

# Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

Thursday, November 17, 2022

144th year, 12th Issue — \$1



## PLAYOFF ASCENSION

Bradford High School's Chason Clark (center) makes a leaping catch to set up the fifth touchdown of the night in the Tornados' 48-0 win over Crescent City in the Region 2-2S quarterfinals. Bradford hosts Eastside in a semifinal game on Friday, Nov. 18, at 7:30 p.m. See page 14 for more. Photo by Cliff Smelley.

## New Bradford County manager searching for added revenues

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

STARKE — The new county manager for Bradford County said that after he fills a vacancy for his executive assistant and then ties up some loose ends he inherited when he took over the job in Starke, he will focus on what he said is the county's most significant need, finding new revenues.

Bradford Commissioners hired former Keystone Heights City Manager Scott Kornegay last month to run their departments and told their new hire that shoring up the county's finances is their Number 1 priority.

The county used its reserves to balance its budget for the current fiscal year and is looking at another problematic budget season next spring.

Kornegay said that after reviewing the county's departments, he doesn't see many opportunities for cutting costs, calling the operation he took over as "lean."

He added that on the revenue side, the first alternative policymakers usually go to for increasing revenues is not an option in Starke.

"We can't tax our way out of it because statutorily, we're already capped at 10 mills," he said. "So, we're going to have to come up with other things, and of course, we'll try and look to see where we can cut if we can. But I can already tell you that things are pretty lean as they are, but there could be some room there for some savings."

The new manager said that despite the fiscal challenges, he sees opportunities in Bradford. "I'm excited," he said. "There's a lot of opportunity here, and we're going to do our



Scott Kornegay speaks at a recent meeting of the Lake Region Prosperity Partners.

very best to make sure that Bradford County moves forward."

### Military policeman, firefighter

Kornegay said he was raised in Dothan, Alabama, and moved to Jacksonville, Florida, after high school to live with an aunt and uncle while attending Florida State College.

See **MANAGER**, page 8

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**WORTH NOTING**

## Operation Christmas Child collecting toys, supplies

Trinity Baptist Church of Keystone Heights is a drop-off location for the collection of shoeboxes prepared for Operation Christmas Child.

Churches, civic groups and individuals can fill standard-size shoeboxes with toys, school supplies, hygiene items and a personal letter. The shoeboxes will be sent to needy boys and girls in over 100 countries by Samaritan's Purse, a world relief agency.

National Collection Week is from Monday to Monday, Nov. 14-21 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Epicenter entrance (south side of the building). Call 352-473-7261 for further information.

## Democratic Women meet Nov. 17

The Democratic Women of the Lakes Area will hear from Richard Segall, state committeeman for the Putnam County DEC and DWCLA member, reviewing results and general trends of the midterm races.

The meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Nov. 17 at the Historic Melrose Homemakers' Club, 25728 Park St. in Melrose. Doors open at 6:30. For further information, call 352-235-4161 or write Info@dwc-la.org.

## USDA provides additional funding for sewer plant

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — A month ago, the city of Starke's wastewater treatment plant was \$6 million over budget. City Manager Drew Mullins recently announced that USDA has agreed to make up the difference.

The sewer plant requires upgrades to, among other things, meet higher environmental standards for its effluent.

USDA previously awarded the city a \$9.63 million grant and \$10.68 million loan to fund planning and construction. The city's lowest construction bid came in at \$23.36 million. That is on top of the millions already spent on planning and design.

The city had to approach USDA again, knowing it was unable to take on any additional debt for the

project. Customers' bills have already increased in anticipation of the \$10-plus million that must be repaid over many years.

City Clerk Jimmy Crosby acknowledged Mary Gavin with Rural Community Assistance Project, Justin deMello with engineers Woodward and Curran, city attorney Clay Martin, Finance Director James Hughes and Mullins for their diligent work. They were working up to an important deadline, he said.

"I can't express enough the appreciation on behalf of the city for having gotten that done," Crosby said.

Mullins said the clerk's list left out one individual — the clerk himself.

The commission approved a resolution amending its agreement with USDA.

The city will be able to move on with construction once an agreement

with bidder PWC Joint Venture is approved.

The commission has awarded the construction bid for the wastewater collection system upgrade and rehabilitation project to All Terrain Tractor Service of Sanford. They were the lone respondent, submitting a bid of \$5.8 million for the project. Their prior referenced projects include a storm tech system in Orlando, a sewer lift station at the Kissimmee Gateway Airport and elementary school stormwater drain system in Deland.

The project includes replacing or relining pipes in the city's aging sewer system. The source of funding is the State Revolving Fund, which is providing it as a 90% grant and 10% loan.

A separate \$1.6 million project to relocate the Call Street lift station was approved as well. The successful

bidder, Advantage Construction Group of Middleburg, was also the only bidder. Moving the station approximately 400 feet is expected to improve hydraulics. On Nov. 15, the commission took the first step in a possible eminent domain action, declaring a public need for the property where the new lift station will be constructed.

Tom Jenkins Electrical Service of Lake Butler will provide SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition) upgrades at all the city's lift stations. They bid \$283,250 for the project.

Each of these projects is aimed at satisfying the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's consent orders against the city. The city has been cited for multiple system failures resulting in stormwater infiltration and raw sewage spills.

## MotoSurf set to return to Lake Geneva in 2023

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — The agent that books sporting events in Clay County said organizers of the 2022 MotoSurf and MotoSkate intend to bring the events back to Lake Geneva next year.

Alan Verlander of Airstream Ventures made the disclosure while briefing the Clay County Tourism Council on upcoming sports events in the county.

"It was a great success, a nationally televised event," Verlander said of the 2022 competition.

He added that the success of the 2022 MotoSurf and MotoSkate event has attracted the attention of the Pro Watercross tour, which features jet skis.

Verlander said the Pro Watercross tour organizer will be visiting Clay County soon, and Verlander is confident he will book Keystone Heights for a tour stop.

Verlander told council members that with the county's limited field inventory, his firm is focusing on bringing non-traditional events to Clay rather than the typical bat-and-ball events.

Verlander said booked events

include a kayak bass fishing tournament in 2023, two youth lacrosse events in 2023, and an InSpire dance competition to be held at the Trasher-Horne in 2023.

Verlander said his firm is in serious talks on behalf of the county with promoters of spike ball in 2023-2024, NXL paintball championships in 2023-2024, U.S. Strongman Competition in 2023, high school cross country in 2023, MotoSurf-MotoSkate in 2023, pro watercross in 2023-2024 and Super X in 2023.

"There's not a great high school cross country meet in this area that is kind of branded well and marketed

well," Verlander said. "So, we're working with a company out of Jacksonville. They're cross-country coaches, so we're working with them to develop a map here in Clay County to do one."

Verlander said if the county can land a high school cross country meet, then it can aim for a college-level NAIA or NCAA Division 3 meet.

Verlander said his firm is in conversations with the American Junior Golf Association for a Clay County tournament, U.S. Archery, the NAIA for a college lacrosse

See **SURF**, page 7

## Soup Day and Bake Sale at Community State Bank

Community State Bank of Starke's Soup Day and Bake Sale will raise money for Shop with a Cop. From 9 a.m. until sold out on Friday, Nov. 18, the bank will have bowls of soup, crackers and a drink for \$5, and baked goods will be available for a minimum donation of \$1 per item.

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Starke Branch - 2460 Commercial Dr.

### Brooker councilman honored for 30 years

At the monthly meeting of the Brooker City Council on Sept. 13, Florida League of Cities Director of Membership Relations Sharon Berrian presented Councilman Joe Tolleson with the John Land Year of Service Award for his 30 years of elected service. The council recognized Tolleson during the meeting and appreciates the many years of time and effort he has given to the city. Tolleson is pictured with Berrian, who presented him with a plaque.



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# Meet the Candidates

## Mercier running for Lawtey seat

The following announcement is a paid political advertisement submitted by the candidate. The deadline to submit announcements for the Lawtey election has passed.

For those of you in Lawtey that don't know me, my name is John Mercier and I am running for Lawtey City Council, Seat 2.

I was born and raised in New England, graduated from a technical high school in 1967, joined the U.S. Air Force in October 1967 and retired in 1988. After retiring, I began my civilian career as a plant manager for an electric motor manufacturing plant, transitioned into the generator business, providing bid and spec plans and estimates, and owned a small business for 10 years before closing it and moving south.

I moved to Lawtey in January 2009 and have been attending council meetings since the beginning of 2010. I have brought many questions and suggestions to our city council such as missing street signs and purchasing a ditch bucket for our backhoe to no avail. I've always been told "they would look into it."

After Hurricane Irma, the city still had not cleaned the ditches which resulted in some serious



**John Mercier**

street flooding. So I contacted my county commissioner and he was able to get the county to come out and get the ditches cleared out. And for the longest time, the city kept telling me that the county couldn't help.

While in the military, I worked many part-time jobs and most were in the construction industry, which gave me the knowledge to build my own home. Both my military and civilian careers, they have taught me to seek out individuals that can help bring more resources to Lawtey. We have always seemed to be more reactive than proactive and these experiences will help enable us to move forward in the coming years.

It is now time for me to get more involved by becoming part of city council and moving

things forward. There is work that needs to be done and can be done for the city and its residents. It's going to take time, hard work, and cooperation from all elected officials and the citizens. We need to work on making sure our city government is more transparent and our tax money is working to its fullest advantage for us. The city needs to learn to work with county and state officials to get projects funded or find the resources that we might need.

If elected, my primary responsibility and obligation would be to the city and its citizens. Hearing from our constituents regarding their concerns is what the city council members need to be mindful of. Putting my problem solving skills to work and finding the simplest solutions for the betterment of everyone is what I look forward to doing. I look forward to working with everyone for the betterment of our city.

Win or lose, I will still attend monthly council meetings to address issues I believe are in the best interest of the citizens of our city. Others did not come to council meetings prior to running, or ran and lost, or have not shown up unless they had an issue. I will always try and do right for all the citizens.

See everyone at the polls on Election Day, Dec. 6, 2022. Remember that voting is an important right to be exercised and make your wishes known.

## Get help quitting

Quitting tobacco isn't easy. Finding help should be. If you're ready to quit, join the next Tools to Quit Tobacco group Thursday, Dec. 8, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Bradford County Health Department. Virtual options by computer and phone are also available.

This free, one-time two-hour group will give you tips on how to deal with triggers and withdrawal symptoms and how to prevent relapse. You'll also receive up to four weeks of free nicotine patches, gum or lozenges.

This group more than doubles your chance of quitting for good. Pre-registration is required. Call 866-341-2730 to reserve your spot.

## Grandparents Day invitation

Greater Bethlehem Free Will Baptist Church is having Grandparents Day on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 11 a.m. and inviting everyone who is or was a church member to attend. Descendants of members are also invited to come show support for the grandparents.

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Orders MUST be place by Nov. 21st.  
Orders MUST be picked up on or before noon Nov. 23rd. While supplies last.

## County officials' salaries up

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
Telegraph Editor

Bradford County constitutional officers each got a pay raise on Oct. 1.

The salaries for 2022-23 are as follows:

### BRADFORD

Sheriff — \$154,261  
Clerk, Property Appraiser, Tax Collector and Supervisor of Elections — \$118,412  
County Commissioners — \$37,095  
School Board — \$31,314  
Superintendent — \$118,412

These increases were all between 6.2% and 6.8%, with the highest percentage going to the sheriff, who alone received a 19.5% increase in pay last year.

Salaries are set by a formula in state statute that takes population into consideration, except in some counties with home rule charters where pay can be decided locally.

Increases in Union County were between 7.1% and 7.5%.

### UNION

Sheriff — \$149,428  
Clerk, Property Appraiser, Tax Collector and Supervisor of Elections — \$113,578  
County Commissioners — \$32,491  
School Board — \$30,062  
Superintendent — \$113,578

And here are the numbers calculated for Clay County:

### CLAY

Sheriff — \$189,915  
Clerk, Property Appraiser, Tax Collector and Supervisor of Elections — \$154,065  
County Commissioners — \$37,000  
School Board — \$42,526  
Superintendent — \$154,065

The state calculates the salaries for Clay County commissioners to be nearly \$85,000 a year. The Clay County Charter sets it at \$37,000.

(Clay County Schools did not respond to a request to clarify the superintendent's salary and include any supplements approved by the school board.)

### Median income and population

Comparisons show these public officials take home quite a bit more money than the average resident.

Bradford has 28,540 residents, which is inflated by the prison population, but not as much with the closure of some institutions. The prison impact on total population is greater in Union County, which has more open institutions and a higher inmate capacity.

Median household income is \$43,580 in Bradford and supports an average household size of 2.54 residents. The median income for the average household in Bradford is around 37% of what most constitutional officers earn.

Keep in mind that the salaries for commissioners and school board members are often supplementary income. Many have careers or are retired.

A large percentage of Bradford County does not enjoy even a median income lifestyle. More than 17% of Bradford residents live in poverty. Only around 10% have a bachelor's degree or higher level of education. Many evidently work out of the county, with the average commute time being 31 minutes.

Union County's total population (including the incarcerated) 16,335. At just over 4,000, Union has less than half of Bradford's 9,300 households. The average household size is smaller, too — 2.36 residents. Even though around 21% of those residents live in poverty, the median household income is quite a bit higher than Bradford

— \$55,139. Like Bradford, college level education is around 10%.

Clay's population has grown to 222,361 residents. While Bradford was still around 28,500 in 2010, Clay grew 16.5% since that time. There are 75,360 households with a larger household size of 2.84 residents. More than twice as many — 26.2% — have a college education. Perhaps as a result, poverty level — just under 9% — is much lower than Bradford and Union counties. The median household income in Clay is \$68,657.

But what Clay has in common with Bradford and Union is that its highest paid elected officials earn more than twice the median household income.

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<p><b>Sunday 11/20:</b> Black Panther: Wakanda Forever 3:00 &amp; 7:00 (Downstairs) The Chosen 3:15 &amp; 7:15 (Upstairs)</p>	<p><b>Monday 11/21:</b> The Chosen 7:00 (Downstairs) Black Panther: Wakanda Forever 7:15 (Upstairs)</p>	<p><b>Tuesday 11/22:</b> The Chosen 7:00 (Downstairs) Screen 2 closed for private party</p>

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# Lake Region



Tropical Storm Nicole forced the cancellation of the Lake Region's Veterans Day Ceremonies. However, the Keystone Heights High school JROTC held an appreciation breakfast for veterans at the school on the Monday following the holiday. Pictured are students (l-r) Hailey Lemmon and Cassandra Carlin serving breakfast to Camp Blanding Museum Curator Greg Parsons.



(L-R) School Principal Laurie Burke, AMVETS Post 86 Second Vice Commander Cindy Lee, JROTC Advisor Col. Richard Hall and AMVETS Post 86 Commander Bob Beinlich talk before the breakfast. Story and photos by Dan Hildebran, Monitor Editor.

## Voters reject charter amendments, elect Republicans

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — Clay County voters rejected three proposed charter amendments by wide margins, renewed a one-mill assessment for school security and elected Republicans to the county commission, State House and U.S. Congress in the Nov. 8 general election.

Aaron Bean ran away with the District 4 U.S. House seat race with a 21-point win over Democrat LaShonda "L.J." Holloway. The Democrat won western Duval County with 55% but could not overcome Bean's victories in his home county of



Clay's newest county commissioner, Alexandra Compere. Photo: Alexandra Compere campaign.

Nassau, where he garnered 79%, and in Republican-dominated Clay, where he took 75%.

"We said better days have to be ahead on curbing inflation, stopping skyrocketing gas prices and issues impacting everyday Floridians," Bean said in a statement following his win. "We said better days have to be ahead on supply chain issues that hurt business owners day in and day out under Biden-Pelosi. We said we have to protect and secure our borders, we have to make sure parents are the deciders of their child's education, and Americans need to be able to work and provide for their families."

"Tomorrow, we get to work," the congressman-elect added, "where we will focus on not only addressing these most-pressing issues impacting Floridians but building excellent constituent services for all the citizens of the district. I am so honored to serve the great Congressional District 4 and to represent my home county as the first congressman elected from Nassau County!"

State Rep. Bobby Payne, who represents the Lake Region was unopposed in the general election. The Palatka resident defeated fellow Republican Luis Miguel in the August primary.

State Rep. Sam Garrison put down a challenge from Democrat Cornelius Jones 74%-26% to retain his Orange Park District

11 seat.

Garrison, slated to be House Speaker in 2016 if Republicans retain a majority in the lower chamber, benefited from his rising profile with significant contributions to his PAC: Honest Leadership.

Publix Supermarkets and the Florida Optometric Association each gave \$50,000 to Garrison's committee. The Florida Medical Association, Voice of Florida Business, the Florida Chamber of Commerce and the Jacksonville law firm Pajcic & Pajcic each contributed an additional \$25,000.

Alexandra Compere won the Clay County Commission District 2 seat over Democrat Leroy Edwards 62%-38%. Compere takes over for outgoing chair Wayne Bolla who is termed out.

District 2, centered in Oakleaf Plantation, is comprised of six precincts, three of which Democrats hold a majority.

"I am honored to have earned the trust and support of District 2," Compere said after the win, "but truly, this campaign was lavished with county-wide support. So many dear friends in the surrounding districts implored their circle to vote for me. I am floored."

All three proposed amendments to the Clay County charter failed by wide margins.

One amendment that would have added an annual cost-of-living adjustment to commissioner salaries failed 38%-63%. A second that would have removed the current three-term limit on constitutional officers, like the sheriff, tax collector, property appraiser, supervisor of elections and clerk of court, failed 21%-79%. A third amendment that would have changed the meeting frequency of the charter review commission from every four years to every eight years also fell 21%-79%.

Last month after a meeting of the Republican Men of Clay, President Mike Cella said he was opposed to the annual cost-of-living adjustment and the reversal of term limits for the constitutional officers.

"My conviction is that we should have term limits," he said. "We've got term limits for the governor, term limits for his cabinet, term limits for legislators, and term limits for county commissioners, at least here in Clay County."

Voters also renewed a one-mill property tax assessment earmarked for school security and other school district expenses. The measure passed 53%-47%.



Steven and Cindy Rogers have successfully created a beautiful courtyard filled with layers of flowers.

## Melrose couple wins Yard of the Month

BY DEIRDRE MURPHY  
Garden Club of the Lakes

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — The Yard of the Month for November 2022 has been presented to Steven and Cindy Rogers on Grove Street in Melrose.

Steven and Cindy moved from South Florida to the Lake Region about four years ago. Since then, they have been updating their beautiful yard to incorporate some of the more tropical plants found in South Florida.

They have successfully created a beautiful courtyard filled with

layers of flowers. Their neighbor Doris Wagner with the garden club recommended that they receive this award.

You can see their work in the landscape, and the transformation is a gardener's delight.

If you would like to recommend a yard for Yard-of-the-Month or join the Garden Club, please call or text Deirdre Murphy at 352-281-3026. The club meets on the second Thursday of each month, September through May, at Faith Presbyterian Church, 2738 State Rd. 21 Keystone Heights.



Cindy Rogers of Grove Street in Melrose proudly displays her Yard-of-the-Month sign.



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Members of Windsor's Believers' Bible Study delivered 300 shoeboxes to the Operation Christmas Child collection center at Trinity Baptist Church. (L-R) Bible study members Bonnie Blackwell, Jullie Davis and Nancy Kerr. Also pictured is Diane Michel, Operation Christmas Child central drop-off team leader.

## Operation Christmas Child begins collection of boxes

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — Volunteers from Alachua and Putnam Counties began dropping off Christmas gift boxes on Monday, Nov. 14, at Trinity Baptist Church in Keystone Heights as part of Operation Christmas Child.

This is the 16<sup>th</sup> year Trinity Baptist has served as a collection site for the boxes.

Operation Christmas Child is a worldwide ministry originating in 1993 when Samaritan's Purse President Franklin Graham delivered 28,000 shoeboxes

filled with Christmas gifts to children in war-torn Bosnia.

Since then, Graham's organization has delivered over 188 million boxes filled with small gifts, school supplies and personal hygiene products to over 170 countries.

Volunteers also include in the boxes a 12-lesson course called "The Greatest Journey," which teaches children how to follow Christ and share the gospel with others.

Diane Michel, the central drop-off team leader at Trinity Baptist, said her four-county region was reduced to two counties this year

due to a reorganization.

Among the first to drop off boxes at the church on Monday were four members of the Believers Bible Study in Windsor, who delivered 300 boxes to the church.

Bonnie Blackwell, who hosts the Sunday evening Bible study, said around 20 people attend each week.

Volunteers at the church packed shoe boxes into cartons that can hold between 15-17 shoeboxes and then loaded the cartons onto two semi-trailers parked in the church's parking lot.



Volunteers pack Christmas gift boxes into cartons and load them onto semi-trailers in the church's parking lot. (L-R) Heather Sullivan, Eileen Preseau, Lisa Kneeder, John Kneeder and Mark Carter.



Team Leader Jeff Michel stands by the 147 cartons already collected at the central drop-off center.

## Kids continue packing tradition

The Awana Clubbers packed 200 shoeboxes during the Sunday School hour for Operation Christmas Child at Trinity Baptist Church. They started this fun annual event in 2007! Small toys, school supplies and hygiene items are packed into shoeboxes sent around the world by Samaritan's Purse to poor children in over 100 countries. The Clubbers also place a personal letter in each gift box. Occasionally they receive a

reply by email.

Around 40 boys and girls packed 4-5 shoeboxes each. Prayer for the shoeboxes started off the one hour event. An assembly line facilitated the process, first for the girls and then for the boys. 22 adults helped with various tasks. Handmade crocheted hats and wooden cars found their way into the boxes. The items vary each year according to sales. Each shoebox always has a washcloth,

soap, pens and pencils, crayons, coloring book and notebook. New items this year included a protractor set for the boys age 10-14 and a mini stapler for the girls age 10-14. All of the participants wish they could jump into the box and accompany it on its long journey to see the children open them on the other side of the world. The shoeboxes produce smiles in both the senders and receivers.



Nathan Booth



Robert Stone

## Clay, Keystone curbside recycling restored

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — Clay County Government said curbside collection of recyclables will resume on Monday, Dec. 5, for the unincorporated areas of Clay County and the City of Keystone Heights.

"Waste Management now has the required number of drivers needed to service all Clay County routes," the county said in a news release. "Curbside recycling was suspended in 2021 due to a national shortage of commercially licensed drivers. Commissioners approved rebates to account for the recycling suspension."

The county said that residents will need two separate recycling bins at their homes as with previous curbside pickup.

The paper products bin is for clean, dry paper products such as newspapers, books, junk mail, shredded paper, and flattened corrugated cardboard cut into 2' x 3' pieces.

The containers bin is for rinsed containers, including plastic and glass bottles and jars, aluminum and steel cans, and cartons and juice boxes.

"Please place only accepted recyclable items in the bins," the county said, "and keep containers and paper products separate."

If needed, residents can start requesting bins now. Bins can be ordered online through the Clay Connected service request platform, located on the county's website homepage, <https://www.claycountygov.com/>, and on the Garbage and Recycling webpage here: <https://www.claycountygov.com/community/>

garbage-and-recycling.

Residents can also request a bin on the free Clay Connected app, which is available for Android and Apple devices in the app store. Containers can also be requested by calling Environmental Services at (904) 284-6374.

Residents in the City of Keystone Heights should call Waste Management at (904) 695-0500 to request bins. Waste Management will begin delivering the requested recycling bins to residents starting November 14.

Residents can expect their curbside recycling to be picked up on the same day their yard trash is picked up.

Residents should place recycling bins curbside by 6 a.m. on their collection day.

## BCEF annual poinsettia sale is underway

The Bradford County Education Foundation's 15th annual poinsettia sale is now in progress. Tickets, which are \$20 each, are available to purchase from any BCEF member through Monday, Nov. 21. You can see or call Matt Dyal at Capital City Bank in Starke.

Poinsettias are in 8-inch pots and range from 18-20 inches in height and 12-14 inches in diameter. They'll be delivered the afternoon of Monday, Nov. 28.

All of the profits go to support BCEF projects for Bradford County public schools.

Please visit Bradford County Education Foundation on Facebook to learn more about this organization of volunteers.

## Education Foundation holding drawing for 2 vehicles and 1 vacation

The Bradford County Education Foundation is currently selling tickets to enter drawings for three prizes: a 2016 Dodge Charger, a 2006 Honda Rancher 350 4x2 and a four-day, three-night stay at a cabin in Ellijay, Georgia.

Tickets for the drawing for the Charger, which was donated by the Starke Police Department, are \$100. A total of 200 will be sold.

A total of 100 tickets, at a cost of \$50 each, will be sold to enter the drawings for the Rancher, which was donated by the Bradford County Sheriff's Office, and the Ellijay cabin (Blissful Bear). The cabin sleeps four.

Tickets can be purchased from any BCEF member. All profits go to help Bradford County public schools.

Plans are to hold the drawings at next year's Northeast Florida Chamber of Commerce banquet, though they could be held sooner if the all the tickets are sold before then.

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# UNION COUNTY

## Veterans honored with delayed ceremony at UCHS

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Times Staff Writer

LAKE BUTLER — Union County High School presented its annual Veterans Day Celebration ceremony on Monday, Nov. 14, 2022, despite the delay caused by last week's storm event.

The event had originally been set for Nov. 11, 2022 but the school was closed due to tropical storm Nicole. Flags and crosses honoring the county's veterans were posted along SR-121 as in previous years.

Attendance was lighter than in previous years, most likely due to the rescheduling on a work day, rather than on the actual holiday as originally planned, but there were still about 120 veterans, family members, members of the community, students and school district administrators and staff on hand in the UCHS Auditorium to show their gratitude for the service to UC veterans have given to the U.S.

The event opened with the UCHS Symphonic Band presenting an original work written for especially for them, "Next Generation Fanfare." The music was followed by a welcome speech by Union County Superintendent of Schools Mike Ripplinger — stating the importance of honoring our nations veterans. A special prayer was then offered by Union County American Legion Chaplain Gene Gordon.

The UCHS JROTC Color Guard then presented the state and national colors in a precise march from the back of the auditorium to the stage, and then back. The band then played the medley "Armed Forces on Parade," featuring the songs for

each branch of the U.S. Military. JROTC members carried the flag of each branch, while the words to each theme were projected in the video displays at the front of the room. Veterans in the audience were asked to stand when the theme for the branch in which they had served was played.

UCHS History teacher Tammy Sulsona then spoke about the history of honoring veterans and why it is important that Americans do so today. She was followed by UCHS JROTC 2022 Tiger Battalion Commander Cadet Lt. Col. Adam Ali, who also spoke about the importance of both military service and honoring those who have served.

The guest of honor/guest speaker for the event was Annette Redman, Vice Mayor of Lake Butler and well known local resident. She was a member of the United States Army for 18 years, retiring in 1998 with the rank of Sergeant First Class.

Redman spoke about graduating from Union County High School and then taking her oath of service in 1980. She said she decided to join after the controversy at that time about restarting the draft and whether or not women would be called up for it.

"I remember the protests and conversations on the news about women and the draft," Redman said. "There was this one young woman saying that she would get pregnant to avoid being drafted if it came down to it. I remember thinking that it was so unfair, that men did not have any such option to avoid service and wondered why it was that way. I decided to join the Army and serve my

country, not because I had to but because it was the right thing."

Redman recalled her arrival and time in boot camp at Fort Dix, New Jersey — "a Florida girl, arriving in New Jersey in the winter (January)." She said she was both excited and afraid and was impressed with the emphasis on teamwork.

"I came from a family with 10 children and I already knew the value of teamwork, but the drill sergeants really made it real," she said. "We were all different, from different parts of the country, with different raisings and maybe with different religions but we became a team because we were all there for the same reason — to serve and protect our country and way of life."

Redman said she did things in training that scared her, but that she gained confidence through her team and knew she could get it done. She said the lesson she learned about teamwork was that "We are not finished until we all are finished — it's not about the individual but the team."

"We come from a great nation and we must always honor it and those who have honored it with their service," Redman said in conclusion. "Through their work they have made the world a better place to be and they have earned the honor and respect for their efforts."

The event was closed by a montage of images presented by Lt. Col. Austin Akers, accompanied by the band playing "Within These Hallowed Halls," a medley of inspirational patriotic songs and then closing words from Ripplinger.



The Union County High School Symphonic Band performed several patriotic songs and medleys as part of the UCHS Veterans Day celebration. Here, the UCHS JROTC Color Guard presents the colors of the U.S. and state as the band plays.



Lake Butler Vice Mayor and U.S. Army Veteran Annette Redman was the guest speaker at the UCHS Veterans Day Observance. She shared a number of personal experiences and anecdotes with the audience about her own military service.



American Legion Chaplain Gene Gordon offered the prayer at the beginning of the UCHS Veterans Day event.



Union County Superintendent of Schools Mike Ripplinger both welcomed the attendees and offered closing comment for the ceremony.

## VFW hosts lunch for vets and guests

BY TRACY LEE TATE  
Times Staff Writer

LAKE BUTLER — VFW Post 10082 hosted its annual free Veterans Day luncheon for veterans, their family members

and guests after the Veterans Day Celebration at Union County High School.

Lunch was served by members of the Union County Girl Scout Troop and included pulled port, green beans, coleslaw and potato

salad, as well as an array of sweet treats. Post members were on hand to welcome their guests and thank them for their service. About 30 meals were served at the event.



Everyone takes a turn in the Mess Hall when VFW Post#10082 hosts a luncheon event. Here, the members and the Girl Scout volunteers gather together before cleaning up the area. Pictured are: (front, l-r) Margaret Reeves, Sophia Elixson, MiKaya Perron, VFW Auxilliary President Barbara Fischer and Brianna Elixson; (back, l-r) Annie Pittman, Coleen Carroll, Eric Carroll, Rebekah Elixson, Emma Perron and Post Commander Willie Wright.

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# Plans for both new and old schools

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD  
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — First teachers and then school board members took a tour of the construction of Bradford County's new K-7 school.

The school will educate elementary and middle school students in separate two-story buildings. The design also includes a music room, media center and gymnasium.

The school is set to open next fall, as is Brooker Community School — a charter school occupying the former Brooker Elementary campus.

That will leave the school district with two empty campuses. While no plans have been announced for the Hampton Elementary campus, Superintendent Will Hartley has spoken about a new possibility for Southside.

Hartley approached Starke city commissioners in August, saying he has been working on bringing the Boys and Girls Clubs to Bradford County since he took office two years ago.

Hartley believes the afterschool mentorship the program would provide students an important part of improving the system overall, including discipline and academic achievement.

The Southside campus could become the program's home. Hartley said one roadblock has been the lack of a dedicated space.

"Next year, with the opening of the new school, Southside will give us that opportunity to have a campus that they can kind of come in and call their own," he said. Recently he toured the campus with the program director.

"They are extremely excited about the idea and they love the site."

For the most part.

Hartley said there was one nonnegotiable for the organization, and that was the vacant home sitting in front of



the school on Stansbury Street. He asked the commission about the status of the property.

The owner of the property is deceased, and it has long been a code enforcement issue. The city commission discussed declaring the doublewide mobile home a public nuisance and demolishing it, but an inspection found it was structurally sound, even if it was unsightly.

While the city was able to remove another mobile home on an anterior lot, the most it could do with this home was board it up and clean up the yard.

Following the superintendent's appearance, Starke had its attorney begin looking at the issue again. A second warrant was obtained to inspect the property. Then it was announced earlier this month that the property was being sold at auction.

City Clerk Jimmy Crosby confirmed the property was purchased by Matt Bryant, who

intends to bring the home up to code.

In addition to solving one of the city's most notorious code enforcement problems, the purchase could clear the way for the superintendent to bring the Boys and Girls Clubs to Bradford County.

In addition to a safe and supervised place to go after school, Boys and Girls Clubs offer programs in sports and recreation, education, the arts, health and wellness, workforce readiness, and character and leadership. The results are that 97% of teens who participate graduate high school and 88% pursue post-secondary education.

The clubs also serve as a resource for parents, with recent offerings including lessons about bullying, improving social skills and teaching gratitude.

intends to bring the home up to code.



## New school taking shape

Teachers and administrators from Southside Elementary School recently had an opportunity to put on hardhats and stomp around the site of their future school, which is currently under construction on Southeast 144th Street just south of Starke. The school will instruct grades K-7 and is on track to open in the fall of 2023.



## SURF

Continued from page 1

tournament, and the U.S. Chess Association.

In other news from the Nov. 7 meeting of the Clay County Tourism Development council:

### Development, sports ranked as top priorities

Council members ranked guiding development and investing in amateur sports events as its top priorities over the next five years.

The two focus areas were among seven recommendations in a strategic plan the council commissioned earlier this year.

The other recommendations were creating outdoor attractions, cultivating arts and culture, developing a long-term vision for the county's tourism industry, promoting tourism and developing the county's tourism brand.

In its section on guiding development, the plan's authors said that virtually all of the county's hotel rooms are in the northeast corner. The report recommended that the county encourage more accommodations and attractions along the First Coast Expressway at key intersections with Blanding Boulevard, State Road 16 near Penney Farms and near the St. Johns River, U.S. 17 and the yet-to-be-built Cathedral Oak Parkway.

The report added that government officials should encourage family entertainment venues, dining establishments and hotels along the corridor.

It also suggested tools to encourage development along the highway, such as a revolving loan program, grant program, fee waivers, façade improvement program, educational and support programs for entrepreneurs, marketing support and staff assistance in navigating the permitting and licensing process.

The report also recommended that the county protect its small-town character by restricting development that violates it. One



Women MotoSurf competitors make practice runs on the Lake Geneva course during the 2022 MotoSurf competition.

example of character protection cited in the report includes a Naples, Florida, ordinance that disallows chain restaurants, salons, office space and other types of entities from filling vacancies within a designated district.

Another example is a Palo Alto, California, prohibition of converting retail space into commercial offices in designated pedestrian areas and ordinances to prevent high-turnover tenants with low visitor appeal.

The report's recommendations on amateur sports center around developing a regional sports park, a project the county has already started, purchasing property north of State Roads 21 and 16, near Camp Blanding.

It added that the county should enhance the park with nearby hotels and dining, create a sports tourism office and initiate a master plan for expanding the park.

In other news from the Nov. 7 Clay County Tourism Development Council meeting:

### Earlier plan

Tourism Director Kimberly Morgan told council members that before embarking on the 2022 five-year strategic plan, she wanted to review her department's performance on the 2018 plan.

She said one goal of the 2018 report was to increase her department's staffing levels, and she reported that the county's tourism department has grown from one person to four.

She added that the 2018 report's recommendation that the county improves tourism marketing was accomplished with a three-year

contract with Evok Advertising, successful campaigns across many different platforms, the launch of a tourism-specific website and co-op partnerships with Visit Florida, Wander Media, Florida's First Coast of Golf, Undiscovered Florida, Miles Media, Visit Jacksonville and Florida's Northeast Coast.

She said the office also created branded and promotional products like a visitor's guide, venue guide, tourism rack card, film development rack card, history passport program, coffeehouse passport program and coupon and sales passport program.

### Keywords and new pages

Larry Meador of Evok Advertising gave the council a quarterly marketing update.

Meador said the county's website saw a 67% increase in organic sessions in September compared to the previous September. He added that the top keywords bringing visitors to the website were Orange Park Mall; Clay County, Florida; Clay County Fairgrounds and Camp Chownenaw.

"In an ideal world, those would not be your biggest keywords," he said. "The biggest keywords would be the activities and the offerings that you have. We have to work on that."

Meador said the best-performing keywords for pay-per-click ads were for wedding and event venues, fishing, events, fairs and activities, outdoor activities and places to stay.

He added that Atlanta, Jacksonville and Orlando

residents are making the most visits to the county's website.

Meador also said his firm plans to create more pages for the county's website, including a trail guide page, a sports tourism page, a kayak bass fishing page and a medical page.

Tourism Chair Mike Cella told Meador he was surprised golf did not perform as well as a keyword in September.

Meador said most people visiting the county's website live between two and four hours away.

"They don't drive that far to play golf," he said, adding that golf is an add-on activity people engage in after coming into the area for another reason.

"One of the things we found out during COVID and some of the tougher times is that when you're looking at trying to get families to come in, they will still spend money for their kids' activities," he said. "So, if we can do add-ons for those days and include things like golf and other activities, then maybe we can extend a stay."

### Event grants

Tourism Marketing Manager Connor Mathews reviewed the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 events grants with the council. She added that no organizations have yet applied for 2022-2023 awards, so the 2023 numbers are a forecast of what events will likely receive in the coming year.

- The grants include:
- Military Museum Whistling Death 5K and 10K, 2022: \$ 744, 2023: \$677
  - Green Cove Springs Soul Food Festival, 2022: \$3,500, 2023: \$0
  - Orange Park Fall Festival, 2022: \$17,000, 2023: \$14,000
  - Moosehaven's Chili Cookoff, 2022: \$10,000, 2023: \$10,000
  - Green Cove Springs Christmas on Walnut Street, 2022: \$2,959, 2023: \$3,000
  - Orange Park's Hometown Holiday, 2022: \$0, 2023: \$3,500
  - Military Museum- Hellcat 10K,30K,50K, 2022: \$2,184, 2023: \$2,020
  - Scottish Highland Games and Festival, 2022: \$20,000, 2023: \$25,000
  - Military Vehicle Preservation

Association Winter Rally and Swap Meet, 2022: \$3,500, 2023: \$3,500

Clay County Agricultural Fair, 2022: \$45,000, 2023: \$45,000

Town of Orange Park Kids Fest, 2022: \$3,500, 2023: \$3,500

Military Museum Armed Forces Day, 2022: \$744, 2023: \$0

Green Cove Springs Memorial Day River Fest, 2022: \$3,000, 2023: \$3,000

Keystone Heights Our Country Day, 2022: \$3,500, 2023: \$0

Moosehaven's American Pride 4th of July Celebration, 2022: \$10,000, 2023: \$10,000

Rock The Box at the Thrasher-Horne Center, 2022: \$3,000, 2023: \$0

Art Guild of Orange Park's Bella Notte, 2022: \$1,881, 2023: \$0

BASCA Cape Abilities 5K, 2022: \$3,500, 2023: \$2,500

Black Creek Paddling Festival, 2022: \$3,500, 2023: \$3,500

Nitro Rallycross, 2022: \$75,000, 2023: \$0

MotoSurf World Cup, 2022: \$40,000, 2023: \$0

Girls Lacrosse Showcase, 2022: \$12,000, 2023: \$0

### Cattle show lands sports grant

The council awarded a \$4,000 sports grant to Cattle at the Cove after event organizers requested \$10,000.

The competition is scheduled for the Clay County Fairgrounds on Jan. 27-28.

Previous sports grants awarded by the council have included the Nitro Rallycross, Black Creek Paddling Festival, Gobbler Grappler, Motosurf World Cup and Girls Lacrosse Showcase.

Council Chair Mike Cella asked Tourism Marketing Manager Connor Mathews about the sports connection to Cattle at the Cove.

"It's a sports event," Cella said. "I mean, do we make the cattle swim, or what do we do? What kind of a sport is that?"

"Our sports grant guidelines iron out a sports event as something that has a governing body," Mathews responded, "so in Cattle at the Cove, the governing body actually is a cattleman's association. I could

be completely wrong, but they grade and score cattle on weight and fat and size of the animal itself; how cute it is."

Tourism Director Kimberly Morgan added that the event includes a showmanship competition component.

"That's one of the big drives for youth leadership and competitiveness," Morgan said, "very much like 4-H."

"Sort of like the Westminster Kennel Show, except for cows," Cella inquired.

"Exactly," the two tourism officials responded.

### Film subcommittee

Council member Kim Evans gave the full council a report on the film subcommittee's activities.

She said that Clay's involvement in the film industry has been reactive instead of proactive, adding that the area saw a flurry of film activity in the 1990s, primarily because of state incentives.

She added that COVID-19 transformed the industry, resulting in more resources and platforms available to local filmmakers.

Evans said the county's tourism office has been in contact with local filmmakers to see how Clay could enter the market and how to provide resources to enhance the county's position with filmmakers, like a site location guide, studio space and clearer communication on the services available to the film industry in the county.

She said film leads usually come from the State of Florida Film Department and through a film industry database. On average, the tourism department gets one lead a month on a filmmaker's interest in the county.

Evans, who is the regional director of sales at AON Hospitality, said the subcommittee's next steps will be to research how smaller destinations are engaging the film industry, explore the advantages of requiring a permit to film in the county and evaluate the county's website as it relates to the film industry.

# 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.

### Bradford

Angela Denise Allen, 49, of Jacksonville was arrested by Bradford deputies on Nov. 7 for a probation violation.

Jacquelyn Ann Marie Bosket, 29, of Jacksonville was arrested by Bradford deputies on Nov. 5 for DUI.

Nathaniel Carter, 63, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on Nov. 10 for a probation violation and possession of drugs.

Jonathan Austin Deutsch, 43, was arrested by Bradford deputies on Nov. 7 for a probation violation.

Abigail Loren Farrer, 20, of Jacksonville was arrested by Bradford deputies on Nov. 7 for a probation violation.

Doneshia Latye Harris, 26, of Lawtey was arrested by Bradford deputies on Nov. 7 for criminal mischief with property damage.

Brad Eric Hunter, 47, of Lawtey was arrested by Bradford deputies on Nov. 5 for battery.

Theodore Franklin Hurst, 60, of Starke was arrested by probation and parole for a

conditional release violation.

Stanley Wayne Davis Sapp, 44, of Pleasant Shade, Tennessee was arrested on Nov. 11 for a probation violation.

Morgan Riley Tindall, 34, of Keystone Heights was arrested on Nov. 9 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Torsten Daniel Troutman, 46, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on Nov. 10 for larceny, burglary and dealing in stolen property.

Lester Wanniss Walker, 48, of Lawtey was arrested by Bradford deputies on Nov. 8 for contempt of court.

### Union

Terry Preston Davis Jr., 35, of Macclenny was arrested by Union deputies on Nov. 11 for a probation violation.

Matthew Alan Daugherty, 23, was arrested by Union deputies on Nov. 14 for possession of drugs, selling cocaine and possession of synthetic narcotics.

Samantha Dawn Dover, 24, of Ft. White was arrested by Union deputies on Nov. 8 for a probation violation.

John Dukes, 38, was arrested by Union deputies on Nov. 14 for battery and resisting an officer.

Bryan Randall Elixson, 39, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on Nov. 8 for a probation violation.

Dylan Lee Elixson, 28, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on Nov. 7 for a probation violation.

Christopher Calvin Hendrix,

37, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on Nov. 7 for a probation violation.

Fernando Jose Hernandez, 44, of Brooker was arrested by Union deputies on Nov. 8 for battery and an out-of-county warrant.

Michael Evan Holly, 32, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on Nov. 9 for sexual assault.

Ross Alan Miller, 56, of Bunnell was arrested by Union deputies on Nov. 14 for a probation violation.

Tamara Lashaun Wright, 31, of Gainesville was arrested by Union deputies on Nov. 12 for possession of stolen property, attaching a tag not assigned and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

### Clay

Makyla Marie Gilley, 18, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on Nov. 5 for battery.

William Christopher Kahakua, 46, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on Nov. 8 for battery and resisting an officer without violence.

Edria Ann McIntire, 38, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on Nov. 9 for a probation violation.

William Ray Walker, 27, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on Nov. 6 for aggravated battery.

Tony Shane Wills, 30, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on Nov. 6 for battery.

## MANAGER

Continued from page 1

While in Jacksonville, he joined the Florida Air National Guard and spent 10 years as a military policeman for the guard's 126th Fighter Interceptor Group. Based at Jacksonville International Airport, the group flew F-106s and F-15s, among other aircraft.

In 1993 he joined Jacksonville Fire Rescue and spent the next 23 years as a firefighter, paramedic and suppression lieutenant.

During the last three years of his service, he was an administrative officer and program manager.

He said his most successful project while working a desk was reducing the city's ISO rating, which saved residents \$32 million annually in homeowners insurance premiums.

"We improved the water supply in rural areas," he said. "We also purchased additional equipment and built new fire stations."

During his Jacksonville Fire Rescue service, Kornegay earned a bachelor's degree in public administration from Flagler College and a master's degree in public administration from the University of North Florida.

Three days after retiring from JFRD, Kornegay became the City Manager in Keystone Heights.

## Lazy assets and lakes

Kornegay said that one of his first accomplishments after arriving in the Lake Region was putting to use an unused asset: a building on city property behind Hitchcock's grocery store.

"I called it a lazy asset," he said, "that warehouse out there on Sunrise (Boulevard), sitting there vacant, and we did an interior build out and moved our public works operation from the little place there across the street from the fire station to Sunrise."

Kornegay also points to a streetscape project to upgrade South Lawrence Boulevard as a milestone. The improvements, coordinated with a state Department of Transportation resurfacing project, is still ongoing.

However, his most enduring

initiative while in Keystone could be a water summit he organized in 2016.

The three-hour summit at city hall brought together policymakers, including State Senator Rob Bradley and Congressman Ted Yoho, to address declining water levels on Lakes Brooklyn and Geneva that had been occurring for decades.

The gathering eventually led to the Black Creek Water Resource Development Project, a system of pumps, pipelines and water treatment that will take excess water from the North Prong of Black Creek and pump it through a 17-mile pipeline, eventually discharging it into a passive treatment system that will remove color and minor nutrients. From there, the water will flow into Alligator Creek and ultimately Lake Brooklyn, where recharge to the aquifer will occur through the lake bottom.

## Power couple

Kornegay's wife, Diane, is an accomplished public servant in her own right, serving as the school superintendent in Lake County. Her assistant superintendent for human resources is former Bradford superintendent Chad Farnsworth.

Diane Kornegay began her teaching career in Duval County, finishing her stint in Jacksonville as principal of Kings Trail Elementary School. She entered the Clay district as principal of W.E. Cherry Elementary School in 2002, serving in the same capacity at Argyle Elementary three years later. In 2007 she became the district's director of school improvement and teacher training and was promoted again four years later to assistant superintendent for instruction.

Kornegay replaced retiring deputy superintendent Denise Adams in June 2015.

She took over the Lake County district in 2017.

The Kornegays live in Bradford County, in a home formally owned by Diane's family on Santa Fe Lake.

Scott Kornegay said that on Monday mornings, his wife leaves home for the nearly two-hour commute to Tavares, then stays in a condo in Howie-in-the-Hills during the workweek, returning to Bradford County on Friday.

"I go down there as often as I can during the week," he said, "spending the night, typically on Wednesday nights."

## Rotary and economic development

Kornegay is a two-time past president of the Keystone Heights Rotary Club and now serves as an assistant governor for Rotary District 6970, which covers northeast Florida.

He is also a five-time Paul Harris Fellow with Rotary.

After retiring as Keystone Heights City Manager, Kornegay served on the board of the city's airport and as the executive director of the Lake Region Development Corporation, an outgrowth of the Save Our Lakes Organization and devoted to fostering economic development and managing growth in the Keystone Heights area.

The corporation has sponsored a food truck event in Keystone, spearheaded the creation of the Lake Region Prosperity Partners: a council of the Clay Chamber of Commerce, and funded improvements to Keystone Beach Park.

## Sheriff gives outlook for 2023

BY DAN HILDEBRAN  
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Clay County Sheriff Michelle Cook said she expects crime rates to possibly rebound from their current lows and that her agency will continue developing its real-time crime center and a program that makes mental health counselors available to respond to calls. She said she also hopes to launch a new initiative to prepare jail inmates for the workforce.

Cook gave her outlook for 2023 during a Bridge-to-Bridge Council meeting of the Clay Chamber in Fleming Island.

Cook said Clay is now the 25th most populous county in the state and covers 644 square miles.

"Clay County is not the small county I grew up in anymore," she said. "We're in the top third in growth, and we continue to grow."

Cook said the average number of deputies per 1,000 residents in the state is 1.9. However, Clay lags with 1.1 officers per 1,000 people.

"So, we are a half deputy behind, but we are still able to provide what I think is just a phenomenal level of public service," she said.

Cook added that the office typically handles 250,000 calls for service each year, and the agency is on that pace for 2022.

The sheriff said one way her agency has performed well despite having fewer deputies than the state average is its real-time crime center deployment.

The surveillance and analytical center within the sheriff's office uses cameras throughout the county to monitor events, and its analysts look for patterns and emerging trends in criminal behavior.

Through new technology, business owners may now allow the sheriff's office access to their privately owned cameras for monitoring in the real-time crime center.

"If something happens in and around your business," Cook said, "we can immediately have access and take a look to see what's going on. 'We now have access to all the cameras in the schools. It's a great force multiplier, and we have been able to solve a lot of crime because we're able to look at those cameras and see what actually is happening.'"

## Local crime trends

Cook said that although crime rates have been trending down, she thinks low crime rates may be close to bottoming out.

"Although we're trending down," she said, "I think with the growth in the county, and what we're seeing nationwide with the turn in the economy, we may see crime trending back up."

The sheriff said that the majority of offenses in Clay County are property crimes, with a concentration of shoplifting at major retailers.

"We have very little violent crime in Clay County," she said, adding that stranger-on-stranger violent crime is almost nonexistent in the jurisdiction.

"Most of our (violent) crime involves people that are familiar with each other," she said, either domestic or they owe you money."

She added that of the approximately seven homicides in the county during 2021, most were justified shootings of citizens defending themselves.

"We only had two murders last year," she said, "and one was a young woman that actually was killed a couple of years ago, and we found the body (recently). So, we have just an extremely low violent crime rate for a



Clay County Sheriff Michelle Cook gave her outlook for 2023 to a Clay Chamber of Commerce group on Nov. 9.

community our size."

Cook said it is not good enough to have low crime rates, adding that she strives not only for residents to be safe but also to feel safe.

"If you're altering your behavior or your family's behavior because you don't feel safe, I have a problem with that," she said. "I'm going to fix that."

Cook asked the chamber of commerce crowd how many believe the Orange Park Mall is unsafe. About one-fourth of the hands went up.

"I'm going to give you some facts," she said. "Thirty thousand people a week go to the Orange Park Mall. Very little crime (occurs there)."

She added that the mall and the surrounding Wells Road area suffer from a crime perception problem rather than from actual offenses.

"Some people say: 'Why are we spending time on Wells Road if there's no crime?' Because people don't feel safe going there, and we need to fix that."

## School safety

During her talk to chamber members, Cook briefly covered school safety, telling the crowd about her agency's unique approach to protecting students.

She said that the state's Marjory Stoneman Douglas Act requires an active shooter emergency plan for every public school campus in Florida.

"Every jurisdiction, except Clay County, has a general plan that they just apply over the top of all the schools," she said. "We wanted to take it one step further. We wanted to be one step better."

Cook said that instead of using one emergency plan for all schools, her agency met with the administrators of each individual school, tailoring a specific plan for each campus.

She said the 55 meetings with school administrators were eye-opening.

"I did not know that we have a half dozen schools with medically fragile children," she said. "They can't be evacuated. I had no idea. That's huge from a response perspective that we know that."

Cook said the results of the meetings were six-page emergency response plans for each campus, with floor plans of the buildings and detailed steps administrators should take in the event of an active shooter on campus.

## Mental health counselors

Cook said the agency's first

responder program is one initiative she started this year and will continue to roll out in 2023.

"What we have is a partnership with Clay Behavioral Health," she said, "and at any point we respond to a call where we think that a mental health provider would be the best option, we will call Clay Behavioral Health out."

Cook said that over the past three months, deputies have requested a mental health counselor around 15 times. She added that some larger law enforcement agencies have a counselor ride along with officers during their shifts.

"We're not doing that because we just don't have the volume of calls," she said. "But when we do call Clay Behavioral, they're really good about getting out there in under an hour."

## Inmate training

Cook said another initiative her agency will unveil in 2023 is Operation New Hope's Ready4Release program.

The Jacksonville-based nonprofit currently operates Ready4Release in 30 Florida Department of Corrections facilities. Cook said the Clay County detention facility will be the first county lockup to offer the re-entry training to inmates.

"I absolutely believe in holding people accountable," the sheriff said. "But while they're in my care and custody, I want to do everything I can for them so they will be successful when they get out."

She added that most of the inmates at the jail have children, and she wants those inmates to be able to take care of their children so those dependents will not wind up in foster care.

Cook said that because New Hope has a high success rate, employers are lining up to offer jobs to inmates.

"All these wonderful jobs that pay wonderful money are lined up to get these guys," she said.

Cook said another initiative she plans to continue in 2023 is consolidating the agency's functions and personnel.

"One of the really interesting things about the sheriff's office is we occupy 18 different buildings throughout this county," she said. "One of my goals eventually is to consolidate a lot of that."

Cook added that one key to agency consolidation is an 89-bed jail expansion.

"We average over 400 inmates a day," she said.

Cook explained that a jail is considered at capacity when it reaches 80% occupancy, and the Clay facility has been overcapacity for two consecutive years.

"And with the county's growth, it's not going to get any better," she said. "We're going to move finance and HR out (of the building) to make room for more jail space."

Cook also said the agency will start looking into body cameras for deputies in 2023. She called the venture expensive and added that grants other agencies have used to finance the cameras only cover a portion of the costs.

## St. Mark's offering adult test-prep

St Mark's Episcopal Church of Starke will offer free test-prep classes as well as basic reading, basic English and basic math instruction at the church parish hall (212 N. Church St.) every Wednesday from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Students must be at least 18 years old. Please bring ID.

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The Bradford County Sheriff's Office team won the tournament. Pictured (l-r) are sheriff's office team members Shaun Burgin, Logan Hough, Michael Sweeney and Kevin Mueller, as well as Brad Bishop of the Bradford County Schools team. Bishop won the Closest to the Pin contest. Photos (except where noted) by Meaghen Church of Southern Gem Photos.

## Golfing 'fore' the kids

Communities in Schools of Bradford County's 16th annual Fore Kids Golf Tournament took place Oct. 21 at Turkey Creek Golf Club in Alachua. The tournament raises funds to help CIS (a nonprofit) provide such programs as after-school tutoring, college- and career-readiness training, mentoring and Take Stock in Children Scholarships for students in need.



ABOVE: CIS board member Courtnie Douglas (left) is pictured with 50/50 drawing winner Keith Kirby of North Florida Technical College. Kirby donated his winnings back to CIS. LEFT: BHS golf team member Hayden Knight won the Longest Drive contest. Photo by Jaimee Casey.



The 19th-Hole Happy Hour was sponsored by the Chemours team (l-r): Mike O'Steen, Johnny Sweat, Aaron Paige and Allen Lowe.



CIS staff with current and former students of the program (l-r): Cindy DeValerio, Jaquan Bryant, Tristin Moble, Deja Miller, Martha Boyette, Kiera Hymes, Ja'Taiya Glover, Linda Bennett, Savannah Shemer and Michelle Fox.

The 19th-Hole Happy Hour was sponsored by the Chemours team (l-r): Mike O'Steen, Johnny Sweat, Aaron Paige and Allen Lowe.



The 19th-Hole Happy Hour was sponsored by the Chemours team (l-r): Mike O'Steen, Johnny Sweat, Aaron Paige and Allen Lowe.



Attending the 65th reunion of Bradford High School's Class of 1957 were: (front, l-r) Deloris Newmans Elixson, Blanche Andrews Collinsworth, Marvin Brown, Mary Griffis Herndon, Joyce Crosby Broadwell, Pansy Crosby Taylor, Butch Smith, (back, l-r) Gene Norman, Jerry Williams, Wayne Massey, Bob Sapp, Maxine Andrews Kelley, Joe Harden, Ann Williams Godwin and Doug Nolin.

## BHS Class of 1957 holds reunion

Bradford High School's Class of 1957 celebrated its 65th reunion on Oct. 22 at the Downtown Grill in Starke, with 15 class members present and many more family members and friends.

Class members, who were given name badges and programs as they signed in, visited with friends from long ago — many of whom still reside in or near Starke.

A program, which was led by Marvin Brown, had Joe Harden (class president all four years of high school) welcome everyone with much humor, followed by Bob Sapp asking each class member to stand and give a brief story of their life or a special memory of BHS friends. Sapp then gave a prayer

of thanksgiving for all those who traveled safely to the event and for the luncheon that was being prepared.

Butch Smith was asked to recite the names of the deceased class members, who'll forever be in their classmates' hearts and memories. Smith noted that out of 89 graduates, 54 are still living.

Gene Norman provided hilarious entertainment with many down-home memories and observations as meals were being served. Harden added some funny memories, while also figuring out that Doug Nolin had traveled the farthest for the reunion, coming from Westville in the panhandle. Harden, of Beaufort, South Carolina, traveled the second-farthest

distance.

After the meal, Brown thanked everyone for attending and asked all to assemble for a class picture and to sing the alma mater.

The class members wish to express their thanks to the Downtown Grill for the delicious meal, decorations and dining-room accommodations. Thanks go also to the Bradford County Telegraph for publishing notifications of the reunion.

Lastly, thanks go to the planning committee members, who gave class members the opportunity to get together for a celebration once again. Committee members were Brown, Sapp, Blanche Andrews Collinsworth and Deloris Newmans Elixson.

## Help support SPD's Shop With a Cop

Starke Police Department's Shop With a Cop returns for its 18th year, with children from all the county's public elementary schools getting the chance to shop at Starke's Walmart on Dec. 12-13 with escorts from various law-enforcement agencies as well as the Florida Department of Corrections.

Starke Police Maj. Barry Warren asks that businesses or individuals look deep into their hearts and deeper into their pockets to help put smiles on children's faces. The success of the event depends on the generous donations of others.

If you'd like to make a donation, you can do so by mailing a check made out to "Starke Police Department — Shop with a Cop" to Starke Police Department to the attention of

Maj. Barry Warren, 830 Edwards Road, Starke, FL 32091.

Warren is also available to pick up donations. You may call him at 352-494-3326 (cell) or 904-368-1384 (office), or by calling the Starke Police Department's main number at 904-964-5400.

The deadline for donations is Dec. 4.

Children who participate in Shop With a Cop are selected by teachers and guidance counselors, who identify students as having needs (financial, emotional or psychological), but who are still striving to do their best in the classroom and to be outstanding citizens.

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# FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS : FOOTBALL CONTEST

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<p><b>10</b></p> <p>UTAH UTES VS. OREGON DUCKS</p> <p><b>KLC Floors &amp; More</b> 1365 S. Water St. • Starke 904-964-8347</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>CLEVELAND BROWNS VS. BUFFALO BILLS</p> <p><b>Sonny's BBQ</b> 230 S Temple Ave, Starke, FL (904) 964-8840</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>DUKE BLUE DEVILS VS. PITTSBURGH PANTHERS</p> <p><b>Dink's Place</b> 117 S Thompson St. • Starke (904) 964-5010</p> <p><small>Wear your BHS, KHHS, or UCHS apparel and get a 10% discount on frozen treats!</small></p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>USC TROJANS VS. UCLA BRUINS</p> <p><b>North Florida Pharmacy</b> 405 S Lawrence Blvd, Keystone Heights (352) 478-2057</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>MADISON COUNTY COWBOYS VS. UNION COUNTY TIGERS</p> <p><b>Spires IGA</b> 610 SW First St, Lake Butler (386) 496-3361</p>
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<p><b>15</b></p> <p>OKLAHOMA ST. COWBOYS VS. OKLAHOMA SOONERS</p> <p><b>Dick's Wings</b> 228 S Walnut St. • Starke (904) 964-2241</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>WISCONSIN BADGERS VS. NEBRASKA CORNHUSKERS</p> <p><b>Teal Tile Carpet One</b> 134 East Call Street • Starke (904) 964-7555</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>VIRGINIA TECH HOKIES VS. LIBERTY FLAMES</p> <p><b>Thornton &amp; Co. Realty</b> 620 N. Thompson. St. • Starke (904) 368-1114</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>FLORIDA GATORS VS. VANDERBILT COMMODORES</p> <p><b>Clyatt Well Drilling</b> 5941 SR-121 • Lake Butler (386) 496-2488</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>BOSTON COLLEGE EAGLES VS. NOTRE DAME FIGHTING IRISH</p> <p><b>Jackson Building Supply</b> 937 S Walnut St. • Starke (904) 964-6078</p>
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<p><b>20</b></p> <p>CHICAGO BEARS VS. ATLANTA FALCONS</p> <p><b>Williamson's Food Store</b> 840 N SR 21 • Melrose (352) 475-1144</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>N.Y. JETS VS. NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS</p> <p><b>Ferreira Funeral Service</b> 435 W. Main St. • Lake Butler (386) 496-1400</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>CINCINNATI BENGALS VS. PITTSBURGH STEELERS</p> <p><b>Tatum Bros</b> 22796 NW County Road Lawtey, FL (904) 782-3690</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>DALLAS COWBOYS VS. MINNESOTA VIKINGS</p> <p><b>Capital City Bank</b> 350 N. Temple Avenue, Starke 904-964-7050</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>KANSAS CITY CHIEFS VS. L.A. CHARGERS</p> <p><b>Murray Ford</b> 13447 US 301, Starke 904-964-7200</p>
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\*CONTEST RULES 1. Anyone (except Telegraph/Times/Monitor employees and their immediate family members) is welcome to enter. One entry per person per week please. Persons winning one week are not eligible to win again for at least three weeks. 2. When picking up winnings, the winner will have their photograph taken for the paper. 3. Entry must be on an official form from the BCT/UCT/LRM and submitted to one of our drop off locations: BC Telegraph, 131 W. Call St., Starke; Spires Market in Lake Butler; Capital City Bank in Keystone Heights OR \*\*\* email a photo/scan of your official entry form to CONTEST@BCTELEGRAH.COM — ALL entries due before 5 p.m. on Fridays. Entrants consent to be added to our email list and having photo taken for paper. Fill in all the blanks with the name of the team you think will win, matching the biz & card numbers. The person who picks the most games correctly will win \$50 cash from the pool of BCT/UCT/LRM entries. 4. In case of a tie, the total points scored in the Gators game this week is the tie breaker. Please fill in the points you think will be scored by the Gators and their opponent, combined, in the tie breaker blank. (For instance, if the score of the game was Gators 19, opponent 7, that correct tie-breaker score is 26 points). 5. Decision of the judges is final. A second, follow up tie-breaker will be used, if necessary. Results will be tabulated on Monday and winners notified by telephone. Don't forget to list a phone number where you can be reached. INFO: 904-964-6305.

# HCA's León receives Christian Teacher of the Year honor

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

The record will always show that Hope Christian Academy's Adina León was one of the Herzog Foundation's Christian Teachers of the Year for 2022, but León can't help but feel the honor should really be in the name of Ginny Banks.

Banks, who is now deceased, is León's mother. She taught in Christian schools for 48 years. As you would imagine, she had a profound impact on León, who pointed out that her mother's things can be found throughout her classroom.

"When I heard of getting the award, all I could think was, 'This is my mom's award.' This is who she was," León said. "I learned a lot of what I know about teaching from her."

This is the first year the Herzog Foundation has recognized Christian Teachers of the Year. León, who teaches science for grades 7-12, was one of 12 teachers recognized, with two being named Science Teacher of

the Year and Bible Teacher of the Year.

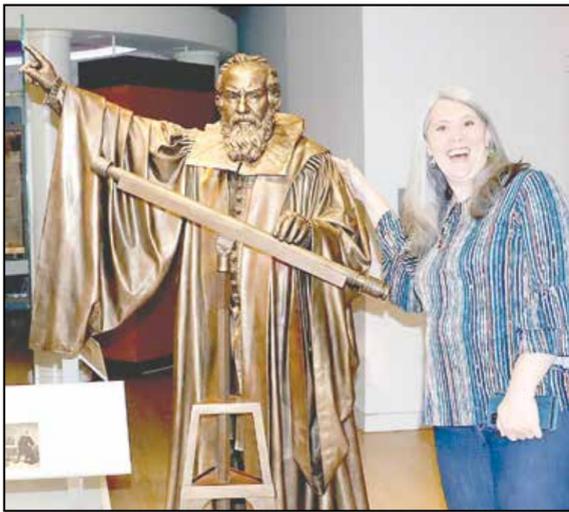
"I was kind of stunned at that moment because I had never even heard of this foundation," she said. "The award itself kind of came out of the blue for me. It was an honor, of course, just to be thought of. That somebody thought of me."

As a nominee, León submitted her resume, lesson plans and her philosophy of teaching. That was in early June. She then kind of forgot about the award as "summer kind of took over," she said.

León received an email the last week in July that informed her she had been selected as one of this year's honorees. Her reaction was emotional. She thought not only of her mother, but also of her father, Jerry Banks.

"My initial reaction was I immediately began to cry," she said. "Both of my parents were Christian school teachers."

It wasn't actually León's intent to follow in her parents' footsteps, but it's where the Lord



As a science teacher, Hope Christian Academy's Adina León couldn't pass up the opportunity to pose for a picture with Galileo at the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C. A tour of the museum preceded a gala in which León and 11 others received Christian Teacher of the Year awards from the Herzog Foundation.

led her after she initially worked with a children's ministry in inner-city Philadelphia.

León, a graduate of Capitol Baptist School in Dover, Delaware, and Bob Jones University, is in her fifth year at Hope and has been teaching for a total of 24 years, with time in both private and public schools. Her husband, Dough, teaches at Hope as well.

## Mother's influence, teaching philosophy

León said what stood out about her mother as a teacher was her preparation, sometimes she and her six siblings. She said she and her six siblings sometimes had to raise their hands at the dinner table to get their mother's attention because she was still in teacher mode.

"I knew what it took behind the scenes to be a teacher," León said. "My mom was never one to punch a clock and leave it at the office. She would work all summer creating PowerPoints and having it all ready to go and wanting it to be perfect."

León said her mother also had a knack for getting students at every learning level to comprehend what she was teaching.

"She could break down a complicated topic and put it on that bottom shelf for the student who struggled the most," León said. "She was never going to give up on a student. I think that is definitely an example to follow."

León said part of her teaching philosophy consists of connecting with students and making what she's teaching come alive for them so that they are interested in it.

"I strive to make it fun," León said. "I believe it's a sin to bore my students. As much as I can make it fun for them, then they're going to want to listen and learn."

She said it's also part of her job to teach students to think on their own. León shared an example of an eighth-grade student she had who professed to be an atheist. She told him, "It is never my job to tell you what to think. That's not my job. My job is to teach you how to think. If I can teach you how to think and teach you to ask the right questions, God will show you the answers He wants you to have."

"This young man not only accepted the Lord a few years later," León said. "He became an evangelist who traveled the country and has gone back to

See TEACHER, page 12

# UAB's McBride among nation's best

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

UAB senior football player DeWayne McBride, a Starke native, set the school record for rushing touchdowns in a season and was named Conference USA Offensive Player of the Week following his performance in the Blazers' 41-21 win against North Texas on Nov. 12.

The son of DeWayne McBride and Melissa Hill rushed for 120 yards on 20 carries, with his longest run covering 33 yards. He rushed for three scores, giving him 17 for the season.

McBride is currently third in UAB history for rushing touchdowns in a career. He has 34, which leaves him trailing Pat Green (1991-94), who had 35, and Spencer Brown (2017-20),



DeWayne McBride, pictured in the 2021 Independence Bowl, holds the UAB record for rushing touchdowns in a season. Photo provided last year by UAB Athletics.

who had 41.

The North Texas game gave McBride his 10th straight 100-yard game and the 17th 100-yard game in his UAB career. That leaves him trailing only Brown, who had 19.

He may be making his mark on UAB and in Conference

USA, but the Ocala Vanguard High School graduate is also making his mark in the NCAA as a whole. McBride leads the nation in rushing yards per game (156.3) and runs of 20-plus yards (17). He and Michigan's Blake

See MCBRIDE, page 15

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**NEW! EMAIL US YOUR ENTRY \*\*\* see rules below**

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Biz 2 _____	Biz 15 _____
Biz 3 _____	Biz 16 _____
Biz 4 _____	Biz 17 _____
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Biz 7 _____	Biz 20 _____
Biz 8 _____	Biz 21 _____
Biz 9 _____	Biz 22 _____
Biz 10 _____	Biz 23 _____
Biz 11 _____	Biz 24 _____
Biz 12 _____	
Biz 13 _____	

## TELEGRAPH/TIMES/MONITOR WEEKLY FOOTBALL CONTEST ENTRY FORM

\*\*Tiebreaker Score:  
Gator Game

Pick the Week's Winners  
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**ENTRANT INFO:**

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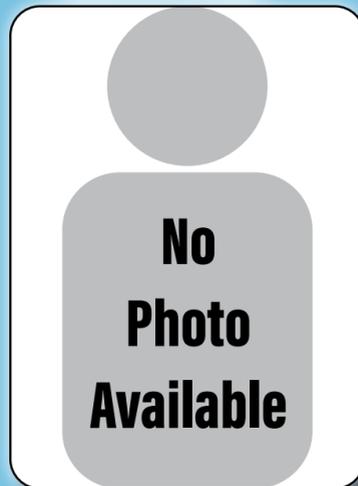
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Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

or \_\_\_\_\_



Week #11  
Valery Davis (missed 4)

# Obituaries

## Ethel Palmer

Ethel "Edie" Pearl Palmer, 80, died on Friday, Nov. 11, 2022, in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. She had resided in Lake Butler for about 30 years and was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Lake Butler.

She is survived by her children, Sharon (Jack) Salisbury of Waveland, Mississippi, Patricia Harris of McAlpin, Fred "Buddy" (Ann) Harris of White Springs, Robert Graydon Harris of Lake Butler, and Billy Joe Dorminey of Lake City; and many extended family members.

Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 17 at Oak Grove Cemetery, Lake Butler.

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



## Willie Randolph Sr.

Willie James Randolph Sr., 78 of Starke, passed on Sunday, Oct. 30, 2022, in Fort Worth, Texas. A native of Starke, he later moved to Fort Worth, Texas. He attended the local schools of Bradford County and served at the Allen Chapel A.M.E Church for many years.

He is survived by his children, Dewayne McBride of Starke, and Donna Austin, Willie Randolph Jr., Tammie Wade, John Wade and Christina Hampton, all of Fort Worth, Texas; 16 grandchildren; 35 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 19, at the Allen Chapel A.M.E Church, 746 Pine St., Starke, with Pastor Cynthia Bailey conducting the services. Interment will be held at the Oddfellow Cemetery Starke under the direction of Haile Funeral Home Inc., 802 N. Oak St., Starke, 32091. 904-964-7905. Visitation will be held on Friday, Nov. 18, at the Carl D. Haile Memorial Chapel/Haile Funeral Home Inc., from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m., and one hour prior to the service on Saturday at the church. Family will form at the church at 1:50 p.m. on Saturday.

PAID OBITUARY

## Henry Tomlinson

Henry "Marvin" Tomlinson of Lake Butler passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022, after a long battle with cancer. He was born and raised in Starke on July 20, 1951, and has been a resident of Union County for the last 52 years. He was married to the love of his life, Diane Tomlinson, for 52 years. He was a devoted family man and respected law enforcement officer.

He worked for the Union County Sheriff's Office for over 30 years in various capacities. He retired from the Florida Department of Corrections in 2000 and continued to work full time with the Union County Sheriff's Office until his retirement in 2013. During this time, he served as Captain and Jail Director. In 2014, he returned to the Union County's Sheriff's Office as the Chief Bailiff of the Courts Division. He is also retired from the U. S. Army National Guard after 22 years of service. He was an avid hunter and loved the outdoors. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all who knew him. He will never be forgotten. His memory will remain strong through his wife, children, and grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Henry and Maggie Tomlinson.

He is survived by his loving wife of 52 years, Diane Tomlinson of Lake Butler; siblings, Mark (Brenda) of Richmond, Virginia, Franklin (Edie) of Albuquerque, New Mexico, Sandra (Bob) Ritchie of Kissimmee, and James (Annette) of Starke; sons, Brian (April), Matt (Jamie), and Kevin (Kaitlin) all of Lake Butler; and grandchildren, Cali, Ayden, Brysen, Chloe, Emery, and Aubree. Also, his sweet and loving Labradoodles, Coconut and Brinkley.

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



PAID OBITUARY

## Elizabeth Pierce

Elizabeth Crawford Pierce went to be with our Lord on Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022, at the Hadlow Center for Caring in Mandarin, Florida. She was born in 1930 to Lonnie Alonzo and Annie Bell Burney Crawford in Starke. She became a Navy wife to LCDR. John Pierce in 1954. They lived an exciting life together in Virginia Beach, Washington, D.C., Monterey, California and London, England before settling in Florida. She was an administrative secretary at Orange Park High School for 23 years, where she was active in the American Business Women's Association and the Clay County School Personnel Union. She also worked a second job at Dillard's for eight years as a sales associate in men's suits. After retirement, she loved to garden and cruised the Caribbean five times.

She is remembered in love by her daughters, Elizabeth Gyland and Kimberly Pierce; son-in-law, Nels Gyland; and grandchildren, Christian, Jon-Michael and Anna Gyland.

A graveside memorial service was held on Wednesday, Nov 16 at Jacksonville Memory Gardens in Orange Park.



PAID OBITUARY

## James Reddish

James (Jimmy) Robert Reddish of Melrose died Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022, after a brief illness.

Funeral services will be at Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, Saturday, Nov. 19. The family will receive friends beginning at 10:30 a.m., followed by services at 11 a.m. with Elder Rick Bicknell officiating.

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

## TEACHER

Continued from page 11

teach Bible in the same Christian school he used to go to."

What León wants is for children to form their own basis for their viewpoints. She tells them, "It's not enough for your parents to know something. It's not enough for me to believe something."

## Student success

For a teacher, there's no greater feeling than watching a student grasp a concept that he or she is teaching and begin to experience success. However, the barrier to success isn't always a matter of simply not understanding something that's being taught. León believes the words children hear have a great impact. She said too many children hear negative words at home and that she wished more parents understood the effect those words have.

"Those words are seeds," León said. "They take root, and those roots run deep. The fruit that comes out of the words they say is evident in the classroom, but also all through their life. If we could just change the narrative — not just in the classroom, but at home — I think we would see an entire generation just rock this world."

León rejoices with her students when they experience success. She said she had a student who went from not caring how he performed in the classroom to being driven to excel. It began with that student earning a B for the first time and then earning an A.

That student asked León what she would do if he earned all A's in her class. She said she'd stand up and cheer out loud at the school's awards ceremony. The student asked her if she'd really do that for him. After she replied that she really would, the student asked what she'd do if he made A's in all of his classes. León told him she'd cry.

"I think sometimes they just need someone who believes they can and tell them it's possible," León said, adding, "Kids are going to always rise to the level



LEFT: Adina León, during a trip to the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C., is pictured at a display of the microfiche of the Bible that went to the moon on Apollo 14. BELOW: Adina León (right) receives a Christian Teacher of the Year Award from John Elliott, vice chairman of the Herzog Foundation.



that's expected of them in any setting. If we expect they're not going to do their work, then they're not going to do their work. When we expect that they can achieve greatness, they're going to strive for it."

## Honored during a whirlwind trip

As a Herzog Foundation Christian Teacher of the Year, León attended an Excellence in Christian Education awards gala in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 24. It was a whirlwind of a trip, arriving in D.C. the night before the gala and leaving the morning after the event.

It didn't leave much time for interacting with her fellow teachers who were also being honored.

"That night at the gala, everyone had their own guests,

so we didn't really get to mingle a whole lot outside of posing for pictures," León said, adding, "It makes me want to seek (the other teachers) out online and pick their brains a little."

The time may have been short, but it was enjoyable. León stayed at the InterContinental Washington D.C.-The Wharf hotel, which afforded her with a view of the Potomac River. She also enjoyed a tour of the Museum of the Bible, which was provided to her and other honorees.

"They spoiled us, for sure," León said. "It felt very special."

León couldn't get enough of the museum. The tour provided for the Herzog honorees was an hour, but she and her husband stayed and enjoyed it for another four hours. León said she was expecting nothing but a display of old manuscripts, but what she discovered was an interactive

experience, which she admitted left her in awe.

"Yes, there was a massive manuscript room," León said, "but the way that they presented the material just kind of drew you in — a variety of multimedia opportunities. We really enjoyed the walkthroughs they had for the Old and the New Testament."

León said rooms devoted to the Old Testament covered creation and the flood, while the New Testament portion of the museum recreated a town in Galilee.

"You were walking through models of the houses and what it might have been like, stepping back in time," she said.

The museum was a new experience, but the nation's capital as a whole was not. León grew up an hour away in Delaware.

"All of our field trips were to D.C. growing up," she said.

Her brother and sister were among those who accompanied her at the gala. Some of her friends were there as well, including one of her child-evangelism mentors.

It was quite an experience for León — one that was enjoyable, yet humbling. She doesn't teach with an eye toward receiving any accolades for it.

"I'm just a person who's doing my job," León said. "That's all I can do. I'm trying to do my job, and I'm trying to show Jesus."

León, however, does like the fact that the Herzog Foundation recognizes Christian educators in such a way.

"I am thankful that Christian teachers are thought of as educators," she said. "I think sometimes people think of a Christian school as just a glorified babysitting program that's in competition with another sector. That's not really our intent. Our intent is just to offer another viewpoint. We just try to give a Biblical worldview in our subject matter."

León may be a member of the inaugural group of Herzog Foundation Christian Teachers of the Year, but she knows she's following in the footsteps of someone who was worthy of such an honor herself — her mother.

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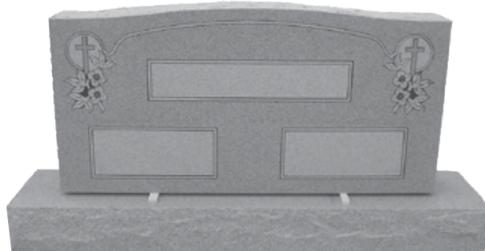
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# Altrusa Gala returns, Community State Bank's Bridgeman wins the big money

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

After a two-year absence due to the pandemic, the Altrusa of Starke Gala returned, with Community State Bank President/CEO and Director David Bridgeman taking home the \$2,500 cash grand prize on Oct. 27 at Starke's Gov. Charley E. Johns Conference Center.

The gala is the major fundraiser for the Starke club. This year, 158 tickets were sold for \$125 each. A ticket, as usual, put you in the event's reverse drawing, which began after attendees enjoyed a meal catered by Blue Water Bay.

Of the 158 people in the drawing, 64 received prizes. The final five people remaining all received prizes, starting with Ricky Thompson, who won a Yukon Outfitter cooler, donated by Montford Paint and Body/Lucy Montford.

Once Thompson received his prize, the last four in the drawing were asked to stand at the front of the room. They were Bridgeman, Sean Brewer (who was represented by Bradford Sheriff Gordon Smith), Bob Milner and Carolyn Reddish. Milner's name was called as the winner of a 40-inch smart TV, donated by Tatum Brothers/Linda and Sylvia Tatum. The next prize, a \$500 Hilton Head gift card, donated by Community State Bank/Carolyn Reddish and Betty Trawick, was won by Brewer.

Two were left standing. The next name called would win a bracelet donated by Williams Jewelry. Emcee Terry Vaughan said, "Somebody from Community State Bank is going to win this. I just feel it in my bones."

Reddish is the executive vice president and chief operations officer at the bank. Her name was called, which meant her colleague Bridgeman won the grand prize.

Waiting for your name to be



David Bridgeman won the \$2,500 grand prize at the Altrusa of Starke Gala. Photos by Cliff Smelley.

called during a gala drawing was certainly something people had missed the last two years. Vaughan's jokes? Maybe not so much.

Vaughan, Bradford County's retired supervisor of elections who now lives in Thomasville, Georgia, had been known for his attempt at humor as the event's usual emcee. He said it was nice to be back in Bradford, but also joked he didn't have a choice when it came to fulfilling his gala duties once again.

"This Altrusa president I've heard so many great things about told me I had to come," Vaughan said.

The president is current Supervisor of Elections Amanda Seyfang, who worked with Vaughan for 19 years.

"I heard she's doing a phenomenal job as Altrusa president," Vaughan said. "I'm hearing that in her day job, not so much."

In introducing Vaughan, Seyfang said she always received his list of possible jokes before the event so she could "filter out the terrible ones." Of course, that was when they spent their days together in the same office.

"Now that we don't work

together anymore, I apologize in advance," Seyfang said.

Vaughan relishes in making the crowd groan as he's always upfront about the fact he's going to tell terrible jokes and that they're not going to improve over the course of the evening.

Before getting into the drawing, Vaughan said he and his wife, Jennifer, stopped at a 7-Eleven in Valdosta on their way to Starke.

"When I walked up to the cashier, she said, 'Strip down, facing me.' When I realized she was talking about my debit card, it was too late," Vaughan said.

Throughout the evening, Vaughan shred gems such as the butcher who accidentally backed up into his meat grinder (he got a little behind in his work), the man who fell into the upholstery machine (he's now recovered), the dog that can do magic tricks (a Labradador retriever) and how talking to cows causes them to produce more milk (a case of in one ear and out the

udder).

Vaughan, of course, had a little fun with some of the people who won or donated prizes. Courtne Douglas, for example, won the first prize — \$100 cash, donated by Win Armstrong and Margaret Anderson. Vaughan said, "I know a good investor, if you need one," knowing full well that Douglas is a financial advisor with Edward Jones in Starke.

One of the prizes was an umbrella stand with umbrellas.

"It's donated by the Bradford County Sheriff's Office, which probably means the umbrella stand in the sheriff's office is no longer there," Vaughan cracked.

When the winner's name was drawn, Vaughan said, "I just have a sneaking feeling you're going to put it back in the lobby. The winner is Brad Smith." Smith is the undersheriff.

When Amie Oody won lottery tickets, donated by Candace Osteen, Vaughan told Oody's

See GALA, page 15



## Cow deposit worth \$1,000 at Arc's Cow Patty Bingo

Cliff Smelley, pictured with Piper the cow, won the \$1,000 grand prize at the Arc of Bradford Cow Patty Bingo. The annual fundraiser consists of the Arc selling 100 numbered squares for \$50 each. Then it's a waiting game until the cow answers nature's call. Piper marked square number 64 after a 51-minute wait. Photo by Arc of Bradford Executive Director John Williams



Craig Nelson, who brought Piper the cow to the event, is pictured in the background with Eleanor, the daughter of Arc of Bradford Executive Director John Williams. Photo by Cliff Smelley.



Altrusa President Amanda Seyfang (left) drew the names, while Terry Vaughan, who now lives in Thomasville, Georgia, returned to serve as emcee.

# Legal Notices

Legals for the week of Nov. 17, 2022

## BRADFORD

### NOTICE OF SALE

T & M Towing gives notice of lien and intent to sell this vehicle on November 21, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at T & M Storage lot located at 1451 Hayes Ave., Starke, FL 32091. T & M Towing reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids.  
Vin # 1G1ZD5ST5LF32050 2020 CHEV  
11/10 2tchg 11/17-BCT

IN THE COUNTY COURT, FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION  
File No. 4-2021-CP-000114  
Division

IN RE: ESTATE OF BRONWYN JANE NICKELS, Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
The administration of the estate of BRONWYN JANE NICKELS, deceased, whose date of death was May 14 2021, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Case No. 4-2021-CP-000114, the address of which is 945 N Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091.

The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below. All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE 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 SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER TIME DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of publication of this notice is November 10, 2022.  
Attorney for Personal Representative: FRANKLIN D. FIELDS, ESQ.  
Fla. Bar #0723691  
Law Office of Franklin D. Fields  
311 State Road 26  
Melrose, FL 32666  
Telephone: (352) 475-1176  
Personal Representatives: DAVID ALAN NICKELS  
4380 NE County Road 21b  
Keystone Heights, FL 32656  
11/10 2tchg 11/17-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION  
File No. 2022-CP-103

IN RE: ESTATE OF JANICE MAGUERITE MORTON a/k/a JANICE M KELLY-BRYANT Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
You are hereby notified that Letters of Administration have been entered in the estate of JANICE MAGUERITE MORTON, a/k/a JANICE M KELLY-BRYANT, deceased, File Number 2022-CP-103 by the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 945 N. Temple Ave., P.O. Drawer B, Starke, FL 32091, that the decedent's date of death was August 27, 2021; that the total value of the estate is \$ 0 and that the names and addresses of those to whom it has been assigned by such order are:  
NAME ADDRESS :  
JOHNTE NICHOLS 1439 Grove St  
Starke, FL 32091  
ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE NOTIFIED THAT:  
All creditors of the estate of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent other than those for whom provision for full payment was made in the Order of Summary

Administration must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW.

ALL CLAIMS AND DEMANDS NOT SO FILED WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER APPLICABLE TIME PERIOD, 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 2, 2022  
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5750 Major Blvd., Ste. 250  
Orlando, FL 32819  
Phone: (407) 926-2455  
Fax: (407) 536-4977  
By: /s/ Adam G. Russo  
[ X ] Adam G. Russo, Esq.  
Florida Bar Number: 84633  
Primary Email: Adam@theMELawfirm.com  
Secondary Email: Service@theMELawfirm.com

Johnnte Nichols, Personal Representative  
11/10 2tchg 11/17-BCT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL  
Bidders are invited to submit proposals for: +/- 10 ACRE LAND CLEARING AND RELATED WORK PROJECT AT KEYSTONE HEIGHTS AIRPORT. The specific intent of this Request for Proposal is to de-stump, level and stabilize approximately 10-acres of recently cleared land at the Keystone Heights Airport. Project Area 1 is approximately 8-acres of land cleared of trees in July 2022. Project Area 2 is approximately 2-acres of land cleared of trees in July 2022. The desired future condition is for the project area to be clear of debris and tree stumps, minor slope grading to mowable slopes, and the ground seeded with a combination of annual and perennial grass seed blend. The seed blend will need to be incorporated into the soil for proper germination. The seed blend and quantity per acre must be included in the bid. The existing and remaining tree debris from the July 2022 timber harvest can be pile burned or hauled offsite. Raking and debris removal of the +/- 10-acre project is

anticipated and warranted for future land use. Subsurface utilities locate and marking will be required before any site work is performed. Access to view the project areas is available during Airport business hours. Please submit bids no later than December 14th, 2022 @ 2:00pm at the Keystone Heights Airport office located at 7150 Airport Road, Starke, FL 32091. The work needs to be completed on or before February 15th, 2023. The Keystone Heights Airport Authority reserves the right to waive any informalities or irregularities in or reject any or all bids and to award or refrain from awarding the Contract for the Work. For additional information, contact Maria Searcy at 352-473-0031 or msearcy@keystoneairport.com.  
11/17 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF SALE  
T & M Towing gives notice of lien and intent to sell these vehicles on December 9, 2022 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.  
Vin# 5NPDH4AE1DH402842 2013 Hyundai  
Vin # 1HGCS1239A018330 2009 Honda  
11/17 2tchg 11/24-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED  
Notice is hereby given that LEWIS CHAFF the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate

Notice is hereby given:  
Kevin L. Brewer  
Last known address of:  
801 S Water St APT 602  
Starke FL 32091  
You are hereby notified that your eligibility to vote is in question. You are required to contact the Supervisor of Elections, in Starke, Florida, no later than thirty (30) days after the date of this publishing. Failure to respond will result in a determination of ineligibility by the Supervisor and your name will be removed from the statewide voter registration system.  
Published one time in the Bradford County Telegraph  
Amanda Seyfang  
Bradford County Supervisor of Elections  
P. O. Box 58  
945 N. Temple Ave., Suite C  
Starke, FL 32091  
Date: November 14, 2022  
11/17 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED  
Notice is hereby given that LEWIS CHAFF the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate

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Date: November 14, 2022  
11/17 1tchg-BCT

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for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows:  
Certificate Number: 852  
Year of Issuance: 2020  
Parcel Number: 03761-0-00101  
Case Number: 04-2022-TD-0019  
Description of Property: 03761-0-00101 Lots 1 and 2 of Block 47 of "JOHNS ADDITION", a subdivision as recorded in Deed Book "L" page 629 of the public records of Bradford County, Florida  
Name in Which Assessed: LK WHITEHEAD & MAY BELLE WHITEHEAD  
Name on last tax roll, if different: MAY BELLE WHITEHEAD (DEC)  
All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 02/15/2023, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.  
Denny Thompson,  
Clerk Of The Circuit Court  
Bradford County, Florida  
LISA BRANNON, Deputy Clerk  
DATED: November 8, 2022  
11/17 4tchg 12/8-BCT

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# Tornadoes open postseason with 48-0 win over Raiders

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Bradford High School bounced back from its first loss just fine. Jametrius “Jip” Pringle returned the opening kickoff for a touchdown. His team’s first offensive play went for a touchdown.

By the time the first quarter ended, the Tornadoes had reached the end zone four times.

Visiting Crescent City, the 44th-ranked team in the state which got in only by virtue of winning the District 8 championship, was in no way any match for the second-ranked Tornadoes, who opened the postseason with a 48-0 win in a Nov. 11 Region 2 quarterfinal game.

Bradford, which is the number-one seed in Region 2, averaged 14 yards per play in the first half as it built a 41-0 lead. The Tornadoes finished with a 12-yards-per-play average and failed to score only when they took kneel-downs at the end of the first half and at the end of the game.

The Tornadoes (10-1) set a school record for margin of victory in a playoff game, surpassing the 42-point win the 2004 team had in a 54-12 win over Bishop Moore. They also set the school record for shutouts in a season with eight, surpassing the seven shutouts the 1964 team recorded.

“You could tell immediately that our speed advantage was really, really high,” Bradford

Head Coach Jamie Rodgers said. “When you’re just as physical or more physical, and you’re faster than your opponent, that’s usually not good for the other team.”

Bradford, which hosts fifth seed Eastside in a Region 2 semifinal game on Friday, Nov. 18, at 7:30 p.m. (see related story), didn’t waste any time, with Pringle fielding the opening kickoff at his won 12-yard line. He eventually reversed field and made his way down his team’s sideline, putting his speed on full display in taking it all the way for a score. Hayden Hughes kicked the extra point to make it 7-0.

“The kickoff return obviously helped us get off to a really fast start,” Rodgers said, adding, “The crowd got crazy when that happened. Our kids were really excited.”

The Raiders (4-7) got a 37-yard kickoff return from Brandon Padgett and moved past the 50-yard line, thanks to three offsides penalties against the Bradford defense. On first down at the Tornadoes’ 36, Ray Davis slipped and was tackled for a 2-yard loss by Chason Clark. Ahman Covington dropped Davis for a 4-yard loss on the next play. On third-and-16, a group defensive effort, led by Will Lusignan, resulted in another loss, forcing Crescent City to punt on fourth-and-22.

Pringle returned the punt 35 yards to the Crescent City 36. One play was all the Bradford offense needed to add more points to the scoreboard.



Ahman Covington (right) forces a fumble that Crescent City would eventually recover. Photo by Cliff Smelley.

Quarterback Jeremiah McKenzie hooked up with Jarrin Alexander for a touchdown at the 6:44 mark of the first quarter. Hughes added the PAT for a 14-0 lead.

The ensuing kickoff was short, with Bradford’s Willie Pollard recovering the ball at the Raiders’ 34-yard line.

Bradford’s offense went back to work, with McKenzie throwing an 11-yard pass to Clark.

Though the Tornadoes predominantly ran the ball as they have all season, finishing

with 231 yards on 21 carries, the fact they attempted passes on their first two offensive plays revealed their desire to work some different looks into their game plan and take advantage of some things coaches had seen in evaluating Crescent City.

“We wanted to open up some things,” Rodgers said. “We saw some things on film that we liked. We just decided, ‘Hey. The first time we get the ball, we’re going to try some of this stuff.’ It ended up working.”

With most of their games being

lopsided affairs, the Tornadoes haven’t had to open things up offensively, Rodgers said, but he added that the foundation to his team’s success in the regular season will still be key in the postseason.

“I still believe good defense and a power running game win championships,” Rodgers said.

It was that running game, led by Pollard, that took over on the second series after Clark’s reception. Pollard had runs of 5 and 14 yards before scoring on a 4-yard run to put Bradford ahead 20-0 with 5:29 to play in the first quarter.

Alexander and Devon McBride broke up passes on the Raiders’ second offensive series as the defense forced the Raiders to go three-and-out.

The Bradford offense, after the punt, went three-and-out, too — as in it ran plays and scored a touchdown. The drive began with a 19-yard run by McKenzie. Pollard, who rushed for 60 yards on five carries, had a 10-yard run before he got loose for a 27-yard gain that took him into the end zone at the 4:15 mark of the first quarter. After Hughes’ PAT, the Tornadoes led 27-0.

Besides returning six kickoffs for a total of 115 yards, the only bright spot for the Raiders was the running of Davis, who averaged almost 5 yards a carry and finished with approximately 70 yards. Davis had consecutive runs of 17 and 18 yards on Crescent City’s third offensive series as the Raiders crossed midfield for the second time.

Again, the Bradford defense rose to the occasion. Alexander tackled Sheldon Patrick for a 3-yard loss on a pass play. After two straight incompletions, quarterback Eric Jenkins was chased out of bounds for a 4-yard loss on fourth down.

Bradford’s offense took to the field at the Raiders’ 46-yard line. The Tornadoes moved to the 22-yard line on runs by Gino Addison and Brandon Williams before Torin Brazell took a short pass from McKenzie and turned it into a touchdown. A penalty nullified the score, but the Tornadoes overcame the setback. A 13-yard reception by Clark, who made a leaping grab between two defenders, set up a 1-yard touchdown run by McKenzie approximately two minutes into the second quarter. Hughes kicked the extra point, making the score 34-0.

McKenzie finished the night 20 yards rushing on two carries, while completing 3 of 3 passes for 60 yards.

Bradford added the final score of the half on a two-play drive. Williams had a 24-yard run, followed by Addison’s 35-yard touchdown run, which put the Tornadoes up 41-0 after Hughes added the PAT.

Addison finished with 53 yards on three carries, while Williams rushed for 35 yards on three carries.

Crescent City drove from its own 21 into the red zone on the ensuing series. After a 14-yard

See BHS, page 15

## Looking ahead to Bradford, Union County playoff matchups

### Tornadoes to host Eastside in Region 2-2S semifinal game

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Bradford faces one of the teams it recorded one of its school-record eight shutouts against in the Region 2-2S semifinals when the Tornadoes host the Eastside Rams on Friday, Nov. 18, at 7:30 p.m.

The Tornadoes (10-1), who are the top seed in Region 2 and the second-ranked team overall in Class 2S, defeated Eastside 28-0 on Sept. 16. Since then, the fifth seed Rams (8-2) have won six of seven games, including a 27-14 win over fourth seed North Marion in the Region 2 quarterfinals.

Other than Bradford, Eastside, which is ranked 16th in 2S, played three other teams in the regular season that qualified for the playoffs, including North

Marion, who the Rams defeated 14-6 in winning the District 7 championship. The Rams also defeated 1S P.K. Yonge 48-21, while losing 14-7 to 1R Newberry.

Eastside played only three teams that finished the regular season with winning records: Bradford, North Marion and Newberry.

The Rams are scoring an average of 24 points per game, while allowing opponents to score an average of 11 points per game. The 28 points scored by Bradford was the most points Eastside allowed this season.

Eastside is in the playoffs for the 16th year and making its first appearance since 2018. The Rams have a postseason record of 12-15.

The Rams have a 1-4 record in region semifinal games and have never won a region championship.

Eastside’s win over North Marion was its first playoff win since 2012 and just its second in

17 years.

In the Sept. 16 game between Bradford and Eastside, the Tornadoes held the Rams to minus-1 yard rushing and limited quarterback Holden Johnson to 90 yards passing. Manny Covey rushed for two scores, while quarterback Jeremiah McKenzie threw a touchdown pass to Chalil Cummings, while also rushing for a score.

Eastside is predominantly a passing team, averaging only 69 rushing yards per game during the regular season. Johnson, in nine regular-season games, completed 84 of 163 pass attempts for 1,448 yards and 14 touchdowns.

The Bradford-Eastside winner will play for the Region 2 championship on Friday, Nov. 25, against either second seed Baldwin (ranked ninth in the state) or third seed Baker County (ranked 11th in the state). Bradford would host regardless of the opponent.

### Tigers, after 1st-round bye, to take on defending state champion Madison County in Region 3-1R semifinal game

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

After a first-round bye, the Union County High School football team is ready to host a playoff game against an opponent with an impressive resume as the Tigers will play Madison County in a Region 3-1R semifinal game on Friday, Nov. 18, at 7:30 p.m.

The Tigers (6-2) are the region’s top seed, while Madison (4-6) is the fourth seed. The Cowboys advanced by defeating fifth seed Fort White 36-0 in a Nov. 11 quarterfinal game.

Madison County is the defending state champ in what

was previously known as Class 1A. The Cowboys have won the state title in four of the previous five years.

The win over Fort White as the Cowboys’ sixth straight playoff win and their 15th win in their last 16 playoff games.

This is Madison’s ninth straight year in the playoffs. Since 1995, the Cowboys have failed to qualify for the postseason only once. After their win over Fort White, their overall playoff record is now 69-20.

Four of the Cowboys’ playoff wins came against Union. The teams met each other in the 2015 and 2017 region semifinals, with Madison winning by scores of 65-12 and 50-6.

The Tigers traveled to Madison to play for a region championship in 2019, with the Cowboys winning 49-0.

In 2020, Union hosted Madison for a region championship, with the Cowboys winning 18-7.

One of the Cowboys’ playoff losses occurred against Union Head Coach Andrew Thomas. Thomas’ Trenton team defeated Madison 27-18 in a Class 1A state semifinal game in 2015. Trenton would go on to win the state title.

Thomas has guided the Tigers to the playoffs in each of his three seasons at the helm. His overall record in the Florida playoffs is 17-5, which includes going 13-3 in five years at Trenton, winning two state championships during that time.

The Union-Madison winner will play either second seed Hilliard or third seed Lafayette for the Region 3 championship on Friday, Nov. 25. Hilliard (8-2), like Union, had a first-round bye. Lafayette (9-2) defeated sixth seed Branford 35-7 in the Nov. 11 quarterfinals.

If the Tigers defeat Madison, they’ll host the Region 3 title game, regardless of the opponent.

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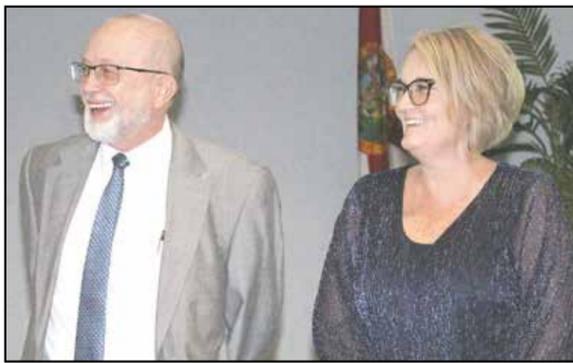
husband, Jeff, that he'd never see her again if she won. When it came time to draw for a \$50 cash prize, donated by Bradford County Tax Collector Teresa Phillips, Vaughan quipped, "Right out of the top drawer earlier tonight."

Perhaps no one was unluckier than members of the Teal-Hamilton families. At one point, when the fifth member of the family had been announced as a non-winner, Vaughan suggested the family play the lotto. "There's got to be better luck around the corner," he said. "It can't get worse than this."

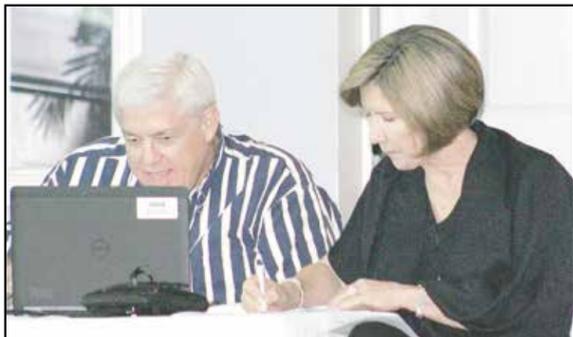
When it came time to announce the winner of a bracelet and earrings, donated by Kim Hamilton, Vaughan said, "Kim, you should really take this home. You guys should not even give this away."

Vaughan suggested a collection be taken up for the family when Bailee Hamilton was announced as a non-winner. Later, when Kim Hamilton was announced as a non-winner, Vaughan said, "I'm actually staying with the Teals tonight. When I get there, and my bag is on the curb, we will know what happened."

After 117 names were called, Vaughan looked at the name of the person who was to win \$50 in cash, donated by Sylvia Reddish, and said, "Hey. This is unbelievable." He then looked at Telegraph Owner/Publisher John Miller and said, "John, what's your deadline for the Telegraph this week? Because the winner is



It was a Community State Bank affair when it came to the final two people remaining in the drawing. David Bridgeman (left) is the bank's president/CEO and director, while Carolyn Reddish is its executive vice president and chief operations officer.



Steve Akridge (left) and Cheryl Canova kept track of the names called during the drawing.

Ken Teal."

Altrusa of Starke was the night's big winner, as funds raised will support the club's scholarships as well as various projects, such as providing Easter baskets for children in the Guardian ad Litem program and Christmas gifts for Rainbow Center children, making

donations to the Bradford Food Pantry and the Bradford County Public Library's summer youth program.

Altrusa of Starke's 2022-23 board of directors consists of Seyfang, First Vice President Sarah Long, Second Vice President Kim Roberts, Recording Secretary Gale Trotter, Corresponding Secretary Rachel Baier, Treasurer Tiffany Rees, directors Paula Register, Rachel Rhoden and Brenda Thornton, and Past President Hilma Gaskins.

The club's foundation board consists of President Cheryl Canova, Treasurer Sylvia Tatum, Vice President/Secretary Mary Kramer, Director Sylvia Reddish, Club President Seyfang, Immediate Past President Gaskins and Ex Officio Advisor Martha Epps.



LEFT: Steve Futch chats with Jennifer Vaughan. BELOW LEFT: Brandi Noegel and Mike Reddish. BELOW RIGHT: Scott and Kim Roberts.



# BHS

Continued from page 14

run by Jenkins resulted in a first down at the Bradford 35, the Tornados were flagged twice for being offsidelines and once for roughing the passer, helping the Raiders advance to the 11-yard line. Jamar Walker had a 6-yard run before Davis found the end zone on a 5-yard run. A holding penalty negated the

score and pushed the Raiders back to the 18-yard line, where they faced third-and-17. After an incomplete pass, Jenkins was sacked by Cole Crosby for a 9-yard loss on fourth down.

The second half was played with a running clock, which resulted in each team having just two offensive possessions.

Bradford added the game's final score on a six-play, 41-yard drive that was capped by an 18-

yard touchdown run by Damarian Hankerson. Hankerson, who also had a 14-yard run on the drive, finished with 29 yards on three carries.

It was a night where every player had the chance to contribute.

"We got everybody in the game tonight," Rodgers said. "Everybody got playoff experience. That's awesome."

# KHHS opens boys soccer season with 4-0 victory

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Four players scored one goal each for the Keystone Heights High School boys soccer team, which defeated visiting Trenton 4-0 on Nov. 11 to start the regular season.

Skylar Kedgley, Pelayo Martinez, Logan Spence and Aaron Wiley each had a goal, with Spence also recording an assist.

Luis Perez led the team in assists with two, while Liam Callahan added one.

Goalkeeper Carson Eatmon made two saves.

The Indians played Christ's

Church Academy this past Monday and will travel to play Palatka on Friday, Nov. 18, at 7:20 p.m.

# KHHS girls get 7 goals from Shaw in win

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Kiersten Shaw scored all but one of her team's goals in the Keystone Heights High School girls soccer team's 8-2 win over visiting Trenton on Nov. 11.

Ella Hutchins was credited with assists on four of Shaw's goals and finished with a goal herself.

Alee Horton and Carly Rogers each had an assist.

Goalkeepers Miranda Yow and Aspen Krohn made five and four saves, respectively.

Keystone (2-1) suffered its first loss on Nov. 14 in Jacksonville, falling 8-0 to host Christ's Church Academy. Hutchins made five saves in goal.

The Indians played Crescent City and Clay on Nov. 15 and Nov. 16.

# KHHS boys hoops season begins Nov. 22

BY CLIFF SMELLEY  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Keystone Heights High School opens the boys basketball regular season with a road game against Stanton on Tuesday, Nov. 22, at 7:30 p.m.

It will be the first of three straight road games. The Indians play Interlachen on Tuesday, Nov. 29, at 7:30 p.m. and Oak Hall on Friday, Dec. 2, at 7 p.m.

# MCBRIDE

Continued from page 11

Corum are tied for second in the nation in rushing touchdowns with 17 each, leaving them trailing Minnesota's Mohamed Ibrahim, who has 18. McBride is also second in the nation in total rushing yards (1,407), leaving him trailing Illinois' Chase Brown (1,442).

McBride, over the course of 28 games, is the NCAA's active career leader in yards per rush (7.1) and rushing yards per game (114.9).

The Blazers' star back missed the first game of the season, but returned to rush for 177 yards

and one touchdown on 20 carries in a 21-14 loss to Liberty on Sept. 10. McBride's longest run covered 56 yards.

In a 35-21 win over Georgia Southern on Sept. 17, McBride rushed for 223 yards and four touchdowns on 28 carries. His longest run gained 47 yards.

McBride rushed for 121 yards and one touchdown on 27 carries in a 28-24 loss to Rice on Oct. 1, while on Oct. 8, he gained 120 yards and scored three touchdowns on 12 carries in a 41-14 win over Middle Tennessee. His day against Middle Tennessee included a 45-yard run.

On Oct. 15, McBride rushed for 137 yards and two scores on

29 carries in a 34-20 win over Charlotte. He gained 200 yards on 24 carries in a 20-17 loss to Western Kentucky on Oct. 21 and rushed for 168 yards and a touchdown on 24 carries in a 24-17 loss to FAU on Oct. 29.

McBride finished with 141 yards and two scores on 19 carries in a 44-38 double-overtime loss to UTSA on Nov. 5.

The Western Kentucky, FAU and UTSA games saw McBride break free for runs of 64, 63 and 68 yards.

UAB (5-5) will travel to take on sixth-ranked LSU on Saturday, Nov. 19, at 8 p.m. The game will be televised on ESPN2.

# Waldo Car Show

# SUNDAY Toy Drive

## Dec 11th 2022

**"WALDO CITY SQUARE" WALDO, FL**  
14450 NE 148th Ave

**Dec. 11th from 10am-to-2pm Awards at 2:30!**

- Registration from 8am-10am
- This is an open show for Cars, Trucks & Motorcycles
- Food & Refreshments on site and Live DJ
- \$15 Entry fee or bring a new toy for Santa to deliver.

**CONTACT 352-283-5038**

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Now in its second year, SF Achieve, a partnership between Santa Fe College and the public schools in Alachua and Bradford counties, supports the belief that College is for Everyone. The program provides students with mentorship inside their high schools – coaching them on career exploration, college prep, financial aid and more. SF Achieve also offers financial support to make these dreams come true.

Connect with your school's SF Achieve specialist to learn more, [sfcollege.edu/achieve](http://sfcollege.edu/achieve).

# THEATER

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# Listings on the Lake

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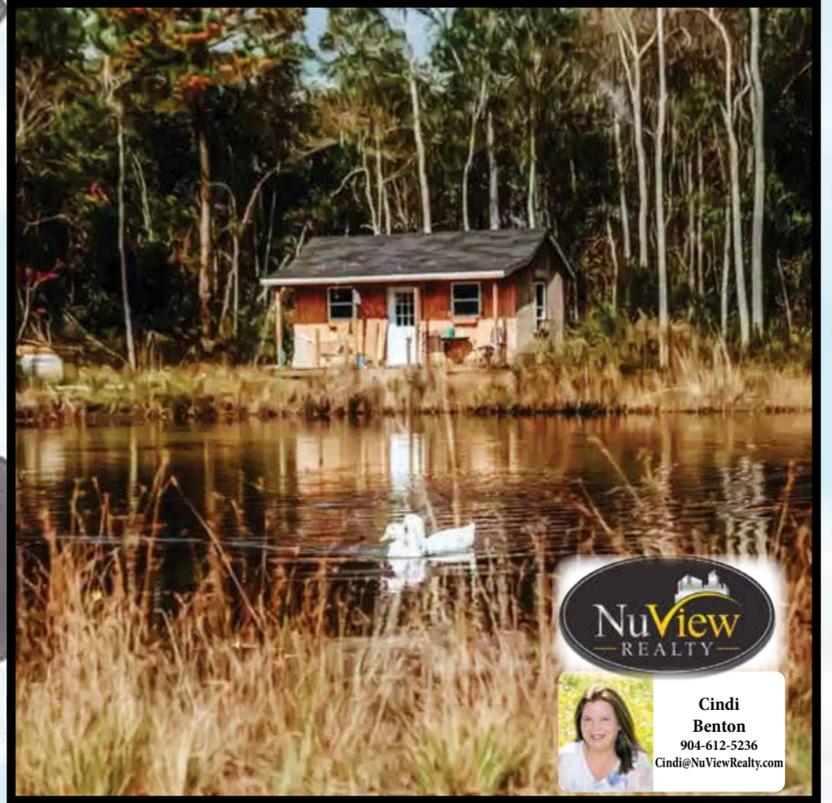
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Justis Smith  
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**2448 SE 30TH ST, MELROSE, FL 32666**

Breathtaking views from this beautiful lot with sprawling oaks and fruit trees. Sound concrete block house just waiting for you to turn it into your dream lake home! New dock, seller will finish with right offer. Drive your boat right up to your back yard! The possibilities are endless!! Low milage rate and on dead end street. This is a once in a lifetime chance to own a home on Santa Fe Lake! Santa Fe is a sparkling 5,850-acre expanse that actually divided into two lakes, Santa Fe Lake and Little Santa Fe Lake, this watery playground is connected and easily navigable by boat. The lake is spring-fed and feeds into the Santa Fe River, which eventually empties into the Suwannee River. One of the larger Florida lakes. **Justis Smith 352-258-4619**

**\$495,000**

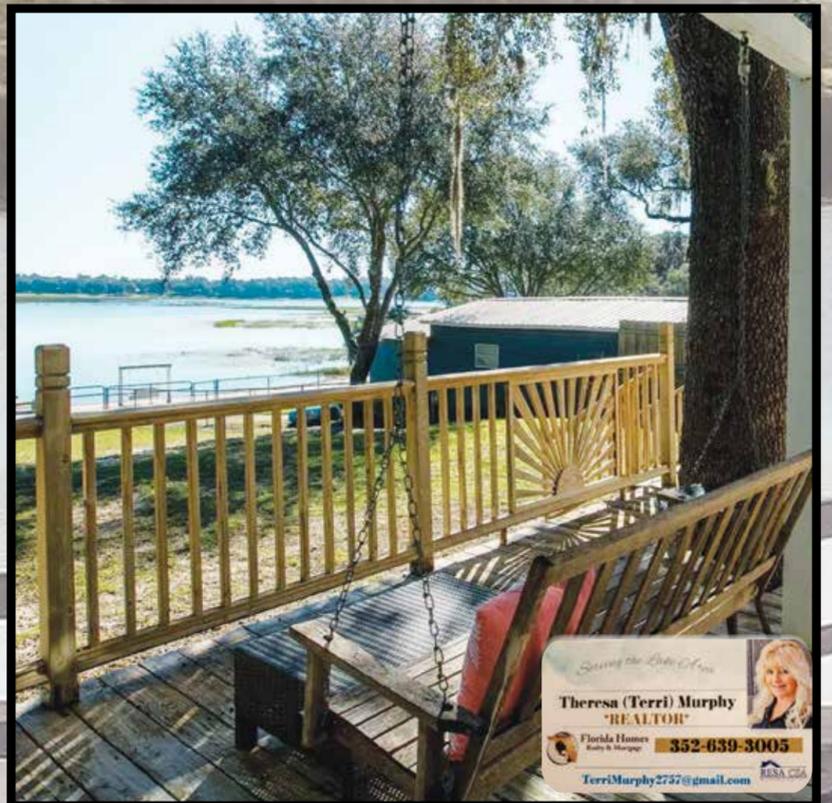
**5697 State Road 21 • Keystone Heights, FL**

46 ACRES of Heaven! A HOMESTEADED, working farm with a 1/1 Cabin. 4, 320sf Barn with living qtrs of 4 BR's & 3 Baths. Sleeps 11! Barn has separate workshop & garage areas. Pond has THREE Springs & is 12' at deepest point. And Fiona, the Goose, has her own sleeping quarters too. She does not convey! 6+ acres fenced & cross fenced for horses, cattle, goats. There is a large Chicken Coop! Trails through out property. 15 acres Conservation, you can play, hike, hunt, just can't build on it, & has a small creek from Devil's Den, part of Black Creek. TWO- 200 amp Service Poles; 2 H2O heaters in Barn and huge laundry, pantry in #3 bathroom. 2 Yr old YORK HVAC units in Barn;

**\$875,000**



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**Theresa (Terri) Murphy REALTOR**  
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WELCOME TO THE LAKEHOUSE! Two homes sit on over 3 acres with white sand beach and dock. Main home has 3 bedrooms and 2 baths and 2nd home has 2 bedrooms, 1 bath with full kitchen, living room and inside laundry. Priceless to have family close or great as Airbnb. Beside the stunning views and relaxed atmosphere this property has a 4 car garage, whole house generator, greenhouse and gorgeous lanai. Very private, yet close to town. Call or text Deirdre 352 281-3026 to schedule a tour today!

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**\$355,000**