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LOCAL STUDENT ATHLETES SIGN WITH COLLEGES
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USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

Thursday, December 2, 2021

142nd year, 16th Issue — \$1

Tried to cash checks from dead grandparents' account

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

STARKE — A 31-year-old Starke woman was sentenced to a year in prison after pleading to an attempt to cash checks from her dead grandparents' checking account.

Priscilla Lynn Curtis pleaded no contest to the Aug. 25 offenses of uttering counterfeit checks and to fraud.

According to an arrest report, VyStar Credit Union employees called police after Curtis and a man attempted the transaction from the credit union's drive through.

Arresting officer Jeffery A. Smith wrote in the report that he contacted the suspects while they were still in the drive through.

He added that the two checks, one for \$800 and a second for \$500 had the deceased grandmother's signature on them.

There were a total of four people in the car. Two told Smith they saw Curtis sign the checks and hand them to the driver, who forwarded the checks to the teller.



Curtis

Smith wrote that he found two blank checks from the dead couple's account in the center console of the car. Bank video showed Curtis taking what appeared to be two checks from her wallet and place them in the console while Smith was escorting the driver to Smith's patrol vehicle. Smith wrote that he was later informed by VyStar that four additional checks were deposited

with the credit union, drawn from the grandparents' CNB Bank account. The four drafts totaled \$1,750. A fifth check, from the grandmother's first husband, who was also deceased, was cashed for \$800.

Smith wrote that he contacted one of the grandmother's sons, who said his grandmother was a hoarder and never threw anything away.

He added that Curtis likely obtained the checks from the grandparent's former residence, which Curtis resided in at one point.

Smith also interviewed two people who said they were tricked into helping Curtis cash other fraudulent checks.

One woman said Curtis asked her for help in obtaining sanitary supplies for rehab.

"Priscilla asked (the woman) how to spell her name so her grandmother could write out the check to (the woman)," Smith wrote.

The woman added that she picked up Curtis from Curtis's

home and drove to the VyStar ATM near the Bradford County Fairgrounds, then deposited a check made out to herself into the machine and withdrew cash which she gave to Curtis. She then drove Curtis to a Dollar General across the street where Curtis made her purchases.

Smith said he interviewed a man who was contacted by Curtis through Facebook Messenger, asking him if he wanted to make \$100 by cashing checks.

"(The man) advised he was told by Priscilla that the checks were written by her grandmother and she could not cash them due to losing her identification," Smith wrote. "(The man) agreed to cashing the checks due to believing it was an honest transaction."

The man said the checks he cashed for Curtis were later returned and VyStar locked his account.

"(The man) stated he took out a loan to pay his debt to VyStar due to the checks being returned."

Commissioners end Nugent investigation

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — The investigation into Starke Commissioner Danny Nugent's alleged behavior toward city and contract employees was over before it even began.

Commissioners Scott Roberts and Shannon Smith ended the investigation during their second meeting Nov. 23 after hearing from Nugent's attorney, Dan Sikes, that the city lacked both standards for commissioner behavior and a process for enforcing them.

Roberts and Smith were unanimously appointed to an ad hoc committee on ethics and discipline by the entire board — including Commissioner Nugent — to investigate employee complaints that Nugent had interfered with their work, screamed obscenities at them and threatened their employment.

City Manager Drew Mullins requested the investigation as well as clarification on the appropriate chain of command.

The original intent of the second committee meeting was to hear from employees and contract workers from Asplundh who had already filed written statements about the events of Nov. 15 and ask them follow-up questions.

Instead, Sikes spoke for Nugent, initially asking them for more time to prepare a response, including time for the city clerk's office to comply with a sizeable public records request seeking all written complaints from employees about any commissioner over the past four years.

Sikes had also requested a copy of the specific city ordinance or state statute Nugent is accused of violating as well as any

documented history "concerning censorship of a commissioner concerning the conduct of that commissioner with city employees who are on his private property."

There was no calculating how long it would take city employees to comply with such a broad request, and City Clerk Jimmy Crosby asked for specific dates and times, saying he couldn't look through four years of emails.

But Sikes also presented a recommendation to nullify the records request — that the city end the investigation of Nugent.

Offering the analogy that the city was trying to build an airplane on the runway mid-takeoff, Sikes said commissioners should instead focus on creating a complaint process. He cautioned them against trying to enforce ex post facto laws — declaring something illegal after the fact — and suddenly holding a commissioner accountable when others have not been.

"I can tell you that there have been complaints received about city commissioners before in the past," Sikes said, "and I can tell you that I know of more than one incident where various members of the commission have been rude and abusive to members of the staff and members of the city."

Establishing a process would allow everyone, including commissioners, to be clear about what the rules and procedures are in the future, Sikes said. In the meantime, if employees feel Nugent's alleged actions had violated state statute, he invited them to file an ethics complaint.

The city commission asked Roberts and Smith to investigate and bring any

See END, page 5

Lake Butler employee used credit card to steal gasoline

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

STARKE — Bradford deputies arrested a former City of Lake Butler employee after determining he made over \$1,700 in gasoline purchases for his personal vehicle using a city credit card.

Michael Clayton Hall, 19, of Raiford was arrested by Bradford deputies on Nov. 26 for larceny and fraud.

According to a sworn complaint, the defendant, a former part-time employee with the municipality, used the card to purchase gas from a Circle K in Starke, Lawtey Shell and a Shell station in Starke totaling \$737.07.

"Clayton admitted to using the credit card," wrote Bradford sheriff's detective James Crews in the complaint. "Clayton explained he hadn't had a job and needed gas. Clayton said he has done this 30-40 times combined."

Crews wrote that he contacted Union County sheriff's deputies who told



Hall

him that they were also investigating purchases by the defendant and had identified \$1,009.31 in fraudulent gasoline purchases made by Hall in Union County.

Crews added that the Lake Butler City Manager told him that prior to the city discovering Hall's thefts, the defendant was to interview for a fulltime position with the city.



WORTH NOTING

Upcoming food distribution

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Feeding Northeast Florida and True Vine Ministry will take place Wednesday, Dec. 8, at 8:30 a.m. at the RJE Complex on Pine Street in Starke.

Food boxes often include fresh produce, deli and bakery items, dairy and some meats. The inventory is subject to change based on availability. Tell a friend or a neighbor. The distribution is free and open to the public. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Flippin' Friday

Bradford County Faith Community Center will host Flippin' Friday with basketball, food, music and fun on Friday, Dec. 3, from 10 p.m. to midnight. Tell your family and friends. All are welcome.

Bradford County Faith Community Center is located at 721 Old Lawtey Road in Starke.

Veterans sponsoring community yard sale

American Legion Post 56 in Starke is holding a community flea market/yard sale and pancake breakfast from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 11.

The pancake and sausage breakfast served for a donation.

Sales spaces are available for \$15 outside and \$20 inside. For more information, please contact the Post Home at 904-769-1221.

All proceeds from this event will support veterans programs.

The Post Home is located at 715 Edwards Road across from the National Guard Armory.

Weekly deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. • Phone 904-964-6305 • Fax 904-964-8628

editor@bctelegraph.com • BCTelegraph.com •



New school property paid in full

STARKE — The acreage obtained for the construction of a new combination elementary and middle school has been paid off. From the smiles on their faces, it was evident that it was a win-win moment for everyone.

Through funding provided by the State of Florida Special Facilities Construction Account, the Bradford County School District celebrated without fanfare at the opportunity to pay off the land purchase for the new school.

“This is what community banks are for,” commented David Bridgeman, Community State Bank President and CEO, when presented with the final payment check. With an original purchase



Onsite to capture the moment were (l-r) School Board Vice Chair Candace Osteen, School Board Chair Sheila Cummings, Community State Bank EVP and COO Carolyn Reddish, Community State Bank President and CEO David Bridgeman, Superintendent Will Hartley, School Board Member Cheryl Canova, and Community State Bank SVP and CFO John Grebinger,

price of \$698,000 in 2017, the approximately 60-acre parcel located on Southeast 144th Street was selected for a state of the art facility to house Bradford County students.

With an anticipated opening date of August 2023, site work is underway as the group gathered both heard and saw. Crews from Ausley Construction Company are active daily preparing the site during Phase 1. Stacks of azure blue pipe and mounds of dirt adorned the landscape destined to provide a premier learning opportunity for Bradford County students.

“We truly appreciate the partnership we have with Community State Bank. Paying off the land for the new school is just one more step towards completing our first new school here in Bradford County in almost 25 years,” Superintendent Will Hartley said.



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Clay Electric announces two price increases to members

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

Power cost adjustment

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Clay Electric Cooperative said that due to the rising costs of generating power and other expenses, it is raising the price of power to its members.

Customers will see an increase to their power cost adjustment in December, and an increase to the co-op's access charge the following month.

For most Clay Electric members, their bills consist of an energy charge, an access charge, a power cost adjustment, taxes and a contribution to the co-op's Operation Round Up.

In a news release, the co-op said members will see the first price increase in their power cost adjustment line item.

In order to change their base rates, utilities have to get approval from Florida's Public Service Commission.

In response to the 1973 Arab Oil Embargo, the commission allowed utilities to adjust their power cost adjustments without seeking state approval for each individual change.

The co-op said that the power cost adjustment was to take place in November but was delayed due to billing system issues.

"Members using the industry household average of 1,000 kWh of power will pay \$115.90, a \$4 increase," the co-op said. "The previous cost was \$111.90 and took effect in January 2021."

The actual amount each member pays each month will vary based on how much electricity is used.

Clay Electric said the price of natural gas, which the co-op's power supplier uses to generate power, has increased 100 percent this year.

"The co-op's cost of wholesale power is now more than 70% of Clay's total expenses," it said, "so it's critical the co-op makes sure it recovers all of its wholesale power costs in its retail sales."

Clay Electric General Manager/CEO Ricky Davis said the increase in fuel and commodity prices are projected to increase electric generation costs more than \$7 million for the co-op in 2021.

"We work hard to maintain our costs and provide affordable electricity, but these large fuel increases to generate power make this rate change unavoidable," Davis said. "This will be the first increase in the power cost adjustment since 2018 due to historically stable coal and natural gas prices."

Access charge

In addition to the December

power cost adjustment increase, the co-op said it is increasing its access charge in January.

"A recent rate study indicated the cooperative should increase its access charge to approximately \$30 per month to recoup more of the fixed costs associated with building and maintaining its distribution system," the co-op said. "The Clay Electric board of trustees voted to increase the access charge by \$4 per month."

The new monthly access charge will be \$27, beginning in January, making the cost for 1,000 kWh \$119.90. The access charge was last increased in 2018.

"Despite this rate increase, the cost of electricity remains a great

value considering all the ways we depend on it," Davis said. "Over the last five years, the cost of rent increased 3.4%; medical care increased 2.8%; and education increased 2.2% nationwide. But the cost of electricity only increased 1%."

In the news release, the co-op also reminded its members that they receive an annual capital credits refund based on the amount each member was billed for electricity during the year.

"In 2020 alone, \$24 million in capital credits was returned to members in two disbursements," the co-op said.

Union board seeks to address inequity

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Editor

LAKE BUTLER — The Union County Board of Commissioners has established its committee assignments for the coming year and each member stands ready to serve county residents with any business they may have with the various entities with which the county deals.

Each commissioner deals with several committees while representing the county. Citizens with a problem that need the consideration of a specific committee should start the process by contacting the commissioner who is a member of it. The assignments may vary from year to year, with certain commissioners requesting to stay in a position they are familiar with. For the coming 2021-22 fiscal year, Commissioner Channing Dobbs made motion to keep all the assignments the same as the previous year and the commission voted unanimously in the affirmative on the matter. The list is presented below as a convenience to the Times readers.

Commissioner Chairman Jimmy Tallman will represent Union County as a member representative of the North Florida Regional Planning Council, the New River Solid Waste Association and the New River Public Library Cooperative.

Commissioner Willie Croft will represent the board as the member for the Union County Public Library and the Suwannee River Economic Council (SREC).

Commissioner Channing Dobbs will represent the board as a member for the New River Solid Waste Association and the New River Public Library Cooperative.

Commissioner Lacey Cannon will represent the board as an alternate for the Union County Public Library and the SREC. He will also serve as a member for SHIP (new construction and rehab, the North Florida Economic Development Partnership and the Small County Coalition).

Commissioner Ryan Perez will represent the board for the Florida Crown Workforce, the Transportation for the Disadvantaged Board, the alternate for the New River Public Cooperative.

County Coordinator Jimmy Williams will serve as a second county representative for the

North Florida.

As for the board itself, Commissioner Jimmy Tallman will serve another term as chairman, while Commissioner Channing Dobbs will serve a second term as vice-chair.

The board of commissioners is also looking at implementing a special assessment for EMS and fire services for businesses in addition to the one already charged annually to homeowners as a part of their property (ad valorem) taxes.

J.R. Davis spoke to the commission at its Nov. 15 meeting during the public comment period, appealing to them to implement the assessment on businesses. He asked that the board hold a workshop on the matter to set an amount that will be consistent with what other counties are charging and get in approved before the first of the year. The measure would affect only businesses in the county, there would be no change in what other property owners are paying.

Commission Chairman Jimmy Tallman said that the matter had been brought up at several previous meetings and he agreed that it was time that the board took action on the matter.

"I am a business owner, and I am in favor of the assessment," Tallman said. "Should I have need of these services they would be there for me, just as they would for any homeowner, and I do not want to continue having a free-ride while others are having to pay for it."

County Coordinator Jimmy Williams told the board that when the special assessment was first implemented in 1987 businesses were required to pay as well as homeowners but that in 1989 the ordinance creating the assessment was redone with the assessment for businesses being removed. He said that to make the change back to assessing businesses would have to be done through a board resolution.

County Attorney Russ Wade said that there had never been a repeal of the original ordinance from 1987, with the 1989 change being done by a resolution setting the business assessment at \$0. He agreed with Williams that the board must approve a resolution to change the business assessment from \$0 to the agreed upon amount.

Williams responded that he would like to see the new assessment of businesses approved and be in effect on

the next tax cycle and to do so it would require commission approval before Jan. 1, 2022. To make this happen, the board has set a workshop to deal with the matter for Dec. 23, 2021 at 12 p.m.

In other discussion and action, at its Dec. 15 meeting, the Union County Board of County Commissioners:

—Recognized EMS employees Tita Munguia and Mark Maca (who was not able to be present at the meeting) for volunteering their time to assist the Union County High School JROTC with required emergency medical presence at recent rappelling training.

—Heard a report from Williams concerning grants the county will be receiving and are under consideration for. He said that the fire department had qualified to receive a grant of \$15,207 — enough to purchase five sets of firefighter turn-out gear. The new equipment will replace old, worn out sets and help to keep UC firefighters safe. Williams said the county will, once again, receive \$25,000 for its annual tire amnesty event, where residents can bring in old tire and dispose of them without having to pay a fee. He also mentioned that the county had placed fifth out of 17 applicants for a Department of Agriculture grant of \$750,000 to be used to enlarge and improve the UC Agricultural Education complex.

—Heard a report from UF/IFIS UC Extension Agent Luke Harlow about 4-H participation in the county. He told the board that in 2019 there were 134 young people participating in 4-H programs, a number that dropped to 72 in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. HE said he was pleased to report that membership was up again in the organization, with 151 young people participating in 2021. He noted that the Duval County 4-H program currently had 155 youngsters involved. He also mentioned that the 2022 Union County Livestock Association was expecting 181 young people to participate in the UCLA 2022 Fair, a much higher number than for the 2021 fair.

Candidates

Warner seeking reelection in Lawtey



Warner

While working with the city water and sewer administration, I helped in procuring funds — grants worth several million dollars to pay for system upgrades during construction phases 2, 3 and 4.

My real labor of love began when I was assigned responsibility for our volunteer fire department. My husband and two sons have collectively served, voluntarily, for 30 years to protect our citizens and all the structures within the city boundary. I take great pride playing a small part in seeing our volunteer fire department transition from a small one room, three-bay service building to an all-paid professional emergency organization housed in a totally brand new self-contained live-in facility.

I assisted in bringing in our very first Emergency Medical Services unit to augment our new fire department. This has increased our ability to assist Lawtey residents in all types of emergencies outside of just fire protection. I'm extremely proud of this accomplishment.

With your support, if reelected I look forward to focusing my efforts back with the water and sewer department as we need to raise more government money-grants to replace the antiquated water lines within the city.

I love this community and will always do my best to make it better. We still have work to do and I'm asking for your support.

Vote for Virginia Warner, City Councilwoman on Dec. 7.

This is a paid political advertisement, paid for by Virginia R. Warner, candidate for Lawtey City Council.

To all the good people of Lawtey:

It has been my privilege to serve our community as a city councilwoman for the last 12 years, and I'm asking you for your support, again, to serve for another four years. My extended family members have been Lawtey residents for over 100 years, and I've lived here since 2003 when I moved into the house where my father was born.

Over the past 12 years, I have been responsible to you in overseeing the recreation department; spent seven years involved with the city water and sewer infrastructure, and the last four years dedicated to upgrading our volunteer fire department into a fully paid public service organization.

Kids' Holiday Talent Show

4-Corners Community School will present its second annual Kids' Holiday Talent Show at Mossman Hall on Saturday, Dec. 11, at 11:30 a.m. There will be hot drinks and treats, plus holiday gifts for sale.

Mossman Hall is located at 301 S.R. 26 in Melrose.

VFW to hold Christmas event

The VFW Post 10082 is having their annual members-only Christmas Party. It begins at 6 p.m. on Dec. 11. It will be held at the VFW Post and Santa will be there. Bring a snack (finger food to share). Call Barbara Fischer for info at 904-263-0647.

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Christmas on Call Street Dec. 9-12

Starke Christmas Parade, a 5K and more

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Christmas is returning to Call Street next week, with another multi-day event for families to celebrate the season and the community.

With games, vendors, rides, entertainment, an evening light parade and breakfast with Santa, there will be something for everyone.

Christmas will come early for the winners of the 2021 Miss Winterfest Pageant, taking place at the Starke Woman's Club on Walnut Street at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 9. Sponsored by the Downtown Merchants, categories include Christmas attire and formalwear, with winners chosen in four age categories from 4 to 21. Winners will receive crowns and sashes and take part in public appearances

throughout Christmas on Call Street.

Vendors will begin setting up at the Downtown Square around 2 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 10. This will be a center for activities during the holiday event, including the Christmas tree lighting and live Nativity scene at 6:45 p.m. that night. Cart rides will be available for \$5 beginning at 6 p.m., and there will be music and a community service beginning at 7 p.m.

Also taking place next Friday is the Holly Jolly 5K, sponsored by the Bradford County Health Department. The 5K will begin at 5:30 p.m., with in-person registration beginning at 4:30. You may also sign up on line at <https://bit.ly/3x1DJfZ>. The first 25 recipients will receive a free backpack, and there will be many other goodies for participants. Organizers suggest bringing a light or glowstick to wear. Anyone under 18 will need an adult to participate with them.

In advance of Saturday's

Christmas parade, families can come to the square beginning at 10 a.m. to visit vendors and play kids games. Live entertainment will begin at 11 a.m., and a car show will take place from 3 to 5 p.m.

The parade is set to start at 6 p.m., and there is still time to put in an application to participate. The deadline is Tuesday, Dec. 7. Contact the chamber a 904-964-5278 or pam@northfloridachamber.com.

For those showing up to view the parade, line-up begins in front of the Starke Emergency Room. The parade will travel west on Call Street to U.S. 301, then make a right. It will go north on 301 to Jackson Street, then make a right, and disband at the city parking lot.

Following the parade, Santa will make his way to the Downtown Square for family photos. You may also make reservations to have breakfast with Santa at the Downtown Grill on Sunday, Dec. 12, beginning at 9 a.m.

Property appraiser to audit homestead exemptions

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

GREEN COVE SPRINGS — Clay County Property Appraiser Tracy S. Drake said he has hired a firm to look for improper homestead exemption claims among the county's 55,000 parcels with the exemptions.

Florida law provides for a number of property tax exemptions, assessment reductions, and classifications which will reduce the taxable value (and taxes) of property.

Homestead exemption is the most common. To be eligible, property owners must have legal or equitable title to the property and establish proof of permanent residency (annually as of January 1).

Drake said Clay County's property tax base is predominately residential, with approximately 70% of the total taxable value consisting of improved residential properties, and more than 73 percent of those parcels are encumbered with an existing homestead exemption.

He added that although it is the responsibility of the property appraiser to determine the eligibility of the homestead exemption, some property owners are improperly or fraudulently receiving the tax benefit.

"(This) is problematic and creates inequity within the assessment roll and tax base," he said in a news release.

"Ultimately, honest taxpayers are left with making up the difference that homestead fraud creates. This audit is intended to certify that all property owners pay their fair share — no more, no less."

Under Florida law, the property appraiser may review the exemption status for any current or prior year, up to 10 years, and may file a tax lien subject to the taxes owed as a result of the ineligible exemption. The appraiser may also impose a 50% penalty of the unpaid taxes for each year, and 15% interest per year.

In 2019 Property Appraiser Eddie Creamer hired the same firm to audit exemptions in St. Johns County, and the examination uncovered over 300 parcels in which property owners claimed the exemption but were not entitled to it.

The audit also uncovered nearly 100 property owners who were not claiming the exemption but who were entitled to it.

Typically, auditors uncover improper homestead exemptions by discovering similar exemptions claimed by the same property owners in other states, or by finding the alleged homestead offered for rent on online rental platforms like Airbnb or Vrbo.

Florida is particularly susceptible to improper homestead exemptions because of the high number of vacation and second homes in

the state. The homestead exemption became a topic in the 2016 Florida House District 19 race, when Bradford County Property Appraiser Jimmy Alvarez removed the exemption from Rep. Charles Van Zant's claimed homestead.

Alvarez checked into the exemption after receiving an anonymous email. Van Zant's wife Katherine was seeking to replace her husband in the legislature but lost the Republican primary to Bobby Payne shortly after the public disclosure of Charles Van Zant's exemption ineligibility.

Charles Van Zant said the exemption was valid, and only agreed to pay the additional tax to remove the issue from his wife's campaign.

He added that he had not lived in the home for eight years because of a remodeling project.

"It's been a slow remodel, but that's my prerogative," he said. "There is no law that says how long a remodel must take."

Parcel owners whom the property appraiser determined has received the exemption improperly are first notified by a 30-day notice of intent to lien. They then have 30 days to prove to the official that the exemption is proper.

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<p style="font-size: 24px; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$6.99</p> <p style="font-size: 12px;">Lb.</p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">USDA Select Angus Beef</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">T-Bone Steak</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$1.89</p> <p style="font-size: 12px;">Lb.</p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">Fresh Lean N° Tender • Whole</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Boneless Pork Loin</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">Virtue Bath Tissue</p> <p style="font-size: 10px;">12 Roll Pkg.</p> <p style="font-size: 24px; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$2.99</p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">Colortex</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Big Mopper Towels</p> <p style="font-size: 24px; color: red; font-weight: bold;">79¢</p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">Del Monte Vegetables</p> <p style="font-size: 10px;">Select Varieties</p> <p style="font-size: 24px; color: red; font-weight: bold;">99¢</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Coca-Cola Products</p> <p style="font-size: 10px;">6 Pack, Half Liters</p> <p style="font-size: 24px; color: red; font-weight: bold;">2/\$6</p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">Select Varieties • 48 oz.</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Blue Bunny Ice Cream</p> <p style="font-size: 24px; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$4.59</p>
<p style="font-size: 24px; color: red; font-weight: bold;">89¢</p> <p style="font-size: 12px;">Lb.</p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">Sanderson Farms • Family Pack</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Fryer Thighs or Drumsticks</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$4.99</p> <p style="font-size: 12px;">Lb.</p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">USDA Select Angus Beef • Boneless</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Bottom Round Roast</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold;">Blue Bunny Ice Cream</p> <p style="font-size: 24px; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$4.59</p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">VISIT OUR STORE ONLINE</p>
Fresh Quality Meats		
<p style="font-size: 24px; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$3.79</p> <p style="font-size: 12px;">Lb.</p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">Fresh Lean N° Meaty • Family Pack</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Ground Chuck</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$1.19</p> <p style="font-size: 12px;">Lb.</p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">Sanderson Farms • Grade A</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Whole Fryers</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$4.99</p> <p style="font-size: 12px;">Lb.</p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">USDA Select Angus Beef</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Boneless Sirloin Steak</p>
<p style="font-size: 24px; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$1.99</p> <p style="font-size: 12px;">Lb.</p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">Fresh Lean N° Tender • Family Pack</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Boneless Pork Chops</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$4.79</p> <p style="font-size: 12px;">Lb.</p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">Fresh Lean N° Tender • St. Louis Style</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Pork Spare Ribs</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$8.49</p> <p style="font-size: 12px;">Ea.</p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">Prairie Fresh (Cook in the Bag)</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Pork Fillets All Varieties</p>
<p style="font-size: 24px; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$4.59</p> <p style="font-size: 12px;">Ea.</p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">12 oz. • Bar 5 Naturally Hardwood Smoked</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Sliced Bacon</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$1.49</p> <p style="font-size: 12px;">Ea.</p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">9 oz. • Land O' Frost Black Forest Ham and Oven Roasted Turkey</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Variety Pack</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$2.99</p> <p style="font-size: 12px;">Ea.</p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">16 oz. • Oscar Mayer Regular or Bun Length</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Meat Wieners</p>
<p style="font-size: 24px; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$3.99</p> <p style="font-size: 12px;">Ea.</p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">27 oz. • Dutch Farms • Mild</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Pork Sausage Patties</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$2.99</p> <p style="font-size: 12px;">Ea.</p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">24 • 28 oz. • On-Gar All Varieties • Family Size</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Dinner Entrees</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$17.99</p> <p style="font-size: 12px;">Ea.</p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">See Box • 10F 5 Lb. Bag TILAPIA FILLETS \$22.99 or 5 Lb. Bag</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Swai Fillets</p>

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THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	8
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Letters

Thanks for supporting Operation Christmas Child

Dear Editor:
Operation Christmas Child National Collection Week was November 15-22, 2021. Another amazing year of shoe-box collection occurred at the curbside drop-off located at Trinity Baptist Church.

A hallmark of our Lake Area Region is a heart of generosity. I clearly saw this through Operation Christmas Child, an evangelistic ministry of Samaritan's Purse. I am the Team Leader for the Keystone Heights Central Drop-off Location. The 2021 global goal is 9.7 million shoeboxes filled with school supplies, hygiene items and fun toys. The shoe-box gifts will be delivered in over 100 countries. The record-breaking number of 6,709 shoeboxes poured in locally to bless poor children all around the world! Three other drop-off locations transported their cartons of shoeboxes to us since we are the Central Drop-off location for the Santa Fe Region Area (Alachua, Bradford, Putnam and Union counties). The grand total amounted to 14,846 shoeboxes! After inspection at the Atlanta Processing Center, these gift boxes

will be delivered to many countries, including Chad, Togo and Uganda. An army of volunteers is required to pack, collect, inspect and deliver shoeboxes to the delighted children, many of whom have never received any gift before.

I am thankful for each hand involved locally in this worldwide ministry. I am always thrilled to see the donors with beaming faces and precious testimonies. Our community unequivocally rises to the occasion. Stores and restaurants advertised with colorful posters. Starke Beall's Outlet Store donated countless numbers of empty shoeboxes to wrap and pack. Red and green decorative OCC shoe boxes (known as Gospel Opportunities or GO boxes) were offered at Clyde's Cozy Corner Café and Johnny's Bar-B-Q.

McDonald's once again donated Happy Meal toys as fillers. Ladies crocheted hats and purses. Handmade embroidered outfits and dresses found their way into the shoeboxes. Hundreds of handmade wooden cars added fun to the gift boxes. Johnny's Bar-B-Q graciously advertised Trinity Baptist Church as the Drop-off for shoeboxes on its famous sign. The Lake Region Monitor published photos and articles. 38 volunteers served to collect, count and pack the shoeboxes over eight days. Strong men loaded 928 cartons onto three semi-trailers. Deserving recognition are the 39 churches and Christian ministries, seven civic and school groups, and 12 individuals

and families who joyfully packed the 6,709 shoeboxes. Shoeboxes came from 16 locations: Florahome, Gainesville, Grandin, Green Cove Springs, Hampton, Hawthorne, Jacksonville, Keystone Heights, LaCrosse, Lawtey, Melrose, Middleburg, Raiford, San Mateo, Starke, and Waldo.

Moments of reflection with prayer were offered as each church, group and individual came in with their gift boxes. It did not matter if it was one box or 100 boxes; we prayed over every one because each gift box represents one child who will receive it and also hear the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Selfless donors, you did another terrific job! You are helping to change the lives of 6,709 boys and girls, ages 2-14. Our global world has allowed us to touch the lives of many children in desperate need of hope. Many emails and several letters were received this year from recipients of shoeboxes in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Mali, the Philippines, and South Sudan. Corine, big sister of Geoffrey who received a shoe-box, emailed: "I thank the people that sent the gift to my country. Thank you so much for all you do for the children of the world. May God bless you abundantly."

Words of thanks are hardly enough to the Lake Area Region for your continued sacrificial giving of shoeboxes. We are the hands and feet of Jesus when we give these wonderful gifts. Pray for the children who will receive our shoeboxes packed in 2021. Imagine the looks of wonder as the children open these treasure boxes! Whenever the shoeboxes arrive, it is Christmas! We celebrate each beautiful shoebox packed in this region with caring hearts. A sincere thank you from my heart to each donor. Merry Christmas!

*So very grateful,
Diane Michel
Team Leader Keystone Heights
Central Drop-off Location
Operation Christmas Child*

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

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Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700

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UCHS JROTC second in championship

The UCHS JROTC Raider Team placed 2nd overall in the State Raider Championship in the Male/Mix category on Saturday. In accomplishing this, they placed third in the Cross-Country Rescue, second in the Raider Fitness Challenge and first in the Rope Bridge events. Pictured are: (front to back, l-r) Angelys Nunez, Zeb Raulerson (team commander), Krysta Wheeler (assistant team commander), Talya Trent, Brooke Burgess, Christopher Alvarez (Tiger Battalion commander), Jordon Clarke, Jay Parks, Kenneth Banks, Mackensie Ring, Jacob Thomas, Isabella Manucy, Layla Piggott and Michael Ring.



Key Club collection benefits Ronald McDonald families

Hope Christian Academy Key Club officers delivered household items they collected for the Ronald McDonald House in Gainesville. The drive was conducted on the HCA campus. The HCA Key Club has also previously collected items for the Guardian Ad Litem and the Bradford Food Pantry.

"Collecting and donating to organizations has been one of the most amazing experiences of Key Club," said HCA senior and Key Club President Emma Snyder. "I will miss seeing the smiles on people's faces when we deliver the donations with my Key Club officers."

Pictured are Key Club officers Vice President Lydia Morgan, Chaplain Trayven Chandler, President Emma Snyder, Co-Secretary Jadie Clark, Editor Brooke McCloud, Treasurer Dakota Cedar Secretary Haley Sheppard.

END Continued from page 1

recommended action — including discipline — back to the full commission for consideration on Dec. 7. At the time they were told disciplinary options included reprimand, censure or even removal from the board.

City attorney Clay Martin told them they could also deliver other recommendations to the commission.

"As you've embarked on this effort to investigate, it's really become apparent to you that there may be a lack of rules and procedures pertaining to the actions of commissioners, pertaining to the role of commissioners, pertaining to the role of the city manager as it relates to management of city employees," Martin said. If they find there are not sufficient procedures to recommend any action regarding the Nugent investigation, they could instead recommend the commission focus its efforts on developing those procedures, he said.

"If and when this were to ever occur again, and allegations were to be made, you'd have something to act on, a standard to hold the commissioner to," he said, "and the commissioners would all have gotten some of what's expected of them."

The city doesn't have any standards against which to judge a commissioner, Martin said, but he agreed if there were any state laws violated, employees could file complaints with the Florida Commission on Ethics.

If the committee recommended establishing a process for future complaints as well as clarifying expectations of commissioners and the chain of command, everyone would be better off than they were when this began, Martin said.

Roberts asked about carrying on the investigation happened and postponing any final recommendation until they were clear on what actions the city commission could take.

"At this point, we're just trying to figure out what happened," Roberts said.

Sikes said due process entitles the defense to call their own witnesses and examine the past conduct of other commissioners and how the city handled those situations. Hence, the broad records request.

The City of Starke operates under the Commission-Manager form of government. The City Commission is elected by the voters and in turn, the Council appoints a professionally trained individual as its City Manager. It is the responsibility of the City Manager to handle day to day operation of City business. The City Commission makes policy decisions, and votes on all legislative or quasi-judicial matters required or enabled by state or federal law.

In addition to the city code, Starke's website discusses the separate roles of its commissioners, manager and clerk.

"Both sides get to be heard. That's due process," Sikes said, adding that process is not going to be simple. "I know of two witnesses right now that are prepared to testify about a member of the city commission that has been very abusive with various members of city staff. I don't want to have to go to that, but if I have to call that to level the playing field, I will."

Roberts said this wasn't a witch hunt and they didn't want anyone to be deprived of due process, but legal arguments aside, he said the commission represents the entire city and its employees, and from that standpoint, he felt there might be more to hear.

"If we've got an ad hoc committee to look into this, my point was I want to look into it," he said. If on the other hand, the city's counselor says they can't, then the attorneys should get in a room and work it out, he said.

"The issue is not that you can't look into it," Martin said. "I think the issue is, at the end of the day, after you've looked into it, you really have nothing there to be able to judge against."

It's not the investigation, but what happens after the investigation they are concerned about, Martin said.

While the city charter allows the commission to develop rules and procedures and to punish commissioners for misconduct, those rules and procedures have not been established, and the same is true of standards for conduct.

Smith supported moving forward with creating them, including a policy on communications between commissioners and employees about their work assignments, something he said commissioners are guilty of. Sikes said he's witnessed it for years.

"We're going to correct that on our side. I know that's one of the things I want to come out of this whole procedure," Smith said, adding it was a positive thing for the city that all of this came to light.

Seeing no need to continue the current investigation, Roberts and Smith voted to suspend the investigation. Sikes withdrew his records request.

"The only thing that we can do, as it relates to this series of events, is focus our attention on preventing them from happening again or equipping ourselves to be able to address them if they do happen again," Martin said.

"Autumn"

*Tis autumn time of the year again,
When animals begin tuckin' in
The nuts and seeds nature did provide
They put them in the trees to hide
The green leaves have a touch of gold
They'll soon be darkened by the cold
The touch of frost is very near
But it's still a good time of the year.*

— Henry Hodges
Lawtey, FL

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Garden Club of the Lakes celebrates 60th birthday

BY BARBARA PELLECHIO

Garden Club of the Lakes
Vice President

On Aug. 20, 1959, plans for the Garden Club of the Lakes were initiated by Mr. Emory (Bee) Cooper and Mrs. L.E. Harris at the home of Mrs. Edmond Dwyer. The Garden Club of the Lakes joined the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs.

There were 18 members in the first club. As the club grew, local governments, along with the Federation of Garden Clubs and National Garden Clubs, recognized the many outstanding civic and conservation projects that include ongoing beautification, community outreach and service to the Lake Region.

The group strives to promote "gardening for fun and



about those needs to have the plants flourish. Succulents vary greatly; some are smooth, some are prickly, and some are even hairy!

In November, Dr. John Patterson of Wild Birds Unlimited in Argyle in Orange Park, gave a comprehensive presentation about plants to attract birds!

This month we will celebrate the holidays with a potluck lunch and fellowship.

Our next club event is the Christmas parade on Saturday, Dec. 11, starting at 6 p.m. We will be handing out packets of seeds! Hope to see you there!

The Garden Club of the Lakes meets every month at the Faith Presbyterian Church at 2738 State Road 21 in Melrose (at the Midway on 21 and 21B). We meet at 10 a.m. Come to join us! Face masks are required.

community service".

In October of this year, we celebrated the Garden Club of the Lakes' 60th birthday! We had balloons, a large cake with a "ruby" on it to signify 60 years and ice cream. Care Valleau shared her love of succulents.

We learned that all succulents are not created equal! Each variety can have their own needs. It is best to inquire

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Crime

Recent arrests in Bradford, Union and Clay

Nov. 20 through Nov. 26

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

Brittany Aunjelique Chesser, 33, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on Nov. 22 for selling drugs.

Shelton Lorendy Dell, 44, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on Nov. 23 for probation violations.

Michael Clayton Hall, 19, of Raiford was arrested by Bradford deputies on Nov. 26 for larceny and fraud.

Patricia Williams Hanes, 65, of Waldo was arrested Nov. 22 by Starke police for a probation violation.

Robert John McDowall, 34, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on Nov. 24 for aggravated assault.

According to an arrest report, the victim told deputies McDowall fired shots toward him after a verbal dispute involving the return of stolen property.

The defendant told deputies he thought the victim and the defendant's wife were about to fight, so he fired two shots 20 feet away from the victim in order to scare him away.

Sara Anne Peebles, 37, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on Nov. 22 for selling drugs, possession of drugs, possession of drug equipment and using a two-way communications device to commit a felony.

Corbett Brandon Rhoden, 27, of Lawtey was arrested by Bradford deputies on Nov. 21 for battery.

According to an arrest report, the defendant threw his cell phone at a family member after becoming intoxicated. The phone struck the victim in the hand.

Dakota Lee Schmidt, 29, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on Nov. 22 for battery.

According to an arrest report, the defendant punched her boyfriend in the face during a verbal altercation.

John Coy Teeter, 46, of Jacksonville was arrested by Bradford deputies on Nov. 22 for a probation violation.

Crystal Michelle Walker, 26, of Lake Butler was arrested by Bradford deputies on Nov. 24 for a probation violation, possession of drugs and possession of cocaine.

Union

Michael Douglas Crawford, 22, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on Nov. 26 for resisting an officer.

Mark C. Defriest, 61, of Raiford was arrested by Union deputies on Nov. 22 for battery.

According to a probable cause affidavit, the defendant: an inmate at Union Correctional Institution, created a disturbance on May 31, and officers responded by attempting to disburse a chemical agent into the inmate's cell. When officers opened the door, the defendant threw a rubber glove filled with urine, striking an officer in the chest. However, the glove did not burst, and the substance stayed within the rubber glove.

Raydel Vazquez-Ochil, 34, of Raiford was arrested by Union deputies on Nov. 22 for smuggling contraband into prison. According to a probable cause affidavit, correctional officers found a cell phone in the defendant's possession during a routine search of a dormitory on May 26.

Jeffery Allen Thornton, 39, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on Nov. 21 for an out-of-county warrant.

Caleb Charles Ossi, 23, of Jacksonville was arrested by Union deputies on Nov. 25 for possession of a weapon by a convicted felon and possession of drugs.

Christopher McCray Wilson, 37, of Branford was arrested by Union deputies on Nov. 25 for an out-of-county warrant.

Clay

Duane Carl Damon, 48, was arrested by Clay deputies in Keystone Heights on Nov. 23 for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession or use of drug equipment.

Bridget Yvonne Sanford, 41, was arrested by Clay deputies in Keystone Heights on Nov. 24 for battery.

4 years for child neglect, selling drugs

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

STARKE— A 48-year-old Keystone Heights man was sentenced to four years in prison for selling drugs within 1,000 feet of Southside Elementary School, possession of methamphetamine and fentanyl and keeping a young girl in deplorable conditions.

John Franklin Burns pleaded no contest to the Sept. 1 offenses of selling a controlled substance within 1,000 feet of a school, possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell within 1,000 feet of a school, child neglect without great bodily harm, possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and use or possession of drug equipment.

According to court documents, a Starke police confidential informant purchased one-half



Burns

of a gram of methamphetamine from the defendant at Dee's Mobile Home Park, which is approximately 350 feet away from the school.

Later the same day, officers executed a search warrant of the

home. "Upon entry into the residence," wrote arresting officer Johnathon Guinn in an arrest report, "a young girl... was located inside a room with drugs, drug paraphernalia and a large knife all within reach of (the child) on a dresser."

The drugs were later identified as 3.2 grams of methamphetamine and 0.5 grams of fentanyl. Burns and the girl were the only people in the home. Guinn added that the home was in disarray and had no power.

Before the search began, officers already had a warrant for Burns's arrest for selling methamphetamine.

Guinn wrote that he added the child neglect charge "based on the conditions (the girl) was found in and the location of the fentanyl, methamphetamine and knife."

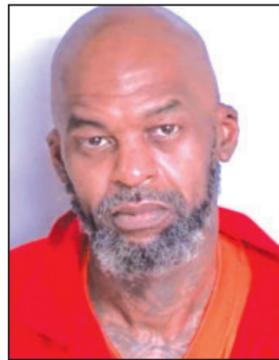
Sex offender caught with drugs, didn't register new address

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

STARKE— A registered sex offender who was caught with drugs during a Starke Police Department raid at the Budget Inn was sentenced to 42 months in prison.

Javares Lamar Barnes, 41, of Starke pleaded no contest to the July 26 offenses of failure of a sexual offender to report a residence change, possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Starke Police said the raid on the motel was part of its



Barnes

"Operation Problem Solver" which also included arrests on North Pine Street.

Arresting officer Johnathon Guinn wrote in an arrest report that when searching the room, officers found methamphetamine taped underneath a chair and in a hollowed-out screwdriver. They also found oxycodone, Xanax, buprenorphine and cocaine in the room.

Hunter Redding wrote in a separate arrest report that Barnes, who was listed in the FDLE sexual offender data base as residing in Hampton, had been living at the inn.

Charges dropped for Georgia man

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

STARKE— The State Attorney's Office dropped felony criminal mischief charges against a Georgia man

accused of causing over \$1,000 in damages to Starke's Best Western.

According to court papers, Antwaun De'shun Lewis, 43, of Loganville was accused of

damaging furniture, linens, electronic equipment and bathroom fixtures at the motel on June 18, 2021.

Deputy-involved crash results in minor injuries

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

STARKE — A crash involving a Bradford sheriff's deputy and another vehicle within the City of Starke resulted in minor injuries on Monday, Nov. 22.

Col. Brad Smith of the sheriff's office said Cpl. Jared Mallard was driving a marked F-150 southbound on U.S. 301 with lights and sirens activated around 7 p.m.

Smith said Mallard had been dispatched to Riverbend Estates in the Graham area after another deputy who had been investigating a suspicious person call failed to respond to his radio.

Mallard was in the outside lane, and as he approached a small, white compact, the white vehicle changed to the inside lane.

Smith said just before Mallard passed the compact, the car changed lanes again, forcing Mallard to take evasive action.



The crash is under investigation.

The F-150 struck the back, left corner of the car, which then crashed into 205 N. Temple Ave., occupied by Grooming by Sister.

Both drivers were transported to Starke ER with minor injuries and later released. The building sustained minor damage.

After the crash, the deputy in

Riverbend Estates contacted the sheriff's office. Smith blamed the communications failure on poor radio connectivity in the Graham area.

The Florida Highway Patrol is investigating the collision and has not yet issued a report, according to Smith.

18 months for fighting deputy

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

STARKE — A 34-year-old Brooker man was sentenced to 18 months in prison for fighting with a deputy.

Andrew Jackson Knight pleaded no contest to the April 22, 2021, offenses of battery on a law enforcement officer, battery on a person aged 65 years or older and resisting an officer with violence. An additional charge of disturbing the peace was dropped at a Nov. 24 pretrial conference during which Knight pleaded to the other charges.

According to court papers Bradford sheriff's Sgt. Tanner R. Foreman responded to a suspicious person call around 4:50 a.m. to a Melvin Street address in Brooker.

There he found Knight sitting beside a water spigot at a residence, claiming that lights were bothering him, and that acid was getting to him.

"Andrew kept getting into the water hose, pouring water on himself, even though he appeared to be fine," wrote Tanner in a sworn complaint. "I asked him what he was on, and Andrew



Knight

said he used meth yesterday and hadn't slept since."

Foreman added that Knight started to scream, waking residents in the area. A 68-year-old neighbor heard the commotion and drove across the street to find out what was going on.

"I told Andrew to wait by my truck for EMS so he could be checked out and get help," Foreman wrote. "I then went to get into my agency vehicle to unlock the door for him to

sit in, and that is when Andrew fled on foot screaming 'help me' and running towards Charlotte Avenue."

Foreman wrote that he followed the defendant in his truck, observing Knight banging on doors and trying to enter vehicles while screaming for help.

The officer caught up with Knight at a Charlotte Avenue address and attempted to detain him. He deployed his taser on the defendant "which yielded negative compliance."

"I then started trying to control Andrew when he began to fight me for approximately 20 minutes before backup arrived because our agency-issued radios were not working," Foreman wrote. "Neighbors heard what was going on and attempted to help me get control of him."

Foreman wrote that once EMS arrived, medics gave the defendant a shot to calm him down. The sergeant wrote that during the fight, the defendant kicked him in the face with his boot several times and bit him on the arm. The 68-year-old witness also received minor injuries.

December sobriety checkpoints announced

During the month of December, the Bradford County Sheriff's Office will be conducting sobriety checkpoints in one or more of the following locations: U.S. Highway 301 and Market Road, S.R. 100 West, S.R. 100 East and Southeast 109th Street, Southeast S.R. 21, S.R. 16 and Southwest S.R. 231.

Melrose Art Walk Friday

Mossman Hall will present a Christmas Art Show featuring new works from all member artists during the Dec. 3 Art Walk, beginning at 6 p.m. The occasion will include food, hot chocolate and live Christmas music.

On the first Friday of every month, from 6 to 9 p.m., the Melrose Art Walk encourages

patrons to visit exhibits at each of the town's galleries. The Art Walk is sponsored by the Melrose All Arts Council.

Get help quitting

Quitting tobacco isn't easy. Finding help should be. If you're ready to quit, join the next Tools to Quit Tobacco group on Thursday, Dec. 9, from 3-5 p.m. at the Bradford County Health Department. Virtual options by computer and phone are also available.

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

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

Santa to be at Bradford Co. Library Dec. 2

Santa and Mrs. Claus are paying a visit to the Bradford County Public Library on Thursday, Dec. 2, from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

This fun, holiday event is for all ages. Be sure to bring a device to take photos.

Face coverings are optional. For more information, please call the library at 904-368-3911.

Soil and water group meeting

The Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 7, at 9 a.m. at the Bradford County Extension Office. There will be reports on the status of projects and activities.

These meetings are open to the public. Contact Paul Still at 904-368-0291 or stillpe@aol.com for more information.



Russ WADE
Attorney at Law

620 East Main Street
Lake Butler, FL 32054
(Across from Subway Plaza)

386-496-9656

Probate • Family • Wills • Adoption • Litigation • Corporate

Farm-City lunch brings two worlds together

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Editor

About 70 area residents came together for a meal and educational opportunities at the first Farm/City luncheon, held at the Union County Agricultural Education building (which houses the UF/IFIS Extension Office).

For the past several years the event has been held as a dinner at the Hal Y. Maines Community Center at Lakeside Park. This year it was decided to change both the time and the location. It was thought that a lunch would be more accessible to persons wishing to attend.

The event was held on Nov. 19, the week before Thanksgiving, as has been the tradition. Many people have come to believe that the event is intended as a sort of community Thanksgiving celebration, but, according to UF/IFIS Extension Agent Luke Harlow, this is not the case.

"The purpose of this event is to increase the awareness and understanding between the producers (farmers) and the consumers," Harlow said.

Lunch was catered by Brian Barton and sponsored by the Farm Bureau. Fried chicken, mashed potatoes and other delicious fare was served by 4-H and FFA members to the attendees, who included several county commissioners and other

local officials.

In a change from previous years, there was no guest speaker. Instead, conversations between attendees and with the representatives of several organizations who had tables set up along three walls of the meeting room with information on their purpose, as well as numerous "party favors."

Farm Credit, represented by John Hall, offered a table load of goodies for the delight of all ages, including measures for agricultural chemicals and stress relief squeezers in the shapes of farm animals.

Florida Forestry offered rulers and other items. The forestry representative was Holly Tucker, daughter of Union County Elementary School Principal Marcie Tucker and retired Union County Forester Jay Tucker.

Susan Harris was on hand, representing the Florida State Beekeeping Association. The association is the sponsor of a new state license plate that has been approved, pending the pre-sale of at least 3,000 tags before production begins. Person wishing to purchase the new "Save the Bees" tag can request one and receive a voucher through their county tax collector or register for one online.

On a more local note, Cecelia Young and Nancy Brewer were on hand to inform attendees



A table full of happy lunchers at the Farm/City Luncheon. Pictured are: (left, front to back) Holly Tucker, Charlotte Emerson, County Commissioner Ryan Perez and Michaela Clemons, UC Human Resources Coordinator. (Right, front to back) UC School Board member Becky Raulerson, the new Miss UCHS Karly Ann Raulerson, UC 4H Director Kristi McCallister, County Commissioner Lacey Cannon and County Commissioner Channing Dobbs.

about the Union County Beekeepers Club, which holds monthly meetings (except in December) on the third Tuesday of each month, at the Ag Center.

Union County 4-H, UF-IFIS and Farm Bureau were also represented at the event.

Thanks go out to all of the organizations who participated in the event, all those who attended and the members of the Union County 4-H and the Union County High School FFA Chapter, who donated their time to work the event.



FFA and 4H volunteers who donated their time to serve the meal at the Farm/City Luncheon. Pictured are (l-r) Jace Bielling, Tanner Connell, Reagan Robinson, Alayah Jefferson, Latoya Hampton, Naliana Hampton, Ava Jefferson. The 4H'ers are members of the Pigtails and Ponytails group.



Cecelia Young and Nancy Brewer, members of the Union County Beekeepers Club, instruct and attendee and her daughter on the fun of beekeeping.



Holly Tucker provided information on "All Things Trees" to lunch attendees, while Farm Bureau's Edward Shadd drops by her display for a visit.

Bloodies and Bluegrass

4-Corners Community School will present Bloodies and Bluegrass behind Mossman Hall on Saturday, Dec. 11, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. This free event will feature a Bloody Mary bar and live bluegrass music.

Mossman Hall is located at 301 S.R. 26 in Melrose.

Lawtey Christmas Parade

Come enjoy a display of custom cars, horses, church and community groups, and much more at Lawtey's annual Christmas Parade.

The parade will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 18. The route begins at Lawtey Elementary

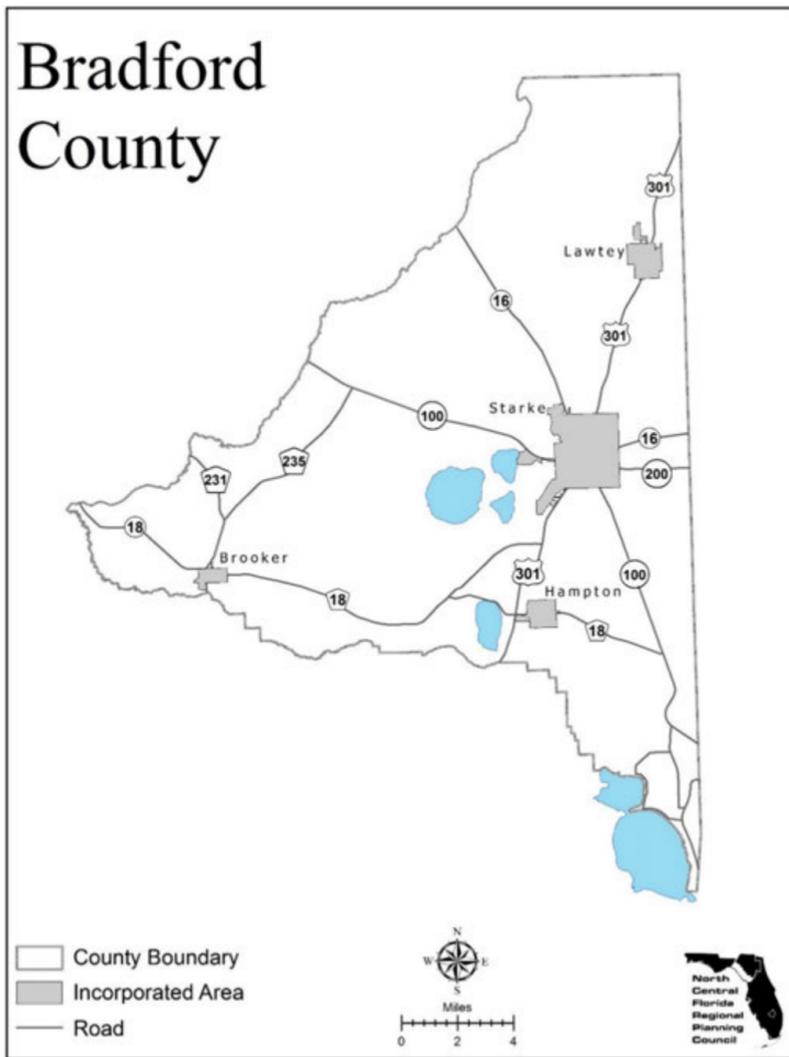
School and travel east on Lake Street, then turn around at Walk by Faith Ministries.

For more information, please call Ben Strong at 904-782-3130 or Cynthia Ross at 904-782-3107.

NOTICE OF LAND USE CHANGE

The Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida, proposes to change the use of land within the area shown on the map below, by amending the text of the Bradford County Comprehensive Plan, hereinafter referred to as the Comprehensive Plan, as follows:

CPA 21-01, an application by the Board of County Commissioners, to amend the text of the Comprehensive Plan by adding a Property Rights Element to the Comprehensive Plan per Section 163.3161(10), Florida Statutes, as amended and Section 187.101(3), Florida Statutes, as amended.



A public hearing will be conducted by the Board of County Commissioners to consider the amendment and enactment of the ordinance adopting the amendment on December 16, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room located in the Bradford County Courthouse, North Wing, 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida. The title of said ordinance reads, as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE BRADFORD COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; RELATING TO AN AMENDMENT TO THE TEXT OF THE BRADFORD COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION, CPA 21-01, BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, UNDER THE AMENDMENT PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED IN SECTIONS 163.3161 THROUGH 163.3215, FLORIDA STATUTES, AS AMENDED; PROVIDING FOR ADDING A PROPERTY RIGHTS ELEMENT TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PER SECTION 163.3161(10), FLORIDA STATUTES, AS AMENDED AND SECTION 187.101(3), FLORIDA STATUTES, AS AMENDED; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

The public hearing may be continued to one or more future dates. Any interested party shall be advised that the date, time and place of any continuation of the public hearing shall be announced during the public hearing and that no further notice concerning the matter will be published, unless said continuation exceeds six calendar weeks from the date of the above referenced public hearing.

At the aforementioned public hearing, all interested persons may appear and be heard with respect to the amendment and the ordinance adopting the amendment on the date, time and place as referenced above.

Copies of the amendment are available for public inspection at the Office of the Director of Zoning, County Courthouse located at 945 North Temple Avenue, North Wing, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours.

Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact the office of the County Manager at 904.966.6327, at least 48 hours prior to the public hearing or via Florida Relay Service 800.855.8770 (voice) or 800.955.8771 (TTY).

Recreation programs going strong in Union County

BY LARRY DUPEE
Special to the Times

The Babe Ruth Baseball Organization in Union County is a group of volunteers dedicated to providing a sports program for area youth. In conjunction with the national organizations of Babe Ruth and Pop Warner (BR & PW) who promote sports programs and provide organizational structure for smaller local programs that need help developing opportunities for community youth sports organizations.

The County commission has created a recreation board with Kevin Orton as presiding president. Mark Johns is the interim Chairman of the board and has coached baseball for the past 30 years. He is now the active coach for the Union County Babe Ruth baseball program. His wife Vicky Johns is the Vice President and coordinator for the sports activities. The county will provide facilities and maintenance for this program at the OJ Phillips Recreation center. The Babe Ruth and Pop Warner organizations will provide the structure and planning to establish a team oriented sports program for the kids.

This organization run entirely by volunteers has had an issue with the fluctuation of available personal to handle the responsibilities of maintaining the facilities and preparing the field for games. A request for a permanent paid position has been submitted by the Athletic



Gunner King, Gunner Thompson and Judson Carter sit on the bench and wait their turn to play.

Director. For the first time this year a position for maintenance personnel has been created to handle the tasks required to keep up appearances through maintenance of the playing field and to keep the facilities clean and available for scheduled events. Baseball and softball programs have been doing very well in the year and a half that it has taken to bring the program up to par. The baseball program has opened up for the girls choose to play with the boys to compete in scheduled games. Last season three girls held positions on the baseball team. The softball teams are limited to all girl teams. No boys allowed. The full contact football teams are limited to all boys. The girls are teamed up to

play flag football where contact is limited. Future options for other sports teams are being considered soccer has been one of the most requested programs by both parents and team members.

A new incentive to introduce baseball to the younger generations is a T ball program for the 5 to 7 year olds. This program is for mixed groups of boys and girls to get the feel of the sport. This has been a good program to involve the entire family. Parents and grandparents are anxious to see their kids out on the field learning good sportsmanship and team ethics while having fun playing the game. This age group offers the advantage of more teams as the number of families



An older player gets ready to hit one out of the park.

wanting their kids on teams. These programs promote good family participation, involving the entire family from the children on the teams to parents and grandparents cheering in the stands. The younger teams seem to involve the entire family as the concession sales are greater at the T-ball games when the whole family is in attendance, watching and making lifelong memories.

Ball season opened on Oct. 9 and runs through the third week of November. Approximately 200 boys will play baseball and T-ball as teams are formed. About 15 teams have been formed. Each team has a 300 sponsor that helps cover the cost of the team so the family expense to get their children involved is



Braxton Griffis with a game ball.

\$100 or less per child. Sign up for the Spring ball season opens in mid-January. The 15 teams and their sponsors are:

Westmoreland Majors – Emerson Rental Plants
Fitzpatrick Majors – Union Direct Primary Care
Snyder Majors – Clay Electric Co-op
Wilson Minors – Laststeel
Emery Rookies – Liberty Trucking
Blizzard 8USB – Belle Oaks Barn
Gulbrand 10USB – Skip's Deli
Traver 8USB – Jackson Construction

Gill T Ball – FLPESCO Ranch
Halle T Ball – Shadd Trucking
Mobley T Ball – Dick's Wings
Bennett T Ball – North Florida Pharmacy
Johns Seniors – RRCH
Orton 12USB – Brian's Sporting Goods
Kent Rookies – Thornton and Co. Realty Inc.

For more information contact Mack Johns, Chairman of the Union County Recreation Board and owner of Springtown Automotive in Worthington Springs. He may be contacted at 386-878-9664.

Legal Notices

Bradford

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:
MIRACLE AUTOMOTIVE & TRUCK SERVICE CENTER INC. gives notice that on 12/03/2021 at 12:00 PM the following vehicles(s) may be sold by public sale at 620 N THOMPSON ST. to satisfy the lien for the amount owed on each vehicle for any recovery, towing, or storage services charges and administrative fees allowed pursuant to Florida statute 713.78. 1FT7W2BT9FEB28572 2015 FORD 2MEFM75W85X610630 2005 MERC 1G6KD57Y6U124125 2006 CAD I 11/25 2tchg 12/2-BCT

NOTICE
On December 13, 2021 at 5:45 P.M. the Bradford County School District will hold a workshop at Bradford County District Boardroom, 501 W. Washington St. Starke, Fl. . Followed by a Public Hearing at 6:00 P.M. Regular Board Meeting will immediately follow the Public Hearing.
Workshop & Public Hearing Items
2.03 Special Committees of the School Board
2.04 School Advisory Councils
2.05 Board Meetings
2.091 Revision Family and School Partnership for Student Achievement
2.20 Wellness Program
3.06 Revision Safe and Secure Schools
3.09 Revision A Moment of Silence
5.03.01 Student Assignment Guideline
5.19 Revision Student Records
5.29 Revision Notification of Involuntary Examination
6.216 Revision Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP)
6.39 Revision Report of Misconduct
6.80 Revision Personnel Files
7.22 NEW Electronic Records, Electronic Signatures, and Electronic Funds
8.01 Revision 2 Safety
8.04 NEW Emergency Evacuation Drills
8.06 NEW Safe School Officers
8.320 Tobacco Use in District Facilities
Revised language to the 21-21 Code of Conduct (To be in compliance with ACLU)
11/25 2tchg 12/2-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION
File No. 04-2021-CP-000137
Division

IN RE: ESTATE OF CHARLES REEVES FERGUSON A/K/A CHARLES R. FERGUSON Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of CHARLES REEVES FERGUSON A/K/A CHARLES R. FERGUSON, deceased, whose date of death was September 1, 2021, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 945 N. Temple Avenue, P.O. 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 November 25, 2021.
Personal Representative:
KAREN E. GRAY
1431 Riverplace Boulevard, Unit 2506
Jacksonville, Florida 32207
Attorney for Personal Representative:
JULIE EXUM BREUER, ESQUIRE
Attorney
Florida Bar Number: 097720
Fisher, Tousey, Leas & Ball
818 North A1A, Suite 104
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
Telephone: (904) 356-2600
Fax: (904) 355-0233
E-Mail: jeb@fishertousey.com
11/25 2tchg 12/2-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO. 2021 CA 000297

Plaintiff,
VYSTAR CREDIT UNION,
VS.
UNKNOWN SPOUSE, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES OF SANDRA RING, KATHERINE DUNNAM AND UNKNOWN TENANT(S),
Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION
TO: Unknown Spouse, Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, Assignees, Lienors, Creditors, Trustees of Sandra Ring 1724 NW 25 1st St. Lawley, FL 32058
Katherine Dunnam
5065 NW 180th Way
Starke, FL 32091

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following real property in Bradford County, Florida:
Attached Hereto as "Exhibit A" has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written

defenses, if any, to it on James E. Sorenson, D. Tyler Van Leuven, J. Blair Boyd, Stephen Orsillo, Zaydee Portomene, and P. Koren Hardy, the Plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is Post Office Box 3637, Tallahassee, Florida 32315-3637, within 30 days after the first publication date and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on the Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint or Petition. .
Dated this 17 day of November, 2021.
Denny Thompson
As Clerk of the Court
by: Lisa Brannon
As Deputy Clerk
Exhibit "A"

A PORTION OF LOT 41 OF WOODLAWN SUBDIVISION OF SECTION 11, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 17 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
COMMENCE AT THE SW CORNER OF LOT 32 OF SAID SUBDIVISION AND RUN THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 29 MINUTES 22 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE WEST BOUNDARY OF LOTS 32 AND 41, 1248.96 FEET TO THE SOUTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF A GRADED COUNTY ROAD, THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 56 MINUTES 20 SECONDS EAST ALONG SAID SOUTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE 100.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE NORTH 89 DEGREES 56 MINUTES 20 SECONDS EAST

ALONG SAID RIGHT OF WAY LINE 147.55 FEET TO THE EAST BOUNDARY OF THE WEST 1/2 OF THE E 1/2 OF THE W 1/2 OF SAID LOT 41; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 29 MINUTES 39 SECONDS EAST ALONG SAID EAST BOUNDARY 295.23 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 56 MINUTES 20 SECONDS WEST PARALLEL TO SAID SOUTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE 147.55 FEET; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 29 MINUTES 39 SECONDS WEST PARALLEL TO SAID EAST BOUNDARY 295.23 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. I AND
THE W 1/2 OF THE W 1/2 AND THE W 1/2 OF THE E 1/2 OF THE W 1/2 OF LOTS 32 AND 41 ALL LYING SOUTH OF GRADED COUNTY ROAD IN SECTION 11, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST OF WOODLAWN SUBDIVISION AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 17 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA. LESS AND EXCEPT THAT PORTION THEREOF PREVIOUSLY DEEDED JOSEPH P. ELAM AND JENNA M. ELAM, HIS WIFE, IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 182, PAGE 126, PUBLIC RECORDS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA; SAID GRADED COUNTY ROAD BEING DESIGNATED AS NW 105TH AVENUE.
11/25 2tchg 12/2-BCT

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME
Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: Michael K Agner, Sr., 1420 East Call St., Starke, FL 32091 joint owners, doing business under the firm name of: PICS & CLIPS, 1420 East Call St., Starke, FL 32091, intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 2nd day of December A.D., 2021, in Bradford County.
12/2 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME
Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: Willis A Hankerson, sole owner, doing business under the firm name of: HANKERSON TRUCKING, 17896 NW 55th Ln: Bradford County in the City of Starke : Florida, 32091-5514 intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 19th day of November A.D., 2021, in Bradford County.
12/2 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME
Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: John David Francis, sole owner, doing business under the firm name of: KERB APPEAL, Located at 439 N Lake St : Bradford County in the City of Starke : Florida, 32091-3142 intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 18th day of November A.D., 2021, in Bradford County.
12/2 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME
Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: John David Francis, sole owner, doing business under the firm name of: KERB APPEAL, Located at 439 N Lake St : Bradford County in the City of Starke : Florida, 32091-3142 intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 18th day of November A.D., 2021, in Bradford County.
12/2 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING A VARIANCE AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE BRADFORD COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS
BY THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, pursuant to the Bradford County Land Development Regulations, as amended, hereinafter referred to as the Land Development Regulations, objections, recommendations and comments concerning a variance, as described below, will be heard by the Board of Adjustment of Bradford County, Florida, at a public hearing on December 16th, 2021 at 6:00 pm, or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, at the County Commission

Meeting Room, North Wing, County Courthouse located at 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida. V 21-05, an application by Denis Bergeron, to request a Variance be granted as provided for in Section 4.2.27 Waterfront Yards – Minimum Requirements of the Bradford County Land Development Regulations from Fifty (50) feet from the mean high water line to a requested Twenty Four (24) feet of the property being described as follows: p/o Lot 3, Seminole Ridge Unit 3, of an unrecorded plat of SEMINOLE RIDGE, UNIT NO. 3, Section 12, Township 9 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida and being Bradford County Parcel Number 06230-C-00300
The public hearing may be continued to one or more future dates. Any interested party shall be advised that the date, time and place of any continuation of the public hearing shall be announced during the public hearing and that no further notice concerning the matter will be published, unless said continuation exceeds six calendar weeks from the date of the above referenced public hearing.

At the aforementioned public hearing, all interested parties may appear to be heard with respect to the variance. Copies of the variance application are available for public inspection at the Office of the Director of Zoning, Planning, and Building, County Courthouse located at 945 North Temple Avenue, North Wing, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours.
All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.
12/2 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING A SPECIAL EXCEPTION AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE BRADFORD COUNTY LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS
BY THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, pursuant to the Bradford County Land Development Regulations, as amended, hereinafter referred to as the Land Development Regulations, objections, recommendations and comments concerning a special exception, as described below, will be heard by the Board of Adjustment of Bradford County, Florida, at a public hearing on December 16th, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the County Commission Meeting Room, North Wing, County Courthouse located at 945 N. Temple Avenue in Starke, Florida.
A Special Exception be granted as provided for in the Brooker Land Development Regulations Section, 4.6.5 "RSF", Residential Single Family, Special Exception # 9 to allow for Child care center's on property described as follows: A parcel of land lying in the E1/4 of SW1/4 of SE1/4 lying North of Road, Section 8, Township 7 South, Range 20 East, Bradford County, Florida. Bradford County Parcel Number 00346-0-00000.
The public hearing may be continued to one or more future dates. Any interested party shall be advised that the date, time and place of any continuation of the public hearing shall be announced during the public hearing and that no further notice concerning the matter will be published, unless said continuation exceeds six calendar weeks from the date of the above referenced public hearing. The aforementioned public hearing, all interested parties may appear to be heard with respect to the appeal.
12/2 1tchg-BCT

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12/2 1tchg-BCT

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All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.
Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in these proceedings should contact the office of the County Manager at 904.966.6327 by 5:00 p.m. at least 48 hours prior to the public hearing or via Florida Relay Service 800.955.8770 (voice) or 800.955.8771 (TTY).
12/2 1tchg-BCT

Copies of the material are available for public inspection at the Office of the Director of Zoning, Planning, and Building, County Courthouse located at 945 North Temple Avenue, North Wing, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours.
All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.
12/2 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF ENACTMENT OF AN ORDINANCE BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the ordinance, which title hereinafter appears, will be considered for enactment by the Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida, at a public hearing on December 16, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room located in the Bradford County Courthouse, North Wing, 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida. Copies of the ordinance may be inspected by any member of the public at the Office of the County Clerk located at 945 North Temple Avenue, Courthouse North Wing, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours. On the date, time and place first above mentioned, all interested persons may appear and be heard with respect to the ordinance. The title of said ordinance reads, as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE BRADFORD COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; RELATING TO AN AMENDMENT TO THE TEXT OF THE BRADFORD COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION, CPA 21-01, BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, UNDER THE AMENDMENT PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED IN SECTIONS 163.3161 THROUGH 163.3215, FLORIDA STATUTES, AS AMENDED; PROVIDING FOR ADDING A PROPERTY RIGHTS ELEMENT TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PER SECTION 163.3161(10), FLORIDA STATUTES, AS AMENDED AND SECTION 187.101(3), FLORIDA STATUTES, AS AMENDED; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

The public hearing may be continued to one or more future dates. Any interested party shall be advised that the date, time and place of any continuation of the public hearing shall be announced during the public hearing and that no further notice concerning the matter will be published, unless said continuation exceeds six calendar weeks from the date of the above referenced public hearing.
All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the above referenced public hearing they will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in these proceedings should contact the office of the County Manager at 904.966.6327 by 5:00 p.m. at least 48 hours prior to the public hearing or via Florida Relay Service 800.955.8770 (voice) or 800.955.8771 (TTY).
12/2 1tchg-BCT

Union

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY TO PARENTS
Light Christian Academy, 475 SW 3rd Street, admits students of any race, color, national, or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students of the organization. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national, or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, scholarships, and loan programs, and other organization administered programs.
12/2 1tchg-UCT

Lake Region

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 4TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO: 2021 CP 000713
PROBATE DIVISION
IN RE: THE ESTATE OF DAVID ALBERT WOODARD Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of DAVID ALBERT WOODARD, deceased, whose date of death was July 9, 2021, is pending in the Circuit Court for Clay County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 825 North Orange Ave., Green Cove Springs, FL 32043. 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 TIME OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
All other creditors of the Decedent and other persons having claims or demands against Decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
The date of first publication of this Notice is November 25, 2021
ARISLEIDA CABRERA SANTANA DE WOODARD
411 Walnut St.
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043
Personal Representative
/s/ James F. Miller
James F. Miller, Esq.
Miller Legal, PL.
Attorney for Plaintiff
Florida Bar Number (0361003)
1555 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd, Suite 1555
West Palm Beach, FL 33401
Telephone: (561) 296-3252
Fax: (561) 828-3115
Email: jmillermillerlegalpl.com
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
I HEREBY CERTIFY that on November 16, 2021 there are no parties entitled to service.
/s/James F. Miller
James F. Miller, Esq.
Miller Legal, PL.
Attorney for Plaintiff
Florida Bar Number (0361003)
1555 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd, Suite 1555
West Palm Beach, FL 33401
Telephone: (561) 296-3252
Fax: (561) 828-3115
Email: jmillermillerlegalpl.com
11/25 2tchg 12/2-LRM

Tigers come up short in Region 3-1A final

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

After trailing by as many as 16 points, the Union County High School football team had a chance to tie the game with 1:08 remaining, but an incomplete pass on a two-point conversion play following Rayvon Durant's 1-yard touchdown run resulted in host Chiefland winning the Region 3-1A championship by a score of 29-27.

Chiefland (11-1) now advances to the state semifinals, where it'll host Region 2 champion Madison County (10-3) on Friday, Dec. 3.

Union Head Coach Andrew Thomas was left scratching his head, wondering what happened to the Tigers (12-1). He said so many facets of the game were uncharacteristic of his team, whether it was the three fumbles lost in the first half or the numerous missed assignments and missed alignments on both sides of the ball.

"That's disappointing to lose like that," Thomas said. "You play your best and get beat, you can live with that, but when you play the way we did tonight and get beat, it's frustrating. That's a tough one to swallow."

It was far from a perfect game for Chiefland, which committed 20 penalties for 175 yards and had two turnovers, but the Indians built a big lead off big plays in the first half, in which they averaged 8.9 yards per rushing attempt.

Union's defense clamped down in the second half, preventing the Chiefland offense from scoring and holding the Indians to an average of 3.6 rushing yards per attempt.

The Indians, however, made the one play that proved to be the difference when Jon Adams blocked a punt and returned it for a fourth-quarter touchdown.

"They played better than us," Thomas said. "That's why they won. It's a simple as that."

Union forced Chiefland to punt on the game's first series, but the Tigers fumbled the ball away on their first play from scrimmage, with Adams recovering for the Indians at the Union 31-yard line. A roughing-the-passer penalty helped Chiefland drive inside the 10-yard line, but the Indians hurt their effort with two illegal-procedure penalties. The Indians eventually had to settle for Dylan Cochran's 28-yard field-goal attempt, which was good, putting Chiefland up 3-0 at the 6:34 mark

of the first quarter.

The Tigers' second drive went way better than their first, with Durant gaining 28 yards on the first play, which also saw Chiefland get penalized for a personal foul. The additional yardage put Union at the Chiefland 25. Quarterback A.J. Cortese scored on a run from there. Johnny Edwards added the extra point as the Tigers took a 7-3 lead just 33 seconds after Chiefland's first score.

Two electrifying plays by Union's offense were answered by the Indians' Dakota Fisher, who broke free for a 76-yard run to the Tigers' 1-yard line. That set up a touchdown run by quarterback Clint Thomas with 4:30 to play in the opening quarter. Cochran added the PAT for Chiefland, which now led 10-7.

Union fumbled for the second time on the ensuing series, with Chiefland's Lawrence Rivers recovering to set the Indians' offense up at its own 46. The Indians, though, couldn't capitalize and punted after three plays, but they flipped the field in a major way, pinning the Tigers at their own 3-yard line.

It was a three-and-out for the Union offense, too. Punter Caleb Crawford, standing in his end zone, had to scramble to field a bad snap. The rushed punt traveled 11 yards, setting Chiefland up at the 19-yard line.

Four plays later, the Indians were in the end zone again on Thomas' 2-yard touchdown run with 9:35 remaining in the second quarter. Cochran added the PAT for a 17-7 Chiefland lead.

The Tigers' offense moved quickly down the field. A 14-yard reception by Daylyn Diston and a pass-interference penalty moved Union to the Chiefland 35. After two runs by Durant and an incomplete pass, the Tigers went for it on fourth-and-3 at the 28-yard line, turning the ball over on downs after an incomplete pass.

Two penalties had the Indians facing first-and-20 on their next possession, but they were able to pick up a first down on a pair



Daylyn Diston (center) carries the ball into the end zone for a two-point conversion in the Tigers' 29-27 loss to Chiefland in the Region 3-1A championship game.



Rayvon Durant (left) breaks into open space as he scores on a 39-yard run. Photos by Cliff Smelley.

of 12-yard runs by Thomas and Fisher. The Tigers stiffened and forced Chiefland into a fourth-and-2 play at the Union 40-yard line. Thomas picked up the first down and more, sprinting his way toward his third touchdown of the night with 3:10 left until halftime. Cochran missed the PAT, but the Indians led 23-7.

Cochran rushed for 90 yards in the half and finished with 126 yards on 17 carries.

The first play of the Tigers'

next drive saw Cortese launch a deep pass to a wide-open Dee Williams for a 67-yard gain to the Chiefland 8. Union, though, fumbled on the following play, with Adams making the recovery for the Indians.

Connor Bresee and Dayvontae Thompson combined to tackle Junior Brown for no gain on the first play following the turnover.

After two straight illegal-

yards on 17 carries. **See TIGERS, page 10**



Eduardo Marrero (far left) and Jude Hanson (far right) battle a Hart 2 Hart player for a rebound in Hope Christian's 89-22 season-opening win. Photo by Virginia Denmark.

Hope Christian boys open season with 2 impressive victories

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Hope Christian Academy opened boys basketball season in a big way on Nov. 12, defeating visiting Hart 2 Hart Academy 89-22.

The Lions outscored the Warriors 31-3 in the first quarter and led 50-10 at halftime.

Jude Hanson and Simon Hanson scored 15 and 14 points, respectively, while Roshad Jackson scored 12. Simon Hanson led the team in steals with three, while Jackson recorded a team-high four assists.

Eduardo Marrero, who led the team in rebounds with six, scored six points, as did Marcus Chever and Trey Matthew. Aiden Wilson and Tavian Frazier scored five and

four points, respectively, while John Ford had three. Traven Chandler added two points, with Luke Drew chipping in one point.

Hope (2-0) won by double digits again on Nov. 18, defeating visiting Corinth Christian 59-21. Stats weren't available by deadline, but Jude Hanson was named the Lions' Player of the Game — an honor he received for the Hart 2 Hart game as well.

The Lions played Branford this past Monday and will travel to play Live Oak's Westwood Christian on Thursday, Dec. 2, at 6 p.m. Hope travels to Madison to play New Testament Christian on Friday, Dec. 3, at 5:30 p.m. and travels to play Gainesville Christian Community on Tuesday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Town of Worthington Springs Fiscal Year 2021-2022

The proposed operating budget expenditures of the Town of Worthington Springs are .01% less than last year's total operating expenditures

	General Fund	Total
Cash Balances Brought Forward	\$100,000	- \$ 100,000
Estimated revenues:		
Taxes: Millage per \$1,000		
Ad Valorem Taxes - 1.7295	14,000	- 14,000
Sales and Use Taxes	49,876	- 49,876
Franchise Fees	22,300	- 22,300
Intergovernmental Revenues	18,200	18,200
Fines & Forfeitures	2,000	- 2,000
Other Misc. Revenues	14,250	14,250
Total estimated revenues and other financing sources	120,626	120,626
Cash Balances, revenues and other sources	220,626	220,626
Estimated expenditures/expenses:		
General Government	83,326	- 83,326
Public Safety		- 3,200
Transportation	3,200	- 10,000
Parks and Recreation	10,000	- 18,100
Capital Improvements	18,100	6,000
	6,000	
Total estimated expenditures / expenses	120,626	120,626
Reserves for Contingencies	100,000	- 100,000
Total Estimated Expenditures and Reserves	220,626	220,626

The tentative, adopted and/or final budgets are on file in the office of the above referenced taxing authority as a public record.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED TAX INCREASE

THE PREVIOUS NOTICE PLACED BY THE TOWN OF WORTHINGTON SPRINGS HAS BEEN DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE TO BE IN VIOLATION OF THE LAW, NECESSITATING THIS SECOND NOTICE.

The TOWN OF WORTHINGTON SPRINGS has tentatively adopted a measure to increase its property tax levy.

Last year's property tax levy:

A. Initially proposed tax levy.....	\$ 13,797
B. Less tax reductions due to Value Adjustment Board and other assessment changes.....	(100)
C. Actual property tax levy.....	\$ 13,945

All concerned citizens are invited to attend a public hearing on the tax increase to be held on:

December 7, 2021
6:45 pm
Community Building
Worthington Springs, Florida

A FINAL DECISION on the proposed tax increase and the budget will be made at this hearing.

Obituaries

Bunny Sellers-Bates

LAWTEY Bunny Melissa Sellers-Bates, 43, of Lawtey, was taken by God to rest in Christ Jesus eternally on Saturday, Nov. 27, 2021. Born on May 12, 1978, in Jacksonville. A dedicated wife, daughter, sister, aunt, granddaughter, niece, cousin, sister-in-law, and friend. She lived her life selflessly, always serving others in love, and will be remembered for her generous and brave heart. She loved the Lord and trusted His perfect plans. She was a creative poet, skilled dancer, amazing chef, had immaculate organizational skills, and a great sense of humor. Regardless of the numerous physical health challenges she faced, she always lived her life to the fullest.

She is survived by her devoted husband, Michael Bates; parents, Cathy Nisbet, Walter Sellers, and David Nisbet; sister, Nicole Fuentes Sellers; nieces, Layacia "Pookie Bear", Leskai "Thumper"; and nephew, Myron "Little M Octopus"; along with many other cherished nieces, nephews, brother and sister-in-laws, an abundance of comical cousins she adored, and a few honorable friends. She is now indeed free like the red bird. Her legacy will live on in our hearts and lives as we take comfort in knowing she is in the absolute safest place anyone could be in, in Christ Jesus eternally.

The family will receive friends at the DeWitt C. Jones Chapel on Friday, Dec 3, from 11 a.m. until 12 p.m., with funeral services beginning at noon. Interment will follow in Crosby Lake Cemetery.

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



Virginia Browning

STARKE Virginia "Ginny" Meadows Browning, 79, of Starke, died Thursday, Nov. 25, 2021, at Orange Park Medical Center Park West Emergency Room. She was born on Nov. 9, 1942, in Hinton, West Virginia, to the late Stewart Seymore Meadows and Lottie (Gill) Meadows Gould. Prior to retirement she worked as an apartment complex manager. She was a Christian. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sisters, Mary Fledderjohann and Nadine Meadows.

Survivors are: her son, Charles (Tammy) Browning of Starke; daughter, Malina Gaye Browning of Bradford County; sisters, Loretta (Tom) Lilly of Greenville, North Carolina, and Evelyn Lemon (Bud) of Hinton, West Virginia; three grandchildren and her great-granddaughter.

A graveside funeral service will be held at 3 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 3, at Sapp Cemetery in Raiford.

Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home 620 E. Nona St., Starke.

Sadie Davis

LAKE BUTLER Sadie Davis, 83, passed away peacefully at her home on Wednesday, November 24, 2021, surrounded by her family. Sadie was born and raised in Lake Butler to the late Isaiah and Nita Raulerson Todd. She was a wonderful homemaker whose main priority was her family. She had a soft spot in her heart for the elderly and children. Sadie was a good wife, mother, and grandmother and will be dearly missed. She is preceded in death by her parents; her son, Robert "Bobby" Davis; her brothers, Sidney, Miley, Bennett, Frank, Kenneth, Ray, and Theodore Todd; and her only sister, Carolyn Greek, who entered into heaven only 3 minutes prior.

She is survived by her husband of 59 years, Robert Davis, Jr.; daughter, Marie (Michael) Jennings; grandchildren, Kristy Hunt, James Hunt, Daniel Hunt, Justin Davis, and Brandon Davis; 5 great-grandchildren; brothers, Vernon and Dave Todd; and a host of nieces and nephews.

A service to honor her life will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 2, at Archer-Milton Funeral Home. The family will receive friends for a visitation, along with her sister Carolyn, on Wednesday, Dec. 1, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the funeral home. She will be laid to rest following the service at Elzey Chapel Cemetery. Brother Richard Harrison to officiate.

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



William DeBree

HAMPTON- William Earl DeBree, 83, of Hampton died on Monday, November 22, 2021, at Windsor Health and Rehabilitation Center in Starke. He was born on July 8, 1938, in Greenville, Michigan to the late Wayne and Lenora DeBree. He attended Greenville High School and then enlisted into the United States Air Force. He was preceded in death by his parents; and sisters, Janice Sorenson and Dixie Kok.

William is survived by his children, Robin (Bob) Zorn of Duluth, Georgia and Wayne DeBree of Flowery Branch, Georgia; the mother of his children, Mary DeBree of Suwanee, Georgia; and two grandchildren.

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

Richard Desue

STARKE Richard Lamar DeSue, 65, of Starke, passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2021. Mr. DeSue was born on June 5, 1956, in Starke. A lifelong resident of Starke, he was a graduate of Bradford High School, Class of 1975, and a member of Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church. He retired from DuPont, now Chemours, as head operator. He is preceded in death by his mother, Helen DeSue.

He leaves to cherish his fond memories: his wife, Aletia Haile DeSue of Starke; his daughter, Cardelia (Earnest) Whitley, and granddaughter, Chyna Edmond, both of St. Johns County; one sister, Mary Cohens of Starke; along with other relatives and caring friends.

Visitation will be Wednesday, Dec. 1 from 3 p.m. until 6 p.m. at Haile Funeral Home, 802 N. Oak St., Starke. Funeral Services will be Thursday, Dec. 2, at 11 a.m. at First Baptist Church, 163 W. Jefferson St., Starke; Danny Strickland, Pastor, with Rev. Henry Ortiz, Officiating and Rev. Alvin Green, Eulogist. Burial will follow in Bob Love Cemetery. Repast will follow interment at New Bethel Baptist Church, 901 Keller Street, Starke. The Cortege will form at the home of Mrs. Elaine Haile, 823 Pine St., Starke at 10:15 a.m. Due to COVID-19, all in attendance are asked to please wear a facial covering.

Arrangements entrusted to the care of Chestnut Funeral Home. Cards may be sent to 18 N.W. Eighth Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601.

To order floral arrangements, please visit www.chestnutfh.com/obituary/richarddesue. Any questions may be directed to 855-5-Chestnut. "A Chestnut service."



Cathy Brown

Cathy Brown, or Miss Cathy, as she was known by her friends and colleagues, passed away following a short illness on Sunday, Aug. 30, 2021, at the Haven Hospice in Palatka. She was born Mary Cathrine Stephens on Oct. 4, 1954, in Alma, Georgia, to Lollie (Deen) and H. E. Stephens. Upon moving to Florida, she graduated from Clay High in Green Cove Springs. Always a hard worker, she worked the Garden Center in Walmart in Starke from 2005 until she left in 2018. She was an avid Gators fan, she was always cheering for them win or lose. She loved to travel with Bill to Biloxi and Las Vegas where she loved playing her slots.

She leaves behind: her husband, Bill; and step-son, Joseph; her son, William (DeDe) Stephens; and four grandsons, Will, Grant, Asher and Evan; her brother, John, who resides in Florahome; and sister, Nancy of Lawtey; two sisters, Jan (Paul Snyder) and Jean Long in Arizona.

She will be cremated through Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home in Keystone Heights. A Celebration of Life will be held Dec. 4 at 1 p.m. at Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home in Keystone Heights. In lieu of cards, please make donations in her name to Haven Hospice.

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



PAID OBITUARY

PAID OBITUARY

TIGERS

Continued from page 9

procedure penalties, the Indians fumbled the ball, with the Tigers recovering at the Chiefland 10-yard line.

Diston slipped for a 1-yard loss on a run attempt, but two plays later, he was running into the end zone after making a catch for an 11-yard touchdown with 22 seconds remaining in the first half. Diston then carried the ball on a successful two-point conversion, which allowed the Tigers to go into halftime trailing 23-15.

Chiefland drove past the 50 on its first possession of the second half, but tackles by Trevor Holtzendorf on consecutive plays helped force the Indians to punt on fourth-and-8 from the Union 43-yard line.

The punt had the Tigers starting their second drive of the half at their own 1-yard line. Thomas Williams and Durant had runs of 5 and 3 yards, respectively, to set up third-and-2, but Williams was then held to a 1-yard gain.

Union punted, but got the ball right back when Chiefland fumbled for the second time. Starting at their own 40, the Tigers got a 6-yard run from

run to make the score 23-21 with 2:09 left in the third quarter. Thompson was brought down a yard shy of the end zone on the unsuccessful two-point play.

The Tigers continued to hold the Chiefland offense in check. Holtzendorf made a tackle for no gain, while Curran Webb had a 4-yard sack. Jacob Jenkins' tackle of Fisher for a 2-yard loss forced the Indians to punt on fourth-and-13.

A 10-yard run by Crawford had the Union offense on Chiefland's side of the 50, but the Tigers bogged down at the 45 and had to punt. That's when Chiefland's Adams made the play that would prove to be the ultimate difference, blocking the punt, scooping up the ball and taking it the distance for touchdown with 6:48 to play. The Indians' PAT was blocked, but they led 29-21.

Union crossed midfield on the next series, with Diston catching a 15-yard pass for a first down at the Chiefland 45. Durant was tackled for a 3-yard loss on the next play, while two straight incomplete passes led to a punt.

The Indians seemed in good position to do more than go three-and-out when they next had the ball, but an illegal-procedure penalty on third-and-1 had them eventually punting on fourth-

a 20-yard pass to Diston, who finished with five receptions for 66 yards. Two plays later, after a sack, the Tigers were facing third-and-16. A pass-interference penalty reduced the yardage to gain, but a pass breakup by Paul Davis had the Tigers going for it on fourth-and-1. A run by Durant picked up the first down. After a 6-yard pass to Diston, Cortese, who was 7-of-16 for 154 yards, found a wide-open Evan Hall for a 21-yard gain to the Chiefland 5-yard line. Durant then had a 4-yard carry, setting up his 1-yard touchdown run.

The failed two-point conversion had the Tigers attempting an onside kick, which the Indians recovered. Two kneel-downs by Thomas allowed Chiefland to run out the clock.

Union's defensive effort may have improved over the course of the game, but the overall performance of the offense had the Tigers' coach wondering what could've been.

"We had opportunities left and right on offense, and we missed them," Thomas said, adding, "We just didn't execute. Way too many missed assignments. We had plays every time. What did we miss, two or three wide-open passes? In a game like this, you've got to hit them. You can't



Evan Hall prepares to catch a pass that helped set up the Tigers' last touchdown.

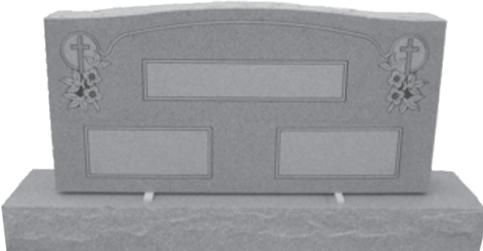
yards of offense, which was just 4 yards less than what Chiefland had. Union entered the game averaging 324.3 rushing yards per game, but finished with 179 yards on 34 carries.

This year's team consisted of a large junior class, but Thomas gave kudos to his seniors, saying, "It's not a big class, but they bought into what we're doing and really kind of led the charge for us to be where we're at, in this position."

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Cortese, with a personal-foul penalty tacking on additional

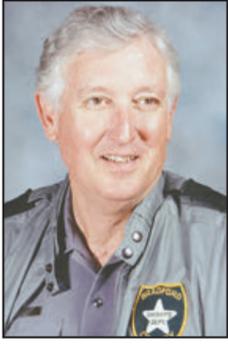
and-2 from their own 28. The punt was downed at the Union

miss them. "It's disappointing. We didn't

Obituaries

James Gill

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS James W. (Jim) Gill, Jr. died Monday, Nov. 29, 2021, after a long illness. He was born May 16, 1932, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma to Sarah and Jimmie Gill. Jim was raised in Jacksonville; attending Central Riverside, John Gorrie, and Robert E. Lee High School, graduating in 1950. During these years he was a Boy Scout, achieving the Eagle rank. He attended the University of Florida for two years; then completed pilot training at Pensacola Naval Air Station, electing to serve in the Marine Corp. He was stationed at the Opa-locka, Florida, Marine Air Station. His squadron soon left for the Mediterranean aboard the carrier Lake Champlain for a six-month deployment. During training at Norfolk, Virginia, he had met his future wife JoAnne, vacationing from Ohio. They were married May 26, 1956, in Canfield, Ohio, when he returned from deployment. After completing his service, Jim finished his education, graduating from the University of Florida in 1959. His business career was as a financial consultant/stock broker; working for several firms in Jacksonville, retiring from Prudential. In 1979, the family moved from Jacksonville to the Keystone Heights/Melrose area, building a home on Lake Santa Fe. Jim then began his "volunteer years" serving as a deputy with the Bradford County Sheriff's Department, working mainly in the schools, for over 20 years. He was a long-time member of the Community Church of Keystone Heights, serving on the Executive Board. He was also a member and past president of the Keystone Rotary Club. He was a supporter and Board Member of the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches and of the Cadet Program at Camp Blanding. He was also a founding member of the Santa Fe Lake Dwellers Association. He was predeceased by his parents; and a sister, Sarah Gill Giddings.



Besides his wife of 65 years, he leaves a son and daughter-in-law, Matthew Robert and Leni Seaton Gill of Alpharetta, Georgia; a daughter and son-in-law, DiAnne and Marc Jamerson of Melrose; three grandchildren, Christina Burchfield (Wes) Adkins of Florahome; Derick Matthew (Shannon) Gill of Alpharetta, Georgia, Taylor Gill (Chase) Solomon of Atlanta; three great-grandchildren, Zaiden Adkins of Florahome, Penelope and Daphne Gill of Alpharetta.

A Celebration of Life will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec 5, at Community Church of Keystone Heights. A reception will follow in the Family Life Center. Please omit flowers and make a memorial donation to the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranch or the Salvation Army.

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

PAID OBITUARY

Alma Outlaw

STARKE Alma T. Outlaw, 90, of Starke, died Sunday, November 28, 2021, at E.T. York Hospice in Gainesville. She was born Nov. 14, 1931, in Live Oak to B.T. and Susie (Hines) Thomas. She attended Jones College in Georgia and was a bookkeeper for many years before retiring. She went to First Baptist Church in Starke. In addition to her parents; she was preceded in death by her husband of 55 years, Lavern H. Outlaw, Sr.; a grandson, a great-grandson; a sister, Eloise Dodd; and a brother, D.L. Thomas.



Her survivors are three sons, Lavern H. Outlaw, Jr. (Sueann McMullin) of Port Charlotte, Tommy (Diann) Outlaw of Starke, Dr. James F. (Sandy) Outlaw of Winter Park; along with a sister, Clara Hazen of Brooker; seven grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 12 p.m., Friday, Dec. 3, at First Baptist Church with Rev. Ben Bryant and Pastor Michael Conner officiating. The family will receive friends beginning at 11 a.m. Interment will be private at Santa Fe Cemetery.

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

Fate Seay

TRENTON - Fate Seay, age 81, of Trenton, passed away peacefully on Friday, November 26, 2021. Fate was born on Oct. 13, 1940, in Worthington Springs, to the late George and Cora Mae (James) Seay. Fate attended school in Lake Butler and was a graduate of the Union County High School Class of 1960. During high school he met the love of his life, and wife of 61 years, Catherine (Cathy) Ann Fortner. They were married in 1960 and moved to Trenton in 1965. Fate was employed by Southern Bell until retirement in 2000 following 39-1/2 years of service. The most important thing to Fate was his love and devotion to God and his family. He was passionate about his faith and sharing the word of God with others. Throughout his years, Fate was blessed to have served in church as Chairman of the Deacons, Sunday School Superintendent, Sunday School teacher, and choir member. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather who always put God and Family first. In high school Fate excelled in sports, especially football. He was a proud member of the Union County Tigers and All State football teams. He was inducted into the Union County Hall of Fame in October 2012. He loved being able to share his knowledge and skills with others and coached track-and-field in Trenton. Fate was also an avid fisherman and hunter. After retirement, he loved to spend time fishing, hunting, and doing taxidermy. Fate was preceded in death by his father and mother, George and Cora Seay; brothers Clyde and Doc Seay; sisters, Ella Mae Gaaney, Mary Elixson and Eva Green.



He is survived by his wife, Cathy Seay; his children, Suzanne Seay, Deborah Dukes, Troy (Leanne) Seay; grandchildren, Amanda (Micah) Noda, Kaitlyn Myers, Rachel Seay, Paige (John) Stephenson, Trevin and Brayden Dukes, Megan and Madison Seay, and Conner Terry; great-grandchildren, Isabella, Titus and Silas Noda, Trevor and Jace Myers; siblings, Roscoe (Paula) Seay, Nita (Travis) Hemphill, Lila (Ted) Barber, Ovedia (WC) Blue, Donnie (Buddy) Guynn, and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral to honor his life will be held on Thursday, Dec 2, at 1 p.m. at the Bethel Baptist Church, Trenton. The family will receive friends for a visitation beginning at 12 p.m. at the church. Interment will follow at Elzey Chapel Cemetery (13372 SW 52nd St, Lake Butler, FL 32054). Services will be officiated by Rev. Rick Lawrence. Fate's pallbearers will include: Robert Deen, Brayden Dukes, Caleb Dukes, Trevin Dukes, Chris Fortner, Micah Noda, Clarence Seay, and John Stephenson, with assistance from the following honorary pallbearers: WC Blue, Wayne Deen, Rick Dewees, Kenny Murphy, Scott Murphy, Charles Pinkerton, Horace Quincy, and William Roberts.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of Watson-Milton Funeral Home, Trenton 352-463-8888. www.WatsonMilton.com

PAID OBITUARY

Darcel Williams-McCastle

LAKE BUTLER/STARKE Darcel Patrice Williams-McCastle, PhD, 59, transitioned to be with her heavenly Father on Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2021, at Shands/UFHealth. She was a graduate of East Orange High School, (East Orange, New Jersey), Essex County College (BA in Accounting, Newark, New Jersey), Saint Leo University (Master's Degree and Doctoral Degree in Psychiatry). Preceding her in death were: a son, Charilil McCastle; and her parents, Carrie Williams and Alphonso Harris.



She leaves to cherish her precious memories, her husband Charlie McCastle; daughters, Mahogany Grimsley, Shanina McCastle; sons, Charlie McCastle, Jr., James Peace, Brandin McCastle; eight grandchildren; and sisters, Denise Chavers, Kammy Highland; brothers, Vernold Williams, Sharief Williams.

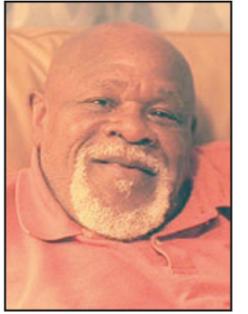
A life celebration will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec 4, at Sardis Baptist Church, 3915 Main St., Worthington Springs. Dr. McCastle will lie in repose one hour prior to service at Sardis Baptist Church. Due to COVID-19 and other variants, we would like to ask everyone to please follow CDC guidelines.

Professional services are entrusted to J. Hadley Funeral Home, 904-368-0210. Please email Resolutions (only) to: jhadleyfh@aol.com.

PAID OBITUARY

Earley Young Jr.

STARKE Earley Young Jr., also known as "Dillon", transitioned from this life on Monday, Nov. 22, 2021. He was born March 20, 1944, in Starke to Earley Young, Sr., and Pauline Elizabeth Mack. He graduated from R. J. E. High School with the class of 1967. He played with the Donnie Jackson Traveling Recreational Team. After graduation, he served in the Army National Guard for 12 years. After he completed his stint with the Army National Guard, he began his career with the Department of Corrections. While employed at Florida State Prison he was honored to be the first African American to obtain the rank of Sergeant. A very note-worthy and history-making event. His career in corrections allowed him to advance to the rank of Major at the Reception and Medical Center Main Unit, Lake Butler, where he retired after 28 years of service. During a visit to Miami, he met the love of his life, Zander Young, and was joined in holy matrimony. They were married for 47 years. He was a family man and was loved by many. "Dillon" enjoyed cooking, hunting, fishing, gardening, livestock, and loved traveling; especially to the beach. More importantly, he had the time of his life hosting gatherings for his friends and loved ones, and he was a "die-hard" Gator fan. He was preceded in death by: his father; his step-father, John Grant; and his sister, Mammie Mack.



Cherished memories are left with his devoted wife, Zander Young; mother, Pauline Mack; children, Cheri (Alvin) Jenkins, Terrance Thomas, James Young, Kimberly Young, Earlicia Young, and Stacy (Curtis) Young; 22 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; siblings, Robert Wade, Lucile Early, Henry Wade, Shirley Brabham, and Alton Moore; three godchildren; hosts of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Dec 4, at 12 p.m. at Bradford High School Auditorium, 581 N. Temple Ave., Starke.

Arrangements entrusted to Combs Funeral Home, 292 NE Washington St., Lake City, 386-752-4366.

PAID OBITUARY

Curtis A. "Lex" Sanders Attorney at Law



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Starke Altrusa: 30 years of community service

Altrusa International of Starke is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year and the role members play in the community.

The nonprofit service organization, which has 45 members, marked the milestone with a festive anniversary meeting and a special tribute to our veterans: charter members Lora Douglas, Martha Epps, Linda Kay Johns, Sandra Reddish and Sylvia Reddish, who were given a special, engraved plaque as a tribute to their 30 years of service. Veterans Fred Flaherty and Norman Dowdy were invited to attend the meeting. Flaherty talked about how the local American Legion serves vets, sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" and led us in singing "America The Beautiful."

Altrusa International of Starke was chartered on Oct. 22, 1991, with 21 founding members. It is part of Altrusa International, a nonprofit organization that strives to make local communities better through leadership, partnership and service. Membership is an honor and is extended by invitation to individuals singled out as leaders in business, industry or a profession in the

community, who are of good character.

Since the local nonprofit group formed, members have worked to better the community through projects such as faithfully supporting our local library, Food Pantry, literacy, Relay For Life, Rainbow Center, Guardian ad Litem, donating items to the health department for new moms and babies in Bradford County, personal-care items to local schools, care kits to homeless vets, the International Days For Girls Program, and much more.

Altrusa International was founded in 1917 in Nashville as a women's civic organization. Since then, it has expanded to other countries and accepts men as members.

Altrusans proudly give over a million volunteer hours a year around the world, including clubs in the United States, Puerto Rico, Canada, England, Bermuda, Ireland, India, New Zealand and Russia.

The Starke club is especially proud that member Beverly Hardy served as 2019-21 Altrusa International president. Additionally, the Starke club has earned district and international



Sylvia Reddish, Martha Epps and Linda Kay Johns (l-r) were recognized, along with Lora Douglas and Sandra Reddish, as charter members during Starke Altrusa's 30th anniversary celebration. Photo provided courtesy of Starke Altrusa.

recognition for its efforts.

The Starke Altrusa Club meets regularly on the second Thursday of each month at noon and on the fourth Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Downtown Grill.

Altrusa is seeking new members who want to better the community. For more information, please contact

President Hilma Gaskins at 321-436-8401 or Membership Chair Sarah Long at 904-964-6411.

PAID OBITUARY

Community Parade of Trees to benefit SPD's Shop With a Cop

Community State Bank of Starke announces the return of its Parade of Trees, a fundraiser for the Starke Police Department's Shop With a Cop program.

Individuals, families, groups, businesses and organizations can adopt trees for \$60 and decorate them.

Many loved ones have passed away due to various reasons in our community this year. Community State Bank believes the Parade of Trees would be a great way to honor and remember those individuals, so reserve a tree and dedicate to a loved one. Through a partnership with

Starke's Downtown Merchants, the trees will be on display at the town square. Trees will be lighted each evening through Dec. 31.

Applications can be picked up at Community State Bank in Starke. Please complete and return applications with payments to Community State Bank, Attn: Tammie Woodard, 811 S. Walnut St., Starke, FL 32091.

All proceeds will benefit Shop With a Cop, which takes place Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 14-15. Students from Bradford County elementary

schools receive a \$100 shopping spree, with each child escorted by a member of some law-enforcement agency or by someone who works in the Florida Department of Corrections.

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

Last year's event consisted of 285 students.

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Santa to be at Bradford Co. Library Dec. 2

Santa and Mrs. Claus are paying a visit to the Bradford County Public Library on Thursday, Dec. 2, from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

This fun, holiday event is for all ages. Be sure to bring a device to take photos.

Face coverings are optional.

For more information, please call the library at 904-368-3911.

Dec. 6 is last day to donate for SPD Shop With a Cop

Starke Police Department's Shop With a Cop returns for its 17th year, with children from all the county's public elementary schools getting the chance to shop at Starke's Walmart on Dec. 14-15 with escorts from various law-enforcement agencies as well as the Florida Department of Corrections.

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

If you'd like to make a donation, you can do so by mailing a check made out to "Starke Police Department — Shop with a Cop" to Starke Police Department to the attention of Maj. Barry Warren, 830 Edwards Road, Starke, FL 32091.

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

The deadline for donations is Monday, Dec. 6.

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

DAR chapter to host state secretary at Dec. 6 meeting

Florida State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Corresponding Secretary Pat Bevis will travel from Ocala to present a program on chapter service projects at the Monday, Dec. 6, meeting of the Col. Samuel Elbert Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

The meeting, which begins with a \$10 brunch at 10:30 a.m., will be held at the Montgomery Conference Center (88 S.E. 75th St., Starke).

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

Upward Bound now accepting 2021-22 year applications

Are you ready to tour that college you want to attend, learn how to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and apply for college scholarships? Then Upward Bound is the place to be.

The Santa Fe College Upward Bound program in Starke is accepting applications for the 2021-22 academic year. This a free pre-college program for ninth-12th grades that will provide students with support while in high school and prepare them for the college process.

Please contact Yolanda Thomas at 352-395-4466 or yolanda.thomas@sfcollge.edu for more information.



A fond farewell to Terry and Jennifer Vaughan

On Nov. 16, Terry and Jennifer Vaughan visited with friends at the Bradford Agricultural Fairgrounds, sharing laughs and tears at a reception in the Vaughans' honor. They'll be moving from Starke to Thomasville, Georgia.

ABOVE: Terry was the longtime supervisor of elections for Bradford County, so many of his colleagues turned out to wish him and Jennifer well. Pictured (l-r) are current supervisor Debbie Osborne (Union), former supervisors Glenda Williams (Suwannee) and Laura Des (Hamilton), current supervisor Chris Chambless (Clay), former supervisor Lana O'steen (Lafayette), Jennifer Vaughan, Terry Vaughan, former supervisor Liz Horne (Columbia) and current supervisors Tomi Brown (Columbia) and Amanda Seyfang (Bradford). LEFT: Jennifer and Terry Vaughan are pictured with a Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by the North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce. Photos by Cliff Smelley.



LEFT: Bradford County Supervisor of Elections Amanda Seyfang (far right) says a few words to Jennifer and Terry Vaughan. RIGHT: Jennifer Vaughan visits with Raymond Schaeffer, who was assistant principal at Starke Elementary School when Vaughan was principal. Schaeffer succeeded her when she retired.



LEFT: Terry Vaughan chats with Emma Jean Redding. RIGHT: Just so they don't forget where Starke is or how to get there, the Vaughans were presented with a map of the city by Dale Woodruff.



LEFT: Jennifer and Terry Vaughan are interviewed by David Rodgers for On the Spot. RIGHT: Jennifer and Terry Vaughan listen to Mayor Janice Mortimer read a city of Starke proclamation in their honor.



LEFT: Bradford County courthouse officials each took a turn to say a few words. Here, Tax Collector Teresa Phillips reminds Jennifer that her friends are only a phone call away. RIGHT: Jennifer and Terry Vaughan receive a presentation from Bradford County Superintendent of Schools Will Hartley.

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KHHS defeats Broncos for 4-0 start in girls basketball

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Keystone Heights High School improved to 4-0, defeating host Middleburg 40-20 in a girls basketball game on Nov. 29.

Lindsay Qualls and Madi Mitzel had eight of the Indians' 16 field goals, with Qualls scoring a team-high 11 points. Mitzel, who scored six of the team's 14 second-quarter points finished with eight.

Kiley Channell almost reached double digits in points, knocking down two three-pointers and finishing with nine points. She and Qualls were each 3-of-4 from the foul line.

Dezaray Bright added four points, while Yasmin Bryant, Emma Rogel, Rachel Roth and Kasey Valentine each had two.

Keystone played Ridgeview this past Tuesday and will host Palatka on Thursday, Dec. 2, at 7 p.m. The Indians then host Lake Weir on Tuesday, Dec. 7, at 6:30 p.m.

Indians drop 2nd straight in boys soccer

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Keystone Heights High School hosted the P.K. Yonge boys soccer team on Nov. 29, losing 4-1.

Chris Anderson scored the team's lone goal off a Logan Spence assist.

It was the second straight loss for the Indians (3-3).

Keystone travels to play Interlachen on Thursday, Dec. 2, at 7 p.m. before returning home to play Newberry on Friday, Dec. 3, at 7 p.m. The Indians then host Crescent City on Tuesday, Dec. 7, at 7:20 p.m.

The junior varsity Indians won their first match, defeating P.K. Yonge 3-0 on Nov. 29. A.J. Nilsen had two goals, while Jayden Walker had one goal and one assist. Bryce Huntley and Ryder Thomas also had assists, while goalie Jimmy Callahan made nine saves.

Keystone's JV team plays at 5:30 prior to the Dec. 7 varsity match against Crescent City.

UCHS' Johns, O'Steen to play college ball

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Union County High School seniors Luke Johns and Jake O'Steen have made big plays on the baseball diamond over the years, but the biggest for both occurred at the Lake Butler Community Center on Nov. 18, when they signed letters of intent to play college ball.

"Playing at the college level is definitely an accomplishment," said O'Steen, a second baseman who accepted an offer from Palatka's St. Johns River State College. He added, "Knowing that I had the skills to go to the next level is definitely a dream come true. Everybody wants to play in college."

Johns, a pitcher who signed with Florida State College at Jacksonville, said, "Obviously, not a lot of people get this opportunity to go to the next level. It's just a blessing from God to be able to do what I do."

Putting in the work

Legendary Dodgers Manager Tommy Lasorda once said, "There are three types of baseball players — those that make it happen, those who watch it happen and those who wonder what happened."

Union Head Coach Travis Rimes shared that quote during the ceremony, saying that Johns and O'Steen fall into the first category. Rimes said the two players have a love for the game that has them wanting to be at the UCHS baseball facilities all day and all night. They're fueled by a drive to always get better.

"They work hard. They put in the extra effort," Rimes said, adding, "Both of them put in the extra work. That's why they're where they are today."

Both players knew that's what it would take in order to keep playing the sport they love after high school.

"If you want to do something, you've always got to work hard at it," O'Steen said. "If you work hard at it, you're going to accomplish something."

Johns admitted there was a point in his life when he realized he was going to have to step it up in that regard.

"I want to say I wasted a

couple of years — years that I can't get back," he said. "It really hit me hard last year — 'I really need to pick it up.'"

Union Pitching Coach Denver Ripley has noticed the difference. He admitted when he first saw Johns, he couldn't have imagined being a part of signing ceremony some 3-4 years later.

"He worked hard," Ripley said. "He made it happen. You could see a real jump this past year."

During the signing ceremony, Union Superintendent of Schools Mike Ripplinger spoke about the hard work and commitment it was going to take in college. Johns nodded his head as he listened. In fact, he looked as if he was ready to take the ball and step onto the mound for FSCJ that very moment.

"I'm ready for it. I'm ready for everything that's coming at the next level," Johns said.

Johns has mostly filled the role of a reliever for the Tigers. Ripley said if the team was in a jam, the question was always, "Let's get Luke going."

"Luke came in and did his job," Ripley said.

Last year, he Johns a 3.37 ERA in 14 appearances (18.2 innings). He struck out 21 of the batters he faced and walked only 10 in recording five saves and recording one win.

He made two appearances in the 2020 season, most of which was lost due to COVID-19. Johns had a 3.50 ERA that year and went 1-0.

Johns should be the Tigers' go-to guy this upcoming season with the graduation of Braxton Dukes, Tripp Davis and Whip Davis, who combined to throw all but 30 of the team's 173.2 innings last year.

"He wants to hit. He wants to play in the field," Rimes said. "He's probably going to be our main man this year, so we're trying to take care of him."

Rimes said Johns is good at mixing up his pitches and good at not letting what happens in a game negatively affect him.

"Nothing bothers the kid," Rimes said. "He has a good time. He laughs. I've only seen him mad one time."

He may have a good time when he's in the game, but Johns said he's all business. He calls it



Jake O'Steen (left) and Luke Johns sign their letters of intent to play baseball at St. Johns River College and Florida State College at Jacksonville, respectively. Photo by Cliff Smelley.

the "bulldog mentality."

"It's just controlling the game," he said. "I'll look a batter in the eyes. I'll stare at him. You've just got to control the game and show you're the more dominant one in order to win."

As for O'Steen, it was his desire to always give 100 percent that brought him to St. Johns' attention. Union hitting/outfield coach Jiwan James said O'Steen, as a freshman, was warming up prior to a game at Williston. The seriousness and the work ethic he displayed simply getting ready for a game was eye-catching.

"His recruitment process with St. Johns started that night in Williston as a freshman," James said. "They didn't come there to see him. They didn't know who Jake O'Steen was, but that's how it started — just by him doing what he's supposed to do every time he steps on the field."

Rimes said, "He takes rep after rep after rep. It's like automatic with him."

It may have taken hard work putting himself in position to play at the next level, but O'Steen has enjoyed it. In fact, he looks forward to the hard work he'll have to continue in college.

"I ought to have some fun at the next level," he said, adding, "I just want to keep on havng fun."

In 14 games as a freshman, O'Steen batted .143 with six RBI. He had a .930 fielding percentage and 16 put-outs.

O'Steen played all seven games in the COVID-shortened 2020 season, batting .280 with three RBI. He stole five bases, had a .909 fielding percentage

and recorded 12 put-outs.

Last season, O'Steen led the team with a .418 batting average. His 33 hits through 26 games led the team as well, while he was third in RBI with 20. He drew a team-high 19 walks and had the best on-base-percentage at .566. He hit three triples (tied for first) and seven doubles (tied for second), while stealing a team-high 22 bases.

O'Steen's fielding percentage in 2021 was .940. He had 39 putouts.

Rimes said a coach doesn't have to worry when he has a player like O'Steen playing second.

"If it's a ground ball, it's an out," Rimes said. "Very rarely is it not going to be an out."

The next level

When it comes to evaluating himself right now and what he needs to do to succeed in college, Johns said his main focus will be on what he does off the field.

"Working out's the biggest thing," he said. "Just getting more fit and more athletic."

Rimes concurred, saying it's a mixture of that and keeping up that work ethic.

"He's got to get in the weight room and get stronger, keep doing what he's doing and stay healthy," Rimes said.

Johns already does a good job of mixing up his pitches, Rimes said, though like every pitcher, he does have his go-to pitch.

"I've got a splitter that's my main pitch, my favorite pitch," Johns said. "Some days, it does something different, but most of

the time, it's my best pitch. I'm really confident with it."

O'Steen is confident with where his defensive play is at right now. He said he needs to work on his bat to get ready for the next level. He said he especially struggles with low curveballs.

"Hopefully, I can keep on working hard and get that up," O'Steen said in regard to his at-the-plate performance. "My defense is definitely there."

Rimes doesn't believe O'Steen will have much of a problem, saying, "He'll probably see bigger arms, but if he can keep doing what he's doing and just keep working, he'll have no problem."

As you may have noticed, the word "work" was used a lot by Johns, O'Steen and their coaches. It's something Rimes and his staff are big believers in. If you want to play baseball for UCHS, you're going to earn the right.

"We try to get them ready," Rimes said. "We're hard on them. We push them and push them. They get aggravated at us, but if it's hard now, when you get (to college), it'll be easy because you're used to working hard."

Johns and O'Steen still have a high school season to play, but they can't wait until they get the chance to step on the field for their respectively colleges.

"It's going to feel great," Johns said, adding, "I'm just ready to take it to the next level and do the best I can."

O'Steen said, "It's definitely going to be a dream come true."

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KHHS' Dennis to play softball at Cleary University

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Keystone Heights High School senior Saige Dennis loves cold weather and softball.

Thanks to Cleary University, she'll get to experience both after graduating from KHHS. Dennis accepted an offer from the school, which is located in Howell, Michigan, and signed a letter of intent on Nov. 13.

"It's going to be an amazing feeling knowing that I get to play my sport for the next four years," Dennis said.

As for leaving the Sunshine State and going to Michigan, she's perfectly OK with that.

"I'm a Navy brat, so I'm used to moving around," Dennis said. "My dad's from Oregon, so I'm used to being up in the North. I

love the cold."

Dennis, who's going to Cleary as a pitcher, made first contact with the school's head coach, Tim Bailey, via email when she learned he was going to be attending a tournament her travel team, the North Florida Rage, was going to be playing in. He replied to her email and asked for a copy of her game schedule. Bailey attended some of her games and eventually invited Dennis to visit Cleary, which she did in mid-September.

"She fell in love with our place," Bailey said. "Before she even left that day, I went and talked to our athletic director and said I wanted to give this kid an offer before she gets out of here. We made her an offer that day."

On that visit, Dennis had

the chance to practice with the school's current players.

"It was fun meeting them because now I know who I get to play with next summer," she said. "It was a good experience getting to play with them and meeting all of them."

Cleary University is approximately 38 miles west of Michigan State University in East Lansing, but it's a smaller, private school that consists of approximately 500 undergraduate students. The town of Howell has a population of approximately 9,500.

Dennis said the university and the town feel like home, reminding her of KHHS and the town of Keystone. She'll feel comfortable there, but most importantly, she'll be somewhere that's a good fit for her academically.

"The school itself is a business school, so it has all the majors I'm wanting to look into because I want to go into business management and administration," Dennis said. "The campus is really nice. It's small. It just reminds me of home."

Though she's going to Cleary as a pitcher, most of her experience in the circle has been with her travel team. KHHS Head Coach Jessica Marquart said the Indians had a good rotation that consisted of Caitlin Frampton and Madi Mitzel. Plus, the team had other positions that needed to be filled.

Dennis was willing to step in wherever needed, whether it was in the infield or outfield. Marquart said she believes Dennis' motivation is to help her team however she can.

"She basically will do anything that you ask her to do, and she's going to do it to the best of her ability," Marquart said. "She's going to give 100 percent no matter where she is."

In other words, Dennis is coachable, which is something Bailey observed when he hosted Dennis on her visit to Cleary.



Keystone Heights High School senior Saige Dennis (seated, center) signs her letter of intent to play softball at Cleary University. Pictured behind her (l-r) are her parents, Ryan and Alison Dennis, Cleary Coach Tim Bailey and her brother, Huntley. Photo provided courtesy of the Dennis family.

Bailey said when a pitcher visits, he likes to teach them how to throw a pitch they're not used and seeing how they respond.

He liked what he saw in Dennis.

"She is incredibly coachable," Bailey said. "I look for that in freshmen coming in probably more than anything. Are they going to fit into the program? Are they going to be able to listen and make changes that need to be done?"

"I think she'll jump right in and do a really nice job pitching for us."

Marquart gave Dennis, who batted .246 with 10 RBI last season, opportunities to pitch this fall for the Indians. She said what she saw was a pitcher whose ball naturally drops.

"That's a good advantage," Marquart said.

The KHHS coach is eagerly looking forward to the spring season and seeing how she can

possibly work Dennis into the pitching rotation with Frampton and Mitzel.

Wherever Dennis plays, she can make an impact. Marquart described Dennis as kind of a quiet player who makes big noise when the situation calls for it, such as when she hit a two-out, walk-off single in Keystone's 18-17 win over Fleming Island last season.

"That's kind of what she's meant to us," Marquart said. "She's kind of like a secret weapon, I guess you could say."

Whether she's making game-winning plays or not, Dennis sees herself as that teammate who can fire her teammates up or calm them down, depending on the situation.

"Definitely one of my strengths is being able to uplift my team," Dennis said. "I'm very energetic. I'm able to feel the energy of the team and bring it up or bring it down."

Dennis has been playing softball most of her life and devotes a lot of time to getting better. There are the tournaments and showcases she participates in with her travel team as well as the twice-a-week batting lessons in downtown Jacksonville.

At KHHS, Marquart sees Dennis spend her free period working out and running.

"She's doing all this on her own," Marquart said. "She's getting stronger. She's getting better. She's kind of understanding the work ethic it's going to take to continue playing at the next level."

When asked what it's going to feel like when she steps onto the field for the first time as a player at the next level, Dennis said, "Oh, my gosh. It's going to be awesome. It's going to be an exhilarating feeling because I never thought I'd play college ball."

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