

UNION COUNTY TIMES

USPS 648-200 — Lake Butler, Florida

Thursday, March 1, 2018

105th Year — 45th Issue — 75 CENTS

etc.

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 March 1

The Lake Butler City Commission will meet on Thursday, March 1 at 3:30 p.m. in a special meeting to discuss city manager residency requirements. The meeting will take place in the Lake Butler City Hall.

Let's Have Fun at the Library!

Beginning Feb. 1, the Union County Public Library will be hosting Makerspace After-School Programs on the first and third Thursday of each month. Programs will feature STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) themes. Programs will run from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. each session.

Adult programs are continuing in the new year, on the second Tuesday of each month. On 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 includes Human Health on March 1. There will be no program on March 8, but the series will continue with Funny Fairy Tales on March 15, Super Senses on March 22 and Easter Egg-Citement on March 29.

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.

Lake Butler American Legion Seeking Members

Lake Butler American Legion Post 153 is asking U.S. military veterans to contact Thomas Fortner, Adjutant, at 386-496-2473 or Ted Barber, Post Commander, at 386-496-2744 for information and possible membership. All

See ETC., 2A

Union County girls claim strawberry crowns



2018 Strawberry Queen Bobbie Grace Barber, pictured above center with 2017 royals Rebehak Milner and Maddee Peeples, and Strawberry Princess Brooklyn Cunningham, pictured at left, were crowned in the 56th annual Bradford-Union Strawberry Pageant Saturday night. For more from the event, including all of the prize-winning contestants, see inside.

Union County student arrested for threatening school

Trey Michael Jacobs, 13, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on Feb. 20 for the second-degree felony offense of manufacturing, selling, delivering, dispensing, displaying or using a hoax involving a weapon of mass destruction and disturbing the peace — interfering with school administrative functions.

Deputies had been called by a teacher at the Union County Alternative School who was following the district's "See Something, Say Something" directive. She said that Jacobs had posted two screen shot photos on his Instagram account which led her to be concerned that he would cause harm to her and other students. The screen shots were two photographs, one of Nikolas Cruz, the suspect in the most recent school shooting incident (Marjory Stoneman High School) with a caption showing his (Jacobs') admiration for him and another picture of himself (Jacobs) showing confidence and holding a long rifle. The teacher said she was afraid Jacobs, who had already shown the ability to possess and use firearms and shoot into occupied dwellings (see above) would create a danger at the school. Jacobs was arrested and transported without incident to the kitchen, getting a steak knife. He put the knife down, but his girlfriend was worried about his temper issues, especially in light of the heroin and the fact that he had access to a gun and knives in the house. She locked herself in the bathroom and called 911.

When deputies arrived, Troiana denied that he had done anything wrong and that the two women were lying. The deputies determined that there was probable cause for the charges and he was arrested. Possession of marijuana not more than 20 grams, resisting an officer without violence and a probation violation.

Grandfather arrested too

Robert Archambault, 52, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on Feb. 23 for contributing to the delinquency of a minor. The arrest was made on a warrant stemming from incidents occurring between April 20, 2017 and Feb. 20, 2018. According to an arrest report, the suspect is the step-grandfather and guardian of Trey Jacobs, a minor, and has been aware of the boy's behavior over the past year and has done nothing to correct or control it (see below).

The offense report states that Archambault had been made aware of Jacobs' April 20, 2017 arrest for attempted arson, as well as the six arrests since then, ranging from disturbing the peace to shooting into an occupied residence (with Archambault's gun). It states that Archambault continued to allow Jacobs access to firearms even after he was charged with felonies involving firearms and showed an apparent lack of concern for the boy's increasingly frequent interactions with law enforcement, which have become increasingly serious in nature. The report claims that Archambault "is allowing the child to become delinquent with the potential to harm others."



R. Archambault



What a cabbage!

Third grader grows 14-pounder. See Page 4 for more

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

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New Strawberry royalty crowned

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

Bobbie Grace Barber was crowned Miss Bradford-Union Strawberry Queen during the 56th annual pageant held Feb. 24.

Bobbie Grace is an 18-year old student at Union County High School and Florida Gateway College. Her platform was "Healthy Heart Awareness," and Teal Tile Carpet One sponsored her. Her parents are Robbie and Rhonda Barber of Lake Butler.

Bobbie Grace intends to pursue a degree in microbiology at the University of Florida and attend the College of Dentistry. She is a Beta Club member, scholar athlete, co-captain of the UCHS cheer squad and was a finalist in the state cheerleading competition.

Clearly best dressed according to the judges, Bobbie Grace won the Casual Wear Award and Evening Gown Award, which were worth a combined 35 percent of the competition scoring, and the Interview Award, which was worth another 30 percent.

Among her prizes was a \$2,000 scholarship from the Bradford County Community Women.

The runner-up in the queen category, Erin Stidham, was also selected Miss Congeniality by her fellow contestants. The 17-year-old Union County High and Florida Gateway College student was sponsored by Pat Cunningham Construction.

Brooklyn Cunningham, daughter of Talisha Parrish and Pat Cunningham of Lake Butler, was crowned 2018 Strawberry Princess.

Brooklyn is a 16-year-old student at Union County High School and Florida Gateway College where she is on the president's list. She is a scholar athlete for tennis and cheerleading. Her platform was



Strawberry Queen Bobbie Grace Barber as best dressed, winning the awards for casual wear and evening gown.

"Animal Community Care," and she was sponsored by Call Street Family Dentistry. She plans to pursue a career in orthodontics with a degree from the University of Florida and start a nonprofit dedicated to animal rescue and care.

Brooklyn won the People's Choice Award, which is bestowed by the audience.

Runner-up McKenzie Clemons is 14 and attends Lake Butler Middle School and Florida Virtual School. She was sponsored by M&K Construction and Classy Crossroads.

During the 1980s-inspired pageant with the theme "Girls Just Want to Have Fun," the contestants did just that, opening with that Cyndi Lauper classic

and "I've Had the Time of My Life" from "Dirty Dancing" before breaking into Kenny Loggins' "Footloose." More than emcee, Sondra Hunt entertained as always, belting out Heart's heart-wrenching "Alone" and getting up close and personal with the audience to Whitney Houston's dancefloor anthem "I Wanna Dance with Somebody." Last year's royals, Rebekah Milner and Maddee Peoples, said goodbye with songs of faith and praise.

But it was another singer who emerged with the Top Talent Award. Queen contestant Andria Frampton won for her performance of "Never Enough" from the soundtrack of The Greatest Showman. Andria was

awarded the Most Photogenic prize as well.

The Marketing Award went to princess contestant Reagan Robinson.

The Bradford County Community Women Inc. sponsors the pageant and includes Director Amanda Moore and co-directors Amber Sullivan and Chessie Flanders.



Queen contestant Andria Frampton (right) won the talent and photogenic awards. She is pictured with 2017 Princess Rebekah Milner.



Reagan Robinson in casual wear.



Evoking the 1980s, Brooklyn Cunningham introduces herself to the judges who later crowned her princess.



Sondra Hunt in her performance of "Alone."



Miss Congeniality Erin Stidham went for laughs with her stand-up performance.

Bring us your hazardous waste!

Union County Hazardous Waste Collection Event

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Union County Commission are sponsoring a project to collect, recycle, treat and properly dispose of these household hazardous wastes:

- Pesticides
- Paint thinners
- Radiator fluid
- Used oil/lubricants
- Oil filters
- Pool chemicals
- Solvents
- Insecticides
- Gasoline/fuels
- Fluorescent lamps
- Electronics
- Computers
- TVs
- Paints
- Batteries, all types
- Fertilizers
- Household cleaners
- Corrosives
- Propane tanks
- Medications
- Aerosol cans
- Used cooking oil



WHEN: Saturday, March 3, 2018
WHERE: Union County Road/Solid Waste Department (by RMC West Unit)
15285 SW 84th Street, Lake Butler, FL 32054
TIME: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

This service is free to residents, and is provided to small businesses for a fee. Residents can call Kim Hayes at 386-496-2180 for more information; businesses can call the Hazardous Waste Collection Center at 352-334-0440 for pricing.

AlachuaCountyHazWaste.us

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Princess contestant Logan Andrews.



McKenzie Clemons brought Barbie to life.



Queen contestant Sabrina Owen also performed.



ETC.
Continued from 1A

veterans are welcome!

Santa Fe Baptist to offer Food to Those in Need

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

Free clothes at Fellowship Baptist

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

Lake Butler Social Club on Saturdays

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

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

UC Recreation Board meets monthly

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

VFW Post 10082 plays

LEGALS

UCT Legals 3/1/18

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA
FILE NO.: 2017-CP-2744
DIVISION: PR-A

IN RE: ESTATE OF PERRY C. PERKINS, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of PERRY C. PERKINS, deceased, whose date of death was September 27, 2017, is pending in the Circuit Court for Duval County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 501 W. Adams Street, Jacksonville, FL 32202. The name and address 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 served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM. All other creditors of the decedent and persons having claims or demands against the decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN THREE (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 the first publication of this Notice is March 1, 2018.
Attorney for Personal Representative:
Robert F. Iseley, Jr., Esq.
biseley@bellsouth.net
gmlegalassistant@bellsouth.net
Florida Bar No.: 844070
Grimsley, Marker & Iseley, P.A.
200 West Forsyth Street, Suite 1300
Jacksonville, Florida 32202
Telephone: (904) 354-9900
Facsimile: (904) 354-9994
Personal Representative:
BEVERLY PERKINS
12 Clayton Street
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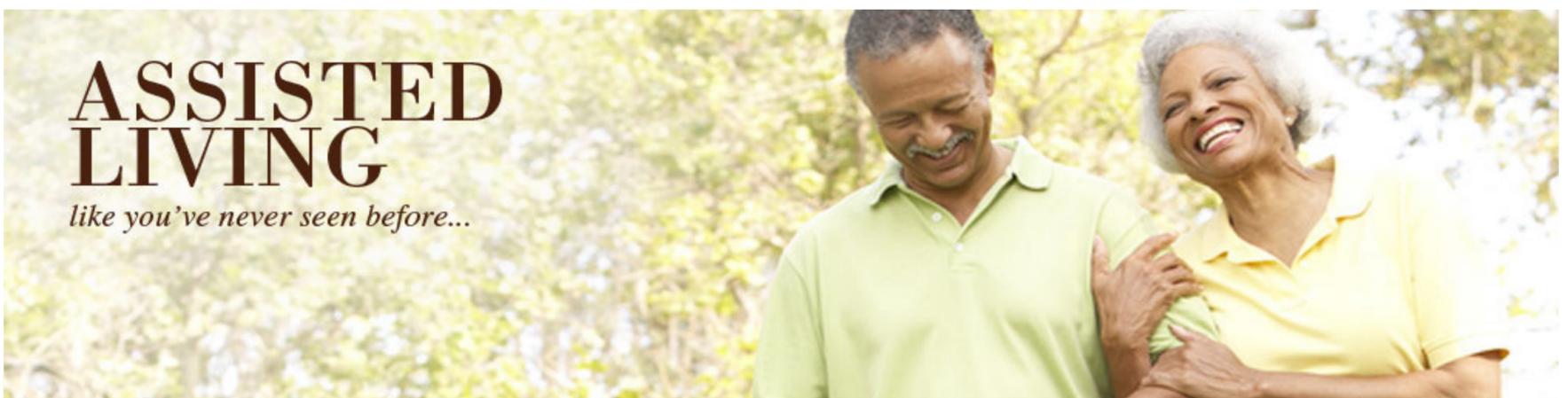
The VFW Post 10082, located off S.R. 231 in Lake Butler, has bingo on Thursdays at 7 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to come on out and play.

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Announces to Union County Citizens:
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- \$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. 1st of the Year the Veteran or First Responder Died
(Please contact office for required documentation)

For more information, please contact our office:
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LBES third graders grow some greenbacks

BY TAMMY WILKERSON
Lake Butler Elementary School

What started as a tiny sprout eventually grew into cold hard cash for five lucky third graders at Lake Butler Elementary School.

More than twenty years ago, Bonnie Plants, initiated the annual Third Grade Cabbage Program in an effort to promote a love of gardening.

As part of the national program, a \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to one student with the heaviest

O.S. Cross cabbage, also known as "oversized" cabbage.

As an added incentive, the Union County Farm Bureau donates funds to be used for local awards. This year, they donated a total of \$400!

For their participation in this annual event, each of the nine third grade teachers received a check for \$25.

One student per class, with the heaviest cabbage (3 lb. minimum) was awarded \$25 and the overall winner was awarded \$75.

In order of weight, the winners

were Aiden Wallace whose cabbage weighed in at 7 lbs., Ashton Williams, with a total of 7.75 lbs., Mackenzie Huggins, with an 8 lb. cabbage, and Alexia Cyr weighing in at 11.25 lbs.

Walking away as the overall winner was Brady Tetstone, whose cabbage stole the show at a whopping 14 lbs!

LBES would like to congratulate all of the students who participated in the program, Bonnie Plants for donating the cabbages, and especially to the Union County Farm Bureau for their monetary donations.



Pictured with their winnings are, left to right, overall winner Brady Tetstone, Principal Marcie Tucker, Alexia Cyr, Mackenzie Huggins, Ashton Williams, Aiden Wallace, and Union County Farm Bureau representative Ed Shadd.



Brady Tetstone and his 14-pound cabbage

Basketball team gets new uniforms



The Union County High School Varsity Boys basketball team would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that made a donation or supported their fundraising activities and helped them be able to purchase new uniforms. Pictured is the team in their home uniforms.

Front row (L to R): Keyshawn Young, Anthony Hendrieth
Middle row: Agelu Nunu, Caden Cox, Nate Norman
Back row: Corey Hill, Jaquez Hendrieth

Lake Butler Elementary School lines up for picture day



Front to back, left to right, Captain Rhett Prevatt, Lieutenants Makaylin Randolph and Hayden Andersen-Davis, and Sergeant Eva Sharrah.

First row, Cason Denson, Brycen Sapp, Ayden Dicks, Allison White, Leanne Dicks, Vanessa Raymond, Lacy Fipps, Macie Wilson, Ashlyn Thomas, Kenli Jenkins, Addison Graham, Isabelle Kirsten, Codi Huntley, Baylie Cubbedge, and Shayna Durrance.

Second row, Seth Norcross, Keegan Shuler, Garrett Keen, Lilly Hall, Bella Johns, Abigail Williams, Indi Knox, Grace Hobson, Mason Fassett, Kierston Clemons, Holly Halfacre, Alayah Boykin, and Aubree Gay.

Third row, Erick Lasseter, Jackson Thames, Sarah Baker, Delani Harden, Rachael Archer, Eva Whitehead, Carsyn Dukes, Bailey Varnes, Jailyann Simmons, Addison Wright, and Summer Shaw.

Not pictured are Amia Bethea and Hailey Garrison.



Russ WADE
Attorney at Law

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A new role with the same, exciting results

Lisa Prevatt is currently serving as chair of the Santa Fe College District Board of Trustees

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer



Prevatt

Lisa Prevatt is no stranger to the Santa Fe College District Board of Trustees, having been a trustee for approximately seven years, but this year has been a little different as she has been serving as the board's chair.

It's a new position, but the ease of working with her fellow trustees and those who work at Santa Fe remains.

"The main change, of course, is running the meetings and working with the president to set the agenda and clarify items on the agenda," Prevatt said, "but that kind of work with an organization like Santa Fe is really very easy because the staff and their administration are so dedicated to their job. Their passion for excellence is always part of who they are."

Prevatt, who is the principal at Lawtey Elementary School, has approximately four months remaining in her term as chair (chairs serve one year, starting in July). Trustees meet monthly and also attend workshops in the fall and spring.

What helps her be able to serve as a trustee in the midst of her busy life is that everything that comes before the trustees has been researched thoroughly so she and other trustees feel comfortable in reviewing and approving items in a timely manner.

"If this needed more care, I honestly couldn't do it because my jobs have always required a lot of work in and of themselves," Prevatt said, "but I can look at those items, I can look at those contracts and the policy that's been developed, and they are

Another exciting thing has been watching the college add bachelor's programs.

"Those programs really enhance what students can continue at Santa Fe," Prevatt said. "They're not about competing, of course, with UF, but they are certainly about supporting their own student needs. I would say the bachelor's programs are really wonderful things."

The Early Childhood Education bachelor's program has been a wonderful thing for Bradford County as the Bradford County School District employs graduates of that program, Prevatt said. She also noted that the program, as with other bachelor's programs at Santa Fe, costs less than it would at the university level.

"Our community doesn't have as many financial resources," Prevatt said. "Certainly keeping that cost down helps to enable our folks to get those higher degrees."

Prevatt said the college is constantly striving to better meet its students' needs, noting that Santa Fe is by no means resting on its laurels after it received the 2015 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, denoting it the number-one community college in the nation that year.

"They were given that award in 2015, and yet they continue to strive to make improvements," Prevatt said. "That award — what's so special about it is it's all about student outcomes, which is what Santa Fe is about, making sure that students get into the school, get the support they need during their instructional time there, then complete programs and then job placement. When

you look at the fact they received the Aspen Award for being so successful in all of those elements — that is what education should be about."

Enjoying her role as 1 of the voices from Bradford County

Prevatt joins Jeff Oody and newcomer Mike Goldwire as Santa Fe trustees who are from Bradford County.

"Santa Fe is all about reaching

out and serving the surrounding communities," Prevatt said. "With Bradford having a large center right here and members on the board from Bradford, they're really good about listening and putting an appropriate priority on Bradford County. We definitely need that support."

She's excited to welcome Goldwire, who is taking the place of another local, Arley McRae. Prevatt said her first administrative job within the Bradford County School District was at Southside Elementary

School when Goldwire's wife, Mary Agnes, was principal.

"I met Mike way back then, about the time they were getting married," Prevatt said. "He is such a genuinely nice guy. He will be a great part of the team."

It's a team composed of members who get along and enjoy what they do.

"They're so collegial," Prevatt said. "It's just exciting and a lot of fun, too, to be part of an

See PREVATT, 2B

very clear and articulate about what changes are needed and why and what we should be voting on."

What has impressed Prevatt the most during her time as a trustee has been the level of transparency in regard to matters that come before the board.

"Any questions asked, we get answers to," Prevatt said.

Striving to best meet students' needs

One of the matters that has come before the board that excites Prevatt is the planned consolidation of student-support services and tutoring labs. A building will be renovated for that purpose and called the Learning Commons.

"I think that's an excellent idea," Prevatt said. "It makes it much more easy for students to know where they need to go when they need help."

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McRae named first trustee emeritus at Santa Fe

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Starke resident Arley McRae may have ceased his active involvement with Santa Fe College, but the relationship still exists, with the college naming him its first trustee emeritus.

"I was delighted that they were able to keep me associated with the college because I love the college," said McRae, who served on the District Board of Trustees for 17 years. "I'm grateful the college loves me so that they'd do that for me."

McRae said he enjoyed all his years as a trustee, but said the last four years meant a lot to him because he continued to serve despite suffering two strokes, which have left him in a wheelchair and took away complete hearing in one ear and half the hearing in his other. Yet he participated in video conferences with his trustees while rehabilitating at Oak Hammock at the University of Florida. His wife, Gladys, said participating in a video conference was no big deal to the retired Air Force colonel who commanded two bases.

"He had done that in the military anyway," she said.

Santa Fe President Jackson Sasser, who, along with trustees chair Lisa Prevatt, presented McRae with a plaque of appreciation for his years of service, described McRae as a "model trustee, not just of Santa Fe College or Florida, but America."

Returning home, getting involved

McRae, who grew up in Bradford County, returned home after his service in the Air Force, looking for ways to make a

positive impact. He got involved in the Bradford Food Pantry and the Bradford High School Alumni Association, and formed the local Habitat for Humanity, helping to build five houses.

He got an eventful call one day from a representative of then Gov. Jeb Bush, asking him if he'd be interested in serving as a Santa Fe College trustee. He was, so he filled out and submitted the required paperwork. Then, the governor himself called. Bush asked him if it was true he commanded Air Force bases. When McRae said he did, Bush replied, "You're a perfect choice for a trustee."

McRae became a trustee in 1999. He took a sabbatical at one point, but returned to the college to serve.

Florida had three governors during McRae's time as a trustee: Bush, Charlie Crist and Rick Scott. McRae spoke highly of all and their dedication to education. He's especially enjoyed working with Scott.

"He is very pro-education to the extent he wants everything that is good for the students to work," McRae said. "If it's good for the students, let's put it in place. That's why I've enjoyed working for the governor and with the governor because he's one of those hands-on individuals, just like I am. Let's do everything we can for the student."

School benefits from good leader, team

Like the governors he worked with, McRae holds Sasser in high esteem. Sasser became president in January 2002.

"It starts at the top as everything does," McRae said.

"We've been blessed to have Dr. Sasser as our leader."

McRae remembered how 67 applied for the position of president. That was whittled down to 12 and eventually five. The 12 finalists were asked to submit videos of themselves. McRae was given copies of the videos to watch before he and Gladys were getting ready to take a trip to Charlotte, North Carolina. No matter. He took the videos with them. At a motel they stopped at on the way to Charlotte, McRae asked the staff if a player was available he could watch them on. They did, so he went to work, watching all 12 videos that night.

"I saw the video of Dr. Sasser," McRae said. "I said, 'That is the guy.' Everything he said was exactly what I would've said. Everything he said he would do is exactly what I would do. We were on the same page from the very start."

McRae said Sasser did indeed prove to be a good choice, taking Santa Fe from a top-10 national ranking to number one. McRae, who was the commander of Luke Air Force Base in Arizona when it received a number-one national ranking, knew that though Sasser was instrumental in that, it took an entire team to make it happen.

"I knew we were top-tier," McRae said. "I knew we could be at the top, but when it actually happened, I was really, really humbled and very, very grateful because so many people had worked so hard to make it happen."

McRae was part of that team and grateful he had that opportunity.

"We have been real blessed with good trustees at Santa Fe College," McRae said, adding, "I've been blessed to be a part of that."

Stepping down, but still thinking of SFC

Good friend Mike Goldwire of Starke was recently appointed to take McRae's spot as a trustee. McRae said the change has been seamless, though he's now having to adjust to Santa Fe not being so large a part of his life. The college, though, will always be on his mind and in his heart.

"As always, anytime there's a change, you have to get used to it," McRae said. "I'm gradually getting used to not being an active member. At least I'm still affiliated and a part of the college."

Then, with a twinkle in his eye and a laugh, McRae said, "I told them I would always be there in spirit, and if they do the wrong thing, I'll come back to haunt them."

PREVATT

Continued from 1B

organization that is so productive and so efficient."

Prevatt hopes to remain a trustee for quite a while. She looks forward to devoting more time to Santa Fe events in the near future.

"As I am getting closer to my own retirement and thinking



Arley McRae (far right) receives a plaque for years of service to Santa Fe College as he is named the school's first trustee emeritus. Presenting the plaque are Board of Trustees Chair Lisa Prevatt (far left) and Santa Fe President Jackson Sasser.

NFTC students take top 3 places at SkillsUSA event



Five students in all represented North Florida Technical College at the Region 2 SkillsUSA event. Pictured (l-r): Aaron Nazworth, James Bennett, Michael Lingold, instructor Jeff Ledger, John Kersey and Nicholas Steffan.

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

First, second or third place sounds pretty good, but how about all three?

The performance of North Florida Technical College (formerly Bradford-Union Technical Center) at the Region 2 SkillsUSA competition had Computer Systems Information Technology instructor Jeff Ledger high-fiving one of his students and proclaiming, "Clean sweep, baby!" John Kersey, Michael Lingold and Aaron Nazworth placed first, second and third, respectively, in Computer Maintenance at the Feb. 9 event at Florida State College at Jacksonville.

Ledger said he got an email from an instructor in Marion County after the event that said, "Your students rocked."

"It made me feel good," Ledger said.

With their top-three

placements, the students earned the right to compete in the state-level SkillsUSA competition, which will be held April 30-May 2 in Pensacola.

Improvements for 2 and a better-than-expected result for 1

On placing first, Kersey, a senior who's in his third year in Ledger's program, said, "I guess it was nice. I placed second last year. It's at least a little bit of an improvement."

That second-place finish last year, in which he wasn't that far from the winner's point total, led to Ledger having high expectations for Kersey.

"I was expecting him to win first or second," Ledger said. "If he went to third, it would've been like a disappointment."

Lingold is also a senior and is in his fourth year in Ledger's program. He placed fourth at the Region 2 event in each of the previous three years.

"I was definitely pretty happy," Lingold said of his second-place finishing, adding, "I would've been a little upset if I didn't (improve), being that it was my final year and I had tried so many times. I definitely knew I had the knowledge base. It was a matter of putting that into the situations they handed us."

Like with Kersey, Ledger had some high expectations for Lingold.

"I figured he'd place," Ledger said, "but I didn't know how he would place."

Nazworth, a junior, is in his first year in Ledger's program. Therefore, his performance was a pleasant surprise, though in his class, Ledger sees Nazworth as a student who works hard and likes to figure out problems on his own.

"I was very impressed with Aaron," Ledger said. "He's done very good in this class. He never asks for help."

Nazworth said he didn't enter the competition with much in the way of expectations.

"I was very surprised. I thought I'd place last," he said.

The atmosphere was a little intimidating, especially at the beginning when all the rules were explained, Nazworth said. However, he became more comfortable as the competition progressed.

"Halfway through, I thought it was a lot easier than I expected," Nazworth said.

Lingold said students were judged on their performances in a variety of given situations, such as helping a business recover files or setting up a network. What he and his fellow classmates do best at, he said, is working out hardware issues.

"They hand you a computer, give you a scenario and you fix the computer," Lingold said. "I guess you could call that our specialty. We've always been good at taking a computer, looking at the insides and just fixing whatever's going on."

Lingold said he was presented with some scenarios in years past that were difficult, but this year was different, as evidenced by his second-place finish.

"Maybe I was just more comfortable," he said. "Everything was really simple. It was an easy fix."

During the announcement of winners, Ledger watched as Nazworth was awarded third, followed by Lingold being awarded second. It was then that he knew his students had completed the sweep. He knew that Kersey was good enough to place, so it was obvious that Kersey was going to be awarded first.

"Mr. Ledger really wanted us to place first, second and third, showing everyone that, yes, Bradford can do good things," Lingold said. "We are a small community, but we still have a

See SKILLS, 3B



Arley McRae is pictured at his Starke home with his plaque of appreciation.

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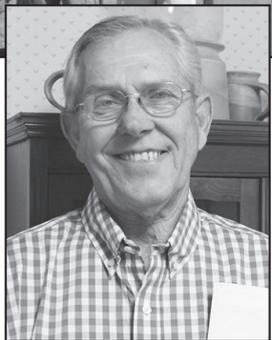
Local venue hosts almost 300 for Florida Challenge



Shooters participate in the Florida Challenge, which was held Feb. 23-25 at the Bradford Sportsmen's Farm.

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

More than 200 shooters participated in the Florida Challenge, which was held Feb. 23-25 at the Bradford Sportsmen's Farm in Graham.



Pat Welch

Pat Welch, one of the owners of the Bradford Sportsmen's Farm, said he believed this was the sixth year the event was hosted at the Graham facility. Welch said it all began by "just deciding we'd do it."

Hosting such events has gained the Bradford Sportsmen's Farm a lot of recognition.

"I can tell you, throughout the shooting community, we're known all over the United States," Welch said. "We've been in the top 10 in the country following NSCA (National Sporting Clays Association)-registered targets for several years in a row. To me, that's a pretty good accomplishment."

In all, the Florida Challenge drew 239 shooters, but they were accompanied by wives and others, so Welch said the total number of people at the event probably ranged from 280 to 300.

The Florida Challenge was composed of a number of shoots: a 100-target preliminary (Feb. 22-23), the 200-target main event (Feb. 24-25), a sub-gauge event (Feb. 22-24), a super sporting event (Feb. 25), a five-stand event (Feb. 23-25) and a FITASC event (Feb. 23-25). FITASC (Federation Internationale de Tir Aux Sportives de Chasse) is an international form of sporting clays.

"You could shoot like a total of 750-800 targets in a weekend, if that's what you want to do," Welch said. "There's a lot to do."

Such shooting events consist of shooters in various classes and allow them to earn "punches," which are earned by wins. A certain number of punches allows shooters to move up in class. Classes, from lowest to highest, are E, D, C, B, A, AA and Master. As you advance higher, the required number of punches increases. For example, it requires four punches to move up from E to D, but 20 punches are necessary to move from AA to Master.

Shooters can also compete against their peers in concurrent classes: sub-junior (15 and under), junior (16-20), ladies (any age), veterans (55-64), super veterans (65-74) and senior super veterans (75 and above).

"We had quite a few of those," Welch said of senior super veterans. "That was cool."

SKILLS

Continued from 2B

strong knowledge base."

Competing at state can be beneficial

Ledger may not be expecting a duplicate feat at the state-level event, but he does believe Kersey will place in the top three.

"He's got that talent. I hope he does because if he does, I think the district will hire him as an IT person," Ledger said, thinking of one of his former students, Cole Johnson, who placed first at the Region 2 SkillsUSA event three times and now works for the Bradford County School District.

No matter what happens, placing at a state-level SkillsUSA

event looks good on a resume.

"It definitely has a little clout to it," Ledger said.

Ledger is seeking monetary support to help pay for the costs of traveling and competing in the state event. If you're interested in helping or would like more information on the state event and the students' accomplishments at the Region 2 event, please email Ledger at ledger.jeff@mybradford.us.

Besides watching students get the chance to boost their resumes and get noticed by schools and employers, Ledger likes seeing how competing at SkillsUSA events affects students' classroom performance.

"They come back and try harder," Ledger said. "They come back, and instead of getting on the internet and doing useless stuff, they go on the internet

Northside Christian Academy girls' basketball team wins state title

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Northside Christian Academy's Lady Eagles were able to soar to even greater heights this year in regard to their accomplishments on the basketball court as they won the Florida Independent Christian Athletic Association state championship, defeating Kissimmee's Southland Christian 46-41 on Feb. 23.

"I knew they could do it," head coach Jason Pilcher said. "They just had to believe in themselves."

This was a first for the program. In the past, winning the South Eastern Christian Conference championship was the best the Eagles could do, but this year, the SECC joined the Florida Independent Christian Athletic Association, which has organized a state tournament for conference champions to play for.

Northside had no problem advancing to the state tournament, going undefeated in the SECC and winning the conference championship for the fourth year in a row. As exciting as that was, it was the first-time chance to win a state title that had Pilcher really excited.

"I hyped it up to the girls all year long," he said.

The state tournament was held at Johnson University in Kissimmee. Northside first played Orlando's Victory Christian on Feb. 22, winning 39-36.

That put the Eagles up local team Southland Christian. NCA Athletic Director John Faulkner described the championship game as intense as the Southland student body turned out to cheer its team on.

The Eagles, though, still took flight, claiming a championship trophy. Pilcher said he usually keeps his emotions in check, but it couldn't be done following the game as he witnessed his players' tears of joy.

He admitted the floodgates really opened when his daughter



Northside Christian Academy not only won its fourth straight South Eastern Christian Conference championship, but went on to with the Florida Independent Christian Athletic Association state title. Pictured are: (front, l-r) Taylor English, Kyla Lawrence, Aniston Pilcher, Sonja Warren, Morgan Elixson, Carolyn Stallings, Amberlyn Pilcher, Zy Warren, Jillian Kirkland, coach April Pilcher, (back, l-r) Tamyra Coleman, coach Jason Pilcher and Caroline Smith.

Aniston was named the tournament MVP.

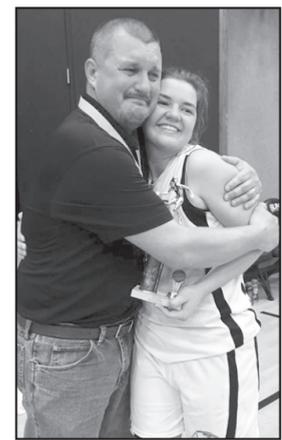
"That was special, too, to see her win that," he said.

It was a great way to send out seniors Morgan Elixson, Amberlyn Pilcher, Carolyn Stallings and Sonja Warren.

The Eagles will have to replace only two starters next year, so the coach feels good about future success. He already has a motto for next year: "Drive for Five."

"The kids like that," Pilcher said.

Now, though, the Eagles don't have to be satisfied with a fifth straight conference championship. They will be taking aim for a second straight state championship.



Head coach Jason Pilcher hugs his daughter Aniston after she received the MVP trophy.

Col. Samuel Elbert DAR meeting set for March 5

The Col. Samuel Elbert Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution will hold its regular monthly meeting beginning at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, March 5, at IHOP in Starke.

Leslie Harper will be the hostess. The program will be presented by Julia Saldivar, member of the Florida State Society Speakers' Bureau and chair/co-chair of several state committees. In addition, the chapter, led by Honorary Chapter Regent Konnie Beauregard, will be presenting Women in American History awards to Janet Zengel Messer and Mary Jane Gallop Katter.

Do you have a Revolutionary War-era Patriot in your family tree? If you would like to find out, we can help with DAR's amazing genealogical resources.

Any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion or ethnic background, who can prove direct descent from a person who aided in achieving American independence between April 19, 1775, and Nov. 26, 1783, is eligible for membership in DAR. Please contact Leslie Harper (352-475-5090) or June Keefe (386-431-1830) for more information.

please visit bsfshootingsports.com or the venue's Facebook page.

and look up stuff they missed at Skills."

That's what Nazworth plans to do now that he knows what he "messed up on." He's looking forward to competing again next year as a senior.

"Definitely, and hopefully doing better," Nazworth said.

The state event will consist of competitors from six regions, including Region 2. Only the first-place finisher advances to the national-level event, which will held June 25-29 in Louisville, Kentucky.

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

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Letters

Oppose aerial spraying

Dear Editor,

Last fall, following Hurricane Irma, our county was aerially sprayed with the controversial chemical, Naled. The "opportunity" for this spraying was offered by the state and signed off on by our county commissioners.

I, like many others, found out that the spraying would be happening just hours before the scheduled time. My only notification was delivered by way of a post on Facebook. Since I was aware of the controversy surrounding the use of Naled I began to call county commissioners, the Agricultural Extension office, local mosquito control and Tallahassee asking that my farm and our county NOT be sprayed. Each department I spoke with offered me conflicting information. (There is a NO-Spray list, there isn't such a list for aerial applications, as one example.)

As more concerned citizens began to hear about the scheduled spraying, they joined the chorus of people adamantly opposed to being sprayed with this type of organophosphate used in mosquito control. Our pleas were met with the standard

response, "Sorry, there is nothing we can do at this point to stop the spraying."

After the fact, this group attended a County Commissioners meeting and voiced our outrage over the handling of this whole situation; lack of sufficient public notice, lack of a straight answer from within our county representatives, lack of action to protect the most vulnerable (remember children playing ball on several local fields were sprayed!!) My take away from that meeting was that our commissioners believed they were acting in the best interest of the county, BUT, they felt ill-informed over the potential for bee's dying or being affected long term, concerns to a growing fetus, the effects on people with chronic illness, the frustrations of organic farmers and the devastating consequences to the environment. They promised to set up a workshop to gather more information and garner the input of concerned citizens.

Our long-awaited workshop now has a date, at last. After 5 months the initial shock has worn off, attention has shifted to newer problems; it is easy to allow apathy to divert us from our distress. However, summer is coming, and the mosquitoes will return, now is our opportunity to change the way Bradford County responds.

Therefore, I implore you to attend this workshop, let our CC's know that we DO care what chemicals are being dumped on us from the sky.

PUBLIC NOTICE
THE BRADFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL HOLD A WORKSHOP ON MARCH 15, 2018 AT 5:30 PM AT THE BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 945 N. TEMPLE AVENUE, STARKE, FL, INSIDE THE COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING ROOM FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING AERIAL SPRAYING FOR MOSQUITO CONTROL. PLEASE DIRECT ALL QUESTIONS TO EXTENSION AGENT II JIM DEVALERIO AT (904) 966-6299.

IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND THE MEETING, YOU CAN PARTICIPATE BY SUBMITTING YOUR THOUGHTS AND/OR QUESTIONS, OR TO REPORT LOSSES OF HONEY BEES, BY MAIL OR EMAIL PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

Sincerely,

Lynn Miller
Bradford County Resident

Defend Second Amendment

Dear Editor: MASS SCHOOL SHOOTINGS problem and solution

School and other mass shootings in America primarily occur where the 2nd amendment right of American citizens is prohibited by unconstitutional law. The 2nd amendment states there are two things necessary for the security of a free state. I emphasize here the latter of those two things. "...being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." In schools and other gun ban/second

Obituaries

W.H. Agan

STARKE— W.H. "Butch" Agan, 67, of Starke, died Thursday, Feb. 22, 2018 at the VA Medical Center in Lake City. He was born Sept. 22, 1950 in Little Rock, Arkansas to the late Weepee Agan and Ethel White Agan. He graduated Oak Grove High School in 1968 and served in the United States Navy. He worked with the Department of Corrections. He is predeceased by his parents.

He is survived by: his wife, Kathy Agan of Starke; children, Nikki (Mike) Reveley of Cabot, Arkansas, Leslie (Rich) Bass of Vilonia, Arkansas, and Jeremy Agan of Starke; step-daughter, Shannon (Tony) Brooks-Warren of Williston; half-brother, Larry (Joyce) Muth of Shadow Valley, California; and nine grandchildren.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services and Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel, Starke.



Dorothy Dowdy

Ruth Clemons

STARKE— Ruth Clemons died on Wednesday Feb. 21, 2018. She was born on Aug. 9, 1928 and was raised in Starke all her life. Preceded in death by her parents Roan Todd and Ada Pearce Todd, but was raised by her aunt and uncle, Lillie and Nathan Raulerson. Preceded in death by her husbands, LE Gilpin and WC Clemons. Siblings are Ann Brown and Myrtice Harvey who preceded her in death.

Her children are: Lloyd (Debra) Gilpin, Ralph (Bobbie) Gilpin and Nancy (Randall) Norman, Edward Gilpin, Verdine Clark, and proceeded in death by daughter, Janet (Roy) Nazworth.

Ruth had 25 grandchildren. She had 43 great-grandchildren and is preceded in death by one, Trey Gilpin. She had 11 great-grandchildren. Ruth lived her life for her family. Her children, and all her grandchildren were her world. Arrangements are under the care of Archer Funeral Home located at 55 North Lake Ave Lake Butler. For more information, please call (386)496-2008.

PAID OBITUARY

Donald Donovan

MELROSE — Donald "Donny" Donovan, 32, of Melrose died Friday, Feb. 23, 2018 at Shands Hospital following injuries he sustained in an automobile accident. He was born in Lakewood, New Jersey on April 18, 1985 and was a 2003 graduate of Keystone Heights High School. He was a volunteer firefighter and a security contractor in Gainesville. He was member of Trinity Baptist Church. He was preceded in death by his stepfather, Roger Baughman II.

He is survived by: his four year old daughter, Daily Donovan of Melrose; mother, Carol Baughman of Melrose; father and step mother, John and Rendy Donovan of Conway, Arkansas; three brothers, William Donovan of Mississippi, Robert O'Donnell of Melrose, Thomas O'Donnell of North Carolina; sister, Tiffany Donovan of Conway, Arkansas; three step daughters, Kia Johnston, Kayden Johnston and Harley Barron all of Alabama; and many other family members.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, March 1st, and Friday, March 2nd from 5-8 p.m. in the Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home Chapel. Memorial services will be held at 3:00 p.m., Saturday, March 3 in Trinity Baptist Church with Pastor Clay Robinson officiating. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Keystone Heights.

STARKE— Dorothy Dowdy, age 86, of Starke passed away, Thursday, Feb. 22, 2018 at her home with loved ones by her side. She was born June 24, 1931 in Crawford, Georgia to the late William P. Brooks and Mamie Brooks. Dorothy was raised in Georgia and married the love of her life, Norman Dowdy, on Dec. 20, 1946. A little over 69 years ago, Dorothy and her husband moved to Starke where they later became members of Heilbronn Springs Baptist Church. Dorothy was employed at Irvin Roberts Downtown Clothing Store for several years then she went to Big Dad's Uniforms. She had a successful career as a seamstress and retired from Vogue Manufacturing after 20 years of dedicated service. Dorothy was passionate about sewing and even made quilts and blankets for the McDonald House and local nursing homes. If not at her sewing machine, Dorothy could be found tending to her flower garden or in the kitchen baking up the best pecan pies. Dorothy is predeceased by: her parents; loving husband of 65 years, Norman W. Dowdy, Sr.; two brothers; and two sisters.

Dorothy is survived by: her son, Norman W. (Lana) Dowdy, Jr. of Starke; grandson, Derrick (DaNita) Dowdy, of Starke; great-granddaughter, Kamrey Dowdy. A Celebration of Dorothy's Life will be held on Sunday, Feb. 25 at 3:00 p.m. at Heilbronn Springs Baptist Church with Pastor Danny Boyd officiating. Interment will follow at Conner Cemetery. The family will receive friends on Sunday an hour prior to the service at the church. 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

Dorothy is survived by: her son, Norman W. (Lana) Dowdy, Jr. of Starke; grandson, Derrick (DaNita) Dowdy, of Starke; great-granddaughter, Kamrey Dowdy.

A Celebration of Dorothy's Life will be held on Sunday, Feb. 25 at 3:00 p.m. at Heilbronn Springs Baptist Church with Pastor Danny Boyd officiating. Interment will follow at Conner Cemetery. The family will receive friends on Sunday an hour prior to the service at the church. 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

Ralph Eilers

JACKSONVILLE— Ralph Maynard Eilers, 73, of Jacksonville died after a long illness Saturday, Feb. 24, 2018. He was born on March 25, 1944, the only child of Ralph Meinhardt and Sophia Claire (Isler) Eilers, in Washington, DC. He graduated high school and attended law school. He went to work as a sports writer. He was a member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

He is survived by: his wife of 35 years, Gail Glisson Eilers; daughters, Debbie (Michael) Weise of Jacksonville, Heather Reynolds of Middleburg and Robin (Ben) Whetstone of High Shoals, Georgia; five grandchildren; sister-in-law, Janice (Tim) Wilder of Keystone Heights, and many other family members.

Memorial services will be held at 11:00 a.m., Friday, March 2 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 4129 Oxford Ave., Jacksonville. A private interment will follow at a later date for immediate family. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Keystone Heights.

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Ernestine McDaniel

LAKE BUTLER— Ernestine McDaniel, 83, of Lake Butler passed away Saturday, Feb. 24, 2018 at NFRMC Gainesville. She was a longtime member of The Church of God and retired from Tacachale after 26 years. She was preceded in death by her late husband of 61 years, William Roy McDaniel.

She is survived by: one daughter; two sons; one step daughter; one brother; three sisters; ten grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral service will be 10 a.m. Thursday, Mar. 1 at Lake City Church of God, Hwy 90 East. Burial will be at 3:30 p.m. Thursday at Wareboro Cemetery Hwy 82 near Waycross. Visitation on Wednesday 5-7 p.m. at Evans-Carter Funeral Home High Springs. (386) 454-2444.

PAID OBITUARY

Wayne Groesbeck

MELROSE— Merle Wayne Groesbeck, 69, of Melrose, passed away peacefully on Thursday, Feb. 15, 2018, in Palatka following an extended illness.

Born in 1948 in Coos Bay, Oregon, Wayne spent most of his life in the Pacific Northwest until moving to Melrose from Havre, Montana, in 2001 with his beloved wife, Jan, whom he married in 1991. He was a devoted Christian and loved his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Wayne enjoyed the outdoors, and spent time hunting, fishing and going to the beach. Other favorite pastimes were reading and working on his truck.

Wayne served as a submariner in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. He received his BS Degree in Environmental Health from Boise State University and later his AS Degree in computer science from North Idaho College in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Prior to moving to Melrose he worked in the glass industry installing residential and commercial windows and doors. For the past 16 years, Wayne worked as maintenance director at Lake Swan Camp in Melrose, where he was beloved by staff and volunteers.

Wayne was a loving and devoted husband, father, and brother. He will be greatly missed by his wife, Janet, and his son, Dmitriy, both of Melrose; three brothers, Doyle Groesbeck of Anchorage, Alaska, Leland (Jo) Groesbeck of Twin Falls, Idaho, and Kenneth (Roberta "Buttons") Groesbeck of Meridian, Idaho; three sisters, Janet (Melvin) Calkins of Eagle, Idaho, Helen Gonion of Anchorage, Alaska, and Debbie Taylor (Kenneth Parmenter) of Anchorage, Alaska; and a sister-in-law, Evelyn Groesbeck of Mountain Home, Idaho. He was preceded in death by his parents, Woods Groesbeck and Madge Greco Groesbeck; and a brother, Don Groesbeck.

A memorial service will be held at 4:00 p.m., March 19, at Lake Swan Camp with Pastor Coleman, of Friendship Bible Church in Keystone Heights, officiating.

Memories and condolences may be expressed to the family at Wayne's Book of Memories page at www.JohnsonOverturffunerals.com. Memorials in Wayne's name may be made to Lake Swan Camp for outdoor memorial benches by going to gofundme.com/groesbeckmemorialfund.

PAID OBITUARY

David Madron

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS— David Bruce Madron, 69, passed away on February 16, 2018 in Palatka. He was born in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina and was a member of Fresh Start Fellowship in Keystone Heights.

Mr. Madron is survived by: his wife of 35 years, Wanda Madron; two sons, David and Tony Madron; daughter, Tracy (Jeff) Madron-Boeman; sister, Mary E. (John) Ruymen; and three grandchildren, William, Justin and Daniel.

Memorial Services will be held at a later date. Arrangements by Hardage-Giddens Holly Hill Funeral Home and Memorial Park, 3601 Old Jennings Rd, Middleburg.

PAID OBITUARY

Tigers are present again in track and field

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

At a glance, nothing seemed out of the ordinary at the track and field meet that was taking place at Bradford High School on Feb. 15, but it was a pretty big deal for the coaches and athletes of Union County High School. You see, it wasn't that long ago that you couldn't find Tigers on any track or field.

This marks the second year of a resurrected program under head coach Robbie Best. Principal Mike Ripplinger said a lack of numbers and a lack of total commitment among student-athletes were the reasons the school didn't field a program for a couple of years.

Best said it's not like the program hasn't had success. For example, Union won a boys' team state title in the 1990s and produced an individual state champion in C.J. Spiller, who won both the 100m and 200m in 2006.

Now, he and fellow coaches Jordan Smalanski and Casey Wimpey are attempting to create track and field success once again.

"The opportunity to do something to build a program was exciting," Best said, "but at the same time, it was a little daunting to try to go from ground zero to hopefully build a program like they've had in the past. The challenge, really, has been selling the program."

Best described the process last year as beating the bushes

trying to find students who were willing to give the sport a try. Approximately 18 boys and girls participated last year. Best, who was waiting to see how many students would join the program after basketball season ended, expected that number to be about the same this year.

With the absence of a middle-school program, which had been a non-entity longer than the high school program, many participants are total newcomers to the sport. Kaleigh Brown, for example, competed in the 100m hurdles for the first time at the Feb. 15 meet at Bradford High School.

"She had two days of jumping hurdles at practice," Best said. "Then she came out here and did it in a meet. It's all new and green to her and to others, so they're having to learn how to actually do it."

Best admitted many of his athletes face a steep learning curve, but all he asks out of them is a consistent effort.

"You've got to put the work in," he said.

At the Feb. 24 Eastside Invitational, which consisted of 17 other schools, Union got a second-place finish from Kurston Bakken in the girls' shot put, with a distance of 33-5 while boys' team member Austin Wilson placed seventh in the 1500m with a time of 4:48.37. Erica Roseke placed eighth in the girls' discus with a throw of 72-8.

What should be a big boost to the high school program is the resurrection of the Lake Butler Middle School program.

"We've got some good talent at the middle school, and we've got good numbers," Best said. "The middle school's athletes are very competitive among themselves. They're good for each other. The middle school athletes are good for each other



Union County High School track coach Robbie Best (right) gives Kaleigh Brown some pointers before she runs the 100m hurdles.



Kurston Bakken competes in the shot put.



Jalen Diston competes in the 200m.

because they push each other. They want to compete. They want to win."

The LBMS teams will compete in a meet at Bradford on Thursday, March 1, 5 p.m. The UCHS teams will compete in the Bradford Invitational on Monday, March 12, at 4:30 p.m.

UCHS softball team beats Hilliard, is 2-0 in district

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Reah Jones hit a two-run double while Lexi Androlevich pitched a three-hit shutout in the Union County High School softball team's 2-0 win over District 6-1A opponent Hilliard on Feb. 26 in Lake Butler.

Jones and Kensley Hamilton finished with two RBI each, while Teala Howard went 2-for-4.

Androlevich gave up just one walk, while striking out five.

The Tigers (3-1, 2-0) entered the game off a 2-1 loss to Class 7A Gainesville on Feb. 20 in Lake Butler. Brooke Waters drove in Union's only run, while Kamaya Cohen went 2-for-2.

Starting pitcher Androlevich gave up one run in 3.2 innings on three hits and one walk. Waters pitched 3.1 innings, giving up one run on four hits and no walks.

Union played Clay this past Tuesday and will host Madison County on Thursday, March 1, at 7 p.m. On Friday, March 2, the Tigers travel to play Fleming Island at 6 p.m.

contact Cheryl Canova (904-964-5382), Pat Mundorff (352-274-8277), Jim Lewis (352-494-3296) or Paul Metivier (352-234-5066).

UCHS baseball team moves to 2-1 off 7-3 win

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Trace Croft had two RBI, while starting pitcher Tripp Davis kept visiting Lake Weir in check in the Union County High School baseball team's 7-3 win on Feb. 26.

The Tigers (2-1) also got an RBI from Skyler Shatto, while Whip Davis went 2-for-3 with a double.

Tripp Davis threw five innings, giving up one run on one hit. Alan Palmer earned the save, giving up no runs on no hits in the final inning.

Union opened the season with a 2-0 win over visiting Interlachen on Feb. 20. Starting pitcher Garrett Mullins gave up three hits and no walks, while striking out six in six innings.

Braxton Dukes earned the save, giving up one hit in the final inning.

Croft drove in one of the Tigers' runs, which both occurred in the second inning.

The Tigers traveled to play

Harold Seymour

KINGSLEY LAKE— Harold Daily "Hal" Seymour, age 73, of Kingsley Lake passed away Saturday, Feb. 24, 2018 at Haven Hospice E.T. York Care Center in Gainesville. Hal was born on Sept. 11, 1944 in Jacksonville to the late James Douglas and Sarah Elizabeth (Williams) Seymour and lived in Starke before moving to Kingsley Lake over ten years ago. He was of the Baptist faith and prior to retirement he worked as a mortgage broker. Hal was a track and football star at Bradford County High School. He went on to be a kicker for the University of Florida, was drafted by the Washington Redskins and was known as the "Barefoot Punter". He was active in the Kingsley Lake Property Owners Association and attended the Men's Breakfast Group.

Survivors are: his children, Emily Elizabeth Seymour of Keystone Heights, Zachary "Zak" Vernon Seymour of Gainesville, James Douglas "Doug" Seymour of Longwood. Also left behind is his companion, Gayle Seymour; grandchildren, Zak Seymour, Eli Ortiz, Ryeland Wahl and L.J. Wahl; cousins, Lamar Williams and Marion Harrington.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 1, at the DeWitt C. Jones Chapel with Pastor Scott Crook officiating. Interment will follow in Crosby Lake Cemetery. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke 904-964-6200.

PAID OBITUARY

Starke Kiwanis golf tournament is Good Friday

The Kiwanis Club of Starke is hosting its annual fundraising golf tournament on Friday, March 30, beginning with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. at the Starke Golf and Country Club.

The format is a four-man scramble with an entry fee of \$50 per person. The fee includes cart, lunch, goodie bag and prizes.

Cash prizes will be awarded for first, second and third places.

A prize drawing will be held, with tickets for entry available for \$1 each or 25 for \$20.

For more information, please



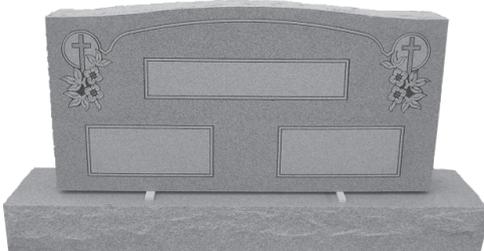
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CRIME

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 COUNTY –

Craig Michael Bateman, 43, of New Port Richey was arrested Feb. 20 by Lawtey police for possession of cocaine and possession of drug equipment.

De'quon O'Brian Blackshear, 19, of Melrose was arrested Feb. 20 by Starke police for an out-of-county warrant.

Mother arrested for choking, biting daughter



T. Burch

Tiffaney Rochelle Burch, 43, of Starke was arrested Feb. 21 by Starke police for cruelty towards a child-child abuse without great bodily harm.

Officers were called to Southside Elementary School where a third-grade teacher reported a conversation with one of her students in which the student alleged that her mother was subjecting her to constant abuse. The child said her mother tried to strangle her with the cord of an iron, punched her and repeatedly bit her.

The case was referred to child services and a forensic interview conducted in which the child described various instances where her mother had abused her, physically and verbally. She also described both alcohol and drug abuse by her mother. During a medical examination the marks and injuries noted on the child were consistent with her reports of abuse.

Burch was arrested and repeated attempts were made to read her her rights and explain them to her, but she insisted that she did not understand. Due to her insistence that she

did not understand her rights or the questions asked her in an attempted interview, the interview attempt was terminated. Burch was placed under arrest and transported to the Bradford County Jail.

Man arrested for choking wife until she passed out



J. Carney

Jon A. Carney, 33, of Lawtey was arrested Feb. 25 by Bradford deputies for felony domestic battery by strangulation. According to an arrest report,

the defendant and his wife got into an argument while in a vehicle and during the dispute the defendant hit the victim until she lost consciousness.

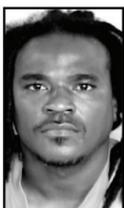
"(The victim) was able to get out of the vehicle, but was chased down by Jon," wrote a deputy in a report. "Once Jon caught up with (the victim), he began choking her until she passed out." The officer added that when the victim woke up, her vehicle and glasses were missing.

Roderick Jermaine Carter, 30, of Tampa was arrested Feb. 22 by Lawtey police for a parole violation.

Gary Wesley Cole, 51, of Middleburg was arrested Feb. 22 by Bradford deputies for selling heroin, possession of heroin, maintaining a structure for unlawfully using a controlled substance and unlawfully using a two-way communications device to commit a felony. According to an arrest report, the defendant sold heroin to a confidential source and used a mobile phone to facilitate the transaction.

Suspect found with Ecstasy, swallowed cocaine

Theris L. Conney, 36, of Lake Butler was arrested Feb. 23 by Bradford deputies for possession of a hallucinogen and destroying evidence. According to an arrest report, Bradford deputies received a tip from



T. Conney

Union deputies that a suspect with an Alachua County arrest warrant was driving toward Brooker on S.R. 231. Bradford Detective Joshua Murray stopped the vehicle for failure to maintain a single lane. Murray removed the vehicle's driver: Shawn Gibson, who was taken into custody by Deputy James Ottomeyer for the Alachua warrant.

Deputy Justin Hanson wrote in an arrest report that Murray also found the passenger: Conney in possession of a blue square-like substance, which tested positive for MDMA, also known as Ecstasy.

"After speaking with Detective Murray, I approached Theris Conney," wrote Hanson. "Theris appeared to be sick, due to him sweating and his eyes being wide open. When asked what was wrong with him, Theris spontaneously admitted to swallowing one gram of cocaine prior to my arrival."

After Shands Starke medical staff cleared the defendant, he was transported to the Bradford County Jail.

Melrose man arrested for pushing Lawtey motel worker



A. Curtis

Au'quintre Kevon Re'shard Curtis, 26, of Melrose was arrested Feb. 22 by Bradford deputies for battery.

According to an arrest report, a worker at Lawtey's Economy Inn knocked on the door of one of the rooms after hearing what sounded like fighting from within the room.

The worker asked if everything was OK. The defendant responded by hitting the worker three times and pushing him.

"That's when the other people in the room grabbed Curtis, restraining him back," wrote

arresting officer Kristopher James in the arrest report.

When the worker said he was calling police, Curtis, along with another man, fled the scene.

The deputy added that he located Curtis, who admitted to pushing the worker and punching the walls of the room.

James Elie Davey Jr., 24, of Starke was arrested Feb. 20 by Bradford deputies for possession of cocaine, selling cocaine within 1,000 feet of a church or school and maintaining a structure for unlawfully using a controlled substance. According to an arrest report, the defendant sold 0.2 grams of cocaine to a confidential source within 1,000 feet of Harvest Christian Fellowship on Sept. 25, 2017.

Man arrested for exposing himself to child at Walmart



J. Douglass

Justin Matthew Douglass, 31, of Starke was arrested Feb. 23 by Starke police for lewd and lascivious behavior. Officers were called to Walmart Feb. 22 after a child reported to her stepmother that a man had exposed and shaken his private parts at her while he and a woman were in the infant section of the store. The stepmother saw a man fitting the child's description in the infant department, appearing to be zipping up his pants, then leaving the department with his companion and she reported the incident to store management.

Upon review, Walmart surveillance footage showed the couple exiting Subway and entering the store. The next morning, both Walmart and Subway provided copies of their surveillance footage of the couple, including a disc of still photos taken off from the footage by a Walmart asset protection employee. Starke Police posted the still photos on Facebook. The man in the photo was tentatively identified the next day by an anonymous tip.

Officers proceeded to a small apartment complex located next to the Red Dog Saloon, where the suspect had been reported to reside in unit 5. Both the suspect and his female companion were identified as the persons of interest in the surveillance footage and the woman freely admitted that she and the man had been in Walmart on the date and time of the offense and showed officers the dress she had been wearing.

After his arrest, the suspect admitted exposing himself while in Walmart, but claimed he was just trying to fool around with his wife. During the course of the interviews with Douglass and his wife it was determined that he had exposed himself in the presence of a child less than 16 years of age.

Dylan Kyle Durrance, 21, of Brooker was arrested Feb. 25 by Bradford deputies for DUI.

Shawn Michael Gibson, 34, of Lake Butler was arrested Feb. 23 by Bradford deputies for possession of cocaine and an out-of-county warrant.

Shawn Ashley Gunter, 31, of Starke was arrested Feb. 23 by Bradford deputies for a probation violation.

Tray Markis Hankerson, 23, of Lawtey was arrested Feb. 20 by Bradford deputies for possession of cocaine and selling cocaine.

Bryant Darold Hunter, 45, of Lawtey was arrested Feb. 20 by Bradford deputies for selling cocaine and possession of cocaine within 1,000 feet of a school or church. According to an arrest report, the defendant sold 0.2 grams of crack cocaine to a confidential source within 1,000 feet of the African American Methodist Episcopal Church in Lawtey in October 2017.

Kenneth Lamar Jenkins, 44, of Starke was arrested Feb. 20 by Bradford deputies for possession of cocaine and selling cocaine within 1,000 feet of a school or church. According to an arrest report, the defendant sold 0.5 grams of crack cocaine to a confidential source within 1,000 feet of the RJE School Center in November 2017.

Luis Linton, was arrested by Bradford deputies for fraud – failure to redeliver hired or leased property valued over \$300.

Lisa Marie Malin, 38, was arrested by Lawtey police on Feb. 20 for possession of drugs, possession of cocaine and possession of drug equipment.

Shannon Rae McNeill, 34, of Keystone Heights was arrested Feb. 22 for selling synthetic narcotics and possession of synthetic narcotics.

Police: Man pulled mother out of bed and kicked her

Shane Patrick Mroz, 24, of Starke was arrested Feb. 20 by Starke police for battery.

Officers were called to an address on South Myrtle Street in reference to an active assault. When they approached the scene, the suspect was seen on foot near the address and was stopped by officers who recognized him from past encounters. The suspect was uncooperative from the start and smelled of alcohol so he was placed in handcuffs and detained.

Returning to the scene of the reported incident, officers found a woman lying in the hallway of the residence. She reported that Mroz (her son) had entered the residence while she was asleep in her bedroom, had entered her bedroom, pulled her out of bed and begun striking her with his feet. Bradford EMS arrived at the scene and the woman asked to be taken to the hospital.

A witness, who had previously lived in the residence and left because of the arguments between family members, said she heard loud screaming and the victim yelling "stop kicking me" coming from inside when she arrived. She went inside and observed Mroz kicking the victim and completed a sworn statement to that effect.

Mroz said he went in to his mother's bedroom where she was watching television, but he denied striking her. He was arrested and transported to the Bradford County Jail.

Christopher Mark Nicklas, 27, of Lake City was arrested Feb. 21 by Bradford deputies for aggravated assault and battery.

Sterling Ross Peugh, 53, of Lawtey was arrested on Feb. 20 by Bradford deputies for possession of cocaine with intent to sell and selling cocaine.

Angela Deshawn Seaton, 44, of Starke was arrested Feb. 20 by Bradford deputies for public order crimes (keeping a public structure for drug activity), using two-way communication to commit a felony, possession of methamphetamine with intent to sell and selling methamphetamine.

Michael J. Sloan, 32, of Lawtey, was arrested Feb. 24 by Lawtey officers for disorderly intoxication.

Kyle Daniel Thomas, 23, of Middleburg, was arrested Feb. 25 by Lawtey police for DUI-unlawful blood alcohol and possession of drug equipment.

Uttaro Jua Van Marco, 39, of New Port Richey, was arrested Feb. 20 by Lawtey police for possession of drugs, possession of cocaine and possession of drug equipment.

Kenneth John Waters, 32, of Starke was arrested Feb. 20 by Bradford deputies for possession of drugs, delivery/distribution of methamphetamine and public order crimes.

Pricilla Joanne Watson, 37, of Macon, Georgia was arrested Feb. 24 by Bradford deputies on an out of county warrant.

Lottie Williams, 42, of Hampton was arrested by Bradford deputies on for selling methamphetamine, possession of methamphetamine, three counts of using two-way communication to commit a felony, possessing methamphetamine within 1,000 feet of a church or school, possession of methamphetamine with intent to sell, selling methamphetamine and keeping a public nuisance for drug activity.

UNION COUNTY –

Grandfather arrested for allowing boy to become delinquent



R. Archambault

Robert Archambault, 52, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on Feb. 23 for contributing to the delinquency of a minor. The arrest was made on a warrant stemming from incidents occurring between April 20, 2017 and Feb. 20, 2018. According to an arrest report, the suspect is the step-grandfather and guardian of Trey Jacobs, a minor, and has been aware of the boy's behavior over the past year and has done nothing to correct or control it (see below).

The offense report states that Archambault had been made aware of Jacobs' April 20, 2017 arrest for attempted arson, as well as the six arrests since then, ranging from disturbing the peace to shooting into an occupied residence (with Archambault's gun). It states that Archambault continued to allow Jacobs access to firearms even after he was charged with felonies involving firearms and showed an apparent lack of concern for the boy's increasingly frequent interactions with law enforcement, which have become increasingly serious in nature. The report claims that Archambault "is allowing the child to become delinquent with the potential to harm others."

On Feb. 20, the boy was arrested for making threats to a school.

See CRIME, 7B

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CRIME

Continued from 6B

Dirk Jermaine Baker, 34, of Gainesville, was arrested Feb. 22 by Union deputies for possession of drugs, possession of narcotic equipment and an out-of-county warrant.

Woman hid pills in bra

Carol Faye Davis, 69, of Jacksonville, was arrested by Union deputies Feb. 24 for attempting to smuggle contraband into a prison. Davis was suspected of trying to smuggle drugs into the Reception Medical Center and was called into the administration building for a pat-down search. The search revealed two yellow pills hidden in Davis' bra which were identified as acetaminophen/oxycodone 10mg. She was arrested on the charges.

Qouston Armethia Celest Franklin, 25, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies for an out-of-county warrant.

Deputies: foursome tried to sell gun in Lakeside Park

Shawn Ashley Gunter, 31, of Lake Butler was arrested Feb. 21 by Union deputies for dealing in stolen property, giving false ID to a law enforcement officer and an out-of-county warrant for violation of probation – grand theft.

The charges arose from a tip received by Union deputies concerning the sale of a stolen gun that was to take place in front of Lakeside Park. Four people arrived in the car identified by the tipster: Malachi Jenkins (driver), Kimberly Gunter (front passenger), Shawn Gunter (left rear) and Cristina Thomas (right rear) – (see below). The gun was a .22 Marlin rifle that had been stolen from a residence in Starke at 3:30 a.m. that same morning during a strong-armed robbery.

Union County student arrested for threatening school

Trey Michael Jacobs, 13, of Lake Butler, was arrested by Union deputies on Feb. 20 for the second-degree felony offense of manufacturing, selling, delivering, dispensing, displaying or using a hoax involving a weapon of mass destruction and disturbing the peace – interfering with school administrative functions.

Deputies had been called by a teacher at the Union County Alternative School who was following the district's "See Something, Say Something" directive. She said that Jacobs had posted two screen shot photos on his Instagram account which led her to be concerned that he would cause harm to her and other students. The screen shots were two photographs, one of Nikolas Cruz, the suspect in the most recent school shooting incident (Marjory Stoneman High School) with a caption showing his (Jacobs') admiration for him and another picture of himself (Jacobs) showing confidence and holding a long rifle. The teacher said she was afraid Jacobs, who had already shown the ability to possess and use firearms and shoot into occupied dwellings (see above) would create a danger at the school. Jacobs was arrested and transported without incident.

Malachi Joseph Jenkins, 48, of Lawtey was arrested by Union deputies on Feb. 21 for dealing in stolen property and possession of narcotic equipment (see above). He was the driver of the car involved in the attempted sale of a stolen .22 rifle at Lakeside Park. When asked by deputies why he was parked at the park he said he was waiting to sell a gun that was in the car's trunk.

Deputies: woman tried to sell gun on Facebook

Cristina Anne Thomas, 37, of Raiford, was arrested by Union deputies Feb. 21 for dealing in stolen property, possession of narcotic equipment and public

order crimes (use of a two-way communication device to facilitate a felony). She was a passenger in the car involved in the attempted sale of a stolen rifle (see above). She told deputies she had arranged for the sale using another suspect's phone and Facebook Messenger.

Deputies: man threatened ex- and current girlfriends with steak knife

Louis Joseph Troiano, 43, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies Feb. 21 for aggravated assault with intent to commit a felony and felony battery as a result

L. Troiano

from strangulation. The charges arose from a daylong argument between Troiano and his ex-girlfriend and former fiancé, who he had been accusing of stealing from him. Both were under the influence of heroin. He was reported to have jumped on top of her and put his hands around her neck and begin to choke her. He was pulled off by his current girlfriend. He made a threat to kill both women and went into the kitchen, getting a steak knife. He put the knife down, but his girlfriend was worried about his temper issues, especially in light of the heroin and the fact that he had access to a gun and knives in the house. She locked herself in the bathroom and called 911.

When deputies arrived, Troiana denied that he had done anything wrong and that the two women were lying. The deputies determined that there was probable cause for the charges and he was arrested.

Pricilla Joanne Watson, 36, of Macon, Georgia, was arrested by Union deputies on Feb. 24 on a warrant for failure to appear.

CLAY COUNTY (KEYSTONE HEIGHTS AND MELROSE)–

Toby Anderson Cannady, 35, of Keystone Heights, was arrested Feb. 20 by Clay deputies on charges of possession of marijuana – not more than 20 grams, drugs-possession of a controlled substance without a prescription (two counts), possession of a harmful new legend drug without a prescription and possession and/or use of drug equipment.

Andrea Jacques Wanton, 46, was arrested Feb. 20 on a charge of simple battery.

Shannon Rae Mcneill, 34, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on Feb. 20 for possession of methamphetamine with intent to sell, manufacture,

BHS softball suffers 2nd 12-0 loss to Gainesville

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Gainesville wasn't kind to the Bradford High School softball team, handing the Tornados a pair of 12-0 defeats, the most recent occurring on Feb. 26 in Gainesville.

Bradford (3-3) was held to three hits in the Feb. 26 game.

The good news for the Tornados is they opened 2-0 in District 5-5A play, beginning with a 15-6 win at Palatka on Feb. 26. Maggie Olive went 4-for-5 with a double and two RBI, while Gracie Blankenship and Emily McCoy each went 3-for-5 with two RBI. One of McCoy's hits was a double.

Brooklyn Wiggins also went 3-for-5, driving in one run. Shiane Cassels went 2-for-3 with two RBI, while Harli Phillips and Savana Shealey each went 2-for-5 with two doubles and an RBI. Markayla Sanford had an RBI as well.

Starting pitcher Olive (2-2) gave up four runs on eight hits in six innings. Emily McCoy gave up two runs on one hit in the seventh.

Bradford was held to no hits as visiting Gainesville won 12-0 on Feb. 21, but the Tornados bounced back, getting five RBI from McCoy in a 16-5 district win over visiting P.K. Yonge on Feb. 22.

McCoy went 4-for-4, while Shealey and Krista Hildebran each went 3-for-4 with a double and an RBI. Cassels went 2-for-2 with two RBI, while Blankenship and Sanford each went 2-for-4. Blankenship and Sanford had one and two RBI, respectively, with Phillips and Wiggins each driving in a run as well.

Starting pitcher Shealey (1-0) gave up five runs on four hits. McCoy gave up no runs on one hit in two innings. Each pitcher had two strikeouts.

Bradford played district opponent Santa Fe this past Tuesday and will travel to play district opponent Keystone Heights on Thursday, March 1, at 7 p.m. The Tornados host district opponent Newberry on Friday, March 2, at 7 p.m.

and/or deliver and selling drugs – methamphetamine.

Christopher Sean Silvey, 35, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on Feb. 21 on charges of simple battery – domestic.

BHS baseball team is 1-1 after 11-0 loss

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Two hits were all the Bradford High School baseball team could muster in an 11-0 loss to visiting Ridgeview on Feb. 22.

The loss dropped the Tornados to 1-1.

Bradford opened the season with a 3-1 win at Baker County on Feb. 20. Brandon Sanford drove in one of two runs in the top of the eighth, with the other scoring on an error.

Sanford drove in two runs in all, while Garfield Johns went 2-for-4.

Starting pitcher Tucker Stack gave up no runs on one hit and one walk, while striking out eight in three innings. Jacob Polk earned the win, giving up no runs on one hit and no walks in the final 3.2 innings. He had five strikeouts.

The Tornados played District 5-5A opponent this past Tuesday and will host district opponent Interlachen on Friday, March 2, at 7 p.m. Bradford then hosts district opponent Newberry on Tuesday, March 6, at 5 p.m.

Bradford Cowboys to host sign-up event March 3

Are you ready for some football? The Bradford Cowboys youth program has you covered.

The Cowboys are hosting sign-ups for football and cheerleaders on Saturday, March 3, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at 801 N. Thomas St. in Starke.

Fun activities such as bounce houses will be on site, while hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and drinks will be available.

The registration fee for football is \$75 through May 10. After May 10, the fee increases to \$100.

The registration fee for cheerleading is \$100 through May 10. After May 10, the fee increases to \$125.

For more information, please call Rodney Mosley (904-412-6300) or visit Picture Perfect at 1252 S. Walnut St. in Starke.

LEGALS

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KEYSTONE AIRPARK MEETING
Keystone Airpark Authority's regular scheduled board meetings will be held on the 1st Tuesday of every month at 6:00 P.M. Location is: 7100 Airport Road, Starke, FL. Agendas and notice of cancellation will be posted on the authority's website at www.keystoneairport.com no later than 72 hours in advance.
3/1 1tchg-B-sect

Middleburg loss drops KHHS baseball team to 0-2

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

The Keystone Heights High School baseball team was shut out the first four innings and fell behind 9-0 in a 10-8 loss to visiting Middleburg on Feb. 23.

Nate Gagnon and Connor Osteen went 2-for-3 and 2-for-4, respectively, with each driving in a run. Kaison Harvey and Cole Mattox each had an RBI as well. Gagnon and Mattox each hit a double.

The Indians (0-2) opened the season with a 14-5 loss to host Clay on Feb. 20. Tyler Noble had two RBI, while Andrew Cox and Gary Searle each had one. Gagnon went 2-for-2.

Keystone played North Marion this past Tuesday and hosted District 5-5A opponent Newberry on Feb. 28. The Indians travel to play district opponent P.K. Yonge on Friday, March 2, at 7 p.m. before returning home to play district opponent Santa Fe on Tuesday, March 6, at 7 p.m.

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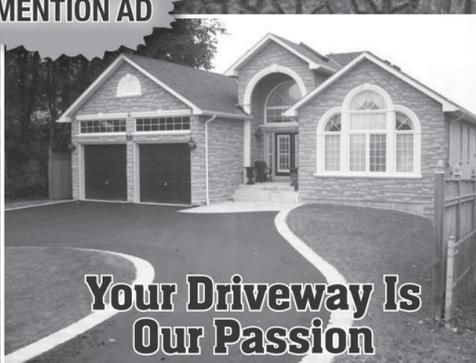
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Tornadoes' season ends with 55-45 loss to Bolles

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Bolles' Dave Crouch scored nine of his game-high 17 points in the third quarter, helping the Bulldogs hold onto a lead they held for most of the game in defeating Bradford High School in a Region 1-5A boys' basketball quarterfinal game on Feb. 22 in Starke.

Bradford (19-9) was attempting to advance beyond the first round of the regional playoffs for the second straight year, but mounted few serious threats to Bolles' lead after being held to two field goals in the second quarter. Head coach Adrian Chandler said he didn't see the usual performance out of his team, which was playing without starter Jordan Lee, who was suspended for disciplinary reasons.

"I would say, more or less, we just weren't aggressive," Chandler said. "We weren't our normal selves in attacking whatever defense they put in front of us."

The Tornadoes held an 11-10 lead entering the second quarter, which got off to a good start defensively, with Cambren Douglas and Tavi'en Young each blocking a shot on Bolles' first possession. Then, at the other

end of the court, Douglas scored off an offensive rebound. The Bulldogs (22-7) answered with consecutive 3-pointers by Crouch and Mackey Garwood, taking a lead they'd never relinquish.

Taz Curry, after Crouch added a free for Bolles, scored off a Tavi'en Young drive that left Bradford trailing 17-15, but the Tornadoes wouldn't score again in the quarter, going into halftime trailing 19-15.

Chandler said the Tornadoes hurt themselves with turnovers and not finishing strong at the basket.

"In the first half, we missed about four to six, maybe eight, points in transition," he said.

Curry scored the first points of the third quarter off a Tally Chandler assist. Bolles' Crouch made three free throws before Chandler knocked down a three-pointer that made the score 22-20. That's as close as Bradford would get the rest of the way. The Bulldogs' Crouch answered with his own three-pointer, while Justin O'Leary scored following a turnover. After Bradford's Chris Cummings made a free throw, Bolles got a three-pointer from Garwood to go up 30-21.

It was a nine-point game entering the fourth quarter, which began with Garwood making

another three-pointer for a 38-26 lead.

Bradford cut Bolles' lead to 10 three times, including when Matthew Crawford made a three-pointer with 2:20 to play, which left the Tornadoes trailing 49-39. The Bulldogs helped the Tornadoes' by struggling at the free-throw line, missing five of eight attempts before making three of their next four, but Bradford couldn't take advantage, making just one field goal in six attempts before Young scored the game's final basket off an offensive rebound.

Curry and Cummings led Bradford with 13 and 10 points, respectively, with Curry also grabbing a team-high nine rebounds. Chandler had six points, while Crawford and D.J. Mackey each had five. Young and Douglas had four and two points, respectively.

Coach Chandler said he felt the Tornadoes had the players to make a deeper run in the playoffs this year. That didn't happen, but the team was blessed with the opportunity to compete in the playoffs, and for that, he's grateful.

"I thank God for the opportunity that we were in this position once again," Chandler said.

Communities in Schools Glow Run



Shannon Rowe, the director of Communities in Schools of Bradford County, welcomes the participants to the annual Kids Dash/Glow Run, which was held Feb. 24 at the Keystone Heights Airpark.



Accepting their awards from Miss BHS Grace Johns (far right) for finishing as the top three females are (l-r) Sabrina Harden (third), Kayla Thomas (first) and Darby Lambert (second).

BHS' Burch, Montemurro wrestle way to state

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Bradford High School's Jesse Burch won his weight class, while teammate Logan Montemurro was runner-up in his at the Feb. 23-24 Region 1-1A wrestling finals at The Bolles School in Jacksonville.

Both wrestlers will now compete in the Florida High School Athletic Association Finals, which will be held Friday and Saturday, March 2-3, at Silver Spurs Arena in Kissimmee.

Burch, who was coming off his second straight District

4 championship, won the 170-pound class by pinning all four of his opponents. He made quick work (38 seconds) of Florida High's Diego Duprey in the first round before defeating Baker County's James Barnett in 2:57 to advance to the semifinals. Burch made it to the championship match by pinning Wakulla's Trevor Hart in 4:51. He won the title by taking down Clay's Carson Yost in 4:46.

Montemurro, who won a District 4 championship as well, rode three straight pins to the championship match of the 160-pound class. He defeated

Yulee's Gunner Harrison in 4:47 and South Walton's Gunnar Nebel in 4:41 to advance to the semifinals. Then, he pinned Arnold's Sam Buatu in 42 seconds. In the championship match, he lost by a 12-3 major decision to Clay's Connor Green.

The top four wrestlers in each class earned the right to advance to state. This is the first trip for both Burch and Montemurro.

James Smith (126-pound class) and Michael Porchiazzo (285) also competed for Bradford. Each was eliminated after getting pinned in the first two rounds.



Top left: Bradford's Chris Cummings (center) draws contact on a drive to the basket.



Top right: Bradford's Tally Chandler dribbles toward the basket.



Bottom right: Tavi'en Young (foreground) drives past Bolles' Josiah Johnson.

Showing appreciation for parents



The Martial Arts Leader of Bradford County sponsored Parents' Appreciation Night on Feb. 14 at its new location at 320 S. Walnut St. in Starke, providing parents a way to enjoy a special evening, while allowing children to have fun in a safe environment. The event was a success, with the following participants: Wonderful West, Kailou Gordon, Alexa Padgett, Jamie Lin, Zau Zau Wei, Evan Taylor, Jayden Daugherty, Alex Rigdon, Ayden Rigdon, Jeffrey Rigdon, Olivia Harris, Sophia Robinson, Alexandria Johnson, Ryan, Madison Miller, Jackson Miller and (not pictured) Jayden Prevatt, Maverick Carver and David Kiser. Participants enjoyed pizza, games, movies and crafts, while learning how to become black-belt strong. Please visit TheMartialArtsLeader.com for more on Parents' Appreciation Night and the latest news on upcoming events and registration dates. Spring Break Ninja Camp is just around the corner.

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TWO TO STATE. Bradford High School wrestlers Jesse Burch and Logan Montemurro are going to state after their Region 1-1A performances. Pictured (l-r): coach Stewart Roberts, Burch, Montemurro and head coach Devin Paulk. Photo by Shelley Rodgers.

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Clark Hill to celebrate album release with Starke show

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Home is where the heart is, so when Clark Hill puts his heart into his music, he sings of his hometown of Starke.

It makes perfect sense then that the March 23 release of his debut album, "People Like Me," will coincide with an album-release party/concert in Starke that same day at The Downtown Grill at 7 p.m.

Tickets, which will range from \$20 to \$40, can be purchased via Eventbrite.com (search for Clark Hill). An Eventbrite link can be found on Clark Hill's Facebook page. Plus, Hill's mother, Jo Clark, will have a computer set up at the Sears Hometown Store in Starke so people can purchase tickets.

"People Like Me" is currently available for pre-order via all digital platforms. Pre-orders come with three instant track downloads: "I Hate that Car," "Pecan Pie" and "Perfect to Me," a Music Row top-100 charting single.

"I'm stoked, and I'm scared," Hill said in anticipation of the album's release.

Hill, who is Jimmie Clark to those in Starke and the surrounding area who know him, said he's scared because he doesn't know how people will respond to the music. Will they like it?

He's also confident, however, in how good the music is. A lot of time went into making "People Like Me," which includes collaborations with producer Mike Rogers, the songwriter and drummer for Craig Morgan, Grammy nominated Chris Young, who co-wrote one of the songs, and .38 Special keyboardist Bobby Capps, who plays on multiple tracks.

"Thousands of hours were put into this," Hill said. "It sounds good."

Home inspiration

Starke inspires some of the songs, such as "Those Were the Days." The song includes lyrics such as, "A town full of people who fight to believe, a town full of people like me."

Hill said some of the lyrics

came to him in the aftermath of the shooting death of Marvin Pritchett and how the people in Bradford and Union counties united in a show of support. Union County was a hated rival when he played football as a Bradford High School student, but the song reflects how life's moments overcome such trivial matters as who's better at a certain sport. That's why he wrote the following: "You stand for your rivals and fight for revival."

Another song, "Pecan Pie," is a re-working of a song recorded by the original Clark Hill, which was the band Hill formed with his brother-in-law Michael Calderin. Hill said the song has changed, but in a good way.

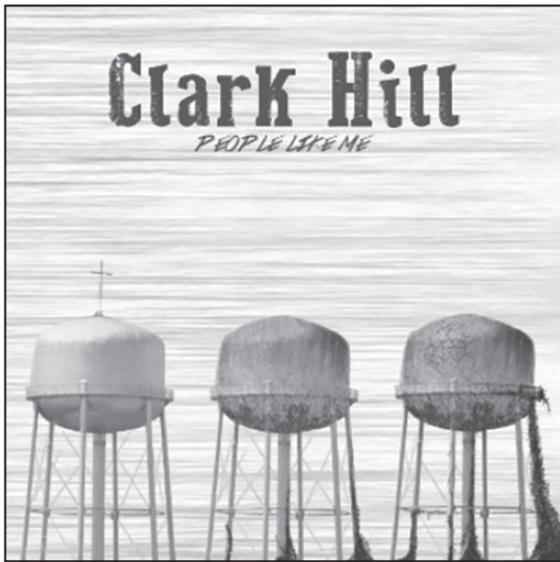
"It's cool to carry on the original concept of what Clark Hill was supposed to be, which was a lot about family and, especially in country music, the things that people can relate to," Hill said.

Starke landmark part of album cover

The "People Like Me" cover photo should look familiar to those who've lived in Starke and the surrounding area for a while. It's the Starke water tower, though the identifying graphics have been removed. Designed with the help of his wife, Samantha, the cover shows three images of the water tower. The first image shows the tower with the cross on top of it. The cross is missing in the other two photos, which show the water tower in varying states of disrepair.

What does it mean? Hill said he's a spiritual person, so the album cover could be a reflection of what happens as a result of declining spirituality. Without the cross, the water tower decays.

Another meaning refers to what happens to always compromising instead of standing by your beliefs. Hill doesn't think compromise is always a good thing and believes people are too willing to do so in this country today. Yes, the city of Starke was facing a lawsuit if it kept the cross on the water tower, but Hill doesn't think the whole matter was handled right.



A familiar landmark graces the cover of Clark Hill's "People Like Me" album. Photo by D3Wphoto.

It still irritates him today.

"It's not a religious thing," he said. "It's the fact that no one should come into Starke and tell us what to do. It's the same thing that goes on in our country right now."

Hill sees the cover art as a great way to generate publicity in that it'll prompt people to ask him what it means. In answering, Hill can let people get to know him, which was basically what 2017 was all about.

Selling the product that is Clark Hill

The journey toward the release of "People Like Me," which began with the original idea of being an EP instead of a full-length album, has been a long one, lasting more than two years. It wasn't simply about recording the music and then releasing it. Hill has had to devote time to meeting people and getting his name out there.

"The biggest thing has been to try to understand you can be known locally or even regionally, but until you have a national name, it's very difficult for Nashville, who controls the national market, to really figure out where you fit in," Hill said. "If you can't appeal to a national or even a global market, then there's no use for you. It doesn't matter how good your talent is."

Hill described himself as a product, showing his sense of self-deprecating humor in the process by saying, "I'm a roll of toilet paper in a supermarket."

Yet toilet paper or any other product does not simply appear out of the blue on a supermarket shelf one day with an expectation of selling. Advertising campaigns are undertaken to make people aware of the product.

Therefore, Hill didn't put on any concerts in 2017. The entirety of the year was spent in promoting himself, which included participating in a radio campaign that had him covering 15,000 miles in 57 days.

Hill attended events such as the Country Radio Seminar, which he jokingly describes as "the largest political event in Nashville."

"It's nothing but elbow rubbing and hand shaking and drinking,"



Clark Hill is preparing to return to the road in support of his new album, "People Like Me." A May-October tour will follow a March 23 performance at The Downtown Grill in Starke. Photo by Christy Buchanan, Bella Rose Studio.

Hill said. "That's it. There's no benefit for an artist other than for Joe Blow program director to say, 'Well, I had a drink with Clark. He was really cool. Yeah, when you bring that new single by, I'll play it.'"

That's not to say Hill doesn't understand its purpose. He used an example of a radio station receiving 20 new song submissions for airplay consideration and 17 of those songs by established artists like Jason Aldean and Carrie Underwood. Hill asked, "How much room is there for the new guy?"

It may be an uphill climb for the "new guy," but if he reaches the top, he gains acceptance.

"The deeper you get into this industry, the harder you realize it is," Hill said. "I call it getting into the clique. Once you get into that little clique, you're fighting with all the big fish. The good thing is it's an industry that's pretty accepting once you get in."

Now, Hill can focus on performing again, with a May-October tour planned. It's still a part of getting his name out there as plans are to perform in front of many new faces.

"Probably 90 percent or more, we're purposely trying to make sure we go to a city we've never been in," Hill said.

And kicking it all off will be a March 23 performance in "a town full of people like me."

Heart disease: recognize symptoms and seek care



Brandi Noegel (center) visits with Dale Woodruff, who recently underwent open-heart surgery. Also pictured (far left) is Tammy Still, executive secretary to Rep. Bobby Payne.



Dr. Lucien Abboud

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Knowledge and a sense of urgency.

Cardiologist Lucien Abboud stressed those two points multiple times during his talk at Shands Starke Regional Medical Center's annual free luncheon and seminar, which was held Feb. 22 in the hospital's atrium. February is American Heart Month.

Whether it's a heart attack, high blood pressure or atrial fibrillation (AFib), Abboud said they keys to saving lives are recognizing the symptoms and seeking prompt medical attention. He compared ignoring symptoms to ignoring car troubles.

"I always give the example to my patients in the clinic that your heart is like your car battery," Abboud said. "If you start to have issues with it, it's not going to get better. It will get worse."

In today's world of a variety of medications and improved technology at doctors' disposal, heart disease is still a widespread health issue.

"Unfortunately, even in 2018, heart disease the leading cause of death in the United States and across the whole world," Abboud said.

Let doctors determine if it's a heart attack or not

Abboud said heart attack symptoms tend to differ in men and women. Men present the symptoms we normally think of: chest pain, sweating, nausea and vomiting. Women on the hand, experience symptoms that are similar to indigestion. They also may experience shortness of breath during exhaustion, which they may pass off as simply being out of shape.

Whatever the symptoms, don't ignore them or put off seeking

medical attention, Abboud said. If you think your symptoms are caused by something else and they don't improve shortly after taking medications (such as thinking you have heartburn, but you don't feel better after taking heartburn medication), seek medical attention.

"Don't wait for the next day," Abboud said.

Take time to monitor blood pressure

Blood pressure is a key component of heart disease, Abboud said. People — including those who take blood-pressure medications — should not ignore unexpected feelings of dizziness or light-headedness.

"It may be a sign your blood pressure is really high or very low," Abboud said. "Especially if you are on blood-pressure medications, we need to know that because if you're frequently having dizzy spells, your physician has to adjust your blood-pressure medication."

Abboud said a blood-pressure monitor is one of the best investments a person can make. If you are taking blood-pressure medications, he recommends checking your pressure within 1-2 hours of taking your medications, when they are at their peak effectiveness.

If you don't take blood-pressure medications, Abboud said you can check your pressure in the morning after you wake up, "do your thing" and then experience complete rest for 5-10 minutes. If you wait until later in the day when you return home from work, he suggests getting 25-30 minutes of complete rest before checking your pressure.

"Don't come from work and then (immediately) check your blood pressure because guess what? It will be high," Abboud said.

AFib is common, but must not be ignored

AFib refers to a fast, irregular heartbeat that disrupts the flow of blood through the heart and can cause blood clots. The fast heart rate can lead to congestive heart failure, while the blood clots can lead to a stroke.

Abboud said if you feel like your heart is fluttering or racing, and you feel dizzy and light-headed and sometimes pass out, seek medical attention. If you have AFib, your risk of a stroke increases by 7 percent each year you go without medication.

"With atrial fibrillation, it is really important to recognize the symptoms, and it also important that you seek medical attention as quickly as possible so we can administer the proper medication," Abboud said.

AFib is not uncommon, Abboud said, citing the statistic that one in four individuals older than 40 will develop AFib at some point in their lives. The older the person, the higher the

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The Weekly Paw Print:

This week I wanted to talk about ears. We frequently get visits for shaking of the head, scratching at ears, or pain when petting the ears. Itchy, painful ears can be caused by several different diseases.

Ear mite infections are probably the most familiar to folks and are caused by tiny little arthropods (critters) that colonize the ear. These are easily treated and can be prevented by some flea products.

The other main cause of ear trouble is ear infections. We call ear infections otitis externa (OE). OE involves the outer ear canal and occasionally the eardrum and middle ear. Most OE cases are easily treated in the short term. Frequent recurring infections create frustration for owner and veterinarians alike. When frequent infections occur, there is an underlying disease that must be addressed.

In order for bacteria to cause the infection, a defect in the ear canals protection must occur. Remember, the ears are lined with skin and are subject to all the changes the skin is going through. Allergic skin disease is one of the biggest reasons the traditional protective qualities of the skin break down. Another cause for the decline in the defense qualities of the skin is an underachieve thyroid gland.

You can help by keeping the ears clean. This can often times alleviate repeated infections. Ask your veterinary care team what ear cleaning solution they recommend and allow them to demonstrate proper ear cleaning technique. Another way to keep those ear canals happy is to have your veterinarian do a thorough workup when ear issues arrive. This can allow your veterinarian to create a plan for managing the ears and work up any potential allergies before they get out of hand.

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MARLA CUNNINGHAM

- ~ Occupation: Respiratory Therapist at Northside Hospital in St. Petersburg FL.
- ~ School Experience at Keystone High School: My school experience at Keystone High School prepared me to join the workforce and helped me obtain my dream job as a respiratory therapist.
- ~ The thing I miss most about living in the Lake Region area: I miss the small town and close knit community.
- ~ Marital Status: Single
- ~ Favorite Teacher: Mrs. Rita Walker at Keystone High School
- ~ This is to thank all my friends and family in Bradford, Clay and Union counties for their support for my entire life. Each of you are good hearted people in my life. You made me what I am today. God be with each and everyone of you.



Dimple Overstreet (left) and Martha Epps were just two of many Altrusa of Starke members in attendance. Altrusa of Starke helped the annual event get its start.

or do you want to have bleeding? You are on a blood thinner," Abboud said. "Guess what? You're going to have thin blood. That means if you touch your skin, you'll have a skin bruise. If you cut yourself, it's going to bleed more. If you start to bleed from the nose, it will take longer to stop.

"Your other option is to have a stroke or a heart attack."

Sleep apnea is not to be taken lightly

AFib can be a reason why people have sleep apnea, but whether it's the cause or not, sleep apnea has been found to have a significant impact on heart health and should not be ignored, Abboud said. He explained that oxygen levels drop with sleep apnea, increasing the pressure inside your lungs and your heart.

"Sleep apnea is definitely a condition a lot of people take lightly," Abboud said, "but it should not be whatsoever neglected because it has a tremendous, tremendous impact on your health."

Abboud said he's talked to patients who have sleep apnea, but who say they don't use their CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) machines because they don't like the mask. Finding a mask they do like shouldn't be a problem.

"Right now, there are close to 110 different patient masks," Abboud said. "They should be able to find at least one that will fit each one of us."

One of the medications that would be administered to those with AFib is a blood thinner. Abboud told his audience they had most likely seen commercials on TV regarding lawsuits involving such blood thinners as Xarelto because of bleeding. Doctors can take care of the bleeding, Abboud said, so what it comes down to is making one of two choices.

so more AFib cases are going to be seen due to the effects of aging on the heart.

Abboud said the advance of technology has been a huge benefit in detecting AFib early.

"That is why right now we are recognizing AFib much quicker, which is great, because believe it or not, if you progress to the chronic stage, there's little I can do for you," Abboud said.

"Do you want to have a stroke,

LBMS baseball team off to 3-0 start

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

James Rogers and Eli Rimes combined to throw a no-hitter, while Blake Agner hit a double and drove in four runs in the Lake Butler Middle School baseball team's 19-2, four-inning win over visiting Hawthorne on Feb. 26.

Ayden Elixson, Ethan Hancock and Carson Rogers each had three RBI, with Hancock going 2-for-3 with a double and Elixson hitting a triple. Jake O'Steen had two RBI, while Clay Fulgham, Tre'Von Lee and James Rogers each had one.

Starting pitcher James Rogers and Rimes each threw two innings, with Rogers striking out three and Rimes striking out two.

The Tigers (3-0) opened the season with a 10-0 win over visiting Ruth Raines on Feb. 22. Elixson and Quinten Rawls each had two RBI, with Elixson going 2-for-2 and Rawls hitting a double. Trevor Holtzendorf, Dylan Lovelace and Ethan Moody each had an RBI, with Moody hitting a double. Kyler Cohen went 2-for-3 with a double.

Starting pitcher Rawls gave up three hits in four innings, striking out four. Moody gave up no hits in one inning.

On Feb. 23, Cohen and Lee each had a double and two RBI in an 11-4 win at Hamilton County.

Cohen went 2-for-3, while Rawls hit a triple and had an

KHHS softball team defeats Newberry for 5-0 district mark

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Keystone Heights continued destroying its District 5-5A softball competition, defeating host Newberry 12-1 in five innings on Feb. 26.

Lexi Northway and Cami Worley each had a double and two RBI, while Savannah Channell had a triple and three RBI. Molly Crawford, Ashleigh Jennings, Ashton Ludwig and Skylar Rollins each went 2-for-3, with Crawford driving in two runs and Jennings and Ludwig each driving in one. Bailey Story went 3-for-4.

Starting pitcher Megan Moncrief (4-0) gave up one run in three innings on two hits, with four strikeouts. Daelynn Eatmon gave up one hit and had two strikeouts.

Keystone (6-1) hosted Newberry on Feb. 20, getting six RBI from Story and a no-hitter from Eatmon in an 11-0 win in five innings.

Story went 3-for-4 with a triple, while Jennings went 4-for-4. Crawford, Northway

and Rollins each went 2-for-3, with Rollins driving in two runs and Crawford and Northway each driving in one. One of Crawford's hits was a double.

Moncrief also had an RBI, while Channell hit a triple.

Eatmon gave up two walks, while striking out eight.

On Feb. 22, the Indians hosted district opponent Palatka, winning 12-2 in five innings. Jennings, Rollins and Story each went 3-for-4, with Rollins hitting a triple and driving in three runs and Story hitting a triple and driving in two runs. Crawford hit a double and had three RBI, while Moncrief and Northway each went 2-for-3 with an RBI. Ludwig and Cami Worley each had an RBI.

Moncrief threw all five innings, giving up three hits and one walk.

Crawford had four RBI in an 18-2, three-inning win over district opponent P.K. Yonge on Feb. 23 in Gainesville.

Crawford went 3-for-3 with two doubles, while Story went 2-for-3 with two doubles and three RBI. Jennings and Rollins went 2-for-2 and 2-for-4, respectively, with each driving in two runs. Channell, Moncrief and Madison Heskett each had an RBI, while Northway went 2-for-2.

Eatmon (2-1) pitched all three innings, giving up five hits and one walk, with four strikeouts.

Keystone hosts district opponent Bradford on Thursday, March 1, at 7 p.m. and then hosts Trenton on Friday, March 2, at 7 p.m. On Tuesday, March 6, the Indians host district opponent Fort White at 6 p.m.

HEART

Continued from 10B

risk.

"For me, it's a question of when is it going to happen rather than if it is going to happen," Abboud said, adding, "Having AFib is not the problem. Not treating AFib correctly is the problem."

Fellow Shands Starke doctor Joelle Simon asked Abboud if the reason she and other doctors were seeing more cases of AFib was because of our current lifestyles or because of better diagnostic equipment. Abboud said he believed it was a combination of the two, adding that uncontrolled high blood pressure and sleep apnea are factors as well. Also, with the better care available today, people are living longer,

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68th annual Bradford County Fair opens March 6

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

The 68th annual Bradford County Fair is set to open Tuesday, March 6, with nightly musical entertainment and all your favorite youth-animal shows, displays, food and rides on the midway.

“Let Freedom Ring” is this year’s theme. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$4 for students (first-12th grade) through Saturday, March 10. On Sunday, March 11, which is Family Day, admission is free with the purchase of a \$15 ride armband. Non-riders pay \$5.

Children who are kindergarten age and under are admitted free.

Admission is free for all the first hour of operation on March 6 and Wednesday, March 7, with the donation of three in-date, non-perishable food items, which will then in turn be donated to the Bradford Food Pantry.

Veterans, with military ID, are admitted free on opening night, which is also described as “American Pride Night,” so wear your red, white and blue.

The fair opens at 5 p.m. during the week. On March 10, the openings are an hour later than they’ve been in the past, with exhibits opening at 1 p.m. and the midway opening at 2 p.m.

The midway only is open on March 11, beginning at 1 p.m.

Ride armbands

A big attraction for many will be the rides on the midway, which will be provided courtesy of Deggeller Attractions.

Admission does not cover the cost of rides. Ride tickets are available for purchase on the midway for \$1 each, with rides requiring 2-6 tickets. Unlimited-ride armbands can be purchased on the midway for \$12 on opening night and for \$18 March 7-8. On March 8, which is Buddy Night, you can purchase two armbands for \$25.

Friday, March 9, is Midnight Madness. Ride armbands are \$15 beginning at 9 p.m., whereas the cost is \$18 prior to 9 p.m.

Armbands are \$15 from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m. on March 10, and \$20 after 6 p.m. On March 11, armbands are \$15, which also covers the admission price.

Armband coupons may be purchased in advance for \$15 each. They may be used any night with the exception of Buddy Night. Only one coupon can be redeemed per night.

Advance armband coupons may be purchased at Starke City Hall, North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce, Community State Bank in Starke and Lake Butler, Lawtey City Hall and Lake Butler Hospital.

Musical entertainment

Live musical entertainment will be featured nightly through March 10. Opening night features the Backwood Boys performing at 6:30 p.m. The Torrie Clark Band, with guests Charnelle Whittemore, Lauren Davis, Kenneth Clark Jr., Rodney Dunfee, Patrick Dunfee and Brenden Jackson, will perform at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 7, while The Ben Carter Band will perform at 7 p.m. on March 8. Friday, March 9, features Ted McMullen’s Music Legends at 7 p.m., with the Sondra Hunt Band playing at 7 p.m. on March 10.

Youth events

The schedule of events featuring the participation of youth actually begins prior to the fair opening. The 4-H table-setting and strawberry-pie contests will take place at 4 p.m. and 5 p.m., respectively, on Friday, March 2, in Building 3. The 4-H Youth Goat Show and Little Kids Exhibition is

Saturday, March 3, at 2 p.m.

The 4-H and FFA swine show is set for Tuesday, March 6, at 6:30 p.m., while the 4-H and FFA steer show and showmanship contest is Wednesday, March 7, at 6 p.m.

The Bradford-Union Cattlemen Association’s 4-H and FFA beef breed show will take place Thursday, March 8, at 6 p.m. The breed and steer awards will be presented on Saturday, March 10, at 5 p.m., with the auction to follow.

The Bradford-Union Cattlemen Association buyers’ dinner is that same day at 3 p.m., while the strawberry auction will be held following the breed and steer auction.

On Friday, March 9, the 4-H and FFA livestock judging contest takes place at 8:30 a.m., while the Bradford-Union Swine Association buyers’ dinner is at 5 p.m. The swine awards show is 6 p.m., with the auction to follow.

For more information, please visit bradfordcountyfair.com.



Torrie Clark (foreground) performs with (back, l-r) Charnelle Whittemore, Lauren Davis and Patrick Dunfee. The foursome, along with Kenneth Clark Jr., Rodney Dunfee and Brenden Jackson, will provide entertainment at the Bradford County Fair on Wednesday, March 7, at 7 p.m. The fair will feature local acts performing nightly from Tuesday, March 6, through Saturday, March 10.



Nathan Boone showed the grand champion in last year’s steer show. This year’s show is Wednesday, March 7, at 6 p.m., while the breed show is Thursday, March 8, at 6 p.m. Breed and steer award winners will be recognized Saturday, March 10, at 5 p.m., followed by the auction at 5:30 p.m.



Perry Johnson showed the grand champion in last year’s swine show. This year’s show is Tuesday, March 6, at 6:30 p.m. Award winners will be recognized Friday, March 9, at 6 p.m., followed by the auction at 6:30 p.m.



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