

Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

Thursday, Jan. 18, 2024

145th year, 27th Issue — \$1

20 lose homes to apartment fire

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
General manager

STARKE — Bradford County Fire Rescue said a fire at a former motel started in one converted apartment and spread Sunday afternoon, displacing 20 people.

The North Temple Avenue Studios are across the street from the Florida Department of Health's Starke office and the Bradford County Senior Center.

The county said Starke Fire Rescue units were first on the scene, followed by county apparatus.

The State Fire Marshal is investigating the blaze, and the Red Cross is helping the victims

with temporary housing.

Bradford County Fire Chief Ben Carter said the fire spread to multiple units quickly because the apartments share a common attic, and flames traveled along the top of the structure. He added that most of the impacted units suffered smoke damage.

Carter added that although he has not spoken with the State Fire Marshal about the cause of the blaze, he wouldn't be surprised if the source was electrical.

"We saw a lot of extension cords that were being used for heating devices and that sort of thing," he said.



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WORTH NOTING

Food distribution at True Vine

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

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

Fresh food Jan. 27

Gleaners Dispatch Inc. and Lifeline Ministries are working together on a fresh food giveaway set for Saturday, Jan. 27, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The location is 325 N. Christian Street in Starke.

Pastor appreciation

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

Starke turns to sheriff for law enforcement

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Starke city commissioners voted to place law enforcement services in the hands of the county sheriff, but not before an eruption of anger and profanity from the audience had the city calling on Sheriff Smith to help restore order.

Police Chief Jeff Johnson was among those angered by the decision. When Commissioner Janice Mortimer made a motion to accept Sheriff Gordon Smith's contract proposal, Johnson rose to leave the meeting. On the way out, he argued with an elderly member of the audience who said he felt threatened by the chief's demeanor.

Johnson was joined in his departure by his officers, their family members and other public supporters. After two of those supporters began yelling at the commission, and the mayor called a recess so the sheriff's office could be called, Johnson was heard encouraging them to leave, saying, "Let them have their fun."

Smith arrived in time to witness the

4-1 vote once the meeting resumed.

Following the meeting, Smith said he and Johnson are friends, and the city commission's decision was based on economics.

"I hope to work well with Chief Johnson in making this transition as smooth as possible," he said.

Smith acknowledged that the situation is upsetting. As an elected official, the chief's job is protected by the charter, but not so for the police officers. Smith said he would be meeting with them and encouraging them to apply to work for him.

In the meantime, Smith said they will be working to prevent any loss in coverage during the transition.

The city commission wrestled with the police and fire department budgets last year, cutting both to reduce the amount of utility revenue that was being spent on general government instead of system maintenance and improvements.

Commissioners narrowly rejected a plan from the sheriff at that time when Johnson said he could slim down his department and operate for \$1.1 million a year.

That was the same offer he presented

Tuesday night, although it took a grant paying for two of his officers to get him there. Mayor Scott Roberts criticized him for presenting his current budget, noting that budget was already being overspent by \$240,000. (Johnson said there were oversight in multiple budgets that would begin to show up.)

Johnson's budget included his \$105,000 salary and benefit package. The cost of 10 staff members, including two sergeants, came to \$775,000. Johnson said the \$300,000 in operations costs would vary based on the cost of insurance, workers compensation, etc. This totaled \$1.18 million, but an \$85,000 grant would help fund two positions, reducing the city's costs to just under \$1.1 million.

Meanwhile, the sheriff's proposal, presented by City Manager Drew Mullins, was to provide 24/7 coverage of the city for \$625,000 a year, currently equivalent to 2.5 mills of the city's annual property tax levy. The effective date proposed was March 1, with 180 days to transfer property,

evidence, etc.

Commissioner Danny Nugent was the only opponent on the commission to contracting with the sheriff for law enforcement services. He said as county taxpayers as well as city taxpayers, Starke shouldn't be paying the sheriff any more money for law enforcement.

Nugent said the sheriff's proposal did not include the cost for Johnson's salary and benefits. The chief keeps his job even if the city gives up the police department, and the commission pays him. Both Nugent and Johnson wanted a charter referendum, giving voters the opportunity to decide whether or not they should maintain an elected police chief. According to them, a vote for an elected chief would be seen as a vote for keeping the police department.

"This decision is too crucial not to hear the vote of the people. I believe the charter protects the right for the citizens to decide," Johnson said.

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2024 MLK Banquet highlights love and vision

BY MELISSA PYLE
Telegraph Staff Writer

The Concerned Citizens of Bradford County hosted the seventh annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drum Major Service Award Banquet on Jan. 13 at the Charley E. John's Conference Center. The event honored the life and legacy of Dr. King and those who embody his vision of love and change.

Event organizer and president of CCBC, Alica McMillian, along with countless volunteers, welcomed community leaders, sponsors, and honored guests to the banquet, which was beautifully decorated by the talented Louise H. Johnson and generous CCBC members. The banquet was filled with the aroma of sweet fellowship and delicious food, catered by Delicious Country Cooking, Downtown Grill and CCBC members.

The evening was emceed by Pastor Patrick Maxwell of Victory Christian Worship Center of Lake Butler, and guests were led in inspirational song by Minister Bruce Griner. Local leaders, Mayor Scott Roberts and Sheriff Gordon Smith were also in attendance and made remarks of thanks and admiration for the leaders and volunteers who work with the CCBC to make Starke and the surrounding communities a better place to live.

Sponsors were thanked for their continued financial support with awards provided by Sporting Chance. The awards ceremony thanked everyone for their support, but gave special



The 2024 MLK Drum Major Award Recipients. Pictured (l-r) are Ruth Holland, Brenda Donaldson Accepting on behalf of Ernestine Whitley Thompkins, Benjamin Strong, Sylvia Patterson and Mildred Petteway.

recognition to sponsors from the three top tiers of donations. Platinum sponsors were Bradford County Commissioners, City of Starke and GFL Environmental. Gold sponsors were Florida Power & Light and Woodward & Curran. Silver sponsors were Bowen & Bug Blocker Service, Folds Walker Attorneys at Law, Hampton

Law, and L&M Mobile Homes.

The evening was highlighted by an engaging speech given by keynote speaker Rahman K. Johnson. Johnson has a long list of accomplishments and accolades which includes multiple degrees, working in radio and television, serving on the Jacksonville Civil Rights Task Force, recipient of

multiple awards for journalism and drama. His newest includes being elected to the Jacksonville City Council, representing district 14. Johnson is a Jacksonville native but takes pride in also having roots in Bradford County. Johnson captivated the crowd with

See MLK, page 2

Study Sermon on the Mount

Join New River Baptist Church for January Bible study led by Brother Ben P. Bryant. This year's study is on the Sermon on the Mount preached by Jesus to his disciples. It will begin on Sunday, Jan. 21, at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary and continue Sunday evening through Wednesday evening (Jan. 21-24) in the fellowship hall at 6:30 p.m. with finger food afterwards.

Come for an exciting time of worship and fellowship. For more information, please call 904-796-2359.

Garden Club grows mushrooms

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

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

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





Sponsors in attendance were presented with awards for their financial support. Pictured (l-r) are Carol Saviak representing FPL, David M. McMillian Sr. representing L&M Mobile Homes LLC, Mayor Scott Roberts representing the city of Starke, Commissioner Carolyn Spooner representing Bradford County, and Clay Martin representing Folds and Walker Attorneys at Law. Sponsors not pictured: GFL Environmental, Woodard & Curran, Bowen & Bug Blocker Service, Hampton Law.

MLK

Continued from page 1

his eloquence and dramatic presentation. Johnson recalled fond memories of spending time in Starke with his Uncle Fred, who, although only held an eighth-grade education from RJE, was one of the wisest men he had ever known.

Johnson went on to present the vision and dream of Dr. King, but he challenged the audience by saying, "We have to put the work behind it today so that the

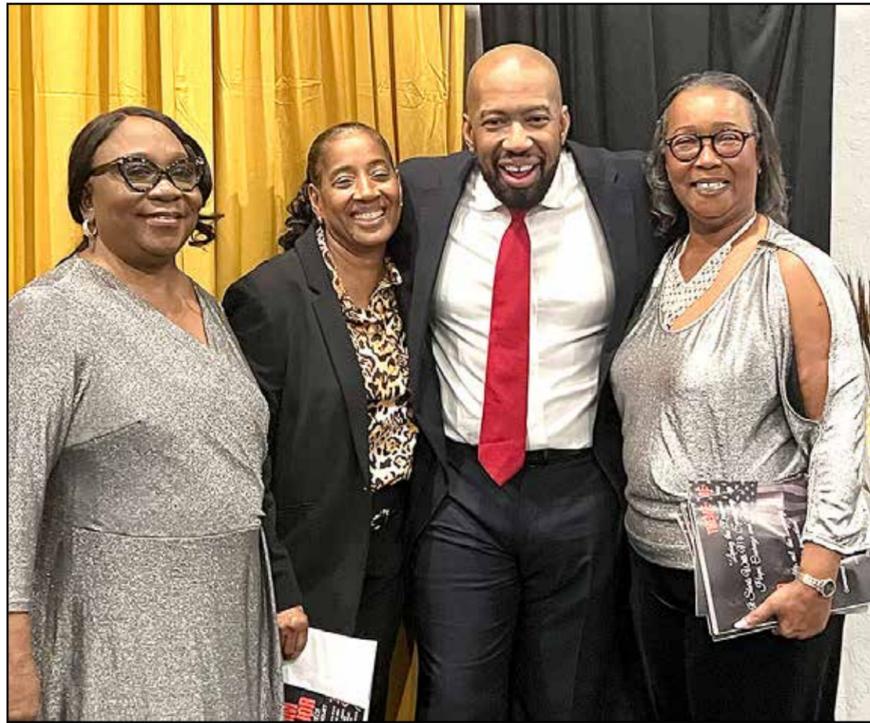
legacy of yesterday is manifested tomorrow."

In describing diversity Johnson said, "Diversity is something our country was founded upon. It makes us stronger, it makes us better." Johnson emphasized that the vision of Dr. King was not only about color but about economics. He said, "At the end of the day, what happens to the least of these happens to all of us."

He went on to talk about the hope that pushes us to do more and how individuals need to take personal accountability to make changes that can change our

world. He emphasized the theme of love and said we need to do everything through a lens of love because love is what will change us all. Johnson made a poignant statement when he said he recently told a group of diversity and equity coordinators, "It's our job to work ourselves out of a job. ... If we do everything through the lens of love, it will allow the right decision to be made."

He ended by urging his listeners to reach out to those who are different from themselves. Those who don't worship the same or come from the same walks of life. He encouraged hearers to open up opportunities in their personal lives to know and love others. This is the legacy of Dr. King. "Create actions that will



These local leaders were so pleased to have their friend and Jacksonville city councilman be the guest speaker at the annual MLK Banquet. Pictured (l-r) Glenda Ruise, Alica McMillian, Rahman Johnson and Starke Commissioner Janice Mortimer.

create change."

Following the rousing speech, the 2024 honorees received awards and recognition. This year's honorees were Sylvia Patterson, Mildred Petteway, Benjamin Strong, Ruth Holland and Ernestine Whitley Thompkins. Each honoree has multiple accomplishments and hours of personal and corporate volunteer efforts. They are RJE alumni, active in the Bradford community, and serve their churches, families, friends and neighbors on a

consistent basis.

The event concluded with final thoughts and thanks from McMillian.

"We see what God can do. ... We have got to live it, not just talk it," she said. She challenged everyone to do what they are gifted to do to the best of their ability, and the community will not be the same.

She said something that embodies her mission at CCBC when she quoted what her father always said: "Never look down

on a person unless you are reaching down to lift them up." This simple, yet profound statement is the mission of the members of the CCBC and the living legacy of Dr. King. It lives out one of his many quotes: "Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend."

If you are interested in more information or volunteering opportunities with the CCBC, reach out to them for more information at CCBC_inc@yahoo.com.

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Mean Girls - 6:45 (Upstairs)	Mean Girls - 4:00 & 6:45 (Upstairs)

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LAW

Continued from page 1

Mortimer questioned how much the grant Johnson mentioned would cost the city,

and Finance Director James Hughes said it would cost more than \$500,000 over the five-year grant period. Commissioner Andy Redding said that amount of money to get a \$250,000 grant was "not good math."

Redding said the city was duplicating services by having a police department with a command staff, office staff and facilities that the sheriff already has in place.

"We have to look at the cost benefit analysis, and that we maintain the same level of service or better. It really for me comes down to dollars and cents," Redding said.

As for the charter, he called it "archaic." Mortimer said a charter review is long overdue.

Mayor Roberts challenged Johnson's claim that the sheriff couldn't provide the same level of service for his proposed

contract fee. According to Johnson, if an incident occurred in the county, the sheriff would pull deputies assigned to Starke outside of the city.

Responding to that after the meeting, Smith said that is the case now when an emergency occurs. Most of the time, however, his deputies are backing up police officers inside the city, responding to more than 1,200 calls a year.

"They assist us. We assist them. It's all teamwork," he said.

Because of the coverage zones, there are two to three deputies in the city much of the time, according to the sheriff. Two full-time officers per shift working for the sheriff's office instead of the police department won't impact coverage. It will streamline operations, he said.

The debate over law enforcement had ended last

year when the city approved the 2023-24 budget. Things were to move forward with the chief remaining in charge of his smaller department on patrol and responding to calls and turning investigations over to the sheriff's office. The recent arrest of a mentally compromised man for a crime his family said he couldn't have committed had the commission calling the sheriff back to the table.

Sheriff Smith said he understands Johnson's upset and his drive to stand up for his officers. He would feel the same way in that position, he said.

"At the end of the day, when he takes a deep breath, we're still friends. He loves his city. I love the city, been a public servant my whole life. We're going to work together and make sure that we do what we took an oath to do and serve the public," Smith said.

Lights, Camera, Action: Join chamber for its annual meeting

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

It will be a night filled with stars at the North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce's Hollywood-themed annual meeting and banquet.

The Gov. Charley E. Johns Conference Center will be dressed to the nines by Leisa Sims and her team at It's Your Day Bridal. Guests will take the Walk of Fame, featuring the star-studded names of the events sponsors.

The night of glamour in black and white will all take place on Saturday, Feb. 3, and tickets are on sale now.

The crew from Downtown Grill will be catering the event.

Hors d'oeuvres will be served during the social hour beginning at 5 p.m. Dinner begins at 6 p.m. with a buffet that will include something for everyone.

The chamber board will present its annual awards, including Business of the Year. Keystone Heights RV Resort is being recognized this year, and the board is bestowing two posthumous awards for pharmacist Bobby Autry and Dr. Pete Gianas.

Bradford County Education Foundation will also be supporting local schools again with its annual fundraiser. Raffle tickets are on sale now at Capital City Bank or from any foundation board member. A

\$100 ticket will enter you into the drawing for a 10-by-10 shed donated by Frank Sheffield. Only 200 tickets will be sold. There are also two \$50 drawings. Drew Reddish has donated a seven-day stay in St. Augustine at Ocean Gallery Condo. Carrie Crews has donated a four-day, three-night stay at The Blissful Bear Cabin in Ellijay, Georgia. Only 100 tickets will be sold for each of the \$50 drawings.

Tickets to the banquet are \$85 apiece, but as always, the best bargain is for a table for 10, which is available for \$750.

Get tickets or inquire about sponsorship opportunities at the chamber of commerce, 904-964-5278.

Free trees for Arbor Day

It's a new year and a great time to green your outdoor space. The UF/IFAS Extension in Bradford County, Bradford Soil and Water Conservation and the Alligator Creek Garden Club are partnering to provide information on growing and caring for trees, kids activities, and a free cypress tree to plant.

Here in the Sunshine State, Floridians celebrate Arbor Day on the third Friday in January. There's a good reason Florida is

well ahead of the national Arbor Day, which is held on the last Friday of April January is the best time of year to plant trees in the state's warm climate.

Adding a tree to your landscape can have many benefits. Shade to help your AC work less hard in summer, roots to absorb stormwater and slow runoff, and habitat for birds and other wildlife are all great reasons to plant trees.

Kids can have fun for Arbor Day in more ways than planting a tree! Try searching with your kids in your neighborhood or at a local park for the biggest tree,

or finding the biggest leaves or seeds from local trees. If you have a magnifying glass, explore the microworld of bark, leaves, and flowers. You can also head to the library and look up what trees your favorite bird or animal might use for food or shelter.

And come join the fun at the Bradford County Extension Office, Friday, Jan. 19, from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Youth will be able to explore the world of trees through interactive activities, and all ages can learn more about trees and take one home for your own Arbor Day celebration.

16th
Annual



Rotary
Club of
Starke

Beast Feast

April 6th, 2024

The Rotary Club of Starke is asking for sponsorships for this year's Beast Feast. Proceeds from this year's Beast Feast will be donated to the Peter Gianas Scholarship fund. This Scholarship is given to a student in this community that embodies who Peter Gianas was and wants to continue their education. To sponsor our event, we have multiple levels to choose from. All sponsors will be recognized during our event as well as being advertised on a banner for our attendees to see.



If you would like to sponsor our event, please reach out to a Rotary member or call President Matt Dyal (904-364-6072). Tickets will be given out when sponsorship is purchased.

We look forward to seeing many wonderful members in our community come together to raise funds in honor of Dr. Peter Gianas and to help our youth achieve higher education.

Thank you!

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- 4 tickets, 2x3 banner, social media announcement

Blue Sponsor

\$250
- 2x3 banner, social media announcement

Athletics, district achievements highlighted at MLK service

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
General manager

STARKE — Concerned Citizens of Bradford County presented a service honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King on Monday at the Florida National Guard Armory.

Glenda J. Ruise presided over the ceremony, which featured music by Keith Taylor Sr., prayer and pledge by Makalyn Almore, and recognition of Santa Fe College's Trio programs, the Bradford County Cowboys Athletic Association, and students.



Makalyn Almore led the audience in a prayer and the pledge of allegiance. Photo: Dan Hildebran.

Value of athletics

Bradford School District Superintendent Will Hartley was the featured speaker.

Hartley started his speech by recognizing the student-athletes in the crowd and emphasizing the importance of athletics in secondary education.

"I believe that all of our children have a ticket to success, and for some, it's academic, for some, it's a specific job skill, and for others, it's athletics," he said, "and so we have to do our part to nurture all of these talents."

Hartley said athletics can also unify the community, citing the high school football team's December 8 appearance in the Class 2S State championship game in Tallahassee.

"I've never been more proud to be from Bradford County than I was that night," he said. "The sense of unity and everyone pulling together for our children is what we should all be striving for in every aspect of what we do here in Bradford County."

Hartley told the crowd that athletics played a crucial part in the civil rights movement when Jackie Robinson broke the Major League Baseball color barrier in 1947.

"Toward the end of his career, he became very outspoken in terms of civil rights, and there was a certain group of press along with several others, civil rights leaders who really felt like he shouldn't be so outspoken," Hartley said. "They were concerned that it would tarnish his own legacy."

The superintendent added that King supported the Brooklyn Dodgers first baseman, stating that Robinson was an excellent spokesperson for the movement.

"From that point on," Hartley said, "at least for a short period of time in the civil rights movement, Jackie Robinson was actually the most requested public speaker in terms of civil rights."

The superintendent then summarized the school system's achievements over the past three years.

Hartley said that when he took office three years ago, the business operations of the school district were substandard. He said that through hard work and tough decisions, the district's human resources and finance

departments are now improved to the point that the school system was able to give teachers raises for the first time in three years.

Hartley also highlighted the district's Para-to-Pro program, which enables the district's paraprofessionals to undergo training and obtain teaching certificates.

"Right now," he said, "I know we have several people that are just getting ready to finish this program, and they will become certified teachers in Bradford County, so I'm extremely proud of that."

Hartley said other achievements the district has seen under his watch include the opening of Bradford Elementary School's new state-of-the-art campus and the addition of the Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education at Bradford High School.

Breaking barriers

Hartley also noted the emergence of two schools from turnaround status, with the high school climbing from a D grade to a C and Lawley Elementary jumping from a D to a B.

"Had the growth component been added into the school grades this year," he said, "one of them actually would've went from a D to an A and one would've went from a D to a B, and so we're extremely proud of that work."

The schools chief said that through a partnership with Camp Blanding and the North Florida Land Trust, 180 acres were donated to the district to build a commercial truck driving range east of Starke.

"Some of you may know that the truck driving school at North Florida Technical College is one of our most successful programs," he said, "and a lot of our people actually had jobs two or three weeks before they graduated from there— had a very high earning wage, so I'm



MLK Model Scholars, (l-r) Presider Glenda J. Ruise, Santa Fe College Vice President for Student Affairs Naima Brown, Bryston Williams, Barron Walden, Agape Murungi, Kelsey Burgin, Antonio Florence, Camiyah Goston, Melissa Harding, Jessariah Hankerson, Mauiye Hankerson, Sade Peterson, Bradford School Board Member Sheila Cummings, and Santa Fe College Interim Executive Director of Organization and Community Engagement Asha Brunings. Photo: Dan Hildebran.



Bradford High School Principal Chris Coffey and Presider Glenda J. Ruise recognized the honor students in the audience. Photo: Dan Hildebran.



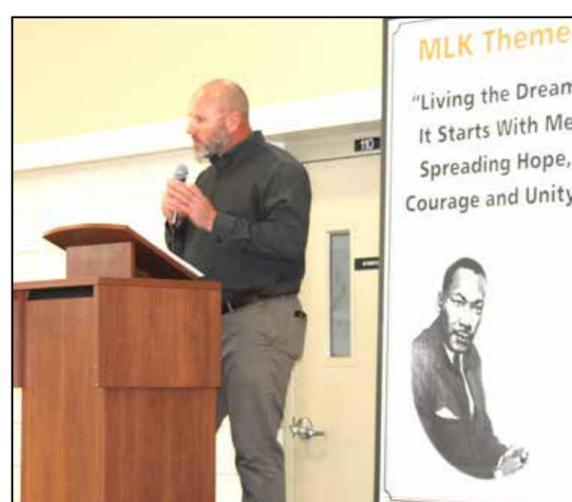
Bradford County Cowboys Coach Rodney Mosley (left) said the Pop Warner football program is one of the longest-running youth programs in the county. He added that Coach William Brown (right), along with Coach Joe Gordon have been mentoring and coaching players for over 50 years. Photo: Dan Hildebran.

extremely proud of that."

Hartley said that the most critical work the district has ever undertaken is happening now.

"We'll see it in years to come as we really started working extremely hard at improving student academic achievement," he said. "The theme for this year's school year was breaking barriers. Since the beginning of school grades, our district has never been higher than a C. We are on a mission to break that barrier, and we're currently in the process of transforming our instruction with the design to

ensure that all of our students are presenting grade-level content at the rigor they will see on the state test. And if that grade doesn't change this year, it's going to happen soon, and I know we're going to accomplish that goal."



Bradford School District Superintendent Will Hartley was the featured speaker. Photo: Dan Hildebran.

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Lake Region

Plan would convert Azalea Park into dog park

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
General manager

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — A new plan unveiled for city council members earlier this month would overhaul the city's parks, including converting the Leona F. Terry Azalea Park into a dog park.

Erin K. Rothman, managing director of Manzana City Inc., presented the unified parks plan to the city council. She said the master plan she is developing would link existing parks and green spaces and standardize park amenities and signage for a cohesive look and user experience across the parks.

Rothman said the four objectives in her plan are inclusive accessibility and connectivity; enhancing recreational, educational experiences and opportunities; community engagement and economic development; and sustainability, safety, and preservation.

Theme Park

Rothman said her plan for the theme park, which is nestled between city hall and the public library, is to highlight the Moon Tree, which now is west of the library on Oriole Street.

The planner called the Moon Tree, which got its name because its seeds traveled on the Apollo 14 moon mission in 1971, "one

of the coolest things I've ever seen, and I felt it had just one little plaque in one little area."

"So, if we made that a focal point of the park and had lighting that represented the, I guess, moony nature of the tree and then some private seating areas and trails that moved through the park, but really making that a focus of the theme park," she said.

Rothman proposed that another theme park feature could be what she called Tails and Cheers.

"This is similar to what you'll have by the trailhead on the bike path where you have the storybooks along that path that the library helps set up," she said. "We thought we could also do something similar here, especially since it's right outside the library."

Natural Park

Rothman next discussed the Natural Park across the street from city hall, which now features a gazebo, butterfly garden, and picnic area. She recommended the addition of interconnected pavements with interactive musical instruments and an expansion of the butterfly garden, which could include sculptures of the winged insects.

She also suggested interactive plaques informing visitors of the natural features and history of the

city. Lastly, she recommended a picnic area where visitors could look across the street to the beach.

Beach Park

As for Keystone Beach Park, Rothman said adding palm trees to the park's existing live oaks could create more of a beachy feel in the park. She also recommended moving some of the engraved slats within the Geneva Jungle, possibly using the slats to build benches in the park.

Mayor Nina Rodenroth said the slats now obscure visibility into the children's playground and may contribute to park vandalism.

"If you're sitting on a bench on the other side, you can't see things in the back, and we know that things go on, and families get a little upset," the mayor said.

Rothman said she is considering adding more water features near the shoreline and upgrading the current kayak launch.

Azalea Park

Rothman said converting Azalea into a dog park would entail fencing the entire block, keeping the current gazebo, and installing a dog splash pad. An obstacle course would provide recreation for the canines, a

trail would create a course for walking, and a sunken seating area would provide seclusion for shy dogs and a place for families to hang out and watch the puppies.

"So, you can train your dogs and walk your dogs," she said. "And if you don't want to have to take the trail, you can take the little stone pathway across to that gazebo and get some shade."

Sunrise Park

Rothman said the planning for Sunrise Park is important because of the likelihood that the now forested area west of the park would be developed into a new subdivision. She added that the possibility of a new city hall displacing the current basketball courts at the corner of Southeast Lakeview Drive and Southeast Palmetto Avenue adds another degree of importance to planning Sunrise.

The planner proposed a new Sunrise Park with two basketball courts, two pickleball courts, four batting cages, a skate park, two tennis courts, a couple of playgrounds, and a jogging path that goes around and through the facility.

The plan also includes an eating area and food truck parking.

"So, parents can sit there," she said. "They've got the playgrounds on either side where



An American Sycamore on library property, known as "The Moon Tree," grew from seed that traveled on the Apollo 14 moon mission in February 1971. The seed was planted west of the library in 1984 and now has a stone at its base, recognizing its travels. A new parks plan for Keystone Heights would make the Moon Tree the focus of the Theme Park. Photo: Dan Hildebran.

they can keep an eye on their kids."

She also proposed two separate

play areas for Sunrise Park, one for older children and one for younger tots.

Beals reappointed to tourism council

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
General manager

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — Clay County Commissioners reappointed Keystone Heights Realtor Debbie Beals to the county's Tourist Development Council.

The council is an advisory committee for the Board of County Commissioners. It administers funds received from the Tourist Development Tax and oversees and recommends ways to promote Clay County as a tourist destination.

The county said that the TDC is comprised of nine members. Six of the nine members must be involved in the tourist industry. Members serve staggered terms of four years.

The TDC meets six times per year.

During the January 9 Board of County Commissioners meeting, Betsy Condon said Beals is the only council member who resides in District 4, which includes the Lake Region and Middleburg areas.

"She and her husband," the



Debbie Beals. Photo: Team Beals

commissioner added, "their realty office is across the street from City Hall in Keystone Heights, and they host the welcome center."

Commissioner Mike Cella, who chairs the TDC, said Beals has been engaged and active on the council. The Fleming Island representative made the motion for her reappointment.

Program helps residents build their own homes

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
General manager

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — An effort in Green Cove Springs that helps residents build their homes could be coming to the Lake Region.

Operation Lifeline is a U.S. Agriculture Department program that allows households with between \$35,000 and \$70,000 to build their own homes.

"They get to cut out the

middleman," Operation Lifeline Executive Director Erik Saks told county commissioners. "They're basically only paying for the (materials) to build that house. We get a grant through USDA to support the overhead to make this happen."

Saks said groups of houses are typically built together so that future neighbors work on each other's homes.

"One of my favorite parts of this is that nobody gets a key to

the house until everybody gets the key," Saks said.

The executive director said that as he is working to build six homes in Green Cove Springs now, he has spoken with Commissioner Betsy Condon about bringing the program to the Lake Region.

Saks said one advantage Operation Lifeline has over other housing programs like Habitat for Humanity is that his program does not rely on volunteers.

"It's the families that are doing this," he said. "I have some of our volunteers because we have our military interns that we're training in construction that we will be able to get out there to do some of that work. Also, they can rely on things like church groups and scouting groups."

Saks said he hopes to break ground on the first group of six homes in Green Cove Springs in April.

District gives nod to water supply plan

The 2023 North Florida Regional Water Supply Plan was approved by the St. John River Water Management District's Governing Board on Dec. 12. Collaboratively developed by the St. Johns River Water Management District and the Suwannee River Water Management District, this update builds upon the foundation established in the 2017 plan.

The 2023 Regional Water Supply Plan is a joint planning effort involving the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, SRWMD, local governments, public supply utilities, environmental

advocates, business organizations, agricultural commodity groups and other stakeholders. This collaborative initiative assesses existing and future water demands, recognizing potential impacts on the region's water resources.

"The district remains dedicated to proactive, sustainable water resource management practices," said St. Johns River Water Management District Executive Director Mike Register. "I am grateful to the staff, our many partners and stakeholders whose collaboration helps ensure we are shaping a resilient and thriving north Florida for generations to

come."

The updated plan addresses a critical concern: traditional groundwater sources alone cannot meet the projected 2045 increased groundwater demand of 135 million gallons per day (mgd) while maintaining the integrity of water resources and ecosystems. Consequently, the 2023 Regional Water Supply Plan outlines over 160 mgd of strategic water conservation, supply and resource development projects aimed at bridging the projected water demand gap while safeguarding our natural resources.

This planning initiative

involved significant stakeholder outreach including district-led workshops and a final public review period from Sept. 12 through Oct. 6, 2023. All comments received were reviewed, and the districts have responded to each comment, reflecting an inclusive and collaborative approach in the final draft of the updated 2023 water supply plan.

For detailed insights and access to the 2023 North Florida Regional Water Supply Plan (2020-2045) and associated appendices, please visit the north Florida website at www.northfloridawater.com.

NOTICE OF ELECTION 2024 SUPER TUESDAY MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

City of Keystone Heights
Town of Orange Park

Pursuant to Section 100.021 of the Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the 2024 Super Tuesday Municipal Elections will be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at each respective Municipality.

City of Keystone Heights

555 S. Lawrence Blvd., Keystone Heights, FL 32656

Seats Three (3) and Five (5) for a three (3) year term of office on the Keystone Heights City Council.

Town of Orange Park

2042 Park Ave., Orange Park, FL 32073

Seat Three (3) for a three (3) year term of office on the Orange Park Town Council.

Qualifying for all seats will open Monday, January 29th at NOON and remain open until Friday, February 2nd at NOON at the Clay County Supervisor of Elections Office.

Those interested in qualifying for Seats on the aforementioned City or Town Councils must be a qualified elector, a citizen of the United States and meet all other qualifying requirements as outlined in each respective Municipal Charter.

A Run-off Election, if necessary for any Municipality will be held on the 2nd Tuesday of May.

For further information, please contact the Clay County Supervisor of Elections Office at (904) 269-6350.

In accordance with the Sunshine Law of Florida, this meeting is open to the public.

Note: Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, states that if a person decides to appeal any decision by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at a meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purposes, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

AVISO DE ELECCION ELECCIONES MUNICIPALES DEL SÚPER MARTES 2024

Ciudad de Keystone Heights
Ciudad de Orange Park

De conformidad con la Sección 100.021 de los Estatutos de Florida, se notifica que las Elecciones Municipales del Súper Martes 2024 se llevarán a cabo el martes 9 de abril de 2024, de 7:00 a.m. a 7:00 p.m. en cada Municipio respectivo.

Ciudad de Keystone Heights

555 S. Lawrence Blvd., Keystone Heights, FL 32656

Asientos Tres (3) y Cinco (5) por un período de tres (3) años en el Consejo de la Ciudad de Keystone Heights.

Ciudad de Orange Park

2042 Park Ave., Orange Park, FL 32073

Asiento Tres (3) por un período de tres (3) años en el Consejo Municipal de Orange Park.

La calificación para los asientos se abrirá el lunes 29 de enero a mediodía y permanecerá abierta hasta el mediodía del viernes 2 de febrero en la Oficina del Supervisor de Elecciones del Condado de Clay.

Aquellos interesados en calificar para Asientos en los Consejos Municipales o Municipales mencionados anteriormente debe ser un elector calificado, un ciudadano de los Estados Unidos y cumplir con todos los demás requisitos de calificación como se detalla en cada Carta Municipal respectiva.

Una segunda vuelta electoral, si es necesario para cualquier municipio, se llevará a cabo el segundo martes de mayo.

Para obtener más información, comuníquese con la oficina del Supervisor de Elecciones del Condado de Clay, (904) 269-6350.

De acuerdo con la Ley Sunshine de Florida, esta reunión está abierta al público.

Nota: La Sección 286.0105, Estatutos de la Florida, establece que si una persona decide apelar cualquier decisión de la junta, agencia o comisión con respecto a cualquier asunto considerado en una reunión o audiencia, necesitará un registro de los procedimientos, y que, para tales fines, él o ella puede necesitar asegurarse de que se haga un registro literal de los procedimientos, el cual incluye el testimonio y la evidencia sobre los cuales se basará la apelación.

Correction

The Community Health and Wellness Hub in Lawtrey is open on the second Thursday of the month at the city recreation building in Tatum Bros. Park. A story last week incorrectly stated the third Thursday. We apologize for the error.

Union County Extension and Florida Forest Service to host tree giveaway

A Florida Arbor Day tree giveaway will be held Friday, Jan. 19, from 9 a.m. until noon at the UF/IFAS Union County Extension Office at 15120 S.W. 84th St.

The event is being held courtesy of UF/IFAS Extension and the Florida Forest Service, which is a division of the Florida Department of

Agriculture and Consumer Services (Commissioner Wilton Simpson).

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

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

Academy presents company showcase

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

Heroic rescue headed to television

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Heroic actions of local responders will be featured during an upcoming season of Hearts of Heroes.

Representatives from Belfor Property Restoration, which sponsors the ABC Network program, appeared before the county commission last week to recognize the lifesaving actions of officers and firefighters responding to an apartment fire last February.

Belfor's David Knowles said they've filmed a production of that rescue that will air sometime this year.

Last February, Bradford Sheriff's Office Deputy Robert Malley was on patrol when he arrived on the scene of an Epperson Street fire in Starke. Dispatch indicated elderly people were inside the burning residential structure.

The two-story building was engulfed, with flames shooting from the roof. The door to the building was locked. Malley, a former firefighter, forced entry by kicking the door open, and he and Starke Police Officer Jay Raulerson entered to assist the residents. An elderly woman was quickly located and

escorted to safety. Malley reentered and went upstairs, shouting "Police!" to anyone who could hear his voice. The lights went out, but Malley could hear a voice faintly yelling for help. The woman inside the apartment could not get out and could not force the door open. Using the sound of his voice, the deputy guided the woman to the door, and she was able to unbolt it.

The officers saved her life by getting her out of the building, Knowles said.

"Without their heroic actions, that person most likely would have been a fatality," he said.

As a retired fire chief and firefighter-paramedic for more than 40 years, Knowles said he was honored to present to the commission and its agencies an American flag and a plaque of photographs from their television production.

Bradford Fire Rescue Chief Ben Carter, Col. Brad Smith and commissioners joined the representatives from Belfor for a photo.

Carter said the recognition really belongs to the officers involved, and they look forward to seeing the program air.



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



Deputy Robert Malley and Sheriff Gordon Smith



Starke Police officer Jay Raulerson and Chief Jeff Johnson

Report ranks counties based on child well-being

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

Child well-being rankings released by the Florida Policy Institute rate some local counties much higher than others.

St. Johns ranked highest for child well-being in Florida, while Santa Rosa and Clay counties were ranked second and third, respectively.

The three counties with the lowest rankings were Putnam (65th), DeSoto (66th) and Hendry (67th).

Just above them was Bradford County in 58th position. Union County was ranked 41st.

Florida Policy Institute describes itself as an independent, nonpartisan and nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing policies and budgets that improve the economic mobility and quality of life for all Floridians. The institute used data on health, family, education, the economy and childcare to calculate the rankings.

The point was not simply to rank counties best to worst but to show where investments can be made to improve the lives of children as well as their future success.

According to Florida Policy Institute, "The policy choices we make today should lay the foundation for children to become thriving adults who will join the workforce and contribute to their communities. Smart

investments will help cultivate strong families who — in turn — will raise strong, healthy children."

This year, the institute highlighted the disproportionate amount families spend on childcare. In the costliest counties, families are spending nearly a quarter of their income on childcare costs.

"Though Florida has made investments in early education, accessing quality care for young children remains out of reach for many parents. This causes tremendous hardship and economic instability for families across the state. Childcare is among the largest household expenses, costing nearly \$9,000 on average per child in Florida and rivaling the cost of housing."

"The outcomes in communities are not accidental," according to the institute. "Counties with higher rankings tend to be well-resourced places, where families can afford to invest in things like high-quality childcare, education and other opportunities for their children. Counties that rank near the middle tend to have a mixture of well-resourced and less well-resourced areas, such as some larger counties with a combination of big cities and suburban and rural areas. Counties with lower rankings tend to be places that have borne the brunt of the state's disinvestment in public

services and where people face historic barriers to economic opportunity."

Florida Policy Institute uses the report in its advocacy. It has a Roadmap to Shared Prosperity, which includes:

- prioritizing child well-being and quality of life by preserving and expanding basic household supports like nutrition, housing and income assistance.

- nurturing children by investing in affordable, quality early learning, thriving public schools and well supported teachers.

- building a stronger workforce by expanding access to higher education and job training.

- ensuring all Floridians have access to affordable, quality health care.

Local rankings

Each county has a statewide ranking based on the rankings received in the five categories: health, family, education, the economy and childcare affordability.

Clay County was ranked third statewide, but that doesn't mean there isn't room for improvement. It's ranking for health was 10th, with the concerns including nearly 31% of first, third and sixth graders being overweight or obese, and 25% of highschoolers using drugs or alcohol in the prior

30 days. Only 6.4% of children were uninsured, however, and incidents of low birthweight was at 8.5%.

Family and community ranking was eighth, with more than 27% of children being from single-parent families. Verified maltreatment of children was around 10 per 1,000, and juvenile justice contact was around 3 per 1,000.

Education ranking was sixth. 39% of fourth graders were not proficient in English language arts, and 30% of eighth graders were not proficient in math. More than 50% of 3- and 4-year-olds were not enrolled in school. Only 10% of highschoolers were not graduating on time, however.

Clay's highest ranking was economic well-being, which was third in the state. At just over 12%, it has a low child poverty rating, and unemployment was 2.6%. Only 5.4% of teens were not in school and not working. The study also looks at high housing cost burden. Around 23% of households spend more than 30% of their income on housing.

Childcare affordability was Clay's lowest ranking. The ranking was 53rd in the state, with more than 19% of income on average spent on childcare.

Union County was ranked 41st in the state, but its child health ranking came in at 48th. More than 52% of first, third and

sixth graders were overweight or obese, and 22.4% of highschoolers had used drugs or alcohol in the prior 30 days. Only 4.7% of children were without health insurance, however, and low birthweight was under 8%.

Its family and community ranking was high — 12th in the state. While just over 32% of children were in single parent families, only 4.44 in 1,000 were subject to maltreatment and 6.15 in 1,000 had contact with juvenile justice.

Union was 46th in education. 50% of fourth graders were not proficient in English language arts, and 36% of eighth graders were not proficient in math. Nearly 69% of 3- and 4-year-olds were not enrolled in school, and more than 22% of highschoolers were not graduating on time.

The economic well-being ranking was 27th, with 24.3% of children living in poverty. Overall unemployment was 2.9%, but more than 16% of teens were neither working nor in school. 15.58% of households were on spending more than 30% of their income on housing.

Finally, the childcare affordability ranking was 10th, with households spending on average 14.6% of income on childcare.

Bradford was 58th out of 67 counties. The county was 60th in child health. More than 48% of first, third and sixth graders were

overweight or obese, and 24% of high school teens had used drugs or alcohol in the prior 30 days. 8.6% of children are uninsured, and 12.4% are born with low birth weight.

At 13th, Bradford's family and community ranking was one of its highest marks. While more than 32% of children were from single parent families, less than six per 1,000 were subject to maltreatment or had contact with the juvenile justice system.

Education, on the other hand, was quite low, at 64th in the state. 50% of fourth graders were not proficient in English language arts, and 65% of eighth graders were not proficient in math. More than 71% of 3- and 4-year-olds were not enrolled in school, and nearly 24% of highschoolers were not graduating on time.

Economic well-being was 52nd in the state. 24.8% of children were living in poverty, and almost 30% of households were spending more than 30% of their income on housing costs. The unemployment rate was 3.1%, and 11.3% of teens were not in school or working.

Bradford's highest ranking was in the category highlighted by Florida Policy Institute — childcare affordability. The county was eighth in the state, with the average family spending less than 15% of its income on childcare.

New fire agreement pending in Lawtey

BY MELISSA PYLE
Telegraph Staff Writer

Lawtey City Council members voted to partially reimburse county costs while discussing their firefighting and emergency medical services agreement.

Councilwoman Emily Hoffman made a motion to amend the original agenda to include topics related to the fire department, including insurance, the agreement with the county, and an invoice that was submitted to the city for reimbursement.

Hoffman presented a bill from August 2023 for the rental cost of a generator at the fire department. Hoffman said the fire department gave her the bill to present to the board because City Clerk Lisa Harley told the department that the city would not pay the bill.

Hoffman said it would be in good faith to at least pay a portion of the bill. Hoffman said the firefighters stayed during a storm and needed a working generator.

Harley responded to Hoffman's comments by saying

she had told the fire department that the county, not the city, is responsible for the cost of the generator, but the bill could be presented to the board for consideration.

Hoffman explained that the department doesn't have to be at the Lawtey station, but its services are a great benefit to the city. She emphasized that the city should help with even more funding to keep them there.

Hoffman said the city is awaiting a new agreement with the county for the use of the station and the city's responsibilities under the agreement. Councilwoman Amy Blom said she has been requesting a new agreement since February 2023.

The discussion went on to include the terms of the agreement, the need for a new one, and what options should be discussed moving forward.

Hoffman made a motion for the city to pay the invoice with the city's ARPA funds because it was an emergency-related item. Councilwoman Virginia Warner

said the bill was from August 2023 and was not in last year's budget. Councilwoman Debra Norman was also concerned about the four-month delay in receiving the bill but felt it would be fair to make a motion to pay at least half of the bill if the budget allowed.

In the end, council voted to reimburse the fire department half of the generator rental fee in the amount of \$2,815.

Hoffman asked Dukes about insurance coverage on the city's fire truck, and she was also concerned about leaks and flooring repairs at the firehouse. Harley said that the roof was repaired a few days ago and that the city tries to address any issues the fire department brings to the city as soon as possible.

Council members discussed how the county funds the fire department, but the city covers the cost of building maintenance, repairs and vehicle insurance.

See FIRE, page 7

YARD SALE

This Friday, January 19th 2024

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Sporting Chance

218 N Temple Ave

Starke, FL 32091

UNION COUNTY



Union County districtwide Teacher of the Year Lee Clark (right) with Superintendent Mike Ripplinger. Clark teaches at Union County High School.



Lake Butler Middle School Teacher of the Year Sandy Quinn



Lake Butler Elementary School Teacher of the Year Charity Pittman



Cindy Howell is the districtwide Union County Noninstructional Employee of the Year. She works at the district office. She is pictured with Superintendent Mike Ripplinger.



Tiger's Den Noninstructional Employee of the Year Cee Box



Union County High School Noninstructional Employee of the Year Tammy Wilkerson

How a Career in the Florida Air Guard Can Change Your Life.



Scan the QR code for more information!



Education- Tuition assistance for up to 100% of cost for two- or four-year programs. We pay 100% tuition towards a master's degree.

Eligibility for VA Home Loans- Purchase a home with no down payment required.

Flexibility- Available to serve part time.

Post Access- Access to Kingsley Lake and other post facilities at Camp Blanding.

Testimonial:

1. Can you tell me why you love your job?

There are many reasons I love my job. It's allowed me to expand my view on the communications world. Through my job I've been able to have new experiences, meet new people, and have had the opportunity to expand my skill set beyond what I believed was possible.

2. Can you tell me what benefits from the Florida Air National Guard have helped you the most?

I would say that the education benefits have been the most helpful. Prior to enlisting I was having trouble finding somewhere I could study and get Certifications without spending vast amount of money. Since enlisting I've been able to take several classes and I am preparing to take multiple certifications and commence my first year on college.

3. Can you talk about some of the new skills you have learned in the Florida Air National Guard that have helped you in the civilian work force?

Thanks to the experiences that the Florida Air National Guard has granted me I've been able to learn a variety of new and useful skills. I was able to learn the networking and cyber security. These are skills I use daily especially in my pursuit of a carrier in the IT field. Another very important skill that we learn no matter what job you have is communication. This has been by far the most advantageous skill I've learned. Its helped me through all aspects of the work force.

Respectfully,
XXXXXXXXXX,XXXX
Xxxx XXXXXXXX, XXXXXX,XX
202d RED HORSE | Camp Blanding, FL



Lake Butler Middle School Noninstructional Employee of the Year Richard McLaughlin



Lake Butler Elementary School Noninstructional Employee of the Year Juanita Smith

Check signatures, registration before primary

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Special to the Times

LAKE BUTLER — Cord Byrd, the Secretary of State of Florida, has certified the candidate names appearing on the Presidential Preference Primary, to be held on March 19, 2024. There are seven names on the Republican ballot but only one on the Democratic ballot.

Candidates on the Republican Party of Florida ballot are Ryan L. Binkley, Chris Christie, Ron DeSantis, Nikki R. Haley, Asa Hutchinson, Vivek Ramaswamy, and Donald J. Trump.

The only candidate on the Florida Democratic Party ballot is Joseph R. Biden, Jr. Since there is only a single Democrat running, there will be no ballot for that party — only voters from the Republican Party will be allowed to vote.

Voters must remember that they will only be allowed to vote in the party they are registered in. If a voter is not sure what party they are registered with, they should call the Supervisor of Elections Office in their county.

In Union County, voters can call (386) 496-2236 or run by the 175 W. Main St. office in Lake Butler. Any changes to the party of registration or to register to vote must be made before the books close on Feb. 20, 2024, to be allowed to vote in the Presidential Preference Primary. Voters should also remember that their handwriting changes as they age, so updating their signature card might be a good idea. Signatures are used to verify voter identity and must match the signature on file.

Democrats meet Jan. 22

The Bradford County Democratic Party will meet on Zoom Monday, Jan. 22, at 7 PM. This will be the first meeting of 2024, a crucial election year. All registered

Democrats are welcome to attend. For the Zoom link or further information, contact bradfordcodec@gmail.com or call 904-526-2257.

Call the Recruiting Office to get more information:
5629 SR 16 West BLDG 4200, Starke, FL 32091
Office 904-741-7756 • Cell 904-955-4066

Crime

Recent arrests in Bradford, Union and Clay

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

Bradford

Reece Alexander Archer, 22, of Hampton was arrested by Starke Police on January 9 for an out-of-county warrant.

Michael Shane Bass, 49, of Brooker was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 6 for aggravated assault, battery, false imprisonment, and destroying evidence.

Alexia Lorraine Cutler, 20, of Baldwin was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 10 for possession of marijuana and possession of drug equipment.

Thomas Mitchell Edwards, 22, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 9 for a probation violation.

Christopher Trent James Gilstrap, 23, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 12 for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession of drug equipment.

Fredrick Wesley Henry, 48, of Starke was arrested by Starke Police on January 7 for an out-of-county warrant.

Ryan Michael Hewitt, 30, of Lawtey was arrested by Starke Police on January 9 for a probation violation.

Roy Lee Jackson, 41, was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 6 for DUI.

Doyle Dawana Johnson, 38, of Jacksonville was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 12 for a probation violation.

Austin Lee Melville, 26, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 6 for resisting an officer.

David Wade Perry, 43, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 11 for withholding support.

Monty Seabrook, 29, of Starke was arrested by Starke Police on January 12 for criminal mischief with property damage.

Gary Lee Smith, 40, of Starke was arrested by Starke Police on January 11 for disturbing the peace.

Nicole Ann Smith, 47, of

Starke was arrested by Starke Police on January 6 for battery.

Caron Naomi Waldron, 46, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on January 8 for abuse of an elderly person.

Union

Ladarius Decolby Highland, 31, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on January 8 for disorderly intoxication.

Mark Calvin Griffis Jr., 34, of Raiford was arrested by Union deputies on January 9 for burglary and dealing in stolen property.

Department of Corrections inmate Emmanuel A. Gonzalez, 35, was arrested by Union deputies on January 11 for smuggling contraband into a prison and trafficking in drugs.

Shawn Michael Harrison, 37, of Jacksonville was arrested by Union deputies on January 11 for larceny, burglary, and criminal mischief with property damage.

Department of Corrections inmate Frederick J Martin, 28, was arrested by Union deputies on January 11 for trafficking or delivering opium and smuggling contraband into a prison.

Audio Ambrocio Aguilar, 44, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on January 11 for an out-of-county warrant.

Eric Stephen Guinn, 50, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on January 11 for an out-of-county warrant.

Ular C. Banks, 64, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on January 14 for battery.

Clay

Gary Edward Boyd, 43, of Keystone Heights was arrested

by Clay deputies on January 7 for felony battery by strangulation and resisting an officer without violence.

Maryann Volk Bakun, 73, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on January 8 for assault and battery during a burglary.

Cody Arthur Carpenter, 31, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on January 12 for a probation violation.

License suspended nearly 20 times

STARKE — A Fernandina Beach man on probation for driving with a suspended license in Lawtey was sentenced to a year in jail after he was caught for the same offense in Nassau County twice.

Jonathan Eugene Cain, 52, was initially arrested on March 3, 2022, after a Lawtey police officer clocked him at 59 mph in a 45 mph zone.

Officer Robert T. Jordan wrote in the report that during the traffic stop, dispatch notified him that the defendant's license was suspended and had been suspended 16 times previously.

In April 2022, Cain pleaded to the charge of driving with a suspended license and was sentenced to 36 days in jail and two years' probation.

One year later, a Nassau County deputy stopped Cain for a non-operating tag light and arrested the defendant after discovering his license status. Judge James M. Colaw sentenced Cain to 60 days in jail for the probation violation and reinstated the defendant's supervision.

In September 2023, another Nassau deputy stopped Cain for running a stop sign and took the defendant into custody after dispatch told him the 52-year-old's license was suspended.

On January 3, 2024, Colaw sent the defendant to the Department of Corrections for a year and a day.

Probation for leaving the scene

STARKE — A 58-year-old Lawtey woman was sentenced to two years' probation after pleading to hitting another car with her Ford Mustang and then leaving the scene.

Becky Lynn Reddish pleaded to leaving the scene of an accident involving an injury and DUI.

According to an arrest report, the victim told Lawtey police she was driving westbound at Carter Road and Northeast First Street when the defendant rear-ended her car near the CSX railroad tracks.

"She felt a collision from the rear, which jolted her head and injured her neck, back, and chest," wrote Officer Robert T. Jordan in the report.

Jordan reported that, according to the victim, Reddish exited her Mustang, walked up to the victim's car, and declared that the victim's vehicle was not damaged.

"(The victim) said that Becky returned to her vehicle and then struck (the victim's) vehicle again in the rear," the officer wrote, adding that Reddish then swerved onto 301 southbound.

Bradford deputies located Reddish's Mustang on the Starke Bypass near the State Road 16 exit. Jordan wrote that the defendant had crashed the Ford and appeared to be intoxicated.

Jordan reported that Reddish claimed she checked on the victim after the first collision, but the woman told her to get away from her car, so the 58-year-old left the scene. Reddish also denied striking the vehicle a second time.



Food Service Noninstructional Employee of the Year
Kristi Ward



Transportation Noninstructional Employee of the Year
Randy Salle



Maintenance Noninstructional Employee of the Year Paul
Griffis

Firefighter 'Breakfestival'

Melrose Fire Department is holding Breakfestival Fundraiser to raise money for its Firefighter Explorers. On Saturday, Jan. 20, from 8 a.m. to noon, enjoy made-to-order pancakes, play ping

pong, tour the fire trucks, operate a hose line and enter the raffle. Donations accepted.

Melrose Fire Department is located at 301 Cypress Ave. in Melrose.

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RF24

FIRE Continued from page 5

A new agreement with the county is scheduled to be presented at the next council meeting. The board discussed having a workshop to look over the agreement once it's presented.

In other business, citizen John Mercier, inquired about damage he had noticed on the city's maintenance truck. Blom responded by saying she had looked at the damage to the tailgate of the truck and it was minor and did not warrant an insurance claim. She also stated that the truck had the damage for a while, and no one is certain about when it occurred or who was responsible for the damage. Mercier's next question was regarding the insurance claim for a council member's attorney's fees, this began a lengthy discussion between board members.

City attorney Aaron Dukes said he had not yet spoken to a claims adjuster and was not sure how the process was going. When Dukes told Mercier that the board had agreed to reimburse the fees to Councilwoman Hoffman, Hoffman interjected and said, "No sir, that's not true." Hoffman said the board had only agreed to submit her fees as a claim to the city's insurance. She wasn't sure the city's insurance covers such claims.

Hoffman explained that her original request was to have the board vote to pay the invoice, not just to send to insurance.

Resident Vyunda Strong also addressed the council regarding her previous inquiries about security of the water treatment plant. Mayor Jimmie Scott said he has contacted a security person to come evaluate the plant. Strong was also very concerned about some disturbing graffiti that was painted on a deteriorating city building that sits on Old Middleburg Road.

Lawtey Police Department's Nathan Blom responded by stating that it is an active investigation. Blom said it has been reported to FBI Jax and that there is no need for residents to fear for their personal safety. There was concern about how the vandals were able to enter the building because all the entry points were locked, and this indicated they may have entered through the roof.

This revelation brought up a new topic of discussion with regards to the city's liability when a person is injured on city property, even during an unlawful entry. Dukes said the city is liable, but the standard of care is much lower for trespassers than an invited guest.

The options for what to do with the old building were discussed during the recreation department's update. Councilwoman Norman requested the posting of no

trespassing signs and possible security at the location. The building needs major repairs and those costs may outweigh the benefit of keeping the building. The board will have to decide if demolishing the building is a better option, once a structural engineer gives an evaluation.

Harley gave an update on the tree removal project. Currently, 15 trees have been removed and the remainder of problem trees should be removed by Feb. 15. Harley did have to present an emergency tree removal bill to the council for approval in the amount of \$2,000. This damaged tree cost was not included in the original request but was voted to be covered because it was deemed an emergency removal.

Scott reappointed mayor

The meeting adjourned and a separate meeting immediately began to appoint the position of mayor, vice mayor and department heads for 2024. Nominations for mayor were Jimmie Scott and Debra Norman. Scott retained his mayoral seat by a 3 to 2 vote. Vice mayor nominations were Virginia Warner and Debra Norman. Warner retained her seat as vice mayor by a vote of 3 to 2. All department heads remained the same and the position of city attorney will be appointed at the next council meeting on Feb. 5.



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Kadlec receives Meridian award

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Bradford Elementary School Guidance Counselor Monica Kadlec received a Next Hope, Recovery and Wellness Award from Meridian Behavioral Healthcare in recognition of her collaborative efforts with Meridian and the compassion, empathy and concern she has for students.

Kadlec said she was told of the award when Valeria Gorden of Meridian called her one day. Seeing who was calling, Kadlec said she answered and asked, "What's wrong?"

There were no issues to report with any students or anything like that. Upon hearing why Gorden was calling, Kadlec said, "I was shocked, but I was very excited."

Kadlec was one of two recipients of this year's awards, which were presented at Meridian's annual meeting on Dec. 5. The second award was presented to Alachua County Sheriff's Deputy Dan Maynard.

Prior to attending the event, Kadlec didn't realize that Meridian chooses award recipients from an 11-county area.

"It was kind of overwhelming," she said, "but it was nice."

Kadlec said Bradford Elementary School and Meridian work together a lot to help students "who have rough home



Bradford Elementary School Guidance Counselor Monica Kadlec (center) received a Next Hope, Recovery and Wellness Award from Meridian Behavioral Healthcare. She is pictured with Bradford Elementary Principal Cassie Melvin (far left) and Assistant Principal Laurén Morgan.

lives." She might hear about a student who's had a parent arrested. Or about another who has a parent in the hospital after overdosing on drugs.

Of course, Kadlec also hears about the students who are in families going through divorces or perhaps in families where abuse is taking place.

"They see things (today) we

never saw as children," Kadlec said. "I can't imagine dealing with that as an adult much less as an 8-year-old."

Kadlec said students might not be going through truly traumatic experiences, "but they're crying because they didn't get to sleep last night because Mom and Dad were fighting, or Mom didn't come home until 5 a.m."

Tickets for either drawing can be purchased at Capital City Bank in Starke or from any BCEF board member: Cheryl Canova, Christina Cornwell, Sheryl Dixon, Brenda Donaldson, Justin Durrance, Matt Dyal, Lisa Gault, Will Hartley, Vorease Jones, Keith Kirby, Sarah Long, Dimple Overstreet, Paula Register, Lila Sellars, Leisa Sims, Chrissy Thompson, Brenda Thornton, Kara Wainwright and Eugenia Whitehead.

You can also reach out on the Bradford County Education Foundation Facebook page.

"They're crying in class," Kadlec said. "I get down there and talk to them. They're like, 'I just didn't sleep.' It's messing up their whole day."

"We'll talk a little while. We might play Candyland or Uno or color while we're talking. Then, they don't even realize we're talking. Usually, that helps, and they'll have a better day."

Meridian has a counselor who visits the Bradford Elementary campus twice a week. Some of the students that counselor talks to are those who are referred to her by Kadlec. As an example, Kadlec said she talked recently to a parent who's having trouble making her child go to school. (The child, though in elementary school, is as big in stature as the mother.)

"After talking to her, it sounded like the kid had some depression stuff going on," Kadlec said, adding, "I told the mom, 'Your pediatrician is probably going to be the most helpful, but you also need to talk to some counselors.'"

It's not always easy, as you'd imagine, to learn of what some children are going through and how they're struggling with those things, but the reward is seeing the transformation that takes place when she and a Meridian counselor talk to them.

"When you see them cheer up

See KADLEC, page 9

Obituaries

Thomas Andrews

Thomas Ramon Andrews, 78, died in Jacksonville on Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024. He was born May 16, 1945, to the late Guy and Elizabeth (Sanders) Andrews.

Graveside services were held Wednesday, Jan. 17, with Rev. Terry Blakeslee officiating. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to New River Baptist Church or to the Children's Home Society.

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

Sibyl Bell

Sibyl Maxine Bell, 75, died suddenly Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024, at North Florida Regional Medical Center. She was preceded in death by her father, Randolph "Doc" Norris; her mother and stepfather, Ernest A. and Annie Lee Fuller; and her brothers, Randolph "Buddy" Norris Jr. and Dennis W. Norris Sr.

Survivors are her sons, Edward M. (Sarah) Bell Jr., Phillip E. (Shannon) Bell, and Thomas J. Bell; three grandchildren; and brother, James Phillip Norris.

Her final memorization will be by cremation under the care of Archer-Milton Funeral Home. 386-496-2008 www.archerfuneralhome.com



George Brannen

George "Robert" Brannen, affectionally known to family as "Gramps," left this earthly world and entered the Kingdom of Heaven on Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2024. He was greeted by his father and mother, Joseph Carchner and Cora Spires Brannen; sisters, Katherine, Betty Lou and Patsy; and brother, Joseph C. He was born Jan. 25, 1937, in Winter Haven and spent his childhood in Lake Butler; graduating in 1955. He enjoyed football and was a quarterback. He recalled memories of his football days and said one team, if not the toughest team, he ever played was against the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind located in St. Augustine. He said that what they lacked in verbal communication was made up in grit and determination and "man, could they hit." He was a bit more than just average at football. He was what you may consider "pretty good." Good enough that he received an athletic scholarship to Tennessee Tech. He attended Tennessee Tech until he enrolled in the United States Army. He was a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division with 22 successful jumps. He said he volunteered to be a paratrooper because it paid a little bit more money each month and he could send more back home to his mother and family. After jumping out of planes many times, he decided to keep his feet on the ground and not fly again. But that didn't mean he stayed still. Upon his honorable discharge from the Army, he worked for the United States Department of Agriculture as a produce inspector. He traveled and inspected fruits and veggies throughout the country. Only after Dixie decided that they would not be spending a winter in New Jersey, no matter how good the tomatoes were, they put down permanent roots in Wildwood. He began his employment as a trainman for the Seaboard Airline, now CSX. He worked alongside many men and women who grew to be lifelong friends. He enjoyed his job immensely and enjoyed the opportunity of travel that came with it. CSX would occupy his time until 1999, when he retired. Always one to help, he and Dixie volunteered at Habitat for Humanity for several years. There he would see lots of people he had worked with and made many new friends. He enjoyed all the work he did there, with the exception of the time that he had a near-death experience on a donated bike. He, in fact, learned that very day that there are some things you do forget and "as easy as riding a bike" really didn't come that easy especially in your mid-60s after not riding one for a while. In 1962, with the help of his sister and brother-in-law, he met Miss Dixie Brigman. After a short, but passionate, courtship, they wed on Nov. 16, 1963. Celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary in 2023 was one of his greatest accomplishments. He was the most loving and dedicated husband right up until he drew his last breath. Dixie was the sun to his days and the stars to his night. Together they built a life that included the raising of a son. No father was prouder of their son than Robert. In addition to raising Gary, they raised numerous cats and dogs. One of his favorite pastimes was taking a nap in his recliner with a cat napping on his lap. His only steady "job" in his later years was driver to Mrs. Dixie and chief executor of the passing out of cat treats upon demand. He was a man of little words, but he had an innate ability to deliver a quick and very witty quip when least expected. He enjoyed travel with his family and discovering new places and food. Family gatherings were what he enjoyed the most, especially if it was a cookout. He loved a hamburger and was never known to pass up ice cream. In fact, on a cruise, whenever he was needed or couldn't be found, he usually could be located at the ice cream station. Football was always a passion of his, and he loved his Florida Gators. He prided himself in being a man of great morals and faith.

He is survived by his wife, Dixie Brannen of Wildwood; son, Gary (Danielle) Brannen of The Villages; grandson, Justin (Tosha) Brannen of Atalla, Alabama; three great-grandchildren; a niece, Lizbeth (James) Croft; nephew, Gregg Gaubatz; and many great-nieces and nephews; family members; and cats, June, Jack and Miss Kitty. With love and great loss, his family will continue to live life as he would have wanted, and remember all the days shared with him, a quintessential great southern man.

As were his wishes, no services will be held and he will be interred at Greenwood Cemetery located in Wildwood. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the Humane Society or the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranch in his name. Cremation has taken place with Banks/Page-Theus Funeral Home, 410 Webster St., Wildwood, 34785. For the most current online condolences to the family, full obituary and any updated information please visit www.bankspagetheus.com.

PAID OBITUARY

BCEF selling chances to enter 3 prize drawings

The Bradford County Education Foundation is holding a drawing for three prizes, with the winners being announced at the Saturday, Feb. 3, North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce annual meeting/banquet.

Two prizes are vacation

packages. One (donated by Carrie Crews) is a four-day, three-night stay at The Blissful Bear cabin in Ellijay, Georgia, while the other (donated by Drew Reddish) is a seven-day stay in October at Ocean Gallery Condo in St. Augustine.

Tickets to enter the drawings for the vacation packages are \$50 each, with 100 tickets only being sold for each.

The third prize is a 10x10 storage shed, donated by Frank Sheffield. Tickets to enter the drawing are \$100 each, with 200 total being sold.

Tickets for either drawing can be purchased at Capital City Bank in Starke or from any BCEF board member: Cheryl Canova, Christina Cornwell, Sheryl Dixon, Brenda Donaldson, Justin Durrance, Matt Dyal, Lisa Gault, Will Hartley, Vorease Jones, Keith Kirby, Sarah Long, Dimple Overstreet, Paula Register, Lila Sellars, Leisa Sims, Chrissy Thompson, Brenda Thornton, Kara Wainwright and Eugenia Whitehead.

You can also reach out on the Bradford County Education Foundation Facebook page.

Union County Extension and Florida Forest Service to host tree giveaway

A Florida Arbor Day tree giveaway will be held Friday, Jan. 19, from 9 a.m. until noon at the UF/IFAS Union County Extension Office at 15120 S.W. 84th St.

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

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

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

Starke Kiwanis Club to host poker tourney on Jan. 19

The Kiwanis Club of Starke's next scheduled Patsy Welch Memorial Poker Tournament is Friday, Jan. 19, at The Downtown Grill. Registration begins at 6 p.m., followed by play at 6:30 p.m.

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

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



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Obituaries

Sylvia Christmas

Sylvia Marlene Altman Christmas, 89, of Keystone Heights (affectionately known by her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and many others as "Gmom"), passed away peacefully on Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024, at Phoebe Sumter Medical Center. She was born on Aug. 26, 1934, in Jacksonville to Henry Lancelot and Lula Bell Altman. She was their only child. Based on journal-like entries in a pocket calendar discovered by her family, she met the love of her life, J.B. Christmas, in the spring of 1948. The journal documented her and J.B.'s adventures fishing, hunting, going to Gold Head State Park and Kingsley Lake, playing piano, playing games like Monopoly, attending Lee High School football games, going to the pictures, and visiting with family and friends. On Friday, Dec. 9, 1948, he proposed, and they were married on Dec. 24, 1948. They continued to fill their days with many memories until J.B.'s death on Dec. 10, 2007, just short of their 59th wedding anniversary. J.B. and Sylvia were founding members of Hyde Park Baptist Church in 1951, where they served for over 30 years before transferring their membership to First Baptist Church of Keystone Heights. She had many talents, including playing the piano, which she began at an early age. She began playing piano for church services when she was just 15. She played piano and later the organ until lightning struck the organ at First Baptist Church of Keystone Heights, or as her family says, God retired her. She said that she preferred the organ as no one could tell if she made a mistake, unlike the piano. She was also a talented floral designer and seamstress. She was a certified Master Gardener and volunteered at the Jacksonville UF/IFAS extension office. She worked as a floral designer, traveling to retail stores throughout North Florida and South Georgia, and in later years as a department manager at Hitchcock's in Keystone Heights. She was preceded in death by her husband, James Benjamin (J.B.) Christmas Jr.; and her parents.



She leaves behind her children, Janice (Dick) Crosby and Charles (Kim) Christmas; grandchildren, Bill (Heather) Crosby and Richard (Julie) Crosby; great-grandchildren, Shelby (Taylor) Mendoza, Madison Crosby, Delaney Crosby, and Ben Crosby; sisters-in-law, Jean Hough and Merry (David) Holton; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Jan. 16, at First Baptist Church of Keystone Heights with Pastor Daniel Findley officiating. Interment followed at Jacksonville Memory Gardens. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to First Baptist Church of Keystone Heights, 550 E. Walker Drive, Keystone Heights, 32656. Make check payable to FBC Keystone Heights, note "Youth Camp" in the memo section.

PAID OBITUARY

Robert Day Jr.

Robert "Bob" Day Jr., 87, of Keystone Heights died at his home Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024.

He leaves behind his wife of 55 years, Esther (Roundtree) Day; and additional family members and friends.

Visitation will be Saturday, Jan. 20, at Trinity Baptist Church beginning at 10 a.m. Funeral services will follow at 11 a.m. A private interment will be at St. Augustine.

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

Bobby Haisten

Bobby Earl Haisten, 81, of Starke passed away Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024, in Gainesville. He was born Feb. 21, 1942, in Baldwin to the late Rev. Robert and Gertrude (Wilkerson) Haisten and was a lifelong area resident. Prior to retirement, he worked for Owen Joist Steel Mill as a foreman. His favorite television show was Gunsmoke. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Haisten; and sisters, Bonnie Doughman and Cindy Allen.

Survivors are children, Bo Haisten, Julie Haisten, Elaine Manning; all of Starke, Angie (Vernon) Davis of Glenn St. Mary, and Shawna (Ryon) Shaw of Lake Butler; grandchildren, Summer Shaw, Brandi Varti, Josh Starling, and Dylan Davis; and four great-grandchildren.

Graveside funeral services were held at Crosby Lake Cemetery on Wednesday, Jan. 17.

Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home of Starke, 904-964-6200 www.jonesgallagherfh.com.

PAID OBITUARY

Cindy Howard

Cindy Louise Howard, 64, of Hawthorne died Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023, at UF Health Shands Hospital in Gainesville. She was preceded in death by her parents; and grandson, Bradley Howard.

Survivors are her children, Thomas Howard and Rebecca Roe; sisters, June (James) Griffis, Linda (Vernon) Cothran and Katherine (Jerry) Searfoss; two grandsons; and numerous and extended family and friends.

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



Joan McDonald

Joan Mozell Waters Underhill McDonald, 80, passed away on Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023, at Haven Hospice in Lake City. She was born on June 9, 1943, in her beloved hometown of Lake Butler, to the late Lonnie "L.V." and Georgia Martin Waters. Mama lived most of her life in Bradford and Union Counties. She grew up in home filled with an abundance of love, 11 brothers and sisters and amazing parents that taught all the right values to their children. It was old school life and they lived the example for their children.

It was hard work, sweat-from-the-brow kind of work, and teamwork as they did it together. It was a home built around love, even tough love, kindness, charity, humbleness, and more. Mama, and my daddy, Gene, raised all us children on a working farm with these same values, she was not afraid to work. Her experiences throughout her life were immeasurable; from tobacco fields, enormous vegetable gardens that fed us all year long, hog killings, corn doings, cane grindings, many family reunions, family history research, picture taking and labeling, chicken farming, riding horses, rodeo announcer, and she was good at it, too, attending rodeos, fishing and catching tubs full, raising calves by bottle, milking cows, camping in tents and cooking grits on a Coleman stove, early morning newspaper routes, nurturing critters of all sorts just to name a few. She enjoyed the country life and she always looked good doing it. Mama was the master of genealogy; she knew everyone's name back to the 1500s or more and knew who they and all of us belonged to better than we did! She has all this saved in piles of notebooks and computer files, all to preserve our family history forever. She left no stone unturned. She was the glue that held us all together. Her knowledge was vast and immeasurable. Mama loved quilting. She made quilts from clippings of loved ones' old clothes. They were the fabric of our family and what kept us warm at night. Mama also enjoyed her plants and flowers; she knew what they needed and they flourished with her loving hands, caring for them daily. Cooking was another talent; rice crispy treats, angel food cakes, biscuits, homemade jelly from fruit she picked or her family brought to her; she always made enough to share and delivered it straight to their home. Can I get an "Amen!" Mama had a message for her grandchildren and great-grandchildren... She said: "I'm sad to leave my grandchildren and great-grandchildren behind. I would tell them, Always be fine young men and women, happy and loving in life. Always pray, be full of love, kindness, character, forgiveness and unity... THIS is your Foundation." We are all blessed, beyond blessed to have had this amazing woman in our lives. May each of us live our lives with the pure love, trust and faith that she so humbly and freely gave. She always put others' wants and desires ahead of her own, always. Can I get an "Amen!" She devoted many years of service to a variety of work places; She was cashier for Bobby Johnson's Feed Store, CSM/cashier for TG&Y and McCroy's and dispatcher for the Bradford County Sheriff's Department. Mama was preceded in death by her parents, her son, Kevin Dean Underhill; and siblings, Mary Jane Waters, Eloise Monds, Earl Waters, Alvin Waters, and Correne Stringer.

She is survived by her husband of 25 years, Peter McDonald; her children, Dale (Maria) Underhill of Starke, Beth (Bob) Boone of Lake Butler, and Kenneth Tetstone of Lake Butler; grandchildren, Jennifer (Justin) Fischer, Samantha (Billy) Brooks, Athens Underhill, Dale Joseph Underhill, and Andrea (Kyle) Brooks; her great-grandchildren, Gracelyn, Preston, Tyrus, Isaiah, Rossie, Wesley, Ryker, and Benjamin; siblings, Robert (Pat) Waters, Margaret Stansel, Ted (Jean) Waters, Jeanette (Jake) Bielling, and Madeline (Mark) Richardson; her first husband Gene Underhill (29 years); and a massive number of extended family and friends.

On Monday, Jan. 8, 2024, friends and family gathered to pay their respects and celebrate Joan's remarkable life at Archer-Milton Funeral Home, followed by a funeral service. She was then immediately laid to rest at Oak Grove Cemetery.

PAID OBITUARY

Jennett Sparkman

Jennett Lowery Sparkman, 93, of Lake Butler died Friday, Jan. 12, 2024. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, James "J.W." Sparkman; daughter, Patty Williams; two brothers; and two sisters.

Survivors are her children, Wesley (Avis) Sheffield, Caris Sheffield, Stephen Sheffield, Wanda (Doug) Cason, Bryan Sheffield; one son-in-law; three sisters; 16 grandchildren; and numerous extended family members.

Services were held Wednesday, Jan. 17, at Ferreira Funeral Services Lake City Chapel. A private interment will be held at Jacksonville National Cemetery.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of Ferreira Funeral Services, 458 S. Marion Ave., Lake City, 32025. 386-752-1234.



Catherine Taylor

Catherine Ann Taylor, 64, of Lake Butler, passed away Friday, Jan. 12, 2024, at the North Florida Regional Medical Center in Gainesville. She was born on Oct. 16, 1959, in Mobile, Alabama. After growing up and spending a large part of her life in Alabama, she moved to Florida to be close to family. She worked a few different jobs before retiring. She loved watching old western movies and being on the computer. She also loved her Elvis and the Alabama Crimson Tide. She was preceded in death by her mother, Susan Boyette.

She is survived by her husband, Howard "Hoss" Taylor of Lake Butler; her children, John Turner Hendry of Lake Butler and William Bryan Hendry of Mobile, Alabama; three grandchildren; adopted son, Raymond (Marissa) Wallace and their children, Lilly, R.J., and Aiden; her father, Derrill Boyette of Lake Butler; other parents, John and Ruby Strom of Mobile, Alabama; and her siblings, Dale (Mosley) Boyette of Middleburg, Felicia (Danny) Herring, Annette (Trey) Chauncey, and Dana (Tony) Abbott all of Live Oak, Constance Boyette, Preston (Lori) Boyette all of Lake Butler, Karen and Carol of Mobile, Alabama; numerous extended family also survive.

A funeral to honor her life will be held on Friday, Jan. 19, at 11 a.m. at Archer-Milton Funeral Home in Lake Butler. The family will receive friends for a visitation Thursday, Jan. 18, from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. at the funeral home. She will be laid to rest at Elzey Chapel Cemetery.

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

PAID OBITUARY

Ollie Williams

Mother Ollie Mae Williams, 90, of Lawtey died Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024, at Viera Rehabilitation Center in Cocoa.

Visitation will be Friday, Jan. 19, from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m. at the Carl and Elaine D. Haile Memorial Chapel/Haile Funeral Home, Inc., 802 N. Oak St., Starke, 32091. Funeral services will be Saturday, Jan. 20, at 11 a.m. at First Baptist Church, 163 West Jefferson St., Starke, 32091. The cortege will form at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 20, at the residence of Edna Bell Allen, 22517 CR 200B Lawtey, 32058. Interment will be at Peetsville Cemetery in Lawtey under the direction of Haile Funeral Home Inc.

In Memory

MEMORIAL SERVICE

John T. Cox Jr. (Tommy Cox) passed away Dec. 6, 2023. Tommy's memorial service will be held on Friday, Jan. 26, 2024, at Trinity Baptist Church (off of SR 21) at 11 a.m. There will be a catered lunch to follow at the same location for any who wish to attend.



Monica Kadlec (right) is pictured with Meridian Board Vice chairman Bob Milner.

don't understand all the legal stuff that goes into the ESE world," Kadlec said. "I always fight for them, making sure they're getting their services and their accommodations and everything they're supposed to get.

"I don't mind going to the (individualized education program) meetings because I want to make sure that they're getting everything they're supposed to get."

For Kadlec, interacting with children is a lot easier than standing up in the spotlight to

receive an award. It helped that she had people she knew with her at the Meridian meeting, including her mother and son as well as Gorden and Bob and Carol Milner. Bob Milner is vice-chairman of Meridian's board of directors.

"I've known them my whole life, so I was glad to have them there, too," Kadlec said of the Milners. "I felt very supported."

Bradford Elementary administrators Cassie Melvin (principal) and Laurén Morgan (assistant principal) were also in attendance.

"I was so glad they were there," Kadlec said. "They know I get nervous in front of a crowd. I kept looking at Ms. Morgan, and she was like, 'You're fine. You're fine.'"

The award she accepted may have her name on it, but Kadlec said she is just one part of a team at Bradford Elementary School working for the betterment of its students.

"I felt like everybody should've been up there getting (the award)," Kadlec said. "It takes a village to raise the kids."

KADLEC

Continued from page 8

and turn their day around, it helps me a lot," Kadlec said. "It makes me feel like I've accomplished something."

This is Kadlec's 17th year as a guidance counselor. Prior to Bradford/Southside Elementary, she worked in that role at Bradford Middle School and Keystone Elementary School. She began her career in education as a teacher at Southside.

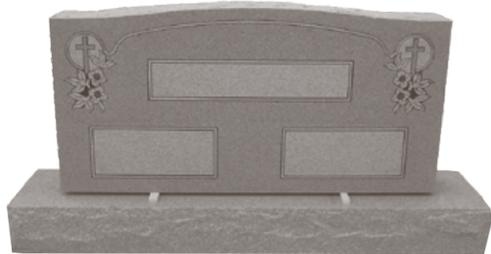
"I like working with the kids and talking to the kids and spending time with them," Kadlec said of her role as guidance counselor. "The paperwork's a drag, but that's part of it."

She especially enjoys talking to ESE children, likening herself as a "champion for the underdogs." Approximately 30 percent of the student population at Bradford Elementary is ESE.

"A lot of times, their parents

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UCHS boys lose lead in 4th, fall 62-54 to Baker County

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Visiting Class 5A Baker County had a 10-3 run in the fourth quarter to build a nine-point lead and eventually hand the Union County High School boys basketball team a 62-54 loss on Jan. 13.

It was the second straight loss for the Class 1A Tigers (7-6), who trailed for most of the game.

The Wildcats' first three field goals were three-pointers, giving them an early 9-4 lead. Baker (5-9) would later lead 19-14 before Union's Gavin Jenkins made two free throws to make it a three-point game. Jeremiah Mitchell then made two free throws for the Wildcats, but the Tigers' Deonte Jones drained a three-pointer off a Jenkins assist to leave Union trailing 21-19 entering the second quarter.

Union committed five turnovers during an 8-0 run by Baker that put the Wildcats up 31-21 — their largest margin at that point.

The Tigers, though, responded with an 8-0 run of their own to close out the half. Jenkins went to the foul line and made his first free-throw attempt. He missed the second, but rebounded the miss and put it back for two points, making the score 31-24. Baker's Hudson Register had the chance to add to his team's score, but he missed two free throws, with the Tigers' Kam Paytee rebounding the second miss. That led to Jenkins scoring on a drive to the basket and cutting the Wildcats' lead to five.

Jenkins, who scored 16 points in the first half, was fouled on a shot with 59 seconds remaining in the half. He made one free throw to make the score 31-27.

Baker, which missed eight straight field-goal attempts to end the half, turned the ball over for the second straight possession. That led to a jump shot by Jones with 24 seconds remaining, sending the Tigers into the break trailing 31-29.

Union's Thomas Williams

came out on fire in the second half, making several acrobatic baskets en route to a 10-point third-quarter performance. He scored off his own steal to start the third quarter and tie the game. After teammate Jayden Jenkins blocked a Baker field-goal attempt, Williams drove to the basket, drew contact and sank a shot while falling out of bounds. That gave the Tigers their first lead since it was 4-3 in the first quarter.

Baker's Jackson Carver scored four straight points, making two free throws and then scoring on a layup off a Jaeveon Reed assist following a turnover.

Williams scored to make it 35-35. The Wildcats' Mitchell then made two free throws before Williams grabbed an offensive rebound, drew a foul and sank a shot while falling backward to even it up again. Unfortunately for Union, Williams was unable to make the foul shot, which was also the case after he drew fouls on his first two baskets of the



Jayden Jenkins (right) blocks a shot. Photo by Cliff Smelley.

quarter.

For the game, the Tigers made only 9 of 21 free-throw attempts.

Union took a 39-37 lead when Johnte Nichols grabbed

a defensive rebound and fired a pass to Blake McCoy, who beat the defense to the basket. McCoy, after a Baker basket, scored again with a scoop shot that put the Tigers up 41-39.

A Williams basket after two Baker free throws had Union in the lead again, but the Wildcats scored four straight points to take a 45-43 lead into the fourth quarter. Baker's Dawson Norman grabbed a defensive rebound and dribbled the length of the court for one basket, while a steal by Carver led to a basket by Reed.

Erick Lasseter sank a jump shot for the Tigers and drew a foul, making the awarded free throw to keep Union within two points early in the final quarter. The Wildcats, though, scored eight straight points before Gavin Jenkins hit a three-pointer. Baker answered with another score, putting the Wildcats up 58-49.

Gavin Jenkins' three-pointer was one of just four field goals Union made in the fourth quarter.

The final two baskets occurred in the final minute.

Jenkins finished with 21 points, while Williams had 14. The Tigers also got five points from Jones, four points each from McCoy and Jayden Jenkins, two points from Nichols and one point from Paytee.

Union entered the game off a 55-48 loss to visiting Trenton on Jan. 11.

The Tigers fell behind 17-7 and were outscored 33-16 in the first half.

Williams had 25 points, while Union also got seven from Paytee, six from Nichols, four from Gavin Jenkins and three each from Jones and McCoy.

Nichols led the team in assists (7), steals (5) and rebounds (5).

Union played Interlachen this past Tuesday and will host The Rock on Friday, Jan. 19, at 7 p.m. The Tigers then host Crescent City on Saturday, Jan. 20, at 7:30 p.m. before traveling to play Palatka on Monday, Jan. 22, at 7:30 p.m.

Atreyu Contes wrestles to title for Keystone at Wolfpack event

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Keystone Heights High School's wrestling team competed at the Jan. 13 Wolfson High School Wolfpack Challenge, with Atreyu Contes winning the 106-pound class.

The Indians had a total of eight wrestlers win at least two matches in placing eighth out of 16 teams.

Contes, after a first-round bye, pinned Paxon's Tripp Guess in 1:17. A pin of Creekside's Adam Barr in 5:58 put Contes in the championship match, where he recorded a 10-0 major decision over Santana Hernandez.

Henry Carhuayo went 3-2 in the 138 class. He pinned Creekside's Alex Mashovets in 1:30, but was then pinned in the third period of his match against Menendez's

Matthew Thorn. Carhuayo bounced back, recording a 16-1 technical fall over West Nassau's Leland Bennett and then pinning Paxon's Kendrick Palmer in 2:58. His day came to an end when he was pinned one second shy of the end of the first period by Stanton's Dean Holt.

The Indians had another wrestler go 3-2 in Joshua Dowling, who competes in the 285 class. He pinned Paxon's Jonathan Holloway in one minute, but was then pinned by Menendez's Colby Leth. Dowling made quick work of his opponent in his third match, pinning Jackson's Keyshawn Drummond in 6 seconds. He then pinned Parker's Jordan Berberena in 2:03 before getting pinned by Creekside's Cole Anderson.

Jared Goetzman went 2-2 in the 120 class. He started the day by pinning Paxon's Isabel Flowers in 1:23 before losing by technical fall to Bishop Kenny's Dylan Lunsford. Goetzman pinned Atlantic Coast's Ashton Bolden in 32 seconds before losing by a second-period pin to

Parker's Shamar Jones.

Riley McGory pinned Paxon's Louis Eckles in 4:58 to start what would be a 2-2 day in the 126 class. After getting pinned by Bishop Kenny's Ethan Warchol, McGory pinned Bishop Kenny's Jacob Tice in 2:07. He was then pinned in the first period of his last match by West Nassau's Dillan Ford.

Adam McGravey went 2-2 in the 126 class as well. He pinned Toco Creek's Adrian Pinlac in four minutes before getting pinned by Wolfson's Tristan Martinez. McGravey then pinned Atlantic Coast's Gabriel Ortiz in 3:36 before he was pinned by Atlantic Coast's Mason Kaye.

Phoneix Contes won his first two matches in the 132 class before he finished 2-2. He pinned Wolfson's Charles Decunto in 1:41 and defeated Bishop Kenny's Jordan Hampton 9-3. He then lost by major decision to Bolles' Akshay Ketty and by 11-6 to Atlantic Coast's Arjun Lamba.

Alyx Nichols went 2-2 in the 175 class. Like Phoenix Contes, he won his first two matches,

recording a 16-1 technical fall over Atlantic Coast's Jaylen Faulk and pinning Menendez's Maddox Lehman in 25 seconds. Nichols was then pinned by Creekside's Jonathan Morrison and Wolfson's Bryce Frye.

Arthur Durning had one win in the 144 class, pinning Wolfson's Jack Farrow in 1:17 in the first round. He was then pinned by Creekside's Liam Downes and Creekside's Reed Anderson.

Mikey McCall (113 class), Katherine Brossette (132), Seth Fernandez (150), Marshall Caprye (165) and Austin Matthews (190) also competed. Each went 0-2.

KHHS girls shut out Interlachen

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Kiersten Shaw and Halea Lam scored three and two goals, respectively, as the Keystone Heights High School girls soccer

team defeated District 4-3A opponent Interlachen 7-0 on Jan. 12 in Keystone.

Kayle Buchanan and Kaylee Park each scored a goal as well, with Buchanan also recording three assists.

Lam added one assist. Aspen Krohn made eight saves in goal, while Xana Briley made two.

The Indians (8-5-1) played Eastside on Wednesday, Jan. 17, and will host Columbia on Friday, Jan. 19, at 7 p.m.

KHHS boys soccer team loses for just the 2nd time

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Keystone Heights High School suffered its first loss in seven matches, falling to District 4-3A opponent Williston 6-4 on Jan. 15 in Williston.

The Indians (11-2-2) got a goal

each from A.J. Nilsen and Aaron Wiley, with Wiley also recording an assist.

Luke Brunt and Sammy Wacha each had an assist as well.

Keystone entered the match off a 9-1 win over district opponent Interlachen on Jan. 12 in Keystone.

Wiley and Bryce Huntley each had three goals, while Wacha, Liam Callahan and Jaden Park each had one.

Brunt, Wacha and Wiley each had two assists, while Huntley, Park and Noah Jaramillo each had one.

Correction

A Jan. 11, 2024, Telegraph-Times-Monitor story on the Keystone Heights High School girls soccer team's 4-0 win over Trenton should've attributed an assist to Halea Lam and mentioned that Aspen Krohn was the starter in goal.

We apologize for the error, which occurred due to incorrect statistics entered on Maxpreps.

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- **Get better service.** In a local business you know the person behind the counter and they know you. They have a deeper understanding of the products and services they are selling and they take the time to serve their customers.
- **Create & keep good jobs.** Small local businesses are the largest employer nationally and account for the vast majority of job growth. Growing local businesses mean more jobs for residents and more taxes to invest in our own communities, churches, schools and groups.

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Legal Notices

Legals for the week of Jan. 18, 2024

BRADFORD

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

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

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

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: JOYE, WATKINS
4912 SE 92nd Street
Hampton, FL 32044

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

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

You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed or e-mailed to the addresses on record at the clerk's office. Dated: November 27, 2023
DENNY THOMPSON
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
By: Kanetra Jenkins
Deputy Clerk

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

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

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Kenneth Wayne Garrison, also known as Kenneth Garrison, whose date of death was June 19, 2023, and whose Social Security Number is ****-7570, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Bradford County Courthouse, 845 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091. The name and address of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF 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 SO FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of the first publication of this Notice is January 11, 2024.

Personal Representative: Tina Garrison
6965 North West County Road 233
Starke, Florida 32091
Attorneys for Personal Representative:
TAYLOR ARRUBLA HARDWICK P.A.
By /s/Jennifer T. Arrubla
James J. Taylor Jr.
Florida Bar No. 334057
Jennifer T. Arrubla
Florida Bar No. 98804
420 S. Lawrence Blvd.
Keystone Heights, Florida 32656
Primary Email: Jennifer@tah-law.com
Secondary Email:
Jim@tah-law.com
Kim@tah-law.com
352-473-8088 (telephone)
352-473-8161 (facsimile)

1/11 2tchg 1/18-BCT

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

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

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

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

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

A PARCEL OF LAND CONTAINING 1.89 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, AND LYING IN THE NW 1/4 OF SE 1/4 OF SECTION 35, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA; SAID PARCEL BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT A CONCRETE MONUMENT LOCATED AT THE SE CORNER OF SAID NW 1/4 OF SE 1/4 AND RUN NORTH 1 DEGREE, 17 MINUTES AND 55 SECONDS WEST, ALONG THE EASTERLY BOUNDARY THEREOF, 412.45 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. FROM POINT OF BEGINNING THUS DESCRIBED CONTINUE NORTH 1 DEGREE, 17 MINUTES AND 55 SECONDS WEST, ALONG SAID EASTERLY BOUNDARY, 412.44 FEET TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES, 15 MINUTES, AND 39 SECONDS WEST, PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTHERLY BOUNDARY OF SAID NW 1/4 OF SE 1/4, 200.0 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 1 DEGREE, 17 MINUTES AND 55 SECONDS EAST, PARALLEL WITH AFORESAID EASTERLY BOUNDARY, 412.44 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES, 15 MINUTES AND 39 SECONDS EAST, PARALLEL WITH AFORESAID SOUTHERLY BOUNDARY, 200.0 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. TOGETHER WITH A 2001 MOBILE HOME

VIN #FLHMLCN164624345A & VIN # FLHMLCN164624345B HUD TAG NUMBERS FLA 702496 & FLA 702495
Property Address: 2033 SE 144th Street, Starke, Florida 32091 and all fixtures and personal property located therein or thereon, which are included as security in Plaintiff's mortgage.

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus funds from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim before the clerk reports the surplus as unclaimed.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator, Alachua County Courthouse, 201 East University Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601 at (352) 337-6237, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

Dated: January 4, 2024
McCabe, Weisberg & Conway, LLC
By: Craig Stein
Craig Stein, Esq.
Fl Bar No. 0120464
McCabe, Weisberg & Conway, LLC
3222 Commerce Place, Suite A
West Palm Beach, Florida, 33407
Telephone: (561) 713-1400
Email: FLpleadings@mwc-law.com

1/11 2tchg 1/18-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN

AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE #: 04-2023-CA-000114
ROSE ACCEPTANCE, INC., Plaintiff

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

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated the 21st day of December, 2023, and entered in Case No. 042023CA000114CAAXMX, of the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Bradford County, Florida, where, ROSE ACCEPTANCE, INC., is the Plaintiff, and THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHERS CLAIMING INTERESTS BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST LAQUASHA CARROLL A/K/A LAQUASHA CARROLL, DECEASED; MARY ANN BLOCKER A/K/A MARY ANN JENKINS A/K/A MARY ANN BLOCKER JENKINS, AS AN HEIR OF KATIE LEE CARROLL, DECEASED; HARRY LEE BLOCKER, AS AN HEIR OF KATIE LEE CARROLL, DECEASED; NATALIE RENEE THOMAS, AS AN HEIR OF KATIE LEE CARROLL, DECEASED; TAKEIRRA CARROLL, AS AN HEIR OF KATIE LEE CARROLL, DECEASED; LATEISHA CARROLL, AS AN HEIR OF KATIE LEE CARROLL, DECEASED; RAOUL CARROLL, JR., AS AN HEIR OF KATIE LEE CARROLL, DECEASED; ERIC VON CARROLL, AS AN HEIR OF KATIE LEE CARROLL, DECEASED; NATALIE RENEE THOMAS, AS AN HEIR OF KATIE LEE CARROLL, DECEASED; TAKEIRRA CARROLL, AS AN HEIR OF KATIE LEE CARROLL, DECEASED; ANDREW TIMMONS, AS AN HEIR OF KATIE LEE CARROLL, DECEASED; ALEECE CARROLL, AS AN HEIR OF LAQUASHA CARROLL A/K/A LAQUASHA CARROLL, DECEASED; CHELSIE CURTIS, AS AN HEIR OF LAQUASHA CARROLL A/K/A LAQUASHA CARROLL, DECEASED; KHYRIN HOLMES, AS AN HEIR OF LAQUASHA CARROLL A/K/A LAQUASHA CARROLL, DECEASED, are Defendants.

DENNY THOMPSON, as the Clerk of the Circuit Court, shall sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the lobby of the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, FL 32091, at 11:00 AM, on the 22nd day of February, 2024, the following described property as set forth in said final judgment, to wit:

A PORTION OF THE WEST 462 FEET OF THE EAST 858 FEET, OF THE S 1/2 OF THE SW 1/4 OF SE 1/4, SECTION 20, TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE SE CORNER OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED TRACT, AND RUN THENCE WEST, ALONG THE SOUTH BOUNDARY, 100 FEET; RUN THENCE NORTH, PARALLEL TO THE EAST BOUNDARY OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED TRACT, 435.6 FEET; RUN THENCE EAST, PARALLEL TO SAID SOUTH BOUNDARY, 100 FEET; RUN THENCE SOUTH, ALONG THE AFORESAID EAST BOUNDARY, 435.6 FEET TO P.O.B. INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO A 1995 FLEE MOBILE HOME, SERIAL # GAFLR39A01995VH, WHICH IS PERMANENTLY ATTACHED AND AFFIXED TO THE REAL PROPERTY. PARCEL ID NUMBER: 04954-0-00100 COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 4493 SE 101st ST., HAMPTON, FL 32044 ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM BEFORE THE CLERK REPORTS THE SURPLUS AS UNCLAIMED. Dated this 3rd day of January, 2024.

/s/ Jason M. Tarokh
JASON M. TAROKH
FLORIDA BAR # 57611
Submitted by:
TAROKH LAW, PLLC
PO BOX 10827
TAMPA, FL 33679
813-922-5510
E-mail for service:
jason@tarokhlaw.com

1/11 2tchg 1/18-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that VG SOLO401K PLAN & TRUST the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed

AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE #: 04-2023-CA-000114
ROSE ACCEPTANCE, INC., Plaintiff

to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate Number: 392
Year of Issuance: 2020
Parcel Number: 01513-0-00000
Case Number: 04-2023-TD-0042
Description of Property: 23 5S 22 LOT 19, ALSO: COM NE COR OF LOT 19. E80', S274', W130', N74' TO SW COR LOT 19, EAST TO SE COR OF LOT 19, N TO POB. EX: S1/2 Name in Which Assessed: 360 DEGREEZ CONSULTING LLC Name on last tax roll, if different: All said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 03/13/2024, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date. Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida BY: KYRAH SMITH Deputy Clerk Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem. DATED: January 9, 2024 DATE OF PUBLICATION: 01-11-2024 / 01-18-2024 / 01-25-2024 / 02-01-2024

1/11 4tchg 2/1-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

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

Certificate Number: 734
Year of Issuance: 2017
Parcel Number: 02612-0-00100
Case Number: 2023-TD-0038
Description of Property: A parcel of land lying in Block 1 North, Range 2 East of Simon J. Temple's Subdivision as per plat thereof recorded in Deed Book C, Page 424 of the public records of Bradford County, Florida, and being more particularly described as follows: Commence at the initial point of Simon J. Temple's Subdivision said initial point being located at the intersection of the center line of the right of way of the Seaboard Air Line Railroad and the center line of Market Road (formerly Center Street). From said initial point run South 72 degrees and 15 minutes East along said center line of Market Road (formerly Center Street) a distance of 516.8 feet to a point; run thence North 15 degrees and 54 minutes East a distance of 30 feet to a concrete monument; run thence South 72 degrees and 15 minutes East along the Northerly boundary of the right of way of said Market Road a distance of 312.87 feet to a concrete monument for point of beginning. From point of beginning thus described continue South 72 degrees and 15 minutes East along said Northerly boundary a distance of 65 feet to a concrete monument; run thence North 17 degrees, 25 minutes and 10 seconds East a distance of 160 feet to a point; run thence North 72 degrees and 15 minutes West a distance of 65 feet to concrete monument; run thence South 17 degrees, 25 minutes and 10 seconds West a distance of 160 feet to point of beginning.

Name in Which Assessed: LEVY MC CLOUD

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 3/13/2024, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date. Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida BY: KANETRA JENKINS, Deputy Clerk Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem. DATED: January 9, 2024 DATE OF PUBLICATION: JANUARY 11, 2024; JANUARY 18, 2024; JANUARY 25, 2024; FEBRUARY 1, 2024

1/11 4tchg 2/1-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

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

Certificate Number: 1168
Year of Issuance: 2017
Parcel Number: 05079-0-01001
Case Number: 2023-TD-0032
Description of Property: Commence at the Southwest corner of Lot 9 of Block 7 of said Town of

Hampton and run N 01°25'06"W, along the West line of Lots 9, 10, 11 and 12 of said Block 7 and along the Easterly R/W line of Florida Avenue (a 50' platted street) for a distance of 100.00 feet to the Northwest corner of said Lot 12 of Block 7; thence run S 88°28'54"W, along a Westerly prolongation of the North line of said Lot 12 of Block 7, for a distance of 25.00 feet to the centerline of said Florida Avenue for the Point of Beginning. From the Point of Beginning thus described run S 01°25'06"E, along the centerline of said Florida Avenue, for a distance of 125.00 feet to the intersection of the centerline of said Florida Avenue and Plum Street (50' platted street); thence run S 88°29'49"W, along the centerline of said Plum Street, for a distance of 25.00 feet; thence run N 01°25'06"W, along the Westerly R/W line of said Florida Avenue, for a distance of 25.00 feet to the Southeast corner of Lot 8 of Block 10 of said Town of Hampton; thence continue N 01°25'06" W, along the Westerly R/W line of said Florida Avenue and along the East line of Lots 8, 7, 6 and 5 of said Block 10, for a distance of 100.00 feet to the Northeast corner of said Lot 5 of Block 10, thence run N 88°28'54"E, along an Easterly prolongation of the North line of said Lot 5 of Block 10, for a distance of 25.00 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Name in Which Assessed: TERESA A EVANS; WILLIAM T LANEY; MARTHA G LANEY

Name on last tax roll, if different: TERESA A LANEY ET AL All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 3/13/2024, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date. Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida BY: KANETRA JENKINS, Deputy Clerk Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem. DATED: January 9, 2024 DATE OF PUBLICATION: JANUARY 11, 2024; JANUARY 18, 2024; JANUARY 25, 2024; February 1, 2024

1/11 4tchg 2/1-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that MIKON FINACIAL SERVICES, INC AND OCEAN BANK the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows:

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

1/11 4tchg 2/1-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

1/18 2tchg 1/25-BCT

To satisfy the owner's storage lien, KO Storage LLC will sell at public lien sale on February 21, 2024. The personal property in the below-listed units, which may include but are not limited to: Household goods, boxes/ totes/bags, clothing, bedding, tools and toys. The public sale of these items will begin at 10AM on February 21, 2024 and end at 2PM on February 21, 2024. The public sale will take place on www.storage-treasures.com. KO Storage of Starke - S Walnut St, 1650 South Walnut Street, Starke FL 32091, (952) 314-7121 Time: 02:00PM CST A43, McMiller, Jamie, A45, Hurlbert, Monica, B13, Sofield, Ashley, B23, Shell, Curtis Public sale terms, rules, and regulations will be made available on www.storage-treasures.com. All sales are subject to cancellation. We reserve the right to refuse any bid. Payment must be by credit/debit card, we do not accept checks or cash. Buyers must secure the units with their own personal locks. To claim tax-exempt status, original RESALE certificates for each space purchased is required. By KO Storage LLC, 10301 Wayzata Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55305. (952)-314-7121.

1/18 2tchg 1/25-BCT

NOTICE OF INTENT TO USE UNIFORM METHOD OF COLLECTING NON-AD VALOREM SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Board of County Commissioners (the "Board") of Bradford County, Florida (the "County") hereby provides notice, pursuant to Section 197.3632(3)(a), Florida Statutes, of its intent to use the uniform method of collecting non-ad valorem assessments for more than one year to fund annual costs incurred by the County in providing fire protection and emergency medical services. The uniform method allows for the collection of non-ad valorem assessments, sometimes referred to as special assessments, on the annual property tax bill mailed each November by the county tax collector. The Board will consider the adoption of a resolution electing to use the uniform collection method, commencing in November 2024, at a public hearing to be held at 6:30 p.m. on February 15, 2024, at the County Commission Chambers located at 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091. Such resolution will state the need for the levy and will contain a legal description of the boundaries of the real property subject to the levy. The non-ad valorem assessments may be levied within the entire County; provided, however, that the imposition and collection of non-ad valorem assessments from any incorporated area of the County shall be subject to the consent by ordinance of the governing body of the affected municipality as required by section 125.01(1)(g), Florida Statutes. The resolution does not impose any assessments, it only preserves the County's ability to collect assessments on the annual property tax bill beginning in November 2024, if the Board takes additional steps before then to impose fire protection assessments. Such additional steps include public hearing and mailed notice at least twenty (20) days before the public hearing to all owners of real property subject to the assessments. Copies of the proposed form of resolution are on file at the office of the County Manager, 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091. All interested persons are invited to attend the public hearing. In the event any person decides to appeal any decision by the Board with respect to any matter relating to the consideration of the resolution at the referenced public hearing, a record of the proceeding may be needed and in such an event, such person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the public hearing is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence on which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the American with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation of an interpreter to participate in these proceedings should contact the County Manager at (904) 966-6327, at least 48 hours prior to the time of the hearing.

Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida
1/18 4tchg 2/8-BCT

STARKE US-3015 964-6078
Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
John 14:6
LAKE BUTLER 145 SW 6th Ave. 496-3079

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STARKE
US-3015
964-6078

*Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
John 14:6*

LAKE BUTLER
145 SW 6th Ave.
496-3079

Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700

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

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Phone: 964-6305 • P.O. Drawer A • Starke, FL 32091

John Miller, Publisher

<p>Subscription Rate in Trade Area Areas \$52.00 per year: \$26.00 six months Outside Trade Area: \$52.00 per year: \$26.00 six months</p>	<p>Editor: Mark J. Crawford Sports Editor: Cliff Smolley Advertising: John R. Tillman Typesetting: Mary Goodge Advertising & Newspaper Prod: C. Hurston Bookkeeping & Classified Adverts: Heather Wheeler Bookkeeping Asst: Mary Goodge Front office Asst:</p>
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Lake Region Monitor

USPS 114-170

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

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
Lake Region Monitor
P.O. Drawer A - Starke, FL 32091
131 W. Call Street - Starke, FL 32091
Phone: (904)964-6305 • Fax: (904)964-8628

John Miller, Publisher

<p>Subscription Rate in Trade Area \$52.00 per year: \$26.00 six months Outside Trade Area: \$52.00 per year: \$26.00 six months</p>	<p>Editor: Dan Hildebrand Sports Editor: Cliff Smolley Advertising: John R. Tillman Typesetting: Mary Goodge Advertising & Newspaper Prod: C. Hurston Bookkeeping & Classified Adverts: Heather Wheeler Bookkeeping Asst: Mary Goodge Front office Asst:</p>
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UNION COUNTY TIMES

USPS 648-200

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

John Miller, Publisher

<p>Subscription Rate in Trade Area \$52.00 per year: \$26.00 six months Outside Trade Area: \$52.00 per year: \$26.00 six months</p>	<p>Editor: Mark J. Crawford Advertising: John R. Tillman Typesetting: Mary Goodge Advertising & Newspaper Prod: C. Hurston Bookkeeping & Classified Adverts: Heather Wheeler Bookkeeping Asst: Mary Goodge Front office Asst:</p>
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Hope Christain Academy's Occupation Day welcomed individuals from many professions to present to students, including health, law, faith, engineering and more. Above, kindergartener Charles Woodard spent time with Bradford EMTs.

Dress up for fun while also learning about real-world jobs



Second-graders Amelia Coiana and Mackenzie Jones.



Third-graders Ethan Adusah and William Costello.



ABOVE: Luke Drew. LEFT: Corporal Gough of Gainesville Police Department presenting SWAT gear to senior Zachary Hansen.



ABOVE: Josh Green, pastor of Smyrna Baptist Church and Union County Bus Driver, presenting to a few of the seventh- and eighth-graders. LEFT: Putnam County presenting to fourth-grader Bailey LeWallen.

Legal Notices

Legals for the week of Jan. 18, 2024

BRADFORD

ATTORNEY NEEDED
Municipal Attorney needed to represent the City of Lawley. All resumes should be submitted to Lisa Harley at cityoflawley@embarqmail.com or 2793 Lake St. Lawley, FL 32058. We will be accepting resumes until February 1, 2024, at 4 p.m. For details please call 904-782-3454. The City of Lawley is an equal opportunity employer and a drug free work place.
1/18 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:
MIRACLE AUTOMOTIVE & TOWING gives notice that on 02/02/2024 at 12:00 PM the following vehicle(s) may be sold by public sale at 620 N THOMPSON ST, STARKE, FL 32091 to satisfy the lien for the amount owed on each vehicle for any recovery, towing, or storage services charges and administrative fees allowed pursuant to Florida statute 713.78. KMHDB8AE9BU095511 2011 HYUN. This notification is published in BRADFORD COUNTY TELEGRAPH on 01/18/2024.
1/18 1tchg-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 04-2023-CA-364
DIVISION:

CALEB Z. BRYANT,
Plaintiff,
v.
ROBERT ROCKY BERNIER JR., JOSEPH BERNIER and MICHAEL ANTHONY BERNIER SR., as the known intestate heirs of Joanne Bernier; and any and all of Joanne

Bernier's other heirs, devisees, grantees, administrators, creditors, assigns, and any and all other persons and parties claiming by, through, under or against Joanne Bernier, or any of the foregoing unknown persons or parties.
Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION
TO DEFENDANTS JOSEPH BERNIER AND ANY AND ALL OF JOANNE BERNIER'S OTHER HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ADMINISTRATORS, CREDITORS, ASSIGNS, AND ANY AND ALL OTHER PERSONS AND PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST JOANNE BERNIER, OR ANY OF THE FOREGOING UNKNOWN PERSONS OR PARTIES, AND ALL OTHERS WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in Bradford County, Florida: See Exhibit A attached hereto and by this reference made a part hereof, has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Katelyn T. Hardwick, the plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 420 S. Lawrence Blvd., Keystone Heights, Florida 32656, on or before 30 days from date of first publication and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on the plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.
DATED: January 11, 2024.
DENNY THOMPSON
CLERK OF THE COURT
By Kyrah Smith
Deputy Clerk

EXHIBIT A
Parcel ID No.: 00551-0-00300
A parcel of land situated in the South one half of the Northeast One Quarter of Section 34, Township 5 South, Range 21 East, Bradford County, Florida; said parcel being more

particularly described as follows:
Commence at a concrete monument at the Southeast corner of said Northeast 1/4 and run South 89 degrees 39 minutes 07 seconds West, along the South line of said Northeast 1/4, a distance of 1429.18 feet to an iron pipe; thence run North 14 degrees 18 minutes 20 second East, along the center-line of a sixty (60) foot easement for utilities and general road purposes, 972.48 feet; thence run Northwesterly along said center-line with a curve concave Southeasterly, said curve having a central angle of 27 degrees 29 minutes 14 seconds, an arc length of 163.11 feet, a radius of 340.00 feet and chord bearing and distance of North 28 degrees 02 minutes 57 seconds East, 161.55 feet to the Point of Beginning; thence run Northwesterly along said center-line with a curve concave Southeasterly, said curve having a central angle of 13 degrees 30 minutes 46 seconds, an arc length of 80.19 feet, a radius of 340.00 feet and chord bearing and distance of North 48 degrees 32 minutes 57 seconds East, 80.00 feet; thence run North 55 degrees 18 minutes 20 seconds East, along said center-line, 100.00 feet; thence run South 55 degrees 11 minutes 40 seconds East, 405 feet, more or less to the center-line of Gum Creek; thence run Southwesterly along said center-line to a point bearing South 53 degrees 41 minutes 40 seconds East, from the Point of Beginning; thence run North 53 degrees 41 minutes 40 seconds West, 445 feet to the Point of Beginning.
Subject to an easement for utilities and general road purposes across the Westerly 30 feet thereof. Subject to the easement right of way as recorded in Deed Book 90, Page 377 of the public records of Bradford County, Florida.
Together with a perpetual right of ingress and egress over a right of way constructed along the Westerly

boundary of the Northwest 1/4 of Southwest 1/4 and Southwest 1/4 of Northwest 1/4, Section 35, Township 5 South Range 21 East, as described in Official Records Book 205, Page 570 of the public records of Bradford County, Florida.
TOGETHER WITH A 1983 CHAD mobile home, with ID numbers GAFL2AD22056387 and GAFL2BD22056387, which is located thereon.
1/18 2tchg 1/25-BCT

UNION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION
FILE NO 63-2022-CP 043
In re THE ESTATE OF CLYDE RONALD SHORT, also known as CLYDE SHORT Deceased

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

Court in this action will consider and may grant the relief requested in the above-identified petition
Dated on December 18, 2023
KELLIE HENDRICKS RHOADES
Clerk of the Court
By: K Rhoades
As Deputy Clerk
12/28 4tchg 1/18/24-UCT

RFP 2024-01
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR CDBG-MIT GRANT ADMINISTRATION
The City of Lake Butler hereby request proposals from qualified individuals or firms to provide grant administration services for HUD's Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) program for the following project:
Project MT118 - Design and construction of the Lake Butler Sanitary Sewer Collection System Improvements Project. The scope of the project is to replace and rehabilitate four (4) lift stations, including installation of four (4) emergency back-up generators, replace the existing Master Lift Station with a newly constructed lift station on City-owned property at the NW corner of SW 6th Avenue (SR 231) and SW 5th Street, and construction of wastewater force mains to convey wastewater from the master and other wastewater pump stations to the city's wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) - \$3,519,888.00
All interested parties must register by email to receive the full proposal packet. Interested parties must include their name, email address, address, and telephone number to receive the full proposal pack, additions, addendums, or notices concerning this RFP. **Proposals must meet 2 CFR 200 requirements.**
Advertisement Date: January 18, 2024
Due Date: February 9, 2024, at 3:00 pm (Eastern Time)

Contact: David B. Stegall, City of Lake Butler - Mayor/Acting Manager
200 SW 1st Street
Lake Butler, FL 32054-2016
(dstegall@cityoflakebutler.com)
1/18 1tchg-UCT

NEW RIVER BOARD MEETING
The New River Community Health Center Board of Directors will meet Thursday, February 25, 2024 at the DLP Bank Board Room, 811 South Walnut Street, Starke, FL 32091 from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm.
1/18 1tchg-UCT

LAKE REGION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Personal property of the following tenant will be sold for cash or otherwise disposed of to satisfy rental liens in accordance with the Florida Statutes, Self Storage Facility Act, Sections 83.806-83.807
Auction will be held on January 27, 2024 at 10:00 am at Melrose Mini Storage, 827 N. SR21, Melrose, FL 32666. Phone (352) 475-5000. All items may not be available on the date of the sale.
TENANT NAME Anthony Garrett
Painter UNIT # 23
DESCRIPTION HOUSEHOLD ITEMS
1/18 2tchg 1/25-LRM

NOTICE OF SALE
An auction pursuant to statute #713.78 to be held January 29th, 2024 at 10:00am at 6841 Apache Jct, Keystone Heights, FL 32656:
1976 Oldsmobile Vin #3J57R6M383636
2003 Chevrolet Blazer Vin #1GNDT13X63K163405
1/18 1tchg-LRM

BHS girls can't recover from Hawthorne run in 46-41 loss

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Host Hawthorne opened the fourth quarter with an 11-0 run in handing the Bradford High School girls basketball team a 46-41 loss on Jan. 15.

It was the second straight battle of top-20 teams involving Bradford and the Tornadoes' second straight loss. The Florida High School Athletic Association power rankings had Bradford (8-7) ranked 20th in Class 3A and Hawthorne (8-3) 14th in Class 1A at the time of their game.

The new rankings were released Jan. 16, with Bradford now 24th and Hawthorne moving up to 10th in their respective classes.

The Tornadoes got off to a good start, with Destiny Crum sinking a three-point shot. A Jada Hankerson basket off a steal put Bradford up 5-4.

Hawthorne scored 10 of the next 11 points to take a 14-6 lead in the second quarter. Bradford committed six turnovers during Hawthorne's run, which included two consecutive baskets by De'Mya Adams and a three-pointer by Lakijah Brown.

Bradford had an 8-2 run to start the second quarter. Hankerson had the Tornadoes' first basket of the quarter, followed by a three-pointer by Ar'Nayshia Griffin. Griffin then scored on a rebound putback before making a play on the defensive end, forcing a turnover which led to a basket by Crum, leaving the Tornadoes trailing 16-15.

Adams scored off a turnover for the Hornets, but Crum

answered with a three-point basket that tied the game at 18-18 with approximately two minutes remaining until halftime.

Hawthorne would go back up on top when Adams scored off a turnover, but Griffin came back and sank a foul-line jumper, sending the teams into the break tied at 20-20.

The Tornadoes had a 7-0 spurt in the third quarter to take a five-point lead. Hankerson made two free throws and scored on a drive to the basket. Khamyra Hankerson made a free throw before Ajiyah Jackson scored on a layup off a Jada Hankerson assist, making it a 27-22 game.

Most of the quarter, though, was a struggle for both teams. They combined to shoot 5 of 21 from the field as well as committing a total of 10 turnovers.

A Crum three-pointer did send Bradford into the final quarter leading 30-29, but a three-pointer by Hawthorne's Zakena Ealy began an 11-0 Hornets run to start the fourth. Adams had two three-point baskets during that span to help put the Hornets up 40-30.

Bradford didn't get a field goal until less than four minutes remained, when Jada Hankerson sank a three-pointer. Jackson was later fouled underneath the basket after receiving a Jada Hankerson pass. She missed both of her free-throw attempts with 3:42 on the clock.

Hawthorne held the ball and milked more than a minute off the clock before the Tornadoes started fouling (Bradford had no team fouls before the Hornets'

possession). With 1:34 to play, Rancia Coleman was fouled while shooting. She made 1 of 2 free throws for a 41-34 Hawthorne lead. Rhamani Sheppard-Rentz then had a steal for the Hornets, which led to Adams getting fouled on her way to the basket. Adams made both free throws with 1:08 to play.

Crum hit her fourth three-pointer of the night with 50 seconds left. It was the second of just two field goals the Tornadoes made in the fourth quarter.

That long-range shot made Crum the team's leading scorer with 14 points, while Jada Hankerson and Griffin had 12 and 11, respectively. Griffin also grabbed 10-plus rebounds.

Jackson had three points, while Khamyra Hankerson added one.

BHS loses first-half momentum in loss to Blue Wave

The Tornadoes were outscored 30-6 in the third quarter in what proved to be a 59-44 loss to District 2 opponent P.K. Yonge on Jan. 10 in Gainesville.

It was the second regular-season meeting between the teams, with the Tornadoes winning the first 55-49.

P.K. Yonge (8-4) entered the game ranked 14th in the Florida High School Athletic Association's Class 3A power rankings and remained at that spot with the release of the current rankings.

Bradford, which entered the game having won four of



Destiny Crum (left) wins a rebound battle with Hawthorne's Rancia Coleman. Photo by Cliff Smelley.

its last five games, scored the game's first nine points. Jada Hankerson scored off a steal and then corralled a loose ball and knocked down a jumper after Griffin forced a turnover. Griffin scored off a Jada Hankerson steal before Crum — following a turnover forced by Jackson — connected from beyond the three-point arc to make it 9-0.

The Blue Wave finally got on the board when Ashlyn Young made 1 of 2 free throws at the 5:20 mark of the first quarter.

A Griffin steal led to eventual basket, which put the Tornadoes up 11-1.

P.K. Yonge then outscored

Bradford 11-5, with Reniyah Clark making two three-pointers and Summer Barnett adding another to help the Blue Wave go into the second quarter trailing 16-12.

The Tornadoes scored nine of the first 11 points of the second quarter. Two straight baskets early by Griffin and Jackson (following a turnover) put Bradford up 20-13. Khamyra Hankerson made a three-pointer to give the Tornadoes a nine-point lead.

It was still a nine-point game before the Blue Wave's Clark drained another three-point shot. Three points from the foul line by Jackson and Griffin pushed the margin to nine again before Barnett made a basket for P.K. Yonge to make it a 31-24 game going into halftime.

P.K. Yonge shot 28 percent

from the field in the first half, but made 47 percent of its shots in the third quarter. The Blue Wave's Da'mar Wims scored the first basket of the second half. She then had a steal that led to a basket by Young. Young then made a three-pointer following a Bradford turnover. Another turnover and subsequent technical foul on the Tornadoes led to two free throws by Young, putting P.K. Yonge up 33-31.

The Blue Wave's 11-0 run to start the third quarter ended with Taylor Powers scoring off a Young steal.

Jackson finally put Bradford on the board in the third quarter, scoring off one of her 10 rebounds, but Jada Adderly made a three-pointer as the Blue Wave scored eight straight points.

Bradford got consecutive baskets from Jackson and Griffin to make it a six-point game, but P.K. Yonge closed out the third quarter with an 11-0 run, which ended with Barnett making a three-pointer and getting fouled on the shot with 11.2 seconds on the clock. Her free throw was good to send the Blue Wave into the final quarter leading 54-37.

The Tornadoes shot 41 percent from the field in the first half, but only 27 percent in the second.

Griffin (who finished with 11 rebounds) and Jackson were the only Bradford players to score in the second half, finishing with 20 and 13 points, respectively. Jada Hankerson added five points, while Crum and Khamyra Hankerson each had three.

Bradford played Keystone Heights this past Tuesday and will host Suwannee on Thursday, Jan. 18, at 7 p.m. On Monday, Jan. 22, the Tornadoes travel to play Dunnellon at 7 p.m. Bradford then returns home to play Oakleaf on Tuesday, Jan. 23, at 6 p.m.

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For more information, contact us at (904)-964-6305.

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Tri-County Classifieds

Bradford County
Telegraph
Lake Region
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TIMES

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FHSAA releases new classifications for football

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Metro and suburban divisions for football were scrapped by the Florida High School Athletic Association board of directors, which voted 9-4 to place football teams in seven classifications besides the existing rural classification.

What that means is that beginning with the 2024 season, schools in the eight most densely populated counties (Broward, Dade, Duval, Hillsborough, Orange, Palm Beach, Pinellas and Seminole) are no longer separated from other schools into a metro division.

The biggest change is that Union County is no longer in the rural classification. It's now a part of Class 1A, which consists of schools with student populations ranging from 61 to 643.

Of the 61 schools in 1A, more than 50 are private, including Hollywood's Chaminade-Madonna, which has been a state champion or runner-up the last eight seasons. Chaminade-Madonna won the state title this past season in Class 1 Metro.

Jacksonville's Trinity Christian is also a 1A school. Trinity has won seven state championships

in the last 15 years and was a Final Four team this past season in Class 1M.

The class also includes 1M state runner-up Clearwater Central Catholic and Class 1S state runner-up Trinity Catholic of Ocala.

Union is a member of District 4, which also includes Fort White, P.K. Yonge and Williston.

Fort White and Williston were previously in the rural classification.

District 4-1A is a part of Region 1, which also includes Florida High, Maclay, North Florida Christian, St. John Paul II, Episcopal, North Florida Educational Institute, Seacoast Christian, Trinity Christian, Impact Christian, Providence and University Christian.

Bradford and Keystone Heights, which were Class 2 Suburban teams, are now Class 2A teams and members of District 5 along with Crescent City, Newberry and Palatka.

Class 2A consists of schools with student populations ranging from 644 to 1,166.

District 5 of 2A is a part of Region 2, which also consists of the following schools: Astronaut, Cocoa, South Sumter, Umatilla, The Villages, Avon Park, Discovery, Lake Placid, Tenoroc, Berkeley Prep, Clearwater Calvary Christian and Tampa Catholic.

Berkeley Prep was this past season's Class 2 Metro state champ, while Calvary Christian

was a 2M region semifinalist.

The new Class 2A also consists of such schools as Bolles, Cardinal Gibbons, Fort Lauderdale Calvary Christian, North Broward Prep, Somerset and Tampa Catholic — all playoff qualifiers this past season in Class 2M.

More than 20 schools in the new Class 2A are in Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties.

The Metro and Suburban divisions came about due to the fact that 89 percent of the state champions in a 10-year span (excluding the champions in the rural class) were metro-area schools. The adoption of Metro and Suburban divisions passed by two votes.

New classification assignments are tentative. Schools had until Jan. 12 to appeal their assignments.

2 KHHS players earn 1st-team All-Clay County football honors

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Eight Keystone Heights High School football players were recognized with the release of the All-Clay County selections, with Cartez Daniels and Garrison

Teague earning first-team honors.

The school also had student-athletes honored in cross country and golf.

Daniels rushed for 850 yards and 13 touchdowns on 164 carries. He led the team in carries, yards and touchdowns (rushing or receiving).

Teague, a tight end, caught six passes for 96 yards and three touchdowns in four games.

Three defensive players earned second-team honors: lineman Jackson Herman and defensive backs Bryce Hollingsworth and Wyatt Van Zant. Herman had 23 tackles and one interception in five games. Hollingsworth had 14 tackles and two sacks in four games, while Van Zant had 29 tackles and an interception in all 10 games.

Punter Connor Guy and placekicker Tyler Sapp earned honorable mention.

Guy averaged 37.5 yards per attempt, with a long of 57 yards. He placed 10 punts inside the opponent's 10-yard line.

Sapp went 23 of 25 on extra-point attempts and 2 of 2 on field-goal attempts. His longest field goal was 25 yards.

In girls cross country, Olivia Griffin was a first-team selection. She placed 40th out of 119 at the district level with a time of 22:20 and 40th out of 118 at the regional level with a time of 21:37.

Tyler Griffin was a second-team selection in boys cross country. He placed 22nd out of 138 at the district level with a time of 18:10 and 23rd out of 117 at the regional level with a time

of 17:56. Griffin earned a state-finals berth, becoming the first Keystone boy to do so in cross country since 2018.

At state, Griffin was 141st out of 240 with a time of 18:32.

Ryder Thomas earned honorable mention in cross country. He had a 26th-place time of 18:22 at the district level and placed 69th at the regional level with a time of 19:07.

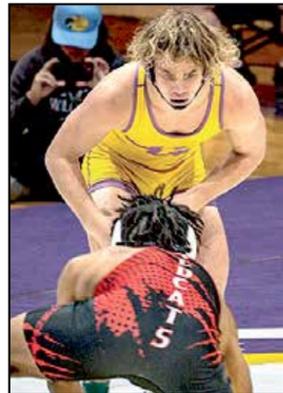
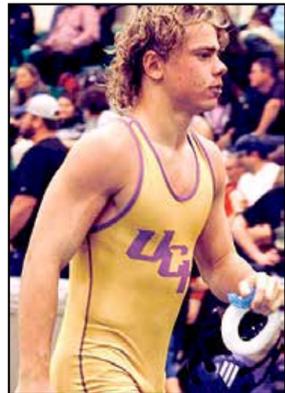
Keystone had two named to the second team in boys golf: Alex Addington and Connor

Guy.

Guy was the individual champion at the District 3-1A meet with an 18-hole of score of 72. Addington was fourth in the 42-golfer field with a score of 80.

The duo helped Keystone win its third straight district title as a team.

At the Region 1 meet, Guy finished in a five-way tie for 12th with an 18-hole score of 78. Addington was in a four-way tie for 22nd with a score of 81. The field consisted of 72 golfers.



Cortese gets 100th win

Union County High School is proud to announce its first-ever wrestler to get 100 wins: Alexander Cortese. Cortese, a senior, has been wrestling for UCHS since his freshman year. He earned his 100th win with a pin at a home dual meet against Baker County (pictured at right). Cortese is ranked third in Florida, which makes him the highest state-ranked wrestler from UCHS.

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