

Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

Thursday, Jan. 2, 2025

146th year, 25th Issue — \$1



Hundreds of new residences added in 2024

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

Starke had a record year for new housing, with 36 new home permits pulled in 2024.

This was the highest number in recent years, according to the city's building and zoning office.

Many of these homes make up Sandcastle Pines. This is a rental subdivision funded by the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, with the target market being teachers, correctional officers, etc. Sandcastle Foundation had some trouble getting city approval, eventually downsizing to 21 homes to avoid a rezoning hurdle.

The remaining new houses are sprinkled throughout the city, some replacing older homes.

Still on the drawing board are the CityWalk townhouse project next to Downtown Square. Just last month, the city conveyed its veterans park property to Kingsley Development in a land swap. The city will rebuild an expanded park, and the townhouse developers are proceeding with approval of their planned unit development.



Four lots at the end of Parker Street in Starke have houses in progress.

Engineers and Woodward and Curran are working on a grant-funded visioning project for future revitalization.

Starke also annexed nearly 180 acres off State Road 16 at the bypass in a 2023 for a future mixed-use development. The city and county commissions are cooperating to fund the extension of water and sewer lines

to the area. Engineers are working on those plans.

Starke approved a new subdivision of 20-plus homes south of Green Acres in 2021, but no further action has taken place, according to the building and zoning office.

Outside of Starke, residential growth is also booming, with 85 new home permits pulled last year

compared to 64 in 2023. Most of these continue to be in the Keystone Heights and Melrose area off County Road 21B (Southeast Eighth Avenue). A number are closer, with around 25 having addresses around Starke. Those are followed by 23 in Hampton,

See GROWTH, page 4

Keystone Heights kicks off centennial celebration

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

The Friends of Keystone Heights, FL Inc. started the city's yearlong celebration of its first 100 years with a gala at the Keystone Heights RV Park on Saturday, Dec. 28.

The organization's president, Ginger Lee, said her group sold around 160 tickets for the gala, which featured the Jacksonville-based band Duval County Line and food from Lake Region restaurants, which the event labeled "A Taste of Keystone."

The gala launched the yearlong observance and raised money for the nonprofit organization leading the centennial. Tickets were sold for \$100.



Keystone Heights Mayor Nina Rodenroth and Council Member Dan Lewandowski.

affordable housing are also benefits."

The mayor also boasted of the city's thriving business community and airport.

"These are the reasons that prompted Dave and I to relocate from Jacksonville to Keystone Heights in 2017," she said. "We love our new

quality of life. Two years ago, after several visits, our previous neighbors relocated here because they also wanted to experience what it is like to live in a Hallmark movie."

Rodenroth outlined the town's population, stating that of its 1,566 residents, 70% are homeowners, and

the median age is 36.

"As of 2024, our population is growing at an annual rate of 1.9%," she said, adding that the city is home to 111 veterans and 322 children.

The mayor cited an early marketing brochure from the Lawrence Developing Company, highlighting the town's tourism appeal.

"Keystone Heights is a delightful place for rest and relaxation," she said, citing the marketing piece. "The brochure also included swimming, fishing, sparkling waters along shaded shores, and a picturesque town."

Rodenroth also looked to the future, acknowledging that after decades of receding water levels in Lake Geneva, the Black Creek Water Resource Development Project promises to restore the town's most treasured asset to its former prominence.

The mayor concluded her remarks by toasting the city's founders, John and Agnes Lawrence.

Saved the city during the Great Depression

Keystone Heights Heritage Commission Chair Christine Arnold also addressed the crowd, giving guests an overview of the city's early years.

See 100th, page 5



WORTH NOTING

Collection site closings

Bradford County's solid waste collection sites will close on New Year's Day, Jan. 1, but reopen at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 2.

Watch Night Service

The Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church Raiford will be hosting Watch Night Service Tuesday, Dec. 31, at 10:30 p.m. All are welcome.

Bradford Legislative Delegation hearing announced

State Sen. Jennifer Bradley, chair of the Bradford County Legislative Delegation, announced that the annual delegation hearing has been scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 8, at 3:30 p.m. The hearing will be held at The Bradford County Commission meeting room, 945 N. Temple Ave. in Starke.

The legislative delegation holds a public hearing each year to afford local officials, members of the public and other interested parties the opportunity to present legislative proposals or express opinions on state issues.

The Bradford County legislative delegation includes Sen. Bradley (R-Fleming Island) and Rep. Chuck Brannan (R-Macclenny). The 2025 regular session of the Florida Legislature will convene on Tuesday, March 4, in Tallahassee.

For additional information, or to be placed on the agenda for the hearing, contact Bradley's office at 850-487-5006, or email her staff at Heffley.Katelyn@flsenate.gov.

Living in a Hallmark movie

Dave Rodenroth emceed the event and introduced his wife, Keystone Heights Mayor Nina Rodenroth, who welcomed the crowd and highlighted the benefits of living in what she called an oasis among the lakes.

"Our small-town charm, historic homes, seasonal activities with small-town parades, and our historic pavilion are the initial attractions for the lifestyle that most people dream about when visiting Keystone Heights," she said. "Lower taxes and utilities, our excellent Clay County school system, low crime rates, and



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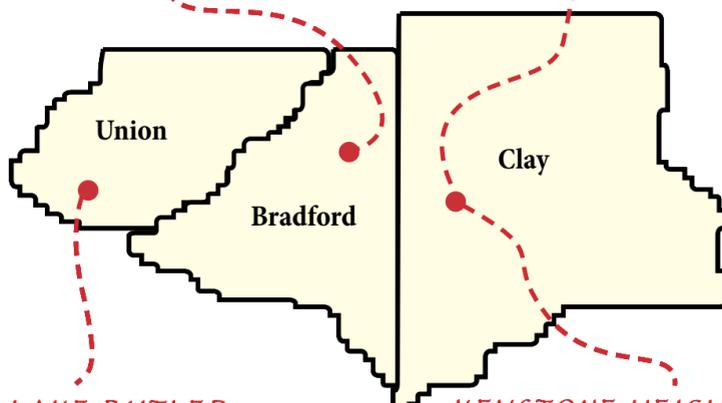


Ana Fishbein, APRN

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Keystone Heights, FL 32656
352-473-3199



Jenny Gregory, APRN



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Cary Howard, APRN



Gloria Niquette, APRN



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Union Commission increases building fees for the new year

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Special to the Times

The Union County Board of County Commissioners has approved an increase in fees for construction projects in the county, based on a value-based fee formula which sets the fee based on a standard value for square footage for residential projects and either the declared estimate of construction cost from the permit application or the square footage of the project.

The new fee schedule, approved Dec. 16, 2024, will go into effect Jan. 1, 2025, and is designed to bring county rates up to those of surrounding counties.

Despite the increase, Union County still charges the lowest fees in the area.

Fees pay for the costs associated with inspections and enforcement of building codes. The calculation is based on a base fee of \$60 for the first \$3,000 of value (or fraction thereof) plus \$6 for each additional \$1,000 of value.

Single Family Residential fees include those for: building construction or addition permit value-based fee of,

single-wide mobile home installation \$257, double-wide mobile home installation \$287, triple-wide mobile home installation \$317. Permit fees for mechanical (HVAC), electrical, plumbing, a greenhouse, a deck and reroofing permits will cost \$112. Swimming pool installation permit fee will be \$228, and the solar panel installation fee will be \$207. Permits for other renovations will be \$6 per \$1,000 (or fraction thereof) of the declared estimate of construction cost, with a minimum fee of \$142.

Commercial permit fees will be charged as follows: building or construction (or addition) permits will

be charged a value-based fee: building construction (or addition), mechanical (HVAC), electrical and plumbing. The plan review fee will be \$100. A re-roofing permit will be value based with a minimum fee of \$212. The fee for a solar panel installation permit will be value-based. A fire suppression/sprinkler permit will be \$207. Other renovation/remodel/repair permits will cost \$6 per \$1,000 of estimated construction cost, with a minimum of \$142. Accessory permits, such as for signs, fuel tanks, canopies, etc.) will also be charged at \$6 per \$1,000 of declared estimate with a minimum fee of \$112.

Standard values per square foot will be as follows: commercial building (including duplexes, triplexes and multi-family residences \$98, single-

family residential building enclosure (existing structure) \$31, metal storage building (non-commercial) \$31, porch (screened or covers) or mobile

shed installation \$21, pole barn with slab \$24, closed area farm building (storage, workshop, chicken house,

See FEES, page 6

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- Follow us on social media: @TheArcBradford



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Old Checkers among sites headed to foreclosure

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

Starke doubled the number of new code enforcement cases in 2024 and is ready to start foreclosing on several noncompliant properties.

According to Chief Administrative Officer Jimmy Crosby, Starke opened 72 new cases for code violations last year, including overgrown yards, dangerous structures, unsafe electrical connections, fire damage, accumulation of trash and debris, hazardous lands, and working without a permit.

Crosby showed the commission several before-and-after examples from completed cases.

"We're seeing real progress happening on these cases. In fact, of the 72, I think half of them have already been resolved one way or another," he said. One case he highlighted resulted in an Orange Street property being purchased and developed. Many will remember it as the site of an extravagant annual Christmas display. The long abandoned property was acquired and cleared, and two new homes were constructed.

"How you get there gets it to be a little bit tough sometimes, but that's the goal," Crosby said of the outcome.

There were 12 code enforcement cases in 2022, 36 in 2023 and 72 in 2024. This will continue as there is a lot more to be done, according to Crosby. Complaints from the public get first attention, but the city is also



A before and after on Orange Street where two new homes were constructed following the cleanup.

zeroing in on the most egregious cases, he said. They will be moving through the town so no one section is targeted.

"We can't do it all at one time. It's kind of like eating the elephant. We're going to take a piece at a time, work our way through the town and systematically try to make the corrections needed," he said.

Crosby and Attorney Danielle Adams then went over four properties that have been through the code enforcement process without resolution, and so the city intends to begin foreclosure procedures to get the properties auctioned, or to take the properties, clean them up and sell them.

Adams explained that first the properties will go to auction to see if anyone is willing to purchase them and clean and them up. They will have to exceed the amount of the accumulated fines to satisfy the city's lien. If there isn't a bidder who exceeds the amount of the fines accumulated, then the city is the top bidder. It can then sell the property to recoup its liens and other costs.

The first property is 725 E. Laura St., which was damaged by a tornado prior to the owner passing away. Crosby said the bank never saw value in dealing with it, and now the \$107,000 in accumulated code enforcement fines surpass the value of the property.

Also on the list is 221 W. Lafayette St. — the old Checkers restaurant — which was first cited in 2019. It was demolished in 2023, but site cleanup was never completed, leading to an additional citation. Fines are now more than \$174,000.

The case for 1004 S. Water St., and old convenience store at the corner of Stansbury Street, was opened in 2020. Fines are now more than \$145,000.

Finally, there is a mobile home at 1435 Grove St., the subject of two cases opened in 2020 and 2022. Fines are now more than \$60,000.

"Hopefully folks will start responding positively to our codes that we have by ordinance, and work with us and getting them in line. But I can tell you, we bend over backwards to work to try to get it first cleaned up and appropriate to the neighborhood, and this is only a last resort," Crosby said.

Adams said the city is looking for code compliance, not an excuse to take properties, but the city is also responsible for eliminating dangerous properties. The properties need to be in the hands of someone who can do something productive with them.

Mayor Andy Redding highlighted these points.

"We have other adjacent taxpayers [and] they deserve to have their property protected, and they can't really do it, and it falls on us to protect them as

taxpayers. And it is an exhaustive process, and people have been given every opportunity to be compliant. So, there is no land grabbing. There is no 'we are taking' anything. It's the city of Starke for the benefit of the greater good," he said.

Commissioners gave their blessing to enter these four lawsuits and approved the additional attorney fees of \$5,000 per case, which the city could recoup if the properties are sold.

To enhance its efforts Starke Code Enforcement will bring measures for the board to approve, including an update to the city's abandoned vehicle ordinance. Crosby said they also want to reestablish registration of vacant and abandoned property owners.

"The purpose in that is so we have somebody to contact and say, 'Hey, look, you're leaving us with a bad piece of property. I know you might live in Timbuktu, but you need to come here and clean this up, or get somebody to clean it up for you, because it's an eyesore for the rest of us,'" he said.

They also plan to adopt the International Property Maintenance Code. This would establish minimum maintenance standards for existing buildings, regulating appearance, upkeep and sanitation to ensure public health and safety.



Starke is attempting to foreclose on the former Checkers drive-thru property after years of trying to get it permanently cleaned up.



Wawa will open in 2025, perhaps in February.

Bradford High Class of 1964

Will meet at Cedar River Restaurant (Starke) on Thursday, JAN. 9, 2025 at 1 P.M. All graduates & spouses are invited.

Please let Jerome Kelly 352.538.0741 OR Eugenia Whitehead at 352.745.1828 know if you plan to attend so we can let the restaurant know how many. **BE THERE!**

NOTICE OF ELECTION

2025 SUPER TUESDAY MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS
City of Green Cove Springs
City of Keystone Heights
Town of Orange Park

Pursuant to Section 100.021 of the Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the 2025 Super Tuesday Municipal Elections will be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at each respective Municipality.

City of Green Cove Springs
321 Walnut St., Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043

Seats Three (3), Four (4), and Five (5) for a three (3) year term of office on the Green Cove Springs City Council.

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

Seats One (1) and Two (2) 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
Seats Four (4) and Five (5) for a three (3) year term of office on the Orange Park Town Council.

Qualifying for all seats will open Monday, January 27th at NOON and remain open until Friday, January 31st 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 2025
Ciudad de Green Cove Springs
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 2025 se llevarán a cabo el martes 8 de abril de 2025, de 7:00 a.m. a 7:00 p.m. en cada Municipio respectivo.

Ciudad de Green Cove Springs
321 Walnut St., Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043

Asientos Tres (3), Cuatro (4), y Cinco (5) por un período de tres (3) años en el Consejo de la Ciudad de Green Cove Springs.

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

Asientos Uno (1) y Dos (2) 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
Asientos Cuatro (4) y Cinco (5) por un período de tres (3) años en el Consejo Municipal de Orange Park.

La calificación para los asientos se abrirá el lunes 27 de enero a mediodía y permanecerá abierta hasta el viernes 31 de enero a mediodía 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.

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964-4422 Wednesday Evening 7pm

The biggest commercial project in Starke is the Wawa still under construction on U.S. 301 and Edwards Road, potentially opening in February. Others included the remodel on the old Pizza Hut building for the opening of G's Slow Smoked BBQ and the reopening of Huddle House. Eleven commercial permits were pulled in all. A Waffle House is also coming, according to the city.

RaceTrac's travel center — the largest commercial project outside the city limits — is now open at the corner of U.S. 301 and C.R. 227. Two of the county's seven commercial permits in 2024 were for the RaceTrac and its canopy. The living quarters for the county's firefighting substation in Speedville was another. Then south of the Hampton Dollar General, will be the site of a pool sales office.

The RV Park in Keystone also permitted a shooting range and a golf driving range. Most recently, signage and fill dirt just next to Mosley Tire point to a Snappy's Express Carwash coming soon. That permit was pulled just before Christmas.

Other projects in that area which were finished up in 2024 included the Zaxby's restaurant and the reconstruction of the Murphy USA gas station.

The county also said goodbye to businesses, including Cato's Fashions and Badcock Home Furniture. Cato's which had more than 1,100 locations was expected to close around 70 by the end of 2024, according to the Charlotte Observer in North Carolina, where the company is based.

Conn's Inc., which acquired Badcock in December 2023 and added those stores to its own, filed for bankruptcy soon after, closing more than 550 locations, according to Business Observer Florida.

Over 25K American robins spotted in bird count

BY LAURA BERKELMAN
Santa Fe Audubon

Seventy-two birders with binoculars, telescopes, and cameras took to the roads, fields, forests, and lakes on Dec. 20, 2024, for the 35th annual Christmas Bird Count of the Melrose Circle.

Covering over 175 square miles in a circle centered at the intersection of State Road 100 and Clay County Road 219, the same area has been surveyed by local volunteers on a single day each December since 1990 as a part of a National Audubon Society project that “constitutes the longest running and geographically most widespread survey of bird life in the Western Hemisphere.”

This extraordinary example of citizen science began in 1901 when many of Florida’s iconic water birds were hunted nearly to extinction in the name of

fashion. Melrose, interestingly, had one of the earliest counts, led by the Rev. Walter I. Eck in 1907. However, consistent annual local counts began in 1990, when 35 species and 1,145 individual birds were recorded in our circle by far fewer observers with much less sophisticated equipment than today’s.

This year, 121 species and 41,786 individuals were tallied. It was the fourth-highest number of species ever counted locally and the second-highest number of individual birds.

It is unusual to have any one species found by all the teams in the circle. Last year, only 17 of the 19 teams reported Northern Cardinals. All nineteen teams reported Turkey Vultures, Mourning Doves, Pine Warblers, Carolina Wrens, American Crows, and Eastern Phoebes this year. In addition, 18 teams reported Sandhill Cranes, Black

Vultures, Tufted Titmice, and Red-bellied Woodpeckers. Even Common Loons, normally found in only one location, were spotted in three territories this year.

The American Robin, with 25,828 birds tallied, set a local record for most individuals identified during the 2024 CBC. A distant second was the 1,635 total for the Ring-Billed Gull.

A White-crowned Sparrow as well as two Barn Swallows were recorded, both for the first time in the 35-year modern history of the Melrose Circle count. For only the second time in local Christmas count history - and the first since 2008 - a Summer Tanager was identified.

The CBC has grown continuously from its initial 25 to nearly 2,000 count circles across the US and its territories, southern Canada, and, increasingly, Latin America. It provides valuable long-term data for researchers

studying winter bird populations and other agencies making bird-related decisions. More than 300 peer-reviewed articles have already resulted from analyses of the information gathered by over 50,000 observers who contributed their time.

Santa Fe Audubon Society thanks all participants, including employees at some restricted properties and volunteers from the wider region—Gainesville, Lawtey, Lakeland, Penney Farms, and others—who joined local observers. Thanks, also, to the many private landowners who allowed us to cover their properties from parts of the Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park and Camp Blanding to the Lake Region, from Keystone Heights, Florahome, Melrose, Earleton, and Grandin to Melrose Landing.

More information on the Christmas Bird Count is available



Bird counters observe from a boat. Photo by Santa Fe Audubon.

online at www.audubon.org/community-science/christmas-bird-count/.



Clay County Commissioner Betsy Condon (left) and Cindy Hildebran.



Florida State House Representative Judson Sapp (right) and Harold Gilstrap



Mission of the Dirt Road Pastor Carey Morford and Keystone Heights High School Resource Center Director Isaac Morford.

100th Continued from page 1

She said that in the early 1920s, the railroad provided the only reliable access to the town due to poor roads and Florida’s open-range laws.

She added that John Lawrance was determined to make Keystone more than just a whistle-stop along the railway.

“He wanted it to be a resort destination,” she said. “Some place where people could go and be intellectually fulfilled—physically, we have all kinds of hunting and fishing— but also spiritually.”

Arnold credited Pennsylvania State Senator Frank Miller with the town’s continued growth after the Lawrences sold Miller a controlling interest in their developing company in December 1923.

Arnold said that although John Lawrence remained the community’s spiritual leader, Miller’s money and political connections contributed to the town’s continued development until the late 1920s when the Great Depression threatened to wipe Keystone Heights off the map.



Dave Rodenroth emceed the event and introduced his wife, Keystone Heights Mayor Nina Rodenroth, who welcomed the crowd and highlighted the benefits of living in what she called an oasis among the lakes.

“Keystone Heights was developed with outside money,” Arnold said, “and these were all second homes, so it was the first thing to go, and we were really in danger of losing our town.”

She added that with only 22 permanent residents, many homeowners could not pay their property taxes or get access to the money in their bank accounts.

In response to the economic crisis, the town reduced its city limits, and there was talk of revoking the city charter.

Arnold said Ed Larson, whom Miller installed as Keystone’s first city manager, saved the

town.

“The Great Depression lasted from 1928 to 1938,” she said. “The really bad part of it was right around 1932, and Larson stayed and took care of the town and made sure that we were going to make it.”

Arnold said Larson, who was later elected Florida’s state treasurer, enacted budget cuts, secured state financial support, and kept Keystone out of debt during those critical years.

The Heritage Commission chair added that the town’s spirit of volunteerism also carried

Keystone Heights through the depression, recalling the Community Christian Church and the Woman’s Club’s central role in helping the city survive.

Arnold said the town’s early development coincided with prohibition and the women’s suffrage movement, adding that the Woman’s Club membership included teachers, musicians, and a pharmacist.

“They weren’t going to sit back,” Arnold said of the women. “They took an active role in the town.”

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2025

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HOURS
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KH Heritage Commission hosts tour of homes

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

The Keystone Heights Heritage Commission hosted its 2024 Holiday Tour of Historic Homes on Saturday, December 21.

Unlike previous tours, which permitted guests to view only the exteriors of the homes, this event included interior tours of the structures.

Volunteer Dana Eatmon said the Keystone Heights Women's Club sold approximately 140 tickets for the event.

According to a brochure produced by the Heritage Commission for the event, the tour included six homes centered around Southeast Lakeview Drive, West Magnolia Avenue, and Southeast Palmetto Avenue.

Three of the homes on the tour are owned by Heritage Commission members. The Keystone Heights's mayor owns a fourth.



Homeowner Christine Arnold by the fireplace of the Jenny Clark Strong House

Lawrence House

The Lawrence House, located at 580 South Lawrence Blvd., is a 1921 Sears and Roebuck pre-cut home built as the personal residence of John and Agnes Lawrence, the founders of Keystone Heights.

They occupied the home as they developed the town. John died in 1929 and was buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Gainesville.

In 1934, Agnes sold the home and the property to William and Clara Kincaid of Meadville, Pennsylvania.

William was a prominent businessman who had manufacturing plants in the United States and Europe. The Kincaid's occupied the home seasonally and made several improvements to the house and property. The executor of their estate sold the home in 1952 to Al Watson, the benefactor of Santa Fe College's Watson Center. The property changed hands four more times until it was purchased by Lonnie and Barbara Rucker in 1981. They completed a major home renovation, updating the electric, plumbing, roofing, and air-conditioning facilities while adding bathroom, laundry, and kitchen spaces. John and Janet

Sloan purchased the property in 2001 and sold it to Dave and Nina Rodenroth. Nina is the current mayor of Keystone Heights and previously served on the city's Heritage Commission.

While modernized, the home retains much of its original character. The front porch was open as designed in the original plan but was screened by the Lawrences and closed in with windows later. Mr. Lawrence also built the Keystone Inn on the adjoining property now occupied by the Nature Park. In December 1923, John and Agnes Lawrence sold their interest in the Lawrence Developing Company to Senator Frank P. Miller of Meadville, Pennsylvania, who took over as president and continued to promote Keystone Heights as both a residential and resort community. John and his wife Agnes spent their summers in Hendersonville, North Carolina, and their Winters in Keystone Heights.

Bergin House

The J.M. Bergin House, at 460 Southwest Magnolia Avenue, is a 1925 example of craftsman bungalow architecture. John Milo Bergin, who went by Milo, was born in 1884 in Mayport, Pennsylvania. He lived in Meadville, Pennsylvania, where he owned a restaurant.

He married Mary D. Reisman, whose father owned a drugstore in Meadville. Mary's father, John M. Reisman, had contracted to build the beach pavilion. Mary and Milo managed the Keystone



Dining room of the Smith House at 561 Southeast Lakeview Drive.

Inn, the Blue Lantern Pavilion, and a boat rental. Other families lived in the Bergen House before Deirdre Murphy purchased it in 2005. The exterior is still true to the original architecture.

Jenny Clark Strong House

The Jenny Clark Strong House, located at 505 Southeast Palmetto Avenue, was built in 1924 and is one of two Sears Honor Built homes.

Because these homes were only used during winter, a more enclosed porch would have

served the occupants better. However, these have been replaced with a large open-air design, which is much more comfortable for year-round living.

The house's current owner, Christine Arnold, one of the original architects of the Heritage Commission, purchased the home in 2005. Since then, she has added a porch to the front of the house.

Leona Clark Caughey House

The Leona Clark Caughey



Woman's Club member Dana Eatmon checks in one of the approximately 140 people who bought tickets for the tour of homes.



Janice Goetzman gives a tour of homes participant instructions while Heritage Commission member Helen Hersey looks on.

House at 555 Southeast Palmetto Ave. is now the Inn at Palmetto.

This home was initially constructed as a winter home for Leona Clarke Caughey, although she never occupied the house.

Leona was an artist who worked for the Keystone View Company in Meadville, Pennsylvania. She and her husband, Ed, who owned part of the Keystone Lumber Company, lived in a house two blocks west on Lake Keystone.

After the house was completed, her sister Maude, her husband, Ward Ogden, and their two daughters, Arneita and Helen, moved into it.

Several members of the Clark family had winter homes in town, while others chose to begin living year-round in the lake community.

Kerry Collins purchased the property in 2015 to turn it into a bed-and-breakfast inn. The home was in complete disrepair, so extensive renovations were necessary. She opened the Inn at Palmetto in 2022.

Cadman House

The Cadman House at 561 Southeast Lakeview Drive was built in the architectural style of the craftsman bungalow. Phillip W. Cadman built the home in 1926. Mary Lou Hildreth, the previous mayor of Keystone Heights, and her husband, Keith Koehler, lived in the house for many years. Jamie and Lisa Kanos purchased the house in 2018 and are the current owners.

Smith House

The Smith house at 245 Southeast Lakeview Drive was built in 1926 and is in the mission style. Mr. Smith was a city councilman who died at a council meeting in 1940. He had an appliance business in town and also sold real estate. His wife, Desta, was a retired music teacher and was very involved in the music program at Community Church and Chautauqua; Mrs. Smith passed away on July 4, 1939. Lea Cofield and Troy Wong purchased the home, transformed the neglected exterior into a retreat, and updated the interior.



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FEES

Continued from page 3

greenhouse, etc.) \$23, open shed or pole barn (no slab) \$13, concrete slab \$8 and pool screen enclosures \$16.

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residential structures permit costs have only increased by \$1-3 per square foot.

Miscellaneous fees include demolition of structures less than 1,000 square feet \$112, demo of structures more than 1,000 square feet \$155, re-inspections each (for cause) \$112, pre-inspection/courtesy inspections \$100, moving a house or permanent structure under 1,000 square feet \$102 (over 1,000 square feet \$152, competency late fee (30 days past renewal date) \$15, 911 address \$35, E-911 sign fee \$120, culvert \$95, letter of compliance (flood data) \$75, new certified contractor application fee \$50, registered contractor initial registration fee \$90, registered contractor

annual renewal \$40 and mobile home installer registration fee \$50.

Houses of worship are to be given an 85% discount on all permits.

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The Union County Board of County Commissioners is requesting written responses from qualified construction firms to provide professional At-Risk Construction Management Services for the Budgeting and Construction Phase on the new proposed Union County Jail (Phase 2 and 3 of the new Public Safety Complex). Facility is to include demolition of site elements and sitework. The approximate budget for construction and all other activities is \$13,870,100.00.

The complete Request for Qualifications (RFQ) information page can be obtained from the Union County, Florida website – <https://unioncounty-fl.gov/advertisements-notice-and-rfps/> or by emailing Dir. Timothy Allen at allentc@unionsheriff.us.

RFQ's due by January 13, 2025

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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

Jerry Barnett, 42, of Trenton, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 23 for DUI, driving with a suspended or revoked license, and possession of drug equipment.

Antonio Denson, 24, of Palatka, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 24 for shoplifting.

Robert Gallion, 47, of Lawtey, was arrested by Bradford

deputies on December 21 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Brooke Jenkins, 24, of Gainesville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 26 for an out-of-county warrant.

Christian Kocher, 28, of Melrose, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 26 for a probation violation.

Anthony Marangoni, 40, of High Springs, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 21 for being an out-of-state fugitive from Charlton County, Georgia.

Grayson Patrick, 25, of Lawtey, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 21 for battery.

Jimmie Tyson, 67, of Starke, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 24 for battery, kidnapping-false imprisonment and sexual assault.

Jasonya Wallace, 26, of Gainesville, was arrested by Bradford deputies on December

26 for a probation violation.

Union

None were reported due to an early deadline.

Clay

Michael Finley, 65, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on December 22 for the recreational discharge of a firearm in public or on residential property.

Brandon Goodin, 21, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on December 23 for burglary of an unoccupied conveyance, retail petit theft and fraudulent use of a credit card.

Robert Mosley, 49, of Keystone Heights, was arrested by Clay deputies on December 21 for misuse of the 911 system.

Eugene Wood, 62, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on December 25 for resisting an officer without violence.

Stuck cluck truck blocks traffic

BY JENN SAMSEL
Special to the Monitor

A tractor-trailer hauling crates of live chickens got stuck in the sand while exiting County Road 214 and attempting to enter Casa

Grande Boulevard on Dec. 23.

The Clay County Sheriff's Office closed the road between Casa Grande and Kings Canyon Road at around 3:46 p.m. until crews freed the truck and its

cargo. The road was closed for several hours.



County Road 214 was closed for several hours.

Three fires for Christmas

Bradford County Fire Rescue firefighters reported three structure fires on Christmas Day.

The first around 5 p.m. was a commercial structure fire in the 2100 block of Northeast County Road 200B. Firefighters cut power to the building after determining the smoke was coming from an air conditioning unit. No injuries were reported.

Shortly after the first call, units were dispatched to a residential structure fire in the 12000 block of Southwest 81st Avenue. Firefighters contained the kitchen fire to the area of the stove. The residence was ventilated, and no injuries were reported.

Then just after 11 p.m., Bradford and Starke firefighters responded to a residential structure fire in the 1000 block of Eastwood Drive. Firefighters arrived and extinguished a fire in the back of the home, preventing further spread. One individual was taken to the hospital for evaluation. Firefighters rescued multiple animals from the home.



Firefighters stopped a fire and rescued several animals from a burning home on Christmas.

Little Santa Fe Lake fire damages garage

BY JENN SAMSEL
Special to the Monitor

A fire broke out in a detached garage on Southeast 20th Avenue in Bradford County on December 23 at 5:28 p.m.

23 at 5:28 p.m.

Bradford County Fire Chief Ben Carter said the blaze destroyed a detached garage, and the cause was under investigation.

Clay County Fire Rescue assisted with mutual aid during the incident, which occurred on a lot on Little Santa Fe Lake. No one was injured.



A fire broke out in a detached garage on Southeast 20th Avenue in Bradford County on December 23 at 5:28 p.m. Bradford County Fire Chief Ben Carter said the blaze destroyed a detached garage, and the cause was under investigation. Clay County Fire Rescue assisted with mutual aid during the incident, which occurred on a lot on Little Santa Fe Lake. No one was injured.

North Florida Land Trust makes largest land buy in Bradford County

North Florida Land Trust has expanded conservation land within the Ocala to Osceola (O2O) Wildlife Corridor by acquiring 1,109 acres in Bradford County. This is the nonprofit land conservation organization's largest single acquisition that it will own and manage in its 25-year history.

The property is located west of the Camp Blanding Training Center, just north of NFLT's Triangle Preserve, and one mile south of the New River Conservation Area. Conserving the land protects the habitats of wildlife and plant species and provides a buffer for the military installation.

"What a great accomplishment to celebrate just before Christmas that this large piece of Florida will remain natural forever. As I always say, it is now or never," said Allison DeFoor, president and CEO of NFLT. "There will be no bulldozers, no houses, just the plants and animals that call it home. I applaud our team for protecting the land and thank Camp Blanding for its partnership, which made the protection possible. I would also like to extend a special thanks to Delores Barr Weaver for her support of our land conservation efforts."

NFLT purchased the property for \$7,301,427 from Rayonier Forest Resources LP, which had previously managed the land for timber production. A significant portion of the acquisition was funded through the Department of Defense's Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration program and the Army Compatible Use Buffer program. These initiatives are dedicated to preserving land surrounding Camp Blanding to ensure it remains compatible with aerial and ground military training operations.

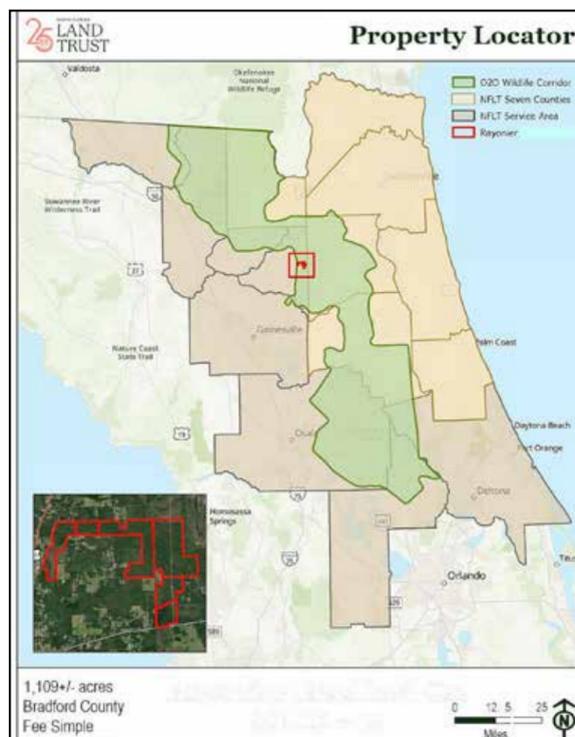
Additionally, the Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Funds at the Community Foundation of Northeast Florida contributed \$100,000 toward the purchase price. This contribution is part of a transformative \$1 million grant established last year by the Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Funds to support conservation land purchases over a 10-year period. This partnership underscores the critical importance of collaborative efforts in securing and protecting vital natural spaces.

The property comprises pine plantations and wetlands, offering vital ecological benefits. Protecting these lands ensures the preservation of four miles of Water Oak Creek, along with its floodplains and riverbanks, providing a natural buffer against potential flooding risks for the area and nearby Camp Blanding.

This conservation effort safeguards critical habitats for a diverse range of wildlife, including the Florida black bear, deer, and turkey, as well as threatened and endangered species such as the red-cockaded woodpecker, indigo snake, and gopher tortoise. By keeping the land undeveloped, it also sustains essential wildlife corridors, enabling species to migrate through the O2O



The property is located west of the Camp Blanding Training Center, just north of NFLT's Triangle Preserve, and one mile south of the New River Conservation Area.



Bears spotted on the property. Conserving the land protects the habitats of wildlife and plant species and provides a buffer for the military installation.

Corridor—a 1.6-million-acre network of public and private lands connecting the Ocala and Osceola National Forests. This protection ensures the continued ecological health of this vital landscape for generations to come.

North Florida Land Trust is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to preserving and enhancing the quality of life by protecting North Florida's irreplaceable natural

environment. Founded in 1999, NFLT has preserved tens of thousands of acres of land through the donation or purchase of land as well as conservation easements. NFLT is funded largely by private and corporate contributions and works closely with willing landowners and public agencies at all levels of government, not-for-profit partners, and foundations. For more information, visit nflt.org.



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BHS boys get 62-48 road win over Broncos

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Jordan Cason poured in 20 points and grabbed 16 rebounds as the Bradford High School boys basketball team went on the road and defeated Class 5A Middleburg 62-48 on Dec. 20.

It was the Class 3A Tornadoes' fourth game against a 5A school. Bradford (6-2) is 3-1 in those games.

Cason, who is the Tornadoes leading scorer and rebounder (14 points per game, 8 rebounds per game), has now posted a double-double in three straight games.

Kyren Green, who had six rebounds, scored 10 points against Middleburg, while Steven Carter, Jy'Quez Cason and Maliki Cobarris each added eight points.

Bradford also got six points from Breion Johnson and two points from Jonathan Andrews.

Jy'Quez Cason led the team in assists with seven, while Cobarris added four.

The Tornadoes return to action with a home game against Bell on Saturday, Jan. 4, at 7:30 p.m.

BHS girls roll to 63-10 victory over Santa Fe

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School had two players score in double figures, while opponent Santa Fe just did reach double figures as a team in the Tornadoes' 63-10 win in a Dec. 20 girls basketball game.

Ar'Nayshia Griffin poured in 30 points to help the Tornadoes win their eighth straight game and improve to 9-2. She also grabbed eight rebounds, blocked three shots and came away with seven steals.

Nichelle Brown scored 13 points and had four steals, while Bradford also got eight points from Nyasia Lopey, four points each from Cherish Bing and Khamyra Hankerson and two points each from Wynter Barrington and Ky'lee Johnson.

The Tornadoes return to action with a home game against Williston on Thursday, Jan. 9, at 7 p.m. Bradford then travels to play Baldwin on Friday, Jan. 10, at 6 p.m. before playing another road game on Monday, Jan. 13,

against Suwannee at 7 p.m.

Bradford returns home to play Palatka on Tuesday, Jan. 14, at 7 p.m.

Union Co. girls defeat Warriors for 2nd victory

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Heaven Scott scored 17 points as the Union County High School girls basketball team picked up its second win of the season, defeating visiting West Nassau 55-32 on Dec. 17.

Gabrielle Moore had 12 points, while Brooke Hunt and lamorieah Williams scored nine and eight, respectively.

The Tigers (2-9) also got five points from Brianna Taylor, two points from Faith Sirmones and one point each from Aundria Phipps and Ivy Wilson.

Williams had team highs in rebounds with seven and blocked shots with three.

Moore and Scott each had six rebounds. Scott also blocked two shots, as did Sirmones.

Union entered the game on a nine-game losing streak, with

most of those losses coming by double digits. The Tigers' closest loss occurred in their game before playing West Nassau, with host Northside Christian of Starke defeating Union 26-19 on Dec. 16.

Scott and Taylor scored eight and seven points, respectively, against Northside, while Sirmones and Williams each adding two points. Scott also had five steals, while Moore had four.

The Tigers return to action with a road game against Keystone Heights on Friday, Jan. 3, at 6 p.m. Union then travels to play Branford on Saturday, Jan. 4, at 6 p.m. and Cedar Key on Tuesday, Jan. 7, at 6 p.m.

KHHS girls hoops team faced 4 bigger schools before holiday break

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

A struggling Keystone Heights High School girls basketball team played four straight bigger schools prior to the holiday

break, dropping all four games.

The Class 3A Indians, who have only one win on the season, first played at Class 4A Eastside on Dec. 11, losing 44-26. The Rams held an early 15-5 lead, but back-to-back three-pointers by Riley Shuford made it a four-point game.

Shuford, who finished with 12 points and five steals, made two three-pointers in the fourth quarter to keep the game close until Eastside pulled away.

Kadence Massey added nine points and grabbed 15 rebounds, while Daisy Hubbard had two of

the team's five blocks.

Massey, Shuford and Erabelle Conant each had a blocked shot as well.

Keystone lost 72-39 to 5A Middleburg on Dec. 13, but had a much closer contest in a 30-28 loss to 5A Clay on Dec. 16 in Green Cove Springs.

Hubbard and Massey each had a three-pointer early in the first quarter, while a Hubbard layup put the Indians up 14-11 in the second quarter.

Shuford, who had a three-

See HOOPS, page 12

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Kellum, Blankenship win 5 championships for BHS in 2024

The following is a look at the high school varsity teams and individuals that won championships at the district, regional or state levels, earned medals in state competition or that qualified to participate in regional and state competitions in 2024. Any omissions are unintentional.

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School student-athletes Rylie Blankenship and Elijah Kellum combined to win five championships in 2024, with Kellum's state title in track and field being the highlight.

The Tornadoes also got a district championship from its girls flag football team in 2024.

Kellum won two events at the District 3-2A track-and-field meet, recording distances of 21-11.75 in the long jump and 44-3.5 in the triple jump. He was also the runner-up in the 100m.

Jaleel Easley earned the right to advance to region-level competition with a third-place finish in the 400m and a fourth-place finish in the 110m hurdles.

The boys 4x100m relay team of Branden Williams, Justin Hall, Trejan Tyson and Elijah Lawrence placed second to advance to the Region 1 finals.

Brayden Smyth was sixth in the long jump and competed at regionals.

Bradford also qualified for the Region 1 meet in the girls 4x100m relay, with the team of Kaelyn Booker, Melissa Hardin, Diamond Ferguson and Kendell Shanks running to a third-place finish.

At regionals, Kellum was the runner-up in both of his jumping events. He had a distance of 22-6.5 in the long jump and a distance of 44-2 in the triple jump.

Kellum would go on to win the state championship in the triple jump with a distance of 45-9.75. He took fourth in the long jump with a distance of 22-7.75.

Blankenship lifts her way to 2 titles

Blankenship collected a couple of gold medals for BHS in girls weightlifting, with the first one coming at the District 6-1A meet. Blankenship won the 119-pound class in the traditional event with a clean and jerk of 125 and a bench press of 115.

It was the second straight year Blankenship won a district



Elijah Kellum won two district championships in track and field and went on to win state in the triple jump.

championship, which earned her an automatic berth in the Region 2 finals.

Five of Blankenship's teammates earned at-large regional bids: Addison Thornton, with a third-place finish in the 199 class, Raelynn Moore with a fourth-place finish in the 119 class, Brianna Brooks with a fourth-place finish in the unlimited class, Blakeleigh Smith with a fifth-place finish in the 154 class and Kellsie Cochran with a seventh-place finish in the 169 class.

Blankenship was the only Bradford lifter to qualify for state, winning her weight class at the Region 2 finals. She had the same overall total she had at the District 6 meet, but this time had a 115 in the clean and jerk and a 125 in the bench press.

The bench-press total was a personal record for Blankenship, who was in fourth place after the clean and jerk. Her effort in the bench led to her tying West Nassau's Savannah Cothren. Blankenship was awarded the championship due to weighing in at half a pound less than Cothren.

At state, Blankenship finished in a four-way tie for 13th and was officially 16th. She did 115 in the clean and jerk and tied her PR of 125 in the bench press.

Cheer team reaches state tournament

The competitive cheer team placed fourth at the region level and qualified for state, where

the Tornadoes finished in eighth place.

Bradford, which competed in the Medium Non-Tumbling division, had a raw score of 66.5 at the Region 1 meet, which earned it a trip to the state meet. Factoring in point deductions, the Tornadoes had a final score of 63.5, which tied them with Interlachen and left them trailing West Nassau, Orange Park and Parker.

In the semifinal round at state, the Tornadoes had a final score of 74.2 (28.7 building, 26.6 cheer, 20.9 overall), which had two penalty points factored in.

The team consisted of Alexis Berry, Skyla Bounocore, Teagan Bradley, Abigail Casey, Jhailaa Coleman, Kami Crawford, Jakyiah Dean, Nivaiah Foster, Hayden Goodwin, Chloe Hales, Lily Mercer, Abbigale Moore, Emma Mueller, Kayla Mueller, Sade Peterson, Myia Sanchez, Haydn Sanford and Rose Wilsey.

Flag football team wins district again

Bradford's defense had three interceptions and shut out its second straight opponent in defeating Middleburg 7-0 for the Tornadoes' second straight District 4-1A championship in flag football.

The Tornadoes got two interceptions from Ar'Nayshia Griffin and one from Ajiyah Jackson, with all three occurring in a scoreless first half.

Bradford scored toward the end of the third quarter, with Jackson catching a 3-yard touchdown pass from Griffin. Griffin then completed a pass to Nichelle Brown on the conversion attempt.

Griffin completed 21 of 36 passes for 98 yards and rushed for 31 yards on eight carries.

Brown had 10 catches for 38 yards, while Cummings had four receptions for 27 yards. Jackson had 18 yards on five receptions.

The Tornadoes reached the championship game by defeating Keystone Heights 6-0 in a semifinal game.

Keystone had two early drives that resulted in goal-to-go opportunities, but the Indians couldn't score against the Bradford defense. Brown intercepted a pass to stop the first threat, while the defense forced a turnover on downs on the second.

Griffin had a 17-yard run that helped set up the game's only score — a 1-yard touchdown run by Griffin on the first play of the fourth quarter.

The offense was led by

Griffin's 58 yards on 10 carries and Brown's 50 yards on five carries.

Griffin completed eight passes and also caught two from Brown for 30 yards.

The defense got two interceptions by Griffin.

Bradford's season ended with an 8-2 record after visiting Middleburg scored twice in the fourth quarter to win a Region 1 playoff game 12-7.

After a scoreless first half, a Griffin interception gave Bradford's offense good field position. A 14-yard pass from Griffin to Cummings set up Griffin's 8-yard touchdown pass to Jackson. The duo hooked up again on a successful conversion attempt and a 7-0 lead.

Middleburg scored two touchdowns in the fourth quarter. Griffin completed 13 of 34 passes for 134 yards, with Jackson catching five passes for 43 yards.

Brown had three receptions for 34 yards, while Cummings had three catches for 29 yards. Jada Hankerson gained 28 yards on just two receptions.

2 golfers qualify for regional competition

Boys golfer Cody Spratlin and girls golfer Sarah Rantz qualified for the Region 1-1A tournament, receiving at-large bids following their play at the district level.

Spratlin placed sixth in the District 3 tournament with an 18-hole score of 83, while Rantz was 12th in the girls tournament with a score of 110.

Prior to the start of the Florida High School Athletic Association's postseason, the Bradford boys team qualified



Rylie Blankenship won district and regional championships in girls weightlifting and qualified for state.

as an alternate for the inaugural Florida 1A Public School Golf Championship. The Tornadoes placed sixth in the eight-team field with a score of 345.

Spratlin and Charlie Zink each shot a 79 and were part of a five-way tie for 10th. Avery Burgin shot an 86, tying him for 27th.

First-year players Steven Carter and Tucker Griffis placed 42nd and 44th, respectively, with scores of 101 and 107.

Football team wins playoff game

Bradford's football team put together an 8-1 regular season and earned the second seed in Region 2-2A for the playoffs.

The Tornadoes hosted The Villages in a quarterfinal game, getting touchdowns from four different players on offense as well as a defensive score in a 35-0 win.

Gino Addison, who rushed for 83 yards on seven carries, scored on a 7-yard run, while Bradford got touchdown runs of 41 yards from Branden Williams, 11 yards from Jy'Quez Cason and 2 yards from Jeremiah McKenzie.

The Tornadoes gained 277 yards on offense, with 228 coming on the ground.

Marlin Hayward had two interceptions and returned one 67 yards for a touchdown.

Brian Clifflin also had an interception.

Cy Cubbedge was 3 of 4 on extra-point kicks, while McKenzie was successful on a two-point conversion run.

It was the third straight year Bradford opened the postseason with a shutout win.

That set up another showdown with Newberry, which defeated the Tornadoes 21-7 in the regular season to win the District 5-2A championship. Bradford had homefield advantage, but the visiting Panthers walked away victorious again by a score of 39-14.

Bradford fell behind 27-6, with the score coming on a 31-yard pass from Zack Paulk to Hayward.

Iyen Addison, who rushed for 46 yards on six carries, scored a touchdown on a 6-yard run.

The Tornadoes finished with 305 yards to Newberry's 290.

Paulk completed 11 of 16 passes for 125 yards, with Hayward catching three passes for 43 yards. Mikey Oliver and Elijah Lawrence had 28 and 22 yards, respectively, on two catches each.

McKenzie and Gino Addison rushed for 37 and 33 yards, respectively.

See BHS, page 15



Bradford celebrates its second consecutive district championship in flag football. Pictured (l-r) are Superintendent of Schools Will Hartley, Kha'Myra Hankerson, Alysia Rantz, Jada Hankerson, Nyasia Lopey (behind Jada Hankerson), Ajiyah Jackson, Ar'Nayshia Griffin, Malaysia Jackson, Tatyana Brown, Coach Brock Canaday, Talayshia Cummings and Nichelle Brown.

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KHHS has another special season in weightlifting in 2024

The following is a look at the high school varsity teams and individuals that won championships at the district, regional or state levels, earned medals in state competition or that qualified to participate in regional and state competitions in 2024. Any omissions are unintentional.

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School wasn't able to win a team state championship in boys weightlifting for the fourth straight year, but the Indians were runners-up in the traditional event and produced the program's first-ever two-time individual state champ in Trey Jeffries.

Leading up to state, Keystone won the team titles in both traditional and Olympic at the District 7-1A meet. The Indians had a traditional score of 115 — 63 points ahead of runner-up Palatka — and an Olympic score of 115 — 60 points ahead of runner-up Palatka.

Seven individuals won their weight classes in both traditional and Olympic: Tyson Baxter (119 class), who had a school-record bench-press record in his class at 205, Wyatt Van Zant (139), Davin Adams (154), Ben Ulsch (169), Zane Leger (199), Jayden Goodman (219) and Jeffries (238).

Colton Hollingsworth won the 129-class traditional championship, while Tyler Duncan won the unlimited Olympic title.

Seven earned second-place finishes in traditional: Duncan, Jed Tisdale (129), Declan Shine (139), Kyle Perkins (183), Trace Wooden (199), Bryson Wester (219) and Brayden Hall (238).

Another five placed third in traditional: Andrew Ulsch (119), Damien Dunlap (154), Layton Wright (169), Clayton Shaw (183) and Brayden Wester (unlimited).

The Olympic event saw Keystone with seven runners-up: Tisdale, Perkins, Wooden, Andrew Bryson Wester, Andrew Ulsch, Jackson Parmeter (154), and Jackson Herman (238).

As in traditional, five placed third in Olympic: Hollingsworth, Shine, Wright, Shaw and Brayden Wester.

Keystone earned two team runner-up trophies at the Region 2 meet, placing second to Suwannee in traditional by a score of 59-40 and placing second to Suwannee again in Olympic by a score of 83-40.

Jeffries won his class in both events, while the Indians also had individual champs in Van Zant (Olympic) and Ben Ulsch (traditional).

The individual champs automatically qualified for state.

Receiving at-large state berths in traditional were second-place finishers Van Zant and Goodman, third-place finishers Tisdale and Bryson Wester, fourth-place finishers Baxter and Adams, fifth-place finisher Duncan, seventh-place finishers Hollingsworth and Brayden Wester, eighth-place finisher Hall and ninth-place finisher Shine.

At-large qualifiers in Olympic were second-place finishers Ben Ulsch, third-place finishers Goodman and Duncan, fourth-place finishers Tisdale, Adams and Herman, fifth-place finishers Baxter and Perkins, seventh-place finishers Bryson Wester and Brayden Wester and ninth-



Keystone Heights High School was the Class 1A traditional runner-up at the boys weightlifting state finals. The Indians also placed third in the Olympic event, wrapping up a season in which they won two team district championships and two runner-up trophies as a team at the regional level. Pictured are: (front, l-r) Declan Shine, Coach Doug Johnson (standing behind Shine), Kyle Perkins, Tyson Baxter, Jed Tisdale, Colton Hollingsworth, (back, l-r) Coach Steve Reynolds, Davin Adams, Tyler Duncan, Jackson Herman, Ben Ulsch, Bryson Wester, Brayden Hall, Brayden Wester, Jayden Goodman, Trey Jeffries, Coach Bo Boettcher, Coach Nick Verschave, Wyatt Van Zant and Head Coach Lantz Lowery.



Trey Jeffries went undefeated in Olympic and traditional competition in 2024, winning district, regional and state titles in both events. He became Keystone's only two-time state champ in boys weightlifting.

place finisher Shine.

The state meet saw Keystone finish with a second-place team score of 30 to Suwannee's 43. The Indians were third in Olympic with a score of 21.

Jeffries won his classes in both events, with an overall total of 730 pounds in traditional and a total of 585 in Olympic.

Van Zant was a runner-up in traditional with a 490 total. His 405 Olympic total earned him third place.

Ben Ulsch took third in both events with a 605 traditional total and a 505 Olympic total.

Duncan had a third-place total of 505 in traditional and a fifth-place total of 505 in Olympic.

Baxter placed third in traditional with a 365 total and ninth in Olympic with a 275 total.

Goodman earned two fifth-place medals with a 620 traditional total and a 520 Olympic total.

Also earning medals for top-six finishes were Hollingsworth, who had a fifth-place traditional total of 425, Tisdale, who had a sixth-place traditional total of 415, and Bryson Wester, who had a fourth-place traditional total of 635.

Tisdale also had a seventh-



Keystone won the inaugural Florida 1A Public School Golf Championship, defeating Frostproof in a playoff round. Pictured (l-r) are Coach Ryan Begue, Jacob Beach, Hunter Sheppard, Ty Mitzel, Will Begue and Nate Bardier.



The Keystone Heights High School girls weightlifting team poses for a photo with the District 6-1A Olympic championship trophy. The Indians were also co-champs in the traditional event, making it two straight years Keystone has earned both trophies.

place Olympic total of 350, while Bryson Wester had a 14th-place Olympic total of 445.

Keystone had the following results as well: Adams 405 (ninth Olympic), 465 (12th traditional); Shine 440 (ninth traditional), 350 (12th Olympic); Herman 480 (10th Olympic); Perkins 415 (12th Olympic); Brayden Wester 585 (14th traditional), 435 (14th Olympic); and Hall 560 (17th traditional).

of 83, while Beach was 10th with a score of 88.

The rest of the team had the following scores: Sheppard 90 (14th), Begue 96 (24th) and Bardier 105 (32nd).

Keystone's season came to an end with a 12th-place finish at the Region 2 finals. Mitzel was the team's leading player with a 59th-place score of 87.

Every team but Keystone in the 12-team field was a private school.

Girls lifters win 2 team district titles

The girls weightlifting team won two district titles, with Chloe Still eventually qualifying for the state finals.

Keystone had a score of 57 to win the District 6-1A Olympic championship by two points over Baldwin. The two schools shared the traditional championship with 42 points each.

Still won the traditional title in the 139 class and was the Olympic runner-up, while Paige Harrington won both titles for the 183 class.

The Indians had 12 receive Olympic at-large bids to the Region 2 meet: Still and fellow second-place finishers Cadie Bowles (101 class), Kourtney Marsh (119), Ashlyn Brown (154) and Lily Mitchell (183), third-place finishers Alivia Richardson (101), Madison Sapp (110), Kenly Chitty (154) and Morgan Wilson (169), fourth-place finisher Raegan Lee (169), fifth-place finisher Ava Herman (unlimited) and sixth-place finisher Bella Parmeter (119).

Those earning traditional at-large berths were second-place finisher Mitchell, third-place finishers Bowles and Chitty, fourth-place finishers Richardson, Brown and Wilson, fifth-place finishers Marsh and Herman and sixth-place finisher Lee.

At the Region 2 meet, Still earned an at-large berth in the state finals with a runner-up total of 285 in the traditional event.

Still finished tied for 14th at state with a 280 total.

Boys golf team wins 1st-time event, is district runner-up

Before competing in the Florida High School Athletic Association postseason and claiming the District 5-1A runner-up trophy, the Keystone boys golf team won the inaugural Florida 1A Public School Golf Championship, coming out on top in a field of eight teams.

The Indians were the sixth seed heading into the event, but finished tied with Frostproof, with each team posting an 18-hole score of 324. That set up a playoff round, which Keystone won when Hunter Sheppard sank a putt from approximately 17 feet from the hole.

Ty Mitzel earned a top-five medallion for his third-place score of 74.

Beach finished seventh with a score of 76, while Sheppard had a score of 85.

Nate Bardier and Will Begue were 33rd and 35th, respectively, with scores of 89 and 94.

At the District 5 match, the Indians had a team score of 357, which left them trailing only Oak Hall, which had a score of 339.

Mitzel had a sixth-place score

Turner wins district title in track, field

The only sport other than boys and girls weightlifting in which Keystone won a district championship occurred in boys track and field, with Jamari Turner winning the 400m hurdles at the District 3-2A meet with a time of 1:07.

Tyler Griffin, Ryder Thomas, Ryeland Wahl and Hunter Sheppard teamed up in the boys 4x800m relay to run a runner-up (and school-record) time of 9:04.

Cali Chamberlain was a runner-up for the girls team with a time of 1:20 in the 400m hurdles.

Jaden Park was third in the boys javelin with a distance of 125-10, which was a school record.

The boys 4x400m relay team of Griffin, Park, Wahl and Tyler Sapp ran a fourth-place time of 3:46.

Two girls relay teams earned fourth-place finishes. Kaylee Park, Laila Briseno, Christine Djavaheri and Kenslee Phillips teamed up to run 57.04 in the 4x100m, while the 4x400m team of Chamberlain, Djavaheri, Phillips and Olivia Griffin had a time of 4:54.

Those athletes all advanced to the Region 1 finals, where the boys 4x800m team and the girls 4x400m teams had the highest finishes, with each placing 12th. The 4x800m team broke its own school record for the third time, finishing at 8:55.65.

KHHS is district runner-up in baseball, softball and girls soccer

The Indians had district runner-up teams in baseball, softball and girls soccer.

Keystone won two matches in the District 4-3A girls soccer tournament to reach the championship match, defeating Fort White 7-0 in the quarterfinals and Williston 3-2 in the semifinals.

Kiersten Shaw scored five goals in the win over Fort White, with Ella Hutchins and Alyssa Townsend each scoring one. Kayle Buchanan and Shaw led the team in assists with three and two, respectively. Hutchins and Ashly McCarthy each had one assist.

Goalie Aspen Korhn made four saves.

In the semifinal win over Williston, Keystone got one goal each from Buchanan, Hutchins and Alee Horton. Shaw had one assist, while Krohn made 10 saves.

The Indians, who were the tournament's second seed, lost to top seed P.K. Yonge 5-0 in the championship match. Krohn made 17 saves, while Xana Briley made four.

See KHHS, page 15

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Obituaries

EulaMae Carlton

EulaMae Carlton, 89, of Starke, passed away Monday, Dec. 23, 2024, at E.T. York Hospice in Gainesville. She was born in Lawtey on May 1, 1935, to the late Frank Marion Cruce and Gertrude Rosier Cruce. She attended Lawtey Elementary School and later earned her GED from the Bradford Vocational Technical School in 2002. She was a lifelong resident of Bradford County and was known for her strong work ethic and dedication. Throughout her life, she held numerous positions, including working at Bradford Furniture Store and later as a seamstress at Burlington Yarn Factory, Cadillac, and Vogue Factory. She also volunteered and served as a member of Shands Hospital Auxiliary, where she was dedicated to aiding patients and implementing fundraisers. She was a longtime, devoted member of Pine Level Baptist Church, where she faithfully worshipped her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In her spare time, she found joy in cooking, crocheting, quilting, baking cakes, and gardening. More than anything, she enjoyed spending time with her sweet family and making everlasting memories. She treasured her grandchildren and was always uplifted by their presence. She was greatly loved and will be deeply missed by all who knew her. She was preceded in death by her parents; and her beloved husband of 52 years, Robert George Carlton.

She is survived by her sons, Kenneth (Libby) Carlton, Dwayne Carlton and James (Julie) Carlton all of Starke; siblings, Marvin Cruce of Augusta, Georgia, Faye Noegel of Starke, Virginia Linzy of Lawtey, Gertrude (Paul D.) Griffis and George (Linda) Cruce both of Starke, Frank (Beth) Cruce Jr. of Lake Butler, Lucinda Batten of Starke, and Marcus Cruce of Tennessee; grandchildren, Kenneth (Keri) Carlton II, LeAnn Carlton (Trey) Royal, Marie Carlton Myers, Joshua (Kimberly) Carlton, Rebecca Carlton, Bruce Carlton, Randall Carlton and Christopher (Nikki) Carlton; great-grandchildren, Kinley, Kadence, Kennedie, Alexandria, Gabriella, Isabella, Patrice, Landan, Aubrey, Diamond, Xaviar, Izabella, Christina, Randall, Zaiden, Damion, and Dianna; along with several extended family members and friends.

A Celebration of Life was held Monday, Dec. 30, at Pine Level Baptist Church with Pastor Mark Ogle, Pastor Joe Lee and Brother Leon Thomas officiating. Interment followed at Sapp Cemetery. The family received friends on Sunday, Dec. 29, at Ferreira Funeral Services and Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her honor to Pine Level Baptist Church Missions or Building Fund.

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

PAID OBITUARY



Helen Crosby

Helen Ida Barry Crosby, 91 of Starke entered peacefully into her Savior's arms on Friday, Dec. 27, 2024. She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 70 years, James Vernon Crosby Sr. She was born Feb. 14, 1933 in Brooker, the daughter of the late Lloyd W. Barry and the late Grace Lee Connerly Barry. She was a graduate of Bradford County High School. She spent her career split between the Florida National Bank and the Bradford County School Board. She was a woman of strong faith in Jesus Christ and was an active member of First Baptist Church of Starke for 60 years, where she served as the first-grade Sunday School teacher for almost 50 years, as well as a variety of other groups such singing in the choir, WMU and hosting fellowships. She loved her church family and wanted to make sure everyone she met learned of Christ's love and the salvation he offered. She loved to spend time with her family and friends, including traveling with her husband to places such as the Grand Ole Opry, Smoky Mountains and Dollywood. She will be missed by all who knew and loved her. In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by her sisters, Francis Land and Jackie Richardson; and brother, Lloyd Wilbur Barry Jr.

Left to cherish her memories for years to come are her son, Jimmy Jr. and his wife, Leslie; their son, Traye (Babybear) Crosby, and their children, Jeremiah, Cherokee, and Lakota; their daughter, Brittany Crosby Alvarez, and her fiancée, Mike, and her children, Collin, Harper and Ridge; her son, Tommy, and his wife, Cindy, and their daughter, Jessica Crosby Williams, and her children, Tucker, and Crosby; and their son, Thomas (Ariel) Crosby Jr., and their children, Elena and Leon; along with several nieces and nephews.

The family will welcome friends paying tribute to her well-lived life beginning at 11:30 a.m., Sunday, Jan. 5, at First Baptist Church until the funeral service begins at noon at the church. Rev. Harry Hatcher will officiate. Burial will take place at Crosby Lake Cemetery on Saturday, Jan. 4, with only immediate family attending. The family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for memorial contributions made in Helen's memory to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1258, Starke, 32091.

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

PAID OBITUARY



Juliette Long

Evangelist Juliette Long, 91, of Starke, died Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2024, at her place of residence, 906 Pine St., Starke.

She is survived by her two sisters, Amandalene Chandler and Legree Hankerson; extended family members and friends.

Arrangements are under the care of Haile's Funeral Home, 802 Oak St., Starke. 904-964-7905.

Norma Signore

Norma Jean Nugent Karr Signore, June 13, 1928, to Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2024. Walking into the house, you could immediately smell "Nanna," the sweet fragrance of Estee Lauder was her favorite for as long as most of us can remember. As she would pull us in close for a tight hug, with the mixture of her perfume and hints of Italian sauce, you knew you had arrived. Being the 10th grandchild out of 13, our Nanna was always on her toes. She would always agree with each of us that we were ALL the #1 grandchild. We grandkids would think of creative ways to get those "Nanna Dollars" she handed out. If you were lucky, you would get a \$5 bill. She also made sure we at least tried different foods before we decided we didn't like it. To ensure you did as expected, she would give that "look" with her green eyes, and boy, we knew we had better behave at that point. She always had a way of keeping everyone organized, with either a hat to protect us from the sun or a raincoat to keep us dry as we ventured to the Orange Bowl games and parades each year. As we got older and even moved away, Nanna would make it a point to call just to chat, not really about anything important, but just to stay connected. She was the bond that made all holidays and visits memorable, as she made each one of us feel special and important. Not only was she our Nanna, but she was also a mother of three. As kids, they had many memorable moments together. A fond memory of Nanna and her kids was going up to the mountains in the summer months. She would read stories or sometimes just watch Jean Ann, Kenny, and Tommy run and play in the sunshine; even Pepper, their pup, came along. Often, they would be spotted picking buttercups for Nanna. I am quite sure she also treasured this moment in her heart. She was a true optimist, and that, along with God's watchful hand, got her and her three children through some tense times. All the adventures that were taken not only made memories for them, but also showed Nanna's strength as a woman, and her true compassion for life.

Norma Jean was nothing shy of a class act. I can almost see her now, pulling up in her Cadillac, stepping out in her tailored suit to pick my brother and me up to go to Carvel for an ice cream. Her hair was always perfectly styled, with jewelry and "heavy" handbag to match. She was our perfect Nanna.

Today we celebrate Norma and the wonderful, classy, yet a little sassy, lady she was to so many. She is now walking the streets of gold with her siblings, her sons and a few of her grandchildren. Nanna will be missed, but she is loved in Heaven, on earth, and for all eternity. Love Always Nanna

She will be laid to rest in West Palm Beach. Arrangements by Fred Hunter Funeral Home, Hollywood. 954-989-1550

PAID OBITUARY



Mary Gallion

Mary E. Gallion, 94, of Starke, passed away peacefully on Thursday, Dec. 19, 2024, at Riverwood Health and Rehabilitation Center with her loving family by her side. She was born in Portsmouth, Virginia on Aug. 27, 1930, to the late Ernest Bowen and Betty Bowen. She was raised in Virginia where she met her best friend and forever companion, Martin Gallion. In 1948, Martin and Mary were happily married and shared 59 amazing years together. She was a devoted wife, loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother who cherished her family more than anything. Martin was in the military, so their family traveled throughout the United States for years. Mary was dedicated to tending to her family as a homemaker, cleaned homes for years, and later in life she served at the Wesconnett United Methodist Church Daycare. She was passionate about her faith and enjoyed praising and worshiping her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, at Morgan Road Baptist Church, where her husband was an interim pastor. She was a dedicated and hardworking woman who took pride in caring for her family and home. More than anything, she treasured time with her family and thoroughly enjoyed making sweet memories. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband of 59 years, Martin Gallion; son, David Andrew Gallion; daughter, baby girl; brother, Joe Ernest Bowen; sister, Audrey Waycaster; daughter-in-law, Joyce Gallion; granddaughter, Christy Gallion; and two great-grandsons, Jason Martin Gallion and James Taylor.

She is survived by her sons, James M. Gallion and John Paul (Donna) Gallion, both of Lawtey; eight grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren; along with several extended family members and friends.

A Celebration of Life was held on Thursday, Dec. 26, at Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel with Pastor Al Paulson officiating. Interment followed at Riverside Memorial Park in Jacksonville. The family received friends an hour prior at the funeral home.

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

PAID OBITUARY



Peggy Stanwix-Hay

Peggy Jane Shanbarger Stanwix-Hay, 77, of Hampton went to her Heavenly home on Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2024, at her residence. She was born in York, Pennsylvania, on Dec. 8, 1947, to the late John Melvin Shanbarger and Ruth Hostler Shanbarger. She was raised in Woodbine, Pennsylvania until third grade, when her family relocated to Starke for her father's career. She graduated from Bradford High School in 1965 and furthered her education at the University of Florida, earning a bachelor's degree in education in 1969. On Ash Wednesday in 1967,

Peg was introduced to the love of her life, Raymond Allen Stanwix-Hay. They were married on Feb. 14, 1969, at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Jacksonville and spent 55 beautiful years together. Peg and Ray were best friends and an example of what true love should look like. Peg or "Mrs. Stan," as her students knew her, began her lifelong career in education at Brooker Junior High School in 1969. She taught classes ranging from the gifted program to the dropout-prevention program at all schools in Bradford County throughout her 50 years in the district. She continued her teaching career for the past five years in Gainesville at North Central Florida Public Charter School, where she was teaching just last week before the Lord called her home. In her 55 years as an educator, she touched many lives. She had an unmatched love for her students. She wanted to see them succeed in not just their education but in all areas of their life and would do anything possible to help them along the way; to the extent of creating "Peg's Kids," a nonprofit program to financially meet the needs of her students in any way possible. She brought fun, excitement, wit, intelligence, encouragement, care, guidance, humility, joy, and most importantly, an abundance of love to the classroom and everywhere she went. She joyfully fulfilled Christ's greatest commandment in Matthew 21:37-39, where Jesus says, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself." She attended First Christian Church of Starke before joining the Episcopal church. She was a longtime member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Starke, and Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Gainesville where she enjoyed serving her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. She earned her most favorite title, later known as "Gran." Peg loved her grandchildren and great-grandchildren beyond measure. Spending time with them was her greatest joy. Every opportunity she had with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren she used to create unique, memorable adventures. The times at her home, in her pool, at Fripp Island, South Carolina and Marathon, being some of their fondest memories that will never be forgotten. Most of all, she will be remembered for her servant's heart and her willingness to help others in need as the Holy Spirit led her. Whether she was baking cookies, delivering meals, or just stopping by for a visit, she always put the needs of others before her own. She was a true disciple of Jesus. She will be deeply missed, but we know Heaven is having a beautiful celebration. She was preceded in death by her parents; and her in-laws, Allen and Ethel Stanwix-Hay.

She is survived by her loving husband, Raymond Allen Stanwix-Hay of Hampton; children, John Ryan Stanwix-Hay of Hampton and Jane (Greg) Wiggins of Evergreen, Colorado; grandchildren, Matt (Jencie) Stanwix-Hay, Grant (Mikayla) Wiggins, Luke Stanwix-Hay, Gracen Jane (Sam) Boyd, Gabe (Elizabeth Ann) Wiggins, and Garrison Wiggins; and great-grandchildren, Ryker and Stetsyn Jane Stanwix-Hay.

PAID OBITUARY



Shirley Hudgens

Shirley Anne Hudgens, 76, of Jacksonville passed away peacefully on Saturday, Dec. 21, 2024, at her residence, surrounded by her loving family. Born on Sept. 4, 1948, in Jacksonville, she was the cherished daughter of the late George Horlvy and Beverly Curran. She remained a proud, lifelong resident of Jacksonville until her recent move to Hampton to live with her son and his family. On July 20, 1972, Shirley married her best friend, James "Monroe" Hudgens,

with whom she shared nearly 52 beautiful years of marriage. A dedicated caregiver, she found great joy and purpose in helping others, including transporting them to doctor appointments. Her compassion and dedication left a lasting impact on those she cared for. She enjoyed spending time with her family, reading, cooking, and crafting in her free time. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother who touched the lives of everyone she met. She was preceded in death by her parents; her beloved husband, Monroe; and her son, Anthony Hudgens

Shirley is Survived by her children, Beverly Jean (Rob) Bulvar of Jacksonville, James (Lacey) Hudgens of Hampton, and Kim Hudgens; sister, Donna (Steve) Redmann; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Per Shirley's wishes, she will be laid to rest at Jacksonville National Cemetery.

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

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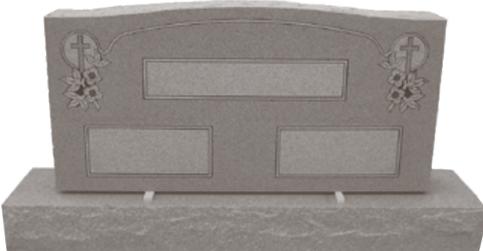
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HOOPS

Continued from page 9

pointer in the third quarter that gave Keystone a five-point lead, and Hubbard each finished with seven points. Hubbard grabbed six rebounds, while Shuford had four steals.

Rigby Jo Morford had six rebounds.

Shuford drained seven treys in the team's next game, but the Indians lost 58-43 to visiting 4A North Marion on Dec. 17.

The Colts built a 10-0 lead before Keystone got its first points on a Shuford three-pointer.

Two more shots from beyond

the arc by Shuford left the Indians trailing 13-9 in the second quarter.

Three-pointers by Shuford and Massey helped Keystone keep the margin to single digits before North Marion would go on to win by 15.

Shuford finished with 22 points and five rebounds. It was the sixth time she's had at least three three-pointers in a game.

Massey and Brynn Creekmore each had six points, while Conant grabbed six rebounds to go along with three points and two blocks.

Keystone will host Union County on Friday, Jan. 3, at 6 p.m. The Indians then travel to play North Marion on Tuesday, Jan. 7, at 6 p.m.

Whitehead swims to state championship for UCHS in 2024

The following is a look at the high school varsity teams and individuals that won championships at the district, regional or state levels, earned medals in state competition or that qualified to participate in regional and state competitions in 2024. Any omissions are unintentional.

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

You could say Eva Whitehead made waves in 2024, swimming her way to a state championship to highlight the athletic accomplishments of Union County High School in 2024.

Whitehead went undefeated in the regular season and qualified for the Class 1A state finals for the third straight year, capturing a Region 1 championship in the process.

The postseason began with Whitehead swimming to third place in the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 2:06.53 at the District 1 meet. She also placed fifth in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:06.45.

At the Region 1 meet, which was hosted by Jacksonville's The Bolles School, she swam the state's fastest region-level time



Eva Whitehead won the Region 1 title in the 200 IM and then took the state championship in the same event. It was quite the improvement after placing 22nd at state in 2023.

in any classification in the 200 IM, winning the championship with a time of 2:01.45, which earned her All-American status and set a record for the Bolles pool. Whitehead placed ahead of Bolles swimmers Ella Gotham and Lucy Mejia Arce, who took the top two spots at the district meet.

Whitehead also swam a personal-record time of 1:03.93 in the 100 breaststroke, which was good for fourth place.

The state finals saw Whitehead swim an even faster time in the 200 IM as she finished at 2:01.45 to win the championship. She placed 22nd in the event at the previous year's state finals.

Whitehead would earn a medal in the 100 breaststroke as well, improving upon her region time in the event as well with a fourth-place mark of 1:03.25, which earned her All-American status.

Cheer team reaches finals at state meet

The competitive cheer team had the second-highest score in the semifinals of the Class 1A state meet, qualifying for the finals round and finishing seventh overall.

Union, which competed in the Medium Non-Tumbling division, earned the right to compete at state with a 10th-place finish at the Region 1 meet. The Tigers had a raw score of 61.6 and a final score of 56.6. The raw score is what sent Union to state.

In the state's semifinal round, the Tigers had a score of 79.4 (29.1 building, 28.6 cheer, 22.7 overall), which factored in only one penalty point. That left them trailing only Pompano Beach.

Union had a raw score of 76.8 in the finals round and a final score of 72.8, which included only four penalty points. The Tigers had scores of 26.6 in building, 29.1 in cheer and 21.1 overall.

The team consisted of Kadence Adams, Brooklyn Bingham, Sydney Box, Zoe Elixson, Taliyah Harper, Terriana Holton, Bobbie Jo Montford, Calli Morrow, Aubrie Muse, Eshawna Rollins, Aliyah Smith, Taleya Smith, Brittany Stinson, Ashlyn Thomas, Ava Walker and Jahlivya Woodall.

2 girls weightlifters qualify for state

Girls weightlifter Alexia Cyr won district- and region-level

Alexia Cyr lifted her way to championships at the district and regional levels in qualifying for the state finals.



Wrestlers (l-r) Dylan Lane, Alexander Cortese, Rodney Barnett and Jonathan Howard won district championships, with Barnett going on to place second at regionals and advance to state.

championships and was one of two to qualify for the state finals.

Cyr won the District 6-1A championship in the 169-pound class with a 285-pound overall total.

Holly Halfacre and Riley Gibson were runners-up in the 110 and 119 classes, respectively, and earned the right to advance

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TIGERS

Continued from page 13

to region-level competition along with Cyr. Halfacre had an overall total of 185, while Gibson had a total of 230.

Also qualifying for regionals were Tai Allen, who was third in the 129 class, Briena Haight, who was third in the 169 class, and Emma Handley, who was sixth in the 119 class.

At the Region 2 meet, Cyr won her class with a 285 total, automatically qualifying her for state.

Gibson earned an at-large state berth with a third-place total of 235.

Halfacre and Handley each placed 14th with totals of 180 and 200, respectively.

Cyr finished 14th at the state finals with a total of 285 total, while Gibson had a 19th-place total of 220.

Barnett wrestles way to state finals

Union had four wrestlers win district titles, with Rodney Barnett going on to earn a state berth.

The Tigers were the District 4-1A runner-up as a team with a score of 185, which left them trailing Baker County, which had a score of 234.5.

Barnett went 3-0 in winning the 144-pound class, pinning all three of his opponents in times of 1:38, 50 seconds and 1:40.

Jonathan Howard won the 120 class, pinning two opponents in 1:28 and 3:34.

Alexander Cortese pinned two opponents in 1:06 and 1:14 to win the 190 class, while Dylan Lane won the 285 class with pins of 3:14 and 3:49.

Those wrestlers all earned the right to move on to regionals along with four other teammates who earned top-four finishes: Jameson Lang, Elijah Roberts, Gavin Sparkman and Maddox Wheeler.

Lang (165 class), Roberts (150) and Sparkman (138) were all runners-up in their classes. Sparkman had to defeat two opponents (both by pins) to



Amia Bethea won a district title in track and field and competed at state.

reach the championship match in his class, while Lang and Roberts each had to defeat only one opponent to wrestle for their class titles. Lang and Roberts both made their championship matches off pins.

Wheeler took third in the 215 class. He bounced back from a first-round loss with victories by pin and disqualification.

At the Region 1 meet, Barnett went 3-1, finishing as a runner-up and earning a state-finals berth. He won by a 17-1 technical fall, a pin in 42 seconds and by a score of 10-6 to reach the championship match before getting pinned.

Howard and Lane each fell one win shy of reaching the third-place matches in their classes, which would've qualified them for state.

Barnett went 0-2 at state, losing by scores of 9-5 and 10-6.

Bethea represents UCHS at state, too

Amia Bethea earned two of Union's nine region-level berths in track and field and went on to run her way to the state finals in the 100m.

At the District 3-2A meet, Bethea won the 200m with a time of 25.14 and took second in the 100m with a time of 12.16.

Boys team member Deonte Jones was runner-up in the 400m with a time of 51.95.

Three boys relay teams earned

third-place finishes: the 4x100m team of Jones, Blake McCoy, Bo Thomas and Brycen Boney, the 4x400m team of Jones, McCoy, Thomas and Boney, and the 4x800m team of Boney, McCoy, Thomas and Gavin Smith.

Holly Halfacre placed fourth in both the long jump and triple jump.

Taleya Smtih also earned a fourth-place finish in the discus.

The top-four finishers in each event advanced to the Region 1 meet. Smith just missed qualifying in two events total with a fifth-place finish in the shot put.

Bethea earned her state berth by placing fourth in the 100m at the Region 1 meet with a time of 12.28. She missed qualifying in the 200m with a fifth-place time of 26.0.

At state, Bethea ran a 15th-place time of 12.44, concluding a season in which she broke existing school records and then her own records in both 100m and 200m sprints.

Tigers reach state semis in football

Union's football team went 8-1 in the regular season — not losing until the final game — and earned the number-three seed in the Rural Class playoffs.

The Tigers won two games in advancing to the state semifinals for the second time in three years before having their season end with a loss to eventual state champ Madison County.

Union began the postseason with a 42-20 win over Holmes County in which Drew Simmons rushed for 125 yards and three touchdowns on 14 carries.

The Tigers, who built a 29-0 lead, got a touchdown run from C.J. Ivey and two touchdown passes from Trenton Klein, who completed 8 of 17 passes for 248 yards. One of the scoring tosses went to Gavin Jenkins, who finished with two catches for 101 yards, while the other went to Alec McClellon, who had two receptions for 46 yards.

Klein led the defense with nine tackles, while Ashton Newsom had seven.

Newsome and Jesse Chaikin each had a fumble recovery, while

Jenkins had an interception.

Union advanced to take on Pahokee in the second round, getting two touchdown runs and one touchdown pass from Klein in a 28-18 win.

Two of Klein's scoring runs, along with a touchdown run by Simmons, had the Tigers leading 22-0.

Klein, who rushed for 134 yards on 13 carries, threw a pass to Jenkins in the end zone to complete the Tigers' scoring.

Simmons finished with 154 rushing yards on 28 carries.

McClellon led the defense with eight tackles, while Jenkins and Klein had seven and six, respectively.

Jenkins and Newsom each had a fumble recovery.

Union's season came to an end with a 34-8 loss to Madison County.

Madison rushed for 301 yards in the first half, but was held to 82 total yards in a scoreless second half.

Klein had a touchdown pass to Jenkins and also ran for a two-point conversion as Union finished its season with a 10-2 record.

Baseball team plays for region title again

For the third time in four years, the baseball team advanced to a regional-championship game, but the Tigers lost 4-0 to Lafayette — the top seed in Region 3-1A.

Union and Lafayette were the top two seeds in the region and the top two seeds in District 6 also. They played each other for the District 6 title, with the Tigers reaching that game with an 11-1 win over Hamilton County in the semifinals.

The Tigers, who scored nine runs in the third inning of the district-semifinal win, got two RBI each from Preston Bonsall, Riggs Davis, Trenton Klein and Jake Walker, with Bonsall finishing 2 for 3 at the plate. One of Bonsall's hits was a two-run double in the third.

Starting pitcher Kacen Thomassen threw all but one of the five innings. He didn't give



Running back Drew Simmons was part of a football team that advanced to the Rural Class state semifinals.

up his only hit until the fourth. Thomassen allowed just one walk and struck out five.

Davis pitched a no-hitter in the final inning.

In the District 6 championship, Lafayette loaded the bases with one out in the bottom of the seventh and scored a run on a wild pitch to defeat the Tigers 2-1.

The Tigers scored the game's first run in the top of the fourth. Thomassen walked, advanced on a Foster Smith double and scored on a single by Walker.

Smith was the game's only batter with multiple hits, going 2 for 3.

Lafayette tied the score in the bottom of the fourth. Two batters walked, with a wild pitch scoring the tying run.

Union starting pitcher Ayden Androlevich gave up three hits through 3.1 innings. Devin Diggs and Clayton Poppell combined to give up no hits in 2.2 innings, while Bonsall allowed one hit in one inning.

The Tigers earned an at-large berth in the Region 3 playoffs and won their first game in the semifinals, defeating Liberty County 3-2 in nine innings.

Union loaded the bases with one out in the bottom of the ninth, with Walker hitting a single and Erick Lasseter and Diggs drawing walks. Landen Miller then drew a walk to force

in the game-winning run.

Klein drove in the Tigers' first two runs on a double in the third and a sacrifice in the fifth. He finished 2 for 3.

Lasseter went 3 for 3, while Bonsall and Walker went 2 for 4 and 2 for 5, respectively.

Starting pitcher Lasseter gave up two runs (one earned) on eight hits and one walk through 6.1 innings. He struck out three.

Bonsall and Poppell combined to allow no hits in 1.2 innings, while Androlevich earned the win, giving up no hits in the final two innings.

Union advanced to the Region 3-title game, where it was held to three hits in a 4-0 loss to Lafayette.

Diggs started on the mound, giving up two runs, five hits and two walks in 3.1 innings. He had five strikeouts.

Androlevich allowed two runs, three hits and no walks in 2.2 innings.

The Tigers finished the season with a 15-14 record.

UCHS almost beats state's top volleyball team in region finals

The volleyball team defeated the state's number-two team in the District 6-1A tournament and then again in the Region 3 semifinals before seeing its season end in the Region 3-title match against Branford, the state's top-ranked team.

Union began the District 6 tournament with a 3-0 (25-8, 25-9, 25-17) quarterfinal win over Fort White. Jailyn Simmons and Layla Barber had 12 and five kills, respectively, with Simmons adding five digs and two blocks.

Kamryn Southerland led the team in assists with 11, while also recording six digs. Abby Williams had eight assists and seven aces.

Indi Knox and Bella Johns had eight and six digs, respectively, with Johns adding seven aces and five assists.

The win advanced Union to the semifinals to play a Lafayette

See UCHS, page 15

Legal Notices

Legals for the week of Jan. 2, 2025

BRADFORD

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, STATE OF FLORIDA
CASE NO: 63-2020-DR-0136-FMXX-MA
DIVISION:

IN RE: THE MATTER OF: WILLIAM CHAD ANDERSON, Petitioner, and BRITTANY HAIRE, Respondent.
To: William Chad Anderson
4534 S.W. 84th Trail
Lake Butler, FL 32054

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Supplemental Petition for Modification of Timesharing and Child Support has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Maria Aguilu, Esq., Attorney for Petitioner at 2318 Park Street, Jacksonville, Florida 32204 email: maguilu@immigrationlawfla.com, phone: 904-385-9377 on or before January 1, 2025, and file the original with the clerk of this court at: Union County Courthouse, 55 West Main Street, Room 103, Lake Butler, FL 32054 before service on Respondent or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.
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. (You may file Designation of Current Mailing and E-Mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed or e-mailed to the address(es) on record at the clerk's office.
WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida

Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.
Dated: December 4, 2024
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT BY: C. HOLLINGSWORTH
DEPUTY CLERK
12/12 4tchg -01/02/2025 UCT

COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Bradford County Board of County Commissioners will have a board meeting on January 7, 2025, at 9:30 AM inside the county commission meeting room, located in the north wing section of the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 N. Temple, Avenue, Starke, FL. A copy of the meeting agenda may be obtained from the Bradford County website: www.bradfordcountyfl.gov. Said meeting location is secured — no firearms or weapons are permitted.
1/2 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF SALE
Ron Denmark Mini Storage will hold a public auction on January 10, 2025 10:00am at 2117 N. Temple Ave. Starke, FL on the following units containing personal items:
Unit 96 Belonging to R. Austin
Unit 138 Belonging to F. Barnes
Unit 98 Belonging to S. Hampton
Unit 117 Belonging to T. Reed
Unit 102 Belonging to L. Tisdale
Unit 95 Belonging to T. Weaver
Unit 50 Belonging to A. Williams
Unit 110 Belonging to V. Atkinson
1/2 2tchg 1/9-BCT

BUDGET WORKSHOP
THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Bradford County Board of County Commissioners will hold a workshop to discuss the 25-26 Fiscal Year budget on January 7, 2025, at 10:30 AM, or immediately following the regular BOCC meeting, inside the county commission meeting room, located in the north wing section of the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 N. Temple, Avenue, Starke, FL. A copy of the meeting agenda may be obtained from the Bradford County

website: www.bradfordcountyfl.gov. Said meeting location is secured — no firearms or weapons are permitted.
1/2 1tchg-BCT

UNION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, STATE OF FLORIDA
CASE NO: 63-2020-DR-0136-FMXX-MA
DIVISION:

IN RE: THE MATTER OF: WILLIAM CHAD ANDERSON, Petitioner, and BRITTANY HAIRE, Respondent.
To: William Chad Anderson
4534 S.W. 84th Trail
Lake Butler, FL 32054

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for Supplemental Petition for Modification of Timesharing and Child Support has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Maria Aguilu, Esq., Attorney for Petitioner at 2318 Park Street, Jacksonville, Florida 32204 email: maguilu@immigrationlawfla.com, phone: 904-385-9377 on or before January 1, 2025, and file the original with the clerk of this court at: Union County Courthouse, 55 West Main Street, Room 103, Lake Butler, FL 32054 before service on Respondent or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.
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. (You may file Designation of Current Mailing and E-Mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed or e-mailed to the address(es) on record at the

clerk's office.
WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.
Dated: December 4, 2024
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT BY: C. HOLLINGSWORTH
DEPUTY CLERK
12/12 4tchg -01/02/2025 UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY
PROBATE DIVISION
IN RE: THE ESTATE OF:
File No.: 63-2024-CP-000039
ROGER JOSEPH AUGER,
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of ROGER JOSEPH AUGER, deceased, whose date of death was October 2, 2024, File Number 63-2024-CP-000039, is pending in the Circuit Court for Union County, Florida. Probate Division, the address of which is 55 West Main Street, Lake Butler, Florida 32054. The names and addresses of the Personal Representative and the Personal Representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice has been served must file their claims with this Court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE TIME 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 THREE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN §733.702 OF THE FLORIDA

PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
The date of first publication of this notice December 26, 2024.
LOREN RHOTON, ESQ.
Personal Representative
412 East Madison Street, Suite 1111
Tampa, FL 33602
(813) 226-3138
Email: rhotonl167@msn.com
NEAL WEINSTEIN, ESQ.
412 E. Madison Street, Suite 1111
Tampa, Florida 33602
(813) 223-2792
Attorney for Personal Representative
Florida Bar No. 241474
Email: nealwesq@hotmail.com
12/26 2tchg 1/2/25-UCT

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
SPRAYFIELD MODIFICATIONS DEP AGREEMENT NO. WG088
CITY OF LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA
Sealed Bids for the construction of the Sprayfield Modifications project will be received by the City of Lake Butler, Florida at the office of the City Clerk, 200 SW 1st Street, Lake Butler, Florida 32054, until February 4, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. local time. At that time, the Bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud.
The Project includes the following Work: Replacement of the three (3) existing 50 HP irrigation pumps with new 50 HP irrigation pumps with VFDs; replacement of existing pipe, valves, and fittings; new irrigation system control panel; new flowmeter and in-line filter; filtrate sand drying bed; replacement of 893 impact sprinkler spray heads; eight (8) above-ground irrigation zone control assemblies, each including magnetic flowmeter, motor-actuated valve, and pressure transducers; electrical, with emergency generator; drainage modifications; and associated restoration.
Bids are requested for the following Contract: Sprayfield Modifications, DEP Agreement No. WG088.
The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is: Mittauer & Associates, Inc., 580-1 Wells Road, Orange Park,

Florida 32073, (904) 278-0030. Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office, Monday through Friday (excluding holidays), and may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Issuing Office as described below.
Bidding Documents will be provided electronically as portable document format (PDF) files and as printed Bidding Documents, both for a non-refundable charge of \$150 per set payable to "Mittauer & Associates, Inc." Upon Issuing Office's receipt of payment, the digital files will be emailed, and the printed Bidding Documents will be sent via UPS Ground. Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office.
Bidding Documents also may be examined at City Hall, 200 SW 1st Street, Lake Butler, Florida 32054, (386) 496-3401, Monday through Friday (excluding holidays). Bid security must be furnished in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.
To be considered qualified, Bidder must be licensed to engage in the business of contracting in the State of Florida by the Construction Industry Licensing Board and must have successfully completed, as prime contractor or subcontractor, a minimum of 3 projects of a similar nature involving solid set irrigation systems within the past 5 years, each having a minimum contract value of \$100,000, with at least one project having a contract value in excess of \$250,000.
The City of Lake Butler, Florida is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Instructions to Bidders.
For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents.
1/2 1tchg-UCT

1/2 1tchg-UCT

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Sports Editor: Cliff Smelley
Advertising: John R. Tillman
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UCHS

Continued from page 14

team it had lost to twice in the regular season. This time, the Tigers came out on top with a 3-1 (22-25, 25-20, 29-27, 25-12) win.

Lafayette was the second-ranked team in the state.

Simmons had 19 kills and two blocks, while Knox had 10 kills and 19 digs. Morgan Smith and Barber added nine and seven kills, respectively, with Barber adding 13 digs.

Southerland and Johns led the team in digs with 24 and 21, respectively. Williams added eight, while Bayley Staier had six.

The Tigers got 25 assists from Southerland, 14 assists from Williams and two blocks from Shaley Maloney.

In the district-championship

match, the Tigers lost 3-0 (25-22, 25-23, 25-16) to Branford.

Simmons and Smith were the match leaders in kills with 11 and 10, respectively. The Tigers also got eight kills from Barber.

Barber, Simmons and Smith each had two blocks.

Southerland recorded team highs with three aces and 14 digs, while Williams led in assists with 17. Southerland added 13 assists.

Williams had 12 digs, while Johns and Knox each had nine.

The Region 3 playoffs had Union facing second-ranked Lafayette in the first round, with the Tigers again getting a 3-1 win. Union won the first two sets 25-19 and 25-20. After Lafayette took a 26-28 in the third set, the Tigers closed it out with a 26-24 in the fourth.

Smith had 11 kills, while Knox and Barber had nine and seven, respectively.

Williams finished with 19 assists, while Southerland led the

team with 22. Southerland also had 12 digs, while Williams had nine.

Johns led the team in digs with 17, with the Tigers also getting 15 from Knox, nine from Barber and eight from Simmons.

Simmons and Smith each had three blocks to lead the team. Barber added two.

The win set up a rematch of the District 6-championship match. Union dropped the first two sets, but rallied to force a fifth set before losing 3-2 (25-19, 25-14, 17-25, 19-25, 17-15) to Branford.

Simmons and Smith had 15 and 10 kills, respectively, while Barber and Knox each added nine. Knox and Smith each had two blocks, with Knox also recording 18 digs.

Barber had nine digs.

Johns led the team in digs with 32, while Southerland had 28. Williams added 10 digs.

Williams had a team-high 20

assists, while Southerland had 19 to go along with four service aces.

The Tigers finished the season with a 17-10 record.

Golfer Zoe Elixson qualifies for region

Girls golfer Zoe Elixson qualified for region-level competition with her performance at the District 3-1A meet. Elixson was the second-highest placing individual not on one of the region-qualifying teams, which allowed her to advance as well. She shot an 18-hole score of 105, which had her finish in 10th place overall.

At the Region 1 meet, Elixson had a score of 106 and was the fourth-highest individual from a public school.

This was Elixson's third straight year advancing to regionals.

BHS

Continued from page 10

Girls hoops team qualifies for region

Bradford earned the fifth seed in the Region 1-3A girls basketball playoffs, but the Tornadoes' season came to an end in the first round to the same team that defeated them in the District 2 tournament.

The Tornadoes lost 52-44 to P.K. Yonge in the District 2 tournament semifinals and then lost 42-38 to the Blue Wave again in the Region 1 quarterfinals.

In the district tournament, Bradford was able to cut a double-digit deficit to four points. P.K. Yonge scored 10 of the final 12 points in the third quarter and scored the first points of the fourth quarter to take its largest lead at 38-27.

The Tornadoes' Ar'Nayshia Griffin scored on a drive to the basket. She drew a foul in the process and made the ensuing free-throw attempt. Bradford

then got a basket off a rebound putback by Ajjayah Jackson, while an offensive rebound by Khamyra Hankerson led to a three-pointer by Destiny Crum.

A Jackson steal led to a basket by Jada Hankerson, which left Bradford trailing 48-39 with 2:15 to play.

Bradford, which could never overtake the Blue Wave, got 10 points from Griffin, eight from Jada Hankerson, seven each from Nichelle Brown and Khamyra Hankerson, six from Jackson and three each from Crum and Kayla Evans.

In the Region 1 quarterfinals, Bradford failed to score in the final 4:13 after a Brown free throw gave the Tornadoes a 38-37 lead.

Griffin led the Tornadoes with 13 points. Brown and Jada Hankerson each had eight, while Bradford also got four from Khamyra Hankerson, three from Jackson and two from Kailyn Teal.

Bradford finished the season with a 14-9 record.

KHHS

Continued from page 11

Keystone earned the eighth seed in the Region 1 playoffs and had to play P.K. Yonge again, losing 8-0 to finish its season with a 12-7-1 record.

The baseball team had a 20-7 record before losing to The Villages in the District 4-3A championship game and then to Pensacola Catholic in the Region 1 quarterfinals.

Keystone began the district tournament with a 12-0, five-inning win over Pierson Taylor. The Indians got solo home runs from Connor Guy and Austin Musgrove and a two-run shot from Alex Addington.

Guy finished with two RBI. Joining Addington and Musgrove with one RBI each were Tallon Campbell, Ty Mitzel, Aiden Screen, Andru Siemer and Austin Smith.

The starting pitcher was Guy, who pitched a no-hitter and gave up one walk through three innings, striking out four. Addington gave up one hit and one walk in two innings.

Keystone faced P.K. Yonge in the semifinals, with Smith hitting a three-run homer to end the game early, giving the Indians a

12-0, five-inning win.

Smith finished with four RBI, while Guy, who was 3 for 3, had three.

Campbell also drove in a run. Gage Barry pitched a complete game, allowing one hit and two walks, while striking out six.

Keystone advanced to the district-title game, losing 5-3 to The Villages.

The Indians finished with just four hits, getting one RBI each from Addington and Brady Kerlin.

Musgrove pitched a complete game, allowing eight hits and two walks, while striking out five.

Keystone earned the eighth seed in the Region 1 playoffs and traveled to play top seed Pensacola Catholic in a quarterfinal game, losing 5-2.

The Indians squandered a bases-loaded opportunity with no outs in the third and left a total of six runners stranded in the first three innings.

Keystone took a 2-0 lead in the fourth. Guy ground into a fielder's choice with the bases loaded, which allowed Mitzel and Siemer to score.

It was a 2-1 game when Pensacola Catholic hit a three-run homer in the fifth.

Mitzel and Addington finished

3 for 3 and 3 for 4, respectively, while Guy went 2 for 3.

Barry pitched, giving up six hits and two walks, while striking out six.

In softball, Keystone snapped a two-game losing streak to end the regular season by defeating Pierson Taylor 7-1 in the semifinals of the District 3-3A tournament, but the Indians then lost two straight, ending their season in the Region 1 quarterfinals.

Bella Cumbo finished with two RBI in the win over Pierson Taylor, while Alaina Kinsall and Kadence Massey each had one.

Riley Shuford and Amber Wagner each went 2 for 3, while Abbie Roach went 2 for 4 with two doubles.

In the circle, Massey gave up no walks and struck out six.

Keystone fell behind 9-1 to Palatka in the district-championship game and eventually lost 12-7.

Delia Johnson and Ashley Nugent each drove in two runs, with Nugent's two RBI coming off a two-homer in the bottom of the sixth.

Massey had one RBI.

The Indians earned the seventh seed in the Region 1 playoffs, which put them on the road for a quarterfinal game against second

seed Episcopal. Keystone went 10-0 to end its season with a 12-13 record.

Keystone had just one hit, with batters striking out 11 times.

3 make regionals in cross country

Olivia Griffin, Ryder Thomas and Noah Yara earned Region 1-2A berths in cross country with their performances at the District 2 meet.

The top four individuals not on regional-qualifying teams earned the right to advance. Thomas was the top runner in the boys field not on one of those teams, placing 20th out of 159 overall with a time of 17:44. Yara, who ran a 31st-place time of 18:04, was the third-highest individual not on a regional-qualifying team.

In the girls race, Griffin was the top runner not on a team advancing, placing 35th out of 136 overall with a time of 21:22.

Thomas had the highest finish of the three at the region meet, placing 25th out of 114 with a time of 17:27. Yara was 47th with a time of 17:54.

Griffin's time of 23:09 placed her 66th out of 108.

Wishing You All A Healthy, Happy & Prosperous New Year!

from



DLPbankTM



INTERLACHEN STAFF
L-R: Rachel Arthur, Stacy Mosley, Meaghan Howard,
Lauren Hanes-Harvey



LAKE BUTLER STAFF
L-R: Charlotte Gambel, Melissa Williams, Cassandra Bennett, Tereas Davidson



STARKE STAFF
L-R: Front row: Andrea Wasson, Harry Gunsallus (Interim President), Carolyn Reddish
2nd Row: Sami Deese, Susan Nicklas, Samantha Tew, Sara Wade, Dae Hutchinson
3rd Row: Joey Keenedy, Kathy Armendarez, Jessica Brown, Marty Rhoden, Kim Howard, Regina Gillyard, Christopher Page, Casey Muller

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