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# Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

Thursday, January 13, 2022

142nd year, 22nd Issue — \$1

## Commission won't pay Nugent's legal bill

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
 Telegraph Editor

STARKE — The Starke City Commission has refused to reimburse Commissioner Danny Nugent's \$300 legal bill after the abrupt end of a misconduct investigation.

In November, city and contract employees accused Nugent of verbally hostile and threatening behavior, which led to the city to appoint a committee to investigate the incident.

Hired to defend Nugent, attorney Dan Sikes convinced committee members Scott Roberts and Shannon Smith during their second meeting that the city had no rules regarding commissioner behavior and no process for disciplining them.

Their report back to the commission Jan. 4 made no recommendation for



Commissioners Scott Roberts, Wilbur Waters, Danny Nugent, Mayor Janice Moritmer and Attorney Clay Martin. Commissioner Shannon Smith was listening by phone.

discipline. They instead recommended the city move forward with

developing policies and procedures on commissioner behavior and discipline.

You can listen to the conversation at BCTelegraph.com, including:

—Commissioner Wilbur Waters wanting to take the complaints to the Florida Commission on Ethics.

—Nugent, Waters and other commissioners debate the complaint and the reason for the investigation. Waters tells Nugent he was the cause.

—Following the vote to pay the bills except for Nugent's reimbursement, Mayor Janice Moritmer confronts Nugent about writing personal notes. Nugent admits Sikes has been listening in on the phone, and reads his note, which was, "Plan on suing the city."

Note: Commissioner Shannon Smith could not vote because he was present by phone.



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**WORTH NOTING**

### Upcoming food distribution

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Feeding Northeast Florida and True Vine Ministry will take place Tuesday, Jan. 18, 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. The inventory is subject to change based on availability. Tell a friend or a neighbor. The distribution is free and open to the public. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

### MLK banquet, brunch announced

NEW LOCATION

In honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the Concerned Citizens of Bradford County Inc. is sponsoring the following events:

—Saturday, Jan. 15 at 6 p.m., The Annual Service Awards Banquet at the Gov. Charley E. Johns Conference Center, 1610 N. Temple Ave. in Starke. Keynote speaker will be Dr. Paul Broadie II, Santa Fe College president. Ticket donations are \$35 for adults and \$15 for children 8-17.

—Monday, Jan. 17, at 11 a.m., the annual MLK Program and Brunch at the Gov. Charley E. Johns Conference Center. In accordance with the CDC guidelines, each participant is asked to wear a mask.



Gov. Ron DeSantis was in Lake Butler Jan. 7 to deliver news about funding for the wastewater system

## DeSantis announces wastewater award in Lake Butler

LAKE BUTLER — Gov. Ron DeSantis announced more than \$3.5 million has been awarded to the city of Lake Butler in Union County through the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's Rebuild Florida Mitigation General Infrastructure Program.

Funding will be used to make critical improvements to the city's wastewater collection and pumping system to further mitigate damage to the city's infrastructure from future storms.

"My administration is dedicated to supporting projects that improve

infrastructure, increase hurricane preparedness and elevate our rural communities," said DeSantis. "This investment in Lake Butler will benefit the entire community's residents, businesses and surrounding natural resources."

The program, administered by DEO, allows local governments to develop large-scale infrastructure projects to make communities more resilient to future disasters. In the city of Lake Butler, this multi-year and multi-phased wastewater collection

See AWARD, page 3

## Wainwright services planned

Louie Lee Wainwright Sr., former Secretary of Corrections, State of Florida, passed away in peace on Dec. 23, 2021, in Tallahassee, Florida.

A local service has been planned for Saturday, Jan. 15, at Kingsley Lake Cemetery at 3 p.m.

Born on Sept. 11, 1923, in Lawtey, Florida, he remained true to his home state, serving Floridians his entire career. His 98 years were extraordinary.

After serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, he returned to Lawtey. Drawn to public service, Secretary Wainwright began his career in 1947 as a Gainesville Police Officer. In 1952, he joined what was then titled the Division of Corrections as a clerk in the inmate identification unit, a precursor to Classification, at Florida State Prison, in order to learn more about fingerprinting. This launched his long-standing corrections career as he was quickly promoted to Chief Security Correctional Officer. In 1955, he sustained a bullet wound to the leg during an attempted prison escape, in which Assistant Superintendent James G. Godwin was mortally wounded and Correctional Officer Les Dobbs was wounded.

Five years later he was appointed Assistant Superintendent at Avon Park Correctional Institution, later becoming Superintendent.

In 1962, Governor Farris Bryant appointed Wainwright to Chief Administrator of the entire corrections system. He remained Director and then Secretary of Florida's Department



Louie Lee Wainwright Sr.

of Corrections for a quarter-century, retiring from the position on Dec. 31, 1986.

Wainwright is most famous for being named the respondent in two U.S. Supreme Court cases. The first was Gideon vs. Wainwright, in which the United States Supreme Court held that the Sixth and Fourteenth Amendments guarantee a right of legal counsel to anyone accused of a crime. Time magazine called the Gideon decision one of the ten most important legal events of the 1960s. Gideon remains one of the most familiar names to students of habeas corpus law. He is also remembered

See SERVICES, page 4

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# BCSO seeks accreditation to better officers and community

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
Telegraph Editor

Appreciation is wonderful, but what the Bradford County Sheriff's Office is working toward is accreditation.

Sheriff Gordon Smith said Florida is leading the way with a goal of accrediting all of its sheriff's offices as a way of showing the rest of the country it can be done.

Accreditation is about making sure the policies, procedures and training are in place to achieve the highest level of professionalism and service.

Smith pointed to incidents around the country involving excessive force and other methods that end up doing more harm than good to individuals, communities and to the reputation of law enforcement agencies.

Instead, accreditation encourages the use of proven practices that work.

For example, Cleveland just updated its policies to prohibit chokeholds. Smith said in his 36 years in law enforcement, that has never been allowed, nor have other potentially dangerous practices like firing warning shots.

While it's important that every state have the ability to fashion its own set of standards, logic and common sense have to play a part in policing policy, as does self-assessment and accountability. Florida draws upon national standards as well as some that are unique to the state, Smith said.

Standards allow for officer safety and self-defense, as well as the use of deadly force when necessary. They also help identify culpability when something goes wrong.

Smith said Minneapolis officer Derek Chauvin had a history of complaints on his record prior to the killing of George Floyd, many of which should have resulted in immediate termination. He said



Members of the Bradford County Sheriff's Office.



Sheriff Gordon Smith, Capt. Dalton Diggs, Laura Mabry, Maj. Dawn McKinley and Col. Brad Smith

unions and their financial support play a role in protecting officers who should be let go. That's not a problem in his agency.

According to the Florida Accreditation Commission website:

—Accreditation increases the law enforcement agency's ability to prevent and control crime through more effective and efficient delivery of law enforcement services to the community it serves.

—Accreditation enhances community understanding of the law enforcement agency and its

role in the community as well as its goals and objectives. Citizen confidence in the policies and practices of the agency is increased.

—Accreditation, in conjunction with the philosophy of community policing, commits the agency to a broad range of programs (such as crime prevention) that directly benefit the public.

—Accreditation creates a forum in which police and citizens work together to control and prevent crime. This partnership will help citizens to understand the challenges that confront law enforcement. Law

enforcement will, in turn, receive clear direction from the community about its expectations. Thus, a common set of goals and objectives will be arrived at and implemented.

—The accreditation process requires an in-depth review of every aspect of the agency's organization, management, operations, and administration to include:

- establishment of agency goals and objectives with provisions for periodic updating;
- re-evaluation of whether agency resources are being used in accord with agency goals, objectives, and

mission;

• re-evaluation of agency policies and procedures, especially as documented in the agency's written directive system;

• correction of internal deficiencies and inefficiencies before they become public problems;

• the opportunity to re-organize without the appearance of personal attacks.

—The accreditation standards provide norms against which agency performance can be measured and monitored over time.

—Accreditation provides the agency with a continuous flow of distributed information about exemplary policies, procedures, and projects.

—Accreditation provides objective measures to justify decisions related to budget requests and personnel policies.

—Accreditation serves as a yardstick to measure the effectiveness of the agency's programs and services. The services provided are defined, and uniformity of service is assured.

—Accreditation streamlines operations, providing more

consistency and more effective deployment of agency manpower.

—Accreditation assures employees that every aspect of the agency's personnel system is in accord with professional standards, and that the system is both fair and equitable.

—The agency is compelled to operate within specific guidelines. It is accountable to the commission. The agency must stay in compliance with the standards set forth by the commission in order to retain its accreditation.

—The morale of the agency is enhanced by increasing the employees' confidence in the effectiveness and efficiency of their own agency. Operations become more streamlined and consistent.

—Accreditation standards address officer safety issues and provide for adequate training and equipment of the officers.

—Accreditation is a coveted award that symbolizes professionalism, excellence, and competence. Employees will take pride in their agency, knowing that it represents the very best in law enforcement.

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# Starke Police Department taking drug fight to the dealers

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — When he was running for reelection, Starke Police Chief Jeff Johnson was open about the need to fight the city's narcotics problem.

During that time and since, officers and investigators have made their fight high profile, regularly announcing the results of an early morning raid or an unexpected bust resulting from a traffic stop.

Johnson said using social media like Facebook keeps the public informed about what is going on, and it allows them to counter misinformation that might be spread through other pages. It can sometimes open them up to criticism, but often their efforts result in praise. Having a tap on the flow of information is also crucial to protecting officer safety.

"We try to release it and let the people know what we're doing and how we're trying to try to curb this narcotic problems, especially the meth and the fentanyl. Meth and fentanyl is really out of control right now," Johnson said.

Methamphetamine is a highly addictive stimulant than can be eaten, snorted, injected or smoked. Euphoric feelings can quickly turn into edgy, overexcited, angry and fearful behavior.

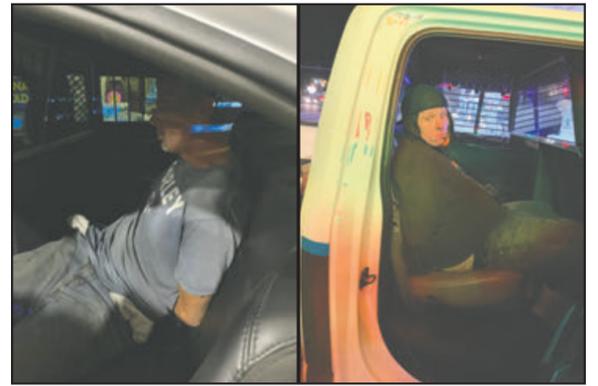
Fentanyl is a powerful and very addictive pain medication with effects comparable to heroin. According to the CDC, abuse of the medication has led to an overdose epidemic. Like meth, much of the harm results from illegally made fentanyl sold



Starke Police Department



Starke police administrators with the force's newest officers, James Hall and Joseph Forbes



Starke Police Department is using social media to publicize the fight against narcotics in the city, including images like these of the recent arrests of Jason R. Daugherty and Charlie B. Manning.

illegally by drug dealers.

The CDC says more than 36,000 people died from synthetic opioid use in 2019, which was 12 times higher than the number of deaths in 2013.

This is what law enforcement agencies are up against across the country, and unfortunately the same is true in Starke and Bradford County. The drugs are ruining lives.

It's not that there is a high amount of drug production here, but Johnson said U.S. 301 and State Road 100 are funnels through which the drugs penetrate the community. Traveling between larger destinations, he said dealers drop their dope off along the way.

"I don't know. I hope we're making a difference, but sometimes it just don't feel like it," Johnson said.

Fortunately, Starke Police

Department isn't alone in the fight. Johnson said he admires the work his officers do, and just as much he appreciates the information and cooperation they receive from citizens. Those living in a neighborhood know best when people are coming and going, and at what hours, and they share that information.

"The citizens help us out tremendously, because if they see something, they say something," he said. "Citizens are going to see way more than we are."

While they can be stretched thin and have to prioritize where to be at a given time, the input they receive helps them focus their attention where it is needed.

"My guys are doing an outstanding job, and I appreciate the public being aware of that," Johnson added.

# Lawtey Police Department, voters welcome new chief

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
Telegraph Editor

LAWTEY — Lawtey's new police chief appreciates the support that got him the job and he's already giving that support back to the community.

Chief Jerry Feltner was sworn in earlier this month by Judge Tatum Davis, surrounded by his family.

With a change in administrations, Feltner said there have already been a few changes in the Lawtey Police Department. One thing people can expect is a more personal touch. Officers will speak to citizens each time they're on duty to collect feedback and bring issues to the attention of the department. Officers will have a presence on the actual streets of Lawtey, and not just U.S. 301, he said.

While most officers are part-time employees, salary adjustments are planned to encourage them to stick with the Lawtey Police Department so there is continuity in these relationships.

His full-time staff includes Capt. Nathan Blom, and he is searching for a lieutenant knowledgeable about narcotics, which flow through the city via U.S. 301. The lieutenant will oversee the officers and be involved in their ongoing training.

"I'm going to be a working chief," Feltner said of his own responsibilities. Not one to sit behind a desk, he described his involvement in the past week with a drug arrest resulting from a traffic stop.

"I'm going to be writing citations just like any other



Chief Jerry Feltner is pinned by his wife, Tammy, after taking the oath of office.

one of my guys, I'm going to work. I don't like to sit in my office, I want to get out and be productive and get things done," he said.

Feltner has also been meeting with business owners and school officials, making the department's resources available when called upon.

Long-term, Feltner wants to change the perception that there is an eastside and westside of town, bringing citizens together and building

relationships with the department and community.

"I want people to know that we are working, we're out and we're here for them."

Specifically, he talked about building neighborhood watch programs and conducting wellness checks with elderly residents. Feltner is also trained in inspecting homes for security risks and making recommendations to improve safety and protection.

Feltner said he appreciates



Capt. Nathan Blom, Chief Jerry Feltner, Brian Jones and Jay Raulerson.

the opportunity to be chief of police, and he wants the community to know the department will be there for them in every way it can.

Feltner is proud that Lawtey has been his home for nearly 50 years. The family roots extend back to 1955 when his late grandparents, Paul and Margret Smith started and operated Standard Oil located where the Lawtey Shell

Station is today. Like them, he still resides on McKinley Drive with his wife, Tammy (Conklin) Feltner.

He is a father and stepfather, and his son and daughter followed him into the field of law enforcement. Feltner has served more than 30 years with experience ranging from patrol, investigations, multi-agency drug task forces and working alongside with

federal agencies. Along the way he has worked for and learned from Starke Chief H.F. Wiggins, Bradford Sheriff Kenneth Etheridge, Clay Sheriff Scott Lancaster and Union Sheriff Jerry Whitehead.

In December 2021, Feltner was elected Lawtey chief of police with a 36% margin over his opponent.

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# Deputy loves Keystone's small-town charm

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

**KEYSTONE HEIGHTS**— One of the deputies now patrolling the Lake Region for the Clay County Sheriff's Office brings with him a wide range of experience, including a stint as chief of police for Camp Blanding.

However, he said one of his biggest advantages is his upbringing in a small eastern Kentucky town, a community much like Keystone Heights.

Keith Pendleton followed his father into law enforcement and began his career in the Blue Grass State.

After moving to Daytona Beach in 1998, he joined the Holly Hill Police Department, where he remained almost two decades.

He spent 2015 and 2016 in Afghanistan with the Florida National Guard.

"While I was deployed, I was offered the job of chief of police for Camp Blanding," he recalled.

He said the job at Blanding was slower than what he was accustomed to. However, the intensity of the work ranged widely, depending on the activity on the post.

"It's 73,000 acres," he said. "During one summer you can have a thousand soldiers come through or you can have 10,000."

Pendleton said that while at the military training installation, he supervised 10 MPs and handled missing property, stolen property, wildlife poaching and trespassing incidents, in addition to a fatal plane crash.

He said the biggest problems his MPs faced at Blanding were people trying to gain unauthorized access to the post's beach and recreational areas.

When Pendleton later joined the Clay County Sheriff's Office, he started in Orange Park.

"Then a couple of senior deputies moved to other agencies and based on my experience, they moved me to Keystone Heights," he said.

Pendleton said the incidents he handles now are typical for north Florida rural areas: domestic battery, narcotics, property theft and criminal mischief which includes vandalism.

The sheriff's Keystone Heights area starts at the intersection of State Road 21 and County Road 315, also known as Sharon Road.

The region then follows the boundary of Camp Blanding and the Bradford County line south to Melrose, then east to Putnam Hall, then north to Belmore.

"A lot of people don't realize how big of an area this is," he said. "It's not as populated as Orange Park or Middleburg, and we usually manage it with three

deputies."

Pendleton said that as in any community, cooperation from the public and the willingness of witnesses to speak out are critical to the sheriff's office's success in the Lake Region.

He added that good people skills make his job a lot easier, and his background allowed him to fit in quickly with Lake Region residents.

"I grew up in a small town a lot like Keystone," he said. "If you make everybody feel as if you are there just for their problem, they tend to open up more for you."

He added that if residents don't see him as a part of the community, if they don't believe he is truly there to help them, then they will not trust him.

"That's a big thing in law enforcement," he said. "If we lose the public's trust, then we lose our ability to do our jobs."

Pendleton said that patrolling in the Lake Region is more rewarding than in an urban environment.

"When I worked in Daytona Beach and Holly Hill," he said, "we were going from call to call to call, and from report to report to report. We were always behind because everything was always happening right now. Unfortunately, we got very callous."

"I love Keystone to death because it's a small community and a southern community and I'm from eastern Kentucky," he continued. "If this makes sense, I like it because it seems like it's 20 years behind everywhere else."

Pendleton said the high proportion of lifelong Lake Region residents also makes policing easier.

"You will be looking for a person and someone will tell you, 'Oh, that's such-and-such. I know his cousin,' or 'I went to high school with that person's mother. Call her and she will tell you the truth.'"

Pendleton said one of his biggest concerns is that the Lake Region will eventually lose its small-town feel and charm.

He noted that the north end of the county, along Wells Road in the Orange Park Mall-area is already experiencing rising crime and blight, while the Lake Asbury-Green Cove Springs area is undergoing rapid growth.

He fears that sooner or later, that growth will reach Keystone Heights.

"I'm afraid that Keystone won't be the sleepy little town that it used to be," he said.

Pendleton said he is hopeful that the presence of Camp Blanding to the west and Belmore State Forest and Gold



Keith Pendleton

Head Branch State Park to the north will insulate the region from some of that growth.

He added that he has heard the same concern about growth from Lake Region residents, who moved to the area for the small-

town atmosphere and tolerate the 25-to-50-minute commute to Gainesville or Jacksonville.

"They would rather have the drive and live in a place where the schools are great and the people are country," he said.

# 'I want them to know they are loved'

Mylinh Reeves is  
McRae Elementary's  
school resource  
officer

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

**MCRAE**— With 10 years in county corrections and 17 serving on the Palatka Police Department, Mylinh Reeves has seen the hard, negative side of society.

However, as the school resource officer at McRae Elementary School, every morning brings bright faces and hope for the future.

Reeves attended Crescent City High School in Putnam County, got married at a young age, had two children and then divorced before getting into law enforcement.

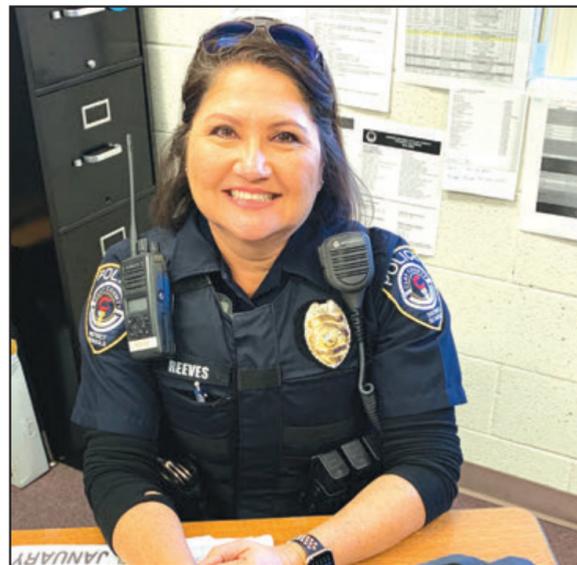
She said she saw the field as a way to support herself and her family without having to depend on anyone else.

Reeves started her career in corrections, working for 10 years in St. Johns, Duval, and Alachua counties before completing her crossover training.

"I wanted to do my crossover training because I wanted to experience the road," she said.

Reeves joined the Palatka Police Department and retired from the agency after 17 years working as a patrol officer, detective and as the agency's community policing officer.

She said working in school security gave her an opportunity



Mylinh Reeves

for a fresh start, and she joined Clay County Schools Police in 2019.

"It's been the most rewarding position I've ever had," she said. "I get to see the students in the mornings and brighten their days."

Reeves added that she strives to imprint a positive image of law enforcement into students so that when they encounter an officer in the future, they will react positively.

"I try to encourage them to come see me," she added, "say hello, give me a high five, a good hug or something like that."

Reeves said some students are

standoffish at first, intimidated by the uniform, the radio, the weapon, the badge.

"But when they see the other children interact with me, they realize it's O.K. to give Officer Reeves a hug or a high five," she said.

Reeves added that she also makes an effort to reach out to as many parents as possible.

"The parents love it that we're here," she said.

Reeves said that with McRae's rural campus isolated from the county's population centers, parents feel more comfortable with a full-time law enforcement officer on campus.

She added that McRae also has a guardian: an armed civilian with training in school security.

She said the sheriff's office maintains a presence near the campus, often helping with traffic control on County Road 315-C during drop off and pick

up times.

During the school day, Reeves monitors who arrives on campus and keeps an eye on student behavior.

However, she is always trying to make a connection with every child she encounters.

"A lot of students sometimes don't feel like people understand

them," she said. "I want them to know they are loved."

Reeves said a few children have even paid her the ultimate compliment.

"I've had a few students tell me they want to grow up to be a police officer," she said.

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# ATV driver in critical condition after collision

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

**KEYSTONE HEIGHTS**— The Florida Highway Patrol said a Lake Region man was in critical condition after he was struck by a SUV on SR 21 north of Keystone Heights.

According to troopers, the 29-year-old was crossing the

state highway near Gas Line Road around 7:30 p.m. when the four-wheeler was struck by the SUV, driven by a 35-year-old Keystone Heights man.

The driver of the ATV was transported to UF Shands. Neither the driver of the SUV nor his 30-year-old passenger were injured.

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# Crime

## Recent arrests in Bradford, Union and Clay

Jan. 1 through Jan. 7

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

Christopher Devante Barr, 29, was arrested by Bradford deputies on Jan. 3 for failure to appear.

Khalya Aricia Coleman, 19, was arrested by Starke police on Jan. 3 for battery on medical personnel.

Donald Lee Fleming, 45, of Gainesville was arrested by Bradford deputies on Jan. 4 for a probation violation.

Terrell Eugene Gilmore, 39, of Gainesville was arrested by Starke police on Jan. 2 for resisting an officer.

Daniel Smith Griffis, 37, of Gainesville was arrested by Bradford deputies on Jan. 4 for hit and run, criminal mischief with property damage, dealing in stolen property, resisting an officer, possession of drugs, possession of drug equipment, reckless driving and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

William Bentley Hazlip, 36, of Hampton was arrested by Bradford deputies on Jan. 2 for a probation violation.

Lawrence Blair Isgette, 67, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on Jan. 4 for interfering with the custody of a minor or incompetent person.

Demetrius Deshon Jenkins, 29, of Senbrook, South Carolina was

arrested by Bradford deputies on Jan. 8 for fraudulent use of credit cards.

Faith Ann Jewell, 48, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on Jan. 7 for larceny, possession of drugs and displaying a weapon while committing a felony.

According to an arrest report, a loss prevention officer stopped the defendant as she exited a Starke retail store.

The employee told police she saw Jewell conceal a set of pillowcases in her backpack and then tried to make off with the merchandise.

The officer added that while detaining Jewell, the defendant said she had a knife and a firearm in her backpack.

Police later recovered a black Taurus handgun in the backpack. They also found a loaded magazine in the bag and one clonazepam pill for which the defendant could not produce a prescription.

Charles D. Keoppen, 53, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on Jan. 2 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Brandon Scott King, 35, of Jacksonville was arrested by Lawtey police on Jan. 6 for vehicle theft.

Kyla Jean Morris, 35, of Waldo was arrested Jan. 6 by Starke police for an out-of-county warrant.

Shannon Rachel Mroz, 45, of Starke was arrested Jan. 3 by Starke police for battery.

Clem David Prescott, 68, of Brooker was arrested Jan. 2 by Bradford deputies for driving a vehicle with a registration expired for more than six months, attaching a tag not assigned to a motor vehicle and a probation violation.

William Trevor Sheering, 20, of Starke was arrested Jan. 4 by Starke police for a probation violation.

Deonte' Jamar Simmons, 27, of Starke was arrested by Starke police and Bradford deputies on

Jan. 2 for resisting an officer, a probation violation and a conditional release violation.

Kathleen Olga Smith, 47, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Bradford deputies on Jan. 3 for DUI.

Jorge Alberto Velez Rodriguez, 66, was arrested by Starke police on Jan. 6 for driving with a suspended or revoked license and attaching a tag not assigned to a vehicle.

Walter Derek Watts, 32, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on Jan. 5 for a probation violation.

### Union

Jacob Daniel Briggs, 20, of Melrose was arrested by Union deputies on Jan. 2 for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, resisting an officer and disorderly intoxication.

Michael Anthony Fernandez Sr., 43, of Brooker was arrested by Union deputies on Jan. 4 for failure to appear.

Michael T. Hamilton, 28, was arrested by Union deputies on Jan. 3 for smuggling contraband (cell phone) into a prison.

### Clay

Destiny Channell Brown, 45, was arrested by Clay deputies in Keystone Heights on Jan. 2 for a probation violation and DUI with property damage.

Dylan Gene Kaye, 19, was arrested by Clay deputies in Keystone Heights on Jan. 4 for possession of over 20 grams of marijuana and possession of drug equipment.

Shaleena Arren Marks, 21, was arrested by Clay deputies in Keystone Heights on Jan. 6 for battery.

Lacey Sage Maria Romero, 28, was arrested by Clay deputies in Keystone Heights on Jan. 3 for battery.

## Found husband's vapes, punched him in the head

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — Clay deputies arrested Shaleena Arren Marks, 21, for domestic battery after she found her husband's vape pens in their home and then tackled the man and punched him in the head.

According to an arrest report, the victim told arresting officers he called law enforcement only to maintain peace while he gathered his belongings. After deputies arrested the defendant, the victim refused to cooperate

and did not provide a written statement.

The victim added that after his wife found the vape pens, she became irate, cursing and screaming at him.

"She took the vapes and smashed them on the ground," wrote arresting officer Jason S. Wright. "He said he was done and started to walk away into the yard. The defendant ran after him and tackled him to the ground."

After the victim freed himself, the defendant approached him again and he pushed her away.

That is when she retaliated with several punches to the head.

Wright wrote that the defendant agreed with the victim's account of the incident.

"The defendant said she was upset because the victim promised that he would not vape anymore and that he had lied to her," Wright wrote. "She stated the only reason she tackled the victim was that she did not want him to leave her."

Wright added that the couple has been married for three years and have no children.

## 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.

## Report elder abuse, neglect

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of by someone you know or trust? To report suspected cases of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation for yourself or someone you know, please call 1-800-96-ABUSE or 1-800-962-2873. For information about services and resources that may be available in your area, call the Elder Helpline at 1-800-96-ELDER or 1-800-965-5337.

## Man arrested for molesting teenager

'It was a joke'

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

STARKE — A Bradford County man who told deputies his sexual texts to a teenager "was a joke" was arrested for molesting the girl on Monday, Jan. 9.

Jason Kelly Wilkes, 38, was booked into the Bradford County jail for lewd and lascivious behavior, using a two-way communications device to commit a felony and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

According to an arrest report, the girl's mother contacted deputies after her daughter



Wilkes

disclosed the offenses to her.

The defendant was interviewed by a detective at the sheriff's office and was asked about sexual text messages on the victim's phone originating from him.

"During the interview, Jason made the comment, 'it was a joke,' multiple times when asked about the text messages," the investigator wrote in the arrest report.

The defendant also denied molesting the girl, maintaining that he only rubbed her legs.

Deputies said Wilkes confessed to providing the teenager with vapes and alcohol.

## Attacked ER nurses

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

STARKE — Khalya Aricia Coleman, 19, was arrested by Starke police on Jan. 3 for battery on medical personnel.

According to an arrest report, the defendant injured several nurses at Starke ER. Witnesses told arresting officer Kaleb T. Dockery that while receiving treatment, the defendant began acting erratically, pulled out her IV and tried to run out of the facility.



Coleman

"When Coleman was restrained, she began biting, scratching and kicking multiple nurses," Dockery wrote. "By doing this Coleman injured multiple staff members leaving superficial scratches, bite marks and abrasions."

Dockery added that the defendant was originally brought to the emergency room for having "an altered mental status."

## Stabbed boyfriend with scissors

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — Clay deputies arrested a 38-year-old High Ridge Estates woman on Sunday, Jan. 9 after she allegedly stabbed her boyfriend in the left forearm with a pair of scissors.

Ashley Amber Prosser was booked into the Clay County Jail for aggravated battery with a deadly weapon.

According to an arrest report, the victim told arresting officer Sean W. Church that the defendant had been drinking all day and got upset over a television show they had been watching.

"Ashley became increasingly irate and aggressive at (the victim)," Church wrote. "(The victim) wanted to get away from Ashley and let her cool down."

As the victim was gathering his cell phone and wallet, he remembered that the wallet was



Prosser

Prosser then left the home and another deputy found her at a BP gas station at the corner of State Road 100 and County Road 214.

The lawman located a pair of scissors in the defendant's vehicle which the victim later identified as the battery weapon.

Clay County Fire Rescue evaluated the victim's injuries which Church wrote were consistent with his story and indicated he was in a defensive posture when he was injured.

Prosser told the deputy at the gas station that her boyfriend is epileptic and became aggressive toward her.

"When he began to ask her what she meant by 'he became aggressive,' she advised she did not want to answer any further questions and wished to speak with her lawyer," Church wrote. "Due to (her) requesting a lawyer, he stopped questioning. Ashley was secured in the rear of his patrol vehicle."

in Prosser's purse. When he asked her to hand it over, she instead pulled a small pair of scissors out of the handbag and lunged at the victim.

"She started stabbing at (the victim)," Church wrote. "He yelled at her to stop and put his arms up to protect himself."

## Crashed where children were playing

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

BROOKER — Bradford deputies arrested a 37-year-old Gainesville man after he fled from them in a stolen vehicle and crashed the Mercury Zephyr into a yard where children were playing.

Daniel Smith Griffis was arrested by Bradford deputies on Jan. 4 for hit and run, criminal mischief with property damage, dealing in stolen property, resisting an officer, possession of drugs, possession of drug equipment, reckless driving and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

According to an arrest report, Deputy Glenn Ward Jr. spotted Griffis travelling on County Road 18 at a high rate of speed.

When he attempted to stop the car, it accelerated to 90 mph, then made an abrupt left turn into a residence about three miles east of Brooker.

Ward wrote that Griffis drove



Griffis

children were not struck but a small tree in the yard was knocked over (and) pulled out of the ground."

K-9 units from the sheriff's office and Union Correctional Institution later located Griffis in the woods.

Deputies later found methamphetamine in the vehicle, along with the identification and ATM cards of a woman.

During an interview later at the sheriff's office, Griffis told deputies he bought the car three days earlier for 12 grams of methamphetamine, then cut off the vehicle's catalytic converter and sold it for \$25.

He also revealed that the woman was with him during the chase and crash.

When asked about the whereabouts of his passenger, Griffis replied that she was still in the woods because she could not keep up with him when he ran.

through the yard and into a wooded area in the back of the property before abandoning the Mercury and fleeing on foot.

"There were two children playing in the yard of this residence at the time the suspect was driving in such a reckless manner," wrote Ward. "The

## Threw knife at woman, tried to expose himself

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

LAKE BUTLER — Jacob Daniel Briggs, 20, of Melrose was arrested by Union deputies on Jan. 2 for aggravated assault

with a deadly weapon, resisting an officer and disorderly intoxication.

According to an arrest report, a resident of Santa Fe Mobile Home Park in Lake Butler called 911 after the defendant threw a knife at her and missed, striking her mobile home.

When deputies arrived, Briggs fled on foot and continued to be belligerent and verbally combative after deputies detained him, wrote arresting officer John Henry Whitehead IV

in the report.

The lawman added that witnesses told him the defendant had been belligerent and yelling, fighting people in the roadway.

The victim told Whitehead that prior to Briggs throwing the knife at her, he got into a fight with his brother and attempted to expose himself to children in the mobile home park but was stopped by family members.



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# KH mayor recaps 2021 in podcast

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — Mayor Karen Lake summarized the city's accomplishments in 2021 and laid out her goals for the upcoming year in her Jan. 1 podcast of The Lake View.

Lake said that some of the municipality's accomplishments in 2021 were the South Lawrence Boulevard street scape project, a new food truck ordinance, completion of Phase 1 of a trailhead on the Palatka-to-Lake Butler State Trail, approval of a paddleboard kiosk at Keystone Beach and a new pickle ball court at Sunrise Park.

"I'm happy with the results of FDOT's work," she said of the street project. "I'm thankful for the collaboration of Clay Electric in agreeing to bury electrical lines underground. I was downtown when their crew took down the last wood pole and I have to say, it was a moment."

Lake also mentioned the city's intervention in a legal



Mayor Karen Lake

dispute between the St. Johns River Water Management District and north Florida water utilities, which resulted in the utilities agreeing to pay a portion of the costs for the Black Creek Water Resource Development Project.

The mayor added that the city's theme in 2022 will be "developing a clear roadmap for future progress on all levels."

# Lake Butler plans for the future

BY LARRY DUPEE  
Special to the Times

LAKE BUTLER — The plans for the new wastewater treatment system for the city of Lake Butler will follow and environmental engineering design that will allow cleaned water to be reintroduced to the environment to recharge the aquifer. The process of recharging allows water to flow through the soil to refill groundwater supplies as it filters through to the aquifer underneath.

This phase of returning water to the environment completes the recycling process. Water is drawn from wells that are pumping it up from the ground for use in all aspects of life. As this water is used it becomes polluted with a variety of contaminants. Modern water treatment methods allow the contaminants to be removed and the water to be purified through filtration, as well as spraying onto the recharge fields. This process allows the water to percolate through the soil, distributing nutrients on its way back to the aquifer from which it came.

Responsible stewardship of the environment is paramount to maintaining a sustainable habitat for future generations. Development of this recharge zone will create wetland habitat, improve water quality and boost regional groundwater supplies. The city of Lake Butler city commissioners have hired Mittauer as consulting engineers, experts to design a state of the art wastewater treatment system using modern technology to serve the community through the 21st century.

The plan for this new facility will cover 30 acres of land allocated to the wastewater treatment complex. The treated wastewater will then be disbursed through a 50 acre recharge zone returning the cleaned water to the environment.

Responsibility is never cheap. The cost of upgrading the entire system will be approximately \$36 million.

The city has adopted an asset management program that has secured funding through grants and loans covering 99% of the cost of this project. Improvement plans considered at the end of the last millennium have been made possible now with the financial assistance of federal and state grants and low interest loans available through the current Rebuild America program.

The current funded projects include wastewater collection system rehabilitation Phase 1-collection (design). This project will design the rehabilitation and replacement or repair of wastewater lines within the "core" of the wastewater collection and pumping areas of the city. The funds for this project is in the form of a grant in the amount of \$970,400 and a loan of \$242,600. The funding source for this project is the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

Another related project, also in the planning and design phase, is the construction of a new wastewater treatment facility to serve the community that is planned to include a solar array to help power operations. A reuse system will recycle the water throughout the entire process. The treated water will then be returned to the environment through aquifer recharge wetlands.

The funds for the planning and design of this new facility is in the form of a grant, in the amount of \$3 million, from the Department of Environmental Protection's Alternative Water Supply (AWS) program.

For this project to get underway, phase one of the plan, after amending the original application, adding funding, was the purchase of a 30 acre parcel of land for the

facility to be built on. This was funded by a grant from DEP-AWS in the amount of \$400,000.

Also planned is the replacement of at least two of the lift stations used to help move wastewater through the system — the lift station at the waterworks (LS-1) and, if bids allow, the Jetts lift station (LS-6). This will also be funded by a grant from the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) in the amount of \$200,000.

Another project will be the actual construction of the new wastewater plant to serve the city and the Department of Corrections (DOC), including the solar array, reuse water system and the construction of treatment and aquifer recharge wetlands. The funds got this project are in the form of a grant in the amount of \$29,600,000, with the source of the funding being the DEP.

Grant funds from the American Rescue Plan (ARPA) in the amount of \$900,000 will be used for the replacement of the lift stations that are not already being replaced in current or pending projects.

The rehabilitation process will take several years to complete. The planning and design phase is progressing. Items currently scheduled are: the completion of all planning and design activities for all project facilities proposed for funding by Aug. 15, 2022. A loan debt service account will be established and monthly loan deposits will begin no later than Aug. 15, 2022. The first semi-annual loan payment, in the amount of \$11,339 will be due on Feb. 15, 2023.

# Manager leading road committee

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

JACKSONVILLE — Keystone Heights City Manager Lynn Rutkowski has been appointed chair of the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization's Technical Advisory Committee.

The planning organization is the independent, regional transportation planning agency for Duval, Clay, Nassau and St. Johns counties.

The 15-member TPO board is comprised of elected officials from the four-county region. Clay County Commissioner Wayne Bolla is the board's vice chair and Clay Commissioner Kristen Burke serves on the board.

In order to receive federal highway funds, cities with populations of over 50,000 must establish an independent planning organization to prioritize transportation funding.

The primary work product of the TPO is its transportation improvement program. The list prioritizes road, transit, airport, seaport, bicycle and pedestrian projects over the subsequent five years.

Rutkowski's panel is one of three committees that advise the board about transportation projects. The others are the Citizen's Advisory Committee and the Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.

"We go through all the studies and make recommendations for the actual TPO," Rutkowski said of her group.



City Manager Lynn Rutkowski

now looking at a similar project on A1A near St. Augustine's amphitheater.

"Roundabouts are not necessarily a welcomed solution for the City of Keystone Heights," she said, "but they are definitely a solution we are seeing across the nation and within our district."

Rutkowski said walkability projects are also being funded at an increasing rate.

"It's not just about traffic flow anymore," she said of local transportation planning. "It's how do we get pedestrians around who are choosing not to drive?"

She added that the increasing focus on trails, including the Palatka-to-Lake Butler State Trail in Keystone Heights is a reflection of transportation planners' emphasis on pedestrian projects.

## Keystone Heights projects

Rutkowski said the City of Keystone Heights is seeking TPO approval and funding for two projects: improvements to

the intersection of Walker Drive (State Road 100) and Lawrence Boulevard (State Road 21) and upgrades to Airport Road.

Improvements to the intersection would include the installation of mast traffic signals and a realignment of the northbound Lawrence Avenue lanes to improve traffic flow.

Rutkowski said that now, the two northbound lanes at the intersection: a left turn lane and a right turn or straight-ahead lane confuses some drivers.

The right-turn-straight-ahead lane is aligned with street parking in front of Keystone Gifts and Guns.

Rutkowski said she has even gotten confused at the crossing.

"I'll admit it," she said. "I've sat behind parked cars trying to go through that intersection."

The city is also hoping to land funding for upgrades to Airport Road. In 2020, a TPO-funded study recommended several options for improving the road leading to the airport, ranging from \$2.2 million for minimal improvements to \$11.8 million for a complete realignment and rebuild with sidewalks and trails.

## Roundabouts and walkability

Rutkowski added that over the last year, much of the TPO's work has focused on improvements in the St. Augustine Beach area.

Rutkowski said she sees two trends emerging in transportation: roundabouts and walkability.

"Roundabouts seem to be the go-to answer for any Department of Transportation project," she said. "FDOT is really behind them."

She added that the state road agency completed a major roundabout on U.S. 1 in Bunnell a couple of years ago and is

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## Candidate files for KH council Seat 2

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

GREEN COVE SPRINGS — Clay County Supervisor of Elections Chris Chambless said Christine Thompson has filed to run for Seat 2 of the Keystone Heights City Council.

The seat is currently held by Marion Kelly and the term of office is for three years.

Earlier this month the city council passed a resolution for the election to take place on Tuesday April 12. In addition to Seat 2, Seat 1, currently held by Tony Brown, will also be on the ballot.

Candidates have until Feb. 4 to qualify.

On a social media page, Thompson calls herself a “proud lifelong conservative who supports the values that have long been held dear in our community.”

She also said she is a passionate supporter of Keystone Heights lakes and is committed to seeing the benefits of the Black Creek Water Resource Development Project realized by residents and future generations.



Christine Thompson

## Garden Club of the Lakes announces schedule

The Garden Club of the Lakes is planning a wonderful year. The club meets at Faith Presbyterian Church, 1738 S.R. 21 in Melrose on the second Thursday of every

month from 10 a.m. to noon. Masks are recommended but not required at this time; six-foot social distancing is in place. The public is welcome to attend.

The following is a list of programs for the 2021–22 year:

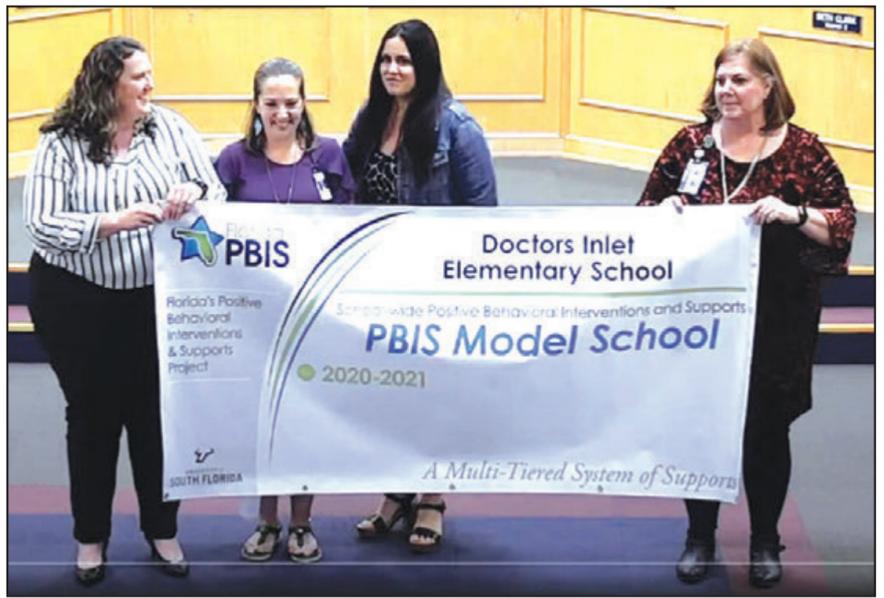
Jan. 13 - Paul Still will solve the mysteries of growing mushrooms. Mushroom kits will be available for those who sign up for them at the December meeting.

Feb. 10 - Luke Miller from the University of Florida Agricultural and Sciences Department will talk about invasive plants.

March 10 - The program is about edible weeds.

April 14 - Pruning skills to keep out plants healthy.

May 12 - Seed sharing and making seed balls and seed tapes. Please plan to attend.



(L-r) Doctor's Inlet Elementary Principal Carolyn Ayers, Keystone Heights Elementary Assistant Principal Kayleigh Williams, KHES teacher Jenn Cumbus and District Director of Climate and Culture Laura Fogarty display a banner for Doctor's Inlet recognizing the school for implementing positive behavior policies.

## Keystone Elementary School given positive behavior award

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

FLEMING ISLAND — Clay County Public Schools Superintendent David Broskie gave Keystone Heights Elementary School administrators a statewide award for implementing positive behavior policies at the school.

Broskie said the policies: positive behavior intervention and support, is a systematic approach to teaching and managing

behavior in schools.

Broskie also gave the award to Doctor's Inlet Elementary, Tynes Elementary, Wilkinson Elementary and Oakleaf Senior High School during the Thursday, Jan. 6 school board meeting.

“There is no doubt that in order for students to learn, a conducive atmosphere for learning must be present,” Broskie said. “These particular schools that we’re going to

honor tonight have shown a commitment to a culture of learning that addresses high expectations for student behavior through systems of change.”

Broskie gave each school a banner to display on their campuses.

Assistant Principal Kayleigh Williams and teacher Jenn Cumbus accepted the award on behalf of Keystone Elementary.

# Legal Notices

## Bradford

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA  
FILE NO.: 04-2021-CP-131

IN RE: ESTATE OF MARTHA JEANINE HODGE, PROBATE DIVISION  
Deceased.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
The administration of the estate of MARTHA JEANINE HODGE, deceased, File Number 04-2021-CP-131, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 345 N. Temple Ave. Starke, FL 32091. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:  
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's Estate, including unmaturing, contingent or unliquidated claims, on whom a copy of this Notice is served must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's Estate, including unmaturing, contingent or unliquidated claims, must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.  
ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED! The date of the first publication of this Notice is January 6, 2022.

EXECUTED this 29th day of December, 2021.  
PAUL SANDERS, P.A.  
Attorney for Petitioner  
Florida Bar No.: 557463  
115 E. Call St.  
Starke, Florida 32091  
Telephone: 904/964-2323  
Bruce G. Siemer, Jr., (Petitioner)  
1799 NE 251st St.  
Lawtey, FL 32058

1/6 2tchg 1/13-BCT

**NOTICE OF ACTION**  
**Bradford County**  
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING  
IN RE: The license to practice Nursing Kimberly Sullivan, R.N.  
3216 West State Road 235  
Brooker, FL 32622  
CASE NO.: 2021-09909  
LICENSE NO.: RN9497328  
The Department of Health has filed an Administrative Complaint against you, a copy of which may be obtained by contacting, Judson Searcy, Assistant General Counsel, Prosecution Services Unit, 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin #C65, Tallahassee Florida 32399-3265, (850) 558-9898. If no contact has been made by you concerning the above by February 17, 2022 the matter of the Administrative Complaint will be presented at an ensuing meeting of the Board of Nursing in an informal proceeding. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the individual or agency sending this notice not later than seven days prior to the proceeding

1/6 2tchg 1/13-BCT

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

at the address given on the notice. Telephone: (850) 245-4640, 1-800-955-8771 (TDD) or 1-800-955-8770 (V), via Florida Relay Service.

1/6 4tchg 1/27-BCT

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED**

Notice is hereby given that DONALD C. LOTT LLC 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: 1286  
Year of Issuance: 2015  
Parcel Number: 05817-C-01500  
Case Number: 04-2021-TD-0027  
Description of Property:  
SEE ATTACHED LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
Name in Which Assessed: HANS JOACHIM HADAN ;  
Name on last tax roll, if different:  
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 the 13<sup>th</sup> of April 2022, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.  
Denny Thompson,  
Clerk Of The Circuit Court  
Bradford County, Florida  
By: Lisa Brannon  
Deputy Clerk  
490TDA ACCOUNT NUMBER: RO5817-C-01500  
Legal Description  
Parcel 1 - The West 75.00 Ft. of the East 525.00 ft. of the South 120.00 ft. of the North 720.00 ft. of the Northwest 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 24, Township 8 South, Range 22 East being LOT 16,  
BLOCK C in recorded plat.  
Parcel 2 - The West 75.00 ft. of the East 450.00 ft. of the South 120.00 ft. of the North 720.00 ft. of the Northwest 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 24, Township 8 South, Range 22 East being LOT 15, BLOCK C in unrecorded plat.

1/13 4tchg 2/3-BCT

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
Case No: 2020-CA-000062-CAAM  
NEW RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2017-3,  
Plaintiff,  
vs.  
BRYAN K. STARLING A/K/A BRYAN KEITH STARLING, ET AL.,  
Defendants.

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the Order Granting Plaintiff's Motion to Cancel and Reschedule Foreclosure dated December 9, 2021 and entered in Case No. 2020-CA-000062-CAAM of the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Bradford County, Florida wherein NEW RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2017-3, is the Plaintiff and BRYAN K. STARLING A/K/A BRYAN KEITH STARLING; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF BRYAN K. STARLING A/K/A BRYAN KEITH STARLING; UNKNOWN HEIRS OF BRYAN K. STARLING A/K/A BRYAN KEITH STARLING; CAVALRY PORTFOLIO

1/13 4tchg 2/3-BCT

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
Case No: 2020-CA-000062-CAAM  
NEW RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2017-3,  
Plaintiff,  
vs.  
BRYAN K. STARLING A/K/A BRYAN KEITH STARLING, ET AL.,  
Defendants.

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1/13 4tchg 2/3-BCT

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
Case No: 2020-CA-000062-CAAM  
NEW RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2017-3,  
Plaintiff,  
vs.  
BRYAN K. STARLING A/K/A BRYAN KEITH STARLING, ET AL.,  
Defendants.

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the Order Granting Plaintiff's Motion to Cancel and Reschedule Foreclosure dated December 9, 2021 and entered in Case No. 2020-CA-000062-CAAM of the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Bradford County, Florida wherein NEW RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2017-3, is the Plaintiff and BRYAN K. STARLING A/K/A BRYAN KEITH STARLING; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF BRYAN K. STARLING A/K/A BRYAN KEITH STARLING; UNKNOWN HEIRS OF BRYAN K. STARLING A/K/A BRYAN KEITH STARLING; CAVALRY PORTFOLIO

1/13 4tchg 2/3-BCT

SERVICES LLS, AS ASSIGNEE OF CAVALRY SPV I LLC, AS ASSIGNEE OF CHASE WASHINGTON MUTUAL, are Defendants, Denny Thompson, Bradford County Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in the Lobby of the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 N Temple Avenue, Starke, FL 32091 at 11:00 AM on February 10, 2022 the following described property set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:  
A PARCEL OF LAND SITUATED IN THE NORTHWEST ONE QUARTER (NW 1/4) OF SECTION 16, TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 20 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA; SAID PARCEL BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:  
COMMENCE AT A CONCRETE MONUMENT AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE EAST ONE HALF OF SAID SECTION 16 AND RUN N 89 DEG 20 MIN 57 SEC E, ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 16 A DISTANCE OF 441.86 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT; THENCE RUN S 03 DEG 23 MIN 07 SEC W, 1105.94 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT; THENCE RUN S 06 DEG 15 MIN 49 SEC E, 562.50 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT ON THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTH ONE QUARTER (N 1/4) OF THE SW 1/4 OF NE 1/4; THENCE RUN S 89 DEG 19 MIN 01 SEC W, ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTH 1/4 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 AND THE NORTH 1/4 OF THE SE 1/4 OF THE NW 1/4 A DISTANCE OF 826.08 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT; THENCE RUN N 00 DEG 40 MIN 59 SEC W, 330.0 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT; THENCE RUN S 89 DEG 19 MIN 01 SEC W, 24.75 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE RUN N 00 DEG 40 MIN 59 SEC W, 102.19 FEET; THENCE RUN S 89 DEG 19 MIN 01 SEC W, 475.53 FEET TO THE CENTERLINE OF BRAGGS BRANCH; THENCE SOUTHERLY ALONG SAID BRANCH TO A POINT BEARING S 89 DEG 19 MIN 01 SEC W, FROM THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE RUN N 89 DEG 19 MIN 01 SEC E, 433.45 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. SUBJECT TO AN EASEMENT FOR UTILITIES AND GENERAL ROAD PURPOSES ACROSS THE EAST 30 FEET THEREOF, AND ACROSS THE EAST 107.25 FEET OF THE SOUTH 30 FEET THEREOF. TOGETHER WITH:  
A 60 FOOT EASEMENT FOR UTILITIES AND GENERAL ROAD PURPOSES ACROSS A STRIP OF LAND LYING 30 FEET LEFT AND 30 FEET RIGHT OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED CENTER-LINE:  
COMMENCE AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTHEAST ONE QUARTER OF SECTION 16, TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 20 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA AND RUN N 89 DEG 20 MIN 57 SEC E, ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 16 A DISTANCE OF 134.78 FEET; THENCE RUN S 01 DEG 13 MIN 54 SEC W, 1333.87 FEET; THENCE RUN S 89 DEG 19 MIN 01 SEC W, 522.94 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE RUN N 00 DEG 40 MIN 59 SEC W, 270.00 FEET TO THE END OF SAID EASEMENT CENTER-LINE.

TOGETHER WITH 1983 SUMMIT DOUBLEWIDE MOBILE HOME VIN #H25499GL AND VIN #H25499GR AND 1967 Fleetwood, MOBILE HOME VIN #: DB7TS7188 Title #:

1/13 1tchg-BCT

Notice is hereby given:

Jesse JL. Ricks  
Last known address of:  
5405 SE 126th St  
Starke FL 32091

You are hereby notified that your eligibility to vote is in question. You are required to contact the Supervisor of Elections, in Starke, Florida, no later than thirty (30) days after the date of this publishing. Failure to respond will result in a determination of ineligibility by the Supervisor and your name will be removed from the statewide voter registration system.

1/13 1tchg-BCT

THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida will hold a meeting on January 20, 2022 at 6:30 PM at the Bradford County Courthouse, located at 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida. The public is encouraged to visit [www.bradfordcountyfl.gov/meetings](http://www.bradfordcountyfl.gov/meetings) or to call the Office of the County Manager at (904) 966-6327 to obtain a copy of the agenda for this meeting.

1/13 1tchg-BCT

**FICTITIOUS NAME**

Notice Is Hereby Given that North Florida Regional Medical Center, Inc., 1 Park Plz., Nashville, TN 37203, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of HCA Florida North Florida Hospital Company Care Occupational Health, with its principal place of business in the State of Florida in the County of Bradford, intends to file an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name with the Florida Department of State.

1/13 1tchg-BCT

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

IN RE: ESTATE OF JAMIE DENNARD WEBSTER A/K/A JAMIE L. WEBSTER  
Deceased.

#: 2397008 Decal #: NONE RP #: R0007211

More Commonly Known as: 11400 SW 162ND AVE., BROOKER, FL 32622

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 in Bradford County, Florida this, 5th day of January 2021.  
DENNY THOMPSON  
As Clerk of Circuit Court  
Bradford County, Florida  
Lisa Brannon  
Deputy Clerk

1/13 2tchg 1/20-BCT

**FICTITIOUS NAME**

Notice Under Fictitious Name Law Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of Sassafras's Pet Services located at 18382 NW 35th Ave; in the County of Bradford; in the City of Starke, Florida 32091 intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida. Dated at Starke, Florida, this 6th day of January, 2022.

1/13 1tchg-BCT

**FICTITIOUS NAME**

Notice Under Fictitious Name Law Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of Sassafras's Pet Services located at 18382 NW 35th Ave; in the County of Bradford; in the City of Starke, Florida 32091 intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida. Dated at Starke, Florida, this 6th day of January, 2022.

1/13 1tchg-BCT

Notice is hereby given:

Jesse JL. Ricks  
Last known address of:  
5405 SE 126th St  
Starke FL 32091

You are hereby notified that your eligibility to vote is in question. You are required to contact the Supervisor of Elections, in Starke, Florida, no later than thirty (30) days after the date of this publishing. Failure to respond will result in a determination of ineligibility by the Supervisor and your name will be removed from the statewide voter registration system.

1/13 1tchg-BCT

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1/13 1tchg-BCT

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1/13 1tchg-BCT

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

IN RE: ESTATE OF JAMIE DENNARD WEBSTER A/K/A JAMIE L. WEBSTER  
Deceased.

File No. 21-000100-CP-AXMX  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

The administration of the estate of JAMIE DENNARD WEBSTER A/K/A JAMIE L. WEBSTER, deceased, whose date of death was April 23, 2021, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is P.O. Drawer B, Starke, FL 32091. 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 ON OR BEFORE 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 FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 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 13, 2022.  
Personal Representative:  
James LaRue Williams  
6087 Copper Drive  
Macclenny, FL 32063  
Attorney for Personal Representative:  
LAUREN RICHARDSON LAW, PLLC  
Lauren N. Richardson, for the Firm  
Attorney for the Personal Representative  
Florida Bar Number: 0083119  
3620 NW 43rd Street, Suite B  
Gainesville, FL 32606  
Telephone: (352) 204-2224  
E-Mail: lauren@laurenrichardsonlaw.com  
Secondary E-Mail: kristen@laurenrichardsonlaw.com

1/13 2tchg 1/20-BCT

**IN AND FOR OAKLAND COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT, MICHIGAN**  
Case No. 2021-507658-DO – Family Division  
JERRY LYNN SCOTT – Plaintiff  
vs.  
TAMMY YVONNE SCOTT a/k/a TAMMY ASQUITH – Defendant  
**NOTICE TO DEFENDANT TAMMY YVONNE SCOTT** – In the name of the people of the State of Michigan: **YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED** that a Motion for Entry of Default Judgment has been filed in your domestic action in the Circuit Court for the County of Oakland and State of Michigan. The matter is scheduled for hearing on February 16, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. before the Honorable Julie A. McDonald at the Oakland County Circuit Court, 1200 North Telegraph Road, Pontiac, MI 48341. If you have a response to this motion, you must serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to Kenneth D. Clayton at the Clayton Law Office, 2055 Orchard Lake Road, Sylvan Lake, MI 48320. Otherwise, a judgment will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.  
Last Known Addresses:  
124 Andrew Street, Starke, FL 32091  
5758 Oliver Street, Jacksonville, FL 32211  
4462 Abbs Valley Road, Bluefield, VA 24605

1/13 3tchg 1/27-BCT

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

IN RE: ESTATE OF GERALD E. WEBSTER  
Deceased.  
File No. 21-000113-CP-AXMX  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

The administration of the estate of GERALD E. WEBSTER, deceased, whose date of death was August 14, 2021, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is P.O. Drawer B, Starke, FL 32091. 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 ON OR BEFORE 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.

1/13 2tchg 1/20-BCT

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

IN RE: ESTATE OF GERALD E. WEBSTER  
Deceased.  
File No. 21-000113-CP-AXMX  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

The administration of the estate of GERALD E. WEBSTER, deceased, whose date of death was August 14, 2021, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is P.O. Drawer B, Starke, FL 32091. 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 ON OR BEFORE 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.

1/13 2tchg 1/20-BCT

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

IN RE: ESTATE OF GERALD E. WEBSTER  
Deceased.  
File No. 21-000113-CP-AXMX  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

1/13 2tchg 1/20-BCT

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 FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 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 13, 2022.  
Personal Representative:  
James LaRue Williams  
6087 Copper Drive  
Macclenny, FL 32063  
Attorney for Personal Representative:  
LAUREN RICHARDSON LAW, PLLC  
Lauren N. Richardson, for the Firm  
Attorney for the Personal Representative  
Florida Bar Number: 0083119  
3620 NW 43rd Street, Suite B  
Gainesville, FL 32606  
Telephone: (352) 204-2224  
E-Mail: lauren@laurenrichardsonlaw.com  
Secondary E-Mail: kristen@laurenrichardsonlaw.com

1/13 2tchg 1/20-BCT

**IN AND FOR OAKLAND COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT, MICHIGAN**  
Case No. 2021-507658-DO – Family Division  
JERRY LYNN SCOTT – Plaintiff  
vs.  
TAMMY YVONNE SCOTT a/k/a TAMMY ASQUITH – Defendant  
**NOTICE TO DEFENDANT TAMMY YVONNE SCOTT** – In the name of the people of the State of Michigan: **YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED** that a Motion for Entry of Default Judgment has been filed in your domestic action in the Circuit Court for the County of Oakland and State of Michigan. The matter is scheduled for hearing on February 16, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. before the Honorable Julie A. McDonald at the Oakland County Circuit Court, 1200 North Telegraph Road, Pontiac, MI 48341. If you have a response to this motion, you must serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to Kenneth D. Clayton at the Clayton Law Office, 2055 Orchard Lake Road, Sylvan Lake, MI 48320. Otherwise, a judgment will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.  
Last Known Addresses:  
124 Andrew Street, Starke, FL 32091  
5758 Oliver Street, Jacksonville, FL 32211  
4462 Abbs Valley Road, Bluefield, VA 24605

1/13 3tchg 1/27-BCT

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

IN RE: ESTATE OF GERALD E. WEBSTER  
Deceased.  
File No. 21-000113-CP-AXMX  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

The administration of the estate of GERALD E. WEBSTER, deceased, whose date of death was August 14, 2021, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is P.O. Drawer B, Starke, FL 32091. 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 ON OR BEFORE 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.

1/13 2tchg 1/20-BCT

## BHS to host Students Got Talent Jan. 21

Bradford High School's Class of 2023 presents "BHS Students Got Talent," which will be held Friday, Jan. 21, at 6:30 p.m. in the school auditorium. Admission is \$5.

The winner of the talent show, which will consist of performances by Starke Academy of Dance as well as competing students, will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

Contact Loretta Levenson at [leverson.loretta@mybradford.us](mailto:leverson.loretta@mybradford.us) for more information.

## Jan. 21 Starke Kiwanis poker tournament to support fair buyers' dinner

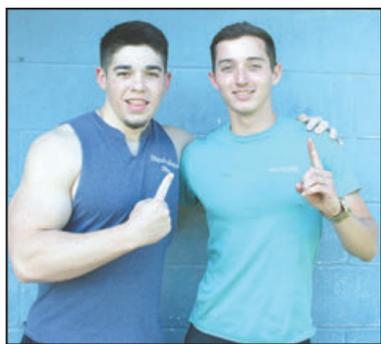
The Kiwanis Club of Starke's next scheduled Patsy Welch Memorial Poker Tournament is Friday, Jan. 21, at the Downtown Grill. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m., followed by play at 6 p.m.

Buy-in is \$60, which includes high hand.

Cash prizes are awarded for first, second and third places.

Light appetizers and wings will be provided.

Proceeds will go toward providing the steer/swine sale buyers' dinner at the Bradford Agricultural Fair.



2021 was memorable for the Union County High School boys weightlifting team. LEFT: Quinn Raulerson and Blake Bass won state championships. RIGHT: The team, coaches and administrators are pictured after winning the District 7-1A championship. File photos by Cliff Smelley.



## Tigers win 4 state titles in weightlifting in '21

Tigers win 4 state titles in weightlifting in 2021

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

Union County High School won 23 championships at the district, regional and state levels in 2021, with the boys and girls weightlifting teams combining to account for 22.

It was more of the same for the girls team, which produced at least one individual state champion for the sixth straight year. It marked the third time during that span that the Tigers have had at least two individual champs.

Mahailya Reeves won her third straight state title, winning the unlimited class with a 490 total, while Courtney Comer, a state runner-up in 2020, won the 169 class with a 415 total.

Union had three participants in all at the Class 1A finals, with Erica Roseke earning a medal as the runner-up in the 119 class with a 270 total.

The three lifters helped Union place third in the team standings behind state champ Suwannee and runner-up Altha.

Comer, Reeves and Roseke began their run to state by winning their classes at the District 5 finals. It was the third

straight district title for Reeves, who had a 460 total, and the second straight title for Comer, who had a 345 total. Roseke's winning total was 240.

Union's Lilly Donaldson placed sixth in the 129 class with a 220 total, which earned her the right to advance to the Region 2 finals along with Comer, Reeves and Roseke.

Reeves won her third straight regional championship with a 480 total, while Comer won her second straight title with a 385 total. Roseke won her first-ever regional championship with a 255 total.

Approximately two months after the efforts put forth by Comer, Reeves and Roseke on the state platform, the Tigers were showing out at state again, this time on the boys side. Blake Bass and Quinn Raulerson won the 129 and 183 classes, respectively, making it just the second time in history that the school has produced two state champs in boys weightlifting. Larry Fleming and Timothy Holmes won titles in 1979.

The Tigers also earned state medals from Arthur Brown,

who was the runner-up in the 139 class, Spencer Malm, who was fourth in the 169 class, and Christian Simmons, who was fifth in the 119 class.

Union's five total medals were the most in program history.

The road to those state accomplishments began at the District 7-1A finals, which saw the Tigers claim the team championship trophy after winning all but two weight classes.

Individual district champions for Union were Simmons (295 total), Bass (455), Brown (440), Malm (505), Raulerson (645), A.J. Cortese in the 219 class (430), Dayven Kelley in the 238 class (380) and Mikah Wilson in the heavyweight class (530).

The top six in each class earned the right to advance to regional competition, which gave Union an additional nine qualifiers, including district runners-up Michael Mohl in the 169 class (450) and Caleb Crawford in the 183 class (460).

Five lifters took third place: Bobo Woodall in the 119 class (230), Brycen Boney in the 154 class (315), Carson Rogers in the



Christian Simmons competed at the Class 1A wrestling finals — the first UCHS wrestler to make it to state. File photo by Cliff Smelley.

Mohl placed 13th in his class with a 460 total.

### Simmons wrestles his way to state

Christian Simmons was the District 4-1A runner-up and placed third at the Region 1 finals to advance to the wrestling state finals.

Simmons, who wrestled in the 106-pound class, dropped his first match at state, but then defeated one opponent 5-3 and pinned another in 1:45. His season came to an end with a 3-1 loss, giving him a 35-19 record for the season.

It was the second season of existence for the Union program, with Simmons being the first wrestler to make it to state.

Union earned the team runner-up trophy at the District 4 finals, which saw Simmons and 11 others earn the right to advance to regional competition.

Simmons, Cade Vaughn (138 class), Ethan Shea (145) and Caleb Crawford (160) each went 1-1 after first-round byes to finish as district runners-up in their respective classes. Simmons advanced to his championship match by pinning an opponent 30 seconds, while Vaughn and Shea also advanced to their championship matches off pins of 1:11 and 3:40, respectively. Crawford rode an 11-2 major decision into his championship match.

Five earned third-place finishes: Kale Waters (113), Rodney Barnett (126), Alexander Cortese (152), Danny Thornton

199 class (435), Dylan Lane in the 219 class (330) and Tucker Baynard in the heavyweight class (510).

Also earning regional berths were Zeb Raulerson with a fifth-place finish in the 129 class (215) and Dalton Lane with a sixth-place finish in the 199 class (335).

At the Region 2 finals, Bass and Raulerson won their classes with totals of 465 and 620, respectively, to automatically qualify for state. Earning at-large berths to state were Region 2 runners-up Brown (445) and Malm (510), third-place finisher Simmons (315) and sixth-place finisher Mohl (460).

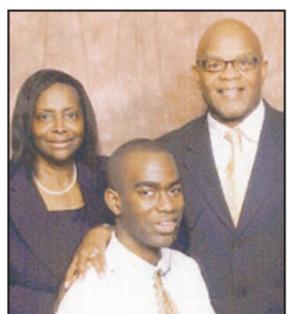
The state finals saw Bass prove to be the strongest lifter, pound for pound, according to the Schwartz Formula, while Raulerson was determined to be the second strongest lifter. Bass won his championship with a 465 total, while Raulerson won with a 650 total.

Brown earned his runner-up finish with a 435 total, while Malm and Simmons had totals of 535 and 325, respectively.

Three competitors, three medals. Courtney Comer (far left) and Mahailya Reeves (center) won state weightlifting titles, while Erica Roseke was a state runner-up. File photo by Cliff Smelley.



### Card of Thanks



The members of the St. John Missionary Baptist Church of Lawtey would like to express appreciation to their pastor, Rev. James E. Rackley and Family for 17 years of faithful and devoted services!

### Card of Thanks

We would like to sincerely thank everyone who supported the 16th annual Lawtey Christmas Parade! Your support and participation made it a huge success! We are looking ahead to even bigger and better plans next year!

Mr. Benjamin Strong family & Mrs. Cynthia Ross



## LAM, Funtastic Fire Brigade to team up for Jan. 15 food drive

Lake Area Ministries and Funtastic Fire Brigade are teaming up to hold a "Stuff the Truck" food drive this Saturday,

Jan. 15, with Funtastic's Engine 17 parked at Hitchcock's in Keystone and Ladder 17 parked at Winn-Dixie on S.R. 21 north

of Melrose.

Food and cash donations will be accepted from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at each location.

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# Obituaries

## Ronald Bagley

RAIFORD Ronald "Ronnie" Alan Bagley, 60, of Raiford passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2022, at his residence with his loving wife by his side. He was born in Jacksonville on June 15, 1961 to his loving parents, Clarence Raymond Bagley and Mary Emma Collins Bagley. He was raised in Jacksonville and attended Sandalwood High School. As a child he found his passion of working with his hands, a trait he learned from his father; which he was able to fulfill throughout his careers in carpentry and as a mechanic. Following school, he enjoyed his time as a carpenter; where he was very successful in framing and building houses. He then worked as a mechanic for a season until he became a truck driver and built his own business, Flatbed Hauling, in Raiford, a business he has owned and operated for the past 26 years. He was very hard working and known for always giving his best at anything he did, whether that be at work or in his off time. When not working, he could be found fishing. He fished just for pleasure and for competition in tournaments. He also enjoyed hunting, restoring cars, listening to AC/DC, and watching Georgia Bulldogs football, (Go, Bulldogs). In 1995, he met his lifelong love and best friend, Cindy Halas, and they were happily married on Aug. 29, 2003. They have thoroughly enjoyed being companions and friends, and having each other during the good and bad times. He was a devoted husband, loving father, son, brother, and friend who was deeply loved and will be forever missed by all who knew him.

He is survived by his loving wife of 19 years, Cindy Bagley of Raiford; parents, Clarence and Mary Bagley of Jacksonville; children, Alicia Bagley of Michigan and Ray Bagley of Jacksonville; sister, Debra (Theo) Webb of Jacksonville; granddaughter, Ayyla Rae Bagley; niece, Kristi (William) Watson; nephew, Charles Egerer; uncle, Bo Collins; former wife and longtime friend, Pam Bagley; and his fur babies, Harvey, Punkin, Mr. Dude, and Little Man.

A memorial Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, Jan. 15, at 1 p.m. at the Raiford Community Center.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services Lake Butler Chapel, 435 Main St., Lake Butler. 386-496-1400. Visit [www.ferreirafuneralservices.com](http://www.ferreirafuneralservices.com) to sign the family's guest book.

PAID OBITUARY



## James Barnes

LAKE BUTLER James William "Billy" Barnes, 49, of Lake Butler passed away peacefully at his home on Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2022. He was a carpenter by trade who enjoyed fishing and riding 4-wheelers in his free time. Above all else, he loved his family, especially his grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Monroe and Juanita Barnes.

He is survived by his son, Jamie Barnes and his wife, Sarah; his daughter, Amber Bennett; grandchildren, Brinley, Jordyn, Camden, Addilynn, Sarah, and James William Barnes II; his sisters, Tammy Avinger, Audrey Matthew, Sandra Dean, and Terry Parker; brothers, Monroe and Lamar Barnes, Scotty, Jeff, and Joe Parker; stepfather, Jerry Parker; and many nieces, nephews, aunts, and uncles whom he loved very much.

A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 14, at Dedan Cemetery in Brookier.

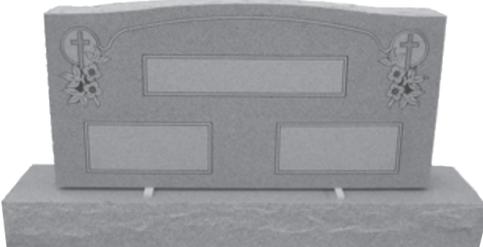
Arrangements are under the care and direction of Archer-Milton Funeral Home, Lake Butler. 386-496-2008 [www.ArcherFuneralHome.com](http://www.ArcherFuneralHome.com)

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## Dana Corson

LAKE BUTLER Dana Lynn Corson, 54, of Lake Butler passed away Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021 at UF Health Shands Hospital in Gainesville following an extended illness. She was born on Sept. 6, 1967 in Mears, Virginia, and graduated from Arcadia High School, Virginia. After graduation, she moved to Starke in 1988 and later resided in Lake Butler for the last 20 years. She worked for the state of Florida for many of those years. She was of the Presbyterian faith and a homemaker. She always had a happy smile and a unique laugh that always made you feel comfortable being around her. She loved to cook and decorate for the holidays, take care of animals (a lot), and help her niece (Sissy) take care of her three children. Preceding her in death were her mother, Frances Darlene (Stevens) Lafferty of Virginia and her sister, Nova Clyatt (Lafferty).

Survivors are: her father, Grover Lee Lafferty Jr.; children, Keith Corson of Starke and Vance Paladino of Lake Butler; siblings, Roy Lafferty, Bill Lafferty, and G. L. Lafferty; niece, Arica Brown and her children, Drayton, Dalen, and Aylah of Lake Butler; and nephews, Adam Adkins and Aaron Adkins of Lake Butler.

Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Starke 904-964-6200 [www.jonesgallagherfh.com](http://www.jonesgallagherfh.com).

PAID OBITUARY

## Ann J. Crawford

STARKE Ann J. Crawford, 85, loving mother and grandmother, entered to rest Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2021, at home surrounded by her family.

She was born in Starke on Aug. 10, 1936 to S. R. Johns and Dorothy Ritch Johns. She was a graduate of Bradford County High School, Class of 1954. She later moved to Augusta, Georgia where she raised her children. She attended Augusta Area Technical college and earned her degree in accounting. She retired from Augusta Richmond County Municipal Court and then went to work for AT&T, where she also retired. She loved working with people and spread much joy and laughter. She always had a song in her heart and would share her singing with all. She was preceded in death by her parents. S. R. and Dorothy Ritch Johns; and her brother, Randy Johns.

She is survived by her sister, Linda Allen, Orange Park; her children, Tom (Gwen) Crawford of Green Cove Springs; Julie (Jay) Douglas of Grovetown, Georgia; Linda (Russ) Schaffer of Augusta, Georgia; Brenda Brantley of Hartwell, Georgia; grandchildren, Scott Fernandez, Sarah Shiver, Jason Douglas, Melanie Sherrer, Michael Fernandez, Zach Crawford and Amanda Douglas along with nine great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Jan. 15, at 12 p.m. at Crosby Lake Cemetery, Starke, with her son Tom Crawford officiating.

Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke.

PAID OBITUARY



## Sherry Edwards

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS Sherry Lynn Edwards, 57, of Keystone Heights died at her home Sunday, Jan. 2, 2022.

Survivors include: her children, Nicole Weaver and Robbie Orrick both of Seattle Washington; siblings, "Dewey" Cillely of Keystone Heights; Pam and Rhonda, both of Seattle, Washington, Jennifer and Gregory both of Texas, and Margaret and James.

Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Keystone.

## Sharon Ellison

STARKE Sharon M. Ellison, 64, of Starke passed away in Gainesville on Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2021.

Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 620 E. Nona St., Starke. [www.jonesgallagherfh.com](http://www.jonesgallagherfh.com)

## Michael Howard

GRAHAM Michael "Mike" Thomas Howard, 74, of Graham passed away Saturday, Jan. 8, 2022 at his residence. He was born on July 31, 1947 in Starke to the late Alvin Britt and Katie (Hodge) Howard and was a lifelong area resident. Prior to retirement he worked for EI Dupont Nemours Chemical Company as a maintenance scheduler. He attended Sampson City Church of God and loved spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren. He also enjoyed the outdoors; farming his land, and hunting doves and deer. He was a member of several hunting clubs over the years, including, Two Buck, Louise and Piney Bay.

Survivors are his beautiful wife of 53 years, Cosette (Kerce) Howard of Graham; daughters, Michelle (Jamie) Jones of Debarry, and Misti (Philip) Brooks, of Starke; siblings, Kathy Crawford (the late Lloyd) of Lawtey, and Alvin (Bonnie) Howard, Jr. of Lawtey; grandchildren, Kristen (Armando) Alvarez, James (Alexis) Jones, Joshua Jones, Colton Taylor (Krislyn Stubbs), Chance Taylor, and Makayla Taylor; along with great-grandchildren, Ember, Judah, and Sunnie, plus two more arriving this year. Also, left is his caregiver, Tina Green.

Graveside funeral services were held on Wednesday, Jan. 12, at Rock Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery with Dr. Jamie Jones officiating.

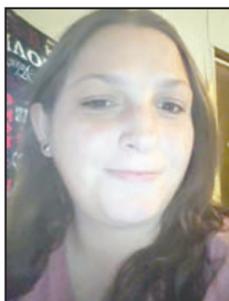
Arrangements were by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke 904-964-6200 [www.jonesgallagherfh.com](http://www.jonesgallagherfh.com).

PAID OBITUARY



## Amy Keim

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS Amy Lynn Keim, 30, of Keystone Heights passed away on Sunday, Jan. 9, 2022. She was born in Gainesville on Feb. 26, 1991 to



Frederick and Judith "Jessick" Keim. She enjoyed spending time with friends and family, and living life to the fullest. She was preceded in death by her father, Frederick Gene Keim; paternal grandparents, Edward and Janice Prokop; and maternal grandfather, Michael J. Jessick.

Survivors include her mother, Judith L. Keim of Keystone Heights; brother, Jeremy F. Keim of Melrose; sister, Christina M. Clark-Burns of Hampton; aunts, Tania H. Callahan of Keystone Heights, Kimberly Vazquez of Ocala, and Marcy Stalcup of Ocala; and uncle Bobby Keim of Keystone Heights.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 620 E. Nona St., Starke. [www.jonesgallagherfh.com](http://www.jonesgallagherfh.com).

PAID OBITUARY

## Randall Moody Sr.

STARKE Randall "Wayne" Moody Sr., 68, of Starke died on Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2022, at Haven Hospice in Gainesville.

He is survived by his sons, Randall Moody Jr. of Connecticut, and Michael "Mike" (Frances) Moody of Gainesville.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Monday, Jan. 17, 2022, at 2 p.m. at Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel.

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



## Robert Raulerson

MELROSE Robert L. Raulerson, 75, of Melrose passed away at his home, Monday, Jan. 10, 2022.

There are no scheduled services at this time.

Arrangements are under the care of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Keystone Heights. Keystone Heights. 352-473-3176. [www.jonesgallagherfh.com](http://www.jonesgallagherfh.com)

## Cynthia Runnels

MIDDLEBURG Cynthia "Cindy" Ferreira Lea Runnels, 72, of Middleburg passed away in Starke on Friday, Dec. 31, 2021. She was born in Jacksonville on Oct. 25, 1949, to the late Ray Dean and Katherine (Blalock) Ferreira. She was a business creator and owner of Coastal Fencing. She also enjoyed painting, antique shopping, and traveling.

Left behind to remember her are her son, Clint (Amy) Look; grandson, Dalton Look, both of Keystone Heights; siblings, Vicky Walker of Thomas, Georgia; Raydeane "Deanie" Smith of Keystone Heights, and Ronald Ferreira of Interlachen; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 340 E. Walker Drive, Keystone Heights. 352-473-3176 [www.jonesgallagherfh.com](http://www.jonesgallagherfh.com)

PAID OBITUARY



## Jean Simpson

Jean Frances Simpson was a beloved wife, mother, and grandmother across her incredible 88 years of life. She passed away peacefully surrounded by her loved ones in the early hours of Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2022, after a brief illness. She was born on March 29, 1933, to her parents Edwin & Effie Bohannon in Richmond, Virginia where she graduated from John Marshall High School. She then went onto a decades long career with the Department of Corrections before she retired in 1999. She never met a stranger, was everyone's grandma and had a smile that could light up the room. She loved the Lord and though she never served in the military, she loved her country more than most.

She was preceded in death by her son, Jerry O'Hern; husband, Cary Simpson; and parents, Edwin Bohannon and Effie Dietrick.

She is survived by her siblings, Madeline Bates, Edwin (Rosemary) Bohannon and Kathy (Charlie) Hubbard; her children, Jonathan O'Hern and J. J. O'Hern; and her 12 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

A service to honor her was held on Friday, Jan. 7 at Harmony Free Will Baptist Church, Lake Butler. She was laid to rest immediately following the service at Dekle Cemetery.

Arrangements were under the care and direction of Archer-Milton Funeral Home, Lake Butler. 386-496-2008 [www.ArcherFuneralHome.com](http://www.ArcherFuneralHome.com)

PAID OBITUARY



## Randall Thomas

STARKE Randall Eugene Thomas, 64, of Starke died on Saturday, Jan. 8, 2022, at UF Shands in Gainesville.

He is survived by wife, Vickie Thomas of Starke; his children, Doug (Kimberly) Colson of Lake Butler, Candice (Kris) Rossman, and Amanda (Shane) Padgett, both of Clay Hill; sister, Deborah Lynn (Tommy) Brady of Starke; and six grandchildren.

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

## Ramona Tomlinson

Ramona Mary Tomlinson, 89, formerly of Starke passed away in Kenansville on Saturday, Jan. 8, 2022. She was born in Alachua County to the late J. L. and Lila Florence Matthews on Nov. 28, 1932. She was a lifelong resident of Starke and was preceded in death by her husband, J. E. Tomlinson.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, Jan. 14, 2022 at 11 a.m. at Dewitt C. Jones Chapel with Pastor Terry Blakeslee officiating.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to First Baptist Church of Starke, 163 W. Jefferson St., Starke, FL 32091

Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 620 E. Nona St., Starke. [www.jonesgallagherfh.com](http://www.jonesgallagherfh.com).

PAID OBITUARY

## John Watson III

John Ethelbert Watson III passed away peacefully in Flagler Hospital after a short illness on Thursday, Jan. 6, 2022.

He was born in Macclenny to the late Dr. John Ethelbert Watson II and Lillian Adams Watson on Oct. 3, 1944. He graduated from Baker County High School in 1962 and went on to attend and play football at Northeast Oklahoma Junior College and Murray State University. He graduated from Murray State University in 1966. He lived his life in the Northeast Florida towns of Macclenny, Starke, Jacksonville, Orange Park, and St. Augustine. He had a successful 38-year career helping families and clients as an insurance agent, and financial and estate tax planner in the Northeast Florida area. He loved fishing, hunting, golf, traveling, and Florida Gators football. He was preceded in death by his parents and wife, Kathleen McPherson Watson.

He is survived by his aunt, Betty Butler of Arkansas; sister, Judy Harvey of Macclenny; son, Tom (Leigh Ann) Watson of Cumming, Georgia; daughter, Brooke Watson (Steve) Lupinacci of Starke; stepdaughter, Julieen Welsch (Michael) Ayres of Jacksonville; stepson, Bob (Annie) Welsch of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and his grandchildren, Ray Watson Mathews, Kinsley Welsch, and Zoe Ayres. He is also survived by a niece, Frankie Lynn (Scott) Higginbotham, and nephew, Del Harvey; and great-nieces and nephews; Lilly and Caleb Higginbotham, and Delanie, Abby, Mary Kate and Abe Harvey.

A celebration of life will be held at the Hitching Post, 17015 Wells Road, Jacksonville, on Saturday, Jan. 22, from 12 until 4 p.m. Due to COVID concerns, this is an open-air venue. In lieu of flowers please bring good memories and funny stories.

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**Trevor Holtzendorf (center) hits P.K. Yonge quarterback Aaron Small as he releases the ball. Holtzendorf, Curran Webb (far right) and the rest of the Tigers went undefeated before losing in the Region 3-1A title game. File photo by Lisa Holtzendorf.**



**Union County won its first district championship in volleyball in four years. Pictured are: (front, l-r) Jordan Hendricks, Maegan Beatty, Jurney Crim, Chrissy Quiett, (back, l-r) Ansleigh Worrell, Addisyn Worrell, Rylie Parrish, Sabrena Howard, Emily Wilson, Jaycee Davis and Caleigh Avery. File photo by Cliff Smelley.**

## TIGERS

Continued from page 11

(170) and Brett Abraham (195). Ian Halfacre (132), Carson Rogers (182) and Mikah Wilson (285) also earned regional berths by virtue of fourth-place finishes.

At the Region 1 finals, Simmons pinned four straight opponents after a 1-1 start to place third and earn the right to go to state. He began by pinning an opponent in 1:09 before getting pinned in 1:54. He then recorded victories in 40 seconds, 1:20, 1:49 and (in the third-place match) 4:14.

Vaughn fell one win shy of wrestling for third place in his class. He pinned his first opponent in 1:41 before getting pinned in 5:07 in the second round. Vaughn then pinned two straight opponents in 2:37 and 2:47 before he was pinned himself in 4:40.

Shea, Cortese, Crawford and Thornton earned a win each at the meet.

### Football team makes it to regional finals undefeated

Union put together a memorable football season, going undefeated in the regular season for the first time since 2012 and doing so in dominating fashion, defeating opponents by an average margin of 31 points.

The Tigers were awarded the third seed in Region 3-1A and began the playoffs with a 48-13 win over Trenton in the quarterfinals.

Rayvon Durant rushed for 207 yards and three touchdowns, while the defense held Trenton to six points until the fourth quarter.

One of Durant's touchdowns covered 69 yards, while quarterback A.J. Cortese, who finished with 126 yards of the team's 408 rushing total, had a scoring run of 58 yards.

Caleb Crawford rushed for two touchdowns, while Dayviontae "Bubba" Thompson rushed for one.

Cortese completed 4-of-5

passes for 45 yards, with Dayln Diston catching two for 24 yards. Johnny Edwards was 6-of-7 on extra-point attempts.

Holtzendorf led the team in tackles with 10 and had a fumble recovery that set up Crawford's first touchdown run.

In the Region 3 semifinals, Union held only a one-score lead at halftime, but the Tigers got two touchdown runs from Cortese and two interception returns for touchdowns from Diston as they outscored Hilliard 31-0 in the second half of what would be a 52-14 win.

Cortese rushed for 114 yards, while Diston's interception returns covered 51 and 85 yards.

Crawford, who rushed for 80 yards, Durant and Thompson each rushed for a score.

Edwards kicked a 33-yard field goal and was 6-of-7 on PATs.

Holtzendorf, Malcolm Odum and Curran Webb each had a team-high seven tackles.

The Tigers carried a 12-0 record into the Region 3 championship game, but came up short of keeping their season alive, losing 29-27 to Chiefland.

Cortese scored the game's first touchdown on a 25-yard run, but the Tigers wound up trailing 23-7 before an 11-yard touchdown reception by Diston. Diston added a successful two-point conversion run to make it a 23-15 game at halftime.

Durant, who rushed for 108 yards, scored on a 39-yard run to pull the Tigers to within 23-21 in



**Leah Clark (left) and her Union County softball teammates scored 23 runs in two games in winning the District 5-1A tournament. File photo by Cliff Smelley.**

the third quarter.

The difference in the game proved to be a return of a blocked punt for a touchdown in the fourth quarter, which put the Indians ahead 29-21.

Union drove 62 yards and scored a touchdown on a 1-yard run by Durant with 1:08 remaining. The Tigers' two-point conversion attempt was unsuccessful.

Diston finished the game with five receptions for 66 yards. Cortese completed 7-of-16 passes for 154 yards.

### Tigers win 1st volleyball district title in 4 years

They had played for their district championship seven times in the preceding 10 years, but the Tigers hadn't won a volleyball title since 2017.

The Tigers finally got another championship trophy, defeating Newberry 3-2 (15-25, 25-14, 25-22, 19-25, 15-11) in a hard-fought District 7-1A final.

Union reached the championship match by defeating Hilliard 3-0 (25-11, 25-14, 25-21) in the semifinals. Sabrena Howard had 15 kills, 12 digs and four aces, while Jaycee Davis had nine kills, 11 digs and seven aces. Caleigh Avery added seven digs and six kills, while Jurney Crim had 18 digs. Maegan Beatty recorded 32 assists and four service aces.

In the tiebreaker set of the championship match, the Tigers scored two points with Crim serving to take an 11-8 lead. Newberry scored three points before Union closed out the match with four straight points. The winning point came off Davis' 21st kill of the match.

Davis and Howard each finished with 24 digs, while Howard added 18 kills. Beatty had 36 assists, while Crim led the team in digs (31) and aces (6).

Avery and Emily Wilson each had a team-high three blocks. Beatty and Davis each had two.

The Region 4 playoffs for the Tigers began with a rematch, but this time, Newberry defeated them 3-2 (25-22, 28-26, 22-25, 18-25, 15-13).

Attacks by Howard and Davis, who finished with 26 and 16 kills, respectively, played a large role in the Tigers rebounding from a 2-0 deficit and win the third and fourth sets. Newberry got off to a fast start in the fifth set, taking a 6-2 lead. Union scored three straight points (two with Avery serving) to tie the score at 10-10, but the Panthers would eventually take a 13-10 lead.

Davis recorded a kill and tipped the ball over the net for another point as Union was able to tie the score again, but the Panthers scored two straight points off a block and a kill to win the match.

Beatty finished with 52 assists, while Crim led the team in digs with 24. Howard had 22 digs, while Beatty and Davis had 18 and 17, respectively. Chrissy Quiett added 15 digs.

Avery and Addisyn Worrell had three and two blocks, respectively, while Beatty and

Howard each had five aces.

The Tigers finished the season with a 14-9 record.

### Softball team wins District 5-1A title

Union scored a total of 23 runs in two games as it breezed through the District 5-1A softball tournament, winning the championship trophy with a 15-5 win over Hilliard.

In the tournament semifinals, Lily Neal gave up two hits and struck out 11 in an 8-2 win over Hamilton County.

Mackenzie Clemons hit a single that drove in two runs in a four-run first inning.

Randa Goodwin went 2-for-4 with an RBI, while Tamia Young went 2-for-2.

Starla Vaughn went 4-for-5 with four RBI to help power the Tigers to the championship win over Hilliard.

Union held a 6-5 lead before scoring four runs in the fifth off Young's two-RBI single, Reah Jones' RBI triple and Vaughn's RBI double.

Young went 2-for-5 with four RBI, while Hannah Rivera went 2-for-4 with two RBI. Jones went 2-for-3 with an RBI.

Neal allowed six hits in earning the win.

The Tigers played Taylor County in the Region 3 semifinals, with Union getting outscored 10-1 in the final four innings of a 14-5 loss.

Clemons went 3-for-4, while Vaughn and Leah Clark went 2-for-2 and 2-for-5, respectively.

Union finished its season with a 12-9 record.

### Baseball team makes region finals

The baseball team went 19-3 in the regular season and entered the regional playoffs as the District 6-1A runner-up before losing to Hamilton County in the Region 3 championship game.

Union had no trouble reaching the District 6 title game, defeating Branford 20-2 in the semifinals.

Whip Davis pitched all four innings, holding the Bucs to four hits and one walk. He struck out seven.

Quinten Rawls had one of the highlights of an eight-run first inning, hitting a double with the bases loaded to score all three runners. Davis had a two-RBI single.

It was 10-1 when the Tigers scored another 10 runs in the third. Like Rawls in the first inning, Manny Covey hit a bases-loaded double that scored every runner. Jake O'Steen batted twice, driving in one run on a single and then driving in two on another single.

Davis and O'Steen each finished 3-for-3, while Rawls went 2-for-3. Payden Clyatt and Tripp Davis each had two RBI, with Davis going 3-for-4.

Jay Cohen and Skyler Shatto each had one RBI, with Cohen going 3-for-3.

In the District 6 championship game, the Tigers took a 1-0 lead on Cohen's RBI, but Hamilton County took the lead for good with a three-run homer in the fourth, handing Union an eventual 6-2 loss.

Union left six runners stranded in scoring position, while another was thrown out at home.

Cohen drove in both of his team's runs, while Rawls and Whip Davis went 2-for-4 and 2-for-3, respectively.



**Tripp Davis helped the Union County baseball team to a 21-5 season that included a trip to the Region 3-1A finals. File photo by Cliff Smelley.**

The Tigers rebounded from the loss in a big way, with O'Steen driving in five runs in a 19-2

win over Liberty County in the Region 3 semifinals.

Union scored in every inning but one, led 6-0 before Liberty scored and plated 11 runs in the top of the sixth to enforce the mercy rule after the Bulldogs batted in the bottom of the inning.

While Union was scoring plenty of runs, Liberty was being held in check by pitcher Tripp Davis, who threw all six innings, giving up five hits and no walks. He struck out five.

O'Steen, who went 4-for-4, hit a three-run double as part the big sixth inning that also featured RBI singles by Cohen, Whip Davis and Luke Johns and an RBI double by Ayden Elixson. Clyatt drove in a run on a sacrifice fly, while Covey drew a bases-loaded walk to force in a run. Another run was forced in when Rawls was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded.

Whip Davis went 4-for-5 with three RBI, while Tripp Davis

See 2021, page 16

#### IMPORTANT TAX FILING INFORMATION

The IRS announced it will begin accepting and processing tax returns on Monday, Jan. 24, 2022. The filing deadline to submit 2021 tax returns or an extension to file and pay tax owed is Monday, April 18, 2022, for most taxpayers.

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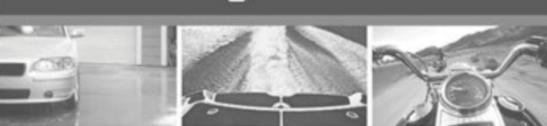


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## Indians have 4 place at Marine Corps wrestling tournament

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Jared Goetzman, Sheppard Wingate, Alyx Nichols and Cody Saley each earned a third-place finish for the Keystone Heights High School wrestling team at the Jan. 8 Marine Corps Challenge at Jacksonville's Riverside High School.

The Indians collected 65

points as a team to place sixth ahead of Paxon and Stanton, who each had 57 points.

Episcopal, which won last year's inaugural event, took first out of 10 teams with 184 points.

Goetzman lost 10-1 to Stanton's Elias Spurlin in the 113-pound class, but since he was one of only three wrestlers in the class, he earned third-place honors and received a medal.

Spurlin went on to pin Mainland's Aiden West in 26 seconds to win the championship.

In the 152 class, Wingate pinned Matanzas' Jesse Henry in 2:21 in the third-place match. Wingate, who was earlier pinned

See KHHS, page 16

## Crawford, Waters place 4th for UC at Yulee tourney

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Caleb Crawford and Kale Waters each wrestled his way to a fourth-place finish at the Jan. 8 Joe Bees Memorial Battle of the Border at Yulee High School.

Crawford made it to the semifinals in the 160-pound class before he was pinned by eventual runner-up Jesse Johnson of Yulee. That put him in the third-place match, which was won by Florida High's Liam Hawkes.

Waters suffered a loss in the quarterfinals of the 113 class, but then won by two pins before losing to Wakulla's Anthony Fondo in the third-place match.

Prior to the Battle of the Border, the Tigers competed in the District 4-1A duals tournament on Jan. 6 at Clay High School, defeating Tocoí Creek 60-18 in the quarterfinals before losing 74-6 to Clay in the semifinals.

Clay went on to win its fifth consecutive district title.

Danny Thornton, who wrestles in the 195 class, recorded two wins in the tournament for the Tigers. Crawford, Braden Adams (126), Ian Halfacre (132),

Rodney Barnett (138), Danté Johnson (145), Jameson Lang (152) and Alexander Cortese (182) all won by pins in the team win over Tocoí Creek.

## UCHS boys lose 55-38 to Interlachen

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

It was a one-point game after the first quarter, but the Union County High School boys basketball team was outscored 38-20 in the second and third quarters, losing 55-38 to host Interlachen on Jan. 7.

Cole Andersen-Davis scored a team-high 11 points against the Class 3A Rams, while Thomas Williams had eight. Gavin Jenkins, Quinten Rawls and Curran Webb each scored four points, while Dee Williams had three. Kyler Cohen and Tahj Merriex each added two points.

Rawls dished out five assists to go along with four rebounds and two steals. Merriex had four assists and two steals, while Thomas Williams had four rebounds.

The Tigers (4-7) traveled to Middleburg for their first game after the holiday break, losing 74-70 to the 5A Broncos on Jan.

See UCHS, page 16



Simon Hanson dribbles past a Branford player in Hope Christian's 53-47 win on Jan. 6. It was the first win over Branford in four tries for the Lions, who are currently 11-2. Photo by Virginia Denmark.

## HCA defeats public school Branford 53-47

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Hope Christian Academy took on Branford for the fourth time in three years, with the Lions recording their first win over the public school by a score of 53-47 in a Jan. 6 home game.

Branford defeated Hope by an average of 20 points per game in two meetings in 2019-20 and handed the Lions a 78-46 defeat earlier this season on Nov. 29.

In the Jan. 6 matchup, the Lions trailed 11-8 heading into the second quarter before outscoring the Bucs 31-18 in the second and third quarters.

The Lions (11-2) most recently played Live Oak's Westwood Christian, defeating the visiting Warriors 64-45. It was Hope's

fifth straight win and ninth in their last 10 games.

Hope's last loss occurred on Dec. 17. The Lions returned to action after the holiday break with an 80-56 win over High Springs' First Christian.

The Lions are scoring an average of 67 points per game. Their average margin of victory is 29 points.

Hope played Open Bible Christian (Valdosta, Georgia) this past Tuesday and will host Madison's New Testament Christian on Thursday, Jan. 13, at 6:30 p.m. The Lions then host Starke's Northside Christian on Friday, Jan. 14, at 7 p.m.

On Tuesday, Jan. 18, Hope hosts Gainesville Christian Community at 7 p.m.

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**Bradford's Nichelle Brown, guarded by Union County's Ashlyn Anderson (right), saves the ball from going out of bounds in the Tornadoes' 50-14 win. Photos by Cliff Smelley.**

**Blye scores 19 for BHS in 50-14 win over UC**

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Santee Blye scored 17 of her game-high 19 points in the first half as the Bradford High School girls basketball team rolled to a 50-14 win over visiting Union County on Jan. 6.

The Tornadoes scored the first eight points of the game. Union got baskets from Heaven Scott and Arianna Norman to make the score 10-5, but that's as close as the Tigers would get. Bradford closed out the first quarter with a 10-0 run. Sky McMillian scored consecutive baskets for Bradford during the run, which also included four points from Ayanna Pringle.

Union's Nyasia Williams had the first basket of the second quarter, but it would be the Tigers' last score of the half. Bradford answered with two consecutive baskets by Blye. Following a score by Pringle, Blye made three straight field goals, two

of which occurred after the Tornadoes pressured Union into turnovers in the backcourt. Blye added two free throws to give her eight straight points before another backcourt turnover led to a basket by Pringle.

Jada Hankerson, following another backcourt turnover by the Tigers, scored on a layup for the final points of the first half, putting Bradford ahead 39-7.

The Tornadoes' Destiny Crum opened the second half with a three-pointer, which put Bradford up by 35 points and enforced a running clock.

Pringle and Crum finished the game with nine and seven points, respectively. McMillian and Hankerson added five and four points, respectively, while Nichelle Brown and Kimber Woods each had two. Ajayah Jackson and Shaina Rogers each had one point.

Blye and Jackson led the Tornadoes in rebounds with 10 and eight, respectively, while McMillian and Pringle each had six. Brown grabbed five rebounds to go along with her team-high six steals.

Hankerson had four assists and three steals.

Williams led the Tigers with six points, while Norman had three. Scott and Hannah Warren each added two points, while Tamia Young had one.

Union played Hilliard this past Tuesday and will travel to play Keystone Heights on Thursday, Jan. 13, at 7 p.m.

On Jan. 7, the Tornadoes earned another easy win, defeating host Baker County 61-19 for their fourth win in five games.

The Tornadoes (5-5) got 12 points from Hankerson and 11 from Brown. Blye and Crum had 10 and eight points, respectively, while Bernaria Nichols had five. McMillian and Woods

scored four and three points, respectively, with Jackson, Pringle, Rogers and Jada Harris each adding two.

Jackson and Pringle grabbed eight and six rebounds, respectively.

Brown had four assists and four steals, while Hankerson had three assists and six steals. Nichols added three assists.

Bradford played Eastside this past Tuesday and will travel to play Ridgeview on Thursday, Jan. 13, at 7 p.m. The Tornadoes host Madison County on Saturday, Jan. 15, at 6 p.m. and then host Paxon on Tuesday, Jan. 18, at 7 p.m.

**Bright posts double-double in KHHS win over Lake Weir**

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Dezaray Bright scored 16 points and grabbed 18 rebounds for the Keystone Heights High School girls basketball team, which defeated host Lake Weir 48-32 on Jan. 7.

The Indians (13-2) entered the holiday break off their second loss of the season (50-21 to Rickards), but have won two straight since play resumed this month, with both victories coming against larger, Class 5A schools.

Lindsay Qualls and Madi Mitzel scored nine and eight points, respectively, against Lake Weir, while Yasmin Bryant had six. Kylie Channell had three points, while Jaynell Hill, Emma Rogel and Rachel Roth each added two.

Channell and Rogel each had nine rebounds, with Rogel also dishing out three assists and coming away with two steals. Qualls had five rebounds to go

along with four assists and two steals.

Bright and Bryant had four and three steals, respectively, while Hill finished with three assists.

Keystone entered the game off a 54-30 win over visiting Middleburg on Jan. 6.

The Indians led by just four points at halftime, but outscored the Broncos 23-6 in the third quarter.

Rogel and Channell scored 16 and 13 points, respectively, while Bryant had eight. Bright and Qualls each had five points, while Mitzel and Hill had three and two, respectively. Roth and Kasey Valentine each chipped in one point.

Bright led the team in rebounds with 12, while Channell and Mitzel had nine and seven, respectively.

Channell recorded six assists, while Rogel had four to go along with four steals. Mitzel had three steals.

Keystone played Ridgeview this past Tuesday and will host Union County on Thursday, Jan. 13, at 7 p.m. The Indians travel to play Ponte Vedra on Friday, Jan. 14, at 7:30 p.m. and then travel to play Palatka on Tuesday, Jan. 18, at 7 p.m.

**Shaw scores 5 goals in KHHS girls' win over Baker County**

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Keystone Heights High School got five goals from Kiersten Shaw in defeating host Baker County 8-0 in a Jan. 8 girls soccer match.

Kendall Gagnon added two goals, while Ella Hutchins had one.

Hutchins led the team in

assists with three. Shaw and Sydnie Colaw had two and one, respectively.

Goalie Miranda Yow made nine saves.

The Indians (9-5-2) entered the match off a 5-4 win over host Newberry on Jan. 4.

Shaw scored two goals, while Gagnon, Hutchins and Elizabeth Vaughn each had one.

Hutchins and Lindsay Hovsepian each recorded two assists, while Shaw had one.

Yow made nine saves. Keystone, which was scheduled to play Santa Fe and Williston this past Monday and Tuesday, will host Crescent City on Thursday, Jan. 13, at 7:20 p.m. The Indians then host Suwannee on Monday, Jan. 17, at 7:20 p.m.

**KHHS boys soccer team defeats Pirates**

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Keystone Heights High School is 2-0 in boys soccer since play resumed after the holiday break, with the latest victory coming by a score of 2-0 over visiting Fernandina Beach on Jan. 6.

Goalie Carson Eatmon made eight saves to help keep the Pirates off the board, while Logan Spence and Aaron Wiley each scored a goal. Gabe Buchanan and Tyler Colaw each had an assist.

In their first match following the break, the Indians (8-5-3) defeated host Newberry 3-1 on Jan. 4.

Spence and Chris Anderson each had a goal and an assist, while Wiley scored as well. Colaw also had an assist.

Eatmon made three saves.

Keystone played Williston this past Tuesday and will host Middleburg on Friday, Jan. 14, at 7:20 p.m.

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# Taylor excited for 1st head-coaching opportunity at BHS

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Whether as a player or a coach, Kaylan Taylor has a passion for the game of softball.

That passion will now fuel her first-ever head-coaching opportunity as she takes the reins of the Bradford High School varsity softball team.

Taylor, the daughter of Vince and Michelle Tucker, is a 2016 Union County High School graduate who played at Santa Fe College. She had the opportunity to work as an assistant coach at UCHS the last three years.

"I'm super excited," Taylor said. "This has always been a goal of mine, to become a high school head coach. It's honestly just a dream come true. I'm just really excited to get started."

One of Taylor's goals, of course, is for BHS to become a winning program. The Tornadoes have finished with a record above .500 once in the last six seasons.

"Our main goal is to win a district championship and see if we can succeed past that," Taylor said. "With the talent here, there's no limit to the success this team can have."

Bradford hasn't won a district championship since 2014 and hasn't won a regional playoff game since 2013, when the Tornadoes advanced to the state semifinals for the first time ever.

Yet there's more than just striving for victories on the field. Taylor said she wants to help in "developing successful, young ladies."

Taylor was one of the pitchers for UCHS during the 2013-

16 seasons. She led the team in strikeouts all four years she played. She went 4-1 with a .303 ERA in 15 appearances as a freshman, recording 58 strikeouts in 39.1 innings. She followed that up with a 4-4 mark in 16 appearances as a sophomore, finishing with 54 strikeouts and an ERA of 2.75 in 48.1 innings.

During her junior season, Taylor went 8-8 with an ERA of 1.63 in 17 appearances, striking out 74 in 103.1 innings. She then capped her UCHS career by going 9-1 with a 1.97 ERA and 65 strikeouts in 64 innings as a senior.

"My sister (Haylee) used to pitch," Taylor said. "I watched her pitch. I wanted to be like her."

The Tigers won the program's first-ever district championship (in fastpitch) in Taylor's final season, which ended in the state semifinals.

Union won its first-ever fastpitch state title the year after Taylor graduated.

"It obviously broke my heart that we didn't get to win it (in 2016), but I think we truly kind of set the stage for them to have that success (in 2017)," Taylor said, adding, "I was really proud of them."

Taylor, who played in the infield also, didn't just make her mark in the pitching circle. She batted .426 as a freshman, following that up with .397 and .364 averages her sophomore and junior seasons before capping her UCHS career with a .432 mark. She led the team her senior season in RBI (42) and triples

**Kaylan Taylor, a 2016 Union County High School graduate, is now leading the Bradford High School softball program — her first head-coaching opportunity. She's ready for the season to start, as is her 2-year-old son, Easton. Photo provided courtesy of Taylor.**



(5) and tied for the team lead in home runs (3).

Her efforts helped her to earn a scholarship from Santa Fe College, where she played primarily as a pitcher. Working hard to put herself in the starting rotation was one of Taylor's college highlights.

"It was tough at first, but I just knew within myself that I could earn that position," she said.

Taylor made 11 starts in 22 appearances as a freshman, going 7-4 with two saves, an ERA of 2.60 and 23 strikeouts in 83.1 innings.

In her second season, Taylor made 21 starts in 32 appearances, going 6-12 with an ERA of 3.57 and 75 strikeouts in 143.1 innings.

She had the chance to continue her playing career, receiving

a full scholarship to Thomas University in Thomasville, Georgia.

"I actually moved in, and I was going to play," Taylor said, "but I decided to come home and start a family. I was sad about leaving, but I made the right decision."

It was while playing at Santa Fe that Taylor began thinking seriously about wanting to coach.

"I kind of realized that was a dream of mine, that I'd like to use my passion for the game to teach younger girls," she said.

Starting that coaching career at her high school alma mater was "a really great experience," Taylor said. She said she learned a lot from UCHS Head Coach Jim Godwin as well as from her coaches at Santa Fe College. She said she was "paying attention

and learning different coaching techniques and just different aspects of the game and the way it's coached."

Her roots may be in Union County, but Taylor, her husband, Joey, and their 2-year-old son, Easton, have been feeling right at home in Bradford County now.

"Bradford has just welcomed my family and me with open arms," Taylor said.

Taylor described the atmosphere at Bradford as "amazing," referring to the support for athletics that's currently in place.

"The administration is so supportive of the sports programs here," she said. "Our athletic director and our superintendent, they really back the sports programs here. It's just a great atmosphere to be in as a coach."

Softball practices don't begin until Jan. 24, but Taylor has already been coaching as an assistant to Bryan Griffis in girls weightlifting.

"Quite a few of our softball players are actually on the weightlifting team," Taylor said, "so I've kind of gotten a head start, meeting some of them and their parents and kind of getting into the Bradford atmosphere of sports. It's been amazing. Truly, I think it's going to help me get started here in softball."

In looking toward meeting all the softball players for the first time, Taylor said she planned to stress to them the importance she places upon work ethic, hustle and determination.

"Those things, to me, stand

out more than talent," Taylor said. "How hard of a worker are you? How good of a teammate are you? Those are the kinds of things I want to see as a coach."

Part of being a good teammate is continuing to work hard when things aren't going well for you specifically.

"Your best athletes in the world go through challenges," Taylor said. "You're not going to have your best game every game. You're not going to have your best practice every practice. How you answer that is what's most important — to keep working and keep a positive attitude, to keep encouraging your teammates when you're down."

"To me, that's what makes your best athletes."

Sometimes, things don't go well for an entire team during a game, but Taylor, who describes herself as a positive motivator, wants to see her players continue to scrap and fight no matter what. She said no game is over until it's officially over, even if her team finds itself trailing by 10 runs.

"You can score all of those runs back in one inning," Taylor said. "Don't give up. Keep pushing, pushing, pushing. I like to stay positive and keep fighting."

How her first-ever season as a head coach plays out remains to be seen, but Taylor is ready for it to start. Preseason play in Florida begins Feb. 14, with Feb. 21 being the first date for regular-season play.

"It's going to be awesome," Taylor said. "I already have the pre-game jitters."

## KHHS

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in 2:49 by eventual runner-up Ke'Eric Merrell of Englewood, also had a win by pinning Episcopal's Chance Wolfe in 2:16.

Nichols took third in the 160 class by pinning Episcopal's Frank Owens in 2:44. Nichols,

who was earlier pinned in 23 seconds by eventual runner-up Bradyn Cox of Matanzas, also had a win by pinning teammate Huntley Dennis in 1:40.

Like Nichols and Wingate, Saley also won by a pin in his third-place match, defeating Fernandina Beach's Gabriel Martinez in 2:29 in the 285 class. Saley, who was earlier pinned in 1:42 by eventual runner-up Keith

Forbes of Englewood, also had a win by pinning Riverside's An'Dreas Washington in 2:30.

Keystone was coming off the Jan. 6 District 4-1A duals tournament at Clay High School, where it was defeated 67-12 in the quarterfinals by Baker County. Jason Bowden (126 class) and Matthew Delano (220) each had pins.

Before the holiday break, the

Indians won four weight classes and topped five teams in winning the Bishop Snyder Cardinal Classic on Dec. 11.

The Indians won by the following team scores: 42-36 over Dunnellon, 40-35 over Bishop Snyder, 36-33 over Toco Creek and 42-36 over Ed White.

Three wrestlers went undefeated for the Indians. Baron Bryson and Phoenix Contes went

4-0 in the 120 and 126 classes, respectively, with Contes earning one victory by a major decision. Wingate, who recorded two pins, went 3-0 in the 160 class.

Ethan Cosby, who had three pins, and Jacob Andrews, who had two pins, went 3-1 in the 132 and 195 classes, respectively.

On Dec. 21, Keystone placed fifth at Oakleaf's 12-team Hammer Invitational, getting

fourth-place finishes from Wingate and Delano.

The Indians finished with 77 points, putting them ahead of Englewood, West Nassau, Orange Park, Springs Academy, Riverside, Mainland and Sandalwood.

Fleming Island won the event, with Oakleaf, Apopka and Palatka taking second through fourth.

## UCHS

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4 despite a 22-point game from Rawls.

Rawls was one of five players to score in double figures. Jenkins and Andersen-Davis had 13 and 11 points, respectively, while Merriex and Dee Williams each had 10.

Thomas Williams, who added four points, grabbed a team-high 11 rebounds, while Jenkins had

five.

Merriex and Dee Williams each had five assists, while Rawls had three. Dee Williams and Rawls also had four and three steals, respectively.

On Jan. 6, Union lost 60-58 to visiting Baker County, which scored the winning basket with two seconds remaining in overtime.

Jenkins and Thomas Williams each scored 15 points against the 4A Wildcats, while Rawls had 10. Dee Williams added eight points,

while Andersen-Davis and Webb had six and four, respectively.

Rawls added six assists and four steals to his totals, while Merriex, Dee Williams and Thomas Williams each had three assists. Merriex also had two steals.

The Tigers returned to playing fellow Class 1A teams this past Tuesday when they traveled to Hilliard. Union hosts Trenton on Friday, Jan. 14, at 7:30 p.m. and then hosts Baldwin on Tuesday, Jan. 18, at 7:30 p.m.

## 2021

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went 2-for-3 with an RBI. Cohen went 2-for-4 with an RBI.

Union had 16 hits in all and got two RBI from Covey and one RBI each from Clyatt, Elixson, Johns, Rawls and Eli Rimes.

The win set up a rematch with Hamilton County in the Region 3 championship game, with the Trojans defeating the Tigers 6-3.

Union, which finished the season with a 21-5 record, had

only four hits and didn't score until the sixth inning when Whip Davis drove in a run. That made the score 4-1, but the Trojans plated two runs in the bottom of the inning.

The Tigers scored twice in the seventh, with O'Steen hitting an RBI triple and Cohen driving in a run on a ground out.

## Zapp plays at regionals in golf

Caleb Zapp earned the right to compete at the regional level in

golf with his performance at the District 3-1A finals.

Zapp made two birdies and shot par on five holes to finish with an 18-hole score of 83. It was the fifth-lowest score overall and the second-lowest among individuals not on the top three teams, which qualified Zapp for the Region 1 finals.

The score of 83 was a 15-stroke improvement for Zapp from the 2020 district finals.

At the Region 1 finals, Zapp placed 58th with a score of 102. He made par on two holes.

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