close the door behind him. She told a deputy that the defendant was intoxicated. A deputy also

interviewed the defendant on the scene and observed signs of intoxication.

Thomas Hamilton Staton, 29, of Keystone Heights was arrested Feb. 11 by Clay deputies for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Danny Richard Dustin, 35, of Keystone Heights was arrested Feb. 7 by Clay deputies for assault and battery during a burglary and violation of conditional release. According to an arrest report, the victim was asleep in her bedroom when she heard a loud sound. She got up to find the defendant standing in the bedroom doorway. The defendant grabbed the victim by the back of her hair and threw her to the ground. During a struggle,

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# BHS' Smith to play football at Benedict College



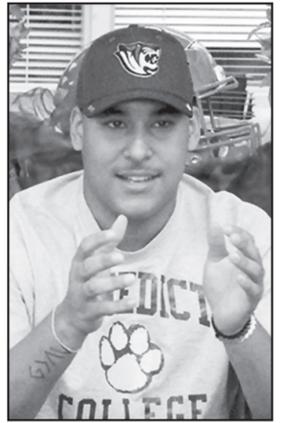
Gerald Smith III (center) signs his letter of intent to play football at Benedict College as his parents, Gerald and Krista Smith, look on.



Brian Tomlinson



Lamar Waters



Gerald Smith

**BY CLIFF SMELLEY**  
Telegraph Staff Writer

"I've been a Tornado all my life, but I'm sad to say I'll be a Tiger now."

Bradford High School senior Gerald Smith made the remark in jest, for he's not transferring to Union County High School. Rather, he's taking his football talents to the next level after accepting a scholarship from Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina — a school whose mascot happens to be a tiger and whose colors are purple and gold.

After a signing ceremony on

National Signing Day (Feb. 7), Smith said, "Me going there is pretty funny."

What isn't funny is that Smith, a 6-3, 235-pound defensive lineman, receives a full ride in getting a college education and continuing to play the sport he loves.

"It feels really good," Smith said. "I'm just happy that I can say I've signed somewhere."

Playing college ball wasn't on Smith' radar. His future plans were to go into the military. A conversation with Lamar Waters, a BHS assistant coach and the school's athletic director, changed his course.

"We had a conversation on the field one day," Waters said. "I said, 'Gerald, you do know you may be the most recruitable kid we have on campus? Not only do you have numbers to back up what you're doing, but you have the size and the ability that all the colleges are looking for.'"

"He kind of turned his head a little sideways, looked down at me and said, 'You think so?' I said, 'Yeah. Think about it. If you feel like you want to try that route, we'll try to make doors open for you.'"

Doors did open, and the ones

Smith will walk through lead to Benedict College. Smith said he felt comfortable on a recruiting visit to the school and enjoyed his interaction with the coaches, which left him with the impression they really cared about him as a person. He wouldn't just be a number on the football field.

"When we went on the visit, they made me and my family feel at home," Smith said. "That's one of the reasons I chose to go to Benedict College."

Bradford head coach Brian Tomlinson said Benedict is getting a player who can

be a difference maker. The coach was in awe of Smith's performances in two all-star games as he intercepted passes and recovered fumbles against some of the best players in the area.

"He can take over a game," Tomlinson said, adding, "Some of the things he — he just made everything look so easy."

Tomlinson said as impressive as Smith's play is, what really stands out is Smith's character. "Obviously, what he did on the field was amazing, but that probably stood out quick — how great of a person he is," Tomlinson said.

Smith recorded 77 tackles (eight for loss) last season, with nine sacks. As he prepares to

try to make a similar impact at the next level, Smith said he needs to adapt to a faster game.

"I just need to work on my conditioning," he said.

Also, he'll have to get over those first-game jitters.

"I'm going to be nervous," Smith said, "but I feel like it's going to be really amazing."

Tomlinson can't wait to watch how Smith progresses.

"I'm so happy for him," Tomlinson said. "He deserves the opportunity. I'm just proud of him."

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# Tornadoes survive Ft. White, advance to district title game

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Bradford High School missed five straight free throws in the final 38 seconds before making four in a row to survive and advance to the District 4-5A boys' basketball championship game, defeating fourth seed Fort White 65-62 in a semifinal game on Feb. 13 in Starke.

The top seed Tornadoes (18-8) will now play second seed Newberry for the title on Friday, Feb. 16, at 7 p.m. at BHS.

Tally Chandler and Chris Cummings each made two free throws in the final 12 seconds

to help Bradford hold off Fort White.

Jordan Lee and Cummings led the Tornadoes with 17 and 15 points, respectively, while Taz Curry had nine. D.J. Mackey and Tavi'en Young each had six points, with Jalen Williams adding five. Chandler and Matthew Crawford had four and three points, respectively.

During the final week of the regular season, the Tornadoes lost at Palatka and won at Baker County.

In the Feb. 6 70-67 loss to Palatka, Cummings scored 29 points, while Jalen Lane had

11. Lee had nine, while Young and Mackey had seven and six, respectively. Chandler added three points, while J'cobi Harris had two.

On Feb. 10, Curry had 18 points in the win over Baker County. Cummings and Lee had 16 and 10 points, respectively, while Mackey had eight. Young had seven points, with Chandler and Jordan Hill each adding five. Dequan Hankerson and Harris had four and three points, respectively, while Lane and Tarrin Jackson each had two. Crawford added one point.



Bradford's Chris Cummings (center) gets airborne between two defenders.

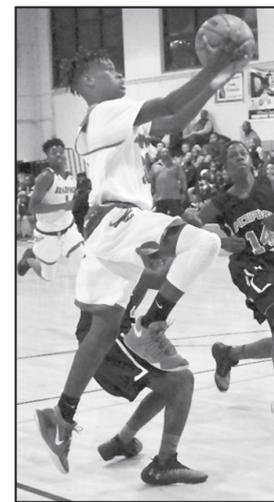


D.J. Mackey (right) puts up a shot for the Tornadoes.



Above: Bradford's Jordan Lee (left) makes an aggressive move to the basket.

Left: The Tornadoes' Taz Curry (left) hangs in the air for a basket.



The Tornadoes' Jalen Williams drives to the basket.



Tavi'en Young (left) looks to dribble past a Fort White defender.

## Northside Christian Academy girls make it 4 in a row



The Northside Christian Academy varsity girls' basketball team won its fourth consecutive South Eastern Christian Conference championship on Feb. 10 at North Florida Community College in Madison. Winning the championship game capped a season in which the Eagles didn't lose a conference game. Pictured are: (front, l-r) Carolyn Stallings (All-Conference team selection), Morgan Elixson (All-Conference), (middle, l-r) Sonja Warren, Amberlyn Pilcher, (back, l-r) Tamy Coleman, Taylor English, Kyla Lawrence, coach April Pilcher, coach Jason Pilcher, Caroline Smith, Aniston Pilcher (All-Conference), Jillian Kirkland and Zy Warren.

## BHS football banquet to be held Feb. 19

Bradford High School's post-season football banquet will be held Monday, Feb. 19, at 6 p.m. at Madison Street Baptist Church.

Players and cheerleaders will be admitted free. Admission for all others is \$10. Tickets must be purchased in advance from Mrs. Johnson at

the high school.

## CIS of Bradford Kids Dash/Glow Run is Feb. 24

Communities in Schools of Bradford County will host its annual fundraising 5K Glow Run/Kids Dash on Saturday, Feb. 24, at the Keystone

Heights Air Park. Registration is at 4:30 p.m. The Kids Dash begins at 5:30 p.m., followed by the 5K at 6 p.m. The Ben Carter Band will perform following the 5K. Food and beverages will be available to purchase.

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# KHHS shut out in 2<sup>nd</sup> half in 5-3 District 5-2A semifinal loss

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Two goals in the final five minutes of the first half pumped the Keystone Heights High School boys' soccer team up and gave the Indians momentum heading into the break, but the Indians were shut out in the second half of a 5-3 loss to top seed Santa Fe in the Jan. 31 semifinals of the District 5-2A tournament in Keystone.

The loss prevented snapped a string of five straight regional playoff appearances for Keystone (12-11-3).

Alex Cruz scored two goals and had an assist, while Chris Anderson had one goal. Caleb Cushman and Landon Ricketts each had an assist, while Cushman made 17 saves.

Keystone advanced to the semifinals by defeating Interlachen 5-0 in the Jan. 30 quarterfinals. Cruz had two goals and two assists. Dean Hogg, Jacob Hopkins and Jay Payne each scored a goal, while Hogg, Hopkins and Ricketts each had an assist. Cushman made six saves.



Keystone's Matt White (left) gets into a physical battle for possession.



Keystone's Colby Townsend (far right) gets airborne to battle a Santa Fe player for possession. Townsend's teammate Matt White (foreground, left) looks on.



Alex Cruz, who scored four of the Indians' eight goals in two District 5-2A tournament matches, heads the ball in the semifinal loss to Santa Fe.



Jay Payne (left) makes a defensive play against Santa Fe's Zack Martin as Keystone's Colby Townsend (background) looks on.

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