



Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

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145th year, 31st Issue — \$1

DISTRICT CHAMPIONS



The Hope Christian varsity boys basketball team won its district, going undefeated against district competition and finishing with a 19-3 overall regular-season record after a 55-47 win over Brunswick Christian on Feb. 12. The Lions now play in the Southeastern Christian Conference tournament, which is being hosted by Starke's Northside Christian Academy. See inside for tournament brackets. Pictured are: (front, l-r) Assistant Coach Brent Hanson, Marcus Chever, Tavian Frazier, Jude Hanson, Zachary Hansen, Head Coach Eli Hanson, (second row, l-r) Dalton Thomas, Julio Casielles, Wyatt Gauthier, (third row, l-r) Griffin McCloud, Gunner Lofton, Luke Drew, Aiden Wilson, (back row, l-r) Mason Masciocchi, Walker Munroe, Mathew Galer and Noah Gaffney. Photo by Virginia Denmark.

\$4 million awarded for new Bradford nursing program

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
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North Florida Technical College and the Bradford County School District are partnering with Santa Fe College on a new Associate of Science Nursing Program.

Facility upgrades at North Florida Technical College will be funded by a \$4 million federally funded award. It was approved by Gov. Ron DeSantis along with hundreds of millions of dollars for other community facilities.

According to the press release, "The need for nurses due to the increasing nursing shortage has created a health care crisis in our area and the nation prompting this project focus. Registered nurses are urgently needed, and successful ASN program graduates will virtually be ensured a high paying job (average \$71,922 annually). This is a great educational and workforce opportunity for Bradford County residents."

Plans for the funding include upgrading space for the ASN classroom, lab and office. Labs and classrooms will be fully equipped, but the funding will also provide increased bandwidth to support remote instruction from the Santa Fe campus to students at the technical college.

The program has also proposed using this enhanced connectivity for telehealth access space for Bradford County students and citizens, increasing access to health care.

The technical college will also expand its community workout space, adding rowing equipment to its existing spin bike exercise program for a more complete exercise opportunity for Bradford citizens.

Overall, the plan aims to improve educational, work and health care opportunities for Bradford County residents. It could also bring new students to the college from other communities.

"We are excited to continue to expand our partnership with Santa Fe College," Superintendent Will Hartley said. "The ASN program will be a valuable bridge for our students at North Florida Technical College to continue their education and pursue jobs that provide higher wages. I am so appreciative of all of those who worked on this grant to increase the opportunities to our community. We will be working hard to complete the necessary renovations so that the program can start as soon as possible."

According to the press release, Gov. Ron DeSantis awarded nearly \$223 million on Feb. 2, including the federally funded Multipurpose Community Facilities Program. The program "supports the construction and rehabilitation of community facilities that provide important resources to Floridians to support workforce development, educational opportunities and access to health care in small and rural communities. "Projects include community centers, health clinics, schools and workforce development programs serving Floridians across 18 counties. A total of 29 projects received funding, including the maximum award of \$4 million for the Bradford County School District's project, Bradford: Building a Healthy Future."



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WORTH NOTING

Get started growing with sprouts

If you want to produce fresh food at home, gardening is a great endeavor. If you're new to gardening, though, it can be intimidating to start learning everything you to succeed. No one wants a tomato if the cost adds up to more than the stores charge in terms of your time, soil and water — not to mention garden tools and aching backs.

Alligator Creek Garden Club is a great place to learn from folks who've been growing Bradford for years — and this month you can learn the easiest way to start growing fresh at home for your table. You won't even have to lift a pitchfork or spade. Tracey Meadows, UF/IFAS Master Gardener and Alligator Creek Garden Club president, will present "Get Your Nutrition by Growing Your Own Delicious Sprouts."

Sprouts are a great addition to so many meals, and you grow them right in your home where they are handy. For fellowship, fun, refreshments and learning, join members at the next meeting and sprout your food-growing!

The garden club meets at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 15, at the Bradford County Senior Center, 1805 N. Temple Ave. in Starke.

Brooker reunion Feb. 16

Brooker Elementary and Junior High School alumni, staff and families from 1942 through 2021 are invited to a reunion that will take place Feb. 16, 2024, at Belle Oaks Barn in Brooker.

Join the "Brooker Elementary (& Junior High) Alumni" page on Facebook for more information, or contact Sondra Bothwell (Green) at bsegarratt@aol.com, Suzanne McRee (Dyal) at mreedsd@gmail.com or Patsy Pullen at easyace7@yahoo.com.

New River Gobblers banquet Feb. 24

The National Wild Turkey Federation, New River Gobblers Chapter of Lake Butler, will host its 17th annual Hunting Heritage Banquet and Auction on Saturday, Feb. 24, at the Lake Butler Elementary School cafeteria.

Doors open for fun and games and chances to win a variety of hunting merchandise at 6 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m., and a live auction will follow. Tickets will be available at the door for \$50 per person or \$90 per couple.

For more information contact, Paul Waters at 352-258-9726, Josh Thomas at 352-258-9727 or Austin Thomas at 352-494-3907.

Love will find a way...eventually

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

A kiss in middle school. What more could you ask for when it comes to a Valentine's Day story? Two young people who knew from that very moment that they had found their true love, becoming school sweethearts and eventually marrying each other.

Logan and Ciara Johnson's love story isn't quite that simple. The relationship didn't last long beyond that kiss in middle school.

"She just completely ripped my heart from my chest and broke up with me," Logan said.

Ciara eventually moved away from Bradford County. She and Logan both married other people.

Cupid's arrow had to fly a circuitous route in this story of Ciara and Logan. In fact, he was probably reconsidering this whole matchmaking gig as Ciara and Logan reconnected, but refused to acknowledge at first that they were in love.

"I would say we butted heads for a little bit and didn't want to admit it for a while," Logan said.

In the end, they owned up to the obvious — they were in love — and, in essence, began their life together in 2016. They will celebrate two years of marriage on April 23.

"It was meant to be," Logan said.



Ciara and Logan Johnson will celebrate two years of marriage in April. They went through a journey in eventually coming together, but their story proves that love will find a way.

never have dawned on her and Logan that they would be a part of each other's life in the future. They grew apart and married other people.

Still, Ciara never forgot about Logan. Her first son (and second child) was born with a smile on his face. She thought of Logan, who was

always a happy person. Therefore, she gave her son the name Logan.

"He's the first person I thought of," Ciara said.

See LOVE, page 4

Unexpected reunion

After Ciara moved back to her hometown of Suwannee, it may

Union EMS responds to complaint

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Special to the Times

A letter was received at the Times office last week making several complaints concerning a Union County Emergency Medical Services call made on Jan. 12, 2024. The letter went so far as to call the performance of the medical personnel "unconscionable" and to accuse them of "dereliction of duty."

The letter was written by Paulette Stitt, who related in a text to the Times that she received a phone call on Friday, Jan. 12, alerting her that a co-worker's relative had not reported for work and asking her to do a wellness check on the woman.

She said she and her son, Cody, drove to the woman's house and found her confused in the kitchen. Knowing the woman was diabetic and fearing that she was hypoglycemic, Stitt said

she called 911 for assistance. She said an EMS unit arrived, and two medical personnel brought a gurney and a medical bag into the house.

Stitt objected that one of the medical personnel stepped outside to take a call on his cell phone, taking the medical bag with him.

When he returned inside, he asked what was going on, and the woman was assessed and readied for transport.

Stitt was asked if there was a hospital preference, and she told them St. Vincent's in Jacksonville. She was told that UCEMS does not "do Jacksonville," but she was transported upon receiving information that the patient's regular healthcare providers were all there.

Stitt also noted that she was never asked about the patient's medications or when she last ate.

In discussing this letter with EMS Director Toby Witt, he said he had already heard about the incident and looked into the matter.

First, he said the medic who took the phone call was required to do so, as he was the officer in charge of the department at that time because Witt was on vacation. The medic took the bag because he was required to do it since he was responsible for its medications.

Union EMS does not normally take patients to Jacksonville because of the time it takes, not just the distance but also the delays due to traffic, but it made an exception because that was where the patient normally received care.

See EMS, page 7



Paramedicine program pitched

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
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Bradford County Fire Rescue Chief Ben Carter is asking county commissioners to support a Community Paramedicine Resource Program modeled after a successful project implemented by the city of Gainesville.

Carter will present a full plan at the upcoming county commission meeting after introducing the idea last week, including how opioid settlement funds would be used to pay for the program.

According to Carter, the program could better address some public health needs — including drug addiction — while reducing the number of non-emergency 911 calls, saving fire rescue both time and money.

Gainesville Fire Rescue calls the CRP program its “most innovative and impactful public health solution,” one that is being replicated around the country.

Carter said he hopes to have a similar impact in Bradford using the opioid settlement funds. He introduced Krista Ott, Gainesville Fire Rescue’s CRP coordinator, who talked about the program’s origins and growth.

“Our program’s goal is to reduce 911 calls and improve the quality of life by partnering with our neighbors for our citizens to overcome health and social challenges,” Ott said.

Gainesville Fire Rescue responds to thousands of EMS calls annually. Crews realized they were often responding to the same citizens who were not emergency patients but did have chronic needs that were not being met. They began designing a program in 2014, and in 2017, the University of Florida funded a pilot project. Two years later, the city of Gainesville committed funds to hire a full-time coordinator for the CRP program. Funding for the program has grown since then, paying for more positions and expanding its scope.

“The goals of our program overall are to decrease the burden on the EMS system, and also our

health care providers within our community. We want to increase primary care compliance because we know that if people see their primary care physician, they have a better-quality health, better quality of life. We want to improve their quality of life overall, and then create a supportive network within our city,” Ott said.

When they see someone with trouble accessing primary medical care, mental health care, medicine, food, transportation, housing, etc., they can place them in touch with the community partners who can help meet these needs.

In addition to Ott, the program now has four EMTs and three paramedics. The paramedics handle the extreme medical needs and the EMTs manage these cases and the community resource connections.

Over the years, they’ve developed four pillars, including the first, which was helping people with chronic diseases like emphysema or diabetes. The recovery response pillar was their answer to drug use and overdoses. They can connect addicts directly to detox or to an outpatient program, and then follow up on those patients. They have also added a homelessness outreach pillar, and a community health pillar which focuses on education and prevention.

They want to interrupt a cycle.

“What we know is that people oftentimes have a medical emergency, they call 911, our crews respond, they may or may not be transported. And if they get transported, they go to the hospital, they get their emergent needs met, make sure they’re medically stabilized, they’re discharged back into their regular environment that they came from. And then we see that process just repeat itself because whatever caused their initial 911 call has not been addressed, for the most part. And that’s where programs like paramedicine can come in,” Ott said.

Ott gave an example of a patient who called 911 31 times

believing they were in crisis, potentially having a heart attack. What they realized is that the patient’s complaints were anxiety based. The calls had cost the city \$28,000 for fire truck and emergency crew response. The team worked with the patient on breathing and calming techniques and connected them with a mental health counselor. Within a couple of months, the patient’s 911 calls had nearly ceased.

Other examples included a lifelong alcoholic who is now recovering in a sober living facility and a drug addict from a homeless encampment who is now employed and has salvaged his relationship with his daughter.

Ott said they use both 911 call and emergency room data for referrals to the CRP program. Referrals also come from free health clinics, law enforcement and community partners. According to Ott, some do finally get their needs met, but admittedly, there are also those with complex or constantly changing needs who will remain with the program for life. Some “graduates” even return for additional assistance.

“Our ultimate goal, though, is that every patient on our program develops a self-sustainability to take care of their own needs,” she said.

Whatever the outcome, these patients are not charged for participation. The city of Gainesville now fully funds the program.

Chief Carter wants to take advantage of settlement funds from opioid lawsuits to design a program here to deal with substance use disorder and overdoses, as well as the issues of mental health and poverty that also accompany drug abuse. The funds would pay for a full-time coordinator with the existing supervisors and staff.

Carter said fire rescue has been responding to an average of one overdose call per week, and some of those are repeat overdoses. He estimated the county has 12 to 15 “loyal customers” — individuals who repeatedly call 911 for assistance.

The commission has asked him to return with a plan to convince them the program is a fit for Bradford County and the best use of the opioid settlement funds. Presentations have also been scheduled by the Bradford Health Department, Meridian Behavioral Health and Purpose Behavioural Health.

The next commission meeting is Thursday, Feb. 15, at 6:30 p.m.



Pictured (front to back, l-r) are Gertrude Griffis, Sandra Melson, Virginia Linzy, Faye Noegel, Veazie Jones, Olivia Scott, Shelly Bowen, Sandra Singletary, Linda Hildebran, BCFR Chief Ben Carter, Pink Lady President Linda Johns, BCFR Division Chief Dylan Rodgers, and commissioners Diane Andrews, Kenny Thompson, Carolyn Spooner, Chris Dougherty and Danny Riddick.

Pink Ladies hand over big check for pediatric emergencies

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
mark@bctelegraph.com

The Pink Ladies — known for their pink jackets and volunteer spirits — have made their latest donation to the safety and well-being of the Bradford County community.

Last week, they handed \$9,500 check over to the county commission. The donation raised by the group will fund the purchase of pediatric medical bags for Bradford County Fire

Rescue that help with organized and efficient response to high stress calls.

Formerly the Bradford Hospital Auxiliary, the group has been active since 1956 in volunteering their time to help run facilities and raising money to purchase life-saving equipment. As Johns pointed out, it was the Hospital Auxiliary that purchased the first Jaws of Life crash extrication equipment for Bradford emergency responders. Now without a hospital, the

Pink Ladies have found a new home within the Bradford County Sheriff’s Office. In addition to their fundraising, they answer the phone and perform wellness checks for medically vulnerable citizens.

The ladies have assistance from law enforcement, fire rescue and other departments, but could always use more volunteers, Johns said.

To get involved, reach out to the sheriff’s office by calling 904-966-6380.

BCSO responding to all Starke calls

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
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Sheriff Gordon Smith updated Starke commissioners on the transfer of policing to his office last week, saying deputies are now responding to all calls within the city.

Smith also introduced his command staff, providing contact information for each to the commissioners. Several have been involved in the transition, and Smith said commissioners should not hesitate to call anyone on the command staff if they have a question or concern.

The sheriff also talked briefly about an upcoming mobile phone app that will allow everyone a better look at what is going on in the county. It will serve as a source of news and event information, and have the capabilities to look up warrant or sex offender information within

the app.

For one week of service, Smith said deputies responded to 485 calls for service, primarily extra patrols that were in addition to the deputy patrols in each of the school campuses. There were 91 traffic stops, six crashes, five reckless drivers, four assaults, three threats, two thefts and 30 civil citations among other calls.

The sheriff was able to hire one of Starke’s police officers full time. There was an additional part-time hire as well. A second full-time hire accepted a job elsewhere. Other applicants were disqualified for unspecified reasons. Two were ineligible to apply because they had been previously dismissed from the sheriff’s office. Some were offered employment in other city departments, according to the city manager, but did not apply. Others looked to other agencies

or private sector employment.

There was also discussion about the transfer of equipment, vehicles and evidence to the sheriff’s office.

Later, City Manager Drew Mullins once again emphasized that the funding involved in contracting with the sheriff’s office is derived from the existing tax levy, not new taxes. A total of 2.5 mills of the city’s tax rate will be set aside for law enforcement each year. That amounts to around \$625,000 based on current property values.

Raising or lowering taxes is something that happens near the end of a fiscal year when the budget for the following year is adopted. It does not take place in the middle of the year. A higher tax rate has not been proposed, let alone adopted.

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THURSDAY 2/15 THE IRON CLAW 6:30 (Downstairs)	FRIDAY 2/16 MADAME WEB 7:00 (Downstairs)
ARGYLLE 6:30 (Upstairs)	ARGYLLE 7:00 (Upstairs)
SATURDAY 2/17 MADAME WEB 4:00 & 7:00 (Downstairs)	SUNDAY 2/18 MADAME WEB 4:00 & 6:45 (Downstairs)
ARGYLLE 4:00 & 7:00 (Upstairs)	ARGYLLE 4:00 & 6:45 (Upstairs)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BRADFORD COUNTY TOXIC ROUND-UP EVENT COLLECTS HAZARDOUS WASTE

STARKE – The Alachua County Household Hazardous Waste Department in partnership with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Bradford County Commission will sponsor a FREE “Toxic Round-Up” collection event to properly dispose of and/or recycle common household waste items that cannot be collected curbside. Residents can bring hazardous waste items to the **Bradford County Courthouse parking lot** located at 945 N. Temple Ave. on **Saturday, February 17** from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Household hazardous waste can be toxic to the public and pose a threat to our environment if improperly discarded. In 2023, close to 9 TONS of waste (17,985 pounds) was collected and neutralized at the Bradford County event alone. The Alachua County Household Hazardous Waste department processed 90 TONS of hazardous waste in 2023 from the Toxic Round-Up mobile collection events combined; including 18,034 pounds of e-scrap, 92,288 pounds of paint, 23,895 pounds of used oil, 7,205 pounds of batteries and 3,500 pounds of pesticides.

A total of nine Toxic Round-Up events are scheduled for 2024 serving residents on the following dates: Gilchrist (2/3), Lafayette (2/10), Bradford (2/17), Baker (2/24), Union (3/2), Dixie (3/9), Columbia (3/23), Putnam (4/6) and Nassau (4/20).

Please use the following as a helpful guideline for items that will be accepted:

- Aerosol cans
- Antifreeze
- Automotive Fluids – Brake Fluid, Automatic Transmission Fluid, Lubricants, etc.
- Batteries – Automotive Batteries, Lead-Acid, Ni-Cd, Rechargeable, etc.
- E-Waste – Computers, TVs, Microwaves, Radios, and other Electronic Waste.
- Fluorescent Lamps and Tubes, CFL & LED Bulbs
- Household Cleaners, Degreasers and Solvents
- Fertilizers, Pesticides and Insecticides (Solid or Liquid)
- Paint, Paint Thinner, and Other Waste Paint Related Materials
- Propane Tanks
- Fire Extinguishers
- Non-Controlled Pharmaceuticals (Pills and Liquid) & Over-the-Counter Medications
- Gasoline, Fuels
- Used Oil & Used Oil Filters, Shop Rags & Absorbents
- Flares and Ammunition
- Used Vegetable Oil
- Sharps in hard plastic containers (syringes, needles, lancets, insulin pens, used or unused)

Bradford Fest Pageant Saturday

The 2024 Miss Bradford Fest Pageant will take place Saturday, Feb. 17, at 7 p.m. at Bradford High School

Tickets are \$10 at the door. Contestants will be competing for titles in five age categories along with a number of other awards.

Plan to enjoy a great production while raising funds for the Miss Bradford Fest Scholarship.

Little Miss Contestants



Hollyn Crews



Laikyn King



Penelopee McIntosh



Taliah "Zoey" Carney

Petite Miss Contestants



Ailynn Musgrove



Amelia Colana



Jesslyn Hipps



Karsyn Kerr



Kamryn Dyal



Mckynzie Stopka

Junior Miss Contestants

Teen Miss Contestants



Bailey Varnes



Jamie Lynn Courson



Kylee Kerr



Madilynn Turknnett



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IN CONCERT FEB 17 & 18

singingnews
THE PRINTED VOICE OF SOUTHERN GOSPEL MUSIC
JANUARY 2023 | VOL. 54 | ISSUE 01
TRIBUTE QUARTET
TELLING THEIR STORIES

Southern Gospel's Dove Nominated, Award winning, Tribute Quartet from Nashville, Tennessee, which includes local talent Josh Singletary, will be in concert at Fellowship Baptist Church in Raiford, Florida, Saturday, February 17, 2024, at 7:00 PM and Sunday, February 18, 2024, at 11:00AM and 5:00PM. The Church is located 1 mile South of Raiford on SR-121 on the right.
For more information call 386-431-1732.

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH • RAIFORD, FL

Saturday, February 17, 2024, at 7:00 PM and Sunday, February 18, 2024, at 11:00AM and 5:00PM

*The church is located 1 mile south of Raiford on SR-121, Raiford, FL 32083 on the right.
For more information call 386-431-1732*

LOVE

Continued from page 1

Ciara and Logan both had children with their first spouses. After those marriages ended, neither gave thought to remarrying. Logan, who has two daughters, said his thought was, "I'm going to get these girls raised. When I get them raised and out of the house, I may go look for somebody to sit on the porch with when I'm older."

"I had zero aspirations for going out and getting into a relationship," he said. "I was deadest against it."

A mutual friend of Logan's and Ciara's asked Ciara, "Did you know that Logan Johnson is single again?"

Ciara admitted she was in a dark place at that point in her life. Because of her previous marriage, she had no interest in another relationship. Yet Ciara, who said she comes from a broken family, remembered how Logan had always been her "safe place" as a youth. That had to do with just how upbeat and happy he was.

They ended up reconnecting, communicating through text messages and Snapchat. That lasted a month before they decided to get together in person, meeting at a party.

"We started hanging out and never quit hanging out," Logan said. "It just clicked."

Logan said he and Ciara share the same interests and have similar personalities. However, as time progressed, neither wanted to admit that their relationship was becoming more than simply hanging out and having a good time.

"The feelings and everything were there," Logan said. "We just had to get past our own ignorance, I guess."

Ciara said, "I went my whole life not ever finding a click with anybody. Having that click with him, which was so natural, scared me, honestly."

"I would say we butted heads a little bit and didn't want to admit it for a while."

Yet Ciara was the first to embrace the fact that they were a couple. Logan was somebody who made her feel loved. She didn't want to lose a person who came to have so much meaning in her life.

"Once I got a hold of it, I didn't want to let go," Ciara said.

Logan says he and Ciara both were simply scared of a future they hadn't planned on, but they finally made it official, so to speak in July 2016. Logan said that's when they "put a label on it." They were officially a couple.

"We were so difficult," Ciara said. "Most people just get together."

A family is created

"Once we made it official, 'The Herd' was formed," Logan said.

"The Herd" is the name for the children: Logan's daughters (Rylin, 10, and Arizona, 8) and Ciara's three children (Blakeleigh, 17, Logan, 12, and Braxton, 10).

When it's time to go somewhere, Ciara said they'll say, "Johnson Herd, load up."

Even though Ciara and Logan have no children together, all members of "The Herd" are their children.

"We laugh and say we've got our own set of twins because Rylin and Braxton are only six days apart," Ciara said.

Logan said, "People tell me the boys look just like me. I'm like, 'Yeah, they do.' I just go along with it. I don't even like saying we're blended, even though we are. They're my kids."

Ciara said she once received a comment from somebody saying, "Can I just point out how weird it is that all five kids look like they could be from you and Logan?"

"They fight like they're brothers and sisters," Ciara said.

Marriage for real

For all intents and purposes, Logan and Ciara considered themselves married, though that didn't become official until April 23, 2022.

"I called her my wife years before we got married," Logan said.

They had talked about seriously about marriage, and



The Johnson Herd (l-r): Blakeleigh, Rylin, Arizona, "Little" Logan, Ciara, Braxton and Logan.

Ciara admitted she did want him to ask her to marry him, but they also had a mindset of, "If it's not broken, don't fix it."

Logan finally decided it was "broken" if it didn't become official.

A trip to Georgia for a softball tournament Blakeleigh was playing in included a side trip to Covington, Georgia, where "The Vampire Diaries" TV show was filmed.

"I had been watching it since it first aired," Ciara said.

Unbeknownst to Ciara, Logan had brought along a ring. As they were taking in the sights of Covington, Logan suggested they take a photo of Ciara looking at the city's clock tower.

"When she turns around (after the photo), I'm there on a knee," Logan said.

Logan said he planned the proposal in complete secrecy, knowing that Ciara is "good at figuring stuff out."

"There were no signs. There were no hints," Ciara said. "Usually, he'll give himself away."

Upon seeing Logan with the ring, Ciara said her surprise gave way to tears.

"I was like, 'Oh, my gosh. This is real. This actually just happened.'"

Life together

Things may have clicked for Logan and Ciara, but we're all different in ways, so that was an adjustment for them to make.

For example, the best way for Ciara to tell Logan she loves him is through physical touch.

"She's more words of affirmation, but you don't really have to tell me you love me if you hold my hand," Logan said. "If I'm on the couch, come sit by me and put your legs on me. Come sit on my lap. Come up and kiss me on the top of the head when you walk by."

Ciara remembers the first time Logan snuggled with her, saying her thought was, "What the heck is this?" She wasn't a snuggler or an overly affectionate person by nature.

"I think where I've grown in our relationship and where I've given him that security is I'll go out of my way to make sure I hug him," Ciara said, admitting that now she loves to snuggle.

Conversely, Logan had to realize that wasn't the way for him to tell Ciara he loves her. As noted earlier, she needs to hear it in words.

"What I need is also what I'm very good at giving," Logan said. "I had to learn that just because it's what I need and what I'm good at, that's not what she needs."

If it's not by words, Logan can express his love by cooking up something good. Ciara loves his cooking and said she gets mad whenever they go out to eat as a family because "everything he cooks is 10 times better and way cheaper."

The most delicious thing Logan could cook for Ciara is a steak.

"It's always steak," she said. "Steak's the way to my heart."

Logan said, "She thought Texas Roadhouse had the best steaks. She told me I ruined her favorite restaurant."

If they have a date night, they love visiting St. Augustine and eating at Sunset Grille.

"My dad's got a motorcycle," Logan said. "If the weather's right, we love taking that into St. Augustine. We'll go eat at Sunset and then we'll just go walk around downtown."

Ciara said, "I love the history of St. Augustine. It's just the whole vibe."

If it's not Sunset Grille in St.

Augustine, Logan and Ciara are happy eating chicken wings anywhere, though WingHouse is a must stop if they're ever in Daytona Beach. Ciara said they both like their wings spicy, though she said Logan also likes "weird flavors."

Ciara said she knows what she likes when it comes to food, and that's all she cares about getting. Logan, meanwhile, is up for trying anything.

"When I go to a restaurant, I don't even have to look at the menu," Ciara said, adding that Logan's apt to say, "Oh, this sounds crazy and colorful and possibly disgusting, but I want to get it."

Logan said he and his daughters will try anything "as long as it doesn't eat us first." He's proud of the fact that he's helped Ciara's children be more like him.

"The kids now will step way out with me," Logan said.

"They'll try it."

If a date night doesn't involve St. Augustine or eating chicken wings somewhere, then it might just be at a sporting event.

"I wasn't a sports person before him," Ciara said. "Now, you tell me we're going to watch Icemen hockey, or we're going to a Shrimp's game, or we're going to hang out with one of the teams at Bradford, and I'm like, 'That's a date.'"

Ciara, of course, attends BHS athletic events her daughter, Blakeleigh, is a part of, but she'll attend other sports events at the school as well — even when Logan's schedule doesn't allow him to accompany her.

She's all in on sports, though she's still working on a total understanding of some of them. Logan laughed when saying that Ciara can't wrap her head around why punts and have different rules attached to them.

However, she understands the rest of the game just fine and is the one who sends BHS football updates to Logan when he's at work.

"Now, I have the love for the game," Ciara said.

Valentine's Day

What does Valentine's Day for Logan and Ciara involve?

Well, it's not cards or flowers.

"I've never really been a card person," Logan said. "You can read a card, or I can look at you and tell you (how I feel)."

As for flowers, Ciara said, "I don't know why a flower signifies love when it just dies." In fact, her wedding bouquet was fake flowers, "so I could keep them forever."

Logan said he'll buy Ciara her favorite chocolate — Ghiradelli caramel squares.

"I don't do the traditional heart-shaped box of stuff. I get her what she likes," Logan said.

Ciara loves to give gifts during holidays and birthdays, so she'll come up with something to give Logan.

The best Valentine's gift, however, is being with each other.

"We're more, 'Let's spend time together,'" Ciara said. That could be enjoying a meal out together or simply sitting at home, watching a movie.

That's the key — they're comfortable with each other now. It may have been quite the journey to get to that point, overcoming their own stubbornness and fears, but love found a way.

Even if it left Cupid wiping his brow once his tough task had been accomplished.



Union County High School Honor Band members



Lake Butler Middle School Honor Band members



Bradford High School Honor Band members

North Florida Honor Band performs

Union County High School hosted a performance of the North Florida Honor Band on Feb. 2. The band featured talented musicians from six counties who auditioned for the honor, including students from Baker, Bradford, Columbia, Gilchrist, Suwannee and Union counties.

Here are the students selected from Union and Bradford counties.

Union County High School
Irmari Green - 1st Chair Oboe
Reese Harrison - 1st chair Bassoon
Josie Regar - 1st chair Clarinet
Natalie Campbell - 3rd Chair Clarinet
Matthew Ring - 3rd chair Euphonium
Nolan Beighley - 1st chair French Horn
Eli Hendricks - 3rd Chair

Trumpet
Braden Adams - 4th Chair
Trumpet
Trestin Durant - 1st Chair
Trombone
Kendyl Brannen - 2nd Chair
Trombone

Lake Butler Middle School
Sommer McKenzie - 1st Chair Flute
Haley Zachary - 7th Chair Flute
Allaya Blocker - 2nd Chair Alto Saxophone
Gabrielle Bradley - 1st Chair Bassoon
Alexis Willis - 1st Chair French Horn
Zane Mott - 3rd Chair Trombone
Delana Barton - 5th Chair Trombone
Alex Wade - 1st Chair Euphonium
Dawson Ellis - 2nd Chair

Euphonium
Farrah Summers - 4th Chair Euphonium
Estrella Hernandez - 1st Chair Percussion
Kiley Jo Gibson - 4th Chair Percussion
Kara Bagley - 5th Chair Percussion
Taylor Hunsinger - 6th Chair Percussion

Bradford High School
Lyndsey Wallace - 1st Chair Trombone
Drake Benejam - 5th Chair Trumpet
Zachary Wells - 6th Chair Trumpet
Wyatt Canipe - 4th Chair Flute
Leskai Padilla Bass - 2nd Chair Clarinet
Hayden Paris - 5th Chair Clarinet
Emma Weimern - 6th Chair French Horn

Food distribution at fairgrounds

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Feeding Northeast Florida and True Vine Ministry will take place Tuesday, Feb. 20, at 9 a.m. at the Bradford County Fairgrounds in Starke.

Food boxes often include fresh produce, deli and bakery items, dairy and some meats. Inventory

is subject to availability. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Museum seeks docents

Docents are needed for the Eugene L. Matthews Historical Museum. The museum showcases many items from the history of Bradford County. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Chuck Kramer at

904-364-6977.

Prepare your taxes for free

United Way of North Central Florida is hosting VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) at the Bradford County Community Resource Hub, 1080 N. Pine St. in Starke, on Thursday, Feb. 15 and March 21, from 10 a.m. to noon.

Lake Region

KH purchasing corner lot

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

The Keystone Heights City Council voted to move forward with purchasing a corner lot that would improve traffic conditions at the intersection of Lawrence Boulevard (State Road 21) and Walker Avenue (State Road 100).

In January, the council heard from a consultant who recommended that the triangular parcel be converted into parking and open space.

Phil Shad with the engineering firm AtkinsRealis also suggested the city could use the open space as a marquee gateway to downtown with a sign and other assets giving visitors a positive first impression of the town.

During the council's February 5 meeting, the parcel's owner, Chetam Patel, and the owner's listing agent, Tom Germano of C.B. Issac Realty, appeared before the panel. Patel told the council he wanted to recover his \$240,000 investment in the land.

The council authorized City

Manager Charlie Van Zant to negotiate a purchase agreement with Patel.

Former City Manager Lynn Rutkowski told the council in January that funds are available in the city's community redevelopment agency for the buy.

Van Zant sworn in, resigns from airport board

In other news from the February 5 city council meeting, Mayor Nina Rodenroth swore in new City Manager Charlie Van Zant Jr.;

During public comment, Evan Stanley of Southeast Lakeview Drive restated his opposition to the city imposing age restrictions for unaccompanied minors visiting city parks. Stanley added that he was pleased with potential park improvements, including widening sidewalks and adding heat islands and

trees. The Lakeview Drive resident cautioned the council against moving basketball and tennis courts to Sunrise Park, as a consultant recommended in January. He said the owners of over 80 residential lots purchased their homes near the current location of the courts, assuming the amenities would remain in place;

Rodenroth read a proclamation recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Keystone Heights Woman's Club;

Van Zant informed the council that he had resigned his seat on the Keystone Heights Airport Board and added that because of his resignation and the expiration of another member's term in May, two seats on the airport's governing board will be open later this year;

Airport Board Chair David Kirkland told the council that the facility's lighting project on its secondary runway is complete;

Rodenroth reported that she attended Clay Day in Tallahassee



The Keystone Heights City Council authorized City Manager Charlie Van Zant to negotiate a purchase agreement with the owner of the parcel at the southeast corner of Lawrence Boulevard and Walker Avenue.

with other officials. She also said she is working on a solution to curb vandalism at Keystone Beach Park and will report her findings to the council at the end of the month.

Correction

Last week, the Monitor incorrectly reported that the City of Keystone Heights April ballot would include a proposed amendment to the city's charter, which would bring the Keystone Heights Airport under the direct

control of the city council and convert the airport's current governing body into an advisory committee.

A resolution to put that measure on the April ballot failed in the city council. We apologize for the error.

Yesterday's Festival - Let It Shine

PENNY MCGEE
Special to the Monitor

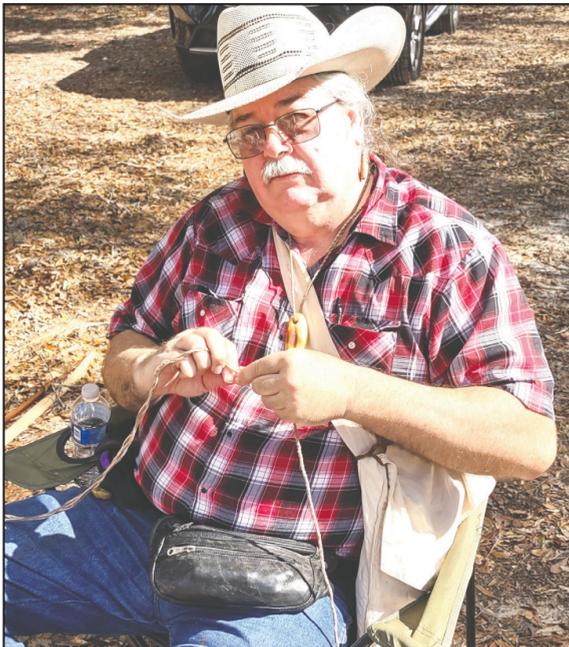
"Let It Shine" was the 2024 Yesterday's Festival theme, held on January 27 at the Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park.

"The weather was great," said Park Specialist Annalee Maloney. "We think that around a thousand people, including campers, came through these gates for the festival this year."

A tram ran throughout the 2,400-acre park, making it easier for families to see the expansive woodlands, rolling hills, lakes, and ravines. A variety of hobbyists, activities, and vendors represented the simpler time in "Old Florida."

The Friends of Gold Head State Park and Palatka-to-Lake Butler State Trail raises funds with events such as the Yesterday's Festival to help improve the public's enjoyment of the park and the trail.

Get involved: Get more details about joining Friends of Gold Head State Park and Palatka to Lake Butler State Trail by visiting www.facebook.com/GoldHeadParkandPTLBStateTrailFriends.



Bear Heister wears a tooth of one such mammal, hanging from a string around his neck quite comfortably. Bear admitted that he has, on at least one occasion, maybe more, tangled with a large bear species. Besides appearing to be a bear aficionado, a seasoned storyteller, and good with his hands, Bear Heister is, by no means, a macho man. His hobby is weaving string, as was done daily by our ancestors and indigenous Americans alike.



Bill Moran and his musical statement topped off the day when he took the stand as the sun began easing down slowly, reflecting the warmth of the day during the 2024 Yesterday's Festival. Starting with Roger Miller, Moran eloquently eased into songs from Woodie Guthrie. An array of songs from the sixties were not overlooked either, with Joni Mitchell and James Taylor casting shadows through this music of a bygone era. He wrapped up the set with "I'm Gonna Let It Shine," a reflective rhapsody of the Yesterday's Festival theme.



Approximately 1,000 people, plenty of campers among them, visited the grounds of Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park for the 2024 Yesterday's Festival. The tram, pictured here, was an innovative way to experience the various activities, such as antique cars, tools, and weapons, among many other examples of survival sustenance and activities of indigenous Floridians and early pioneers. Beyond the unique activities of the past, there was also the pristine experience of native woodlands, ravines, marshes, scrub, lakes, and rolling sandhills to be cherished at one of the oldest state parks in Florida.

Soil and water conservation board meets

The Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District will meet at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 20, at the Bradford County Extension Office. There will

be a discussion of the potential impacts of the Suwannee River Water Management District's Edwards Bottomlands Project on flooding along Alligator Creek.

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

Church of God food distribution

Starke Church of God by Faith is distributing food on the first and third Thursdays each month. The Feb. 15 giveaway will take place from 10 a.m. to noon at the church, 730 Old Lawtey Road in Starke.

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Registration forms on website www.keystoneyouthsoccer.com



UNION COUNTY

Union County 4-H visits the capital

BY MEAGAN DANIEL
Union 4-H Extension Agent

Union County 4-H had 21 youth members with 14 adult chaperones, traveling to Tallahassee for 4-H Day at the Capital on Feb. 6, 2024.

The 4-H Day at the Capital Program allows youth to learn more about their state government and experience the political process firsthand.

The group met with Senator Jennifer Bradley, Representative Chuck Brannan, and Commissioner of Agriculture Wilton Simpson.

Each official was eager to share how their work in Tallahassee benefits Floridians.

Union 4-Hers ended their day with a tour of the House Chambers, which explained how the Legislative session works.



Union County 4-H members with Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Wilton Simpson. (Back Row) – Wyatt Rogers, Brantley Moore, Wilton Simpson, Kamryn Hartley, Reagan Williams, Kalyn Reynolds, Klayton Neuhofer and Jenson Tetstone; (Middle Row) – Vivian Hunt, Atticus Allen, Lola Allen, Jasper Cruce, Raylan Dyal, Lyle Neuhofer and Alyssa Lee; (Front Row) – Ryker Sellers, Mazie Redding, Colten Redding, Tripp Pittman and Sawyer Dyal.



Jenson Tetstone in the Senate chambers.



Brantley Moore and Reagan Williams exploring the protective layer of a turtle on the Capital lawn.

Domestic violence is never OK

Three Rivers Legal Services Inc. provides legal services to the survivors of domestic, repeat, sexual and dating violence.

Domestic violence takes many forms. It can be physical, mental or sexual conduct that places you

in fear of immediate violence. Three Rivers Legal Services represents clients regarding injunctions for protection or restraining orders, and assists with other family law matters, including divorce, custody and temporary relative custody. Safety comes first!

For more information, please contact the legal helpline at 1-866-256-8091.

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Special to the Times

The Union County Building Department will be getting an upgrade in technology that will allow citizens to deal with the department from home and access information about their projects, all thanks to Florida Power and Light.

The utility often supplies local governments and organizations with grants to help them keep up with technology to serve their communities more effectively. In this case, the funds are purchasing the use of a software system called Cloudpermit, which will allow the building department to give citizens 24/7 access, accept/review/issue building permits, receive complete building permit applications, conduct on-site mobile building inspections, change and modify workflows, and create reports and accept payments online. The program will save citizens time and money by making it unnecessary to drive into the office to satisfy their needs.

Other county departments will benefit from the software as well. When the county gets its new code enforcement up and running, the software will accept and manage complaints online and view case histories. It will also facilitate communications between code compliance officers and community members. The software will benefit the planning and zoning department in issuing land use permits and make land management more efficient.

The installation, employee training, and implementation



The grant check was delivered to the Union County Board of Commissioners office by Carol Saviak, a representative from FPL, and accepted by (right) Commissioner Channing Dobbs and (left) County Coordinator Jimmy Williams.

will take about six weeks for the building department, four to five weeks for code enforcement, and eight to ten weeks for the planning and zoning department. The software will allow direct communication with the Union County Property Appraisers Office and streamline getting work done more quickly and efficiently. As part of the software package, a trainer is sent for on-site employee training and

workshops, and the program will be customized to meet the needs and operations of the various departments.

County Coordinator Jimmy Williams said the program would not close doors to citizens but open them. He said the building department would still be open for citizens wishing to come in, and staff would still be available to work with them as needed. He said the idea behind

the improvements was to offer more convenience and options to citizens, adding to (not replacing) current services.

The check was delivered to the Union County Board of Commissioners office by Carol Saviak, a representative from FPL, and accepted by Commissioner Channing Dobbs and Williams.

Griffis is county's new solid waste director

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Special to the Times

The Union County Board of County Commissioners has hired a new Director of Solid Waste to serve the county. Residents may be surprised to discover that they already know him well.

Lamar Edward Griffis is known to many in the county as the Mayor of Raiford. He also works as a communications officer at the Union County Emergency Operations Center. In the past, he has worked as a shift supervisor for Sequel in Raiford and as an inventory receiving and zone manager for Walmart after he retired from the Florida Department of Corrections as an assistant warden. Griffis has received extensive training in multi-department logistics and other management skills, mostly through FDOC, in supervising up to 500 employees.

Twelve people applied for the position made vacant when previous Director Kimberly Hayes left county employ to take the position of City Manager for the City of Lake Butler.

The solid waste director's position was advertised on the county website and, on Facebook, on the Lake Butler Community Page (with a link to

the county site).

Personnel Director Michaela Clemons and County Coordinator Jimmy Williams vetted the applications and selected five candidates for interviews. One of the five withdrew his application before the interview process began, so only four candidates were interviewed.

After the initial interviews, the four candidates were scheduled for a second interview by the board, who would select their choice.

Once again, one applicant pulled out of the process before the scheduled board interviews, so only three applicants made up the pool of choice. The three applicants interviewed by the board at a special meeting on Jan. 29, 2024, were John William Gilmore II, Richard Bruce Kingsbury, and Griffis. Board members had already stated they were seeking a director with management skills and experience overseeing a substantial staff. This is because the UC Solid Waste Director wears several hats in the position – solid waste, mosquito control, and animal control.

John William Gilmore is from Starke and is currently employed as a probation counselor in

Jacksonville; and has served in the ministry at three churches (Orange Park, Melbourne, and Jennings). He has earned a bachelor's degree in theology and a master's degree in ministry. He listed numerous skills, including customer service, facility maintenance management, and administrator.

Richard Bruce Kingsbury is from Lake Butler. He has worked as a maintenance construction supervisor for the Florida Department of Corrections since late 2006. Kingsbury has completed many courses in his work for FDOC, including certificates in Diversity on the Job, Cross-Functional Team Fundamentals, Working with Difficult People, Essentials of Interviewing and Hiring, Creating and Maintaining a Positive Work Environment, and several certificates for FEMA functions.

After completing the interviews and discussing the results, the board selected Griffis and offered him the position. He accepted, and his first day was Feb. 12, 2024. Former Director Kimberly Hayes will work with him to help train him in the specifics of the areas he will be responsible for.

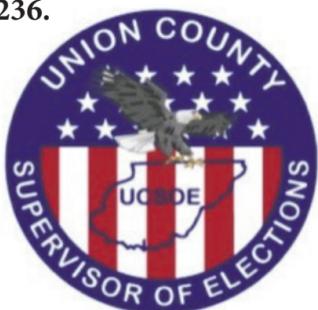
Attention Voters

The Voter Registration Books will close on
Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 5:00 pm
for the Presidential Preference Primary Election to be held on
March 19, 2024.

If you need to get registered or change your party for the
March 19th election, you must do so by
Tuesday, February 20th.

If you need to verify your registration or party call our office at
(386) 496-2236.

Debbie Osborne
Supervisor of Elections
Union County, Florida



Hundreds attend college and career fair

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

Nearly 1,000 students from 11 school districts and representatives from 70 colleges and employers gathered at the Gov. Charlie E. Johns Conference Center on Thursday, February 8, for the Northeast Florida Education Consortium's College and Career Fair.

Event organizer Jamie Viera said the event included hands-on equipment students could use to preview careers in certain fields.

She added that the North Florida Technical College's truck driving program is a popular vendor with the students.

She also said some students can walk away from the event with an offer in hand.

"We have a lot of apprenticeships being offered, so the kids can walk out of high school, get a job, and continue their education at the same time," she said.

Jenny Sullivan, an occupational placement specialist at North Florida Technical College, said students asked a lot of questions about the school's most popular programs, like nursing, welding, and truck driving.

Michael Anderson, the associate director of Santa Fe College's emergency medical services programs, said he fielded questions about his own program in addition to the law enforcement track at Santa Fe.

"My goal is not so much to get them into my program but to get



Jenny Sullivan, an occupational placement specialist at the North Florida Technical College, talks to a student about the learning opportunities at her school.

them interested in a career," he said. "So, whether they achieve it by coming to my school or one of the other qualifying schools, I'm just happy to see them make good career choices."

The U.S. Coast Guard's Scott Blackall also talked a lot about law enforcement with students.

"We can be a gateway to them being a police officer," he said. "We're federal law enforcement officers, so we give them the

opportunity to become a cop later if they choose not to make the Coast Guard a career."

Blackall said the number of students at the event impressed him.

"There are a lot of students here," he said. "It is pretty incredible to see the quantity of kids. We don't get too many opportunities where we have that many different schools participating in one event."



Michael Anderson (right), the associate director of Santa Fe College's EMS programs, said he fielded questions about his program and the law enforcement track at Santa Fe.

EMS Continued from page 1

Witt said his personnel did not ask about medical history, medications, or eating because Stitt was not a relative, did not live in the same household, and had already said that the medical issue was already underway when she and her son came in.

Witt said, to his knowledge, that the patient was predicted to recover. The medical director cleared the call as properly handled, and there were no issues.

The director added that his department is fully staffed and fully trained but operating under a tight budget. In a larger department, the officer in charge would remain in the office to deal with operations, but that is not always possible in a small department. Answering calls is the number one priority.

Stitt also complained that there was no one at the office door when she went there to complain. Witt said the same situation applied: the secretary was away from the office, and the medical personnel were on calls.

Lake Butler text alerts

You can now receive text alerts from the city of Lake Butler about events and incidents that may affect you. Text the "Lake Butler" to 91896 to opt in.

You may also report issues to the city via text and even upload images of the problem. Text "Report" to 386-272-5227 about problems with streets, lighting and more.

Crime

Recent arrests in Bradford, Union and Clay

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

Bradford

David Jim Browning, 57, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 9 for disorderly conduct and resisting an officer.

Taglera Angelique Chestnut, 28, of Gainesville was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 5 for disorderly conduct.

James Matthew Clark, 40, was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 9 for failure to appear, possession of drug equipment, and possession of drugs.

Daniel Wesley Brice Darwin, 55, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 3 for DUI and hit and run.

Jeremy Layne Dees, 47, of Bradford was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 8 for a probation violation.

Shiseel Tabatha Gonzalez, 47, of Earleton was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 7 for failure to appear.

Ronnie Lee Hall, 64, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 5 for DUI.

Shayla Nicole Harris, 22, of Gainesville was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 5 for disorderly conduct.

Marcel Vashawn Henderson, 50, of Jacksonville was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 3 for larceny.

John Douglas Holliday, 56, of St. George, Georgia was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 6 for failure to appear.

Joey Tavares Johnson, 26, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 6 for a conditional release violation.

Alexander Daniel Main, 30, of Jacksonville was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 6 for battery and kidnapping – false imprisonment.

Brian Reshard McCloud, 40, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 6 for battery and resisting an officer.

Kimberly Nicole McVey, 35, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 7 for possession of drugs, driving with a suspended or revoked license and possession of drug equipment.

Montalvo Antonio Moore, 44, of Ocala was arrested by Lawtey police on February 3 for an out-of-county warrant.

William George Naylor, 43, was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 7 for a probation violation.

Daniel William Roodenberg, 39, of Waldo was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 4 for DUI.

Lauren Marguerite Seaman, 31, of Hampton was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 3 for DUI.

Jeffery Gerald Sellers, 43, of Lawtey was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 8 for a probation violation.

Landon Elijah Shelter, 18, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 6 for burglary and battery.

Paul Raymond Smith, 50, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 4 for larceny and trespassing.

William Lee Woods, 38, of Hampton was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 6 for a probation violation.

Union

Penny Marie Gomez, 59, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on February 7 for fraud.

Clay

Scott Edward Bowen, 56, of Keystone Heights was arrested on February 7 by Clay deputies for burglary.

Tyler Anthony Hillegas, 31, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on February 6 for possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and possession of drug equipment.

James Daniel Lewis, 29, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on February 8 for violating a domestic violence protection injunction.

Pleads to 3 Walmart thefts

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

A 33-year-old Starke man is spending 90 days in jail after pleading to shoplifting from Walmart on three separate occasions.

Walter Shane Davis pleaded to three counts of petit theft, two counts of resisting the recovery of property, and one count each of requesting a refund with a false receipt and battery.

According to arrest reports, on April 18, 2022, Walmart loss prevention officers saw Davis put store merchandise into his backpack and walk past all points of sale. The store associates stopped Davis and an accomplice and took possession of the backpack; Davis tried to

snatch the backpack away from one of the Walmart workers but was unsuccessful. The two defendants then fled.

On May 14, 2023, store loss prevention officers accused Davis and a female accomplice of under-ringing items at the store's self-checkout kiosk. Store video revealed that Davis used a case of water to conceal the pair placing merchandise into a shopping cart while bypassing the self-checkout scanner. After loss prevention officers asked the pair to accompany them to the loss prevention office, both defendants refused, and Davis shoved one of the officers while fleeing the store.

On May 18, 2023, Starke police returned to the retailer, where employees reported they viewed Davis and his female accomplice under-ringing \$71 worth of merchandise at a self-checkout kiosk. They added that Davis also tried getting a \$57.78 refund on a lantern he had stolen from the store earlier.

Stuffed bacon down pants

Bradford deputies arrested a 35-year-old Marion County man after accusing him of walking out of Walmart with \$211 worth of bacon and brisket stuffed down his pants.

James Alfred Baxley of Sparr was arrested on January 31 for petit theft.

According to an arrest report, store video showed the defendant taking the products from the meat aisle and then walking to the shoe aisle, where he stuffed them down his pants. He then exited the store without paying for the merchandise.

Deputy Michael Gillick reported that the seven packs of bacon on the defendant's person could be easily seen in photographs and in person. Baxley confessed to taking the bacon when contacted. Gillick added that he conducted a pat-down search of Baxley, which also revealed the two packs of brisket in the man's pants.

Lake Butler woman killed in crash

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

The Florida Highway Patrol said a 21-year-old Lake Butler woman was killed in a head-on collision on State Road 121 in an early morning crash near Raiford.

According to an FHP report, the woman was a passenger in a sedan driven by an 18-year-old Glen St. Mary man, who was driving northbound on the state highway at 5:17 a.m., Wednesday, February 7.

Troopers reported that the 18-year-old crossed the center line of 121 and collided with a tractor-trailer north of the highway's intersection with State Road 16.

Emergency responders pronounced the female passenger dead at the scene.

Get help quitting

Quitting tobacco isn't easy. Finding help should be. If you're ready to quit, join the next Tools to Quit Tobacco group. Virtual

options by computer and phone are also available.

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

of free nicotine patches, gum or lozenges.

This group more than doubles your chance of quitting for good.

Pre-registration is required. Call 866-341-2730 to reserve your spot.

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5 from BHS take part in National Signing Day

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School seniors Torin Brazell, Chalil Cummings, Devon McBride, Willie Pollard and Dae'Jon Shanks signed their letters of intent to play college football on National Signing Day (Feb. 7) in the school's auditorium.

This marks the fourth straight year the school has hosted a signing ceremony for at least five players.

Shanks said he and his teammates were "conquering a dream."

A long-time dream.

"We've been playing together since we were 6," Brazell said.

Cummings said, "We've got to put Starke on the map. That's the goal."

3 Tornadoes earn Division I chances

Brazell, a 6-2, 250-pound defensive lineman, signed with East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina.

"It feels awesome. It feels good," he said. "Knowing that you've done something to make your mama proud and the community happy just feels amazing."

Brazell said he was also considering the University of North Alabama and Western Kentucky University, "but East Carolina came in at the end. They came in hard, too."

He likes the school's football field and stadium, which at 51,000 seats, has a much larger capacity than the stadiums at North Alabama and Western Kentucky.

"Just knowing I can play in front of that is a blessing," Brazell said.

Brazell led the state in the 2S classification in sacks with 17, which also ranked him 20th in the state regardless of classification.

"Hit the quarterback. That's the best thing I do," Brazell said.

He had the fourth-most number of tackles on Bradford's team with 62, which included 31 behind the line of scrimmage.

"When Torin wants to be unblockable, he's unblockable," BHS Head Coach Jamie Rodgers said, adding, "He's just a special athlete for that size. When kids are that size and can move that good, they're hard to block."

Rodgers said Brazell is already strong, noting that he bench presses 360 pounds and squats more than 400 pounds. At



Chalil Cummings signs his letter of intent to play for Memphis. Photo by Macie Hamilton.



ABOVE: Willie Pollard puts on a St. Thomas University cap after announcing where he'll continue playing. LEFT: Dae'Jon Shanks refers to his phone as says a few words before signing to play for Hutchinson Community College. Photos by Macie Hamilton.

Marshall, he'll get even stronger. "They're going to get him to his maximum level," Rodgers said. "He's going to eat the right things now. He's going to maximize his time in the weight room now."

Brazell said, "They're going to make me better and make me the best that I can be. I'm going to take that opportunity and run with it."

When that opportunity leads to him taking to the field for the first time as an East Carolina Pirate, it's sure to be a special moment.

"I hope it feels awesome," Brazell said. "I can't tell you how that's going to feel until I experience it."

He may not be sure how that moment will feel emotionally, but he can already tell you what getting that first collegiate sack is going to feel like.

"That's going to feel amazing," Brazell said.

Cummings, a 5-10, 187-pound defensive back and wide receiver, is taking his talents to the University of Memphis in Tennessee.

"I feel blessed," Cummings said. "I can't even realize how



Torin Brazell signs his letter of intent to play for East Carolina. Photo by Macie Hamilton.



ABOVE: Willie Pollard puts on a St. Thomas University cap after announcing where he'll continue playing. LEFT: Dae'Jon Shanks refers to his phone as says a few words before signing to play for Hutchinson Community College. Photos by Macie Hamilton.

much of a blessing this is."

He had opportunities to stay in Florida, saying he was also considering going to either FSU or Miami.

"That's really where everybody thought I was going to go, but I was like, 'I might as well get away from home.' I've got to get out, see new things and meet new people," Cummings said.

Cummings said he liked the culture at Memphis and the fact that Tigers coaches maintained contact with him.

This past season, Cummings was Bradford's third-leading tackler with 83. He had three interceptions and one fumble recovery.

He was a standout receiver as well, leading the Tornadoes with 47 catches for 846 yards and 12 touchdowns. His receiving yardage was 10th best in Class 2S.

Rodgers said Cummings is as good a player as he's ever coached in regard to his ball skills. The coach said what also stands out about Cummings is his physical play on both sides of the ball.

"He's just an ultimate competitor," Rodgers said. "I'll never forget my first interaction with him. I just asked him, 'What makes you tick, man? What gets you going?' He said one thing, 'Competition.' That's about as good as it gets."

So, where will Cummings play at the next level? Memphis lists him as a defensive back, which Rodgers said seemed to be the position most schools were recruiting him at.

"I think once he gets there, he'll have an opportunity to do a little bit of all of it," Rodgers said. "The wide receivers coaches — they're going to fight over him in the meetings and say, 'We need him over here.'"

"He's going to find the field quickly."

Rodgers did say he believes Cummings will end up contributing on defense first. That's fine with Cummings, but so, too, is starting on offense. He said he has no preference.

"Anywhere I can fit on the field, that's where I'm going to play," Cummings said, adding, "I can definitely see myself contributing on both sides of the field and even on special teams."

Rodgers said high school players have to adapt to the fact that in college they really have no choices anymore when it comes to playing football. They have a schedule to adhere to and requirements their coaches expect them to meet.

Cummings said he's aware of that and has his mind set on the fact that his effort has to be maximized at the next level.

"Just go harder, really," he said when asked what improvements he needs to make to successfully transition to the next level. "I've been going hard, but I think it's time to go harder."

Signing with a college is only part of the goal. Now, Cummings looks to be an impactful player for his team. When asked what he'll be thinking when he steps onto the field for the first time as a Memphis Tiger, he said, "It's another opportunity. I have to make something out of it."

Devon McBride, who plays linebacker, signed with Marshall University, where he'll join early BHS graduate Chason Clark, who signed with the Thundering Herd on Dec. 20.

"It takes a lot of weight off knowing I have somebody up there I can talk to," said McBride, who plays linebacker. "I have a friend there."

Rodgers said, "I think it's huge



for both (Clark and McBride). Huntingdon, West Virginia, is a long way away. Now, they'll have somebody to support and to lean on. They know each other really well. They had lockers beside each other for four years in high school. They love one another."

McBride said he remembers watching college football games on TV as a child and asking himself if he could play at that level one day.

Now, he gets to find out.

"Words can't explain it," McBride said of the opportunity. "It's a great feeling."

One of the reasons McBride said he decided to go to Marshall was that the school offered him an academic scholarship.

"They're the only school that saw that I was smart," he said. "I felt like that would be a great spot."

McBride was Bradford's second-leading tackler this past season with 118, which ranked him as 12th best in the state in the Tornadoes' classification (2S).

"He's over 200 pounds now," Rodgers said of McBride, who's 5-10 and was listed at 180 pounds at the beginning of this past season. "Sideline to sideline, he can run. Those are the things you can't teach. He's got the speed to run running backs down, he can cover in the flats — all the things guys have to do now to play outside linebacker."

Rodgers said on a defense with so many talented players, including Brazell, Clark and Cummings, McBride was often the spark.

"He set the tone. He laid the first big hit," Rodgers said. "That's what he wanted to do. He took pride in that."

McBride admitted he did take

pride in that, inspired by what his father always tells him: "Set the tone when you get on the field. The first hit better be you."

Rodgers said McBride, like any player looking to make his mark in college ball, will have to get as fast and as strong as he can, but the coach doesn't doubt that McBride will be an asset for the Thundering Herd.

"Marshall's getting somebody who's going to work extremely hard. They're going to have a hard time keeping him away from the field."

What will it feel like when he gets onto that field for the first time at Marshall?

"It's going to feel amazing," McBride said. "I'm going to try to go in with the same mindset I always have — hit the first thing that comes."

Pollard gets chance at NAIA university

Running back Willie Pollard signed with Miami Gardens' St. Thomas University, which is preparing for its sixth year of football. It competes in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

"It's an amazing chance," Pollard said. "I'm glad I've got a shot to show my talent at the next level."

Pollard said he was considering other schools such as Georgia Southern, but he liked the environment at St. Thomas.

"It kind of sunk in when I went there and saw the campus," he said. "It was nice. I was like, 'This is a pretty good place for me to be at and develop my game.'"

See SIGN, page 12

Tigers Jenkins, Jones sign to play in college

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Union County High School seniors Jacob Jenkins and Deonte Jones signed letters of intent to play college football during a Feb. 7 ceremony in the UCHS media center.

"I'm excited and happy that I get to go to college and play football — a thing I love," said Jenkins, a 6-3, 315-pound defensive lineman who's going to North Carolina A&T. "I really hoped that I would get this chance. I knew that God had my back."

Jones, a 6-2, 175-pound safety, will play at St. Thomas University in Miami Gardens. Like Jenkins, he used the words "excited" and "happy" to describe his feelings on getting the chance to play at the next level.

"It's a lifetime opportunity,"



Jacob Jenkins (center) sits between his father, Joe, and his mother, Angela, after signing his letter of intent to play for North Carolina A&T.

Jones said.

Jenkins said he was also seriously considering Georgia State University in Atlanta before deciding North Carolina A&T was where he should go.

"I like the campus and the way the coaches are," he said. "I got

to meet some of the players. I liked them as well. I like their facilities, too."

North Carolina A&T is a Division-I Football Championship Subdivision program that competes in the Coastal Athletic Association Football Conference.

Jenkins finished this past season with 47 tackles for UCHS, which tied him for second on the team. His 12 tackles for loss put him at third on the team. Jenkins had three sacks and also caused a fumble.

UCHS Head Coach Andrew Thomas described Jenkins as a "special talent" and said the lineman has the ability to improve to such a level that if he was at that level now, he might be signing with a Division-I Football Bowl Subdivision program.

"He's physical in there," Thomas said. "He's tough to move. He understands how to play. He really can play multiple techniques inside. They're getting a gem in him at that level."

Jenkins said he feels like as he progressed at UCHS, he got better in attacking off the ball and using his hands to his advantage. Thomas said if there's anything

technique-wise Jenkins needs to improve on in college it's playing more consistently at pad level.

Thomas said the biggest thing for Jenkins is to be in the weight room on a consistent basis and increasing his strength as his body matures.

"He's still real young in his body," Thomas said. "He's going to get bigger and stronger (at North Carolina A&T) and get in a routine. It's how much he wants it. He's got a chance to be really good."

North Carolina A&T is one of the 107 Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the U.S. Thomas said academics are a high priority, adding that a football player who makes a C in a class won't be able to play.

"It's like the Harvard of small schools," Thomas said.

Prior to Jenkins' signing, Thomas looked at him and said, "I know the NFL is probably in your dreams, but you leave with a degree there, son, and you're going to go somewhere."

Before that happens, Jenkins will look to make an impact on the football field. When asked what it's going to feel like to step onto the field for the first time as a college player, he said, "I'm



Deonte Jones, seated between his mother, Cynthia, and father, Fermon, is pictured after signing his letter of intent to play for St. Thomas University.

going to be excited. I can't wait."

Jones said he was considering other schools, but St. Thomas University proved to be a more appealing option.

"Ever since I went on a visit, they caught my eye," Jones said, adding, "It felt the same as being here (at UCHS). People were very nice. It just felt like home."

Thomas said Jones, who made 10 tackles and three interceptions this past season, has tremendous upside, noting his size and athletic ability.

"He's not anywhere near his ceiling as far as football," Thomas said. "He's still real young in the game. If he commits to it, he's just going to get better and better."

In assessing his own attributes, Jones said, "I'm lanky, tall and fast and I've got that mindset of, 'If I get beat this play, I'll recover from it by the next play.'"

Jones said the most important thing for him to focus on in college is his schoolwork. Other than that, he said he has to "keep God in my life and just keep on pushing."

St. Thomas University is preparing for its sixth year of football. It competes in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

"Nowadays, NAIA is big league," Thomas said. "There's a lot of good talent. There's really not any small ball, so to speak, anymore, so (Jones is) going to be down there competing with a lot of good athletes and good players."

St. Thomas' recent signing class includes players from such schools as Bradford, Chiefland, Columbia, Eastside, Flenning Island, Forest, Mandarin, Middleburg, Raines, Suwannee, Vanguard and Williston.

"There are quite a few local guys signing with St. Thomas," Thomas said. "He'll be joining some guys from this North Florida area."

The North Florida player from UCHS is looking forward to his first chance in a college game.

"I'll just be happy and super excited," Jones said. "I'm going to be ready, though."

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- L3 (10) - Friday 4:45 pm
- L4 (13) - Saturday 1:00 pm
- L5 (15) - Saturday 10:15 am

Awards will be done at approximately 6:00 on Thursday 2/16/24.

BHS girls fall in district tourney, but make regionals

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford was able to cut a double-digit deficit to as few as four points in the fourth quarter, but the Tornadoes couldn't overtake host P.K. Yonge, which won 52-44 in the semifinal game of the District 2-3A girls basketball tournament on Feb. 7.

Bradford (14-8) earned an at-large bid to the Region 1 playoffs and was scheduled to play at P.K. Yonge again in a quarterfinal game on Wednesday, Feb. 14, at 7 p.m. P.K. Yonge (13-8) is the fourth seed in the eight-team region, while Bradford is the fifth seed.

A win over the Blue Wave would put the Tornadoes into the Monday, Feb. 19, semifinals. They would either travel to Jacksonville to play top seed Providence (23-2) or host eighth seed Episcopal (10-16).

In the District 2 semifinal, the Tornadoes trailed 5-4 before going on an 8-0 run. Ar'Nayshia Griffin grabbed an offensive rebound and passed the ball out of traffic to Khamyra Hankerson for a three-pointer. After blocking a shot on the defensive end, Griffin drove to the basket for a score. Hankerson scored off an offensive rebound before Jada Hankerson scored off her own steal to put Bradford ahead 12-5.

Summer Barnett made a three-point shot for the Blue Wave, but Bradford's Nichelle Brown answered with a long-range basket of her own. P.K. Yonge's Da'mar Wims got a basket following a turnover, which sent the teams into the second quarter with the Tornadoes leading 15-10.

P.K. Yonge scored the first nine points of the second quarter. Alyssa Williams opened the quarter with a three-pointer. Reniyah Clark then came up with a steal and was fouled on a drive to the basket. Clark made both free throws, while Bradford's Jada Hankerson went

to the bench with her third foul. Clark made a three pointer after a turnover, while Barnett had a free throw to put the Blue Wave up 19-15.

Bradford finally got on the board with 3:23 remaining in the half when Ajijah Jackson scored off an offensive rebound. Jackson later had a steal, which led to a basket by Brown, tying the score at 19-19.

Brown came up with a steal in the final minute, but the Tornadoes turned the ball back over. Ashlyn Young drove to the basket for a score for P.K. Yonge with 20 seconds left, sending the Blue Wave into the half leading 21-19.

Shooting was already an issue for Bradford, which made 30 percent of its field-goal attempts in the first half. The Tornadoes missed eight of their first nine attempts in the third quarter, with a three-pointer by Khamyra Hankerson being the only basket during that stretch.

Bradford, however, trailed by only four points before Kayla Evans drained a three-point shot, making it a 26-25 game.

The Blue Wave scored 10 of the third quarter's final 12 points. The run began with back-to-back three-pointers by Young. Brown made a basket for Bradford, but P.K. Yonge made another three-point basket to lead 36-27 going into the fourth quarter.

Wims scored off an offensive rebound to give P.K. Yonge its biggest lead at 38-27.

Bradford was able to whittle P.K. Yonge's lead to four. Griffin scored on a drive to the basket, drawing a foul and making the awarded free throw. Jackson had two points off a rebound putback, while a Khamyra Hankerson offensive rebound led to a three-pointer by Destiny Crum. Jada Hankerson scored off a Jackson steal, which left the Tornadoes trailing 41-37.

P.K. Yonge scored seven of the next nine points, with a three-pointer by Clark putting the Blue Wave up 48-39 with 2:15 to play.

UCHS boys overwhelmed by Newberry in district semis

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Thomas Williams had an incredible performance after halftime, scoring 19 points in the third quarter, but he and his Union County High School teammates faced too large of a deficit in what was a 69-39 loss to top seed Newberry in the semifinals of the District 6-1A boys basketball tournament on Feb. 8 at Fort White High School.

The fourth seed Tigers (12-11) scored only 11 points in the first half and trailed by 40 against the team that's second in all of Class 1A in the Florida High School Athletic Association power rankings. Union was 4 of 23 turnovers — 13 of which led to Newberry points.

Union did tie the game early after falling behind 5-0. Gavin Jenkins had a layup off a Jayden Jenkins assist, while Kam Paytee made a three-pointer. The Panthers, though, scored the next nine points and outscored the Tigers 18-3 the rest of the first quarter.

The game got completely away from Union in the second quarter. After a Deonte Jones basket pulled the Tigers to within 25-11, Newberry (15-7) scored 26 straight points to close out the half. Juwan Scippio started the run with eight straight points off two three pointers and two free throws that followed his own steal.

Scippio scored 20 points in the half and finished with 22.

Thanks to Williams, the Tigers — despite a running clock — were able to cut their deficit by more than half. Williams was

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See UCHS, page 14

2024 SECC Varsity Girls Basketball Championship February 15-17, 2024.

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- L1 (5) - Thursday 4:45 pm
- L2 (12) - Saturday 9:00 am
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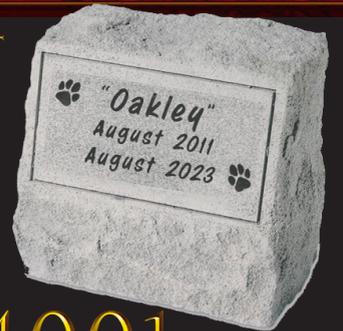

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This is our Bitsey, beloved Chihuahua, we inherited from Keith's mother. We took her on a vacation and took this picture with their mother's urn. Bitsey passed away a few years later. We miss her dearly.



This is Quinn. We lost him this past November very suddenly and it has left a devastating hole in our little family. He was a rescue that saw me through my 20s, marriage, and made our first house a true home.

Here is a picture of my Ozzy, who passed away in January. He was almost two years old. He was the sweetest boy in the whole world.

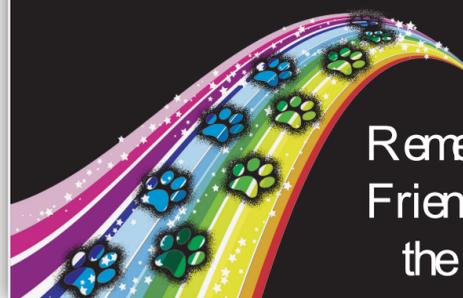


Vader
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Petunia
5/27/2016-8/11/2023



I miss you Tasha. You were a faithful, loving companion.



Remembering our Furry Friends that have crossed the rainbow bridge[®]

Obituaries

Hoyt Fuller

Hoyt Ray Fuller passed away on Sunday, Jan. 28, 2024, in Orange Park. He was born on Aug. 18, 1966.
No services are scheduled at this time.

Sharon Hankerson

Sharon Hankerson, 69, of Starke transitioned on Friday, Feb. 9, 2024, at North Florida Regional Medical Center in Gainesville. She was born on Aug. 16, 1954, to Rev. Dan Hankerson Sr. and Laura T. DeSue Hankerson. She enjoyed cooking, watching basketball (Miami Heat), soap operas, "Survivor" and talking on the phone with family and friends. In addition to her parents; those who preceded her in death were her brothers, Dan Hankerson Jr., Benjamin Hankerson Sr., Saul Hankerson, Edward Hankerson and Samuel Hankerson; and sisters, Minnie Tyson and Dorothy Hankerson.



She leaves to cherish precious memories her daughters, Annice Walker and Lanecia Williams, both of Tallahassee, and Tiffany (Daniel) Stoddard of Clarksville, Tennessee; sisters, Mary Hankerson of Tallahassee and Judy (Milton) Sumpter of Starke; grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Aureon Wilson, Diyanna Wilson, Royalty Wilson and Devontay Blackwell all of Tallahassee, and Amani Ellis, Brittany Williams, and Harlie Stoddard all of Clarksville, Tennessee; and a host of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and sorrowing friends.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 17, at Starke Church God by Faith, 730 Old Lawtey Road, Starke, 32091. Interment will be held at Bob Love Cemetery in Starke. Visitation will be on Friday, Feb. 16, at Starke Church of God by Faith. Family hour from 5 p.m. until 6 p.m., and friends 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Family and Friends may sign the Register Book at www.hailelegacyfh.com.

Professional services entrusted to Darrenton K. Harris Sr., assisted by Haile Funeral Home Inc., 802 N. Oak St., Starke 32091 904-964-7905

PAID OBITUARY

Kathryn Mackey

Kathryn "Kathy" Johnston Mackey, 62, of Jacksonville passed away on Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024, in Jacksonville. She was born in Fairhope, Alabama on Feb. 1, 1962, to the late Manon Johnston Jr. and Ann Crozier Johnston. She and her family relocated to Jacksonville when she was young. She graduated from Nathan B. Forrest High School in 1980 and, shortly after, she earned an AA degree in business from Florida Community College of Jacksonville. In 1985, she started working at Jacksonville Transportation Authority as a payroll supervisor. While at work, she met the love of her life, Samuel Douglas Mackey Jr., and they were happily married on May 6, 1989. She was a devoted wife, mother, sister and friend who loved her family dearly. After dedicating nearly 13 years at JTA she started her employment at Cypress Truck Line, where she has served since 1998. In her younger years she and her family would take trips to Lake Weir over the summer where they had a vacation home. She loved the outdoors, being on the lake and, more recently, enjoyed making memories at Kingsley Lake in Starke. She attended Shindler Drive Baptist Church in Jacksonville, where she enjoyed worshipping her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. She also enjoyed reading and traveling. But, more than anything, she was passionate about her daughters, her dogs, spending time with family, and making sweet memories with those she cherished. She was a true treasure and will be missed by all who knew her. She was preceded in death by her parents; and loving husband of nearly 33 years, Samuel Douglas Mackey Jr.



She is survived by her daughters, Haley Mackey of Jacksonville, and Kimberly (Travis) Duncan of Starke; brothers, Eddie (Debi) Johnston of Jacksonville, and Jimmy (Theresa) Johnston of Middleburg; and numerous extended family members and friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Monday, Feb. 19, at Northside Baptist Church at 11 a.m. with Pastor Ron White officiating. The family will receive friends on Monday, Feb. 19, an hour prior to the service at the church. Interment and Committal Service will follow at Evergreen Cemetery in Jacksonville at 2:30 p.m.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of Ferreira Funeral Services, 1320 Chaffee Road South, Jacksonville, 32221, 904-378-7777. Visit www.ferreirafuneralservices.com to sign the family's guest book.

PAID OBITUARY

Verna Schmidt

Verna Grace Schmidt, 90, of Starke, passed away peacefully in her sleep Monday, Feb. 5, 2024, at Windsor Manor in Starke. She was born Aug. 6, 1933, in McCrory, Arkansas to E. Stanley and Marie (Rogers) Davis. She graduated from East St. Louis High School and earned her Bachelor's of Education from the University of Illinois. She was a lifelong educator, retiring from Bradford County Schools after 32 years, although we can testify that she never truly retired from being a teacher. She was a member of The First United Methodist Church of Starke, where she was the piano accompanist for many years for the early service and she sang in the choir. She founded the Prayer Shawl Ministry and was a member of the Stephen Ministries Group. She was an avid supporter of music and the arts as well as scouting programs. She accompanied many local band students at their district and state solo and ensemble contests. She was proud to have all of her sons and grandsons earn the rank of Eagle Scout. She was preceded in death by the late E. Stanley and Marie (Davis) Rogers; and her husband of 58 years, John Schmidt.

She is survived by Todd (the late Sandy) Schmidt, Cana (Edward) Rensberger, Dirk (Lynn) Schmidt, Shaun (Tammy) Schmidt; as well as grandchildren, Samantha (Chris) Flanders, Rowdy Rensberger, Rachel Rensberger, Merideth (Edward) Padgett, Jonathan Schmidt, Thomas Schmidt, and Amber Schmidt. She had two great-grandchildren, Chloe Flanders and Everett Flanders.

Her Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, Feb. 17, at Call Street Café. Drop in and visit from 5 p.m. until 6 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Bradford Education Foundation, 501 W. Washington St., Starke 32091, or Community in Schools, P. O. Box 1003, Starke, 32091, or the Prayer Shawl Ministry at First Church of Starke.

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

PAID OBITUARY

Faye Vaughn

Mrs. Faye Malphurs Vaughn, 92, of Bland passed away peacefully on Friday, Feb. 9, 2024, at her home surrounded by family. She was born on March 23, 1931, in Bland, to York Lanier Malphurs and Huldah (Rivers) Malphurs. She was a lifelong resident of Bland and a 1949 graduate of Alachua High School. After high school she went to work for the Alachua County Courthouse for 11 years until she married the love of her life, L. Millard Vaughn. After marriage, she became a full-time farmer's wife, a job she thoroughly enjoyed and excelled at. She was best known for her gift of caregiving. A gift she extended to family, friends, neighbors, and the whole Bland community. She was a lifelong member of the New Oak Grove Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by her husband of 45 years, Millard Vaughn; her parents, York and Huldah Malphurs; and her brothers, Lamar and Tommy Malphurs.

She is survived by her children, Tim (Dana) Vaughn of High Springs and Lynne (Craig) Kurimay of Franklin, North Carolina; grandchildren, Rachael (Jorge) Bernal, Katie (Joshua) Lubben, Faith (Jackson Hammond) Kurimay, Ryan Hoyt, and Brittany (Cory) Scott; great-grandchildren, Charlotte, Sam, Preston, Ryleigh, Jaxson, and (JJ) Greer Scott, still in the oven; her sister, June Register of Bland. Numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family also survive.

A funeral to honor her life will be held on Saturday, Feb. 17 at 10 a.m. at her church, New Oak Grove Baptist Church with Brother Eddie Blalock, Brother Spritz, and Brother Terry Elixson, pastor, officiating. The family will receive friends for a visitation on Friday, Feb. 16, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the church. Her interment will immediately follow her services in the New Oak Grove Baptist Church Cemetery.

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

PAID OBITUARY

Richard Wilburn

Richard "Dennis" Wilburn, 76, of Starke died Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2024, at his residence.

Survivors are his wife, "Judy" Wilburn; daughter, Leigh Ann Grey; a brother; two sisters; best friend, Steve Schrader; and many extended family members

A Celebration of Life was held on Monday, Feb. 12, at Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel. Interment was at Pine View Cemetery in Interlachen.

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

PAID OBITUARY



Bradford's Feb. 7 signees were (l-r) Torin Brazell, Chail Cummings, Devon McBride, Willie Pollard and Dae'Jon Shanks. McBride holds a phone that shows teammate Chason Clark via FaceTime. Clark signed on Early Signing Day (Dec. 20).

SIGN

Continued from page 8

His game was limited this past season at Bradford due to a finger injury, but when he was in the lineup, Pollard averaged 6.1 yards per carry. He was second on the team in rushing with 704 yards and six touchdowns on 116 carries.

"Pound for pound, Willie Pollard is as good a running back as I've ever had," Rodgers said of the 5-9, 172-pound back. "Rarely did one man take him down. He needed a very, very small crease to split between two linemen. You didn't have to block for very long. He hits holes at full speed."

Rodgers said Pollard works hard in the weight room and always wanted the ball in his hands, eager to prove something to those who doubted his abilities due to his size.

"He's going to shock people in college because they're going to look and say, 'He's short. He's small.' Then, all of a sudden, he's going to have three or four touchdowns against them," Rodgers said.

Pollard said the things that he needs to do to make an impact at the next level are to improve his agility and to get stronger in the weight room. Rodgers said what'll also benefit Pollard is he's going to a school that has placed an emphasis on bringing in players right out of high school as opposed to turning to the transfer portal.

This year's St. Thomas recruiting class consists of players from high schools such as Union County, Chiefland, Columbia, Eastside, Fleming Island, Forest, Mandarin, Middleburg, Raines, Suwannee, Vanguard and Williston.

"They're doing it a little bit different," Rodgers said. "They're getting a lot of high school kids in, bringing them up through their ranks. What that means is Willie's going to have the opportunity to play early. He's going to need that."

In imagining what it'll feel like the first time he's on the field as a St. Thomas Bobcat, Pollard said, "It's going to be nerve-wracking a little bit, but hey, I'm a dawg. I've just got to do what I've got to do."

Shanks' starting point is Hutchinson

BHS quarterback Shanks signed with Hutchinson (Kansas) Community College, saying, "I always wanted to go to college. For me to be able to do that now is just a blessing."

Shanks' athletic ability was, of course, a part of making that opportunity come about, but he also credited his parents and others who were part of his support system.

"They told me, 'If you put your mind to it, God can get you to whatever you want to do.' They told me since I was young I could do whatever I wanted to if I put my mind to it," Shanks said.

The quarterback is coming off a season in which he completed 75 of 135 passes for 1,360 yards and 18 touchdowns. He had only two interceptions. He had the 18th-most passing yards in Class 2S.

Shanks also led Bradford in rushing with 1,104 yards and 14 touchdowns on 151 carries. His rushing yardage was 14th best in Class 2S.

Rodgers said whether you call it "the wiggle" or "the dead leg," Shanks has that ability to change direction and still be going full speed.

"The first man who was out in open space with him, I don't know if they ever touched him much less tackle him," Rodgers said. "He's just got something special when he's got that ball in his hands. He can move laterally as fast as he can move forward and backward. That's very rare."

Shanks said, "I just give it all to God. He gave me the ability to do all of that. I just praise Him and thank Him for everything He did for me. Without Him, I wouldn't be here right now."

At Hutchinson, Shanks will line up at slot receiver primarily. He said he'll also have the opportunity to play outside receiver as well as return kicks.

Since 1998, Hutchinson has had an average of 12 players per year move on to four-year schools. Hutchinson has had 162 players go to Football Bowl Subdivision schools since 1993 and 154 go to Bowl Championship Subdivision and NAIA schools since 1998.

"He won't be at Hutchinson long," Rodgers said, adding, "Dae'Jon is a Division I player, for sure. It's just the way things are now. Some people fall through the cracks. That's the way it was with (Shanks)."

"He had 32 touchdowns in a high school season. That would tell me all I need to know."

Shanks said he wants to play at the Division I level, but added that he has no dream school he'd like to eventually end up at.

"I just want to go (somewhere) for a free education," he said.

Shanks knows he has the athletic skills to play at the next level. He believes it'll be his mental approach that equates to future success.

"As long as I keep my mind on the goal and stay focused, I feel like I'll be good," he said.

And how good will be when he steps onto the field for the first time as a Hutchinson Blue Dragon?

"I know that's going to be crazy," Shanks said. "I'm going to be like, 'Dang. I made it.' I've been working so long to get to that point, but it's a stepping stone to where I want to go."

Curtis A. "Lex" Sanders Attorney at Law



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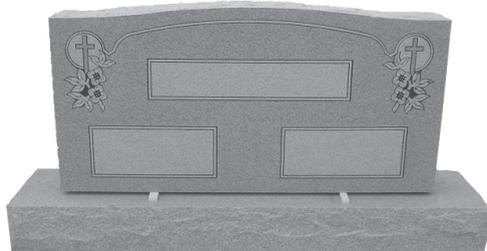
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STARKE US-301S 964-6078 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

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The Bradford County Telegraph encourages you to:



Dine. Shop. Buy. LOCALLY

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Our community merchants support local Civic, Educational, Student and School Activities including:

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When local businesses do well, so do students and local organizations which help build and strengthen the fabric of our community.

Your local merchant wants to help support these community groups and activities, but they need your support in order to continue.

Fulfill your family's wants and needs by buying locally! Invest in your own community by supporting local businesses.

Build Communities' Economic Foundations

Supporting local small businesses including restaurants, goods and services means investing in our present and our future:

- **Keep money in the neighborhood.** Locally owned businesses recirculate 70% more money back into their own local community than big box chain stores and restaurants.
- **Embrace what makes us unique.** Where we shop, eat, work, play and hang out makes our communities home. If we wanted to live someplace that was like everywhere else, we wouldn't be living in this region of Florida.
- **Get better service.** In a local business you know the person behind the counter and they know you. They have a deeper understanding of the products and services they are selling and they take the time to serve their customers.
- **Create & keep good jobs.** Small local businesses are the largest employer nationally and account for the vast majority of job growth. Growing local businesses mean more jobs for residents and more taxes to invest in our own communities, churches, schools and groups.



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KHHS girls soccer team loses in region quarterfinals

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School saw its season come to an end with an 8-0 loss to P.K. Yonge in a Region 1-3A girls soccer quarterfinal game on Feb. 6 in Gainesville.

The Indians, who were seeded eighth out of eight teams in the region, entered the match having just played number-one seed

P.K. Yonge. The Blue Wave (14-3-3) defeated Keystone 5-0 in the District 4-3A championship match on Jan. 30.

Keystone finished its season with a 12-7-1 record.

KHHS boys defeat Santa Fe 4-3 in tennis

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School opened boys tennis season with a 4-3 win over visiting Santa Fe on Feb. 6.

The Indians dropped matches at number-one and number-two singles, with Dalton Moore losing 8-2 and Evan Booth losing 8-5, but then recorded wins in the three through five slots. Ethan Teague and Beckett Capper each won 8-1 and number three and number five, respectively, while Will Begue won 8-3 at number four.

The number-one doubles team of Moore and Booth lost 8-3, but the number-two team of Teague and Curran Capper won 8-6.

Keystone played at Bradford this past Tuesday and will return home to play Eastside on Thursday, Feb. 22, at 3:30 p.m. The Indians host Bradford on

Monday, Feb. 26, at 3:45 p.m. and then travel to play Santa Fe on Tuesday, Feb. 27, at 3:30 p.m.

BHS girls tennis team just misses winning its season opener

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School hosted Baker County to open the tennis season on Feb. 6, with the girls losing 4-3.

Two earned wins in singles, with Caitlyn Jackson defeating her opponent 8-2 in the number-two slot and Rylie Harris recording an 8-5 victory at the number-five slot. Reagan Harris had close match at number one, but fell 8-6.

Maya Moss and Victoria Hudgens each lost 8-0 at the number-three and number-four slots, respectively.

Jackson and Reagan Harris teamed up for an 8-5 win at number-one doubles. The team of Moss and Hudgens lost 8-2.

Bradford travels to play Keystone Heights on Thursday, Feb. 15, at 3:30 p.m. The Tornados return home to play West Nassau on Tuesday, Feb.

20, at 3:30 p.m.

The Bradford boys team lost 5-2 to Baker, earning one singles victory and one doubles victory.

Calum Butler defeated his opponent 8-2 at the number-one slot. He teamed up with Rowan Butler for an 8-6 win at number-one doubles.

Rowan Butler lost a close 9-7 match at number-two singles.

The rest of the singles matches resulted in an 8-2 loss for James Hudgens and 8-0 losses for Jack Hendrix and Cayman Brown.

Hendrix and Hudgens lost 8-1 in doubles play.

Bradford played Keystone this past Tuesday and, like the girls team, will also host West Nassau on Tuesday, Feb. 20, at 3:30 p.m.

Legal Notices

Legals for the week of Feb. 15, 2024

BRADFORD

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL DIVISION:
CASE NO.: 2022-CA-0105
U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff,
Vs. UNKNOWN HEIRS, BENEFICIARIES, DEVISEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHERS WHO MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE ESTATE OF KATHLYN D. SANDERS; BRADFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS; FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION; UNKNOWN TENANT IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to an Order or Final Judgment entered in the above styled cause now pending in said court and as required by Florida Statute 45.031(2), DENNY THOMPSON as the Clerk of the Circuit Court shall sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the, east front door of the Bradford County courthouse, 945 North Temple Ave, Starke, FL., 11:00 AM on the 30 day of May, 2024, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 28, KNIGHTS REPLAT, ACCORDING TO MAP OR PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 54 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, LYING AND BEING IN SECTION 21, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA. PROPERTY ADDRESS: 102 HERLONG ST, STARKE, FL 32091
IF YOU ARE A PERSON CLAIMING A RIGHT TO FUNDS REMAINING AFTER THE SALE, YOU MUST FILE A CLAIM WITH THE CLERK NO LATER THAN THE DATE THAT THE CLERK REPORTS THE FUNDS AS UNCLAIMED. IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A CLAIM, YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO ANY REMAINING FUNDS. AFTER THE FUNDS ARE REPORTED AS UNCLAIMED, ONLY THE OWNER OF RECORD AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MAY CLAIM THE SURPLUS.
If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in a proceeding, you are entitled to be provided with certain assistance at no cost to you. Please contact the ADA Coordinator, Alachua County Family and Civil Justice Center, 201 East University Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601 (352) 337-6237 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8770 via Florida Relay Service.
Dated this 24 day of January 2024.
By: /s/ Lindsay Maisonet
Lindsay Maisonet, Esq.
Bar Number: 93156
Submitted by:
De Cubas & Lewis, P.A.
PO Box 5026
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33310
Telephone: (954) 453-0365
Facsimile: (954) 771-6052
Toll Free: 1-800-441-2438
DESIGNATED PRIMARY E-MAIL FOR SERVICE PURSUANT TO FLA. R. JUD. ADMIN 2.516
eservice@decubaslewis.com
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2/8 2tchg 2/15-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
Notice is hereby given that MID-FLORIDA DEVELOPMENT LLC 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: 801
Year of Issuance: 2020
Parcel Number: 03311-0-00000
Case Number: 04-2024-TD-002

Description of Property: Lot 1, Block 11, of Livingston-Truby & Company's Subdivision of the Northeast Quarter of the North-East Quarter of Section 28, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, as per the plat thereof recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Bradford County, Florida, in Original Plat Book 1, on page 41. Name in Which Assessed: BERTHAL DADE

Name on last tax roll, if different: DADE BERTHA L ESTATE % LILLIAN L TAYLOR
All 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 04/10/2024, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.
Denny Thompson,
Clerk Of The Circuit Court
Bradford County, Florida
BY: Kyrath Smith, Deputy Clerk
Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem.
DATED: February 5, 2024
DATE OF PUBLICATION: FEBRUARY 8th, 2024 / FEBRUARY 15th, 2024/ FEBRUARY 22nd, 2024/ FEBRUARY 29th, 2024

2/8 4tchg 2/29-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
File No: 04-2024-CP-000018- IN RE: THE ESTATE OF DIANNE C. MOODY A/K/A CLARA D. MOODY, DECEASED.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The formal administration of the estate of DIANNE C. MOODY A/K/A CLARA D. MOODY, who died on October 22, 2023, is pending in the Circuit Court of Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is the Clerk of the Circuit Court, 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, FL 32091. The names and addresses of the PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE and attorney are set forth below.
All creditors of the DECEDENT and other persons having claims or demands against the DECEDENT'S estate must file their claims with this COURT WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
All other creditors of the DECEDENT and other persons having claims or demands against the DECEDENT'S estate must file their claims with this COURT WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
The date of first publication of this NOTICE TO CREDITORS is February 15, 2024.
KAYLEIGH BUCHHOLTZ
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
4699 SE 6th Lane
Keystone Heights, FL 32656
Respectfully submitted,
VeRonica R. Owens,
Attorney at Law, P.A.
By: /s/ VeRonica R. Owens
VeRonica R. Owens, Esquire
Attorneys for PETITIONER
Fla. Bar No.: 73568
189 S. Lawrence Blvd.
Keystone Heights, FL 32656
Telephone: (352) 473-5000
VeRonica@VeRonicaROwens.org

2/15 2tchg 2/22-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
FILE NO.: 04-2024-CP-0020
IN RE: THE ESTATE OF GEORGE D. RANDALL, DECEASED.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The formal administration of the estate of GEORGE D. RANDALL, who died on January 11, 2024,

is pending in the Circuit Court of Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is the Clerk of the Circuit Court, 945 N. Temple Avenue, Starke, FL 32091. The names and addresses of the PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE and attorney are set forth below.
All creditors of the DECEDENT and other persons having claims or demands against the DECEDENT'S estate on whom a copy of this NOTICE is required to be served must file their claims with this COURT WITHIN THE LATER OF THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
All other creditors of the DECEDENT and other persons having claims or demands against the DECEDENT'S estate must file their claims with this COURT WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
The date of first publication of this NOTICE TO CREDITORS is : February 15, 2024
MELISSA S BROWN
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
16525 NE 19th Avenue
Starke, FL 32091
Respectfully submitted,
VeRonica R. Owens,
Attorney at Law, P.A.
By: /s/ VeRonica R. Owens, Esq.
Fla. Bar No.: 73568
VeRonica@VeRonicaROwens.org
189 South Lawrence Boulevard
Keystone Heights, FL 32656
2000 Henley Road, Suite B
Middleburg, FL 32068
Telephone: (352) 473-5000
Attorney for PETITIONER

2/15 2tchg 2/22-BCT

NOTICE OF SALE
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Florida Self Storage Facility Act Statutes (Section 83.801 — 83.809); Santa Fe Storage of Starke will sell for cash to the highest bidder on storageauctions.net for location at 1630 North Temple Ave, Starke, County of Bradford, FL., at 2:00 pm on Wednesday, the 28th day of February; 2024 and continuing day to day thereafter until sold: the household goods and misc. contents of the following:
0A016 Dillon Wilkerson
0A031 Timothy Flowers Jr
0B023 Brande Dunton
0G008 Dillon Wilkerson
0G038 Stacy Guyer
0J053 Cecil Walker
0J093 Jasmine Cromwell

2/15 2tchg 2/22-BCT

NOTICE OF SALE
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Florida Self Storage Facility Act Statutes (Section 83.801 - 83.809); Santa Fe Storage of Waldo. Will sell for CASH to the highest bidder on Storageauctions.net For location at 15540 NE HWY 301, Waldo, County of Alachua, Florida; ending at 2:00 PM on Wednesday, the 28th day of February; 2024, and continuing day to day thereafter until sold: the household goods and misc. contents of the following:
0A012 Angel Salas

2/15 2tchg 2/22-BCT

City of Hampton
NOTICE OF FAIR HOUSING
This notice will serve to advise all residents of the City of Hampton that the following actions, if based on race, color, sex, national origin, religion, familial status (families with children), or handicap (disability) are prohibited by Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Federal Fair Housing Act):
*Refusing to sell or rent to, deal or negotiate with any person.
*Discriminating on terms or conditions for buying or renting housing.
*Discriminating by advertising that housing is available only to persons of a certain race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status, handicap (disability), age, ancestry or with no animals.
*Denying that housing is available for inspection, sale or rent when it really is available.
*Denying or making different terms or

conditions for home loans by financial institutions.

Denying to anyone the use of or participation in any real estate services, multiple listing services or other facilities related to the selling and renting of housing.
*Blockbusting" and "steering" are two discriminatory practices that are also prohibited by the Act. Blockbusting includes engaging in conduct which conveys the impression that a neighborhood is about to undergo certain changes and, thus, panic owners into selling their properties. Steering involves guiding an individual seeking housing toward or away from particular property for discriminatory reasons.
If you would like to obtain more information about fair housing, or file a fair housing complaint, please contact the Fair Housing Coordinator listed below:
Mary Lou Hildreth,
City Clerk/Administrator
City of Hampton
P. O. Drawer 250
(5784 Navarre Avenue)
Hampton, FL 32044
Office: 352-468-1201
Fax: 352-473-1350
coh1@outlook.com

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE FACILITIES
2/15 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING A SPECIAL EXCEPTION AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE CITY OF STARKE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE

BY THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA, SERVING AS THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the City of Starke Land Development Code as amended, hereinafter referred to as the Land Development Code, objections, recommendations and comments concerning the special exception, as described below, will be heard by the Planning and Zoning Board of the City of Starke, Florida, serving as the Board of Adjustment of the City of Starke, Florida, at a public hearing on February 26, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the City Commission Meeting Room, City Hall located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida.
SE 23-01, a petition by Sherman Automotive, LLC, to request a special exception be granted as provided for in Section 4.99 of the Land Development Code, to permit an automotive sales and service, and mini-warehouse within a COMMUNITY COMMERCIAL (B-2) zoning district, in accordance with a petition dated August 29, 2023 and site plan dated August 29, 2023, revised on January 19, 2024 and revised on February 2, 2024, to be located on property described, as follows:
A parcel of land lying in Section 33, Township 6 South, Range 22 East Bradford County, Florida. Being more particularly described, as follows: Commence at the Northwest corner of the Southwest 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of said Section 33; thence South 00°31'10" East 180.50 feet, along the Westerly line of the Southwest 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of said Section 33 to the Point of Beginning; thence South 89°56'39" East 391.03 feet to the Westerly right-of-way line of said State Road 100 (South Water Street); thence South 25°53'30" East 200.89 feet, along the Westerly right-of-way line of said State Road 100 (South Water Street); thence North 89°57'40" West 477.32 feet; thence North 00°29'11" West 180.79 feet, along the Westerly line of the Southwest 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of said Section 33 to the Point of Beginning.
Containing 1.90 acre, more or less.
At the aforementioned public hearing, all interested parties may appear to be heard with respect to the application. Copies of the petition are available for public inspection at the City of Starke Zoning Department, located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours.
All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decisions made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that for such purpose they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the

testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.
Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact the Office of the City Clerk at 904.964.5027 or via the Florida Relay Service 800.955.8770 (voice) or 800.955.8771 (TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the date of the public hearing.
2/15 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME

Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: **JESICA JEAN CAGLE**, 922 E. Brownlee St. Apt 47, Starke, FL 32091, doing business under the firm name of: **S & J SERVICES**, 922 E. Brownlee St. Apt 47, Starke, FL 32091 intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 8th day of February A.D., 2024, in Bradford County.
2/15 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:

MIRACLE AUTOMOTIVE & TRUCK SERVICE CENTER INC. gives notice that on 03/01/2024 at 12:00 PM the following vehicle(s) may be sold by public sale at 620 N THOMPSON ST, STARKE, FL 32091 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.
1B3ES46C41D111980 2001 DODG
This notification is published in BRADFORD COUNTY TELEGRAPH on 02/15/2024.
2/15 1tchg-BCT

UNION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
File No. 63-2024-CP-0001
Division Probate

IN RE: ESTATE OF DAVID N. ODOWSKI
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of David N. Odowski, deceased, whose date of death was October 27, 2023, is pending in the Circuit Court for Union County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 55 W Main St #1654, Lake Butler, FL 32054. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.
NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
The date of first publication of this notice is February 15, 2024.
Attorney for Personal Representative: /s/ Marynelle Hardee
Marynelle Hardee, Esq.
Attorney
Florida Bar Number: 937789
SALTER FEIBER, PA
3940 N.W. 16TH Blvd., Bldg. B
GAINESVILLE, FL 32605
Telephone: (352) 376-8201
Fax: (352) 416-0401
E-Mail: marynelleh@salterlaw.net
Secondary E-Mail: jordanang@salterlaw.net
Personal Representative: /s/ Alison Odowski
Alison Odowski
8806 3rd Avenue South
Seattle, Washington 98108
2/15 2tchg 2/22-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA

Case No.: 63-2024-DR-0004
Division :
BETHANY AND CHRISTINA ESFORD, Petitioner
and
DEANA STOKES AND EARLY BAGLEY Respondent.
NOTICE OF ACTION FOR - PETITION FOR TEMPORARY CUSTODY BY EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBER

TO: (name of respondent) EARLY BAGLEY III
{Respondent's last known address} HOMELESS, TALLAHASSEE, FL
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for PETITION FOR TEMPORARY CUSTODY has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on (name of Petitioner) BETHANY AND CHRISTINA ESFORD, whose address is 13422 NE 233RD PLACE, RAIFORD, FL 32083 on or before (date) 3/8/2024, and file the original with the clerk of this Court at 55 WEST MAIN STREET, ROOM 103, LAKE BUTLER, FL 32054 before service on Petitioner or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition. (if applicable, insert the legal description of real property, a specific description of personal property, and the name of the county in Florida where the property is located)
Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request.
You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Designation of Current Mailing and E-Mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed or e-mailed to the addresses on record at the clerk's office.
WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.
Dated: January 31, 2024
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
By: C. Norman
Deputy Clerk
2/15 4tchg 3/7-UCT

LAKE REGION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Florida Self Storage Facility Act Statutes (Section 83.801, 83.809), Lake Area Storage, LLC, will sell the following items to the highest and best bidder on Monday, February 26, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. (EST) at 7101 SR 21, Keystone Heights, Florida 32656: Unit# 351, containing misc. household items.
2/8 2tchg 2/15-LRM

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Florida Self Storage Facility Act Statutes (Section 83.801, 83.809), Lake Area Storage, LLC, will sell the following items to the highest and best bidder on Monday, February 26, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. (EST) at 7101 SR 21, Keystone Heights, Florida 32656: Unit# 344, containing misc. household items.
2/8 2tchg 2/15-LRM

PUBLIC AUCTION

An auction pursuant to statute #713.78 to be held February 28th at 10:00 am at 6841 Apache Jct, Keystone Heights, FL 32656:
1991 Ford
1FTZF1722XNB11925
2/15 1tchg-LRM

Bradford County Telegraph
USPS 062-700
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Advertising:	John R. Tillman
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uctimeseditor@gmail.com
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Editor:	Mark J. Crawford
Advertising:	John R. Tillman
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UC wrestlers close regular season with home victory

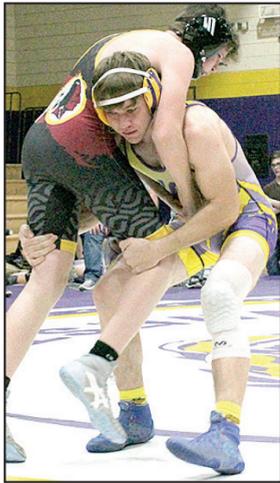
BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

All five head-to-head matches went the way of Union County High School, which defeated visiting West Nassau 59-12 in the Tigers' final wrestling match of the regular season.

Jonathan Howard recorded a 16-0 technical-fall win over his opponent, while four of his teammates won by pinning their opponents. Three of those wrestlers earned their wins in the second period of their matches. Gavin Sparkman and Dylan Lane pinned their opponents in 2:23 and 2:52, respectively, while Clifton Ivey recorded a pin in 3:20.

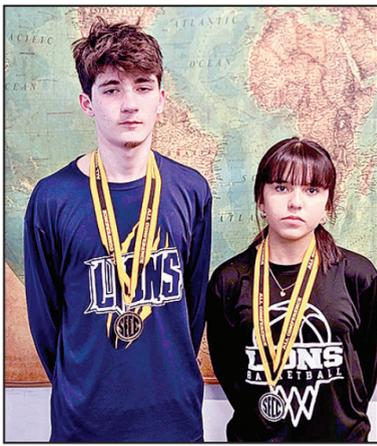
Maddox Wheeler trailed 5-0 entering the second period and was down 9-5 entering the third period. He rallied and pinned his opponent in 4:51.

Rodney Barnett, Elijah Roberts, Ashton Newsom, Michael Hill and Brian Sparkman were awarded victories due to West Nassau forfeiting weight



Gavin Sparkman (right) prepares to take his opponent to the mat.

classes. The Tigers forfeited two weight classes, while another two classes were double forfeits.



HCA All-Conference JV players

Hope Christian's Zenik Patrick (left) and Lesly Salvidrez earned All-Conference honors at the Southeastern Christian Conference junior varsity basketball tournament.

Union County athletes shine at AAU meet

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Union County's Zoey Marshall and Amia Bethea, as part of the AAU track and field team Athletics Academy of Citra, earned wins at the Feb. 3 352 Elite Brooksville Classic at Hernando High School.

Marshall, who competes in the 11-12 age group, took first in three events. She ran times of 1:04 and 2:50 to win the 400m and 800m and also jumped a distance of 4.29 meters in the long jump.

Bethea, who competes in the 15-18 age group, won the 100m with a time of 12.48 seconds. That's better than the school record at Union County High School, where she's a sophomore



Amia Bethea ran two PRs in earning first- and second-place finishes at an AAU track and field meet in Brooksville.

and also runs track. It was the first of two personal-record times for Bethea, who was the runner-up in the 200m at 26.22.

UCHS

Continued from page 9

fouled on a shot attempt after grabbing an offensive rebound, making both free throws for the first points of the third quarter. Newberry's Malachi Meachum and Williams traded three-point baskets. Williams then grabbed a defensive rebound and dribbled the length of the court, drawing a foul on his way to the basket. He made 1 of 2 free throws, with Gavin Jenkins rebounding the miss. Jenkins passed the ball out to Williams, who knocked down another three-pointer.

Williams later got to the foul line again, making one free throw. Two consecutive Newberry turnovers led to three-point baskets by Williams. After a missed shot by the Panthers, Williams hit his fifth three-pointer of the quarter.

A Johnte Nichols defensive rebound led to a Gavin Jenkins dunk, capping a 19-0 run that made the score 54-32.

That's as close as the Tigers would get.

Williams finished with 22 points, while Jones, Nichols and Gavin Jenkins each had four. Union also got three points from Paytee and two points from Jayden Jenkins.

BHS

Continued from page 9

Jada Hankerson and Griffin each went 2 for 2 from the foul line to make it 48-43 with 1:40 remaining, but the Blue Wave got two straight baskets, with Barnett sinking a jump shot and Young scoring off a steal.

The Tornadoes missed their final two shot attempts, with Griffin making a free throw with 30 seconds left for the game's final point.

Griffin led Bradford with 10 points. The Tornadoes also got eight from Jada Hankerson, seven each from Brown and Khamyra Hankerson, six from Jackson and three each from Crum and Evans.

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