

UNION COUNTY TIMES

USPS 648-200 — Lake Butler, Florida

Thursday, April 5, 2018

105th Year — 50th Issue — 75 CENTS

etc.

Girl Scouts to Clean Up Park

The Second Annual Earth Day Park Clean-Up Project will be held on Saturday, April 28, 2018 from 7 a.m. until 12 p.m.

Join the girls from Girl Scout Troop #1251 as they venture out to clean Lakeside Park in Lake Butler. This annual event began in 2017 to improve the appearance of the park, making it a cleaner, safer place for families to enjoy and children to play.

Volunteers are needed and appreciated! Bring your group, your friends and family to help the Girl Scouts with their Earth Day 2018 project.

A lunch will be provided after the clean-up.

For questions, or to volunteer or to donate, call Troop Leader Becky Elixson at 352.339.1583, or to find out more about the event go to girlscouttroop1251@gmail.com.

UC School Board to Meet April 10

The Union County School Board will have a workshop at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 10, followed by a regular board meeting at 6 p.m. Both meetings will be held in the Union County High School auditorium in Lake Butler. The agendas for the meetings may be viewed at www.union.k12.fl.us. The public is welcome to attend.

Farm Share Distribution Set for April 14

A Farm Share food distribution event will be held on Saturday, April 14 from 9-11 a.m. at the big pavilion at Lakeside Park. Volunteers are asked to arrive at 7:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome. The program is not income dependent. First come will be first served.

Woman's Club to Sponsor Scholarship

The Lake Butler Woman's Club is offering a \$500 scholarship for a female resident of Union County to attend an accredited college or university in the state of Florida. Scholarship applications may be picked up at Union County High School in the Guidance Counselor's office from Amy Addison. All applications should be received by or on Friday, April 27, 2018. Late applications will not be accepted. For questions contact Bobby Morgan at 386-867-0781.

BOCC to Hold Bid Opening April 10

See ETC, 2A

Clay Electric holds 80th annual meeting



Hundreds of Clay Electric Cooperative members met in Keystone Heights on March 29 for the co-op's 80th annual meeting. Members were treated to a chicken lunch, entertainment, door prizes and speeches from the co-op's leadership. Members also reelected trustees Susan Reeves, DeWitt Hersey and John Henry Whitehead to three-year terms. Each trustee ran without opposition this year. Hersey represents District 5 which includes all of Bradford and Baker counties. The District 7 trustee: Whitehead represents Union, Columbia and Suwannee counties. Reeves represents District 3 which includes parts of Alachua and Putnam counties.

Sharon Beavers of Orange Springs won the top door prize: a 2006 Chevrolet Colorado pickup. The co-op also gave away around 100 additional door prizes. Pictured is Clay Electric Director of Member and Public Relations Derick Thomas giving the keys to the truck to Beavers.

New City Manager Taking Care of Financial Policy Housekeeping

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Editor

New Lake Butler City Manager Dale Walker showed his strength as a financial manager at the March 20 meeting of the city commission, working with commissioners to take care of some needed housekeeping in written financial policies for the city.

In his first financial report to the commission, Walker again complimented the job done by previous city manager Dave Mecusker, saying that he had left the city in "good shape." Walker reported that, at a little less than half-way through the budget year, the general fund was in fairly good shape, with \$63,000 in revenue over expenses. He said the city water fund was breaking even and the sewer fund was \$48,000 in revenue over expenses.

In the course of the meeting, commissioners were asked to consider several resolutions approving written financial policies which Walker said were needed to bring the city into a position of operating under best practices for public policies as advocated by the Government Officer's Association. He told commissioners that these policies built a platform for future growth (and possible bond issues to fund them). He said that all of the "housekeeping" measures were a plus when the city applied for grants, needed to borrow money, or conduct business with outside entities or other cities.

The first resolution was to approve debt management policies for the city, including a debt limit and rules for inter-fund borrowing. Motion was made by commissioner Scott Cason and seconded by commissioner Jack Schenck to approve the resolution and it

was approved 5-0 by the board.

The second resolution codified an investment policy for the city. Walker said that while the city did not currently have any investments, this policy set the stage for the future and outlined objectives for city investments, including determining safe investments with good returns. He said this was a part of the platform for the future he was trying to build for the city.

Resolution number three for the meeting served to create a fund balance policy. Such a policy would not allow a fund balance to fall below a certain figure — the cost of operating that department for three months or 25 percent of its total general operating expenses. Walker said this measure was to make sure money was available in cases of the need for emergency spending, such as if a hurricane should do damage in the city. The policy also outlines the means by which funds may be replenished should they fall below mandated levels. The commission approved the measure 5-0.

Another resolution put before the board sets a policy for working with and approving grants. Again, Walker said this was a part of building a financial platform for the city, in this case making it a more attractive prospect for grants and also streamlining the process of applying for them. City attorney John Maines said that the policy was a good idea as a means of dealing with the varying grant types and requirements and he recommended commission approval. The commission approved the resolution unanimously.

The final resolution presented at the meeting was simply a matter of putting in writing already existing city policies for revenue control,

management, internal controls and separation of duties. It also calls for monthly financial reconciliation of city accounts and budget. This resolution was also passed unanimously by the commission.

In other discussion and action the Lake Butler City Commission:

□ Approved an interlocal agreement with Union County for the services of the building inspector.

The measure was consistent with past agreements. The county will collect the fees which will defray their costs. It was noted that the county had asked to be notified of any changes in city codes or regulations that could affect the inspections.

Maines suggested that the commission contact the county and set up a liaison between the two government entities to facilitate communication. He suggested that Walker be the contact person for the city.

□ Approved a request for \$25,000 for engineering services to assess the city spray field and make recommendations of needed work and repairs.

The money is part of the current budget and the expense planned for. Any work deemed necessary by the engineering firm, Applied Technology and Management Inc., will be paid for with grant funds.

□ Approved the application for a grant from the Florida Department of Transportation, called the Small County Outreach Program, which would provide the funding (with no city match) to repair the damage done to curbs in the city by heavy trucks.

School District Budget Prospects Looking Good

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Editor

The Union County School Board held its first budget workshop last week and heard a report from Finance Director Renae Prevatt that state funding for the year was looking very positive, including money for the newly mandated school security features.

Prevatt said one thing that has been a big help to getting the budget together this year is the fact that she has had actual figures from the state to work with, rather than projections. This is due, at least in part, to the rush law makers have made to let schools know how much money the state is going to give them for school safety, such as the mandated hiring of additional school resource officers and the increased amount for mental health services in the schools.

According to the most recent calculation, the budget for total K-12 funding for the current school year (2017-2018) was \$17,205,656. The total for next year, according to the current draft of the proposed budget, will be \$17,776,119, in increase of \$570,463. Much of this amount is derived from new state funding for the additional school resource officers, line-itemed as "safe schools," amount of \$340,349 and a new mental health allocation amount of \$150,393. Last year's funding for the same line items was \$84,651 for safe schools and \$0 for mental health.

There have also been several increases in state funding over

last year, including an additional \$56,301 in base funding (\$9,819,472 this year, \$9,763,171 last year), a \$30,394 increase in the sparsity supplement. Smaller increases are also expected in supplemental academic instruction, ESE Guaranteed Allocation, transportation, Teachers Lead (Teacher's Classroom Supplies) and a small virtual education contribution.

FTE funding, state funds based on student numbers, have increased by \$229.02 per student and funds for class size reduction have increased by a little over \$14,000.

Areas of lost or decreased funding include a lower digital classrooms allocation, reading allocation and instructional materials funding.

Local funding sources are expected to increase for the coming year, with an increase of about \$55,589 expected from the .748 millage compression and \$11,248 from discretionary local effort funds from county property taxes.

Prevatt told school board members that she anticipated no surprises in school funding this year and that she felt the district would be in good shape financially with the figures she has in hand. Funding for 2018-2019 is essentially level when considering the new monies added for school safety and security, along with the additional earmarked categorical programs restricted for specific expenditures.

Flight instructor: deceased Lawtey pilot 'cut corners'



(L-r) David Starling, Hunter Starling and Kim Smith were killed in a Dec. 26, 2016 plane crash in Tennessee.

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Managing Editor

The flight instructor of a Lawtey pilot killed in a December 26, 2016 crash told National Transportation Safety Board investigators that his former student, "pushed his training as hard as he could and cut corners wherever he could."

The NTSB reported the comments of the flight instructor and flight school owner in an Aviation Accident and Factual Report issued last month.

The Cessna 182 piloted by Joseph David Starling, 41, crashed into mountain terrain 15 miles south-southeast of its intended destination: the Gatlinburg-Pigeon Forge Airport. Also killed in the crash were Starling's son: eight-year-old Hunter Starling and the pilot's girlfriend: Kim Smith, 42 of High Springs.

The flight originated from the Keystone Heights Airport.

Eric Weiss, a spokesperson for the NTSB, said the recently-issued report only lists the facts uncovered by investigators. A final report, which the federal agency will issue later will contain analysis and a finding of

probable cause, he said.

The factual report also said the pilot's liver contained the prescription stimulant Phentermine.

"It is a central nervous system stimulant, and side effects include overstimulation, restlessness and dizziness," the NTSB report stated. "It carries the warning: 'phentermine may impair the ability of the patient to engage in potentially hazardous activities such as operating machinery or driving a motor vehicle; the patient should therefore be cautioned accordingly.'"

The report also stated that weather conditions along the Cessna's flight path necessitated Instrument Flight Rules, while conditions around the Gatlinburg-Pigeon Forge Airport allowed for Visual Flight Rules.

Starling was only rated for Visual Flight Rules.

The instructor told the NTSB that Starling took off in IFR conditions from the Keystone Airport, known as 42J, in the past.

"The flight school owner said that he watched the pilot depart

See PILOT, 2A

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Union County student recalls Washington trip



Brandon Ludwig of Keystone Heights High School (left) and Andrew Paul Griffis of Union County High School recalled their trip to Washington D.C. as part of the Clay Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Managing Editor

Two participants in Clay Electric Cooperative's 2017 Youth Tour told co-op members about their experiences visiting

ETC

Continued from 1A

The Union County Board of County Commissioners will hold a CEI, RFQ Bid Opening on April 10 at 10 a.m. in the boardroom of the Union County Courthouse.

More Fun at the Library

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.

Preschool Storytime continues on Thursdays at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Easter Egg-Citement will be the program on March 29. April programs will continue on April 12 with Daring Dinosaurs. The April 19 program will be Gardens Grow, with the month rounded out on April 26 with Fun Food.

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.

PILOT

Continued from 1A

42J with his family on multiple occasions in weather that was "below VFR minimums," the report stated. "He said that he counseled the pilot numerous times about operating the airplane VFR in instrument conditions. Most recently, he counseled the pilot two weeks before the accident."

The report added: "The flight school owner stated, 'I've been flying for more than 40 years, and I tried to explain to him the history of pilots with an anti-authority attitude. It's an attitude that catches up with you. He was a low-time, flat-land pilot with no mountain experience. There was an AIRMET

for mountain obscuration that day...there was plenty of information out there."

Investigators also wrote in the report: "When asked why he thought the accident pilot departed on the accident flight with those conditions along his route of flight, the instructor said, 'I counseled him numerous times about taking instrument training and getting an instrument rating. Lots of us around here did. He couldn't be bothered. He would just draw that pink line on his iPad and go.'"

Washington, D.C. last June.

Each year, the cooperative sends one 11-grade student from each of the 26 high schools within Clay Electric's service area to Tallahassee for three days. During the tour, students learn about state government, in addition to competing for a trip to Washington later in the year.

Last year, Union County High School student Andrew Paul "A.P." Griffis, Brandon Ludwig of Keystone Heights High School and Cole Tadrowski of P.K. Yonge in Gainesville won the week to Washington.

During Clay Electric's annual meeting on March 29, Griffis and Ludwig thanked co-op members for sponsoring the week-long tour of the nation's capital.

Griffis said that as a history buff with an interest in all things political, the Washington tour was enthralling.

He said that touring monuments and talking to World War II veterans were highlights of the trip.

He also said that thanks to U.S. Rep. Ted Yoho, the Clay Electric youth tour participants were the only delegates who visited the U.S. House of Representatives gallery.

"From colossal monuments to museums, to watching the sun set over the Potomac River, this trip filled me with awe and astonishment," he said.

Griffis said that seeing Washington was not the only benefit he received from the week in D.C. He added that the other youth tour participants also

Spires store manager catches shoplifter

William Morris Johnson, 36, of Lake Butler was arrested March 28 by Union Deputy John Riggs for misdemeanor assault (intent or threat to do violence), misdemeanor larceny (petit theft from a merchant, and crimes against person (resisting property recovery by a retail merchant or farmer).

According to the arrest report, Riggs was called to Spires IGA on a shoplifting call. While en route he received information that the suspect was attempting to leave the store in a green van. He was also told that the suspect was causing a disturbance in the parking lot with store manager Mike Spires.

When Riggs arrived the suspect, William Johnson, and his wife,

amazed him.

"These individuals are intelligent, driven, and we became more than friends. We became a family," he said.

Ludwig said he will never forget the tour.

He noted that in order to qualify for the Washington trip youth, tour participants in Tallahassee had to talk about their favorite story from American History.

He said that today's youth underappreciate the topic.

"American history is something that should be focused on more," he said.

Ludwig noted that even though visiting the city's monuments and memorials was enjoyable, the most touching part of the tour was visiting the World War II Memorial.

"Getting to go to see that and seeing several remaining World War II veterans visiting — it really touched me because it's so amazing to see the sacrifices that these men made, and to see that we are so fortunate to have them with us today."

Ludwig said the trip also broadened his horizons.

"Living here in little, old Keystone Heights — I love this town, and I love everything we stand for — but sometimes you need to get out and see a bit of the world," he said. "Getting to meet people from all over the state, and seeing what their perspectives are, and then meeting kids from other co-ops all across the country; that was an awesome experience."

Betsy Johnson, were being loud and argumentative with Spires. William was trying to leave and was denying that he was attempting to steal anything. He continued to yell and be argumentative after the deputy asked him to be quiet while Spires handed Riggs the items that the suspect had removed from his pocket after leaving the store. The items were not paid for and Spires said Johnson was trying to leave before law enforcement arrived.

Johnson told Spires that if he was going to make a sworn complaint that he (Johnson) wanted to return the groceries he had purchased. Spires said he would not allow the return since there was nothing wrong with the purchased items. Johnson then threatened Spires in a loud voice and made an aggressive move towards him. Johnson was detained immediately and was found to have a sheath knife on his belt. He was arrested, and the stolen items were returned to Spires after being photographed.

Deputies: Man dragged woman out of bed, tried to strangle her

Howard Edward Blank, 47, of Lake Butler was arrested March 27 by Union Deputy James Jankowski for aggravated assault (with intent to commit a felony), battery (felony battery resulting from strangulation—possibly domestic) and resisting an officer without violence.

According to the arrest report Jankowski was dispatched to the S&S store in Worthington Springs for a reported physical disturbance between a woman and her live-in boyfriend. The woman had fled her home and was waiting for law enforcement at the store.

When the deputy arrived, the victim was still in her night wear and was barefooted. She said she had been having issues with her boyfriend for some time but could usually handle the situation, but that night she had become scared and she felt she needed help.

She told Jankowski that she had been asleep in her bedroom when Blank, who she said was heavily intoxicated, had entered the room and pulled her from the bed by her feet, dragging her into the dining room. She said that he then put his hands around her throat and began choking her, but she managed to push him away with her feet and escape back to the bedroom when it took him a few moments to regain his balance. During the attack, she reported that Blank had told her he was going to kill her and her brother, who lives in another residence on the property.

She took out her phone but was intimidated by Blank's objections and was afraid to call 911. She did text several requests to her family to call 911 for her. She said she was eventually able to grab her keys and sneak out and run to her car. She signed

a sworn written statement about the matter.

Jankowski, with the assistance of Deputy Erik Krueger, made contact with Blank at the victim's home. Blank exited the home in an aggressive manner and asked the deputies why they were there. His speech was slurred and he swayed as he stood. There was also a strong odor of alcohol coming from his person.

The victim had told Jankowski that Blank had previously told her that of law enforcement came after him he would go out in a bang. Deputies asked Blank twice to turn around and place his hands against a wall so he could be patted down for weapons and he refused to comply both times. He was then grabbed by deputies and his arms placed behind his back, which he resisted. Restraints were applied and he was then patted down for weapons, with none found. Because of his noncompliance and intoxication, he was placed in the back of Krueger's patrol car where he could be safely secured.

Speaking with the victim on the phone, deputies determined where in the residence the events had taken place and her parts of her accounts were confirmed. Photos of the incident locations, as well as of the victim's neck were taken.

Blank was charged with the above-mentioned charges and it was noted in the report that the charge of felonious battery through strangulation was his third charge for that offense.

Sleepy driver arrested after refusing to leave driveway

Wylan Joel Green, 60, of Live Oak was arrested April 2 by Union Deputy James Jankowski for trespassing — failure to leave property when ordered by owner.

According to the arrest report Jankowski answered a call concerning a suspicious

vehicle and person in a resident's driveway. The resident had approached the vehicle and asked the driver to leave the property and the driver had refused. When he arrived, Jankowski found the vehicle still in the driveway with the lights on but with the engine off. He saw an older white male slouched in the driver's seat sleeping.

Jankowski made contact with the property owner, who said he had noticed the vehicle because of the headlights pointed at his house. He said he approached the vehicle and knocked on the window. The driver clawed at the window then gone back to sleep. He said he tried to wake the victim several times and asked the driver to leave, but the driver would not respond.

Jankowski also attempted to wake the driver, knocking on the window and shining a flashlight in his face. Every time, the driver would open his eyes, look at the deputy and then fall back to sleep. Jankowski notice the driver's door was unlocked and he opened it to make contact with the driver. The driver would not answer any of his questions and kept going back to sleep.

Concerned the driver might be having a medical emergency, Jankowski called a rescue unit, who arrived and examined the driver, including checks on his blood sugar, blood pressure and heart rate. There were no signs of alcohol or drug use in the vehicle to suggest intoxication. UCEMS cleared the driver medically and returned to the station.

Jankowski woke the driver again and kept talking to him to keep him awake. Green was told that the property owner wanted him to leave the property and that he needed to relocate somewhere else to sleep. Green said he did not want to leave and that he would stay until he was finished sleeping. After a warning, he was arrested for trespassing and transported to the Union County Jail. He slept the entire trip. As per the homeowner's request the vehicle was towed.

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UNION COUNTY TIMES
USPS 648-200

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

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

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

K-9 catches RMC visitor with drugs

Shivotae Jabrea Whitehurst, 26, was arrested March 31 by Union Deputy Phillip Sellers for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, possession of marijuana not more than 20 grams and smuggling contraband into a prison (controlled substance).

According to the arrest report Sellers responded to a call at the RMC main unit in reference to drugs being found in a vehicle. He made contact with a DOC K-9 officer who told Sellers that he had been walking his K-9 around vehicles parked in the unit's main parking area. The dog had alerted on a brown Hyundai car. Once the car's driver was located a vehicle search was initiated.

Through the course of the search a prescription bottle was located that had part of the label removed, concealing the name of the person for whom the medication had been prescribed. The bottle contained three capsule shaped white pills. Two small bags containing a green, leafy substance were also found. All of the items were located within the vehicle's center console.

The items were turned over to Sellers. Whitehurst was placed under arrest. The green, leafy substance tested positive for marijuana and the pills were identified as acetaminophen/hydrocodone Bitartrate and place into evidence.

In other Union County arrests:

Richard Edward Casper, 57, of Lake Butler was arrested March 30 on an out-of-county-warrant from the Florida Commission on Offender Review in Tallahassee for violating the conditions of his release.

Deondre Skykur Clayton was arrested by Union deputies March 29 on an out-of-county warrant from Columbia County for grand theft of a firearm.

Kelsey Nicole Gomes, 19, of Lake Butler was arrested March 28 by Union deputies on a warrant for failure to appear.

Derrick Andrew Richardson, 33, was arrested March 30 by Union deputies for misdemeanor battery – touch or strike and resisting an officer without violence.

Antonio Eugene Vaca, 18, of Brandenton, was arrested March 31 by Union deputies for possession of drugs (methamphetamine), amphetamine possession with intent to manufacture, deliver a schedule II, III, or IV substance and possession of marijuana not more than 20 grams.

Man stabs several victims, caught in Georgia

Bradford County

A Worthington Springs man was captured in Georgia after we went on a rampage in Bradford County stabbing three people.

Quandrell Xavier Steele, 25, was arrested March 30 by Bradford deputies for battery, criminal mischief with property damage, burglary, vehicle theft, three counts of aggravated battery, three counts of robbery and two counts of larceny, all of which arose from a March 24 incident.

According to the arrest report, Bradford Deputy Sergeant

Russell Gordon and Deputy David Watson responded to a report of several persons being stabbed. Watson approached the residence and noticed a window broken out on the left of the front door. He announced himself and everyone inside the residence began yelling for help. He entered and verified that the suspect, Steele, was not on the scene.

He observed one male victim with a shirt wrapped around his arm with an obvious laceration and a female victim on the floor with stab wounds to her upper torso. He advised dispatch the scene was secure and to call for EMS to come to the scene. Another victim was discovered, a female with superficial scratches on her arms. Watson heard some yelling of help outside and when he went out he discovered another female victim trying to sit up in a ditch with several lacerations and stab wounds to her torso. She identified Steele as the one who had attacked her with a knife. EMS arrived on the scene and all of the victims were treated at the scene and then transported to Shands UF due to the severity of their injuries.

The victim with only superficial scratches on her arms was the only one able to be questioned. She said that she and her friends had been riding around and at some point, had picked up a black male, identified by her as Steele. She said she did not know him and that, in fact, it had been the first time she had ever seen him. The group then proceeded to a residence to drink and listen to music – but she was unsure what time they had gotten there, but she believed it to be about 4 a.m.

The victim said everyone was in the bedroom, drinking and listening to music. She said Steele walked into the kitchen to get another beer and then said she heard him yelling that someone had his money. She said everyone walked into the kitchen and told him that no one had his money. She said Steele became very angry and checked everyone's pockets for money. He took everyone's money, grabbed a large butcher knife from the sink and began yelling at everyone, telling them that he would kill them if they did not give him his money.

Steele then stabbed one of the victims while another jumped on Steele's back, but was thrown off. Steele began stabbing another of the victims and then began to chase another one toward the back door and began stabbing her. She ran out the door with Steele chasing her and the witness locked the door and called for help.

The victim said Steele tried to reenter the residence but was unsuccessful. He then kicked in the glass next to the front door and gained entrance that way. She said he took the cell phones and the keys to a vehicle off the kitchen table and left the residence.

Deputies tracked Steele to an area near LaGrange, Georgia, where authorities pulled him over and arrested him.

Victim offers woman a cigarette and prayer, attacked with knife

Bradford County

A Lawtey woman told Bradford deputies she was attacked with a knife after offering the attacker a cigarette and prayer.

Gretchen Marie Wilkinson, 39, of Lawtey was arrested March 27 by Bradford deputies

for aggravated battery.

According to the arrest report, arresting officer Corp. Brandon Shoup responded to an address in Lawtey in reference to a battery investigation.

In a sworn statement the victim said she had been sitting on her porch with two friends when she had seen Wilkinson crossing the street. The victim said she walked to the end of her driveway to see if Wilkinson was alright and asked her if she was. Wilkinson responded in a belligerent manner, but said she really just wanted a cigarette. The victim said she invited Wilkinson to her porch to have one and the victim and one of her friends could pray for her.

The victim stated that the next thing she knew, she saw Wilkinson's arm coming up with what appeared to be a knife in her hand. The victim raised her hand to block Wilkinson from hitting her and was cut three times on the arm. The victim was then able to break free of the situation and run back to her residence and call the sheriff's office. Wilkinson left the area on foot towards another residence.

Deputies located Wilkinson and she agreed to speak with them.

Wilkinson's side of the story was a little different. In a recorded video, she stated she was walking along the street when the victim called out to her while walking toward her. Wilkinson said she and the victim began talking, then the victim began to punch her on the side of the head with a closed fist. She said that as she was being struck, she reached into her pocket and pulled out her pocket knife and held it up, in hopes it would stop the victim from hitting her. Wilkinson said the victim was cut while taking a swing at her while she was holding up the knife. She claimed she was simply defending herself.

Based on the evidence and statements made, Wilkinson was arrested for aggravated battery with a deadly weapon and was transported to the Bradford County Jail without incident.

Reckless driver resists repossession

Bradford County

A man refusing to turn over a repossessed car was stopped for reckless driving and eventually arrested.

Earl Sparkman, 38, of Starke was arrested April 2 by Bradford deputies for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon – without intent to kill and resisting an officer.

According to the arrest report, Bradford Deputy Joshua Hill responded to request for an assist at a traffic stop in Lawtey. Sparkman had been stopped due to several reports of his driving recklessly. Two of the persons calling in the reported reckless driving were actually the owners of the vehicle being driven by Sparkman, and they had a repossession order.

At the scene of the traffic stop, one of the owners asked Sparkman for the keys to the vehicle, but he refused to turn them over. Deputies tried to explain to Sparkman about the repossession order to keep the situation calm. Sparkman refused cooperation and instead started the vehicle and attempted to drive away, almost hitting the vehicle's owners in the process.

Sparkman then stopped the vehicle and was told by deputies to get out, but he refused to do so. Hill opened the door of the vehicle and grabbed Sparkman's left arm and pulled him out of the vehicle. He then pushed the

280 Eggs and a Dedicated Church Family made for a grand Easter Egg Hunt at GCFBC.

Easter Egg Hunting at Grace Christian Fellowship Baptist Church in Worthington Springs



Addison Johns had her pink tennis shoes on and was ready to hit the ground running in her search for Easter eggs.



Twins Preston and Peyton Johnson searched for eggs together.



Dax Hall-Cumb seems to be asking the photographer if she has any eggs to donate to his bucket.



Lawrence Anderson and Jacob Ferguson want to show-off how many eggs they found and compare notes on the fine art of hunting Easter eggs.

front of Sparkman's body against the bed of the truck to prevent his getting out of control. Sparkman was handcuffed after he was brought under control. He was then notified of the charges and arrested. The keys were given to the owners of the vehicle, who took possession of it.

In other Bradford County arrests:

Jessica Leigh Bradshaw, 34, of Lake Butler was arrested March 31 by Starke police on an out-of-county warrant.

Crystal Lynn Braswell, 20, of Lawtey was arrested March 30 by Starke police for burglary and larceny.

Randy H. Colby, 56, homeless, was arrested April 2 by Starke Police for trespassing and resisting an officer.

Tammy Lorene Cox, 50, of Lake Butler was arrested March 31 by Bradford deputies for two counts of failure to appear.

Luis Cruz Colindre, 25, of Jacksonville, was arrested March 27 by the Florida Highway Patrol for fraud, a moving traffic violation and a non-moving traffic violation.

James Lawrence Easter, 20, of Brunswick, GA was arrested March 30 by Bradford deputies for possession of marijuana and

possession of drug equipment.

Shawn Roy Fischer, 23, of Jacksonville was arrested March 29 by Bradford deputies for violation of probation.

John Nehemiah Goodman, 57, of Starke was arrested April 2 by Starke police for possession of marijuana and indecent exposure.

James Ray Harris, 32, of Starke was arrested April 2 by Bradford deputies on an out-of-county warrant.

Joseph Charles Herman, 26, of Jacksonville was arrested March 30 by Bradford deputies for violation of probation.

Cody Marquie Hill, 24, of Starke was arrested March 31 by Starke Police for violation of probation and resisting an officer.

David W. Hosier, 22, of Brunswick, GA was arrested March 30 by Bradford deputies for possession of marijuana and possession of drug equipment.

Eric Wayne Hudson, 39, of Jacksonville was arrested April 2 by Starke Police for a moving traffic violation and violation of probation.

Candice Melody Stein, 34, of Starke was arrested April 2 by Starke Police on an out-of-

county warrant.

John William Torrance, 34, was arrested on April 3 by Bradford deputies for a moving traffic violation.

Frank Harold Waring, 37, of Lawtey was arrested March 30 by Bradford deputies for fraud.

Brian Jerrod Wilkerson, 33, of Newberry was arrested March 28 by Bradford deputies for violation of probation.

Man discovered drunk in ditch

Lake Region

William Kelley Rhoden, 56, was arrested March 31 in Keystone Heights by Clay deputies for disorderly intoxication and resisting an officer without violence.

According to the arrest report Clay Deputy B.A. Ray responded to a call on Immokalee Rd. in reference to a drunk person. Upon arrival, ray made contact with Rescue 11, who was leaving the scene. He was advised by them that the suspect was ok, just heavily intoxicated.

Ray contacted the reporting party, who told him about a white male laying in the ditch in front of his (the reporting party's)



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CRIME

Continued from 3A

residence approx. a foot from the road. He advised the man was wearing a white shirt and plaid shorts who had stumbled up Bedford Oaks Drive after Public Safety had left the scene.

Ray observed the man lying on the ground and noticed his clothing was disheveled and soiled. When he moved towards the man and announced himself, the man got off the ground and walked toward the residence. From previous encounters, Ray knew the man did not live at the residence. Ray told the man to stop and come and speak with him. Ray approached the man and smelled a strong odor of alcohol about his person, so he told him to walk back to the patrol car with him. The man responded to the command verbally, but started walking in the opposite direction.

Ray grabbed the man's left arm and place him in a straight-arm escort maneuver. The man immediately sat down on the ground. Ray applied slight pressure to the man's wrist while advising him to get off the ground. The defendant got up and was escorted to the car.

Ray attempted to place the man in handcuffs, but he refused to provide his right hand, hiding it between his body and the car. Ray was finally able to get the defendant into custody and relocated to his patrol vehicle and placed him under arrest.

The man was identified as Rhoden.

In other Lake Region arrests:

Myllinda Sue Isgette, 31, was arrested March 29 in Keystone Heights by Clay deputies for an out-of-county warrant.

Jon Paul Shaver, 52, was arrested March 29 in Keystone Heights by Clay deputies for being a fugitive from justice.

LEGALS

UCT Legals 4/5/18

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL DIVISION
CASE NO.:

632013CA000014CAAXMX
BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.
Plaintiff,
vs.
CHRISTOPHER SWEAT, et al
Defendants.

RE-NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

RE-NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order Granting Plaintiffs Motion to Reschedule Foreclosure Sale filed December 11, 2017 and entered in Case No. 632013CA000014CAAXMX of the Circuit Court of the EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT in and for UNION COUNTY, Florida, wherein BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., is Plaintiff, and CHRISTOPHER SWEAT, et al are Defendants, the clerk, Kellie Hendricks Connell, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, beginning at 11:00 AM 55 W. Main Street, Room 103, Lake Butler, FL 32054, in accordance with Chapter 45, Florida Statutes, on the 26 day of April, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Lis Pendens, to wit:
Lot 2 in Block B of Proficiency Village, Phase I, as per plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 2, page 12 of the public records of UNION County, Florida. Together with that 2002 GRAND MANOR DOUBLEWIDE MOBILE HOME WITH VIN # GAGMTD07599A AND GAGMTD07599B, a/k/a 8302 SW 44th AVE, LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA 32054-

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus funds from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale. Dated at Lake Butler, UNION COUNTY, Florida, this 29th day of March, 2018.

Kellie Hendricks Connell
Clerk of said Circuit Court
By: Crystal Norman
As Deputy Clerk

Phelan Hallinan Diamond & Jones, PLLC
Attorneys for Plaintiff
2001 NW 64th Street
Suite 100
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309
954-462-7000

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Ms. Jan Phillips, ADA Coordinator, Alachua County Family and Civil Justice Center, 201 East University Avenue, Room 410, Gainesville, FL 32601 at (352) 337-6237 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than seven (7) days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.
If you are deaf or hard of hearing and require an ASL interpreter or an assisted listening device to participate in a proceeding, please contact the Court Interpreter Program at interpreter@circuitt8.org
4/5 2tchg 4/12-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE

EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY,
FLORIDA

Case No. 63-2017-CA-34

GENE W. JASPER and
AAA PORTA-SERV, INC., a Florida
Corporation,
Plaintiffs,

vs.
JIMMIE L. JONES, and
814 INVESTMENTS, INC.
Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated December 18, 2017 and entered in Case No. 63-2017-CA-34 of the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Union County, Florida, wherein GENE W. JASPER and AAA PORTA-SERV, INC., are the Plaintiffs, and JIMMIE L. JONES, and 814 INVESTMENTS, INC. are the Defendants, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at FRONT STEPS IN FRONT OF THE UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE at 11:00 a.m. on the 26th day of April, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment:

A parcel of land, lying, being and situate in Section 9, Township 6 South, Range 18 East, Union County, Florida, more particularly described as follows:

COMMENCE at the Northeast corner of said Section 9, the same also being the Southwest corner of Section 3, the Southeast corner of Section 4, and the Northwest corner of Section 10, said Township 6 South, Range 18 East, according to the approved Government Township Plat of said Township 6 South, Range 18 East, and run South 02 degrees 52 minutes 32 seconds East, along the East line of said Section 9, a distance of 1685.42 feet; thence run South 87 degrees 38 minutes 37 seconds West, a distance of 61.05 feet to the intersection with the West right of way line of State Road No. 241, and the POINT OF BEGINNING of the hereinafter described parcel of land: Thence run South 03 degrees 02 minutes 59 seconds East, along said West right of way line, a distance of 276.33 feet; thence run South 86 degrees 49 minutes 03 seconds West a distance of 552.3 feet to the intersection with the West line of the East 612.5 feet of the Southeast 1/4 of Northeast 1/4 of said Section 9; thence run North 02 degrees 52 minutes 32 seconds West, along said West line of the East 612.5 feet of the Southeast 1/4 of Northeast 1/4 of Section 9, a distance of 284.29 feet to the intersection with an ancient fence line established as a boundary line between lands owned by J.A. Bielling and Ida Mae Jewell and recorded in the Official Records Book 90, pages 158-162, public records of Union County, Florida; thence run North 87 degrees 38 minutes 37 seconds East, along said ancient fence line, a distance of 551.47 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING. Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale; if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens must file a claim within sixty (60) days after the sale.

WITNESS MY HAND and the seal of this Court on April 2nd, 2018.

KELLIE CONNELL
Clerk of the Circuit Court
By: Crystal Norman
Deputy Clerk
4/5 2tchg 4/12-UCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA, SERVING AS THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA AND THE LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY OF THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Sections 163.3161 through 163.3248, Florida Statutes, as amended, comments, objections and recommendations concerning the amendment, as described below, to the City of Lake Butler Land Development Regulations, hereinafter referred to as the Land Development Regulations, will be heard by the City Commission of the City of Lake Butler, Florida, serving as the Planning and Zoning Board of the City of Lake Butler, Florida, and the Local Planning Agency of Lake Butler, Florida, at a public hearing on April 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard in the City Commission Meeting Room, City Hall at 200 Southwest First Street, Lake Butler, Florida.

LDR 18-01, an application, by the City Commission to amend the text of the Land Development Regulations by amending Section 4.10.5 entitled Special Exceptions to allow medical marijuana treatment center dispensing facilities within the "OR" RESIDENTIAL/OFFICE zoning district; by amending Section 4.11.2 entitled Permitted Principal Uses and Structures to allow medical marijuana

treatment center dispensing facilities within the "CN" COMMERCIAL, NEIGHBORHOOD zoning district; and by amending Section 4.12.2 entitled Permitted Principal Uses and Structures to allow medical marijuana treatment center dispensing facilities within the "CG" COMMERCIAL, GENERAL zoning district. The public hearing may be continued to one or more future dates. Any interested party shall be advised that the date, time and place of any continuation of the public hearing shall be announced during the public hearing and that no further notice concerning the matter will be published, unless said continuation exceeds six calendar weeks from the date of the above referenced public hearing.

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

A copy of the amendment is available for public inspection at the Office of the City Manager, City Hall located at 200 Southwest First Street, Lake Butler, Florida, during regular business hours.

All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Any person requiring auxiliary aids and services at this meeting may contact the City Manager's Office at 386.496.3401 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 1.800.955.8770 or 1.800.955.8771.
4/5 1tchg-UCT

PROJECT: NE 233rd Lane

Widening, Milling, and Resurfacing Union County, Florida
Project No.: 21200-023-01
OWNER: Union County Board of County Commissioners
15 NE 1st Street
Lake Butler, Florida 32054

ENGINEER: Jones Edmunds & Associates, Inc.
730 NE Waldo Road
Gainesville, Florida 32641
Telephone: (352) 377-5821
bids@jonesedmunds.com

1.0 WORK DESCRIPTION
The Project is located in Raiford, Union County, Florida.

The Work is generally described as furnishing all labor, materials, equipment, tools, transportation, services, and incidentals and performing all work necessary to provide the Owner with roadway improvements to NE 233rd Lane from County Road 229 to State Road 121, approximately 1.4 miles. The roadway improvements include widening, milling, and resurfacing the existing roadway as shown on the Drawings; performing earthwork associated with the drainage improvements; placing reinforced concrete pipe; and providing pavement striping, signage, seeding, sodding, and maintenance of traffic. All work shall be in accordance with the Construction Drawings, Specifications, and Contract Documents.

2.0 RECEIPT OF BIDS
The project will advertise on Thursday, April 5, 2018, and Thursday, April 12, 2018 in the Union County Times. Bidding and Contract Documents may be examined at the Union County Board of County Commissioners' office.

To ensure that Bidders receive all addenda and or clarifications to the Bidding Documents in a timely manner, it is mandatory that all bidders obtain at least one set of Bidding Documents from the Engineer to be eligible to bid on this project. Addenda will be issued via email unless the Bidder requests otherwise. Copies of the documents may be obtained at the Engineer's office for \$100.00 per set, payable by check only, which constitutes the cost for reproduction and handling. Checks shall be payable to the Engineer. Payment is non-refundable. Email bids@jonesedmunds.com for further details to obtain a set of Contract Documents.

Bids shall be completed on the enclosed Bid Form as set forth in the Instructions to Bidders and otherwise be in compliance with the Bidding Documents. Sealed bids will be received at Union County Board of County Commissioners' office located at 15 NE 1st Street, Lake Butler, Florida 32054, until 10:00 am (local time) on Friday, April 20, 2018, at which time and place all bids will be opened. Any Bids received after the specified time and date will not be considered.

A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held on Friday, April 13, 2018, at 10:00 AM (local time) at the Union County Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room

located at 55 West Main Street, Lake Butler, Florida 32054. Only prospective bidders on the Engineer's plan holders list may submit a bid. Contractors shall be pre-qualified with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for the work associated with this project. For further information or clarification, email bids@jonesedmunds.com.
4/5 2tchg 4/12-UCT

NOTICE

There will be a CEI, RFQ Bid Opening on April 10th at 10:00 a.m. in the Boardroom of the Union County Courthouse.

4/5 1tchg-UCT

CITY OF LAKE BUTLER
Bid Notice Date: April 5, 2018
CDBG Grant Number: 16DB-OK-03-73-02-N11

Notice is hereby given that the City of Lake Butler, Florida, will accept sealed bids until 2:00 p.m. (local time), May 7, 2018 for the following project:

Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements and Recreation BID FILE #LB-

CDBG-2018

At 2:00 p.m. (local time), May 7, 2018, the bids will be opened and read aloud at City Hall located at: 200 SW 1st Street Lake Butler, Florida 32054 Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Friday, April 13, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. in the City Hall Building. The City will consider bids only from bidders (or their representative) that attend the mandatory Pre-Bid Conference.

Please submit one (1) original and three (3) copies of your bid in a sealed envelope reflecting on the outside thereof the bidder's name and "Sealed Bid for Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements and Recreation Improvements City of Lake Butler CDBG Project, Bid #LB-CDBG-2018. The City will consider all bids properly submitted at its scheduled Bid Opening.

The City of Lake Butler shall be the sole judge of the bid and the resulting agreement that is in its best interest and its decision shall be final. All bidding and award procedures undertaken by the City in regard to this project shall be consistent with

the City's adopted procurement procedures and with the rules and regulations of the Florida Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program. Bid prices shall remain in effect for 120 days after bid opening.

Recommendation of Bid Award The lowest responsive and responsible bid will be recommended for award at the City Commission meeting scheduled for May 21, 2018. All bids should be addressed as follows:

City of Lake Butler
Attention: Dale Walker, City Manager
200 SW 1st Street
Lake Butler, FL 32054

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CITY.

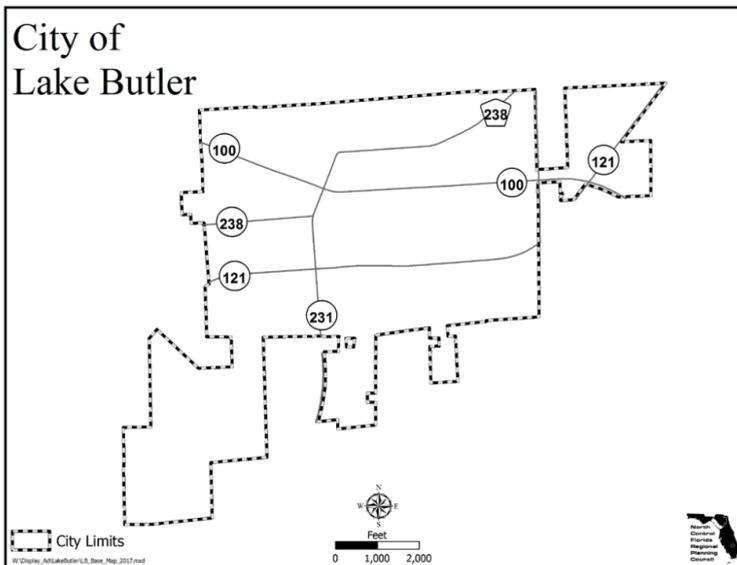
To obtain a copy of the bid package, please send an email request to: jdelacruz@appliedtm.com (if you have any questions contact the City at (386) 496-3401)

4/5 1tchg-UCT

NOTICE OF ZONING CHANGE

The City Commission of the City of Lake Butler, Florida proposes to regulate the use of land within the area shown on the map below, by amending the text of the City of Lake Butler Land Development Regulations, hereinafter referred to as the Land Development Regulations, as follows:

LDR 18-01, an application, by the City Commission to amend the text of the Land Development Regulations by amending Section 4.10.5 entitled Special Exceptions to allow medical marijuana treatment center dispensing facilities within the "OR" RESIDENTIAL/OFFICE zoning district; by amending Section 4.11.2 entitled Permitted Principal Uses and Structures to allow medical marijuana treatment center dispensing facilities within the "CN" COMMERCIAL, NEIGHBORHOOD zoning district; and by amending Section 4.12.2 entitled Permitted Principal Uses and Structures to allow medical marijuana treatment center dispensing facilities within the "CG" COMMERCIAL, GENERAL zoning district.



The first of two public hearings will be conducted by the City Commission to consider the amendment and conduct a first reading of the ordinance adopting the amendment. The public hearing will be held on April 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the City Commission Meeting Room, City Hall, located at 200 Southwest 1st Street, Lake Butler, Florida. The title of said ordinance reads, as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-01

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE TEXT OF THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION, LDR 18-01, BY THE CITY COMMISSION, PROVIDING FOR AMENDING SECTION 4.10.5 ENTITLED SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS TO ALLOW MEDICAL MARIJUANA TREATMENT CENTER DISPENSING FACILITIES WITHIN THE "OR" RESIDENTIAL/OFFICE ZONING DISTRICT; PROVIDING FOR AMENDING SECTION 4.11.2 ENTITLED PERMITTED PRINCIPAL USES AND STRUCTURES TO ALLOW MEDICAL MARIJUANA TREATMENT CENTER DISPENSING FACILITIES WITHIN THE "CN" COMMERCIAL, NEIGHBORHOOD ZONING DISTRICT; PROVIDING FOR AMENDING SECTION 4.12.2 ENTITLED PERMITTED PRINCIPAL USES AND STRUCTURES TO ALLOW MEDICAL MARIJUANA TREATMENT CENTER DISPENSING FACILITIES WITHIN THE "CG" COMMERCIAL, GENERAL ZONING DISTRICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

The public hearing may be continued to one or more future dates. Any interested party shall be advised that the date, time and place of any continuation of this public hearing shall be announced during the public hearing and that no further notices regarding the matter will be published.

At the aforementioned public hearing, all interested persons may appear and heard with respect to the amendment and the ordinance adopting the amendment on the date, time and place as stated above.

Copies of the amendment and the ordinance adopting said amendment are available for public inspection at the Office of the City Manager in the City Hall, at 200 Southwest 1st Street, Lake Butler, Florida, during regular business hours.

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

Any person requiring auxiliary aids and services at this meeting may contact the City Manager's Office at 386.496.3401 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 1.800.955.8770 or 1.800.955.8771.

NOTICE APPLICATIONS FOR UNION COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council invites interested persons to apply for membership on the Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board. The Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board is an advisory Board that oversees the provision of public transportation services to disadvantaged citizens in Union County.

These are volunteer positions. Applicants must be residents of Union County.

Applications or additional information may be obtained by contacting: Lynn Godfrey, North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, Florida 32653; phone 352.955.2200 x 110, e-mail godfrey@ncfrpc.org or by visiting our website at <http://www.ncfrpc.org/TD/td.html>

Applications must be received no later than May 1, 2018.

REGIONAL NEWS

NEWS FROM BRADFORD COUNTY, UNION COUNTY AND THE LAKE REGION

A time to say a well-deserved thanks

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Before he delved into his speech in earnest, keynote speaker Richard Capps had something that needed to be said — something that many never heard many years ago.

“Welcome home, brothers.” Capps, a retired brigadier general and former assistant adjutant general (Army) of the Florida National Guard, spoke at Camp Blanding during its Vietnam War Veterans Day ceremony, part of a national observance on March 29. He said those “who served our country, who never refused the call to duty, came back home and were forgotten.”

Recent efforts have been made to help make sure those who served during that era aren’t forgotten. President Barack Obama signed a proclamation on March 25, 2012, stating the federal government, partnering with local governments, private organizations and

communities across the nation, would participate in the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the war for a period of 13 years. On March 28, 2017, President Donald Trump signed into law the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act, which encourages citizens to fly the U.S. flag on March 29 in honor of those veterans. Gov. Rick Scott signed a proclamation on March 26 of this year designating March 29 as Vietnam Veterans Day in Florida.

“We vow never again to confuse personal disapproval of war with prejudice against those who honorably wore the uniform for our armed forces,” Capps said. “With conviction, our nation pledges our enduring respect, continuing care and everlasting commitment to our Vietnam veterans.”

No different than any other veteran

Platform guests at the Camp Blanding Vietnam War Veterans Day ceremony stand while Staff Sgt. Sherry Denny sings the national anthem. Pictured (l-r): Col. Matt Johnson, Camp Blanding post commander, Congressman Ted Yoho, Denny, chaplain Maj. Lance Sellon and Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Hosford. Retired Brig. Gen. Richard Capps, the keynote speaker, is not visible, but behind Denny.

Capps said in comparison to veterans of other conflicts, the Vietnam veterans were no different in regard to their courage and sense of duty, the fear and suffering they experienced, and the wounds — seen and unseen — they sustained.

“Let us tell the story of a

See VETS, 2B



Matt Johnson

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VETS

Continued from 1B

generation of service members — every color, every creed, rich, poor, officer, enlisted — who served with just as much patriotism and honor as any that went before us,” Capps said. “Let us never forget that most of those who served in Vietnam did it by choice. So many of you volunteered. Your country was at war. You said, ‘Send me.’ That includes our women in Vietnam, who were all volunteers.

“You persevered through some of the most brutal conditions that ever faced Americans in war — the suffocating heat, the drenching monsoon rains and an enemy that could come out of nowhere and vanish just as quickly.”

Capps said Vietnam veterans took part in many battles — some they remember well, some they’d like to forget. One battle, though, is one all veterans will remember, he said. The Tet Offensive of 1968. For Capps, the outcome of the Tet Offensive was disastrous for the Communists and important in the continuation of truce talks.

“As with much of the Vietnam War, the news media misreported — misinterpreted — the Tet Offensive,” Capps said. “It was reported as an overwhelming success for the Communist forces and a defeat for the U.S. forces. Nothing could be further from the truth. Despite initial victories by the Communist forces, the Tet Offensive resulted in a major defeat of the Communist forces.”

In closing his speech, Capps said, “Let me say again, welcome home, brothers. Every one of you are heroes. We thank you for your service and your contributions in the Vietnam conflict. Always remember, we won that damn war. Let history reflect the loss was caused way above our pay grade.”

Was it worth it?

Congressman Ted Yoho was also part of the ceremony. He said that his role as the chair of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, as part of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, led to an encounter with Vietnam ambassador, who invited him to visit the country. Yoho admitted he was filled with trepidation about such a trip, caused by memories of his brother’s service in Vietnam and hearing veterans wonder if the war was worth it and if they made a difference.

Yoho did make the trip and shared those feelings of trepidation with the prime minister, Nguyễn Xuân Phúc. The prime minister told Yoho that what he didn’t understand was that Americans have a 97.3-percent approval rating among the people of Vietnam.

Boots and Bangles set for April 26

The Bradford County Education Foundation is hosting its annual Boots and Bangles on Thursday, April 26, at the National Guard armory on Edwards Road in Starke. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., with dinner scheduled to be served at 6:30 p.m.

Bradford Middle School’s jazz band will provide entertainment, while school employees and community members will battle each other in a game of Minute to Win It.

The event will also feature a cake auction.

Tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased from any education foundation member.

You may also contact Cheryl Canova at the Santa Fe College Andrews Center or Vorsease Jones at Capital City Bank in Starke for tickets or more information.

When Yoho asked how that could be, the prime minister responded, “Because you guys came, you fought a war for 10 years, and you left. The French have about a 40-percent (approval rating) because they tried to colonize us and were extremely brutal to our people. The Chinese have a single-digit approval rating.”

The visit gave the congressman something to share with those veterans who ask if their efforts accomplished anything.

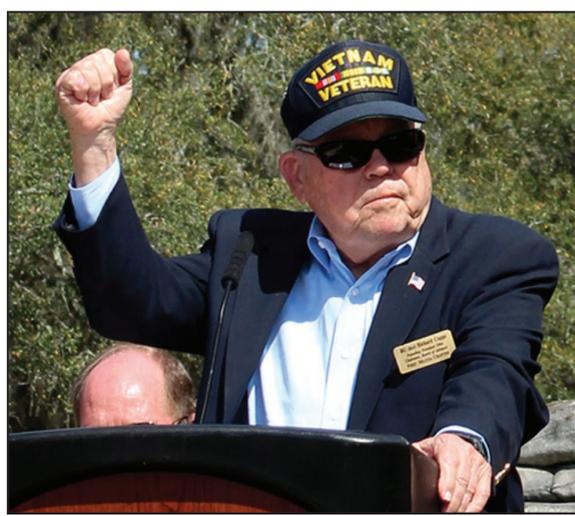
“I’m here to tell you that the reason the United States of America has a 97.3-percent approval rating is because of the service, the dedication and the professionalism with which you served as United States soldiers,” Yoho said. “I thank you.”

Camp Blanding Post Commander Col. Matt Johnson encouraged those in attendance to express their thanks as well. After asking Vietnam veterans to stand, Johnson said, “The Vietnam War commemoration’s cause is indeed noble. Thanking and honoring these veterans and families is the right thing to do. I encourage everyone here to please take a moment before you depart to reach out and shake a hand of one of those who just stood. They all deserve our thanks and admiration.”

Congressman Ted Yoho (left) shakes hands with Vietnam veteran Larry Scott of Huntsville, Alabama. Scott was in the area visiting his son, who lives in Middleburg.



Maj. Gen. Michael Calhoun (left), Florida’s adjutant general, shakes hands with Vietnam veteran Dean Strickland, who is from Hawthorne and is involved in the Hampton Veterans Memorial Fund. Vietnam veterans in attendance received commemorative medals at the conclusion of Camp Blanding’s Vietnam War Veterans Day ceremony.



Retired Brig. Gen. Richard Capps gives a salute to his fellow Vietnam veterans and says, “Welcome home, brothers.”



George Cressman (left), president of the Camp Blanding Museum, talks with Starke’s Roy DeCelle.

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Community group helps 25 families for Easter

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

A local woman's desire to help people is making the holidays happier times for needy families in Bradford County.

Sonya Stack, who is assisted by Tiffany Hodges and Amanda Moore, has created Feeding Bradford Co. Families for the Holidays, which began last year. On March 30, Stack, Hodges, Moore and volunteers were sorting and delivering food to take to 25 families, along with 73 Easter baskets for the children in those families.

Businesses like The Downtown Grill and Florida Twin Theatre supported the group's Easter effort.

"The community has stepped up," Stack said. "I'm overwhelmed."

Stack said a "little spark" in her heart spurred into doing something for families in Bradford County. She began putting donation boxes in various places and was able to provide meals to 15 families for Thanksgiving last year.

At Christmas, Stack was able to provide meals to 18 families. Plus, seven children were able to receive what she called "complete Christmases" in the form of multiple presents and — for one child — a Christmas tree.

"It's just been amazing," Stack said. "It's a blessing. It's just something that started small in my heart. I had no idea I'd be able to feed 15 families the first time."

Families are nominated by school bus drivers, who are in a good position to determine if children are needy.

For Easter, meals consisting of turkeys, hams and various side items, plus cake mixes and tea. People like Tracy Moore and Patricia Kirkland



Jennifer Davis (left) and Tonya Barnhart load bags for deliveries.



Tonya Hodges sorts through Easter baskets.

helped provide the turkeys and hams.

"Our turkeys are huge," Stack said. "They're like 15 pounds. The hams are like 10 to 15 pounds.

All the children in each family that received food received an Easter basket, filled with candy and items such as crayons, plush animals, nail polish, footballs



Sonya Stack (far left), who started Feeding Bradford Co. Families for the Holidays, talks to Peggy Glover (center) and Amanda Moore.

and ear buds, all dependent on the age and sex of the child.

Stack said she calls each family with the news that they've been nominated to receive meals and to make sure someone's home when the deliveries are made. Some members of the Easter families asked Stack if the Easter baskets could be kept hidden because they wanted their children to think the Easter Bunny had delivered them. A lot of those children wouldn't have received baskets otherwise.

"It melts your heart," Stack said.

At first, Feeding Bradford Co. Families for the Holidays consisted of just Stack and Hodges, who is Stack's sister-in-law. Stack described herself as "the loud one" that gives orders, talks on the phone and helps obtain donations, while Hodges is more of the logistics person.

"She's the one who keeps everything straight," Stack said of Hodges. "I'm the bad one. I'm the one who's running around and telling

everybody what to do."

Moore has also joined the organization and had contributed greatly with social media advertising, Stack said.

The effort may have started with a "little spark" in her heart, but it has grown, thanks to a number of caring individuals.

If you, too, would like to become involved with Feeding Bradford Co. Families for the Holidays or support the organization in any way, please call Stack at 904-364-7106.

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Starke Kiwanians hold golf tournament



The team of (l-r) Gavin Sanford, Joe Sanford, Nick Tyre and Jeff Tyre won this year's Kiwanis Club of Starke golf tournament, which was held March 30 at the Starke Golf and Country Club. The first-place prize was \$200. The tournament's major sponsors were Lake Area McDonald's and Murray Automotive Group Superstores.



Above: Placing second at the Kiwanis of Starke golf tournament was the team of (l-r) Johnny Johns, Terry Vaughan, Josh Marshall and Tatum Davis. The team donated its \$150 winnings back to the club.

Right: The Kiwanis of Starke golf tournament's third-place team consisted of (l-r) Daniel Davis, Scott Davis, Kyle Davis and (not pictured) Shaun Burgin. The team won \$100.



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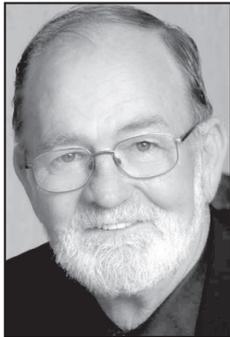
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Obituaries



Fate Harper

GRAHAM—Fate Harper, age 74, of Graham passed away on Saturday, March 31, 2018 at North Florida Regional Medical Center in Gainesville. He was born in Providence on April 21, 1943 to the late Clarence Dewitt Harper and Verlie Renfroe Harper. Fate was raised in Bradford County and started working at an early age. He was self employed for many years, was the District Manager at Super Test, an oil company in Leesburg for a few years, he owned and operated the Gulf Gas Station, better known as "The Fillin Station" in Starke, and most recently worked at the Community State Bank as a collector. He was most proud of his occupation at Community State Bank where he served 16 years and was currently employed. Fate was a jack of all trades who was always working. In his spare time, he enjoyed hunting, fishing, remodeling and rebuilding projects, manicuring his lawn and gardening. He had a green thumb and could grow anything. More than anything, Fate loved his family and

loved being a husband to his wife of 38 years, Mary Harper, companion and fiancée to Mary Looney, father, grandfather, brother, and friend. Fate was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Mary Ann Harper; son, Dewey Grundy; sister, Annette Bowen; and brother, James "Alex" Harper.

Fate is survived by his loving fiancée, Mary Looney of Graham; his children, Ricky Harper of Lady Lake, Cherie Harper, and Mike (Dianne) McFarland of Starke; his daughter-in-law, Debbie Taylor; his sister, Claudia (Jerry) Plouffe of Crawfordville; his grandchildren, Chris (Christy) McFarland, Donna Masters, Nathan (Jordan) Grundy, Jennifer (Roy) Highland, Megan Grundy, Preslee Looney, Tristan Looney, Caitlin Looney, James Clark, and Courtney Clark; his great-grandchildren, Hannah, Lucas, Madison, Allie, Reid, Marisa, and Augusta; along with numerous extended family members.

A Celebration of Fate's Life will be held on Saturday, April 7, at 11:00 am at Sampson City Church of God with Reverend Zeb Cook officiating. Interment will follow at Santa Fe Cemetery in Hampton. The family will receive friends on Friday, April 6, 2018 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm at the church.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations in Fate's honor to Shop with a Cop at the Community State Bank, 811 South Walnut Street, Starke, FL, 32091, 904-964-7830. 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.



Daniel Hagan

STARKE—Daniel Hagan, 80, of Starke died Friday, March 29, 2018 at Riverwood Health and Rehabilitation Nursing Home. He was of the Methodist faith and fellowshiped with the community churches of Bradford County. He attended the local schools of Starke. He was employed with a construction company.

He is survived by: sisters, Rosa Dempf, Annie Williams, Leona Frazier and Margaret Dempf; and

Anthony Gravely

STARKE—Anthony Glenn Gravely, age 66, of Starke died Thursday, March 22, 2018 at Veterans Hospital, Lake City.

A memorial service will be held April 8 at 2 pm at Evergreen Cemetery behind Florida State Prison with Reverend Jimmy Scott officiating.

PAID OBITUARY

Grover Phillips Jr.

LAKE BUTLER—Grover Cleveland Phillips Jr., 95, of Lake Butler died on Saturday, March 31, 2018. He was born in Roane County, Tennessee. He moved to Union County in 1961. He served in the United States Army as a medic. Later he became a store owner and a salesman. He is preceded in death

by: his father, Grover Phillips Sr.; mother, Beatrice Phillips.

He is survived by: sons, Grover Dean Phillips, David "Tuffy" Phillips; daughters, Virginia Phillips, Margaret "Bitsy" Phillips; sister, Laura Belle Brown; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Arrangements are under the care of Archer Funeral Home, Lake Butler.



William Reynolds, Jr.

HIGHLANDS, NORTH CAROLINA—William L. "Bill" Reynolds, Jr. of Highlands, NC, age 89, passed away on Saturday, March 24, 2018.

He is survived by: wife, Elaine Westphal Reynolds of Highlands; sons, Charles K. (Christine) Reynolds of Franklin, North Carolina, William H. Reynolds of Marietta, Georgia, Frank Andrew (Lori) Reynolds of Marietta, Georgia; daughter, Marni Rose Reynolds of Minneapolis, Minnesota; and step-daughter Susan Coffeen of Long Creek, South Carolina. Surviving grandchildren are: Arthur Reynolds Potts, Amy Anderson, Catherine Reynolds, Carah Reynolds, Macy Samuels and Lily Reynolds and great-grandchildren, Cayden Anderson and Chase Anderson and a sister Emily Reynolds Thomas Dale of Jacksonville.

PAID OBITUARY

Jackie Kiser

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Jackie Sawyer Kiser, 65, of Keystone Heights died Tuesday, April 3, 2018. Full obituary is incomplete at this time.

Viewing will begin at 1:00 p.m.,

many other family members.

Funeral Services will be held at 2:30 pm on Saturday April 7 in the Church of God by Faith Church, Starke. Interment will be held in Oddfellow Cemetery Starke. Arrangements are under the direction of Haile Funeral Home Inc, Starke. Visitation will be held on April 6 in the Carl D. Haile Memorial Chapel. Friends 4-6:00 pm. The Cortège will form at the home of Hagan 17774 Northwest 62d Avenue (Pleasant Grove) Starke on Saturday April 7th 2018 at 2:00 pm.

Tuesday, April 10 at Trinity Baptist Church with funeral services beginning at 2:00 p.m. with Pastor Jim Snell officiating. Interment will follow at the Keystone Heights Cemetery. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Keystone Heights.

grandchildren Kimberly Pogue, Robert Reynolds and Chance Reynolds along with several great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m., Thursday, April 5, in the DeWitt C. Jones Chapel with Pastor Steve Matchett officiating. Interment will follow at Crosby Lake Cemetery. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Keystone Heights.. www.jonesgallagherfh.com (352) 473-3176

PAID OBITUARY



PAID OBITUARY

Henry Cohens

STARKE—Henry L. Cohens, 72, died on Sunday, April 1, 2018 at Halifax Health Hospice in Ormond Beach. He was a graduate of Florida State University. He served in the US Army. He worked for the Post Office.

He is survived by: children, Katrina Cohens, Gainesville, Patrick (Nikkya) Cohens, Chesapeake, Virginia, Brandy Cohens, Beaufort, South Carolina; sisters, Lillie B. Scott Jones, Vanessa A. Bethea, Starke, Linzer R. Wright, Gainesville, Ruth E. Green, Tallahassee, Louise E. (Gerald) Jefferson Orange, Park, Carolyn S. Hines, Jacksonville, Brenda E. (Earl) Sherman, Deland; brothers, Aphonsil (Etta) Scott, Jr., Reddick, Leon (Patricia) Scott, Archer, Joe A. (Elaine) Cohens, New York, Robert R. (Audrey) Brown, Jacksonville, Waiscel L. (Jetta) Hines, Germany; six grandchildren; and many other family members.

Funeral Services will be held 3:00 pm on Sunday, April 08, at Starke Church of God By Faith, Bishop James McKnight, Pastor. Interment will be in the Jacksonville National Cemetery.

Visitation will be held on Friday from 3-7:00 and on Saturday from 4-6:00 pm at J. Hadley Funeral Home, 2030 North Temple Ave, Starke.



Ruby Lewis

STARKE—Ruby Hinton Lewis, age 92, of Starke passed away Saturday, March 31, 2018 at Shands Hospital in Starke. She was born Jan. 30, 1926 in Fort Pierce to the late Steadmond and Cornelia (Sapp) Hinton and has been a resident of Starke since 1939. Mrs. Lewis was not only a homemaker, she was an excellent seamstress and enjoyed sewing and crocheting. She was the oldest attending member of Pine Level Baptist Church, and enjoyed camping and especially watching the deer on her property. Her husband Robert Earl "Bobby" Lewis had preceded her in death as well as her sister Willie Grinavitch and son-in-law Milton Reynolds.

Mrs. Lewis is survived by: two daughters, Sherry Lewis Fullwood (Ray Fales) of Starke and Sandy Lewis Reynolds of Cross Creek; three sisters, Jo Holmes of Cocoa Beach, Gwen Nichols of Deltona, and Minnie McNeil of Vero Beach. Also left behind, three

She is survived by her husband of 40 years, Larry Joe Douglass; daughter, Danielle (Lou) Neumann; sons, Larry Joe (Tracie) Douglass and James Edward (Amanda) Douglass; six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; brother, Jay (Pam) Parrish; sister, Irene (Pat) Castlen; and many other family members.

A funeral service was held on March 29, at Archer Funeral Home. Arrangements were under the care of Archer Funeral Home, Lake Butler.

Memorial Gardens in Orange Park. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Keystone Heights.

Elizabeth Douglass

UNION COUNTY—Elizabeth P. Douglass died at her home surrounded by her family. She was a lifelong resident of Union County. She was born to the late Steve Lee Parrish and Linnie Etta Waters Parrish. Preceded by one sister, Gere Parrish Douglass and two brothers, Allen Parrish and Stephen (Red) Parrish.

Lucille Ellis

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Lucille Maxine Ellis, 93, of Keystone Heights died Monday, April 2, 2018 at Putnam Community Hospital in Palatka. She was born July 23, 1924 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada and had moved to Keystone Heights in 1984 from Jacksonville. She was of the Baptist faith and a homemaker. Her husband, Roy Ellis preceded her in death as well as her siblings.

Survivors are: her two sons Michael Ellis of Melrose and Gary Lee Ellis of Gainesville.

Visitation will be held Friday, April 6 between 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in the funeral home chapel. A graveside service will follow at 2:30 p.m. at Jacksonville



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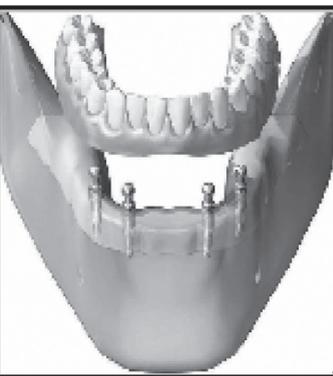
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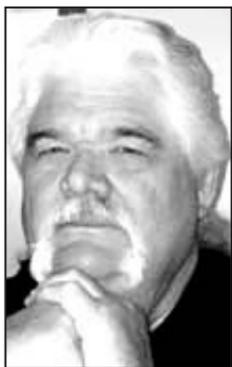
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Mark Wainwright, Sr.

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Mark Gregory Wainwright, Sr., age 59, of Keystone Heights passed away on Friday, March 23, 2018 at his home. Mark was born in Jacksonville on Dec. 6, 1958 to Marion Francis and Martha Gayle (Pringle) Wainwright. Raised in Jacksonville, he moved to Keystone Heights with his family 20 years ago. Mark was an active member of AMVETS Post 86 in

Keystone Heights and enjoyed hunting, riding four wheelers, and mudding. Most importantly, he was dedicated to his family and would always speak of how proud he was of his children. He will be deeply missed by those who knew and loved him.

Preceded in death by his father, Marion, he is survived by his beloved children, Mark “Greg” (Stephanie) Wainwright, Jr. of Keystone Heights, Matthew T. (Claire) Wainwright of Bishop, Georgia, and Abigail Wainwright of Crescent City; mother, Martha Cowan of Crescent City; and brother, Mike Wainwright of Lake City. Also left behind are his grandchildren, Ethan Wainwright, Brett Williams, Allie Williams, Pippa Wainwright, and Millie Wainwright; as well as numerous other family members, and friends.

A Memorial Service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 7, 2018 at AMVETS Post 86, 6685 Brooklyn Bay Road, Keystone Heights. Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Keystone Heights. 352-473-3176. www.jonesgallagherfh.com

PAID OBITUARY

Ella Willis

GAINESVILLE— Ella Mae Willis, 92, of Gainesville died on Friday, March 30, 2018. She was born in Lake Butler to the late Paul and Loca Renfroe. She taught Sunday school. She was a member of Lenox Avenue Church of God in Jacksonville. She was a homemaker. She is preceded in death by: mother,

Loca Renfroe; and father, Paul Renfroe; and her husband of 47 years, James Willis.

She is survived by: brother, James “Reamer” Renfroe; sisters, Dorothy Clyatt, Loca McDavid; and many other family members.

A graveside service was held on April 3 at Elzey Chapel Cemetery. Arrangements are under the care of Archer Funeral Home, Lake Butler.

BHS’ Mackey to play football at Limestone

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Bradford High School senior D.J. Mackey may lack experience, but his potential was apparent to a few schools, including Gaffney, South Carolina’s Limestone College, which offered him a scholarship to play football.

Mackey, who played just one year in high school, couldn’t have imagined he would get such an opportunity, but he’s glad to take advantage of it. He signed a letter of intent to play for Limestone during a March 29 ceremony at the BHS media center.

“It’s a blessing,” said Mackey, who played the last time he played football, before his senior year at BHS, was at the age of 8.

When the defensive end was asked why he finally went out for football, he said it was at the urging of head coach Brian Tomlinson.

“He told me I was going to get a chance to play quarterback,” Mackey said with a laugh. “He never gave it to me.”

Quarterback may be the glamour position, but Mackey fell in love with playing defensive end and playing on that side of the ball in general.

“You get to hit people, and you don’t get in trouble,” he said.

Tomlinson when he took the BHS job in the spring of last year, he saw in Mackey a big-bodied basketball player he thought could contribute on the football field. Despite what he was told, Tomlinson got Mackey onto the field.

“When I got here, I had a few people tell me, ‘You’ll never get him out to play.’ He came out and stuck with it,” Tomlinson said.

Tomlinson said Mackey may be inexperienced, but his athletic ability was a standout to those colleges who took a look at him. The 6-3, 246-pound Mackey recorded 39 tackles last season and intercepted two passes, one of



Bradford High School senior D.J. Mackey (right) signs his letter of intent to play football at Limestone College as his aunt, Surena Mackey, looks on.

which he returned approximately 30 yards for a touchdown in a win over Middleburg.

“I think everybody saw how much of an athlete he is coming off the edge,” Tomlinson said, adding, “Even though he’s big, he can move.”

Mackey said schools such as Webber International University in Babson Park and William Penn University in Oskaloosa, Iowa, showed interest, but he enjoyed his experience on visit to Limestone.

“They treated me like I was family on my visit,” Mackey said. “It just felt like the best place to be.”

Tomlinson looks forward to watching how Mackey continues to develop and learn the game at Limestone.

“I think once he starts learning all the techniques he can use and stuff like that, it will help him tremendously,” Tomlinson said.

Mackey thinks his first-game experience in college will be no different than his first game as a BHS senior. After all, that was his first time suiting up for the Tornados.

“I’ll be nervous, but I’ll push through,” he said.

Tomlinson said it feels good to see a student-athlete like Mackey



Brian Tomlinson

get the chance to play at the next level.

“He worked hard,” Tomlinson said. “There were rough times at the start, but once he got the hang of it, he loved every minute of it. He’s a great, young man. He deserves nothing but the best. I’m just really proud of him and all the work he put in to be able to do this.”

KHHS baseball team wins 2nd in a row, defeats Middleburg 12-6

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

After losing four in a row, the Keystone Heights High School baseball team has won two in a row, with the latest victory coming by a 12-6 score over host Middleburg on March 29.

The Indians (6-8) got two RBI each from Trey Alsbrook, Andrew Cox, Connor Osteen and Stevie Rodriguez. Osteen went 2-for-3, while Alsbrook and Cox went 2-for-4 and 2-for-5, respectively.

Nate Gagnon had one RBI. Starting pitcher Osteen gave up one run in four innings on four hits and one walk. He had three strikeouts.

Keystone entered the game off a 4-2 District 5-5A win over host Fort White on March 27. Osteen hit a triple and had two RBI, while Gagnon went 2-for-4 with a double and an RBI.

Gary Searle drove in a run as well, while Alsbrook and Alex Kanos each went 2-for-3. Cox went 2-for-4.

Starting pitcher Gagnon gave up no runs in six innings on four hits and two walks. He had five strikeouts.

Keystone, which is now 3-4 in the district, played district opponent Newberry this past Tuesday and will travel to play Oakleaf on Thursday, April 5, at 4:30 p.m. The Indians host district opponent Palatka on Friday, April 6, at 7 p.m. before traveling to play district opponent Santa Fe on Tuesday, April 10, at 7 p.m.

Socials



Esther Riviere

101 year birthday celebration

Former Lake Region resident, Esther Riviere celebrated her 101 year birthday anniversary on March 27, 2018. Esther was associated with the Region from 1939 until 1955 and lived on Lake Santa Fe. She was feted with a luncheon for the occasion. Esther looks forward to the future and visits from some of her 30 offspring and their wives and husbands.



Bryce Vincent Jones

Jones graduates basic military training

U.S. Air Force National Guard Airman 1st Class Bryce Vincent Jones graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland in San Antonio.

Jones is a 2016 graduate of Bradford County High School, Starke.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Strawberry Invitational set for April 14-15

The Starke Golf and Country Club will host the 51st Strawberry Invitational April 14-15.

Players will be placed in one of six flights based on their first-round scores.

The entry fee is \$135 per player. Meals are included in the cost.

To register, please call the Starke Golf and Country Club at 904-964-5441, or send email to jacksonville@amateurgolf4net.net.

12 in all will represent BHS, KHHS, UCHS at state weightlifting finals

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

The Florida High School Athletic Association released its composite list of qualifiers for the Friday, April 6, Class 1A boys’ weightlifting state finals, with the results being that Keystone Heights High School will have six competing, while Bradford and Union County will have four and two, respectively.

Automatic state berths were earned by lifters who won regional championships, so as of March 24, Keystone already knew that Dan Dodd (unlimited), Carter Semione (219) and Brandon Spivey (139) would

be competing. On March 29, the Indians found out they had at-large qualifiers in Alex Cruz (183), Chase Musselman (219) and C.J. Parks (129).

Bradford had an automatic qualifier in Jakob Alvarez (unlimited). He will be joined by fellow unlimited lifter Jordan Luke and a pair of teammates that compete in the 169 class: Zion Barber and Taro Ward.

Union had no automatic qualifiers, but found out March 29 that Chase Crawford (139) and Agelu Nunu (unlimited) had earned at-large berths.

The state finals will be hosted by Arnold High School in Panama City Beach.

19 BHS, KHHS, UCHS girls’ weightlifters honored by Gainesville Sun

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Union County and Bradford high schools had six and two girls’ weightlifters earn first-team honors as The Gainesville Sun recognized 19 Union, Bradford and Keystone Heights lifters in all with the release of its All-Area teams.

Kurston Bakken, Josie Godwin, Mia Jackson and Brandy McCoy, who all won state championships, were first-team selections for Union and

were also named the Sun’s Weightlifters of the Year (see related story). McCoy, a junior, won her third straight state title, winning the 199 class with a 500-pound total. Bakken, a senior, won the unlimited class

See UC GIRLS, 6B

Curtis A. “Lex” Sanders Attorney at Law



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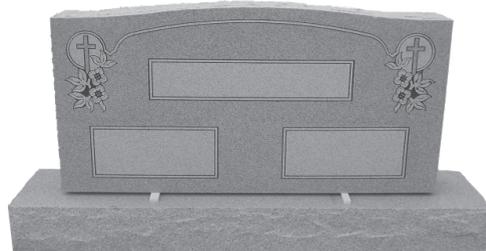
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Brandy McCoy



Josie Godwin



Kirston Bakken



Mia Jackson



Bryan Griffis



Union County High School's Kurston Bakken, Josie Godwin, Mia Jackson and Brandy McCoy, who all won state championships, were named The Gainesville's Sun's Weightlifters of the Year, while Bryan Griffis was named Coach of the Year. Brad Elixson and Julie Elixson of Woodmen Life recently dropped by the school to congratulate all of the program's state-qualifying lifters. Woodmen Life donated \$5,000 in support of the program this year. Pictured are: (front, l-r) Breyonce Cummings, Godwin, Jackson, (back, l-r) Griffis, Taylor Gainey, McCoy, Bakken, Julie Elixson and Brad Elixson.

UC GIRLS

Continued from 5B

with a 525 total, while Godwin, a junior, won the 139 class with a 355 total. Jackson, a senior, won the 169 class with a 385 total.

All four lifters won district and regional championships.

Union also had first-teamers in state qualifiers Breyonce Cummings and Taylor Gainey, who are both juniors. Cummings, competing in the 183 class, won the District 4-1A championship and was third at the Region 2 finals. Gainey, in the 154 class, won the District 4 championship and was second at the Region 2 finals.

Bradford senior Khalia Donley and junior Auriyanna Hankerson were first-team selections.

Donley placed fourth at state in the 110 class with a 255 total and won both the District 4 and Region 2 championships. Hankerson was the District 4 runner-up in the 183 class.

Four Union lifters earned second-team honors: sophomore Katie Tomlinson, who was the District 4 champion in the 101 class and placed fourth at

the Region 2 finals; freshman Madelyn Whitehead, who placed third in the 129 class at the District 4 finals and was sixth at the Region 2 finals; freshman Reah Jones, who placed third in the 139 class at the District 4 finals and was fifth at the Region 2 finals; and senior Cora Johnson, who placed third in the 154 class at the District 4 finals and was

sixth at the Region 2 finals.

Earning honorable mention for Union were senior Sydney Personette in the 110 class and freshman Erica Roseke in the 119 class.

Bradford had one earn Hannah Forshee (110), honorable mention in junior sophomore Isabella Hanna (129), Samantha Hopkins (119 class), junior Kayley Dailey (154) and

Keystone had four earn sophomore Isabelle Woodell honorable mention: senior (169).

Keystone softball clinches 1 seed in district with win over Fort White

BY BRANDON LUDWIG
Monitor Correspondent

After Keystone's loss to Union County last week, the Indians had a chance at redemption in a game against Fort White that had huge district implications.

A win for Keystone would guarantee the Indians the number-one seed and a first round bye in the district tournament later this month.

From the onset, the game was a showdown between two of District Five's best offenses, as both teams showed that they could hang with each other, Keystone holding an 8-5 lead heading into the fifth inning.

In the top of the fifth however, Keystone pulled away with doubles from Molly Crawford and Savannah Channell, along with a single from Bailey Story, which brought in five runs, and put away the game for Keystone.

The Indians clinched the number-one seed for the District Playoffs with the 13-5 win.

It was a big night for the Indians' Bailey Story, who went 4 for 5, with a double and three singles.

The Indians also had three hits from Ashleigh Jennings, and two hits each from Skylar Rollins, Ashton Ludwig, Molly Crawford, Savannah Channell, and Makayla Smith, along with a hit from Lexi Northway, to tally a total of 18 hits during the game.

From April 5 to 7, the Indians will spend the weekend in Central Florida, as they play in one of the most challenging tournaments in the state, the Kissimmee Klassic.

They'll begin the tournament by facing Bartow at 6 p.m. on Thursday night, with future games being decided from there.

They'll remain on the

road next week, as they rematch with the Hurricanes. They'll head over to Gainesville High School Alachua on Thursday, April 12, for their final District

game of the season, as they face the Santa Fe Raiders at 7 p.m.

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BHS grad Baker to be inducted into Santa Fe College Athletics Hall of Fame

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

He may never have gotten his photo on a box of cereal, but Milton Baker, a 1976 Bradford High School graduate, will be honored for his track and field achievements when he's inducted into the Santa Fe College Athletics Hall of Fame on Saturday, April 14, at 10:30 a.m. at the Fine Arts Hall on the Northwest Campus in Gainesville.

Baker's friend Willie Perry likes to joke about Baker not joining famous athletes who've had their images grace Wheaties boxes, a joke that stems from Baker having qualified for the 1980 Olympics in Moscow, which he decided not to compete in (the U.S., under President Jimmy Carter, wound up boycotting the event anyway when the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan). Yet his accomplishments in one year at Santa Fe were enough to earn Hall of Fame enshrinement. Baker won a pair of national championships in the high jump and qualified for the Mini-Olympics, winning the high jump there as well.

During his senior year at BHS, one year at Albany State University in Georgia and one year at Santa Fe, Baker lost only one high jump event. He was second that one time.

"I had migraines," Baker said. "I had gotten sick."

Still, Baker never expected to later be honored by Santa Fe.

"I couldn't believe it," he said. "I didn't finish (school). When I left there, I was jumping great, but I quit. I didn't think it would ever lead to anything."

Soaring to great high school heights

Baker, who now lives in Gainesville, competed in track and field at BHS, though he didn't start out as a high jumper. He competed in the long jump and triple jump. During his junior year, coach Grover Howard asked him to give it a try. Baker did, performing better than the teammate who was already competing in the event.

Baker, who played basketball, too, won the event the first time he ever competed in it, clearing 5-11. He won the long jump at that same meet with a distance of 21-3.

During his junior year, Baker's best high jump effort was 6-4, which was good for second at the BHS Invitational. Four times, Baker cleared 6-0, but none of those efforts resulted in wins.

His first meet as a senior resulted in him setting a school record of 45-5.25 in the triple jump. He also won the high jump at 6-2 during that meet.

Other senior year highlights included setting the school record in the high jump twice, clearing 6-6 and 6-7. He won district championships in the high jump (6-6, which broke the district record of 6-5.25) and long jump (21-6.5) and placing second at state in the high jump by clearing 6-4.

Howard, in the April 29, 1976, issue of the Telegraph, said, "The key to his success is in his take-off. It's the best of anyone I've seen, and I've seen a lot."

The best was yet to come.

Shining at collegiate and national levels

Baker accepted a scholarship to Albany State. During his one year there, he jumped 7-1 and won the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship in the event.

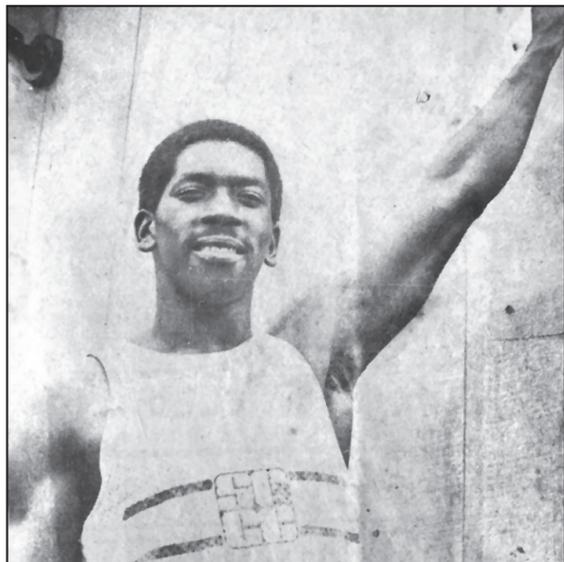
However, Baker didn't like it at Albany State. He returned



Milton Baker holds two of the National Junior College Athletic Association All-American awards he earned at Santa Fe College.



Before track and field season began, Baker could be found on the court for the Bradford High School basketball team.



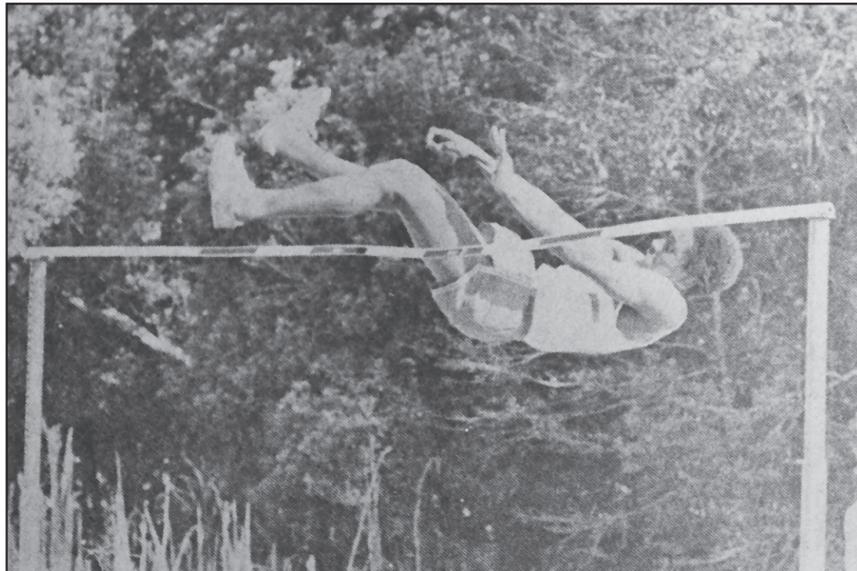
This photo of Milton Baker at Santa Fe College shows him raising his arm to demonstrate the height he jumped at the National Junior College Championships — 7-3.5.

home and enrolled in Santa Fe College, which paired him with the coach who got the most out of him — Brooks Johnson, who coached both Santa Fe and the University of Florida. Baker said Johnson took the time to explain technique to him and show him how to get better. It was Johnson who convinced him to approach the bar, jump straight up and let his momentum carry him over. Before, Baker would jump toward the bar.

"One time, he was showing me how to jump," Baker said. "I guess it was his way of motivating me, but he bet me money that I wouldn't be able to clear (the bar). It was like 7-3. I cleared it on my first jump. He

just went crazy."

While at SFC, Baker also competed at meets with UF.



Milton Baker clears 6-6 in the high jump during his senior year at Bradford High School. The height was a school record, which Baker would later break by clearing 6-7.

Since he wasn't a UF student, he competed in the open division.

James Pringle was on the UF team at that time. He also competed in the high jump and is now a member of the UF Hall of Fame. Baker said he found Pringle on Facebook a couple of months ago and asked him, "Are you the same James Pringle that high jumped back in the day?" Pringle responded, "Yeah. Are you the Milton Baker I never could beat?"

Baker won the junior college indoor national championship in Detroit by clearing 7-0, but he later jumped 7-3.5 to win the outdoor national championship in Champaign, Illinois. That result qualified him for a then new event — the Mini Olympics in Colorado Springs.

At the Mini Olympics, Baker competed with such athletes as Franklin Jacobs, whose 7-7 result in the high jump was the world indoor record. Baker, who stands 6 feet, was impressed with the 5-8 Jacobs.

"It was amazing just to watch that guy walk to the bar and leap over it like he did," Baker said.

The coach who worked with the high jumpers at the Mini Olympics said he'd be pleased with Baker if he could place third.

"He didn't even think I could win it," Baker said. "I told him, 'I'm going to win.' I was fired up."

Win is exactly what Baker did. Baker admitted Jacobs was having a bad day, but he did not. Baker cleared 7-5.

The performance earned him the right to compete in the 1980 Olympics, but Baker wouldn't have competed even if the U.S.-led boycott didn't take place. He got a woman pregnant and got a job instead.

After an unbelievable year, Baker, who could've taken advantage of opportunities at larger schools, was done with college and done with competing.

"I wanted to do the right thing," he said.

Moving on in life

Baker has had regrets about

the way things turned out, which is understandable. Who knows how high he could've gone as a high jumper?

However, he never dwelled on the past, choosing instead to move forward on the path he believes God created for him.

"Like anyone else, I've had my ups and downs, but I've been blessed," Baker said.

One of those blessings is having his own business. Baker used to drive a truck for a living, but also worked with his brother-in-law at times to make some extra money. His brother-in-law had a lawn service.

"I just started cutting a few yards here and there," Baker said.

Baker's mother, Ruby Fisher, has Alzheimer's. As the disease began affecting her, Baker decided to stop driving trucks so he would always be nearby if she needed assistance. Thus, Baker went into lawn care full time, creating Milton Baker Lawn Service Inc. in Gainesville. He said he was able to triple his truck-driving salary.

"I've had it for 20 years now," Baker said. "I make a very good

See BAKER, 12B

The Weekly Paw Print:

April is officially here and with it comes Heartworm Awareness Month! Okay, so its not as exciting as Easter or Spring but it is relevant as we have already diagnosed 13+ cases in 2018 so far. So I thought we might have a brief refresher course this week about these nasty little buggers. Heartworm disease is a serious and potentially fatal disease in pets in the United States and many other parts of the world. It is caused by foot-long worms (heartworms) that live in the heart, lungs and associated blood vessels of affected pets, causing severe lung disease, heart failure and damage to other organs in the body. Heartworm disease affects dogs, cats and ferrets, but heartworms also live in other mammal species, including wolves, coyotes, foxes, sea lions and—in rare instances—humans. Because wild species such as foxes and coyotes live in proximity to many urban areas, they are considered important carriers of the disease. The mosquito plays an essential role in the heartworm life cycle. Adult female heartworms living in an infected dog, fox, coyote, or wolf produce microscopic baby worms called microfilaria that circulate in the bloodstream. When a mosquito bites and takes a blood meal from an infected animal, it picks up these baby worms, which develop and mature into "infective stage" larvae over a period of 10 to 14 days. Then, when the infected mosquito bites another dog, cat, or susceptible wild animal, the infective larvae are deposited onto the surface of the animal's skin and enter the new host through the mosquito's bite wound. Annual testing is necessary, even when dogs are on heartworm prevention year-round, to ensure that the prevention program is working. Heartworm medications are highly effective, but dogs can still become infected. For that reason, the American Heartworm Society recommends that you "think 12:" (1) get your pet tested every 12 months for heartworm and (2) give your pet heartworm preventive 12 months a year. For more information on heartworms check out www.heartwormsociety.org/pet-owner-resources

I hope you guys had a great Easter!

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We also support, Bradford County football, softball, baseball & our local kids in the FFA.

We all as business owners in this community need to support our future, our kids, with the help they need to succeed.

We have grown tremendously since 1999, having recently purchasing our current facility after maintaining a 2 year lease. We are extremely excited about all of the renovations we are undertaking to operate more

efficiently. We hired Mitch Andrews from Union County as our Service Writer & we are nothing short of ecstatic with his performance!

We are proud to say our office staff is amazing. They treat our customers with respect and genuinely care about their concerns. We would like to thank each one individually.

Diane (Dee) Rainey - Office Coordinator, Madison Kosmos - Director of Marketing & our newest addition Meagan Hughes.

Pete & I firmly believe in treating all of our employees like family.

We have a tremendous group of Service Technicians that

we would like to recognize. Leroy Jenkins, Henry Linkkila, Slugger (Jerry) Johnson, Eric Knight, Russ Wolfe - a soon to be graduate of J-Tech institute in Jacksonville & James Sanders. That gives us a combined total of over 65 years of experience. Thanks guys for your loyalty & devotion!

We keep our Technicians up to date on all training available to them. We purchase the

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Duane Roberts, Robert Bernier, Matt Harden & of course owner Pete Kosmos.

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Thanks to all who have played a role in our success, Pete & Kitty Kosmos



One of the service trucks at Florida Tractor Repair, ready to roll if a customer needs assistance.



The management and staff at Florida Tractor Repair: (standing left to right) Owner Pete Kosmos, Robert Bernier, Matt Harden, Diane Rainey, Meagan Hughes, Chic Geisinger, Mitch Andrews, Owner Kitty Kosmos (holding Turbo, the shop cat), Henry Linkkila, Bryan Lester, James Sander. (in front) Slugger (Jerry) Johnson, Leroy Jenkins and Shelby the shop dog.

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How to survive Marine boot camp

Keystone Heights man recalls his 13 weeks on Parris Island



Christopher Roberts with his grandparents: JoAnne and Ken Sayers.

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Managing Editor

A member of the Keystone United Methodist Church returned to his hometown after completing Marine boot camp to thank the congregation for its support and to reflect on his experiences on Parris Island.

Christopher Roberts told the church, during a Wednesday night meeting that his 13 weeks in South Carolina was long and tough.

"I wouldn't do it again," he said. "It was very hard, but it was hard for a reason."

Week 1: Receiving Week

Roberts said that for the first 48 hours on the island, recruits stay awake. That began the first week of training Receiving Week. During that first week, recruits undergo initial evaluations, get a haircut and are issued gear and uniforms.

Roberts said Receiving Week is a little deceptive, because during that time the recruits only have one drill instructor. He added that at the end of the first week, he and his fellow recruits were shocked to see the additional men who would lead them through the remaining 12 weeks: five drill instructors.

"The senior drill instructor told us that the goal is to break the recruits, so the instructors can then build them back up," Roberts said.

He added that the other instructors were a knowledge hat: responsible for teaching Marine Corps history and other knowledge, a drill hat: responsible for drill and movements and a kill hat, responsible for discipline.

"We had two of those," Roberts recalled of the kill hats. "They were the ones who messed us up all the time."

Roberts also described an

episode during Receiving Week called the Moment of Truth: a time for recruits to come clean in the event they lied about their medical histories or backgrounds during the enlistment process.

"If you lied, you raised your hand during the moment of truth," he recalled. "We never saw them again."

A very bad decision

It was also during Receiving Week that Roberts discovered the mistake he made that would haunt him throughout the entire 13-week boot camp: shaving his head before he arrived on Parris Island.

"My recruiters told me to let my hair grow out," he said. Roberts ignored the advice and spoiled a boot camp tradition.

"I made a very bad name for myself the first day," he said. "So, boot camp was especially hard for me. That first impression that you give your drill instructors is the only impression they need."

"The drill instructors target the people who look like they are going to be the hardest to break," he added. "I guess I was one of them."

Roberts said that he became such a target for the drill instructors that at the end of the 13 weeks, parents of other recruits came up to him and said, "You are the one that got yelled at. My son wrote about you in his letters to home."

However, there was one benefit to receiving the unwanted attention of the drill instructors.

"Everybody in my platoon loved me because when the drill instructors were messing with me, they weren't messing with anybody else," Roberts said.

He added that the second week consisted mainly of getting to know the drill instructors and the instructors becoming familiar with the recruits.

"It's nothing but pick this up, put it down," he said. "Do this.

Do that. Scream as loud as you can."

The gas chamber and rifle training

Another milestone was the gas chamber, where the recruits are exposed to tear gas and practice deploying their masks and chemical gear.

"It's something that is done in every branch of the military," Roberts said. "Ours is a little bit different. We have to do certain exercises. They would rip our gas masks off our faces and throw it across the room. People were sick and crying. It was not fun."

The training also forced Roberts to face his fear of heights. For someone like the Keystone Heights resident, the 65-foot-high tower was a struggle.

Roberts said Rifle Week is a seven-day period where the recruits are trained in marksmanship. He won the sharpshooter award during the week.

"You have marksman, sharpshooter and expert," he said. "Sadly, I fell five points short of expert."

The week before Rifle Week is Grass Week, so named because recruits sit in the grass for hours, sighting targets with their rifles.

"That was painful because I'm

See CAMP, 12B

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Lake Butler Women's Club wins 9 state awards

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Editor

The Lake Butler Women's Club is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC), an international organization which began in 1895. Currently, there are more than 90,000 women who are members of Women's Clubs in the United States and numerous foreign countries.

The federation, and its member clubs, have always promoted the arts, conservation, education, home life, legislation and public policy, domestic violence awareness and many other worthy causes. Each year, member clubs are encouraged to undertake projects and activities in these and other volunteer areas. Each club reports annually to the district, state and national organizations concerning hours spent, contributions made and dollars donated. Clubs are judged on these activities according to the size of their membership (the club's category), in all three areas.

The Lake Butler Women's Club is a member of District Four in Florida. Recently, the Florida District gave out awards to District Four clubs who have reached their goals in helping their area and others in the past reporting year, 2017.

Recently, Lake Butler Women's Club President Ann Hendricks traveled to Jacksonville to a district meeting at the Lakeshore Women's Club. The annual awards were announced and presented at this meeting.

Hendricks was excited to report to both the club and the Times that the local club was awarded nine awards, eight of



Lake Butler Women's Club President Ann Hendricks

which were either first or second place in the district for the club's category. These awards were:

- First Place – Arts.
- First Place – Outstanding Accomplishment in Programs.
- Third Place – Conservation.
- Second Place – Outstanding Contribution to the GFWC Community Service Programs – Education.
- Second Place – Home Life.
- First Place – Legislation and Public Policy.
- Certificate of Award for Participation in Membership.
- Certificate of Award for Participation in Leadership.
- Award for Contributing to

GFWC Signature Project – Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention.

Of the award the club has won, Hendricks said, "The members of our local club are to be commended for their hard work and giving unselfishly of their time and talents to make our club the success it is. It is my pleasure to be the president of such willing ladies."

On May 2018 in Orlando, the awards for the state of Florida will be given at the annual convention, with all of the clubs in Florida competing in their categories.

Lake Butler Woman's Cub offers scholarship to help women in community

BY BOBBY MORGAN
Lake Butler Woman's Club

The Lake Butler Woman's Club offers a \$500 scholarship for a female resident of Union County to attend an accredited university in the state of Florida. Factors that are used in evaluating the applicant include but are not limited to the following criteria: academic performance in high school or GED, goals in education, involvement in the school or community, career goals, and financial need.

Under the leadership of Debe Stephenson, past president who served in 1993, the groundwork began for establishing a scholarship to help women in our community further their education. The scholarship was to be given to a young woman who after furthering her education would possibly return to our community and be able to give back. Approval by

the club members allowed the first scholarship to be given to a deserving young lady in 1994. The recipient received a check for \$200.00. In 2014, the amount increased to \$500.00. The past two years the scholarship funds

were donated by the family of Joan Gartman, who was a dedicated member of the club for many years.

See CLUB, 12B

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Cohen drives in 5 runs in Tigers' 12-5 win over Tornadoes

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Kamaya Cohen drove in five runs for the Union County High School softball team, which defeated host Bradford 12-5 on March 29.

The Tigers (10-2) built a 7-0 lead, thanks to a four-run third inning that featured an RBI triple by Cohen and RBI singles by Kensley Hamilton and Brooke Waters.

Cohen and Hamilton each went 3-for-5, with Hamilton finishing with the one RBI. Randa Godwin went 2-for-2 with

two RBI, while Teala Howard went 3-for-4. Waters finished with the one RBI, while Reah Jones had an RBI as well.

Pitcher Lexi Androlevich earned the win, giving up no runs in 2.1 innings of relief. She allowed three hits and one walk, while striking out four.

Bradford's Gracie Blankenship hit a two-run double as part of a four-run fifth inning that pulled the Tornadoes (7-8) within 7-5. She went 3-for-4 with the two RBI, while Harli Phillips went 2-for-4 with a double and one RBI. Savana Shealey had an RBI

as well.

The Tornadoes entered the game off an 8-5 District 5-5A win at Fort White on March 27.

Hannah Hildebran, who hit a two-run double as part of a four-run fifth inning, and Brooklyn Wiggins each had two RBI, with Wiggins going 2-for-4 with a double. Phillips and Shianne Cassels each had an RBI, going 2-for-4 and 2-for-3, respectively. One of Cassels' hits was a double.

Emily McCoy and Maggie Olive each had an RBI, while Shealey hit a double.

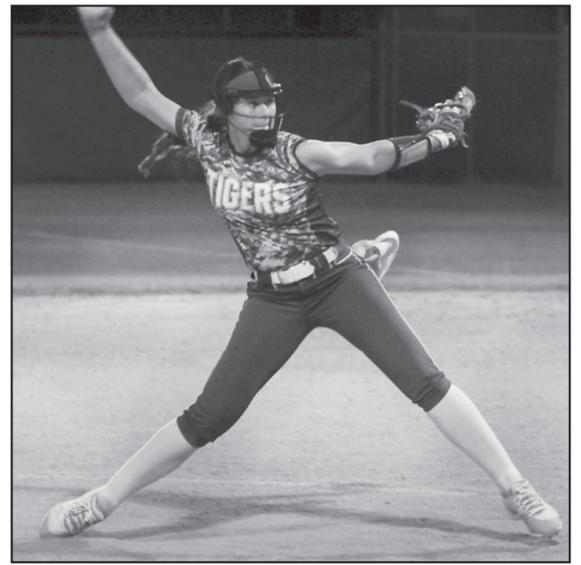
Shealey earned the win in

three innings of relief, giving up one run on three hits.

The win evened Bradford's district record at 5-5.

Union, which hosted Bradford this past Monday, will host Trinity Christian on Thursday, April 5, at 7 p.m. before traveling to play Madison County on Friday, April 6, at 7 p.m.

The Tornadoes played district opponent Palatka this past Tuesday and will play at West Nassau on April 5 at 6:30 p.m. Bradford returns home to play district opponent Santa Fe on Tuesday, April 10, at 7 p.m.



Lexi Androlevich pitches for Union. Photo by Cliff Smelley.



Bradford first basema Savana Shealey stretches to make a catch, while Union's Angela Shope reaches safely. Photo by Donny Joiner.



Gracie Blankenship hits a fourth-inning single for Bradford. She went 3-for-4. Photo by Cliff Smelley.



Bradford second baseman Shianne Cassels makes a play. Photo by Cliff Smelley.



Emily McCoy makes a play in left field for the Tornadoes. Photo by Cliff Smelley.



Kensley Hamilton gets a hit for the Tigers. She went 3-for-5. Photo by Cliff Smelley.



Union's Shelby Spratlin settles under a fly ball in right field. Photo by Cliff Smelley.



Kamaya Cohen bats for the Tigers. She went 3-for-5.



Teala Howard lays down a bunt for Union. She went 3-for-4. Photo by Donny Joiner.



Union's Randa Godwin (left) takes a lead at first, while Bradford first baseman Maggie Olive waits to make a potential play. Photo by Cliff Smelley.

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CAMP

Continued from 9B

not the most flexible and neither were the other men who were in boot camp with me," he said.

He added that the drill sergeants played mental games with the recruits while they sat silently on the rifle range.

"They will come up and whisper in your ear and try to make you laugh," he said. "If you do, you have to run around Parris Island for the rest of the day."

A reason behind the madness

"It was not fun, but it was all

for a reason," he added. "The drill sergeants said: 'there's a reason behind the madness,' and there's a lot of truth in that."

"Now, I can see how I've changed: what my weak points are, how I've adapted and how I've strengthened those weak points," he said.

Roberts also said that his training cycle was the first to undergo four phases of boot camp: an attempt by Marine leaders to smooth the transition from recruit to marine.

"What would happen is that you would get into the fleet and the new marines would still be in that recruit mentality," said Roberts. "They weren't really acting like Marines. They were still acting like recruits."

The change added an additional seven days to Marine

Week: a period of one-on-one tutoring between the instructors and recruits.

"They mentor you," Roberts said. "They sit down with you and help you understand things you didn't get."

Roberts said that drill instructors are held accountable for the actions of their charges, even after the new marines join the fleet.

"You are a reflection of your drill instructor," he said. "If you get in the fleet and you mess up, they will ask you: who was your drill instructor? If I mess up, that's going to look really bad on him, because he was responsible for training me."

Roberts said that prior to Marine Week, the recruits faced one final hurdle to becoming marines: The Crucible.

"It's as bad as it sounds," he said. "It's 54 hours of continuous training. It doesn't matter how hot, how cold. You sleep outside, you sleep in a hole, you sleep when you can. We took 30-minute breaks here and there and then you're back on your feet."

His breaking point

He also said that The Crucible reinforces the importance of teamwork and leadership.

"If you are an individual, you're not going to make it," he said. "That was one thing that was really hard for people to learn."

It was also during The Crucible that Roberts reached his breaking point.

He said it occurred during an

exercise that reenacted the Battle of Fallujah: the 2004 operation in Iraq in which the First Marine Expeditionary Force was ordered to expel extremists from the city and capture the killers of four military contractors and five American soldiers.

Roberts said that his team's mission was to evacuate a casualty. The exercise involved a five-mile hike to the location of the casualty: a 100-pound CPR dummy. The four people in Roberts' fire team were then to carry the casualty back to a simulated helicopter.

"My job was to point out IEDs (improvised explosive devices)," Roberts said. "We evac the casualty and on the way back, I took it upon myself to carry the casualty. I wasn't paying attention and my friend to my right stepped on what would have been an IED. So, by the

rules of the event, he was now a casualty, so the person to my left was now responsible for carrying him, which left only one person providing security."

Roberts said when the team made it back to the fabricated helicopter, he reported the incident to his drill instructor.

"He wasn't screaming at me," Roberts recalled, "but he said to me: 'Roberts, you are the reason someone is going to get killed in combat one day, it's going to be because of people like you. It's going to be your fault. You are going to have to look their parents in the eye and tell them their son is not coming home because of a stupid mistake that you made.'"

"That was my breaking point," Roberts added. "I did not recover from that. I did get back on my feet, but it wasn't like I expected. It took a toll on me."

At the conclusion of The Crucible, the recruits hiked 13 miles to the Iwo Jima Monument.

"Our company first sergeant gave us a speech, and that is when we officially became Marines," he said.

"He formed us up into columns and rows, and our drill instructors handed us our eagle, globe and anchor. That was the first time your drill instructor looked you in the eye and said 'good job son, you made it. You're a United States Marine.'"

"It was the most emotional day of my life," Roberts added. "Those 13 weeks of me getting messed up and yelled at — it made it all worth it."

CLUB

Continued from 12B

Kimberly Cunningham Perryman was the first recipient of the scholarship. She went on to become a registered nurse. She is an amazing woman who still lives in Union County and has served our community in the school system as well as the Union County Health Department and continues to give back to our community.

Recipients of recent years are Savannah Woodall, Lexi Whitehead, and Molly Zapp. Savannah has recently graduated from the University of Florida and is continuing her education in pursuit of a master's degree. Lexi and Molly are both in school full time; Lexi at University of Florida and Molly at University of North Florida. All three young women have continued to be involved in our community either by substituting in our school system, tutoring students individually, or church involvement.

In the spring of each year the previous recipient is invited to the Woman's Club to speak. It is amazing to hear her experiences, accomplishments, and get an update on her education. This is just one small way that the Woman's Club can play it forward and have a positive impact on the lives of young ladies in our community.

BAKER

Continued from 7B

living."

Unexpected honor

He may have put his past behind him, but he gets to revisit it with his induction into the Santa Fe College Athletics Hall of Fame, 40 years after he last competed in the high jump.

Baker said more than 30 people have told him they would be at the induction, including 20 family members who reside in Jacksonville — his brother, Ken Jenkins, and his sister Roseanne Dixon live there — and his sister Kerry Fisher from Orlando as well as a niece from New York. He expects a few Starke residents to be there also.

He's excited, but don't ask him about what he's going to say in front of all those people. He doesn't have a speech prepared as of yet.

"I hope I don't go first," Baker said. "Let someone else start it off. I'll piggy back off of theirs."

What makes the honor extra special is the fact that his old coach, Brooks Johnson, is also being inducted.

"He's probably going to have a few jokes to tell about me," Baker said. "He's a joker. There's no telling what he's going to say."

Baker may be unsure about the content of his speech, but he knows he'll talk about Johnson. He'll never forget how the coach took the time to help him be the best he could be.

"It meant a lot," Baker said.

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