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THIS WEEK | SEE PG 1, 4, 5

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USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

Thursday, December 9, 2021

142nd year, 17th Issue — \$1

Brooker charter school, daycare want same property

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

BROOKER — A group aiming to convince the school board to allow them to found a charter school in Brooker may first have to convince the county commission to deny a special exception for a daycare.

The former Brooker Elementary School has been empty this year, and community members were hoping to resurrect it as a charter school. They've just learned, however, that the school district may allow Love'n and Learning Daycare to lease the property, hence the special exception request that will be heard by county commissioners Thursday, Dec. 16.

The elementary schools in Brooker and Hampton were closed this year



The Brooker Elementary campus is closed but has interest from multiple parties.

over objections from parents and community members to help the district deal with enrollment and budgetary concerns. The schools were consolidated with the two elementary schools in Starke. One of those schools, Southside Elementary, will be replaced with a larger combined

elementary and middle school in 2023.

As a charter school, Brooker Community School would operate under a contract with the Bradford County School District, from which it would receive primary funding. With school board approval, applicants would form their own governing board

to run the school, which would be free from many regulations imposed on public schools but nevertheless accountable for academic and financial outcomes.

According to Brooker's Jerome Kelley, the school would instruct children from kindergarten through the sixth grade.

Also important to the people of Brooker — a school there would help solidify the community and promote its growth. People want to move to a community that has a school, Kelley said, and the children raised there continue the tradition.

Children from the Brooker area wouldn't have to ride the bus so far to go to school, Kelley said, and they

See SCHOOL, page 6

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Winter Wonderland with Santa at Starke Elementary

Starke Elementary School's Winter Wonderland and Breakfast with Santa will be held Saturday Dec. 11 from 8-11 a.m. Enjoy breakfast and pictures with Santa, play bingo to win gift baskets, and play in the Winter Wonderland games and bounce houses.

Breakfast with Santa is \$5 for adults and \$4 for children. Photos with Santa are \$2. Bingo tickets are two for \$1. Winter Wonderland booth and bounce house armbands are on sale now for \$10 and will be sold at the event for \$12.

Cookies, Cocoa and Mr. Claus

Southside Elementary is planning its Cookies, Cocoa and Mr. Claus event for Saturday, Dec. 11. Decorate cookies, write letters to Santa, and bring a camera for photos.

Offered in two sessions, voluntary pre-K students through students in second grade may attend from 2-3:30 p.m. Students in grades three through five may attend from 3:45-5 p.m. (If you have children in multiple grade levels, all may attend the second session.)

Tickets are on sale now for \$5. They will be \$8 at the door. Masks are encouraged.

Tomlinson out as BHS head football coach

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Bradford High School's football program and Head Coach Brian Tomlinson will be parting ways after Superintendent of Schools Will Hartley decided the program needed to be under different leadership.

Tomlinson, who went 33-26 in five seasons and qualified for the playoffs every year, said he was surprised by the decision, especially considering that one of the things people wanted to see when he was hired was the increase of college opportunities for BHS football players. Tomlinson said the mindset at the time was that if a student-athlete at BHS wanted to go to college, he had to go to another high school to get it.

"I felt like we changed that, with 34 kids being offered," Tomlinson said. "That number could continue to rise, depending on how many others get offers."

Hartley admitted that Tomlinson did some good things for the program, but said Tomlinson's coaching style didn't mesh with his philosophies on how the program should move forward.

Plus, Hartley believes the program is capable of more.

"I know we've had a lot of kids who've had interest from colleges and stuff like that during his five years here, but after his first year, it's been pretty much .500 football," Hartley said, adding, "This is a place where there is always talent. There's



Brian Tomlinson, who was 33-26 in five years, with playoff appearances each of those years, was informed he's no longer the Bradford High School head football coach. File photo by Cliff Smelley.

always going to be talent on the field. I truly believe that a really good coach can come in here and create a legacy for themselves and build a really strong program that can compete year in and year out. That's what we're going to be looking to do."

Tomlinson is the only football coach in BHS history to go to the playoffs five straight years, which

See COACH, page 6

City puts brakes on road closure

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — The Keystone Heights City Council tabled an interlocal agreement with the Clay County School Board that would have allowed the school to erect barriers across Southwest Pecan Street during school drop off and pick up hours.

The barriers would have blocked traffic from entering Pecan between Southwest Highland Avenue and Orchid Avenue.

During the council's Oct. 4 meeting, the school's principal, Beth Turbeville told council members that the section of Pecan Street under discussion has been reserved for bus pick up and drop off. However, people in cars continue to use the road.

"From the beginning of the year, we've had cones, we've had barriers set up and cars will literally blow right past," Turbeville told council members. "We've had near accidents that have been very scary, especially since we have students crossing that street even though we are there with them."

Council member Tony Brown led the criticism of the proposal, saying he preferred to try improved signage and intensified law enforcement before

See ROAD, page 4

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Grant would add firefighters, but for a price



Training can save lives

Bradford County Fire Rescue Lt. Edwards, Capt. Loomis and Chief Rodgers were invited to the Bradford County Senior Center where they taught seniors how to perform CPR, use an AED, and manage a choking patient. According to the American Heart Association, every minute CPR is delayed a victim's chance of survival decreases by 10%. Bradford County Fire Rescue strongly encourage everyone to attend a CPR course to become trained; it could save a life. They host free training courses throughout the year. Visit them on Facebook @bradfordcountyfirerescue for updates.

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — Bradford County Fire Rescue may have an opportunity to hire additional firefighters and reduce response times but doing so would depend on grant funding that county commissioners are hesitant to accept.

If the fire department applies for and receives a SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) grant from FEMA, the grant would cover 75% of the cost of hiring additional firefighters for two years and 25% of the cost in year three. Alternatively, the grant could also be used to prevent layoffs or rehire firefighters who have been laid off.

According to Fire Chief Ben Carter, the department could hire nine additional firefighters. That would allow them to staff each station with three firefighters per shift instead of two.

National Fire Protection Association standards call for a minimum of 16 firefighters to respond to a 2,000 square-foot home with no basement or endangered properties nearby. Even with all three Bradford stations responding as well as administrative staff, the most responding from Bradford now is nine. They understand getting to 16 is unrealistic but with the

grant and additional county funding, they could get to 12 by adding another firefighter per shift at each station.

National standards also call for a four-minute response time. With stations spread out in Lawtey, Sampson City and Theressa, it can take much longer for stations to reach outlying parts of the county. Four minutes may also be unrealistic, Carter said, but it is something to strive for. Instead of the first engine on scene carrying two firefighters, it could be carrying three.

The money could also be used to meet Commissioner Diane Andrews goal of staffing a fire station in Brooker.

Based on the typical entry level pay of \$12 an hour, the cost of nine new employees would total more than \$625,000 a year. For two years the county's portion of the cost would be around \$156,000. In year three, the board would have to cover nearly \$407,000 of the cost. A new grant could help retain those employees beyond three years, but without it, the commission would have to choose between fully funding or eliminating those nine positions.

The SAFER grant is not, as some of the public seem to believe, an easy or sure source of funding to pay for emergency responders, according to Will Sexton, county attorney. It would

be a financial commitment for the county for at least three years and potentially prove to be a nonrecurring source of funds. It could also require the county to lay people off and cut services if a future grant application is unsuccessful.

"We want the public to know this isn't just 'free money,' like a lot of grants. It's not even just free money with a match of 10%," Sexton said.

For that reason, commissioners were cautious, with Chairman Chris Dougherty pointing out they still haven't identified an ongoing source of funding to continue supporting Bradford County Fire Rescue.

Discussion of the funding options has made no public progress since discussing the fire and EMS special assessments study last August. Electrical franchise fees have been discussed as a way of lowering the fire and EMS assessments for property owners.

Dougherty also said there are times firefighters are dispatched to respond to a medical call, only to be recalled when ambulance crew arrives on scene. In those cases, having a third person on the truck would seem excessive, although understandably helpful when fighting a fire.

"Until we, again, find a revenue source other than grants,

trying to figure out how we can increase the tax base of this county, a lot of the things that we want are certainly on a wish list," Dougherty said.

"I don't think this is a solution for funding the fire department," Carter agreed. "I think this is a Band-Aid."

Carter said they were just looking for direction to apply for the grant or not, but the commission stopped short of saying don't do it. Instead, there will be additional discussion as they wait for the application period to open.

The commission did approve applying for a separate FEMA grant for a new fire engine. If awarded, the county would have to supply a 10% match. That could be up to \$50,000, depending on the cost to purchase and outfit the truck.

planning, engineering and site prep.

Smith said they intend to finish up the engineering plans but will not pursue a \$2 million state appropriation to build the facility. He said in working with Chairman Dougherty, they realized there would be ongoing operations and maintenance costs the county would not be able to cover.

Now is just not the best time to proceed, Smith said.

"I think our county has some other interests that should probably be taken care of," he said.

Dougherty agreed. He had also mentioned the need to rethink the renovation and expansion of the former Heilbronn Springs fire department, which is proving more costly than anticipated.

Rather than allocations for projects like these, Dougherty said he has been talking to legislators about funding infrastructure improvements, including water and sewer extensions that will support growth and expand the tax base, and which would in turn pay for improved services.

Cost postpones other projects

Sheriff Gordon Smith told county commissioners Monday that his office is placing plans for a new emergency operations center on hold because of future costs.

Bradford is one of the few counties without a hurricane proof EOC, so the sheriff received \$200,000 to begin

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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.

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.

Joyful Voices Christmas Program

The Joyful Voices of Lawtey will present the Annual Community Christmas Program on Sunday, Dec. 12, at 6 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church in Lawtey. The public is invited to attend.



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Sutton to celebrate her 102nd birthday



Margaret Sutton of Starke will celebrate her 102nd birthday on Sunday, Dec. 12. Her children and their spouses — Ken and Glenda Sutton, Tom and Marge Sutton, Jannet and John Pate, and Judy Sutton — and all the rest of the Sutton family — near and far — say, “Happy birthday, Mom, Grandma, Great-Grandma and Great-Great Grandma. We all love you!”

Christmas on Call Street

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

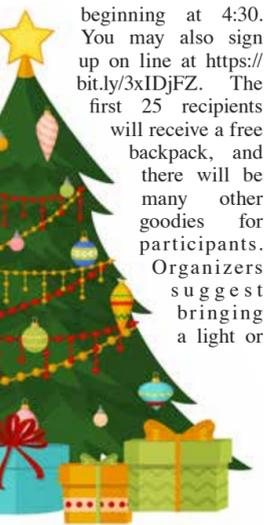
With games, vendors, rides, entertainment, an evening light parade and breakfast with Santa, there will be something for everyone.

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/3xIDjFZ>. The first 25 recipients will receive a free backpack, and there will be many other goodies for participants. Organizers suggest bringing a light or

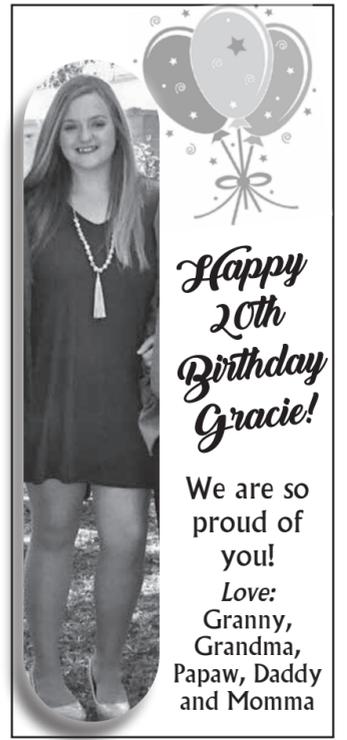
Christmas parade, families can come to the square beginning at 10 a.m. to visit vendors and play kids games. Live entertainment will begin at 11 a.m., and a car show will take place from 3 to 5 p.m.

The parade is set to start at 6 p.m. 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.

glowstick to wear. Anyone under 18 will need an adult to participate with them.

In advance of Saturday's



Happy 20th Birthday Gracie!

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Letters

Thank you, Tenlys

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the Bradford County Fair Association Board of Directors — James Balkcom, Walter Brandt, Tommy Crosby, Chuck Kramer, Bob Milner,

Christopher Page, Roxanne Rosier and Tammie Woodard, and the BCFA membership — I would like to thank the Tenlys for their multiple years of service and volunteering.

Dale and Lane have served on the board, cumulatively, for over 50 years. Lane has spearheaded the Home Division for

numerous years, and Ehrline has coordinated the Arts and Crafts participants in the fair also for numerous years. We have always valued their input and help in any and all aspects of the Fair and the Association.

Gratefully,
Warren Carver, President



A Clay County School Board rendering of a barrier blocking traffic from entering Southwest Pecan Street from Orchid Avenue.

ROAD Continued from page 1

closing the road to the public during school hours.

Vice Mayor Steve Hart added that if a distracted driver hit the barriers, the city might wind up as a defendant in a lawsuit.

Residents living near the school have argued against the barriers, telling council members the proposal would impede access to their homes and increase traffic and unauthorized street parking on Breezway Drive and Southwest Cardinal Drive.

In other news from the Dec. 6 meeting of the city council:

Waste Management assignment approved

The council approved a contract assignment for its commercial trash collection, accepting services from Waste Management instead of the original party to the agreement: Advanced Disposal.

Waste Management acquired Advanced Disposal in 2020, however the city's original

agreement with Advanced Disposal had no provisions for an assignment to any subsequent entity.

The assignment also includes an updated fee schedule businesses will pay to Waste Management for trash pickup.

During the council's Nov. 1 meeting, several Keystone Heights business owners complained about a 300% increase in rates.

Waste Management has an exclusive contract for commercial trash collection within the city. The contract ends next year, and council members have indicated they will seek competitive bids at that time.

Vice Mayor Steve Hart said that if the city refused to agree to the assignment, Waste Management could stop picking up commercial accounts, creating a public health hazard.

The council also discussed an idea pitched by Hart during the November meeting. Hart noted that the city's administrative fee, collected by Waste Management and remitted to the city, recently increased from 5% to 11%. He recommended the city collect the 11%, keep 5% and refund the difference to Keystone Heights businesses, lessening the impact of the garbage hauler's rate hike.

Alcohol consumption at pavilion reconsidered

The council agreed to revisit allowing the consumption of alcoholic beverages at its beach pavilion.

Tony Brown, who has opposed allowing drinks at the city-owned property in the past, told council members he has changed his position.

Brown added that the pavilion is losing out on rentals for private and corporate parties, wedding receptions and other events because of the alcohol prohibition. He also said some Lake Region organizations are booking events out of town instead of renting the pavilion due to the city's policy.

"I personally don't want to drive to Gainesville for an organizational Christmas party," he said. "A lot of people like to have their wine, their beer, and I would like to re-address that."

Added to planning and zoning committee

The council appointed Dylan Bennett to its planning and zoning committee.

Bennet stated in his application that he is 35 years old and has a background in history, construction and the legal profession.

He was a certified paralegal for six years with a national law firm and is now a state certified specialty contractor and owns a screen enclosure business.

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Breakfast with Santa in Raiford a community tradition

BY LARRY DUPEE
Special to the Times

RAIFORD — More than 100 children, along with members of their families, attended the City of Raiford's annual Breakfast with Santa at the town Community Center on Dec. 4.

A breakfast of pancakes and sausage was cooked up by Raiford Mayor Lamar Griffis, city council members and friends and served to a hungry group of adults and children more interested in Santa and the present table than the food.

The event was sponsored by the Town of Raiford. Gifts were donations gathered in a box at the Raiford Dollar General Store. Children got to sit on Santa's lap, or on a bench next to him, and



Santa seems to be coaxing Raelynn Dobbs to come and tell him what she wants for Christmas. (Photos by Larry Dupee.)

tell him their holiday dreams and wishes. They then received a bag of treats from the "jolly old elf" and proceeded to the gift table where Elixson passed out wrapped gifts. Griffis said that any leftover gifts would be donated to a toy drive being conducted by Mindy Bennett.

"In Raiford, we consider ourselves both as a community and an extended family," Griffis said. "The town government enjoys providing programs such as this to strengthen these bonds in the community."



Paisley Noegal has gotten her share of the Christmas goodies and is looking to see what else there is to do at the Breakfast with Santa event in Raiford.



Santa has an armful while he takes the Christmas requests from Anderson and Alton Griffis.



Stella Desire seems a little shy about talking to Santa, but her brothers, Jorden and Treavon have already gotten their requests in and are waiting for her to speak.

Lots to see in Union this holiday season

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Editor

Although the pandemic is still with us — now including variants as well as the original COVID virus still hanging around — the Christmas season is looking a little brighter this year than it did last, with a number of holiday events scheduled for a boost of seasonal spirit and fun.

The Town of Raiford led the pack last Saturday with its annual Breakfast with Santa at the town community center. Coming up, over the next two weekends, events in Worthington Springs and Lake Butler offer a little seasonal entertainment.

On Saturday, Dec. 11, 2021 the Lake Butler VFW Post 10082 will hold its annual, members-only, Christmas party, beginning at 6 p.m.

For everyone else, Worthington Springs will hold its annual Christmas in the Park later the same day, beginning at 7 p.m. The event will feature a holiday theme, with local vendors on hand selling a variety of items that would make perfect stocking stuffers,

last minute gift ideas and some unusual items that would please those difficult-to-buy-for people that everyone has on their lists.

The following weekend, on Sat. Dec. 18 the City of Lake Butler will host its annual Christmas parade. The parade route will run down the center of Main St. as it has in the past, with plenty of sidewalk space for onlookers to stand and wait for candy to be thrown from the floats. Santa will be on hand, as will a number of his elves.

This year's parade theme is "Christmas at the Lake," a more open theme than in previous years. It should be interesting to see what creative floats this theme inspires.

The parade is set to begin at 6 p.m. and is scheduled to last approximately two hours.

No other upcoming holiday events have been turned in to the Times as of yet, but there is still time to get your event listed in the paper! To get word to us about what you are doing for the season, please call (904)964-6305 or email your information to uctimeseditor@gmail.com.

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.



Bradford High School is submitting reviews written by the members of its Book Club. These first two were written by freshman August Lefevres.

September

'When Crickets Cry' by Charles Martin

Dr. Jonathan "Reese" Mitchell, the main character in Charles Martin's book "When Crickets Cry," lives in a secluded house on Lake Burton, Georgia, close to his blind brother-in-law, Charlie. Reese and Annie cross paths when Reese buys lemonade from her stand where she is raising money for a heart transplant.

Reese grows close to Annie and her aunt and guardian, Cindy. His relationship with Annie causes Reese to revisit his past, where his best friend and later wife, Emma, suffered from the same condition as Annie. Reese spent his life studying to become a heart surgeon in order to help Emma one day, but will be able to conquer the demons

in his past to help Annie? With a complicated main character and lovable side characters, "When Crickets Cry" tells a captivating story of a little girl who betters the life of everyone around her. I particularly enjoyed the author's depiction of Reese's story throughout the book. The well-written nature of this novel is quite admirable and very beautiful. Not only that, but the subtlety of the Christian values in the book are perfectly intertwined in the story, to where even someone not of the Christian faith could enjoy it.

While "When Crickets Cry" is not the type of book I would usually pick up, I do not regret this read. I would most definitely recommend this book.

October

'The Midnight Library' by Matt Haig

Nora Seed is the main character of Matt Haig's book "The Midnight Library." Nora is a young woman who feels that her

life is meaningless and devoid of opportunity. At the peak of her despair, feeling unaccomplished and unwanted, Nora attempts to end her life.

However, instead of death, Nora receives an opportunity to live different lives. She meets her old school librarian, Mrs. Elm, who watches over the many books which hold Nora's lives. Nora goes through many different lives, learning lessons along the way. Will she stay jumping from life to life forever or will she choose to go back to her life?

This novel is extraordinarily written. The portrayal of Nora's emotions is sad, but beautifully written. The book makes the reader think about their own life, and about the infinite possibilities this world has to offer. I loved that this book had representation of mental health, and all kinds of people.

This book would be great for teens and young adults who are seeking a book which is thought-provoking, but not a long read. I would definitely recommend this book.

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Crime

Recent arrests in Bradford, Union and Clay

Nov. 27 through Dec. 3

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

Calvin Jerrod Butts, 37, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on Nov. 30 for withholding support.

Ernest Clyde Dyal, 58, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Bradford deputies on Nov. 29 for a probation violation.

Gendry Jordan Frometa, 32, of Jacksonville was arrested by Starke police on Dec. 1 for driving with a suspended license.

Justin Anthony Dwight Garrison, 21, of Starke was arrested Nov. 30 by Bradford deputies for possession of child pornography and using a two-way communications device while committing a felony.

Dexter Lenard George, 43, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on Nov. 29 for failure to appear.

Morgan Shae Griffis, 27, of Callahan was arrested by Bradford deputies on Nov. 27 for failure to appear and an out-of-county warrant.

Vincent Douglas Hagan, 24, of Hampton was arrested by Bradford deputies on Nov. 29 for possession of drug equipment.

Kelli Nicole Haight, 38, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on Dec. 3 for an out-of-county warrant.

William Michael Hedrick, 40, of Lake Butler was arrested by Bradford deputies on Nov. 29 for a probation violation.

Richardlyn Bobbie Jamison, 27, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on Nov. 27 for failure to appear, possession of drug equipment and fraud.

Dominic Makhail Jenkins, 23, of Lawtey was arrested by Bradford deputies on Nov. 28 for driving with a suspended license.

Katrina McSpadden, 50, of Lake Butler was arrested by Bradford deputies on Nov. 28 for larceny.

Malcolm Jamal Newby, 36, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on Nov. 30 for possession of cocaine and driving with a suspended license.

Lori Ann Reid, 50, of Brooker was arrested by Bradford deputies on Dec. 2 for a probation violation and failure to appear.

Treyonce Malik Robinson, 19, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on Nov. 29 for possession of marijuana.

Anthony Derrick Small, 33, was arrested by Starke police on Nov. 28 for DUI, possession or delivery of opium and possession of drugs.

Garrett Andrew Thornton, 23, of Hampton was arrested by Bradford deputies on Nov. 28 for a probation violation.

Jason Andrew Ward, 33, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on Nov. 29 for disorderly intoxication.

Chanda Marie Westfall, 46, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on Dec. 1 for larceny.

Union

Bo James Dampier, 33, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on Dec. 3 for burglary and larceny.

Marsha Ann Renfro, 44, of Princeton, North Carolina was arrested by Union deputies on Dec. 3 for vehicle theft.

Stanley Davis Sapp, 43, of Starke was arrested by Union deputies for an out-of-county warrant.

Christina Virginia Streat, 39, of Macclenny was arrested by Union deputies on Dec. 2 for an out-of-county warrant, possession of drugs and possession of drug equipment.

Clay

Michael Lee Channell, 41, was arrested by Clay deputies in Keystone Heights on Nov. 27 for violating a domestic violence injunction.

Shatamra Lee Autrey Gillyard, 24, was arrested by Clay deputies on Dec. 2 in Keystone Heights for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, possession of methamphetamine and possession or use of drug equipment.

Brenton Kenneth Jackson, 35, was arrested by Clay deputies on Dec. 2 in Keystone Heights for battery.

Quamaire Irin Johnson, 28, was arrested by Clay deputies on Nov. 29 in Keystone Heights for a probation violation.

Priscilla Lynn Manning, 53, was arrested by Clay deputies in Keystone Heights on Nov. 28 for failure to appear.

Charles Henry Riess, 38, was arrested by Clay deputies on Dec. 3 in Keystone Heights for battery.

Raechel Diane Thompson, 33, was arrested by Clay deputies on Nov. 30 in Keystone Heights for resisting an officer and evidence tampering.

Damon Jacob Henry Worth, 24, was arrested by Clay deputies on Dec. 1 in Keystone Heights for possession of drugs and possession of drug equipment.

Meth dealer gets 2 years in prison

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

STARKE — A 38-year-old Starke man was sentenced to two years in prison after pleading to driving and drug charges.

Joshua Allen Matthews pleaded no contest to the Jan. 14 offenses of sale of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell and to the Sept. 27 offenses of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, driving with a suspended license, possession or use of drug paraphernalia and resisting an officer without violence.

Matthews also pleaded no contest to the Feb. 20 offenses of possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell, sale of a controlled substance, use of a two-way communications device while committing felonies and possession or use of drug paraphernalia.

According to court documents,



Matthews

Matthews sold 0.7 grams of methamphetamine to a sheriff's office confidential source on Jan. 14.

In a separate sworn complaint, Detective Jake Whitehead wrote that a sheriff's office source called the defendant on Feb. 20 to buy methamphetamine. Whitehead added that Matthews

sold 0.9 grams of the drug to the informant.

In a Sept. 27 arrest report, Deputy Archie Crews wrote that he was patrolling in the Paradise Lake area near the Clay-Bradford County line when he saw the defendant pass him in a red Chevrolet truck.

Crews wrote that he knew Matthews's license had been suspended, so he conducted a traffic stop at a nearby convenience store. After Matthews pulled over, he jumped out of the pickup and ran.

"A foot pursuit was then initiated," wrote Crews. "Once within distance, I deployed my agency-issued taser."

Crews added that one taser probe struck the defendant in the left elbow and the other in the left thigh.

The deputy said that after placing Matthews in his patrol vehicle, he found Alprazolam in the center console of the defendant's truck.

SCHOOL

Continued from page 1

would benefit from being at a school with so much community support. It's true that the district might lose some students to the charter school, but he sees a potential for growth that would end up raising enrollment at the secondary level.

While not necessarily expecting enthusiastic cooperation, the charter school proponents were not expecting competition for the Brooker Elementary building.

Kelley called it "a royal mess" and is frustrated that after months of conversations with school board members and administration that they haven't been able to secure interest in letting them use the facility, the property for which was donated to public education, and he feels should be used for that purpose.

It wasn't until Monday that he realized there was a pending special exception application filed by the daycare. After reaching out to the school board and superintendent, Kelley said they've received no feedback and knew nothing about a possible plan to lease the school property for that purpose.

"They've been having this in the works for some time behind closed doors. I just never thought

that I'd see our government officials be so deceptive," he said.

Kelley also called it an attack on school choice.

"There's a lot to be cleared up," he said.

Superintendent Will Hartley said because of the property's zoning, the daycare applicant must go through the special exception process, but there is no agreement between the school district and the daycare to use the property. There are a lot of hoops to jump through with the state, he said.

"We have had discussions, but nothing's been agreed on," Hartley said.

Hartley said he has spoken to several people interested in the charter school as well, but he had not spoken to Kelley. This is how he views it: agreeing to the charter school would take funding from the district's other schools.

"At the end of the day, really, there's no difference in doing that, and keeping the school open as it was before, right?" he said.

The number of students at Brooker Elementary wasn't generating enough state funding to cover the cost of running the school. The charter school would face the same difficulty, Hartley said.

To the superintendent, it makes more sense to lease the facility to

a business and generate revenue for the district. That doesn't stand in the way of a group applying to create a charter school, it just means they won't be running it on school board property.

"We'll do everything we can to support the students that are educated there, but it would have never made sense for us to close the school if we were going to turn around and give it to a charter school," he said.

There is a lot of work and planning that goes into completing a charter school application, a lot the Brooker community would have to prove to win approval. Hartley said he has posed questions about administration, staffing and curriculum that have not been answered. If one day those students are to enter a district-run school, the district needs to make sure they are getting the education they need.

"It's way, way early in the process. It's a long way to go for it to be something that's successful," Hartley said.

The special exception hearing in front of the Board of Adjustment will begin at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 16. The hearing will take place at the courthouse.

Man arrested for 29 counts of child porn

Bond set at \$3.35 million

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

STARKE — A 21-year-old Starke man was arrested for 29 counts of possession of child pornography and an equal number of charges for using a two-way communications device while committing felonies.

Justin Anthony Dwight Garrison is being held on a \$3,350,000 bond.

According to an arrest report, on Nov. 30, the Bradford County



Garrison

Sheriff's Office received a file from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children which contained the defendant's name. The information claimed Garrison downloaded 29 images of suspected child pornography.

Arresting officer Michael Garmon wrote in the arrest report that the file also contained an email address, phone number and Snapchat user information linked to the defendant.

"Post Miranda," Garmon wrote, "Justin admitted to having viewed videos which displayed children performing sexual acts."

COACH

Continued from page 1

equaled the number of playoff appearances the program had in the 13 years prior to his hiring. He was one of three coaches to make it to the postseason multiple years, joining David Hurse and Rowland Cummings. His teams had a 6-5 postseason record, reaching the regional-championship level twice and advancing to the state semifinals once.

Hurse, Cummings and Chad Bankston are the only other coaches to take the Tornados to the state semifinals.

"Ultimately, I feel like my staff and I can say we've left it in a better place than we found it," Tomlinson said.

Tomlinson said the numbers of wins and losses may not have been to some people's liking, but said he believed he put the team in position to be prepared for the postseason. The Tornados went 11-2 in Tomlinson's first year, advancing to the state semifinals before losing 53-13 to Raines.

"Raines was a great team," Tomlinson said. "I felt like there was no one on the schedule to prepare us for that. It was always my goal after that to schedule tougher teams because I wanted to be able to make a run in the playoffs and have a chance."

Bradford went 5-6 in Tomlinson's second year, losing in the first round of the playoffs. Every season since, the Tornados won at least one playoff game. They went 6-6 in 2019 and this past season, going 2-1 in the 2019 playoffs and 1-1 in the 2021 playoffs. Bradford went 5-6 in 2020, going 1-1 in the postseason.

"I know the record the last few years has been around .500, and that's probably not appealing to the casual observer," Tomlinson said, "but we made playoff runs every year but one."

Hartley, though, believed those playoff appearances were indicators that the future wasn't

going to be much different.

"I think five years was a really good snapshot of what you were going to get in the future," Hartley said. "It's kind of been getting to that same spot or somewhere short of that spot each year, but never really being able to break through."

With the current culture of high school athletics, where student-athletes can move from one school to another, Hartley doesn't want to waste much time in hiring a new coach.

"When we find the right person, it'll happen pretty quickly," he said, adding, "You really want to get somebody in who can establish themselves and start to build a relationship with the kids who are still going to be here next year. The work that's done between now and August is what really determines the quality of what's on the field next year."

An early start was something Tomlinson didn't have at BHS. He was hired after the start of spring practice in 2017 due to predecessor Corey Green resigning in April. Tomlinson was the only coach on staff at the time of his hire.

For someone tackling his first varsity football head-coaching opportunity, it was a lot of learning on the fly. However, it was an experience that will benefit him in his next job.

"I learned a tremendous amount of what to do and what not to do," Tomlinson said. "A lot of it was trial and error, it being my first time. I feel like we did some great things. We did some not-so-great things. There were a lot of things I was happy with that we were building on every year."

"I think I'll be able to have a jumpstart on that with the next position."

Tomlinson, a 1993 Union County High School graduate, was a varsity assistant coach at his alma mater for nine years prior to being hired at BHS. He also served stints as assistant and head coach for the UCHS baseball team, guiding the Tigers to the 2012 state championship.

Prior to joining the UCHS football staff, Tomlinson was the Lake Butler Middle School head football coach, leading the Tigers to six straight Suwannee Middle Athletic Conference division championships and three overall SMAC championships.

Tomlinson stepped down as the UCHS head baseball coach two years after the state championship to focus on football. His goal was to become a head coach at the high school level.

Bradford gave him that opportunity. Now, he's looking for another one.

"When I took the (BHS) job, I had people outside of Bradford — and I had people inside of Bradford, actually — tell me that I was crazy for taking the job and that I would last only a couple of years," Tomlinson said. "To make it through year five and to accomplish everything we were able to accomplish, it makes me feel like I am able to do it. I'm not done coaching. I've been doing this for 22 years now. I still have the urge to coach."

Tomlinson said the BHS program was at a "low level" when he was hired. He said he and his staff built it up and that he hopes the program's next coach continues to build upward. Despite how things have played out, Tomlinson, like Hartley, wants to see BHS reach another level in football.

"I truly hope that the next coach is able to come in and take it higher than we were able to," Tomlinson said.

Whoever the next coach is, Tomlinson said he's "going to have a great group of kids who are willing to work."

"He's going to have some talented kids," Tomlinson said.

Tomlinson's tenure of five seasons was the longest for a BHS coach since Hurse coached 29 seasons. Cummings was the head coach for four seasons, but every other coach since Hurse has been in the position three years or less.



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LBMS Career Day opens eyes

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Editor

LAKE BUTLER — It's that time of year, when students at Lake Butler Middle School are treated to presentations from a number of professionals in various fields. The main idea is to allow the students to see what is involved in various jobs and professions and get an idea of how they will need to prepare themselves (such as in the selection of a class schedule) to be equipped to pursue the career of their choice.

This year, the event ran from 8:05 a.m. until 10 a.m., with four career sessions. Students were asked to fill out a form selecting four career choices that interested them and to record some of the questions they would like to ask during their sessions — an aid in preventing forgotten questions during the excitement of some of the sessions.

The youngsters moved from location to location to the sessions of their choice, most of which were held indoors due to weather concerns. A few sessions had to remain outside at the front of the school, the bus ramp/loop and open areas on the campus, since bringing an 18-wheeler, a fire truck and a live horse inside was not thought practical. At the end of their fourth session, students proceeded to their regular schedule for third period and throughout the remainder of their day.

As for the presenters, who volunteered their time to pass on their knowledge and vocation, more than 40 participated. The variety of topics, jobs and careers presents was extremely varied and showed just how hard the LBMS faculty and staff worked to located people willing to take on the challenge of challenging the young.

Students had the chance to watch a horse trainer at work, and a farrier putting shoes on another animal (horse). They were allowed to sit in the driver's seat of an 18-wheeler (and sound the air horn), explore the interior of an EMS vehicle and see demonstrations of the assorted equipment routinely carried on a fire truck.

Local craftsman, service persons and professionals who donated their time and expertise to making Career Day a big success were:

- Air National Guard Mechanic — Michael Cornwall
- Athletic Trainer — Crista Rosborough
- Banker — Jenny Reed
- Bridge Engineer — Jason Stalnaker and Dustin Hersey
- Chemical Engineer — Kent Coburn
- Chiropractor — Kelly Clark
- Corrections — Lt. Stephanie Highland and Ofc. Heather Liston
- Cosmetologist — Amanda Hardee and Georgia Reddish
- Dental Hygienist — Shelby Parmenter and Casey King (Dental Assistant)
- Dietician — Christy Thomas
- EMS/Emergency Management — Andrea Lewis, Tita Mungia-Velaquez and Julie Huber
- Event Planning — Morgan Starling
- Farrier — Chris Jones
- Union County Fire Department — Buddy Broughton and Mickey Foster.
- Forensics — Todd Hanlon
- Forester — Holly Tucker, Chase Rowe and Daniel Cook.
- Florida Wildlife Commission — Bret Gill and Teri Graves
- Horse Trainer — John Johns
- Judge — Mitchell Bishop
- K-9 — Officer Mike Southerland, Jow Trowell and Nick Krahl

- Lawyer — Aaron Dukes
 - Lineman-Clay Electric — Jordan Wade and Pat Mundorf
 - Medical Practices Director — Peggy Crews
 - Mental Health Counselor — Michelle Green
 - Mill Operations — Josh Crawford, Carly Loznicka (Human Resources Director)
 - Musician — Rob Lightsey
 - North Florida Technical College — Keith Kirby
 - Nurse — Robbie Barber and Shelbie Barber
 - Pharmacist — Emily Wilson
 - Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA) — Joey Edge
 - Realtor — Kayla Alvarez and Crystal Moody
 - Sheriff's Deputy — David Gladding and Brad Whitehead
 - Software Developer — Doug Mays
 - Speech/Language Pathologist — Joy Zapp
 - Supervisor of Elections Office — Debbie Osborne, Linda Gibson and Jessica Drawdy
 - Teacher — Kelly Dorsey
 - Tree Service Owner — Thomas Nettles
 - Trucking — Alexandra Pritchett and Don McDavid
 - Veterinary Technician — Lisa Holtzendorf
 - Veterinary Clinical Researcher — Lana Fagman and Kaylee Young
 - Victim Advocate Counselor — Allison Green and Aileen Solero
 - Wildlife Sanctuary Director — Keith Nelson, Nannie Ruiz and Krysti Cotton
 - Youth Pastor — Jonathan Wright
- The administration, faculty and staff of Lake Butler Middle School would like to thank all of the presenters who came out to volunteer their time and services to help students begin to make decisions about how they see their future.



Stanley Henderson, a bridge engineer with the Florida Department of Transportation, demonstrated a working model of a drawbridge as Marcus Jefferson, Matthew Walin, Clayton Cason, Kylie Harrison and Rachel Summers look on.



Union County EMS sent Julie Huber, Tita Mungia and Andrea Lewis (not pictured) to LBMS Career Day to show kids like Addison Wright and Rachel Harris (arm in splint) what it is like to work with patients as an emergency medical responder.



Lt. Mickey Forster and Capt. Buddy Broughton instructed a group of LBMS students on what it is like to be a firefighter. Pictured are: Russell Wade, Travis Johnson, Keleb Johns, Bralyn Haight, Layla Seale, Rylee McDowall, Paislee Stalnaker, William "Liam" McFather, Chloe Gartman and Siddhi Patel.



Horse trainer John Johns demonstrates the handling of a horse while describing how to train a horse for various jobs.

Alexandra Pritchett was on site with a big rig promoting driving opportunities on Career Days at LBMS.



KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — Senior Champions hosted a Thanksgiving dinner for Lake Region seniors at the Keystone Heights Women's Club on Wednesday, Nov. 24. Around 50 people attended the event.



Volunteers preparing and serving the meals included (l-r) Darlene Perry, Sherri Campbell, Amanda Chandler, Betty Marsh, Kathie Monroe and Senior Champions leader Laverne Lanier. (Photos and story by Dan Hildebran, Monitor editor)

Melrose library expansion continues

MELROSE— A 500-square foot addition to the Putnam County Library in Melrose continues into December.

The addition on the east side of the building, which faces the post office, will house a multi-purpose meeting room.

Putnam County commissioners approved the project in 2020, and construction began in July 2021.

A completion date for the project has not been released. Photo and story by Dan Hildebran, Monitor editor.



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.

Christmas at Starke Church of God by Faith

Starke Church of God by Faith will be celebrating Christmas with the community on Wednesday, Dec. 22, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. See baby Jesus in the manger, a petting zoo and visit the free photo booth while enjoying free coffee, cocoa and doughnuts. Church youth will also put on a Christmas program beginning at 7 p.m.

Legal Notices

Bradford

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that SHIRLEY R PICKFORD REVOCABLE TRUST the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate Number: 761
Year of Issuance: 2014
Parcel Number: 02674-0-00000
Case Number: 2021-TD-0017
Description of Property: SEE ATTACHED LEGAL DESCRIPTION
Name in Which Assessed: ROSA MAE JONES
Name on last tax roll, if different: ROSA MAE JONES EST

All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on the 2ND day of March 2022, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court
Bradford County, Florida
BY: LISA BRANNON,
Deputy Clerk :

DATED: November 30, 2021
Legal Description: 02674-0-00000 | Beginning at the SW corner of the NW 1/4 of SW 1/4 of Section Twenty-two, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, and run East on Quarter Section line 610 feet for point of beginning, thence run North 200 feet, thence East 100 feet, thence run South 200 feet to Quarter Section line, thence West 100 feet

to point of beginning,
12/9 4tchg 12/30-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that SHIRLEY R PICKFORD REVOCABLE TRUST the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate Number: 774
Year of Issuance: 2014
Parcel Number: 02697-0-00000
Case Number: 2021-TD-0018
Description of Property: SEE ATTACHED LEGAL DESCRIPTION
Name in Which Assessed: ANDREW CARTER III
Name on last tax roll, if different:

All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on the 2nd DAY OF MARCH 2022, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

Denny Thompson,
Clerk Of The Circuit Court
Bradford County, Florida
BY: LISA BRANNON,
Deputy Clerk

DATED: November 30, 2021
Legal Description: 02697-0-00000
A strip of land 50 feet North and South and 200 feet East and West in the Southwest corner of the following, described lands: Beginning at the Northwest corner of the West half of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 22, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, thence run South seventy yards, thence East on hundred and forty yards, thence North seventy yards, thence West one hundred and forty yards to the point of beginning; the same being two acres of land and being in the Northwest corner of the West half of Southwest Quarter of Southwest Quarter of Section 22, Township 6 South, Range 22 East.

12/9 4tchg 12/30-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that SHIRLEY R PICKFORD REVOCABLE TRUST the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate Number: 833
Year of Issuance: 2014
Parcel Number: 02941-B-00103
Case Number: 2021-TD-0019
Description of Property: SEE

ATTACHED LEGAL DESCRIPTION Name in Which Assessed: BRADFORD LAND TRUST ET AL; ALFRED H WOLF, TRUSTEE ETC; KEVIN BROWNE, TRUSTEE ETC; SCOTT HUGHES, TRUSTEE ETC; KEVIN BROWNE, TRUSTEE ETC
Name on last tax roll, if different: All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be

redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on the 16th DAY OF MARCH 2022, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

Denny Thompson,
Clerk Of The Circuit Court
Bradford County, Florida
BY: LISA BRANNON, Deputy Clerk
DATED: November 30, 2021
Legal Description: Lots 11 (except the Northerly 10 feet of Lot 13) of Bradford Villas, according to the plat thereof as

recorded in Plat Book 3, page 55, of the public records of Bradford County, Florida. OR 1333 PG 49
LOT 11, (EXCEPT THE NORTHERLY 10 FEET OF LOT 13) OF BRADFORD VILLAS, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 55 of the Public Records of Bradford County, Florida; OR 1212 PG 472

12/9 4tchg 12/30-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that SHIRLEY R PICKFORD REVOCABLE TRUST the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate Number: 834
Year of Issuance: 2014
Parcel Number: 02941-B-00107
Case Number: 2021-TD-0020
Description of Property: SEE ATTACHED LEGAL DESCRIPTION
Name in Which Assessed: BRADFORD LAND TRUST ET AL; ALFRED H WOLF, TRUSTEE ETC; KEVIN BROWNE, TRUSTEE ETC; SCOTT HUGHES, TRUSTEE ETC; KEVIN BROWNE, TRUSTEE ETC;
Name on last tax roll, if different:

All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on the 16th DAY OF MARCH 2022, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

Denny Thompson,
Clerk Of The Circuit Court
Bradford County, Florida
BY: LISA BRANNON,
Deputy Clerk

DATED: November 30, 2021
Legal Description: 02941-A-00107
Lots 13 (except the Northerly 10 feet of Lot 13) of Bradford Villas, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 3, page 55, of the public records of Bradford County, Florida. OR 1333, PG 49

LOT 13 (EXCEPT THE NORTHERLY 10 FEET OF LOT 13) OF BRADFORD VILLAS, according to the plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 55 of the Public Records of Bradford County, Florida. OR 1212, PG 472

12/9 4tchg 12/30-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that SHIRLEY R PICKFORD REVOCABLE TRUST the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and names in which it was assessed are as follows:

Certificate Number: 783
Year of Issuance: 2014
Parcel Number: 02721-0-00000
Case Number: 2021-TD-0021
Description of Property: SEE ATTACHED LEGAL DESCRIPTION
Name in Which Assessed: KARYM CASAS & SAMUEL CASAS
Name on last tax roll, if different:

All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on the 16th DAY OF MARCH 2022, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

Denny Thompson,
Clerk Of The Circuit Court

DATED: November 30, 2021
Legal Description: 02721-0-00000
A strip of land 50 feet North and South and 200 feet East and West in the Southwest corner of the following, described lands: Beginning at the Northwest corner of the West half of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 22, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, thence run South seventy yards, thence East on hundred and forty yards, thence North seventy yards, thence West one hundred and forty yards to the point of beginning; the same being two acres of land and being in the Northwest corner of the West half of Southwest Quarter of Southwest Quarter of Section 22, Township 6 South, Range 22 East.

12/9 4tchg 12/30-BCT

Bradford County, Florida
BY: LISA BRANNON,
Deputy Clerk
DATED: November 30, 2021
Legal Description: 1 02721-0-00000
The following described land, situate, lying and being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida, to wit: E 1/2, of W 2A of S 1/2 of SE 1/4 of SW 1/4 of SW 1/4, Section 22, Township 6S, Range 22E, Public records of Bradford County, Florida,

12/9 4tchg 12/30-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 2019-CA-000486
DIVISION: NATIONAL

U.S. BANK ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff,
vs.
MATTHEW THOMAS FRANKS A/K/A MATTHEW FRANKS A/K/A MATHEW FRANKS, et al, Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF RESCHEDULED SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to an Order Rescheduling Foreclosure Sale dated October 25, 2021, and entered in Case No. 2019-CA-000486 of the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for Bradford County, Florida in which U.S. Bank National Association, is the Plaintiff and Matthew Thomas Franks a/k/a Matthew Franks a/k/a Mathew Franks, Kristin Nicole Franks a/k/a Kristin Franks, United States of America Acting through Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Cavalry Portfolio Services, LLC as Assignee of Cavalry SPV I, LLC as Assignee of Nissan, are defendants, the Bradford County Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in/on in front of the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091, Bradford County, Florida at 11:00 AM, E.S.T. on the 16th day of December 2021, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment of Foreclosure

A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN LOTS 8 AND 9 OF WOODLAWN, SECTION 18, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, AS PER PLAT RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 17, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA; SAID PARCEL BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT AN IRON ROD FOUND AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 18, AND RUN SOUTH 00 DEGREES 03 MINUTES 25 SECONDS WEST, ALONG THE WESTERLY BOUNDARY THEREOF, 429.12 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTH 429.00 FEET OF SAID LOT 8; THENCE SOUTH 88 DEGREES 35 MINUTES 59 SECONDS EAST, PARALLEL WITH THE NORTHERLY BOUNDARY OF SAID SECTION 18, AND ALONG THE SOUTHERLY BOUNDARY OF SAID NORTH 429.00 FEET OF SAID LOT 8, A DISTANCE OF 54.80 FEET TO AN IRON ROD SET ON THE EASTERLY BOUNDARY OF THE RIGHT OF WAY OF COUNTY ROAD 125 FOR THE POINT OF BEGINNING. FROM POINT OF BEGINNING THUS DESCRIBED CONTINUE SOUTH 88 DEGREES 35 MINUTES 59 SECONDS EAST, PARALLEL WITH SAID NORTHERLY BOUNDARY AND ALONG SAID SOUTHERLY BOUNDARY, 242.60 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 03 MINUTES 25 SECONDS WEST, 312.91 FEET; THENCE NORTH 88 DEGREES 35 MINUTES 59 SECONDS WEST, PARALLEL WITH SAID NORTHERLY BOUNDARY AND SAID SOUTHERLY BOUNDARY, 238.96 FEET TO AFORESAID EASTERLY BOUNDARY OF THE RIGHT OF WAY OF COUNTY ROAD 125; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 36 MINUTES 34 SECONDS WEST, ALONG SAID EASTERLY BOUNDARY 313.02 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

TOGETHER WITH A MOBILE HOME LOCATED THEREON AS A PERMANENT FIXTURE AND APPURTENANCE THERETO, DESCRIBED AS A 2006 FLEETWOOD DOUBLE WIDE MOBILE HOME BEARING TITLE NUMBERS 98537377 AND 98537463 AND VIN NUMBERS GAFL675A78229CD21 AND GAFL675B78229CD21. A/K/A 6565 NW CR 125 LAWTEY FL 32058

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens must file a claim before the Clerk reports the surplus as unclaimed. Dated in Bradford County, Florida this

22 day of November, 2021.
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Bradford County, Florida
By: LISA BRANNON
Deputy Clerk
Albertelli Law
Attorney for Plaintiff
P.O. Box 23028
Tampa, FL 33623
(813) 221-4743
CT - 19-019792

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Persons with a disability who need any accommodation in order to participate should call Jan Phillips, ADA Coordinator, Alachua County Courthouse, 201 E. University Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601 at (352)337-6237 within two (2) working days of receipt of this notice; if you are hearing impaired, please call 1-800-955-8771; if you are voice impaired, please call 1-800-955-8770.

12/9 2tchg 12/16-BCT

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME
Notice Is Hereby Given that North Florida Regional Medical Center, Inc., 922 E Call St., Suite 1301, Starke, FL 32091, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of HCA Florida North Florida Hospital Occupational Health, with its principal place of business in the State of Florida in the County of Bradford will file an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name with the Florida Department of State.

12/9 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME

Notice Is Hereby Given that North Florida Regional Medical Center, Inc., 922 E Call St., Suite 1301, Starke, FL 32091, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of HCA Florida North Florida Hospital Occupational Health, with its principal place of business in the State of Florida in the County of Bradford will file an Application for Registration of Fictitious Name with the Florida Department of State.

12/9 1tchg-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA GENERAL JURISDICTION

DIVISION
Case # 2020CA000310
NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING,
Plaintiff,
-VS-
UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, CREDITORS, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING AN INTEREST BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JOSEPH A. WATSON A/K/A JOSEPH WATSON, DECEASED;
POLLY J. SWINDULL; GENEVA SPRINGS CONDOMINIUMS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.; JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A.; TERESA GAIL SAYERS A/K/A TERESA G. SAYERS; ASHLEY DANIELLE WELLS F/K/A ASHLEY DANIELLE EDGAR; LINDSAY BROOK WALTON; MICHAEL SEAN WATSON; DEBORAH LOIS WATSON;
UNKNOWN TENANT IN POSSESSION 1;
UNKNOWN TENANT IN POSSESSION 2,
Defendant(s)

NOTICE OF ACTION
TO: DEBORAH LOIS WATSON,
Last Known Address: 3075 Southeast State Road 21 Unit 3, Melrose, FL 32666

You are notified of an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in Bradford County: UNIT NO. 3 OF GENEVA SPRINGS I, A CONDOMINIUM, ACCORDING TO THE DECLARATION OF CONDOMINIUM THEREOF AS RECORDED IN O.R. BOOK 184, PAGE 338, ET SEQ. OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA TOGETHER WITH AN UNDIVIDED INTEREST IN THE COMMON ELEMENTS OF SAID CONDOMINIUM.
Property Address: 3075 Southeast State Road 21 Unit 3, Melrose, FL 32666

The action was instituted in the Circuit Court, Eight Judicial Circuit in and for BRADFORD County, Florida; Case No.2020CA0003 10; and is styled NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING vs. JOSEPH A. WATSON A/K/A JOSEPH WATSON (DECEASED), ASHLEY DANIELLE WELLS F/K/A ASHLEY DANIELLE EDGAR (INDIVIDUAL 06/01/2021), DEBORAH LOIS WATSON, GENEVA SPRINGS CONDOMINIUMS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC. (CORPORATE 09/02/2020), JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A. (CORPORATE 08/28/2020), LINDSAY BROOK WALTON (INDIVIDUAL 06/16/2021), POLLY J. SWINDULL (INDIVIDUAL 01/30/2021), TERESA GAIL SAYERS A/K/A TERESA G. SAYERS (INDIVIDUAL 06/25/2021), UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF JOSEPH A. WATSON A/K/A JOSEPH WATSON, UNKNOWN TENANT IN POSSESSION # 1 (NON-SERVICE

VACANT), UNKNOWN TENANT IN POSSESSION # 2 (NON-SERVICE VACANT). You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to the action on Mark W. Hernandez, Esq., Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 255 S. Orange Ave., Ste. 900, Orlando, FL 32801, on or before , (or 30 days from the first date of publication) and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately after service; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition. The Court has authority in this suit to enter a judgment or decree in the Plaintiff's interest which will be binding upon you.

DATED: August 18, 2021
DENNY THOMPSON
As Clerk of the Court
BY: Lisa Brannon
As Deputy Clerk

12/9 2tchg 12/16-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

MIRACLE AUTOMOTIVE & TRUCK SERVICE CENTER INC. gives notice that on 12/24/2021 at 12:00 PM the following vehicle(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. 1FAFP4047WF212583 1998 FORD 1GNCS13W1Y2296277 2000 CHEV

12/9 1tchg-BCT

MEETING

THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Board of County Commissioners of Bradford County, Florida will hold a meeting on December 16, 2021 at 6:30 PM at the Bradford County Courthouse, located at 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida. The public is encouraged to visit www.bradfordcountyfl.gov/meetings or to call the Office of the County Manager at (904) 966-6327 to obtain a copy of the agenda for this meeting.

12/9 1tchg-BCT

OR EQUAL TO ONE DWELLING UNIT PER 5 ACRES EXCEPT AS PROVIDED FOR IN POLICY I.2.2) TO CITY PUBLIC OF CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

The public hearings may be continued to one or more future dates. Any interested party shall be advised that the dates, times and places of any continuation of the public hearings shall be announced during the public hearings and that no further notices regarding the matters will be published, unless said continuation exceeds six calendar weeks from the date of the above referenced public hearings.

All persons are advised that, if they decide to appeal any decisions made at the public hearings, they will need a record of the proceedings and, 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. Any person requiring auxiliary aids and services at this meeting may contact the City Manager's Office at 386.496.3401 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 800.955.8770 (voice) or 800.955.8771 (TTY).

12/9 1tchg-UCT

NOTICE OF ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ordinances, which titles hereinafter appear, will be considered for enactment by the City Commission of the City of Lake Butler, Florida, at public hearings on December 21, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matters can be heard, in the City Commission Meeting Room, City Hall, located at 200 Southwest First Street, Lake Butler, Florida. Copies of said ordinance may be inspected by any member of the public at the Office of the City Manager in the City Hall, at 200 Southwest First Street, Lake Butler, 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 ordinances. The titles of said ordinances read, as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-11
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA, RELATING TO AN AMENDMENT OF THE TEXT OF THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION CPA 21-01 BY THE CITY COMMISSION, UNDER THE AMENDMENT PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED IN SECTIONS 163.3161 THROUGH 163.3248, FLORIDASTATUTES, 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

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-12
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA, RELATING TO AN AMENDMENT OF 50 OR LESS ACRES OF LAND TO THE FUTURE LAND USE PLAN MAP OF THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION, CPA 21-02, BY THE PROPERTY OWNER OF SAID ACREAGE, UNDER THE AMENDMENT PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED IN SECTIONS 163.3161 THROUGH 163.3248, FLORIDA STATUTES, AS AMENDED; PROVIDING FOR A CHANGE IN LAND USE CLASSIFICATION FROM 1COUNTRY AGRICULTURE-4 (LESS THAN

12/9 1tchg-UCT

NOTICE OF ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ordinances, which titles hereinafter appear, will be considered for enactment by the City Commission of the City of Lake Butler, Florida, at public hearings on December 21, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matters can be heard, in the City Commission Meeting Room, City Hall, located at 200 Southwest First Street, Lake Butler, Florida. Copies of said ordinance may be inspected by any member of the public at the Office of the City Manager in the City Hall, at 200 Southwest First Street, Lake Butler, 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 ordinances. The titles of said ordinances read, as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-11
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA, RELATING TO AN AMENDMENT OF THE TEXT OF THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION CPA 21-01 BY THE CITY COMMISSION, UNDER THE AMENDMENT PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED IN SECTIONS 163.3161 THROUGH 163.3248, FLORIDASTATUTES, 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

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-12
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA, RELATING TO AN AMENDMENT OF 50 OR LESS ACRES OF LAND TO THE FUTURE LAND USE PLAN MAP OF THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION, CPA 21-02, BY THE PROPERTY OWNER OF SAID ACREAGE, UNDER THE AMENDMENT PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED IN SECTIONS 163.3161 THROUGH 163.3248, FLORIDA STATUTES, AS AMENDED; PROVIDING FOR A CHANGE IN LAND USE CLASSIFICATION FROM 1COUNTRY AGRICULTURE-4 (LESS THAN

12/9 1tchg-UCT

Union

NOTICE OF ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCES BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ordinances, which titles hereinafter appear, will be considered for enactment by the City Commission of the City of Lake Butler, Florida, at public hearings on December 21, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matters can be heard, in the City Commission Meeting Room, City Hall, located at 200 Southwest First Street, Lake Butler, Florida. Copies of said ordinance may be inspected by any member of the public at the Office of the City Manager in the City Hall, at 200 Southwest First Street, Lake Butler, 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 ordinances. The titles of said ordinances read, as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-11
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA, RELATING TO AN AMENDMENT OF THE TEXT OF THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION CPA 21-01 BY THE CITY COMMISSION, UNDER THE AMENDMENT PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED IN SECTIONS 163.3161 THROUGH 163.3248, FLORIDASTATUTES, 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

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-12
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA, RELATING TO AN AMENDMENT OF 50 OR LESS ACRES OF LAND TO THE FUTURE LAND USE PLAN MAP OF THE CITY OF LAKE BUTLER COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION, CPA 21-02, BY THE PROPERTY OWNER OF SAID ACREAGE, UNDER THE AMENDMENT PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED IN SECTIONS 163.3161 THROUGH 163.3248, FLORIDA STATUTES, AS AMENDED; PROVIDING FOR A CHANGE IN LAND USE CLASSIFICATION FROM 1COUNTRY AGRICULTURE-4 (LESS THAN

12/9 1tchg-UCT

NOTICE

The Union County Board of County Commissioners will hold a Workshop on December 20, 2021 at 5:15 p.m. concerning commercial special assessment. It will be followed by the Regular Monthly Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

12/9 1tchg-UCT

Montreal family makes stop in Starke on bike journey



LEFT: Maelle photographs a tortoise the family came across in Florida. Photos posted by the family on its Facebook page (Les biclous lâchés lousses).



RIGHT: Julie (far left) and daughters Emily (center) and Maelle are pictured upon the family's arrival to Florida.

Since flying into Portland, Oregon on July 15, this Montreal family biked more than 2,000 miles when they arrived in Starke on Dec. 2 and stayed the night at KOA. Pictured (clockwise from left) are Val, his wife, Julie, and their children, Emily, 11, and Maelle, 9. Photo by Cliff Smelley.

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

"A bicycle ride around the world begins with a single pedal stroke."

That quote is attributed to San Francisco's Scott Stoll, who did indeed ride his bicycle around the world — a four-year journey that began in 2001.

Montreal's Val Florimond and his family aren't quite riding around the whole world, but they are in the midst of a two-year journey, with their pedal strokes recently bringing them through Bradford and Union counties.

Val, his wife, Julie, and their two daughters, 11-year-old Emily and 9-year-old Maelle, set up their tents at Starke's KOA on Dec. 2 at approximately 4 p.m., concluding that day's ride, which marked almost one month they had been in Florida. The family has traveled more than 2,000 miles, with that first pedal stroke actually began in the U.S. in Portland, Oregon.

With two children already grown at ages 21 and 19, Val and Julie didn't want to be left wondering where the time went

when their two youngest children reached adulthood.

"We saw that time was speeding up. They're growing fast," Val said, adding, "We were working very hard. Busy, busy; work, work. We said, 'Soon, they're going to be grown and gone. Let's find something to do together.'"

Inspiration came in the form of a newspaper story about a family that was doing extensive traveling on bikes.

"We found that interesting," Julie said. "We began to try it with little trips. We loved it very much."

The family took two- to three-week journeys before setting out on this particular journey, which has them eyeing a return to Montreal in the summer of 2023. Their plan is to continue biking to Orlando and then fly to Turkey. Their bicycle journey will then continue. Val said the hope is to travel to Scandinavia.

"With the new (COVID) variance, we don't know what's going to happen," Val said, "but we're used to it. Initially, we wanted to go to southern-east

Asia for winter and do Thailand and Vietnam, but they all closed down."

Val and Julie may be taking a break from their jobs to take this journey, but Emily and Maelle are still continuing their education. Call it traveling homeschooling. "Julie's a teacher, so that's very convenient," Val said.

You're doing something for the joy of it. It's not a race. It's not a competition.

The children work on their studies when they reach wherever they're camping for the night and are at it again in the mornings before they embark.

Being on the road doesn't put a stop to the learning. If the ride's quiet, Julie will continue working with her daughters, sometimes using their surroundings as learning lessons. For example, address numbers on houses or

mailboxes can be used for a lesson on numbers.

Then there was the recent experience in Florida, where the family came across tortoises. Val said the animals would obviously be a focus of his daughters' next science lesson.

If you want to learn some lessons about what it's like making a long journey by bicycle, the family is chronicling its adventures on bicloulousse.wordpress.com. Their posts are in French, but you can choose English as a language option.

The website also includes links to Facebook, Instagram and YouTube, where the family is also posting.

Montreal to Starke

At the start of their journey, they weren't able to bike across the U.S.-Canada border due to COVID restrictions, but they could fly to the U.S. The family flew into Portland on July 15. Val said, "It's much easier for bikers to get out of the airport (there). Portland's very bike-friendly."

Some of the most difficult parts of their journey were at the beginning. Val and Julie said the Big Sur region of the California coast was physically demanding. Plus, that part of the ride wasn't easy for Julie, who admitted she

has a fear of heights.

Then, there was the weather they experienced.

"It was actually chilly on the west coast," Julie said, adding, "For me, that was difficult. I love to be warm."

Val said it was hard to recover at the end of the day from the cold winds they were experiencing on the west coast.

A day typically consists of covering 30 miles, though the family rode approximately 40 miles the day they arrived in Starke. Val said riding that distance allows the family to arrive to wherever they're camping for the night around 3-4 p.m.

"That allows us to relax a bit and do homeschooling," he said, adding, "We go to sleep pretty early."

The family arrived in Florida on Nov. 8. They spent Thanksgiving in Tallahassee and had plenty to eat. They were invited to one home to each on Thanksgiving Day and received an invitation to another home the following day.

"They day after was

supposedly leftovers," Val said, laughing, explaining that it was still a lot of food.

The generosity of those people who invited them into their homes has been a common experience on the journey. In fact, the family has always received help when needed. For example, Val said he needed the brakes on his bicycle repaired, so the family had to return to a town 20 miles away that they had biked through previously. Public transportation wasn't available that day, though, due to the Labor Day holiday. The family was eating in a restaurant when a stranger approached and said he heard of their plight and would give them a ride to town.

"This happens all the time," Julie said, with Val saying, "We call them 'road angels.'"

Adapting and fully enjoying the journey

See BIKE, page 14

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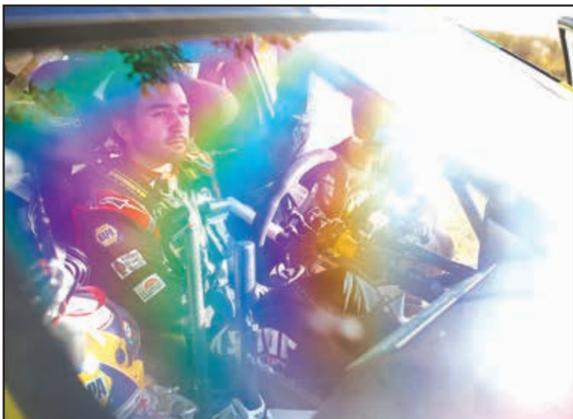
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Nitro Rallycross debuts at Keystone Airport

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—The inaugural Nitro Rallycross event at Florida International Rally and Motorsports Park, within the Keystone Heights Airport featured a NASCAR star, controversy and the crowning of the tour's founder as the Supercar Series Champion.

NASCAR Cup Series 2020 champion Chase Elliott was a last-minute announcement into the Supercar lineup. Elliot, son of NASCAR legend Bill Elliot, has been recognized as NASCAR's most popular driver over the last four years.



Last month, NASCAR star Kyle Busch raced at the Nitro Rallycross event in Phoenix, finishing fourth.

Star power and controversy

In the Supercar class, two drivers face off in a one-on-one matchup, with the winner advancing through a bracket to the finals.

Each of five rounds consists of three laps around the rally course, which features a mixture of asphalt and clay surfaces and a two-story-tall ramp that can

launch cars 40 feet into the air.

In Round 1, Elliot was matched with Tanner Foust. The 26-year-old Georgia native stayed with Foust through the first two laps, tapping Foust's back bumper on the second lap. In the third and final circuit Elliot took an inside line on the final turn, slamming into the right side of Tanner's car and beating Tanner to the corner. Elliot then sprinted the final three seconds of the lap to take the checkered flag.

Race stewards later penalized Elliot for avoidable contact and awarded Tanner the win.

Founder captures series championship

In the Supercar final, Timmy

Hanson placed first followed by brother Kevin Hansen and Scott Speed. Nitro Rallycross founder Travis Pastrana finished fourth at Keystone, but previous finishes combined with the fourth-place finish gave him enough points to claim the series championship. Speed and Timmy Hanson finished second and third for the series title.

Attendance for the event fell well short of the 10,000 to 20,000 spectators predicted by government and tourism officials.

Keystone Airport board chair David Kirkland told the city council that the official attendance had not been released but he estimated a crowd of around 3,000. City Manager Lynn Rutkowski put the attendance at 5,000.

ABOVE: Chase Elliott in his number 9 Nitro Rallycross car. **LEFT:** Elliot's Supercar on the clay surface of the Florida International Rally and Motorsports Park rally track.



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Obituaries

Edna Lee Bell

RAIFORD Edna Lee Bell, 62, of Raiford passed away peacefully at her home on Saturday, Nov. 27, 2021. She was born Dec. 19, 1958, in Munich, Germany, to Ronald Ray and Linda Knapp Russelburg. After graduating from high school, she joined the US Army where she proudly served our country. She loved to dance, play cards, knit, and bake sweets. Most of all, she enjoyed spending time with her family especially her grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her father, Raymond Russelburg, Sr.



She is survived by her husband of 30 years, Edward Bell of Raiford; her children, Edward Bell, Jr., Eric (Shannon) Bell, T.J. Bell, all of Raiford, Joey Abraham of Live Oak, and Alanna (Melton) Griffis of Raiford; her grandchildren, Shynne, Sierra, Saddle, and Moses.

A graveside service was held on Friday, Dec. 3, at Evergreen Cemetery in Jasper.

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

PAID OBITUARY

James Griffis Sr.

STARKE James "Mitchell" Griffis Sr., 68, of Starke passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2021, at Ascension St. Vincent's Clay County in Middleburg. He was born in Starke, on July 27, 1953, to the late Joe Melton Griffis and Dorothy Lee Cadle Griffis. Mitchell has been a lifelong resident of Bradford County where he attended Bradford High School. Shortly after high school Mitchell started his career at the Department of Transportation where he enjoyed working for 33 years before retiring. On October 5, 1976, he married the love of his life Sheila Starling Griffis and together they have spent a wonderful 45 years together. Mitchell enjoyed fishing, camping, and all family gatherings. More than anything, Mitchell loved his family and will be dearly missed by all who knew him. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Jimmy Griffis, Robert Griffis, and Raymond Griffis; and sisters, Hazel Johnson, Patsy Luke, Elaine Griffis, and twin baby girls.



He is survived by his loving wife, Sheila Griffis of Lawtey; children, Mitchell (Chastidy) Griffis, Jr. of Keystone Heights, Joni (Sam) Bryant of Starke, Billy (Kristin) Griffis of Lawtey, and Lance (Jessie) Griffis of Lake Butler; sister, Juanita Willingham of Lawtey; and grandchildren, Cassie, Heather, Leah, Trent, Laney, Ethan, Riley, and Wyatt.

A Celebration of Life was held on Dec. 6 at Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel, with Pastor Rudy Thornton and Rev. David Hodges officiating. Interment followed at Crosby Lake Cemetery in Starke.

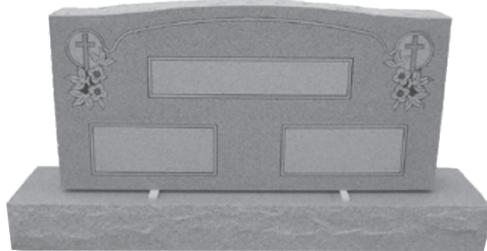
Arrangements were under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services and Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel, Starke. 904-964-5757. Visit ferreirafuneralservices.com to sign the family's guest book.

PAID OBITUARY

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Carolyn Greek

LAKE BUTLER Carolyn Greek, 72, passed away peacefully at her home on Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2021, surrounded by her family. She was born and raised in Lake Butler to the late Isaiah and Nita Raulerson Todd. She loved going to yard sales and tending to her flowers. She was a wonderful wife and great mother. She is preceded in death by her parents; sons, Daniel Isaiah Greek and Stephen Michael Greek; her brothers, Sidney, Mallie, Bennett, Frank, Kenneth, Ray, and Theodore Todd; and her only sister, Sadie Davis, who passed away only minutes after.

Carolyn is survived by her husband of 55 years, George Daniel Greek; her children, Debbie Greek, Ray (Lori) Greek, Mark Greek, and Joseph (Sylisa "Lou") Greek; her grandchildren Jonathan Greek, Casey Whitehead, Bradley Greek, Brandi Whitehead (Daryl Watkins), Chase Greek, Alora Greek, Dylan Greek, and Breanna Greek; great-grandchildren, Brayden Peterson and J.B. Pinkston; brothers, Vernon and Dave Todd; and a host of nieces and nephews.

A service to honor her was held on Thursday, Dec. 2, at Archer-Milton Funeral Home. She was laid to rest following her service at Elzey Chapel Cemetery. Bro. Mike Norman officiated.

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

PAID OBITUARY



Sharon Harvey

LAWTEY Sharon Alline Harvey, 53, of Lawtey, died on Saturday, Dec. 4, 2021 at Shand's UF in Gainesville. She was born on June 1, 1968 in Gainesville, to the late Lucy Dewey Harvey, Sr. and Mary Catherine Harvey. She has been a lifelong resident of Bradford County and graduated from Bradford High School. She was preceded in death by her parents; and brother, Lacey "Chubby" Harvey, Jr.

Sharon is survived by her longtime companion, James "Pete" Olive of Lawtey; son, Alan (Brittnee) Harvey of Lawtey; sister, Janie Harvey of Starke; two nephews, and 3 grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

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



Spurgeon Massey

LAWTEY Spurgeon Boyce "Spud" Massey, 80, of Union City passed away Saturday, Nov. 20, 2021, at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Union City, Tennessee. He was born Sept. 7, 1941, in Marion County, son of the late A.E. and Inez Wanda Mae (Hogue) Massey. He was the widower of Carol (Bradley) Massey who preceded him in death. He was a retired truck driver who enjoyed fishing. Prior to moving to Union City, he was a longtime resident of Lawtey, where he served on the city council and was the fire chief of the Lawtey Volunteer Fire Department for many years. He was preceded in death by one daughter, Jeannie Wilson; and two brothers, Daniel Massey and Edward Lee Massey.

He is survived by one daughter, Susan Massey Groves of Starke; two sons, Victor (Jo Ann) Massey of Union City, Tennessee and Kenny Boyce (Samira) Massey of Centerville, Alabama; 13 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; and one brother, Wayne (Abbie) Massey of Lawtey.

Graveside services were conducted Wednesday, Nov. 24, at Salem Cemetery near Union City. Brother Chip Davis officiated.

Edmaiston Mosley Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Please join us for a Celebration of Life on Sunday, Dec. 12, at 3 p.m. at Tatum Brothers Park, 22598 Park St., in Lawtey.

PAID OBITUARY



John Pedrotty

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS John Paul Leo Pedrotty, 73, a longtime resident of Keystone Heights passed away at his sister's home Sunday, Dec. 5, 2021, following a brief illness. He was born Jan. 30, 1948, in North Canton, Ohio to John Franklin and Irene (Krnach) Pedrotty. He served in the United States Army and was a retired millwright. He was of the Lutheran faith and a member of the American Legion Post #202. Fishing and boating was a passion of his, along with being outdoors, riding his John Deer tractor, taking care of his home, always keeping a fire burning for BBQ's, and entertaining his friends and family. He also enjoyed pool tournaments and collecting hats, but mainly he loved being with his family and friends. In addition to his father, he was also preceded in death by his son, Gary Pedrotty.

He is survived by his daughter, Veronica Pedrotty of Claremont, New Hampshire; and step-son, Steve Crenshaw of Washington State; mother, Irene (Krnach) Allen; and siblings, Patricia Hartman and Gerald Pedrotty all of Keystone Heights. He was lovingly called "grandpa" by Kaitlyn, Garrett, Alec, Aleah, Bella, Kallan, Suzanne, and Savannah. Also left behind are nieces, nephews, and a host of extended family and friends.

Funeral services were held Dec. 8 at the funeral home chapel with Pastor Steve Conner officiating. His ashes will be buried at later date in Ohio.

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

PAID OBITUARY



Martha Riley

UNION COUNTY Martha Ann Walker Riley was born in Madison County to Winston S. Walker and Annie Merle Shelfer Walker and resided in Union County throughout her childhood. She passed away at home in Bradford County on Monday, Nov. 22, 2021 at the age of 68 after a short illness. Martha was retired from Alachua County School Board. She enjoyed her pets, Jeter and Snow Baby, spending time with family and friends, shopping, and the great outdoors. Martha is preceded in death by her father, Winston and mother, Annie Merle.

She is survived by her two sons, Ross Riley and Benjamin "Ben" Riley; one granddaughter, Ava Riley; her sister, Nan Jeffcoat (Tina Wheeler); and a host of nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Haven Hospice Orange Park (beyourhaven.org/donate).

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

PAID OBITUARY

Raymond Secrest

RAYMOND R. Secrest passed away on Monday, Nov. 29, 2021, at 9:54 a.m. with his wife by his side after a long battle with COPD and dementia. He was born in Hollywood and attended South Broward High School. After high school he joined the service and went on to be a CW4 Warrant Officer and a chopper pilot. He spent 23 and a half years in the US Army, doing two tours in Vietnam and earning many medals. He was also a faithful Lutheran. He is preceded in death by his father, Raymond Bell Secrest; mother, Willa Mae Secrest Reddish; a son, Michael Ray Secrest; daughter, Janneth Jane Wright; and sister, Helen Mae Roberts.

He leaves behind his loving wife of 35 years, Betty Secrest; two sons, Raymond K. Secrest of Michigan and Steven (Violet) Secrest of Starke; stepchildren, Leisa Green and Theresa (Mitchell) Gainey of Brooker; six grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

A service to honor him was held on Wednesday, Dec. 8, at Archer-Milton Funeral Home. He was buried with full military honors at Jacksonville National Cemetery.

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

PAID OBITUARY



Joseph Stephenson

STARKE Joseph Hayward Stephenson, 100, of Starke, passed away Saturday, Nov. 27, 2021 at his residence. Mr. Stephenson was born on Sept. 2, 1921 in Guyton, Georgia to the late Thomas Ellis and Hattie O'Gerta (Braxton) Stephenson. Prior to retirement, he was a Chief Petty Officer for the United States Navy. He was a member of the American Legion and the VFW. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his wife, Maria Teresa Stephenson.

Survivors are: his nephews, Thomas E. Stephenson, Jr. (Alice Sprouse) of Starke, Mark (Tracy) Stephenson of Lakeland; great-nieces and nephews, Brian Sprouse, Oliver Stephenson, David Daly, Kaylee Stephenson, and Jasmine Sprouse.

A memorial service will be held at a later date at Jacksonville National Cemetery.

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

PAID OBITUARY



Violet Stewart

STARKE Violet A. Stewart, 90, of Starke passed away Monday, Nov. 29, 2021, at Windsor Manor Health and Rehabilitation. She was born Dec. 14, 1930, in Callahan to Robert and Leah (Knight) Nettles. She was a retired seamstress and a member of the Congregational Holiness Faith. She enjoyed cooking, gospel music, and gardening; but her main focus was her church and family. In addition to her parents, she was also preceded in death by two sons, Dannie Carl Stewart, and Freddie Woodrow Stewart; and her husband, Carl Stewart.

Survivors are her grandson, Eric Stewart; great-grandson, Jensen Stewart; and daughter-in-law, Elaine Stewart all of Starke. Also left behind are several nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends.

A memorial service for will be held at 6 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 9, in the DeWitt C. Jones Chapel, with Brother Larry Carter officiating.

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

PAID OBITUARY

Owen Walter

LAWTEY Owen Fulton Walter, 71, of Lawtey, passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021, at his residence in Lawtey with his loving family by his side. He was born in Paso Robles, California on July 18, 1950, to the late Charles Walter and Ruth Fulton Walter. He was raised in California where he graduated from Paso Robles High School and shortly after enlisted in the United States Navy, which relocated him to Florida. He earned the rank of 2nd Lieutenant and did several tours in Vietnam proudly serving his country for 21 years. After serving active duty in the Navy, he took on a new role as a civil service worker for 20 years at NADEP, Jacksonville Naval Air Station. On April 18, 1997, he married the love of his life, Barbara Sue Wilkinson Walter and together they have spent 24 beautiful years. He was a member of Grace Community Fellowship Church where he was an active member serving as the church treasurer. He loved his church family and worshipping his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with them. He enjoyed riding his motorcycle, traveling all over the United States with his wife, Barbara, and attending his grandchildren's sporting events. If you knew him, then you probably heard him say it's "it's another fine day" & "just peaches and cream". He was a great man who loved all of his family and friends dearly, and he will be missed by all who knew him. He was preceded in death by his parents; his daughter, Kristy VanHoose; and his brother, Charles Walter Jr.

He is survived by his loving wife, Barbara Sue Walter of Lawtey; children, Jay Walter of Seattle, Washington, Virginia (Greg) Parsons of Keystone Heights, Debbie (Jim) Lawrence of Lawtey, Greg (Dayle) VanHoose of Tampa; brothers, Jim (Donna) Walter of Prescott, Arizona, Fred (Bonnie) Walter of Ashland, Oregon; sister-in-law, Chris Walter of Boise, Idaho; 12 grandchildren; 18 great grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Thursday, Dec. 16, at 11 a.m. at Grace Community Fellowship Church, with Pastor Greg Pusateri officiating. Interment will follow at Jacksonville National Cemetery in Jacksonville. The family will receive friends an hour prior at the church. A meal will be provided at the church after Jacksonville National Cemetery.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of V. Todd Ferreira Funeral Services and Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel, Starke, 904-964-5757. Visit ferreirafuneralservices.com to sign the family's guest book.

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UCLA's Nov. 4 dinner and auction raise \$10K-plus

BY LISA HOLTZENDORF
Special to the Telegraph-Times-Monitor

The Union County Livestock Association raised \$10,700 at its Nov. 4 fundraising dinner and auction, which were held at the Union County Agricultural Educational Building, located near the O.J. Phillips Sports Complex.

Approximately 230 guests — a dinner sell-out — enjoyed a fun-filled night of fellowship and bidding to raise money for UCLA scholarships, educational activities and its fair (which will be held in March) — all benefitting the local FFA and 4-H club participants.

Dinner, provided by Nannette's Catering and Jason Stalnaker, consisted of smoked chicken, brisket and ribs, and sides of green beans, cheesy potatoes and a roll. Nannette's famous banana pudding was served for dessert.

Nannette's Wedding and Party

Rentals supplied the tables and chairs.

The auction featured the following items: lemon pound cake, donated by Sue Hardin; honey set, donated by Alexander Cattle Company; gift cards, donated by Nutrition Springs; a harvest set, donated by Billy and Pam Woodington; a load of limerock, donated by ROT Construction; a cow whip, donated by Judy Hardin; salted-caramel cupcakes, donated by Kristi McCalister; tumblers, donated by 3rd Designs; rolls of hay, donated by W.D. Andrews; gift cards, donated by Nutrition Hideaway; a spool table, donated by Eric and Emily Wilson; chocolate-chip pound cakes, donated by Denise Crawford; strawberry cake, donated by Anisha Waters; a Magellan cooler, donated by KADR Cattle of Lulu; a load of fill dirt, donated by Liberty Trucking; a Reese's cake, made by Kristin Muse and donated by



The Union County Livestock Association auction/dinner had an attendance of 210 and raised \$10,170 to support programs and awards for 4-H and FFA youth. Photos by Lisa Holtzendorf.

Ashley Cox; Linder feed bucket, with gift certificates for feed, donated by Lawtey Feed and Seed; 14-layer chocolate cake,

donated by Terra Lyn Godwin; gas cylinder refills, donated by Williams Gas; a pound cake, donated by Nancy Stalnaker; a crossbred beef heifer, donated by Stalnaker and K2 Ranch; a pecan-cinnamon cheesecake, donated by Lori Caren; a kettle-corn basket, donated by Kettle Creations and the Kelley family; a Key-lime pie, donated by Marla Williams; and a fancy-like-date-night basket, donated by Karen Ann Norton.

UCLA would like to thank the following for purchasing items: Jessie Dix, Greg Box, Garrett Williams, Heath Box, AAA Hay and Trucking, Paul Waters, Carita Wall, James Stalnaker, Julia Hunt, Wyatt Thomas, Brad Dix, CNC Show Pigs, Jimmy Tallman, Sondra Hunt, Kevin Box, Jacob Box, Lawtey Feed and Seed, Travis Worrell, Ethan Box, Nannette's Wedding and Party Rentals, Lancin Hersey, New River Cattle, and Kyle

Mendez.

Also, UCLA and its board members would like to thank all who attended, purchased tickets for themselves and guests, bid on auction items and supported a great cause.

The 2022 UCLA Livestock Show and Sale, which is entering its third year, will be bigger than ever. It's scheduled for March 16-19.

The Beef Breed Show will be held March 16, the Market Hog Show on March 17, the Steer Show on March 18, the Goat Show on March 19 and the Sale and Award Ceremony on March 19.

As of now, 62 pigs, 54 heifers, 12 bulls, 28 steers and 30 goats are registered.

If you'd like to sponsor an award for the show or find out how to purchase an animal in the sale, please reach out to UCLA President Jason Stalnaker at 352-494-1541.



LEFT: Wilbur Andrews was among those in attendance. RIGHT: James Royce and Nancy Stalnaker enjoy themselves as they help to support the county's youth. Stalnaker made a cake that was part of the auction.



UCLA President Jason Stalnaker serves as the event's auctioneer.

Former BC agent talks on Farm-City, farming's future

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Bradford County's UF/IFAS Extension office has been recognizing Farm-City Week since 1998, when former Extension Director David Dinkins organized the first local event.

Dinkins was the keynote speaker at the Farm-City luncheon on Nov. 18 at the Bradford Agricultural Fairgrounds. He talked about the future of farming, but before he did, he talked of how Farm-City, as a national observance, began and reminisced about the start of its celebration locally.

Farm-City Week was born from a conversation between Charles Bennett, a Vermont businessman, and Merle Tucker, chairman the of Kiwanis International Agriculture and Conservation Committee, while they were traveling on a train in 1955.

"They talked about the plight of the farm industry back then," Dinkins said. "One of the biggest things was the farmers weren't making any money. There was very little profitability."

Dinkins said people had lost touch with agriculture, having been two or three generations removed from a period of time

when so many people grew up on farms.

The goal of Farm-City Week, which was recognized by a proclamation signed by President Eisenhower, is to highlight the beneficial partnership between people in rural and urban communities.

Fast forward to 1994. That's the year Dinkins came to Bradford as an Extension agent. He said one of the first people he met was Shirley Gaskins, who told him he needed to do something to help people understand agriculture. She told Dinkins, "We're getting all this produce from foreign countries. We're losing our ag land. You really need to do something about it."

Dinkins admitted he kept putting Gaskins off until 1998, when Bradford hosted its first Farm-City celebration.

"It was right outside the Extension office, just in the parking lot," Dinkins said. "It was on a Saturday. The focus was on children."

The event, which featured a live band, allowed children to plant strawberry plants, which they could take home.

Dinkins said Bradford has been celebrating Farm-City every year since and that the current Extension faculty in Bradford will keep it going. He



David Dinkins was the featured speaker at Bradford County's UF/IFAS Extension Farm-City luncheon. Photo by Cliff Smelley.

has a good feeling they will.

"I think I can recognize a good team when you have one," said Dinkins, who's worked in Extension for 38 years. "I think I can recognize a family. That's how Extension's supposed to be. It's supposed to be a family."

Speaking of family, Dinkins shared how he had tied to

Bradford County before making it (specifically, Lawtey) his home. Both sets of his grandparents lived in Lawtey: Paul and Mary Dinkins, who lived across from Lawtey's school, and Bub and Mildred Carter, who lived in what was known as "Cracker Six."

"That was the original settlement in Lawtey, and it had six Cracker-style houses there," Dinkins said of Cracker Six.

Because of his grandparents, Dinkins was no stranger to Bradford County.

"About every weekend or every other weekend, as a child, I was in Lawtey," he said. "The main place I was in where I'm at now, on my grandfather Bub Carter's property. He had 40 acres and was doing strawberries. That was his money crop."

Farming: present day and the future

In talking about farming,

Dinkins discussed some of the figures on the 2017 United States Department of Agriculture Census as they related to Bradford County. He pointed out the census, which is conducted every five years, listed 490 farms in the county.

"Does that surprise anybody? Yeah, I'd like somebody to take me around and show me those 490 farms," Dinkins said, "but remember, this is a government report. How the USDA counts a farm is if the farm has the potential to make a gross revenue of \$1,000 or more."

Dinkins then discussed farms'

See FARM, page 12

Connecting for crops

Editor's note: Ryleigh Rhoden, a 4-H youth, gave the following speech at the Bradford County UF/IFAS Extension Farm-City luncheon, which was held on Nov. 18. The full name of the Union County High School teacher she references is Erin Johnson.



Ryleigh Rhoden
Photo by Cliff Smelley

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Phew! Hopefully, we are connected.

The lack of high-speed internet service in rural areas of Florida is inhibiting greater productivity, profitability and food safety for farmers and ranchers. Without our farmers, Florida and the nation will starve. Florida is a rapidly growing state, with a population over 21 million, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. That's a lot of people to safely feed.

"Ten percent of Florida households (mainly in rural areas)

do not have access to reliable internet service," according to the internet provider database BroadbandNow. As our growth continues, people in rural areas having adequate internet access should be a priority, which would result in better farming efficiency and food safety.

Advances in technology require advances in connectivity.

Farmers with high-speed internet can easily check prices online, complete government paperwork electronically, ensure healthy crops and animals, communicate with other farmers and sell to consumers. Farmers can expand their market to a regional, national or even global audience, which will positively impact Florida's agricultural industry and overall economy. Increased connectivity can harness all the benefits of big data collection, including reducing costs through reliable figures. Without broadband, these tasks are less efficient.

Advanced GPS technology allows farmers to precisely measure water and fertilizer input. This can save water, reduce pollution by decreasing the need for gas- and diesel-powered motor vehicles, and increase the quality of our crops by ensuring they're growing healthy. For example, nutrient deficiencies, pest problems and even population counts can be detected or diagnosed with a drone more efficiently than motorized vehicles because drones allow one to view the entire area and even zoom in on

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KHHS girls defeat Eastside 8-0 for 4th straight victory

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer



Lindsay Hovsepian receives a throw-in in the Indians Dec. 3 win over Newberry. Photo by Cliff Smelley.

After a 1-3-2 start, the Keystone Heights High School soccer team has won four in a row, including an 8-0 victory over visiting Eastside on Dec. 6.

The Indians (5-3-2) have outscored their opponents 29-5 in their last four matches.

Stats posted onto MaxPreps for the Eastside win aren't accurate as they actually add up to nine goals (the mercy rule would've

been enforced when the score reached 8-0). The Telegraph-Times-Monitor will present them as they were entered onto that website, crediting Ella Hutchins and Kiersten Shaw with four goals each, while Elizabeth Waughon was credited with one goal. Kendall Gagnon had two assists, while Hutchins and Shaw each had one.

On Nov. 30, Keystone hosted Baker County, getting two goals each from Gagnon, Hutchins and Shaw in a 6-2 win.

Shaw recorded three assists, while Lindsay Hovsepian had one.

Goalie Miranda Yow made six saves.

The Indians got five goals from Shaw in an 8-2 win at Palatka on Dec. 2.

Gagnon, Hutchins and Waughon each scored a goal as well, while Hovsepian and Shaw shared the team lead in assists with three each. Regan Hogg had an assist as well.

Keystone had a big second half on Dec. 3, scoring five goals in a 7-1 win over visiting Newberry.

Hovsepian scored both of the team's first-half goals. The first came when she headed a Shaw corner kick into the net, while the second occurred with approximately 30 seconds

remaining until halftime.

Hogg put the first goal on the board in the second half, gaining possession of the ball approximately 30 yards out from the Newberry goal and dribbling aggressively upfield before

launching a successful shot.

Gagnon put the Indians ahead 4-0, receiving a Hovsepian pass and scoring from approximately 10 yards out.

Hovsepian finished with two assists in all.

KHHS boys settle for 3-3 tie against Newberry

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Visiting Newberry scored two goals in the second half as the Keystone Heights High School boys soccer team had to settle for a 3-3 tie on Dec. 3.

The Indians (4-3-1) scored the first two goals, with the first coming off a penalty kick by Tyler Colaw. Logan Spence then dribbled past the Newberry goalie and put the ball in the back of the net for a 2-0 lead.

Keystone, after Newberry scored a goal, had chances to increase its lead going into halftime, with Aaron Wiley missing a shot on a breakaway

attempt and Colaw getting a close-in attempt that was off the mark.

Skylar Kedgley did find the mark on a second-half attempt that put the Indians ahead 3-1.

Luke Brunt and Tyler Shaw each finished with an assist for Keystone.

The Indians entered the match off an 8-0 win at Interlachen on Dec. 2, snapping a two-match losing streak.

Keystone scored all but one of its goals in the first half. The mercy rule was enforced 10 minutes into the second half when Colaw scored off a perfectly placed corner kick.

It was a big night for Spence



Chris Anderson heads upfield in the Indians' 3-3 tie against Newberry. Photo by Cliff Smelley.

The Indians travel to play Williston on Thursday, Dec. 9, at 5:30 p.m. They return home to play Fort White on Monday, Dec. 13, at 6 p.m. before then traveling to play Middleburg on Tuesday, Dec. 14, at 7:20 p.m.

and Chris Anderson, each of whom scored three goals. Colaw and Kedgley each had one.

All but one of the goals came off assists, with Shaw leading the way with two. Brunt, Colaw, Wiley, Jacob Lepanto and Micah Wiley each had one assist.

The Indians played Crescent City this past Tuesday and will travel to play Williston on Thursday, Dec. 9, at 7:15 p.m. Keystone hosts Palatka on Friday, Dec. 10, at 7:20 p.m. before traveling for matches against Fort White on Monday, Dec. 13, at 7:20 p.m., and P.K. Yonge on Wednesday, Dec. 15, at 7:20 p.m.

FARM

Continued from page 11

value of sales, in Bradford County, 306 of those 490 farms had sales of less than \$2,500.

"It's that way across the state of Florida," Dinkins said, explaining that 34,000 of the state's 47,000-plus farms, which are situated on 9.5 million acres, had net farm-income losses.

"Seventy one percent of our Florida farms lost money and are losing money," Dinkins said, adding, "If you look at most of these counties, there are only 1 to 5 percent of the farms that are actually making over \$1 million."

That's not a lot of money, however. Dinkins gave the example of potato farmers in Hastings/St. Johns County.

"In the 1970s, there were 170 potato farms in Hastings, St. Johns County. Today, there are 20," Dinkins said. "The average farm back then was 50 to 100 acres. Today, it's 600 acres. For a potato farmer to plant and harvest an acre is \$3,500 to \$5,000, so a 600-acre, average-size farm, they're going to need \$2 million to \$3 million. They've got six weeks. They've got from the middle of April to the first of June to pull \$2 million to \$3 million of potatoes out of that ground just to break even.

"That's what the farmers are up against."

So, what does the future of farming hold? One obvious answer is the continued reliance upon and introduction of automation.

"I think the biggest thing you're going to see is in the area of labor and a lot of robots harvesting, a lot of robots planting, a lot of robots killing weeds — that's just the reality. That's already happening," Dinkins said.

Dinkins said the future will also consist of what he termed "crazy, new crops." He provided a few visual examples, such as displaying a yaupon holly, which can be found growing in the woods in this area. It is being used to make tea and sold by companies such as Florida-based Yaupon Brothers American Tea, which was started by Bryon White and Kyle White. The company recently partnered with actor Morgan Freeman.

"Right now, they're harvesting 100 acres in the wild," Dinkins said, adding, "I had one of the Yaupon Brothers in this area the other day looking at (plants) on some property they're going to harvest."

Dinkins then talked about how the second-most popular supplement people began taking during the COVID-19 pandemic was Sambucol, made from elderberry extract. He

said a company that extracts chemicals from botanicals and is located in eight countries recently moved into Bunnell and is providing funding for UF to study approximately 30 varieties of elderberry to determine which ones would be viable for production in this state.

"Nobody is growing this in Florida commercially," Dinkins said.

Dinkins displayed a passion-fruit vine, saying the fruit were grown in the Miami area until Gene Altman planted a 10th of an acre in Brooksville.

"The university literature says you'll get 10,000 to 30,000 fruit per acre," Dinkins said. "He got 10,000 fruit on a 10th of an acre. We think we can grow these in North Florida."

Then, looking at the vine he was holding, Dinkins said, "Believe it or not, this came off a fence at Cracker Six Farms in Lawtey."

Dinkins held up a couple of sweet potatoes, asking the audience to guess what color each would be on the inside before actually cutting them, showing that one was orange and the other purple. He then held up another potato, which he cut and showed to be white inside.

"This could replace an Irish potato," Dinkins said of the white variety. "Why? If you have diabetes, you need to eat low-

glycemic food. This tastes great. It's sweet, but it has a much lower glycemic index."

Dinkins said UF is evaluating 10 different varieties of sweet potato that have been planted in Hastings, Fort Pierce and Live Oak.

Lastly, Dinkins held up a plastic bag that appeared to be filled with dirt. He said the bag contained a mixture of yard waste and biosolids.

"What is that? Right, that's our poop," Dinkins said of biosolids. He then said, "The reason I bring this up is the two biggest waste products in our state are yard trash and biosolids. We have to find something to do with them."

The mixture can be used as fertilizer.

"We have no problem eating things grown on cow poop and chicken poop," Dinkins said.

Dinkins said water-management personnel, for example, are against the mixture's use because they think it's bad, not because they know it's bad.

"They haven't studied the research, and we need to do more research," Dinkins said. "The take-home message here — the challenge — is things are going to be changing in the ag community. When you hear about things like this, study them."

Then, looking at the bag in his hand, Dinkins cracked, "This is a heck of a way to end, ain't it?"

Lake Area McDonald's-Starke Kiwanis tourney set for Dec. 16-18 at BHS

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Bradford High School is set to again host the annual Lake Area McDonald's-Kiwanis Club of Starke Christmas Basketball Tournament, which will feature one junior varsity boys game and three varsity boys games per day on Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 16-18.

Daily admission, which enters you into drawings for prizes, is \$5.

As usual, children attending the event will have the opportunity to pick an item from the Toy Table.

Bradford's JV team will play Jacksonville's Joshua Christian Academy to start the tournament at 4 p.m. on Dec. 16. Starke's Northside Christian Academy will then play Riverview's Kids

Community College Prep at 5:30 p.m., followed by Clay taking on Jacksonville's Paxon at 7 p.m. The night's finale will feature the varsity Tornadoes playing Jacksonville's Hope Christian at 8:30 p.m.

Play on Dec. 17 begins with the JV Tornadoes playing Clay at 4 p.m. Clay's varsity team then plays Northside at 5:30 p.m., followed by Hope against Paxon at 7 p.m. Bradford takes on Kids Community College Prep at 8:30 p.m.

Bradford's JV team plays Riverside to start the final day of action at 4 p.m., followed by Hope taking on Northside at 5:30 p.m. The 7 p.m. game pits Clay against Kids Community College Prep, while the tournament concludes with the Tornadoes playing Paxon at 8:30 p.m.

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SPEECH

Continued from page 11

specific areas of concern. Rural areas need high-speed internet so they can take advantage of these advancements.

After doing extensive research, it's clear that it's difficult for farmers and ranchers to have an adequate understanding of every acre of their crops without help from technology. I consulted with several people in farming and agriculture, who all agreed that slow or no connectivity negatively affects their production.

First, I spoke to my grandfather, Mark Mooneyhan, who has been growing palm trees and pecan trees for over 20 years. Living in a rural area, slow connectivity affects his research on bettering his crop about 50 percent of the time. With over 400 acres of farmland, he admits

it's nearly impossible to survey his land regularly. In turn, this allows pests, poachers, plant diseases and other unknowns to potentially creep in.

Though he realizes advances in technology could vastly help him keep an eye on all his land (cameras, drones), he fears the connectivity in his area wouldn't be strong enough to support such devices. Moreover, his frustrations are furthered in that he only has one internet provider in his county. They need more options.

I also spoke with our 4-H Extension agent of the Youth Development Program for Bradford County, Samara Purvis. In her efforts to try to get kids more involved in 4-H, she's realized more than ever that connectivity for our youth is vital, especially during our COVID-19 pandemic. If a youth didn't have internet access, there was basically no way to stay involved with 4-H. In

talking with her, it was obvious she is saddened that our youth miss out on opportunities due to lacking internet connection or availability. She feels high-speed connectivity should be affordable and accessible to every youth in the state of Florida.

Mrs. Johnson, an agriscience teacher at Union County High School, is proud to have been a part of ag education for over 30 years. Teaching in a rural area, she feels the internet is costly and unreliable. It's difficult to convey to students the need for technology advances when all the student has experienced is limited connectivity. Having formerly taught in Volusia County, she explained that for her students who lived in town, internet was never an issue. However, her rural-residing students were at a disadvantage. Internet access for students should be non-negotiable, especially in today's virtual times.

My great-grandfather Jack Lakes became a Master Gardener in the late 1990s in St. Johns County, Florida. He reminded me that the gardeners that have reliable internet access and take advantage of technology advancement are so much farther ahead than farmers with no connectivity. He also solemnly asked about the senior-citizen residents in rural areas that were not able to stay in touch with their loved ones during the pandemic due to no connectivity. Technology often bridges the gap for quarantined senior citizens.

Today, he is 90 years old and still has a small tomato garden at his assisted-living facility in Penney Farms, Florida. Penney Farms supports, encourages and even provides the plot of land if their residents would like to grow and maintain a garden.

In conclusion, agriculture is Florida's second-largest industry, creating millions of jobs for Floridians and providing much economic revenue, but farmers need help to ensure efficiency and food safety. The health of Florida's farms affects us all. Fertile soils, abundant water, ripe growing seasons and skilled farmers combine to make Florida's agriculture industry one of the strongest in the country.

Soon, technology, thanks to high-speed connectivity, should be added to the list of contributors to Florida's strong agriculture industry, but it should be available and affordable to everyone.

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Snowberger takes the reins of KHHS boys hoops program

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Basketball — especially at the high school level — should be fun. Fun for the players. Fun for the fans.

That's what Matthew Snowberger believes and what he wants the Keystone Heights High School boys basketball to become. Snowberger, a 2009 KHHS graduate, is in his first year as the program's head coach. His plans are for this season to look a lot different than people are used to. The Indians won't fully embrace what's known as the Grinnell System, but they will adopt many of its concepts. The system is known for being up tempo, with teams playing constant pressure defense, taking quick shots (and a lot of them) and substituting players often.

"Kids want to shoot the ball. They want to run. They want

to have fun playing the game," Snowberger said. "I think I'm going to have a better chance over the long haul if groups of kids are buying in because they're having fun."

Snowberger has an eye on playing a style that's enticing to fans. He wants to fill more seats in the KHHS gym.

"We might go 0-28," Snowberger said, "but nobody's ever going to walk out of that gym and say, 'That was a boring game.'"

Keystone has had only two winning seasons the past 22 years, which led Snowberger to say, "If worst comes to worst, it's a bad year in Keystone Heights basketball. We've got plenty of those on the books."

Returning to coach his alma mater is like a Disney movie moment come true, Snowberger said, though it's not a moment he



Matthew Snowberger, a 2009 KHHS graduate, is the school's new boys basketball coach. Photo by Cliff Smelley.

envisioned.

Born to hoop it up

Snowberger seemed destined

to play basketball. Yeah, he's 6-9, but he was also following in the footsteps of his mother, Ann, who played for KHHS.

"I grew up with a ball in my hands," Snowberger said. "I played in the YBA program we have here."

After averaging 8.7 points, nine rebounds and 5.9 blocks per game his senior season at KHHS, Snowberger received the opportunity to play at Methodist University, a Division III school in Fayetteville, North Carolina. He described his career as "relatively uneventful," but added that he "had a great time." "We were real bad," Snowberger said. "My college teams were rough, but it was fun."

If there's one thing Snowberger can say to high school players who have the opportunity to play in college, it's that more

is expected of players than simply suiting up and enjoying themselves.

"There's no college administrator who's hoping you have a good time when you go put on the jersey and hit the court," Snowberger said. "There's no college coach who sees you dribble the ball off your foot and is OK with it. There's not that casual nature."

Snowberger said "all that cool-guy college stuff that kids think is going to happen" doesn't when you play at a lower-level school like he did.

"There aren't any cameras in D-III," he said. "I remember getting excited once because my name was on the ESPN scrawl because we played one D-I team."

After graduating from Methodist with a degree in Journalism, Snowberger joined

the Army. "The Army was awesome. I loved it to death," Snowberger said.

When he got out of the Army, Snowberger admitted he was "a little lost." He wasn't sure what he wanted to do with his life. He was already in Colorado, so he continued to live there, working some odd jobs before he returned to Florida and got a job with Two-Fold Water Engineering.

He ended up helping coach the North Florida Lakers AAU basketball team, which was composed mostly of Keystone kids. He was involved again in the sport he grew up playing.

Eventually, he learned of the open varsity coaching position at his alma mater, so he became a part of the KHHS family, getting certified to teach English and

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UCHS wrestler Waters is a runner-up at Bobcat Round Robin

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Union County High School's wrestling team opened the season at the Dec. 4 Buchholz Bobcat Round Robin, with Kale Waters finishing as the runner-up in the 113-pound class.

Five Union wrestlers in all advanced to compete in the championship brackets in their respective weight classes.

Waters' only loss came in the second round when he was pinned by Timber Creek's Trenton Dominguez in 37 seconds. He opened the day by pinning Westside's Isaiah Waters in 15 seconds. Waters recorded three more victories by pins, defeating Forest's Jamon Stromwall in 27 seconds, Westside's Jacob Jackson in 15 seconds and Timber Creek's Marlo Clark in 19 seconds.

Ethan Hancock took third in the 120 class. He rebounded from a loss to start action in Pool A, pinning two straight opponents in 21 and 27 seconds. He was then pinned by Buchholz's Finn

Buchanan in 3:33, which put him in the third-place match. Hancock pinned Forest's Leana Vazquez in 1:38.

Some other notable performances included fourth-place finishes by Rodney Barnett in the 138 class and Colin Hadlock in the 170 class.

Barnett recorded two pins to come out of Pool D with a 2-0 record. He then pinned Timber Creek's Donovan DelRosario in 43 seconds before getting pinned by Camden County's Anthony Santos in 1:37. Barnett squared off against Camden's Jacob Fink in the third-place match, getting pinned in 53 seconds.

Hadlock went 1-1 to come out of Pool C. He then pinned Westside's Preston Davis in 1:03 before getting pinned by Camden's CahMari Johnson in 1:31. In the third-place match, Hadlock was pinned by Timber Creek's Dennis Proulx in 2:55.

The Tigers' Ethan Shea, with a pin of Ridgeview's Shane Burnette in 5:25, won Pool D in the 145 class. After a loss to Camden's Porter Bryant, Shea

pinned Forest's Aberly Anthony to advance to the fifth match before placing sixth.

Union will host the Tri-County Duals on Thursday, Dec. 16, with weigh-in at 4 p.m. On Saturday, Dec. 18, Union goes to Columbia High School for its Tiger Duals, with weigh-in at 9 a.m.

The remaining varsity schedule is as follows:

—Jan. 6, District (duals) at Clay, noon weigh-in.

—Jan. 7-8, Battle of the Border at Yulee, weigh-ins at noon on Jan. 7 and 8 a.m. on Jan. 8.

—Jan. 13, Regional (duals), TBD.

—Jan. 14-15, Billy Saylor Duals at Suwannee.

—Jan. 21-22, State (duals) at Osceola, TBD.

—Jan. 25, home vs. Yulee, 5 p.m. weigh-in.

—Jan. 27, at Palatka, TBD.

—Jan. 31, at Baker County, 5 p.m. weigh-in.

—Feb. 4-5, Clay Rotary Tournament at Clay High, noon weigh-in on Feb. 4 and 7:30 a.m. weigh-in on Feb. 5.

—Feb. 8, Senior Night vs. Buchholz, 5 p.m. weigh-in.

—Feb. 16, District (individual) at Clay, noon weigh-in.

—Feb. 25-26, Regional (individual), TBD, 10 a.m. weigh-in on Feb. 25 and 8 a.m. weigh-in on Feb. 26.

—March 4-5, State (individual) at Silver Spurs Arena in Kissimmee, TBD.

The junior varsity team, which competed in the Dec. 3 Clash of the Titans, will also be part of the Dec. 16 Tri-County Duals, the Jan. 7-8 Battle of the Border at Yulee, the Jan. 25 home meet vs. Yulee, the Jan. 27 meet at Palatka, the Jan. 31 meet at Baker County and the Feb. 8 home meet vs. Buchholz. The Tigers will compete in the Feb. 5 Florida JV Regional Open at Yulee, with weigh-in at 8 a.m.

Union has a girls team this year, which, like the JV team, competed in the Dec. 3 Clash of the Titans. The girls team will also compete in the Dec. 16 Tri-County Duals, the Dec. 18 Columbia Tiger Duals and the

Jan. 31 meet at Baker County.

Regional and state schedules are to be determined.

LBMS schedule

Lake Butler Middle School's wrestling team opened its season this past Tuesday against Lake City and will host Lake Asbury and Green Cove Springs on

Saturday, Dec. 11.

The Tigers travel for a meet at Lake City on Jan. 10 before hosting Suwannee on Jan. 24 (5 p.m. weigh-in).

On Jan. 27, Lake Butler travels for a match against Palatka.

The North Florida Championships take place at Middleburg High School on Jan. 29.

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HOOPS

Continued from page 13

ESE.

"I had no issue working at Two-Fold, but I wasn't in love with wastewater," Snowberger said.

Snowberger said he loves being in the classroom. As for coaching, he said he was surprised to find that he's relied upon his Army experiences.

"As a squad leader, you're leading 15 smelly dudes in exercises. It's not that different," Snowberger said, adding, "I've been in charge of war heroes. I'm not too worried about being able

to handle a group of 16-year-olds."

A brighter future?

Keystone went 28-6 and advanced to the state semifinals in 1998-99. Since then, the Indians have had only four seasons in which they've won more than 10 games. Their best season in the last 22 years was 13-11 in 2006-07.

Snowberger said things are going to change.

"The days where all those schools are going to look at the schedule, see Keystone Heights and get excited about playing us in the district tournament are over," he said.

Snowberger said he doesn't see any reason why the Indians shouldn't be competitive in this area of the state. He wants the program to get to a point where he has to drive a long way to find an opponent that Keystone simply can't be competitive against.

"We've got the resources," Snowberger said. "We've got the kids. We have the pieces."

Keystone's sophomore class is deep, Snowberger said, adding that the program has two players who can be generational-type players, plus another two who've got a chance to be that good as well.

"Whoever walked into this job was falling into a gold mine,"

Snowberger said.

Snowberger said he doesn't mean any disrespect to the coaches before him, but things can't continue as they have year after year. For example, the days of requiring the team to make a certain number of passes before attempting a shot are over. Snowberger said a lot of high school coaches rely upon a patient, Princeton-style offense, thinking that a multiple number of passes will eventually lead to "this magical, backdoor cut that somebody saw in 'Hoosiers.'"

"All that stuff is beautiful, but high school players are horrific passers," Snowberger said, adding, "We're doing things very

differently. You have to prepare for us differently than you prepare for other schools, or you better be so much more talented than us that there was no hope (for us) anyway."

In looking at different high school programs in the area, Snowberger said their shooting percentages are all about the same regardless of what style they play. If that's the case, why not shake things up at Keystone and create a little excitement?

"You get a lot of advice when you get this gig," Snowberger said. "People I know, people I don't know, coming out of the woodwork. A lot of advice. A lot of them think I'm nuts. All

of my parents are going to think I'm nuts. Some of my kids think I'm a little nuts doing things this way."

Obviously, Snowberger wants to win every game, but he also knows that the reality is Keystone will lose games. Win or lose, he wants the players to have fun and for the crowd to be entertained.

Snowberger describes games as dramas played out on a court. He believes the community has an interesting story to watch unfold this season.

"It's the plucky guys who are trying something new and doing their darndest, scrapping every game," Snowberger said.

BIKE

Continued from page 9

Whether or not road angels enter the scene to provide assistance, the journey has shown Val and Julie's children that sometimes things happen that you don't plan for. Val said he and Julie started this journey hoping their children would learn to exist outside of their comfort zone and to not "freak out" when unplanned situations arise.

"That's kind of what we want. What's really important for us is

to build their adaptability," Val said, adding, "Just take what happens and make the best of it."

What the family has discovered is that traveling by bicycle is really making the best of a trip. It's unlike traveling somewhere by automobile.

"Being on a bike, the sense of experience is different," Val said. "For me, it's much deeper because all the senses are involved. You feel the wind. You smell everything — good things and bad things."

You can hear sounds, such as sea lions vocalizing on the west coast.

"We didn't see them, but we knew they were there," Julie said.

Val said you tend to take in more of the sights when you're on a bike as opposed to driving an automobile. He added that you also take routes that maybe you wouldn't if you were driving an automobile.

"You're picking roads you wouldn't normally take, so you see the real country," he said. "You see the real people, who are super nice."

That's one thing that's been a joy for the children — meeting others, whether they were road

angels or just people they met along the way.

"In some places, they were sad to leave because of the people," Julie said.

Make the decision, take the journey

So many people who've learned of the family's journey have said, "Oh, I wish I could do that."

The family's reply is, "Then do it."

"What we're doing, anybody can do," Val said.

Val said though his family enjoys outdoors activities, they never took bike tours until that newspaper story sparked an interest. Then, it's not like they went through any special training or preparation. They just did it.

Sure, one's physical condition may affect how long you ride at first, but that's OK. You're doing something for the joy of it. It's not a race.

"It's not a competition. Nobody's waiting for you," Val said. "Quickly — in a few weeks — you're going to improve a lot. Your body will understand, 'OK. You want to do this, so I need

to change.' Our bodies changed very quickly. We slimmed down. We've got endurance."

Val said there's no harm in giving it a try if you're intrigued about doing it. If you don't like it, you can stop, he said.

If you find you love it, and you do it, Val believes you'll have way more good times than bad.

"There are hard days," Val said, "but they're not that hard."

Whether your journey takes you around the world or not, it begins with a single pedal stroke.

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47 Commercial Property (Rent, Lease, Sale)

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PRICE REDUCED! For Sale 3BR/2BA home. 411 Laura St., Starke. Nice! Must see! 2 carport, screened porch and storage building like new. \$225,000. Must sell before January 2022. All serious offers considered. Call

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49 Mobile Homes for Sale

FORE SALE; SWMH 3BR/2BA large lot, located at 12491 SW 79th Ave, Starke. Large lot, well, septic. \$25,000 cash. 904-364-9022 will finance with approved credit.

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53 C Lake Butler Yard Sales

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What the hay?

Bradford County 4-H clubs participated in a hay bale decorating contest last month, with the results gracing the UF/IFAS Extension office lawn. ABOVE: Beckie Burkett, Cliff Smelley, Brad Smith and Carnell Williams judged the work and agreed that the show pig and steer creation by the Green Acres Club was the winner. ABOVE RIGHT: The Little Rascals Club's chicken was awarded second place. LEFT: Crawford's Swine Club received third place for a pig, of course. BELOW: A red, Ford truck, created by the Blue Ribbon Swine Club, received honorable mention. Photos by Cliff Smelley.



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Mackenzie Lynn Hearne
Madison Mckinley Hylton
Sarah Elizabeth Johns
Kailey Ann Keen
Mankeshia Rochell Keith
Emily Ann Locke Joyner
Daycee Morgan Mabile
Karlicia Alexandria Mack
Taylor Kathryn Mack
Sidney Mann
Bayley Suzanne McRae
Kamry Cheyenne Morgan
Scarlett Marie O'Hara
Kristina Marie Perry
Sali Nadine Powers
Samantha K. Service
Ciarra Marie Shelton-Bowles
Lauren Smith
Nicole Lee Walker
Courtney Melissa Warner
Carleigh Suzanne Welch
Blayke Williams

Crossover: Correctional Officer to Law Enforcement Basic Recruit

Cameron Joseph Hauge
Ricky Lee Jordan
Wyatt Martin Rhoden
Markel Lamar Strong

Crossover: Law Enforcement to Corrections Basic Recruit

Andrew Lassiter

Emergency Medical Technician

Sierra Nucoma Ahrens
Kimberley Allen
Brandon Tyler Beach
Kyle Bolton
Devon Currie
Kimberly Dawn Ellis
Nathaniel James
Justin Koehler
Caden Massey
Tiffany Ann Miller
Lyric Murphy
Elizabeth Summy

Environmental Science Technician

Christopher Louis Abbott
Daniel Rivers Moore

Facial Specialty

Machon Lindsey Beeche
Aimee Blatherwick
Monica Cannon
Ashley Nicole Daniel
Victoria M. Davis
Zariah Cassandra Francis
Kaylee Elaine Hamrick
Kyrstyn Paige Jenkins
Alisann Victoria Parks
Lana Paige Tompkins
Katie Tyler
Sabrina Walker
Samantha Michelle Williams

Firefighter Emergency Medical Technician Combined

Lewis A. M. Allan, Sr.
Rebekalyn Cassidy Barber
Lamar Breland
David James Custer
Benjamin Mackey
Christina Elizabeth Munro
Luke Edward Stockman
Olivia Brooke Ward
Austin Cole Whitehead

Firefighter Minimum Standards

Lewis A. M. Allan, Sr.
Rebekalyn Cassidy Barber
Carl Bartley
Brandon Tyler Beach
Hunter Collins
David James Custer
Gary Tyler Dorris
Jonathan Dempsey Dowdy
Larry Gaskins, Jr.
Ke'Nyea Graham
Katie Heisel
Mark Hughes
Jessica Lynne Islam
Joseph Seward Kent
Olajuwon Lang
Benjamin Mackey
Jerry L. Marrison, Jr.
Sam Mathew Meyer
Christina Elizabeth Munro
Chad Allen Reed, Jr.
Rumaldo D. Santos
Luke Edward Stockman
Olivia Brooke Ward
Mitchell Blake Watson
John Walter Weschrek
Austin Cole Whitehead

Homeland Security Specialist

Cody Alan Benson

Horticulture

Nicholas James Agatheas
Christopher Eugene Branham
Edsel Lamar Byrd, Jr.
Kyle C. Cantrell
Kristi D'Albert
Jason Philip Dixon
James Francis Donnelly
Michael Ross Golden
Noah Nathaniel Hamilton
Keith Warren Hernandez
Gregory Bennett Ismert
Cory Michael McQuain
Russell Edgar Mobley
Felix Matthew Pena
Jeremy Wayne Phillips
Cedric Dwayne Robinson
Jesse Rojas
Anthony Clay Simmons
Joshua Heath Smith
Christopher Wayne Wheeler

Infant and Toddler Specialization

Nicolina Michele Adkins
Molly Ann Bowbeer
Matia Doherty
Marilyn Verneater Moses
Michelle Jane Newton
Octavia Maria Williams

Paramedic

Thomas Andrew Burgett
Matthew Daniel Chupp
Ryan Christopher Cumbie
William Doyle
Latoya Grant
Ashlynn Lynnee Harris

Jacob Steven Hendrix
Robert Douglas Kiem
John Henry Mash, Jr.
Caytlyn Elizabeth Peters
Austin Shrock
David Alen Young, Jr.

Phlebotomy

Sha'kwanda Yvette Anderson
Elisabe Aradillas-Sosa
Jozelyn Marie Brinson
Chella Marie Bryden
Eugenia Nichel Christain
Joann Kaisa Gillyard
Tessa Griffin
Shelby Lorraine Harrington
Summer Brooke Harvey
Danasia Chereese Hope
Haley R. Kilby
Abraham Lainez
Saraiah Zance Lewis
Mary Jo Lomas
Jameisha Lasonia Emari Miller
Denisha Renia Moody
Brandon Mosley
Stephanie Nater-Aponte
Stephanie Nicole Patterson
Jalacia Salei Queen
Aterria Riggs
Deanna Marie Rimes
Precious Rivera
Tommacia Ross
Alexis Rutherford
Krista Gail Santos-Fralick
Victoria Kaitlyn Vinci
Taylor Leann Zipperer

Practical Nursing

Britney Nicole Britt
Trinity Nichole Brown
Arly Marie Bryant
Vanessa Carranza
Angelica Lyn Cray
Matthew R. Falls
Shantrell Granville
Anna Hall
Andrea Lynne Kirkland
Elizabeth Jane Lucas
Kgadi Wendy Mautjana
Elizabeth Ann Morris
Leah Ogburn
Kasey Michell Paynter
Jessica Lynn Presnell
Shannon Marie Rosier
Candice-Jade Sapphire
Tajalle-Crisostomo
Abigail Marie Thomas

Preschool Specialization

Jamie Marie Anderson

Water Quality Technician

Kingsly Brown

Welding Technology

Clayton A. Brinlee
Zackery Allen Carter
Derek Dupree Johnson
Devin Dante Johnson
Wyatt Weston Lugenbeel
Levy Nettles
Colton Chase Rawlins
James Monroe Smith
Jacqueline White
Ronald Lamar Williams, III

APPLIED TECHNOLOGY DIPLOMA

Medical Coder Biller

Shannon Dean Bullock

