

**New zones proposed for  
Bradford's elementary schools**  
See page 3

**Plus graduation rates, and  
efforts to improve attendance  
and performance** See page 4

**SPECIAL OUTREACH PAGE TO FAMILIES WITH  
SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN & YOUNGER**  
Some local private schools want to remind you this is:



SEE PAGE 16

*The Sweetest Strawberries this side of Heaven*

# Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

Thursday, January 26, 2023

144th year, 22nd Issue — \$1

## Phosphate mining application withdrawn in Bradford

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — After sparking a controversy followed by several years of anxious waiting, a request to mine phosphate in Bradford County has been withdrawn.

This follows last year's withdrawal from a lawsuit in Union County. HPS Enterprises II had sued Union County for depriving the company of its land use rights by enacting a moratorium on mining applications and strengthening its land development regulations.

Bradford County failed to enact a moratorium before an application was submitted here in 2016 to mine thousands of acres near the New River. In the interim, mining opponents here and downstream have appealed to the commission to reject the plan based on potential damage to the environment, human health and ecology-based jobs.

There were also many questions about the progress of a consultant's study of the master mining plan, the results of which were never returned so a hearing on the plan could proceed. 9A hydrologist's report for the study found insufficient information to determine the long-term impact on groundwater resources after mining. Commissioners were told to



Environmental group members from Bradford Environmental Forum, Our Sante Fe River and the Sierra Club joined county commissioners for a photo following the meeting. Pictured are Kristin Rubin, Kathy Still, Sarah Younger, Commissioners Carolyn Spooner, Kenny Thompson and Diane Andrews, Carol Mosley, Kate Ellison, Jane Blais, and Commissioner Danny Riddick. Not pictured: Commissioner Chris Dougherty.

keep quiet because of their quasi-judicial role in deciding the outcome of the mining application. Even county management was found to be obstructive. Graham resident Carol Mosely, who worked countless hours on documenting perceived irregularities in the process has even called out dishonesty of the former

county management and legal office.

Mosley and other activists attended the Jan. 19 commission meeting to hear an update on the mining application from new County Manager Scott Kornegay.

Remembering the many commission meetings she walked away from emptied handed and the

times she found that information she was provided wasn't true, Moseley thanked the board and Commissioner Danny Riddick in particular for tasking the new county manager with providing an update on the status of the application.

See MINE, page 2

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## WORTH NOTING

### Call Street schedule updated again

As part of the Florida Department of Transportation's Starke Railroad Overpass Interchange Improvements project, Call Street, Walnut Street and Thompson Street will undergo improvements over the coming weeks. Due to weather forecasts, resurfacing work originally scheduled to start Friday, Jan. 20, is now scheduled to start Friday, Jan. 27, and will run through Jan. 30. The intersection work that was originally scheduled to start on Jan. 23 is now scheduled to start on Monday, Jan. 30.

Jan. 27-30 — Call Street (State Road 230), Walnut Street and Thompson Street resurfacing: Call Street between U.S. 301 and Water Street will be closed January 27-30. Additionally, Walnut Street and Thompson Street will be closed between Call Street and S.R. 100. Closures will begin at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 27, and run through 6 a.m. Monday, Jan. 30. During resurfacing operations, on-street parking along Call, Thompson and Walnut Streets will not be available.

Jan. 30 — Call Street Intersection Reconstruction: Eastbound Call Street between U.S. 301 and Water Street will be closed starting Jan. 30. Additionally, Walnut Street and Thompson Street will be closed between Call Street and S.R. 100. Closures will begin at 6 a.m. Monday, Jan. 30, and are expected to remain in place for two to three weeks, weather and unforeseen circumstances permitting. During reconstruction operations, on-street parking along eastbound Call, Thompson and Walnut streets may not be available.

## Where's ARPA funding? Manager says he will find it

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Times Staff Writer

LAKE BUTLER — After lengthy citizen comments (see related story) the commission moved on to its regular business, which included the reinstatement of the interlocal agreement with Union County, which it had decided previously to not renew.

Once commissioners were made aware that doing so would cause the city to have to fund its own law enforcement, fire protection and emergency medical services, they saw their error in failing to renew and voted last month to reinstate the agreement.

County Commissioner Ryan Perez lent his time and support for the renewal, attending city meeting to be available for discussion. The city commissioners had already agreed that they needed to reinstate, but made it official by a 4-0 vote Jan. 17.

City Finance Director John Sapp was not in attendance at the meeting due to his vacation so the finance report was given by City Manager

Dale Walker. He reported a "big loss" in the wastewater fund for December.

Commissioner Melissa Hendrix asked Walker where the \$900,000 in ARPA money was, and Walker said he did not know but would ask Sapp when he returned. Hendrix pointed out that the city was now borrowing from itself (to fund the new Public Works facility) and had \$1.3 million depleted. At the time, Walker was the only person who signed checks. She asked him if it was not part of his job to know where the money went.

Acting Mayor Annette Redman noted that the \$900,000 was already designated to go with grant funds to upgrade the lift stations for the wastewater system.

"We have a \$3.5 million grant for the new wastewater plant and the \$900,000 is supposed to go with it," Hendrix said. "Now we will have to recoup."

Walker responded, simply saying, "We will find it."

See ARPA, page 6



Brooke McCloud and Thomas Slocumb were crowned queen and king during the Lion's Roar homecoming event at Hope Christian Academy on Jan. 19. See Inside for more photos. Photo by Virginia Denmark.

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### MINE

Continued from page 1

"I felt like I had no allies on the commission in my quest for reality checks. But the last time I asked I was heard," she said. She thanked Kornegay as well for taking the time to meet with her and review her documents. "I left that meeting feeling like we now have a county manager who wants things to be handled properly."

After receiving direction from the board, Kornegay, through Zoning Director Randy Andrews,

contacted HPS about the status of the application. Attorney Jim Taylor replied:

"On behalf of HPS, this letter is to confirm that HPS wishes to withdraw the above-referenced Application without the County taking any formal action on it. HPS therefore respectfully requests that the Board of County Commissioners consider the Application withdrawn, effective immediately."

There was applause and even a little dancing after Kornegay read the letter. But there were also kind and appreciative words for Mosley, her passionate public

speaking, her persistence and for caring about the county.

"I really appreciate your patience, your due diligence and your persistence, and not giving up to get an answer, not only for yourself, but for all of us," Commissioner Carolyn Spooner said.

Mosley said she would be very glad if she can box up her mine-related documents and never need to look at them again. She said she looks forward to moving on to other important tasks and finding new ways to service Bradford County.

### \$25K spent, commission didn't know

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Last week, Bradford County Commissioners approved an acknowledgement that an unbudgeted \$25,000 was spent out of the general fund in the 2021-22 Fiscal Year, although they weren't aware of it at the time.

The funds were used to complete planning and design of a new emergency operations center.

In late 2021, Sheriff Gordon Smith put plans for the new emergency operations center on hold. While the design and engineering plans would be finished, he said he would not pursue a \$2 million request from the state to construct the center,

citing future operational costs the county could not afford.

The sheriff's office had received a \$200,000 state grant for engineering and design of the new EOC. The grant was approved by the board. An additional \$25,000 from the general fund was spent to complete the plans, but staff in the clerk's office could not find evidence that the board had ever authorized the expenditure.

Deputy Assistant Clerk Rachel Conner explained that Finance Director Dana LaFollette found the expenditure when she was closing the books for the year. She said they reached out to the former acting manager and county attorney, Will Sexton, questioning how it was approved. She said he thought the board

had approved it, but it wasn't in the records.

They consulted with the engineering firm, CHW, who informed them it was approved during an internal meeting with the former manager.

Conner said the invoices fell within the guidelines of the purchasing policy and approved by the manager. The clerk's office did not question them.

Commissioner Carolyn Spooner asked how they would prevent this in the future.

Conner said the remedy is having a county manager in place that will make sure it doesn't happen in the future.

Commissioners also receive reports from finance as another safeguard, she said.

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### American Legion hosts dinner

American Legion Post 56 in Starke will host its monthly dinner for veterans and their families on Thursday, Jan. 26, at 6 p.m. Fried chicken will be served, and guests are ask to bring a side dish or dessert to share. The post home is located at 715 Edwards Road in Starke.

Veterans are not required to be a member of the American Legion to attend.

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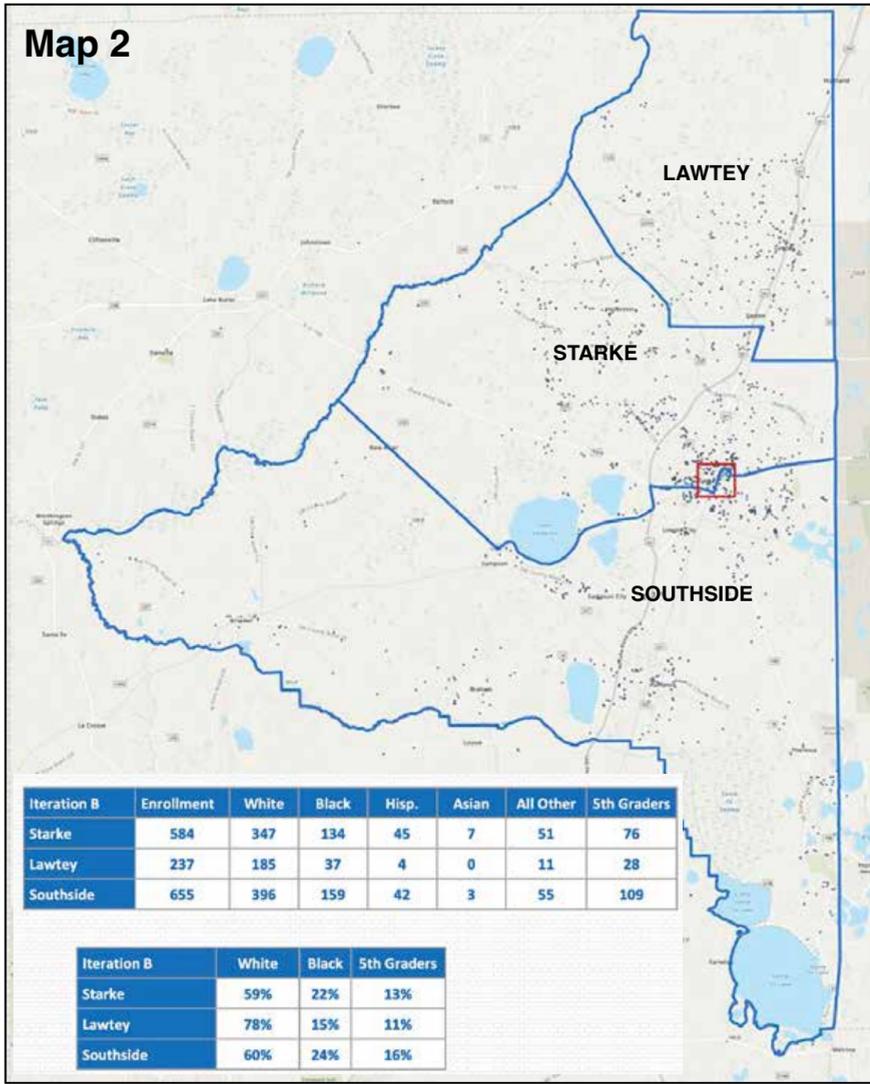
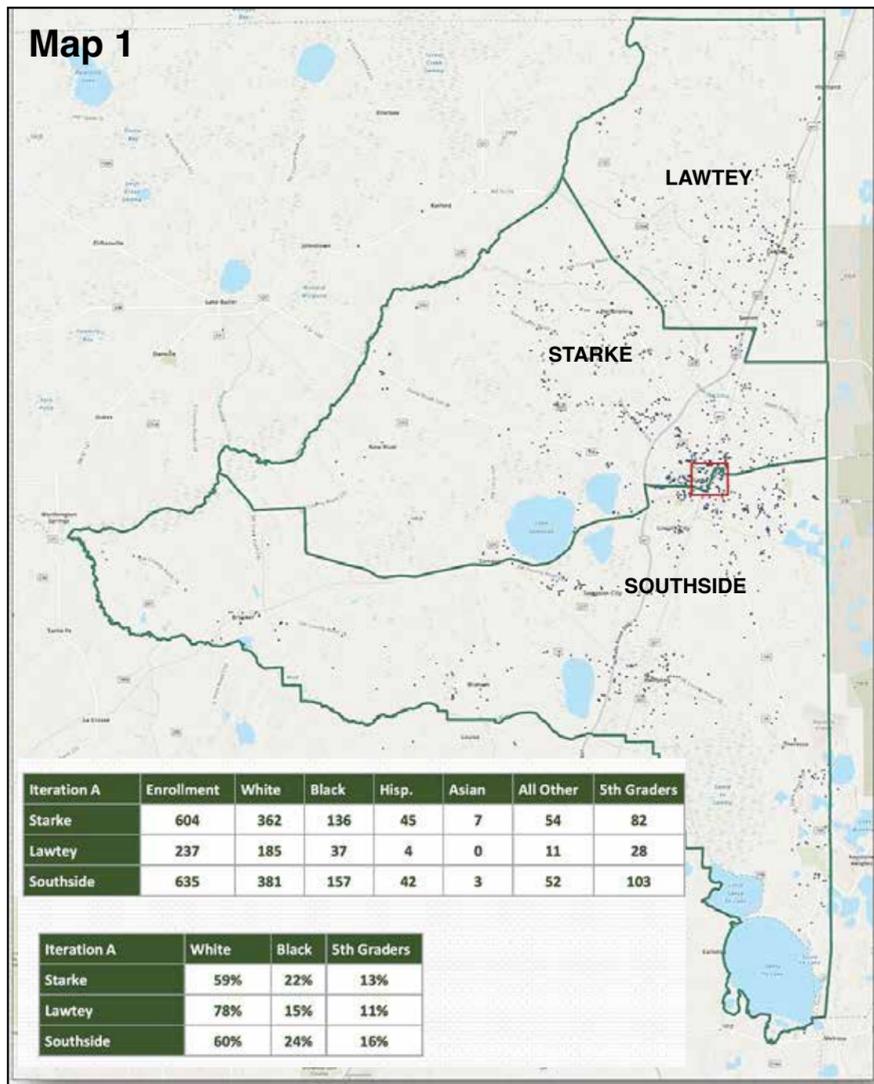
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# First glimpse shown of possible school zones

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — School board members are contemplating options for school rezoning before a final decision is made.

The public will get a better view at the options when the proposed maps are placed online. Meanwhile, school board members will be taking a closer look as well.

The decision will, however, be finalized well before the opening of Bradford Elementary School in the fall.

The rezoning only affects elementary level students as there is only one middle school and one high school.

Perhaps the biggest take away now is that this year's fifth-graders — the rising sixth-graders — will be allowed to remain at their current school when the schools become K-6 in the fall. This will prevent two consecutive years of transition, the first to a new elementary school and then to the middle school the following year.

Of course, school choice is still an option for families and there are many current students who attend an out-of-zone school. Requests to attend the new school are anticipated. The district does not provide transportation for those students, however, and there can be restrictions based on academic performance and discipline.

Using limited census data on population and race along with student address data from multiple sources, consultant John Gilreath from DRMP discussed the methodology behind the proposed maps during the Jan. 23 workshop. Infrastructure and transportation to and from schools are taken into consideration as well as the potential for future land use and development within the school zones.

The proposals take K-5 student numbers into consideration only and impact the current number of students enrolled at each school very little. Lawtey Elementary remains under capacity, but that is because shifting its zone any further south would result in further diluting the school's diversity by adding additional white students. The Lawtey zone in untouched in either of the two proposals.

The proposals manage to preserve diversity at current levels across the district. Other goals include drawing clear lines based on natural divisions such as roads, creeks or rivers, and trying not to divide neighborhoods between schools whenever possible.

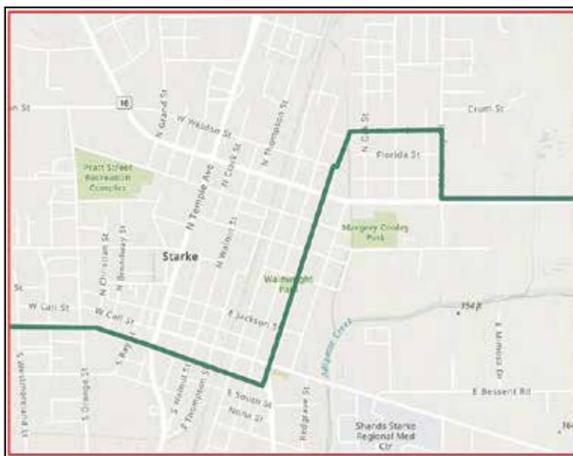
The proposals manage to preserve diversity at current levels across the district. Other goals include drawing clear lines based on natural divisions such as roads, creeks or rivers, and trying not to divide neighborhoods between schools whenever possible.

One characteristic eliminated from the current zones is a rectangular block around Sampson, Rowell and Crosby lakes dividing Starke and Southside (Bradford) elementary schools. Gilreath said it appeared to be based on legal descriptions derived from land surveys instead of natural dividing lines.

The proposed maps divide those zones more or less horizontally from west to east. In the west, the line follows the CSX right of way east to Southwest 137th Street, hugging the south Sampson Lake community before making its way to U.S. 301. From there it goes north to State Road 100.

The other notable change is in central Starke where the dividing line runs east on S.R. 100, north on Water Street, east on North Street, south on Old Lawtey and east on State Road 16 to the county line. The current line goes turns north from 100 at the CSX rail line, then east on Thomas Street and north on Old Lawtey Road.

There is very little difference between the two proposed maps. In the second map, the short Sampson River is used as



A closeup of the central Starke boundaries dividing Starke and Southside (Bradford) elementary schools on the new maps. From west to east the line goes from State Road 100 to Water Street, North Street, Old Lawtey Road and finally State Road 16.



Starke is currently divided as pictured above, via the railroad, Thomas Street and Old Lawtey Road.

a boundary line on the way to Sampson Lake, unlike the first. The boundary then proceeds in a direct line to the northwest.

The available maps make details difficult to see, but Gilreath promised better maps are coming. Parents will also be able to type in their address online and see which zone they fall into, something that is even hard to determine on a map if you live near a boundary line.

After rezoning, the assumption is that students will go to school in that zone, but school choice is not eliminated. Superintendent Will Hartley said there are as many as 40 students each in Starke and Southside who are going to school out of zone. Initially, it will appear there is a large shift of students. Following rezoning, families will be able to apply for their school of choice once again.

The school board will workshop rezoning again, followed by meetings to hear public comment.

## Food distribution in Lawtey

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Feeding Northeast Florida and True Vine Ministry will take place Thursday, Jan. 26 at 9 a.m. at the Philadelphia Baptist Church in Lawtey.

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



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## Bradford ARPA funds committed to economic development

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Bradford County has approved its plans for its remaining \$4.98 million in federal relief funding, and most of it will be invested in utility infrastructure.

Commissioners recently reaffirmed their commitment to donate \$500,000 of funding from the American Rescue Plan Act to the Concerned Citizens of Bradford County, which is working to save the historic RJE gymnasium.

On Jan. 19, County Manager Scott Kornegay presented a plan that proposed spending \$152,000 to digitize old records in the county clerk's office; \$827,560 for the roof, chiller, boiler and other HVAC work at the courthouse; and \$4 million to leverage the construction of water and wastewater improvements in partnership with the city of Starke and the state of Florida.

This partnership was discussed at a Legislative Delegation meeting in December, during which the city and county requested \$14.8 million to help recover from the traffic lost to the 301 Bypass and create new economic opportunity by running utilities out to the bypass via State Road 16.

The plan includes constructing a new water treatment plant on Market Road to improve water quality and system pressure, as well as new water mains to extend service. Sewer service would be expanded as well down S.R. 16 to the bypass.

It did not include a plan for paving a mile's worth of roads in the Lawtey area, a request from Commissioner Carolyn Spooner. She was hoping for more discussion among commissioners and staff about how to spend the remaining funds.

Commissioner Chris

Dougherty said supporting a project that would encourage development and economic growth would by extension grow the county's tax base and provide revenue for projects like paving.

"I don't think we're leaving anything out. I think we're just trying to present a project or projects that are going to be beneficial to this whole community, not just the county, not just the city. And when the taxpayers are already maxed out at 10 mills, we've got to figure out a way to generate revenue coming into this county," he said.

Dougherty said they have an opportunity to do something now that has never been done before because the money wasn't there.

Spooner was supportive of the infrastructure projects, but she wanted to know what portion of the city's ARPA funding would be contributed to the infrastructure project. She also wanted to know if there were already developers who have committed to come to Bradford County once the water and sewer infrastructure is in place.

Tammy Ross works in finance with engineering firm Woodward and Curran and helps the city achieve funding for its utility projects. She said developers are looking for locations that are ready to go.

"They're not going to wait a year or two years for water and sewer to be put in place. They're going to be ready to pull the trigger and move forward within six months to break ground and move forward with construction," she said. For the city and county to work together and get ahead of the development is a wonderful opportunity, she said.

As for the city's contribution, she talked about its investments in current and future projects through grants and loans. (Starke's remaining ARPA funds were committed to the

RJE gym renovation project, the downtown City Walk project, accounting software and ADA compliance at city hall.)

The city has worked with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to improve both the water and wastewater systems, including the new wastewater treatment plant and collection system improvements. The city has priority ranking, increasing its potential for future grants and low-interest loans, and DEP has approved a 50/50 grant loan for planning the drinking water system upgrades included in the city-county partnership.

Another \$5.3 million grant/loan has been approved for improvements to the wastewater collection system, 10% of which must be repaid, and another \$3.2 million has been requested. USDA has approved more than \$20 million to rebuild the wastewater treatment plant, around \$10 million of which must be repaid over 40 years.

While an economic boost is expected by job creation and expanded tax base, the city will be taking on the future maintenance of the additional infrastructure and the ongoing operational costs, and must service its debts. The initial capital investment might be \$14.8 million, but the cost over 20 to 30 years could be \$25 million or more, according to Ross.

She encouraged commissioners to consider more than cost, however. She said the return on investment would be \$4 to \$5 for every \$1 spent.

Commissioner Kenny Thompson said, "If it ain't in the ground, business is not coming around."

County commissioners agreed and unanimously approved the ARPA spending plan.



## Another valued employee retires

Bradford Solid Waste Supervisor Bennie Jackson alongside former director Donnie Wise and Public Works Director Jason Dodds recognized Charles "Chuck" Jones, who has retired from the solid waste department after more than 20 years. Jackson said Jones is a great man. It was Wise who hired Jones, and Jackson got to know him when filling in as a solid waste driver. Now that he's in charge, Jackson said it has been a privilege to have Jones on staff. He thanked Jones for being a great witness, friend and mentor to all of them.

## Bradford targeting attendance to improve student achievement

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — The link between student attendance and student achievement may seem like common sense, but Superintendent Will Hartley has been exploring how attendance has impacted achievement specifically in Bradford schools.

As part of an annual research project he completes for the Northeast Florida Educational Consortium, Hartley took a data dive and found some very clear evidence that truancy is holding students back.

He said he was troubled by what he found.

Going back to the 2019-20 school year, 14% of students missed 21 days of school or more. Another 25% missed 10 days or more.

Jumping to 2020-21, the number of school absences grew significantly, with 35% missing 21 or more days, and 55% missing 10 or more days.

Last year was similar in that 33% missed 21 days or more and 47% missed 10 days or more.

These truancy rates were even higher than neighboring districts dealing with their own attendance issues.

"It doesn't matter what we do to try to improve instruction or anything we do to move the district forward. If the students

aren't here, we can't help them," Hartley said.

When the district began comparing performance data from the Florida Standards Assessment to attendance, they found that students scoring proficient (Level 3 to 5) in English, math and science were in class 90% of the time or more. At the high school in particular, high English performers were at school 92% of the time.

"We have a lot of good instruction going on in our district, if we can get the students in front of those teachers," he said.

Average daily attendance has fluctuated in recent years, but Hartley said the goal this year is to get each school over 90%. The only school to achieve that last year was Starke Elementary, which was also the district's highest scoring school. They have set their own goal of 95% this year, he said.

As of the end of the first semester, schools were surpassing the 90% goal.

Positive communication and outreach with parents and guardians is helping to make the difference, according to Hartley.

Schools have also rebooted their positive behavior support programs, rewarding students for their attendance with ice cream and other treats.

"The bottom line is, we got to do all we can do to get the word out to the parents: We have to have your kids in school. And if we do that, we're seeing that our kids are for the most part very successful. But we've got to get them there," he said.

## School-level projects

Having worked on three projects himself for NEFEC, Hartley said he has seen that when an issue is placed in focus, they can demonstrate improvement. That's why he asked administrators to complete school-level improvement projects, progress on which has been presented during recent board meetings.

In December, Principal Cassie Melvin presented a project about improving instruction through improved collaborative planning for teachers. A program was implemented with the assistance of funds Southside received as a "turnaround" school. This included paying teachers for an additional hour of planning three days a week.

Melvin discussed how Southside had already progressed in prior years. While a D school in 2021 and 2022, learning gains

See **IMPROVE**, page 6

## Graduation rates down for Bradford, Union

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
Telegraph Editor

The state is reporting progress in high school graduation rates, but not locally.

According to the Florida Department of Education, the statewide graduation rate improved to 87.3% for the 2021-22 school year. This was an improvement of 0.4%, when compared to 2018-19, which was the last year prior to the COVID pandemic.

The state reported graduation rates at 90% and 90.1% during those years, making the 2022 results appear to be a noteworthy drop. According to DOE the difference between 2018-19 and 2021-22 is a more "apples to apples" comparison. The 2019 school year was the last year standardized assessment requirements for graduation were in place without exemption waivers. Required again in 2022, graduation rates dropped.

Regardless of which years you select, the graduation rate is down in Bradford and Union counties. Bradford School Superintendent Will Hartley said it was not unexpected.

"That cohort was our sophomore class the year COVID hit, which means they went home in March before state testing occurred. I think had they been able to test that year the grad rate would've been much higher," he said.

According to Hartley, the students who had not met testing requirements have retaken the FSA, ACT and SAT trying to achieve a concordant score to graduate on time, but each subsequent testing placed them further away from the year in which were taught that material. Each time, the test became harder to pass.

"For that reason, I think if you asked all 67 superintendents across the state, they would all tell you that they believe the testing requirements should've been waived for that cohort like it was for the previous year's cohort," he said.

"If you look at the numbers across the state, you see pretty big decreases across the board. This will continue to be a challenge in the coming years as districts try to recover from two years of disruption to learning. We will continue to do all we can to help our students meet the graduation requirements," Hartley said.

### Bradford High School

2018	89%
2019	87.7%
2020	88.2%
2021	85%
2022	76.1%

### Union County High School

2018	84.1%
2019	84.4%
2020	79.6%
2021	88.3%
2022	77.8%

While Clay County had its lowest showing in five years, dipping below 90% to 89.9%, Keystone Heights High turned its 2021 drop around.

School	Keystone	Heights	High
2018		91.5%	
2019		91.9%	
2020		92.8%	
2021		86.7%	
2022		92%	

Bradford did reduce its dropout rate from 10% to 6.9%, which represented 12 students. The graduation rate for Black students was down to 68.4%, which was 26 students out of 38.

Union County had two dropouts in 2022, which was one more than the prior year. In the past, it has graduated 90% or more of its Black students. The rate was 85% in 2022, or 17 out of 20. It also reported 11 multiracial students, eight of whom graduated, or 72.7%.

Keystone Heights High had fewer than 10 Black students, so the data is not reported. It did graduate all 12 of its Hispanic students. (The other schools had fewer than 10 Hispanic graduates.) The school reported five dropouts, a rate of 2.9%.

See **RATES**, page 6

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# Lake Region

## Clay superintendent touts district's achievements

*'It's a great school district'*

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Telegraph Staff Writer

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — Clay County Public Schools Superintendent David Broskie said his organization is a great school district, claiming that the Green Cove Springs-based school system is one of the best in Florida.

The superintendent made the statement during two strategic planning town hall meetings, one at Keystone Heights Junior-Senior High School on Jan. 12 and the second at Oakleaf Senior High School on Jan. 19.

"The reality is our school district is not a good school

district," Broskie declared. "It's a great school district, and I don't know how I could express that any more exuberantly than that."

The superintendent added that his claim is based on state Department of Education scores, the school system's ranking of fifth best in the state by the website Niche.com and the Florida Department of Education's designation of the system as a high-performing district.

Broskie said many parents and community members share his viewpoint on the district's performance, citing a November 2022 survey in which 87% of respondents said Clay County schools were on the right track.

"When you give people a choice," he said, "the choice is either: right track, wrong track,

got to pick one. When you do that, a 60-40 split is considered killing it. So, 87% is like...super killing it."

The same survey reported that 93% of respondents believe the district holds high standards for all students, 82% believe the school system provides a safe and orderly environment, and 58% marked "recruit and retain high-quality staff as their first priority."

Broskie told his audiences that the district's current strategic plan states the organization's major goals, the activities required for achieving those goals, and how the school system will measure its progress towards its objectives.

He added that the district's current goals center around maximizing student achievement,

recruiting, training and retaining talented teachers, engaging families and the community, creating a safe and positive learning environment and operating with fiscal efficiency.

The superintendent then went into more detail about each of the district's five major goals and asked the audience to provide written feedback on how the organization is progressing toward those goals.

He added that a steering committee will update the current plan from February through May based on the survey, community input and other data. The updated plan will be presented to the school board in June for approval.



Clay County Public Schools Superintendent David Broskie touts his organization as one of the best school districts in Florida.

## Lake Region couple visits The Basque Country

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — The Keystone Heights Rotary Club president briefed the membership on his recent trip to the Basque Country in Northeast Spain.

Richard Segall told the group that although the Basque Country straddles Spain and France, it has its own unique culture and history.

"They were fishermen, and they had a steel industry," he said, "and much of the steel used in Western Europe came from this part of Spain."

Segall and his wife Joy spent a month in Spanish Basque Country, walking nearly 300 miles.

Segall said the Basque people are independent and identify with their local culture more than with their Spanish nationality.

Under the Spanish constitution, the region has an autonomous government.

However, he added that Basque separatists are less prominent than those in Catalonia, a region he and Joy visited in 2021.

"The big marches and demonstrations like we saw in Barcelona, we did not see in the Basque Country," he said. "But the notion that this is Basque Country was ever present, not as a separatist movement, (but with the attitude): 'Here in the Basque Country, you're not necessarily in Spain.'"

The couple's trip featured tours of the Basque cities of Pamplona, Laguardia, Burgos and Bilbao, as well as walks in the Picos de Europa National Park and along the Ebro River.

### The running of the bulls

The couple's first stop was the City of Pamplona, the site of the famous running of the bulls. The Segall's time in the city was a week before the well-known event.

Segall displayed a slide of the town's city hall and said the bulls run to the left of the building, through Pamplona's main thoroughfare, and onto the bullring.

"The whole thing takes three minutes," he said. "One of the people who served as our guide has run it 16 times. He said it's the stupidest thing he's ever done."

Segall said that as long as the participants in the running of the bulls were locals, it was relatively safe.

"The worst thing that's happened is that it's become popular, and now what was a local custom and was reasonably safe has turned into a macho



Richard Segall

event where people go trying to prove something," he said, "and people now are getting hurt."

The tour guide stopped running with the bulls five years ago.

### Paying their tithes in grapes

Segall's next stop was Laguardia, home to an extensive network of family-owned vineyards. He showed the Rotarians a photo of a local hotel that displayed a bottle of wine from each of the area's local wineries.

"This region's not that big," he said, "You can see there are quite a few (bottles) up there. It's not one winery with six or eight different varieties but probably 70 or 80 wineries."

He added that the industry is slowly converting to a more commercial and industrial format, but most of the wineries remain family-owned, passed down from generation to generation.

He said one operator represents the 20th generation of one family that has operated a vineyard near Laguardia.

Another distinction of the town is a network of tunnels and caverns that run beneath.

"They cannot allow vehicles on the roads," he said, "otherwise they would collapse. It goes back to the history of the city's defense from way back when."

Segall said many of Laguardia's subterranean chambers have been converted into wine cellars and wineries.

He added that the wine culture is so strong in the area that many parishioners pay their tithes to the church in grapes. Clergymen then monetize the contribution by converting the fruit into wine.

### The home of El Cid

The couple's next stop was the City of Burgos, which Segall said has many historic buildings converted into new uses.



Joy Segall walks along the Caras Gorge.

"It's cleaned itself up tremendously," he said of the town. "It's created a tourist industry around it, and it's a wonderful place to visit and walk. It created parks that are very pleasant to be in. They've got a river running through the town. They've held onto the parts of the old structures that are nice. They've opened up redevelopment in the areas where you take the frame of the building and create something else on the inside."

"Our hotel was a shirt factory at one time," he added, "and it's just a very pleasant place to be." The city is also the birthplace of El Cid, the warrior immortalized in the 1961 movie starring Charlton Heston and Sophia Loren.

Segall said the historic El Cid was different from the romantic hero depicted by Hollywood. He described the warlord as a mercenary who switched loyalties and bickered with his bosses, finally agreeing to fight for the Moors against his former lords.

El Cid is one of Spain's foremost folk heroes. He and his wife are still popular throughout Spain, particularly in the Basque Country.

Segall told another story of a renewed city in describing his next stop: Bilbao.

At one time, the former steel town was a shell of a community full of dirty streets and abandoned buildings.

However, one asset the city retained from its glory years as the center of Europe's steel industry was connections to people with money.

Segall said the city's leadership

and the wealthy benefactors of the steel industry committed to transforming Bilbao into a new town.

"They learned about the Guggenheim trying to get another museum in Europe," Segall said, and Bilbao made a pitch to host the new facility.

"Guggenheim wanted absolutely nothing to do with this dirty, filthy steel town," Segall said.

But as city after European city, beginning with Vienna, turned away the museum's overtures, Bilbao kept selling itself to Guggenheim with a lucrative financial package.

"Finally, everybody else in Europe turned them down, and that money was just sitting out there," Segall said.

Guggenheim officials took Bilbao's offer. The city built the new facility, and Guggenheim operates the museum.

Segall said the deal catapulted the former steel town into a tourist mecca.

"It is now a marvelously beautiful and welcoming city that is very much dependent on the tourist industry," he said.

## Co-op trustees nominated

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Telegraph Staff Writer

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — Three Clay Electric trustees were nominated without opposition to the utility's board, and a new candidate is also running without an opponent.

Cindy Loose is the daughter of former trustee Carl Hagglund, who died last year. Loose was the only candidate nominated for her late father's seat during a District 1 meeting in Keystone Heights on Jan. 6.

Loose graduated from Keystone Heights High School in 1989, is a University of Florida graduate, and obtained a master's degree.

The Keystone High mathematics instructor is also

a former KHHS Teacher of the Year and has served as the school's math department chair since 2009.

At the District 6 meeting in Middleburg, incumbent trustee Jimmy Wilson was nominated without opposition. He was first elected to the board in 2014.

At the District 2 meeting in Palatka, incumbent trustee Kelley Smith was nominated without opposition. The former Florida House of Representatives member was first elected to the board in 1987. He currently serves as the board's secretary.

At the District 4 meeting in Alachua, incumbent trustee Carl Malphurs was nominated without opposition. He currently serves as the board president and was first elected in 2010.

"But it's also a beautiful place to live. They did a great job of zoning the city, allowing new development but maintaining the style."

### Thousands of pictures

Segall said the next part of the trip was to the Ebro River, the major river in Northeastern and Eastern Spain, nearly traversing the entire Iberian Peninsula, paralleling the French border. It is also the second longest river in the Mediterranean basin, after the Nile.

"This is where we got thousands of pictures because it was a fantastic walk," he said.

Segall added that rock formations and the deep ravines of the watercourse make for breathtaking scenes.

He added that the rock formations are statute-like, and at one point, he and Joy were 350 feet above the water, walking along the edge of a ravine.

### The peaks of Europe

The final part of the couple's

trek was to Picos de Europa National Park, named after the peaks of the Cantabrian Mountains within the park. The peaks were the first part of Europe sailors approaching from the west saw.

"They could see these peaks way out in the Atlantic, and they knew they were almost home," he said. "It is Spain's first national park, and it's filled with a lot of history, but mostly it's an area of beauty and poverty because everything is so sloped, the only viable industries are mining and raising animals."

Segall said one of the top attractions within the park is the Caras Gorge, a 7.5-mile-long chasm with drops of hundreds of feet.

The narrow path with few guardrails and with dozens of hikers on it going in both directions can make for an exciting day hike, he said, adding that the few injuries are due to the conscientiousness of the hikers.

"You've got trail runners who will run through, and you've got blind corners, so they're people who run into each other, but everybody's aware of the edges," he said. "And only in about five places did they have guardrails."



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# UNION COUNTY

## Citizens show up wanting answers at Lake Butler meeting

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Times Staff Writer

LAKE BUTLER — At its regular Jan. 17 meeting, the Lake Butler City Commission was met with a full house of city residents, many with questions and comments concerning the recent water main line rupture, the land swap with Welch's Automotive and the increase seen in some water bills.

Deputies from the Union County Sheriff's Office were on hand for the meeting at the request of the commission.

Rondall Huggins was the first citizens to offer comments at the beginning of the meeting, thanking the commission and public works for their work in getting the water main repaired and putting in the overtime that it required. He questioned if the contractor, Kinetic, would be billed for the cost to the city of

getting the water back on and was told that it was in the process of being done.

He mentioned the current mowing issue on city property, saying that a way could be found to get it done with less expense to the city. He then asked when the citizens were going to get some answers, saying that too many agenda items (for example, the budget), were getting tabled by the board.

Next to speak was Lisa Huggins, who commented on the city's plans for beautification, citing the land swap and suggesting the city provide an open space for community activities such as poetry readings and where food trucks could set up, offering residents more variety than normally available in town.

Local Pastor Patrick Maxwell again spoke on the land swap, saying he had posted

three questions on Facebook concerning the matter and saying many of the answers he had received were problematic. He said he loved the community and had many questions about the situation.

"It concerns me that no one else (businesses) was even given such an opportunity," Maxwell said. "One person had a business that was deemed to be an eyesore and they were given the opportunity to get them off Main Street. Will being an eyesore continue to be the criteria for such actions? It was an old building from the 1950s on less than half an acre."

Maxwell said that the city could not really hope to recoup anywhere near what it has had to spend to make the deal work. He also said the commission needed to start streaming its meeting on the Internet so more residents could keep abreast of what was

really going on.

Colise Cohen told commissioners that she lived on an unimproved street in the city that was supposed to be city maintained but rarely saw any work.

"I have heard promises about getting the road paved since 2018," Cohen said. "The road is mainly potholes and overflowing culverts and is sometimes almost impassable. I would think that with all the frivolous spending the city has been doing they could have gotten the road fixed. I need and expect more from my city. In addition, my water bill has doubled so that now it is higher than my electric bill."

Acting Mayor Annette Redman, after asking City Attorney John Maines and City Manager Dale Walker for confirmation, said that the city had received a grant for paving inside the city and that her

road was on the list to be done.

"We will get it done ASAP," Redman said.

In another concern about lack of maintenance, mobile home park owner Agnes Sapp said she had been working hard to maintain and upgrade the park, but has an issue with the city as well.

"I was told that the city owns the land between the road and my fence, but they have allowed very deep mud holes to develop that sometimes bar access to the homes," Sapp said. "There is work that needs to be done there and it is the city's responsibility to see to it."

The final citizen speaker of the night was Cindy Nelson, who reported that she had recently received a \$409.36 water bill. She said she lived in a small home with just a poodle as a housemate and does not understand how her bill went up from an average of

about \$70 a month could be so high.

"I came to city hall to ask about it and was told that they would send someone out to read my meter and make sure there was no problem with the reading transmitted by it," Nelson said. "I was then told that if it was accurate then all they could do for me was advise me to get a plumber. I saw Mr. Walker coming in to the building and tried to talk to him, but he speeded up his pace and got behind the locked door leading to his office."

After the last citizen comment, Redman assured the audience that "notes had been taken of the concerns so they could be addressed, the commission was in the process of gathering information about any budget problems and there would be more special meetings held to discuss any issues."

## ARPA

Continued from page 1

Hendrix also brought up the issue of the boat races planned for March. She said the event would cost the city \$10,000 if there were no sponsors. Walker indicated that there were none. Since no contract had yet been signed with the sanctioning body that governed the races, Hendrix made a motion to not hold them and the commission agreed unanimously.

In a related concern, Hendrix said that Walker had signed a contract with a property owner who owned a lot near the Lakeside Park to provide more parking for the event. The contract, signed by Walker without commission consideration or approval, was for \$1,300 and Hendrix said she wanted the details so see if they city would owe money for the lease if the races were not held.

The commission heard a report from Greg Land with Mittauer and Associates, the city engineers. He said the company had prepared a Florida Senate request on behalf of the city to replace the in-ground water storage tank, which dates back to 1964 and has been in need of replacement. Lang said the Senate had approved the request and provided \$800,000 for the purpose, with the usual \$75,000 city match not required.

The fully funded project will replace the 200,000 tank and Mittauer will administer the project through the Department of Environmental Protection. He requested that the commission approve the project and they did so unanimously.

The commission entered into an interlocal agreement with the Union County Supervisor of Elections Office to administer a special election to fill Seat 2 and bring the board up to full strength. The seat was held by Redman, who was vice mayor and became acting mayor when Mayor Jack Schenck resigned late last year.

Qualifying to run for the seat will take place from Feb. 13-17, and the election will be held on April 4. The timing for the election is determined by state regulations concerning elections, giving time for ballots to be printed and mailing ballots to voters who request them. The city has several voters who are overseas in the military and time must be allowed so they can express their wishes.

Hendrix gave a report of her findings after talking with the city auditors, Powell and Jones, an action approved by the commission at its earlier special workshop. She said she asked the auditors about several areas of concern, such as credit card usage, the uniform and shoe policies, the land swap, the

ARPA funds, the apparent lack of any 1099 forms issued to Walker for the rent, fuel and vehicle the city provides him with, the cell phone charges, the employee insurance stipend and the general lack of any financial checks and balances.

She was told that most of these things would not show up in a regular audit, but would require a forensic audit of all materials from October 2021 through December 2022. The cost to the city for this special audit would be between \$6,600 and \$7,700, but she was told that all the legwork she has done in assembling financial records would reduce the cost. The special audit was approved by the commission 4-0.

Hendrix also brought up the costs of building and outfitting the new building for the Public Works Department.

"The city has already spent \$600,000 to relocate public works and now there is the cost of putting in a road for it," Hendrix said. "I am afraid we are going to have to get a loan to pay for it."

The city had put the job out for bids and approved one from local contractor Darrell Williams for \$119,000. The board agreed to explore the matter further at its next special meeting and City Attorney John Maines asked that the contractor be contacted to see if he would be agreeable to being flexible about when he will begin the work, possibly postponing it until next budget year.

The next scheduled special workshop will be held on Monday, Feb. 13, and will take place in two parts. First, the commissioners will meet at 6 p.m. at the new public works facility to see what is being done and whether or not some of the plans might be altered to reduce costs. Then, at 7 p.m. the board will convene in the meeting room in the Lake Butler City Hall to conduct the workshop. Matters up for discussion at the workshop will include the budget and spending, the mowing issue and issues with the water bills being experienced by citizens.

## Train program at UC museum

The Union County Historical Society will present a program on Tuesday, Jan. 31, at 6:30 p.m. at the Union County Historical Museum, 410 W. Main St. in Lake Butler. The program will be presented by Clarence Brannen, a local train historian. All are welcome to attend this interesting program.

## Landfill charts two firsts with energy project

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
Telegraph Editor

RAIFORD — New River Regional Landfill is still trucking natural gas to a nearby People's Gas pipeline, but the production facility at the landfill will soon be transmitting it directly into the pipeline.

The New River Solid Waste Association in partnership with OPAL Fuels has established the first landfill gas-to-energy project in the state, and so far Executive Director Perry Kent things are going well.

The transmission line has been laid, connected and tested, Kent told board members from Baker, Bradford and Union counties last week. The project could be completed by the end of January.

Until then, the "virtual pipeline" of trucks will continue to transport the gas from the landfill at all hours of the day and night. Kent is looking forward to

the end of that.

Because the sale of the renewable natural gas is a revenue generating project, the executive director said he would have a revenue report ready at the next board meeting. He's predicting they could exceed their estimates.

Kent said the future of the project includes building a vehicle fueling station at the front of the landfill for use by trucks, including garbage trucks coming from Alachua County.

Prior to the natural gas project, the landfill had to collect and burn off the greenhouse gases emitted by decomposing organic waste to comply with environmental air standards. An onsite refinery now cleans up the gas for use as fuel. OPAL Fuels and the landfill association can profit from the fuel while offering the low carbon renewable gas as a solution to combat climate

change.

The project is gaining attention as the state's first renewable natural gas project at a landfill and New River as the first landfill to inject fuel into the Florida Gas Pipeline.

The landfill gas facility has the ability to produce 5 million GGE per year, with a GGE being the alternative fuel equivalent of 1 gallon of gasoline. According to OPAL, this renewable gas, when used to displace diesel, will avoid greenhouse emission equivalent 380 heavy duty trucks.

The refining process removes approximately 95% of carbon dioxide, 98% of sulfur oxide, and 90% of nitrogen oxide and carbon monoxide.

OPAL made these announcements now that the project is at the end of its "ramp-up period."

## IMPROVE

Continued from page 4

were demonstrated, particularly in math. She talked about making sure both students and teachers understand what is expected of them and making sure students are exposed to everything that will be on the test. They are looking at progress throughout the year and assessing instruction when students are following short to identify what can be done differently.

In January, Principal Ray Schaefer and Assistant Principal Shannon Rodriguez presented a project on improving math performance following a successful effort with science.

They were starting from a place of strong group and small group instruction by teachers and paras. The content at each grade level was aligned with state standards. They've implemented personalized learning on computers via IXL in third through fifth grades. The program is funded by Title I and uses instructional videos

followed by assessments. A diagnostic test determines the needs of each student and then the students proceed along individualized learning paths.

Teachers are monitoring their progress, ensuring that they maintain a minimum proficiency. A snapshot of one fifth-grade group using IXL from Nov. 4 to Jan. 9 projected 20% growth.

They are also using Rocket Math, a five-to-15-minute practice to build fluency with skills like multiplication and division. This is utilized in second grade classes and up and is also funded by Title I.

Hartley is excited about what's been presented.

"I think there's a lot of good things that are happening. I mean, you can see it in these projects that the administrators are doing. There's some very intentional work going on towards improving student achievement. But none of that matters if the students aren't here," he said.

As part of the leadership projects being carried out by school administrators, they have been asked to show how their

improvement projects have impacted attendance.

"We can talk at the district level all we want to about attendance, but at the school level, if they're not really pushing it, then it's not going to happen," he said. There is enthusiasm when they take on a challenge as a team.

Teachers and staff are being held accountable for their own attendance. They were told about the district focus on attendance at the beginning of the school year, but during the January school board meeting, Hartley revealed the district had been tracking teacher and staff attendance during the first semester as well.

As a reward Lawley Elementary staff was treated to lunch on a recent planning day. While the results were close, Lawley teachers and staff had just over 95% average daily attendance. Bradford High was right behind at 94%, followed by 93% at Bradford Middle School.

While it's no longer a secret, staff attendance will be tracked again, and another school winner announced at the end of the second semester.

## RATES

Continued from page 4

## Progress monitoring

The state is also bragging about its new progress monitoring system and the apparent learning

gains students are making.

Calling it the nation's first full transition to such an accountability system, FDOE said the Florida Assessment of Student Tracking (FAST) progress monitoring system consists of three student "check-ins" at the beginning middle and end of each year. The first assessment sets a baseline for each student at the beginning of the school year, and the others chart their progress.

Based on the preliminary results from the first and second tests, 31% of grade three through eight students statewide are performing at or above grade level in mathematics compared to 14% at the beginning of the school year.

In reading, pre-K to second grade students have grown from 20% performing at or above

grade level to 36%.

According to FDOE, "Progress monitoring places the focus where it should be — on students' growth and how teachers, parents and school leaders can support their growth. While this school year is a 'hold harmless' transition year to progress monitoring, the fact that students' scores are already elevating is an indication that educators are leveraging more timely and actionable student learning data."

FAST replaces the math and English portions of the FSA exam.

These are the only state statistics that have been released so far, but families can monitor their students' FAST progress through their FOCUS account, or an online state portal found at www.flfast.org.

2023

BECOMING A CANDIDATE  
SPECIAL ELECTION

FOR  
CITY COMMISSIONER  
CITY OF LAKE BUTLER

APRIL 4, 2023

\* CITY COMMISSIONER SEAT IS AT LARGE \*

\* SEAT #2 UP FOR ELECTION \*

City of Lake Butler Florida  
Special Election  
April 4, 2023

The City of Lake Butler will hold a Special Election on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, to fill City Commissioner Seat #2 vacated by the resignation of Jack Schenck.

To qualify for this position, you must have been a resident of the City of Lake Butler for the past six months and you must be a registered voter.

Qualifying dates: February 13, 2023 - February 17, 2023, Noon Monday till Noon Friday. Qualifying will take place at the Supervisor of Elections Office located at 175 W. Main St. Lake Butler.

### Qualifying Fee

1% of Commissioner's Salary	\$106.74
Qualifying Fee	\$ 25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$131.74</b>

The Union County Supervisor of Election will be holding this Special Election for the City of Lake Butler. For candidate information or questions call the Supervisor of Elections at (386) 496-2236

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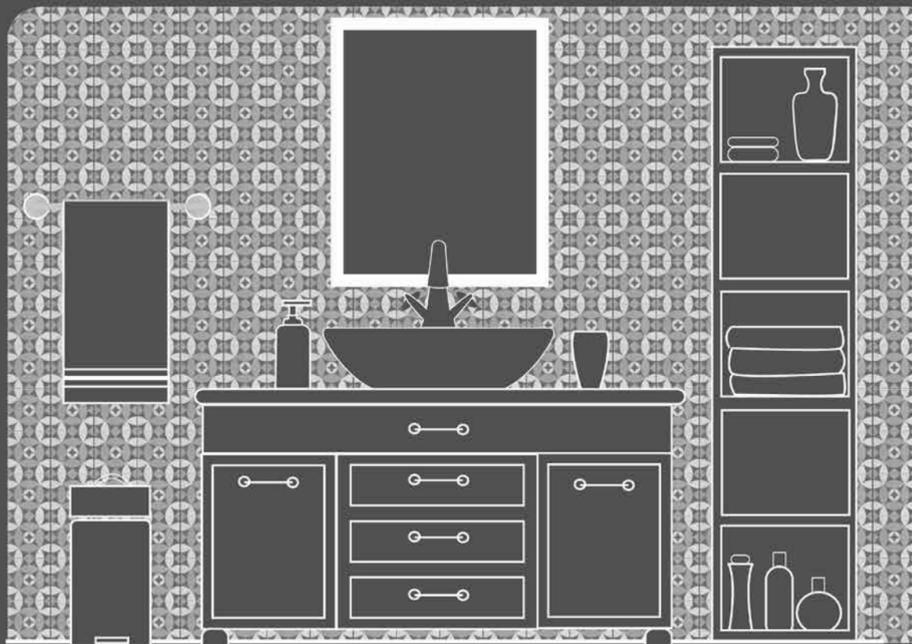
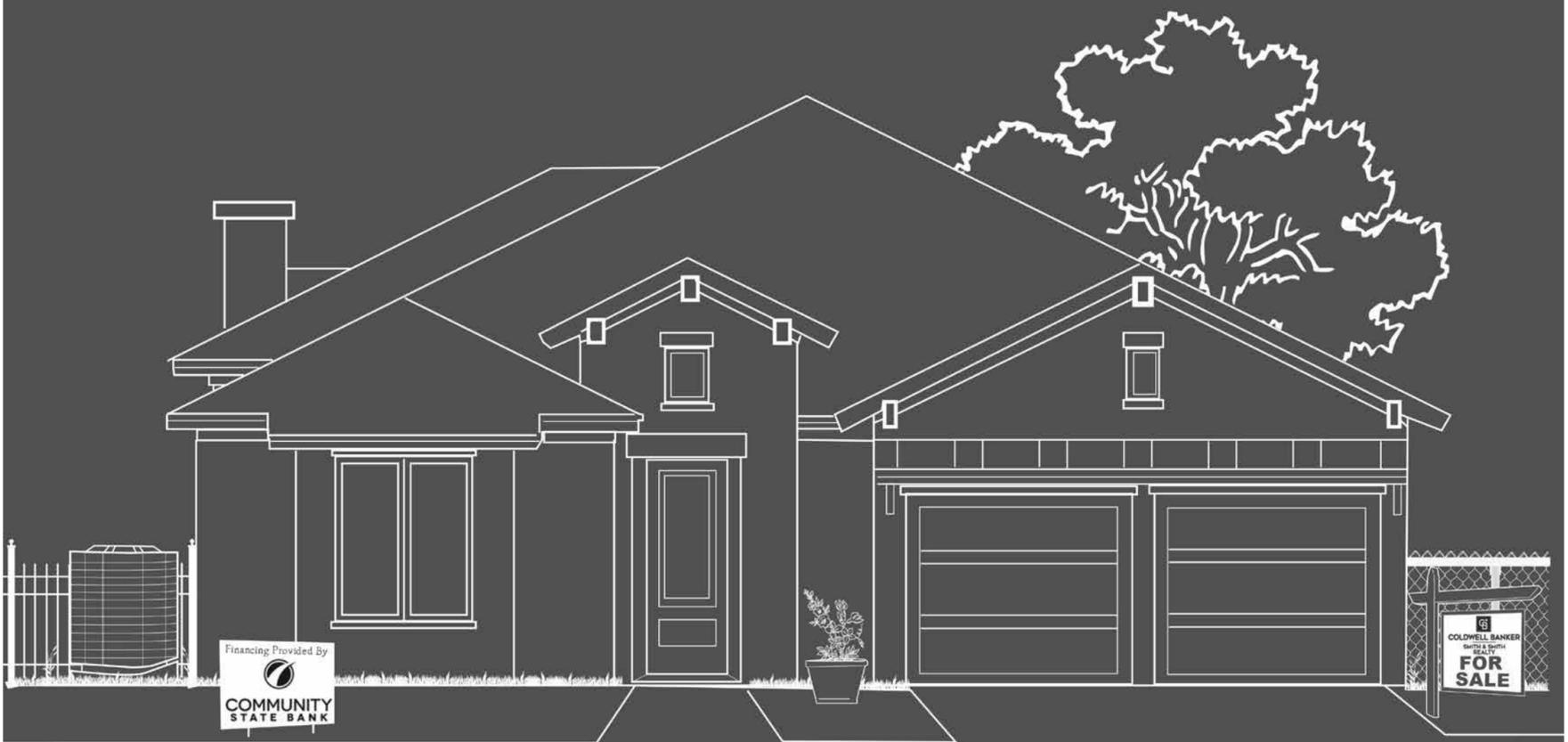
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# Crime

## 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

Gerald Lee Brown, 63, of Hampton was arrested by FHP troopers on Jan. 21 for an out-of-county warrant.

Christopher Allen Coldiron, 48, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Bradford deputies on Jan. 19 for a probation violation.

### Paid police source to steal microwave

James Houston Fender, 31, of Lawley was arrested by Bradford deputies on Jan. 17 for possession of drugs, possession of a weapon by a felon or delinquent, selling drugs, dealing in stolen property, larceny, and illegal use of a two-way communications device.

According to an arrest report, deputies monitored a phone conversation between a confidential source and the defendant in which Fender instructed the source to steal a microwave.

"Fender explained to (the confidential source) that once he/she stole the microwave," wrote reporting officer Detective Andrew Johnson, "Fender would purchase the microwave from (the source) for approximately half of the sticker price."

Detectives then bought the microwave for \$116.63 and placed a listening device on the source to record the transaction between the source and Fender.

Detectives monitored the \$55 sale of the appliance from the source to the defendant. They then followed the defendant to his home.

In a separate report, Bradford Sheriff's detectives said they set up a controlled drug buy from Fender to the source on the same day as the microwave transaction.

Reporting officer Andrew Johnson wrote that the defendant sold the source four Alprazolam pills for \$40.

Rico Kashif Foggie, 34, of Jacksonville was arrested by Lawley police on Jan 15 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Anthony Keith Gilliam, 46, of Newberry was arrested by Bradford deputies on Jan. 18 for a probation violation.

### Under rang merchandise

Rebecca Kay Hancock, 42, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on Jan. 15 for shoplifting.

According to an arrest report, a Walmart loss prevention officer caught Hancock and two other family members under ringing merchandise at the store's self-check-out registers.

After stopping the trio, the officer examined their receipt and concluded the three women failed to pay for 12 packs of pork ramen noodles, six packs of chicken ramen noodles, seven beef maruchan noodles, three packs of Sushi, one box

of 80-count cotton swabs, two cans of tomato soup, one baby bathtub, one 20-ounce Dr. Pepper, one 20-ounce Sprite, two jugs of one-gallon whole milk, one container of 10-count muffins, two Armor Lunchables, two ham Lunchables, one GB Head Support, one six-pack of baby socks, three packs of girls onesies, one 12-ounce container of honey and one 12-pack of fruit snacks.

Reporting officer Jay Raulerson wrote in the report that one of the suspects was released due to her pregnancy and scheduled induced labor the following day. He added that charges will be filed against her later.

The third participant in the scheme was released because she had no criminal record.

Dequan Jenkins, 29, of Newark, New Jersey was arrested on Jan. 16 for fraud-impersonation.

Tonya Lynn Bates Kienlen, 44, of Lawley was arrested by Lawley police on Jan. 18 for disorderly intoxication.

### Stole chicken, fled on bicycle

Alton Lamar Moore, 61, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on Jan. 18 for larceny.

According to an arrest report, a Walmart loss prevention officer saw the defendant on Oct. 7, 2022, put packs of chicken into his shopping basket and then walk to the front of the store.

"Moore walks to the front as if he is going toward the registers," wrote reporting officer Frank W. Krol in a sworn complaint. "However, he does not. Moore turns into the woman's clothing department and is out of camera view for a brief moment. Moore then reappears into camera view coming out of the woman's clothes department and all of the chicken has been bagged up in grey Walmart plastic bags."

Krol wrote that once the defendant reached the parking lot, he then re-entered the store for more poultry.

"Moore then exits the store and (the loss prevention officer) approaches Moore, identifying himself as asset protection and advises him to return the chicken," wrote Krol. "Moore advises (the officer) that he was already out of the store and (the worker) could not stop him. That is when (the employee) captured a photo of Moore with the property on his bicycle."

Krol added that after arriving on the scene, he could not locate the defendant. The after-tax value of the chicken was \$64.20, and Moore has two previous convictions for retail theft.

Roger S. Orsini, 41, of Hampton was arrested on Jan. 18 for a parole violation.

James Arthur Osteen, 57, of Starke was arrested on Jan. 16 for DUI.

Dustin Earl Ridge, 28, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on Jan. 19 for battery.

William Trevor Sheering, 21, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on Jan 21 for a probation violation.

### Refused to give name

Pavel Sliva, 48, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on Jan. 19 for resisting an officer and failure to comply with a law enforcement officer.

According to an arrest report,

Deputy Moises Carotti saw the defendant run a stop sign at the intersection of Southwest County Roads 227 and 225. The deputy then conducted a traffic stop near the Bradford County Fire Rescue station in Sampson City.

"I requested the driver's license, vehicle registration and proof of insurance," Carotti wrote in the arrest report. "The driver stated, 'What law did I break?' I explained to the driver that he committed a moving violation in my presence and that is why he was pulled over. I again requested his driver's license, vehicle registration and proof of insurance. (The) driver refused to provide a driver's license, identify himself or answer any questions, stating that he did not violate the law repeatedly."

Carotti added that after the deputy's supervisor arrived on the scene, Sliva refused to answer questions or turn over ID to the sergeant.

"(The) driver was given an additional opportunity to provide a driver's license and answer questions to which he refused, stating that he did not violate any laws," wrote Carotti. "I instructed the driver (that) continuing with his actions is a violation of the law and (he) would be criminally charged. (The) driver stuck both hands out of the driver's window to be handcuffed. (The) driver was arrested and (his) vehicle was removed from the scene."

The deputy wrote that the defendant had a valid license in his possession.

Trent Allen Smith, 30, of Jacksonville was arrested by Bradford deputies on Jan 18 for resisting an officer and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Damon Jacob Worth, 25, of Hawthorne was arrested by Bradford deputies on Jan. 20 for destroying evidence, possession of drugs and obstructing a criminal investigation.

### Union

Jonathan Christopher Culverson, 30, of Raiford was arrested by Union deputies on Jan. 17 for a probation violation.

Wade Jackson, 37, was arrested by Union deputies on Jan. 23 for battery.

Curtis Jefferies, 32, was arrested by Union deputies on Jan. 23 for lewd and lascivious exhibition.

### Clay

Trenton Andrew Edsall, 20, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on Jan 20 for loitering or prowling.

Carey Shane Hughes, 48, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on Jan. 15 for non-support.

### Shot victim in foot

Steven Thomas Pentheny, 38, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on Jan. 18 for aggravated battery, battery and possession of a weapon or ammunition by a felon or delinquent.

According to an arrest report, a witness and the victim told deputies that during a family disturbance, the defendant shot the victim in the foot, and struck the victim with brass knuckles.

The victim was transported to a hospital with minor injuries.

## 10 years for plotting to kill witness

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Telegraph Staff Writer

STARKE — The last of three defendants accused of plotting to kill an Alachua County woman to prevent her from testifying in a trial was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Demetrius Dwayne Wilson, 28, was already serving a 45-year sentence for planning the July 2020 killing of 19-year-old Blake Reed Williams on Old Lawley Road.

In that case, prosecutors said Wilson promised to pay Marcus Tereual Whitfield, 33, \$10,000 to shoot the 19-year-old because Wilson believed the victim had stolen a large amount of cash from him.

Whitfield was convicted of second-degree murder and conspiracy to commit first-degree murder for the killing and was sentenced to life in prison.

A Bradford County jury convicted Wilson of conspiracy to commit first-degree murder for Williams's killing and was sentenced to 45 years.

On Jan. 4, Wilson pleaded to a second conspiracy charge. Prosecutors said he plotted with his mother and sister to hire an Orlando hitman to kill Tremika Presley of Alachua.

Presley testified in Whitfield's murder trial, telling jurors she heard Wilson offer to pay Whitfield \$10,000 to gun down the 19-year-old.

Presley told Starke police that one week after the killing, she saw Wilson and Whitfield together at a block party in Alachua. The following day someone fired shots into Presley's home. She told Starke police Lt. Michael Rooney she believed Wilson and Whitfield fired the rounds



Wilson

due to her having knowledge of the pair's conspiracy to kill Williams.

Rooney wrote in a sworn complaint that believing Presley was being intimidated and pressured not to testify, he began monitoring phone calls made by Wilson from the Bradford County Jail.

The lieutenant wrote that while monitoring calls between Wilson and his mother: Valerie McCutchen, the two discussed the witness and the fact that if Presley could not testify, the state had no case against Wilson.

Rooney added that Wilson and McCutchen talked about an Orlando man named "unc."

"During the course of the conversations between Demetrius Wilson and Valerie McCutchen, they have cryptic conversations related to the possible testimony of Tremika Presley and discuss paying 'unc' to handle something for them related to the case," Rooney wrote. "Additionally,

Wilson's statements to Valerie... are consistent with a criminal conspiracy that he is afraid may come to light due to Valerie talking to too many people about it."

In one call, "Wilson tells Valerie to 'stop telling everybody about what's going on,' and that Valerie is running her mouth too much," Rooney wrote.

The officer documented further communications between Valerie and Wilson's sister: N'Crisha McCutchen and Wilson. Rooney wrote that he believed the family was hiring "unc" to kill Presley.

According to a press release, officers stopped the McCutchens as the two women were driving to Orlando to meet with the hit man.

On Dec. 7, N'Crisha McCutchen agreed to plead to one count of unlawful use of a two-way communications device and to cooperate with the State Attorney's Office in its prosecution of her mother and brother.

The State dropped the murder conspiracy charge, and both parties agreed that the defendant would serve one year, one day in prison, and four years' probation.

Later that month, Valerie McCutchen pleaded to the same charges as her daughter and was sentenced to three years in prison, followed by three years' probation.

She also agreed to testify against Wilson.

When sentencing Wilson for the plot to kill Presley, Judge James M. Colaw made the defendant's 10-year sentence consecutive to his earlier 45-year sentence for arranging Williams's death, stretching Wilson's total time to 55 years.

## More inmate work crews still months away

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Telegraph Staff Writer

STARKE — The Florida Department of Corrections deputy secretary told Bradford and Union County's state senator that additional inmate work crews are still months away.

During a senate criminal justice committee Jan. 17 meeting, Richard Comerford said that a shortage of certified correctional officers is restraining the agency's ability to increase the number of work crews that typically provide services to local governments.

Senator Jennifer Bradley represents Bradford, Union, Baker, Columbia, Gilchrist, Clay and northern Alachua counties. Many of those jurisdictions host correctional facilities and have relied on inmate work crews to supplement public utilities, landscaping and other tasks.

During a Dec. 5 legislative delegation meeting in Lake Butler, Union County Coordinator Jimmy Williams told Bradley that correctional facilities have partially restored inmate crews after suspending them during the pandemic and correctional officer shortages but that the teams have not yet been restored to pre-pandemic levels.

He asked the senator for help in restoring additional crews. Bradley told Comerford inmate work crews are important to governments within her district.

"I have a lot of prisons in my district," she said. "They tend to be in a lot of the rural counties. Work crews are very, very important to the rural counties."

Bradley noted that last time this year, 431 work crews were suspended. This year, 424 remain out of action. Comerford told Bradley his agency is constantly assessing and monitoring the capability for additional work crews.

"We feel we're a few months away from being able to successfully do that at some locations around the state," he said. "For those locations that are not recovering as quickly, it's still going to be a challenge to get those squads back out, but we definitely agree they are a benefit to our local community partners, and it provides meaningful work for the population, again, reducing inmate idleness."

In other news from the Jan. 17

meeting of the senate criminal justice committee:

### Legislative priorities

Comerford said his agency's priorities for the 2022 session were increasing officer pay, boosting officer retention pay and transitioning to an 8.5-hour shift.

The deputy secretary added that this year, the department hopes to continue to address staffing shortfalls, increase programming to inmates to reduce idleness and recidivism rates, and increase funding for the department's infrastructure and equipment to improve living and working conditions for inmates and staff.

He said that while last year's session increased pay for certified correctional officers, this year, the department is looking to boost salaries for other categories, including support personnel.

Comerford said the department will seek approval to use the inmate welfare trust fund to increase programming for inmates.

He said programming, like G.E.D. and college courses, vocational training and voluntary programming like Bible, parenting and literacy courses, reduce violence, gang activity and contraband within institutions. He said the programming also reduces recidivism by providing inmates with basic education, job training, substance abuse prevention classes and anger management courses.

"Most individuals sentenced to prison will be released back into our communities," he said, "approximately 83% based on current estimates. We want to help these inmates released be better than they came to us so that we can reduce victimization in our communities and prevent further incarceration."

Inmates can earn G.E.D. diplomas, an associate of arts and bachelor's degrees while serving time.

The deputy secretary said that because of a lack of resources limiting course seats, only 17% of inmates are enrolled in programming.

Comerford said the department's funding request for infrastructure improvements includes upgrading the agencies aging fleet of cars, trucks and vans.

He said that of the department's 2,891 vehicles, 66% have mileage over the Department of Management Services' lifecycle replacement standard.

"We've had some with 300,000 to 400,000 (miles)," he told senators. "We've actually in the past had some of our transport vans with well over a million miles."

He added that the agency also wants to upgrade fixed camera systems, body-worn cameras, keys, locks, databases and computers.

### National Guard impact

Comerford told the committee that Gov. DeSantis activated 300 Florida National Guard members to work in the state's correctional facilities last fall.

"These institutions were experiencing some of the most serious vacancy rates in our agency," Comerford said. "We conducted training and a transition process at each facility to bring the National Guardsmen who volunteered for the mission into the positions they're currently filling."

The guardsman filled non-contact roles at the institutions, including control room officer, perimeter officer and other support roles.

Comerford proclaimed the initiative successful. He said the project reduced staff vacancy rates, increased staff morale and created interest from guardsmen to apply with the Department of Corrections upon completion of the mission.

The initiative reduced the staff vacancy rate at Union CI from 18.17% to 13.67% and at RMC from 16.41% to 9.91%.

### Major initiatives

Comerford said the department's current initiatives include a prison modernization study, a new mental health hospital and health services procurement.

He said the \$5 million study will identify the future of Florida's correctional system.

"The study will assess the current system and make recommendations on the path to get from where we are today to where we need to be in the future," he said.

The deputy added that the construction of a new mental health hospital will be a multi-year project and will meet the growing needs of the system's mental health patients.

Comerford also said the agency's contract for statewide comprehensive healthcare services expires on June 30, and the department is currently engaged in the procurement process for that contract.



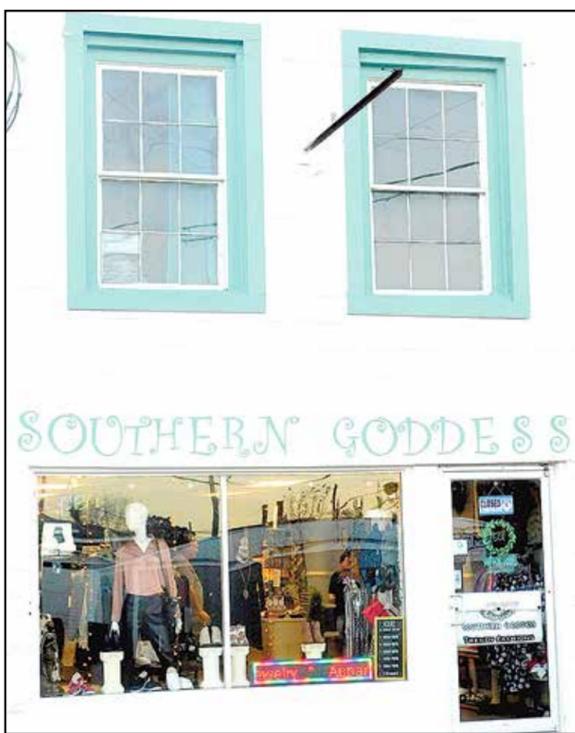
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Southern Goddess, offering clothing for women of all ages, is located on Main Street in Lake Butler.

## Trendy fashions for the Goddess in you

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Times Staff Writer

LAKE BUTLER — There is a store in downtown Lake Butler where women of all ages (and sizes) can buy chic and comfortable clothing for work and leisure. Yes, you read correctly — in Lake Butler.

Located on Main Street, on the opposite corner from the courthouse, in the same strip of buildings as McLeod's Barber Shop, Southern Goddess clothing shop can be found. Inside can be found an array of clothing in a wide range of sizes, styles, designs and colors and shoes and accessories to go with them.

The store opened in June 2021. It is the brainchild of Daphne DuBose and her partner, Darin Childers. She is the inspiration for the shop, a longtime dream for a woman who remembers growing up living with her Mom, Jessie DuBose Geiger, in a house with a dress shop in the living room, located where McDonalds is now located. Mom later owned a store selling jeans in the same row of buildings that DuBose is located now.

"I remember running up and down Main Street and riding my bike," DuBose said. "I love the town I grew up in and am happy to finally have a store here."

Mom Jessie worked as a



Daphne DuBose grew up in Lake Butler and always wanted to open a women's clothing store here. And now she has with Southern Goddess.

cashier at Spire's back when the store sold clothing as well as groceries. Daphne grew up watching all the elegant women, dressed up to go to the store to buy clothing.

Childers is a businessman who has a background in both banking and fashion merchandising, working at stores such as Macy's, Dillard's and Belk. He said he was looking to open a business in Lake Butler and with Daphne's ideas, decided to create Southern

See FASHION, page 16

## Meet-and-greet with new KHHS football coach Reynolds to be held on Jan. 26

A meet-and-greet with Steve Reynolds, Keystone Heights High School's new head football coach, will take place Thursday, Jan. 26, at 6:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

All parents, current players, football alumni, corporate sponsors and community stakeholders are welcome.

## In-person registration for Bradford Youth Athletics spring will take place Jan. 28

Bradford Youth Athletics is hosting online sign-ups for spring baseball, softball and T-ball and will host in-person sign-ups on Saturday, Jan. 28, from 9 a.m. until noon at the main concessions stand at Edwards Road Sports Complex.

To register online, visit [starke-bradford-babe-ruth-league.sportngin.com](http://starke-bradford-babe-ruth-league.sportngin.com). The final day for online registration is Friday, Jan. 27.

Registration costs are \$120 for baseball, \$120 for softball and \$110 for T-ball. A multi-kid discount of \$10 per child is available.

## Gold Head presents Yesterdays Festival

Experience the Florida of days gone by

Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park and the Gold Head Friends group present the 17th annual Yesterdays Festival on Saturday, Jan. 28, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Come on down to this unique, affordable, and family friendly event. The festival is free to attend with the purchase of park admission, \$5 per vehicle, up to 8 people in a vehicle.

Meet hobbyists, collectors and enthusiasts as well as professional museum curators, archivists, archaeologists and historians. Antique cars, tractors, tools and weapons of all kinds will be on display in the picnic area. Take a tram ride tour of the

park, guided by a park ranger. Churn butter, grind corn, feel the heat of antique camping lanterns and watch cast iron cooking over a wood fire. Live music will be performed on stage throughout the day. The Third Florida/Thirty Fifth Mass. Heritage Company will perform weapon firing demonstrations and the The Kirby-Smith SCV Camp 1209 will fire confederate weapons and cannon. Replica of the Hunley Submarine will be on display as well.

Food will be available from local vendors. A silent auction will be ongoing throughout the day in the park recreation building.

A scenic drive through the park's rolling sandhills will lead to the picnic area where the festival takes place.

For additional information, contact the park at 352-262-8129 or visit [www.FloridaStateParks.org/mikeroess](http://www.FloridaStateParks.org/mikeroess).

## Revival at Hope Baptist

Hope Baptist Church will hold a revival with Evangelist Kenny Evans on Sunday, Jan. 29, at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. The morning service will be followed by a fellowship meal. The evening service will feature Evans in concert sharing his personal testimony.

The church is located at 3900 SE S.R. 100. For more information, please contact Pastor Larry Strickland at 352-473-4188.

## Local DAR chapter to next meet on Feb. 6

The Col. Samuel Elbert Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, will meet on Monday, Feb. 6, at 10:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall of Keystone United Methodist Church (4004 S.R. 21).

Honorary Chapter Regent Susan Lucas will serve as hostess and will present a program on President's Day observations.

Do you have a Revolutionary War-era patriot in your family tree? If you would like to find out, DAR can help with its genealogical resources. Any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion or ethnic background, who can prove direct descent from a person who aided in achieving American independence between April 19, 1775, and Nov. 26, 1783, is eligible for membership. Please contact Romeo at 352-478-3544 for more information.

## Bradford, Keystone students advance to state HOSA event



LEFT: Keystone HOSA-Future Health Professionals student Aiyana James placed second in Medical Assisting at the regional conference, qualifying her for state. BELOW: Bradford HOSA-Future Health Professionals students (l-r) Kylee Farr, Haleigh Crawford, Shyann Alvarez and Holley Kinnaird placed third at the regional event to qualifying for state. They presented a public-service announcement about mental-health awareness.



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

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# Budgeting help for kids: how children can learn to balance spending and saving

**W**ith a solid understanding of budgeting early on in life, kids are more likely to succeed financially as adults. Budgeting is an important skill to learn because it can help you achieve savings for long-term goals as well as prevent you from spiraling into debt.

Here, we'll show you how to teach kids to create a plan for spending and saving so they can reach their goals and stay on financial track throughout their life.

### Key Takeaways

- Budgeting teaches critical savings and spending skills that kids can use to achieve financial health in adulthood.
- Help kids learn how to identify financial goals and develop a specific plan for achieving them.
- You can use real-life examples to teach kids about budgeting so they can relate to the lessons.

### Why Teaching Budgeting Matters

The lessons one learns within their home as a child are a key source to financial education. According to recent research, the financial knowledge and principles children retain as they transition into teenage years and adulthood originate primarily from their parents.<sup>1</sup>

And what's more, according to a study from the Journal of Consumer Affairs, children are developmentally capable of saving by 5 or 6 years old. But the sooner they start learning the basics of concepts like saving and budgeting, the better.

One of the most common causes of financial issues as an adult is overspending.

### Note

By teaching kids the basics of money and how to control money through a budget, you'll be preparing them for the financial realities of adulthood.

### How To Start the Conversation About Budgeting

You can explain budgeting to kids as creating a plan that helps people make the best use of their money. Omar Ruiz, a marriage and family therapist with 10-plus years of

counseling experience, suggests using food to help introduce and demonstrate the importance of budgeting to young children. Food is a good example because it's a product they consume every day and you need money to buy it.

"You can explain that budgeting allows you to know how much food you can purchase," Ruiz told *The Balance* in an email. "State that if you already have a certain type of food at home, budgeting can allow you to use the extra money towards something else you need or want."

To get your child comfortable with the idea of budgeting, you might want to try using the bucket system, certified financial education instructor Kari Lorz told *The Balance* in an email. With this system, you get three mugs or mason jars to the child and dedicate one for spending, one for saving, and one for giving.

As they earn their own money, perhaps through an allowance system or even from the tooth fairy, they can place their money into one of these buckets. "They'll be able to see their money grow and still understand that money is for three distinct things," Lorz said.

### Note

Keep in mind that each child (and family) is different and has its own financial situation. So the methods of teaching that work for one family may not be the best for another.

### Define Wants vs. Needs

Help your child understand the difference between what they want and what they need so that they can prioritize how they spend their money.

"It's essential your child knows that wants are least important, compared to needs," said Courtney Hale, founder of Super Money Kids. "That's why they should put their money toward their needs first and then their wants."

### Note

Consider using the example of comparing clothes as needs versus toys as wants, Ruiz suggests. You can explain that your child needs to wear clothes to stay warm and protected from

the weather. Even though they don't need toys to survive, they want toys for fun.

### Detail the Budget Progress

To create a budget with your child, the first step is to focus on explaining income.

Since younger kids typically don't have a regular income, you can use your own income or a hypothetical example of income to show them how income works. You can walk them through your expenses, and show them how you subtract necessary expenses from your income to figure out how much you have for other things like unnecessary expenses and saving.

Depending on their age, they may have income from their allowance, part-time job earnings, gifts from relatives, or money from the Tooth Fairy. You can also use fake money to illustrate income.

### Note

Help them add up their income for a certain period of time, like a week or a month. Then, ask them to write down and calculate all of their expenses, which should include needs and wants, for that time.

Next, have your child subtract their expenses from their income. If the number is positive, congratulate your child and explain they have enough money to meet their needs and wants. If it's negative, explain that they will need to earn more income to meet their goals, or that they need to cut expenses.

### Setting (and Adjusting) Budget Goals

Encourage your child to identify a goal that costs money like buying a new video game or going to an amusement park. Then, help them create a chart that keeps track of the money your child earns.

Every time they make money, allow them to physically deposit it, say, into a piggy bank. Ask your child to help you update the chart to keep track of how much money the piggy bank contains. Work with them to design a plan on how much they need to earn each day or week to achieve their goal.

Explain to your child that their income and goals will change as they get

older. They might have different needs, wants, and priorities and they will need to keep track of them. For example, they may get extra money from family members for their birthday or lose their piggy bank.

"Good goals must have reasonable deadlines and consider the age of the child. For an elementary-aged student, the goal should be accomplished in less than one month," said Hale.

### Note

Try to align the financial goals you're using for budgeting lessons with the child's passions. For example, if a child is interested in art, a good goal may be to save \$20 in two weeks for a 100-piece art set.

### The Bottom Line

While teaching children about budgeting takes time, effort, and creativity, it's definitely worthwhile. If your child is well-versed in how to create a budget and stick to it, they'll be able to foster other healthy financial habits and avoid common issues like overspending and debt. This can set them up for a successful future.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### What is a good age for kids to learn about budgeting?

You can start teaching children basic budgeting skills at an early age. Each child will have a different ideal age for when they're most receptive. While kids should learn about money at an early age, Kari Lorz, certified financial educator, recommends about 8 years old as an ideal age to go into more detail about the concept of budgeting.

### What should a kid's budget look like?

A kid's budget can be a simple three-column sheet with the words "goal, savings, and cost." On this sheet, your child may list their goal, when they would like to achieve it, the amount of money they earn in that time, the amount they will save, and the cost of the goal. This way, they can determine if they are on track to reach their goal or what changes they can make to achieve it.

## Budget Saving Tips From Your Financial Experts at Community State Bank

When budgeting, Community State Bank suggests applying any extra money towards the bills or debts with the shortest remaining term. If the remaining terms are comparable, apply the extra funds towards the obligation with the higher interest rate first. As an obligation is retired, take the payment that was previously applied towards the recently retired obligation to the obligation with next shortest remaining term and repeat. This will allow you to pay off debt dramatically faster than the scheduled rate without altering your existing budget.

When deciding whether to invest or prepay debt, compare the rate on the investment to the rate on your debt. If you can earn a higher return on the investment then it makes sense to invest. However, if the rate on the debt is higher than what you can earn on an investment it makes more sense to prepay the debt.

One more tip we encourage people to use is our **bill pay option** to pay their bills automatically on the day they get paid. And if you get paid weekly or bi-weekly paying splitting a monthly payment into weekly or bi-weekly increments can save you more money in the long run!

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# Hope boys teams are victorious on homecoming

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Tavian Frazier blocked a potential game-tying three-point shot with half a second remaining as the Hope Christian Academy varsity boys basketball team

celebrated homecoming with a 64-61 win over Gainesville Christian Community on Jan. 20. It was a 2-0 night for the boys program as the junior varsity team had no trouble with Gainesville Christian Community, defeating

the Warriors by 19.

The varsity team, which improved to 12-2, scored nine of the game's first 12 points. Jude Hanson and Marcus Chever scored consecutive baskets to start the game. After Gainesville made a three-pointer, Hope's Aiden Wilson answered with one of his own. Wilson later added two free throws to put the Lions up 9-3.

Gainesville would close the gap via the three-point shot, making four long-distance shots in the first quarter. A Wilson three-pointer and a Chever layup off a Hanson assist put the Lions up 18-13, but the Warriors made a three-pointer before the buzzer to make it an 18-15 game going into the second quarter.

It was a one-point game in the second quarter when the Lions got consecutive baskets from Wilson and Trayven Chandler to put Hope ahead 22-17. Chandler's score set up by a Chever steal.

Hope clung to a 22-20 lead when Dalton Thomas scored on a layup. After a basket by the Warriors' Tyler Withey, Chever was set up for a layup off a Wilson pass. Chever later added another basket to put the Lions up 28-22.

The Lions ended the first half with consecutive baskets by Chandler and Chever, sending them into the break leading 32-25.

Chever and Wilson each had

12 points in the half.

A 9-2 helped the Warriors make it a three-point, but Hope closed the third quarter with a 14-2 run. Thomas and Frazier scored consecutive baskets. Then, after Gainesville's Tanner Withey scored, the Lions reeled off 10 straight points. Wilson and Thomas sank back-to-back three-pointers, while Frazier and Chever each scored a two-point basket to send Hope into the final quarter leading 54-40.

The Warriors put together an 11-0 run late in the fourth quarter that featured two three-pointers by Jayden Miller and cut Hope's lead to 62-59 with 1:12 to play. Chever scored off a Hanson assist, but Gainesville's Tanner Withey scored off an offensive rebound with 19 seconds on the clock, making the score 64-61.

The Lions' Hanson was fouled, sending him to the line for a one-and-one opportunity. He missed the front end, which was rebounded by the Warriors' Tyler Withey with 7.3 seconds left. Gainesville called time out and then called another after advancing the ball past midcourt. Miller set up for a three-pointer to tie the game, but his shot was blocked by Frazier. The ball went out of bounds, with the Warriors maintaining possession. They turned the ball over on the inbounds play.

Chever led the Lions with 21 points, while Wilson and Thomas had 15 and 11, respectively. Hope also got nine points from Frazier and four points each from Chandler and Hanson.

Hope travels to play Lake City's Hart 2 Hart on Tuesday, Jan. 24, at 6:30 p.m. and then travels to Valdosta, Georgia, to play Open Bible Christian on Friday, Jan. 27, at 7 p.m. The Lions return home to play Jacksonville's First Coast Christian on Monday, Jan. 30, at 6:30 p.m.

Little drama existed in the night's earlier JV boys game as Hope built a 30-6 lead en route to defeating Gainesville Christian Community 35-16.

The Lions entered the game off their first loss of the season (37-35 to Ocala's First Assembly Christian on Jan. 17) to improve to 12-1.

Hope's Brice Flint scored the game's first four points as the Lions outscored the Warriors

See HCA, page 15



Aiden Wilson (right) drives through a group of Gainesville Christian Community players in the varsity game.



ABOVE LEFT: Varsity player Jude Hanson (left) puts up a shot over Gainesville Christian Community's Alex Nelson in the Lions' 64-61 homecoming win. LEFT: Marcus Chever (far left) drives to the basket for the varsity Lions as teammate Jude Hanson (far right) looks on. Photos by Cliff Smelley.



JV player Noah Gaffney (left) glides to the basket in the 35-16 homecoming win over Gainesville Christian Community.

# HCA varsity girls keep it close, but lose by 4 to Warriors

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Hope Christian Academy scored consecutive baskets only twice and was unable to take

advantage of its opportunities at the foul line in losing 33-29 to visiting Gainesville Christian Community in a varsity girls basketball matchup for

homecoming on Jan. 20.

The Lions' only lead came when Brooke McCloud made the first field goal of the game. From there, the Warriors outscored Hope 10-2 to take a six-point lead into the second quarter.

Charlotte Natirboff scored off a Jadie Clark assist to make it 11-6 early in the second quarter, but the Warriors scored three straight baskets. Clark ended the run with a three-pointer. McCloud then scored to leave the Lions trailing 17-11.

Hope's second quarter also included a basket by Addyson Wilson and charge drawn by McCloud, but the Lions went 0 for 6 from the foul line, which left them trailing 19-13 at halftime.

The Lions (3-10) were able to cut their deficit to four as Gainesville went 1 of 3 from the field to open the third quarter. Alyssa Hunt scored off a McCloud assist. McCloud, after grabbing a defensive rebound, drove the baseline before dishing the ball off to Wilson for another bucket, making the score 21-17.

Hope also got a defensive rebound from Hunt and a turnover forced by Clark, but

the Lions only managed two free throws by McCloud the rest of the quarter, which ended with the Warriors leading 25-19.

A Clark three-pointer made it a four-point game approximately two minutes into the final quarter. The Warriors went 0 for 3 from the field after that, with Clark, McCloud and Wilson each grabbing a defensive rebound, but the Lions committed two turnovers before Natirboff was fouled on a field-goal attempt. She made one of her free-throw attempts to make the score 27-24 with 4:45 to play.

The Warriors got a basket to go up by five. They then committed turnovers on three straight possessions and had an 0-for-2 trip at the foul line. During that span, Hope was only able to get a field goal from McCloud that made the score 29-26 with 2:10 remaining.

McCloud made a free throw following a Gainesville basket. The teams then exchanged baskets, with Hunt's field goal making it 33-29 with less than a minute to play. The Warriors missed the front end of a one-and-one attempt at the foul line with 32 seconds to play.



Charlotte Natirboff (left) looks to shoot over Gainesville Christian Community's Maddison Curchy in the Lions' 33-29 homecoming loss. Photos by Cliff Smelley.



Addyson Wilson (right) dribbles past Gainesville Christian Community's Kaitlynn Lanier.

Natirboff rebounded the miss, but the Lions then turned the ball over.

Ashlyn Crews would force a Gainesville turnover, but time ran out on any hopes of a comeback.

McCloud, who was crowned homecoming queen the night before the game, led the Lions with 10 points. Clark finished with six points, while Hope also got four points each from Hunt

and Wilson, three points from Natirboff and two points from Crews.

Hope played Hart 2 Hart this past Tuesday (Jan. 24) and will travel to Valdosta, Georgia, to play Open Bible Christian on Friday, Jan. 27, at 6 p.m. The Lions then travel to play Gainesville Christian Community on Tuesday, Jan. 31, at 6 p.m.

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# Obituaries

## Carmine Capraro

Carmine Dominick Capraro, 90, of St. Johns died Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023. He was preceded in death by his wife, Nelcky (Helguero) Capraro; and son, Kenneth "George" J. Capraro.

He is survived by his daughter, Lisa Cottet, and son, Gary (Vicci) Capraro. Graveside services will be held Sunday, Jan. 29, at the Keystone Heights Cemetery at 10 a.m.

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

## Richard Gerhart

Richard D. Gerhart, 83, of Melrose died at his home.

He is survived by a sibling, Evelyn Cronkhite; a daughter, Faye Van (Jasper) Meurs; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Private services were held.

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

## James Hall

James Bolen Hall, 82, of Keystone Heights died Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2023, at his home.

No services are scheduled at this time.

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

## James Hurd Jr.

James "Jim" Edward Hurd Jr., 90, of Keystone Heights died Friday, Jan. 20, 2023, in Orange Park. He was born Nov. 22, 1932, in Memphis, Tennessee to the late James Edward and Sarah (Tennet) Hurd, Sr.

No services are scheduled at this time.

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

## Jeannie McKinney

Jeannie Mae McKinney, 81, of Starke, passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2023, at North Florida Regional Hospital in Gainesville after a brief illness. She was born in Lawtey on July 18, 1941, to Lillie A. Howard and Nathan Crawford. She was a member of Sampson City Church of God, where she taught Sunday school for many years. She loved her church and church family. She worked as a seamstress at Cadillac Uniform, Keystone Uniform, and Lake Butler Apparel. She adored her many pets, most recently her dog, Lillie, and cat, Kitty. She also loved spending time in her yard, tending to her plants and flowers. She enjoyed doing things for others including making hand-made gifts by sewing and crocheting. She was preceded in death by her loving husband, John D. McKinney; and her beloved mother, Lillie Davis.



She is survived by her long-time dear friend, Juanita Norman of Maxville; nieces and nephews, Diane (Larry) Thomas of Shellman Bluff, Georgia, David (Robbin) Harris of Jacksonville, Nancy (Buddy) Harris of Jacksonville, and Robin (Mark) Long of Jacksonville.

Funeral services were held on Friday, Jan. 20, at Sampson City Church of God, 8252 SW CR 225, Starke, 32091, with Pastor Gene Bass officiating. Interment followed at Crosby Lake Cemetery.

Arrangements were entrusted to the care of Blackburn-Curry Funeral & Cremation, 380 N. Lowder St., Macclenny, 32063. 904-259-2806. Please sign the online guest book at www.blackburncurryfh.com.

PAID OBITUARY

## Linda Yates

Linda Ann Yates of Decatur, Georgia passed away suddenly on Saturday, Nov. 12, 2022. She was born in Savannah, Georgia. She was raised by her mother, Patricia Yates, and father, James Yates. The family lived in Savannah, Charleston, North Augusta, and Decatur, Georgia, where she settled. She graduated from North Augusta High School and attended the University of Georgia, where she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from the Department of English. She was a business analyst, working privately alongside the FDA to investigate food stamp fraud. In 1985, she was awarded the USDA Secretary's Distinguished Service Award for her work with WIC. Later, she devoted her life to art, which she was currently producing. She worked in various mediums, including collage, acrylic paint, and photography. Not only was she a professional artist, but she used her art of the English language to produce many journals, short stories, and even a couple of novels. She played the piano beautifully. Her favorite pastime was her standard poodle, "Sunny."



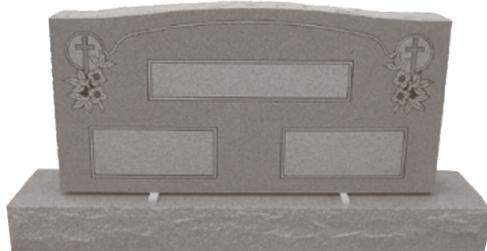
She is survived by her brother, Rusty Yates and family, of Hampton Lake.

She will be buried in a small family funeral, but a Remembrance of Life service will be held on Saturday, Feb. 18, at the First Existential Congregation, 470 Candler Park Drive, Decatur, Georgia at 2 p.m. There, some of her art will be displayed. All are invited to help us celebrate and remember her and her life.

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## Starke Kiwanis Club makes donation to BHS baseball

The Kiwanis Club of Starke donated \$640 to the Bradford High School baseball program to use toward the purchase of batting helmets. Pictured (l-r) are Superintendent of Schools Will Hartley, Jeffrey Brugh, Ryland Rike, Hayden Hughes, Blake Wynn, Matthew Stafford, Luke Stucky, Kacen Thomassen, Head Coach Caleb Polk, Kevin Crawford, Ryder Thompson, Foster Smith, Jaron Hale, Kiwanis of Starke board member Cliff Smelley, Miguel Rivera (behind Smelley), C.J. McKinney and Kiwanis of Starke President David Kniseley. Photo by Jacob Polk.

## Indians make plays late, defeat Tigers

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

A three-pointer by Michael Bruzzese and a steal by Andru Siemer helped the Keystone Heights High School boys basketball team hold off Union County in the final seconds and win 55-48 on Jan. 19 in Lake Butler.

Bruzzese, Seth Gagnon and Zeke Pelham combined to score 19 points in the fourth quarter as the Indians (11-8) won for the third time in four games.

The Tigers (8-8) scored the first six points of the game, which began with a steal by Union's Cole Andersen-Davis. That led to a basket by Andersen-Davis, while a Gavin Jenkins scored the second basket, receiving a pass from Johnte' Nichols and slamming it home. Dee Williams added a basket off his own steal.

Pelham knocked down a three-pointer to put Keystone on the board. Garrison Teague made 1 of 2 free throws for the Indians, with Gagnon rebounded the missed attempt and putting it in for a bucket, tying the score at 6-6.

Keystone added four more points in closing the first quarter with a 10-0 run. Gagnon had a dunk, while Siemer scored on a layup off a Cartez Daniels inbound pass.

It was 16-10 in favor of the Indians in the second quarter when Williams scored three straight points. After making 1 of 2 free throws, he scored following a steal by Jayce Puni.

A Wil Rogel basket and two

free throws by Pelham helped Keystone increase its lead to six. Union then got consecutive baskets from Andersen-Davis and Thomas Williams, but the Indians' Teague made a three-pointer to put Keystone ahead 24-19.

Pelham scored following a turnover to help send Keystone into halftime leading 26-20.

Dee Williams did his part to pull his team closer, scoring six of the Tigers' first eight points of the third quarter. It was 27-22 when he scored on a drive to the basket to make the margin three. Teague answered with a successful drive to the basket of his own, but Williams then scored two straight baskets to make the score 29-28.

The Indians closed the third quarter with a five straight points. Gagnon had a free throw and a field goal, while Pelham scored off his own steal, putting Keystone up 34-30.

Union scored six straight points in the fourth quarter during a stretch in which the Indians committed three turnovers and went 0 for 4 at the foul line. Nichols scored after the first turnover. Jenkins and Andersen-Davis came up with consecutive steals on which they were fouled driving to the basket. Jenkins made both of his free-throw attempts, while Andersen-Davis made one. Deonte Jones was then fouled on a rebound-putback attempt, making one free throw to leave the Tigers trailing 37-36.

Keystone answered with six straight points. Gagnon made



Michael Bruzzese grabs a defensive rebound for the Indians in their 55-48 win over Union County. Photos by Cliff Smelley.

two free throws, followed by Bruzzese knocking down a three-pointer. Pelham then made two free throws to make the score 44-36.

The Tigers went through a stretch where they missed four straight field-goal attempts before getting consecutive baskets from Nichols and Jones. Jones' score came off a Thomas Williams steal.

A Jenkins free throw made it a three-point game with 2:02 remaining. Gagnon and Thomas Williams traded baskets. Gagnon then made two free throws, followed by a basket by Union's Andersen-Davis. Bruzzese then made his second three-pointer of the quarter to put the Indians ahead 51-45 with 53 seconds left.

Union missed a field-goal attempt on its next offensive series, but the Indians committed a turnover with 32 seconds remaining. The Tigers couldn't capitalize as Siemer came up with a steal for Keystone, which led to a basket by Pelham with 24 seconds remaining. Pelham was fouled on the shot and made the ensuing free throw to make the score 54-45.

Nichols made a three-pointer to account for the Tigers' final points, while Siemer made a free throw to account for the 55-48 final.

Gagnon and Pelham finished with 17 and 14 points, respectively, while Bruzzese had nine. The Indians also got six points from Teague, four points from Daniels, three points from Siemer and two points from Rogel.

Dee Williams led Union with 11 points, while Jenkins, Nichols and Thomas Williams each had nine. The Tigers also got seven points from Andersen-Davis and three points from Jones.

Keystone entered the game off a 60-48 loss to Palatka, but won two straight prior to that, defeating Tavares 83-40 and Middleburg 66-41.

The Indians played Baldwin on Jan. 20 and Crescent City on Jan. 24. They play home games against Oak Hall on Thursday, Jan. 26, at 7:30 p.m. and Harvest Community on Friday, Jan. 27, at 7 p.m.

Union, which entered the Keystone game off a 56-46 win over Interlachen, played Trenton on Jan. 21 and Bell on Jan. 24. The Tigers travel to play Dixie County on Thursday, Jan. 26, at 7 p.m. before playing home games against Crescent City on Saturday, Jan. 28, at 7:30 p.m. and Middleburg on Tuesday, Jan. 31, at 7:30 p.m.



Union's Dee Williams (left) drives to the basket against Keystone's Andru Siemer. Williams led the Tigers with 11 points.

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Keystone's Seth Gagnon (right) goes up for a basket against Union's Cole Andersen-Davis. Gagnon led all scorers with 17 points.

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## Wright breaks KHHS record for overall total

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Kaylee Wright set a new school record as Keystone Heights High School concluded the regular season in girls weightlifting with a 49-32 win over visiting Interlachen on Jan. 19.

Wright broke the record for overall total in the 169-pound class at 350 pounds. Part of that total, she tied the school record in her class for the bench press at 185.

It was a great way to celebrate Senior Day, which honored Wright (three-year lifter and two-time state qualifier), Ariel King (four-year lifter) and Liza Robinson (first-year lifter).

Wright was one of six Keystone lifters to win their classes. Joining her were Madison Sapp (110 class), King (129), Chloe Still (139), Kenly Chitty (154) and Paige Harrington (183).

Reagan Lee and Alexys Schleeter tied for second behind Still in the 139 class, while the following also placed second: Heidi Knapp (119), Morgan Wilson (169), Lily Mitchell (183) and Ava Herman (unlimited).

The Indians next participate in the District 6-1A finals, which will be held Saturday, Jan. 28, at 11 a.m. at St. Johns Country Day School in Orange Park.

Prior to the Senior-Day home meet, the Indians got three medals from King and Wright at the Jan. 11 Clay County Championships.

Wright was the runner-up in her class in both the traditional (bench press, clean and jerk) and snatch events, while King placed third in the traditional event.

Knapp and Still earned fifth- and sixth-place finishes, respectively, in the traditional event, while Mitchell earned a seventh-place finish. Earning eighth-place finishes were Sapp, Kat Brossette (139) and Chitty. Abigail Anthony-Rozier was 10th in the 119 class.

In the snatch, Chitty placed eighth, while the following earned 10th-place finishes: Knapp, Ashlyn Brown (154) and Harrington.

Oakleaf won the team championship in the traditional event, while Clay won the snatch championship.

Keystone was the only Class 1A school in the event, which included a Clay High team that was last year's Class 2A state champion in both the traditional and snatch events, a Ridgeview team that was third at last year's 2A state finals in the snatch and an Oakleaf team that was sixth in the traditional event at last year's 3A state finals.

## BHS baseball to host home-run derby and alumni game on Feb. 11

Bradford High School's baseball program will host a home-run derby on Saturday, Feb. 11, at 4 p.m., followed by an alumni game.

Participation in the derby is \$20 (20 pitches), while the cost to play as an alumnus is \$40.

The deadline to sign up is Friday, Feb. 3.

Please contact Varsity Head Coach Caleb Polk at 904-796-0755.

## KHHS wins 9th straight to end regular season in girls soccer

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Keystone Heights High School won its ninth straight match to conclude the regular season in girls soccer, defeating visiting Crescent City 2-1 on Jan. 19.

Kiersten Shaw scored both goals off assists from Kendall Gagnon and Lizzie Waughon.

Goalkeeper Miranda Yow made six saves.

The Indians (17-4) earned the second seed in the District 4-3A tournament, which is being played at P.K. Yonge. Keystone was slated to play a quarterfinal match against seventh seed Interlachen on Wednesday, Jan. 25. If the Indians won, they'll play either third seed Williston or sixth seed Fort White in a semifinal match on Friday, Jan. 27, at 5 p.m. A win there puts Keystone in the Tuesday, Jan. 31, championship match, which will start at 7 p.m.

Whoever wins the championship match will qualify for the Region 1 playoffs. The playoffs will consist of the champions of the region's four districts and the top four teams in the power rankings that aren't district champs.

Keystone is the seventh-ranked team in Region 1 behind fellow District 4 team P.K. Yonge, Bolles, Maclay, Pensacola Catholic, Providence and Florida High.

## KHHS boys soccer team ends regular season with tie

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Keystone Heights High School was looking to end the regular season in boys soccer with its fourth straight win, but the Indians instead settled for a scoreless tie against visiting Palatka on Jan. 20.

The Indians (10-4-4) entered the match off a 2-1 win over visiting Middleburg on Jan. 17. Skylar Kedgley and Aaron Wiley each scored a goal, with Ian Krusan and Logan Spence each recording an assist.

Keystone is the fourth seed in the District 4-3A tournament, which will be played at Fort White High School. The Indians will play fifth seed Fort White in a quarterfinal match on Thursday, Jan. 26, at 4 p.m. If

they win, they'll play top seed Williston in a semifinal match on Monday, Jan. 30, at 7 p.m. The championship match will be played on Wednesday, Feb. 1, at 7 p.m. The winner will qualify for the Region 1 playoffs.

The playoffs will consist of the champions of the region's four districts and the top four teams in the power rankings that aren't district champs.

Keystone is the 13th-ranked team in Region 1.

## BHS girls hoops team to close out the regular season at home

Bradford High School, coming off a 68-47 loss to P.K. Yonge on Jan. 23, will play their final regular-season game in front of their home crowd when the Tornados host Hamilton County on Friday, Jan. 27, at 7 p.m.

Prior to that, the Tornados (9-8) will travel to play Ocala Trinity Catholic on Thursday, Jan. 26, at 7 p.m.

Bradford is looking for its first win since Jan. 10.

## Bright has 17th double-double in 39-23 KHHS girls hoops win

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Kiley Channell and Dezaray Bright each scored 12 points as the Keystone Heights High School girls basketball team defeated host Baldwin 39-23 on Jan. 20.

The Indians (15-7) outscored Baldwin 15-3 in the first quarter and held a 24-9 lead at halftime.

Bright grabbed 12 rebounds, making it the 17th game this season in which she's reached double digits in points and rebounds. She also had three

assists.

Keystone got six points from Jaynell Hill, five points from Yasmin Bryant and two points each from Rexi Lewis and Kadence Massey.

Kaitlin Brown and McKinlee Kirkland had six and five rebounds, respectively, while Channell led the team in steals with three.

It was the second straight win for the Indians, following a two-game losing streak that began with a 50-37 loss at St. Augustine on Jan. 13.

Despite that loss, Bright had a monster game, scoring 16 points and grabbing 21 rebounds. Channell added 13 points, while Brown and Lewis scored six and two, respectively. Brown also had six rebounds.

On Jan. 16, Keystone lost 37-36 to Fleming Island in a Martin Luther King Jr. tournament at Orange Park. Channell had 13 points, 10 rebounds and four steals, while Bright had seven points, eight rebounds, four steals and three assists.

Brown and Hill each scored six points, with Brown grabbing seven rebounds and Hill grabbing six.

Lewis and Massey each chipped in two points.

Keystone put an end to the brief skid on Jan. 19 as Bright and Channell each posted a double-double in a 41-33 win over visiting Fort White.

Bright had 12 points, 12

rebounds and three assists, while Channell had 12 points, 10 rebounds, eight steals and three assists.

The Indians also got 10 points from Bryant, three points from Hill and two points each from Brown and Massey.

Brown and Massey grabbed eight and six rebounds, respectively. Massey also had three assists, while Hill had three steals.

Keystone played Union County this past Monday (Jan. 23) and will conclude the regular season with a road game against Orange Park on Thursday, Jan. 26, at 7 p.m.

## Keystone JV soccer teams cap impressive seasons with victories

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Keystone Heights High School had successful seasons in junior varsity soccer, with the boys team finishing with an 8-1 record and the girls team ending its season at 8-2-1.

The girls team played its season finale on Jan. 19, defeating visiting Crescent City

See SOCCER, page 16

### IMPORTANT TAX FILING INFORMATION

The IRS announced it has begun accepting and processing tax returns on Monday, Jan. 23, 2023. The filing deadline to submit 2022 tax returns or an extension to file and pay tax owed is Tuesday, April 18, 2023, for most taxpayers.

Call me to make a tax preparation appointment ASAP:  
Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.- 8 p.m. • Saturdays, 8 a.m.- 12 noon.

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Thank you!

# Legal Notices

Legals for the week of Jan. 26, 2023

## BRADFORD

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CASE NO. 2022-CA-473

MARIAN L. BRIGHT, a/k/a MARIAN H. BRIGHT, Plaintiff, VS. DEMOND STOKES, SR., a/k/a DEMOND L. STOKES, SR., Defendant.

NOTICE OF ACTION TO: DEMOND STOKES, SR. a/k/a DEMOND L. STOKES, SR.

Residence(s): Unknown Last Known mailing address: 3880 Morning Glory Road Jacksonville, Florida 32210

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to quiet title on the following property in Bradford County, Florida:

The North 102.53 feet of the South 334.53 feet of the West 1/2 of the SW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 25, Township 5 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida, said parcel being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at the Iron Pipe at the Southwest corner of said Section 25 and run N 01 deg 23 min 59 sec W, along the West line of said Section 25, a distance of 232.05 feet to an Iron Rod for the Point of Beginning; thence continue N 01 deg 23 min 59 sec W, along last said West line, 102.53 feet to an Iron Rod; thence run N 89 deg 46 min 25 sec E, 270.00 feet to an Iron Rod; thence run S 01 deg 23 min 59 sec E, 102.53 feet to an Iron Rod; thence run S 89 deg 46 min 25 sec W, 270.00 feet to the Point of beginning.

TOGETHER WITH a 30 foot wide Easement for Ingress, Egress and Access being in the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 26, Township 5 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida, lying 30 feet to the left of and parallel to the following described line and being more particularly described as follows:

Commence at an Iron Pipe at the Southeast corner of said Section 26 (also being the Southwest corner of Section 25) and run N 01 deg 23 min 59 sec W, along the East line of said Section 26, a distance of 232.05 feet to an Iron Rod for the Point of Beginning of said Easement; thence continue N 01 deg 23 min 59 sec W, along last said East line, 337 feet, more or less, to an existing fence post at the NE corner of the SE 1/4 of SE 1/4 of SE 1/4; thence run S 89 deg 29 min 35 sec W, along the North line of said SE 1/4 of SE 1/4 of SE 1/4, a distance of 150 feet, more or less, to a point; thence run N 01 deg 22 min 58 sec W, 671 feet, more or less, to the Southerly R/W line of County Road N.E. 216th Street, and the End of said Easement Line together with that certain mobile home situate thereon, has been filed against you, and

you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on BERNARD & SCHEMER, ESQUIRE, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 480 Busch Drive, Jacksonville, Florida 32218, on or before 2022 or within 35 days of the first date of publication of this notice, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court on the 29th day of December, 2022.

Clerk of the Court By: K. Jenkins Deputy Clerk

1/12/23 4tchg 2/2-BCT

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

To satisfy the owner's storage lien, KO Storage LLC will sell at public lien sale on February 15, 2023. The personal property in the below-listed units, which may include but are not limited to: Household goods, boxes/totes/bags, clothing, bedding, tools and toys. The public sale of these items will begin at LOAM on February 08, 2023 and end at 10AM on February 15, 2023. The public sale will take place on www.storagetreasures.com. KO Storage of Starke, 1650 South Walnut Street, Starke, FL 32091, (952) 314-7121 Time: 10:00AM CST B13, Sofield, Ashley, A49, Hill, Myrtis, A35, Thomas, Sherecia, A13, Thomas, Sherecia, B33, Britt, Dana, B73, Pruitt, Yolanda, B80, Cantu, Timothy, C11, Mccray, Michael, A48, Wallace, Marisa, A59, Adams, Guy, A66, Adams, Guy, A70, Farmer, Makayla, A73, Crum, Sim, B23, Shell, Curtis Public sale terms, rules, and regulations will be made available on www.storagetreasures.com. All sales are subject to cancellation. We reserve the right to refuse any bid. Payment must be by credit/debit card, we do not accept checks or cash. Buyers must secure the units with their own personal locks. To claim tax-exempt status, original RESALE certificates for each space purchased is required. By KO Storage LLC, 10301 Wayzata Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55305. (952)-314-7121.

1/19 2tchg 1/26-BCT

### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA

PROBATE DIVISION File No. 04-2022-CP-0134

IN RE: ESTATE OF THOMAS GERALD MULLIS, SR., Deceased.

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of THOMAS GERALD MULLIS, SR., deceased, whose date of death was August 25, 2022, 1s pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address

of which is 945 N. Temple Ave., Stark, FL 32091. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served, must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is: January 26, 2023.

THOMAS GERALD MULLIS, JR. Personal Representative 3621 Hurst Dr. NE Milledgeville, GA 31061 Matthew T. Harrod, Esq. Attorney for Personal Representative Florida Bar No. 41134 Harrod Law, PLLC 145 Hilden Rd., Suite 105 Ponte Vedra, FL 32081 Telephone: (904) 373-6665 Email: mharrod@mattharrod.com

1/26 2tchg 2/2-BCT

### Request for Qualifications

#### Auditing Services

The City of Starke is requesting qualifications from individuals or firms to provide auditing services for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2022. Interested parties should send an email to the City of Starke at ltheeder@cityofstarke.org to request a detailed copy of the RFO. Sealed qualifications must be received by 4:00 PM on February 2, 2023. Sealed qualifications shall be mailed to the City of Starke at PO Drawer C, Starke, FL 32091.

1/26 1tchg-BCT

### Notice is hereby given:

James D. Mooney Last known address of: 1475 S Walnut St Starke FL 32091

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

registration system. Published one time in the Bradford County Telegraph Amanda Seyfang Bradford County Supervisor of Elections P. O. Box 58 945 N. Temple Ave., Suite C Starke, FL 32091 Date: January 23, 2023

1/26 1tchg-BCT

### COMMISSION MEETING

THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Bradford County Board of County Commissioners will have a board meeting on February 7, 2023 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.

1/26 1tchg-BCT

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: MIRACLE AUTOMOTIVE & TRUCK SERVICE CENTER INC.

gives notice that on 02/17/2023 at 12:00 PM the following vehicle(s) may be sold by public sale at 620 N THOMPSON ST, STARKE, FL 32091 to satisfy the lien for the amount owed on each vehicle for any recovery, towing, or storage services charges and administrative fees allowed pursuant to Florida statute 713.78.

LFRX12W24NB09868 2004 FORD 1GCCE14VXYZ184122 2000 CHEV KL4CJCSM7KB844453 2019 BUIC This notification is published in BRADFORD COUNTY TELEGRAPH on 01/26/2023.

1/26 1tchg-BCT

### SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

PUBLIC NOTICE OF APPLICATION Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, the following application for permit was received on January 5, 2023:

Vincent Esson, 500 International Parkway, Lake Mary FL 32746 has submitted an Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) application number ERP-007-231354-3. The project is located in Bradford County, Section 14, Township 8 South, Range 22 East, and includes 0.21 acres of impervious area on a total project area of 3.62 acres.

Interested persons may comment upon the application or submit a written request for a staff report containing proposed agency action regarding the application by writing to the Suwannee River Water Management District, Attn: Resource Management, 9225 C.R. 49, Live Oak, Florida 32060. Such comments or requests must be received by 5:00 PM within 14 days from the date of publication. No further public notice will be provided regarding this application.

A copy of the staff report must be requested in order to remain advised of further proceedings. Substantially affected persons are entitled to request an administrative hearing, pursuant to Title 28, Florida Administrative Code, regarding the proposed agency action by submitting a written request after reviewing the staff report.

1/26 1tchg-BCT

### FICTITIOUS NAME

Notice is hereby given that WANDA GAIL GARY, OWNER, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of INCREDIBLE MINDS HOME CHILD CARE located at 1018 SOUTHGATE DRIVE, STARKE, FLORIDA 32091 intends to register the said name in BRADFORD county with the Division of Corporations, Florida Department of State, pursuant to section 865.09 of the Florida Statutes.

1/26 1tchg-BCT

## UNION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY

GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION CASE NO. 63-2022-CA-000034

GUILD MORTGAGE COMPANY, Plaintiff,

vs. DONNA L. HAYWOOD, et al., Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered December 8, 2022 in Civil Case No. 63-2022-CA-000034 of the Circuit Court of the EIGHTH Judicial Circuit in and for Union County, Lake Butler, Florida, wherein GUILD MORTGAGE COMPANY is Plaintiff and DONNA L. HAYWOOD, et al., are Defendants, the Clerk of Court, KELLIE HENDRICKS CONNELL, CPA, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the front door lobby of the Union County Courthouse, 55 West Main Street, Lake Butler, FL 32054 in accordance with Chapter 45, Florida Statutes on the 16th day of February, 2023 at 11:00 AM on the following described property as set forth in said Summary Final Judgment, to-wit:

LOT 5 AND 6, BLOCK A, FOX RUN, ACCORDING TO PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGES 6 AND 6A, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens, must file a claim before the clerk reports the surplus as unclaimed. Dated this 17th day of January, 2023. Deputy Clerk CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT As Clerk of the Court BY: C. Norman

If you are a person with a disability

who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Persons with a disability who need any accommodation in order to participate should call Jan Phillips, ADA Coordinator, Alachua County Courthouse, 201 E. University Ave., Gainesville, FL 326T01 at (352) 337-6237 within two (2) working days of your receipt of this notice; if you are hearing impaired call (800) 955-8771; if you are voice impaired, call (800) 955-8770.

1/26 2tchg 2/2-UCT

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

CASE NO.: 22-CA-000053 TD BANK, N.A., a national banking association, Plaintiff,

vs. LORRAINE M. JOHNS; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF LORRAINE M. JOHNS, IF ANY; MIDLAND FUNDING, LLC; TENANT #1 and UNKNOWN TENANT(S) IN POSSESSION, IF ANY. Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated January 19, 2023, and entered in Case No. 2022-CA-000053 of the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Union County, Florida wherein TD Bank, N.A., is Plaintiff, and Lorraine M. Johns, et al., are Defendants. The Clerk of this Court shall sell to the highest and best bidder at the lobby of the Union County Courthouse at 55 West Main Street., Lake Butler, FL 32054 on March 16, 2023, at 11:00 a.m., the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment of Foreclosure, to-wit:

LOT 10 OAK MANOR SUBDIVISION AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 30, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Property address: 9786 SW 151st Place, Lake Butler, Florida 32054

IF YOU ARE A SUBORDINATE LIENHOLDER CLAIMING A RIGHT TO FUNDS REMAINING AFTER THE SALE, YOU MUST FILE A CLAIM WITH THE CLERK NO LATER THAN THE DATE THAT THE CLERK REPORTS FUNDS AS UNCLAIMED. IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A CLAIM, YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO ANY REMAINING FUNDS. DATED this 24th day of January, 2023.

Kellie Hendricks Rhoades, CPA Clerk of the Circuit Court BY: Crystal Norman Deputy Clerk

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFFS: Danielle Ruddett Burns, Esq. Duane Morris LLP 1875 NW Corporate Blvd., Suite 300 Boca Raton, FL, 33431 Email: DRBurns@duanemorris.com

1/26 2tchg 2/2-UCT

# CLASSIFIEDS

CALL 904-964-6305 OR EMAIL CLASSADS@BCTELEGRAPH.COM

**40 Notices**

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY. All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 in which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate in which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777, the toll-free

telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275. For further information call Florida Commission on Human Relations, Lisa Sutherland 850-488-7082 ext. #1005

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VACANT LOTS FOR SALE. 1 acre on SR 100, 4 miles West of Starke and just 2 miles from Sampson & Crosby Lakes. \$20k for each. Call 904-966-8089.

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YARD SALE; Fri. & Sat. 9am-2pm. 20932 NE 20th Lane (Strawberry Acres) off 301. Little bit of everything, follow signs. Cancel if rain.

**55 Wanted**

DO YOU HAVE a

talent or skill that you want to and should be sharing with others, please text your interest to; Cynthia at 904-769-1147.

**65 Help Wanted**

APARTMENT GROUNDS Maintenance worker needed part-time. Must have reliable transportation. Please apply in person at: Pine Forest Apartments 1530 W. Madison St. Starke, FL. 32091 Mon-Fri 9:00am-5:00pm

THE CITY OF LAW-

TEY is taking applications for full time/part time Maintenance Supervisor. Applicant must be able to pass and maintain a non-DIC supervisor class, drug test and background check, to get inmate labor. Application and full job description can be picked up at Lawley City Hall, 2793 Lake St. Lawley,

FL. 32058, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Applications are due by February 10, 2023 by 4 p.m. City of Lawley is an Equal Opportunity employer and a drug free work place.

HOUSE KEEPER WANTED for small house in Bradford County. Part-time, 3

days per week, 10 hours per week for cleaning, grocery shopping & errands, could be more hours per week. No laundry or cooking required. Must have reliable transportation and be able to pass level 2 security check. Applications by phone only, NO texts! 352-281-0260.

**Lake Butler Apartments 1, 2, 3 & 4**

BEDROOM APARTMENTS HC & Non-HC accessible. 1005 SW 6th St. Lake Butler, FL **386-496-3141** TDD/TTY 711. Accepting Applications! Rental Assistance! \*This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer.\* \*Equal Housing Opportunity\*

**Orangewood Apartments**

801 South Water Street Starke, FL 32091 **904-964-4214** TDD/TTY 711 Accepting Applications! Rental Assistance! 1, 2, & 3 bedroom HC & Non-HC accessible apartments. \*This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer.\* \*Equal Housing Opportunity\*

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Bradford County TELEGRAPH Lake Region MONITOR UNION COUNTY TIMES

Classified

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**PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION**

**Saturday, January 28, 2023 9:00 AM**

**23138 NW 51<sup>st</sup> Lane, Lawley, FL**

John Deere 4430 tractor w/front end loader, cab, dual hubs, 1 dual tire & wheel, 2 Golf Carts, running International Harvester 274 tractor, diesel, 3 pt hitch, 8' Offset pull type disc harrow, 7' & 8' Box Blades, 5' Open Blade, 5' Howze Rototiller-used 1 time, Rolling Cultivator, 3 Point Hitch Backhoe - needs work, John Deere Gator, Boom Pole, 6', 7' & 8' Rotary Mowers, Loader buckets, Wood Splitter Sprayers, 28' Gooseneck Trailer, 3 axle, steel deck, dovetail & ramps, 20' Gooseneck, 2 axle w/ramps, needs deck, 16' tandem axle trailer, Concrete mixer, Fuel tank w/pump, PTO Generator, Torch & Cart Hobart welder on trailer, Pressure washer, 3 Pt Hitch Hole Auger, Air Compressor - 220V Air compressor 110V, (10) 45' Bar Joists, roofing metal- 30', Lot of Pt 6x6 - 8', 10' & 16', Large Anvil, Large Vise, Porta Band Saw, Power tools, Reflection Wood Burning Stove-very nice, Washpot, Numerous Cast Iron pots & pans, 1 Horse Wagon, Several horse drawn implements, USS shot revolver, Jennings 380 auto, Buffalo 7.65 rifle, Stevens 22/410, New Haven 16 ga., Winchester 22 w/scope, Winchester 12 ga pump, Western Auto 243 w/scope, Several more firearms, Gun Safe, China Cabinet & table, 2 mantel clocks, Antique radios, Antique Sewing machine, Large entertainment center-very nice, Tables, Chairs, Couches, Rocking chairs, MUCH MORE.

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# Hope Christian Lions celebrate homecoming with a Roar



Junior class royalty Angelica Barnett and Michael Neese. Photos by Virginia Denmark.



ABOVE: Hope Christian Academy celebrated homecoming the week of Jan. 16-20. Vying for queen were seniors (l-r) Haley Sheppard, Kourtney Lofton, Brooke McCloud, Summer Sigers and Jadie Clark. The crown went to McCloud. LEFT: Vying for king were seniors (l-r) Trayven Chandler, Thomas Slocumb, Alex Brantley, John Ford and Mector Diaz, with the crown going to Slocumb.



Freshman class royalty Mackenzie McRaney and Landen Perry.



Sophomore class royalty Alyssa Hunt and Aiden Wilson.



Hope cheerleaders performed during the Roar crowning event. Pictured: (front, l-r) Isabella Bradshaw, Abbie Leon, Kiersten Bradshaw, Alyssa Wilson, Breanna Odom, Madison Green, Jayla Lane, Joanne Abbott, (back, l-r) Brianna Bradshaw, Charm Glisson, Aubri Bradshaw, Zoey Linkkila, Chloe Bias, Melanie Green, Harmony Jewell, Angelina Helmer, Brentley Hudson, Ally Bradshaw and Coach Heather Bradshaw. Not pictured: Cheer Admin Director Virginia Denmark.



Eighth-grade class royalty Karlee Coffman and Griffin McCloud.



Seventh-grade class royalty Jaden Schellenger and Lucas Grider.

## HCA

Continued from page 11

16-2 in the first quarter. Noah Gaffney scored consecutive baskets off assists by Walker Munroe and Jack Gibson. Flint knocked down a three-pointer before Hope got consecutive layups from Griffin McCloud and Mason Masciocchi. Gaffney added a free throw for the quarter's final point.

The Lions kept rolling to start the second quarter, which began with Munroe scoring off a turnover. It was the first of two straight baskets for Munroe.

Gaffney and Masciocchi each had a basket in the quarter, while



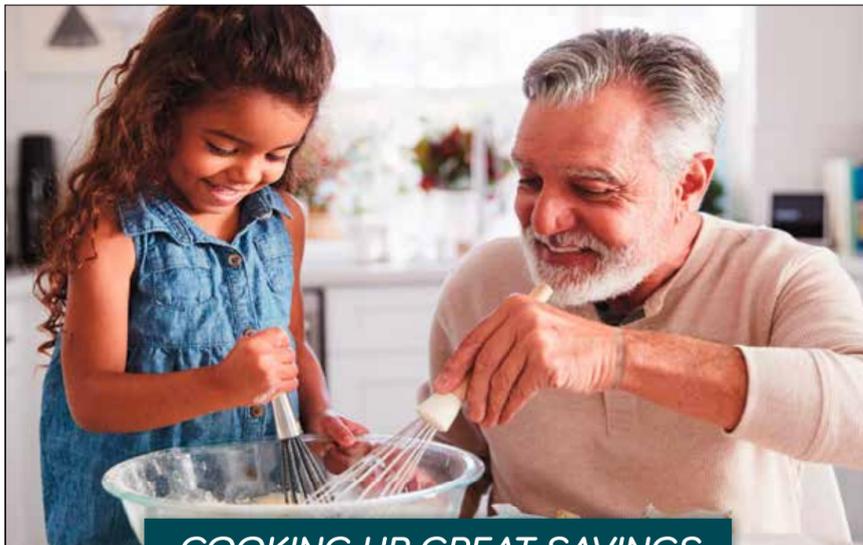
JV player Griffin McCloud (right) puts up a shot as teammate Noah Gaffney looks on.

McCloud had three. Hope entered halftime with a 24-point lead.

Joele Smith came off the bench and put together a good fourth quarter for the Lions. On one of the Warriors' possessions, Smith blocked a shot and then came away with a steal. Smith later forced a backcourt turnover and eventually got the ball back for a score.

Flint and McCloud each finished with nine points, while Gaffney had seven. The Lions also got four points each from Masciocchi and Munroe and two points from Smith.

The JV Lions next play at Open Bible Christian on Friday, Jan. 27, at 5 p.m.



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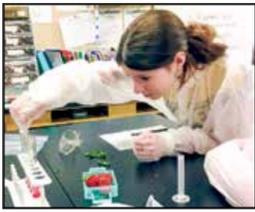
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## Enrollment is underway for NFTC GED classes

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Classes for 16- and 17-year-olds will be held from 2:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

To enroll, call 904-9-66-6769, or visit nftc.edu.

## Bradford Youth Athletics to hold drawing for Morgan Wallen concert

Bradford Youth Athletics is selling tickets to enter a drawing for two tickets to see Morgan Wallen in concert on May 4 in Jacksonville.

Tickets to enter are 1 for \$25 or five for \$100. They may be purchased at Southern Roots Salon or from a Bradford Youth

Athletics board member.

Please send text messages to Meghan at 904-364-8788 for more information.

## Food giveaway in Lawley

Grace United Methodist Church with community partners, including UF/IFAS and Farm Share, will host a food drive on Saturday, Feb. 4, from 9 a.m. to noon at the church, which is located at 1822 Madison St. in Lawley.

The is a drive-thru event, so please allow trunk access. For more information, please call 904-966-6299.

## SOCCER

Continued from page 13

5-0. Tayler Buchanan scored two goals, while Madison Brinson, Evie Hallberg and Kaylee Park each scored one.

Buchanan, Kayden Huntley, Juliette Marini and Alyssa Sanford each recorded one assist,



Cross Country Runner

while goalkeeper Xana Briley made nine saves.

The win immediately followed a 1-1 tie against Middleburg and was the Indians' eighth straight match without a loss.

Buchanan was the team's leader in goals scored, while Briley made more than 80 saves.

On the boys side, the Indians got two goals from Ryder Thomas

in defeating visiting Palatka 4-1 on Jan. 20. Noah Jaramillo and Jacob Stahmann each scored a goal as well, while Jaramillo, Thomas and A.J. Nilsen each had an assist.

Keystone won six straight to close out the season. During that span, Nilsen scored 13 goals and had six assists, while Thomas had seven goals and seven assists.

## FASHION

Continued from page 9

Goddess.

"One day he called me and said we had an appointment downtown so be ready at a particular time," DuBose said. "We came to this building and talked to the owner about rent and such and, before I realized it, Darin had rented the store!"

Darin is the owner of the store, did most of the interior work to get ready to open and still handles the heavy lifting involved with a retail business. Daphne is the store manager and primary buyer, but Darin keeps an eye out for fashionable clothing as well.

"Lake Butler has been such a shopping desert for so long we saw the need," Darin said. "We are filling a need in the community for women's fashions and saving people a trip to the mall.

As it stands now the business is successful and the partners plan on staying around and growing their business.

Southern Goddess deals in casual and dress casual tops, blouses, sweaters, pants, skirts and dresses. Also available on hand are boots, shoes and accessories, including some jewelry, most made by local artists and crafts persons. She also carries some designer jeans and apparel, lingerie and hair accessories, as well as seasonal gift items. Sizes available range from XS-3X and 6-11.

"We are set up so someone can come in and get an entire outfit, head to toe, for \$100-150," Dubose said.

DuBose said her customers, both at the store or on social media, give her suggestions about what they would like to see in the store and sometimes actually help pick out the merchandise. She is a presence on Facebook and Lake Butler Word of Mouth, as well as selling

on a website. All the clothing is washable — no dry clean only stuff here — and generally easy to care for. The partners are currently picking out stock for the upcoming Valentine's Day and Easter seasons. They are also bringing in a line of active wear, since, as Childers said, "January is resolution time."

"I love window shoppers and people who must drop by to see what we have on hand," DuBose said. "Many people are surprised once they come in and become regular visitors."

DuBose and Childers hope that everyone will drop by and see the store, but for a preview the curious can find Southern Goddess in Facebook, where she features an Outfit of the Day and a weekly live feature called What's New Wednesday." The store website is SouthernGoddess.com and merchandise can be ordered there is transportation is an issue. The store phone is 386-866-5425.



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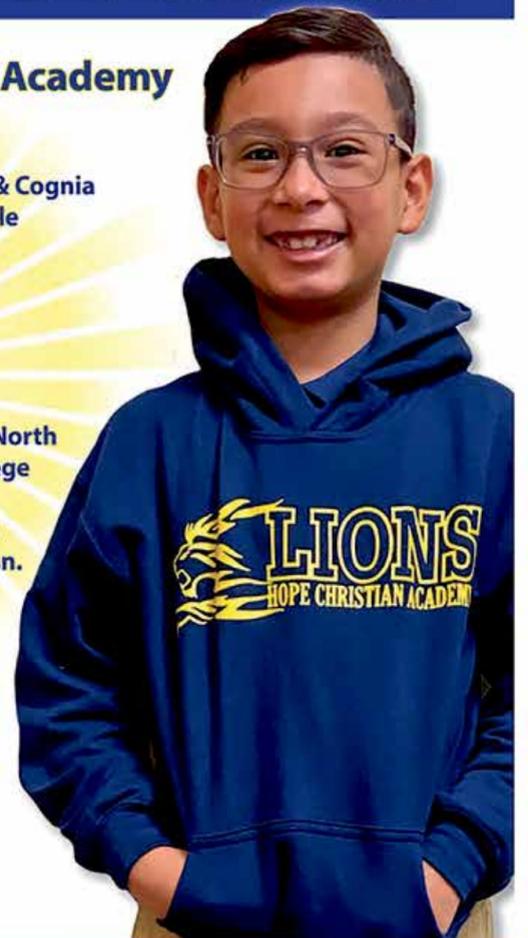
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