

Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

Thursday, Dec. 14, 2023

145th year, 22nd Issue — \$1

BHS IS STATE RUNNER UP



Head Coach Jamie Rodgers and the Tornadoes pose with the Class 2S state runner-up trophy after a 20-6 loss to Cocoa on Dec. 8 in Tallahassee. Bradford was making its first state-championship appearance since 1985. See inside for more. Photo by Cliff Smelley.



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WORTH NOTING

Overpass work continues into new year

Florida Department of Transportation confirmed that construction related to the Starke Railroad Overpass will continue into the new year.

Community Outreach Specialist Nathan Pick is expected to be complete in early 2024, weather and unforeseen circumstances permitting.

Pick said the contractor is currently working toward the completion of new roundabouts for local traffic at the intersections on Thompson and Cherry streets.

The one-way frontage roads to allow local traffic to access Cherry, Church, Thompson, and Walnut streets are still under construction.

The project also includes resurfacing multiple streets and parking lots.

Construction began on the \$23.6 million in summer 2020 and was originally expected to be complete by late 2022.

Food distribution in Starke

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Feeding Northeast Florida and True Vine Ministry will take place Tuesday, Dec. 19, at 9 a.m. at the Bradford fairgrounds in Starke.

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

Food distribution at True Vine

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Farm Share and True Vine Ministry will take Tuesday, Dec. 26, at 10 a.m. at True Vine Outreach Ministry in Starke.

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

New hub opening

Bradford Community Partners Health and Wellness Resource Hub is opening a new location in Lawtey at Tatum Bros. Park on Thursday, Dec. 14, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. There will be free access to many resources as well as free health screenings. No appointment necessary.

The hub will be open in the Lawtey recreation center ever second Thursday of the month.

Fresh food Dec. 19

Gleaners Dispatch Inc. and Lifeline Ministries are working together on a fresh food giveaway set for Tuesday, Dec. 19, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Location is 325 N. Christian Street in Starke.

School grades will serve baseline for future years

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

It was an A for Clay, a B for Union and a C for Bradford when the state released district and school grades earlier this week.

Following last year's transition, the state testing system focuses on progress monitoring rather than a single, high-stakes test at the end of the year. Florida's Assessment of Student Thinking, or the FAST test, replaced with the prior test with three exams taken at the beginning, middle and end of year.

According to the Florida Department of Education, "FAST is a progress monitoring system that provides teachers, students and parents real-time, immediate and actionable data at the beginning, middle and end of the school year to drive student improvement. Florida was the first state in the nation to establish a system using progress monitoring."

The grades for the 2022-23 school year will carry no negative consequences for schools in the first year. Instead, they will serve as a

baseline to compare future years. However, improving a previous grade may result in school recognition or exiting turnaround status.

Schools and districts will now use their 2022-23 baseline grades from the FAST assessment to make changes in instructional practices that will lead to better outcomes for students, according to DOE.

"These school grades serve as a baseline for districts and provide a starting point for future achievement," said Commissioner of Education Manny Diaz, Jr. "I look forward to seeing schools rise to the occasion as they continue to provide Florida students a first-rate education."

In implementing the new system, the legislature required that the initial school grading scale for 2022-23 informational baseline school grades be set so that the percentage of schools that earn an A through F is statistically equivalent to the 2021-22 school grades results.

See GRADES, page 7

Residents oppose Providence RV park

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Special to the Times

LAKE BUTLER —The proposed location of an RV park in Providence has been a frequently and hotly debated topic at meetings of the Union County Board of County Commissioners for several months, with a large number of residents of that area speaking up during the public comment portions of the meetings, with almost all seeming to be opposed to the project.

The proposed park, and the special exception it required, were approved by the commission in 2019. Since then, there has been little done on the project until recently when some preliminary site work had been done. Property owner Delbert Smith appeared before the board several months ago to seek approval of a variation/update of the site plan that was submitted in 2019 when the project was approved, stating his intent to actively proceed with the project now. The board had already been discussing RV parks and its desire that none be located in the county due to the increased demand

for county services such as an enterprise would create, with little compensation to the county through ad valorem taxes to fund the services.

With the previous discussions of the board in mind, as well as the large number of residents in opposition to the project, commissioners found themselves faced with several questions concerning the park. There is no provision in the land development regulations that allows an approved project to be later disallowed, even after the passage of several years. After much discussion, it was decided to consult with David Theriaque, the attorney who handled most of the property rights and land use issues associated with the proposed phosphate mining issue in the past. Theriaque came to the board's last regular meeting in November to give the board some options on dealing with the situation, which he reiterated at the special meeting held on December 7.

See RV PARK, page 7

Christmas on Call Street



Northside Baptist Church told the Christmas story with its float in Starke's annual parade. For more from the parade and other holiday events, see inside.



Property swap means new veterans park, housing development

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

Starke commissioners are following through with a land trade that will make way for a new townhome development and move veterans park closer to the

Downtown Square.

Dwight Hewett of The Doran Jason Group of Florida and engineer Chris Raley, president of Sustainable Construction Group, presented the plan to commissioners in October,

requesting a property swap to raise the number of townhomes to make the project viable.

The 45 modern and environmentally sustainable townhomes known as Citywalk is part of a plan to revitalize the

Call Street corridor.

Some continued to oppose the swap because they didn't want Charles Schaefer Veterans Memorial Park moved. Businessman and veteran Albert Mize told the commission that support for veterans should be showcased, and that is what having the park on "Main Street" does. He didn't want to see it tucked away behind a housing complex. Instead, he wanted the city to "stop the swap" and purchase the adjoining properties to expand it.

Commissioner Andy Redding said the intent was to improve the park, not minimize its importance or the importance of the community's veterans. Since a move was first proposed, veterans have come to support the plan because the park is staying on Call Street.

"This piece of property with this swap will substantially improve the veterans park ... that will be downtown by the square where we can showcase and celebrate all of our veterans," Redding said.

Something Redding has pointed out in the past is that the park doesn't feature all conflicts and hasn't been updated in years. Norman Dowdy, commander of American Legion Post 56, agreed this was an opportunity to

upgrade the park with additional monuments.

Speaker Carl Peterson criticized the supposedly "broke" city spending additional money, and he and Deborah Mize both said there was a lack of public knowledge about what was happening. Progress isn't always good, Deborah Mize said, and like politics everywhere, money was doing the talking.

John Cruz, JROTC instructor for Bradford schools, is someone whose opinion changed when the city sat down with veterans to discuss the plan. That resulted in an overwhelming vote of support by members of the American Legion. Cruz said he supported them.

"My cadets participate in multiple events down there, and I think it'd be better at the new location, which is less than a block away," Cruz said, adding the park will remain visible from Call Street.

Redding said the result of the city and veterans sharing their points of view is a shared vision to celebrate the contributions of local veterans.

Commissioners Danny Nugent and Shannon Smith wanted some assurance that if the property swap were approved, the former park property would be used to develop the Citywalk

project as presented by Hewett and Raley. Hewett confirmed their commitment to townhome development. They asked the city attorney to include a copy of the site plan with the resolution.

Hewett also reminded the board that veterans and first responders would be among the prioritized groups offered housing along with teachers and nurses.

"We want to honor the veterans, too, by saying here's an opportunity for you to have a nice home in this town, where you can walk to the downtown merchants like Mr. and Mrs. Mize, and other merchants. We think this is a fantastic opportunity for not only for us, but also for the veterans and for the city of Starke," he said.

Commissioners voted 4-0 to move forward with the agreement, with Mayor Scott Roberts absent.

City attorney Clay Walker explained that the property swap isn't final until the city approves the site plan. The city must also rezone the property.

Hewett said as soon as the permitting process with the city and water management district is complete, they are ready to get started on construction.



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Alligator Creek Garden Club of Starke will hold its December meeting at the Bradford County Senior Center. The club welcomes visitors and new members to join them in decorating Christmas trees for senior citizens. Pictured above are (front, left to right) Pat Caren, Ginger Dixon, Kathy Still, Gloria Spengler, Kathy Agan, (back) Dottie Yarbrough, Tracy Meadows, Tom Meadows and Paul Still.

Decorate trees for seniors

Alligator Creek Garden Club invites the community to join in a Christmas decorating celebration and open house on Thursday, Dec. 14 at 2 p.m. at the Bradford County Senior Center, 1805 N.

Temple Ave. in Starke. The club will be decorating miniature Christmas trees for Windsor Manner.

Guests are welcome to bring a dish or beverage to share,

inexpensive holiday trim or mini decorations or even a few more small (12 inches and under) trees to decorate.

Lawtey Christmas Parade

Lawtey's Christmas Parade will take place Saturday, Dec. 16, beginning at 10 a.m. Come enjoy the lineup of classic cars, church and community floats, horses, Santa and more. The parade travels from Lawtey Elementary School, east down Lake Street (C.R. 225) and turns around at Walk by Faith Ministries.

There will be a gathering at the home of Ben and Emma Strong with free food and drinks while they last. For more information, contact Ben Strong at 904-782-3130 or Cynthia Ross at 904-782-3107.

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- 55-Jacob Ferguson
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- 65-Kyren Green
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Lake Region

Woman's Club wins judge's choice for Christmas parade

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
General Manager

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — The Keystone Heights Woman's Club won the Judges' Choice Award for the 2023 Kiwanis Christmas Parade, edging out the Starling Family, who were runners-up.

Other winners were:

Best marching unit: Keystone Heights High School JROTC, runner up: Keystone Heights High School Flag Corps; Most original: New Grace Baptist Church, Second place: American Heritage Girls Troup 7884;

Closest to the theme: Keystone Sports Association, Runner up:

Lake Hill Baptist Church; Best business entry: Keystone Heights Animal Hospital, Second place: Lake Area Watersports; Best youth entry: Keystone Heights High School Basketball, Second place: Keystone Heights Elementary School Indian Sound Chorus.



Matt Butler instructs the American Girls walkers from Gadara Baptist Church before the parade (L-r) Sophie Candelario Garcia, Blake Skelton, Naema Wilson and Bailey Stroud. On the far right is Rachel Dorer. Photo: Dan Hildebran.

Live nativity at Melrose church

Believer's Worship Center Church of God invites you and your family on a journey to Bethlehem to find baby Jesus. The live reenactment of the nativity will take place on three nights, Dec. 21, 22 and 23, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The church is located at 8736 State Road 21 in Melrose.



Keith Hatch as Santa Claus visits with Keystone Heights Rotary Club President (right) Heather Davis and (l-r) Miranda and Paige Davis. Photo: Dan Hildebran



Riding with American Legion Post 202 are (l-r) Cathy Harland, Debra Owen, Pat Farnsworth, Skylar Cantrell, Joanna Clance, and Chip Nilson. Photo: Dan Hildebran.

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Aboard the Clay County Public Schools bus are (l-r) Melissa Savoy, Chase Kirk, Mandy Cordingley, Lyla Todd, Samantha Streib, Ashlyn Kirk, Lori Warren, Erin Forrester, Everly Rhodes, Sarabeth Forrester, and Lalanadilla Dillard. Photo: Dan Hildebran.

ATTENTION VOTERS IN BRADFORD & UNION COUNTIES

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

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

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

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

If you have any questions, please call us.

Amanda Seyfang
Bradford County
Supervisor of Elections

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UNION COUNTY

Santa visits Raiford for breakfast

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Special to the Times

LAKEBUTLER — The City of Raiford held its annual Breakfast with Santa event last Saturday, Dec. 9 at the Raiford Community Center. Mayor Lamar Griffis and his wife, Councilwoman Bonita Griffis staffed the serving line, filling plates with freshly made pancakes and sausage links. The grown-ups seemed to enjoy their breakfast, but the youngsters all seemed too excited to eat as they eyed the line to sit on Santa's lap and get a bag of candy and a gift — selected for them by several elves on site to assist Santa. A long table filled with gifts supplied the elves with plenty to choose from.

This event is a tradition in Raiford and is paid for by the commission, with city funds, as well as donations from the community. In total, more than 100 people attended the event, and everyone who came to see the "Jolly Old Elf" got their wish. With less than two weeks until Christmas, it was a great start to the holiday spirit in Raiford.



Hudson Crawford was one of the first to sit on Santa's knee.



Glenn and Sierra Alston seem to enjoy sitting on Santa's lap.

Lake Butler Christmas Parade

The 2023 Lake Butler Christmas Parade has been scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 16, at 6 p.m. This year's theme is "A Classic Christmas." Choose any of your favorite classic Christmas movies or cartoons to create your float.

Entry forms are available at Lake Butler City Hall and online at www.cityoflakebutler.com. Return forms by Wednesday, Dec. 13.

The parade will line up along Northeast Third Street, travel to Northwest Sixth Street where it will turn left, and then right on Main Street, ending at Southeast Fifth Avenue.



Councilwoman Bonita Griffis hands a young guest her pancakes while Mayor Lamar Griffis gets ready to serve the sausage.



Ryelynn Blackford and Isabella Perez got to tell Santa exactly what they want for Christmas.



Maddison Mackenzie, Holden Webb and Courtnei Peugh, members of LBMS' new debate team.

New team travels to debate

Three Lake Butler Middle School students competed against over 200 other students at the FCDI Northeast Civics and Debate Competition on Dec. 2.

Civics and Debate Team President Holden Webb and Courtnei Peugh, both eighth-graders, and sixth-grader Maddison Mackenzie competed in three rounds in the competition hosted at River City Science Academy in Jacksonville.

Webb competed in Impromptu Speech - Middle, which is a type of speech that is written and delivered while at the competition. Peugh competed in Informative Speech - Middle, delivering a prepared speech on myths of the brain. Mackenzie competed in Original Oratory - Middle, which is a prepared speech no more than 10 minutes in length. Her speech focused on the harmful effects of global warming and countries that are trying to reach "Net Zero."

Superintendent of Union County Schools Mike Ripplinger saw the students and their coach, Alexa Menz, off in front of the school early that morning, calling the moment "history in the making" for several reasons. It was the students' first time competing, the team is new to the school, and the Civics and Debate Initiative is a relatively new program for Florida.

While LBMS students did not place at the awards ceremony, the students said they enjoyed the event and look forward to competing with more experience in February 2024 at Samuel Wolfson High School in Jacksonville.

Half of new subdivision sold out

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
General manager

LAKE BUTLER — According to county records, over half of the 19 lots in a northeast Union County subdivision platted in October have sold.

PVFLP, LLC created Pineview Ranch north of County Road 125 and east of State Road 121 on October 17.

The limited liability company, managed by Atlantic Land & Lakes Management LLC in Sarasota, divided the 192-plus acres into lots of around 10 acres each.

The single-family home subdivision is bordered by Northeast 260th Loop to the north, Northeast 269th Lane to the northeast and east, and Northeast 271st Avenue to the southwest, all county-maintained graded roads.

Joseph and Sheila Williams of Jacksonville purchased a 12-acre lot for \$139,900 on November 10.

Kirit and Nutan Patidar of Jacksonville bought a 10-acre parcel on September 5 for \$109,900.

Kary T. Pham of Homestead purchased a 10-acre lot on November 3 for \$74,900.

Nickerson Soulouque and Carmelle Kimberly Cime of Thiells, New York, bought a 10-acre lot on November 3 for \$69,900.

Stephen and Shandell Yearwood of Riverview obtained their 10-acre lot on November 3 for \$72,900.

Mauricio and Yareida Cabezas of Miami bought a 10-acre lot on November 3 for \$94,900.

Karthikeyan Selvaraj and Laavanya Natesan of Tampa purchased a 10-acre lot on November 3 for \$79,900.

Sioban McDermott of Indialantic bought a 10-acre parcel on November 3 for \$79,900.

John F. Wetzel of St. Cloud bought a 10-acre lot on November 3 for \$77,900.

April M. Stanford of Orlando bought a 10-acre lot on November 3 for \$94,900, and Arturo Sosa and Martha

Osorio of Tamarac purchased a 10-acre lot on November 1 for \$72,900.

PVFLP bought the 192-acre tract from Weyerhaeuser on September 5 for \$2,858 an acre. It is now selling the lots for between \$6,990 and \$11,658 an acre.

All 11 sales were recorded in county records on or before November 11, within a month of the neighborhood's creation, and no mortgages have been recorded on any of the lots.

Sales and use tax warrants filed for 4.

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
General Manager

The Florida Department of Revenue filed sales and use tax warrants on four Union County businesses on November 15.

According to county records, the state claimed Florida Innovative Septic Services, LLC failed to remit \$29,695.63 in tax, penalties, interest, and fees to the state. The department filed similar warrants for Johnny Witt Welch for \$70,079.90, Marvin Seay for \$1,086.46, and Esford, Inc. for \$1,794.78.

The department issues warrants to secure payment of delinquent taxes. After recording the warrants in official records, they become liens on the taxpayer's real and personal property in the county.

UCHS Class of '74 reunion

Union County's Class of 1974 will celebrate 50 years on Saturday, June 22, 2024. Save the date. The reunion will take place at 3 p.m. at Lake Butler Community Center. Additional details are forthcoming.

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RF23

County sticks with planning council for now

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — The issue of Bradford County's planning services has been settled for at least a few months.

A split vote renewed the contract with North Central Florida Regional Planning Council through Sept. 30, 2024, over objections that the agency is less responsive and may be understaffed.

Some commissioners and county staff wanted CHW Professional Consultants to take over planning. The engineering firm already has a continuing services contract and successful partnership with the county.

Some members for the public following the process to update the county's mining regulations saw this as a bad time to change planning consultants and worried about potential conflicts if a firm with private clients was also drafting the county's land development regulations.

The regional planning council has provided these services for 30 years, according to Executive Director Scott Koons, who cut Bradford County's costs to \$13,000 in the new contract based on the reduced number of applications and amendments processed in recent years. It continued providing services, even though the prior agreement

expired Sept. 30 and Bradford hadn't committed to another year.

Commissioner Danny Riddick was in full support of sticking with the planning council, having served on multiple boards for the council over the years. If determined to change consultants, Riddick said the county should be professional by waiting another year and give the agency adequate notice.

"Mr. Koons, you've been great. I've worked with you a lot. We've been to a lot of meetings together. And you know, I just appreciate you," Riddick said.

"It's the right thing," Commission Chair Carolyn Spooner said, listing the agency's many services, which the county would receive for a reduced price. It is a more conservative approach for the county's budget, she said, and staying the course would allow the board to complete work on pending amendments to the comprehensive plan and land development regulations.

Commission Chris Dougherty said the county previously had a tenured engineer, but staff would agree that the services provided since contracting with CHW have been "next level."

According to staff, Dougherty said the planning council's service level has not been satisfactory.

Because they are already under contract with the county, he said the board could take advantage of the engineering firm's planning services without having to advertise a request for qualifications from other

providers.

"I just have no doubt that they'll continue to provide the next level services for us as we move forward," he said.

Spooner, however, said to avoid the appearance of any conflict of interest, the board should keep its planning and engineering services separate.

Commissioner Diane Andrews said one of the reasons she had considered changing is that she didn't feel like she received honest answers to questions about proposed revisions so mining regulations — a matter that still hasn't been resolved.

"I think it is extremely important that when we discuss these things, that the truth be known about what's going on in these policies. Since this subject has come up, all of a sudden, it's become a conspiracy, and that's not what it is at all," she said. The board is just trying to determine if there is a better way to get the work done, she said.

"We've always worked to provide the county our best professional recommendation," Koons said, "but at the end of the day, most of the decisions you make related to comprehensive planning and zoning matters, land development regulations, are policy decisions by this board. It is the responsibility of this board to oversee those for this county. And at the end of the day, if you need to make revisions or feel revisions are perfect for your community, we will assist you making those revisions. We've always done that. We've given you a recommendation. If you haven't accepted a

recommendation and you want to change it, we change it to meet your final policy decision."

County Manager Scott Kornegay said the commission has made economic development and job growth its top priority. In addition to helping fund the extension of Starke water and wastewater to the bypass, he said the county would also like someone to help envision what that multiuse development could look like. He asked Koons if the planning council was capable of that.

Koons said the planning council is already working with the city of Starke on the zoning and future land use amendments to make way for development at the interchange of S.R. 16 and the bypass.

"The regional planning council is a U.S. Department of Commerce designated economic development district. We maintain and develop an economic strategy for the region that's reviewed and updated every five years, which does focus on diversifying the economy of Bradford County and surrounding counties," Koons said.

He said it would ultimately be up to the private landowners to determine what type of development in which to invest, but the county could rely on its engineer to envision what that could look like.

There were also questions about size and location of the planning council's staff. They have eight staff members, Koons said, and they work in a hybrid remote scenario, which includes

time in the office, traveling and working from home. Over the past three or four years, they have found it to be an efficient approach. Their clients are the counties and cities they serve in north Florida. They provide support to county staff in the background rather than work directly with the public.

Dougherty was concerned both about paying for unutilized office space and the inability to get information unless it first comes through Koons.

Commissioners did not agree on the responsiveness of the planning council or on the feedback they've received from other governments working with the council.

Craig Brashier, director of planning for CHW, said they would love the opportunity to grow their relationship with Bradford County, highlighting the firm's many disciplines, including planning, engineering and construction services. Master plans and renderings like the one Kornegay mentioned is something they do regularly, Brashier said, mentioning a downtown plan they are working on for Crescent City.

"Not only can we provide the graphics that we have in house landscape architecture and design, as well as engineering and planning, but all those come together to make sure that the images we produce are code compliant, constructible product," he said.

Spooner pointed out CHW could provide that service as the county's engineer without taking over planning services.

As for Spooner's concerns about additional costs, Brashier said their services are provided on an as-needed basis. A greater need could lead to greater cost, but the county isn't committed to spending anything.

A motion by Dougherty and seconded by Commissioner Kenny Thompson to use CHW for planning services failed with three votes against it. Spooner, Riddick and Andrews instead voted to retain North Central Florida Regional Planning Council.

Andrews said they could take the year to evaluate the planning council's services. Riddick said they could begin discussions in June. Dougherty said when that time comes, they should advertise a request for qualifications and use the time to evaluate the options before the next contract cycle begins.

Addressing his former employment by CHW, Dougherty said he is a commissioner now and hasn't worked for the company for years. However, he can advocate for them as "an outstanding firm in everything they do."

Despite the decreased contract cost, he said the board would still expect a high level of service from the planning council, and Kornegay said he would work more closely with the planning department and the management of this contract.

"That way, I think there might be some might be a better relationship. We might get more effective and efficient service from them," Kornegay said.

GRADES

Continued from page 1

Each local district, Bradford, Clay and Union maintained the same district grade in 2023 as 2022, but there were some changes among the individual school grades.

School grades

Bradford
Achieving 42% of total possible points, Starke Elementary School earned a C in 2023, which was down from a B the year before.

Bradford Elementary School achieved 43% of the points, which includes points for English, math and science performance. The school also earned a C, but this

was an improvement over last year's D.

Lawtey Elementary School jumped two grades to earn a B in 2023. The school achieved 59% of total possible points to improve from a D. A few more percentage points would have been enough for an A.

Middle and high schools also receive points in other categories, including social studies, performance in accelerated

coursework and graduation rate.

Bradford Middle School achieved 39% of possible points, which was only enough for a D, down from a C in 2022. The school was just one percentage point away from another C.

Bradford High School achieved 51% of possible points, which was enough to maintain its prior C grade.

English and science were the lowest scores at most school,

except for the high school, which had lower English and math scores.

Union

Lake Butler Elementary School achieved 56% of possible points, earning a B for 2023. This was down from an A the year before.

Lake Butler Middle School maintained its C with 54% of possible points. It was a few points from earning a B.

Union County High School was even closer to an A, but fell just short earning another B.

The school had higher scores in math and science.

Clay

With 57% of points, Keystone Heights Elementary School also earned a high B. This was the second B in row.

McRae Elementary School raised its grade to an A, achieving 67% of possible points.

Keystone Heights Junior/Senior High School also raised its grade to an A with 67% of possible points.

The highest achievement among the schools was in math and science.

RV PARK

Continued from page 1

Before Theriaque's comments, several citizens of the Providence area spoke to the commission during the public comment segment of the meeting.

Asher Sullivan told the board that he had looked into everything concerning the RV park and questioned the board members as to "how did the board (in 2019) vote on something that it did not have the authority to vote on."

Clint Wilson said he couldn't understand how the board could approve something with such a negative impact on the community. "The commissioners are elected to represent the community, and the community does not want this," he said. He said he understood the board was worried about a lawsuit if they rescinded the approval on the project, but considering the community's negative impact, the citizens may need to get an attorney and sue the county for not doing its job.

Justin Ltoso said he also did not want the RV Park in the county and expressed his fear that its presence would cause and increase in crime and drug activity in the area.

Randall Wagoneer, who said he would be the park manager, told commissioners that the business would bring revenue to the county, which it had often been stated as being needed. He said it would be a short-term RV park, not a drug hazard.

Ramon Garcia Cruz asked about what would happen if the park were sold sometime in the future and was no longer locally owned. "Things can and will change," he said.

James Marshall said he had been a resident of Providence for 30 years and that he did not feel that the owners were capable of running an RV park. "Providence is a community, and the community does not want this," he said.

Walter Tovkach said that he lived about a mile outside of Providence and feels that it is unlikely that the owners will get permits for the water and

septic for the park, saying they would not be granted if they were applied for properly. He said that an essentially transient population was a large potential problem and that a place where transients were living would not be conducive to the community. He warned the board that it may see litigation if the project is allowed to go forward.

Jed Douglas said he hoped the board would do the right thing for the citizens. He said that he lived right across the road from the future park location and was worried about his three children.

Patricia Harris and Greg Clyatt also stated that they hoped the board would do the right thing and prevent a negative impact on county resources.

When Theriaque spoke to the board, he reminded them of the four options he had given them at the previous meeting — 1) do nothing; 2) make a motion to rescind the special exception; 3) not rescind the motion but require the owner to comply with the original site plan from March 2019; or 4) amend the land use regulations to allow the project. He said the legal ad, which appeared in the Union County Times on Thursday, March 14, 2019 was clear as to what was to be decided upon and that there had been no citizen outcry about the project then. He also noted that if the board rescinded the approval, Smith might file suit against the county in circuit court, with the county's main defense being the improper

approval. He said that such a lawsuit would be based on the fact that the 2019 approval was "quasi-judicial" and that state law gave the owner only 30 days from the date of the action to question the improper approval. Therefore any suit brought now would not have "legs."

Commissioner Mack Johns asked Theriaque if the county could still be sued and was answered with a yes. Theriaque added that such a lawsuit had a very remote chance of being won by Smith.

Commissioner Jimmy Tallman said that he was opposed to the 2019 action, but that he had voted along with the rest of the board at that time since there was no public response to the issue then.

"The motion was a mistake" and, while he was in favor of the second option given by Theriaque, he would like to see Smith reimbursed for what he had vested in the project, as it was caused by the board's mistake. "I don't want to see him take a huge loss when he spent the money based on the board's mistake," he said.

Theriaque said that if the majority of the board wanted to agree to this reimbursement, then they should have an attorney contact Smith and see about the cost, with receipts.

Johns said that he did not think any of what had been done in the past had been done out of malice, and credited County Coordinator Jimmy Williams with digging

up all of the history of what was done in 2019, saying "we need his position." He agreed with Tallman that the approval must be rescinded. "I grew up in trailer parks, poor ones, and such things do not bring in revenue, they will be a cost to the county."

Theriaque said he had spoken with Smith and that, while they "agreed to disagree" the conversation was amicable. The board requested him to talk with Smith to get a fair number for the amount needing to be reimbursed. The board approved unanimously to approve the cost incurred by Smith on the original (2019) plan.

"His Gift"

In the pages of history there was a time,
The joy-bells in Heaven did ring out a chime
They tell of the One that came to earth,
The only one born of a virgin birth.
He came to earth His life to give,
He came to earth that we might live.
Thank you Lord for your wonderful GIFT.

— By Henry Hodges
Lawtey, FL



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Crime

Recent arrests in Bradford, Union and Clay

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

Bradford

Raul Alexander Alvarez, 55, of Leesburg was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 9 for an out-of-county warrant.

Justin Matthew Ascii, 39, of Hollister was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 6 for burglary and trespassing.

Issaiah, Parker Byrd, 23, of Gainesville was arrested on December 4 by Bradford deputies for trespassing, aggravated assault, and burglary.

Arthur Lavern DeSue, 60, of Starke was arrested by Starke Police on December 5 for a probation violation.

Kenneth George Flournoy, 39, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 3 for a probation violation.

Janet Louise Gibbs, 41, of Hampton was arrested by Starke Police on December 3 for larceny.

Joseph Keith Griffis, 47, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 6 for possession of drugs, possession of drug equipment, and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Linda Sue Griffis, 56, of Starke was arrested by Starke Police on December 7 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Winston Dale Herring, 41, of Lawtey was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 4 for a conditional release violation and resisting an officer.

Bryant Darold Hunter, 51, of Lawtey was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 6 for failure to appear.

Karrington S. James, 33, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 6 for battery.

Joannie Johnson, 42, of Starke was arrested by Starke Police on December 6 for an out-of-county warrant.

Brad Albert Lopuhovsky, 46, of Swoyersville, Pennsylvania was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 3 for failure to appear and being an out-of-state fugitive.

Kenneth Michael Lowe, 42, of Starke was arrested by Starke Police on December 5 for a probation violation.

Roger Roblero, 27, of Ocala was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 3 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Jessica Miranda Simpson, 42, of Lake Butler was arrested by Starke Police on December 2 for child cruelty, and battery.

Robert Lee Smith, 46, of

Jacksonville was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 7 for withholding support.

Troy Lee Sturgis, 54, was arrested by Starke Police on December 4 for disorderly intoxication, resisting an officer, and simple assault.

Donald William Thomas, 66, of Starke was arrested by Starke Police on December 5 for aggravated assault and battery.

Charles Clinton Thompson, 43, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 3 for vehicle theft and dealing in stolen property.

Trashawn Lavon Thornton, 22, of Orange Park was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 2 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Robert Anthony Trinkle, 49, of Gainesville was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 5 for failure to appear.

Matthew Ryan Veigh, 27, of Largo was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 8 for DUI.

Lester Wannis Walker, 49, of Lawtey was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 9 for withholding support.

Joshua Adam Weeks, 31, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 2 for battery and resisting an officer.

Alexander Duane Wilson, 28, of Lawtey was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 7 for battery.

Barbara Michelle Winfrey, 52, of Waldo was arrested by Bradford deputies on December 8 for a probation violation.

Union

Audio Ambricio Aguilar, 44, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on December 10 for battery.

Thomas Robert Bruce, 38, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on December 5 for a probation violation.

Isabell Ann Foster, 42, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on December 10 for aggravated assault.

Bradlie Joe Seay, 29, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on December 9 for a probation violation.

Aaron B. Thompson, 43, was arrested by Union deputies on December 11 for battery.

Kenneth John Waters Jr., 38, of Green Cove Springs was arrested by Union deputies on December 11 for a probation violation.

Priscilla Joanne Watson, 37, of Macon, Georgia was arrested by Union deputies on December 5 for failure to appear.

Clay

Sam Martin Chambers, 49, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on December 8 for violating a domestic violence injunction.

Brandon Aaron Elijah Goodin, 20, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on December 5 for DUI, operating a motorcycle without a license and resisting an officer.



Cheevers

Woman pleads to abducting Hampton child

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
General manager

A woman accused of driving the getaway car in a Hampton child abduction was sentenced to three years' probation after agreeing to testify against her co-defendant.

Leilani R. Cheevers pleaded to interfering with the custody of a child. The state dropped a kidnapping charge.

According to an arrest warrant affidavit, Cheevers and her boyfriend, LeMarcus D. Rayford, went to the residence and demanded custody of Rayford's biological son.

"When (the victim) did not go, Rayford grabbed him, took him to the vehicle, and placed him inside," wrote a Bradford sheriff's detective. "When leaving, Cheevers performed a u-turn on (County Road) 221 and drove past the house again. As they were passing the residence, Rayford reached out of the window with the firearm and fired a single shot toward the direction of the residence."

Sheriff's Lt. Kevin Mueller said investigators tracked Rayford and Cheevers to Columbia County. The boy was turned over to his paternal grandparents.



Wilson

Fell asleep at the wheel, sentenced to 3 years

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
General manager

STARKE—A judge sentenced a Marion County woman to three-and-a-half years in prison after she pleaded to DUI with serious bodily injury.

After her silver Hyundai hit a culvert east of Starke on Brownlee Road, Kenyatta Kiera Wilson told police she fell asleep at the wheel and woke up,

Resource Hub grand opening Thursday

BY MELISSA PYLE
Telegraph Staff Writer

Bradford Health Department's Iana Patterson, representing Bradford Community Partners, told Lawtey council members last week the city will be hosting the newest Patterson was excited to Community Health and Wellness Resource Hub once a month.

The hub will be at Tatum Bros. Park recreation building on the second Thursday of each month. The grand opening is Dec. 14 from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Patterson said it has been a long-term goal to bring the team of community partners, businesses and volunteers to "bring resources to local neighborhoods and address the barriers to people in secluded areas".

There is no appointment necessary and some of the services offered at the grand opening of the new hub are the UF mobile unit, Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Elder Options, United Way, Hope Florida, and Feeding Northeast Florida will be presenting a cooking class at the opening.

Patterson encouraged the council to get the information out to the Lawtey community so that the resources offered will reach as many people as possible.

The Resource Hub needs individual volunteers, and Patterson stressed the need for organizations like churches, businesses and local governments to volunteer to help citizens navigate the services offered. Patterson said they do have a Facebook page where people can find out more information about what is being offered at the hub each month. (Search for Bradford Community Partners Health and Wellness Resource Hub.)

Generators, signs and security

There were two other public comments, each addressed Lawtey safety concerns. Citizen Mercier asked about the generators owned by the city, one at the water treatment plant and one sitting by the city building. He wanted to make sure they are routinely serviced. City Clerk Lisa Harley responded that they are serviced regularly. Later in

the meeting Harley said she does need to call the electrician to service and connect the generator that would provide emergency power to city hall.

Mercier also asked about new street signs. He wanted to know if they could "be proactive in getting the signs made through the state" instead of waiting to order them when there is a crew to do the work of installation. He suggested that signs are not going to take up too much space and could be stored in one of the buildings. Harley said there was no room to store signs in any of the city buildings. Councilwoman Debra Norman suggested using recreation building storage for this purpose, Harley said it was too full, but space could be made there if the recreation storage area was cleaned out.

Mercier concluded his remarks by also requesting they include "old business" on the agenda. He would like updates to be given on issues brought to the council in previous meetings, as well as progress done on resolving them.

Citizen Vyunda Strong wanted an update on safety issues she previously presented to the council. Strong expressed great concern for the security of the city's water treatment plant. She suggested that without a good locking door and security system, the Lawtey water system is open to attacks.

Mayor Jimmie Scott responded by saying there is a grant out to help small communities update water systems. Strong suggested simple and inexpensive fixes that can be done immediately. Scott said they could begin routine security checks as well as analyze the security of the current locks and doors, per Strong's suggestions.

Legal fee reimbursement

One item of lengthy discussion on the agenda was the request for the reimbursement of attorney's fees. Councilwoman Amy Blom made a motion to approve the request, but Councilwoman Virginia Warner wanted to address Councilwoman Emily Hoffman and the city attorney, Aaron Dukes, about the high costs and the validity of them being reimbursed.

Warner said she was only questioning the fees because they seemed high and were for a filing that was dismissed due to its lack of merit. Dukes stated that the fees were fair for the services rendered and Hoffman responded that the only reason she had to hire an attorney was to respond to an ethics complaint by five other people. Hoffman said each of the five complaints had to be addressed separately and this explained the higher amount.

Hoffman explained that she did not start the investigation and said it frustrated her that city time and money was used to file these complaints and investigations.

After much discussion, the fees were voted to be submitted for an insurance reimbursement, but the city has a \$2,500 deductible. The total for the fees charged was \$4,770.

Housekeeping

The remainder of the meeting was used to discuss some basic housekeeping issues like the purchase of a new office computer, sidewalks, and tree removal. The request for the purchase of an office computer was approved at \$2,200.

Streets and sanitation gave an update on the sidewalks that have been in the works for years. The council voted to adopt the interlocal agreement with the county for the sidewalk design. The plan is to design and install sidewalks on Park and Adams streets. These sidewalks will provide safe walking access to the school.

The tree bid was presented and approved at \$53,900. The trees are in danger of falling in future storms and the need to remove them is an immediate safety concern. There was a total of eight bids submitted. Terry McCarthy Tree Services was selected for the tree removal job. Harley said the company stated they could start work as soon as possible.

The police department presented the cost of front-end repairs completed on a 2019 Dodge Charger. These repairs were approved at the price of \$1,846. The department also thanked the Pink Lady Auxiliary for the donation of emergency kits.

realizing she had been in a crash. She told police that one of her two passengers was moaning in the back seat while the other was on the ground behind her vehicle.

She said she tried to drag the ejected passenger back toward her car but couldn't, and after failing to flag down another motorist, she spotted a Starke police officer in the driveway of St. Matthews Church. Wilson told the officer the crash occurred around 15 minutes before she found police; however, based on the vehicle's engine temperature, officers determined the accident happened at least one hour prior.

The defendant told police she and her two passengers went to a Jacksonville bar on the evening of April 10, 2022, and then stopped at a Waffle House before driving toward Starke.

Wilson added that she called a friend to stay awake but that during the call, her friend fell asleep. She then fell asleep and woke up after the crash.

In a sworn complaint, police said Wilson left the roadway around 4:34 a.m. and hit a culvert. Her Hyundai flipped end-over-end four times, ejecting one passenger before coming to rest 200 feet from the original point of impact. All three occupants were transported to hospitals with non-life-threatening injuries, and a blood test on Wilson revealed a blood-alcohol level of 0.15%, nearly double the legal limit of 0.08%.

10 years for damaging child's brain

A 37-year-old Hampton man was sentenced to 10 years in prison after pleading to shaking a child so hard that swelling in the girl's head caused her brain to shift 10 millimeters to the left.

Calvin Holbert Carter was arrested on April 24 for child abuse with great bodily harm and a probation violation.

According to an arrest warrant affidavit, the defendant was the last person alone with the child before she was taken to UF Shands on Saturday, April 22, for unknown injuries.

"After evaluation by hospital staff," wrote Bradford Detective Michael Garmon in a warrant affidavit, "it was determined that (the victim) was suffering from a severe brain bleed, a 10mm right to left midline shift, cerebral herniation, brainstem compression, and cerebral edema."

The detective added that the child was rushed into neurosurgery and was medically induced into a coma after the operation.

In addition to the 10-year prison term, Judge James Colaw sentenced Carter to five years' probation, required him to submit to a DCF case plan, prohibited him from using corporal punishment, and barred him from unsupervised contact with the victim or minors.

Stole man's wallet, inflicted brain injuries

A Lake Butler man was sentenced to 10 years in prison after pleading to stealing a man's wallet and striking him in the head during the robbery, leaving the victim with permanent injuries.

Darius Terrell "Poopman" Corbitt pleaded to robbery, felony battery, and witness tampering.

According to court papers, Corbitt picked up a woman from the victim's apartment for a trip to McDonald's, for which the victim had given the woman \$5. Moments later, Corbitt returned to the victim's residence and told the man they were \$1 short for the food they wanted to purchase. When the victim got out his wallet to give Poopman the additional money, the defendant

struck him in the face and head several times.

Deputies said the blunt force trauma from the robbery resulted in a brain hemorrhage and seizures, caused the victim to endure two surgeries, and requires him to live with "instruments from the surgery attached to his skull for the rest of his life."

The woman whom the defendant picked up from the victim's home before the robbery told deputies Corbitt threatened her and the victim for calling law enforcement after the crime. Corbitt claimed the man's injuries resulted from a fall the day before the robbery.

6 months for trying to cash forged check

STARKE—A 38-year-old Jacksonville man was sentenced to six months in jail and one year of probation after pleading to uttering a forged bill.

Steven Randall Dodson was arrested on October 2 for the March 8 offense.

According to court papers, the defendant presented check number 8857 for \$1,500 to a teller at Starke's Capital City Bank for cash drawn on the victim's account.

However, bank workers noted that the victim's most recent cleared check was number 8767 and called the customer to verify the authenticity of the defendant's document.

"While the teller was on the phone with (the victim)," police reported in a sworn complaint, "the suspect was alerted to the phone call and the nature of the phone call and began to attempt to get the check back by asking and physically attempting to take the check. After his attempts failed, he fled the scene, leaving behind the check and his Florida ID card."



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Tornadoes are state runners-up after 20-6 loss

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

A large crowd had something to cheer about early as the Bradford High School football team scored first, but the Tornadoes were shut out the rest of the way in a 20-6 loss to defending state champion Cocoa in this year's Class 2S state final, which was played Dec. 8 at Florida A&M University's Ken Riley Field at Bragg Memorial Stadium in Tallahassee.

The second seed Tornadoes (14-1) were attempting to win their first state title since 1966 and were in their first championship game since 1985.

"It's awesome," linebacker/tight end Chason Clark said. "It's so surreal. I can't believe we actually did it. You had dreams of it when you were a kid, and you did it."

In a battle of the top two seeds in 2S, Bradford's defense was able to create five turnovers and hold Cocoa to just two field goals in the second half and ultimately to its lowest point total of the season. The Tigers (14-1) were averaging 38 points per game.

"They're better than that. They probably could've scored about 50 a lot of times," Bradford Head Coach Jamie Rodgers said, adding, "To hold them to 20 gave us a chance to win. If you had told me that we would hold them to 20, I would've felt pretty good about being there at the end with a chance to win."

When it wasn't turning the ball over, the Cocoa offense proved difficult to get off the field. The Tigers had 24 first downs, were 7 of 13 on third-down plays and amassed 316 yards.

"We just kept giving up third-down conversions," Rodgers said. "You can't do that (against) that team. That's what they're built for — third-and-short, complete a pass and keep going."

That means the Bradford offense had to take advantage when it had the ball, but after gaining approximately 80 yards on their first two possessions, the Tornadoes managed 106 yards the rest of the game. Bradford had only possession inside the red zone, which led to its only score.

"They beat us up up front on both sides of the ball tonight," Rodgers said. "After the second drive, we couldn't get a lot going."

"We needed a lot of breaks. (Cocoa's) a good football team."

Bradford got the game started with a bang, with Willie Pollard ripping off a 50-yard run on the game's first play from scrimmage. That took the Tornadoes to the Cocoa 38-yard line. Two runs plays after that



Dae'Jon Shanks (second from right) runs for tough yardage in the first quarter. Jacob Ferguson (far left) is also pictured.

netted only 3 yards. Bradford wound up punting after an incomplete pass on third down.

The Tigers were able to pick up a first down, but then fumbled on a pass play, with the Tornadoes' Duke Lewis recovering at the Cocoa 30.

After a 4-yard run by Pollard, quarterback Dae'Jon Shanks gained 11 yards on two consecutive runs, giving



Willie Pollard (right) carries the ball in the third quarter.



Duke Lewis (left) comes up with a fumble as Torin Brazell signals that it's Bradford's ball.



Ridge Bradley gets a hug from sister Teagan after the game.



Superintendent of Schools Will Hartley hugs senior player Chason Clark.



Branden Williams (far left) trips up Cocoa running back Malachi Coney, with Chason Clark (second from left) finishing off the tackle. Duke Lewis is pictured in the background. Photos by Cliff Smelley.

by Jeremiah McKenzie and a penalty put Cocoa in a second-and-16 play on its next series. The Tigers were able to convert on third down on D.J. Bryant's 29-yard reception. A holding penalty on the Tornadoes gave Cocoa another first down at the Bradford 44. Hart then completed a 12-yard pass to Jayvan Boggs. After an illegal-procedure penalty, the Tigers' Nicholas Teeter found himself wide open in catching a 37-yard touchdown pass with 4:07 remaining in the first quarter. Gunnar Trout kicked the extra point to put Cocoa ahead 7-6.

Jyquez Cason gave Bradford good field position when he returned the ensuing kickoff 28 yards to the Cocoa 46. Cocoa's Samadra Hawkins recovered a fumble on the first play of the drive, returning the ball to the Bradford 23-yard line.

A 15-yard reception by Teeter gave the Tigers first-and-goal at the 8. Latrison Lane had a 3-yard run, but was then dropped for a 1-yard loss on a second-down pass play. Hart kept the ball on third down but fumbled at the 1-yard line. The ball rolled out of the end zone, giving the Bradford offense the ball at its own 20.

Three straight carries by



Chail Cummings (left) fights for yards after a catch.

Shanks netted 12 yards, while his 25-yard pass to Cummings gave the Tornadoes a first down at the Cocoa 43. Pollard and Cason had runs of 5 and 7 yards, respectively, to pick up another first down. Cocoa's Davi'yon Hawkins-Ingram then sacked Shanks for a 6-yard loss. A fumble on second down resulted in a loss of 5 yards. Bradford eventually punted on fourth-and-21, with J.T. Hood downing McKenzie's kick at the Cocoa 1-yard line.

A 9-yard reception by Teeter and a 2-yard run by Malachi Coney gave the Tigers a first down. Teeter was then tackled for a 3-yard loss by Cummings on a pass play. Lewis and Jalen Williams combined to sack Hart for a 2-yard loss, but on third-and-15, Bradford was penalized for holding, setting Cocoa up for a third-and-5 play, which the Tigers converted when the Tornadoes were called for being

See STATE, page 15

The project described was supported by Funding Opportunity Number NAVCA210450-03-00 from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The contents provided are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of HHS or any of its agencies.

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Tornado Alley goes to Tally

A large crowd made the trip from Bradford County to Tallahassee to support the Bradford High School Tornadoes in their quest to win the Class 2S state championship. Photos by Cliff Smelley.



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Thank you!



Luke Brunt (right) pushes the ball upfield. Photos by Cliff Smelley.

KHHS improves to 7-0 in boys soccer

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Aaron Wiley scored two goals as the Keystone Heights High School boys soccer team remained perfect on the season with a 3-0 win over District 4-3A opponent Fort White on Dec. 11 in Keystone.

The Indians (7-0, 4-0 in District 4) scored in the seventh minute when Wiley put the ball into the net off a Bryce Huntley assist. Goalie Tomas Harrigan made a save three minutes later to preserve the 1-0 lead.

Luke Brunt made it a 2-0

match when he was successful on a penalty kick in the 13th minute.

Brunt was just off the mark off a couple of long shots later in the half, while also getting a good pass from Wiley for another shot attempt that was saved by Fort White goalie Colt Patterson.

The score remained 2-0 until the 69th minute when Wiley was successful on a penalty kick.

It was the third shutout of the season for Harrigan.

Prior to the match, Keystone got two goals each from Brunt and Huntley in a 6-1 win over

See KHHS, page 12



Landon Spence (left) and Fort White's Joshua Shaw v for control of a throw-in.

Legal Notices

Legals for the week of Dec. 14, 2023

BRADFORD

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
File No.: 04-2023-113-CP
IN RE: ESTATE OF ELIZABETH DIANE ADAMS Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of ELIZABETH DIANE ADAMS, deceased, whose date of death was August 16, 2023, is pending in the Circuit Court for BRADFORD County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Post Office Drawer B, 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 ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

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

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

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

The date of first publication of this notice is December 7, 2023. Attorney for Personal Representative: GEORGE A. YOUNG

Florida Bar Number: 0051728
222 N. 3rd Street
Palatka, Florida 32177
Telephone: (386) 328-1111
Fax: (386) 328-3003
E-Mail: pleadings@holmesandyoung.com

Personal Representative: JAMES JACKSON GREEN
104 Bardin Estates Court
Palatka, Florida 32177

12/7 2tchg 12/14-BCT

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

FILE NO.: 04-2023-CP-117
IN RE: THE ESTATE OF WILLIAM L. GRIFFIN, DECEASED.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The formal administration of the estate of WILLIAM L. GRIFFIN, who died on October 12, 2023, is pending in the Circuit Court of Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is the Clerk of the Circuit Court, 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, FL 32091. The names and addresses of the PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE and attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the DECEDENT and other persons having claims or demands against the 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 THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the DECEDENT and other persons having claims or demands against the DECEDENT'S estate must file their claims with this COURT WITHIN THREE (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 THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this NOTICE TO CREDITORS is December 7, 2023.

KELLEY EATON
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
1039 NE 9th Street
Gainesville, FL 32601
Respectfully submitted,
VeRonica R. Owens,
Attorney at Law, P.A.

By: /s/ VeRonica R. Owens, Esq.
Fla. Bar No.: 73568
VeRonica@VeRonicaROwens.org
189 South Lawrence Boulevard
Keystone Heights, FL 32656
2000 Henley Road, Suite B
Middleburg, FL 32068
Telephone: (352) 473-5000
Attorney for PETITIONER

12/7 2tchg 12/14-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
File No. 2023-CP-000049
Division: Probate

IN RE: ESTATE OF MICHAEL E. LOVELL Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the Estate of Michael E. Lovell, deceased, whose date of death was April 21, 2023, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091. The names and addresses of the Curator and the Curator's attorney are set forth below.

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

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

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

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

The date of first publication of this notice is December 7, 2023. Attorney for Curator: Paige Hammond Wolpert

Florida Bar Number: 23213
Shuffield, Lowman & Wilson, P.A.
1000 Legion Place, Suite 1700
Orlando, Florida 32801
Telephone: (407) 581-9800
Fax: (407) 581-9801
E-Mail: pwolpert@shuffieldowman.com

Secondary E-Mail: Probateservice@shuffieldowman.com
Curator: Julie Lovell
1939 Seatonham Street
Winter Garden, Florida 34787

12/7 2tchg 12/14-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
FILE NO.: 04-23-CP-000118

In re: THE ESTATE OF JOE C. HARMON, also known as JOE CURTIS HARMON, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of Joe C. Harmon, also known as Joe Curtis Harmon, deceased, whose date of death was March 7, 2023, and whose Social Security Number is ****-

**-6584, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Bradford County Courthouse, 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091. The name and address of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

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

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

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

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

The date of the first publication of this Notice is December 14, 2023. Personal Representative: Myrtice L. Jenkins

18035 NW 62nd Avenue
Starke, Florida 32091
Attorneys for Personal Representative: TAYLOR ARRUBLA HARDWICK P. A.

By /s/Jennifer T. Arrubla
James J. Taylor Jr.
Florida Bar No. 334057
Jennifer T. Arrubla
Florida Bar No. 98804
420 S. Lawrence Blvd.
Keystone Heights, Florida 32656
Primary Email: Jennifer@tah-law.com

Secondary Email: Jim@tah-law.com
Kim@tah-law.com
352-473-8088 (telephone)
352-473-8161 (facsimile)

12/14 2tchg-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL ACTION
Case #: 2018-CA-000553

Wells Fargo Bank, NA Plaintiff, -VS-

Tabitha Nicole Terry a/k/a Tabitha Nicole Moore a/k/a Tabitha N. Terry a/k/a Tabitha N. Moore a/k/a Tabitha Terry a/k/a Tabitha Harvey; Unknown Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, Assignees, Creditors, Lienors, and Trustees of Ricky Allen Terry a/k/a Rick Allen Terry a/k/a Ricky A. Terry a/k/a Rick A. Terry a/k/a Ricky Terry, Deceased, and All Other Persons Claiming by and Through, Under, Against The Named Defendant (s); Florida Credit Union; Bradford Land & Cattle Company, Inc, a dissolved Florida Corporation; Kathy J. Terry a/k/a Kathy Geiger a/k/a Kathy Eaton Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to order rescheduling foreclosure sale or Final Judgment, entered in Civil Case No. 2018-CA-000553 of the Circuit Court of the 8th Judicial Circuit in and for Bradford County, Florida, wherein Wells Fargo Bank, NA, Plaintiff and Tabitha Nicole Terry a/k/a Tabitha Nicole Moore a/k/a Tabitha N. Terry a/k/a Tabitha N. Moore a/k/a Tabitha Terry a/k/a Tabitha Harvey are defendant(s), I, Clerk of Court, Denny Thompson, will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash IN THE LOBBY AT THE FRONT DOOR OF THE BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, LOCATED AT 945 NORTH TEMPLE AVENUE, STARKE, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA AT 11:00 A.M. on January 18, 2024, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to-wit:

LOT 12 RIVER BEND ESTATES (AN UNRECORDED SUBDIVISION) LYING IN THE EAST 1/4 OF THE

SE 1/4 OF SECTION 19, TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA; SAID LOT BEING CONVEYED WITH A RIGHT OF INGRESS AND EGRESS OVER EASEMENTS AS SHOWN ON SAID PLAT, ALSO BEING SUBJECT TO EASEMENTS TO CLAY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., AS SHOWN ON SAID PLAT; SUBJECT TO COVENANTS AND RESTRICTIONS, DATED NOVEMBER 1, 1984, RECORDED NOVEMBER 1, 1984, IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 239, PAGE 460, ET. SEQ., PUBLIC RECORDS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA. SAID PARCEL BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCE AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID RIVER BEND ESTATES; THENCE S 00°18'49" W ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID PLAT FOR A DISTANCE OF 1688.74 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, BEING THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 12; THENCE S 00°18'49" W ALONG THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 12 FOR A DISTANCE OF 140.02 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 12; THENCE N 89°22'03" E ALONG THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 12 FOR A DISTANCE OF 640.80 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT 12; THENCE N 00°55'12" W ALONG THE EASTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 12 FOR A DISTANCE OF 140.00 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT 12; THENCE S 89°22'03" W ALONG THE NORTHERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 12 FOR A DISTANCE OF 637.79 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

TOGETHER WITH THAT CERTAIN MANUFACTURED HOME, YEAR: 2005, MAKE: FLEETWOOD, VIN#: GAFL435A89637EX21 AND VIN#: GAFL435B89637EX21. ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM NO LATER THAN THE DATE THAT THE CLERK REPORTS THE FUNDS AS UNCLAIMED.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator: 201 East University Avenue, Room 410, Gainesville, Florida 32601 (352) 491-4490 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification of the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

Submitted By: ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF: LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP
750 Park of Commerce Blvd., Suite 130
Boca Raton, Florida 33487
(561) 998-6700
(561) 998-6707

12/14 2tchg 12/21-BCT

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Town of Brookier, Florida, will hold an election on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, for the following seats:

Council Seat #1 – Four-year term
Council Seat #2 – Four-year term
Qualifying dates for the above seats will be December 18th, 20th and 22nd, 2023. Qualifying papers may be picked up at City Hall during regular office hours, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 9:00a.m. until 1:00p.m. All qualifying papers must be returned to Town Hall on or before 1:00p.m. on December 22nd, 2023. Town Hall address: P.O. Box 127, Brookier, FL 32622. Office #352-485-1022

12/14 1tchg-BCT

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

CASE NO. 04-2023-CA-338
CAPITAL CITY BANK, Plaintiff,

v. THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AND/OR

DEVISEES OF DENNIS C. RHODEN, Deceased; THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AND/OR DEVISEES OF WAYNETTE S. RHODEN, Deceased; DENNIS C. RHODEN, JR. and LORI DENNETTE RHODEN, as surviving heirs of Dennis C. Rhoden, Deceased and Waynette S. Rhoden, Deceased; and JOHN DOE and JANE DOE (Unknown Tenants/Occupants), Defendants.

AMENDED NOTICE OF ACTION
TO: The Unknown Heirs And/Or Devisees who claim by, through, under or against Dennis C. Rhoden, deceased

The Unknown Heirs And/Or Devisees who claim by, through, under or against Waynette S. Rhoden, deceased

LORI DENNETTE RHODEN
23451 NW 32nd Place
Lawley, Florida 32058
(Last Known Address)
CHRISTOPHER SCOTT RHODEN
1610 West Madison Street, F3
Starke, Florida 32091
(Last Known Address)

CORBETT BRANDON RHODEN
1610 West Madison Street, F3
Starke, Florida 32091
(Last Known Address)

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage securing a debt on the following property in Bradford County, Florida:

A parcel of land lying in Lots 55, 56, 57 and 58 of Woodlawn in Section 15, Township 5 South, Range 22 East, as per plat recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 17 of the public records of Bradford County, Florida; said parcel being shown as Parcel 27 on a map prepared by Patrick B. Welch & Associates, Inc. and recorded in Misc. Map Book 1, Page 1 of the public records of said County, also being described as follows:

Commence at an iron rod set at an intersection of the Southerly boundary of said Section 15 with the Southerly boundary of the right of way of County Road 125 (formerly State Road 125) and run North 89 degrees, 27 minutes and 23 seconds West, along the Southerly boundary of said Section 15, a distance of 458.01 feet to a set concrete monument; thence South 0 degrees, 32 minutes and 37 seconds West, 15.00 feet; thence North 86 degrees, 21 minutes and 33 seconds West, 492.32 feet to a set iron rod; thence North 89 degrees, 33 minutes and 20 seconds West, 803.02 feet to a set iron rod; thence North 00 degrees, 32 minutes and 37 seconds East, 341.58 feet to a set iron rod for the Point of Beginning. From Point of Beginning thus described run North 89 degrees, 27 minutes and 23 seconds West, parallel with last said Southerly boundary, 690.33 feet to the Westerly boundary of said Section 15 (also being the Easterly boundary of a parcel of land described in Deed Book 82, Page 119 of said public records); thence North 00 degrees, 47 minutes and 56 seconds East, along said Westerly boundary and along said Easterly boundary, 315.83 feet; thence South 89 degrees, 27 minutes and 23 seconds East, parallel with last said Southerly boundary, 688.92 feet to a set iron rod; thence South 00 degrees, 32 minutes and 37 seconds West, 315.82 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Together With that certain Mobile Home situated thereon. Has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on Plaintiff's attorney, J. Marshall Conrad, whose address is Ausley & McMullen, Post Office Box 391, Tallahassee, Florida 32302, on or before January 22, 2024, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter, otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition. DATED on December 11, 2023.

DENNY THOMPSON, Clerk of Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida
By: /s/ K. Jenkins
Deputy Clerk
945 N. Temple Avenue
Starke, Florida 32091

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to

the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the Clerk's Office (904) 966-6280 within seven (7) working days of your receipt of this notice; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8771.

12/14 2tchg 12/21-BCT

COMMISSION MEETING
THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Bradford County Board of County Commissioners will have a board meeting on December 21, 2023 at 6:30 PM, inside the county commission meeting room, located in the north wing section of the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, FL. A copy of the meeting agenda may be obtained from the Bradford County website: www.bradfordcountyfl.gov. Said meeting location is secured – no firearms or weapons are permitted.

12/14 1tchg-BCT

UNION

NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE
Please take notice Lake Butler Mini Storage, located at 1015 SW 3rd St. Lake Butler, FL, 32054 intends to hold an auction of goods stored in the following units in default for non-payment of rent on Lockerfox.com. The sale will occur on 12/30/2023 at 12:00 am on Lockerfox.com. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings.

Unit # 75, 76 Yolanda Webb
Unit #54 Kiara Randolph
Unit # 45, 46 Altonia Alexander
Unit #33 Wanda Kehrl
Unit #12 Katherine Morabito
Unit #35 Kara Gilhooly
Unit #3 Jane Doe

All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. See manager for details.

12/7 2tchg 12/14-UCT

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
PUBLIC NOTICE OF APPLICATION
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, the following application for permit was received on December 4, 2023:

Delbert W Smith, 4661 W State Road 238, Lake Butler, FL 32054 has submitted an environmental resource permit (ERP) application number ERP-125-210063-4. The project is located in Union County, Section 31, Township 5 South, Range 18 East, and includes 1.2637 acres of impervious area on a project area of 8.125 acres.

Interested persons may comment upon the application or submit a written request for a staff report containing proposed agency action regarding the application by writing to the Suwannee River Water Management District, Attn: Resource Management, 9225 C.R. 49, Live Oak, Florida 32060. Such comments or requests must be received by 5:00 PM within 14 days from the date of publication.

No further public notice will be provided regarding this application. A copy of the staff report must be requested in order to remain advised of further proceedings. Substantially affected persons are entitled to request an administrative hearing, pursuant to Title 28, Florida Administrative Code, regarding the proposed agency action by submitting a written request after reviewing the staff report.

12/14 1tchg-BCT

CITY COMMISSION MEETING
The City of Lake Butler City Commission will hold a REGULAR MEETING on Thursday, December 19, 2023 at 6:00pm at the City Commission Chambers located at 200 SW 1st Street Lake Butler, FL 32054.

12/14 1tchg-UCT

NEW RIVER BOARD MEETING
The New River Community Health Center Board of Directors will meet Thursday, December 21, 2023 at the Community State Bank Board Room, 811 South Walnut Street, Starke, FL 32091 from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm.

12/14 1tchg-UCT

Bradford County Telegraph
USPS 062-700
Published each Thursday and entered as Periodical Postage Paid at Starke, Florida under Act of March 3, 1879.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
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131 West Call Street • Starke, Florida 32091
Phone: 964-6305 • P.O. Drawer A • Starke, FL 32091
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Editor:	Dan Hildebran
Sports Editor:	Cliff Smelley
Advertising:	John R. Tillman
Typesetting:	Mary Goadge
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Bookkeeping & Classified Adverts:	Heather Wheeler
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UNION COUNTY TIMES
USPS 648-200
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uctimeseditor@gmail.com
904-964-6305 • fax 904-964-8628
John Miller, Publisher

Editor:	Mark J. Crawford
Advertising:	John R. Tillman
Typesetting:	Mary Goadge
Advertising & Newspaper Prod:	C. Hurston
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Obituaries

Betty Allen

Betty Jean Lawrence Allen died Monday, Nov. 27, 2023, at the Middleburg Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, where she had resided for the last year of her life. She was born in Palatka in 1928 to William Robert Lawrence Sr. and Rosa Pink Lawrence. She graduated from Mellon High School in 1946. Her senior yearbook, the Mellon Patch, described her as "Short and sweet; dainty and neat." She lived most of her life in Palatka until after her retirement, when she moved to Melrose, where her son lives. She was an active member of First Baptist Church of Palatka until she moved to Melrose, when she joined Trinity Baptist Church of Keystone Heights. At First Baptist Palatka, she taught Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, and was a leader of GAs (Girls Auxiliary). She was a homemaker and devoted mother, foremost, even after her husband's death in 1960. After her children were older however, she completed her Associate of Arts degree at St. Johns River Junior College. Following graduation, she was hired by her alma mater as secretary to the dean of academic affairs, where she worked until her retirement. She loved the subjects of English and grammar, and her colleagues at St. Johns regularly brought her documents to proofread. She was close to several of her student assistants, whom she supervised in their work-study assignments. She enjoyed sewing, cooking, gardening, collecting antiques and cookbooks, doing crosswords, playing Scrabble, and writing poetry. In her later years, after she stopped cooking, she continued to read recipes in the hundreds of cookbooks she collected. She played Scrabble weekly with other ladies in Melrose and Keystone Heights. She was preceded in death by her parents, Billy and Rosa Lawrence; her brother, William Robert (Hazel) Lawrence Jr.; and her sister, Willie Rose (Van) Staton.



Surviving are her son Bill (Mary Sue) Allen of Melrose; daughter, Donna (Tim) Giddens of Elk Grove, California; grandchildren, Tiffany (Matt) Belanger, Lauren (Josh) Ray, Micah (Danielle) Giddens; and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be at 12 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, at Masters Funeral Home in Palatka with Rev. John H. Hewitt officiating. The family will receive friends at the funeral home one hour prior to the start of the service. Burial will be in Palatka Memorial Gardens where she will be interred beside her late-husband, Donald Benjamin Allen Jr. For those that cannot attend, the service will be livestreamed and may be viewed at www.vimeo.com/mastersfuneralhome. Friends are invited to post condolences on her online tribute page at: themastersfuneralhome.com.

Masters Funeral Home of Palatka is in charge of arrangements.

PAID OBITUARY

Herbert Bright

Herbert Bright, 64, died Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023, at Shands UF in Gainesville. He was born June 18, 1959, in Lawtey and attended the schools of Bradford County.

A viewing will be held Tuesday, Dec. 19, from 8 a.m. until 10 a.m. at Macedonia Freewill Baptist Church, 2496 Lake St., Lawtey. The funeral service will follow at 10 a.m. Interment will take place at Peetsville Cemetery in Lawtey.

Arrangements are by Haile Funeral Home, Inc., 802 Oak St., Starke. 904-964-7905.

PAID OBITUARY

John Cox Jr.

John "Tommy" Cox Jr., 84, of Melrose passed away at his home Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023. He was born Oct. 26, 1939, in Jacksonville to John T. and Ruth (Hartley) Cox Sr. Prior to retirement he worked for Midstate Electrical Company as their electrical estimator. He was an active and longtime member of Melrose Church of Christ. He loved to socialize and enjoyed meeting his friends for coffee at the Keystone Inn. He loved his country and being on the lake, as well as watching college football, especially the Florida Gators. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 51 years, Bonnie (Duerr) Cox.



His survivors are his children John T. Cox III of Melrose, and Natalie (Ray) Cox-Andrews of Keystone Heights. Also left behind are several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A Celebration of Life will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts can be made to the Melrose Church of Christ, 8702 State Road 21, Melrose, 32666.

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

PAID OBITUARY

Branden Dukes

Branden William Dukes, also known to many friends and family as "Duke," was born on Feb. 19, 1985, in Jacksonville. He lived the entirety of his life in Union County and graduated Union County High School. He became a father to his only son, Brennen William Dukes, on Dec. 3, 2007. He worked for Tom Cushman. This is when he found his true calling, he loved his job. He loved Tom and loved to help people find their place in the work field. He loved being a father above anything, Brennen was the pride and joy in his life. Branden was a loving son, grandson, brother and uncle. He lived his life for family and friends and dedicated his life to being a hard worker and the best father he could be to Brennen. He had a heart of gold and was loved by many friends and adored and loved by his family. Branden did everything out of the kindness of his heart and extended his hand to help anyone. He is the father of Brennen Dukes; the son of Monette Hosford and Terry Dukes; the stepson of James "Buddy" Hosford; the grandson of Ramona Dobbs; brother of Nicole Shaw; and the loving uncle to Carmen Dobbs, Jaelen Watkins, Trinity Watkins, Alayna Watkins and Kaylin Taylor. He will be joining his grandfather, Morris Dobbs, grandparents, Gerald and Joyce Dukes, and uncle, Randy Dukes, in heaven. He will forever be remembered as a loving, heartfelt, kind and caring man. He will be missed dearly. His passing was peaceful in his final moments in this life and the love he left behind will stay in the hearts of everyone he has ever encountered.



A funeral service to honor his life was held at Harmony Free Will Baptist Church on Friday, Dec. 8. He was laid to rest immediately following the service at Sapp Cemetery.

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

PAID OBITUARY

Esther Hall

Mrs. Esther Shuford Hall, 91, of Starke passed away Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023, at her residence. She was born on March 24, 1932, in Lawtey to the late George P. and Eva (Durban) Shuford and was a lifelong area resident. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Starke. She enjoyed shopping and loved jewelry, politics and bingo. Prior to retirement, she worked for 39 years, including being elected as Bradford County tax collector for 12 years. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, John R. "Bobby" Hall.



Survivors are her daughters, Brenda (Shad) Starling and Donna (Joe) Wilson all of Starke; brothers, Glenn P. (Helen) Shuford and James P. (Betty) Shuford all of Lawtey. Also surviving are her grandchildren, Jennifer (Brad) Whithead, Brian (Stephanie) Starling, Alisha (John) Turknott, Kenya Clemons and Jacob (Kim) Clemons; great-grandchildren, Brileigh Starling, Brian "Bubba" Starling, Carter Whitehead, Eva Whitehead, Bentley Collins, Shyann Clemons, Case Clemons, Jeremiah Turknott and Riley Turknott.

The family will receive friends at the DeWitt C. Jones Chapel of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home on Thursday, Dec. 14, from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. with funeral services beginning at 2 p.m. Private interment will follow, with Brother Daniel Crapse officiating all services.

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

PAID OBITUARY

James R. Hess

James R. Hess, "Jimmy" to all who knew him well, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023, 15 days before his 50th wedding anniversary with Merry. He was born April 2, 1949, in Jacksonville. Jimmy spent four years in the United States Marine Corps in avionics and retired as a computer repair technician from the Alachua County School Board in 2004. In healthier times, he enjoyed bicycle riding, fishing, target practicing at Bradford Sportsman's Club and spending time with his beloved grandson, Lucas Grider. He was an avid train fan and enjoyed watching train videos and live train cameras. He was preceded in death by his parents, Betty and Carlus Hess.



Jimmy leaves behind his wife, Merry; daughter, Carolyn; son, Christopher; son-in-law, Ernest Grider; grandson, Lucas Grider; his sister, Linda Hess; and many other relatives he adored.

The family will hold a private memorial service at a later date.

PAID OBITUARY

Charles Parrish

Charles "Charlie" Edwin Parrish, born on March 28, 1938, in Lake Butler, dedicated his days to farming and embraced the simplicity of life. It is with great sadness that we announce his passing on Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023, at Windsor Health and Rehab. His hard work made farming not just a profession, but a way of life. His warm personality shone brightly wherever he went. An eternal optimist, he always carried a smile on his face and spread joy to everyone who crossed his path. He had a remarkable ability to connect with people effortlessly; he never met a stranger and befriended all he met. His carefree nature was infectious, easing worries and bringing comfort to those around him. Music held a special place in his heart as he possessed a talent for singing and playing both the harmonica and guitar. Western movies captivated him and he never shied away from a friendly competition of horseshoes or checkers. What truly filled his heart with joy was spending time with his loved ones. Family meant everything to him and creating lasting memories with them brought immeasurable happiness into his life. He was preceded in death by his parents, Julius Ervin Parrish and Nancy Frances Waters Parrish; as well as his siblings, Christine Hester, Lowell Parrish, Corrine Stark, Mildred Everett, and J.C. Parrish.



He leaves behind a legacy that will be carried on by his surviving siblings, Armontine Osborn, Samuel Parrish, and Nancy Brickey. Additionally, numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family members mourn the loss of a dear friend and relative.

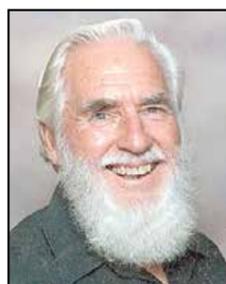
To honor his memory, services were held on Monday, Dec. 4, at Archer-Milton Funeral Home. He was laid to rest immediately following the service at Elzey Chapel Cemetery with Rev. Randall A. Griffis Sr. officiating.

Arrangements were under the care and direction of Archer-Milton Funeral Home. 386-496-2008 www.archerfuneralhome.com

PAID OBITUARY

James Stowe

James Richard Stowe, 89, of Keystone Heights passed away at his daughter's home in Brooker on Friday, Dec. 8, 2023. He was born May 28, 1934, in Sharon, Pennsylvania to James Alvar and Ann (Meltalsky) Stowe. He served in the United States Air Force and retired from Pittsburg Plate and Glass. He attended Morgan Road Baptist Church and was an avid fisherman. He also enjoyed hunting, trapping and was a talented taxidermist. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his siblings, David Stowe and Phyllis Jean Allison.



Survivors are his wife of 57 years, Grace; two daughters, Richelle (Ray) Davis of Brooker and Rebecca Gilbert of Ocala; two brothers, Donald Stowe of Harrisville, Pennsylvania, and Gary Stowe of Keystone Heights. He was lovingly called "Grandpa" or "Pops" by his six grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

The family received friends Tuesday, Dec. 12 at DeWitt C. Jones Chapel. Funeral services were held Wednesday, Dec. 13, at DeWitt C. Jones Chapel with Pastor Rick Norman officiating. Interment followed at Santa Fe Cemetery.

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

PAID OBITUARY

KHHS

Continued from page 11

visiting Bell on Dec. 5. One of Brunt's goals came off a penalty kick.

Wiley and Noah Jaramillo each had a goal as well, while Huntley, Jaramillo, Wiley, A.J. Nilsen and Sammy Wachha each had an assist.

The Indians followed that up with a 7-1 win over visiting Palatka on Dec. 7, getting three goals from Wiley.

Brunt was successful on a penalty kick and finished with two goals and two assists.

Huntley and Wachha each had a goal, with Wachha also recording two assists.

Wiley now has 17 goals on the season, which is second best in Class 3A behind Marianna's



Aaron Wiley possesses the ball close to the Fort White goal.

Derrick Bennett, who has 21. Wiley is 17th in Florida regardless of classification.

Brunt and Wachha have eight and seven assists, respectively, which is fourth and fifth best in Class 3A and seventh and eighth overall regardless of classification.

Keystone played district opponent P.K. Yonge on Dec. 13 and will travel to play district opponent Newberry on Thursday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. The Indians travel to play Middleburg on Monday, Dec. 18, at 7 p.m. before returning home to play Fernandina Beach on Tuesday, Dec. 19, at 7 p.m. That will be Keystone's last match before the Christmas and New Year's break.

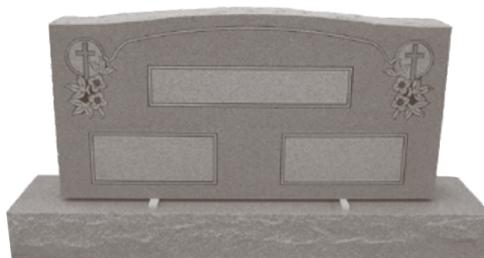
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RIGHT: Head Coach Jamie Rodgers acknowledges the large Bradford crowd after the game while holding the Class 2S runner-up trophy. **BELOW:** Tyler Berry (left) congratulates Jyquez Cason after Cason's interception.



Linebacker Jeremiah McKenzie (right) grapples with Cocoa tight end Davi'yon Hawkins-Ingram.



LEFT: Chason Clark (right) makes a diving tackle of Cocoa's C.J. Bragg.

BELOW: Torin Brazell (right) pressures Cocoa quarterback Brady Hart.



STATE
Continued from page 9

offsidess. Coney picked up another first down when he broke loose for a 14-yard run. He added another run of 5 yards before Hart, who was 26 of 37 for 228 yards, completed passes to Boggs and Teeter to give the Tigers a first down at the 49. Trente Jenkins and Devon McBride teamed up to tackle Lane for a 3-yard loss, but the Tornados were penalized for holding on the next play, which set up second-and-3. A 7-yard reception by Boggs then resulted in a first down at the Bradford 37.

Cocoa benefitted from yet another penalty as Bradford was called for pass interference. That set the Tigers up with a first down at the 22-yard line. An illegal-block penalty backed the Tigers up to the 30-yard line, but a 20-yard pass play from Hart to Boggs gave Cocoa first-and-goal at the 10. Lane scored on a run from there. Trout added the PAT for a 14-6 Cocoa lead.

The Tornados had 40 yards in penalties on the 99-yard drive. "Is that all? It felt like about 70," Rodgers said.

Bradford's offense went three-and-out on the next series, which included a 12-yard sack by the Tigers' Hawkins. Cocoa muffed the punt, but was able to recover the ball at its own 43-yard line.

Torin Brazell sacked Hart for a 7-yard loss, while Jenkins broke up a pass on second down. On third-and-17, Hart was intercepted by Cason, who returned the ball to the Cocoa 27-yard line with 1:55 remaining until halftime.

Two plays later, Bradford was penalized for offensive pass interference, resulting in second-and-24 at the 41. After two straight incomplete passes, the Tornados punted.

Five plays after receiving the second-half kickoff, Cocoa turned the ball over when Cummings intercepted a Hart pass at the Bradford 30-yard line.

It was a bad start to the half for Bradford's offense as well. Pollard was tackled for an 8-yard loss by Hawkins-Ingram, while a penalty for illegal procedure had the Tornados facing second-and-23. Shanks was able to scramble for a 13-yard gain, but he was then tackled for a 6-yard loss on third-and-10, forcing Bradford to punt.

The Tigers overcame a second-and-long play with pass plays of 10 and 8 yards, while a pass-interference penalty helped Cocoa convert a third-down play and give the Tigers a first down at the Bradford 11-yard line. An illegal-procedure penalty and an incomplete pass then had Cocoa facing second-and-15. Hart recovered a fumble and managed to gain 6 yards. On third-and-9, Boggs took a handoff on and end around and looked to pass, but ultimately kept the ball for a 3-yard gain. Trout kicked a 24-yard field goal to put the Tigers ahead 17-6 with 3:56 to play in the third quarter.

A run by Pollard and a reception by Cummings had Bradford facing third-and-4 on its next series. Pollard, who finished with 48 yards on 10 carries, had a 3-yard run to set up fourth-and-1. The Tornados went for it at their own 44, with Shanks being held to no gain. The Cocoa offense quickly

moved to the Bradford 12-yard line, getting receptions of 10 and 19 yards from Boggs. After Coney was held to a 4-yard gain by Branden Williams on third-and-8, the Tigers' Trout kicked a 23-yard field goal to complete the scoring with 11:07 to play.

Williams finished with a game-high 20 tackles.

Cummings, who caught five passes for 52 yards, had a 10-yard reception for a first down at the Cocoa 49, followed by an 11-yard run by Shanks. Shanks then had a 7-yard run to the 31. Two plays later, the Tornados went for it on fourth-and-2, with Shanks being tackled for no gain.

Cocoa fumbled on the ensuing series, with Brazell stripping Lane of the ball and McBride recovering for what looked to be a scoop-and-score opportunity for the Tornados. McBride, however, had the ball stripped from behind, with the Tigers' Teeter recovering at the Cocoa 20-yard line.

The Tigers drove into the red zone on their final possession, with seven straight runs from Lane moving Cocoa from the Bradford 47 to the 14-yard line. Lewis tackles Lane for a 2-yard loss on fourth-and-3 to force a turnover on downs with 34 seconds left on the clock.

A reception by Cummings, who then lateraled the ball to Cason, resulted in a 17-yard gain. Michael Oliver then had a 9-yard reception before the game ended on Cason's 15-yard run. "It hurts, but it's still an accomplishment," Clark said of playing for the state title.

Clark was the game's second-leading tackler with nine, while Cummings and Lewis had seven and six tackles, respectively. Those players are part of a 19-member senior class. The Class of 2024 players were a big part of Rodgers' successful first two years at BHS, which saw the Tornados go 26-3, win two district titles and two regional

titles and finish this season as the second-best 2S team in Florida.

"I love them," Rodgers said. "They bought in from day one. They helped me change some things here. They've worked so hard. They wanted to be involved in everything. It's going to be tough to fill those shoes."

Clark said, "I'm honored to have been a part of this class and a part of this team."

After accepting the state runner-up trophy, Rodgers held it high and acknowledged the crowd, which was way bigger than what Cocoa had (and may have been bigger than what any team in the other eight championship games had).

"It's awesome," Clark said of the support. "It's amazing to see the community show up like that. It definitely makes my heart smile."



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RIGHT: Duke Lewis (right) attempts to bring down Cocoa running back Malachi Coney. **BELOW:** Chail Cummings catches a pass in the fourth quarter.



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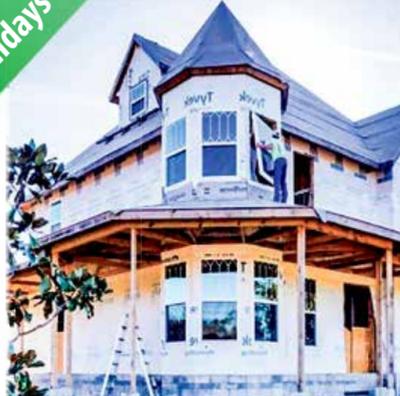
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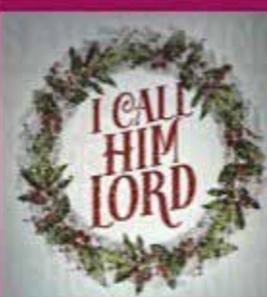
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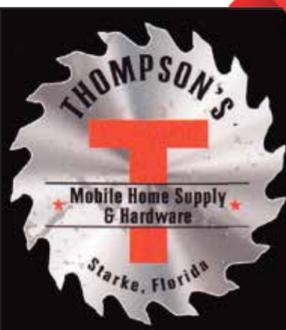
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