



Bradford County Telegraph

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Former Bradford commissioner arrested for theft

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

A former Bradford County Commissioner was arrested for grand theft following accusations that he and his son stole timber.

Eddie Joseph Lewis last held office in 2016 when Frank Durrance beat him for the District 5 seat.

The 70-year-old was arrested on February 13 for grand theft, fraud, and dealing in stolen property. He and his son and co-defendant, Eddie Joseph "Josh" Lewis, III, were released after posting bond in Alachua County.

According to a sworn complaint, Josh Lewis's company was hired as a subcontractor to harvest 238 acres of timber in northeast Alachua County. The Josh Lewis Timber Company Inc. was to take some of the wood to the West Fraser sawmill in Lake Butler and some to the company's Maxville-Clay Hill operation. West Fraser purchased the 238 acres in November.

After someone telephoned a West Fraser manager and reported that he had seen five trailers of logs staged at Eddie Lewis's Bradford County home, the company started an investigation. As part of the inquiry, an investigator for the company installed surveillance cameras throughout the 238-acre tract, recording every load of timber leaving the property.

Investigators also followed several trucks leaving the Alachua County tract and discovered that some timber was transported to Tatum Brothers



Former Bradford County Commissioner Eddie Lewis



Eddie Joseph "Josh" Lewis III

Sawmill in Lawtey.

The private investigator noted several truckloads of timber leaving the property, which the defendants did not report to the company on a load reconciliation report.

An Alachua County Sheriff's investigator wrote in the complaint that he subpoenaed the scale records of Tatum Brothers and found that the ex-commissioner delivered 21 loads of stolen timber to the Lawtey sawmill and was paid \$41,020 for the logs.

According to the scale records, Lewis told Tatum employees that the timber came from a woman's property.

"A recorded phone conversation

with (the woman) revealed that the defendant and co-defendant are family members," wrote the sheriff's investigator, "(and they were) not harvesting any timber for her."

The investigator wrote that the defendants indicated criminal intent by Eddie Lewis falsifying the scale records at Tatum Brothers and the fact that the father and son were authorized only to take the timber from the Alachua County tract to the two West Fraser mills.

"The defendant and co-defendant also waited to harvest the stolen logs until late in the evening or on the weekends when the foresters and

employees of the timber companies were not working," wrote the sheriff's investigator. "These loads of logs were transported to a staging area and then transported to Tatum Brothers Lumber Company Mill on the next business day. The defendant and co-defendant had to stage the stolen logs because they were harvested after the mills were closed."

The complaint alleges that even though Eddie Lewis drove the stolen timber to Lawtey and received payment for the logs, his son was involved in the scheme because he was observed on the Alachua County tract every day, and his company was the recipient of the checks issued by Tatum Brothers.

"(Josh Lewis) knew or should have known that any income of payments either gained or forwarded from (the) Tatum Brothers Lumber Company mill would have been illegally harvested timber from (the Alachua County) tract and thus ill-gotten gains," wrote the investigator. "(Josh Lewis's) timber company was only harvesting timber from West Fraser at this time."

A staff member at the office of the pair's defense attorney, Bobi J. Frank, said the lawyer was in court and unavailable to discuss the case. The employee relayed a message from Frank for this story.

"Her comment is, we need to let the justice system play out," the staff member said.

Prayer Walk planned

A 3K Prayer Walk is planned in Starke for Saturday, March 9, beginning at 8 a.m. Church groups, prayer leaders, intercessors and anyone interested in praying for the community can meet at Greater Allen Baptist Church, 746 N. Pine St. The walk will begin and end here.

Food distribution at RJE

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Feeding Northeast Florida and True Vine Ministry will take place Wednesday, Feb. 28, at 9 a.m. at the Philadelphia Baptist Church in Lawtey.

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.

Lifeline food giveaway

Lifeline Ministries and Gleaners Dispatch will hold a food giveaway on Saturday, March 2, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 325 N. Christian St. in Starke.

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.

Democratic Women to host Evelyn Foxx

To take advantage of the daylight drive time, the Democratic Women of the Lakes Area will hold their regular meeting for February at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 24. The speaker will be long-time activist and chair of the Alachua NAACP Evelyn Foxx. Meetings are held at Melrose Center, 309 S.R. 26 in downtown Melrose. All Democrats are welcome to attend. For further info, please call 352-235-4161.

Fire/EMS assessment resolution passes unanimously

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

Bradford County commissioners voted unanimously to collect non-ad valorem assessments for firefighting and emergency medical services beginning with this year's tax bills.

The Feb. 15 resolution approved the method of collection, but not the actual assessments. County Manager Scott Kornegay engaged a consultant last year to study and develop a rate schedule. Once that information is available, commissioners will need to decide whether to continue moving forward and how much to collect.

Commissioners are turning to special assessments because even with a property tax rate of 10 mills, fire and EMS remain underfunded. If new assessments are approved, they

have a stated desire to reduce property taxes.

Comments after the resolution was approved were brief. Citizens in opposition included Tommy Tatum of Tatum Brothers Sawmill. He questioned the fairness of assessing all commercial buildings equally, saying older structures built by his father would be charged the same amount per square foot as the mill itself — the same amount as commercial buildings worth millions of dollars.

Tatum said he would tear the old buildings down, but he would be bitter about doing it.

"It's your job to do things fair, and when you take a building that's worth absolutely nothing and tax it the way you do something that's worth millions, you might say, it's not right,

and you know it's just not right," he said. "I think when you do something that ain't right, it always come back to haunt you."

A fair tax, according to Tatum, would have been the electrical franchise fee, but as commissioners reiterated, Clay Electric did not share Florida Power and Light's willingness to cooperate. Passing a franchise fee that only some electric customers would pay was not fair, according to commissioners.

The franchise fees would have helped fill but not close the funding gap in the fire and EMS budgets. They could have reduced the amount of the assessments, which is still unknown. A prior study from 2019 revealed a combined cost of more than \$300 per residential dwelling unit and 40 cents

per square foot for nonresidential buildings. Commissioners could have lowered those amounts.

Since they couldn't get the franchise fees approved, Commissioner Danny Riddick said he hopes the ability to lower taxes will offset the cost of the new assessments for many.

Commissioner Diane Andrews said she has seen the buildings at the sawmill Tatum discussed, and she agreed it would be "ridiculous" to "tax" them. They were shelters, not buildings, she said, hoping there would be leeway to make adjustments in those situations.

The commission's vote was 4-0 in favor of the resolution, with Commissioner Kenny Thompson absent.

Motorists saying overpass traffic signal is confusing

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

Some motorists claim that a new traffic signal installed by Florida's Department of Transportation is confusing and may cause a crash.

Last Friday, FDOT installed traffic signals at the intersection of State Road 100 and U.S. 301 while opening the S.R. 100 westbound left turn lane coming off the railroad overpass.

Workers also partially opened a westbound frontage road from downtown, although, at the time of this writing, the road could only be accessed from the Walgreens parking lot.

Two sets of traffic signals control westbound S.R. 100 traffic and the frontage road, one above the western crosswalk traversing S.R. 100 from the Shell station to CVS and one above the eastern crosswalk from Walgreens to Sonny's.

According to the paint on the frontage road, motorists may turn left or right from the lane or proceed straight across 301. However, to allow traffic from the frontage road to turn left or proceed across 301, the signals must hold westbound traffic coming off the bridge while motorists exit the frontage lane.

Therefore, when the signal controlling the frontage road over the east crosswalk turns green, allowing cars on the frontage road to proceed, the traffic signal over the west crosswalk remains red, holding the westbound traffic coming off the bridge. This forces cars exiting the frontage road and proceeding across



Cars exiting the service lane and proceeding across 301 travel directly under a red light, causing many to pause or stop in confusion.

301 to travel directly under a red light, causing many to pause or stop in confusion.

Several residents have expressed their frustrations with the new signals on Facebook.

Shelby Parmenter: "The mastermind behind the intersection of HWY 301 and SR 100 westbound coming off the overpass should be fired immediately. What an absolute nightmare."

"It's awful! All three lanes are so confused on which light pertains to them and what they are supposed to do. We have already witnessed several 'almost' accidents."

Tracy KT Toms: "It's ridiculous and scary! A red light for each lane? Not safe at all."

Chelsea Woodard: "Blows my mind who would come up with such a plan but even more so, who approved that."

Tisha Calderin: "100% truth!!! It's a complete nightmare. I can see so many accidents happening because of it."

When asked about the negative comments about the signals, the Department of Transportation issued the following statement.

"Safety is the number one priority of the FDOT. With new traffic patterns,

movements are learned, and signals can be enhanced. FDOT is aware of public feedback regarding the new signals at S.R. 100 and U.S. 301 (and) is working to enhance signal clarity for westbound movements from S.R. 100 and the Frontage Road."

Bradford County Sheriff Gordon Smith said he had not received any complaints about the intersection and had not driven it himself.

"I've been avoiding the overpass," he said. "I take Call Street through downtown instead."



Bradford Fire Rescue receives lawsuit funds to fight substance abuse

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

Bradford County Fire Rescue Chief Ben Carter received the go-ahead he needed to establish a Community Resource Paramedicine Program to address substance abuse disorder and drug overdoses.

He introduced county commissioners to the concept earlier this month, modeling his proposal after a successful program funded by the city of Gainesville. Carter's program will be paid for with opioid lawsuit settlement funds.

The Bradford County Health Department, Meridian Behavioral Healthcare and Purpose Behavioral Healthcare also talked about what they could do if granted the funds. Carter expressed willingness to work with all three to provide

paramedicine services.

In addition to providing help to those with substance use disorder — including preventing overdoses — Carter hopes to reduce the reliance on emergency services, which adds strain and expense to the system.

"The Community Resource Paramedicine Program is an innovative and community-centered approach that focuses on prevention, education and support with the goal of reducing the incidence of opioid and substance misuse. Through strategic partnerships with health care providers, social services and community hubs, we aim to establish a network that provides targeted interventions, ongoing support and resources to individuals struggling with addiction," he said.

"By leveraging the skills

and compassion of our first responders, we can extend our impact beyond the immediate crisis response, actively engaging with residents to create lasting, positive change."

Carter called opioid use disorder and substance use disorder critical public health issues, and the county must adapt to address these illnesses. In doing so, they can save lives and "strengthen the fabric of our community," he said.

The care offered to patients through the Community Resource Paramedicine Program will be tailored to their needs, focusing on connecting them to resources and support to overcome the disease of substance abuse.

"Our goal will be to minimize barriers to care by tackling major issues such as stigma, whether it be the patient's first virtual counseling session or getting them admitted to the residential therapy, we are with them every step of the way, reassuring them they're not alone in their fight against addiction," he said.

In 2023, Carter said fire rescue interacted with 110 patients who admitted to illegal substance use. They administered Narcan to 63 overdose patients, many of whom might have died without intervention. State statistics from 2022 included eight overdose deaths in Bradford County and 66 drug-related emergency room visits. More than 4,300 patients,

he said, were prescribed opioids, exposing them to danger if they are not taught how to manage their medications.

When people are unaware of the resources available to them or fear the stigma of admitting their addiction, they tend to rely on EMS when in crisis, Carter said. When experiencing side effects, overdose or withdrawal symptoms, EMS is contacted. Responders treat the patient, and if necessary, transport them to the emergency room, unless the patient refuses. Emergency rooms deal with acute symptoms and release the patient, perhaps handing them a flyer about resources for addiction. With no follow-up care, this becomes a cycle, straining fire rescue resources and dollars.

Carter said a single patient called EMS 54 times in 2023. Based on the cost of a single ambulance response (\$730), the calls cost more than \$39,000. Expanding the scope to include patients who called EMS more than 12 times over 12 months yielded 30 patients making a total of 617 calls and a cost of more than \$450,000.

Because these patients have a higher probability of being uninsured, Carter looked exclusively at uninsured transports, which totaled 279 patients last year. They were billed more than \$249,000, and EMS received just over \$2,000

in payments. The fee collection rate was less than 1%.

"It is a high goal, but if we can reduce the cost of our repeat users — many of whom are (opioid use disorder) and (substance use disorder) patients — by 55%, that one achievement alone will save Bradford County \$247,725, which would completely offset the county's debt for transporting uninsured patients," Carter said.

His plan includes promoting one of his paramedics to coordinate the paramedicine program within the department. Patients would be referred from a variety of sources, including EMS encounters, emergency rooms, pharmacists, law enforcement, the school district, etc. The coordinator will build relationships with resource providers to whom patients would be joined. They will be proactive, offering substance abuse education and prevention. They would distribute overdose prevention kits, connect patients to medication assisted therapy and provide follow-up care and monitoring for patients receiving medication assisted therapy. They would coach patients in the use of communications technology and arrange transportation to and from appointments.

These were just some of the potential services Carter listed, including the refurbishment of the library's former bookmobile into a community response

unit for public awareness at special events and free Narcan distribution.

"This program represents a crucial step forward towards fostering a healthier, safer and more resilient community. The dedication of our paramedics, collaboration with health care professionals and the integration of innovative strategies will undoubtedly make a meaningful difference. We believe that by investing in the well-being of our community members, we're not only saving lives, but we are also contributing to the long-term prosperity and vitality of our community," Carter said.

Most commissioners agreed, voting 3-1 to award the opioid dollars to the program, requesting regular progress reports as the county is responsible for the use of the funds.

Commission Chairwoman Carolyn Spooner cast the dissenting vote, as she thought the money would be better used by local mental health providers like Meridian, funding their ability to provide substance abuse services here in Bradford County. Despite imploring her fellow board members, she was unable to convince them. She ended the meeting with a public apology that the county was "missing the boat" and failing to maximize the use of the available funds.

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Answers Health and Resource Facility CEO and Founder JoAnna Weldon (right) with Riscardo and Melissa Bayon. The couple was displaced by a January 14 fire at the North Temple Ave. Studios and found permanent housing with the assistance of Weldon's organization, United Way and Family Promise.

Fire victims finding permanent housing

Community response called 'great'

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

Some families displaced by a January 14 fire at the North Temple Ave. Studios have moved into permanent housing, while others are lodging in temporary living quarters arranged by a local nonprofit.

JoAnna Weldon, founder and CEO of Answers Health and Resource Facility, said that of the 20 families displaced by the blaze, her group has helped two find permanent housing, while another five are staying overnight in a church. She said the other 13 families arranged for their own accommodations after the fire.

Weldon added that her organization provided supplies and food to several families that found alternative living quarters on their own.

Bradford County Fire Chief Ben Carter said overheated electrical extension cords likely caused the Sunday afternoon blaze. He added that the fire quickly spread through the building because the units in a converted motel share a common attic.

Weldon said the American Red Cross provided each family with a cash stipend that allowed them to stay in hotels for one week.

She added that her group met with 15 families and helped them with clothing, household

supplies, and counseling.

Weldon said she called Family Promise, a Gainesville-based group that provides temporary housing using church buildings.

"We asked them if we could adopt their model and use it here, and they said absolutely," Weldon recalled. "So, we found a vacant building which can be used from 3:30 p.m. until 9:30 a.m."

The Answers CEO added that during the day, the displaced individuals can stay at the Answers Starke location if they don't have a job or school to attend.

Weldon said that churches and families have offered meals to the victims, which Answers is coordinating on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

"We make sure that we have enough for lunch and then an overflow into a to-go box for them to take home for dinner," she said. "We're trying to cut down on any costs that they might be having to spend on food, and then we also deliver a meal on Sunday night for them to have that evening."

Weldon said her nonprofit also provides gift cards from local restaurants for the victims to use on weekends.

The Answers Raiford Road facility is stocked with food that can be easily heated up in a microwave and toiletries, soaps, shampoos, and other supplies.

In addition, the nonprofit is storing donations of household linens for the victims, and those contributions have exceeded the

needs of the families.

"The community has been really, really great about donating items like sheets, bed linens, blankets, and towels," Weldon said, "all of the things that they're going to need when they get ready to start over as they're moving into a new home. We are not taking any more donations. We are full to the brim. "It's been great, and our families are just really, really thankful to have a roof over their heads."

Weldon said United Way and Family Promise are also helping victims transition into permanent housing by providing families with first and last month's rent and a security deposit.

Weldon said that so far, the groups have helped a single dad with a seven-year-old daughter move into a two-bedroom, one-bath apartment.

"And then we have a married couple with no children," she added, "and they found an apartment at Heritage Villas last week, and so we were able to get them moved in there."

Weldon said that a fund her group established to finance housing for the victims is now being used to fund care packages for the families. The packages include cooking utensils, trash cans, bags, and other items families typically need when moving into an empty apartment.

"So that they can just move in comfortably and have their necessities already taken care of, and then they can build from there," she said.

state voter registration chair, City Bank, Hwy 301 North, in will discuss plans, goals and methods for Bradford County. This meeting will be at Capital 2257.

Prepare your taxes for free

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

Bradford Democrats meeting

The Democrats' quarterly face-to-face meeting will be held on Monday, Feb. 26, at 7 p.m. Kris Estanga, the Democratic

Letters

Clerk addresses investigation

Dear Editor:
I am Kellie Hendricks Rhoades, Union County clerk of court and comptroller. This letter addresses the State Attorney's investigation of our county coordinator. Specifically, I explain both the need for the referral to the State Attorney's office and allegations that I did not provide all relevant documents for the investigation.

By law, the clerk of court also serves as the comptroller and auditor of the county's tax dollars. The comptroller's responsibilities include ensuring the taxpayers' money is both collected and disbursed as required by policy and statutes. On Sept. 20, 2023, the Union County BOCC and I received a complaint that the Union County coordinator built a home without a permit. As the auditor and custodian of county funds, I investigated the complaint and found that the required county permitting fees totaling \$1,457.61 had not been paid by the coordinator. I further audited the files in my custody and found several anomalies regarding his permit, or lack thereof. I first addressed the matter privately with the county attorney, who took no action. The matter was brought to the Union County Board of County Commissioners for two meetings. No action was taken, except to request referring the matter to the Office of Inspector General (OIG).

I contacted the OIG. That office explained it has no jurisdiction over county matters because we are not a state agency. The IG's office provided four referral options: The Commission on Ethics (COE), the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR), our local State Attorney or FDLE. After reviewing the required filings, the county coordinator is not an elected position and it did not appear that the COE had jurisdiction. The DBPR is not appropriate because it has jurisdiction over contractors' licenses and private business matters, not actions as a county employee or the alleged misuse of a public position for personal gain. As the clerk and comptroller, I am not concerned with the county coordinator's contractor's license or private business practices. The allegations of a misuse of public

funds for the employee's personal gain are most appropriately directed to the local state attorney.

As Union County's comptroller, I referred the financial irregularities to the State Attorney's Office as recommended by the Office of Inspector General. The state attorney investigated the matter as required by law, and will take action as he believes appropriate.

I note that State Attorney Brian Kramer was misquoted during the meeting on Feb. 5, 2024. Readers were led to believe that the clerk was the only party who provided documents for the investigation. State attorney's subpoenas were served on the clerk and the Building Department, as well as on others with relevant information. The Clerk's Office responded to the subpoenas with all public records in its possession relating to the matter, including records provided by the Building Department. Other county departments are responsible for providing records requested by the state attorney in their possession, including consulting with the IT Department if necessary. Of course, the county coordinator has every right to provide any records favorable to him to the investigative agency.

Thank you for allowing me to address this matter of public concern.

Kellie Hendricks Rhoades,
Union County Clerk of Court and Comptroller

Partnership in saving the world

Dear Editor:

Hello, this is Pastor Terry Clark with the River of Life Church here in Starke. I am writing this letter to ask for your partnership in changing the world! Yes, you read that right! Maybe you're like us and have pondered the questions: How can I solve world hunger? How can I help make a difference in a world so big? What can I do to solve the orphan crisis in other nations? How can I offer health care and aid in countries where it's simply not available? And, the list goes on.

We ponder these questions, and we realize the immensity of such a monumental task, and often shrink back, thinking there's no way I can make a difference. However, we discovered that is not true. You really

can make a difference.

Every month River of Life Church sends thousands of dollars across the globe and impacts thousands of lives. We have partners in Indonesia, Poppies Kitchen, whose sole purpose is to help street children find homes and feeds the bellies of over 600 village children weekly. In Africa, as we speak, our partners, New Frontiers and Linda's Kids, are providing health care right in the middle of the bush. We helped build a state-of-the-art clinic that quite literally saves the lives of countless people daily. Also, we helped build a school and churches that not only provide education, but also provide meals young ones would not get otherwise. In Honduras, our partners, Westside Ministries, are providing safe drinking water, health care and schools and meeting a plethora of other needs all over the country. We have partners in the Philippines, China, India, Nepal and Nicaragua helping meet the same basic needs. In fact, in Nepal, we just provided clothing and coats for several young ladies who were rescued from the sex-slave industry. They were rescued wearing only the clothes on their backs.

We agree the task is monumental, but as you can see, needs are being met. This year we are taking on a village in Teculután, Guatemala. When we heard kids were digging through rubbish in a local trash dump to find their next meal, we decided that was unacceptable. So, we are going to do something about it.

We discovered that the only way we can truly impact the globe, is if we partner together and join hands. We want to invite you to join hands with us so we can reach even further. Would you consider partnering with us to not just impact our community but the entire world?

If you would like to partner with River Of Life Church and help make a difference, you can give electronically through our website at ROLCStarke.org and click the green button icon that says "give" at the bottom of our homepage. Or simply make a check payable to River of Life Church, 2225 N. Temple Ave., Starke, FL 32091 and mail it. Or simply just stop on by.

We want to thank you for taking your time to read this letter and considering a partnership with us to impact the entire globe!

Changing the World Together,
Pastor Terry Clark
River of Life Church

New Covenant Baptist anniversary

New Covenant Baptist Ministries, 863 E. Brownlee St., Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., in Starke, will be celebrating its 22nd church anniversary on Sunday, March 24, at 11 a.m. Bishop W.R. Adkins, founder of Global Network Media

Ministries Inc., will be the speaker. The public is invited. Dinner will be served.

February sobriety checkpoints announced

During the month of February, the Bradford County Sheriff's

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

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Jennifer T. Arrubla, Esq

Bradford



Chadsity Stevens with a heifer at the fair.



Bradford Middle and High School chapters attended Chapter Officer Leadership Training in High Springs.



Koen Reddish, Sandra Schaffer, Kelsey Reddish, Mallory Frazier and Hailey Griffis attend High School Conference, a leadership conference for Florida FFA.



Hailey Griffis and Mallory Frazier help fill show boxes at the Lake Butler FFA District event.



Brianna Brooks with the chapter steer for the 2024 fair.



Chloe Anderson, Brianna Brooks and Kelsey Reddish help load filled backpacks for the Bradford Sheriff's Office event.



Julia Zurfluh, Reese Scoggins and Hailey Griffis competed in the Poultry Judging Contest at the Jacksonville Fair.



Kelsey Reddish, Chloe Anderson, Brianna Brooks and Koy Hartley serve food at the Bradford Farm Bureau Annual Meeting.

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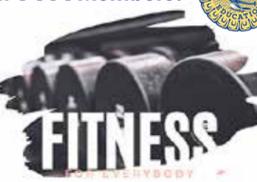
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Lake Region



Keystone Heights High School FFA winners in December's sub-district competition include 1st Place Opening and Closing Ceremonies: Kaleigh Coffey, Victoria Horne, Carson Wilson, Juliette Marini, Savannah Rathjen, Brooke Brinson, and Rachel Blank; 1st Place Prepared Public Speaking: Briley Kendrick; 2nd Place Extemporaneous Public Speaking: Jenna Moss; 2nd Place Creed Speaking: Madison Bennett; and 2nd Place Safe Tractor Operation & Maintenance: Jayden Goodman.

Keystone FFA chapters are premier

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

Florida FFA awarded the 2023 Premier Chapter Award to the junior and senior chapters at Keystone Heights High School.

According to a Florida FFA news release, the Premier

Chapter Award recognizes superior achievement by chapters in agricultural education and the FFA.

"To be eligible for this award, a chapter must be proficient in several areas, including alumni and community partnerships,

financial planning, and public relations, along with recruitment and other FFA activities," the organization said.

Both chapters were also recognized during the 96th National FFA Convention as three-star chapters.

Work progresses on Black Creek project

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

St. Johns River Water Management District Executive Director Mike Register told the district's governing board that all three phases of the Black Creek Water Resource Development Project are progressing.

The approximately \$100 million project consists of intake pumps in the south prong of Black Creek, 17 miles of 30-inch transmission pipe, and a 20-acre treatment area within Camp Blanding.

Depending on water levels in the creek, the system could pump up to 10 million gallons a day from the creek toward Keystone Heights, where the water would be treated at a facility within Camp Blanding and then released into the Etoniah Chain of Lakes with Alligator Creek and Lake Brooklyn being the closest destinations. The St. Johns River tributary system includes Little Lake Keystone, Lake Geneva, Old Field Pond, Halfmoon Lake, Putnam Prairie, Goodson Prairie, and Etoniah Creek. Etoniah Creek flows into Rice Creek, which empties into the St. Johns River two miles downstream.

According to district models, the Black Creek Water Resource Development Project should recharge the Floridan Aquifer with up to 4.5 million gallons of water each day. In addition, the project could increase the open water in Lake Brooklyn by up to 387 acres and increase the emergent marsh in the lake by up to 91 acres.

Register updated the district's governing board during its February 13 meeting and showed the nine-member panel an aerial drone photo of the treatment area under construction within Camp Blanding.

He said the treatment area will consist of six two-acre cells and a 590,000-gallon water storage tank.

Register added that the pumps at the intake station would be delivered to the site in March.

During an earlier meeting of the governing board, Dale Jenkins, the district's director of its Division of Infrastructure and Land Resources, said workers are burying around 400 feet of pipe daily along State Roads 16 and 21.



The 20-acre treatment area of the Black Creek Water Resource Development Project within Camp Blanding will consist of six two-acre cells and a 590,000-gallon water storage tank.



A contractor backfills the pump station coffer dam that is connected to the intake location through the micro tunnel. Concrete collars around the four pump cans have been grouted, and the pumps will be delivered to the site in March.



(Right) Keystone Heights FFA member Faith Lott with the Grand Champion Steer at the 2023 Clay County Agricultural Fair.

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UNION COUNTY

Championships highlight FFA year

BY TANNER CONNELL
Lake Butler FFA President,

Lake Butler FFA has been blessed beyond measure this past year and is grateful for its supporters. The chapter kicked the year off strong at the 96th Florida FFA State Convention & Expo, earning prestigious titles. For the first time in chapter history, Lake Butler FFA is home to the District IV President, Tanner Connell, and the District IV Secretary, Cailynn Boggs. Reagan Robinson was selected as an Area II State Vice Presidential Candidate, which has not been accomplished by a member of Lake Butler FFA since 2018. The Agricultural Communications team was named State Champions for the first time in the chapter's history.



Daniel Elixson Cornhole Tournament Winners (l-r) Dallen Cox, Carter Whitehead and Tanner Connell.



The top three finalists in the Supervisor of Elections' 2024 Patriotic t-shirt design contest with the judges for the contest and school officials. Pictured are: (back, l-r) UCHS FFA Advisor Erin Johnson, UC Tax Collector Lisa Johnson, UC Sheriff Brad Whitehead, UC Supervisor of Elections Debbie Osborne and UN Superintendent of Schools Mike Ripplinger: (front, l-r) Jordon Hendrick, Jelissa Garcia, Reagan Broome and Shayna Durrance.

Competitions and championships

This was all in the summer. As fall approached, the Agricultural Communications team prepared to compete at the National FFA Convention, where they earned the 2023 Reserve National Champions title. Reagan Robinson was named the National High Individual, and Madison Johnson placed fifth overall. Team members include Reagan Robinson, Madison Johnson, Hannah Sherrod, Kindall Johnson, and Perry Johnson. Nolan Beighley

was selected to play in the National FFA Band as the sole representative from Florida. Lake Butler FFA has also made a name for itself, winning competitions at the district level. Kendyl Brannen placed first in the Creed Speaking Career Development Event, and the Parliamentary Procedure team also placed first. Team members include Tanner Connell, Cailynn Boggs, Joseph Harris, Kendyl Brannen, Kutter Durrance, Sierra Mohl, Ezequiel Baker, and Tucker Dortch. The Food Science team competed at their State Contest

at the beginning of February, placing eighth in the state; team members included Connell, Boggs, Shayna Durrance, Madison Starling, and Aubree Gay. The Poultry team qualified to compete at their state contest, with team members consisting of Blayne Hendricks, Miley Wilson, Carson Thomas, Bobbie Jo Montford, and Rylie Parrish. The Horse Judging team also qualified for their State Contest in April, with team members including Bayley Stair, Sierra Bell, Jolena Rodgers, Kendyl Brannen, and Bailey Varnes.

FFA students design patriotic shirts

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Special to the Times

Union County Supervisor of Elections Deborah Osborne had an idea several years ago to help her encourage high school seniors to register and vote in election events, both local and national. She had in mind custom, patriotic t-shirts that could be given as gifts to seniors when they came in and registered.

This year, she found a way to make the idea a reality by teaming up with Lake Butler FFA students in the Ag Sales 2 and Sales 3 classes at Union County High School to help her find a unique and attractive design. Students in these classes learn to design and produce promotional items, so, under the guidance of instructor and FFA Advisor Erin Johnson, students developed about 25 designs as entries in the 2024 Lake Butler

FFA Patriotic T-shirt Contest. The students first judged the designs, narrowing the field to the best four. Then, judges Osborne, Tax Collector Lisa Johnson, and Sheriff Brad Whitehead came to the classroom last week to pick the winner. Finalists were Jelissa Garcia, Reagan Broome, Jordan Hendricks, and Shayna Durrance, with Durrance being selected as the winner with a design that emphasized patriotism and Union County pride.

"I wanted to get some of our students involved," Osborne told the assembled students. "You are our future leaders - one of you may be in one of our positions (the judges) one day. Many of you are pre-registered to vote and just waiting to turn 18 so you can exercise your right. I want you to know that your vote counts. In my career, I have seen elections won by as little as a single vote

and many that the difference was five votes or less."

Osborne said she was pleased with the designs and the students' willingness to participate in the contest, which was deemed to be of service to the community. The winner received a \$50 Circle-K gift card.

"I have wanted to do something like this for a long time, and I thank both the students and (Erin) Johnson for making it possible," Osborne said.

The students will produce the t-shirts, and Osborne will give them to seniors as they register.

"We need the seniors in our community to come out and exercise their constitutional right to help select our leaders," Osborne said. "They bring a different perspective to the selection process, one of their greatest values as voters."

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Community service

As part of the annual tradition, chapter members came together to successfully create six Thanksgiving baskets to give to families in the community so they could enjoy a home-cooked meal on Thanksgiving Day. Afterward, Tanner and Cailynn decided to use their positions

See FFA, page 7

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Mayor of Raiford wears three hats in new county job

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Special to the Times

Lamar Griffis is settling in well after his first week in his new position as the Solid Waste Department Director for Union County. He says he likes the job and the people he is working with.

Griffis is well known in the area as the mayor of Raiford – a position he said he will continue to serve in as it is not a conflict of interest with his job with the county. He has, in fact, already been a county employee as he has worked for some time as a dispatcher for Union County.

Griffis was born in Bradford County and graduated from Bradford High School in 1974. He moved to Raiford in 1988. He has worked in management and administrative positions most of his adult life and received much training for these roles while working for the Department of Corrections. He said he applied for the solid waste position because it sounded interesting and, as does his involvement in politics, it would allow him to be of more service to the community than in some of his other jobs.

The first thing Griffis would say about his new position is to compliment the former director,



New Union County Solid Waste Department Director Lamar Griffis

Griffis wears three hats in his new position – the solid waste department director and animal control and mosquito control director.

He is very much a family man. He and his wife, Benita (who also works for the county in the property appraiser's office), have eight children: three girls and five boys. They married in 2013. They are the proud grandparents of 28 grandchildren, and Griffis said that spending time with his wife, children, and grandchildren is his greatest joy in life. He said he enjoys hunting and fishing occasionally and confesses to being a Seminole fan, inspired by his great admiration for former coach Bobby Bowden. In quiet time, he enjoys reading political and religious material and listening to 1980s rock and southern rock.

Kimberly Hayes, who is now the city manager of Lake Butler.

"Kim has done an excellent job here, both in running and improving this department," Griffis said. "I came in, and everything was in good shape – no problems to fix or messes to untangle. I could not ask for anyone better to come in behind. She is already working at the city, but she has an open-door policy to assist me in learning the job, and I can call or go see her anytime I have a question."



Residents from Bradford, Union, Baker and Clay counties came out to hear about the event.

Landowners attend informative program

BY AMY E. MORIE
Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District

Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District's first Landowner Assistance program, held Feb. 15, was the start of something great for connecting folks to the many federal, state and local programs that can help with soil and water conservation, livestock and crop management, and many other great practices for landowners.

The event had information tables to talk to all the representatives who came out and see the latest technology such as soil moisture sensors to more precisely manage irrigation and even control it remotely through a phone app.

There were also presentations by Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services on best management practices and the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program, UF/IFAS on education

and many helpful services from your county extension agents, and the North Florida Land Trust on the Ocala to Osceola Wildlife Corridor – a 100-mile-long, 1.6-million-acre landscape of public and private lands that connect the Ocala and Osceola National Forests and provide critical habitat links.

If you missed it, don't wait until next year to get in touch; there is great support out there year-round for technical help with invasive species, erosion and drainage concerns, farm best management practices, cost-share programs, conservation incentives and more.

You can reach out to BSWCD or our partners anytime to get the latest information on programs and find out what's a good fit for your land's operations. BSWCD can be reached by calling 904-368-0291 or emailing stillpe@aol.com. Also, be sure to bookmark www.bradfordsoilandwater.org/news-updates for the latest updates from the district.

from the district.

We here at BSWCD would like to extend a big thank you to all the organizations that made this first Landowner Assistance Event a success by coming to the community to get the latest conservation information to the public. We are grateful for the support of USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Fish and Wildlife, Florida Forest Service, North Florida Land Trust, Alachua Conservation Trust, Gilchrist Soil and Water Conservation District, Clay Soil and Water Conservation District, and UF/IFAS Extension Agriculture/Natural Resources and Small Farms agents from Bradford, Baker, Union and Clay counties. Thanks to Toro Ag and Clay County Farm Bureau, we were able to provide dinner by the Sage Spoon along with the program at no cost to everyone who attended.



Lake Butler FFA students boxing gift for children as part of Operation Christmas.

FFA Continued from page 6

to host another community service project at the district level. Lake Butler FFA hosted a shoebox packing event for Operation Christmas Child and successfully packed 48 boxes to send to children worldwide.

Events and scholarships

The chapter hosts various events for its members, such as the chili feed and peanut boil, a time for members to get together and enjoy good food and fellowship. There have also been different fundraising activities for the chapter and scholarships, in which there is an outpouring of support from the Lake Butler community. The chapter and its members are forever grateful for all the support received.

Leadership development

As part of National FFA Week, however, it is important to reflect on what the National FFA



Kutter Durrance and Bayley Stair serving boiled peanuts for FFA members.

Organization does for students in our community and all across the nation. While FFA teaches students about agriculture and the importance of sustainable farming, it also forms leaders for future generations. With numerous Career Development Events, Leadership Development Events, conventions, workshops, and conferences,

this organization is helping to provide the best leadership skills possible. As the motto states, Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, and Living to Serve, FFA members live their lives to serve communities all around them to the best of their ability.

O'Berry drops out of sheriff's race

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
dan@bctelegraph.com

Matthew O'Berry has withdrawn his candidacy for Clay County Sheriff.

The Keystone Heights resident filed paperwork to run for the Republican nomination last July. In social media posts, O'Berry

admitted he lacked the traditional background of other candidates running for the office.

"While I don't have any Law Enforcement experience, I can still leverage data from previous administrations, research, and insights from law enforcement experts to inform and collaborate policing strategies," he said.

In a Facebook Christmas message, the candidate renewed his commitment not to accept any campaign contributions and said he had five more months in which to collect the 1,061 signatures that would qualify him as a candidate.



Rachel Regina, Clay County 4-H, represented 4-H young leaders of tomorrow by helping present the event.

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Crime

Recent arrests in Bradford, Union and Clay

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

Bradford

Clifford Adam Berger, 72, of Melrose was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 11 for DUI.

Travis James Brendle, 42, of Starke was arrested by Fish and Wildlife Conservation officers on February 13 for an out-of-county warrant.

Stephen Andrew Brown, 40, was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 12 for a probation violation.

Larry Moses Crawford, 44, of Lawley was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 15 for loitering, resisting an officer and battery.

Heather Nicole Arthur Free, 34, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 16 for assault.

Terry Ray Gaskins, 54, of Lawley was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 13 for possession of drugs, trafficking in drugs, possession of drug equipment, and a conditional release violation.

Jayden Isaiah Geske, 23, of Gainesville was arrested by Lawley police on February 10 for resisting an officer.

Frank MacDuff Hammer, 22,

of Jacksonville was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 12 for an out-of-county warrant.

Kelly Leann Holdampf, 45, of Macclenny was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 10 for an out-of-county warrant.

Andrew Jacobs, 33, of Atlanta, Georgia was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 14 for larceny, fraud, fraud-swindle, and fraud-impersonation.

Trey M. Jacobs, 19, of Lake Butler was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 14 for a probation violation.

Shad Everett Lane, 44, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 14 for failure to appear.

Frank Edward Chandler Maddox, 19, of Jacksonville was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 13 for an out-of-county warrant, giving false information to obtain a vehicle registration and attaching a tag not assigned.

Kenneth Ray McAllister, 41, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 16 for an out-of-county warrant and withholding support.

Isabelle Marie McConnell, 19, of Keystone Heights was arrested by FHP troopers on February 10 for DUI.

James Lewis McCloon, 51, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 11 for battery.

Benjamin Franklin Morgan, 33, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 16 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

James Lee Pitts, 36, of Starke was arrested by Fish and Wildlife Conservation officers on February 13 for an out-of-county warrant.

Brian Rodriguez, 40, of

Jacksonville was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 13 for driving with a suspended or revoked license, larceny, possession of drugs and culpable negligence resulting in a personal injury.

Charles Cody Tootle, 42, of Palatka was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 13 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Egypt Monet Young, 31, of Gainesville was arrested by Bradford deputies on February 10 for an out-of-county warrant.

Union

Thomas Gregory Canavan, 31, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on February 18 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Jordan Nikolas Dipaul, 28, of Middleburg was arrested by Union deputies on February 13 for failure to appear.

Kirk Allen Mabbitt, 44, of High Springs was arrested by Union deputies on February 12 for failure to appear.

Christine LaShawn Mabery, 26, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on February 16 for an out-of-county warrant.

Gabiell Wynn Parrish, 23, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on February 14 for burglary and criminal mischief with property damage.

David Wayne Sherwood, 51, of Lake City was arrested by Union deputies on February 16 for trespassing.

Clay

John Robert Huffman, 27, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Clay deputies on February 13 for aggravated battery with a deadly weapon.

Falling trash, roads and more spark debate at Lawley council meeting

BY MELISSA PYLE
Special to the Telegraph

Roads, what they're named, how they are maintained, and garbage falling on them were all topics of debate at February's Lawley Council Meeting.

Councilwoman Debra Norman was absent due to illness, but she sent a list of topics to be discussed by proxy to citizen Vyunda Strong. Council members were not in agreement to the legality of Strong speaking on behalf of Norman. To accommodate the request, Councilwoman Emily Hoffman submitted that public comment time should be adjusted to ten minutes instead of the five. Attorney Aaron Dukes said this would be permissible. The council voted to approve the time adjustment along with the current agenda, and the meeting proceeded as planned.

Public Comments

Public comments began with a request from citizen Peggy Stanwix-Hay to add the name of actor Tory Kittles to Lake Street. She said he grew up on that street and has been, and continues to be, a successful inspiration from Lawley. She said she would like the sign to read "Tory Kittles Drive" because it's a play on words, acknowledging Kittles unwavering drive. She asked the council to consider this name addition and said if it came down to a monetary issue, she and her husband are willing to contribute funds.

The council said they would like to talk to the county about how to move forward with the addition of Kittles' name to a street sign.

Other public comments were from John Mercier and Vyunda Strong. Mercier addressed the council about old business which included the ditch project, street signage, and fire hydrants. City Clerk Lisa Harley stated that the ditch project and hydrants are being worked on, but nothing was being done to get new street signs. Mercier went on to ask about the firehouse generator and suggested the city add the maintenance of that generator to its regular maintenance checks. Mercier also asked for clarification on an accounting mistake and \$4,000 of ARPA funding. Harley said the accounting error had been fixed and the extra \$4,000 was due to paying the city's credit card back once the ARPA funds were received.

Strong also had questions about city funds. She asked about a \$600,000 meter infrastructure award granted by the governor in December 2022. She asked where the money was, and Harley said it is still with the state and explained that when money is granted it doesn't mean it is released. Harley said the state money can take months, if not years and is dependent on the engineers getting reports turned in about the meter project. Strong said she felt it was strange to take so long.

Strong went on to address the council with the questions she had been sent by Councilwoman Norman. The top issue being the state of cleanliness of the exterior of the recreation building and the park. There are a few playground equipment repairs needed and debris in the surrounding area, which shows lack of regular maintenance. She suggested requesting funds from the county that are allotted for parks and recreation. Norman's questions also addressed the need for Wi-Fi installation in the recreation building.

Attorney's fees

During the discussion of city financials, the old business of Hoffman's attorney's fees was addressed. Councilwoman Amy Blom made the motion to pay those fees, but the rest of the council was silent when asked for

a second motion to approve. After a moment, Mayor Jimmie Scott temporarily ceded his position to Vice Mayor Virginia Warner to make his vote to approve the payment of the fees. The fees of \$4,770 were approved. The vote passed two to one.

Trash

When the streets and sanitation department was asked to present concerns, Blom gave Hoffman the floor to address an incident of trash falling from a trailer onto the road. Hoffman said she was concerned about damage to her vehicle while driving behind a trailer with falling trash, so she grabbed her cell phone and took pictures of the trash. Hoffman said she was unaware that the city's trash truck wasn't in working order and that the trailer she was following with falling trash belonged to the city's maintenance department.

This brought up many concerns. First, she felt there should be better communication about trash pickup changes. Council members stated it was decided at the previous meeting, which Hoffman attended, to adjust the trash pickup due to the incoming storm. Changes were also announced on the Lawley Police Department's Facebook page. Councilwoman Blom said because Hoffman was at that meeting there was no need for a phone call to be made to her about the changes. Hoffman said she must have misunderstood that the changes to trash pickup were in effect, but that didn't change the fact that falling trash from a city truck was a hazard on any day. The city would be liable for damages to a person or their vehicle.

Chief Jerry Feltner interjected and stated that the loads do need to be secured because it is a state law that any damage done to a motor vehicle from falling, unsecured debris, would leave the driver, or in this case, the city liable. The suggestion of a simple tarp to secure the loads was given as the solution.

Road maintenance

Trash pickup and damages to city vehicles continued to be a topic of concern when the conditions of Brandon Road were brought up by Blom. She said the conditions of the road are so poor that even the postal service stopped delivering mail to each home and now delivers mail to boxes at the end of the road.

Warner said the problem is longstanding and is complicated by the fact that Brandon Road is still a private road and the maintenance of it is left up to homeowners. The citizens have had the county regrade the road in the past. Blom expressed her frustration that the road is in severe disrepair again and it's causing damage to the city's vehicles. Harley said it's also a safety concern for emergency vehicles accessing the road.

Mayor Scott said the city can investigate the legality of making it a public road, attorney Dukes said the property lines of some of the residents goes into the road. Citizens would have to allow access to their private driveways. Feltner said there are several no trespassing signs and that protects the residents from any person entering their driveways. Blom emphasized the need to find a solution whether using city funds or petitioning the county to help with improvements. The mayor agreed to move forward with a legal solution, citing the years of public access.

Safety

Feltner addressed safety concerns and recent graffiti on city property. Feltner said the graffiti is an isolated incident and is being monitored. Feltner said the last incident of graffiti didn't

coincide with the first poster. He said they are in contact with the FBI and the Jewish community in Jacksonville. Feltner said they are going to continue their investigation until the perpetrator is in jail, but the situation does not present a danger to the community.

Emergency meetings

Hoffman began her comments on the status of the fire department by airing her frustrations over the leaking roof. She said she requested an emergency meeting to address the fire department's need for an immediate roof repair and it was denied. Hoffman went on to tell the council she didn't understand why they couldn't call a meeting to fix the roof, but they could call for an emergency meeting at the prison about the work crew.

She said it was still unclear about why they needed that meeting. Hoffman said she was told by the warden that the city's maintenance person sent in a report which led to an "emergency meeting" being called to discuss safety of prison work crews. This comment began a very heated interchange amongst the council.

Councilwoman Blom said it wasn't unclear, it was about maintaining the safety of the work crews, and it's important that no one be taking pictures of them while they are working.

"We should not have our citizens following our work crews," she said.

Hoffman said, "But that's not what the meeting was about." Mayor Scott pounded the table and began to interrupt the discussion by telling Hoffman not to interrupt Blom. Hoffman said it was not made clear to her why the meeting was called, and she directly asked the council members to state why it was called. When they remained silent, she continued to push them to answer her questions about the supposed infraction. She asked about the date and time of the incident. When the council refused to give her the specific dates Hoffman told the council she felt the complaint was due to the day she took pictures of the falling trash she had discussed earlier in the meeting. Her picture taking was reported to the warden as an incident of taking pictures of working inmates.

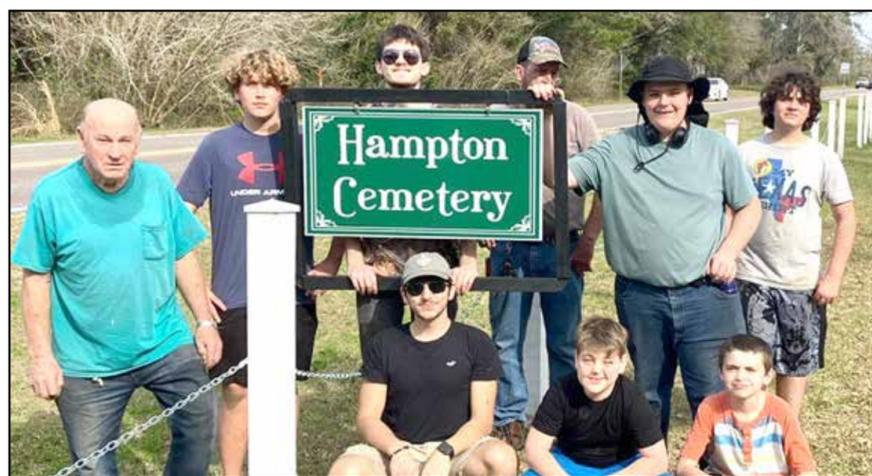
Hoffman emphatically denied there were inmates present at the time of the falling trash incident. The maintenance person began to argue that there were inmates present. Chief Feltner interrupted and said the discussion needed to end.

As the discussion calmed down, Clerk Harley responded to the original complaint about the leak in the firehouse roof. She said she called a licensed and insured roofer to repair the leak. The council approved the emergency repair cost of \$1,950. The topic of the fire department led to revisiting the topic of generator repairs and who is responsible for them. This reignited the long running frustrations over the lack of a memorandum of understanding with the county. The request for this agreement is over a year old.

Councilwoman Blom said she will get a new one if she must write it herself.

New attorney

In the meeting's closing minutes, council voted to hire a new city attorney. Aaron Dukes has been serving as Lawley's attorney, but the council members voted to hire Dan Sykes. Sykes has served as city attorney for Lawley in the past. The council thanked Dukes for his service and adjourned the February meeting. The next city council meeting will be March 4 at 7 p.m.



Scouts clean up Hampton Cemetery

At the city of Hampton's Jan. 27 council meeting, Scoutmaster David Lee from Boy Scouts of America Troop 70 presented Scout Logan Jackson's proposal for cleaning up Hampton's cemetery. Eagle Scout candidates are required to plan and perform a beneficial community service. Jackson's proposal was to clean the gravestones, pick up limbs and replace the sign. The council voted unanimously to support their effort and thanked them in advance. They did an amazing job cleaning an estimated hundred graves during this all-day effort that took place on Feb. 10.

Pictured are (from front, l-r) Al Dixon, Logan Jackson, Asher Jackson, Rylan Cogan, Hunter Ruble, Enoch Durban, Matthew Ruble, Nicholas Salazar and Robert Munsell.





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UCHS Class of '74 reunion

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

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Lawtey's Castellese wins district spelling bee

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

To qualify for region-level competition and avoid going another round with Starke Elementary student Amelia Cooper, it was essential for Lawtey Elementary student Jaxon Casellese to spell "essential" correctly.

He did, making him the winner of the Bradford County District spelling bee, which took place Feb. 15 in the district's board room.

Castellese, who's in the fifth grade, spelled seven of eight words correctly to earn the trip to the 8-th annual First Coast Regional Spelling Bee, which will be held March 15 at Jacksonville's LaVilla School of the Arts. The cost for him and his parents to attend will be covered by the nonprofit Bradford County Education Foundation, which sponsored the Bradford district spelling bee as well as the spelling bees at each school.

Cooper, who's in the sixth grade, spelled four of six words correctly to earn the district-level runner-up trophy for the second straight year.

The event consisted of 11 participants in all.

"Just being up here tonight, you are all winners," said BCEF President Cheryl Canova.

Superintendent of Schools Will Hartley echoed Canova's sentiment, saying, "Just to be sitting up here and representing your school is a great honor. I'm proud of all of you for that."

Three were eliminated after the first round, in which Castellese correctly spelled "puckish" and Cooper correctly spelled "chortle."

Joining Castellese and Cooper in round two were Addaleigh Lansford (Bradford Elementary, sixth grade), Sebastian Patterson (Starke, sixth grade), Mia Ortega (Starke, sixth grade), Danielle McClenaghan (Bradford, sixth grade), Andrew Sanders (Lawtey, fifth grade) and Emma Atkins (Starke, fifth grade).

Three more contestants were eliminated in the second round, but Castellese, who had to spell "calculator," and Cooper, who had to spell "vocabulary," advanced along with Patterson, Ortega and Sanders.

Round three saw the field whittled down to three. Castellese and Cooper spelled "jankers" and "puritan," respectively, while Ortega spelled "whereas."

Castellese started off the fourth round by correctly spelling "patience." Ortega misspelled "premonition," while Cooper misspelled "enumerated." That meant Castellese had to correctly spell another word to win, but he misspelled "complementary," which advanced all three participants into another round.

It then came down to two. Ortega misspelled "spectral," while Castellese correctly spelled "occupancy" and Cooper correctly spelled "adhesion."

Castellese began the final round by correctly spelling "seclusion." After Cooper misspelled "skirmish," Castellese correctly spelled "essential" to earn the first-place trophy.

All participants earned the right to compete by placing in the top four at their school-level spelling bees.

Bradford Elementary results were: Lansford (champion), McClenaghan (runner-up), fifth-



Spelling bee participants are pictured with Superintendent of Schools Will Hartley, Pronouncer Troy Appling and members of the Bradford County Education Foundation. Pictured are: (front, l-r) Kenley King, Haven Benitez, Amelia Cooper, Mia Ortega, Emma Atkins, Sebastian Patterson, Jaxon Castellese, Addaleigh Lansford, Danielle McClenaghan, Andrew Sanders, Bennett Levine, (back, l-r) Appling, Lila Sellars, Cheryl Canova, Hartley, Christina Cornwell, Vorease Jones and Brenda Thornton.

grader Haven Benitez (third) and fifth-grader Bennett Levine (fourth).

Lawtey Elementary results were: Castellese (champion), sixth-grader Amelia Clem (runner-up), fifth-grader Kenley King (third) and Sanders (fourth). Though she qualified, Clem didn't compete at the district event.

Starke Elementary results were: Atkins (champion), Ortega (runner-up), Patterson (third) and Cooper (fourth).

Troy Appling served as the pronouncer for the district event, while BCEF members Canova, Vorease Jones and Lila Sellars were the judges.

BCEF provided the trophies

as well as gifts that were presented to every participant. The organization also provided gifts of appreciation to school coordinators Tammy Adams (Bradford), Rebecca Ansley (Lawtey), Debbie Parmenter (Lawtey) and Melissa Hines (Starke).

In his opening remarks, Hartley recognized the educators (as well as School Board Member Gayle Nicula) in attendance, noting that they weren't required to be there.

"They only came because they love your children," Hartley said.

Hartley thanked the students' families, saying, "One thing that we all know as educators is that our students who excel have parents who truly care about their education."

The superintendent also thanked BCEF and its support of the county's public schools.

"They are remarkable," Hartley said. "I think every educator in this room would agree with that."



Superintendent of Schools Will Hartley is pictured with district spelling bee champion Jaxon Castellese (far left) and runner-up Amelia Cooper.

Former Charlotte Co. principal is AP at Starke Elementary

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Do you desire a title or an opportunity to meet the needs of children?

That was an easy answer for Heidi Keegan, who had no problem with going from being a principal to an assistant principal — the role she currently fills at Starke Elementary School.

"Titles aren't really a thing for me," Keegan said. "I just believe in servant leadership, so anywhere I can be a help, I'd like to be there."

A move from Charlotte County to Alachua County (because of her husband, Patrick, taking a job at the University of Florida) had Keegan looking for a job in the area. She asked Bradford County Assistant Superintendent of Schools Karen Clarke if she knew of any local openings. The two knew each other through the Florida Association of School Administrators.

Clarke told Keegan that Starke Elementary had to fill its assistant-principal position due to Shannon Rodriguez leaving to take a job in the district's finance office.

Keegan, who's in her 21st year in education, said that in meeting with Starke Elementary Principal Raymond Schaeffer, she stated that she knew the job was as an assistant principal and that she was OK with that. She told him, "I am here to support your vision. What are your goals? What have you set for this year? How can I help to make that successful?"

A love for school

It's not unusual for a young child to announce their intention of growing up to be a teacher, but Keegan, who was born and raised in Charlotte County, had even higher aspirations.

"Even in kindergarten, I told my mom I wanted to be the principal of the school," she said.

Keegan had a love for school that never diminished as she aged. She didn't dread going, saying, "I grew up in poverty and the oldest of five (children). I loved school, and school loved me. I did well."

She remembers going to school fondly and can tell you the name



Heidi Keegan, who was previously a principal in Charlotte County, is now working in the Bradford County School District as the assistant principal at Starke Elementary School.

of every teacher she had. With that in mind, it'd be hard for her to single out any who were the most influential on her as she pursued a career in education. As a band student, Keegan will say that the teachers who probably had the most impact on her were those who taught music.

The greatest influence on her future could be found closer to home.

"Sometimes it's not a teacher in a building. Sometimes, it's a teacher in life, and that would be my grandmother, who was a nurse," Keegan said. "She went into nursing and was then a nursing administrator. She always continued her education and always encouraged me to do so. She was the one who took me on a tour of colleges when I was deciding where I would go for my undergrad."

Keegan attended the University of West Florida in Pensacola and went on to earn her master's degree at the University of South Florida in Tampa.

She's now working on her doctorate in Curriculum

Instruction for Teachers, Schools and Societies at UF.

Now, Keegan's two teen sons — Colin and Brody — say they plan to follow in her footsteps and earn doctorates, too.

"Education is very important in our family," Keegan said.

From teacher to Distinguished Principal

After graduating from West Florida, Keegan returned to Charlotte County as a newlywed looking for a job. She began teaching kindergarten at Liberty Elementary School, where her mother-in-law also taught.

The first nine years of her career consisted of being a classroom teacher as well as a reading specialist and a district reading coach. Her first administrative role was as assistant principal at Sally Jones Elementary School.

"I was probably the youngest administrator ever in the district at the time," Keegan said.

She was at that school for

See KEEGAN, page 12

The project described was supported by funding Opportunity Number NAVCA210430-03-00 from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The contents provided are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of HHS or any of its agencies.

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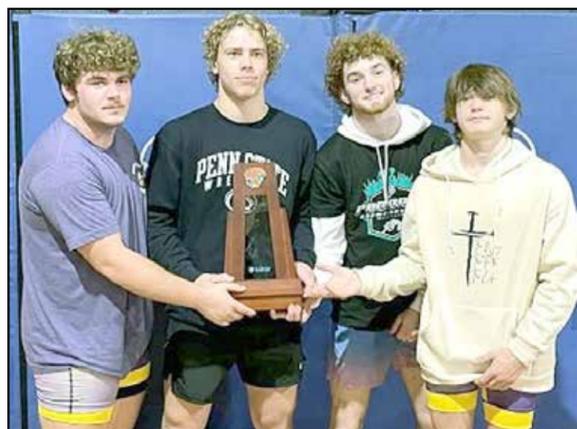
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Four individuals (l-r) won district titles for Union: Dylan Lane, Alexander Cortese, Rodney Barnett and Jonathan Howard.

4 UC wrestlers win District 4-1A titles

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
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Union County High School earned the team runner-up trophy for the third time in four years and qualified eight individuals for region-level competition at the District 4-1A wrestling meet, which was held Feb. 15 in Palatka.

The Tigers had a team score of 185, which left them trailing only Baker County, which had a score of 234.5. Union was 55 points ahead of third-place Palatka.

Four Union wrestlers finished the day as champions: Rodney Barnett, Alexander Cortese, Jonathan Howard and Dylan Lane.

Howard won the 120-pound class by going 2-0, pinning Baker County's Nathan Roll in 1:28 and pinning Keystone Heights' Jared Goetzman in 3:34.

Barnett, a district runner-up last year, went 3-0 in taking first in the 144 class. He began his day by pinning Bishop Snyder's Daniel Ortiz in 1:38 and then made quick work of Baldwin's Travis Krause, pinning him in 50 seconds. Barnett faced Providence's Camden Garcia in the championship match, pinning him in 1:40.

Cortese, who was also a district

runner-up last year, pinned two opponents to win the 190 class. He defeated Florida Deaf and Blind's Anthony Rush in 1:06 and Palatka's Dalvin Dallas in 1:14.

Lane improved upon his third-place finish at last year's district meet in winning this year's 285 class. He pinned Baker County's Jordan Allaart in 3:14 and then pinned Palatka's Ben Clark in 3:49.

The top four in each class qualified for the Region 1 meet, which will be held Friday and Saturday, Feb. 23-24, at Wewahitchka High School. Union's district champs will be joined there by teammates Jameson Lang, Elijah Roberts and Gavin Sparkman, who were all runners-up in their classes, as well as Maddox Wheeler, who wrestled his way to a third-place finish.

Sparkman recorded two straight pins to reach the championship match in the 138 class, defeating Bishop Snyder's P.J. Canales in 1:57 and Providence's Aiden Gravy in 1:18. He was then pinned in 1:32 by Baker County's Jonathan Walker.

See UCHS, page 15

BHS, KHHS and UCHS lifters compete at state

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

The Class 1A girls weightlifting season came to a close with the Feb. 17 state finals, which included three lifters from the Telegraph-Times-Monitor coverage area competing at that level for the first time ever and one making her second straight appearance.

Bradford High School's Rylie Blankenship competed at state last year, placing ninth in the 110-pound class with a 225-pound total. This year, she had a 240 total in the 119 class and finished in a four-way tie for 13th place with Bishop Verot's Kendall Sullivan, Holmes County's Mya Brewer and St. Stephens' Makayla Miles. She was officially 16th due to the weigh-in tiebreaker.

Blankenship had a successful 115 pounds on her first clean-and-jerk attempt before missing attempts at 125 and 130 pounds.

She lifted 120 on her first attempt in the bench press and followed that with a 125, which tied the personal record she set at the Region 2 meet. She unsuccessfully lifted 130 on her final attempt.

Blankenship was 40 pounds away from earning a medal. Medals are awarded for placing in the top six.

Keystone Heights' Chloe Still was also 40 pounds away from earning a medal, compiling a 280 total in the 139 class. She finished tied for 14th with Baker's Karley Bishop and was officially 14th after the weigh-in tiebreaker was employed.

Still did 135 on her first clean-and-jerk attempt before missing 140 twice. She then missed 145 twice on the bench before successfully getting it on her final attempt.

Union County had two lifters competing, with Alexia Cyr placing 14th in the 169 class with a 285 total. She began her day by missing 130 in the clean and jerk, but came back with a successful second lift of 135. She missed 140 on her final attempt.

Cyr did 150 in the bench after missing out on that total on her first attempt. She was unsuccessful on her final attempt of 155.

The Tigers' Riley Gibson competed in the 119 class, finishing 19th with a 220 total. She needed to get her third clean-and-jerk attempt in order to compete in the bench. She missed 105 twice, but was successful on her final attempt at that same weight.

Gibson did 115 in the bench before missing 125 twice.

Indians sending 5 wrestlers to regionals

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Jared Goetzman was a runner-up and one of five Keystone Heights High School wrestlers to qualify for region-level competition at the District 4-1A meet on Feb. 15 in Palatka.

Goetzman advanced to the championship match of the 120-pound class off a 17-1 technical fall over Florida Deaf and Blind's Marshall Garton. He was then pinned in 3:34 by Union

County's Jonathan Howard.

The top four in each weight class qualified for the Region 1 meet, which will be held Friday and Saturday, Feb. 23-24, at Wewahitchka High School. Joining Goetzman will be teammates Marcellus Beem, Atreyu Contes, Phoenix Contes and Mikey McCall, all of whom earned third-place finishes.

Atreyu Contes began his day in the 106 class by pinning Providence's Easton Tapley in 4:39. He lost 4-1 to Baker County's Brayden Martin, but bounced back, pinning Union's Aidan Hancock in 1:37. Contes won the third-place match by recording a 15-0 technical fall over Florida Deaf and Blind's Gabe Mitchell.

McCall, who wrestles in the 113 class, pinned the first opponent he faced (Providence's Johnathan Kuca) in 50 seconds, but was then pinned in 1:52 by St. Johns Country Day's Howard Hill in the second round. McCall pinned two straight opponents to close out his day, defeating Baldwin's Ian Rhoden in 1:23 and Baker County's Clayton Hoden in 2:49.

Phoenix Contes was pinned in 2:56 by Palatka's Ismael Foster in the first round in the 132 class. Contes then pinned two straight opponents, defeating Bishop Snyder's Nabil Halabi in 44 seconds and Florida Deaf and Blind's Khayree Lofton in 2:53.

Beem went 3-1 in the 150 class. He won in the first round by pinning Palatka's Dalton Kervin in 1:52. After getting pinned in 48 seconds by Bishop Snyder's Amari Akel, he pinned Florida Deaf and Blind's Moses Jeudy in 2:05. Beem faced Kervin again in the third-place match, this time pinning him in just 55 seconds.

Keystone had two other competitors, who each earned

See KHHS, page 15



Ar'Nayshia Griffin (far right) pulls down a rebound in the Tornadoes' loss to P.K. Yonge.

BHS girls end hoops season with another loss to P.K. Yonge

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

A free throw by Nichelle Brown gave the Bradford High School girls basketball team a one-point lead, but the Tornadoes failed to score in the final 4:13 in what was a 42-38 loss to host P.K. Yonge in the quarterfinals of the Region 1-3A playoffs on Feb. 14.

Bradford, who was the region's fifth seed, ended its season with a 14-9 record. It was the Tornadoes' third straight loss to P.K. Yonge, the region's fourth seed.

Ar'Nayshia Griffin helped Bradford get off to a fast start as the Tornadoes scored 11 of the game's first 16 points. Griffin had the first two scores of the game off a rebound putback and a Jada Hankerson inbound pass. She was later fouled on a drive to the basket, making both free throws to put the Tornadoes ahead 6-3.

It was 6-5 when Brown sank a three-pointer for Bradford. Hankerson then scored off her own steal to make it an 11-5 game.

P.K. Yonge (14-8) closed out the first quarter with an 8-1 run. The final basket — a three-pointer by Taylor Powers — gave the Blue Wave a 13-12 lead.

Two consecutive baskets by Griffin, who had 10 first-half points, sparked an 8-0 run in the second quarter. Her second basket during that span was off a steal and put Bradford ahead 18-16. Kha'Myra Hankerson scored off an offensive rebound. Griffin then grabbed a defensive rebound, dribbled off court and found Ajayah Jackson for a layup and a 22-16 Tornadoes lead.

P.K. Yonge went the entire quarter without a field goal, but 2-for-2 trips to the foul line by Powers and Ashlyn Young in the final 30 seconds pulled the Blue Wave to within 22-20.

Brown sank a jump with three seconds left to send the Tornadoes into halftime leading by four.

Young opened the third quarter by rebounding a missed Bradford shot attempt and dribbling the length of the floor for a basket, but the Tornadoes scored the



Jada Hankerson (left) gets fouled by P.K. Yonge's Ashlyn Young on her way to the basket.

next four points. After a Griffin basket, Jada Hankerson was fouled going in for a layup after a steal. She made both free throws to put Bradford up 28-24.

It was a two-point game when Bradford's Kailyn Teal scored off an offensive rebound to give the Tornadoes a 32-28 lead. Griffin later added a free throw to put Bradford up by five, but Young made a three-point shot to make the score 33-31 going into the final quarter.

Jorryn Dye made a three-point shot to start the fourth quarter and put the Blue Wave ahead 34-33.

More than two minutes went by before the game saw another score, which was Jada Hankerson getting a basket off a steal. Each team shot 21 percent from the field in the second half and combined to make just 6 of 29 attempts in the fourth quarter.

P.K. Yonge's Summer Barnett was fouled on a shot, but missed both of her free-throw attempts. Da'mar Wims, however, rebounded the second miss for the Blue Wave. That led to a three-pointer by Dye and a 37-35 P.K. Yonge lead.

A blocked shot by Griffin led to a transition basket by Brown with 4:13 to play. Brown was fouled on the play and made the awarded free throw to put Bradford ahead 38-37.

The Tornadoes wouldn't score again.

Wims scored off an offensive rebound to put the Blue Wave ahead for good and rebounded two straight missed shot attempts by the Tornadoes.

Young, who went 3 for 4 from the foul line in the final 19 seconds and was the game's leading scorer with 15 points, rebounded Bradford's third straight missed field-goal attempt.

Griffin led the Tornadoes with 13 points. Brown and Jada Hankerson each had eight, while Bradford also got four from Kha'Myra Hankerson, three from Jackson and two from Teal.

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Hope Christian boys are SECC tournament runners-up

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Hope Christian Academy earned a rematch with Ocala's First Assembly Christian, but still couldn't get past the Eagles, losing 60-36 in the championship game of the Southeastern Christian Conference Championship boys basketball tournament, which was held Feb. 15-17 at Starke's Northside Christian Academy.

Marcus Chever averaged 18 points in four games in helping the Lions (21-5) earn the runner-up trophy.

Hope, which was the number-one seed in the West, had a first-round bye before playing its first tournament game on Feb. 16. The Lions had three players score in double figures in a 40-25 win over Brunswick Christian, which was the second seed in the East.

It was a 4-4 game going into the second quarter, but Hope began pulling away with an 8-0 run. After a free throw by Zach Hansen, Chever rebounded a Brunswick miss and went the length of the court for a basket. Chever then got the assist on an Aiden Wilson three-pointer before later going to the foul line and making two free throws.

The Lions had another 8-0 run to start the second half. Tavian Frazier and Wilson had back-to-back three pointers, while Chever scored off a Wilson assist, making the score 24-8.

Frazier and Wilson each had two three-pointers in the quarter to help Hope build a 30-18 lead.

Brunswick was able to but Hope's lead to eight, but Chever and Frazier each had two baskets as the Lions scored eight of the game's final nine points.

Chever finished with 14 points, while Frazier and Wilson each had 12. Hansen and Jude Hanson each added one point.

Hanson grabbed seven rebounds, while Chever and Frazier each had five.

That set up the first matchup between Hope and First Assembly, which was the second seed in the West. It was a closer



Tavian Frazier (center) contests a shot by First Assembly's B.J. Paige in the championship game. Jude Hanson (far left) is also pictured.



Marcus Chever (center) glides to the basket for two points in the win over Brunswick Christian that sent the Lions to the championship game.

game than the one played in the championship round, but in the end, the Lions lost 51-45 on Feb. 16.

Two free throws by Frazier gave Hope an early 5-4 lead, but it would be the Lions' only lead.

Chever and Wilson combined to score nine points in the first quarter to help send Hope into the second quarter trailing by just two, 13-11.

First Assembly went on a 10-1 run, which was capped by a Ta'Bryant Wooden three-pointer, which put the Eagles up 23-12.

Hope's Dalton Thomas gave Hope its first field goal of the second quarter off a Chever assist, but most of the quarter was a struggle, with the Lions making just 2 of 14 field-goal attempts.

The Lions were able to cut their deficit to four in the third quarter. Hope got a basket from Walker Munroe and a free throw by Hansen to make it a seven-point game. After First Assembly's B.J. Paige made two free throws, Frazier sank a three-point shot. Chever then grabbed a defensive rebound and went the length of the court for a basket to make it a 28-24 game.

First Assembly scored consecutive baskets before the Lions got a three-pointer from Hanson, which sent Hope into the fourth quarter trailing 32-27.

The Eagles were able to double their lead until Hope's Thomas scored off an offensive rebound, making it a 42-35 game with 2:30 to play. Danny Pascuma made a three-pointer for First Assembly, but Hope got consecutive baskets from Chever and Frazier to make it a six-point game with 1:05 remaining.

Hope, however, couldn't overtake the Eagles.

Chever, who hit a three-pointer before the final buzzer, finished with 19 points, while Frazier had 11. The Lions also got five points from Wilson, four from Thomas, three from Hanson, two from Munroe and one from Hansen.

Hope's rebound leaders were Chever with seven and Hanson with six.



Marcus Chever (left) and Jude Hanson were named to the SECC All-Tournament team. Chever also earned All-District honors, as did Tavian Frazier. Photo by Virginia Denmark.



Zach Hansen (far left) gets up for a shot in Hope's first game against First Assembly.

Lions rebound with win over Brunswick

Hope played Brunswick again on Feb. 17, with a 7-0 fourth-quarter run helping the Lions win 48-40.

The Lions fell behind 10-8 in the second quarter before scoring six straight points. Chever had two consecutive baskets during that span, while Frazier made two free throws.

It was a three-point game when Frazier was fouled as time expired in the first half. He made two free throws to put Hope up 18-13.

Hope was leading by three in the third quarter when it got two straight baskets from Chever. Another basket off a baseline drive by Hanson put the Lions ahead 26-19.

Brunswick made it a three-point game again, but Wilson hit a three-point shot to send Hope into the fourth quarter ahead 29-23.

A three-pointer by Brunswick's Pierce Saunders cut the Lions' lead to three. After Frazier went 1 of 2 from the foul line, the Eagles got a basket from Chase Kalani, which left Brunswick

See HCA, page 16

Northside girls reach SECC tournament semifinal round

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Northside Christian Academy was able to make it to the semifinals before seeing its season come to an end with a 23-12 loss to Open Bible Christian on Feb. 17 in the Southeastern Christian Conference girls basketball tournament, which was hosted by Northside.

The Eagles (11-8) entered the tournament as the West Division's number-two seed, going 2-2 before being eliminated. Northside came close to winning its first two games, but after opening with a win over Brunswick Christian, the third seed in the East, the Eagles were put into the loser's bracket with a 25-22 loss to Ludowici, Georgia's Faith Baptist, the top seed in the East.

Northside scored seven of the 10 points of the game against Faith Baptist. Makayla Price had the first basket of the game, followed by Arianna Norman driving to the basket for a score and drawing a foul in the process. Norman made the free throw to put the Eagles ahead 5-0. A



Rosalea Norman (far left) dribbles toward the basket in the Eagles' day-two game against Faith Baptist.

rebound putback by Jacee Smith later made it a 7-3 game.

Faith Baptist outscored Northside 6-2 in the second quarter, which left the Eagles trailing 11-9 at halftime.

A Chloe Templeton steal led to a three-pointer by Norman to put Northside ahead in the third quarter. The Crusaders went back on top, getting two consecutive baskets from Aimee Massey, but Northside's Norman scored consecutive baskets of her own — both on pull-up jumpers — to put the Eagles up 16-15 entering the final quarter.

Norman scored the first five points of the fourth quarter off two field goals and a free throw to put Northside ahead 21-15.

Faith missed its first five field-goal attempts of the quarter and had an 0-for-2 trip to the foul line before Northside picked up a foul and a technical foul. The Crusaders made only 2 of the ensuing 4 free-throw attempts and went on to miss their next two field-goal attempts.

The Crusaders' Sophie Sellars came away with a backcourt steal and sank a jump shot with 2:33 to play, making it a two-point game.

After Faith went 0 for 2 at the foul line at the 1:46 mark,

Sellars scored off Juliana Moye's backcourt steal to tie the score at 21-21.

Another turnover led to two free throws by Faith's Massey with 1:11 to play.

Northside committed turnovers on its next two possessions as well, but a steal by Smith gave the Eagles the ball with 21 seconds remaining. After a Northside time out, the Eagles turned the ball over, but Smith again gave her team a chance by coming up with another steal, which led to Northside calling a time out with 10 seconds on the clock. Rosalea Norman was then fouled on a drive to the basket. She made 1 of 2 free throws to make it 23-22.

Faith's Sellars rebounded Norman's missed free throw and was immediately fouled. She made both free throws with 1 second left to end the scoring and give the Crusaders the three-point win.

Arianna Norman finished with 15 points, while Price, Smith and Lexie Welsh each had two. Rosalea Norman added one point.

Smith grabbed six rebounds, while Price and Arianna Norman



Jacee Smith (center) wins a rebound battle against First Christian's Reagan Davis.

See NCA, page 13

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Obituaries

Lisa Brown

Lisa Diane Brown, 58, passed away on Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024, in Gainesville. She was born on May 8, 1965, in Starke to the late Preturicher Norsworthy and is survived by her loving husband, Jeff Brown. She will be deeply missed by her siblings, Jesse Norsworthy, Benjamin Norsworthy, and Barbara Lindsay; her sons, Michael (Synica) Lee, Brandon (Kasey) Lee, Ross (Shellie) Peugh, and Bruce Lee; and her daughters, Tonya (Ben) Norsworthy and Melissa (Todd) Gillenwaters. She was a cherished grandmother to 19 grandchildren.



She was one of a kind and her family was her most favorite thing about life. She enjoyed spending time with her boys and grandchildren. In her free time, she loved riding motorcycles, fishing, shooting pool, and listening to music. She had a special place in her heart for her grandbabies and enjoyed the simple pleasures of life, including a cold beer. Her career was that of a dedicated homemaker and wife. She found joy and fulfillment in caring for her family and creating a loving home for them. Her nurturing spirit and selflessness will forever be remembered.

A Celebration of Life will be held Sunday, March 3, at the home of Lisa and Jeff Brown. This all-day event will provide an opportunity for family and friends to come together and honor her memory. She leaves behind a legacy of love, devotion, and cherished memories. She will be forever missed by all who knew her.

PAID OBITUARY

Janice Cannon

Janice Lynne Cannon, 75, of Keystone Heights, passed away Friday, Feb. 16, 2024, at Haven Hospice Roberts Care Center in Palatka. Born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, she grew up in Ocala and was a 1968 graduate of Ocala High School. She attended college and was a 1972 graduate of Florida State University, where she participated in track and field and earned a bachelor's degree in physical education. She worked for many years in the banking industry for Bank of America. In her leisure time, she enjoyed equestrian activities. She was preceded in death by her parents, Bernard and Jeannette Daning.

Surviving are her husband of four years, Seidel Cannon of Keystone Heights; son, Jason Morris of Raleigh, North Carolina; and brother, Gary Daning of Las Vegas, Nevada.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Messages of sympathy may be shared on her online tribute page at: themastersfuneralhome.com.

Masters Funeral Home of Palatka is in charge of arrangements.

PAID OBITUARY

Linda C. Kent

Linda Clara Kent, a dedicated and compassionate nurse, sadly passed away on Sunday, Feb. 11, 2024, at Lake City Medical Center at the age of 78. She was born on May 2, 1945, in Providence, to her loving parents F.M. and Gladys Bielling Bivins. Her journey in the field of nursing began after she graduated with a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Florida in 1966. She launched her career at the VA hospital in Lake City. Her exceptional skills and unwavering dedication became evident as she worked tirelessly as an ER and ICU nurse. She finished her career at Lake Shore Hospital in Lake City. Her commitment to providing top-notch care was unmatched, and she consistently went above and beyond the call of duty. She held a deep love for music, and it gave her comfort during both joyous and challenging times. Above all else, though, she treasured her family. They were her world, and she found immeasurable joy in their presence. She was preceded in death by her parents, F.M. Bivins and Gladys Bielling Bivins; and her sister Laura Hilton.



Her passing leaves a void that will be deeply felt by all who knew and loved her. She is survived by her daughters, Lisa (B.J.) Wilson and Patricia Woodard; grandchildren, Greg Mann, Ashley Mann, John Woodard III, Karrigan Woodard, Gavin Wilson, Avery Wilson, and Amber Nelson; great-grandchildren, Alec VanDike, Elyza Eason, Chloe Woodard, Kayden Jones, Kayson Elixson, and Ethan Woodard; and great-great-grandchild, Forest VanDike. She also leaves behind her beloved sisters, Ann Tanner and Marilyn Bivins; her nieces and nephew, Lori Rowland, John Michael Hilton, and Amber Knagge; great-niece and nephews LaShae Brown, John Knagge, Douglas Knagge, Thorne Hilton, Holton Hilton, Greyson Brown, and Aubrey Brown who all held a special place in her heart.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 24, at Archer-Milton Funeral Home. Immediately following the service her ashes will be interred at Phillippi Baptist Church Cemetery in Lake City.

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

PAID OBITUARY

Edward Longnecker

Edward Longnecker, 89, of Brooksville, left this life on Friday, Feb. 9, 2024, at Brooksville HealthCare Center in Brooksville. He was born in Lansing, Michigan. He moved to Florida in the early 1970s from Livonia, Michigan and resided in Keystone Heights for 48 years. He was predeceased by his parents, Edward and Olive Longnecker of Melrose; and sisters, Neva Canty of Flushing, Michigan and Julia Heuman of Cleveland, Ohio.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Jacklyn Longnecker of Spring Hill; brother, Elmer (Margaret) Longnecker of Houston, Texas; sons, John (Michelle) Longnecker of Milford, Michigan, Jeff (Eileen) Longnecker of Milford, Michigan, Eric Longnecker of Westland, Michigan and Chris (Amanda) Longnecker of Soddy Daisy, Tennessee; daughter, Bethany Hunsinger of Green Cove Springs; stepdaughters, Karen (Cary) Ryan of Cottage Grove, Minnesota, Jennie (Daniel) Pippin of Spring Hill and Heather (Richard) O'Steen of Abingdon, Maryland; 10 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

PAID OBITUARY

Annie Bell Mosley

Mrs. Annie Bell Mosley, 85, of Starke died on Friday, Feb. 16, 2024.

Services will be held on Saturday, Feb. 24 at 11 a.m. at Greater Bethlehem Free Will Baptist Church. Viewing will be one hour and thirty minutes before the service.



Edna Powell

Sept. 5, 1925-Feb. 18, 2024

Beloved Wife & Mother

Walter Saddler Jr.

Walter "Joe" Saddler Jr., 86 died Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2024, at Roberts Care Center in Palatka.

Survivors are his wife, Marilyn (Denelsbeck) Saddler; and children, Michael, Thomas, Krista, Roger, and James; a brother, David Saddler; and several grandchildren.

Private services will be held at a later date.

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

KEEGAN

Continued from page 9

about a year and a half when the superintendent told her he could really use her at another school that had just received a D grade from the state. That school's grade rose to a B while Keegan was there.

A year and a half later, the superintendent approached her again about moving to another school that needed help.

"It was kind of a running joke," Keegan said. "Every October, the superintendent would say, 'Can you please go help here?'"

Of course, as Keegan said regarding the assistant-principal position at Starke Elementary, she's willing to go wherever she can be of help.

Keegan would eventually become a principal, first on an interim basis when a position needed to be filled during the school year. She was the principal at Peace River Elementary School before moving to Gainesville.

As someone who grew up in Charlotte County, Keegan found herself among familiar faces during her professional career there.

"When I became an assistant principal and a principal, you are responsible for observing and evaluating educators," she said. "There was a time when I observed and evaluated teachers who had been my own."

In 2022, Keegan received a National Distinguished Principal

Award, which is presented to one teacher in each state every year by the National Association of Elementary School Principals. She and the other recipients gathered for a two-day event in Washington, D.C.

"It was a fantastic opportunity to just celebrate leadership — great leaders who believe in schools and teachers," Keegan said.

Despite the opportunity, Keegan had to be talked into going by Charlotte County Superintendent of Schools Steve Dionicio. Hurricane Ian had just come through, causing much destruction in her county.

"Me, my husband, my boys and three dogs were in a bathroom for eight hours in this storm," Keegan said, adding, "There was no power and all that kind of stuff. I felt incredibly guilty about leaving."

During the event, each principal has to give a 10-minute speech about receiving the award.

"I just went up there and said to them basically, 'I didn't prepare a speech about this because I didn't intend on coming.' Then I told the story," Keegan said. "I said, 'Right now, my heart is with all of my students and their families and my staff at the school.'"

The result was that Keegan had administrators from other schools ask her how they could help.

"I met with one principal from South Carolina, who asked me to come sit with her," Keegan

Rebecca Wise

Rebecca S. Wise, 91, of Lawtey, passed away on Friday, Feb. 16, 2024, at Riverwood Health and Rehabilitation Center in Starke with her loving family by her side. She was born in Ocoee on Oct. 6, 1932, to the late John Silas Brown and Purvis Prevatt Brown. She was born in Orange County and raised in Lawtey. She met the love of her life and forever companion, Ralph Wise, on a blind date in November of 1949. It was love at first sight for the young couple. Shortly after graduating from Bradford High School, they were happily married on Aug. 11, 1950. Following school, she started her career with the Bradford County School System at Southside Elementary for a few years and later, at Lawtey Elementary as their Cafeteria Manager. She proudly served 26 years and retired in December of 1994. She was a longtime, faithful member of the First Baptist Church of Lawtey, where she loved to praise and worship her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In her spare time, she loved cooking and traveling, but more than anything, she loved spending time with her family and friends. She was a devoted and loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, who will be greatly missed by all who knew her. She was preceded in death by her parents; son, Bill Wise; brother, Mitchell Brown; and sister, June Brown.



She is survived by her loving husband of 73 years, Ralph Wise of Lawtey; sons, Donny (Carol) Wise and Tommy (Cheryl) Wise both of Starke; daughter-in-law, Darlene Wise of Keystone Heights; sister, Janet (Paul) Brown of Lawtey; grandchildren, Dilan Wise, Kelsey Gentry, Craig Wise, Kevin (Pam) Wise, Chris (Rebecca) Wise, Heather (Ryan) Lowery, Haley (John) Buchholtz, Whitney (Ashley) Ferguson, Lauren (Brent) Allen; great-grandchildren, Addie, Jack, Shelby (Dustin), Bryson, Avie, Taylor, Dalton, Ashton, Morgan, Christopher (Keirstin), Bailey, Kenlee, Emma Grace, Mallory, Hadlyn, and Maggie; great-great-grandchildren, Trenton, Ramsey, Ari, Adi, Clayton, Aspen, Silas, Tyler and Walker; along with numerous extended family members and friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held Thursday, Feb. 22, at 12:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Lawtey with Pastor Tim Mulkey and Brother Mike Holcomb officiating. Interment to follow at Evergreen Cemetery, Raiford. The family will receive friends an hour prior at the church.

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

PAID OBITUARY

Do you have an In Memory or Card of Thanks to submit? Please email socials@bctelegraph.com, or call 904-964-6305 for more information.

said. "Her PTO wrote a \$500 check to our school for needs for families."

A part of 2 families

What Keegan has discovered while working at Starke Elementary School is that Schaeffer treats everyone as if they're family.

"He's very considerate, kind, patient and always wants you to do what's best for students," Keegan said.

The family like atmosphere is prevalent throughout the district, Keegan said.

"I've felt very welcomed, and that's not always the case when you go to a new place," she said. "Sometimes it takes a while for people to welcome newcomers, but I have just felt right at ease here."

Keegan said she also likes the fact that she hasn't observed "pomp and circumstance" that may come with certain positions in other school districts. She cited the fact that seeing Superintendent of Schools Will Hartley walking through the hallways of the school and talking to people is not unusual.

"He seems to know everybody and is genuine in asking, 'What can we do to help,'" Keegan said.

When she's not busy with her professional family, Keegan likes to go on outings with her real-life family and enjoy what Florida has to offer. That doesn't mean going to theme parks or other tourist attractions.

"I really genuinely love real Florida," Keegan said, adding, "We'll go to the springs and stuff like that."

The family enjoys fishing and hiking. Once or twice a year, they'll enjoy the outdoors in the Great Smoky Mountains. Keegan said when the family takes a trip to the Smokies, they like to hike the Alum Cave trail in the national park.

Keegan and her husband, who's the chief labor negotiator at UF, have been married 20 years, but have been together for 26. They were high-school sweethearts and maintained their relationship in college, while she was at West Florida and he was at UF.

Their oldest son, Colin, is still in Charlotte County, living with Keegan's brother and sister-in-law so that he can finish out his senior year at Charlotte High School in Punta Gorda. He's participated in cross country and soccer and is set to start his final season in track and field. Colin, who's also been involved in robotics, has been accepted to eight of the 10 colleges he's applied at and is waiting to hear back from UF.

"He'd love to go to the University of Florida," Keegan said, "but they don't tell you (if you've been accepted) until the end of February."

Keegan's other son, Brody, is a freshman at Buchholz High School in Gainesville. He's currently toward earning the rank of Eagle Scout.

Achieving Scouting's highest rank, selecting a college to go to — there's plenty of excitement in Keegan's family when it comes to her sons. She also has exciting things to look forward to with her professional family as everyone is eager to work together to best benefit the students in Bradford County.

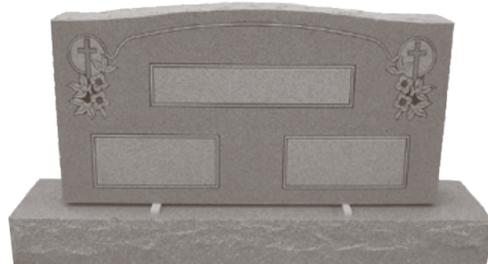
"The principals in this district are doing a good job of listening to the superintendent's vision and carrying out his initiatives," Keegan said. "Everyone communicates really well. We are sharing opportunities and resources. Great things are happening at each building."

Keegan is a part of that, and it's totally fine that it's in the role of assistant principal. When Hartley asked her why she wanted to work in Bradford County, she told him, "Karen (Clarke) said there was a need. I've always had a calling to help anywhere I can be of service. What can I do? What is it that you need?"

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Northside, Hope played each other on tournament's 2nd day

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Northside Christian Academy, after getting dropped into the loser's bracket, defeated Hope Christian 39-18 on the second day of action at the Southeastern Christian Conference girls basketball tournament, which was hosted by Northside.

The Eagles got off to a quick start. Makayla Price sank a jump shot, followed by Arianna Norman stealing the ball and making a three-point basket. Another Hope turnover led to a basket by Rosalea Norman, giving Northside a 7-0 lead.

Addyson Wilson finally put the Lions on the board with a three-point basket, but Northside closed out the first quarter with seven straight points. Arianna Norman made a three-pointer and later had a free throw. Lexie Welsh also had a free throw before Rosalea Norman scored off an offensive rebound.

It took more than four minutes for either team to score in the second quarter. Hope's Ashlyn Crews ended the drought with a pair of free throws.

Less than a minute remained in the half before Northside got on the board, courtesy of Welsh jump shot. Rosalea Norman then scored off a turnover to make it 18-5 in favor of the Eagles.

The Lions' Aubriana Clark had a rebound putback before the buzzer to send Hope into the locker room trailing 18-7.

Northside outscored Hope 9-2 in the third quarter to build an 18-point lead. Rosalea Norman had two consecutive baskets before Arianna Norman sank a three-pointer. A Rosalea Norman steal led to a basket by Price.

Crews scored off her own steal to give the Lions their only basket of the quarter.

Arianna Norman made her fourth three-pointer of the game in the fourth quarter, while teammate Briley Parrish scored nine points off four field goals and a free throw. Two of Parrish's baskets came off offensive rebounds.

The Eagles were led by Arianna Norman's 13 points and Rosalea Norman's 10 points. Northside also got nine from Parrish, four from Price and three from Welsh.

Arianna Norman led the team in rebounds with six, while Price had four.

Welsh had a team-high four steals, while Arianna Norman and Rosalea Norman each had three.

Hope got six points each from Crews and Wilson, four from Clark and two from Joanne Abbott.

Mackenzie McRaney led the Lions with six rebounds, while Crews had five. Clark, Abbott and Alyssa Hunt each had four.

Crews also had three steals.

With the loss, Hope, which was the tournament's fourth seed in the West, ended its season with a 4-12 record. The Lions began the tournament with a 34-15 loss to number-one East seed Faith Baptist of Ludowici, Georgia, and then defeated number-three East seed Brunswick Christian Academy 39-37 to set up the game against Northside.

Faith Baptist went on to finish as tournament runner-up to Open Bible of Valdosta, Georgia.



Northside's Lexie Welsh (far right) prepares to take a shot while guarded by Hope's Ashlyn Crews (center) and Autumn Hunt.



Northside's Arianna Norman (left) takes a three-point shot over Hope's Aubriana Clark.



Hope's Addyson Wilson (left) attempts to prevent Northside's Briley Parrish from taking a shot.

NCA

Continued from page 11

each had four.

Eagles reach semis with 27-18 victory

Northside rebounded from the Faith Baptist loss with two straight wins. After defeating Hope Christian 39-18 (see related story), the Eagles then defeated High Springs' First Christian 27-18 in the second of three games Northside played on Feb. 17.

The Eagles trailed 8-4 before outscoring First Christian 9-3 in the second quarter. Arianna Norman had a three-pointer, followed by two consecutive baskets by Smith to put Northside ahead 11-10. Rosalea Norman sank a jump shot to help send the Eagles into halftime leading 13-11.

It remained a three-point game in favor of Northside heading into the fourth quarter. Rosalea Norman scored in transition to put the Eagles ahead 21-16. Arianna Norman added a basket after a Welsh steal and later scored on a baseline drive to put Northside up by nine points.

The Lions scored only two points in the fourth quarter.

Northside got 13 points from Arianna Norman, six from Rosalea Norman, four from Smith and two each from Welsh and Briley Parrish.

Price and Smith had 10 and eight rebounds, respectively.

Open Bible ends Northside's season

After an Arianna Norman three-pointer made it a one-point game in the third quarter, the Eagles were outscored 11-1 the rest of the way in a 23-12 loss to Open Bible in a Feb. 17 semifinal game.

The game was an offensive struggle for both teams, who combined to score just four points in the first quarter. Northside didn't get a field goal until Smith sank a jump shot with 1:05 remaining in the first half.

With Open Bible leading 10-

5, almost two minutes went by in the third quarter until either team had a score. That occurred when Arianna Norman hit the first of her two three-point shots.

Open Bible's Sabrina McMillan answered with a basket off an offensive rebound before Norman sank a shot from beyond the arc again, leaving the Eagles trailing 12-11.

The Warriors scored two baskets in transition in closing out the third quarter with five

straight points.

Northside went scoreless in the fourth quarter, going 0 for 6 from the field and committing nine turnovers.

Arianna Norman finished with eight points, while Smith and Rosalea Norman each had two.

Price and Arianna Norman each had four rebounds.

Open Bible (17-3) would go on to win the tournament championship.



NCA middle-school girls team is SECC runner-up

Northside Christian Academy's middle-school girls basketball team won the Southeastern Christian Conference West Division championship for the second straight season and took an undefeated record into the SECC tournament championship game before losing by two points to High Springs' First Christian. The Eagles finished the season with a 12-1 record and had a combined record of 33-1 the last two seasons. The team's motto this season was, "Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard." Head Coach Todd von Weyhe said, "It was an honor and a privilege to have this opportunity to coach this very special group of girls. They worked so hard and made many sacrifices along this wonderful path." He added, "We were certainly one of the smallest teams, but these girls were relentless on defense and worked together to do their jobs on offense." Pictured with the SECC West championship trophy are: (front, l-r) Leona Harden, Ava Welsh, (middle, l-r) Emma Calhoun, Caydance Slayton, Gabby Smith, Kaylea King, Piper Kite, (back, l-r) von Weyhe, Taylor Lind and Maddie Kennedy.

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1. I love my job because I work in an area that interests and inspires me, as well as the people I have met that push me to be better at what I do. I learned a entire new skill set with the 202 RED HORSE from my normal interest.

2. Having the health benefits, school paid for, friendship, and travel opportunities!

3. I have learned a lot of skills while serving in the Florida Air National Guard, but the ones that have helped me the most is effective communication and leadership qualities.

The FLANG and RED HORSE have better equipped me to be not just a better Airmen but also a better leader among my peers and community.

V/R
//SIGNED//
SrA Walker, Harleigh
Materiel Management202 RHS

Call the Recruiting Office to get more information:
GSU Advanced Recruiter
5629 SR 16 West BLDG 4200,
Starke, FL 32091
Office 904-741-7756
Cell 904-955-4066



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Legal Notices

Legals for the week of Feb. 22, 2024

BRADFORD

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: Kyrah 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 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.
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
01053 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

PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INFORMATION

Pursuant to Section 324 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, the following information is available to the public upon request during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday, at the North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee, located at 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653-1603.

- Hazardous Chemical Inventory (Tier Two) Forms
 - Shelter In Place Training Assistance
 - Safety Data Sheets
 - Emergency Release Follow-up Reports
 - Hazards Analyses for Section 302 Facilities
 - Local Emergency Planning Committee Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan
 - How-to-Comply Information for Hazardous Materials Users
 - Free Hazardous Materials Response Training for First Responders
- The North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee serves Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor, and Union Counties. To obtain information on the above items, please contact Lauren Yeatter at 352.955.2200, ext. 113, email yeatter@ncflep.org or visit www.ncflep.org.

2/22 1tchg-BCT

PUBLIC NOTICE

B+T Group Holdings, LLC, on behalf of Coral Towers, LLC, is proposing to construct a 304-foot overall height self-supporting lattice telecommunications structure located near 25134 US Highway 301 N, Lawley, Bradford County, Florida (N30° 04' 38.7", W82° 03' 59.6"). This tower is anticipated to utilize FAA Style-E lighting.
B+T Group Holdings, LLC, on behalf of Coral Towers, LLC, invites comments from any interested party on the

impact the proposed undertaking may have on any districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering, or culture that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under National Historic Preservation Act Section 106. Comments may be sent to Environmental Corporation of America, ATTN: Annamarie Howell, 1375 Union Hill Industrial Court, Suite A, Alpharetta, GA 30004 or via email to publicnotice@eca-usa.com. Ms. Howell can be reached at (770) 667-2040 x 108 during normal business hours. Comments must be received within 30 days of the date of this notice.

In addition, any interested party may also request further environmental review of the proposed action under the FCC's National Environmental Policy Act rules, 47 CFR §1.1307, by notifying the FCC of the specific reasons that the action may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. This request must only raise environmental concerns and can be filed online using the FCC pleadings system at www.fcc.gov or mailed to FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554 within 30 days of the date that notice of this proposed action is published on the FCC's website. Refer to File No. A1259932 when submitting the request and to view the specific information about the proposed action. EAH 23-003372
2/22 1tchg-BCT

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

PUBLIC NOTICE OF APPLICATION Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, the following application for permit was received on February 5, 2024:

Jessica Criss of Sandcastles Foundation, Inc., 700 N Wickham Rd, Ste 205, Melbourne, FL 32935-8840, has submitted an Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) application number ERP-007-241324-2. The project is located in Bradford County, Section 29, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, and includes 8.77-acres. Interested persons may comment upon the application or submit a written request for a staff report containing proposed agency action regarding the application by writing to the Suwannee River Water Management District, Attn: Resource Management, 9225 C.R. 49, Live Oak, Florida 32060. Such comments or requests must be received by 5:00 PM within 14 days from the date of publication.

No further public notice will be provided regarding this application. A copy of the staff report must be requested in order to remain advised of further proceedings. Substantially affected persons are entitled to request an administrative hearing, pursuant to Title 28, Florida Administrative Code, regarding the proposed agency action by submitting a written request after reviewing the staff report.
2/22 1tchg-BCT

COMMISSION MEETING

THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Bradford County Board of County Commissioners will have a board meeting on March 5, 2024, at 9:30 AM inside the county commission meeting room, located in the north wing section of the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 N. Temple, Avenue, Starke, FL. A copy of the meeting agenda may be obtained from the Bradford County website: www.bradfordcountyfl.gov. Said meeting location is secured – no firearms or weapons are permitted.
2/22 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that MID-FLORIDA DEVELOPEMENT 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: 812
Year of Issuance: 2020
Parcel Number: 03345-0-00000
Case Number: 04-2024-TD-0001
Description of Property: 28 6S 22 BLK 26 IN L T & COS S/D, EX E1/2 OF LOT 1 & EX S 25' OF E1/2 OF LOT 2 OF BLK 26, AS DESC IN OR BK 47 PG 108 of the Public Records of Bradford County, State of Florida.

Name in Which Assessed: ARTHUR RANDOLPH
Name on last tax roll, if different: All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 04/24/2024, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida
BY: KANETRA JENKINS, Deputy Clerk
Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem.
DATED: February 15, 2024
DATE OF PUBLICATION: February 22, 2024; February 29, 2024; March 7, 2024; March 14, 2024
2/22 4tchg 3/14-BCT

7, 2024; March 14, 2024
2/22 4tchg 3/14-BCT

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME

Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned: **ALLYN WEI ENTERPRISE LLC**, 17982 SR 16, Starke, FL 32091, sole owner, doing business under the firm name of: **STARKE TRANSMISSION AND AUTO REPAIR**, 17982 SR 16, Starke, FL 32091 intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statute. Dated this 19th day of February A.D., 2024, in Bradford County.
2/22 1tchg-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
Case No 04-2024-CP-000006-CPAM Estate Division

IN RE: ESTATE OF EDWARD WILLIAM CAMPBELL Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Edward William Campbell, deceased, whose date of death was October 31, 2023, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 945 N Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court 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 22, 2024.
Attorney for Personal Representative:
Robert S. Young, Esq.
Attorney

Florida Bar Number: 1003561
SERMONS LAW, PLLC
1844 Atlantic Blvd
Jacksonville, FL 32207
Telephone: (904) 738-7207
Fax: (904) 637-7144
E-Mail: robert@sermonsfirm.com
Secondary E-Mail: service@sermonsfirm.com
Personal Representative:
Monica M. Campbell
1259 Poplar Ave
Baltimore, Maryland 21227
2/22 2tchg 2/29-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

To satisfy the owner's storage lien, KO Storage LLC will sell at public lien sale on March 20, 2024. The personal property in the below-listed units, which may include but are not limited to: Household goods, boxes/totes/bags, clothing, bedding, tools and toys. The public sale of these items will begin at 10AM on March 13, 2024 and end at 2PM on March 20, 2024. The public sale will take place on www.storage-treasures.com.
KO Storage of Starke - S Walnut St, 1650 South Walnut Street, Starke FL 32091, (952) 314-7121 Time: 02:00PM CST

A16, Maddox, Carolyn, A24, Williamson, Jessica, A27, Jordan, Madolyn, A53, Hood, John, A75, Griffin, Rebecca, B31, Whiteley, Mylinda, B77, Shults, Michael, C12, Hood, John
Public sale terms, rules, and regulations will be made available on www.storage-treasures.com. All sales are subject to cancellation. We reserve the right to refuse any bid. Payment must be by credit/debit card, we do not accept checks or cash. Buyers must secure the units with their own personal locks. To claim tax-exempt status, original RESALE certificates for each space purchased is required. By KO Storage LLC, 10301 Wayzata Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55305. (952)-314-7121.
2/22 2tchg 2/29-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that LEWIS CHAFF 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: 713
Year of Issuance: 2017
Parcel Number: 02517-0-00000
Case Number: 2024-TD-0003
Description of Property: LOTS 2 AND 3 OF BLOCK 17, NORTH RENO, AS PER PLAT RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2 AT PAGE 39 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
Name in Which Assessed: VIVIAN FARNSWORTH & BRIAN FARNSWORTH

Name on last tax roll, if different:

All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on 04/24/2024, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida
BY KANETRA JENKINS
Deputy Clerk

Contact the Tax Deed Office at 904-966-6280 to obtain the amount necessary to redeem.
DATED: February 19, 2024
DATE OF PUBLICATION: FEBRUARY 22, 2024; FEBRUARY 29, 2024; MARCH 7, 2024; MARCH 14, 2024
2/22 4tchg 3/14-BCT

REQUEST FOR BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Bradford County S.H.I.P. Program will receive sealed bids until 2:30 p.m., March 11, 2024 at the Bradford County Office of the County Clerk located at 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida 32091 for the following:
Rehabilitation of residence located at: 1530 McCollum Street, Starke, FL 32091
511 E. Jackson Street, Starke, FL 32091

A mandatory walk through is a prerequisite to a valid bid. All interested bidders will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 29, 2024 at the Community Development Office located at 925-E North Temple Avenue in Starke, Florida. If you plan to submit a bid, a representative of your firm must attend the "walk through" of the unit to become familiar with the property and the scope of work to be completed. No contractor shall visit the subject property for any reason without first making arrangements with the County and owner.

All contractors must have proof of Residential, Builder, or General Contractor's License, proof of Liability Insurance, proof of Workers' Compensation Insurance (or Exemption Card), a statement of non-discrimination, and at least two references from previously completed jobs.

Bids will be opened at 2:30 p.m. on March 11, 2024 or as soon thereafter as possible in the presence of the Clerk or his designee, Community Development staff, and all interested persons in the Clerks meeting room. The opened bids will be read into public record and preserved in the custody of the Community Development Department. Bids will not be valid unless received by the bid deadline and in a sealed envelope marked, "Sealed Bid, S.H.I.P." and received by 2:30 p.m., March 11, 2024.

Questions to be submitted in writing to the Community Development office at kelly.canady@bradfordcountyfl.gov or Fax (904) 966-6384 no later than 3:00 p.m. Friday, March 8, 2024. The County reserves the right to reject all bids when in its best judgment they are too high or when it is determined to be in the best interest of the County that the bids be re-advertised. Pursuant to Section 255.0991, Florida Statutes, Bradford County WILL NOT offer a local preference for this project. It is the policy of the County to promote equal opportunity to obtain adequate housing by all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, familial status, handicap, or national origin.
2/22 1tchg-BCT

UNION

PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INFORMATION

Pursuant to Section 324 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, the following information is available to the public upon request during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday, at the North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee, located at 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, FL 32653-1603.

- Hazardous Chemical Inventory (Tier Two) Forms
- Shelter In Place Training Assistance
- Safety Data Sheets
- Emergency Release Follow-up Reports
- Hazards Analyses for Section 302 Facilities
- Local Emergency Planning Committee Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan
- How-to-Comply Information for Hazardous Materials Users
- Free Hazardous Materials Response Training for First Responders

The North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee serves Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor, and Union Counties. To obtain information on the above items, please contact Lauren Yeatter at 352.955.2200, ext. 113, email yeatter@ncflep.org or visit www.ncflep.org.

2/22 1tchg-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

the School Board Members and Superintendent of Union County School District will be having a board workshop to discuss the Lake Butler Elementary School, Special Facility Construction Project. The meeting will be held at 55 S.W. 6th Street, Lake Butler, FL 32054, beginning at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 27, 2024.

For further information contact: Kelly Holmes, Executive Secretary 352 448-5054
2/22 1tchg-UCT

PUBLIC NOTICE RULE NAME:

3.22+ Internet Safety 6.216 Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP)
PURPOSE AND EFFECT: To update Board Policies
SUMMARY: To update Board Policies
AUTHORITY: Florida Statutes
LAW IMPLEMENTED:
ECONOMIC IMPACT: None
Policies can be viewed in the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 55 SW Sixth Street, Lake Butler, Florida between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M.

IF A HEARING IS REQUESTED WITHIN 28 DAYS OF THE POLICY POSTING LOCATED AT UNION. K12.FL.US THIS PUBLICATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 120.54 FLORIDA STATUTES, IT WILL BE HELD ON March 12, 2024, IN THE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING ROOM. A COMPLETE TEXT OF THIS PROPOSED RULE MAY BE VIEWED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, 55 S.W. 6th STREET, LAKE BUTLER, FLORIDA.
2/22 1tchg-UCT

TIRE AMNESTY

Union County Solid Waste is hosting the annual Tire Amnesty event from March 2 – March 3 at 15285 SW 84th Street, Lake Butler FL 32054. Maximum 20 tires per resident. Photo ID required. Tires from commercial shops not accepted.
2/22 2tchg 2/29-UC

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: jordang@salterlaw.net
Personal Representative: /s/ Alison Odowski
Alison Odowski
8806 3rd Avenue South
Seattle, Washington 98108
2/15 2tchg 2/22-UCT

City of Lake Butler
Citizen Advisory Task Force Meeting Notice

The City of Lake Butler will conduct a meeting of its Citizen Advisory Task Force (CATF) at City Hall located at 200 SW 1st Street, Lake Butler Florida 32054 on Thursday, February 29 at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as may be heard. The CATF will meet to discuss project options for the Community Development Block Grant program. For more information concerning this meeting, contact Ms. Kimberly Hayes, City Manager at 386-496-3401.

A FAIR HOUSING/ EQUAL/ OPPORTUNITY/ HANDICAP ACCESS JURISDICTION
2/22 1tchg-UCT

Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700

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Bradford County Telegraph
131 West Call Street • Starke, Florida 32091
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John Miller, Publisher

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KHHS, UCHS baseball and softball teams began regular season Feb. 20

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights and Union County high schools began their regular-season schedules for baseball and softball this past Tuesday.

The Keystone softball played Baker County as part of a five-game home stretch. The Indians host Oakleaf on Thursday, Feb. 22, at 6:30 p.m., Baker County on Friday, Feb. 23, at 7 p.m., Ridgeview on Monday, Feb. 26, at 7 p.m. and Clay on Tuesday, Feb. 27, at 7 p.m.

Keystone's baseball team opened on the road at Clay and will host Santa Fe on Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. The Indians then travel to play North Marion on Feb. 27 at 6:30 p.m.

The Union softball team hosted Eastside this past Tuesday and will next host Branford on Feb. 27 at 7:30 p.m.

Union's baseball team played at Baker County to open the season and will return home to play West Nassau on Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. and Lanier County (Georgia) on Feb. 23 at 7 p.m. The Tigers then travel to play Suwannee on Feb. 27 at 7 p.m.

BHS baseball team opens with 1-run loss

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School's baseball team dropped its season opener, losing 3-2 to host University Christian on Feb. 19.

The host team scored all of its runs in the third inning, while Mattox Burgin drove in all of the Tornados' runs in the sixth.

Cason Pilcher went the distance on the mound, giving up one earned run on three hits.

Bradford hosts Eastside on Thursday, Feb. 22, at 6 p.m. The Tornados then play another home game on Friday, Feb. 23, against Englewood at 6:30 p.m.

On Tuesday, Feb. 27, the Tornados travel to play Middleburg at 6:30 p.m.

Tornadoes fall 11-2 in softball

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Bradford High School was held to five hits and didn't score until the final inning in an 11-2 loss to visiting Hilliard in the season opener for both softball teams on Feb. 19.

Both Bradford runs came on a home run by Addyson Hinds.

Only three of Hilliard's runs were earned.

The Tornados travel to play Suwannee on Friday, Feb. 23, at 7 p.m. Bradford then travels to play Orange Park on Monday, Feb. 26, at 6 p.m.

KHHS boys tennis team defeats BHS for 2-0 start

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School improved to 2-0 in boys tennis with a 6-1 win over host Bradford on Feb. 13.

The Indians' only loss came at number-two singles, with Bradford's Rowan Butler taking an 8-6 win over Evan Booth.

Keystone's Dalton Moore won

8-4 over Calum Butler at number-one singles, while Ethan Teague defeated the Tornados' Nikolas Vargas 8-0 at the number-three slot.

Will Begue and Beckett Capper each earned 8-1 wins for Keystone, with Begue defeating James Hudgens at the number-four slot and Capper defeating Jack Hendrix at the number-five slot.

Moore and Booth teamed up at number-one doubles to defeat Butler and Butler 8-5, while the Keystone team of Teague and Curran Capper defeated Hudgens and Vargas 8-8 (7-3).

The two teams will play each other again on Monday, Feb. 26, in Keystone at 3:45 p.m.

Prior to that, the Indians will host Eastside on Thursday, Feb. 22, at 3:30 p.m. Keystone will travel to play Santa Fe on Tuesday, Feb. 27, at 3:30 p.m.

Bradford (0-2) played West Nassau this past Tuesday and will host Ridgeview on Thursday, Feb. 22, at 3 p.m.

Keystone girls get tennis win over Bradford

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Keystone Heights High School hosted Bradford in a girls tennis

match on Feb. 15, winning 4-3.

The Indians (2-2) earned three victories in singles play. Raegan Feldpausch defeated Maya Moss 8-1 at the number-three spot, Alyssa Lee defeated Victoria Hudgens 8-3 at the number-four spot and Joann Mason defeated Rylie Harris 8-3 at the number-five spot.

Bradford (0-3) got singles wins from Reagan Harris and Caitlyn Jackson. Harris defeated Shaylyn Williams 8-5 at the number-one spot, while Jackson defeated Whitnee Buchanan 9-7 at the number-two spot.

Harris and Jackson teamed up for an 8-3 number-one doubles win over Williams and Alli Tisdale.

Keystone won the other doubles match, with Buchanan and Feldpausch defeating Moss and Brooke Rodriguez 8-0.

It was the second straight win for the Indians, who defeated Union County 4-3 on Feb. 13 in Lake Butler.

Buchanan won 8-1 in singles, while Mason and Tisdale had wins of 8-6 and 8-0, respectively. In doubles, Buchanan and Tisdale teamed up to win 8-1.

Keystone travels to play Palatka on Monday, Feb. 26, at 4 p.m. The Indians then return home to play Santa Fe on Tuesday, Feb. 27, at 4 p.m.

Bradford played West Nassau this past Tuesday and will host Ridgeview on Thursday, Feb. 22, at 3 p.m.

KHHS

Continued from page 10

a fifth-place finish: Henry Carhuayo and Arthur Durning.

Carhuayo began his day in the 138 class by pinning Florida Deaf and Blind's Dino Jeudy in 5:36. After two straight losses, he pinned Baldwin's Chance Parsons-Crawford in 2:31.

Durning went 2-2 in the 144

class. He rebounded twice from losses, pinning Bishop Snyder's Daniel Ortiz in 42 seconds and pinning Palatka's Josmil Montanez in 24 seconds.

Keystone placed fifth out of nine teams with a score of 106. The Indians finished 28 points ahead of sixth-place Baldwin and 14 points behind fourth-place Florida Deaf and Blind.

Baker won the championship, while Union was runner-up.

Tri-County Classifieds

Bradford County Lake Region UNION COUNTY
Telegraph Monitor Times

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Legal Notices

Legals for the week of Feb. 22, 2024

UNION

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 EARL BAGLEY Respondent.

NOTICE OF ACTION FOR - PETITION FOR TEMPORARY CUSTODY BY EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBER

TO: (name of respondent) EARL 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

CITY OF LAKE BUTLER FAIR HOUSING PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING NOTICE

The City of Lake Butler will conduct a Fair Housing Public Information Meeting at City Hall located at 200 SW 1st Street, Lake Butler Florida 32054 on **Thursday, February 29 at 6:00 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as may be heard. The meeting is intended to provide the general public, property owners, housing professionals and local elected officials with information concerning fair housing. For information concerning this meeting, contact Ms. Kimberly Hayes, City Manager at (386) 496-3401. For more information about fair housing call 1-802-342-8170 (Florida Commission of Human Relations) or 1-800-669-9777 (HUD-Washington, D.C.)

A FAIR HOUSING/ EQUAL/ OPPORTUNITY/ HANDICAP ACCESS JURISDICTION
2/22 1tchg-UCT

City of Lake Butler

FIRST PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
The City of Lake Butler is considering applying to the Florida Department of Commerce (FC) for one or more Small Cities Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) for the 2023-24 CDBG program year. Each grant is expected to not exceed \$650,000. CDBG funds may be used for one of the following purposes: 1. To benefit low and moderate income persons; 2. To aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight; or 3. To meet other community development needs of recent origin having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community and where other financial resources are not available to meet such needs. The categories of activities for which these funds may be used are in the areas of housing, neighborhood revitalization, commercial revitalization, or economic development and include such improvement activities as acquisition of real property, loans to private-for-profit business, purchase of machinery and equipment, construction of infrastructure, planning/design, rehabilitation of houses and commercial buildings, and energy conservation. In developing an application for submission to FC, the City of Lake Butler must plan to minimize displacement of persons as a result of planned CDBG activities. In addition, the City is required to develop a plan to assist displaced persons.

A public hearing to receive citizen views concerning the community's economic and community development needs will be held on Thursday, February 29 at 6:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as may be heard, at the City of Lake Butler City Hall located at 200 SW 1st Street, Lake Butler Florida 32054. Additional information regarding the range of activities that may be undertaken with funding from the CDBG grant program will be provided at the public hearing. Additional information may also be obtained prior to the Public Hearing by contacting Ms. Kimberly Hayes, City Manager at (386) 496-3401. Also, comments or questions (and requests for additional information) may be submitted to Ms. Hayes, by email at khayes@cityoflakebutler.com, or by postal service at 200 SW 1st Street, Lake Butler Florida 32054. The public hearing will be conducted in a handicapped accessible location. Any handicapped person requiring an interpreter for the hearing impaired or the visually impaired or requiring any other special accommodation should contact the City at the phone number listed above at least five calendar days prior to the meeting so that arrangements can be made for an interpreter or other special accommodation. To access a Telecommunication Device for Deaf Persons (TDD) please call (1-800-877-8339). Any non-English speaking person wishing to attend the public hearing should contact the City at the phone number listed above so that arrangements for a language interpreter can be made.

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40 Notices

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newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777, the toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275. For further information call Florida Commission on Human Relations, Lisa Sutherland 850-488-7082 ext. #1005

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65 Help Wanted

LIBRARY TECHNICAL ASSISTANT 1- Circulation. The Bradford County Public Library is accepting

applications for a full time Library Technical Assistant 1 to work in the circulation Department of the Library. This person in this position works with people of all ages is required cash handling experience is preferred. Some experience working in a Library is preferred. The starting salary is \$15.75 per hour. Applications can be picked up at the Library Circulation Desk beginning on Thursday, February 8, 2024 and must be returned to the Library by 2:00 pm on Friday, February 23, 2024. Bradford County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Lawtey's Atkinson named to America's Road Team

Local commercial-vehicle driving program was preparation for long career

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

American Trucking Associations announced that Lawtey's Ben Atkinson has been selected as a 2024-25 America's Road Team Captain, joining 23 other professional drivers.

"It's a reward for a job that I've done for 36 years," Atkinson said, adding, "It's exciting and very humbling to be selected."

America's Road Team, which is sponsored by Volvo Trucks, consists of drivers representing 14 states and 14 carriers, with a combined total of 61.6 million accident-free driving miles.

Atkinson was one of four drivers from Florida selected for the team and one of three drivers from ABF Freight Systems Inc. He's driven for ABF Freight for 20 years and drove for Consolidated Freightways for 15 years before it went out of business.

"This elite group of professionals rose to the top of their field through years of hard work, dedication and an unwavering commitment to safety that is measured in millions of miles," American Trucking Associations President/CEO Chris Spear said. "These exceptional individuals embody an essential segment of the American workforce whose contributions are seen and felt by virtually everyone in this country. As these captains now head over the road with a new mission and a vital message to share, we take extreme pride in their achievements and know that our nation will learn many valuable lessons from them and the example they set for our entire industry."

In October 2023, 36 Road

RIGHT: Ben Atkinson was named to the American Trucking Associations America's Road Team. He is one of 24 professional drivers who will serve as industry ambassadors.

BELOW: Atkinson (center) is pictured with the other ABF Freight System drivers who were named to America's Road Team: David Hedicker (far left) and Terry Bennett.



Team finalists representing 20 states were announced. They went to Washington, D.C., in January for the final round of the selection process. Atkinson said each finalist had to participate in personal and media interviews and give a speech about the trucking industry on a topic of their choice. They were judged by industry officials and representatives of industry related media.

"There was a lot of pressure," Atkinson said. "I was sitting there saying, 'Just keep breathing, and you won't pass out.'"

He didn't pass out and obviously did just fine with his interviews and speech, receiving the navy blazer signifying him as a Captain of America's Road

Team the next two years.

Atkinson said the honor wasn't something he was necessarily seeking. He views his selection as simply a confirmation of how well he's performed as a driver.

"I was acknowledged for doing the right job for so many years," Atkinson said.

America's Road Team members serve as ambassadors, speaking about the trucking industry as well as on safety. They'll travel throughout the country in the American Trucking Associations' Interstate One Image Truck (Volvo VNL 760), which tows a trailer that bears an image of the U.S. flag and contains a truck-driving simulator and mobile classroom.

"We get out and do programs

and try to teach people about sharing the road and how to drive around tractor-trailers," Atkinson said. "We take simulators out and actually put people in the seat and let them see what it's like sitting in a truck going down the road. It's a great educational tool for safety."

Atkinson has proven to be a safe driver, accumulating 3 million accident-free miles. He received the ABF Freight silver and bronze awards for 30,000 and 15,000 consecutive hours driving without an accident as well as ABF Freight's 5-, 10-, 15- and 20-Year Safety Performance Driving awards.

"Your greatest accomplishment you want every day is not just for everyone around you to get home safely, but for you to get home safely," Atkinson said.

Atkinson once worked in sales, but his father-in-law, O.J. Boyett, suggested he look into trucking as a profession. Atkinson said he took a driving test and was asked to take a gladhand off. (A gladhand connects air hoses from a tractor unit to the air brakes on a trailer.)

"I didn't know what a gladhand was," Atkinson said. "I looked right at him and said, 'Listen, I don't know enough about this to be safe to do it.'"

Atkinson's wife, Cheryl, who's now retired from teaching in the Bradford County School District, suggested he take time off and take the commercial-vehicle course at what is now known as North Florida

Technical College.

The knowledge he was able to gain at a school in his home county has led to a long career. Therefore, Atkinson can't say enough about North Florida Technical College and its various areas of study. He encourages local young people to look into what the school offers.

"It's a great opportunity, and it's right in your backyard," Atkinson said, adding, "College isn't for everyone. We need more trade schools, and we need people taking advantage of these trade schools and their opportunities."

Atkinson uses the knowledge he acquired every time he's on the job, of course, but he also puts it to the test by competing in truck-driving competitions, which he's participated in for 19 years. He's never earned an individual trophy, but he and his fellow ABF Freight drivers have won team trophies in 2005 and 2023, which is a "pretty big deal for a small company like us," Atkinson said.

As an America's Road Team Captain, Atkinson now looks forward to sharing his knowledge with others. He said it's like he's following in his wife's footsteps and is now a teacher.

"She's retired, so I guess it's my turn to step in there," Atkinson said. "This will be my opportunity."

American Trucking Associations COO Sarah Rajtik said, "America's Road Team Captains embody the

professionalism of our industry, helping to promote a positive image by sharing their stories. They are leaders in their communities and role models in their companies.

"This new class represents everything we strive to promote about our industry and its professionals."

America's Road Team was created in 1986.

"This program is essential to our industry," said American Trucking Associations Chairman Andrew Boyle, who's also co-president of Boyle Transportation. "Captains serve as ambassadors, communicating our message of safety, professionalism and opportunity. I wish the new Captains a warm congratulations and thank them for their hard work and dedication to trucking."

Atkinson said truck driving can be a challenging career, but it's one that has been good to him.

Of course, one of the reasons it's been a good career is that Atkinson is mindful of safety and the responsibility he has sitting behind the wheel.

"The best thing to do is just keep your head facing forward," he said. "Keep your eyes forward and always try to do the right thing. Don't try to take shortcuts."

If you'd like to know more about America's Road Team and/or American Trucking Associations, please visit trucking.org.

KHHS, UCHS grads coming up big for CCF softball team

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
cliff@bctelegraph.com

Freshman Leah Clark and sophomore Emma Rogel are off to a strong start for the College of Central Florida softball team, having combined for 25 RBI and 30 hits in 10 games.

Rogel, a 2022 Keystone Heights High School graduate, and Clark, a 2023 Union County graduate, share the team lead in hits with 15 each and are tied for third in batting average at .577. Rogel and Clark are first and second, respectively, in RBI with 13 and 12.

Clark, who plays shortstop, also leads the team in runs scored (13), doubles (4), home runs (2) and total extra-base hits (7). Her

.686 on-base average is third, while her seven stolen bases ranks her second.

Rogel, who's been in the lineup at catcher and designated hitter, is tied for second in extra-base hits (4), third in runs scored (10) and fourth in on-base percentage (.645) and stolen bases (5).

Central Florida is coming off a 23-3 win over St. Johns River on Feb. 16 in which Clark and Rogel each went 2 for 3 with three runs scored. Clark hit a home run and had four RBI, while Rogel hit a double and had two RBI.

Another standout performance by Clark was going 4 for 4 with two doubles, a solo home run and six RBI in a 12-0 win over Florida State College at Jacksonville on Feb. 1.

Rogel went 2 for 3 with two doubles and three RBI in a 4-1 season-opening win over Parkland on Jan. 26 and 2 for 4 with a triple and two RBI in an 18-1 win over USC Union on Jan. 27.

The former Keystone Indian also went 2 for 3 with two RBI in a 6-1 win over FSCJ on Feb. 1 and 3 for 3 with a three-run homer in a 10-1 win over Heartland on Feb. 9.

Clark and Rogel will be back in a home game against Enterprise State on Saturday, Feb. 24, at 2:15 p.m. Central Florida (7-3) also plays a home double-header against Seminole State on Tuesday, Feb. 27, at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

HCA

Continued from page 11

trailing 36-34.

Hope missed its next three field-goal attempts before Frazier scored off an offensive rebound. Chever then scored following a turnover, drawing a foul in the process. He made the awarded free throw with 1:46 remaining to put the Lions up 41-34.

Frazier went to the foul line with 50 seconds to play, making both free-throw attempts and giving Hope a nine-point cushion.

Chever, who scored 13 points in the fourth quarter, led the Lions with 21 points. Hope also got 15 from Frazier, eight

from Wilson and two each from Hansen and Hanson.

Hansen also had six rebounds, while Hanson had four steals.

Brunswick Christian ended its season with a 14-5 record.

Hope can't keep pace in title game

First Assembly's Danny Pascuma and Garrett Rey combined to score 27 first-half points as the Eagles handed Hope a 60-36 loss in the Feb. 17 championship game.

Pascuma made three three-pointers in the first quarter as First Assembly built a 20-6 lead.

Rey scored 11 second-quarter points, with seven occurring during an 11-1 to close out the

half and give the Eagles a 40-15 lead.

The Lions outscored First Assembly 8-2 to start the second half. Chever scored the first two baskets of the third quarter and later made a three-pointer. Hansen added a free throw to get the margin to 19, but that's as close as Hope would get as the Eagles increased their lead again and went into the fourth quarter leading 49-25.

Chever had 13 points in the second half and finished with 17. Hansen and Frazier scored seven and five points, with Frazier also grabbing 12 rebounds.

The Lions also got three points from Wilson and two each from Hanson and Wyatt Gauthier.

First Assembly finished its season with a 22-4 record.

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