

Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023

145th year, 18th Issue — \$1

Sheriff calls Keystone firefighter 'piece of trash'

Putnam County Sheriff Gator DeLoach berated a fellow first responder after his office arrested the man for child molestation.

Deputies arrested Sean Evert Carpenter, 36, of Palatka for four counts of lewd and lascivious molestation of a victim less than 12 years old.

The sheriff's office said Carpenter was a firefighter with Clay County Fire Rescue stationed in Keystone Heights at the time of his arrest.

"This piece of trash is a disgrace to not only his employers but



Putnam deputies escort Sean Carpenter.

also to anyone in public service who proudly sacrifices their lives to help others," DeLoach said in a social media post. "He took full advantage of his position as a trusted first responder to defile a child's innocence. He is an embarrassment to all of our fellow brothers and sisters in the fire service, and we share in their disgust and disappointment for the shame he has brought down."

DeLoach's agency said the defendant is an acquaintance of the victim, but they are unrelated.



Detour and closures to start Nov. 15 in Starke

As part of the Florida Department of Transportation's Starke Railroad Overpass Interchange Improvements project, starting Nov. 15, the eastbound frontage road will detour and Thompson and Cherry streets will be closed in both directions, weather and unforeseen circumstances permitting.

Church Street will open to allow for north/south movements between South Street and State Road 230 (Call Street). Cherry Street will close for approximately two weeks, weather and unforeseen circumstances permitting. The Thompson Street closure will remain in place during the remainder of the roundabout construction. The Cherry Street closure will be in place to facilitate the construction of raised concrete islands on the north and south sides of State Road 100.

Eastbound frontage road detour: Traffic will turn right on Walnut Street, left onto South Street and continue to Church Street.

Church of God food distribution

Starke Church of God by Faith and Farm Share plan a food distribution on Thursday, Nov. 16, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. This is a drive-thru distribution. The church is located at 730 Old Lawtey Road in Starke. This distribution may begin early depending on the arrival of the food truck.

Food distributions in Starke, Lawtey

Two communitywide food distributions hosted by Feeding Northeast Florida and True Vine Ministry will take place next week. The first distribution is Tuesday, Nov. 21, at 9 a.m. at the Bradford County Fairgrounds in Starke. The second distribution is Wednesday, Nov. 22, at 9 a.m. at 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.

Distribution at True Vine

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Farm Share and True Vine Ministry will take Tuesday, Nov. 28, at 10 a.m. at True Vine Outreach Ministry in Starke.

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

Veterans Day not the only day to thank those who served

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Veterans Day is, of course, an appropriate time to thank those who answered the call to serve in this country's armed forces, but it shouldn't be the only day one thinks about the sacrifices those in uniform have made.

Norman Dowdy, the commander of Starke's American Legion Post 56, spoke at the post's Veterans Day ceremony on Nov. 11 at Charles Schaefer Veterans Memorial Park, saying, "Most Americans profess to truly love our veterans, especially at times of gathering like this on Veterans Day and also Memorial Day. While their feelings are very, very sincere, it is important to remember that veterans are defending us 365 days a year."

Dowdy said in serving their country, some veterans found themselves in sub-zero temperatures, while others "roasted in deserts." Some lost limbs in combat.

The sacrifices veterans made go beyond war.

"For many veterans, our nation was important enough to endure long separations from their families," Dowdy said, adding that sometimes that included missing the births of their children.

The families sacrificed, too, Dowdy said, explaining that military spouses faced the prospect of making moves



Artis Rix, American Legion Post 56 sergeant at arms, salutes an empty chair draped with a POW/MIA flag. An empty chair in honor of prisoners of war/missing in action is to be displayed at all American Legion functions. Photo by Cliff Smelley.

from one place to another, having careers interrupted and bearing a disproportionate share of the parents' responsibility.

"Let's look at the children for a moment," Dowdy said. "Their children have to deal with changes in school, separation from friends and — hardest of all — the uncertainty of whether Mom or Dad will live through the next combat tour."

Thanks are owed to all veterans, whether they were in war or not, Dowdy said, adding, "Not all veterans have seen combat, but all have at one time made the solemn promise to sacrifice their lives for this country if called upon."

Aside from discussing the origins of Veterans Day, Dowdy shared the story of Elgin Staples. Staples, of Akron, Ohio, was a Navy signalman during World War II. He was stationed on the USS Astoria when it was attacked by Japanese forces near Savo Island in the South Pacific.

"He was severely wounded and thrown into the sea by consecutive blasts," Dowdy said.

Staples, assisted by his M1926 inflatable, rubber life belt, treaded water for nearly four hours before being rescued by the destroyer USS Bagley. He returned to the USS Astoria, participating in futile efforts to save the ship.

See SERVED, page 4

Perez resigns from Union Commission

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Special to the Times

LAKE BUTLER — The Union County Board of County Commissioners will have an empty seat at its next meeting on Monday, Nov. 20, with the resignation of District 1 commissioner and board chair Ryan Perez.

Perez sent a resignation letter to the board office on November 6. but the letter was undated and, therefore, could not be deemed official. On November 10, he sent another letter to Governor Ron DeSantis and the board, properly dated and consequently official.

In the first unofficial letter, Perez cited his "commitment to this appointment has been detrimental to my physical and mental health."

"It has also begun to affect my home life and my obligations as a husband and father," the commissioner added. "My dedication to my duty has overshadowed my duty to my health and my family. I can no longer justify this imbalance."

In his second and official letter, he simply informs the governor and the board that he is resigning from his position effective November 10.

Perez also stated, "It was an honor to serve the citizens of Union County throughout my tenure. I would like to thank my constituents and fellow



Ryan Perez

elected officials for their support during my time of service. I am deeply grateful for having this privilege."

The Times contacted Perez for more details about the reason for his resignation, but he declined to comment further on the record beyond the content of his letters.

Perez would have had only 12 months until his seat was up for reelection, so the county is not required to hold a special election to fill it. That would only be required if the seat would be empty for 23 months or more. The decision whether to appoint someone to fill the seat or leave it vacant is at the governor's discretion.

City property swap with developer seems likely

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

Starke is taking steps toward a land trade in support of a downtown housing development known as Citywalk.

The project would be part of a plan still taking shape to revitalize the Call Street corridor and the Downtown Square.

The commission recently adopted an ordinance to allow for land swaps, and gave the attorney and staff permission to move forward, which includes providing notice to adjacent property owners and assuring no city department has use for the property being swapped.

The city would be trading the location of its veterans park to help make way for 45 modern and environmentally sustainable townhomes.

Dwight Hewett of The Doran Jason Group of Florida and engineer Chris Raley, president of Sustainable Construction Group, presented the plan to commissioners in October, requesting a property swap to raise the number of townhomes to make the project viable.

A final vote on the swap is slated for the Dec. 5 commission meeting.

Before that vote, Commissioner

Shannon Smith said he wants a clear picture of the land the city would be receiving, which is south of the proposed development and difficult to define because of ongoing road construction. There are slopes, high and low spots, and a stormwater pond, he said.

"That was my biggest concern is I can't see what we got down there until we get it marked off," Smith said.

"I don't want to swap something for a mess, and I think the veterans deserve way more than a mess," he said, referring to the future location of the veterans park.

Commissioner Andy Redding said the new property would supplement the abandoned portion of Water Street previously discussed and expand what they are able to do with the park. He requested a visual representation of the entire area available for the development of the park.

"There's a lot of work that we know is going to be done," Mayor Scott Roberts said, adding that veterans will be included in that process. "We still have some things we've got to decide, in talking to the engineers, and trying to decide what to do with all the property down there. So I think the veterans park is included in that

See SWAP, page 3



Burger King acquired by new franchisee

Royal Restaurant Group of West Palm Beach acquired 23 Jacksonville-area Burger Kings earlier this year, including the

outlets in Starke, Middleburg, Baldwin, and Green Cove Springs.

The Jacksonville Daily Record first reported the acquisition. Royal Restaurant Group's CEO, Robert Pianin, told the publication that his company does not typically own its locations' real estate. It instead

leases the facilities. TETK Management, LLC in New York, owns the Starke Burger King's land and building.

One industry publication said that by the end of 2023, more than half of U.S. Burger Kings will have been converted to either the franchisor's Garden Grill or Sizzle concepts. The Garden

Grill, launched internationally in 2011, features large sofas, framed posters, soft colors, and decorative foliage. The newer Sizzle format includes kiosks and dedicated mobile pickup at drive-throughs.

The corporation has also phased out its King mascot and has returned to an upgraded

version of its 1970s jingle: "Have it Your Way." The new tagline is "You Rule."

3-car crash

A crash on U.S. 301 south of Starke sent several people to area hospitals on Nov. 7.

Bradford County Fire Rescue said the three-car collision occurred near the 301 Quick Stop, south of Murray Ford.

The 11:45 a.m. crash temporarily closed the southbound lanes. One person was transported with a trauma alert.

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Tie vote pushes planning decision to next meeting

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

A split vote prevented Bradford County commissioners from deciding the direction of its planning services last week.

Commissioners directed staff to look for alternatives to the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, and County Manager Scott Kornegay returned with a recommendation to use CHW Professional Consultants, with which the county has an ongoing service contract.

Not everyone on the board supports the switch, and members of the public have raised concerns, too, since the commission was in the process of considering changes to its regulations on mining permits.

Those amendments to the comprehensive plan were drafted by North Central Florida Regional Planning Council and mirror regulations adopted in Alachua and Union counties. Local environmentalists are championing changes that would protect wetlands, but the company Chemours says the changes would effectively eliminate future mining in Bradford County.

Kate Ellison said the threat of selecting a new consultant has already reduced the price of the planning council's services to \$13,000. Commissioner Chris Dougherty questioned the timing of the \$10,000 reduction, which came after the board instructed staff to look for other options. He asked if the county had previously been "grossly overcharged."

Scott Koons, executive director of the planning council, said he looked at the number of applications processed in recent years and noticed a decrease, which is reflected in the new price. Prior to that, Bradford submitted considerably more applications for review than other rural counties the council serves, he said.

Ellison said if the issue is the responsiveness of the planning council staff as some have claimed, then she called for problem solving. Switching to a new contract would result in duplicated time and expense in considering the new mining regulations, she said.

"Is there an underlying motive in this proposed switch? Do the mining regulations in the comp plan need to be changed in order to satisfy multinational business interests at the expense of protecting our county's land and citizens. Certainly we cannot do this simply to satisfy a mining company's demand that

all of our land be available for destruction," Ellison said.

Paul Still said there is an inherent conflict of interest in using an engineering firm to draft the county's land development regulations since developers who must abide by those regulations could be potential clients for the engineering firm.

Similarly, Carol Mosley was concerned about ethics.

"The standard for elected officials is to avoid even the appearance of impropriety. I hope you will evaluate these decisions while keeping this concern in mind," she said. "An obvious avoidance would be things like nepotism and favoritism based on personal or business relationships."

Without naming him, Mosley zeroed in on Dougherty, who has vocally both opposed changing the mining regulations and supported changing planning consultants. Dougherty was also once employed by CHW.

"It just doesn't feel right even if there is no nefarious intention going on," she said. "Allowing the kinds of delays that were requested with no timeframe offered by Chemours and Rayonier months ago without providing updates to the public doesn't feel right. And then I just happened to find out that a commissioner and county manager got a private tour of the facilities in a wetland area from Chemours. I asked Chemours' attorney to offer the same tour to others of us in the comp plan update process, but have gotten no response. Not even a response from the county to know what area of wetland was toured so I could have an aerial peek."

Zoning Director Randy Andrews said the cost proposed by the council was in line with its services, but based on a lack of responsiveness, he wanted the county to reach out to other planning consultants.

Craig Brashier, director of planning for CHW, told the board they have 130 employees, most of whom work out their Gainesville office. In addition to planning, their services include landscape architecture, design, engineering, transportation engineering, surveying and construction services.

"I think our continuing services contract that we already have with you has established an excellent professional relationship, and we see this as an opportunity to expand on that relationship," Brashier said. CHW previously acted as Green Cove Springs' entire planning staff while searching for the right hires.

"We also are currently working for municipalities and counties like Citrus County and Crescent City to look at some larger scale master planning efforts. Specifically in Citrus County, the Suncoast Parkway is being extended, so we're creating comp plan policies and land development regulations around their interchange," he said, adding they could do the same here with the Starke bypass.

Instead of a flat contract price for the year, CHW would be paid per assignment. Fees for service would fund the Building and Zoning Department, which makes the planning a pass through cost paid by applicants. Brashier mentioned the county might want to consider raising its fees, which are on the low side.

Dougherty asked if he thought that would deter development, and Brashier said raising an application fee from \$1,000 to \$2,000 or \$3,000 would not impact a multimillion development.

Commission Chair Carolyn Spooner said the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council has served the county for years, and is reducing its cost, which is a set amount for the entire year. Both she and Commissioner Danny Riddick supported staying with the planning council, with Riddick adding that every time an issue required Koons' presence, he is there.

Kornegay said the cheapest service isn't always the best, recommending the commission ask CHW to take over planning services. He didn't believe the change would result in a significant cost increase, and the company is already doing "tremendous" work for the county, some at no cost to the county.

"When we built the access road at the airport last spring, we couldn't have done it without them. I mean, they were key and critical to that whole process. And that would have been \$2.3 million worth of DEO grant money that we would have lost had it not been for the help that we got from CHW. So I am confident that their planning division, planning services, will meet or exceed the service that we've already gotten from them in other areas of engineering," the county manager said.

Commissioner Diane Andrews joined Dougherty in voting for a change, but Spooner and Riddick voted against it. The board must still select a planning consultant, so the decision has been tabled until the full board is present.

In other business, the commission:

—adopted on final reading an ordinance annexing 177 acres at the intersection of S.R. 16 and the bypass interchange into the city limits.

—adopted on final reading an ordinance amending the land development regulations to allow telecommunication towers by special exception in each of the city's land classifications.

—adopted on final reading the commercial rezoning of a property just south of Dollar Tree on U.S. 301.

—approved on first reading an ordinance banning smoking and vaping in city parks.

Letters

Bank president on future

To the Broader Starke Community: Many of you may already know, but as of Nov. 13, 2023, the former Community State Bank has been renamed DLP Bank. What does DLP stand for? "Dream, Live, Prosper," and that's the focus of our bank's vision—a commitment to delivering a banking experience that helps you, our local community residents, to dream bigger, live better, and prosper. As the new president of DLP Bank, I'd like to give a warm welcome to the Starke community that I'm now calling home. My decades in banking leadership have included some of the nation's top banks, but I have always gravitated to community banking. For me, the difference between the financial giants and the likes of DLP Bank is that our community bank can truly make an impact on the lives of our customers. It will be incumbent upon me, together with other talented DLP Bank leadership, to make that impact felt more than ever. And we have big plans.

As part of our rebranding, DLP Bank has introduced a new logo that transforms the DLP letters into a percentage sign, reflecting the "percentaging up" of our services. We will be greatly improving our technologies, including mobile apps and online banking, in an effort to make your banking experience seamless from wherever you might be.

In other exciting news, we plan to open a lending production office in nearby St. Augustine. Given the infusion of capital from our new holding company, DLP Bancshares, we have been able to invest heavily in new technologies, products, and services. At the helm of that effort is DLP Bancshares' lead investor, Don Wenner, who also serves as founder and CEO of DLP Capital, a real estate investment and financial services firm that has built a track record of success and community outreach for 17 years.

It's because of that type of success and commitment to community that I knew DLP Bank was right for me. I believe that banking is a noble profession, and I consider it a banker's job to help local residents make smart financial decisions that will improve their lives—and that of their communities. I hope you'll join us at DLP Bank—if you have not already.

Tom Fontaine
President, DLP Bank

Thanks from Chesed House

Dear Editor: Chesed House began its first year in operation in February 2023. At this time we have all six rooms filled with seven women and five children. We anticipate that two of these moms who have jobs will be ready to rent a place of their own in just a few more months. It is so exciting to see God at work in their lives!

When first purchased in 2021, the facility was in shambles. It took two years of planning and hard work, but it was successfully renovated with the generous donations and gracious work of many. We want to thank all you who have helped to make Chesed House a comfortable, safe place for women and children.

The first thanks goes to the volunteers and businesses who supplied labor and materials necessary to renew the building. This includes: Frank Bondurant, Flooring - Teal Tile, Jackson Building Supply, Blinds - Windows by Lisa (Tatum), air conditioning - FRM Heating & Air Ryan Faulkner, Water Heaters - Keystone Plumbing, Superior Fence and Rail, cabinets - Revelation Church & Carlton Contracting, Electrical - Rusty Yates, landscape mulch - Elixon's Lumber, Paint and Painting - Jeb Stewart, landscaping - Master Gardeners, Rosarian - Jeff Buchannon, Farmers Heating and Air, Jimmy Larkin, Wayne Norman - Normans Lawn Care, Matthew Timmons - First Fire & Safety, Jessie Adams - Jessie's

Exotic Wood, Ken Sutton, Dorothy Watson, smoke detectors - Gary Wise - City Fire Chief, Providence Christian Academy, Selina and Rob Armstrong, Terry McCarthy Tree Service, Kylee Davis, Keith Davis, Ashleigh Davis, Lori Davis, Alahna, Bailey and Gavin Faulkner, Pastor Richard Cason-Madison Street Baptist, Pastor Joel Lasko - First Baptist Youth, City Wide Facility Solutions.

Next, we want to thank the room sponsors. They finished things off by decorating and stocking the rooms, making them comfortable for our guests. Room sponsors are JoAnne Robertson - Gianna's Place, Michelle Kenyon, Becky Ethridge, Nancy Griffis and the Council for Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency, Harriette Jackson of Cross Church, and Mamie Tucker.

We have many financial donors who enable us to pay the bills and fund the ongoing supplies and maintenance of Chesed House. A few are: New River Baptist and Kingsley Lake Baptist Church, Herb Sellers, Arnie and Anna Gibson, Scott and Kim Roberts - Roberts Insurance, Susan Faulkner - Faulkner Realty, Jimmy and Leslie Crosby, Gainesville Council on Aging, Gayle Stokes, Tom and Sharon Stebbins, Joanne Robertson - Gianna's Place, Helene Guest's adult ladies class - Madison Street Baptist Church. Others donate needed items such as diapers, wipes, clothing, cleaning supplies, hygiene items, furniture, and appliances. Thanks so much to all of you! We couldn't do it without you.

Thanks also goes to organizations assisting and providing support for the women, including Healthy Start, Answers, Celebrate Recovery - Cross Church and Caring Choices. They provide resources to help them get back on their feet and become successful parents and providers.

Finally, we are thankful to God who has provided us this opportunity. May we always bring glory to Him.

Sincerely,
Brian Davis, Linda VonEberstein,
Lisa Prevatt, Maime Tucker, Linda Warn

Council member wants Lawtey to pay legal fees

Lawtey City Council member Emily Hoffman said she has tried twice to get the City of Lawtey to pay her \$4,700 legal bill but has been stymied both times.

The Law Office of Lynn W. Martin sent the council member the nearly \$5,000 invoice after defending Hoffman against a state ethics complaint filed by Police Chief Jerry Feltner.

In dismissing Feltner's complaint for lack of legal sufficiency, the Florida Commission on Ethics said Feltner alleged that Hoffman "used threatening and disrespectful language toward multiple city employees, including yelling, making references to an employee's sexual orientation and

threatening to have employees fired."

Hoffman's attorney wrote to the council, explaining that it is allowed to cover Hoffman's legal fees under Florida law.

Hoffman said she had trouble getting her legal bill on the council's October agenda and that not enough votes were present at the November meeting after two of her colleagues were absent.

Upcoming solid waste closure

Bradford County's solid waste collection sites will be closed for Thanksgiving on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 23 and 24. They will reopen at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 25.

SWAP

Continued from page 1

conglomerate of what we were looking at."

Purchase moving forward

Attorney Clay Martin presented the commission with a contract to purchase property downtown, with the seller agreeing to allow the city 60 days of due diligence to proceed with environmental testing before finalizing the purchase.

The city had advertised for proposals to purchase property within a one and a half block area bordered on the north and south by Call Street and Madison Street and on the east and west by Church Street and the railroad crossing.

The successful proposal was submitted by John and Elizabeth Jarmon, who offered to sell 320 E. Call St. for \$225,000.

The commission unanimously voted to accept the contract and allow the mayor to sign.

More utility work

City Manager Drew Mullins said smoke testing of wastewater lines would be taking place over a couple of weeks as part of a wastewater facilities report prepared by the city engineer, similar to a report previously prepared for the water system. The streets include Parker, Myrtle, Searing, Wilson, Andrews, North, Clark, Johns, South Orange and Edwards Road.

Mullins is also working on a plan to market the city's natural gas utility. With 600 current customers, he said there is capacity for 500 more, but people don't know it's there.

Curtis A. "Lex" Sanders Attorney at Law



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The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisements. Before you decide, ask us to send you information about our qualifications and experience.

Florida Twin Theatre 904-964-5451 REGULAR SCHEDULE!	
THURSDAY 11/16 FIVE NIGHTS AT FREDDY'S- 6:30 (Upstairs) THE MARVELS- 6:30 (Downstairs)	SATURDAY 11/18 THE MARVELS- 4:00 & 6:30 (Upstairs) THE HUNGER GAMES- THE BALLAD OF SONGBIRDS & SNAKES- 3:30 & 7:00 (Downstairs)
FRIDAY 11/17 THE MARVELS- 6:45 (Upstairs) THE HUNGER GAMES- THE BALLAD OF SONGBIRDS & SNAKES- 6:45 (Downstairs)	SUNDAY 11/19 THE MARVELS- 4:00 & 6:30 (Upstairs) THE HUNGER GAMES- THE BALLAD OF SONGBIRDS & SNAKES- 3:30 & 7:00 (Downstairs)

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Veterans: a small, but also big, part of the population

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

The numbers are small, but the commitment and service to others is huge.

That was the message delivered by Col. Gray Johnson, the Florida National Guard chief of staff, during a Veterans Day ceremony that was cut short by rain at Camp Blanding on Nov. 11.

"Currently, veterans make up just 6 percent of the U.S. population," Johnson said. "I'm not a smart guy, but that means that just six out of 100 random U.S. citizens have ever put on the sacred cloth of the United States, which is the uniform of an armed service man or woman, and taken an oath to defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic."

"Only 6 percent of the U.S. population has ever voluntarily given up their freedoms in order to protect the freedoms of others. Only 6 percent of the U.S. population has ever been willing to sacrifice their lives so that another may live."

As the rain increased in intensity, Johnson said, "Now, that concludes my speech because I can't read it anymore. I appreciate you guys coming out today to honor our veterans. Amen."

The 11 a.m. ceremony was just part of an annual event hosted by the Camp Blanding Museum. Visitors could enjoy historical displays as well as the usual offerings inside and outside the museum and enjoy a lunch that featured food at World War II-era prices.

Prior to Johnson's speech, Betsy Condon, the chairman of the Clay County Commission, stepped to the podium and said, "We truly appreciate the incredible sacrifices our veterans and their families have made in the name of this great nation. On Veterans Day, we have a collective voice in saying thank you. We share a proud military heritage here in Clay County. We're so thankful for the more than 25,000 veterans who call Clay County home, including



Col. Gray Johnson, the Florida National Guard chief of staff, was the event's keynote speaker, though he had to cut his speech short due to the rain. Photo by Cliff Smelley.



Clay County Commission Chairman Betsy Condon shared a Veterans Day proclamation adopted by the commission at its Oct. 24 meeting. Photo by Cliff Smelley.



Christina Troope, U.S. Rep. Aaron Bean's field representative for veterans affairs, read Bean's recent submission to the congressional record about Veterans Day and Camp Blanding. Photo by Cliff Smelley.



Clay County Veterans Services Officer Deslie West (right) hands out information. Photo originally published on the Clay County, FL Government Facebook page.

my son, so I'm very proud of that, too."

Condon said the county strives to "support our veterans and help them get the resources they need and the benefits they have earned."

"Our Veterans Services officers are here today," Condon said. "They will help assist veterans in making the most of their benefits, so please make sure you use this free resource."

Condon read aloud a proclamation adopted by the commission at its Oct. 24 meeting and presented it afterward to Col. Jason Hunt, the Blanding commander. The proclamation included the words of President Dwight D. Eisenhower: "On this day, let us solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly on the seas, in the air and on foreign shores to preserve our heritage of freedom, and let us consecrate ourselves to the task of promoting an enduring peace so that their efforts shall not have been in vain."

The proclamation stated that "we cannot fully repay our debt of gratitude to those heroic men and women who serve, were wounded or died in battle while defending our freedoms," but "our veterans deserve to be honored for their courage, strength and dedication to serving the United States of America." The proclamation

closed with its support of the Camp Blanding Museum and its Veterans Day event.

Condon added, "I would just like to especially thank our two veterans who we work with every day: Capt. Howard Wanamaker, our county manager, and my fellow commissioner, Vice Chairman Capt. Jim Renninger."

Christina Troope, U.S. Rep. Aaron Bean's field representative for veterans affairs, was also present. She read Bean's recent submission to the congressional record: "This Veterans Day, I am grateful for each and every one of our brave service members who heroically answered the call to defend the United States of America from our adversaries. We owe it to these men and women, some of whom made the ultimate sacrifice, to preserve their legacy."

"The Camp Blanding Museum, since its inception in 1990, has been doing an incredible job undertaking their responsibility. As the flagship training base for our Florida National Guard, Camp Blanding is a shining example of Northeast Florida's excellence, offering a rich military history coupled with a tremendous museum and memorial. I could not be prouder to honor Camp Blanding on this Veterans Day."

"Veterans Day truly is special, but a mere day is nowhere



near enough time to dedicate to our country's heroes. We must remember and cherish our veterans every single day of the year, and coming to the Camp Blanding Museum and Memorial is an amazing start."

When Johnson was introduced as the event's keynote speaker, he began by saying, "I promise to be quick because we may get wet, but a little water never stopped a soldier from training. Hooah!"

He couldn't resist adding, "Maybe the Air Force, but not the Army."

Someone in the crowd yelled, "Not the Navy, baby!" Johnson replied, "You guys live on the water. You don't mind getting wet."

Johnson recounted the history of Veterans Day and made sure people understood the difference between it and Memorial Day.

"The intent of Memorial Day is to honor those who

died in combat or as a result of wounds from combat," he said. "Memorial Day ceremonies are to be solemn events and often take place in cemeteries and chapels."

"We need Memorial Day. We need to remember and honor our fallen heroes, but we also need to honor those heroes who are still alive today — our veterans."

SERVED

Continued from page 1

"Hours later, Staples was again in the water," Dowdy said.

Staples relied upon his inflatable belt again and was eventually picked up the following day by the USS President Jackson.

"More than 200 men died in that attack," Dowdy said. "The Battle of Savo Island resulted in 1,023 other deaths."

When Staples described the ordeal to his mother after returning home, she told him she took a job as an inspector at the Firestone plant in Akron. Staples showed his mother his life belt and the stamp it bore that indicated it had been made at that same Firestone plant. His mother looked at the belt's inspector number and realized it was hers. "Staples and his mother looked



American Legion Post 56 Commander Norman Dowdy speaks at the post's annual Veterans Day ceremony in downtown Starke. Photo by Cliff Smelley.

at each other, very, very stunned," Dowdy said. "Staples later wrote, 'Then I stood up, walked around the table and pulled her up from her chair. We held each other in a tight embrace, saying nothing. My mother was not a



JROTC cadet Andrew King salutes after adding a piece of a retired flag to the fire. Photo by Cliff Smelley.



JROTC instructor John Crews (second from right) begins cutting Charles Schaefer Veterans Memorial Park's retired flag into pieces, assisted by cadets (l-r) Melissa Harding, Rachel Hager and Michael Miller. Photo by Cliff Smelley.

demonstrative woman, but the significance of this amazing coincidence overcame her usual reserve. We hugged each other for a long, long time, feeling the bond between us. My mother had put her arms halfway around the world to save me."

It is a heartwarming story, but so, too, is knowing that veterans such as Staples put aside their differences for a common goal, benefitting all of us as U.S. citizens.

"In this era of uncertainty and in this era of division, it is our veterans who serve as a unifying force," Dowdy said. "They come from all walks of life. They represent the rich tapestry of our nation. Yet when they put on that uniform, they become an even greater power — the embodiment of the American spirit."

"Our debt to these heroes can never be repaid, but our gratitude and our respect must last forever."

The Veterans Day event also included a ceremony to retire the flag at Charles Schaefer Veterans Memorial Park. The ceremony was conducted by Bradford Middle School and Bradford High School JROTC cadets as part of their service-learning project and included other flags that had been collected to be retired.

BHS Cadet Hagen Kadlec said in accordance with the



Bradford Middle School cadets Trinity Fasano (left) and Michael Miller salute during the posting of the colors. Photo by Cliff Smelley.

U.S. Flag Code, Title 4, Section 8K, "the flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem of display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning."

The cadets, assisted by instructor John Crews, cut the park's flag into pieces prior to being placed into a fire, with Kadlec saying, "A flag ceases to be a flag when it is cut into pieces. In addition, it is easier to completely incinerate the flag when it is cut into smaller pieces."

Kadlec pointed out that the flag's blue, star-filled section isn't cut into pieces since it represents the union of this country's 50 states.

"One should never let the union be broken," Kadlec said.

As cadets took turns adding pieces of flags into the fire, Kadlec said, "Upon completion of today's ceremony, the ashes will be buried in accordance with tradition and the U.S. Flag Code."

ATTENTION VOTERS IN BRADFORD & UNION COUNTIES

Due to recent legislation, *all Vote-by-Mail requests expired on Dec. 31, 2022.*

Any voter who would like to receive a mail ballot for the upcoming 2024 elections must submit a new request. The easiest way to request a mail ballot is to visit the Supervisor of Elections website at unionflvotes.com for Union County and www.votebradfordfi.gov for Bradford County.

You may also call your county Elections Supervisor Office to request your Vote by Mail:

Bradford County at (904) 966-6266 • Union County at (386) 496-2236.

If you have any questions, please call us.

Amanda Seyfang
Bradford County
Supervisor of Elections

Debbie Osborne
Union County
Supervisor of Elections

Lake Region

Elementary students honor veterans

BY NATALIE GILSTRAP
Special to the Monitor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – On November 9th, Keystone Heights Elementary students gathered inside the gym for a Veterans Day observation.

Sponsored by the Kiwanis Key Kids, the event aimed to educate students about veterans and their sacrifices over the years.

“It’s an opportunity for our young people to find out that every day when we have the freedom to come and go as we please, it’s because of these veterans that serve and their families,” said Tina Bullock, an attendee.

The event opened with Principal Beth Turbeville thanking the audience for attending and the individuals who helped put the program together. In addition, Bullock shared with

the audience about Wreaths Across America and encouraged everyone to participate in the program.

Afterward, the colors were presented by the Keystone Heights JROTC while the Keystone Heights Elementary Chorus sang the National Anthem.

In addition, the program consisted of an interactive skit performed by members JROTC as superheroes and historical figures.

The event also had the high school band play and the elementary chorus sing patriotic songs.

Lastly, the event had the American Flag parade around the gym, Taps played by Reagan Sames, and the JROTC Sabre Guard performing an Arch of Sabre while presenting the military flags.



The event also had the high school band play and the elementary chorus sing patriotic songs.

Overall, the event was successful as students and parents filled the gym.

In addition, Clay County School District members and other dignitaries, such as Councilman Tony Brown,

attended the event.

“It was remarkable. Our students were exposed to so much information,” said Turbeville. “I was very pleased with the outcome. It was wonderful.”

Throughout the program,

students could be seen smiling as they watched their favorite superhero teach them about historical figures, major wars, and the sacrifices veterans made for their country.

Guests were also engaged in

the program and felt that it was well done.

“Awesome. It was just awesome,” said Brown.

Gary Cooper Memorial rededicated

BY NATALIE GILSTRAP
Special to the Monitor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS – A rededication ceremony was held at the corner of Peach and Highland Streets to celebrate the newly completed Gary Cooper Memorial.

Gary Ray Cooper died on November 8, 1968, while serving in Vietnam.

At Keystone Heights High School, Cooper was chosen for All-area and All-conference teams in basketball. He was also selected for football All-conference teams for two years.

Cooper was the class president, K-Club president, and on the student council. He was also voted Best Personality for the Class of 1967.

A previous memorial to Cooper was erected at the former site of Keystone Heights High School’s football field, which later became a playground at the elementary school. Construction of the elementary school’s new cafeteria meant the memorial had to be moved, and a reconstruction committee took the lead in designing and building the new monument.

The new memorial was made possible through the collaboration efforts of the Gary Cooper Memorial Committee, Scorpio Construction, Paul Stresing, the school board, and Keystone Heights Elementary and High Schools.

“The district, as well as both schools, were honored and proud to have the opportunity to be a part of this rededication and special day for Mr. Gary Cooper and all those who have made extraordinary sacrifices for our communities and our nation as a whole,” said Bryce Ellis, the school district’s assistant superintendent of operations.



Gary Ray Cooper died on November 8, 1968, while serving in Vietnam.



Currently, the committee is looking for donations to help pay off the Fallen Soldier Battlefield Cross bronze statue.



Overall, the event had a great turnout as members of Scorpio, the Gary Cooper Memorial Committee, AMVETS, American Legion, Clay County School District, and Councilman Tony Brown attended.

Principal Beth Turbeville from Keystone Heights Elementary School welcomed the guests during the event, and Pastor Ryan Begue from First Baptist Church of Keystone Heights opened with prayer. In addition, the ceremony had the raising of the American Flag performed by Keystone Heights JROTC and the high school band playing the National Anthem.

Afterward, Jeff Miller from the Gary Cooper Memorial Committee spoke to the crowd about the honoree and his sacrifice before the committee unveiled the new monument. “He was an iconic student, an iconic athlete, and an iconic soldier,” said Miller, Chairman of the Gary Cooper Memorial Committee.

The event also had guest speakers such as Tracy Koller from Scorpio Construction.

The ceremony concluded with the committee laying a memorial wreath on the monument and a prayer.

Overall, the event had a great

turnout as members of Scorpio, the Gary Cooper Memorial Committee, AMVETS, American Legion, Clay County School District, and Councilman Tony Brown attended.

“It was ten times better than I expected,” Miller said. “Way over the top.”

During the ceremony, heartfelt tears were shared as the ceremony reflected the memory and the sacrifice Gary Cooper gave for his country.

In addition, the audience thought the new Gary Cooper Memorial was beautiful after it was revealed.

“Beautiful. I’ve been watching it come together. Pictures just didn’t do it justice,” said Cindy Lee, 2nd Vice President of AMVETS.

Currently, the committee is looking for donations to help pay off the Fallen Soldier Battlefield Cross bronze statue.

“We are seeking non-corporate love offerings to pay that back,” said Miller.

KH council picks 4 finalists for clerk

The Keystone Heights City Council named four finalists for its clerk position during a special council meeting last week. The incoming clerk will essentially function as the assistant city manager and will be trained to lead the city’s staff if current manager Lynn Rutkowski decides to depart.

The finalists who will be interviewed are:

Desiree Durrenberger, an administrative assistant with Keystone Heights’s First Baptist Church. The 2005 Fort White High School graduate also worked at Watson Realty in Gainesville and O2B Kids College in Gainesville.

Stephanie Silva is a senior deputy clerk at the Clay County Clerk’s Office. She earned a bachelor’s degree from Arkansas State University and has experience at the Alachua

County Clerk’s Office.

U.S. Marine Corps veteran Corey Williams owns Superior Moves Records LLC in Gainesville. He has also worked as a broadcast engineer for TV20 News and as an accounting coordinator for Cox Media in Gainesville.

Beau Wright has experience as an assistant store manager at Home Depot, as an account manager, construction manager, and branch manager at landscaping company Austin Outdoor, in addition to positions at other landscaping concerns.

Krawlin’ for the Fallin’ returns

The ninth annual Krawl’n for the Fallen Jeep event wrapped up at the Keystone Heights Airport on Sunday, Nov. 12.

The event, which drew thousands of Jeep enthusiasts and supporters of law enforcement, was held at the Florida International Rally and Motorsports Park.

Krawl’n for the Fallen raises awareness honors, and remembers officers and K-9s lost in the line of duty. It annually draws around 800 Jeeps and 2,000 attendees.

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UNION COUNTY



Sydney Box



Layla Piggott



Jessica Kingsbury



Ava Westmoreland



Kadence Adams



Cailynn Boggs

Miss UCHS returns with Barbie theme

The Miss Union County High "Barbie Edition" Pageant will take place Thursday, Nov. 16, at the UCHS auditorium. Doors open at 5 p.m. and the pageant begins at 7 p.m.

Tickets are available on GoFan and at the door for \$7; children 4 and under enter for free.

This year there are a total

of six contestants, and they have worked extremely in preparation for this event. There are a total of 10 categories: Academic Achievement, Activities and Honors, Interview, Talent, Opening Dance and Introductions, On-Stage Question, Casual Wear, Evening Gown, Most Photogenic, and People's Choice.

The People's Choice category was added three years ago and is strictly based upon the total amount of funds donated by each contestant's supporters. The

judges have no involvement in People's Choice and this category plays no role in determining the next titleholder.

The contestant this year are:

Sydney Box: The daughter of Jacob and Laresa Box. Box is a 17-year-old senior at UCHS sponsored by Greg and CeeCee Box. Following graduation, Box plans to become a speech therapist or teacher.

Layla Piggott: The daughter of Myron and Leslie Piggott. Piggott is a 17-year-old senior at UCHS sponsored by 21 On

Main Street Frozen Yogurt, Becky Raulerson, Ted Barber and American Legion Post 153. Following graduation, Piggott plans to further her studies in early childhood education and childhood psychology.

Jessica Kingsbury: The daughter of Stacey and Richard Kingsbury. Kingsbury is a 17-year-old senior at UCHS sponsored by Andrews Site Prep and Traci Waters Photography. Following graduation, Kingsbury plans to further her education in psychology and human behavior.

Ava Westmoreland: The daughter of Sara and Forrest Westmoreland. Westmoreland is a 17-year-old junior at UCHS sponsored by Sara and Forrest Westmoreland. Westmoreland plans to begin the sonography program.

Kadence Adams: The daughter of Kristen and Andy Adams. Adams is a 17-year-old senior at UCHS sponsored by Aunt Jane and Uncle Stu. Adams plans to further her education further her education in criminology and become an

FBI agent.

Cailynn Boggs: The daughter of Angelina Akins and Steven Boggs. Boggs is a 17-year-old senior at UCHS sponsored by Waddell's LLC. Boggs plans to further her education in genetics while competing on the college horse judging team.

The Sophomore sponsors are ecstatic to watch each contestant gracefully compete for the title of Miss Union County High 2023. Family, friends and the community are encouraged to come watch the show.

High school honors veterans

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Special to the Times

LAKE BUTLER — Last Friday, Union County High School hosted its annual Veterans Day Celebration to a smaller-than-usual crowd, but conducted as if the auditorium was filled with a full house.

The ceremony opened with the Union County Tiger Band playing "An American Fanfare," and then Union County Superintendent of Schools Mike Ripplinger welcomed the attending veterans and others. He told them that all of the students in the district were joining the celebration via live television broadcast in their classrooms.

The Union County School District does not take Veterans Day off as a holiday, with the specific reason being it is taken as an opportunity to impress upon students the importance of honoring those who serve our country.

"It is because of you and your service to this grateful nation that we are here today as we celebrate you and those who have come before you," Ripplinger addressed the veterans. "Our community thanks you for your service..."

Ripplinger then mentioned the flags placed along State Road 121 by UCHS Interact Club members under the sponsorship of the Lake Butler Rotary Club.



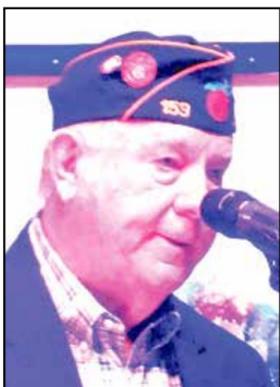
UCHS history teacher Tammy Sulsona gave a talk explaining why we celebrate Veterans Day.

Gene Gordon, Chaplain of the local American Legion Post 153, then offered a prayer for the nation's veterans and the county, followed by the presentation of the colors by the UCHS JROTC Color Guard. The band then played the National Anthem while the crowd stood.

The band continued its performance with the "Armed Forces Parade" while the veterans in the audience were asked to stand when the song and the flag from their branch of service were displayed.

UCHS history teacher Tammy Sulsona then gave a presentation about "Why We Celebrate Veterans Day," giving a history of the holiday and why it is celebrated.

UCHS JROTC Battalion Commander Brooke Burgess followed her at the podium, who introduced the guest speaker, Command Sergeant



American Legion Post 153 Chaplain Gene Gordon gave the prayer at the UCHS event.

Major (ret.) Kenneth North - former Army JROTC instructor (2012-2019), UCHS, and the Union County District Teacher of the Year in 2019.

North talked about his career and service, aided by a slide show of when he was deployed in Afghanistan in 2005. He gave a detailed depiction of the day-to-day job of being a soldier in a foreign country and a personal description of the people he worked with and the Afghani people he met and became friends with there.

North conducted his program as an informal and interesting recounting, focusing more on what it was like serving there and less on the fighting and problems encountered. He said he was talking about "the real-world work" of a soldier and talked about his interactions with the



Union County Superintendent of Schools, Mike Ripplinger, welcomed the veterans and other attendees to the UCHS Veterans Day Event.

children.

"Any time we showed up, the kids showed up," North said. "Part of being a soldier is being an ambassador for the United States."

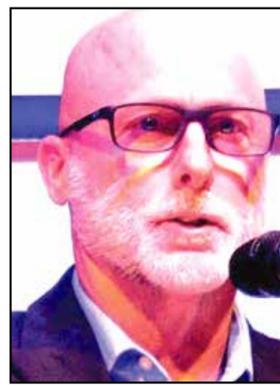
In his closing remarks, he cautioned all students who



UCHS JROTC Battalion Commander Brooke Burgess introduced the guest speaker for the event.

plan to join the military to "Always carry hot sauce with you everywhere" when on deployment.

Ripplinger then took the podium and offered closing remarks to both the students watching the event and the



Guest speaker at the event was Command Sergeant Major (Ret.) Kenneth North.

group in the auditorium. He once again thanked the veterans for their service and thanked those who came out in the spirit of gratitude and support.



The Lake Butler Girl Scout troop came out to help cook and serve for the post's guests at the VFW Veterans Day luncheon. Pictured are: Dixie Webb, Caryn Perron, Brie Elixson, Mikayla Perron, Emma Perron, Natalie Campbell, Melanie Elixson and Sophie Elixson.

VFW hosts Veterans Day luncheon

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Special to the Times

LAKE BUTLER — Lake Butler VFW Post 10082 held its annual Veterans Day Luncheon for local veterans, their families, and members of the community immediately after the ceremony

at Union County High School.

Post members and members of the Lake Butler Girl Scout Troop cooked and served the meal of pulled pork, green beans, and potato salad. Several dessert items were included with the meal. A total of 28 meals were

served.

This is just one of the community outreach programs undertaken by the VFW in Lake Butler. Events are always free to the public and held for Veterans Day, Memorial Day, Easter,



Donovin and Arianna Norman (left) had lunch with their grandfather, Donald Norman, an Army veteran, (front right) at the VFW luncheon after the high school's ceremony.

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RF23

County coordinator explains incorrect building permit

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Special to the Times

Union County Coordinator Jimmy Williams, also a building contractor, blamed the presence of an incorrect building permit at one of his job sites on a mistake made by his workers. Williams admitted to beginning construction of the home before a permit was issued. However, the county's building inspector said he gave Williams the go-ahead to start the house before the permit was issued, citing his authority to do so under Florida law.

In September, Lindsey Reddish sent an email to Commissioner Mac Johns, pointing out that the permit on the job site was for another house, and that no permit had been issued for the home under construction.

Buidling inspector gave go-ahead

Building inspector Wilson Whiddon said allowing builders to start projects before the permit is issued is not unique and occurs one or two times in the county most years.

He added that Florida law grants him the authority to use his

judgment in letting a contractor get started before the file for the permit is complete.

He also said his experience with builders he has already worked with may give him additional assurances in green lighting a project before all paperwork is filed. He also denied giving the county coordinator preferential treatment.

"I have inspected a number of projects done by Williams, and he has always done good work," Whidden said. "I did not do this just for him, I will often do it for established contractors whose work I am familiar with. He did nothing illegal in going ahead with his project. The house had now had its second inspection since the building permit could finally be issued, and I found no problems. It is now framed and dried in, but there is still inside work to be done."

An attorney, who asked that his name not be used for this story, backed up Whidden's claim about his authority to approve work before the building permit is issued. He pointed out Chapter 105 of the Florida Statutes which, in part, reads: "After the submittal of the appropriate construction documents, the

building official is authorized to issue a permit for the construction of foundations or any other part of a building or structure before the construction documents for the whole building or structure have been submitted."

Williams said that if he had had to wait for the permit, the project would have been delayed about five months.

Workers' fault

In responding to accusations that the permit for the project in question was for another house, Williams blamed his employees.

"I told my workers to stop by my shop and pick up a job box," Williams said. "They got one and didn't look inside it to ensure it was empty, and it contained the permit from a previous project."

The county coordinator also accused his critics of trespassing to examine the permits.

"What troubles me is that people went on the construction site and looked in this box," he said. "That is not legal and is, in fact, trespassing on private property. They broke the law in their attempts to make me out as being a criminal."

Williams said he is now on

track with the permit for his project and is proceeding with the construction.

He added that calls for his termination or resignation based on his contracting business are unfounded. He said that his construction business had not affected his work as county coordinator, nor had he asked for any special treatment in light of his position.

He said the board of commissioners was aware of his business and his contractor's license when he was hired and, in fact, listed his understanding of construction issues as a plus in fulfilling his position.

Points to successes

The county coordinator pointed to his successes while working for the county. He

provided documentation that showed he has been instrumental in the county receiving almost \$11 million in grants and appropriations, compared to \$380,000 total for the five years before his hiring. He also said his prior employment with FDOT has enabled the county to maximize the number of SCRAP and SCOP grants the county has received and to keep these multiple projects on track.

The county currently has 12 such projects underway, with a total value of \$19,581,331.

He claimed he is responsible for securing payment in lieu of taxes, in the amount of \$300,000 for the county land used by DOC for staff housing as a recurring appropriation from the Florida Legislature.

Friction with officials

Williams also said that while he has an office in the county building and a family at home, he is often on the road on county business, whether meeting with state officials or at various required grant workshops.

"There has been some friction between myself and other county officials concerning my range of authority and how I do my job," Williams said, "and I think that may be the source of much of the problems addressed by citizens in their public comments. I have been doing my job according to the job requirements imposed on me by the board of county commissioners at the time of my hiring, and I feel like some of the problems are preventing me from doing my job as I have been told it should be done."

Fees set for animal control services

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

Bradford County commissioners approved changes to the fines and fees charged by animal control.

Corp. Glen Ward, who is in charge of county code enforcement, said the fees are based on what other counties charge, but remain lower because Bradford is smaller.

Ward also said the fines aren't meant to punish people. They are meant to recoup the county's losses when animal control problems aren't addressed. The fines encourage compliance.

"We go out there with warnings. We like to give them every opportunity to go along with what we need done," Ward said, listing dogs roaming free as one of the primary issues. "When we've got to go out there two, three, four, five times, that's draining resources."

Ward said there are some services the county has been giving away for free.

In addition to an impoundment fee of \$35 plus \$5 a day to reclaim an impounded animal, and the \$60 rabies quarantine charge, there are fines for not cleaning up animal waste in public areas and a schedule of fees when the county has to impound livestock. Impoundment fees are doubled if the same animal in is impounded more than once in a 12-month period.

Animal owners may also be issued citations from \$50 for a first offense to \$150 for the third offense. Ultimately, failure to comply could result in a civil infraction of \$500.

Codes obviously address animal cruelty. They also address nuisance animals, which can

cause annoyance, damage property or pose a threat to public safety, as well as vicious and dangerous dogs.

The public may not be aware that animals are not allowed to roam at large — with the exception of livestock and hunting dogs within a designated hunting area. Animals must be restrained by a leash or lead under the control of a responsible person or within the boundaries of the owners property. Animals cannot, however, be tethered outside without the supervision of the owner.

Animals must have access to adequate food, water, shelter and space. Female dogs or cats in heat must be secured in a building or secure enclosure away from other animals except in cases of planned breeding.

Investigations into animal cruelty complaints, nuisance compliance or vicious animal complaints could result in an investigation fee of \$200.

More on camper life

Sheriff Gordon Smith was asked again to address problems with residents living in travel trailers, campers and recreational vehicles.

Smith said every case is different, and that is how code enforcement approaches this issue. Until the county adopted an ordinance years ago allowing someone to live in a travel trailer for up to a year, it was completely prohibited. Now it is allowed provided the landowner is building a home.

Zoning Director Randy Andrews added his office must

have building plans on file and the landowner must pay a fee to receive the temporary permit. There must also be proper connection to a power pole as well as a well and septic tank.

Smith said there have been some dangerous examples of people connecting to power at a home on the property or a neighboring property, and then dumping raw sewage in the yard.

Reacting to the number of such incidents, Smith said they backed up the exception to six months with extensions in hardship cases like recovering from a housefire or if someone is staying there to care for an elderly relative. Without a hardship, there must be ongoing construction of permanent housing to receive an extension.

Smith said, "It becomes difficult when you have somebody that moves into a residential area, puts up a camper and says, 'Oh, I'm going to build a house,' but then five years later doesn't build a house. Or, you've got the one that's living in a camper trailer that the floor's falling in on — they call it living quarters — the wires running across two yards. ... I'm not making that up. We deal with those issues."

Even hardship extension must end at some point. Campers, travel trailers and RVs cannot be permanent residences.

"We try to work with individuals, but you got some people that it's not safe. It's not habitable. It's encroaching on the other neighbors. They're not disposing of their waste. They're not getting utilities like everybody else has to do. We have to judge the totality of the circumstances," Smith said.

Brooker fire claims shed, camper, vehicles

Bradford County Fire Rescue said it responded to a structure fire in Brooker on Tuesday, November 7.

"The fire spread to a nearby camper trailer and vehicles prior to arrival," the agency said in a social media post.

BCFR added that it had requested assistance from Alachua and Union Counties for assistance for the blaze, which was south of County Road 18 between Brooker and Graham.

Bank takes possession of Huddle House

DLP Bank, formally known as Community State Bank, took possession of Starke's Huddle

House restaurant following a foreclosure in which the former owner defaulted on \$397,260 in loans.

According to court papers, the bank loaned TNT 314, LLC \$328,000 in January 2020, with Timothy L. Guest guaranteeing the debt. TNT took out a \$50,000 commercial line of credit with the bank the following April.

In February 2023, TNT defaulted on the loans and the bank filed a foreclosure lawsuit the following month.

Panel recommends against court consolidation

A committee appointed by the Florida Supreme Court to consider consolidating the state's 20 judicial districts has recommended against combining the jurisdictions.

During a Nov. 3 virtual

meeting, committee members voted 14-0 in favor of a motion to recommend to the court that no action be taken to combine any of the circuits.

State Supreme Court Chief Justice Carlos Muniz appointed committee members earlier this year after state House of Representatives Speaker Paul Renner suggested that consolidating some of the circuits might improve efficiencies in the judicial process.

However, opposition to the proposal was widespread. In October, State Attorney Brian Kramer and Public Defender Stacy Scott asked Bradford County commissioners to oppose judicial consolidation publicly.

Kramer warned that the move could increase the county's costs to provide IT support to his and Scott's offices. He added that officials in a larger jurisdiction might not be as responsive to local officials as he and Scott are now.

Is coupon cutting making a comeback?

BY CAROL MOSLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Perhaps you noticed that the last couple of issues of the Bradford Telegraph have included an insert of coupons along with local sale ads. These are the old-school kind that you can cut out with a pair of scissors if you prefer that to scanning them into your phone. Some of them come with high dollar savings, too! One of the booklets from the last two weeks had product coupons worth \$108.50 if you were to use them all. That's not including "bogus."

There have been lots of stories about folks cutting their grocery bills in half, or even more, by having a good system of shopping with coupons. I once had a friend who carried three subscriptions to the same newspaper, just to get the coupons.

While using three coupons to purchase three valid products as she did is perfectly acceptable unless otherwise stated, be sure to follow all the rules and beware of coupon scammers. There was a woman sentenced to 12 years in prison in 2021 for making fake reproductions of legitimate companies' coupons, often with inflated savings. It is

estimated her three-year coupon counterfeiting ring cost retailers more than \$30 million!

So we thought it would be interesting to see how some local folks feel about using coupons to save money. Are the savings gained worth the effort? Do the coupons represent the kinds of items local people usually purchase? What is the preferred method; cutting out a paper coupon to hold in your hand or scanning a bar code or app into a cell phone? And, maybe most important to advertisers is the question of whether a coupon would encourage someone to purchase something they might not otherwise already buy.

Some folks who don't buy the Telegraph, or other newspaper, said they do use digital coupons they can scan with their cell phone, but can't be bothered with cutting coupons and carrying them around with them. But, there are definitely avid coupon cutters who are glad to see physical coupons making a comeback.

Carol James buys the Bradford Telegraph and saw the recent inserts and said she intends to use the coupons. "Well, they've been hard to come by. They seem

to have stopped putting them in the papers. When I saw them [in the Bradford Telegraph] I thought maybe it was just a one-time thing, so I'm glad to hear they'll continue."

Murley Blankenship also buys The Telegraph and uses any coupons that apply to the items she likes. She does use her phone for some apps specific to certain stores but prefers physical coupons for products. And, those can be used at any store. "I like the old style coupons best. If I put it in my phone, I've got to wait until it loads up, but if I've got it in my purse I can just pull it out and use it."

I asked if she ever purchases items she might not normally buy just because there is a coupon. She admitted that sometimes it gives her a chance to try something new, so on occasion she does.

Mostly, my observations show that women are more likely than men to cut coupons, though men do sometimes scan store discounts with their phone. But, there are certainly folks who like the "hold it in your hand like money" version of coupon use. And, I admit to being one of those who do, too.

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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

Demarcus Emanuel Brown, 19, of Starke was arrested by Starke Police and Bradford deputies on November 6 for battery and a probation violation.

Daniel Ray Brown, 45, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 6 for firing a weapon, aggravated assault, and a weapons offense.

Terance Denard Davis, 34, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 6 for withholding support.

Brian Taveras Demps, 45, of Starke was arrested by Starke Police on November 7 for battery, false imprisonment, and obstructing justice.

Vertince S. Green, 36, of Gainesville was arrested by state troopers on November 6 for an out-of-county warrant and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Herbert Edward Herndon, 57, of Lawtey was arrested by FHP troopers and Bradford deputies on November 4 for driving with a suspended or revoked license, a probation violation, possession of drugs, possession of drug equipment and smuggling contraband into a jail.

Therious Orlando McCloud, 42, of Starke was arrested by FHP troopers on November 9 for driving with a suspended or revoked license and dealing in stolen property.

Kai William Ocasio-Danker, 21, of Jacksonville was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 5 for aggravated assault, burglary and criminal mischief with property damage.

Shiloh Ray O'Guynn, 35, of Macclenny was arrested by Starke police on November 8 for an out-of-county warrant.

Rhiannon Faith Raskin, 19, of Jacksonville was arrested by Starke Police on November 5 for larceny.

Reginald Andri Richardson, 53, of Jacksonville was arrested by Lawtey police on November 8 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Cody Justin Scarberry, 32, of Lawtey was arrested by Starke Police for battery and an out-of-county warrant.

Michael Smith, 42, of Waldo was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 6 for fraud.

Patricia Lynn Spillis, 57, of Hampton was arrested by Starke Police on November 4 for larceny and an out-of-county warrant.

Crystal Nicole Trent, 29, of Hampton was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 8 for DUI.

Sophonia Dion Turner, 48, of Jacksonville was arrested by Bradford deputies on November 7 for a probation violation and failure to appear.

Union

Isaiah Tyler Banks, 20, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on November 8 for a probation violation.

David Joseph Bridgman, 46, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on November 10 for battery.

Chad Dean Smiley, 42, of Lake City was arrested by Union deputies on November 9 for a probation violation.

William Lee Smith, Jr., 28, of Alachua was arrested by Union deputies on November 11 for an out-of-county warrant.

Clay

Christopher Trent James Gilstrap, 23, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on November 8 for burglary and resisting arrest without violence.

Sara Elizabeth Hall, 41, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on November 6 for failure to appear, battery and criminal mischief with property damage.

Glenn Dennis Manning, 45, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on November 5 for domestic battery.

Jesse Smith, 58, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on November 5 for giving a false name or false identification to law enforcement.

Caleb Brian Stewart, 25, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on November 9 for grand theft auto, possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, possession or use of drug equipment, and resisting an officer without violence.



Brown

Video captures man firing rifle

A 45-year-old Bradford County man was arrested after he fired a rifle round over the heads of two neighbors, and the victims' surveillance video recorded the act.

Daniel Ray Brown was arrested by Bradford deputies on Monday, November 6, for improper exhibition of a firearm, firing a weapon in public or a residential area, and aggravated assault.

According to an arrest report, the defendant rushed into his home from the front porch after hearing his mother and his mother's tenants, who are also the defendant's neighbors, arguing. The victims told

deputies that after one victim stated the landlord was not worth talking to, her son jumped up and exclaimed: "Y'all done (expletive deleted) up now," and retreated into the home, emerging seconds later with the weapon.



Robinson

Trapped brother's arm in car window, dragged him on roadway

Bradford deputies arrested Benjamin Tyler Robinson, 22, of Starke, after his brother and witnesses said the defendant trapped his brother's arm in a car window and dragged the victim along a road.

According to an arrest report, the victim told deputies that he and the defendant had argued over getting food to eat and were going to their mother's house from the Pleasant Grove-area trailer park.

"(The victim) stated that he reached through the passenger side window of the vehicle to unlock the door to get inside," wrote Deputy Taylor Sanders in the report. "(The victim) advised that Benjamin then rolled the window up on his arm, trapping (the victim's) arm with the window."

Robinson then accelerated to between 10 and 15 mph, according to witnesses. The victim said that after breaking free from the 2005 Ford Explorer, his head struck the ground, and the defendant continued to drive away. One neighbor recorded the incident on a phone, but because it was dark, some details of the crime were not seen on the video. The victim refused treatment by EMS.

Popup party organizer faces justice

A 23-year-old Gainesville woman pleaded to organizing a pop-up party that shut down the City of Lake Butler on June 3.

Diamond Wanae Golden was sentenced to three years' probation. Judge Mitchell Bishop also ordered the 23-year-old to serve 80 hours of community service, pay \$6,370 in restitution to the Union and Bradford County Sheriff's Office and the City of Lake Butler, and write a letter of apology to the city. Golden was trespassed from Lakeside Park.

Earlier this year, the sheriff's office said in a social media post that it obtained a search warrant for the defendant's Facebook account, which confirmed her role in promoting the event.

"Golden immediately during the 'Pop-Up' party started deleting all evidence of her role," the agency said. "Golden



Judge Mitchell Bishop also ordered the 23-year-old to serve 80 hours of community service, pay \$6,370 in restitution to the Union and Bradford County Sheriff's Office and the City of Lake Butler and write a letter of apology to the city.

knew that a crowd this size participating in the activities would overwhelm the resources of our agency. Golden has been involved in parties like this before and knows the problems that can occur."

The agency added that the event caused total disruption throughout Lake Butler, with all major roads blocked in both directions, people hanging out of cars and yelling obscenities, playing loud music, and actively resisting and refusing commands from law enforcement to stop their illegal behavior.

Within days of the party, Union County Chief Deputy Lyn Williams said investigators quickly identified the party's organizer and vowed to bring the Gainesville resident to justice.

"There may not be an arrest today or tomorrow," he said, "but we will get her."



McCarter

Chose to flee rather than pee

A man who ran out of a probation office lobby rather than giving a urine sample for a drug test was sentenced to 120 days in jail.

Michael Rodney McCarter III was first arrested in March after Starke police pulled him over for a faulty tag light and discovered his license had been suspended. Police also found methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia in the car, in addition to three passengers, but did not arrest McCarter for the drugs.

A judge sentenced the 24-year-old to 12 months' probation and ordered him to undergo drug testing.

A probation officer wrote in a violation report that after missing one appointment with a probation officer, the defendant admitted to smoking marijuana during a subsequent August appointment and was told to submit a urine sample for the test. "The offender stated he needed to wait because he did not know he would have a drug test," wrote an officer in the violation report. McCarter was told to wait in the lobby until he was ready to give the sample, but he was gone when the officer walked to the lobby to get him. When a probation officer went to his home, the resident told the officer McCarter had moved out, adding another violation since the offender did not get permission to change his residence.

Tried to ram patrol vehicle

A 62-year-old Keystone Heights man was sentenced to 42 months in prison after pleading to running from deputies and attempting to ram a patrol car.

Alexander Gordon Cardenas pleaded to fleeing and eluding at a high rate of speed, driving with a suspended or revoked license, resisting an officer without violence, possession of

video and real-time scanning verified that the items being scanned by Hunton were not those she placed in bags. Raulerson added that when questioned, the defendant admitted to the thefts.

On January 21, Walmart employees told police Johnson was under ringing merchandise at the self-checkout. The defendant claimed that he thought some of the scanned items were stuck together and that the under-ringing was an honest mistake.

During sentencing on October 31, Judge D. Tatum Davis also ordered the pair to take an anti-theft course and to stay away from Walmart during their probation periods. Hunton was also required to perform 50 hours of community service.

Pawned stolen earrings

A 39-year-old Melrose woman was sentenced to 18 months' probation after pleading to pawning stolen earrings at a Starke pawn shop.

Brandi Canielle Martinez pleaded to dealing in stolen property and giving false information to a pawn dealer.

According to an arrest warrant affidavit, in December 2022, Alachua County deputies contacted a Bradford detective about the theft of earrings in the Melrose area, with the victim identifying Martinez as the offender. Alachua Sheriff's investigators searched a pawn database and located the earrings at a Walnut Street pawn shop in Starke.

The victim identified the earrings as hers at the pawn shop.

Bought stolen checks

A Starke woman was sentenced to 60 days in jail and 18 months' probation after she told a deputy she purchased two stolen checks and attempted to cash one for \$400.

Shynequia Mone' O'Neil, 28, pleaded to uttering a forged instrument.

According to court papers, the victim called the Bradford County Sheriff's Office after VyStar Credit Union informed him of O'Neil attempting to cash the check at its Starke branch.

After O'Neil was detained during an unrelated traffic stop, she told a detective she purchased two stolen checks and attempted to cash one at VyStar while the second check was stolen from her.

"I then asked O'Neil who she received the stolen checks from," wrote Sheriff's Detective Andrew Johnson in an arrest report, "to which O'Neil stated, 'I want a lawyer.'"

27 days for stealing cell phone

A 26-year-old Lake Butler man was sentenced to 27 days in jail after pleading to stealing a cell phone, candy, and socks from the town's CVS.

Stacey Deon Smith pleaded to petit theft of less than \$100.

According to an arrest report, on October 2, the store's manager called the sheriff's office, describing the defendant, and Deputy Jason Lepanto spotted Smith as the 26-year-old was walking along State Road 121.

According to the officer, Smith admitted to taking the phone but was stopped by a store employee after he exited CVS and gave back the device. Lepanto searched Smith and found a pair of women's socks and chocolate in its original packaging. The CVS worker told the deputy she tried to get the items back from Smith after he walked out the door, but the defendant refused to cooperate.

Veterans Service Office closed

The Bradford County Veterans Service Office will be closed from Nov. 21-29. It will reopen on Nov. 30. Normal hours are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays; 2 to 6 p.m. on Wednesdays; and 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Fridays. Tuesday hours vary. Please call 904-966-6385.



Russ WADE
Attorney at Law

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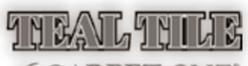
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Tornadoes win big again, defeat Atlantic 42-0

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

During the last three weeks of the regular season, Bradford High School football games have looked the same, consisting of a dominating defensive effort, an offense that scored at least four touchdowns a game and a special-teams unit that comes up with big plays.

Why change the script now?

The Tornadoes began the postseason with a 42-0 win over visiting Atlantic in a Region 2-2S quarterfinal game on Nov. 10.

It was the third time in four games Bradford (11-0) has won by a 42-0 score. The Tornadoes, who are the top seed in the region, allowed the Sharks (5-6) to gain just 29 total yards, with 17 coming on the game's final play. Bradford's defense made 14 tackles for loss and an additional five tackles for no gain.

The offense got a touchdown run and two touchdown passes from Dae'Jon Shanks as it rolled



Elijah Kellum (left) follows Jyquez Cason on the kickoff to open the second half. Photos by Cliff Smelley.

up 333 total yards.

Jyquez Cason continued to prove he takes special teams seriously as he had his fourth blocked punt/kick this season.

"I think the guys are where they need to be mentally," Bradford Head Coach Jamie Rodgers said, adding, "It'll take a really good football team to beat us."

Bradford now hosts Eastside in a Region 2 semifinal game on Friday, Nov. 17, at 7:30 p.m.

"It's a lot of fun being in the final 16," Rodgers said.

There was never much doubt that the Tornadoes would advance past the playoffs' first round for the fifth straight year.

Atlantic, the region's eighth seed, had a third-and-2 play on the game's first series, but Bradford's Chason Clark tackled Kwasi Kwaku for a 1-yard loss. After a penalty for delay of game, the Sharks committed a fumble on a punt attempt. The Tornadoes' Jeremiah McKenzie recovered the loose ball at the Atlantic 35-yard line.

Bradford's first offense play saw Elijah Kellum catch a pass from Shanks and turn it into a touchdown at the 9:31 mark of the opening quarter. Declan Hense kicked the extra point to make the score 7-0.

The Sharks picked up a first down on their next series, but another Clark tackle for a loss eventually forced them to line up to punt again. Cason blocked

the punt to set up the Bradford offense at the Atlantic 30.

A 13-yard run by McKenzie from the quarterback position resulted in first-and-goal at the 10. Shanks, re-entering the game at quarterback, scored on a run from there, capping what was a three-play drive. Hense added the PAT for a 14-0 lead with 5:56 to play in the first quarter.

Atlantic's offense was again able to gain a first down, but a penalty and a 6-yard sack by the Tornadoes' Torin Brazell forced the Sharks to punt. This time, Atlantic was able to get a successful kick off, with Bradford taking over at its own 32-yard line.

The Tornadoes' third series began with an 11-yard run by Brian Clifflin. An 8-yard run by McKenzie picked up another first down across midfield. Brazell was then able to catch a short pass from Shanks and turn it into a 39-yard touchdown at the 10:26 mark of the second quarter. Hense, who was successful on all of his extra-point kicks, added the PAT for a 21-0 lead.

Shanks finished the game 6 of 7 passing for 140 yards.

An offsides penalty and a 16-yard run helped the Sharks gain a first down at the Bradford 32 on the ensuing series. Two of the next three plays resulted in lost yardage, thanks to tackles by Clark and Duke Lewis. Atlantic went for it on fourth-and-8, with Kwaku being chased out of the pocket for no gain.

It didn't take long for the Tornadoes to find the end zone again. Chalil Cummings had a 38-yard reception on the drive, which ended with Cason scoring on a 26-yard run with 5:25 to play in the first half.

Bradford's offense wasn't done. After the defense forced a three-and-out, with Devon McBride recording two consecutive sacks for a total loss of 13 yards, the Tornadoes put together a four-play, 52-yard scoring drive. The first play was a 12-yard reception by Cummings, who finished with two catches for 50 yards. Shanks, who rushed for 62 yards on five carries, then had a 30-yard run to the 10-

yard line. Clifflin had a 6-yard run on the third play. Then, after Atlantic was penalized for being offsides, Clifflin scored on a 2-yard touchdown run with 1:58 to play until halftime. With Hense's PAT, the Tornadoes went into the locker room leading 35-0.

The Tornadoes have been able to sit their starters for basically the entire second half in each of its past four games.

"I think we've played everybody on our roster the last four weeks, including the ninth-graders," Rodgers said. "That's huge. Not only is it huge to rest people; it's huge to get those (young) guys in the game and let them see what it's really like on Friday night."

Kellum returned the second-half kickoff 41 yards to the Atlantic 40, with an additional 5 yards tacked on because of a facemask penalty. Clifflin, who rushed for 34 yards on five

See BHS, page 12



Chason Clark (second from left) is about to lose his helmet as he tackles Atlantic's Kwasi Kwaku for a loss.



Dae'Jon Shanks (left) leaps over the goal line for Bradford's second touchdown.

BHS to face Eastside again in Region 2-2S semifinals

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

As was the case last season, the Bradford High School football team will play Eastside in the second round of the playoffs, with the Tornadoes hosting the Region 2-2S semifinal game on Friday, Nov. 17, at 7:30 p.m. at David Hurst Stadium.

The Rams (8-3), who are the fourth seed in the region, advanced by defeating fifth seed Palatka 28-27.

Bradford hosted Eastside during the regular season, defeating the Rams 34-7.

A lot of coaches will tell you they don't like facing a team a second time in the same season, but Bradford's Jamie Rodgers said, "That's OK. They've got to come here. I always like that matchup. I love our home crowd. 'I want the place to be rocking Friday night.'"

The Tornadoes won last season's semifinal matchup between the two teams by a score of 37-0. Like this season, that was the second time Bradford

had played Eastside that year.

Bradford has outscored the Rams 99-7 in the last three games between the teams.

This is Eastside's second straight year in the postseason and its 17th year overall. The Rams, who have a 12-16 postseason record, are looking to advance to a region-championship game for just the second time in history.

Eastside played four teams (including Bradford) with winning records during the regular season. The Rams lost three of those games by a combined score of 107-7. Buchholz, the top-ranked team in Class 4S, defeated Eastside 35-0, while Newberry, the fifth-ranked team in 1R, won 38-0.

The fourth game the Rams played against a team that compiled a winning record was a 35-0 win over playoff qualifier Keystone Heights.

Keystone, who Bradford defeated 48-6, and Palatka are the only common opponents the Tornadoes and the Rams have played this season.

Eastside is scoring an average of 28 points per game, while opponents are scoring an average of 13 points.

The Rams, who are on a four-game winning streak, closed the regular season with three straight wins by a combined score of 132-0.

Bradford, the region's top seed (and second overall seed in Class 2S) is scoring an average of 33 points per game, while opponents are averaging four points per game.

This is the Tornadoes' ninth straight year in the playoffs and their 24th year overall. Bradford's 42-0 win over Atlantic last week was its fifth consecutive first-round playoff win.

Bradford now has a postseason record of 25-21.

The Bradford-Eastside winner will play either second seed Yulee (9-2) or third seed Baker County (7-3) for the Region 2 championship on Friday, Nov. 24, at 7:30 p.m. That would be a home game for the Tornadoes if they win.

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Tigers roll to 58-8 win over Hilliard

BY ANTONIO HENDERSON
Special to the Telegraph-Times-Monitor

Gavin Jenkins returned two interceptions for touchdowns, while quarterback Trenton Klein threw for two scores and rushed for another in the Union County High School football team's 58-8 win over visiting Hilliard in a Region 3-1R quarterfinal game on Nov. 10.

Hilliard, which was the sixth seed in the region, was no match for the third seed Tigers, who scored seven touchdowns in the first half and amassed 455 total yards.

Union (7-3) now travels to play second seed Fort White (9-1) in the Region 3 semifinals on Friday, Nov. 17, at 7:30 p.m.

The start of the game went Hilliard's way, with the Tigers fumbling on the return of the opening kickoff. The Flashes (3-8) recovered, but their first offensive play resulted in no gain as Union's Connor Bresee



Blake McCoy is pictured taking the ball into the end zone after catching a pass from Trenton Klein. Photos by 1stWayShots.

ripped through the offensive line for a tackle. A host of Tigers then tackled Braydon Holley in the backfield for a 1-yard loss. On

third down, Union brought the pressure, with Thomas Williams coming up with a sack. Hilliard decided to go for it on

fourth down, but lost 5 yards on a penalty for delay of game. The Flashes punted.

The Tigers started their first offensive drive with a 3-yard Williams run. Klein then found Bobo Woodall for a 30-yard screen play. Then, after a 7-yard run by Williams, Klein, who rushed for 46 yards on three carries, called his own number for a 36-yard touchdown run, making the score 6-0 with 8:06 to play in the first quarter. The extra point was no good.

After its defense forced a three-and-out, the Tigers' second offensive series began with a 13-yard run by Woodall. The Flashes were then caught off guard with a play-action pass, with Klein completing a 45-yard pass to a wide-open Blake McCoy for a touchdown. Jonathan Edwards kicked the extra point for a 13-0 lead with 5:15 left in the first quarter.

See UCHS, page 12



Tyler Griffin

Keystone's Tyler Griffin will run at state

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Keystone Heights High School's cross-country teams competed at the Region 1-2A finals on Nov. 9 at Alligator Lake Park in Lake City, with boys team member Tyler Griffin qualifying for the state finals.

Griffin is the Indians' first state qualifier since Camryn Williams in 2019. He's the first boys runner to advance to state since Alex Guy did so in 2018.

Neither Keystone team placed in the top eight, which was necessary for a team to advance to state. The top four individuals in each race not on one of the state-qualifying teams earned the right to move on as well. The last individual spot in the boys race, which consisted of 117 runners, went to Griffin, who placed 23rd with a time of 17:56.

The other individual qualifiers were Wakulla's Henry Lewis, who was second, Florida High's Xavier England, who was

third, and Baker County's Troy Winkler, who was 12th.

Griffin will run at state on Friday, Nov. 17, at 9:50 a.m. at Tallahassee's Apalachee Regional Park.

Keystone's highest finisher behind Griffin was Anthony Peak, who was 66th with a time of 19:01. Ryder Thomas wasn't far behind with a 69th-place time of 19:07.

The following also ran for Keystone: Hunter Sheppard (19:26), Jaden Park (19:58), Bryce Huntley (20:03) and Kipton Spence (22:13).

Keystone was 13th out of 16 teams. Bishop Kenny was the champion, followed by Bolles as the runner-up.

The other qualifying teams were Episcopal, Wolfson, Suwannee, West Florida, Pensacola Catholic and North Bay Haven.

Olivia Griffin led the Keystone girls team, placing 40th out of 118 with a time of 21:37. She was seventh among individuals not on state-qualifying teams.

The Indians' next-best finishers were Cali Chamberlain and Melody Tyre, who placed 82nd and 83rd, respectively, with times of 24:24 and 24:30.

Also running were Brook Gaudons (27:32), Madilyn Miller (28:06), Schiley Starling (29:05) and Clara Beth Robinson (31:28).

Keystone finished 15th out of 16 teams. Bishop Kenny won the championship, followed by runner-up Bolles.

The other teams that qualified for state were Episcopal, Fernandina Beach, Wakulla, Florida High, Wolfson and North Bay Haven.

Individual qualifiers were Pensacola's Addison Garrett, who was 12th, South Walton's Scarlett Griffin, who was 14th, Suwannee's Ryleigh Hermanson, who was 18th, and South Walton's Diana Garcia, who was 30th.

UCHS travels to play 1-loss Ft. White

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

A Fort White team that is still seeking to advance beyond the second round of the playoffs for the first time ever will host the Union County High School football team in a Region 3-1R semifinal game on Friday, Nov. 17, at 7:30 p.m.

While the region's third seed Tigers were dismantling Hilliard last week, Fort White (9-1) enjoyed a first-round bye as the region's second seed.

The Indians are in the playoffs for the 16th year. Their postseason

record is 5-14, with one of those losses coming to Union in the 2020 region semifinals by a score of 47-0.

Fort White has put together an impressive season in which the Indians are scoring an average of 41 points per game and allowing an average of 12. The Indians went 3-1 against teams that finished the regular season with winning records, defeating both Dixie County and Lafayette by 35-0 scores and Class 2S Keystone Heights 49-26.

The one loss was 42-7 to Williston, the number-one team in Class 1R.

Union had a 35-0 win over Dixie County, which was one of three common opponents played by the Tigers and the Indians. Union beat Santa Fe 42-7 and Hilliard 58-8, while Fort White beat Santa Fe 77-13 and Hilliard 49-14.

The last time the Tigers and the Indians played each other was in the 2020 playoff matchup.

Prior to that, Fort White had won four in a row against the Tigers by scores of 21-15 (2018), 40-0 (2017), 34-12 (2016) and 44-41 (2015).

This is Union's seventh

straight year in the playoffs and its 26th year overall. The Tigers have a 40-22 postseason record.

The Tigers are averaging 38 points per game, while opponents are scoring an average of 12 per game.

Union is on a four-game winning streak. The combined score of those games is 184-23.

The Union-Fort White winner will play top seed Madison County (7-1) or fourth seed Lafayette (7-4) for the Region 3 championship on Friday, Nov. 24. The Tigers would host Lafayette, but travel to play Madison.

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Obituaries

Arnold Brice

Arnold "Papa Jiggy" Clarence Brice Jr., 72, of Lawley died Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023, at his residence. He was born in Syracuse, New York on July 15, 1951, to the late Arnold Clarence Brice Sr. and Marian Louise Brice. He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Richard and Robert Brice; and sister, Betty Jean Brice.

Survivors are his wife of 48 years, Susan Brice of Lawley; children, Jason Brice of Jacksonville; sister, Pat Ford of Lawley; grandchildren, Bryce Coleman, Trent Coleman, Kristian Newcom, Richey Herndon, and Richard Herndon; great-grandson, Levi Coleman; and numerous extended family members and friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, Nov. 17, at 5 p.m. at Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel.

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



Dudley Hardy

Dudley Price Hardy, 82, of Starke passed away Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2023, at the Community Hospice Alice and T. O'Neal Douglas Center for Caring in Jacksonville. He was born Aug. 17, 1941, in Gainesville to Douglas Price and Doris (Hinson) Hardy. He graduated from Bradford High School in 1959 and then attended the University of Florida, earning his B.A. in 1963, followed by his J.D. in 1965. After graduation, he started his law practice in Jacksonville with R. Lee Smith, P.A. in 1966. Several years later, he moved his practice to Starke, where he continued to practice until his death. He was a member of the Florida Bar Association. He served both his country and community in numerous ways. He was a member of the Army National Guard and was involved in various local clubs and organizations as well. He was a proud co-founder of Take Stock in Children of Bradford County, which helps local middle and high school students achieve academic success. He was a member of the Starke Methodist Church, the Ocala Elks Lodge #286, and a former member of the Kiwanis and Rotary clubs of Starke. He was an avid Gator fan and a member of the Gainesville Quarterback Club. He was also a proud member of the Bradford County Liars Club Lunch Bunch, where he was frequently known for "stirring the pot." Above all, though, He was known for being a devoted husband to his wife, Beverly, for nearly three decades, and a loving father to Kimberly, Paige, and Tommy. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his siblings, Dolores, Diane, Debbie, and brother Douglas "Buddy" Hardy.

He is survived by his wife of 29 years, Beverly (Badger) Hardy of Starke; daughters, Kimberly Hardy of Starke, Natalie Paige Vicary of Cambridge, Massachusetts; and son, Tommy (Tina) Harwood of Tiburon, California; along with sister, Dorothy (Roger) Jones of Starke. He was lovingly called "Grandad" and "Papa Dudley" by his grandchildren, Evan Price Vicary, Thomas (Sara) Harwood III, and Van Harwood.

A Celebration of Life service was held Sunday, Nov. 12, at the Methodist Church in Starke, 200 N. Walnut St., Starke. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Take Stock in Children of Bradford County.

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



Doris James

Mrs. Doris Ann James, 71, of Hampton passed away Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023, at Haven Hospice in Gainesville. She was born Feb. 3, 1952, in Berrien Springs, Michigan and was a homemaker and of the Baptist faith. She enjoyed nature and being outdoors, especially fishing. Her family was her life. She always kept in touch with them and loved spending time playing games and puzzles as well. She also stayed busy taking care of and playing with her dog, Brandy. Her parents, Lester and Dorothy (Bolger) Vincent preceded her in death.

She is survived by her husband of 53 wonderful years, Burley James; and their two sons, Burley (Rhonda) James Jr. of Hobbs, Indiana, and Randy (Melanie) James of Kokomo, Indiana; along with siblings, Johnny Vincent of North Dakota and Beverly Martin of Wellborn. She was lovingly called "Grandma" by six grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

The family received friends Monday, Nov. 13, at DeWitt C. Jones Chapel. Funeral services followed with Pastor Steve Conner officiating.

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



PAID OBITUARY

Benton Futch

Benton Futch, 88, of Keystone Heights passed away Sunday, Nov. 12, 2023, at Parkside Assisted Living Facility in Starke following an extended illness. He was born Sept. 17, 1935, in Lawley to Melvin Benton and Joyce (Terry) Futch. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his devoted and loving wife of 66 years, Vonciel (Kelly) Futch.

Survivors are his children, Eve (Chuck) Jones of Theresa and Steve (Cindy) Futch of Starke. He was lovingly called "Papa" by his grandchildren, Elizabeth, Brandi, Andrew, and Stephanie; along with his great-granddaughter Sydney. Also left behind are several nieces, nephews, and a host of longtime friends.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, Nov. 22, beginning at 10 a.m. in the DeWitt C. Jones Chapel with funeral services to begin at 11 a.m. Interment will follow at Crosby Lake Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts can be made to First Baptist Church, 550 E. Walker Drive, Keystone Heights, 32656.

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



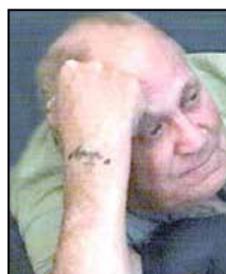
David Padgett

David William Padgett, 71, of Starke died Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023. He was preceded in death by his parents; and sister, Shirley Clark.

He is survived by his daughter, Kimberly Padgett; sons, David Earl Padgett and Joshua Padgett; sisters, Linda (Roy) Bryant and Patty (Rocky) Thompson; brother, Claude Brantley Brown Jr.; and four grandchildren.

The family will hold a private Celebration of Life at a later date.

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



BHS

Continued from page 10

carries, had an 11-yard run to start the drive. A 13-yard run by Damarion Hankerson moved the Tornados to the 11-yard line, while Elijah Lawrence ended the drive with a 7-yard touchdown

run.

Bradford has won its last four games by a combined score of 161-3. The only points scored on the Tornados in the last 18 quarters came off a field goal by Suwannee on the final play of the last regular-season game on Nov. 3.

Though the Tornados have dominated most opponents

they've played (eight of their wins were by at least 25 points), Rodgers said "something flipped" following his team's 24-13 win at Miami's True North Classical Academy on Oct. 13. True North (8-2), a number-one seed in Class 1 Metro that won its first-round playoff game, held two first-half leads over Bradford in that game.

"We had adversity in that game," Rodgers said, adding, "We kept on plugging and kept on playing and got that win. Everything changed for us. We started playing really well on offense, too, along with the dominating defense, and our special teams make plays every week."

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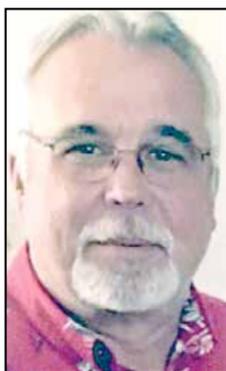
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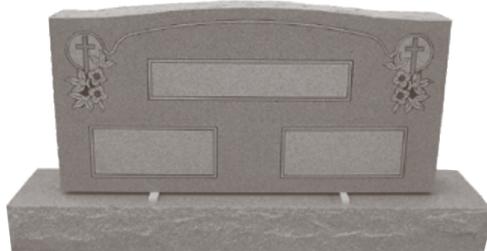
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UCHS

Continued from page 11

Hilliard's offense tried to get its pass game going, but Jenkins had other plans, picking off a pass for a touchdown. After Edwards' PAT, the score was 20-0 with 5:01 to play in the first quarter.

The Tigers' defense continued its strong play. Jacob Jenkins had a tackle for a 6-yard loss, while Bresee and Jimmy Cox teamed up to hold Holley to a 4-yard gain. A penalty for delay of game then put the Flashes into a third-and-19 situation. Hilliard went to its workhorse Holley for a 25-yard gain on a screen pass. The Flashes went back to the pass on the next play, but Johnie Nichols picked it off for Union.

Thomas got the Tigers' next series started with runs of 7 and 10 yards. Union decided to stay on the ground, with Drew Simmons picking up 9 yards. The runs opened up the passing game, resulting in Woodall catching a 30-yard touchdown pass from Klein with 47 seconds still left in the first quarter. Edwards added the PAT for a 27-0 lead.

Woodall finished with three catches for 87 yards.

Rocco Miranda completed passes for gains of 6, 13 and 4 yards for Hilliard. An incomplete pass set up third-and-6. Miranda gained 3 yards on a sneak. Hilliard then lined up to try to get the Tigers to jump offsidelines on fourth down, but the Flashes had no such luck, so they called



LEFT: Bobo Woodall runs his way toward a touchdown after catching a screen pass. BELOW: Gavin Jenkins heads toward the end zone on the first of his two interception returns for scores.



time out to draw up a new play. Miranda completed a 28-yard pass to Ethan Garland, with a facemask penalty adding extra yardage and giving the Flashes first-and-goal.

Union's defense then got a big hit from Klein for no gain. After an incomplete pass on second down, the Tigers blitzed, with Klein coming up with a sack for a loss of 13 yards. Erich Seager brought pressure on the fourth-down play, forcing Miranda into a quick throw that was

broken up by Cox.

The Tigers' offense then went to work and scored the team's fifth touchdown. The drive began with a 3-yard run by Simmons and a 19-yard reception by McCoy. McCoy, who had three receptions for 80 yards, caught another pass on a screen play for a gain of 16 yards, but a holding penalty brought the play back. Klein had consecutive runs for a total gain of 10 yards to pick up a first down. The quarterback then threw a pass to Ashton

Newsome, who broke multiple tackles for a hard gain of 10 yards, but penalties on each team resulted in a do-over.

Simmons had an 18-yard run and then got the handoff again for an 11-yard touchdown with 4:22 to play in the second quarter. The extra point was good for a 34-0 lead.

Jenkins came up with his second pick-six on the following series, returning the ball 45 yards and giving the Tigers, after the extra point, a 41-0 lead with 3:58 left until halftime.

The Flashes would come up with a big play when Miranda completed a 27-yard pass to Garland. A fumbled snap, though, resulted in Williams making a tackle for a 5-yard loss. A false-start penalty backed Hilliard up another 5 yards. On second-and-20, Williams came up with a tackle for no gain. A penalty for delay of game had the Flashes facing third-and-25. Garland came up with a 13-yard reception. Hilliard went for it on fourth down, but an incomplete pass resulted in a turnover on downs with 35 seconds remaining in the first half.

That was enough time for the Tigers to score again. Klein saw that Ibn Williams was open, throwing him the ball for a 33-yard gain. Klein spiked the ball with 10 seconds on the clock. The quarterback, who went 9 of 12 for 223 yards, then went right back to Ibn Williams, who rewarded him with a 12-yard touchdown. With the extra point, the score stood at 48-0.

Williams finished with the two catches for 45 yards.

Hilliard had possession to start the second half, but Deonte Jones came up with the Tigers' fourth interception.

Union's younger offense couldn't pick up a first down, so the Tigers went to Edwards ("The Leg") for a 33-yard field-goal attempt that was good, putting the Tigers up 51-0.

The Flashes' Earl Moore returned the following kickoff 80 yards for a touchdown. Miranda's keeper on the two-point conversion was good, making the score 51-8.

Simmons, who rushed for 132 yards on eight carries, got the ball a handful of times on the Tigers' next series, breaking his last run for a 57-yard touchdown. Edwards added the PAT for the final point of the night.

Klein and Thomas Williams led the defense in tackles with five each. Cox and Nichols each had four.

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STARKE
US-301S
964-6078

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

LAKE BUTLER
145 SW 6th Ave.
496-3079

Arc of Bradford hosts cow patty bingo and fall festival



Arc of Bradford Executive Director John Williams (right) shakes hands with Mike Ruskowski, whose wife, Sherry, won this year's cow-patty bingo and its \$1,000 prize. This Arc fundraiser involves selling 100 squares at \$50 each. Then, it's up to nature to take its course as a cow is ultimately responsible for determining the winner. Photos by Cliff Smelley.



Nathan Bannon takes time from enjoying his snow cone to try to pet Bessie the cow, who was responsible for selecting the cow-patty bingo winner.



Dani Velez (right) has fun on a hayride with her grandfather, Chuck Kramer. Arthur Sinabian (background) is also pictured.



LEFT: Terri Smith tosses bean bags as this year's cow-patty bingo also featured games as part of a fall festival at the Arc's new location at the old Hampton Elementary School. BELOW: Mikey Smith (right) plays the ring-toss game as Greg Smith looks on.



Cake-walk participants (l-r) Christine Genosa, Jessica Genosa and Makynzi Pernell go round and round, waiting for the music to stop.



Lila Sellars (left) visits with James Searcy, who was a winner in the event's cake walk, as evidenced by the cupcakes on his lap.



Greg Smith (left) gets the Superman symbol painted onto his hand by Alicia Parramore.



Josh Adkins (left) and Stacie Hallowell hang out, waiting to see which cow-patty bingo square Bessie the cow will select.



Steve Dara mans the grill at every cow-patty bingo, which offers up free hot dogs for visitors.



Makynzi Pernell celebrates her luck with a winning duck.



Tristan Rowe enjoys a snow cone. Oh, and don't worry — that's not a real spider on his forehead!



Dani Velez (left) has fun hanging out at the cow-patty bingo and fall festival with her sister, Gabi, who is approaching the age of 3 months.



Is Mike Ruskowski making a deal with Bessie to select his wife's square?

Terry McCarthy

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Wiley scores 3 goals in opener for KH boys soccer

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Keystone Heights High School opened the boys soccer season by scoring four second-half goals in defeating host Palatka 5-1 on Nov. 13.

Aaron Wiley had three of those goals, while Luke Brunt and Bryce Huntley each had one. Brunt's goal came off a penalty kick.

Brunt led the team in assists with two. Jacob Stahman and Sammy Wachua each had one.

It was also a successful debut for the junior varsity team, which defeated Palatka 8-0. Ryder Thomas and Kipton Spence scored three and two goals, respectively, while the following had one goal each: Malachi Mayo, Trenton Noble and Ryland Wahl.

Kipton also had two assists. Both varsity and JV teams played at Fort White this past Tuesday. The varsity team travels to play Branford on Friday, Nov. 17, at 6 p.m.

KHHS girls soccer team falls 5-0 to Columbia

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Goalie Aspen Krohn made 11 saves, but the Keystone Heights High School girls soccer team fell to 1-2 after a 5-0 loss to host Columbia on Nov. 13.

The Indians were coming off a 5-3 win over visiting Williston on Nov. 10. Kiersten Shaw scored every goal, with three coming off assists by Alee Horton, Halea Lam and Ashly McCarthy.

While the varsity team lost to Columbia, the junior varsity team rallied from a 6-2 first-half deficit to win 8-7. Tayler Buchanan and

Kayden Huntley scored three and two goals, respectively, while the following scored one each: Jules Marini, Alonah Neeld and Alexis VanNordstrand.

Both teams play at Suwannee on Thursday, Nov. 16, with the JV playing at 5:30 p.m. and the varsity playing at 7:20 p.m. The Keystone teams then travel to play Crescent City on Friday, Nov. 17, at 5:30 p.m. and 7:20 p.m.

Keystone falls to Yulee in first round of playoffs

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
General manager

Keystone Heights fell behind early and continued to lose ground against a Yulee team with speedy skill players and a high-powered offense.

The Indians fell to the home-standing Hornets 36-10 in a Nov. 10 Region 2-2S quarterfinal



Head Coach Steve Reynolds talks to his team after a 36-10 loss to Yulee in the Region 2-2S quarterfinals. The Indians finished 6-5 after a two-win season in 2022.

game, ending Keystone's 2023 campaign with a 6-5 record.

Leading 29-0 at the half, Yulee (9-2) extended its margin to 36-0 at the end of the third quarter.

The Indians' two scores came at the end of the contest.

After a Keystone punt forced Yulee to start a drive from its own 1, the Indians held the Hornets to a 5-yard drive, forcing Yulee

to punt from its own 6. Jackson Herman blocked the kick, and the ball rolled out of the end zone for a safety, giving the Indians two points.

After Yulee free kicked the ball from its 20, Keystone took over on its own 35 and scored on a five-play drive, concluded with a 5-yard run by Colton Hollingsworth, who also

converted the two-point attempt.

After the game, Keystone Coach Steve Reynolds said he told his team he loved them and was proud of them, especially the departing seniors.

"I'm going to miss them terribly, and I'm so proud of the foundation that they set," he said of his seniors. "Things didn't go our way tonight. We made some mistakes as a team, and Coach Reynolds made some mistakes, and we've got to do some things better next year, but I love them."

The coach also credited his squad for not giving up and showing grit in the face of adversity.

"They could have folded after 0 and 2, right?" he said. "But instead, they put in the work and got better and improved. This group of seniors decided to make a commitment back in February when we started doing our off-season conditioning. They were all committed, and that's why we're on a positive trajectory. Six-and-four is a great (regular) season, but, obviously, we hope to build more and more here."

Legal Notices

Legals for the week of Nov. 16, 2023

BRADFORD

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

CASE NO.: 04-2023-CP-035
PROBATE DIVISION
IN RE: THE ESTATE OF:
THOMAS W. BARKER,
DECEASED.

FORMAL NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of THOMAS W. BARKER deceased, whose date of death was November 22, 2022, is pending in the Circuit Court For Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 4824 North West 179th Street, Starke, FL 32091, to-wit: Parcel Number: 02229-0-00600 (7928) HX HB

A parcel of land lying in the SE 1/4 of NW 1/4 of Section 17, Township 6 South, Range 22 East Bradford County, Florida, and being more particularly described as follows: Commence at the intersection of the Westerly boundary of the right of way of State Road 16 and the Northerly boundary of the right of way of a county road and run thence West along said Northerly boundary a distance of 501.26 feet to a point, said point being 911.2 feet Easterly of the SW corner of said SE 1/4 of NW 1/4; run thence North a distance of 456.04 feet to a point; run thence North 89 deg 58 min 30 sec West a distance of 250 feet to an iron stake for point of beginning. From point of beginning thus described continue West a distance of 110 feet to an iron stake; run thence North 175 feet to an iron stake; run thence South 89 deg 58 min 30 sec East 110 feet to an iron stake; run thence South 175 feet to the Point of Beginning. SUBJECT TO taxes for the year 1987 and all subsequent years, easements, restrictions and covenants of record if any.

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 DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

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

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

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

The date of first publication of this notice is September 14, 2023.

Virginia Anderson
Personal Representative
CHARLES DANIEL SIKES
817 W. MacMahon Street
Starke, Florida 32091
Email: dan.sikes30@gmail.com
(904) 964-2020
Florida Bar No: 0886858
Attorney for Petitioner

9/14 12tchg 11/30-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 23000371CA

DIVISION: Mortgage Foreclosures
METRO NORTH FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, a Florida credit union,
Plaintiff,
vs.

JESSICA LYNN BROWN, an individual;
AUDREY MARLENE CLEMONS, an individual; BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA; and ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES

MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES OR OTHER CLAIMANTS; JOHN DOE AND JANE DOE AS UNKNOWN TENANTS IN POSSESSION,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION
To the following Defendants:
JESSICA LYNN BROWN
3114 NW County Road 225
Lawley, FL 32058
OR
8118 NW 183rd Terrace
Starke, FL 32091
OR

Whose residence is unknown
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following described property:
PARCEL 21

A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN THE NW1/4 OF THE NW1/4 OF SECTION 14, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA; SAID PARCEL BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID NW 1/4 OF NW 1/4 AND RUN NORTH 88 DEGREES 37 MINUTES 09 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE NORTHERLY BOUNDARY THEREOF, 454.53 FEET TO A SET 1/2" IRON ROD AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING. FROM POINT OF BEGINNING THUS DESCRIBED CONTINUE NORTH 88 DEGREES 37 MINUTES 09 SECONDS EAST, ALONG SAID NORTHERLY BOUNDARY, 127.82 FEET TO A SET 1/2" IRON ROD; THENCE SOUTH 01 DEGREE 01 MINUTE 07 SECONDS EAST, 448.78 FEET TO A SET IRON ROD; THENCE SOUTH 88 DEGREES 34 MINUTES 36 SECONDS WEST, 127.82 FEET TO A SET IRON ROD; THENCE NORTH 01 DEGREE 01 MINUTE 07 SECONDS WEST, 448.87 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

ABOVE DESCRIBED PARCEL BEING SUBJECT TO AND TOGETHER WITH AN EASEMENT FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS OVER AN EXISTING ROADWAY ALONG THE NORTHERLY 25 FEET OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PARCEL AND EXTENDING EASTERLY TO THE WESTERLY BOUNDARY OF THE RIGHT OF WAY OF COUNTY ROAD 225.

TOGETHER WITH A 1998 HICK TRIPLEWIDE MOBILE HOME WITH THE ID#S GAFLW35A14358HH21, GAFLW35B14358HH21, AND GAFLW35C14358HH21 WHICH IS LOCATED THEREON.
a/k/a 118 NW 183rd Terrace, Starke, Florida 32091.

Has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Austin T. Hamilton, whose address is Jimerson Birr, P.A., One Independent Drive, Suite 1400, Jacksonville, Florida 32202, and file the original with the Clerk of the above-styled Court on or before thirty (30) days from the first publication, otherwise a Judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Notice:

If you are an individual with a disability who needs an accommodation in order to participate in a court

proceeding or other court service, program, or activity, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Requests for accommodations may be presented on this form, in another written format, or orally.

Requests may be submitted by using the form available; via email to ada@circuit8.org; by mail to ADA Coordinator, Alachua County Courthouse, 201 East University Avenue, Room 410, Gainesville, Florida 32601; or orally by phone at 352-337-6237. Please make request as far in advance as possible, but preferably at least seven (7) days before your scheduled court appearance or other court activity. If you are hearing or voice impaired please call 711.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court this 6th day of November, 2023.

DENNY THOMPSON
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Bradford County, Florida
As Clerk of the Court by:
By: Kanetra Jenkins
As Deputy Clerk

11/9 2tchg 11/16-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA,
PROBATE DIVISION
FILE NO.: 04-2023-CP-0098
DIVISION: PROBATE

IN RE: ESTATE OF JOSEPH ARTHUR SHULER
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of JOSEPH ARTHUR SHULER, deceased, whose date of death was July 16, 2023; is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division; File No. 04-2023-CP-0098; the address of which is 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091. The names and addresses of the Petitioners and the Petitioners' attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons, who have claims or demands against the decedent's estate, including unmatured, contingent or unliquidated claims, and who have been served a copy of this Notice, must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons who have claims or demands against decedent's estate, including unmatured, contingent or unliquidated claims, must file their claims with this Court WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
THE DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE IS: November 9, 2023.

Attorney for Personal Representative:
M. Aaron Dukes, Esq.
Dukes Legal, P.A.
Post Office Box 328
Lake Butler, FL 32054
386-269-2394
Petitioner:
DANA SHULER
9806 SW 136th Ave
Brooker, Florida 32622

11/9 2tchg 11/16-BCT

NOTICE OF SALE

T & M Towing gives notice of lien and intent to sell these vehicles on November 30th, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at T & M Storage yard located at 3687 Ambient Air Rd., Starke, FL 32091. T & M Towing reserves the right to

accept or reject any and all bids.
2020 Honda M.C.
Vin #MLHJC7519L5204449
11/16 2tchg 11/23-BCT

COMMISSION MEETING
CANCELED

There will not be a City of Starke Commission Meeting on November 21, 2023.

11/16 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

To satisfy the owner's storage lien, KO Storage LLC will sell at public lien sale on December 13, 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 10AM on December 06, 2023 and end at 10AM on December 13, 2023. The public sale will take place on www.storageasures.com.
KO Storage of Starke - S Walnut St, 1650 South Walnut Street, Starke FL 32091, (952) 314-7121
Time: 10:00AM CST

A03, Griffin, Rebecca, A05, Lindsey, Tony, A24, Williamson, Jessica, A39, Webb, Thomas, A75, Griffin, Rebecca, B13, Sofield, Ashley, B37, Flanders, Harvey, B62, Hendricks, Diane, B73, Pruitt, Yolanda
Public sale terms, rules, and regulations will be made available on www.storageasures.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.

11/16 2tchg 11/23-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION
File No. 04-2023-CP-105
Division

IN RE: ESTATE OF SANDRA MEJIAS MARTINEZ A/K/A SANDRA MEJIAS
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of Sandra Mejias Martinez a/k/a Sandra Mejias, deceased, whose date of death was June 3, 2023, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 945 N Temple Ave., Starke, Florida 32091. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

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

The date of first publication of this notice is November 16, 2023.
Attorney for Personal Representative: LAW OFFICE OF

KNELLINGER & ASSOCIATES
Richard M. Knellinger, for the Firm
Florida Bar Number: 181826
2815 NW 13th Street, Suite 305
Gainesville, FL 32609-2865
Telephone: (352) 373-3334
Fax: (352) 376-1214
Personal Representative:
E-Mail: rick@knellingerlaw.com
carin@knellingerlaw.com
Jennifer L. Reyes
139 Lexington Ave Ext
Rincon, GA 31326

11/16 2tchg 11/23 BCT

REQUEST FOR BIDS

The City of Lawley is requesting bids to cut and remove approximately 40 trees. Bidders must be licensed and insured. Details can be obtained from Lawley City Hall, 2793 Lake St., Lawley, FL Monday through Friday 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Bids are due by 4p.m. on November 30, 2023.

The City of Lawley is an equal opportunity and Drug Free Workplace.

11/16 1tchg-BCT

REQUEST FOR BIDS

The City of Lawley is taking bids from licensed and insured contractors to remove and install new porches on the City Hall. For information, please contact the Lawley City Hall, 2793 Lake St., Lawley, FL 32058 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Bids are due by 4 p.m. on November 30, 2023.

The City of Lawley is an equal opportunity and drug free workplace.

11/16 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME

Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: ALCIDO WORKS LLC, 12177 LAKE FERN DRIVE E, JACKSONVILLE, FL 32258, doing business under the firm name of: MR. ROOTER PLUMBING OF ORANGE PARK, 12177 LAKE FERN DRIVE E, JACKSONVILLE, FL 32258, intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 9th day of November A.D., 2023, in BRADFORD County.

11/16 1tchg-BCT

UNION

NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE
Please take notice Lake Butler Mini Storage, located at 1015 SW 3rd St. Lake Butler, FL, 32054 intends to hold an auction of goods stored in the following units in default for non-payment of rent on Lockerfox.com. The sale will occur on 11/29/2023 at 10:00 am on Lockerfox.com. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings.
Unit #78 John Doe
Unit #17 Rhonda Brevaldo
Unit # 72 Garrett D. Thornton
All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. See manager for details.
11/9 2tchg 11/16-UCT

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME

Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: MARILU SAQUIERES, 9978 SW 38th Way, Lake Butler, FL 32054, sole owner, doing business under the firm name of: MARILU CREATIONS SHACK, 9978 SW 38th Way, Lake Butler, FL 32054, intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 7th day of November A.D., 2023, in UNION County.

11/16 1tchg-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIRCUIT CIVIL DIVISION
CASE NO.: 21000046CAAXMX
NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING
Plaintiff(s),

vs.
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHERS WHO MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE ESTATE OF NATHANIEL B. HARRIS DECEASED; REGINA MERRICKS, THE UNKNOWN PERSONS IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY
Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHERS WHO MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE ESTATE OF NATHANIEL B. HARRIS DECEASED
Last know address: Unknown
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a civil action has been filed against you in the Circuit Court of Union County, Florida, to replevin certain personal property described as follows: 1999 Fleetwood, 30x76 Waverly Crest, Mobile Home Serial Number(s): FFLW70A26362WC21 and FFLW70B26362WC21. Property address: 11162 Southwest 42nd Street, Lake Butler, FL 32054

You are required to file a written response with the Court and serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Padgett Law Group, whose address is 6267 Old Water Oak Road, Suite 203, Tallahassee, FL 32312, at least thirty (30) days from the date of first publication, 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.
DATED this the 13th day of November, 2023.
Clerk of the Circuit Court
As Clerk of the Court
BY: Crystal Norman
Deputy Clerk

11/16 4tchg 12/7-UCT

REGULAR MEETING NOTICE

The City of Lake Butler City Commission will hold their **REGULAR MEETING** on Tuesday, November 21, 2023 at 6:00pm at the City Commission Chambers located at 200 SW 1st Street Lake Butler, FL 32054.

11/16 1tchg-UCT

SPECIAL MEETING

The Union County Board of County Commissioners will be holding a Special Meeting on November 20, 2023 at 5:45PM, in the Board Meeting Room of the Union County Courthouse, located at 55 W. Main St., Lake Butler, FL 32054. This meeting is to hear a formal grievance from an employee regarding the effective date of their raise as well as an appeal of a corrective action plan.

11/16 1tchg-UCT

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME

Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: ALCIDO WORKS LLC, 12177 LAKE FERN DRIVE E, JACKSONVILLE, FL 32258, doing business under the firm name of: MR. ROOTER PLUMBING OF ORANGE PARK, 12177 LAKE FERN DRIVE E, JACKSONVILLE, FL 32258, intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 9th day of November A.D., 2023, in UNION County.

11/16 1tchg-UCT

Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700

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

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
Bradford County Telegraph

131 West Call Street • Starke, Florida 32091
Phone: 964-6305 • P.O. Drawer A • Starke, FL 32091

John Miller, Publisher

Editor: Mark J. Crawford
Sports Editor: Cliff Smelley
Advertising: John R. Tillman
Typesetting: Mary Goodge
Advertising & Newspaper Prod: C. Hurston
Bookkeeping & Classified Adverts: Heather Wheeler
Bookkeeping Asst: Mary Goodge
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Lake Region Monitor

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Jackson returns to court to coach BHS girls team

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Bradford High School enters girls basketball with a new head coach, but he's not a new face. In fact, he made history at BHS two years ago.

Athletic Sampson Jackson has returned to coaching after a one-year absence. He coached the boys program to its first-ever state championship in 2021-22.

"I'm beyond excited to be back," Jackson said. "I talk a lot of times about coaching, and I say that once you become a coach to a kid, you're never again a teacher only. You're also a coach. That part of me feels fulfilled being back."

"We've had about two weeks of practice. It feels like the first week I ever coached again."

Jackson said the reason he stepped down as the boys coach following the state championship was that he wanted to focus all his energies on being the athletic director and supporting all the school's student-athletes.

However, he saw a need with the girls basketball program that he wanted to step in personally and address.

"I wanted to be available to a group of girls who have gone through a few head coaches," Jackson said. "That's not anybody's fault, but that's just what it's been. This group of girls has always had talent. It's just putting it all together."

Jackson said the biggest thing is getting every player to understand the ins and outs of the game. He said he remarked to somebody that if all he cared about was simply winning, he'd "give the ball to certain people and tell everybody else to move."

He does want to win games, but Jackson wants his players to understand what to do in any situation that arises in a game.



Sampson Jackson

That can lead to wins and, perhaps, a postseason run.

Bradford (no matter who its coach has been) has been no stranger to the playoffs, but taking that next step has been the hard part. Since winning their only state title in 1994-95, the Tornados have advanced past the first round of the playoffs only four times in 13 appearances.

Yet most of the players on this team return from a 2022-23 season in which the Tornados battled eventual Final-Four team Providence in the first round of the playoffs before losing 58-46. Plus, that game was played after last season's coach resigned.

So, in looking at his new team's talent level, Jackson sees a team that is capable of doing great things. First, there's the experience factor. Of the 13 players, six are seniors and five are juniors. Second, it's a team with height, with two or three players over 6 feet and another couple measuring in at around 5-9. Third, it's a team that can achieve balance with its guard and post play.

"The biggest thing is just teaching them the knowledge of the game," Jackson said.

Jackson said the players ask him if he's going to get them to Lakeland, where the state semifinal and championship

games are held. His response has been that it's not ultimately on him. It's on the players — the work they do and the standards they hold themselves to.

For example, the players now know how Jackson's practices are structured and what they're supposed to do at any given time. They don't wait for Jackson to tell them what to do; they're already ready and waiting to go.

Jackson said that may seem like a little thing, but it can mean so much.

"No matter how good of a coach you are, a championship team truly isn't a championship team until the players act like champions," he said.

Road to coaching

Jackson played basketball when he was a student at Union County High School. As a senior in 2007-08, he led the Tigers in assists (4.2 per game) and steals (56 total), while he was second in scoring (8.8 points per game).

Ironically, it was a game against Bradford during his junior year that got him thinking about coaching.

"I actually had an injury against Bradford," Jackson said. "When I had that injury, it was kind of an eye-opener to basketball maybe not being the key to everything, but I knew I loved the game and that I wanted to stay around it."

In college, Jackson participated in an internship with the University of Florida women's basketball team. In working with and observing Head Coach Amanda Butler, Jackson said he learned how important attention to details during practices is.

"She made sure the players were very attentive toward what it was she wanted to cover," Jackson said. "That started

with coaches' meetings before practice, making sure all the coaches knew the objective for the day and then translating that through practice."

Jackson coached for his high school alma mater from 2012 until 2015, filling the roles of a boys varsity assistant and boys junior varsity head coach. Union's varsity team advanced to the Class 1A Final Four twice while Jackson was on the sideline.

In 2018, Jackson went to Bradford to be a boys varsity assistant to Head Coach Brent Roberts and to be the head coach of the boys JV team. Jackson was named the boys varsity head coach when Roberts resigned two years later.

Bradford went 15-11 in Jackson's first year, ending the season with a loss in the district tournament semifinals. The following year, the Tornados won district, regional and the program's first-ever state championship during an eight-game win streak to close out the season. Bradford won its two regional playoffs games and its state semifinal and championship games by an average margin of 19 points.

A new opportunity

Now that he's back in coaching, Jackson is getting to learn his team and what kind of standards he expects players to reach for.

The players have a lot to say about what those standards are. For example, Jackson said practices were to begin at 3:45 p.m., but what he noticed was that they weren't getting started until 3:50 or so. He talked to the team about that, with players saying that a 4 p.m. start would work better for them.



Sampson Jackson cuts one of the nets in the BHS gym during a community pep rally hosted by the school in 2022 to celebrate the state-champion boys basketball and girls weightlifting teams. File photo by Cliff Smelley.

What happened? Practices now start at 4 p.m.

"If I put the ball in their court, then 4 is now the standard," Jackson said. "Now, it's not on me anymore; it's on them."

For Jackson, it's not about coming in and saying everything should be done his way and his way only. He believes in having open communication with the players and knowing which battles to pick.

"One of the things I've learned in my coaching career is you can yell, and you can scream, but if everyone leaves, you have no one to yell and scream at," Jackson said. "That approach to being a coach doesn't necessarily work at this level."

Another thing Jackson has learned as a coach is to identify each player's role.

"If you don't identify roles, that's where confusion sets in,"

Jackson said. "No one knows what's expected of them."

Jackson said he's "super frank" with each player. For example, he's told Jada Hankerson that if she doesn't score eight points in a game, the Tornados will lose. He's told Ajyah Jackson that if she doesn't score four points and grab four or five rebounds in a game, the Tornados will lose.

"No one is more important," Jackson said. "It's just different expectations for different roles."

You can set benchmark standards and identify each player's role, but that doesn't mean things will always go smoothly. Jackson has been honest with his team — adversity is coming. That's just life.

"It's coming to every program," Jackson said. "It's just what happens. When it comes, that's when things go left or right. If you know it's coming, and it never comes, that's OK. If you expect it, and it comes, we've already talked about our method of working through it."

If Jackson needs to give his players an example of working through adversity, all he has to do is talk about his state-champion boys team. Players were in and out of the lineup for various reasons throughout the regular season, with the team experiencing two three-game losing streaks. The team had a losing record until it went on its run to the state title.

What the girls team does this year remains to be seen, but one thing for sure is that the new head coach is as excited as any of his players about getting the season started.

"I'm eager for that first game," Jackson said.

The Tornados, who play in Class 3A, get the regular season started at home against Class 7A Creekside on Monday, Nov. 20, at 7 p.m.

KHHS, UCHS girls hoops teams play road games to start regular season

The regular season for girls basketball starts next week, with Keystone Heights High

School playing its first game on Monday, Nov. 20, while Union County will play its first game on

Tuesday, Nov. 21. Keystone and Union both play larger-classification schools in

their openers, which are both on the road. The Indians play at 5A Ridgeview at 7:30 p.m., while Union plays at 5A Baker County

at 7:30 p.m. The Indians play in 4A, while the Tigers play in 1A. Keystone plays the next night

after its opener, hosting 2A St. Johns Country Day on Tuesday, Nov. 21, at 6 p.m.

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