

# UNION COUNTY TIMES

USPS 648-200 — Lake Butler, Florida

Thursday, April 12, 2018

105<sup>th</sup> Year — 51<sup>st</sup> Issue — 75 CENTS

## etc.

### Class of 1954 to Meet

The Union County High School graduating class of 1954 is scheduled to have a luncheon from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 14 at Brown's Country Kitchen in Alachua. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call 386-496-1818.

### Class of 1963 to Meet

The Union County High School graduating class of 1963 will hold a luncheon at the Steakhouse of Starke on Wednesday, April 25 at 12 noon. Friends are welcome. For information call Sharon Berry at 904-553-5123 or email at phillipberry@att.net.

### BOCC to Meet April 16

The Union County Board of County Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing on April 16 at 5:30 p.m. concerning the request to close NE 227<sup>th</sup> Loop. This hearing will be followed by the regular April meeting at 6 p.m.

### Historical Society Requests Community Help in Research

The Union County Historical Society is beginning a project concerning the origins of the families in Union County, titled "Where Did We Come From?". Society members will be reviewing homesteading records from the time when Union County was a part of New River County and before. They hope to interview descendants of these early settlers and hope that members of the community will assist in helping to gather information. Any member of the community with information to share is invited to come to a meeting and do so.

The next meeting of the historical society will be on April 30 at 7 p.m. in the historic Townsend Building in Main Street in Lake Butler. At this meeting will be a presentation of the information collected so far on the Dukes family, from the Dukes area of the county and the Worthington Springs area.

### 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.

## UCHS female color guard takes 1st in state



The Union County High School JROTC drill team competed at the April 7 state competition at George Jenkins High School in Lakeland. The team competed in 11 different categories. All 11 teams/individuals performed admirably, with the female color guard placing first. The Florida State Drill Meet is the largest JROTC competition in the world. Ninety-nine schools participated, with approximately 33-40 represented in each category. The UCHS female color guard, which defeated 33 teams, is commanded by Ayla Smith (second from left) and also includes (l-r) Jordan Smith, Alicen Love and Destini Jackson.

## Adult Education Offers People a Second Chance to Improve Their Lives

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Times Editor

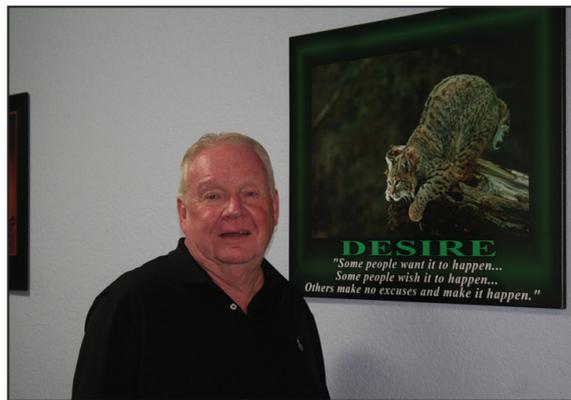
For many years quitting school often resulted in an end of opportunity, a delegation to the lower levels of the working hierarchy. It was difficult, if not impossible, for a person to rectify their mistake and even more so to have hopes of continuing on in school and mastering the knowledge and skills required to a true profession.

Today, however, the prospects are much brighter for those who have dropped out of high school, and chances abound to gain a high school diploma and even to continue on in higher education. All that is needed is for a person to realize the value of a high school diploma and pursue one with an open attitude and a dedication of purpose.

Today, there are no more GEDs. When students enter adult education and complete the learning requirements they earn an actual high school diploma. With this diploma, they can enter most academic and/or vocational programs, with this including junior college (and after this, college, if the student desires).

According to Union County Adult Education Lead Teacher Eugene Dukes, there are several programs to help students get their diploma and move forward with their education in whatever direction they desire.

"We are associated with both Florida Gateway College and Florida Crown," Dukes said. Florida Crown is a government program designed to help students have a second chance at an education. If a student qualifies (as most under age 23 do), Florida Crown will pay for their tuition and testing fees in an adult education program. In addition, students in the program will receive a nightly stipend and a gas card for every four classes they attend. Students who graduate also receive a \$250 bonus gift along with their diploma."



Eugene Dukes

Even for those over 23, the program is quite affordable, costing only \$45 per semester (of which there are two). Testing fees total \$128, but the four required tests for graduation may be taken one at a time for only \$32 per section. If a student does not pass a test the first time, a discount is usually given for a retake.

"We are in the business of giving people the opportunity to change their lives," Dukes said. "We give students a great deal more one-on-one time than many area programs and we work hard to present the material in ways that students can understand clearly, minimizing frustration. We have about 20 to 30 graduates each year and they get to have a full graduation ceremony, including a cap and gown supplied by the school. All they need to succeed in this program is the want to and a good and willing attitude. We don't promise easy, but we promise to stick with our students until they learn what they need to."

Dukes has been around the Union County School District for some time. He attended school there for 12 years, then returned in 1975 and has been around ever since. He has a particular passion for helping adult learners and takes a great deal of pride in their achievements. He knows it is not always easy for an adult to

## Lake Butler man injured in motorcycle crash



The driver of the Ford: 28-year-old Taneë Hyman of Starke, was attempting to turn into the Circle K convenience store near S.R. 121's intersection with County Road 229.

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Managing Editor

The Florida Highway Patrol said a Lake Butler man was seriously injured when his motorcycle collided with a car in Raiford Monday morning.

Paul Kozmer, 47, was driving a 2006 Honda Rebel northbound on State Road 121 around

6:40 a.m. when a Ford Focus, making a left turn, crossed the motorcycle's path.

"The Ford Focus driver failed to yield for northbound traffic when making her left turn, striking the left side of the Honda motorcycle with the left, front corner of the Ford Focus," FHP Investigator J. Satterwhite wrote

in a crash report.

The driver of the Ford: 28-year-old Taneë Hyman of Starke, was attempting to turn into the Circle K convenience store near S.R. 121's intersection with County Road 229.

Hyman suffered minor injuries and was ticketed for making an improper left turn.

## Anti-mining group claims miners broke the law

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Times Editor

Attorneys for Citizens Against Phosphate Mining (CAPM) have given notice to several state and federal agencies about violations of state and federal laws committed by or on the behalf of HPS Enterprises in its ongoing effort to bring phosphate mining to Bradford and Union counties.

The firm of Reiner and Reiner, of Miami, are representing CAPM and they have prepared a lengthy document, address to a number of agencies, concerning violations of laws governing the protection of the environment. Among the agencies notified are: the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of the Interior, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Attorney General of the United States/U.S. Department of Justice, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Suwannee Water Management District and the St. Johns River Water Management District.

According to attorney David P. Reiner, the notice complies with federal law by informing the above listed agencies that the law is being violated and listing the instances in which it is thought the law is being violated. It may very well be a precursor to a potential lawsuit.

The document cites violations of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, The Clean Water Act, The Clean Air Act, The Safe Drinking Water Act and The Expansion of Phosphate Mining Beyond the Central Florida Area Contemplated in the Final Area Wide Environmental Impacts Statement. It lists numerous unauthorized or illegal activities, current and past, which the agencies have either sanctioned or permitted.

According to a press release from David Reiner, "unpermitted activities have been initiated on property proposed for new

phosphate mining by HPS Enterprises II, LLC in Union and Bradford Counties, including on private property, without the owner's permission." He goes on to state, "these unpermitted activities have been initiated on property (e.g., the "Fern Pond Shadd Tract" and the "Pritchett/Beasley Tract") proposed for new phosphate mining by HPS Enterprises II, LLC in Union and Bradford Counties. Some of those unpermitted activities (monitoring wells constructed before a permit for them was obtained) were conducted on private property, without the owner's permission and resulted in damage to that private property."

The document gives details on several past violations by HPS, including degradation of wetlands areas and potential threats to endangered and listed species (of which the lands planned for mining activities are considered to be critical habitats for some species), as well as the Florida Aquifer. It also states that HPS has, or is, engaged in "piecemealing," a practice prohibited under federal law which involves "incremental permitting of small parts of a large project, like the proposed phosphate mining spanning two counties, or area-wide phosphate mining within the Floridan Aquifer System."

The document is lengthy and detailed, outlining every alleged violation both in the past and proposed for the future (as outlined in HPS's mining plan submitted to the Union County Board of County Commissioners). Included is documentation of violations and, in some cases, the non-action of agencies tasked with dealing with such matters.

Reiner stated that "CAPM intends to hold all state and federal oversight agencies accountable for any failure to protect this region, endangered or threatened species, critical habitat and the environment, the aquifer, the rivers and springs upon which we all rely."

See ADULT, 3A

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# CRIME

## Man mows neighbor's yard, threatened with sword

### Union County

Adam Anderson, 47, of Lake Butler was arrested on April 5 by Union deputies for aggravated assault – with a deadly weapon without intent to kill.

According to the arrest report, deputies responded to a Lake Butler address in reference to a disturbance complaint. They contacted the victim and was told that he had gone over to his neighbor's house to mow his lawn. He said he had begun to mow the lawn when Anderson came outside and began yelling at him to get off his property. The victim said that he was confused as he had never had a problem with Anderson and had mowed the yard several times in the past. He said Anderson went back into the house and then returned outside with a large sword. He said Anderson walked down the steps with the sword and began threatening to kill him.

The victim said he was in fear that Anderson was going to cause him serious harm, so he drove his mower back over onto his property and told his wife to call law enforcement. The victim reported that his son had talked with Anderson the previous week and was told it was alright for them to come and mow the property. He said they often helped Anderson with yard work. The victim also stated he did not want to press charges.

Contact was made with Anderson, who said he went outside when he heard a lawn mower on his property and found the victim mowing his yard. He said he told the victim to get off his property because he found it to be disrespectful for him to be mowing his year without permission. Anderson said he felt threatened that the victim was on a lawn mower, so he went inside and retrieved his sword. He returned outside and threatened to kill the victim in self-defense.

In the report, the deputy states that the residence is a doublewide mobile home with a front porch accessed by walking up stairs. It is stated that any reasonable person should know that a lawn mower cannot be driven up stairs. Anderson was arrested on probable cause that the victim felt threatened with bodily harm by him and he was in violation of Florida statutes.

## Man arrested for stealing deli meals

### Union County

Dillon Lee Elixson, 24, of Lake Butler was arrested April 5 by Union Deputy Phillip Sellers for misdemeanor petit theft - \$1-\$299.

Sellers responded to a call at Spires IGA in reference to a report of shoplifting. Upon his arrival, the suspect had already left the area and Seller made contact with store manager Ken Owens who provided information about the incident.

Owens said that the suspect was in the store, pushing a small child in a stroller near the deli counter. The suspect then ordered two meals. According to the arrest report, after getting the two meals, the suspect left the store, passing all points where he could pay for the meals. Once he was out of the store he began to run eastbound and Owens lost sight of him.

Owens then told Sellers that the event had been captured on the store's security cameras. He played the footage back for Sellers which allowed him to take still photos of the suspect with his camera. Owens also told Sellers that a patron in the store had identified the suspect as Dillon Elixson. Sellers relocated to Elixson's last known address and was told Elixson was not home by his girlfriend, although she did admit that he lived there. She told Sellers that Elixson was working at another address and gave it to him. She identified Elixson by one of the still photos

taken from the video.

While at the residence, Sellers noticed a food container on a table inside the residence and asked for permission to take photos of it. The container was clearly marked "Spires IGA" and with the date and price of the meal. Seller then relocated to the address where Elixson was supposed to be but was not able to locate him.

A short time later, Elixson called the sheriff's office and said he had returned to his residence. Seller returned to the residence and contacted Elixson, asking him if he knew why law enforcement wanted to speak with him. At that time Elixson openly admitted to taking the meals.

## Man cut with pocket knife

### Union County

James Barney Dowdy, 53, of Lake Butler was arrested April 6 by Union deputies for aggravated battery – causing bodily harm or disability.

A deputy was dispatched to Lake Butler Hospital on a report that someone was cut on his side.

According to the arrest report, on arrival the deputy made contact with the victim, who stated that while he was at the S & S Food Store located in Lake Butler he and James Dowdy Jr. were engaged in a verbal altercation. He said he left the store and went to his residence and that Dowdy showed up and continued arguing.

The argument became physical and several punches were thrown. The victim stated his left side hurt and he felt he had been cut. He said that after he was cut, Dowdy left the area in an unknown direction and he proceeded to Lake Butler Hospital to be treated for what turned out to be an 8-10 inch cut to his left side. He was transported to Shands in Gainesville for treatment.

Contact was made with Dowdy at his residence. After being read his rights he was asked what happened with the victim. He stated that he and the victim had gotten into a verbal altercation. He said that the victim left the store, still yelling at him. He said he rode his bike to the victim's residence and continued arguing.

Dowdy said that after a few minutes he began punching the victim. He said the victim kicked him several times, so he pulled out his pocket knife and cut the victim on his side and one his shorts. He said he then left the scene and went home.

Dowdy was placed under arrest and transported to the Union County Jail without incident. The knife was recovered and placed into evidence.

In other Union County arrests:

Eugene Antwonn Farmer, 20, of Macclenny was arrested April 5 by Union Deputy Shelby Seay Ellis on a Union County warrant for failure to appear on a misdemeanor offense. Farmer was also served with a warrant for felony violation of probation.

Mary Liane Fritz, 29, of Alachua County was arrested April 4 by Union deputies on an Alachua County warrant for violation of conditional release.

James Ray Harris, 32, of Starke was served with a writ for contempt of court – child support on April 2 by Union Deputy Jason Lepanto.

Tony Hershell Jenkins, 35, was arrested April 2 by Union Deputy Erik Krueger for disorderly intoxication and possession of drugs – controlled substance without a prescription.

Marty Hunt Kuczenska, 26, of

Lake Butler was arrested April 5 by Union Deputy Shelby Seay Ellis on a warrant for failure to appear for a misdemeanor offense.

Larry Wayne Langford, Jr., 49, of Lake Butler was arrested April 3 by Union Deputy John M. Riggs for battery on a person 65 years-of-age or older. According to the arrest report, Langford was intoxicated and involved in a family argument. He is reported to have grabbed his mother's arm, injuring her and causing her to fall.

Alberto Jose Martinez, 36, of Alachua turned himself in April 4 for an active Union County warrant for failure to appear for a misdemeanor offense.

Justin Lee Raiford, 31, of Macclenny was arrested April 3 by Union Deputy Scott Richard Word on a Union County warrant for failure to appear for a misdemeanor offense. He was arrested again on April 4 while in the Union County Jail by Union Deputy John M. Riggs for an active Alachua County warrant.

Derrick Andrew Richardson, 33, of Lake Butler was arrested April 5 for violation/revocation of pretrial release and order detention.

Christopher Lynn Whisenhunt, 44, of Lake Butler was arrested April 3 by Union Deputy Robert I. Fipps for an out-of-county warrant.

## Man passes counterfeit 50s at the Gizmo

Justin Elam Meek, 19, of Hawthorne was arrested April 6 by Clay deputies on a warrant for uttering a forged bill or note.

The warrant was the result of an incident on October 5, 2017 when Meek allegedly uttered two \$50 bills at the Gizmo Circle K on SR-100. When the clerk told Meek that one of the bills was counterfeit, he left the name Justin Week and a phone number. The suspect was identified as Meek and a warrant was issued for his arrest.

In other Lake Region arrests:

David Michael Parrott, 35, was arrested in Keystone Heights on April 5 by Clay deputies for a probation violation.

## Police: Walmart cashier stole gift cards, cash

### Bradford County

Starke police arrested a Walmart cashier after she was caught on video pocketing cash and gift cards.

Mellie J. Holton, 38 of Waldo was arrested April 4 for grand theft.

Arresting officer James R. Molina wrote in a report that after arriving at the store, he detained the defendant and read her Miranda rights to her.

"I then asked Holton if she (had) stolen the gift cards and put money on the cards, to which she replied, 'I don't remember,'" the officer wrote. "I then asked Holton if she (had) stolen \$20 out of the register she was working at, to which she then stated, 'I don't remember.'"

## Ex-girlfriend arrested for witness tampering, fleeing from deputy

### Bradford County

Bradford deputies arrested a 32-year-old Starke woman after she argued with a witness to her criminal case and then fled from law enforcement.

Jennifer Anciletta Bass was arrested April 5 for resisting an officer and obstructing justice.

According to an arrest report, the defendant's ex-boyfriend called law enforcement after Bass showed up at his residence and argued with him.

Bass was earlier arrested for cutting the man's tires and shattering the windshield of his vehicle. That misdemeanor case is still open.

Arresting officer Robert Hullender wrote in a report that as he approached the ex-boyfriend's house, a dispatcher described the defendant's vehicle to him and he saw the defendant approaching him on Northwest 177<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

"As the vehicle proceeded down NW 177<sup>th</sup>...toward my patrol vehicle," he wrote, "I signaled for the driver to pull off on the side of the road."

The officer added that after the driver failed to stop, he turned around and pursued Bass, observing her passing vehicles on County Road 229 and reaching a speed of 88 mph in a 55-mph zone.

"Due to the vehicle still maintaining a high rate of speed and coming into a school zone in front of Starke Elementary," he wrote in the report, "I terminated the pursuit."

After talking to the victim, Hullender found Bass at her Starke home and arrested her for fleeing and eluding and tampering with a misdemeanor proceeding.

The defendant at first claimed that her sister was driving the vehicle at the time of the pursuit. Hullender wrote that she later admitted to driving the car.

## tamper with kids, arrested

### Bradford County

David Joseph Bridgeman, 41, of Lake Butler was arrested April 6 by Bradford Deputy Joshua Hill on an active Bradford County Warrant for felony battery.

The warrant arises from a February 11 incident where Bridgeman became angry with his son for not properly watching his younger half-brother. He started yelling at his son and his girlfriend told him to calm down and stop talking to his son in that way. She claimed that Bridgeman stuck a finger in her face in an aggressive manner and told her to not say a word. Their son took exception to this and told Bridgeman to stop talking to his mother that way. Bridgeman went after the boy and the girlfriend grabbed his shirt to try and stop him from injuring the boy. Bridgeman turned and slapped her, open handed with his left hand, on the right side of her face, knocking her against a wall.

A chase ensued, with Bridgeman chasing the boy and the mother chasing him, pulling on his shirt to try and stop him. The boy then told his father that he was going to call law enforcement and he did so in sight of his father. Bridgeman left the scene. When deputies arrived, the victim stated she did want to pursue charges and signed a sworn statement about the event. She gave permission for officers to speak to her son, but he declined to give either a verbal or written statement.

Bridgeman had previous multiple arrests for battery and his record showed two convictions for battery, including one where his wife was the victim. Charges were forwarded to the State Attorney's Office.

## Repo man attacked, dog tracks down assailant

### Bradford County

Jeffery Paul Gaudette, 34, of Starke was arrested April 8 by Bradford deputies for driving with a suspended or revoked

license and aggravated battery.

Bradford Deputy Jeffrey Smith responded to the Kangaroo at 10355 Southeast State Road 100 in reference to a battery. He made contact on arrival with the victim, who said he had been struck by a white Mazda SUV driven by Gaudette. He said he had been at the store attempting to retrieve the vehicle from Gaudette when he backed up and pulled forward twice, striking him on each occasion with the front of the vehicle. The incident was verified by two witnesses. Gaudette had already left the scene.

A little while later the vehicle was reported to be abandoned on 100A. When Smith arrived, he confirmed that it was the suspect's vehicle and that there were tracks leading away from it. Smith requested K-9 and the animal began tracking the suspect.

Upon searching the vehicle, Smith discovered a backpack containing a glass pipe, four hypodermic needles (one with a red liquid and a razor).

A purse in the possession of Cady Holland, a passenger in the vehicle, was found to contain a hypodermic needle with a clear substance in it, which tested positive for methamphetamine. Holland agreed to speak with Smith after being read her rights and admitted that the drugs and paraphernalia belonged to her. She also verified that Gaudette was the driver of the vehicle but claimed that the victim had stepped in front of the vehicle when he was struck.

Meanwhile the K-9 had located a fresh track and continued following it south into a wooded area, then west toward S.R. 100. The K-9 reached a barn, but it was found to be empty. The area was canvassed and the K-9 located another track to the east of the barn. He followed the track as it turned east. The K-9 eventually jumped over a bush and landed on the suspects hiding beneath it. The suspects were arrested and escorted out of the woods.

## Drugs found on trespasser

### Bradford County

Linda Hankerson, 37, of

See CRIME, 3A

## Man loses



# Russ WADE Attorney at Law

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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  
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# LEGALS

UCT Legals 4/12/18

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 Proficence 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@circuit8.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**

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

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

2017-CA-000009 ADVANTAGE

NATIONWIDE MORTGAGE COMPANY Plaintiff vs. CHRISTOPHER E. ENGLISH A/K/A CHRISTOPHER ENGLISH; JULIANNA L. ENGLISH A/K/A JULIANNE ENGLISH; ANDRADE BRUCE WILLIAMS; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ANDRADE BRUCE WILLIAMS; UNKNOWN PARTIES IN POSSESSION OF #1, IF LIVING, AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER AND AGAINST THE ABOVE MENTIONED DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSE, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS; UNKNOWN PARTIES IN POSSESSION #2, IF LIVING, AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER AND AGAINST THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSE, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS Defendant(s).

**NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to order rescheduling foreclosure sale or Final Judgement, entered in Civil Case No. 2017-CA-000009 of the Circuit court of the 8th Judicial Circuit in and for Union County, Florida, wherein Nationwide Advantage Mortgage Company, Plaintiff and Christopher E. English a/k/a/ Christopher English are defendant(s), I, Clerk of Court, Kellie Hendricks Connell, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash AT THE FRONT STEPS OF THE UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE, LOCATED AT 103 UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE, LAKE BUTLER, UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA, AT 11:00 A.M. ON April 26, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit: LOT TWO (2), SANTA FE HILLS, AS PER PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 28, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA.

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 10th day of APRIL, 2018.

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

Shapiro, Fishamn & Gache, LLP Attorneys for Plaintiff 2424 North Federal Highway Suite 360 Boca Raton, FL 33431 561-998-6700 561-998-6707

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@circuit8.org 4/12 2tchg 4/19-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,

## 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.

## 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

IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA

IN RE: ESTATE OF

CHESTER REED BEASLEY,

*Deceased.*

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

The administration of the Estate of CHESTER REED BEASLEY, whose date of death was May 6, 2017, is pending in the Circuit Court for Union County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 55 W. Main St., Room 103, Lake Butler, FL 32054. The name and address of the personal representative is set forth below. All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM. All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of first publication of this notice is April 12, 2018.

Attorney and Personal Representative: /s/ Alexander Platt Esquire Florida Bar No. 119583 901 E. Las Olas Blvd., Suite 202 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301 Telephone: (954) 712-3070 F a x : (954) 337-3824 Primary Email: service@ddpalaw.com Secondary Email: paralegal2@ddpalaw.com 4/12 1tchg-UCT

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 girlsouttroop1251@gmail.com.

## 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. April programs will continue on April 12 with Daring Dinosaurs. The April 19 program will be Gardens Grow, with the month will be 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.

## VFW Post 10082 Offers Special Bingo Jackpot

The VFW Post 10082, located off S.R. 231 in Lake Butler, invites anyone who is 18 or older to come out and play Bingo on Thursdays at 7 p.m. at the post. The jackpot is \$100. For info please call Barbara Fischer at 904-263-0647. Everyone is encouraged to come on out and play.

## CRIME Continued from 2A

Lawtey was arrested April 7 by Bradford deputies for trespassing and possession of marijuana.

Bradford Deputy Brandon Shoup was conducting an extra patrol at the Kangaroo Express on Brownlee Street when he observed Hankerson walk into the store. According to the arrest report, he knew her from several previous law enforcement encounters. He ran a records check on Hankerson and found she was trespassed from the store.

According to the arrest report, he made contact with her and advised her that she had been trespassed and she stated she knew but needed to purchase some items. Shoup noticed

Hankerson was trying to hide her right hand behind her back. He asked her to show him her hands, but she refused. He reached for her hand to detain her. After detaining her he located a small bag with a green leafy substance which appeared to be marijuana inside. A field test confirmed the substance was marijuana.

Hankerson was arrested for trespass after a warning and possession of marijuana less than 20 grams. Hankerson's bicycle, on which she had arrived at the store, was taken to the sheriff's office for safe keeping.

In other Bradford County arrests:

Cady Ellen Holland, 26, of Green Cove Springs was arrested April 8 by Bradford deputies for possession of drugs and possession of drug equipment.

Mellie J. Holton, 38, of Waldo was arrested April 5 by Starke police for larceny.

Michael Laverne Jenkins, 43, of Lawtey was arrested April 9 by Bradford deputies for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Joshua Bruce Norris, 29, of Lawtey was arrested April 4 by Starke police for driving with a suspended license and possession of marijuana.

Amanda Stone, 32, of Starke was arrested April 5 by Bradford deputies for larceny.

Branson Dharmish Vann, 33, of Tampa was arrested April 7 by Bradford deputies for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Alan Sherman Ward, 27, of Hampton was arrested April 5 by Bradford deputies for possession of marijuana, possession of drug equipment and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

## ADULT Continued from 1A

Like the other schools, adult students get summers off. Once students complete their diploma program, the school will assist them in applying for a FASBA, an income-based federal grant which will help them continue their education at a junior college, four-year college or a vocational school.

"We want all of our students to succeed," Dukes said. "We want them to leave here as graduates and go on to do what they have always wanted to do in life – to be able to get the training they need to work in a profession they can be proud of. What must never be forgotten is that there is no such thing as 'too late.' It is never too late if you really want to achieve your goals."

Lake Butler Planning and Zoning Board will meet Tuesday, April 17, 2018 at 6:00 pm at City Hall Concerning an Amendment to the Text of the Land Development Regulations

Lake Butler City Commission will hold a Regular Commission Meeting Tuesday, April 17, 2018 at 6:00 pm or immediately following the Planning and Zoning Board Meeting at City Hall

**\*\*OFFICIAL\*\***

## NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION

I, Ken Detzner, Secretary of State of the State of Florida, do hereby give notice that a GENERAL ELECTION will be held in UNION County, State of Florida, on the SIXTH Day of NOVEMBER, 2018, A.D., to fill or retain the following offices:

United States Senator

Representative in Congress: District 3

Florida Cabinet - Governor

Florida Cabinet - Lieutenant Governor

Florida Cabinet - Attorney General

Florida Cabinet - Chief Financial Officer

Florida Cabinet - Commissioner of Agriculture

State Representative: District 19

Circuit Judge, Eighth Judicial Circuit: Groups 3, 4, 5 and 8

School Board: Districts 1, 3 and 5

County Commissioner: Districts 2 and 4

Union Soil and Water Conservation District: Groups 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

**\*\*OFFICIAL\*\***

## AVISO DE ELECCIONES GENERALES

Yo, Ken Detzner, Secretario de Estado del Estado de la Florida, por el presente notifico que se llevarán a cabo ELECCIONES GENERALES en el Condado de UNION, Estado de la Florida, el día SEIS de NOVIEMBRE de 2018 d. C., para determinar la ocupación o la retención de los siguientes cargos:

Senador de los Estados Unidos

Representante ante el Congreso: distrito 3

Gabinete de la Florida - Gobernador

Gabinete de la Florida - Vicegobernador

Gabinete de la Florida - Procurador General

Gabinete de la Florida - Funcionario Principal de Finanzas

Gabinete de la Florida - Comisionado de Agricultura

Representante Estatal: distrito 19

Juez del Circuito, 8.º Circuito Judicial: grupos 3, 4, 5 y 8

Junta Escolar: distritos 1, 3 y 5

Comisionado del Condado: distritos 2 y 4

Distrito de Conservación de Tierra y Agua de Union: grupos 1,2, 3, 4 y 5

## Girl Scouts Work to Serve Community on Earth Day



Friendship Circle picture is from last year's clean up clockwise starting with the adult: Rebekah Elixson, Peyton MsRannlds, Sophia Elixson, Dezalee Touchet, Serenity Rainey, Brianna Elixson, Sarah Baker, Melanie Elixson, Kimmie Smith, Mikayla Perron

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Times Editor

For the second year in a row, Girl Scout Troop #1251 is spearheading a cleanup at Lakeside Park in Lake Butler.

The clean-up is part of the troop's ongoing community service initiative. Last year the girls came up with the idea to clean up the park, paying attention to details often unnoticed by city workers.

"The girls all had friends who had encountered items like glass and trash in the park and they wanted to help-out and get it cleaned up," said Troop Leader Becky Elixson. "The city provides a very nice park for the community, but it has gone through many hardships, such as vandalism, littering and even people sometimes creating a deliberate mess. We want to serve out community by helping to keep the park clean and safe for all of the people who use it."

Elixson said her troop is finding it difficult to locate community service projects. Such activities are one of the hallmarks of the Girl Scouts and is also a required part of many of the badges they work to earn.

For the Second Annual Earth Day Park Clean-up, the scouts are asking for volunteers from the community to come and help-out. Sometimes the girls need a little more reach and muscle than they have themselves and an adult can come in handy. The troop hopes to eventually build up the event so that it works in all three city parks on Earth Day.

"We are a small community and we all know each other," Elixson said. "Many of the girls have older siblings that will come out to help and I have also contacted some organizations like the ROTC. I am happy to sign-off on the community service hours for any high school students who wish to come out and help. If we all work together we can have a wonderful, fun and productive day."

Also needed are sponsors for the event. Needed items are garbage bags, grabbers, gloves, bottled water and snacks.

Other community service projects the girls have accomplished recently include collecting hats and sock for the homeless at the tent city in Gainesville, collecting K-cups and powdered creamer for the crew of a Navy ship and sending Christmas cards to deployed veterans. The park clean-up is their biggest project of the year.

Girl Scout Troop #1251 is always looking for new members. The troop has existed for some time, but has only become really active in the past two years. The annual membership drive is going on now, with early-bird registration going on now (until June 15). The fee is \$25 per year for all levels, but Elixson was quick to point out that girls registering now will actually get one and one-half years membership for

their fee with early registration. Girl Scouts is open to all girls. Elixson said she hope to attract some older members to the troop to help be some role models for the younger girls.

Currently, the troop has 33 members, including 13 Daisies (K-grade 1), 12 brownies (grades 2-3) and 8 Juniors (grades 4-5). Next year the troop will add another level for members who are getting older – Cadets (grades 6-8).

The troop meets at the Victory Christian Center in Lake Butler, first all together and then broken up into their groups. Leaders Becky Elixson, Jenna Norman, Beth Elixson, Malory Wise and Melody McRannolds love working with the girls and hope to add some new faces to the troop in the coming year.

The troop is also looking for a few adult volunteers to help out as the need arises.

"Scouting is such a positive thing for a young girl to be involved in," Elixson said. "It teaches responsibility, civic mindedness, and can help build self-esteem and the ability to work with a team to accomplish a task. These are all things that can benefit the girls in our community."

Anyone with interesting in helping out with the clean-up, questions, or information about helping a girl join the girl scouts can call Elixson at 352-339-1583 or online at [www.girlscouttroop1251@gmail.com](http://www.girlscouttroop1251@gmail.com).

## UC District Selects New Science Books in New Way

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Times Editor

Selecting new textbooks can be a trial for any school district. It seems almost impossible to select books which meet with the approval of all parents and members of the community. Despite this the Union County School District has formulated and implemented a plan which has worked well – allowing new books to be selected without all of the stress and trouble encountered in many area counties.

The textbook selection process is mandated by state law. School districts are required to formulate a written plan for selection of new textbooks and then adhere to it in the actual selection process.

In September and October, a District Instructional Materials (IM) Review Team was formed, made up of representatives from school personnel appropriate to the subject and grade level under consideration (middle and high school). In November, these representative reviewed sample copies of textbooks (from a state approved list) provided by the publishing companies, attended an Instructional Materials Fair (scheduled by the Northeast Florida Educational Consortium), where they previewed materials under consideration.

December and January were set for reviewing chosen materials, presenting them to school teams. Principals and instructional coaches shared chosen science materials at a staff meeting with the superintendent, district level and school level administrators. In February, 20 day's notice was given to the public via Skyward inviting community members to come and preview the science materials themselves. Reminders of the public meeting were put into the school newsletters.

On March 19, an open public meeting was held to allow anyone interested to preview

the new science textbooks. The regular monthly meeting of the school board was opened to anyone wanting to comment on the new materials. A 30-day window for anyone wishing to contest the materials selected was opened and forms were made available to the public for such a purpose.

The superintendent is required to certify to the Florida Department of Education that all of the materials used for core courses used by the district meet state standards. If no hearing need to be set to address protests of any of the materials, the school board will vote to adopt the core materials. The decision is final. The approved materials will be ordered over the next three months.

Unions County teachers will undergo professional development training on the new materials in early August, prior to the district's pre-planning activities. When school starts the materials will be distributed to students in the appropriate classes and Union County Middle and High School Students will begin receiving instruction based on new, up-to-date materials.

"We opened a meeting for parents to come and preview the new materials, but none came," said Union County District Director of Accountability and Curriculum Stacey Rimes. "We are taking this to be a very positive thing – that the parents in the county trust the Union County School District (UCSD) to make the best choice for educating their children."

These feelings were echoed by several members of the Union County School Board at their March meeting. After complimenting Rimes on both the timeline she developed for selecting the books and the open house set up for the parents, Board Chairman Allen Parrish said he was well pleased with the selection process and that he had enjoyed the open house, even though no parents were in attendance.

## Allen Parrish and Dr. Pete Gianas Conduct Airway Training Session

EMS Workers from Bradford and Union Attend Using Grant Funds

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Times Editor

One of the hardest things to find in any sort of medical training is hands-on, realistic training. Most of the training available comes in the form of theory and observation, with any practical opportunities coming from bodies donated to science and preserved, sometimes for months. These preservation techniques take away much of the "real feel" that both instructors and trainees are after in simulations. For training simulations, the best choice seems to be the recently deceased (who have, of course, donated their bodies to science), but there are few places trainees can go which allow such access.

Dr. Pete Gianas, medical director for Union County, Bradford County, Gilchrist County and Clay County emergency medical services, as well as overseeing the EMS programs at Florida Gateway and Santa Fe colleges, first envisioned such "true-to-life" training through his networking and friendship with a former paramedic who went on to become an attending physician at the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore.

Realizing the impact that this "hands-on advanced airway management training" would have among the paramedics he oversees and ultimately the patients to which they respond, Gianas collaborated with Bradford County EMS in making the training a reality.

Working in cooperation with the Bradford County Manager and the Board of County Commissioners, Bradford County EMS Director Allen Parrish applied for and received a dedicated grant to fund this specific project.

All of the Bradford County paramedics have gone through this training, some more than once, and all new employees are able to attend. Once the immediate and positive impact of this training had on patient care was realized, Gianas extended the opportunity to other EMS agencies in the North Central Florida region. The grant funds are obtained through Bradford County, but other counties can send their paramedics by paying for the cost of the training, with the money then paid back into the grant funds.

This training is a one-of-a-kind program in the United States has been developed specifically for pre-hospital responders. Many local residents have asked why this training is conducted in Maryland, at the University of Maryland Medical Center's Department of Emergency Medicine in Baltimore instead of at the University of Florida. The answer is simple – the quality of the cadavers available at the Maryland facility, which are used for practice of the actual procedures, are very recently deceased and have not been fully processed (being only two-three days old) unlike those used in other training programs. Another factor is cost, as it is important to make the grant funds go as far as possible in training EMTs.

"I can take a group to Maryland for much less money than I can take that same group to Orlando," Parrish said. "It makes sense to get as much training as possible with the money we have been given and to use it more for the actual training than for travel and lodging expenses."

Union County paramedics have also participated in the program. In the most recent training, which was held March 4-7, UC Paramedics Andrea Lewis and Alex Iguarta, both recent hires, have gone through the training alongside paramedics from other counties as well. Also on hand were 13 students from the Paramedic Program at Florida Gateway College and employees of Century Ambulance.

According to a press release from the college, in an emergency situation, managing a patient's airway, enabling them to receive adequate oxygenation, is one of the most important factors in patient care. Realizing this importance, FGC students paid their own way, including the cost of the training itself, for the opportunity to gain such real-world experience.

"There is so much to learn beyond what can be taught during the course of a paramedic training program," Gianas said. "It's important for these students to know that the learning doesn't stop there. Their excitement and engagement during the process lets me know that they get it."

"This training adds another dimension to the quality of care we can offer patients who have need of our services," Parrish said. "It allows our people to become accomplished at a task which is vitally necessary to ensuring the survival of some of our patients and that is worth much more than any other factor in this program."

**ECHO**

**ONE DAY SALE**

**20% OFF SELECT UNITS\***

**ONE DAY ONLY SALE**

**Saturday, April 14, 2018**

**8:00AM to 1:00PM**

**20% OFF SELECT ECHO UNITS\***

\*20% off MSRP discount applies to select ECHO units on the day of the dealer sales event only. Excludes all GT-225 models, SRM-225 models, PB-250LN, PB-2520, 58V cordless and all accessories. Not to be combined with any other offers.

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# REGIONAL NEWS

NEWS FROM BRADFORD COUNTY, UNION COUNTY AND THE LAKE REGION

FEATURES  
CRIME  
SOCIALS  
OBITUARIES  
EDITORIAL

## Women's resource center cuts ribbon at Starke location



Answers Resource Facility officials open the organization's Starke location: (l to r) Tiffany Sanders (Director of Nursing, Keystone office); Dr. Joelle Innocent-Simon (Medical Director); Marjorie Caouette (Director of Finance); Joanna Weldon (Founder/CEO); Keren Hardee (Director of Nursing, Starke office); Tori Durrance (Administrative Assistant)

**BY KIM BOX**  
Special to the Telegraph-Times-Monitor

Despite inclement weather and an early hour, supporters gathered at 8 a.m. on April 10 to witness the ribbon being cut on the Starke location of Answers Health and Resource Facility. The beautifully renovated center was converted from a house conveniently located at 512 W. Weldon Street (the intersection of Weldon Street and State Road 16).

Answers opened the doors of its Starke facility on February 13, and women have already been walking through them. Weldon's philosophy is mirrored in Answers' powerful message:

"We are here for you. We have the Answers to the questions burdening you." The doors are always open to all women, regardless of their circumstances, and complete confidentiality is ensured. Founder and CEO JoAnna

See ANSWERS, 3B

**Florida Twin Theatre**  
All Seats \$6 Before 6 p.m. 964-5451  
Visit us on-line at [www.FloridaTwinTheatre.com](http://www.FloridaTwinTheatre.com)

<p><b>SCREEN 1</b> Starts Friday <i>Dwayne Johnson</i> <b>RAMPAGE</b></p> <p>Fri 7:00, 9:05 Sat 4:50, 7:00, 9:05 Sun 4:50, 7:00 Wed - Thur 7:15</p>	<p><b>SCREEN 2</b> Now Showing <i>Dennis Quaid</i> <b>I CAN ONLY IMAGINE</b></p> <p>Fri 7:30 Sat 5:00, 7:30 Sun 5:00, 7:05 Wed - Thur 7:30</p>
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## IRS: IRRESISTIBLE RIBS SPECIAL

**HALF PRICE**  
RIB DINNER ON TAX DAY APRIL 17\*



\* \* \* \* \*  
Sweet & Smokey or House Dry-Rubbed Rib dinner with two Sidekicks and bread.  
\* \* \* \* \*

\*Participating locations only. Not valid with any other offer, coupon or discount. Offer valid 4/17/18. Dine-in or takeout, dinner portion only. Does not include Baby Back Ribs or All-You-Can-Eat.

## Available for a limited time!

# 1.25% APY\*

2018 Money Market Special  
\$50,000 - \$4.9 MILLION IN DEPOSITS\*\*

Call to start saving today!

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

## 2018 CD Special

# 1.40% APY\*

9-MONTH CERTIFICATE  
\$5,000 MINIMUM

# 1.65% APY\*

13-MONTH CERTIFICATE  
\$5,000 MINIMUM

# 2.00% APY\*

15-MONTH CERTIFICATE  
\$5,000 MINIMUM

Available for a limited time!

To learn more about this special, call FCU's Starke branch at (904) 964-1427 or visit us online at [fcu.org/cd](http://fcu.org/cd).



\*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of 3/5/18. Terms, restrictions and conditions apply. See share certificate agreement for current rates, terms and requirements. Open to both personal and commercial members. Must be funded with money currently not on deposit at Florida Credit Union. Minimum balance to open share certificate is \$5,000.00 with a maximum of \$5,000,000.00. APY = 1.39% for 9-month CD, APY = 1.65% rate = 1.65% for 13-month CD, and APY = 2.00%, rate = 1.99% for 15-month CD. After maturity, if you choose to roll over your CD, you will earn dividends according to the CD agreement or at the then current rate/APY as stated on [www.fcu.org](http://www.fcu.org) at that time. Limited time offer subject to change at any time without notice. A penalty may be imposed for early withdrawals which may reduce earnings. Visit [www.fcu.org](http://www.fcu.org) for membership eligibility requirements. Federally insured by the NCUA. Florida Credit Union - P.O. Box 5549, Gainesville, FL 32627.

# TRUCKLOAD SALE

# Save a lot

food stores

**STARKE LOCATION ONLY!**

**4/13 - 4/14 SALE-2 BIG DAYS!!!**



**99¢ LB**  
 USDA INSPECTED FRESH PORK WHOLE OR RIB HALF LOIN



**\$16.90**  
 USDA INSPECTED FRESH GROUND BEEF  
 10 LB ROLL



**79¢ LB**  
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# Shands Starke unveils new digital mammography unit

**BY CLIFF SMELLEY**  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Just like so many people get the best possible picture from their TVs, Shands Starke Regional Medical Center doctors are getting the best possible pictures when it comes to mammograms.

The hospital held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 29 to unveil its new digital mammography unit, which had already been in use for approximately a month. Radiologist Joshua Thomas said when he saw the unit's first image, his response was, "Wow." When it comes to comparing the new unit and the old unit the hospital used to use, Thomas said, "It's just like a high-def TV and an old TV."

Mammograms are not 100-percent accurate, Thomas said, explaining that healthy breast tissue can sometimes

look like cancer on an image. The digital unit, though, is an improvement in that it presents a clearer image, making it just a little easier to differentiate between healthy tissue and cancer.

"It's definitely letting me see things better than before," Thomas said.

Radiologist Jolee Lee said the other benefit of the unit is that it provides instant images.

"We can take a picture, look at it immediately and send it directly to the radiologist," Lee said. "It's a much faster process and better-quality images as well."

Shands Starke CEO John Emery said the unit, which cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, was something the hospital needed to fulfill its commitment to the community.

"I think that for us, anything we can do to expand services

for our community is huge," Emery said. "We're always looking for opportunities to grow and always looking for opportunities to better serve our patient population. This is just an example of doing that."

Prior to the ribbon cutting, Emery read a letter from Rep. Bobby Payne: "Please accept my sincere congratulations on obtaining new digital mammogram equipment used to screen for or diagnose breast cancer. I know that the residents of Bradford County and patients of Shands Starke Regional Medical Center will benefit from the improved digital imaging this technology offers. This new imaging technology is important for early detection and the key to breast cancer survival."

"With the addition of this new technology, Bradford residents will not have to travel to Gainesville or Jacksonville for these essential services. Shands Starke Regional Medical Center continues to provide much needed medical services to the rural community of Bradford County and surrounding counties."

After reading the letter, Emery added, "That can't be more true. We really want to do everything we can to provide services to our community and surrounding communities and give them the personalized care you don't always get in a big, tertiary medical center. That's the one thing that we can provide. Our staff here delivers that in spades."

Lee said women don't have to travel outside of the area when it comes to breast health. Mammograms, ultrasounds and biopsies can all be done at Shands Starke.

"We can follow you through



Cutting the ribbon in the unveiling of Shands Starke Regional Medical Center's new digital mammography unit are (l-r): Shands Starke CEO John Emery, radiologist Joshua Thomas, Shands Starke Board of Directors Chair Scott Roberts, Bradford County commissioner Chris Dougherty and radiologist Jolee Lee.

the whole process," Lee said. "You don't have to leave. You can get it all done here."

Scott Roberts, the chair of the hospital's board of directors, said the addition of the digital mammography unit is just another example of the quality of care Shands Starke provides.

"We have a lot of nice, good things going on in this community," Roberts said. "One of them is this hospital. We are very, very blessed to have this hospital."

As the hospital continues to meet the community's needs, you can expect more equipment upgrades to take place.

"We have some other things this year we're looking at doing," Emery said. "More to come. Hopefully, this will not be the only ribbon cutting we'll have this year."



Radiologist Joshua Thomas gestures toward the new digital mammography unit as he talks about its benefits.

## ANSWERS

Continued from 1B

Weldon and a staff of six coordinated the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Starke location of Answers, a non-profit organization begun in Keystone Heights in 2011. Were it not for the 65,000 volunteer hours coordinated by construction project manager Frank Bondurant and other volunteers, described by Weldon as "willing to do anything—even cleaning toilets if needed," the dream of the Starke facility would have never become a reality.

The facility was completed in just one year. Its approximate value is \$180,000, \$60,000 of which is donated labor costs.

Weldon stressed in her opening remarks and then again in comments afterward that the new location, as well as the Keystone location, would always be a welcoming, non-judgmental campus where women of all ages, in need of answers, direction and encouragement are paired with volunteer client advocates and staff who help with a hand up, instead of a hand out, in finding resources to assist them.

The CEO and staff want women to know that at Answers they will always be loved and never judged, regardless of imperfect choices.

While the life-affirming organization sometimes works with women facing unplanned pregnancy, they also offer post-abortion counsel to women who may be struggling with a decision from their past.

Both the Starke and Keystone Heights offices are now licensed medical facilities since Dr. Joelle M. Innocent-Simon signed on to serve as medical director. The opening of the Starke facility could not come too early as Bradford County has one of the highest teen pregnancy and re-birth rates (teens giving birth for a second time), along with some of the highest STD rates in the state.

"We can now offer proof of pregnancy, which is a document needed for pregnant women to get other resources; STD testing, which is an added resource for women; and limited obstetrical ultrasound so clients with a positive pregnancy test can have

their pregnancy verified and determine gestational age and estimated due date," Weldon said.

As pregnancy-related issues are far from all that plague women, Answers is prepared to help them tackle any problem they may encounter whether it be an abusive relationship, management of children, skills in running a household, etc.

Answers even provides a Life Skills University in which women can complete curriculum segments on topics like parenting and household budgeting. Upon their completion of each segment, they will gain points that are tallied to help them earn things like gift cards for gas and phone minutes. This program will enable women to progress

through the rest of their lives more equipped to juggle issues and to handle problems before they escalate.

"As we educate women, this will effectively trickle down to their children," Weldon said. "Ultimately, we believe this will change generations, and the statistics mentioned above will begin to spiral downward."

The grand opening of the Answers Starke Facility is Sunday, April 15. This event is open to the public, and all are encouraged to come tour the facilities anytime between 11:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Coffee and dessert will be provided by Sonny's BBQ, Call Street Café and Lake Swan Camp.

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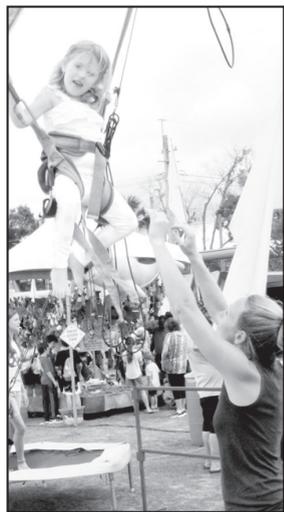
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# Photos from the Strawberry Festival in downtown Starke



Rivers Rentz, 3, tries the bungee cord with some help from Mom.



Rosa Shurock of Fabulous Faces paints Kinsley Bagwell, a first grader at McRae Elementary School.



Selling chicken lunches for Bayless Highway Baptist Church are (l-r) front: Timber Henley, Troy Rizer and Georgia Rizer. Back: Robby Godwin, Sydney Jones, Christina Reynolds, Miranda Jones, Rachel Connor and Jessica Godwin.



Serving strawberry shortcake for the Bradford High School softball team are (l-r) Liberty Harahus, Alyssa Norman and Assistant Varsity Coach Lainie Rogers.



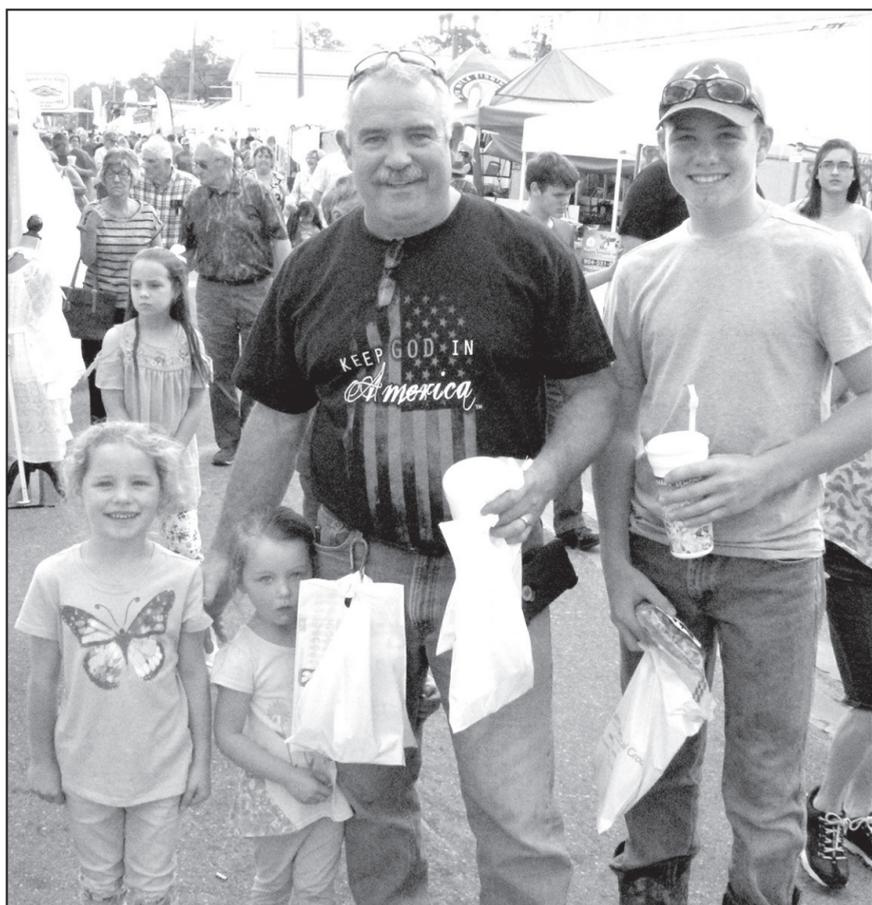
Taking a pony ride are Whitley and Gayle Braddock and Leo Rodriguez and Grandad Tom Porter.

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Picking up a few bags of Uncle Bud's Deep-Fried Peanuts are Linah, Lilly, Eric and Shawn Beauregard.

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 Navy Region Southeast Command Master Chief David C. Twiford	 Captain Clarence E. Hill, USN, Retired	

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Left: Enjoying strawberry shortcake are (l-r) Helen Griffis and Jean Kelson.



Right: Terry Wilkinson takes a few shots at a car, as part of a youth camp fundraiser for Victory Chapel.

## Letters

### 2018 National Donate Life Month

April is National Donate Life Month, an annual campaign by the organ donation community that encourages Americans to learn the facts about donation and to document their own donation decisions by joining the state's donor registry. According to the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), 2017 was a record-breaking year for organ donation and transplantation. The number of deceased organ donors exceeded 10,000 for the first time and more than 34,000 people received life-saving organ transplants; however, the need for organ donors is still of vast importance, as more than 115,000 people are currently awaiting organ transplants in the United States. About 80 percent of those awaiting transplants are waiting for kidneys. Each person waiting is waiting for a chance to live. I encourage you to learn the facts about donation and make the decision that may one day save the lives of others in need. The limited supply of donated organs is not meeting the need for transplants - - roughly 20 people die each day while waiting - - but there is something

we all can do about it, Bradford County. We can donate life! One organ donor can save the lives of up to eight people, and a tissue donor can enhance the lives of more than 75. One donor can keep a family together. One donor can give a child his first real, play-filled summer. One donor can make it possible for a man to take his grandchildren fishing. I'm sure we all have connections to Donate Life. Many of us know someone who has received a transplant thanks to an organ donor's generosity. Some of us may know someone who has been a donor. Locally, Jennifer Banks Wilson lost her daughter, Holly, in a car accident in Lake Butler. Holly was 8, and she saved four people's lives. She also donated tissue. Union County School Board member Becky Raulerson donated a kidney to her best friend three years ago. She saved her best friend's life. Documenting your decision to Donate Life has never been easier. My office fully supports Donate Life, and we are happy to help customers register as organ donors and answer questions. A person can also register as a donor online by visiting Florida's donor registry at [DonateLifeFLorida.org](http://DonateLifeFLorida.org). Taking a couple of minutes out of your day to declare yourself a donor may someday save another

person's life. What greater legacy can we leave behind than to be a hero to a person in need? Let's give the Gift of Life.

Teresa Phillips  
Bradford County Tax  
Collector

### Thanks for supporting Lawtey festival

Dear Editor,

I'd like to take this opportunity to publicly thank everyone for their support of the 2018 Lawtey Spring Festival. We thank Lawtey Elementary School, the Lawtey Police Dept., all of our sponsors, vendors, volunteers, elected officials, community services, participants, musicians, the auctioneers and visitors for helping us make the Festival a success. Congratulations to Little Miss Lawtey Spring Festival, Saniya Thompson and Little Mr. Lawtey Spring Festival, Jensen Norman for winning their competitions and thank you to the other participants in the Pageant. Congratulations to Mrs. Paulette Strong whose "Collard Greens" won the Golden Spatula Award and to all participants in the "Pie Eating Contest" held in memory of Mrs. Judy Becker. Everyone seemed to have had an enjoyable day. We missed Ricky Thompson, who is always a major participant and we wish him a speedy recovery. Thanks to Chrissy and the gang for

filling in. Also, thanks to the Bradford County Telegraph for your continued support. We look forward to the 2019 Lawtey Spring Festival where "It's All About Fun With Family and Friends".

Jimmie L. Scott, President  
Lawtey Trail Ridge Festival  
Org.

### Keystone softball falls to 3 of Florida's best teams

BY BRANDON LUDWIG  
Monitor Correspondent

Over this past weekend, the Keystone Heights Indian softball team traveled to Central Florida for the invitation-only Roger Jones Kissimmee Classic, which is considered one of the country's top softball tournaments.

The Indians would start off by facing Class 8A 6<sup>th</sup>-ranked Bartow (the eventual tournament runner-up to Oakleaf), in which Keystone's early 5-2 lead eventually collapsed, and Bartow would score a run in the final inning to seal a victory over the Indians by the score of 6-5, handing Keystone their first loss of the tournament.

The Indians would go on to face Class 8A 7<sup>th</sup>-ranked Lakewood Ranch in their next game, falling behind 1-4 in the first inning. While Keystone's offense would have 11 different hits, they could only bring three players across the plate, and Lakewood Ranch would go on to win 8-3, handing the Indians their second loss of the tournament.

After a narrow loss by the Number 1 team in Florida (Pembroke Pines Charter), Keystone unexpectedly had to face the 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked team in Class 6A, Land O' Lakes. A home run from the Gators in the first inning would bring in two runs, and the Indians would remain behind for the rest of the game. It remained close until the 6<sup>th</sup> inning, with Keystone down by 3 runs, but Land O' Lakes turned up the heat, and scored 6 runs to hand the Indians their third straight defeat, by a score of 10-1.

While the Indians faced the toughest schedule of any team with at least one loss in the tournament, they were able to get back on track in their final game,

as they took on the South Fork Bulldogs.

It was Keystone's game to lose from the start, as they began with three runs in the first inning. The Indians who, despite their losses, have ranked consistently among the top offenses in the state, took charge in the second inning, scoring six more runs, and effectively putting the game away. With a total of 17 hits, Keystone would go on to defeat South Fork 16-0 in four innings to end their losing streak and win their final game of the tournament.

This week, the Indians will remain on the road for the fourth straight week. This past Tuesday, they traveled to Gainesville for a rematch with the Hurricanes, and this Thursday night, Keystone will travel to Alachua for a matchup with Santa Fe. Next week, the team returns home for Senior Night on April 17<sup>th</sup>, with the event beginning at 6 p.m. For this game, they'll face the Clay High Blue Devils, before heading on the road again Thursday night for a matchup versus top ranked Class 1A Trenton.

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for the election of Directors, and the transaction of any other business that may come before the meeting, will be held at *The Woman's Club of Starke*, 201 North Walnut Street in Starke on Thursday, April 26, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

# Obituaries

## Stephen Alvarez

STARKE- Mr. Stephen Franklin "Sammy" Alvarez, Sr. age 84, of Starke passed away at his home Wednesday, April 4, 2018. He was born December 3, 1933 in Lake Butler to the late Leavy and Dollie (Dowling) Alvarez and had served in the United States Army. Mr. Alvarez was a longtime resident of the Union and Bradford County areas. He was a retired poultry farmer and had also owned and operated Alvarez Trucking Company and was a heavy equipment operator for Olson Underground Electrical Company. Mr. Alvarez was of the Baptist Faith and enjoyed being outdoors farming and taking care of the property. He also enjoyed the simple life, always "piddling" and never a dull moment, but most of all he loved being a husband, father, and grandfather. Mr. Alvarez's son Stephen Franklin "Steve" Alvarez, Jr. preceded him in death. Survivors are his wife of 59 years Janice (Blume) Alvarez and their daughter Dana Alvarez both of Starke; four grandchildren Leavy Alvarez, Jr. (Melissa), Ashley



Alvarez, Austin Cole Whitehead and Gracie Alvarez. Also left behind are five great grandchildren Jakob, Justin, Shyann, Aidan and Morgan. Graveside services for Mr. Alvarez were April 9 with Pastor Roman Alvarez officiating. Interment was at Mt. Zion-Swift Creek Cemetery in Lake Butler. Arrangements were by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke. 904-964-6200. www.jonesgallagherfh.com

PAID OBITUARY

## Turner Brooks

STARKE-Turner L. Brooks, 75, of Starke passed away on Monday, March 26, 2018. He was born March 16, 1943 in Jefferson City, Tennessee to the late Clifford and Pauline Brooks. Turner served his country honorably and is a veteran of the United States Army and is a lifetime member of the American Legion Post 56 in Starke. He was an avid fisherman and hunter and looked forward to NASCAR Sundays. If he was inside and NASCAR wasn't on, you could hear John Wayne in the house as Turner was enjoying his westerns. More than anything, Turner loved his family and

cherished time with them. Waiting for him at Heaven's Gate was his brothers: A.C. and James Brooks. He leaves behind to cherish his memory, his best friend and wife of 22 years: Sharon Driver Brooks and children: Sherrill Brooks (Hayes), Christopher Brooks, Joshua Brooks, Tiffany Brooks and Nicole Webb. The visitation was held on March 29 in the Jacksonville Memory Gardens Chapel. Graveside services were March 30, 2018 with Dr. Dan McLean officiating. Arrangements were under the care of Jacksonville Memory Gardens Funeral Home 111 Blanding Blvd. Orange Park, FL 32073.

PAID OBITUARY

## Constance Cleveland

LAKE BUTLER - Constance "Connie" Ann Klenk Clyatt Cleveland, 73, of Lake Butler passed away on Monday, April 9, 2018, at home in Lake Butler following a brief illness. Mrs. Cleveland was born on April 3, 1943 to the late Dr. Leo Francis Klenk and Miriam Joanne Messerly Klenk. She resided in Lake Butler most of her life and was married to Richard Irving Cleveland for 27 years.



Mrs. Cleveland was an English teacher for 30 years having taught high school English at Lake Butler, West Palm Beach, and retiring from Columbia County Schools and Fort White High School in 2012. Connie was a member of Harmony Free Will Baptist Church in Lake Butler where she loved to sing in the choir. She was a 1962 graduate of Baker County High School, MacClenny. She loved the Florida Gators, having graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Education from UF in 1976, and was an avid reader. She loved her children and grandchildren more than anything and was always so proud of each and every one of them!

Mrs. Cleveland was preceded in death by her husband Richard Irving Cleveland, father Leo Francis Klenk, M.D., mother Miriam Joanne Messerly Klenk, sister Mary Sharon Klenk and son-in-law Kirk Pate.

Mrs. Cleveland is survived by her children Tonya Clyatt Hicks (Don), Kenneth Melaine Clyatt, Jr. (Robin), Prudence Clyatt Pate, and Curtis Leo Clyatt all of

Lake Butler; eight grandchildren Ashley Biddix Goodwin of Lake Butler, Kenneth Melaine Clyatt, III "Kaleb" of Jacksonville, Dillan Cole Clyatt of Lake Butler, Lorrie Ann Sweetapple (Eric) of Fort White, Amy Brooke Hicks of Lake Butler, Danielle Nichole Mouser (Matt) of Lynchburg, Virginia, Taylor Melayne Pate of Lake Butler, and Paden Trent Clyatt of Lake Butler; and two great-grandchildren Landon Harold Biddix and Tucker Cole Clyatt both of Lake Butler.

A celebration of her life will be conducted on Thursday, April 12 at Harmony Free Will Baptist Church in Lake Butler, beginning with visitation at 1:00 p.m. followed by the service at 2:00 p.m. The service will be officiated by Dr. Robert Brown, Pastor of Harmony Free Will Baptist Church in Lake Butler. Final resting place will be at Elzey Chapel Cemetery in Lake Butler.

Arrangements are under the care of Archer Funeral Home of Lake Butler. For more information, please call (386) 496-2008.

PAID OBITUARY

## Beverly Elder

STARKE- Betty Elder passed away in Keystone Height, Florida on April 5, 2018 following a brief illness. Betty was 86 years old.

Born August 18, 1931 in Sanbornton, New Hampshire one of nine children born to the late Leonard and Alberta Follensbee.

She attended school in Lebanon, New Hampshire. On October 19, 1962 she married Stanley Elder. They made their home in Etna, NH for many years before retiring to Keystone Heights.

Betty's many passions included traveling to Hawaii, Mexico, Alaska and cruises in the Caribbean, she enjoyed playing cards and bowling with her many friends. One of her greatest passions was camping and spending time with her husband and grandson.

She spent many years working for Kleen Laundry in Lebanon, New Hampshire and later she ran her own daycare in her home. Many a child in Etna will remember those days spent with "NANA" Elder. Betty will be remembered for her smile, her kindness, and her love for children.

Betty was predeceased by her husband Stanley Elder on August 28, 2009, her mother, Alberta in November 1960, her father Leonard in 2000, and her eldest sister Rowena Tucker in 2011.

Survivors include a son, Robert Kelley of Keystone Heights and his wife Loretta; a grandson Joseph Kelley of Mooresville



North Carolina and his wife Kristl; her sisters, Lenora Carey of Grantham New Hampshire, Celina Crippen of Burton Texas, Faye Batcher of Lebanon New Hampshire, Shirley Haslem of Keystone Heights and Carol Bailey of Castle Rock, Colorado and her husband Bill; her brothers, Ronald Follensbee of Keystone Heights and his wife Lucille, and Raymond Follensbee of White River Jct, Vermont and his wife Dianne; and many nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

A special thanks to the Hospice team in Palatka and Gainesville.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Haven Hospice in memory of Beverly Elder.

A graveside service will be announced and held in the spring.

Messages of condolence may be expressed with the family through an online guestbook by visiting [www.rickerfuneralhome.com](http://www.rickerfuneralhome.com).

PAID OBITUARY

## Mary Jenkins

LAKE BUTLER-Mary Alice Jenkins, 72, a lifelong resident Lake Butler passed away on April 9, 2018. Mary was born to the late Roy and Margaret Bradley in Jacksonville. She enjoyed rose gardening, reading, and salt water fishing. Mary especially loved her children and grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her husband of 52 years: Walter Wayne Jenkins Sr.; one son: Walter Wayne Jenkins Jr.; three grandchildren: Daniel T. Jenkins II, Edward Wayne Stratton Sr. and Callie Rose Stratton. Mary leaves her precious memory to be cherished by her family.

Mary Alice Jenkins is survived

by two sons and one daughter: Daniel T. Jenkins (Lydia), Scott B. Jenkins and Janet Diane Stratton (Michael) and fourteen brothers and sisters. She is also survived by six grandchildren: Emma, Anaston, Randa, Kourtney, and Kyrsten Jenkins and four great grandchildren: Noah Robinson, Daniel T. Jenkins III, Wyatt Stratton, and Edward Wayne Stratton Jr.

A graveside service will be held on Friday, April 13, 11:00 a.m. at Mt. Zion Cemetery. Arrangements are under the care of Archer Funeral Home located at 55 North Lake Ave Lake Butler, Florida 32054. For more information, please call (386) 496-2008.

## Jackie Kiser

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS-Mrs. Jacquelyn "Jackie" Sawyer Kiser age 65, of Keystone Heights passed away Tuesday, April 3, 2018 in Jacksonville following a brief illness. She was born July 8, 1952 in Norfolk, VA to the late Wade Sawyer and Shirley McDaries Hinds. Mrs. Kiser was a homemaker who had moved to Keystone Heights from Jacksonville in 1994. She was also a licensed cosmetologist working in Jacksonville and later owning Jacquelyn's Full Image Salon in Melrose for a few years. She was a former member of Trinity Baptist Church and Lake Hill Baptist Church and enjoyed crafting, making jewelry and sewing, but most of all she loved being a wife, mother, grandmother and spending time with her family. Mrs. Kiser leaves behind her devoted and loving husband of 40 years Joe Kiser, Jr. and their three children Kent Kiser (Becky) of St. Johns, Kimberly Miller (Bill) of Keystone Heights and Joey Kiser (Sean) of Jacksonville; three



siblings Teresa Westervelt of Sun City Center, Chris Sawyer of California and Shawn Sawyer of Wesley Chapel. Also left behind are five grandchildren, who she loved dearly, Chandler (Trinity), Kellsie (Justin), Dawson, Brayden and Rylan. Viewing and funeral services were Tuesday, April 10 at Trinity Baptist Church in Keystone with Pastor Jim Snell officiating. Interment followed at the Keystone Heights Cemetery. Arrangements were under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Keystone Heights.

PAID OBITUARY

## Jeffrey Nichols

STARKE- Jeffrey Scott (Mago) Nichols, age 49, of Starke passed away April 8, 2018 at his home. He was born January 17, 1969 in Johnson City, New York to Albert Nichols and Elizabeth Hulse Nichols. Jeff was raised in Pompano Beach and graduated from Deerfield High School prior to moving to Starke in 1998. Jeff was a member of AMVETS Post 86. He also helped open Clyde's Cozy Café in Keystone Heights as the head chef. Jeff enjoyed hanging out with his friends and was into racing. He also loved his Miami Hurricanes and Miami Dolphins.

Jeff is survived by his parents, Albert and Elizabeth Nichols; siblings, Albert Nichols, Jr., Dennis C. Nichols, Vera E. Waggoner, Verna M. James; his beloved dog, Hellun; nieces and nephews, Joshua Ritter, Vicky Autenrieb, Michael Landon,



Krystal Waggoner, and Jessica Landon.

A Memorial Service will be held on Friday, April 20 at Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel at 4:00 p.m. Arrangements are under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services and Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel, Starke, FL. 904-964-5757. Visit [www.ferreirafuneralservices.com](http://www.ferreirafuneralservices.com) to sign the family's guest book.

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# BHS' Alvarez tops UCHS' Nunu for state title

## 3 BHS lifters in all earn medals as school finishes tied for 2nd in team standings

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

A three-year journey for Bradford High School senior Jakob Alvarez came to an end in the best possible way, with him standing atop the podium at the Florida High School Athletic Association Class 1A Boys' Weightlifting Finals as the champion of the unlimited weight class.

Alvarez, who was the state runner-up last year, successfully lifted 310 in the clean and jerk — a total he failed to lift last year — to give himself a 775 overall total. That surpassed Union County High School sophomore Agelu Nunu by 5 pounds.

"It's been a fun ride," said Alvarez, who is Bradford's first boys' weightlifting state champion since D.J. Ferguson in 2002. Alvarez had the top overall total from regional competition heading into the meet. Nunu, though, with his third bench-press attempt, lifted 480, which was 30 pounds better than what he did at the Region 1 finals. With his best lift in the bench press being 465, Alvarez trailed Nunu by 15 pounds going into the clean-and-jerk competition.

It was discouraging, Alvarez admitted, but he felt confident he could catch Nunu in the clean and jerk, especially after talking to Bradford coach Adrian "Ping" Mosley.

"Ping, he took me outside and just told me to calm down," Alvarez said.

Alvarez also got a bit of a pep talk from teammate Taro Ward.

"When I was down 15," Alvarez said, "Taro came up to me and said, 'You're not going to lose to a sophomore, are you?' That got into my head. 'Yeah, I'm not losing to a sophomore.'"

It was a sense of relief when it was all over and he was presented with the gold medal. Alvarez said, "It was like that moment where you say, 'Finally.'"

His three-year journey was over, but it just started for Nunu, who'd like to become his school's first boys' weightlifting state champion since Jeremy Brown in 2005.

"It's kind of discouraging," Nunu said of not winning this year, "but it makes me want to work more and more so I can come back next year and not just win, but break some records."

Nunu's bench press of 480 was 20 pounds of the state record for the unlimited class and 30 pounds behind the overall state record regardless of weight class. His eyes filled with tears prior to attempting it.

"People asked me why I started crying," Nunu said. "I said, 'I had to get that lift.'"

Crying is not unusual for Nunu at meets. He said the tears eventually turn into angry aggression as he grips the bar. That anger turns into elation with a successful lift, as was the case at state.

"I got so hyped after that," Nunu said.

Nunu did 290 on his second clean-and-jerk attempt, which proved to be his best attempt. His third attempt of 300 pounds was deemed unsuccessful by judges.

"My clean could've been a little smoother," Nunu said, "but my jerk, I stuck it pretty good. They said I rolled it up. I'm mad about it, but I've got two more years."

Nunu and Alvarez really didn't have a serious challenge as third-place finisher Cooper Hodges of Baker County finished with a 735 overall total.

### Barber, Ward, place 2nd, 6th, for BHS

The efforts of Alvarez and teammates Ward and Zion Barber helped Bradford finish in a tie with Labelle and Madison County for second in the team standings. Each school had 13 points, finishing behind champion Baker County, which had 34 points.

Barber finished as the runner-up in the 169-pound class. It was a good feeling, especially considering that during his junior year last year, he was disqualified at state.

"I'm actually happy I got to go again for the third time and actually finish and place this year," Barber said. "Of course, I wanted to get first, but that guy was definitely a lot stronger than I was."

"That guy" was Dalton Simon of Baker County, who finished with a 675 total. Barber had a 340 bench press and a 280 clean and jerk to finish with a 620 total. That put him 35 pounds ahead of third-place finisher Garrison Hutchinson of Altha.

Barber said he felt good about his chances of winning prior to state.

"I was actually thinking I was going to get first," he said. "I don't know. I guess I was a little tired. I was drained after I got my first bench. After that, I was just like, 'Second it is.'"

Ever since last year's state finals, Barber said he and Alvarez have given each other a hard time, with Alvarez reminding how Barber was disqualified and Barber reminding Alvarez how he failed to place first. The comments, though, were a way of each lifter encouraging the other to do the best he could. Barber was happy to see Alvarez finally reach the pinnacle.

"It's definitely awesome to know that he actually got to finish it out and win something for our school and for himself," Barber said.



Left: Jakob Alvarez competes in the clean and jerk, where his 310 total gave him the state title in the unlimited class. Photos by Shelley Rodgers.



Below: Agelu Nunu had a bench press of 480 pounds, which left him 20 pounds shy of tying the state record in the unlimited class.

Ward, who placed fourth in the 154-pound class at last year's finals, placed sixth in the 169-pound class this year.

"It wasn't what I was wanting," Ward said, "but it's better than nothing."

It was a little disappointing for Ward because though his 265 clean and jerk was 15 pounds better than what he did at the Region 1 finals, his 295 bench press was 15 pounds less than what he did at regionals.

Still, he made it to state two straight years. The senior realizes that's an accomplishment.

"A lot of people aren't able to go through something like that," Ward said. "It took a lot of hard work and perseverance."

Like Barber, Ward was happy to see Alvarez win it all.

"I'm glad he finally got what he's been working for," Ward said. "He really deserves it."

Jordan Luke also competed for Bradford. He scratched on all of his clean-and-jerk attempts, which left him with a 380 bench press and an 18th-place finish in

the unlimited class.

### UCHS' Crawford almost earns medal

The top six lifters in each class earned medals, which left Union's Chase Crawford one spot shy of earning one. He placed seventh

in the 139 class with a 450 total (240 bench press, 210 clean and jerk). Crawford actually tied with Suwannee's Brantley Roberson, but Roberson was awarded sixth place due to the weigh-in tiebreaker. Roberson weighed in at 1.6 pounds less than Crawford.



### Henry Williams

WORTHINGTON SPRINGS—Henry James Williams, 87 of Worthington Springs passed away on April 6, 2018. He was born on January 10, 1931 in Union County, being a lifelong resident of the county. He was born to the late Joseph and Katie Roberts Williams. He was a 1950 graduate of Union County High School, where he was an all-conference football player. He was honored in 2011 by being one of the inaugural inductees to the Union County High School Hall of Fame. Mr. Williams proudly served his country in the United States Air Force. He retired in 1992 from Florida Gas after 32 years of "shift work". Mr. Williams was a member of Sardis Baptist Church.

Henry's passion was farming and "his" cows. He was locally well known for his sweet corn and collard green crops. He enjoyed Union County High Football and Florida Gator Football; where he was a season ticket holder for over 30 years.

Mr. Williams was preceded in death by his wife of 59 years Lahoma, son James, five brothers: Bryant, John R., Robert, Walter, and Roland Williams and one sister Jennie Bell Ahrens.

He is survived by his daughters Nedra (James) Horton of Lake Butler, Martha Williams of Jacksonville; one son Bernard Williams of Worthington Springs; nephew, Joseph (Shelli) Williams of Jesup, Georgia; brother, Russell Williams and sister, Angeline Hutson, he is also survived by five grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

Services were held April 11 at Sardis Baptist Church. All arrangements are under the care of Archer Funeral Home. 386-496-2008

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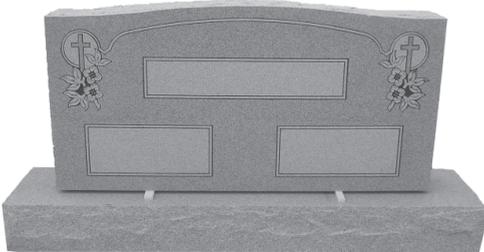
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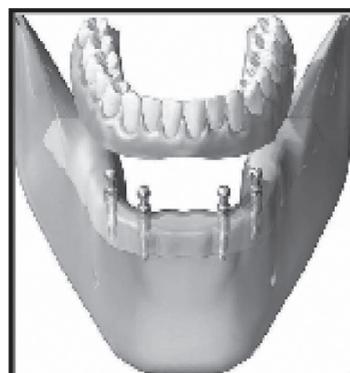
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### Community State Bank: your small business engine

Jeff Oody, president and director of Community State Bank believes small businesses are the key to the economic vitality of Bradford and Union Counties.

That's why Community State Bank is committed to helping small businesses thrive in Starke, Lake Butler and soon in Interlachen.

"The more we can help small businesses, the more that creates local jobs and local spending," he said. "That leads to more housing and more students in our schools. It has a big, big trickle-down effect."

### Bringing the bank to your business

Oody said that Community State Bank offers a wide range of services to small businesses, including loans for working capital, equipment and real estate, and merchant banking services that allow retailers to process credit cards.

And with its Loanstar program, the bank can install a point-of-sale lending program at a dealer's location, allowing a retailer's customers to apply for a loan directly from the retailer's place of business.

Designed for big-ticket items like HVAC systems, boats, motorcycles and storage units, Loanstar allows customers to apply for financing from the retailer and receive approval within minutes.

Its like having a loan officer in your business.

### Real-world advice

However, one of the most valuable services Community State Bank offers is advice. The bank has access to financial data from every industry in the United States and can drill down to the state and county level. So, when a prospective borrower comes in with a business plan, the bank's lenders can offer straight forward advice on the validity of the plan and how a business owner can improve his or her chances of success.

"We can sit down with an individual and discuss their strategy of growing from a \$200,000 company to a \$600,000 company," Oody said, "and help keep them in line with the proper way to do it."

He added that a lot of small business people have not taken the time to fully think through what they want to accomplish.

"We have people that just come in with an idea or a thought," he said of some prospective borrowers.

"You have to tell your story," he said. "You have to educate the bank on what you are going to sell or produce, and you have to show how the business can financially support the plan."

"The budget has to make sense," he added. "If your company plans to sell widgets for \$3 apiece and widgets are now selling for \$1, the Bank needs to understand what differentiates your widget from everybody else's. Otherwise you are setting yourself up for failure."

Sometimes, an aspiring small business owner may need to add knowledge or skills. Oody said Community State Bank has strong relationships with the

Small Business Development Center and Santa Fe College's business incubator, both of which offer advice and classes for small business operators and can guide small business owners to these classes.

"Our bank is part of the college's incubator," he said. "We go in and teach business owners how to write their budgets."

### Out-of-the-box thinking

Flexibility is another strength of Community State Bank. Each small business is unique, and sometimes the standard services offered by the big banks are not the right fit to serve the specialized needs of business owners in Bradford and Union counties.

Oody said the consolidation that occurred after the 2008 financial crisis leveled the playing field for community banks.

"We are able to go out and provide services that some of the larger banks can't provide," he said. "We have that local decision-making ability. We are locally-owned. So, if we have to design or create a product, we can make that happen very quickly."

Oody recalled one case in which a customer had to have an online wiring process because of the amount of domestic and international wire transfers the customer was making.

"We didn't have it," Oody said of the product the customer needed. "So, we designed the product. We brought in one of our partners that we vendor with and designed it specifically for that customer."

In most cases, it would have taken months or years for a big

bank to roll out a new product like that.

"We did it in just a few weeks," he said.

### Involved in the community

Ever since 1957, when former Florida Governor Charlie E. Johns founded the bank and made the bank's first loan to a farmer for \$10,000, Community State Bank has been heavily involved in the community.

We are involved in the school systems and civic organizations," Oody said. "We have someone embedded in every organization in Bradford and Union counties, and in June we will do the same in Putnam County."

In 2001, the bank opened its second location in Lake Butler, and soon will open its third, when it completes its acquisition of CenterState Bank's Interlachen branch.

You won't find this bank in Jacksonville or Tampa. Community State Bank is committed to meeting the needs of small business owners in rural settings.

Oody said that several years ago, he was talking to a state banking regulator about the need for community banks in small towns.

"He told me that there are many 'Starke's' throughout Florida: small towns with small businesses and hard-working people.

"He said that every 'Starke' needs a community bank - one with a local board and local decision making and one that is heavily involved in the community," Oody recalled.

"That's exactly what we are."

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# Keystone's flag football team stays hot *Indians beat Tornadoes in district showdown*

**BY CHUCK DOWLING**  
*Special to the Telegraph-Times-Monitor*

Lake Weir High School out of Ocala paid a visit to Keystone Heights on the evening of Tuesday, April 3. After a brief sprinkle and any threat of weather subsided, things got underway, and the Indians started swinging their tomahawks early in their 6-0 victory over the Hurricanes.

As a matter of fact, the only scoring play would come on the opening play from scrimmage when Keystone's DeDe Taylor went 86 yards to pay dirt after receiving a lateral pass thrown by Kortney Goforth.

Lake Weir (4-2) would drive to the 20 before Hailey Julius would stop them on fourth down a yard shy of the first down marker.

Julius was big on both sides of the ball all day, and on the ensuing drive she caught a long pass and put the Tribe in scoring position again.

On fourth down, however, the Indians would go for it and despite Doris Taylor catching the ball, the refs declared it was out of the back of the end zone and Keystone (4-1) would have to turn it over on downs.

Early in the second, the Hurricanes were again stopped on fourth down and the Indians would take over deep in Canes territory, but a few plays later they would turn it over on an interception. It was of no consequence as Lake Weir would go three and out and have to punt it away.

A big rush from Taylor gave



**Keystone's Hailey Julius runs a sweep around the end.**

the Indians possession, but an interception off of a tip gave it back to the 'Canes. With Lake Weir again facing a long field, they were still unable to do anything with the ball and had to once again punt it back to the home side.

The Indians went back to work, but on fourth and goal a pass to Jade Bishop at the goal line fell incomplete and the Hurricanes would get the ball back with 24 seconds left in the half but failed to do anything of note.

Despite a dominant first half by the Indians, they would go in the locker rooms up just 6-0, but Lake Weir's woes continued at the start of the third quarter when on their opening drive they threw an interception to Alexis Guy.

Keystone was unable to capitalize and on fourth down a pass once again fell incomplete

in the end zone. Lake Weir went back to business, albeit a poorly run one and again failed to pick up a first down before punting once again to the Indians.

After a penalty, Taylor pulled off a 20-yard run but failed to pick up the first, however, Julius's grab on the next play kept the drive alive. It would still fall short after Julius was stopped on fourth down on the 'Canes 14-yard line.

Not surprisingly, Lake Weir would have to punt it away, and from that point on, the cycle would remain the same with every drive from each team ending in an interception, including the one by Julius with 7 seconds remaining to seal the victory.

Indians head coach Bobby Qualls said after the game, "I expect to score a little bit more, but we have to tighten our offense up a little, but the defense steps up and does what they need to do. I think they had two or three picks and they usually hold us in the game."

On the victory he wasn't surprised at all, stating, "I expect a victory almost every time they step on the field. They are pretty good ball players."

He also likes what he sees concerning the future of flag football. "This sport is growing and is going to continue to grow with the help of Title IX but the fans like it, the girls like it, and we always have a good turnout with how many players show up so I think sooner or later this will start growing."



**Keystone's Caleb Cushman serves the ball in his singles match victory over Dustin Jones.**

**BY CHUCK DOWLING**  
*Special to the Times-Monitor*

Someone's 0 had to go when the Keystone Heights Boy's Tennis Team hosted Bradford on Thursday, April 4. The Indians had failed to win a meet on the season, but the Tornadoes came into town off of the short bus ride from Starke looking for their first victory as well. It was Keystone who would ultimately prevail by a final of 4-3.

After the win, Indians' head coach Peyton Capper stated, "I think I would be lying if I said it wasn't satisfying to beat our local rival, but we will take wins anywhere we can get them these days because they have been few and far between."

Due to the fact that Keystone only had four players available, they had to concede the fifth-seeded singles match and came into the meet already facing a 1-0 deficit. That was erased quickly as the Indian's Number 2 doubles-team of Jonathan Mayer and Jay Payne blanked Bradford's Gabriel Wells and Henderson 8-0 to level the meet up at one match apiece.

The Tornadoes took the lead right back when their Number 1 doubles-team consisting of Nate Caraway and Dustin Jones

pulled off an 8-6 victory over Caleb Cushman and Ben Miller. Bradford officially led the meet 2-1 when the singles matches began on the courts.

Cushman and Miller both got their revenge from their doubles match loss with top-seeded Cushman taking down Jones 8-4, and Miller defeating Caraway 8-3 in the Number 2 singles match. Third-seeded Bradley got the Tornadoes back on the board with an 8-4 victory over Payne, but Mayer's 8-2 win over Earl in the Number 4 singles match would clinch the meet for

the Tribe 4-3.

The victory was not only the first district win of the season for the Indians, but also their first triumph all year. Capper stated, "I think overall we played well and we are playing better as the season is progressing. He added, "We still have some work to do and the team is relatively inexperienced but overall we won a few matches today and won the meet overall, so we are happy with that."

The district tournament will take place on April 17 and 18 at Ponte Vedra High School.

## The Weekly Paw Print:

Have a pregnant cat on your hands? Here's what to know about cat pregnancy, labor and delivery of newborn kittens. Cats show their individual personalities when they are pregnant. Some may become more affectionate and demand attention. Some may become less tolerant of people and other pets—even ones they had gotten along with previously. While you are caring for a pregnant cat, do not give her any vaccines, and consult with your vet for proper treatment of parasites like fleas and worms. Feed the mama-cat-to-be a high-quality food that is labeled for growth/kittens. You need to create a "queening" box, where your cat will make her nest and give birth. Find a warm place with a lot of privacy to put the queening box. You can use a cardboard box, laundry basket or other roomy container, and line it with things like blankets, sheets, newspapers and puppy pads. How Do You Know When a Pregnant Cat Is About to Give Birth? A day or two before giving birth, your pregnant cat will eat a lot less and will spend a lot of time in the box. When the labor time is imminent, your cat will start looking at her bottom, turning around and lying on her side. She may also get vocal, dig at the floor and get restless, or even aggressive. Does a Pregnant Cat Need Human Help During Labor? Most normal cats require no intervention at all. Most cats would prefer to be left alone, so privacy would be best with some unobtrusive observation to monitor for signs of distress or problems." So, What Should You Do When Your Pregnant Cat Is in Labor? The first kitten or two will come 5 to 10 minutes apart; after that, any remaining kittens may come with up to two hours in between, as the uterus gets tired. You will see the bubble-like glossy amniotic sac appear at the tip of your kitty's birth canal; the kitten will soon squeeze all the way out. The mother will then tear the sac and start licking the kitten, guiding the baby to her teats to start nursing. Meanwhile, she will continue to deliver kittens until she is empty. The queen might let out a cry as she pushes out a kitten, but if she is really shrieking, seek immediate veterinary attention. Also, get medical attention if the cat is actively pushing for several minutes and the kitten is stuck. Delivering a litter of kittens can take up to 24 to 48 hours. Your queen, if stressed, can experience "interrupted labor," which stops birth for a while and resumes later. Most of the time, the delivery will take four to eight hours. You can't always tell conclusively whether any kittens remain in your cat's womb. But if your queen starts eating and drinking, that almost always means she is done. As always, if you are concerned call your veterinarian.

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## KHHS' Spivey takes 2nd in state for 2nd straight year

**BY CLIFF SMELLEY**  
*Telegraph Staff Writer*

Keystone Heights High School senior Brandon Spivey has proven to be one of the best weightlifters in the state with his second straight runner-up finish at this year's state finals, which were held April 6 in Panama City Beach.

For Spivey, who placed second in the 139-pound class, it's a mixture of emotions. He's disappointed he didn't finish ahead of Baker County's Marcus Dialo, but he also realizes how special his accomplishments have been the past two years.

"I feel like I could've beaten (Dialo) if I had my mind to it," Spivey said, adding, "At least I beat every other kid but one."

Spivey finished with a 485-pound total, which was 15 pounds behind Dialo and 10 pounds ahead of third-place finisher Edward Brown of Labelle. His best bench press attempt was 260 after failing to lift 265 on his third attempt.

"At regionals, I hit 265 like it was nothing," Spivey said.

The clean-and-jerk portion of the event got off to a disappointing start as he failed on his first attempt.

"The bar was so big. It was so loose. It spun like crazy," Spivey said. "I went to clean it. It just spun right out of my hands and hit my shoulders."

Spivey successfully did 225 on his second attempt before an unsuccessful attempt at 240, which would've put him in an overall tie with Dialo (although Dialo would've still been the state champ due to the weigh-in tiebreaker).

"I've got to admit, I missed some days of practice when I



**Brandon Spivey competes in the clean and jerk en route to placing second in the 139-pound class. Photo by Shelley Rodgers.**

shouldn't have," Spivey said, adding, "It was probably mostly my fault that (Dialo) won."

Still, Spivey is proud of what he accomplished the last two years.

"It is a great feeling being able just to be there and be with the strongest kids in the state of Florida," he said. "Being able to finish as runner-up is one of the best feelings. You're one of the strongest kids."

Spivey was one of six for KHHS who competed at state, though he was the only one to earn a medal for a top-six finish.

C.J. Parks placed ninth in the

129 class with a 410 total (215 bench press, 195 clean and jerk), while Alex Cruz and Carter Semione each placed 10th. Cruz had a 545 total (295, 250) in the 183 class, while Semione had a 575 total (300, 275) in the 219 class.

Cameron Musselman and Dan Dodd earned 14th- and 15th-place finishes, respectively. Musselman had a 550 total (305, 245) in the 183 class, while Dodd had a 625 total (340, 285) in the unlimited class.

Each class consisted of 20 competitors.

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## KHHS baseball team now above .500 in district after 8-1 win



Cox, file photo

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Andrew Cox hit an RBI double in the bottom of the fifth to give the Keystone Heights High School baseball team the lead for good in an 8-1 District 5-5A win over visiting Palatka on April 6.

Cox, Colten Crane and Conner Osteen each had an RBI single in a six-run sixth inning as the Indians (8-8, 5-4) put the game away and won their third straight district game. Cox and Crane each went 2-for-3, with Cox driving in two runs and Crane driving in one. Osteen and Gary Searle each went 2-for-4, with Osteen driving in one run.

Osteen earned the win, giving up one run in five innings on three hits and one walk. He struck out three.

Nate Gagnon threw the final two innings, giving up no hits and no walks. He had two strikeouts.

Keystone entered the game off a 7-6 road win over district opponent Newberry on April 3. Osteen drove in the winning run on a single in the top of the seventh.

Osteen and Searle each went 2-for-4, with Osteen driving in three runs. Crane, who hit a double, had two RBI, while Cox had one.

Gagnon, who pitched the final 2.2 innings, gave up no runs, no hits and one walk. He had two strikeouts.

The Indians played district opponent Santa Fe this past Tuesday and will host district opponent Fort White on Thursday, April 12, at 7 p.m. On Monday, April 16, Keystone travels to play Baker County at 6:30 p.m. The Indians then travel to play North Marion on Tuesday, April 17, at 6:30 p.m.

## Sun names UCHS' 4 champs Weightlifters of the Year

Bryan Griffis is named Coach of the Year

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

How could you pick just one? Union County High School made girls' weightlifting history by having four individuals win state championships, with their efforts resulting in the team championship as well, making Union the first Class 1A school to win claim the team trophy.

Therefore, when it came to honoring its Weightlifter of the Year, The Gainesville Sun made it a shared award among Kurston Bakken, Josie Godwin, Mia Jackson and Brandy McCoy.

"All four of them did something that's really special," said Union coach Bryan Griffis, who was tabbed as the Sun's Coach of the Year.

McCoy could've been singled out for the honor as she won her third straight state championship. In fact, she's shared the Sun's top honor the last two seasons, including her freshman year when she and teammate Latiyah McDonald were both named Weightlifters of the Year.

For one who shines on the biggest stage, though, McCoy is pretty shy and doesn't like to receive all the attention, so she's glad to share the award. Besides, it seemed like a no-brainer to her.

"I wanted all of us to be the Lifter of the Year," McCoy said. "I thought they were going to pick all of us anyway. I'm happy they did."

Godwin said, "I feel like we all deserve it," while Bakken said, "They realize we all did great. They're giving all of us the glory."

Jackson couldn't think of better teammates to be honored with, saying, "It's great because it's a great group of girls."

Griffis said everything the four lifters accomplished this year came about because they were driven to succeed. They put in hours in the weight room five to six days a week during the summer. Then, during the school year, they trained twice a day — once during their weightlifting class and once after school.

"I'm so proud of them for what they did and the work they put in," Griffis said.

Weightlifter Breyonce Cummings, who competed at state, said she enjoyed watching the journey unfold for the four state champs and how their hard work paid off.

"I'm proud of them," Cummings said.

Taylor Gainey, another Union lifter who competed at state, said, "Everyone deserved a pat



The Gainesville Sun named Union County High School's (l-r) Kurston Bakken, Josie Godwin, Mia Jackson and Brandy McCoy as its Weightlifters of the Year after they all won state championships.

on the back. I think it's great they're all recognized."

So, if the Sun had decided to choose just one of the four as its Weightlifter of the Year, who should it have been?

"I don't know," McCoy said. "Don't ask me that."

Godwin said, "I wouldn't pick one."

Jackson saw the opportunity to have a little fun with her teammates.

"Can I pick myself? I can represent the team well," Jackson said before looking at her teammates, smiling and saying, "Sorry, guys."

Bakken said if one lifter had to be chosen, she would look at something more than weight totals. The Weightlifter of the Year should be a leader as well, Bakken said. She believed Jackson fit that mold.

"She really just kept us

together the whole time," Bakken said.

Of course, then Bakken had to add, "And she's my bestie."

In all seriousness, the girls and their coach would all agree the right thing was done in picking the four state champs to be Weightlifters of the Year.

"Every one of them did something major," Griffis said.

## Tigers score 8 in first in defeating Tornados 13-2



Hamilton, file photo

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Kamaya Cohen, Kensley Hamilton and Brooke Waters combined to drive in seven runs in an eight-run first inning as the Union County High School softball team swept its series against Bradford, defeating the visiting Tornados 13-2 in five innings on April 2.

See TIGERS, 11B

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# TIGERS

Continued from 10B

Hamilton, who went 3-for-3, had four RBI in all, while Cohen went 2-for-3 with two doubles and three RBI. Waters went 2-for-2 with a home run and two RBI.

Teala Howard, Reah Jones, Madelyn Kish and Shelby Spratlin each drove in one run for the Tigers, while Tiffany Clark hit a double.

Waters earned the win, giving up five hits and no walks in five innings.

Krista Hildebran and Harli Phillips each had an RBI for Bradford. Brooklyn Wiggins went 2-for-3, while Savana Seelye hit a double.

# UCHS baseball team falls in extra innings to Williston

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Tripp Davis drove in a run on a sacrifice fly in the bottom of the seventh to force extra innings, but visiting Williston scored two runs in the top of the eighth in handing the Union County High School baseball team a 4-2 District 6-1A loss on April 6.

The Tigers (9-7, 2-3) were held to five hits, one of which was a double by Caden Cox.

Cox earned the loss despite striking out seven in 7.2 innings.

Union had evened its district record at 2-2 prior to the game with a 10-0, five-inning win over visiting Hilliard on March 31.

Davis, Trace Croft and Whip Davis each drove in three runs, with Croft and Whip Davis each going 2-for-4. Croft hit a double, while Whip Davis hit a triple.

Jake Worthington also drove in a run.

Garrett Mullins pitched all five innings, giving up three hits and one walk. He had five strikeouts.

On April 3, Braxton Dukes hit a two-out RBI single in the bottom of the seventh to make it a one-run game, but the Tigers ultimately lost 2-1 to visiting Episcopal.

Dukes' seventh-inning single was just one of four hits for Union. One of the remaining three was a double by Whip Davis.

Starting pitcher Tripp Davis gave up just one hit in six innings, striking out four.

The Tigers host Trenton on Thursday, April 12, at 7 p.m. before hosting Cotondale on Saturday, April 14 at noon. On

Monday, April 16, Union travels to play Duval Charter at 6 p.m. before returning home to play Bell on Tuesday, April 17, at 6 p.m.

# Sun recognizes 4 BHS wrestlers

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Bradford High School seniors Jesse Burch and Logan Montemurro were both second-team selections for The Gainesville Sun's All-Area wrestling teams.

Burch, who wrestled in the 170-pound class, won district and regional championships en route to qualifying for state. He went 22-10.

Montemurro, a state qualifier as well, was a district champ and

a regional runner-up. He went 38-6.

Two Bradford wrestlers earned honorable mention: junior Dylan Mead (152-pound class) and freshman James Smith (126).

# 6 KHHS boys' soccer players earn All-Area honors from Sun

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Six Keystone Heights High School players received recognition with the release of The Gainesville Sun's All-Area boys' soccer teams, including Alex Cruz, Jacob Hopkins and Colby Townsend, who were all first-team selections.

Cruz, a senior forward, scored 31 goals and had 16 assists, while Hopkins, a senior midfielder, had eight goals and five assists. Townsend, a sophomore who had five assists, was selected as a defender.

Junior goalie Caleb Cushman was a second-team selection after making 250 saves and recording nine shutouts. Sophomore midfielder Landon Ricketts and freshman forward Dean Hogg were second-team picks as well. Ricketts had six goals and seven assists, while Hogg had four goals and eight assists.

No Keystone girls earned recognition as their coach did not respond to Gainesville Sun requests for nominations.

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# High-scoring game results in Tornadoes defeat

**BY CHUCK DOWLING**  
Special to the Telegraph-Times-Monitor

On Thursday night, April 5, the Bradford High School Baseball Team took the 45-minute trip to Alachua to take on the Santa Fe Raiders. The Tornadoes would ultimately fall 12-11 in this thrilling back-and-forth battle that has already been labeled an instant classic.

After a scoreless first inning, Santa Fe (8-10) got the scoring underway with a run in the bottom of the second to take a 1-0 lead, but Bradford (8-7) responded in the top of the third when Brandon Sanford reached base on an error from the short stop and Trent Bryant scored to knot things up at 1-1. Later in the same half of the inning, Jacob Polk, who also pitched the first three innings of the game, hit a grounder up the middle to score two more runs and put the Tornadoes up 3-1.

The lead was short-lived as the Raiders would drop two in the bottom to take a 4-3 lead heading to the fourth. That is when Sanford struck again, this time with a two-out double when the center fielder lost the ball in the lights.

Headed to the bottom of the fourth up 5-4, Polk gave way to Garfield Johns on the mound and the Raiders were quick to jump on the newly inserted pitcher, scoring three more runs to snatch the lead right back, 7-5.

Peyton Welch kicked off the fifth inning with a solo home run to cut the lead to one, and this time Santa Fe failed to respond so that would be the only scoring in the inning with it headed to sixth as a 7-6 ball game.

After going three up and three down, Bradford was unable to put any runs on the board in the top of the sixth and seemed destined for defeat after the Raiders scored three runs in the bottom to take a commanding 10-6 lead heading into the seventh and final inning.

The Tornadoes' bats came to life in the top of the inning, putting a five-spot on Santa Fe thanks to a one-out double from Brandon Anders to score a run, Dakota Matthews getting hit by a pitch to score another, Anders scoring on a passed ball, Kanler Vann's sacrifice fly, and Trent Bryant scoring

on a wild pitch. After all was said and done, Bradford had done the impossible and taken an 11-10 lead to be just three outs away from the improbable victory.

It was not to be, however, as after one run in the bottom of the seventh, the Raiders' Brennan Haire hit a sacrifice fly to right to secure the 12-11 win.

Afterwards, Bradford manager Stewart Duncan said, "We just talked to them and they are all down because of the loss and everything, but

they could have quit when the game was 10-6 and they came back, fought, scrapped, and tied it up." He added, "I'm proud of them and they showed heart tonight and that is what we talked about to encourage them. We did not lose the war, we only lost one game."

After Santa Fe's 8-4 victory over Newberry on Friday, April 6, the Tornadoes now sit in a three-way tie atop the district with the Raiders and the Keystone Heights Indians. As of press time all three teams were 5-4 in district play.



Sterling Raab attempts to close out the game at Santa Fe High School in Alachua.

# LBMS baseball team halts 2-game skid with 6-2 win

**BY CLIFF SMELLEY**  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Ayden Elixson drove in three runs as the Lake Butler Middle School baseball team snapped a two-game losing streak by defeating host Fort White 6-2 on April 6.

Elixson went 2-for-4 with a double, as did Quinten Rawls, who drove in one run.

Ethan Hancock hit a triple and had one RBI.

Rawls earned the win on the mound, giving up one run in five innings on five hits. He had three strikeouts.

Eli Rimes threw the final two innings, giving up one run on three hits.

The win avenged a 3-2 loss to Fort White on March 29. Kyler Cohen and Ethan Moody each had an RBI in that game.

On April 5, the Tigers

suffered another one-run loss when visiting Williston scored three runs in the fifth to win 4-3.

Elixson, Moody and Blake Agner each had an RBI.

Lake Butler (9-3-1) will host Bradford in a double-header beginning at 4 p.m. on Thursday, April 12, at the O.J. Phillips Complex.

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# BHS baseball team split 2 district games prior to Santa Fe loss

**BY CLIFF SMELLEY**  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Prior to dropping a 12-11 District 5-5A game to Santa Fe (see related story), the Bradford High School baseball team played two other district opponents, going 1-1 with a 3-2 win over visiting Palatka on April 3.

Brandon Sanford hit an RBI single with two outs in the bottom of the fifth inning to provide the winning run. The hit scored Cayden Martin, who reached on a one-out single.

Sterling Raab, who hit a double, also had an RBI.

Martin pitched the final 3.2 innings, giving up no runs on one hit and one walk. He had six strikeouts.

Starting pitcher Trent Bryant gave up only two hits in 3.1 innings.

On March 29, the Tornadoes got four extra-base hits from Garfield Johns and Jacob Polk, but still lost 5-3 to visiting Fort White.

Johns went 2-for-3 with two doubles, while Polk went 2-for-4 with a double and a triple. Raab, Dakota Mathews and Peyton Welch each had an RBI.



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