

Bradford County Telegraph

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145th year, 26th Issue — \$1

Bradford survives severe winter storm

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

School was out Tuesday, and businesses and government offices closed early to wait out thunderstorms, high winds and a tornado watch.

The tornado watch expired at 6 p.m. following several hours of wind, rain and a severe thunderstorm, which began earlier in the afternoon.

The tornado threat shifted to north and central

Florida after a possible tornado damaged Bay County, including a now well-circulated photo of a three-story house leaning on its neighbor. Other reports of damage outside the area included roofs, campgrounds and RV parks. Deaths were reported out of state, but only injuries were reported in Florida.

That level of damage was not reported in Bradford County as of Tuesday evening. Several Starke streets were under water during the storm, which is

unfortunately typical when a large amount of rain falls in a short amount of time.

Bradford Emergency Management Director Lt. Brad Witt said there were 100 or more power outages reported at one point during the storm. Clay Electric Cooperative reported no outages in Bradford County, 211 outages in Clay County and just two in Union County as of 7 p.m. Florida Power and Light reported one in Bradford and none in Union or Clay.

Keystone Heights wants intersection improvements

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
General manager

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — The city council heard a plan during its Jan. 8 meeting to improve the town's major intersection at State Roads 21 and 100.

Phil Shad with the engineering firm AtkinsRealis recommended improved pavement markings, signal enhancements, and the construction of two pedestrian islands on the northwest and southeast corners of the junction.

A key part of the plan is for the city to acquire a triangle-shaped parcel on the southeast corner and demolish the former Kentucky Fried Chicken and Chinese Restaurant that now sits on the land.

Shad recommended that the city convert the parcel into additional parking and an open area with trees and grass.

The consultant suggested the city could use the open space as a marquee gateway to downtown with a sign and other assets giving visitors a positive first impression of the town.

See **STREETS**, page 5



Proposed improvements to the State Road 100 and 21 intersection include realigned crosswalks, skip lines through the center of the intersection to guide motorists making left turns, and a painted gore area near Walgreens to guide cars through an unusually spacious area for cars turning right from westbound 100 to northbound 21. The proposal also includes signal enhancements, and the construction of two pedestrian islands on the northwest and southeast corners of the junction. Image: AktinsRealis

Jackson sworn in as new county commissioner

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Special to the Times

LAKE BUTLER — Union County has a new county commissioner, appointed by Governor Ron DeSantis, to fill the seat left vacant by the resignation of Ryan Perez a few weeks ago. It's all official now, with Donna Jackson being sworn in by Union County Judge, the Honorable Mitchell Bishop, in the commission meeting room on Dec. 21, 2023.

Jackson, recovering from COVID, said that when Perez resigned, he recommended her to the governor's office. She said she prayed about it, discussed it with her husband, Donnie, and decided that she would like to serve. She said several members of the community also recommended her for the post. She received her appointment on Dec. 15, 2023.

Jackson has a long history with the county. In 1995, she was hired by Clerk of Court Regina Parrish and served there for 18 years as finance director, leaving five months after current Clerk of Court and Comptroller Kellie Rhoades was elected. After leaving the clerk's office, she continued as a part-time



Union County's newest commissioner, Donna Jackson, is sworn in by Union County Judge, the honorable Mitchell Bishop while her husband Donnie holds the Bible for her.

financial officer with the New River Public Library Cooperative until she retired in 2017. Now, she is working part-time as the office manager for New River Developers/NAPA.

Jackson was born in Orlando and moved to Bradford County with her family when she was a year old. She

married Donnie when she was 18 and moved with him to his native Union County. She has lived here for 38 years.

After graduating from Bradford High School, she earned a Bachelor of Arts in business administration, with a specialty in management, from St.

Leo University. Her first 10 years of employment were with the Bradford County School District (1985-95), during which time she finished her degree and then went to work for Parrish. She plans to continue her job at NAPA while serving as a commissioner.

Jackson will serve for one year, finishing Perez's term, and then must run for re-election.

Jackson said she loves the outdoors and nature and enjoys spending time outside, hunting, fishing, and just spending time with her family (Donnie, the couple's two Goddaughters, and several grandchildren). She said she is excited about serving the county as a commissioner.

"I look forward to serving the people of my district and want to be a positive influence on the board," Jackson said. "One thing everyone needs is some unity right now. I also plan to work hard to keep the people informed of what is going on with the commission so they will not be surprised by county decisions. I want what the people want and plan to do my best to represent them."

City manager and clerk hired in Keystone Heights

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
General manager

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — The city council hired a Clay County employee as its new city clerk and the county's former superintendent of schools as its new city manager.

Before accepting the city clerk's job, Stephanie Silva was a senior deputy clerk at the Clay County Clerk's Office. She earned a bachelor's degree from Arkansas State University and has experience at the Alachua County

Clerk's Office.

Outgoing City Manager Lynn Rutkowski told council members during a January 8 meeting that Silva will lead the city's efforts to return the MotoSurf competition to the city later this year. Twenty-four would mark the third year Lake Geneva would host the international jet ski competition, which CBS Sports televised in past years.

Rutkowski said the event's sponsor has expressed interest

in returning to the Lake Region. Silva will work with the county's tourism development council to return the event to Keystone Heights.

When discussing the city clerk's role last year, council members said they wanted the new clerk to operate as the assistant city manager.

After the council interviewed finalists for the city manager's job, it voted to start contract negotiations with former school

superintendent Charlie Van Zant.

During the Jan. 8 meeting, Van Zant indicated that he and city attorney Rich Komando were close to concluding negotiations.

When Councilman Dan Lewandowski asked Komando about the status of his talks with Van Zant, the attorney responded that the ex-schools chief had the proposed agreement, and Van Zant added, "You and I can take two minutes after this meeting, and we will be squared away,"



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WORTH NOTING

MLK events planned this week

In honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Concerned Citizens of Bradford County will host two events, including the annual Service Awards Banquet. Tickets for the banquet are \$35 for adults and \$15 for children ages 8 to 17. It will take place Saturday, Jan. 13, at 6 p.m. at the Gov. Charley E. Johns Conference Center in Starke.

The annual MLK Celebration will begin at 11 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 15, at the Florida National Guard Armory on Edwards Road in Starke. A free brunch will follow the program.

For more information, please call 904-769-1691 or 904-966-1100.

Speech contest Saturday

The annual American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest will be held this Saturday, Jan. 13, at the American Legion Post located at 715 Edwards Road in Starke. The contest begins at 1 p.m.

Three candidates will participate this year. Their subject is the United States Constitution, and they are competing to advance to the state and national contests, with prizes of up to \$2,500 at state and \$25,000 at nationals.

High school students and civics and debate teachers are encouraged to attend this event to support these students and their effort to expand their knowledge.

The district and area contests will follow the local with the winners advancing to the state competition. Those who make it to the national contest will receive an all-expenses paid trip for two to Michigan in May.

Food distribution at fairgrounds

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Feeding Northeast Florida and True Vine Ministry will take place Tuesday, Jan. 16, at 9 a.m. at the Bradford County Fairgrounds in Starke.

Food boxes often include fresh produce, deli and bakery items, dairy and some meats. Inventory is subject to availability. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Food distribution at True Vine

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Farm Share and True Vine Ministry will take Tuesday, Jan. 23, at 10 a.m. at True Vine Outreach Ministry in Starke.

Food boxes often include fresh produce, deli and bakery items, dairy and some meats. Inventory is subject to availability. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



A closer look at fire and EMS assessments

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Bradford County will once again consider a resolution on new fees for firefighting and emergency medical services after failing to advertise the previous attempt in December. The resolution does not finalize fee amounts, but it does signal the commission's intent to consider doing so in time for the next tax bills to go out later this year.

This first step in imposing a non-ad valorem assessment — usually called a special assessment — is required by state statute.

County Manager Scott

Kornegay said the consulting firm hired to perform the assessment study will be involved in the hearing process.

Bryant Miller Olive previously worked for the county in 2018 and 2019. Once the cost of providing fire and EMS services was apportioned to property owners, the potential assessments for residences was more than \$300 a year, and 40 cents per square foot for commercial and other nonresidential property owners.

These rates were based on the proposed budgets for the departments, but the commission could have

approved lower rates as well. After public outcry, no new fees were approved at all.

Talk of the need for these assessments to maintain the current level of public safety services never really went away, however, and commissioners may be more resolved to go with new assessments to lower the property tax rate from 10 mills.

Non-ad valorem assessments play a role in financing various public services and infrastructure projects for local governments. Unlike property taxes, which are based on the value of the property, these special assessments are levied on property owners for specific services or improvements. They are typically calculated based on factors such as the size of the property, its use, or the benefits derived from the related services or improvements. Residential buildings are assessed based on the number of dwelling units, a single family home versus a multifamily development. Commercial

buildings can be assessed based on square footage.

Vacant agricultural land is exempt, a drawback in a county with so much timberland.

Common examples of non-ad valorem assessments include fees for street lighting, drainage systems, fire protection, solid waste management, and community development projects. By financing these services separately, local governments can allocate funds more directly to the projects and services for which they are intended.

Bradford County has a single special assessment in place, which is the fee that helps fund disposal of solid waste.

Baker has a residential fee of \$107 for firefighting, \$55 for solid waste and has considered a fee for EMS as well. Its property tax rate is around 7 mills. Union has assessments totaling \$140 for solid waste and rescue. It's tax rate remains high at 10 mills, however, plus another half-mill to help fund is public

library.

Bradford plans to advertise the resolution, and a public hearing will take place in February. Once the consultant has presented the methodologies and potential rate structures to county commissioners, the board will provide direction on how to proceed.

Publicly advertised and mailed notices will inform property owners about the final hearing. Based on the outcome the hearing, commissioners will vote the assessments up or down.

Those assessed are liable for paying the special assessments. Just like property taxes, the assessments constitute a lien against the property. Unlike property taxes, exemptions do not apply.

Last time, the consultant reviewed three years of data and allocated the cost of a full-time county fire department by service call percentages. Most calls — more than 63% — came from residences, while just under 30% came from nonresidential properties,

and 15.5% involved vacant properties.

The method was the same for calculating the EMS assessment, and the percentages were similar. One difference was the number of properties involved. The fire assessment included Lawley, Hampton and Brooker, but not the city of Starke, which has its own full-time fire department. County EMS does serve the city of Starke, so its property owners were included in the EMS assessment study.

It is up to the governing board of each municipality whether to opt in and allow the assessment to be collected with its city limits. Starke property owners, for example, do not pay the county's solid waste special assessment because the city contracts garbage collection and disposal to an outside company. Property owners pay for the service through their utility bills.

County commissioners have also indicated interest in bringing back impact fees on new development to help pay for the cost of growth.

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SANTA FE COLLEGE

Officers awarded for heroic actions

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Sheriff Gordon Smith presented three of his employees awards from the American Police Hall of Fame for their life saving roles at the jail and residential fire.

On March 28, a man arrested for what Smith said were severe felony charges attempted suicide by hanging in his holding cell. Civilian central control operator Megan Callahan called to him over intercom demanding he stop while simultaneously notifying Sgt. Jana Bennett of the emergency. Bennett responded immediately to cut the shirt and socks wrapped around the inmate's neck.

Smith reported that, his life saved, the inmate went to a crisis stabilization unit for extensive mental health counseling before returning to the jail, where he remained under observation for several days. He has made great progress, the sheriff said.

He had that chance because of Callahan's and Bennett's response.

"Without the quick response of staff, the inmate may have suffered life threatening injuries that could have resulted in death. I can't thank them enough for what they do each and every day," Smith said.

Maj. Dawn McKinley and her staff submitted their names to the American Police Hall of Fame, and both Callahan and Bennett were recognized with an award. Callahan received the Civilian Medal of Appreciation and



Pictured (l-r) are commissioners Chris Dougherty and Diane Andrews, Belfor's Tyler Bentley and Jason McGlinchey, Commissioner Kenny Thompson, BCOS Col. Brad Smith, Commission Chair Carolyn Spooner, Fire Rescue Chief Brad Carter, Belfor's David Knowles and Lonnie Katt, and Commissioner Danny Riddick.

Bennett the Live Saving Award.

Smith also recognized a former firefighter who now works for the sheriff's office for his life saving role in a February fire. Deputy Robert Malley was on patrol when he arrived on the scene of an Epperson Street Fire. Dispatch had indicated elderly people were inside the burning residential structure.

The two-story building was engulfed, with flames shooting from the roof, Smith said. An officer on scene informed Malley the front door was locked.

Malley forced entry by kicking the door open, and he and another officer entered to assist the residents. The sheriff said an elderly woman was quickly located and escorted to safety. Malley reentered and went upstairs, shouting "Police!" to anyone who could hear his voice.

The lights went out, but Malley could hear a voice faintly yelling for help. The woman inside the apartment could not get out and could not force the door open. Using the sound of his voice, the



Deputy Robert Malley and Sheriff Gordon Smith

deputy guided the woman to the door, and she was able to unbolt it. Malley and other officers were able to rescue her from the

smoke-filled apartment.

Malley received the Silver Star of Bravery from the American Police Hall of Fame.



Officer Jay Raulerson and Police Chief Jeff Johnson

The sheriff showed dramatic video from both incidents to the commission and public, and commissioners took turns

expressing their gratitude.

Sickness is in the air: Stay safe, breathe easy, stop the spread

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

Florida's cold and flu season is longer than other parts of the country, and the spread of respiratory viruses is high during holiday gatherings and when people return to work and school.

At best you are miserable and confined to bed, but respiratory illnesses can result in hospitalization and death, which is why annual vaccination is encouraged as early as possible during the season, which begins in October and lasts through May.

The very young, those 65 and older and pregnant women are at the most risk.

Based on the Florida Department of Health's most recent report, Bradford County experienced a flu outbreak right before Christmas.

Influenza is not one, but a variety of viruses primarily spread by droplets when people cough, sneeze or speak, and less often by touching a contaminated surface and then touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

Symptoms of the flu include a fever with a cough or sore throat. A fever of 102 degrees or higher can persist for three or four days. The nose may also be stuffy or sneezy. The body will hurt and feel exhausted. It can take as long as two to three weeks to recoup one's energy, according to the FDOH.

If you have the flu, you should stay home at least 24 hours after your fever disappears without the use of a fever-reducing medication, or for four to five days after symptoms first appeared. Drink plenty of fluids and rest. Some over the county medications may effectively reduce symptoms but avoid taking aspirin without approval of your doctor. Acetaminophen (such as Tylenol) or ibuprofen (such as Advil or Motrin) can relieve fever and aches.

To further prevent the spread of the illness, wash your hands, and do not share cups or utensils. Cover your mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing. If you don't have a tissue, use your

upper sleeve or elbow, not your hands.

According to FDOH, most people recover from the flu without seeing a health care provider. However, if symptoms get worse, appear better and then get worse, or a fever persists more than a few days, you should see your doctor right away.

For those with asthma or another chronic respiratory condition, discuss with your doctor how to manage your condition while sick. You could be more vulnerable to severe illness from respiratory infections.

To prevent becoming sick, FDOH recommends avoiding close contact with sick individuals, including handshakes and touching. Also, clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

Stay home when you are sick and ensure that sick children stay home as well.

Much of the same guidance applies to respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV. This is a common virus, and infection results in mild, cold-like symptoms. Young children and older adults are at greater risk. Vaccines for RSV for adults 60 and older was approved just last year.

A long-acting monoclonal antibody for children 20 months and younger was also approved. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, RSV is the leading cause of hospitalization among infants.

Most are infected during their first year, and nearly all have been infected by age 2. RSV infection can lead to severe bronchitis.

You can search for vaccine availability at Vaccines.gov, but locations typically include pharmacies like Walgreens and CVS.

COVID-19

Severe COVID-19 infections have also risen recently in the United States. According to the CDC, emergency room visits for COVID increased nearly 30% in the final week of December. Hospitalizations were up more than 20% to nearly 35,000, and COVID-related deaths were up 12.5%.

More than 1.16 million people have died of COVID in the U.S., and more than 6.6 million have been hospitalized.

COVID's symptoms most often resemble the cold, flu or pneumonia, but it can attack more than the respiratory system. While symptoms are usually mild, the illness can become severe, and even mild or asymptomatic infections can lead to long-term, post infection conditions. If you are older, immunocompromised or have an underlying health condition, you are a greater risk.

Because COVID is highly infectious, preventing the spread includes precautions such as isolation, masking and avoiding contact with those at

greater risk from infection. If you test positive, you should isolate yourself at home for at least five days. If you must be around others, wear a mask. Avoid travel, however. If you have an emergency warning sign such as trouble breathing, seek emergency medical care immediately.

If symptoms improve, you can end isolation after five days if you've gone 24 hours without a fever. Continue to isolate if symptoms persist until there is improvement, and you are fever-free for 24 hours. You should consider making it through day 10 unless you have two negative antigen tests at least 48 hours apart. A positive test means you may still be infectious.

CDC guidance is that everyone

6 months and older receive a free COVID vaccination. Children 6 months to 4 years will need multiple doses to get up to date, including one of the updated COVID vaccines. A dose of this updated vaccine is recommended for everyone 5 and older.

The updated 2023-24 vaccine targets the COVID Omicron variant and boosts protection from earlier vaccines, which may have diminished over time.

To those who have been infected and want to prevent reinfection, a waiting period of three months following infection is recommended unless your health or a loved one's health is at risk.

Bradford County has already had 36 positive COVID cases in 2024, and Union has had seven.

Bradford has almost matched its December total of 44 cases less than two weeks into the new year. This follows the trend of recent years with a higher number of cases in the winter months following the holidays.

Other peak months in Bradford and Union, according to the state numbers, include June, July and August, when there tends to be more travel and people are returning to school.



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Bradford High School Testing Coordinator Nicole Stafford, Teacher of the Year John Tinsler, Superintendent Will Hartley and Principal Chris Coffey.



Bradford High School Testing Coordinator Nicole Stafford, School-Related Employee of the Year Katrina Griffis, Superintendent Will Hartley and Principal Chris Coffey. Griffis was also named districtwide School-Related Employee of the Year.



Superintendent Will Hartley, Bradford Middle School Teacher of the Year Tracy Dawson, School-Related Employee of the Year Sarah Warren, Assistant Principal Karen Brugh and Principal Benjamin Hawkins.



Superintendent Will Hartley with Bradford Elementary School Teacher of the Year Natalie Whytzell, Assistant Principal Lauren Morgan and Principal Cassie Melvin. Whytzell was also selected districtwide Teacher of the Year.



Superintendent Will Hartley, Bradford Elementary School Assistant Principal Lauren Morgan, School-Related Employee of the Year Ami Griffis and Principal Cassie Melvin.



Rainbow Center School-Related Employee of the Year Joanna Smith with Superintendent Will Hartley and Crystal Crawford.



Lawtey Elementary School Principal Terri O'Quinn, Teacher of the Year William Strayer and Superintendent Will Hartley.



Lawtey School-Related Employee of the Year Michelle Brooks

Garden Club grows mushrooms

The Alligator Creek Garden Club invites the public to its January meeting and educational session, "How Do You Eat an Oak Log? Grow Shitake Mushrooms," presented by Paul Still, Ph.D. in plant pathology.

This informative session will help you get started with this rewarding edible gardening option. A limited number of shitake logs will be available for purchase at cost.

The meeting will take place Thursday, Jan. 18, at 2 p.m. at the Bradford County Senior Center, 1805 N. Temple Ave. in Starke. For more information or to reserve a log, contact Paul Still at 904-368-0291 or stillpe@aol.com.

Lake Region

Councilman quits Facebook

"If they want to sit there in their pajamas and throw out bad information, I think we just need to ignore it."

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
General manager

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — City Councilman Tony Brown told his colleagues he was frustrated with misinformation he reads on Facebook and has closed his account on the social media platform.

"I'm sick and tired of it," Brown declared during a January 8 council meeting. "I mean, everybody has a right to their opinion, but we bust our tails, our staff busts their tails, and instead of just jumping on something and just start typing and hiding behind a screen and using other names and stuff, it's just irritating when people say we ought to

all get fired; we ought to all get kicked off this council."

Council member Steve Hart said he thought most of the comments he has seen on Facebook about city business were fair, "but there are two or three that pop up just about every day where the person is uninformed, either intentionally or unintentionally, and just likes to snipe."

"It's so easy to hide behind your keyboard, sitting in your pajamas in your living room or whatever," Hart added.

The retired attorney advised his colleagues and city staff to ignore the social media comments.

"I think we have a public purpose to represent the people in the city and not engage in back and forth (on Facebook)," he said. "If they want to come to this meeting and have a public comment or be on the agenda, that's fine, but if they want to sit there in their pajamas and throw out

bad information, I think we just need to ignore it. I really do."

Mayor Nina Rodenroth said misinformation and unfair criticism on social media is not limited to the Lake Region.

"I am very involved with the League of Mayors for the State of Florida and (with) similar sized cities, every one of them go through some of these same challenges."

Earlier in the meeting, Rodenroth called for a workshop to improve the city's website and social media presence.

"Social media is great, but I think our city...can do a better job in how we state the facts, how we clarify details," she said. "There is a freedom of speech thing obviously, that it is what it is, but I think it's important for the citizens to know the facts, and they may not like the facts, but we want to make sure that they do know what the real facts are."



A key part of the plan is for the city to acquire a triangle-shaped parcel on the southeast corner and demolish the former Kentucky Fried Chicken and Chinese Restaurant that now sits on the land. A consultant recommended the city convert the parcel into additional parking and an open space area with trees and grass. Image: AktinsRealis

STREETS

Continued from page 1

The plan also includes eliminating street parking near Keystone Gun and Gifts and creating a right-turning lane on northbound State Road 21 for cars turning onto eastbound SR 100.

He said that now, some motorists can't tell if cars in front of the retailer are in line to turn right onto 100 or are parked in front of the store.

He said the loss of parallel street parking in front of the store would be offset by eight additional parking spaces to the north of the structure, where the restaurant used to be.

Shad said the pedestrian islands, also known as pork chops, near Keystone Gun and Gifts and CVS would assist walkers and cyclists crossing two of the four pedestrian crossings at the junction.

Other improvements include realigned crosswalks, skip lines through the center of the

intersection to guide motorists making left turns, and a painted gore area near Walgreens to guide cars through an unusually spacious area for vehicles turning right from westbound 100 to northbound 21.

Shad also discussed signal upgrades that include mast arms to replace the current signals suspended by span wires and back plates on signals to shield the sun from motorists looking west toward the traffic lights.

City Manager Lynn Rutkowski said Florida's Department of Transportation, which owns both roads, has been consulted on the recommendations.

She added that the owner of the former restaurant had indicated an interest in selling as long as he can recover the cost of the property, which she estimates to be around \$240,000. Rutkowski said the city's community redevelopment agency has the cash to buy the parcel at that price and recommended incoming City Manager Charlie Van Zant follow up on the proposed deal.

Garden Club grows mushrooms

The Alligator Creek Garden Club invites the public to its January meeting and educational session, "How Do You Eat an Oak Log? Grow Shitake Mushrooms," presented by Paul Still, Ph.D. in plant pathology.

This informative session will help you get started with this rewarding edible gardening option. A limited number of shitake logs will be available for purchase at cost.

The meeting will take place Thursday, Jan. 18, at 2 p.m. at the Bradford County Senior Center, 1805 N. Temple Ave. in Starke. For more information or to reserve a log, contact Paul Still at 904-368-0291 or stillpe@aol.com.

Bill would create dangerous dog registry

Proposal follows death of postal worker

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
General manager

STARKE — State Rep. Bobby Payne has filed a bill that would create a statewide registry of dangerous dogs.

HB873 would require Florida's agriculture department to maintain the registry, allowing the public to search the database for dogs declared dangerous by local authorities.

The bill is now slated to be heard by several committees.

It requires local animal control authorities to provide evidence to the state that dangerous dogs within their jurisdictions have been vaccinated for rabies, are secured within enclosures,

have been permanently identified as dangerous with a tattoo or microchip, and have been spayed or neutered.

The bill would also require local animal control officials to verify that the owners have obtained the liability insurance now required under state law.

Payne represents the Keystone Heights area. His district also includes all of Putnam County and portions of St. Johns and Marion.

The bill comes after the August 2022 death of letter carrier Pamela Rock, who was mauled by five dogs in rural Putnam County.

State Attorney R.J. Larizza declined to prosecute the owner of the canines after an investigation concluded that the dogs' owner tried to surrender the animals twice, including 10 days before the

attack.

The report stated that before the fatal incident, at least one of the dogs attacked a 50-year-old man, sending him to the hospital, and charged a woman's car, damaging the vehicle.

State law now makes the owners of dogs that attack people or other animals financially liable for their dog's actions. If a dog has been declared dangerous and attacks after the declaration, the owner could face misdemeanor charges.

In the Rock fatality, the sheriff's office recommended a misdemeanor charge for the owner of the five dogs, but Larizza's office declined, citing the owner's efforts to repair the fence that restrained the animals and his attempts to surrender the canines to animal control.



Starke Elementary School Principal Raymond Schaefer, School-Related Employee of the Year Laquesha White, Teacher of the Year Ashley Gunter, Superintendent Will Hartley and Assistant Principal Shannon Rodriguez. (Rodriguez now serves as the school district finance director.)



Kateyn T. Hardwick, Esq



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UNION COUNTY

Union upgrades brush trucks

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Special to the Times

When the Florida Legislature gave the Union County Fire Department a \$305,000 appropriation this session, Fire and Rescue Director Toby Witt and Fire Coordinator Paul McDavid knew what needed to be done with some of the funds. The county's two current brush trucks are 17 years old and in need of replacement, so that was decided to be one of the uses of the funds. Interestingly, the two trucks would be the first brand-new fire apparatus purchased for the department in 17 years.

The search began to find two trucks that would meet the need within the time the money had to be spent (the deadline was July 2024). The supply chain issue made it impossible to get a chassis from the factory (the main part of the vehicle before

it is made into a brush truck) within the timeframe. There is about a 20-month waiting list for the chassis needed to create the trucks, then the additional wait for them to be customized to purpose by smaller, private companies.

McDavid reached out to his list of contacts with the U.S. Forestry Service, made during his career, and found two either ready to go or close to finished. The one that was ready was located in Bartow, Florida, and simply required a day trip to pick it up. Word came that the second truck was ready in Provo, Utah, and McDavid was in a training class. The shipping would have cost the county \$4,000. Witt said he checked and found that he could go after the truck for much less, about \$1,300, so he decided to do that.

Witt flew out of Jacksonville at 7 a.m. on Sun., Dec. 10, headed to Salt Lake City with a plane



Fire Chief Paul McDavid and Fire and Rescue Director Toby Witt with the two new brush trucks bought recently.

change and layover on the way. He arrived at 2 p.m. their time (two hours behind Florida in the Mountain Time Zone). He then took an Uber to Provo and checked into a motel to get a good night's sleep. He was at the dealer's shop at 9 a.m. when they opened the following day and left with the truck at 10:30. He drove straight through Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico, making it to Amarillo, Texas, at 3 a.m. and slept in the truck in a rest area for about 3.5 hours. When he woke

up, he drove the rest of the way and said he was home in bed by 1:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 13.

The trucks are now located at the Union County EMS station in Lake Butler, awaiting appropriate decals to mark them. The decal packages will be a newer style than that on the old trucks.

Both trucks are four-wheel drives with crew cabs and are designed to do the same duties as the trucks used by forestry. They are both (the chassis) made by Dodge.

Brush trucks are typically 4x4 units that are light enough to respond to fires in rough terrain. In Union County, these trucks will be used not just for brush fires but also on other calls. Each will carry extraction gear and medical supplies that will enable them to answer all sorts of calls. They will eliminate the need to send out a big fire truck (saving fuel) and can go where other units cannot - providing fuel savings and a faster response time. Both trucks are rated at 16 mpg.

The cost of the trucks was well within the parameters of what was allowed in the appropriation, including Witt's odyssey to get the truck from Utah. The Utah truck cost \$165,000 plus the pickup costs, while the Bartow truck cost \$139,500. The important point is that both were purchased well before the spending date for the appropriation and will be in service to the county in a short time.

Income up, unemployment down, population flat

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Special to the Times

LAKE BUTLER — Union County changes slowly when it changes, a matter of some pride to many citizens. The demographics section in the recent 2022 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, produced by Union County Clerk of Court and Comptroller Kellie Rhoades and her staff, offers a clear picture of the changes in the statistics of the county over the past ten years.

In 2013 the population of the county was 15,258, rising to 15,550 in 2022. The high for this period was 15,799 in 2021, with the low at 14,940 in 2019. Part of this total population count is due to Department of Corrections inmates, who are usually counted as being residents of the county they are incarcerated in. In 2013 the inmate population was 4,769, dropping to a ten-year low of 3,866 in 2022. The high for the inmate population in the 10-year period was 5,212 in 2018. This leaves a population of 10,489 in 2013, up to a ten-year high of 11,684 in 2022.

Income per capita is another interesting subject because some figures include the inmate population. For the general population, income has increased from 26,079 in 2013 to 33,662 (the highest in the 10-year

period) in 2022.

The median age of the population of the county has not changed a great deal over 10 years, reported at 39.8 years in 2013, down a bit to 39.3 years in 2022. The highest median age in the 10-year period was 46.7 in 2017 while the lowest was 39.2 in 2014.

School enrollment also shows minimal fluctuations, with a 2013 enrollment of 2,213, increasing to 2,395 in 2022. Both of these figures reflect the lowest and highest figures of the 10-year period, respectively.

The unemployment rate has lowered quite steadily over the 10-year period. In 2013 the rate was 6.3% and was less than half that in 2022 at 3.1%. The 10-year high came in 2015, with an unemployment rate of 4.9%.

In the last 10 years, the value of property in the county has increased steadily for residential properties. The total assessed value of taxable residential property in the county has climbed steadily from \$210,396,331 in 2013 to \$281,307,264 in 2022. Commercial and other property has also risen steadily from \$147,924,315 in 2013 to \$169,611,574 in 2022. The total taxable value of agricultural property has seen the greatest fluctuation, going from

\$35,651,085 in 2013 down to \$35,569,502 in 2022 (down from \$43,053,787 in 2021, the 10-year high). For the period being considered, the tax rate has not changed over the 10 years, holding at 10.5 mills.

The county government has done well at holding the line on the number of people it employs. In fact, the number of employees has decreased over the period with very few fluctuations. The general government, overseen by the Board of County Commissioners employed 65.4 full time employees in 2013, up to 73.25. The constitutional officers have seen a similar small increase in employees as well, going from 113.4 in 2013 to 122 in 2022. Building permits have risen markedly over the period, rising from 34 in 2014 (2013 figures not available) to 628 in 2020.

Is Union County growing? It is hard to tell because of the fluctuations and non-fluctuations in the numbers. New businesses start up and a few do well enough to stay. There are numerous improvements to county (and city) infrastructure, either completed or in process. There seems to be no real indicator of where Union County is going in the future. It seems that only time will tell the whole tale.

23 wildfires in Union County

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Special to the Times

LAKE BUTLER — Recently, the Florida Forest Service presented the Board of County Commissioners with a report about forest-related incidents in Union County and how the FFS has dealt with them.

The document, covering the period between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023, reports 23 county wildfires, which burned 38.81 acres of forest, grass, and brush. About 87% were human-caused fires (debris burning), with the remainder caused by natural occurrences. Forest Rangers and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement investigated all the fires. In addition to the documented wildfires, Forestry personnel answered numerous calls reporting possible wildfires, unauthorized burning, and smoke complaints.

The Florida Forest Service enforces the state's forest fire laws and open burning regulations. When people want to burn land clearing piles, agriculture, or silviculture burnings, they must call the service to get a burning authorization. Such authorizations were issued to 358 individuals in the county during the period covered by the report. This burning accounted for 3,643 acres legally burned in Union County, including 712 piles of debris from land clearing.

The service issued 10 Notices of Violations to persons who violated the open burning laws. Such violations included burning without authorization, allowing fires to escape control, and not observing standard setback distances or legal burning hours.

The service's on-site inspection and landowner assistance program for burning in smoke-sensitive areas and in cases of first-time burners are valuable tools in the fire prevention program. The service inspected 39 landowners during the past fiscal year. This helps ensure that setback requirements are met and allows contact between Forest Service personnel and the individual responsible for the burn before it takes place, enabling service representatives

to give guidance and confidently approve the burn.

The Forest Service has continued to work with Union County Fire Department personnel to promote fire prevention, going into the schools and informing students about fire safety. The focus is on students at Lake Butler Elementary School, but information is also shared with local groups and organizations to be involved in the community. Forestry Service personnel visit local events, such as the recent Back to Raiford Day celebration, to talk with residents and hand out age-appropriate information and small gifts (often featuring Smokey Bear) to help children learn and remember fire safety and enjoy their day.

The Forest Service is not just about policing individuals burning on their property and bringing Smokey Bear to see little kids; the Service is just that, a service that can/will benefit landowners by keeping their trees healthy and happy. The service is the outreach arm of several programs that can benefit county residents in silviculture areas, be it trees in the landscaping around their property or acres planted in trees to be marketed for a profit. The forest industry has contributed to the Union County economy for over 100 years. The county has been assessed at about 140,000 acres of forest land - 86% of the county's total land area. According to a University of Florida study, about 53% of that forest land is planted in industrial timber, 42% in non-industrial forest, and the county or state owns the remaining 5%.

Union County contributes about \$54 million of the state's \$13 billion in annual sales of forest products and provides 770 jobs to residents. Since the mid-90s, Union County has seen a shift in forest land ownership from forest industry to private non-industrial forest (PNIF). One of forestry's main goals is to promote sound management of the state's PNIF and to assist owners in practices like multiple-use land management techniques and using their forest land for timber, recreation, wildlife, and aesthetics.

The Forest Stewardship Program is defined as "the active management of forests and related resources to promote a productive, healthy condition for present and future generations and to increase the economic, environmental, and social benefits of these lands." Forest Stewards are landowners committed to the long-term management of their forest land. Currently, there are 8,750 acres actively enrolled in the program - 1,000 acres of which have come into the program this past year. Connected with this program in the American Tree Farm System, where the lands are certified. In Union County, 18,300 acres are certified under this system.

There are several cost-share and land-owner assistance programs offered to private landowners. Several state and federal agencies provide financial assistance programs to help small landowners cover the cost of maintaining their forests. Among these programs are the Southern Pine Beetle Assistance and Prevention Program, the Florida Future Forests Program, the Forest Management plans that the county Forester will create for PNIF land owners, and Forest Health and Disease Monitoring. The service constantly trains rangers in the new and best practices to use in their programs. It passes them on to landowners and the community through education programs with the FFA, 4-H, various clubs and organizations, and in conjunction with the UF Extension Service.

Union (and Bradford) county residents can call the local forester at the New River Forestry Station for more information about the Forestry Service or the various programs they administer. This station, located at 11367 SR-100 West in Lake Butler, serves both Bradford and Union counties. Residents of either county can call Forester Rachel Kyle at (386)496-2190.

Austin Thomas, Forest Area Supervisor for Bradford and Union counties, and Bradford/Union CFA Forester Rachel Kyle can answer questions and advise landowners about fire safety and other silviculture issues.

Pastor appreciation

St. John Missionary Baptist Church will honor Pastor James E. Rackley for 19 years of perfect attendance and faithful service on Sunday, Jan. 21, at 11 a.m. All

are welcome.

Dance company showcase

Starke Dance Academy

will present A Winter's Wish Company Showcase on Saturday, Jan. 20, at Bradford High School's auditorium. Doors open at 3:15 p.m. and the performances begin at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance (on sale at the studio) or \$15 at the door.

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Arbor Day tree giveaway

In honor of Florida's Arbor Day and the 100th anniversary of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Alligator Creek Garden Club invites the public to join garden clubs statewide in planting a tree at 11 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 19. The Garden Club's planting will be at 11 a.m. at the Bradford County Senior Center, 1805 N. Temple Ave. in Starke.

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., a tree giveaway, kid's activities, and planting and care demonstrations will also mark the day in

partnership with UF/IFAS Extension in Bradford County and the Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District at the Bradford County Extension Office, 2266 N. Temple Ave. in Starke.

For more information on Alligator Creek Garden Club, contact Paul Still at 904-368-0291 or stillpe@aol.com.

UC giveaway

A Florida Arbor Day tree giveaway will be held Friday, Jan. 19, from 9 a.m. until noon at the UF/IFAS Union County Extension Office at 15120 S.W.

84th St.

The event is being held courtesy of UF/IFAS Extension and the Florida Forest Service, which is a division of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Commissioner Wilton Simpson).

Children are encouraged to attend, but all are invited to this free event, which is for Florida residents. The tree giveaway is limited to one per resident.

For more information, please call the Union Extension Office at 386-292-4984, or email Forester Rachel Kyle Rachel.kyle@fdacs.gov.

Crime

Recent arrests in Bradford, Union and Clay

The following individuals were arrested recently by local law enforcement officers in Bradford, Union or Clay (Keystone Heights-area) counties. All defendants are considered innocent until convicted in a court or until pleading guilty or no contest. Information in this report is from law enforcement agencies and court documents, which are public records.

Bradford

Joze Rose Bruce, 19, of Lawtey was arrested by Starke Police on January 3 for a probation violation.

John Glenn Byrd, 57, of Crystal River was arrested by Starke Police on December 31 for disorderly intoxication.

Jerry Scott Fulford, 52, of High Springs was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 2 for DUI.

Jacquara Octavia George, 34, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 2 for withholding support.

Todd Christian Hoffman, 36, of Jacksonville was arrested by Lawtey police on January 1 for resisting an officer, possession of marijuana, hit-and-run, and possession of drug equipment.

Gerald Lynn Jackson, 43, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 2 for failure to appear.

William James Kent, 49, of Green Cove Springs was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 4 for withholding support.

Chase William Lamoree, 21, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 30 for driving with a suspended or revoked license, reckless driving, and fleeing and eluding.

Garrett Ethan Manning, 27, of Lawtey was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 1 for DUI.

Brady Joseph Pearson, 19, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 1 for DUI.

Ricky Wayne Rickman, 44, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Starke Police on January 5 for child cruelty.

Teddrick, Maurice Thomas, 34, of Starke was arrested by state troopers on January 3 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Union

Jacobo B. Anaya, 42, was arrested by Union deputies on January 8 for homicide.

Aliexis L. Arrietta, 29, was arrested by Union deputies on January 8 for battery, smuggling contraband into a prison and aggravated battery.

Chelsy Lynn Croft, 33, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on January 5 for disorderly intoxication.

Clay

Kyle Matthew Gibbs, 26, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on January 4 for burglary.

Khorydel Donovan Molihan, 26, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on January 1 for DUI.

Samantha Ann Truman, 47, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on December 31 for child abuse.

January sobriety checkpoints announced

During the month of January, the Bradford County Sheriff's Office will be conducting sobriety checkpoints in one or more of the following locations:

U.S. Highway 301 and Market Road, S.R. 100 West, S.R. 100 East and Southeast 109th Street, Southeast S.R. 21, S.R. 16 and Southwest S.R. 231.

Brandished knife over missing wallet

STARKE—A 25-year-old Brooker man was arrested after his family members accused him of threatening them with a knife.

Blakely Thomas Trueblood was arrested for aggravated assault on December 25.

A family member of the defendant told deputies that she and the defendant had been arguing all day about a missing wallet, and Trueblood swung a knife with a blade approximately 16 inches long at family members.

The defendant told deputies that he never swung the knife at anyone but was going through a mental health issue and family members were trying to take the weapon from him.

"Trueblood stated that he has had a very rough year and wants to kill himself," wrote reporting officer B. Whitehead in an arrest report. "While in the holding cell at the sheriff's office, Trueblood started banging on the bench and screaming that he was going to kill himself. Due to this behavior, Trueblood was placed in the restraint chair and taken over to the Bradford County Jail."

Whitehead added that since children were present during the incident, he notified Florida's Department of Children and Families of the assault.

Tried to stab brother over cell phone

STARKE—Bradford deputies arrested a 25-year-old Starke woman after her brother said she tried to stab him.

Jimea Alise Tyson was arrested for aggravated assault.

According to an arrest report, the victim told deputies he was holding a phone for a friend, and his sister demanded he turn over the device to her. When he refused, she attacked him and, during the fight, drew a knife and tried to stab him.

Witnesses corroborated the victim's account of the event, adding that the pair's mother separated the two parties and calmed down the defendant.

Deputy Anthony Drew wrote that Tyson declined to talk about the incident without a lawyer present.

Hit partner with cell phone

STARKE—Deputies arrested a Sampson City man after he struck a family member in the back of her head with a cell phone.

Jonathan Ray Burns, 29, was booked on an aggravated battery charge.

According to an arrest report, a neighbor called deputies after the victim showed up at the neighbor's door covered in blood.

Deputy Mark Juen wrote in the report that he made contact with the defendant, who told the officer the victim was being mind-controlled by the television and air conditioner.

"I asked Jonathan what happened to (the victim), and he advised that she cut herself on the back door and had blood all over her chest," wrote the officer.

Burns later admitted to a physical altercation between himself and the victim and claimed he captured the incident on video.

"Jonathan proceeded to show a video of his senseless babbling about mind control. However, there was no video showing a physical altercation," the deputy reported.

The victim told Juen that Burns hit her in the back of the head with a cell phone. Juen noted a one-inch laceration on the victim's head and blood on the woman's hair and chest. She added that the attack occurred

while she was trying to calm Burns down.

"The victim advised that she is scared to call us whenever there are incidents that occur in her residence," the deputy wrote, "because she has nowhere else to go."

Christmas Eve prowler arrested in Pleasant Grove

STARKE—Deputies arrested a 23-year-old Starke man after complaints that he walked around a Pleasant Grove residence and onto the front porch uninvited.

Cameron Jamal McKenzie was arrested for loitering or prowling.

According to an arrest report, a woman inside the Northwest 177th Street residence told a deputy she heard knocking on the back door and saw the defendant walking around the carport. She added that the man appeared to be talking to someone, but no one else was around. The defendant picked up several items in the carport and then put them back before walking around to the front and entering the front porch. He then exited the area and continued walking around the house.

The woman said she feared for her safety and called a household member who was at work. The family member called a neighbor who arrived to see Mason exit the front porch door.

The neighbor added that McKenzie walked around the home, pulling on bushes. After the neighbor told McKenzie to leave, the defendant continued walking around the structure and, at one point, asked the neighbor if he had keys to the four-wheeler on the property.

Deputy Paul King said he detained and interviewed the defendant.

"While speaking with Cameron, he advised me that he used methamphetamine and that he was looking for 'Jeff,' the deputy wrote in an arrest report. The neighbor told King there was no one at the residence by that name.

Third strike sends man to prison

A 60-year-old Starke man on probation was sentenced to a year behind bars after he violated the terms of his supervision twice.

Arthur Lavern DeSue was initially arrested on December 17, 2021, after a Starke police confidential source bought 0.1 grams of crack cocaine from the defendant for \$20 on Florida Street.

Circuit Judge James M. Colaw sentenced the defendant to two years of drug offender probation the following April.

In September 2023, a probation officer reported that a urine sample DeSue gave tested positive for cocaine, that he was \$360 in arrears in his supervision costs, and that he was \$53 in arrears in paying court costs.

In response, Colaw extended DeSue's supervision by six months and ordered him to undergo a drug and alcohol evaluation.

However, one month later, another urine sample provided by the defendant showed cocaine in his system. According to the probation officer's violation report, DeSue claimed the positive test resulted from him touching the illegal controlled substance.

Drugs found in purse, then in system

STARKE—A woman first arrested in 2022 after deputies found drug paraphernalia in her purse was sentenced to a year in prison when on probation, she failed a drug test.

Mary Kathrine Horsley, 50, was initially arrested during a traffic stop on March 30, 2022,



Pictured (L-R) DOH staff Dan Mann, Sabrina Wynn, Iana Patterson, Debbie Williams, County Commissioner Carolyn Spooner, CHO Amie Oody, Lawtey City Councilwoman, Debra Norman, and Resident Olivia Scott.

Lawtey hosts grand opening of Health and Wellness Hub

BY MELISSA PYLE
Telegraph Staff Writer

Iana Patterson brought her vision of reaching rural communities to life with the grand opening of Bradford Community Partners Health and Wellness Hub in Lawtey. The hub is one of three new resource locations that will be hosting regular events for small communities.

Patterson hopes the community will spread the word and encourage citizens to take advantage of the resources that are conveniently coming to their neighborhood. Many vendors participated in the event, which was held on Dec. 14 in the Lawtey recreation building.

Services represented will vary each month, but some in attendance were the Florida Department of Health, UF Mobile Health, National Caucus and Center on Black Aging, Elder Options, Restoring U Matters, and others. These services are being brought to local neighborhoods to help people gain access to advice and opportunities, not only in regards to health, but also with services



Debbie Williams and Iana Patterson represented the Florida Department of Health at the grand opening of Lawtey's Health and Wellness Hub.

from the Florida Department of Children and Families, which provides in-person answers and resources.

The Lawtey hub will be the third Thursday of each month.

Other resource hubs are located in Starke at the RJE School the first and third Thursday of each month and in Hampton at the Arc of Bradford on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month.

when deputies found a cut straw with methamphetamine residue in her purse and a bag containing 1.2 grams of the stimulant in the car.

After pleading to two drug charges the following July, the defendant was sentenced to two years of drug offender probation.

According to a Department of Corrections violation report, the defendant tested positive for methamphetamine on November 8, 2023. Meridian Behavioral discharged Horsley on October 18 for noncompliance.

Went on shopping spree with aunt's bank card

STARKE—Bradford deputies arrested a 46-year-old Keystone Heights woman after family members accused her of fraud.

Christy Renee Jones was arrested on December 24 for the June 2023 offenses of illegal use of credit cards.

According to a warrant affidavit, the defendant's 66-year-old aunt told deputies she gave Jones her bank card "to go up to the nearby store to purchase a few things."

However, the aunt and her husband later discovered that Jones had also used their card to make two buys at Bealls for \$134 and a purchase from Verizon prepaid for \$257.

Deputy Savannah Duncan wrote in the affidavit that she contacted a local Verizon retailer four times in attempts to obtain a video of the transaction, but the dealer was unable to produce the recordings.

Duncan also reported that she tried to talk to the defendant at her Speedville-area residence. However, Jones was not home when the deputy tried to make contact.

Flushed evidence down the toilet

STARKE—A 41-year-old Starke woman was arrested after Bradford deputies accused her of destroying evidence during a drug raid.

Amanda Gail Godwin was arrested on December 27 for the December 19 offense.

According to a warrant affidavit, while the office's drug task force and S.W.A.T. team conducted a narcotics search warrant in the Hampton-Theresa area, deputies issued

callouts to anyone inside of the residence, and Godwin exited the home carrying a small child. Another woman came out with two children and a man also left the building.

While searching the Southeast 109th Street (also known as Meng Dairy Road) residence, deputies found a Roku camera in the home's bedroom and viewed video captured on the device.

Detective Hunter Redding wrote in a warrant affidavit that the video shows Godwin and a co-defendant taking items from a bedroom dresser drawer and placing them into a box. The two women are then seen taking the box into a bathroom. The two defendants were also seen taking items from a closet to the bathroom. Redding reported that he found a glass pipe with drug residue in the closet, and another detective found plastic baggies in the toilet.

"Based on the findings," Redding wrote, "it appeared as if illegal narcotics and/or drug paraphernalia was flushed down the toilet in an attempt to conceal/destroy evidence."



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State runner-up football team is 1 BHS highlight in '23

Editor's note: The following is a look at the high school varsity teams and individuals that won championships at the district, regional or state levels, earned medals in state competition or that qualified to participate in regional and state competitions in 2021. Any omissions are unintentional.

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

The most memorable sports moment in 2023 for Bradford High School had to be that it played for a state championship in football for the first time since 1985 for just the fourth time in school history, finishing as the state runner-up in Class 2S after a 20-6 loss to defending state champ Cocoa.

Bradford went 10-0 during the regular season and had no problem winning the District 6 championship. The Tornadoes had beaten Keystone Heights 48-6, while Palatka beat Keystone 41-21. That meant the winner between the Tornadoes and the Panthers would earn the district trophy.

The Tornadoes scored three touchdowns in the first five minutes of the game and had five total in the first half in beating Palatka 42-0.

Bradford's defense created five turnovers, the first occurring on the first series of the game when Trente Jenkins scooped up a fumble caused by Torin Brazell and returned it more than 30 yards for a touchdown.

Duke Lewis had a sack-fumble on Palatka's second series, with the Tornadoes' Jordan Daniels recovering the loose ball. That led to Dae'Jon Shanks' 21-yard touchdown pass to Chalil Cummings.

Shanks, who was 3 of 5 for 47 yards, also threw a 21-yard scoring pass to Elijah Kellum. The quarterback also had an 11-yard touchdown run.

Kellum finished with the one catch, while Cummings caught two passes for 26 yards.

Jeremiah McKenzie had a 24-yard touchdown run and finished with 45 yards on three carries.

Brian Cliffin led the ground game with 100 yards on eight carries.

Jyquez Cason scored on special teams with an 81-yard punt return.

Kicker Declan Hense was 4 of 5 on extra-point kicks.

Bradford's defense held Palatka to 32 yards.

The Tornadoes were the number-one seed in Region 2 and began the playoffs with a 42-0 quarterfinal win over Atlantic.

Shanks was 6 of 7 passing for 140 yards and two touchdowns, while rushing for 62 yards and one touchdown on five carries.

The offense had 333 yards. Brazell and Kellum had touchdown receptions of 39 and 35 yards, respectively. Cason had a blocked punt that led to a 30-yard scoring drive and later rushed for a 26-yard touchdown.

Cliffin and Elijah Lawrence also had touchdown runs.

Hense was 6 of 6 on extra-point kicks.

Bradford's defense, which got a fumble recovery by McKenzie, allowed Atlantic to gain just 29 yards.

In the Region 2 semifinals, Bradford gave up its first touchdown in five games, but still defeated Eastside 28-7.

The Rams were held to no points and 33 yards in the second half, finishing with 166 yards overall. Bradford created three turnovers — fumble recoveries by Jenkins and Lewis and an interception by Cummings.

On offense, Cummings caught five passes for 56 yards. He had touchdown receptions of 7 and 24 yards.

Shanks completed 8 of 9 passes for 115 yards, while also rushing for 83 yards on 13 carries.

McKenzie, who rushed for 60 yards on eight carries, had two short touchdown runs in the second half.

Hense was 4 of 4 on PATs.

The Tornadoes won the Region 2 championship by defeating Baker County 43-0. It was their sixth straight win by at least three touchdowns.

Cason had a huge game, which included rushing for scores of 8 and 37 yards and catching a 21-yard touchdown pass from McKenzie. He finished with 97 rushing yards on six carries, while catching three passes for 51 yards.

Bradford, which had 343 yards, also got touchdown runs from McKenzie and Shanks, while the defense had the first score of the game on Lewis' fumble return.

A bad shotgun snap by Baker resulted in a safety that added to Bradford's point total.

Hense was 5 of 6 on PATs.

Things weren't going well for

the Tornadoes in their next game, but they overcame five turnovers and a two-touchdown defeat in the fourth quarter to defeat Pensacola Catholic 22-21 in overtime in the state semifinals.

Bradford finally got on the board when Cummings turned a screen pass into a 64-yard touchdown. The Tornadoes later put together an 80-yard scoring drive that began with approximately six minutes left in regulation. It came down to a fourth-and-3 play at the Pensacola Catholic 9-yard line. McKenzie, who was in at quarterback for the injured Shanks, threw a touchdown pass to Chason Clark with 1:27 on the clock. Hense added his second PAT of the night to tie the score.

The Crusaders drove down field and attempted a 41-yard field goal, which was no good on the final play.

Pensacola Catholic had the first possession in overtime, which resulted in Nigel Nelson scoring a touchdown on a 5-yard run. After the extra point, the Crusaders led 21-14.

Bradford's first offensive play in overtime was a 9-yard run by Willie Pollard, which set up McKenzie's 1-yard touchdown. The Tornadoes elected to go for two. Shanks, who had returned from his injury, kept the ball and followed blockers Brazell and Clark into the end zone for the win.

The Crusaders rolled up 239 yards in the first half, but were held to 39 yards the rest of the way.

In the state-championship game, Bradford created five turnovers and held a high-scoring Cocoa team to just two field goals in the second half, but the offense struggled in the 20-6 loss.

Lewis recovered a fumble on Cocoa's first series, which led to Bradford putting the first points on the board when Cummings hauled in a 15-yard touchdown pass from Shanks.

Cocoa took the lead on its next possession, scoring on a 37-yard pass play and adding a successful extra point.

The Tigers scored a touchdown on a 99-yard drive in the second quarter, benefitting from 40 yards in penalties assessed against Bradford.

Cocoa was close to adding another first-half score, but fumbled the ball out of the end zone at the Bradford 1-yard line.

Bradford's defense, which held Cocoa to its lowest point total of the season, got a fumble recovery by Devon McBride and interceptions by Cason and Cummings.

The Tornadoes finished the season 14-1. The loss was just the third for Bradford in two seasons.

Weightlifter Bakken is a state runner-up

Takeirra Bakken finished second in the 199-pound class with a 400 total at the Florida High School Athletic Association Class 1A Girls Weightlifting



The Tornadoes celebrate their first-ever district championship. Pictured (l-r) are Head Coach John Staples, Jamissia Williams, Assistant Coach Loretta Levenson, Ashlyn Waters, Tatyana Brown, Khamyra Hankerson (kneeling), Talaysia Cummings, Gabby Oliver, Ar'Nayshia Griffin, Nichelle Brown, Ajiyah Jackson, Jaydyn Lee, Kimber Woods, Alexis Berry, Jada Hankerson, Courtney Comer, Kayla Evans and Izariya DeSue. File photo by Cliff Smelley.

Finals.

Bakken was one of three from Bradford to qualify for state. Rylie Blankenship finished ninth in the 110 class with a 225 total, while Allie McFarland was 13th in the 169 class with a 285 total.

The postseason began with Bradford earning the team runner-up trophy at the District 6-1A meet. Bakken, Blankenship, Brianna Brooks (unlimited class) and Gabby Oliver (199 class) won their classes, while McFarland placed third to also earn the right to advance to regional-level competition.

Bakken won the Region 2 title in her class to automatically qualify for state. Blankenship took second in her class, while McFarland was fourth.

Clark lifts at state

Chason Clark qualified for state in boys weightlifting after his seventh-place total at the Region 2-1A meet was good enough to earn him an at-large bid.

Clark, who lifted in the 199 class, advanced to regionals off a fourth-place finish at the District 7 meet. At regionals, he had a 540 total, sending him to state, where he finished 11th with a 560 total.

Bradford had three lifters in all advance from districts to regionals. Cayden Carter did so with a sixth-place total of 450 in the 238 class, while Reese Wainwright advanced with a ninth-place total of 410 in the 199 class.

Cheerleaders make state in 1st year

Bradford took part in the competitive cheer season for the first time and qualified for the state finals with its performance in the Region 1 event.

The Tornadoes had a raw score of 68.6 in the Small Varsity division (up to 12 participants). Teams — including region champions and runners-up — that have a raw score of at least 60 qualify for the state semifinals.

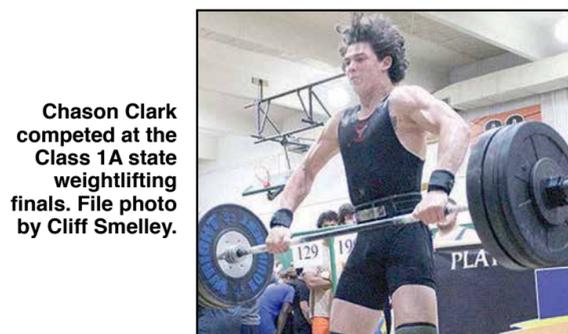
Participating on the team were Skyla Buonacore, Abigail Casey, Madison Casey, Kendall Cook, Nivaiah Foster, Desirae Jones, Jamiee Lin, Kailey Marr, Lily Mercer, Abbigale Moore, Emma Mueller, Kayla Mueller and Amy Prescott.

BHS wins 1st-ever flag football title

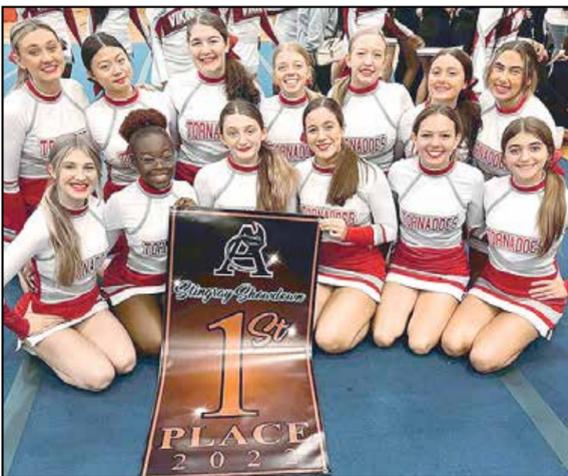
Bradford posted its 12th shutout of the season in winning its first-ever girls flag football championship, defeating Lincoln 36-0 to claim the District 2 trophy.

The Tornadoes advanced to the championship game by defeating Suwannee 28-12 in the semifinals. Suwannee led twice, but Bradford scored 21 unanswered points in getting the win.

Ar'Nayshia Griffin completed 15 of 29 passes for 195 yards and two touchdowns. One touchdown went to Khamyra Hankerson, who had four catches for 35



Chason Clark competed at the Class 1A state weightlifting finals. File photo by Cliff Smelley.



Bradford, in its first year of competitive cheerleading, qualified for state. Pictured are: (front, l-r) Abbigale Moore, Nivaiah Foster, Skyla Buonacore, Kendall Cook, Lily Mercer, Madison Casey, (back, l-r) Emma Mueller, Jamiee Lin, Amy Prescott, Abigail Casey, Desirae Jones, Kayla Mueller and Kailey Marr.

yards, while the other went to Woods, who caught two passes for 20 yards.

Hankerson also scored on defense on an interception return. Nichelle Brown, who had two carries for 20 yards, added a rushing touchdown. She also caught five passes for 90 yards.

Griffin led the team in rushing with 110 yards on 12 carries.

The defense got six sacks from Ajiyah Jackson and two interceptions by Griffin.

In the win championship win over Lincoln, Jada Hankerson returned two interceptions for touchdowns, while Brown had a 63-yard touchdown run.

Griffin rushed for 68 yards and a touchdown on 15 carries, while completing 5 of 10 passes for 73 yards and two touchdowns.

Jada Hankerson and Khamyra Hankerson each had a touchdown catch.

Bradford's season ended with a 7-0 loss to Paxon in the Region 1 quarterfinals.

The defense did its part to keep the Tornadoes in the game, intercepting four passes inside the Bradford 5-yard line.

Griffin rushed for 81 yards on 17 carries and completed nine passes for 68 yards.

Woods caught five passes for 46 yards, while Khamyra Hankerson had four catches for 22 yards.

Bradford, which finished with a 16-1 record, played without Brown, who was injured in the district championship game.

Regional berths earned in girls hoops, track and field and boys golf

Despite going 0-1 in the

District 2-3A tournament, the girls basketball team earned a Region 1 berth.

Bradford, after a first-round bye, lost 60-46 to Trinity Catholic in the semifinals of the district tournament. Jada Hankerson scored 17 second-half points (including 11 points on 14 free-throw attempts) as the Tornadoes cut a 16-point deficit to single digits, but the Celtics were able to pull away in the end.

Hankerson led all scorers with 24 points, while Ar'Nayshia Griffin scored 12 points. The Tornadoes also got five points from Nichelle Brown, two points each from Destiny Crum and Gemma Rodriguez and one point from Ajiyah Jackson.

It was the seventh loss in nine games for the Tornadoes, but they earned an at-large regional playoff berth. They traveled to play top seed Providence and lost 58-46 in a Region 1 quarterfinal game.

Griffin and Hankerson each scored 13 points, while Brown had 10 points. Bradford also got four points from Ayanna Pringle and two points each from Crum, Jackson and Khamyra Hankerson.

In track and field, Bradford qualified for regional competition in two events. The boys 4x800m relay team of Jordan Barton, Krystian Harris, Chayten Sanders and Hayden Starling ran a third-place time of 10:37 at the District 3-2A meet, while Kaelyn Booker took fourth in the girls 400m with a time of 1:04.

Charlie Zink earned a regional berth in boys golf after shooting an 18-hole score of 86 to tie for 10th. He was one of the top three individuals not on one of the top three teams, which automatically qualified for regionals.



Takeirra Bakken was a state runner-up lifter.



Chalil Cummings was a standout defensive back and receiver for BHS, which won district and regional titles en route to playing for the Class 2S state title. File photo by Cliff Smelley.

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RF23

Obituaries

Irene Camp



Irene "Lynn" Camp, 64, of Hampton, passed away on Monday, Jan. 1, 2024, at North Florida Regional Medical Center. She was born in Ft. Lauderdale on Nov. 4, 1959, to Doris Leona Dufour Shaw and the late Robert Henry Shaw. She was raised in Pompano Beach and attended Deerfield Beach High School. While in school, she met her best friend and high school sweetheart, Johnny Ray Camp. Following school, Johnny left for boot camp, and years later they rekindled their love, marrying on June 19, 2021. In the late 1970s, she moved to North Carolina for a few years and then returned to Florida in Coral Springs. In 1998, she made Bradford County her forever home. One of her greatest accomplishments was owning and operating Last Lap Cafe in Starke with her sister, Candy Nichols. She was known for her bubbly and friendly personality. She never met a stranger, and everyone was her friend. She loved others. Her character would light up any room, and she found great joy in talking. She was an avid collector of vintage cans and M&M collectibles. She even had her kitchen upgraded to a Coca-Cola theme. She didn't drink the beverage, but loved the design and colors. She was such a treasure to her family and will be deeply missed by all who knew her. She was preceded in death by her father, Robert Henry Shaw; stepfather, Kenneth Bryan; and sister, Candy Nichols.

She is survived by her loving husband of two years, Johnny Ray Camp of Hampton; mother, Doris Bryan of Winter Haven; children, Robert (Jeri Lynn) Tesseneor of Cape Coral and Kari (Rusty) Fankhouser of Bronson; stepdaughter, Christina (Jason) McElroy of Douglasville, Georgia; brother, Tom Shaw of St. Petersburg; sister, Anita Roberts of Winter Haven; 14 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and one great-grandson on the way.

A Celebration of Life was held on Saturday, Jan. 6, at Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel.

Arrangements were under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services and Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel, Starke. 904-964-5757. Visit www.ferreirafuneralservices.com to sign the family's guest book.

PAID OBITUARY

Myra Cowart



Myra Elizabeth Cowart, 80, of Starke, died Saturday, Dec. 31, 2023, at Magnolia Ridge Rehabilitation Center in Gainesville.

Survivors are her children, John J. (Penny) Cowart Jr., Mark Cowart, Morgan (Stephen) Sowell; sister, Delores (Hank) Grohmann; and many extended family members.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 17, at Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services and Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel, Starke. 904-964-5757.

Tommy Cox



Tommy Ezra Cox, 84, passed away peacefully on Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024, surrounded by his family. He was born on Oct. 11, 1939, in Steinman, Virginia, to the late Cassie Cox Pressley and Guy Cox. He resided in Brooker and was a member of the Brooker Baptist Church. He graduated high school in 1958 in Castlewood, Virginia and attended Concord College in Athens, West Virginia. He leaves behind a legacy of love, dedication, and unwavering kindness. He was introduced to the love of his life, Linda Gayle Green Cox, at the Lake Butler skating rink by her cousin, Diane Dukes Allgood. He and Linda were blessed with a remarkable marriage of 61 years. Their enduring love and commitment were a guiding light to many, inspiring resilience, support, and an unbreakable bond. A devoted father to Bradlee (Cheryl) Cox and Deena (Lee) Harrison, his legacy of love and guidance will live on through them. His pride and joy expanded with his grandchildren, Bradlee (Meghan) Cox Jr., Charles (Rebekah) Cox, Kaylee (Nate) Baron, Emilee (Jeremiah) Gantea, Kim (Brian) Curran, Rylee Cox, Bella Cox, Mallory Mastronardi, and Alayna (Mac) Jones. Additionally, his 13 great-grandchildren are a testament to the love and joy he shared. He served his country honorably in the Air Force, embodying principles of duty and service. His dedication extended throughout his career, leaving an indelible mark in leadership roles. He started his business career at Copeland Sausage as a parts manager and transportation supervisor until the company closed in 1977. He then worked for R.O. Camp Trucking as truck supervisor, then sales for Central Motor Supply. In 1990, at age 50, he started working for the state of Florida as a corrections officer, progressing to sergeant, followed by a promotion to Food Service Director II. In his food service role, he worked for both the state of Florida and Aramark in various locations, including Baker, Columbia, and Lancaster correctional institutions, and the Florida Department of Corrections Reception and Medical Center (RMC). He retired from RMC in 2011. He utilized his leadership skills and musical abilities to contribute to the community by serving the church as a deacon, Sunday school teacher, and leading music ministry for both adults and children. He was preceded in death by his parents; and his brother, Eudell Vaughn.

He is survived by his wife, Linda Cox of Brooker; siblings, Jimmy Cox, Betty Dean, Becky (Norman) Barber, Eddie (Nina) Cox, and Sharon Cox; two children; nine grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

On Saturday, Jan. 13, family and friends will gather to honor his remarkable life at Brooker Baptist Church with visitation taking place from 12 p.m. until 1 p.m., with the funeral service beginning at 1 p.m. He will be laid to rest immediately following the service at Dekle Cemetery in Lake Butler. These events will celebrate a life well-lived, a man deeply cherished by all who knew him, and a legacy of love, service, and dedication that will endure through the values he imparted and the lives he touched. His memory will forever reside in the hearts of those fortunate enough to have known his boundless love, warmth, and enduring kindness.

Arrangements under the care and direction of Archer-Milton Funeral Home. 386-496-2008 www.ArcherFuneralHome.com

PAID OBITUARY

Douglas Ferguson Sr.

Douglas E. Ferguson, Sr., 71, of Starke, passed away Monday, Jan. 1, 2024, at Shands UF Hospital in Gainesville. He attended the local schools of Bradford County and served in the United States Army.

Visitation will be held on Friday Jan. 12, from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. at the Carl and Elaine D. Haile Memorial Chapel/Haile Funeral Home, Inc., 802 N. Oak St., Starke 32091. 904-964-7905. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 13, at the Mt. Moriah Community Church, 803 N. Oak St. Starke, 32091. Interment will be at Oddfellow Cemetery, Starke under the direction of Haile Funeral Home, Inc.

Debra Geiger



Mrs. Debra "Debbie" Geiger, 60, of Starke passed away at her home, Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024. She was born in Jacksonville on Sept. 19, 1963, to Raymond and Julia (Lofin) Austin. She had been employed for 18 years with the Bradford County Public Library as their IT specialist. She attended First Church of Starke and enjoyed crafting, computers, nature, and sitting on the dock at the lake taking pictures. Her most treasured moments were spending time with her family and friends. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her son, William "Billy" Geiger Jr.; great-grandson, Jaxson Massey; and a brother, Raymond Austin.

Survivors are her loving and devoted husband of 41 years, William "Billy" Geiger Sr. of Starke; their children, Eric Geiger of Lake City and Bonnie (Sam) Griffiths of Hampton; sister-in-law, Charlotte (Richard) Vallellanes of Alachua; siblings, Terry Arthur of the Virgin Islands, Loretta Dyal of Starke, Sandy Arthur of Middleburg, Julie (Ken) Cook of Charlotte, North Carolina, and Christina Burnett of Jacksonville. She was lovingly called "Grandma" by Terri (Michael) LeMire and Michael Massey of Starke; along with great-granddaughters, Kolee LeMire, Shyann Alvarez, and Morgan Massey; and great-grandsons, Koleon LeMire, and Jensen Massey; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family received friends Wednesday, Jan. 10, at the DeWitt C. Jones Chapel. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 11, at the DeWitt C. Jones Chapel with Pastor Josh Reinken officiating. Interment will follow at Dyal Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Haven Hospice or First Church of Starke.

Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 620 E. Nona St., Starke 32091. 904-964-6200. www.jonesgallagherfh.com

PAID OBITUARY

Dorothy Gilner

Mrs. Dorothy M. Gilner, 95, of Keystone Heights passed away Sunday, Dec 31, 2023, at Solaris Health Care in Palatka. She was born Jan. 23, 1928, in Allentown, Pennsylvania. She was a homemaker, a member of Church of Christ, and enjoyed crocheting, knitting, puzzles, shopping, and taking cruises.

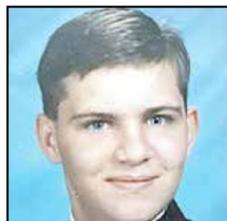
She is survived by her children, Donald (Sue) Yorcovic of Keystone Heights and Gayle Smith of Elkton, Maryland; and a brother, Richard Kayle of Center Valley, Pennsylvania. Also left behind are six grandchildren and one great-grandson.

There are no scheduled services at this time.

Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 340 E. Walker Drive, Keystone Heights 32656. 352-473-3176. www.jonesgallagherfh.com

PAID OBITUARY

Robert Griffin



Robert L. Griffin, 45, of Keystone Heights, better known as "Robby" or "Hot Wheelz," passed away Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024, following a long illness. He was born Sept. 2, 1978, in Key West to the late George R. and Linda (Castro) Griffin. He was a great songwriter and singer. He attended the First Assembly of God and, recently, Family Faith Church of Keystone Heights. He enjoyed writing songs, singing, sports, and was an avid Florida State Seminole fan.

He is survived by his siblings, Will Gilroy, Vernon Griffin, Christina Griffin-Eichelberger, Michelle Alayon, Robert Griffin, Tina Gilroy, and Kristina Gilroy; adoptive parents, Larry and Carroll "Nana;" and brother-in-law, Rick Eichelberger. Also left behind are his nephews, Israel Drago, Daniel Drago, Christopher Goens, and Peter Goens; and a niece, Krystal Goens; along with Nesbit cousins; Griffin cousins; Aunt Sharon Griffin Ford; Uncle Walter Griffin; and thousands of friends that he chose to be his family.

The family will receive friends Monday, Jan. 15, beginning at 1 p.m., with funeral services following at 2:20 p.m. at Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home Chapel. Interment will follow at Keystone Heights Cemetery.

Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 340 E. Walker Drive, Keystone Heights, 32656. 352-473-3176. www.jonesgallagherfh.com

PAID OBITUARY

William Rice

William John Rice, 86, died in hospital in Aurora, Colorado on Monday, Oct. 23, 2023. He was a loving husband of Linda Gayle Sellers Rice and father to Terri Suzanne Rice Tegart and Murray Carl Rice. He was a devoted follower of Jesus and lived his life in service to his Savior, church, and family. He was a geologist by trade, having graduated from Colorado State University with a Bachelor of Science in geology. He entered the Coast Guard upon graduation and served as a Lt. Commander until he separated from the military in January of 1965. He then worked in the oil and gas industry for many years and retired in the early 2000s. He loved to fish, hunt and camp. He also loved vacationing with his family. He was preceded in death by his mother, Edna Bernice Cooper Rice; father, Walter Carl Rice; and sisters, Ruby Edna Rice Baulblits Kern and Carla Ann Rice Record.

He is survived by his widow, two children and seven grandchildren.

Interment with military honors will take place Jan. 29, at 9 a.m. at Fort Logan National Cemetery, 4400 W. Kenyon Ave., Denver, Colorado 80236. Following will be a memorial service at 11 a.m. at Calvary Church, 18900 E. Hampden Ave., Aurora, Colorado, 80013. Gifts or flowers may be sent to Linda Rice, C/O Suzanne Tegart, 1044 S. Fulntondale Court, Aurora, CO 80018.

PAID OBITUARY

Shi Anne Shimer



Shi Anne Shimer, 82, of Hampton, passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2024, at E.T. York Care Center in Gainesville. She was born in Jacksonville on July 10, 1941, to the late Foster Shi Smith and Mary Anne Lipsey Smith. She and her family lived in Starke when she was a child. She attended and graduated from Bradford High School. Shortly after high school, she enrolled at Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia where she graduated with her bachelor's degree in social work. Following her graduation from the university in 1963, she relocated and enrolled in Heidelberg University in Germany to further her education. While in Germany she met the love of her life, Preston Leon Shimer. It was love at first sight. Following his completion of the military, they married on Aug. 8, 1964. The two lived in St Augustine for 36 years before returning to Bradford County, where they made their home on Hampton Lake. She was passionate about her career as a social worker, where she worked for the state of Florida in both St. Johns and, briefly, Flagler counties, retiring after 29 years. In her spare time, she enjoyed shopping with friends, collecting antiques and quilts, and most of all, spending time with family. She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Jimmy Smith; daughter, Leigh Anne Shimer Godino; and son, Jon Shimer.

She is survived by her husband of 59 years, Preston Leon Shimer of Hampton; brother, Stephen F. (Edith) Smith; grandchildren, Hunter Preston Shimer and Mason Clay Shimer; along with many nieces and nephews.

At her request she will be cremated. There will be no funeral services. Donations can be made to E.T. York Hospice Care Center in Gainesville or to a charity of choice. The family would like to thank the caring staff of Haven Hospice for their care of Shi Anne during her stay.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services and Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel, Starke. 904-964-5757. Visit www.ferreirafuneralservices.com to sign the family's guest book.

PAID OBITUARY

Linda Starling



Linda Sue Starling, 81, of White House, Tennessee passed away Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024, at Jubilee Hills Senior Living in Goodlettsville, Tennessee. She was born in Brooker on Sept. 5, 1942, to Woodrow Lanier and Vera Lee (Lewis) Thomas. Prior to retiring she worked for AT&T as a customer service representative. Her most cherished title was that of a faithful pastor's wife, and she enjoyed spending time with her family. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Rev. Frank Starling; and a brother Ronnie Thomas.

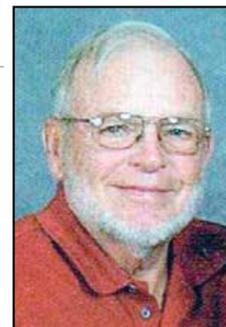
Her survivors are her children, Jason (Sabra) Starling of White House, Shelley (Tommy) Thornton of Springfield; grandchildren, Tyler (Savannah) Starling, Caleb (Becca) Starling, Anna Grace Thornton (Andrew) Nixon, Brylee Starling, Braden Starling; and great-grandchildren, Lyla Starling, and baby Josie on the way.

The family received friends Saturday, Jan. 6, in the DeWitt C. Jones Chapel with funeral services following. Interment followed at Crosby Lake Cemetery.

Arrangements were under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 620 E. Nona St., Starke, 32091. 904-964-6200. www.jonesgallagherfh.com

PAID OBITUARY

William Stroud



William A. Stroud, 87, of Lawtey passed away Friday, Dec. 29, 2023, at Haven Hospice E.T. York Care Center in Gainesville. He was born July 20, 1936, in Dothan, Alabama to the late Albert Zachery and Bonnie (Tew) Stroud. He was exceedingly proud to be southern and was an Alabama fan his entire life. He was a retired Navy veteran, serving for 22 years, including Vietnam. He later retired from the Florida Department of Corrections after 20 years of service. Loving his family and living life to the fullest were his goals. Gardening was his passion, from flowers to produce, he shared the fruits of his labor with the community and beyond. He was a kind, loving and generous man, always helping others and was a true charming southern gentleman. He also enjoyed sharing his quick-witted humor, his wisdom and fun with those around him. He was a member of First United Methodist Church at Starke, where he ushered, and planted and tended flowers for many years. The flower gardens at the church were well known, even outside the local community. People would drive by just to see what was new and take pictures.

Survivors are his wife of 60 years, Brenda Stroud of Lawtey; daughter, Khandice (Gary) Worth and William "Billy" (Leslie) Stroud II; and grandchildren, also known as his pride and joy, Garrett William Worth, Madison Lee Worth, Elizabeth Grace Stroud, and Scarlet Rachel Stroud; along with his second favorite lady, Mrs. Ruth Johns.

There will be a private family farewell.

PAID OBITUARY

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John 14:6

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Obituaries

Jeffrey Wainwright



Jeffrey Dean Wainwright, born in Starke on Nov. 18, 1961, passed away peacefully at his home in Lake Butler on Friday, Jan. 5, 2024. He was a loving father, a giving friend, and true leader. He dedicated his life to serving others, both in his professional career and personal life. His career spanned nearly three decades with the Department of Corrections, where he worked tirelessly to maintain safety and order within the prison system. Starting as a correctional officer, he demonstrated remarkable determination and passion for his work. He was the proud leader of the 1980s RMC CERT team, winning numerous titles and awards. His exemplary skills and dedication earned him many promotions until his retirement as a warden in 2009. He served as the warden of Calhoun CI and CFRC. His commitment to improving the lives of staff members was truly admirable. After retiring from the state of Florida, he continued to contribute his expertise and leadership when he joined Bridges of America as a director, finally retiring in 2022 from The Transition House as the director of operations. Beyond his professional accomplishments, he was known for his vibrant personality. He loved to be a provider with infectious charm, he never met a stranger and was always ready to lend a helping hand. His warm heart and generous spirit touched the lives of many. In his leisure time, he enjoyed hunting, fishing, golfing, riding his Harley, and watching sports. Above all else, family held a special place in his heart. He was preceded in death by his parents, Donald and Rosa Lou Wainwright of Starke.

He leaves behind his loving children, Lyndsey (Adam) Milligan of Gainesville, Jacob (Jessica) Wainwright of Tallahassee, and Jared (Lethia) Wainwright of Lake Butler. He was eagerly anticipating the arrival of his soon-to-be-born grandchild. In addition to his cherished grandchildren, Cameron, Myles, and James, he is also survived by his sister, Kathy Agan of Starke; niece, Shannon Brooks-Warren of Williston, and his former wife and the mother of his children, Lynnette Wainwright of Live Oak.

A visitation to honor his memory will be held at Archer-Milton Funeral Home on Friday, Jan. 12, from 2 p.m. until 3 p.m. A memorial service will follow at 3 p.m. at the same location. His legacy lives on in the hearts of those who were fortunate enough to call him family, friend, or colleague.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of Archer-Milton Funeral Home. 386-496-2008 www.ArcherFuneralHome.com

PAID OBITUARY

Alois Woodrow

Alois "Woody" C. Woodrow, 97, of Starke passed away Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024, at Haven Hospice in Lake City following an extended illness. He was born Jan. 27, 1926, in Cleveland, Ohio to the late Alois and Elizabeth Woodrow. He served in the United States Navy during WWII. He retired as a Chief Petty Officer and worked as an electrician at Cecil Field for over 30 years before retiring in 1999. He enjoyed fishing and was a member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Jacksonville as well as the Naval Fleet Reserve Association.

He leaves behind his wife of 12 years, Gloria (Tharpe) Woodrow; two children, Rich Armstrong of Gainesville and Patricia "Patty" Sendelbach of Houston, Texas; and four grandchildren.

He has requested to be buried at sea with no services. In lieu of flowers memorial gifts can be made to Haven Hospice of Lake City.

Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 620 E. Nona St., Starke 32091. 904-964-6200. www.jonesgallagherfh.com

PAID OBITUARY



Keystone weightlifters and coaches are pictured with their traditional championship trophy and Olympic runner-up trophy. This is the third straight year the Indians have won a state championship. Pictured are: (front, l-r) Assistant Coach Doug Jones, Head Coach Lantz Lowery, Landon Hovsepian, Bo Overton, Tyler Anthony-Rozier (with his brother, Chase, to his right), Colton Hollingsworth, Reid Begue, Assistant Coach Steve Reynolds, (back, l-r) Assistant Coach Nick Verschaeve, Davin Adams, Declan Shine, Jackson Herman, Bryar Schenck, Jed Tisdale, Brayden Wester (behind Tisdale), Trey Jeffries, Tyler Duncan, Jayden Goodman, Dakota Roper, Sam Ulsch, Bryson Wester, Wyatt Van Zant and Assistant Coach Jakob Alvarez. File photo by Cliff Smelley.

KHHS wins its 3rd straight state title in boys weightlifting in 2023

Editor's note: The following is a look at the high school varsity teams and individuals that won championships at the district, regional or state levels, earned medals in state competition or that qualified to participate in regional and state competitions in 2021. Any omissions are unintentional.

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Keystone Heights High school celebrated its third straight boys weightlifting state championship to highlight the 2023 year in athletics.

The Indians own the Class 1A title in the traditional event (bench press and clean and jerk), defeating Suwanee (the 2022 Class 2A champion) 41-35.

Keystone had two individual champions in Bo Overton, who won the 219 class with a 585 total, and Trey Jeffries, who won the 219 class with a 645 total. Reid Begue (505 total in the 139 class) and Landon Hovsepian (610 total in the 183 class) were runners-up.

Three lifters placed third: Wyatt Van Zant (470 total in the 139 class), Sam Ulsch (520 total in the 154 class) and Tyler Anthony-Rozier (565 total in the 238 class).

Dakota Roper was fourth in the 199 class, while Bryar Schenck was fifth in the 183 class. Each had a 580 total.

The Indians also had the following results: Bryson Wester ninth (199 class, 565 total), Declan Shine 11th (129 class, 395 total), Jayden Goodman 11th

(219 class, 565 total), Jed Tisdale 12th (119 class, 320 total), Colton Hollingsworth 14th (119 class, 315 total) and Brayden Wester 13th (238 class, 550 total).

Keystone was also the state runner-up in the Olympic event (snatch and clean and jerk). The Indians and South Sumter each had 29 points to Suwannee's 49.

Overton was his class' champion in the Olympic event with a 500 total, while Schenck was a runner-up with a 525 total.

Three earned third-place finishes: Van Zant with a 415 total, Hovsepian with a 520 total and Jeffries with a 515 total.

Begue had a fourth-place total of 395 total, while Goodman had a fifth-place total of 490 total.

Other Olympic results: Tisdale eighth (265 total), Ulsch 10th (395), Anthony-Rozier 10th

(450), Jackson Herman 11th (445 in the 238 class), Bryson Wester 12th (425), Hollingsworth 15th (245), Tyler Duncan 15th (440 in the unlimited class) and Davin Adams 18th (355 in the 154 class).

Individual medals were earned for top-six finishes.

En route to state, the Indians won district championships in both the traditional and Olympic events, while winning the regional title in the traditional event. They were the regional runner-up in the Olympic event.

Individual district champions in the traditional event were Hollingsworth, Begue, Ulsch, Overton, Hovsepian, Roper, Jeffries, Anthony-Rozier and Duncan, while runners-up were

See KHHS, page 12

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Simmons wins 2 state titles for UCHS in 2023

Editor's note: The following is a look at the high school varsity teams and individuals that won championships at the district, regional or state levels, earned medals in state competition or that qualified to participate in regional and state competitions in 2021. Any omissions are unintentional.

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Christian Simmons was a state champion for the second straight year, highlighting the 2023 year in Union County High School athletics.

Simmons won both the traditional (bench press and clean and jerk) and Olympic (snatch and clean and jerk) championships in the 129 class at the Class 1A boys weightlifting finals. He had a 505 total in the traditional event, which put him in first place by 45 pounds, while his 435 total in the Olympic event put him in first by 35 pounds.

Union had two others compete at state. Thomas Williams earned a medal by placing sixth with a 575 total in the 199 class in the traditional event, while Maddox Wheeler was 16th in the 219 class in the traditional event.

The weightlifting postseason began with the District 7 meet. Simmons won the championships in both the traditional and Olympic events to automatically qualify for the Region 2 finals.

Williams and Rodney Barnett (154 class) both placed third, while the following placed fourth: Wheeler, Brycen Boney (169), Clifton Ivey (183) and Connor Bresee (238).

All the third- and fourth-place finishers earned at-large regional berths.

Erich Seager (219) and Jacob Jenkins (unlimited) earned fifth-place finishes, with Seager qualifying for regionals.

Also qualifying for regionals were Wyatt Elixson, who was sixth in the 139 class, and Jimmy Cox, who was seventh in the 199 class.

At the Region 2 meet, Simmons again won both the traditional and Olympic events. Williams and Wheeler placed fifth and ninth, respectively, in earning their bids to state.

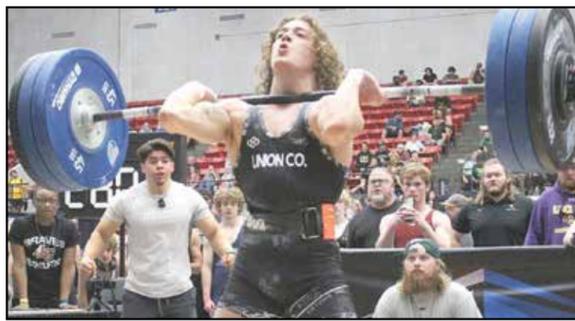
State qualifiers in girls weightlifting, wrestling, track and field and swimming

Leah Clark was a District 6 champion and a Region 2 runner-up in qualifying for the Class 1A girls weightlifting state finals.

Clark, who competed in the 139 class in the traditional event, had a total of 270 at the district level and a total of 275 at the regional level.

Five additional lifters, including Hailey Rivera and Taley Smith, qualified for the Region 2 finals. Rivera (119 class) and Smith (154) were both runners-up at the district meet.

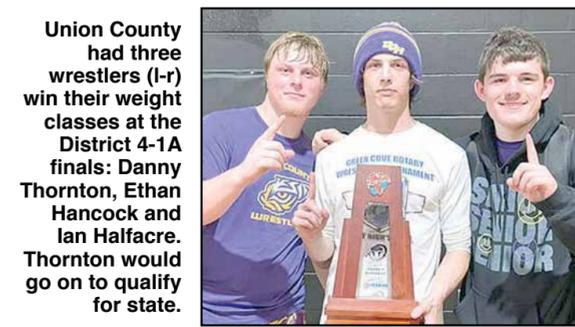
Also qualifying for regionals were Gracelyn Manning, who was fifth in the 199 class, Hayley Burke, who was sixth in the 154 class, and Jaira Highland, who was sixth in the 199 class.



Christian Simmons won his second straight traditional state championship and was the Olympic state champion in his weight class as well. File photo by Cliff Smelley.



Leah Clark was a district champion and a regional runner-up in qualifying for the weightlifting state finals. File photo by Cliff Smelley.



Union County had three wrestlers (l-r) win their weight classes at the District 4-1A finals: Danny Thornton, Ethan Hancock and Ian Halfacre. Thornton would go on to qualify for state.

Holly Halfacre (119) and Stefani Nash (101) placed third and fifth, respectively, though they didn't qualify for the region meet.

At the Region 2 finals, Smith placed fifth.

Wrestling team member Danny Thornton was a state qualifier after winning a district championship and placing third at the regional level.

Thornton, who competed in the 195 class, went 1-2 at the Class 1A state finals.

His performance was just one highlight for the wrestling program, which was the runner-up to Baker County at the District 4 meet. It was the second time in three years that Union earned the runner-up trophy.

Thornton was one of three wrestlers to win their weight classes, which made them the first-ever district champions in the Tigers' four years of competing in wrestling. Ethan Hancock went 2-0 in winning the 120 class, while Ian Halfacre went 2-0 in winning the 132 class.

Thornton went 3-0. Rodney Barnett and Alex Cortese were runners-up. Barnett went 1-1 in the 145 class, while Cortese went 2-1 in the 182 class.

Third-place finishers were Kale Waters (3-1 in the 113 class), Ethan Shea (3-1 in the 138 class), Elijah Roberts (3-1 in the 152 class), Colin Hadlock (3-1 in the 170 class) and Dylan Lane (3-1 in the 220 class).

Braden Adams went 2-2 in placing fourth in the 126 class.

The top four finishers in each class qualified for the Region 1

finals.

Another state qualifier for Union occurred in track and field, with Auntrell Ross earning a berth in the long jump.

Ross received an at-large bid after a sixth-place distance of 21-9 at the Region 1 finals. He went on to finish 13th at the Class 2A state meet with a distance of 20-11.75.

His run to state began at the District 3 meet, where he placed third. Ross also qualified for regionals with a fourth-place finish in the 200m.

Leah Clark won two district championships, running the 100m in 12.49 seconds and the 200m in 25.87.

Amia Bethea qualified for regionals with a third-place finish in the 100m.

Also advancing to regionals were the girls 4x100m relay team of Bethea, Clark, Holly Halfacre and Ny'asia Jones, which placed third at the district meet, and the boys 4x100m team of Ross, Dayquan Diston, Rayvon Durant and Thomas Williams, which was fourth at districts.

Eva Whitehead swam her way to two district championships — the first ever for UCHS in swimming — and would eventually qualify for the state finals for the second year in a row.

At the District 1-1A meet, Whitehead won the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 1:02.40 and the 200 individual medley with a time of 2:16.95.

Whitehead earned a pair of top-10 finishes at the Region 1 meet, placing fifth in the 100 backstroke with a time of 59.20

and eighth in the 200 IM with a time of 2:10.32.

At state, Whitehead had a time of 58.81 in the 100 backstroke to place 10th. She was 22nd in the 200 IM with a time of 2:12.

3 teams play for regional titles

The baseball team was the District 6-1A runner-up and advanced to the Region 3 championship game before losing 14-3 to Lafayette.

Union began the district tournament with a 12-2 win over Fort White in the semifinals. Ayden Elixson and Erick Lasseter each drove in two runs as part of a seven-run fifth inning.

Elixson went 3 for 5 with four RBI. Lasseter and Tre'Von Lee each hit a two-run double to finish with two RBI each.

Blake Agner, Tucker Hardee and Ethan Moody each drove in one run.

Starting pitcher Devin Diggs held the Indians to two runs and two hits through four innings, striking out six. Lasseter gave up one hit with two strikeouts in the final two innings.

Union took a 6-0 lead in the District 6 championship game, but wound up losing 9-8 to Lafayette.

A six-run first inning included two RBI by Agner and one each by Elixson, Hardee and Preston Bonsall.

The Tigers were held to three hits after the first inning.

Bonsall and Elixson went 2 for 3 and 2 for 4, respectively, and had all but three of Union's hits.

Lafayette and Union were the top-two ranked teams in Class 1A prior to the game and entered the Region 3 playoffs as the top two seeds. The Tigers began the playoffs with a 6-5 win semifinal win over Madison County.

Madison scored three runs in the top of the seventh and had the tying run on third with two outs. Elixson, in a relief appearance, struck out the only batter he faced to end the game.

Union, leading 3-0, had no one on with two outs in the fifth. Still, the Tigers scored three runs, with Lee hitting an RBI single and two runners scoring on an error.

Lee went 2 for 3 with three RBI, while Lasseter had one RBI.

Moody started on the mound, giving up nine hits and no walks in 6.2 innings.

The Tigers' season ended in the Region 3 championship game, with host Lafayette scoring eight runs in the first two innings as Union lost 14-3.

Nine of the Hornets' runs were off homers, including a walk-off grand slam in the fifth.

Lee hit a two-run double, while Miller had an RBI single.

The Tigers, who finished the season with an 18-9 record, were held to four hits.

Like the baseball team, Union's volleyball team was a district runner-up and advanced to the regional finals before its season ended with a 12-13 record.

Union began play in the District 6-1A tournament with a 3-0 (25-23, 26-24, 25-23) win over Bell in the semifinals. Jaily Simmons had 10 kills and six blocks, while Rylie Parrish and

Indi Knox had eight and six kills, respectively.

Jurney Crim led the team in digs with 21. The Tigers also got 19 from Jordan Hendricks, 12 from Layla Barber, eight from Bella Johns, seven from Kamryn Southerland and six from Abby Williams.

Southerland and Hendricks had 14 and 13 assists, respectively.

The Tigers advanced to the District 6 championship match, losing 3-0 (25-15, 25-19, 25-18) to Branford. Simmons had eight kills and four blocks, while Southerland and Hendricks had nine and six assists, respectively.

Crim had 15 digs, while Union also got 12 each from Barber and Southerland and 10 each from Hendricks and Johns.

Union entered the Region 3 playoffs as the number-two seed and defeated third seed Lafayette 3-1 (25-22, 25-21, 20-25, 25-23).

Barber led the team in kills with 18, while Simmons and Knox had 13 and eight, respectively. Simmons also had eight blocks and eight digs, while Barber and Knox had 12 and eight digs, respectively.

Crim led the team in digs with 30, with the Tigers also getting 15 from Hendricks, 13 from Johns and 12 from Southerland.

Parrish had five blocks, while Southerland and Hendricks had 19 and 16 assists, respectively.

The Tigers got a rematch with Branford in the Region 3 championship match, with the top seed Buccaneers winning 3-1 (25-11, 25-7, 21-25, 25-22).

Union got 15 kills and eight blocks from Simmons and 12 kills and 15 digs from Barber. Knox and Parrish had nine and six kills, respectively, with Knox also recording 10 digs and Parrish adding five blocks.

Crim led the team in digs with 28. Hendricks and Johns added 18 and 10, respectively, while Southerland had nine.

Southerland and Hendricks had 17 and 13 assists, respectively.

In football, the Tigers entered the Region 3-1R playoffs as the third seed with a 6-3 record. They'd win two games before losing to top seed Madison County in the Region 3 championship game.

Union opened the postseason with a 58-8 quarterfinal win over Hilliard. Gavin Jenkins returned two interceptions for touchdowns, while Trenton Klein threw for three touchdowns and rushed for another.

Klein completed 9 of 12 passes for 223 yards. He had touchdown passes of 45 yards to Blake McCoy, 30 yards to Bobo Woodall and 12 yards to Ibn



Eva Whitehead won two district championships — the first ever for UCHS in swimming. She qualified for state for the second straight year.

Williams.

The quarterback also rushed 46 yards on three carries.

Woodall finished with three receptions for 87 yards, while McCoy caught three passes for 80 yards. Williams had two catches for 45 yards.

Drew Simmons had touchdown runs of 11 and 57 yards and finished with 132 yards on eight carries.

Jonathan Edwards, who was 7 of 8 on extra-point kicks, added a 33-yard field goal.

On defense, Klein and Thomas Williams led the team in tackles with five each, while Johnthe Nichols had an interception.

Union traveled to play second seed Fort White in the semifinals, with a 45-yard touchdown pass from Klein to Ibn Williams proving to be the difference in a 17-10 win.

Union held Fort White to just a field goal in the second half. Ashton Newsome made a tackle for no gain on a fourth-and-1 play the Indians went for with 1:30 remaining, while the defense didn't allow Fort White to complete a pass in the final 18 seconds after the Indians had blocked a punt.

Edwards kicked a 35-yard field goal in the first half. A double-play late in the second quarter resulted in a 9-yard touchdown from Jenkins to Bryan Tyson, putting Union up 10-7 at halftime.

Klein completed 10 of 16 passes for 172 yards, while rushing for 53 yards on 12 carries.

Woodall caught four passes for 34 yards and rushed for 27 yards on just three carries.

See UCHS, page 12



UCHS grad awarded scholarship at SJRSC

St. Johns River State College baseball catcher Tripp Davis, a 2021 Union County High School graduate, was recently awarded a "deserving walk-on scholarship." According to Head Coach Ross Jones, it was an easy decision. "Tripp Davis was that player who has exceeded expectations," Jones said. "In Tripp's two and a half years at SJR State, he has not only developed into a solid baseball player for our program, he has become a leader. He has earned his opportunity and this scholarship." Davis, who is pictured between Jones (left) and St. Johns River State College President Joe Pickens, was a part of a Vikings team that in 2023 won the program's first-ever state championship and placed third at the NJCAA Division II World Series.

UCHS boys get 2-point road win over Crescent

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Thomas Williams scored 20 points, while Jayden Jenkins came close to posting a double-double in a 55-53 win for the Union County High School boys

basketball team at Crescent City on Jan. 5.

Jenkins finished with nine points and eight rebounds for the Tigers, who won their fourth game in a row.

Johnthe Nichols had 10 points and seven assists, while Gavin Jenkins scored eight points. Deonte Jones and Cam Paytee each scored three points, with Paytee also adding four assists and three steals.

Blake McCoy scored two points.

The Tigers (7-4) entered the game off a 71-30 win at Hamilton County on Jan. 4. Union outscored the Trojans 24-3 in the second and third quarters.

Williams scored 28 points, while the Tigers also got 16 from Jayden Jenkins, 13 from Gavin Jenkins, eight from McCoy, four from Jones and two from Nichols.

McCoy and Jayden Jenkins grabbed 12 and 10 rebounds, respectively. Nichols had nine, while Gavin Jenkins had seven.

Nichols and Gavin Jenkins each recorded five assists, while Williams led the team in steals with eight.

Union's scheduled home game against Baldwin on Jan. 6 didn't take place due to Baldwin not showing up.

The Tigers host Trenton on Thursday, Jan. 11, at 7:30 p.m. Union then hosts Baker County on Saturday, Jan. 13, at 7:30 p.m.

Union plays at home again on Tuesday, Jan. 16, against Interlachen at 7:30 p.m.

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KHHS and Crescent City play to draw in boys soccer

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Keystone Heights High School got a goal each from Luke Brunt (penalty kick) and Aaron Wiley in a 2-2 tie in a Jan. 8 boys soccer match against visiting Crescent City.

Bryce Huntley recorded an assist for the Indians, who are now 10-1-2 and ranked 20th in the Florida High School Athletic Association's Class 3A power rankings.

Wiley now has 23 goals this season. Among stats that have been posted on MaxPreps, he is second in goals scored in Class 3A and tied for sixth in the state overall.

Keystone entered the Christmas break off a 1-0 win over visiting Class 4A Fernandina Beach on Dec. 19. A.J. Nilsen scored off a Brunt assist, while goalie Tomas Harrigan made nine saves.

The Indians returned to action with a 7-0 win over Class 2A Trenton on Jan. 4 in Trenton. Brunt, Huntley and Wiley each scored two goals, while Landon Spence added one. One of Brunt's goals was off a penalty kick.

Huntley is currently tied for sixth in Class 3A in goals scored (17).

Brunt recorded two assists and currently has 14 for the season. That ties him for second in Class 3A and ties him for eighth overall in Florida.

Huntley and Sammy Wachua each had one assist in the win over Trenton.

The Indians host Interlachen on Friday, Jan. 12, at 7 p.m. They travel to play Williston on Monday, Jan. 15, at 7 p.m. before returning home to play Trinity Christian on Tuesday, Jan. 16, at 6 p.m.

KHHS girls shut out in soccer by 5A Middleburg

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Keystone Heights High School lost for the third time in four matches, falling 6-0 to visiting Class 5A Middleburg in a Jan. 5 girls soccer match.

Goalie Xana Briley made 12 saves as the Indians fell to 7-5-1.

Keystone entered the Christmas break off a 5-2 loss to Class 6A Gainesville on Dec. 19 in Gainesville. The Indians then returned from the break with a 4-0 win at Class 2A Trenton on Jan. 4.

Kiersten Shaw scored all of Keystone's goals against Trenton, with Kayle Buchanan, Alyssa Sanford and Schiley Starling each recording one assist. Whitnee Buchanan made six saves in goal, while Briley made two.

The Indians host Interlachen on Friday, Jan. 12, at 5 p.m. and travel to Gainesville to play Eastside on Wednesday, Jan. 17, at 7 p.m.

KHHS boys defeat Old Plank for 4th straight win

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Keystone Heights High School scored 31 points in the first quarter en route to defeating visiting Old Plank Christian 70-24 in a Jan. 8 boys basketball game.

Zeke Pelham and Cartez Daniels scored 14 and 12 points, respectively. The Indians also got eight points from Zane Leger, seven points each from Darrion Grady and Bryce Hollingsworth, five points each from Michael Petty and Garrison Teague, four points each from Connor Guy and Bryant Kubisiak and two points from Andru Siemer.

Keystone (7-7) hosts fifth-ranked Class 1A Hawthorne on Friday, Jan. 12, at 7:30 p.m. The 4A Indians then travel to Green Cove Springs to play 5A Clay on Tuesday, Jan. 16, at 7:30 p.m.

UCHS

Continued from page 11

Thomas Williams rushed for 59 yards on 13 carries, while Jenkins caught two passes for 65 yards.

KHHS

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Tisdale, Van Zant, Schenck and Bryson Wester.

Also placing in the top six at the district level were Shine, Goodman, Damien Dunlap, Vernell Jackson, Brayden McCall and Brayden Wester.

The following were district champions in the Olympic event: Tisdale, Van Zant, Ulsch, Overton, Hovsepian, Jeffries, Anthony-Rozier, Duncan and Bryson Wester. Runners-up were Begue, Hollingsworth, Schenck, Herman and Talan Messina.

Also placing were Adams, Goodman, McCall, Roper and Shine.

At the regional level in the traditional event, Keystone had champions in Overton, Jeffries and Anthony-Rozier, while the following were runners-up: Begue, Ulsch, Hovsepian and Roper.

Also placing were Hollingsworth, Schenck Van Zant, Brayden Wester and Bryson Wester.

On the Olympic side, Keystone had the following champions: Anthony-Rozier and Overton. Jeffries, Schenck and Van Zant were runners-up, while the following also earned top-six finishes: Adams, Begue, Duncan, Goodman, Herman, Hovsepian, Tisdale, Ulsch and Bryson Wester.

Wright, Griffin qualify for state

Keystone had two individuals who weren't boys weightlifters also qualify for state-level competition: girls weightlifter Kaylee Wright and boys cross-country runner Tyler Griffin.

Wright, who lifted in the 169 class, won traditional and Olympic championships at the regional level and was a traditional champion and regional runner-up at the district level. At the Class 1A state finals, she earned two medals with a third-place total of 340 in the traditional event and a fourth-place total of 290 in the Olympic event.

Griffin placed 22nd out of 138 at the District 2-2A cross-country finals and went on to qualify for state with a 23rd-place time of 17:56 at the regional meet. At state, he placed 141st out of 240 with a time of 18:32.

It was the first time Keystone had a runner at state since Camryn Williams qualified in 2019. Griffin was the first from Keystone to compete in the boys state finals since Alex Guy in 2018.

It was a notable cross-country season besides Griffin's accomplishments, with both boys and girls teams qualifying for regionals.

The boys team, which advanced for the ninth time in 10 years, placed seventh at the District 2 meet and was led by Griffin and Ryder Thomas, who placed 26th. Hunter Sheppard and Anthony Peak were 55th and 63rd, respectively, while Bryce Huntley placed 71st.

Jaden Park, Kipton Spence, Jason Perales, Josiah Durrenberger and Mason Gray also competed.

The girls team placed seventh and qualified for regionals for the first time since 2020. Olivia Griffin led Keystone, placing 40th out of 119. Cali Chamberlain and Melody Tyre were 54th and 63rd, respectively, while Brook Graudons was 83rd. Madilyn Miller finished 87th.

Alonah Neeld, Kirsten Lavin, Schiley Starling and Clara Beth Robinson also ran.

KHHS boys win 3rd straight title in golf

Keystone finished 32 strokes ahead of runner-up Madison

Klein led the Union defense with nine tackles, while Jenkins and Brycen Boney each had eight. Tyson and Erich Seager each had seven tackles, while Thomas Williams made six.

Union held a fourth-quarter lead against Madison County in the Region 3 title game, but lost

17-14 to finish the season with an 8-4 record.

Woodall scored on a 38-yard pass play in the first half, while a touchdown run by Thomas Williams put the Tigers ahead 14-10 with 1:32 to play in the third quarter.

The Cowboys took advantage of a fumbled snap on a Union punt attempt, driving down field for a touchdown with 6:25 remaining.

Union got two interceptions each by McCoy and Dayquan Diston. Klein led the team in

tackles with 10, while Seager and Tyson had seven and six, respectively.

Klein completed 13 of 20 passes for 129 yards. Diston caught one pass for 45 yards, while Woodall caught three for 41 yards.



Tyler Griffin was the first KHHS boys runner to qualify for state in cross country since 2018. File photo by Cliff Smelley.

County in capturing the District 3-1A boys golf championship.

Connor Guy won the individual district championship with a score of 72. Alex Addington and Ty Mitzel placed fourth and fifth, respectively, with scores of 80 and 82, while Nick Binet shot an 86 to finish in 10th.

Jacob Beach also played, finishing with a score of 100.

The Indians finished their season in seventh place at the Region 1 finals. Guy finished in a five-way tie for 12th with an 18-hole score of 78, while Addington and Mitzel finished in a four-way tie for 22nd, with each shooting a score of 81.

Beach and Binet also competed. Beach shot a 95, while Binet shot a 100.

Girls weightlifting and softball teams win district titles

The girls weightlifting team won the team district titles in both the traditional and Olympic events. Besides Wright, the Indians had the following individual champions: Ariel King with a 250 total in the 129 class (traditional), Kenly Chitty with a 220 total in the 154 class (Olympic) and Paige Harrington with a 210 total in the 183 class (Olympic).

Individual champions automatically qualified for regional competition.

Earning runner-up status (besides Wright) in the traditional event were Contessa Herring (110 class), Chloe Still (139) and Harrington, while Chitty and Lillian Mitchell (183) were third.

Also placing in the traditional event were Harmony Geiger (fourth in the 199 class), Ashlyn Brown (fifth in the 154 class), Regan Lee (sixth in the 139 class), Morgan Wilson (sixth in the 169 class) and Ava Herman (sixth in the unlimited class).

Brown, Chitty, Geiger, Harrington, Mitchell and Wilson earned at-large regional berths. On the Olympic side, the following were runners-up: Geiger, Mitchell, Heidi Knapp (119) and Dakota Herring (unlimited). Placing third were Brown, Wilson and Abigail Anthony-Rozier (119).

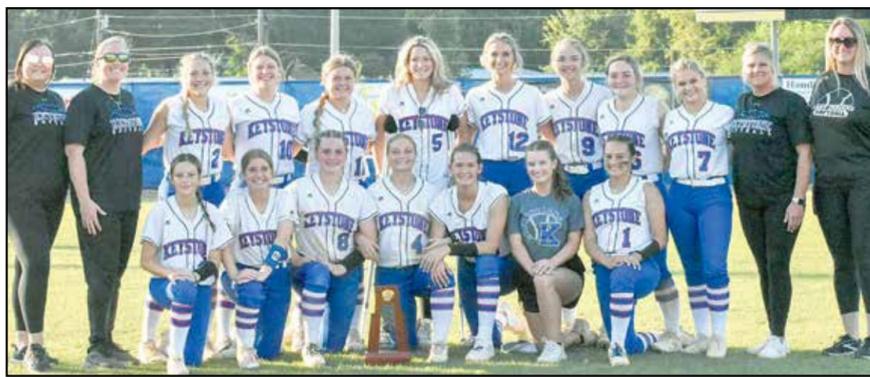
Also placing in the Olympic event were Alexys Schleter (fourth in the 139 class) and Trista Harrison (fifth in the 129 class).

Anthony-Rozier, Brown, Geiger, Harrison, Herring, Knapp, Mitchell and Wilson were regional qualifiers.

Though not qualifying for state, the following placed at the Region 2 meet: Still (fourth, traditional), Harrington (fifth, Olympic), King (sixth, traditional) and Chitty (sixth, Olympic).

Aside from boys and girls weightlifting, the only other district title won by a Keystone team occurred in softball.

The Indians advanced to the



Keystone won the District 3-3A softball championship. Pictured are: (front, l-r) Bella Cumbo, Kayle Buchanan, Ashley Nugent, Madallynn Glinski, Abbie Roach, Cassidy Spratlin, Alaina Kinsall, (back, l-r) assistant coaches Kaitlyn Walker and Arielle Driggers, Kiley Channell, Ashlyn Brown, Laralei Booth, Caitlin Frampton, Kadence Massey, Riley Shuford, Amber Wagner, Nattalie Glinski, Head Coach Jessica Marquart and Assistant Coach Cherish Lowery. Photo by Andria Frampton.

District 3-3A tournament title game with wins over Beachside (11-0 in the quarterfinals) and Palatka (8-2 in the semifinals).

Keystone scored eight runs in the third inning in defeating Beachside, with Ashley Nugent hitting a three-run homer and Alaina Kinsall, who went 2 for 3, hitting a three-run double. Each batter finished with three RBI.

Abbie Roach went 2 for 3 with an RBI. Madallynn Glinski, who hit a solo homer, and Amber Wagner each had one RBI as well.

Pitcher Kadence Massey gave up three hits with eight strikeouts.

In the semifinals, Massey held Palatka scoreless until the seventh. She allowed six hits and one walk.

Kinsall went 3 for 4 with two RBI, while Wagner went 4 for 4 with an RBI.

Four other players had one RBI each, including Nugent, who hit a home run. The others were Massey, Kiley Channell and Caitlin Frampton.

The third seed Indians defeated top seed Pierson Taylor 10-0 in five innings to win the championship trophy.

Massey, who gave up one hit and no walks, was two outs away from pitching a no-hitter.

Wager hit a two-run single and a two-run triple to finish 2 for 3 with four RBI. Kinsall and Roach each went 2 for 4 with two RBI, while Channell and Nattalie Glinski had one RBI each. Madallynn Glinski went 2 for 3.

Keystone, which earned the seventh seed in the Region 1 playoffs, saw its season end with a 15-1 loss to Florida High.

Florida High hit three home runs (including a grand slam) in the second inning in building a 7-0 lead.

Nugent was the only Keystone batter with multiple hits, going 2 for 2.

The Indians ended the season with a 9-19 record.

Regional qualifiers in wrestling, girls soccer, track and field and girls golf

Steven Raab, who went 2-1, was the runner-up in the 220 class at the District 4-1A wrestling meet. He was one of four wrestlers to earn the right to advance to regionals.

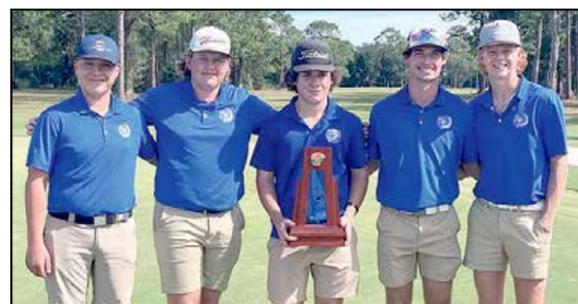
Riley McGorty went 1-2 in placing fourth in the 120 class, while Alyx Nichols went 2-2 to finish fourth in the 170 class.

Atreyu Contes joined McGorty, Nichols and Raab as a regional qualifier, placing fifth in the 106 class after going 2-2.

The girls soccer team was the District 4-3A runner-up after a 6-1 loss to P.K. Yonge.

Keystone began the district tournament with a 5-0 quarterfinal win over Williston. Ella Hutchins and Kiersten Shaw each scored two goals, while Alea Horton scored one. Madeline Sweezy recorded an assist, while goalies Aspen Krohn and Miranda Yow made six and three saves, respectively.

The Indians reached the championship match off an 11-0



Keystone Heights' boys golf team won the District 3-1A championship — the Indians' third straight title. Pictured (l-r) are Jacob Beach, Nick Binet, Alex Addington, Connor Guy and Ty Mitzel.



Keystone won the District 6-1A championship in both the traditional and Olympic girls weightlifting events. Kaylee Wright would go on to qualify for and medal at state. Pictured are: (front, l-r) Tessa Herring, Ashlyn Brown, Ava Herman, Kat Brossette, Dakota Herring, (second row, l-r) Trista Harrison, Harmony Geiger, Lily Mitchell, (third row, l-r) Jaden Fernandez, Heidi Knapp, Kenly Chitty, Abby Anthony-Rozier, Alexys Schleter, Raegan Lee, Morgan Wilson, (back, l-r) Coach Todd Gillenwaters, Wright, Ariel King, Paige Harrington and Coach Kelly Cook. File photo by Cliff Smelley.

semifinal win over Interlachen. Shaw scored five goals and had one assist, while Hutchins had four goals and two assists. Sweezy Kendall Gagnon scored one goal each, with Sweezy also recording an assist.

Tinleigh Gubics had one assist as well.

Krohn was put on the defensive time and time again in the championship loss to P.K. Yonge, but she played admirably in making 20 saves before exiting in the 71st minute to applause from Keystone fans for her effort.

Keystone attempted only five shots on goal, with Shaw scoring the lone goal off a Dallas DeCrosta assist.

The Indians, who earned the seventh seed in the Region 1 playoffs, saw their season end with a 9-1 loss to Bolles. Hutchins scored off a Shaw assist, while Yow and Gagnon made 12 and six saves, respectively.

Keystone finished the season with a 19-6 record.

Three track-and-field athletes earned regional berths, including Kiersten Shaw, who was the District 3-2A runner-up in the high jump after clearing 4-9.75.

Marissa Dowell and boys team member Shepherd Rozier each earned a fourth-place finish to advance to regionals. Dowell placed in the long jump with a distance of 14-11.25, while Rozier placed in the 400m with a time of 51.92.

The girls golf team advanced to regionals after a third-place finish at the District 3-1A tournament. Keystone, which placed behind champion Branford and runner-up Taylor County, was led

by Amber Cunningham, who finished tied for seventh with a score of 121. Aubrey Brooks shot a 132, followed by Ashlynn Duncan (168) and Jasmine Walls (170).

Football team gets back to the playoffs

Keystone bounced back from a 2-8 season, winning four of its final five regular-season games to earn the seventh seed in the Region 2-2S football playoffs.

The final game of the regular season saw the Indians go to Gainesville and defeat Class 1S P.K. Yonge 27-22. Cartez Daniels rushed for 132 yards and two touchdowns in the second half, with his second score putting Keystone up (after Tyler Sapp's extra point) 27-14 with 3:40 remaining in the game.

Quarterback Baylor Ford threw touchdown passes to Garrison Teague and Bryson Wester, finishing 8 of 21 for 133 yards. Teague caught two passes for 37 yards, while Wester had two catches for 17 yards.

Defensive back Bryce Hollingsworth made two interceptions.

The Indians ended their season with a 6-5 record after a 36-10 loss to Yulee in the Region 2 quarterfinals.

Yulee scored all of its points before Keystone's Jackson Herman blocked a punt, which rolled out of the end zone for a safety in the fourth quarter. The Indians then scored on a five-play 65-yard drive that was capped by Colton Hollingsworth's 5-yard touchdown run and subsequent two-point conversion.

8 Keystone wrestlers place at Marine Corps Challenge

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

All eight Keystone Heights High School wrestlers placed, with Jared Goetzman winning his weight class at the Jan. 6 Marine Corps Challenge at Jacksonville's Riverside High School.

The Indians placed fourth out of eight teams.

Goetzman, who wrestles in the 120-pound class, pinned Riverside's Dontrell Conyers in 3:33 after a first-round bye. He was then pinned in 32 seconds by Vero Beach's Vinny Depalo. Goetzman, after another bye, pinned Conyers in 3:58 in the semifinals, setting up a rematch with Depalo in the championship match. This time, Goetzman won, pinning Depalo in 3:17.

Atreyu Contes was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Wrestler after placing second in the 106 class. He began his day with a 17-2 technical fall over Riverside's Troy Davis. He pinned Riverside's Mudashir Olowu in 1:49 before recording another technical fall by a score of 18-1 over Stanton's James Leiby. After a bye, Contes pinned Vero Beach's Mathew Haake in 3:51 to advance to the championship match, where

he lost 15-0 by technical fall to Beachside's Oliver Hayden.

Riley McGorty and Henry Carhuayo each placed third.

McGorty had two straight byes to start his day in the 126 class. He pinned Providence's Albie MacDonald in 57 seconds. After another bye, he lost 7-4 to Vero Beach's Prince Ngyuen, who would go on to be the class runner-up. McGorty faced MacDonald again in the third-place match, pinning him in 4:32.

In the 138 class, Carhuayo was pinned in the first round by Vero Beach's Hudson McLaughlin, who would go on to place second. After a bye, Carhuayo pinned Riverside's Jasmine Gore in 1:51 before getting pinned in 5:23 by eventual champion Dean Holt of Stanton. Carhuayo was a forfeit winner over Beachside's Sebastian Alquinta in the third-place match.

Keystone had three wrestlers place fourth: Phoenix Contes, Arthur Durning and Alyx Nichols.

Contes opened his day in the 132 class by pinning Riverside's Maximus Nichols in 2:24. After a bye, he was then pinned in 5:48 by Beachside's Elijah Marrvaridy. Contes bounced back, pinning Melbourne's Matteus Braga in 1:34 before being defeated 7-4 to Stanton's Diego Torres, who finished as runner-up.

The third-place match was a rematch with Marrvaridy, which went into overtime before Marrvaridy recorded a 2-0 sudden victory.

Durning, who wrestles in

the 144 class, took a 10-5 win over Melbourne's Micah Ring. After a bye, he was defeated by Beachside's Pierce Widrich, who won by a 16-2 major decision. Durning pinned Riverside's Siniayra Thomas in 1:36 before getting pinned in 29 seconds by eventual champion Kevin Benjamin of Vero Beach.

A rematch with Widrich in the third-place match went to the Beachside wrestler, who pinned Durning in 1:49.

Following a first-round bye in the 175 class, Nichols was pinned in 3:12 by Riverside's Anthony Kearney, who would go on to win the championship. Nichols bounced back with two straight pins, defeating Stanton's Brannon Spurlin in 3:16 and Jackson's De'Andre Kyles in 1:22. He suffered a 13-2 major-decision loss to Vero Beach's Spurgeon Wickel, who finished as runner-up.

In the third-place match, Nichols was pinned in 34 seconds by Riverside's D'Angelo West.

Marcellus Beem wrestled his way to a fifth-place finish for Keystone in the 157 class. After getting pinned in 1:55 by eventual third-place finisher Cedric Livingston of Riverside, Beem pinned Riverside's Jayden Bohannon in 1:26. He was then pinned in one minute by Melbourne's Jordan Garcia, who went on to place second.

After getting pinned in 1:16 by eventual fourth-place finisher Brieon Glover of Jackson, Beem pinned Riverside's Iyana Lee in 51 seconds. That advanced Beem to the fifth-place match, where

he pinned Stanton's William Murphy in 1:17.

3 Union Co. wrestlers place at Yulee's Joe Bees Memorial

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Alex Cortese placed third, while Wyatt Elixson and Gavin Sparkman each placed fifth for Union County High School at the Jan. 5-6 Joe Bees Memorial: Battle at the Border at Yulee High School.

Cortese, who wrestles in the 175-pound class, started off his tournament with three straight pins, defeating South Walton's Kaden Shaw in 2:31, Middleburg's Seth Straub in 44 seconds and Menendez's Desmond Valdes in 2:17. He then lost 8-7 to Yulee's Christopher Aud, who would go on to finish in second place. Cortese bounced back with a pin of Baker County's Tommy Rollins in 4:42. That put him in the third-place match, where he pinned Toco Creek's Daniel Hageman in three minutes.

In the 132 class, Sparkman had a first-round bye before getting pinned in 5:52 by Fleming Island's Joseph Forte, who would wrestle his way to the class championship. Sparkman rebounded by pinning The Villages' Blaze Sellers in 3:23 and followed that by pinning Bishop Kenny's Jordan Hampton

in 1:50. He then suffered a 10-0 major-decision loss to Baker County's Taz Kinghorn before being awarded the win over Oakleaf's Micah Thomas in the fifth-place match.

Kinghorn finished in third place.

Elixson, who wrestles in the 144 class, pinned Bishop Kenny's Will Franklin in two minutes, but was then pinned in 5:04 by Toco Creek's Nikita Chechkovsky, who finished as the class runner-up. He rebounded with two straight victories by pins, defeating The Villages' Carson Gabat in 4:42 and South Walton's Sam Fanton in 3:22. Fleming Island's Tylr Frein pinned Elixson in 2:30, which put Elixson in the fifth-place match, where he was awarded a win over Episcopal's Ben Blatt.

Frein wrestled his way to third place.

Union had three others compete, including Aidan Hancock and Jameson Lang, who each went 2-2.

Hancock opened his day in the 106 class by getting pinned in 2:32 by Baker County's Brayden Martin, who would go on to place fourth. He then recorded a 9-0 major decision over Episcopal's Andrew Rhode before pinning Baker's Clayton Hoden in 3:34. Hancock ended the tournament with a loss to Middleburg's Dawson Brown, who pinned him in 31 seconds.

Brown eventually placed sixth.

Lang got off to a good start in the 165 class, earning a 13-3 major decision over The Villages' Jesse Nelson. He was pinned in 4:51 in the second round by South Walton's Gibson Moore, who went on to place second. Lang pinned Toco Creek's Anthony Myntti in 2:55 before being put out by Yulee's Michael McNair, who pinned

him in 19 seconds.

McNair went on to finish in third place.

Dylan Lane also wrestled for the Tigers, going 1-2 in the 285 class. After getting pinned in 2:59 by Menendez's Colby Leth, who would wrestle his way to fourth place, he bounced back to pin University Christian's Brandon Allritton in 2:32. Lane was then pinned in 1:27 by Menendez's Ransom Rhodes.

BHS boys drop 3rd in a row in boys hoops

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Torin Brazell and Damarion Hankerson combined to score nine points during a 13-0 run to close out the third quarter and leave the Bradford High School boys basketball trailing by eight, but the Tornadoes went on to lose 60-44 to visiting P.K. Yonge on Jan. 5.

A three-pointer by Hankerson off a Race Black assist put Bradford (4-6) up 5-3 early in the first quarter, but P.K. Yonge outscored the Tornadoes 13-3 to go into the second quarter leading by seven.

The Blue Wave made three three-pointers in the first quarter and added two more in the early stages of the second quarter to go up 22-12. Bradford scored six of the next eight points, with Brazell scoring off a Hankerson assist, Journie Sampson scoring off an offensive rebound and Hankerson getting a layup off a Mattox Burgin inbounds pass.

P.K. Yonge closed out the half with a 10-2 run to take a 33-20 lead into the locker room.

It was a 19-point game when the Tornadoes went on their run to end the third quarter. It began with a Hankerson three-pointer, followed by a rebound putback by Sampson. Hankerson scored off a Burgin assist, while Brazell scored two straight baskets — one off an offensive rebound and the other off a Hankerson assist. Keith Taylor then scored to send Bradford into the fourth quarter trailing 48-40.

Bradford went 1 of 12 from the field in the final quarter.

Brazell and Hankerson led the team with 16 and 10 points, respectively. Taylor added six points, while the Tornadoes also got five from Burgin, four from Sampson, two from Black and one from Trejan Tyson.

Bradford got solid rebounding efforts from Brazell and Sampson, especially in the second half when each grabbed nine.

The Tornadoes, who entered the game off a 79-47 loss at Fort White on Jan. 4, played Interlachen this past Monday and Crescent City this past Wednesday and will travel to play in a tournament at Hawthorne on Monday, Jan. 15.



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Legals for the week of Jan. 11, 2024

BRADFORD

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO.: 2023-CA-393
BRENDA YEOMANS, PLAINTIFF,
VS.

JOY E. WATKINS AND STATE OF FLORIDA, DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLES, DEFENDANTS.

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: JOY E. WATKINS
4912 SE 92nd Street
Hampton, FL 32044

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that a complaint for declaratory relief regarding the following single wide mobile home described as 1982 Nova bearing Vehicle Identification Number EF2966A and Title Number 19988481 has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses/response, if any, to it on VERONICA R. OWENS, ESQ., Attorney for the Plaintiff, whose address is 189 S. Lawrence Blvd, Keystone Heights, FL 32656, on or before thirty days from the date of first publication of this NOTICE OF ACTION, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court at 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, FL 32091, before service on Plaintiff or immediately thereafter.

If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request.

You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed or e-mailed to the addresses on record at the clerk's office.

Dated: November 27, 2023
DENNY THOMPSON
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
By: Kanetra Jenkins
Deputy Clerk

12/28 4tchg 01/18/24-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION

CASE NO: 23000245CAAXMX
PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC,
Plaintiff,

vs.
ZAZHARY V. MITCHELL; SARAH J MITCHELL N/K/A SARAH JEANISE FLOWERS; CAVALRY SPV I LLC AS ASSIGNEE OF CITIBANK, NA; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF SARAH J. MITCHELL, N/K/A SARAH JEANISE FLOWERS; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ZAZHARY V. MITCHELL; UNKNOWN TENANT #1; UNKNOWN TENANT #2,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
(Published in Bradford County Telegraph)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Final Judgment of Mortgage Foreclosure dated December 22, 2023 entered in Civil Case No. 23000245CAAXMX of the Circuit Court of the 8th Judicial Circuit in and for Bradford County, Florida, wherein PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC is Plaintiff and ZAZHARY V. MITCHELL and SARAH J MITCHELL N/K/A SARAH JEANISE FLOWERS, et al. are Defendants. The Clerk, DENNY THOMPSON, shall sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at Bradford County Courthouse, 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091, at 11:00 AM on February 22, 2024, in accordance with Chapter 45, Florida Statutes, the following described property located in BRADFORD County, Florida, as set forth in said Final Judgment of Mortgage Foreclosure, to-wit:
LOT 5, BLOCK 2, BUTLER COURT, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE(S) 2, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA.

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 before the clerk reports the surplus as unclaimed. The court, in its discretion, may enlarge the time of the sale. Notice of the changed time of sale shall be published as provided herein.

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in a proceeding, you are entitled to be provided with certain assistance at no cost to you. Please contact the ADA Coordinator, Alachua County Family and Civil Justice Center, 201 East University Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601 (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 7 days. If you are hearing or voice-impaired, call 711 via Florida Relay Service.

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 Court Interpreting at interpreter@circuic8.org.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served by Electronic Mail pursuant to Rule 2.516, Fla. R. Jud. Admin, and/or by U.S. Mail to any other parties in accordance with the attached service list this 28th day of December, 2023.

Todd C. Drosky, Esq.
FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS WEISMAN & GORDON, LLP
One East Broward Boulevard, Suite 1111
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301
Telephone: (954) 522-3233 | Fax: (954) 200-7770
FL Bar #: 54811
DESIGNATED PRIMARY E-MAIL FOR SERVICE PURSUANT TO FLA. R. JUD. ADMIN 2.516
fleservice@flwlaw.com
This document was prepared by:

FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS WEISMAN & GORDON, LLP
Attorney for Plaintiff
One East Broward Boulevard, Suite 1111
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
Telephone: (954) 522-3233
Fax (954) 200 7770

1/4 2tchg 1/11-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL DIVISION

CASE NO.: 23000220CAAXMX
FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION
PLAINTIFF,
VS.

JUSTIN HAVERKATE, MARISA LEIGH BATEMAN A/K/A MARISA BATEMAN ET AL.,
DEFENDANTS.

AMENDED NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

(Please publish in Bradford Telegraph)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated the 20th day of December, 2023, and entered in Case No. 23000220CAAXMX, of the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Bradford County, Florida, wherein Freedom Mortgage Corporation is the Plaintiff and MARISA LEIGH BATEMAN A/K/A MARISA BATEMAN; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF MARISA LEIGH BATEMAN A/K/A MARISA BATEMAN; JUSTIN HAVERKATE; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF RONALD A. HAVERKATE and UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF JUSTIN HAVERKATE; are defendants. Denny Thompson as the Clerk of the Circuit Court shall sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the courthouse located 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, FL 32091 at 11:00 A.M. on the 22nd day of February, 2024, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

THE NORTH 40 FEET OF LOT 23 AND ALL OF LOTS 24 AND 25, BLOCK 15, KEYSTONE CLUB ESTATES, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 9 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA.
IF YOU ARE A PERSON CLAIMING A RIGHT TO FUNDS REMAINING AFTER THE SALE, YOU MUST FILE A CLAIM WITH THE CLERK NO LATER THAN THE DATE THAT THE CLERK REPORTS THE FUNDS AS UNCLAIMED. IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A CLAIM, YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO ANY REMAINING FUNDS. AFTER THE FUNDS ARE REPORTED AS UNCLAIMED, ONLY THE OWNER OF RECORD AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MAY CLAIM THE SURPLUS.
If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Persons with a disability who need any accommodation in order to participate should call Jan Phillips, ADA Coordinator, Alachua County Courthouse, 201 E. University Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601 at (352) 337-6237 within two (2) working days of your receipt of this notice; if you are hearing impaired call (800) 955-8771; if you are voice impaired, call (800) 955-8770.
Dated this 29th day of December, 2023.
By: Liana R. Hall
Liana R. Hall
Bar No. 73813
Submitted by:
Miller, George & Suggs, PLLC
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF
210 N. University Drive, Suite 900
Coral Springs, FL 33071
DESIGNATED PRIMARY E-MAIL FOR SERVICE
PURSUANT TO FLA. R. JUD. ADMIN 2.516
ESERVICE@MGS-LEGAL.COM

1/4 2tchg 01/18/24-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION

FILE NO.: 04-2023-CP-000114
In re: THE ESTATE OF
KENNETH WAYNE GARRISON, also known as KENNETH GARRISON,
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Kenneth Wayne Garrison, also known as Kenneth Garrison, whose date of death was June 19, 2023, and whose Social Security Number is ****-**-7570, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Bradford County Courthouse, 845 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091. The name and address of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE 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 SO 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 the first publication of this Notice is January 11, 2024.
Personal Representative:
Tina Garrison
6965 North West County Road 233
Starke, Florida 32091
Attorneys for Personal Representative:
TAYLOR ARRUBLA HARDWICK P.A.
By /s/Jennifer T. Arrubla
James J. Taylor Jr.
Florida Bar No. 334057
Jennifer T. Arrubla
Florida Bar No. 98804
420 S. Lawrence Blvd.

1/4 2tchg 1/11-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA

FILE NO.: 04-2023-CP-000114
In re: THE ESTATE OF
KENNETH WAYNE GARRISON, also known as KENNETH GARRISON,
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Kenneth Wayne Garrison, also known as Kenneth Garrison, whose date of death was June 19, 2023, and whose Social Security Number is ****-**-7570, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Bradford County Courthouse, 845 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091. The name and address of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE 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 SO 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 the first publication of this Notice is January 11, 2024.
Personal Representative:
Tina Garrison
6965 North West County Road 233
Starke, Florida 32091
Attorneys for Personal Representative:
TAYLOR ARRUBLA HARDWICK P.A.
By /s/Jennifer T. Arrubla
James J. Taylor Jr.
Florida Bar No. 334057
Jennifer T. Arrubla
Florida Bar No. 98804
420 S. Lawrence Blvd.

1/4 2tchg 1/11-BCT

Keystone Heights, Florida 32656
Primary Email: Jennifer@tah-law.com
Secondary Email:
Jim@tah-law.com
Kim@tah-law.com
352-473-8088 (telephone)
352-473-8161 (facsimile)

1/11 2tchg 1/18-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF STARKE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN BY THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA, SERVING ALSO AS THE LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the City of Starke Land Development Code, as amended, hereinafter referred to as the Land Development Code, objections, recommendations and comments concerning an amendment, as described below, will be heard by the Planning and Zoning Board of City of Starke, Florida, serving also as the Local Planning Agency of City of Starke, Florida, at a public hearing to be held on January 22, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard in the City Commission Meeting Room, City Hall located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida.

S231201A, an application by R-3 Ventures-FL, Inc., to amend the Future Land Use Plan Map of the Comprehensive Plan by changing the future land use classification from RESIDENTIAL, MEDIUM DENSITY (more than 2 to less than or equal to 8 dwelling units per acre) to COMMERCIAL on property described, as follows:
A parcel of land lying in Section 21, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida. Being more particularly described as follows:
Commence at the Southwest corner of said Section 21; thence North 00°27'49" West 36.58 feet, along the Westerly line of said Section 21 to the Northerly right-of-way line of County Road 229 (Weldon Street) for the Point of Beginning; thence continue North 00°27'49" West 593.27 feet, along Westerly line of said Section 21; thence North 88°42'28" East 450.32 feet to the Westerly right-of-way of State Road 16 (Raiford Road); thence South 27°26'12" East 580.94 feet, along the Westerly right-of-way of said State Road 16 (Raiford Road), to the beginning of a curve, concave to the Northwest and having a radius of 50.00 feet; thence Southwesterly, along the Westerly right-of-way of said State Road 16 (Raiford Road) and along the arc of said curve, 85.03 feet as measured along a chord having a bearing of South 30°50'20" West to the Northerly right-of-way line of said County Road 229 (Weldon Street); thence South 88°44'01" West 669.66 feet, along the Northerly right-of-way line of said County Road 229 (Weldon Street) to the Point of Beginning.

Containing 7.81 acres, more or less. At the aforementioned public hearing, all interested parties may appear to be heard with respect to the amendment. Copies of the amendment are available for public inspection at the City Building and Zoning Department, located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours.

All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decisions made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that for such purpose they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact the Office of the City Clerk at 904.964.5027 or via the Florida Relay Service 800.955.8770 (voice) or 800.955.8771 (TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the date of the public hearing.

1/11 1tchg-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO.: 22000223CAAXMX
DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR AMERIQUEST MORTGAGE SECURITIES INC., ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-R8,
Plaintiff,

vs.
JOSEPH DAVID LOIACANO A/K/A JOSEPH D. LOIACANO A/K/A JOSEPH LOIACANO A/K/A DAVID LOIACANO; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF JOSEPH DAVID LOIACANO A/K/A JOSEPH D. LOIACANO A/K/A JOSEPH LOIACANO A/K/A DAVID LOIACANO; LORA L. BARGAR A/K/A LORA L. BARGER; STATE OF FLORIDA; MYSTRY D. SCOTT,
Defendants(s).

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45
NOTICE OF SALE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the order of Uniform Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated December 28, 2023, and entered in Case No. 22000223CAAXMX of the Circuit Court of the 8th Judicial Circuit in and for Bradford County, Florida, wherein DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR AMERIQUEST MORTGAGE SECURITIES INC., ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-R8, is Plaintiff and JOSEPH DAVID LOIACANO A/K/A JOSEPH D. LOIACANO A/K/A JOSEPH LOIACANO A/K/A DAVID LOIACANO; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF JOSEPH DAVID LOIACANO A/K/A JOSEPH LOIACANO A/K/A DAVID LOIACANO; LORA L. BARGAR A/K/A LORA L. BARGER; STATE OF FLORIDA; MYSTRY D. SCOTT, are Defendants, the Office of the Clerk, Bradford County Clerk of the Court will sell to the highest bidder or bidders for cash in the Lobby of the Bradford County Courthouse, located at 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, FL 32091 at 11:00 a.m. on the 29th day of February, 2024, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

A PARCEL OF LAND CONTAINING 1.89 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, AND LYING IN THE NW 1/4 OF SE 1/4 OF SECTION 35, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA; SAID PARCEL BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
COMMENCE AT A CONCRETE MONUMENT LOCATED AT THE SE CORNER OF SAID NW 1/4 OF SE 1/4 AND RUN NORTH 1 DEGREE, 17 MINUTES AND 55 SECONDS WEST, ALONG THE EASTERLY BOUNDARY THEREOF, 412.45 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. FROM POINT OF BEGINNING THUS DESCRIBED CONTINUE NORTH 1 DEGREE, 17 MINUTES AND 55 SECONDS WEST, ALONG SAID EASTERLY BOUNDARY, 412.44 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES, 15 MINUTES AND 39 SECONDS EAST, PARALLEL WITH AFORESAID SOUTHERLY BOUNDARY, 200.0 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.
TOGETHER WITH A 2001 MOBILE HOME
VIN #FLHMLCN164624345A & VIN # FLHMLCN164624345B
HUD TAG NUMBERS FLA 702496 & FLA 702495
Property Address: 2033 SE 144th Street, Starke, Florida 32091 and all fixtures and personal property located therein or thereon, which are included as security in Plaintiff's mortgage.

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 before the clerk reports the surplus as unclaimed. If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator, Alachua County Courthouse, 201 East University Ave., 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 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

Dated: January 4, 2024
McCabe, Weisberg & Conway, LLC
By: Craig Stein
Craig Stein, Esq.
FI Bar No. 0120464
McCabe, Weisberg & Conway, LLC
3222 Commerce Place, Suite A

1/11 1tchg-BCT

of said County Road 229 (Weldon Street); thence South 88°44'01" West 669.66 feet, along the Northerly right-of-way line of said County Road 229 (Weldon Street) to the Point of Beginning. Containing 7.81 acres, more or less. At the aforementioned public hearing, all interested parties may appear to be heard with respect to the amendment. Copies of the amendment are available for public inspection at the City Building and Zoning Department, located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours.

All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decisions made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that for such purpose they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact the Office of the City Clerk at 904.964.5027 or via the Florida Relay Service 800.955.8770 (voice) or 800.955.8771 (TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the date of the public hearing.

1/11 1tchg-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO.: 22000223CAAXMX
DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR AMERIQUEST MORTGAGE SECURITIES INC., ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-R8,
Plaintiff,

vs.
JOSEPH DAVID LOIACANO A/K/A JOSEPH D. LOIACANO A/K/A JOSEPH LOIACANO A/K/A DAVID LOIACANO; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF JOSEPH DAVID LOIACANO A/K/A JOSEPH D. LOIACANO A/K/A JOSEPH LOIACANO A/K/A DAVID LOIACANO; LORA L. BARGAR A/K/A LORA L. BARGER; STATE OF FLORIDA; MYSTRY D. SCOTT,
Defendants(s).

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45
NOTICE OF SALE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the order of Uniform Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated December 28, 2023, and entered in Case No. 22000223CAAXMX of the Circuit Court of the 8th Judicial Circuit in and for Bradford County, Florida, wherein DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR AMERIQUEST MORTGAGE SECURITIES INC., ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-R8, is Plaintiff and JOSEPH DAVID LOIACANO A/K/A JOSEPH D. LOIACANO A/K/A JOSEPH LOIACANO A/K/A DAVID LOIACANO; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF JOSEPH DAVID LOIACANO A/K/A JOSEPH LOIACANO A/K/A DAVID LOIACANO; LORA L. BARGAR A/K/A LORA L. BARGER; STATE OF FLORIDA; MYSTRY D. SCOTT, are Defendants, the Office of the Clerk, Bradford County Clerk of the Court will sell to the highest bidder or bidders for cash in the Lobby of the Bradford County Courthouse, located at 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, FL 32091 at 11:00 a.m. on the 29th day of February, 2024, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

A PARCEL OF LAND CONTAINING 1.89 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, AND LYING IN THE NW 1/4 OF SE 1/4 OF SECTION 35, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA; SAID PARCEL BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
COMMENCE AT A CONCRETE MONUMENT LOCATED AT THE SE CORNER OF SAID NW 1/4 OF SE 1/4 AND RUN NORTH 1 DEGREE, 17 MINUTES AND 55 SECONDS WEST, ALONG THE EASTERLY BOUNDARY THEREOF, 412.45 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. FROM POINT OF BEGINNING THUS DESCRIBED CONTINUE NORTH 1 DEGREE, 17 MINUTES AND 55 SECONDS WEST, ALONG SAID EASTERLY BOUNDARY, 412.44 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES, 15 MINUTES AND 39 SECONDS EAST, PARALLEL WITH AFORESAID SOUTHERLY BOUNDARY, 200.0 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.
TOGETHER WITH A 2001 MOBILE HOME
VIN #FLHMLCN164624345A & VIN # FLHMLCN164624345B
HUD TAG NUMBERS FLA 702496 & FLA 702495
Property Address: 2033 SE 144th Street, Starke, Florida 32091 and all fixtures and personal property located therein or thereon, which are included as security in Plaintiff's mortgage.

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 before the clerk reports the surplus as unclaimed. If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator, Alachua County Courthouse, 201 East University Ave., 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 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

Dated: January 4, 2024
McCabe, Weisberg & Conway, LLC
By: Craig Stein
Craig Stein, Esq.
FI Bar No. 0120464
McCabe, Weisberg & Conway, LLC
3222 Commerce Place, Suite A

1/11 1tchg-BCT

West Palm Beach, Florida, 33407
Telephone: (561) 713-1400
Email: FLpleadings@mwc-law.com
1/11 2tchg 1/18-BCT

BROOKER ELECTION

The Town of Brooker will NOT have an election on Tuesday, February 13th, 2024.

1/11 1tchg-BCT

COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING
THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Bradford County Board of County Commissioners will have a board meeting on January 18, 2024, at 6:30 PM inside the county commission meeting room, located in the north wing section of the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, FL. A copy of the meeting agenda may be obtained from the Bradford County website: www.bradfordcountyfl.gov. Said meeting location is secured – no firearms or weapons are permitted.

1/11 1tchg-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE #: 04-2023-CA-000114
ROSE ACCEPTANCE, INC.,
Plaintiff

vs.
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHERS CLAIMING INTERESTS BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST KATIE LEE CARROLL, DECEASED; ET AL.;
Defendants,

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated the 21st day of December, 2023, and entered in Case No. 042023CA000114CAAXMX, of the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Bradford County, Florida, where, ROSE ACCEPTANCE, INC., is the Plaintiff, and THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHERS CLAIMING INTERESTS BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST KATIE LEE CARROLL, DECEASED; THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHERS CLAIMING INTERESTS BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST KATIE LEE CARROLL, DECEASED; HARRY LEE BLOCKER, AS AN HEIR OF KATIE LEE CARROLL, DECEASED; PATRICIA MCGREGOR, AS AN HEIR OF KATIE LEE CARROLL, DECEASED; ROOSEVELT CARROLL, JR., AS AN HEIR OF KATIE LEE CARROLL, DECEASED; ERIC VON CARROLL, AS AN HEIR OF KATIE LEE CARROLL, DECEASED; NATALIE RENEE THOMAS, AS AN HEIR OF KATIE LEE CARROLL, DECEASED; TAKEIRRA CARROLL, AS AN HEIR OF KATIE LEE CARROLL, DECEASED; LATEISHA CARROLL, AS AN HEIR OF KATIE LEE CARROLL, DECEASED; RA'KIA CARROLL, AS AN HEIR OF KATIE LEE CARROLL, DECEASED; AN'YIAH CARROLL, AS AN HEIR OF KATIE LEE CARROLL, DECEASED; ANDREW TIMMONS, AS AN HEIR OF KATIE LEE CARROLL, DECEASED; ALEECE CARROLL, AS AN HEIR OF LAQUESHA CARROLL, A/K/A LAQUASHA CARROLL, DECEASED; CHELSIE CURTIS, AS AN HEIR OF LAQUESHA CARROLL, A/K/A LAQUASHA CARROLL, DECEASED; KHYRIN HOLMES, AS AN HEIR OF LAQUESHA CARROLL, A/K/A LAQUASHA CARROLL, DECEASED, are Defendants. DENNY THOMPSON, as the Clerk of the Circuit Court, shall sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the lobby of the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, FL 32091, at 11:00 AM, on the 22nd day of February, 2024, the following described property as set forth in said final judgment, to wit:

A PORTION OF THE WEST 462 FEET OF THE EAST 858 FEET, OF THE S 1/2 OF THE SW 1/4 OF SE 1/4, SECTION 20, TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
COMMENCE AT THE SE CORNER OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED TRACT, AND RUN THENCE WEST, 100 FEET; RUN THENCE NORTH, PARALLEL TO THE EAST BOUNDARY OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED TRACT, 435.6 FEET; RUN THENCE EAST, PARALLEL TO SAID SOUTH BOUNDARY, 100 FEET; RUN THENCE SOUTH, ALONG THE AFORESAID EAST BOUNDARY, 435.6 FEET TO P.O.B. INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO A 1995 FLEE MOBILE HOME, SERIAL # GAFLR39A01995VH, WHICH IS PERMANENTLY ATTACHED AND AFFIXED TO THE REAL PROPERTY. PARCEL ID NUMBER: 04954-0-00100
COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 4493 SE 101st ST., HAMPTON, FL 32044
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 BEFORE THE CLERK REPORTS THE SURPLUS AS UNCLAIMED.
Dated this 3rd day of January, 2024.
/s/ Jason M. Tarokh
JASON M. TAROKH
FLORIDA BAR # 57611
Submitted by:
TAROKH LAW, PLLC
PO BOX 10827
TAMPA, FL 33679
813-922-5510
E-mail for service:
jason@tarokhlaw.com

1/11 2tchg 1/18-BCT

1/11 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that SHIRLEY R PICKFORD REVOCABLE TRUST the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate Number: 1168
Year of Issuance: 2017
Parcel Number: 05079-0-01001
Case Number: 2023-TD-0032
Description of Property:

Commence at the Southwest corner of Lot 9 of Block 7 of said Town of Hampton and run N 01°25'06"W, along the West line of Lots 9, 10, 11 and 12 of said Block 7 and along the Easterly R/W line of Florida Avenue (a 50' platted street) for a distance of 100.00 feet to the Northwest corner of said Lot 12 of Block 7; thence run S 88°28'54"W, along a Westerly prolongation of the North line of said Lot 12 of Block 7, for a distance of 25.00 feet to the centerline of said Florida Avenue for the Point of Beginning. From the Point of Beginning thus described run S 01°25'

Legal Notices

Legals for the week of Jan. 11, 2024

BRADFORD

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that MIKON FINACIAL SERVICES, INC AND OCEAN BANK the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows:
 Certificate Number: 949
 Year of Issuance: 2021
 Parcel Number: 05488-A-00600
 Case Number: 2023-TD-0040
 Description of Property: Lots 20, 21, 22 Smokerise Subdivision as per plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 33 of the Public Records of Bradford County, Florida
 Name in Which Assessed: JACQUES TODD CALDWELL AS TENANTS IN COMMON; MARY JEANNE CALDWELL CABANEL AS TENANTS IN COMMON
 Name on last tax roll, if different: JACQUES T CALDWELL ET AL
 All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 3/13/2024, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.
 Denny Thompson,
 Clerk Of The Circuit Court
 Bradford County, Florida
 BY: KANETRA JENKINS,
 Deputy Clerk
 Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem.
 DATED: January 9, 2024
 DATE OF PUBLICATION: JANUARY 11, 2024; JANUARY 18, 2024; JANUARY 25, 2024; FEBRUARY 1, 2024

1/11 4tchg 2/1-BCT

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME

Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: MORGAN HAMILTON, 15937 SW 161st St., Brooker, FL 32622, sole owner, doing business under the firm name of: ALLIGATOR CREEK BOUTIQUE, LLC, 15937 SW 161st St., Brooker, FL 32622, intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 8th day of January A.D., 2024, in Bradford County.

1/11 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME

Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: TIFFANY DODGE, 15068 SE 17th Ave., Starke, FL 32091, sole owner, doing business under the firm name of: CUTIES CAFE & PLAY, 15068 SE 17th AVE., Starke, FL 32091, intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 5th day of January A.D., 2024, in Bradford County.

1/11 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that VG SOLO401K PLAN & TRUST the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows:
 Certificate Number: 392
 Year of Issuance: 2020
 Parcel Number: 01513-0-00000
 Case Number: 04-2023-TD-0042
 Description of Property: 23 5S 22 LOT 19, ALSO: COM NE COR OF LOT 19, E80', S274', W130', N74' TO SW COR LOT 19, EAST TO SE COR OF LOT 19, N TO POB. EX: S1/2
 Name in Which Assessed: 360 DEGEEZ CONSULTING LLC
 Name on last tax roll, if different: All said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless

such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 03/13/2024, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

Denny Thompson,
 Clerk Of The Circuit Court
 Bradford County, Florida
 BY: KYRAH SMITH
 Deputy Clerk
 Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem
 DATED: January 9, 2024
 DATE OF PUBLICATION: 01-11-2024 / 01-18-2024 / 01-25-2024 / 02-01-2024

1/11 4tchg 2/1-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:

301 Legacy Auto LLC gives notice that on 02/02/2024 at 09:00 AM the following vehicle(s) may be sold by public sale at 13168 US HWY 301 S., Starke, FL 32091 to satisfy the lien for the amount owed on each vehicle for any recovery, towing, or storage services charges and administrative fees allowed.
 2013 GMC
 Vin# 1GTR1TEA6DZ155774
 2011 MAZDA
 Vin# JM1BL1UF8B1416668
 2016 NISS
 Vin# 3N1CN7AP5GL889672
 This notification is published in BRADFORD COUNTY TELEGRAPH on 01/11/2024

1/11 1tchg-BCT

UNION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION FILE NO 63-2022-CP 043

In re THE ESTATE OF CLYDE RONALD SHORT, also known as CLYDE SHORT Deceased

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO RONALD WRIGHT, IF ALIVE, AND IF DEAD, HIS UNKNOWN SPOUSE, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ADMINISTRATORS, CREDITORS, ASSIGNS, AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST RONALD WRIGHT OR ANY OF THE FOREGOING UNKNOWN PERSONS OR PARTIES
 YOU ARE NOTIFIED that a petition for authorization to sell real property has been filed in the above-referenced court, with the above referenced case style and caption, and you are required to serve any objections on Jennifer T Arrubla, the personal representative's attorney, whose address is 420 S Lawrence Boulevard, Keystone Heights, Florida 32656, within 28 days of the first publication of this notice of action, and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on the personal representative's attorney or immediately thereafter, otherwise the Court in this action will consider and may grant the relief requested in the above-identified petition
 Dated on December 18, 2023
 KELLIE HENDRICKS RHOADES
 Clerk of the Court

By: K Rhoades
 As Deputy Clerk
 12/28 4tchg 1/18/24-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File No.: 2023-CP-0012

IN RE: ESTATE OF FAWN COLLEEN WALKER, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of FAWN COLLEEN WALKER, deceased, whose date of death was September 29, 2021, File Number 2023-CP-0012 is pending in the Circuit Court for Union County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 55 W Maine Street, Room 103, Lake Butler, Florida 32054. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
 All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
 ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.
 NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
 The date of first publication of this notice is January 4, 2024.
 Attorney for Personal Representative: CAMERON, HODGES, COLEMAN, LAPOINTE & WRIGHT, P.A.
 /s/ Virgil W. Wright, III
 VIRGIL W. WRIGHT, III, ESQUIRE
 Florida Bar No. 993141
 1820 SE 18th Avenue, Suite 1
 Ocala, Florida 34471
 Phone (352) 351-1119
 Fax (352) 351-0151
 Servicevww@cameronhodes3.com
 Personal Representative: JOSPEH DEWAYNE WALKER
 5825 SW CR 239
 Lake Butler, Florida 32054
 Petitioner

1/4 2tchg 1/11-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File No.: 2023-CP-0014

IN RE: ESTATE OF ALEXIS ROSE WALKER, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of ALEXIS ROSE WALKER, deceased, whose date of death was September 29, 2021, File Number 2023-CP-0014 is pending in the Circuit Court for Union County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 55 W

Maine Street, Room 103, Lake Butler, Florida 32054.

The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
 All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
 ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE

FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.
 NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
 The date of first publication of this notice is January 4, 2024
 Attorney for Personal Representative: CAMERON, HODGES, COLEMAN, LAPOINTE & WRIGHT, P.A.
 /s/ Virgil W. Wright, III
 VIRGIL W. WRIGHT, III, ESQUIRE
 Florida Bar No. 993141
 1820 SE 18th Avenue, Suite 1
 Ocala, Florida 34471
 Phone (352) 351-1119
 Fax (352) 351-0151
 Servicevww@cameronhodes3.com
 Personal Representative: KATLYN ROSE WALKER
 5825 SW CR 239
 Lake Butler, Florida 32054
 Petitioner

1/4 2tchg 1/11-UCT

CITY COMMISSION MEETING
 The City of Lake Butler City Commission will hold a REGULAR MEETING on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 6:00pm located at the City Commission Chambers at 200 SW 1st Street Lake Butler, FL 32054.

1/11 1tchg-UCT

LAKE REGION

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME
 Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: ROBERT P MEADOWS, 5146 Harvey Grant Road, Orange Park, FL 32003 sole owner, doing business under the firm name of: R. P. MEADOWS, 5146 Harvey Grant Road, Orange Park, FL 32003, intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 3rd day of January A.D., 2024, in Bradford County.

1/11 1tchg-LRM



Debt Solutions

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1. Subject to credit approval. APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Your rate may be higher based on your creditworthiness and property valuation. Minimum loan amount \$10,000. No closing costs with \$10,000 minimum loan amount; conditions apply. Title insurance for loans \$250,000 and greater paid by member. Rate quoted is as of 12/15/2023, based on a HELOC with a 10-year draw period, 20-year repayment period and a Loan-to-Value (LTV) up to 80%. The HELOC rate is a variable rate and is based on Wall Street Journal Prime. Minimum APR 8.50% - Maximum APR 12.00%. For example, a \$25,000 10-year Home Equity Line of Credit with an 8.50% interest rate and an 80% Loan-to-Value (LTV) will have an APR of 8.500%, 120 payments of \$309.96; total finance charges of \$12,195.71 for a total payment of \$37,195.71. Rates will be no less than Florida Credit Union's minimum interest rate. This discount promotion cannot be combined with other Florida Credit Union promotions. Limited time offer and subject to change without notice. 2. No closing costs with \$10,000 minimum loan amount. Title insurance for loans \$250,000 and greater paid by member. FCUMKNP0555-0124 Insured by NCUA

Starke Branch - 2460 Commercial Dr.

PINK RIBBON SYMPOSIUM PRESENTS:
 Self Care For The New Year
 "Designing Your Future" with life coaches.
 Rebecca Mazingo & Joyce Hall
 Saturday, January 20, 2024
 10 AM - Noon (Doors Open at 9:30)
 at Keystone Heights RV Resort
 1177 SE Keystone Ave, Keystone Heights, FL
 Register at WWW.PINKRIBBONSYMPOSIUM.ORG

19TH ANNUAL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY CELEBRATION

Monday, January 15, 2024
 10a.m.-2p.m.

Cleather H. Hathcock, Sr. Community Center
 15818 NW 140th St. Alachua, FL

Special Performance by: 1000 Voices of Florida

Special Guest Speaker: Adrian Peterson
 College Football Hall of Fame Inductee

Speakers Performances Free Lunch Served

All are welcome!

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