



The Sweetest Strawberries this side of Heaven

Bradford County Telegraph

USPS 062-700 — Starke, Florida

Thursday, February 24, 2022

142nd year, 28th Issue — \$1



(L-R) Deputy Sheriff Jacob Desue, Deputy Sheriff Lakiesha Lewis, Correctional Deputy Miriam McCutchen, Correctional Deputy Ty'uanna Allen, Deputy Sheriff Quineisha Armstrong, Classification Sergeant Carla Desue, Sheriff Gordon Smith, Byron Ramseur (front office), Deputy Sheriff Antonio Velazquez, School Resource Deputy Anthony Drew, Crime Scene Technician Zachary Jones, School Resource Deputy Joshua Hill, Correctional Deputy Francis Highland and Operations Captain Dalton Diggs.

Growth in Black leadership at the sheriff's office

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

Capt. Dalton Diggs of the Bradford County Sheriff's Office is enthusiastic about recognizing this Black History Month how far the agency has come over the years.

Some might be under a different impression, he said, but they are just unaware of how many personnel are pulling double duty representing the agency and the minority community as examples of successful achievement.

Representation matters and had multiplied since the 1980s, Diggs said, and he gives a lot of credit to Sheriff Gordon Smith for seeing the value of a diverse department.

"The only color we see is green," Diggs said, referring to their uniforms. He said they know the importance

of being role models, even showing up outside of work to be active and seen. Long before he was captain of operations, the Black community struggled not seeing itself represented in influential positions like law enforcement.

Believe it or not, Diggs said it does make a difference when these deputies approach a young Black person acting like a "knucklehead." They can't simply brush off the encounter claiming the officer cannot understand them or their situation. They are more likely to feel seen as well as see someone they can emulate.

One way in which Diggs has been personally involved in reaching out to troubled kids was through starting a local SWEAT program, which provided alternative punishments such

as cleanup and maintenance projects that benefited the community while exposing those kids to adults who could mentor and coach them to do better. Oftentimes, they were standing in for absent parents and families who were not involved in their children's education.

"We would put kids to work. We would give them the opportunity to speak, to see their side of the world, but then teach them other skills and little trades that they could give back to the community," he said. This diverted them from the juvenile justice system, and most stayed out of it.

Diggs attributes his core values to his mother, who was a nurse, and his father, who worked at DuPont. They were hard workers who taught him to work hard and prove to himself that

he could accomplish the task at hand. If you prove it to yourself, then you prove it to everyone else, he said.

Diggs has certainly proven it to the sheriff, who has placed him over operations, court services, the sex offender unit and animal control, among others. Plus, he is a SWAT team member.

The men and women of the sheriff's office do more than make arrests, Diggs said. They show up wherever there is a need, whether its playing basketball in the neighborhood, volunteering for charities, and even stopping to help change a tire. And they take their leadership from the sheriff, he said.

"I don't think he could have written a better motto than 'We care.'"

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WORTH NOTING

Upcoming food distribution

A communitywide food distribution hosted by Feeding Northeast Florida and True Vine Ministry will take place Thursday, Feb. 24, 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. The inventory is subject to change based on availability. Tell a friend or a neighbor. The distribution is free and open to the public. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Shrove Tuesday pancake supper

Make plans to attend the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at St. Mark's Episcopal Church on Tuesday, March 1, from 5 to 7 p.m. Donations requested: \$8 for adults, \$3 for children 7 and under, and children under 3 eat free.

St. Mark's is located at 212 N. Church St. in Starke. Proceeds go to outreach such as sending kids to camp and the L'il Blessing Box.

Shrove Tuesday, or as is commonly known as "Fat Tuesday" or "Mardi Gras," was traditionally the time people used up the fat and eggs in their pantry in preparation for the fasting of Lent; it also became a very festive day before the season of Lent, a period of penitence and reflection to prepare for Easter.

Keystone food drive Feb. 26

There will be a drive-thru food distribution at Keystone Heights Jr./Sr. High School on Saturday Feb. 26, beginning at 10 a.m. Turn onto Orchid Avenue and follow the signs. Please remain in your vehicle and follow instructions.

The food drive is sponsored by the Lady Storm Foundation, Rotary, Farm Share, Feed Need Florida, Dedicated Senior Medical Center and the high school.



Photo from Bradford County Fire Rescue.

Crash closes 301, crews clean up spill

Just before 6:30 a.m. Feb. 22, Bradford County Fire Rescue units were dispatched to the report of a traffic crash involving an overturned semi.

Upon arrival, units found a tractor-trailer truck overturned on its side in the middle of U.S. 301 blocking both lanes of southbound traffic. The

crash site was just south of Lazenby Equipment.

Paramedics evaluated the occupant while firefighters mitigated an approximate 120 gallon fuel leak.

U.S. 301 southbound was blocked for an extended period of time while the Florida Highway Patrol conducted its investigation.

New survey says no to franchise fees

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — A new survey reveals that residents don't favor paying Bradford County franchise fees through their utility bills.

The Bradford County Commission has planned a special meeting tonight, Thursday, Feb. 24, at 6:30 p.m. to hear from the public about the proposed fees.

Clay Electric released the survey of 255 Bradford County residents, which included customers of the electric cooperative as well as Florida Power and Light.

As in a past survey, the residents were overwhelmingly opposed.

The survey asked each if they would support paying a franchise fee of 1%, 3% or 6%. Only 20% were in favor of a 1% fee, with 80% opposing. At 3%, support fell to just 14 respondents, or 5.5%, with 94.5% opposing. Only 6 respondents, or 2.35%, were OK with a 6% franchise fee. More than 97% said absolutely not.

Clay Electric also polled 250 members back in 2000 when an electric franchise fee was proposed. Sixty-six percent expressed they were strongly opposed, and only 8% were fully or somewhat supportive of the fee. An even smaller percentage supported a special tax assessment. Others said the county should find another method of raising revenue, while 32% said there should be no additional tax of any kind.

According to a letter Clay Electric sent to its members, they would pay on average an additional \$4.26 a month, or \$51.12, a year, if the fee negotiated was 3% of their bills. Of course, the higher the bill, the higher the additional fee. The co-op estimates the county would raise approximately \$344,000 a year from the fee.

Having raised property taxes to a full 10 mills this year, county commissioners are exploring other ways to raise revenue to fund public

See FEES, page 4

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Small counties work together to seek supplemental funding

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Editor

Union County has banded together with several other small counties that have significant prison inmate populations to ask the Florida legislature to increase a program called the Supplemental Distribution to the amounts originally approved for distribution to the counties.

Union County Coordinator Jimmy Williams is always looking for ways to save the county money and to discover more funding sources for county operations as well. He and his staff discovered the reduced distributions in a review of the routine funding the county receives from the state and he presented the matter to those in attendance at the recent meeting of the Small County Coalition. It was decided to send the legislature a group letter requesting that they allocate the full amount originally approved when the program was put in place. The funds for distribution come from the Local Government Half-cent Sales Tax Clearing Trust Fund.

The funds are a form of compensation to small counties for the impact the large prisons and high prison population

(more than 7% of the county's total population) have on their finances, made into law in 1982. Prisons take up large areas of land in these small counties but are exempt from paying ad valorem taxes (the largest source of funding for most counties) on this land. In addition, large prison facilities increase the usage of local roads which must still be serviced and maintained largely (except for some grant money) by the counties.

The distribution is made up of two parts and is available to any county that meets two criteria. The county must have a population of 65,000 or less and must have received less than the current per capita limitation based on the county's population. Currently, the counties that meet these criteria are: Baker, Bradford, Calhoun, Dixie, Franklin, Glades, Gulf, Hamilton, Holmes, Jackson, Lafayette, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, Union, Wakulla and Washington.

The amount of funds each county should be receiving, according to the original plan, is based on the percentage of the county population that is made up of inmates. For Union County that percentage is 31.10% (the highest percentage among the 17 counties listed to receive

the distributions. For Bradford the percentage is 13.32%. If the distributions were fully funded this would bring the amount allocated to Union County to \$289,632. If fully funded, Bradford would receive \$231,306.

For the past 25 years or more the funding has been reduced and has remained at the same level since 1997. Under the current reduction, Union County has been receiving only \$73,533 (\$216,099 less than full funding) and Bradford County only \$58,725 (\$172,581 less than full funding). These figures are derived from the actual amount appropriated for the 2021-22 distribution by the legislature in its final budget for that fiscal year.

In their communication to the legislature the small counties state that the funding has remained at the same, reduced level for the past 25 years with no specific reason given. The statutes require the Department of Revenue to calculate the amount each county should receive annually, which is not being done. The Small County Coalition is seeking to have the statute amended to require that the responsibility of the calculation be moved to the Revenue Estimating Conference so that the actual calculation can be factored into the appropriations process. This would give the legislature the full funding figure to deal with while writing the state budget and allow the counties to receive the full amount (percentage) by law.

The fund amounts originally intended for allocation to the counties would go a long way to help them make ends meet in their own budgets and the Small County Coalition is dedicated to making the legislature work within the statutes as written. The results of this effort will become apparent in the next completed budget arrived at by the legislature in the next few weeks.



Photo from Bradford County Fire Rescue.

Brush fire covers 250 acres

Bradford County Fire Rescue units were dispatched at 3:30 p.m. Feb. 21 to the report of a brush fire in the area of Southeast 15th Avenue and Southeast 144th Street.

Upon arrival, units were able to gain access to the fire and quickly determine the fire was large in size. The fire was found to be partially located in both Bradford and Clay County, and also within the Chemours

property.

Clay County Fire Rescue was contacted and requested to respond as mutual aid resources. Firefighters secured the homes and structures in the area to prevent any property damage. The Florida Forest Service was also requested to respond. Once on scene, three DOF dozers were deployed in an attempt to secure the fire and prevent further spread.

The fire, in total, was estimated to be 250 acres in size. Units were released from the fire at 8:45 p.m. after the fire was deemed to be under control.

According to Bradford County Fire Rescue, you may notice smoke in the area. The Florida Forest Service along with Bradford County Fire Rescue units will continually check the property throughout the week.

Woman killed in head-on crash

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

MELROSE— The Florida Highway Patrol said a 46-year-old woman was killed Saturday morning on State Road 26, near County Road 219A west of Melrose.

According to an FHP report, a 51-year-old man headed east on SR 26 in an SUV crossed the centerline, striking the woman's car head on. Both drivers were wearing seat belts.

Windsor, Melrose and Alachua County Fire-Rescue extracted the man from his vehicle, and he was airlifted to a hospital with critical injuries.



The SUV crossed the centerline, striking the woman's car head on. Photo: Alachua County Fire Rescue.

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Burglar arrested

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

LAKE BUTLER— Union deputies arrested a man on Friday, Feb. 11 after they said they caught him burglarizing a truck northeast of Lake Butler and later tied the man to two additional break-ins the same night.

Jeremy Luke Powell, 37, was arrested for four counts of burglary and one count each of vehicle theft and petit theft

According to arrest reports, deputies were first called to a Northeast 111th Way address, east of Butler Lake.

There they spoke to a woman who told them she walked to her barn at 6:30 a.m. to do her chores.

While in the barn she saw a man beside a trailer dressed in camouflage with a face covering. She screamed and heard the man say, "I'm sorry," before he ran off.

The victim and her husband noted that within the trailer, the offender drank a Dunkin' Doughnuts drink and breakfast bars. They also discovered a sandwich bag containing \$50 in cash missing from the trailer.

The officers, with the aid of a Florida Fish and Wildlife tracking dog and a trail cam found the suspect at a home on Northeast 181st Place. Deputies wrote in an arrest report that they found Powell leaning against a black 1996 Dodge.

While deputies were talking to Powell, the owner of the Dodge emerged from his home and told the lawmen Powell had no reason nor permission to be on his property. The resident then discovered that his shed had been rummaged through, in addition to the vehicle. Officers then added burglary charges for the property on 181st Place.

Deputies said that while searching for Powell, they ran across an abandoned red, Chevrolet truck, parked behind Varnes Cemetery. They found on Powell's person keys that fit the ignition of the Chevrolet, and the owner of the truck reported the vehicle stolen while deputies were interviewing Powell.

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City of Keystone Heights Office Manager Shelly Gibbs, Lake Region Development Corporation Executive Director Scott Kornegay, Clay County Commissioner Betsy Condon and Keystone Heights City Council member Tony Brown.

Clay leaders lobby Legislature

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

TALLAHASSEE — Clay County government and business leaders spoke to lawmakers in Tallahassee during the 6th Annual Clay Day at the State Capitol.

Prior to the main event in the Capitol courtyard, the Lake Region Development Corporation sponsored a reception the previous night.

The corporation's executive director: Scott Kornegay said during the reception that the two people most responsible for the Black Creek Water Resource Development Project are the corporation's chair Vivian Katz James and Senator Rob Bradley.

Kornegay said property values in the Lake Region have already risen in anticipation of the Black Creek project.



Rep. Bobby Payne, along with Keystone Heights High School Community Partnership School Executive Director (left) Tina Baker and the high school's Principal Laurie Burke.

Democrats meet Feb. 28

Bradford County Democrats will hold their first meeting of the new year on Monday, Feb.

28, at 7 p.m. in the office at 1080 Pine St. in Starke (entrance from Jenkins Street), and also on Zoom.

New volunteers are welcome as they build teams for this election year. All Democrats are

welcome to attend.

To receive the Zoom link, contact bradfordcodec@gmail.com or 904-526-2257. To attend in person, please wear your mask.



UNION COUNTY EVENT NOTICE!

TOXIC ROUND-UP

SATURDAY, MAR. 5, 2022 • 9 AM - 3 PM

Union County Road Solid Waste Department
(by RMC West Unit) 15285 SW 84th St.
Lake Butler, FL 32054

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2022 • 9 AM - 3 PM

Baker County Courthouse Parking Lot
55 N 3rd St., Macclenny, FL 32063

This service is **FREE** to residents, and is provided to small businesses for a small fee. Residents can contact Kim Hayes, Union County Solid Waste, at 386-496-2180 (solidwaste@unioncounty-fl.gov) for more information. Businesses can call the Hazardous Waste Collection Center at 352-334-0440 for pricing.

**DON'T SEND IT TO THE LANDFILL!
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The Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Union County Commission are sponsoring a project to collect, recycle, treat and properly dispose of these household hazardous wastes:

- Fertilizers
- Paints/paint thinners
- Radiator fluid
- Used oil/lubricants
- Gasoline/fuels
- Fluorescent lamps
- Electronics
- TVs/Computers
- Insecticides
- Corrosives
- Propane tanks
- Medications
- Aerosol cans
- Pesticides
- Solvents
- Batteries (all types)
- Household cleaners
- Used cooking oil

YOUR TAXES & LOCAL GOV. FEES ARE ABOUT TO INCREASE!

If you care about holding government accountable for spending your money in the form of taxes, and the increases that they plan to enact, you are encouraged to attend the County Commission meeting Thursday 2/24/22 at 6:30 p.m. in the County Commission Board room on North Temple (Hwy 301 N. at the County Courthouse).

WE CAN ALL AGREE AS RESIDENTS WE LOVE OUR COUNTY WHEN THEY:

- Build and maintain parks, lakes and sports facilities.
- Pave and grade roads, fix potholes.
- Put stop signs or traffic lights at dangerous intersections.
- Repair and keep streetlights on.
- Provide emergency fire protections.
- Provide fast, skilled and responsive Emergency Medical Services, technicians and ambulances.
- Put in sidewalks, culverts, sewage and drainage that works.
- Provide effective law enforcement for the protection of citizens.

The meeting above is to discuss the likely increase in utility taxes for electricity rates in the county.

THE people of Bradford County need to pay attention to the expenses they are being forced to pay for through taxes and fees (which may also rise). Government is by the people, for the people not for those who don't have to pay for the poor judgement and lack of control. We don't always have to have the deluxe version of equipment, services or benefits in a county that is ranked low in terms of quality of life, health and income, poverty.

POPULATION OF BRADFORD COUNTY:
28,303

of inmates in county facilities:
approximately 13% of above are incarcerated:
approximately 3,000

of households in Bradford County:

Total HU (Housing Units)	11,831 (100%)
Owner Occupied HU	7,167 (60.6%)
Renter Occupied HU	2,983 (25.2%)
Vacant Housing Units	1,681 (14.2%)
Median Home Value	\$118,814
Average Home Value	\$142,602

of households in Starke:

Total HU (Housing Units)	2,618 (100%)
Owner Occupied HU	1,317 (50.3%)
Renter Occupied HU	842 (32.2%)
Vacant Housing Units	459 (17.5%)
Median Home Value	\$99,185
Average Home Value	\$117,369

Median county household income:

\$45,921 compared to \$55,660 for the state.
(median means half are below and half are above)

some stats showed per capita income in Bradford County is \$19,739 in comparison to \$26,829 per capita income at the state level.

Bradford County Poverty Rate:

17.5% of all
22% of children under 18

AS RESIDENTS WE QUESTION OUR COUNTY WHEN:

- Property tax recently goes up to 10 mils and now needs an additional 2 mils (totaling \$2,000,000) to balance the budget.
- Forcing renters to pay higher rents to cover increased property taxes simultaneously forcing home owners to pay higher taxes — most people in Bradford County are a far cry from wealthy.
- This happening during the biggest surge of inflation causing gas and grocery prices to rise on consumers with no end in sight.
- The county spend lots of money on new trucks, buildings and equipment when the volunteers already had perfectly good used trucks and equipment to fight fires.
- And after the county did not know what it was doing when contracting a specialized building that ended up in cost overruns and was not able to be certified as a facility for firefighting.
- Paying firefighters \$41,000 per year to work 10-24 hour shifts a few times per month with the likelihood of overtime and prime benefits.
- Residents have to commute to Gainesville and Jacksonville for higher paying wages and full-time work with benefits.
- We see non-essential County employees driving county vehicles for which taxpayers pay for gas, insurance, maintenance/upkeep and depreciation.

What are your thoughts, opinions, concerns regarding this and similar matters? Email or send a letter to the editor so we can share your thoughts. editor@bctelegraph.com OR BCTelegraph • PO Drawer A, Starke, FL 32091 Deadline for publication: Mondays at 5 pm.

Miss Bradford Fest Pageant Saturday

The annual Miss Bradford Fest Pageant will return to the Bradford High School auditorium this Saturday, Feb. 26, beginning at 7 p.m. Admission is \$10. Come and cheer the 14 contestants competing in the Petite, Junior, Teen and Miss categories.



Petite Miss contestant Amelia Coiana is the 5-year-old daughter of Gino and Brittany Coiana of Keystone Heights.



Petite Miss contestant Brilee Melvin is the 5-year-old daughter of Brian and Cassie Melvin of Brooker.



Petite Miss contestant Jesslyn Hipps is the 4-year-old daughter of Jesse and Lindsay Hipps of Starke.



Petite Miss contestant Ryker Johnson is the 4-year-old daughter of Nicolas and Camri Johnson of Starke.



Junior Miss contestant Brynli Raulerson is the 9-year-old daughter of Scott and Heather Raulerson of Lake Butler.



Junior Miss contestant Elliana Barton is the 12-year-old granddaughter of Troy and Jenn Pittman of Lawtey.



Junior Miss contestant Kylie Taylor is the 12-year-old daughter of John and Brandy Taylor of Middleburg.



Junior Miss contestant Kylee Kerr is the 11-year-old daughter of Kevin and Stephanie Kerr of Lawtey.



Junior Miss contestant Raegan Godwin is the 11-year-old daughter of Robert and Jessica Godwin of Starke.



Teen Miss contestant Hailey Griffis is the 13-year-old daughter of Jeanne Osteen and Kyle Griffis of Lawtey.



Teen Miss contestant Kierston Clemons is the 14-year-old daughter of Wayne and Ashley Clemons of Lake Butler.



Miss contestant Kiersten Lee is the 17-year-old daughter of Misty Graham of Lake Butler.



Miss contestant Kylee Davis is the 17-year-old daughter of Lori and Brian Davis of Starke.



Miss contestant Randa Goodwin is the 18-year-old daughter of Mindy Bennett of Lake Butler and James Goodwin of Valdosta.

Letters

Make do with what you have

Dear Editor:

It seems this Board of County Commissioners and other folks running county departments have short memories. Almost three years ago, a proposal to levy a tax on the citizens brought a packed house in opposition. Here we are again, but in a worse situation, with the primary reason being this bunch cannot and will not live within their means and stop trying to keep up with the Jones'.

The last time they tried this, an acronym was used to try and justify this tax. . . ISO. The selling point was, it would lower your homeowner's insurance, and we would all be better for it. You don't hear that being thrown around anymore, especially since a lot of people's insurance went up a bunch this year. Mine was over a \$1,200 a year increase.

Our property taxes were raised this year. What did they do with that money? They put on an additional gas tax. What did they do with that money? They can't tell you because they don't know either. Now they want more.

The latest sales pitch for increased taxes and fees, to not pay for what they currently have, but to increase by millions is an NFPA standard, specifically, NFPA 1710 Standard for Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations. It recommends a certain number of firefighters to respond to four benchmark type of buildings. In a recent survey of the 50 most populous cities in the US, 34% cannot meet this standard.

This is certainly unobtainable in a rural setting like ours. In fact, Alachua, Clay, St Johns, and Nassau cannot meet this standard. Even the city of Jacksonville, with an over \$350-million fire department budget, cannot meet it in some instances. They all are growing and have tax base. So why bring this up?

Can the county be sued for not following this recommendation? Sure. You can sue anyone for anything. Two recent case laws from Delaware and Nebraska. In both cases, the judge ruled in favor of the cities that suits were brought against. So, the likelihood of a plaintiff award is very slim.

What is NFPA? It's an organization that dates back to 1913 that, through over 9,000 volunteers and over 250 technical committees, develops fire prevention and firefighter safety codes and standards. NFPA has very few codes. Most of their documents are standards, and there are over 300 of them.

A "code" is something that is deemed a law or ordinance.

The Florida Administrative Code for instance, the Florida Fire Prevention Code, or the Florida Building Code, are other examples. A standard is just that. Unless adopted under Florida Statute, or local ordinance, NFPA standards have no enforcement teeth.

One commissioner recently asked out loud "where the hell is the money going?" My question is, why don't you know? A good guess is over \$1.1 million for 11 full-time and one part-time administrative and supervisory personnel in the Fire-Rescue Dept. Another guess is new pick-up trucks, new tires for those trucks; and lift kits, bumpers, winches, and bed toppers that cost thousands. It all adds up and the math doesn't work. They can trim the fat; they just don't want to. Our honorable clerk of the court said it best recently. Nobody is willing to sacrifice.

Their answer is to pick the pockets of the public and tell us that this is what's best for us. This franchise fee isn't the end, you can bet. A fire and EMS assessment is on the horizon. Hopefully not before the 2022 elections where change can be made. We pay taxes for core services; public safety, roads and infrastructure, sanitation. Everything else is fluff and can wait. Additional taxes on core services in just wrong.

This bunch has proven they cannot manage the tax dollars they get now. Tell us why we should give you one penny more. Make do with what you have. We all have to.

Paul McDavid
Voter, District 5

Let there be light

Dear Editor,

I have friends that visit me from Georgia, and they always want to know why our town is so dark. As I have paid more attention recently, I have to agree. The problem is not that we don't have lights, it is because they are the wrong kind. If you travel down 301 near downtown, you will notice we have the yellow, sodium lights. Please tell any city commissioner you see that we need the white, LED lighting or metal halide like you see on ball fields.

The second issue with lighting is at the bypass at 100 and SR 16 exits. The issue there is that we have no lighting. I have talked to FDOT, and they are in agreement that it should have been done when they installed the bypass. I sent an email to the governor and his office assured me that there is a project in June to address this issue. I encourage each of you to contact the governor's office to make sure this is done.

Wayne Blankenship

Terry McCarthy

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USPS 062-700

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Clay picks firm for rural broadband

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

GREEN COVE SPRINGS — Clay County Commissioners told its staff to begin negotiations with Comcast to get broadband internet services to the rural areas of the county.

During a Feb. 8 commission meeting, the panel reviewed five bids for the project.

Comcast said it could deliver a fiber network to the county's 17,000 residents who do not now have the service for a cost of \$10 million to the county. Comcast added that it would invest \$4 million of its own money into the project.

Assistant County Manager Troy Nagle told commissioners that county funding was needed to give companies an incentive to extend their networks to rural areas.

"We are providing a mechanism to incentivize companies to go down a dirt road, where there may be, as my parents live on, 15 people living along a two-mile dirt road," he said. "It's cost-prohibitive to go down that road if there's not some subsidy, funding mechanism to assist with that."

Two more companies submitted bids for a fiber optic network. AT&T asked for \$27.4 million to do the work. It said it would also invest the same amount into the project.

Tilson offered to cover the areas of Middleburg, Clay Hill and Virginia Village for \$61 million, leaving the Lake Region out of its proposal.

Commissioner Wayne Bolla reminded viewers of the county commission meeting that

although the county is fronting money into the building of the network, users will still have to pay for the service.

"You're still going to have to pay something for the internet service if you choose to buy it," he said. We're not talking about completely free internet here."

Under the Comcast proposal, residents would be offered a basic broadband service of 50 megabytes-per-second downloads and 10 MBps up for \$9.95 a month. Users could also upgrade to 100 MBps down and 10 MBps up for \$29.95 a month and to 600/20 MBps for \$99 a month.

Congresswoman Kat Cammack, who has been working to provide broadband internet to rural areas, has said she does not support any service slower than one gigabyte up and 100 megabytes down. The Comcast proposal falls short of that standard.

Two other firms offered to bring broadband internet to rural Clay County using a network based on radio waves.

SBA submitted a bid that included a county cost of \$6.8 million and a vendor cost of \$4 million.

Smart North Florida also included a radio-wave network with a county cost of \$2 million and an unknown vendor cost.

Nagle told commissioners that state and federal grant agencies prefer fiber optic networks over those based on radio waves.

Commissioner Mike Cella added that while fiber networks are more expensive and take longer to deploy, they deliver much faster speeds.

Report: Bradford among lowest in broadband coverage

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

TALLAHASSEE — A new report by Florida TaxWatch says a half-million Florida residents have no access to high-speed internet and Bradford County ranks among the counties with the lowest broadband coverage.

"Communities that currently lack access to the affordable, reliable, high-quality broadband internet that is necessary for full participation in education, health care, employment, social services and government programs, and civic life are at a marked disadvantage without that access," the report says.

TaxWatch said that currently, only Pinellas County has 100% of its residents with access to broadband coverage. Less than 50% of the residents in five counties: Dixie, Gilchrist, Holmes, Jefferson, Levy and Washington have access to broadband.

Between 50% and 75% of the populations of Bradford, along with DeSoto, Jackson, Lafayette, Liberty, Madison and Taylor have access to broadband.

Only 1% of Dixie County

residents can get high-speed internet.

Union and Clay counties, along with Alachua, Baker, Columbia, Putnam and 14 other counties have between 75.1% and 95% coverage.

"With 220 internet providers providing service in Florida, approximately one million people have access to only one wired provider and more than 250,000 do not have access to a wired provider at their home," TaxWatch reports. "In terms of affordability, almost 60% of Floridians have access to a monthly plan that costs \$60 per month or less. This places Florida slightly ahead of the curve nationally."

TaxWatch reported that one

barrier to increasing internet coverage are the high prices municipal and cooperative-owned utilities charge for attaching lines to poles. Pole attachment prices charged by investor-owned utilities are regulated by Florida's Public Service Commission. However, municipal and cooperative-owned power providers are exempt from such regulation. "A 2019 study of pole rates nationwide found that the rates charged by unregulated municipally and cooperatively

owned utilities in Florida exceed those charged by regulated investor-owned utilities by 200-250 percent, respectively," the report says.

The report also says Florida should appropriate additional funding to broadband infrastructure, particularly COVID and federal infrastructure funding.

Strawberry Pageant turns 60

Contestants for the 60th annual Miss Bradford-Union Strawberry Pageant will take the stage Saturday night, Feb. 26, at 7 p.m. in the Union County High School auditorium. There are three princess contestants, four queen contestants and two contestants in a new category — shortcake. Tickets are \$5 in advance or \$10 at the door. Proceeds help support cash and scholarship prizes for the winners.



Shortcake contestant
Bailey Varnes



Shortcake contestant
Ansley Crews



Princess contestant
Sydney Box



Princess contestant
Caitlin Frampton



Princess contestant
MacKenna Freeman



Queen contestant
Jocelyn Torres



Queen contestant
Kimberly Palmer



Queen contestant
Cheyann Leshuk



Queen Contestant
Alayna Hunt Aslan

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FEES

Continued from page 1

services, in particular Bradford County Fire Rescue.

Franchise fees are a way of paying the county/taxpayers back for any cost incurred for the use of public right of way. The county would, in reality, use the revenue to offset the cost of public services. The revenue could also lower the amount of annual special assessments that could be approved to pay for fire rescue.

According to Will Sexton, county attorney, tonight's meeting at the Bradford County Courthouse will give Clay Electric representatives an opportunity to hear from their members about the proposed fee. FP&L has indicated it would cooperate with the county in negotiating a fee to be added to its customers' bills. Clay Electric wants to hear from its members first.

Sexton said a similar meeting in Baker County resulted in little feedback, and so Clay Electric agreed to negotiate a fee with that county.

You are invited to join us for

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Sunday Evening 6:00p

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<p>Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc.</p> <p>Competitive Rates, non-profit, right here in your community</p> <p>A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative</p> <p>Keystone District Office 352-473-4917 • clayelectric.com</p>	<p>After Church on Sunday Come to Powell's Dairy Freeze</p> <p>"Home of the Foot Long Steak"</p> <p>Stop by for Ice Cream on Wednesday Night!</p> <p>US 301 NORTH • STARKE, FL</p>	<p>Come Worship with us</p> <p>STARKE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH</p> <p>Church • Saturday 11:00 a.m. School • Saturday 10:00 a.m. 1649 W. Madison St • Starke, FL</p>
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Crime

Recent arrests in Bradford, Union and Clay

Feb. 12 through Feb. 18

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

Ivy Nicole Akers, 27, of Hampton was arrested by Bradford deputies on Feb. 15 for possession of cocaine, possession of drugs and possession of drug equipment.

Hector Manuel Aviles, 36, of Hampton was arrested by Bradford deputies on Feb. 16 for possession of drugs and possession of drug equipment.

Kelly Kathleen Buckler, 37, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on Feb. 14 for an out-of-county warrant.

Rudolph Carter, 64, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on Feb. 16 for selling cocaine and possession of drugs.

Brandon Joseph Croft, 38, was arrested by Bradford deputies on Feb. 15 for battery.

Bobbie Jean Green, 52, of Lake Butler was arrested by Bradford deputies on Feb. 16 for possession of drugs and possession of drug equipment.

Gwendolyn Joy Hancock, 61, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on Feb. 15 for larceny.

Adrian Antwon Hankerson, 37, of Starke was arrested Feb. 16 by Bradford deputies for a probation violation.

Sandra Marie Harvey, 26, of Brooker was arrested by Bradford deputies on Feb. 18 for burglary and larceny.

Duston Ziek Homer, 33, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Bradford deputies on Feb. 18 for battery and resisting an officer.

Justin Alan Hurst, 37, was arrested by Bradford deputies on Feb. 18 for failure to appear.

Joshua Wayne Johns, 43, of Starke was arrested by Bradford

deputies on Feb. 18 for an out-of-county warrant and dealing in stolen property.

Eric Scott Knight, 33, of Lake Butler was arrested by Bradford deputies on Feb. 16 for possession of amphetamine, selling amphetamine and using a two-way communications device while committing a felony.

Cecil Alton Litton, 66, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on Feb. 19 for trespassing.

Steven Frederick Maloy, 45, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on Feb. 18 for possession of drugs and an out-of-county warrant.

Corey Te Juan McKinnie, 41, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on Feb. 15 for selling drugs, possession of drugs, producing drugs, possession of cocaine, using a two-way communications device while committing a felony and keeping or maintaining a public nuisance.

Kindal Bryan Mobley, 44, of Lawtey was arrested by Bradford deputies on Feb. 16 for selling drugs, unlawful use of a two-way communications device and manufacturing synthetic

larceny, robbery, possession of drugs and possession of drug equipment.

Jamie Wayne Williams, 42, of Lawtey was arrested by Bradford deputies on Feb. 15 for lewd and lascivious behavior.

Randy Lee Williams, 64, of Tampa was arrested by Starke police on Feb. 18 for failure to appear.

Union

William Michael Hedrick, 40, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on Feb. 14 for an out-of-county warrant.

Michael Lloyd James, 46, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on Feb. 14 for failure to appear.

Savannah Raquel Koppert, 20, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Union deputies on Feb. 18 for possession of drugs and possession of narcotics equipment.

Mackenzie Marie Lemay, 23, of lake City was arrested by Union deputies on Feb. 16 for a probation violation.

Mordechai Levenson, 35, Of Jacksonville was arrested by Union deputies on Feb. 15 for an out-of-county warrant.

Cameron Jamal McKenzie, 21, of Starke was arrested by Union deputies on Feb. 15 for a

probation violation.

Justin Clayton Todd, 45, of Lake Butler was arrested on Feb. 15 by Union deputies for a probation violation.

Tina Louise Wells, 51, of Waldo was arrested by Union deputies on Feb. 17 for a probation violation.

Kenneth Bernard Woodbridge Jr. 20, of Gainesville was arrested by Union deputies on Feb. 18 for a probation violation.

James Aaron Smith, 42, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on Feb. 18 for resisting an officer and disorderly intoxication.

Clay

Joshua Isiah Dockery, 33, was arrested by Clay deputies in Keystone Heights on Feb. 14 for being an out-of-state fugitive.

Priscilla Lynn Manning, 54, was arrested in Keystone Heights by Clay deputies on Feb. 17 for failure to appear.

Dawn Rane Bowling, 49, was arrested in Keystone Heights by Clay deputies on Feb. 18 for failing to return leased personal property and possession of a controlled substance without a prescription.

Man, woman shoot guns in back yard, hit neighbor's house

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — Bradford deputies arrested a couple near the Bradford-Clay County line after rounds from their backyard shooting spree hit a neighbor's home.

Robert C. Godwin, 56, and Cassandra Flowers Johnson, 31, were arrested for weapons

offenses on Thursday, Feb. 10.

According to an arrest report, a neighbor living near the Keystone Golf and Country Club said he heard gunfire, and then rounds striking his home.

Deputies found three bullet holes on the outside of the victim's home and recovered three projectiles in the house, finding one 15 feet away from where the victim's 17-year-old daughter was sleeping.

"While talking to (the victim), I was notified by dispatch that Robert Godwin called into dispatch and told them that he was shooting fireworks at his

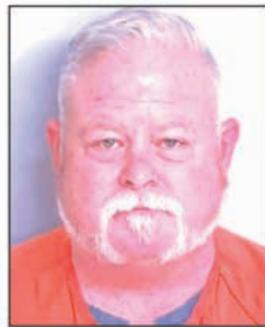
house," wrote arresting officer Glen Ward in the report.

The victim told deputies he believed the rounds came from Godwin's home, based on previous problems with the neighbor.

The victim's and defendant's properties are approximately 780 feet apart, separated only by open golf course between the two parcels.

When deputies first contacted the defendants, they stuck to Godwin's claim that they were only shooting off fireworks in the back yard.

"After separating



Robert C. Godwin



Cassandra Flowers Johnson

the suspects and further questioning," Ward wrote, "Cassandra admitted that she and Robert were both shooting guns outside."

Godwin also admitted to shooting an AM-15 rifle while Johnson confessed to shooting a 9mm handgun.

Deputies found red markings on two of the rounds recovered in the home, which corresponded to a red ballistic

tip found in the magazine of the 9mm.

Godwin admitted to being intoxicated and told deputies he was shooting the rifle to mourn the death of a close friend.

"It should be noted that both Godwin and Johnson have lived in the area for several years and are familiar with the fact that there are occupied residences close by Godwin's house," a deputy wrote in the arrest report.

"Both were also shooting guns late at night into the darkness without a proper and safe backdrop to prevent any bullets from continuing down range to an unknown destination."

Crash critically injures Fort White man

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

A Fort White man was transported in critical condition following an accident in Union County on County Road 18 and Southwest 62nd Court.

According to Florida Highway Patrol, the 32-year-old was traveling eastbound on C.R. 18 when his pickup travel out of his lane and across the westbound lanes, crashing in the ditch.

The cause of the accident was unknown. The patient was taken to UF Shands Health in Gainesville with life-threatening

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Thursday, March 10th

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Legal Notices

Bradford

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

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

Certificate Number: 835
Year of Issuance: 2014
Parcel Number: 02941-B-00116
Case Number: 04-2021-TD-23
Description of Property: SEE ATTACHED LEGAL DESCRIPTION
Name in Which Assessed: BRADFORD LAND TRUST ET AL, ALFRED H WOLF TRUSTEE, KEVIN BROWNE TRUSTEE, SCOTT HUGHES TRUSTEE, KEVIN BROWNE TRUSTEE
Name on last tax roll, if different:

All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on the 20TH OF APRIL 2022, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.
TDA NUMBER: 484TDA
account number: R02941-B-00116
Legal Description Lots 11, 12 and 13

(except the Northerly 10 feet of Lot 13) of Bradford Villas, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 3, page 55, of the public records of Bradford County, Florida.
Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court
BY: LISA BRANNON
Deputy Clerk
DATED: January 31, 2022
2/3 4tchg 2/24-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

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

Certificate Number: 900
Year of Issuance: 2014
Parcel Number: 03331-0-00200
Case Number: 04-2021-TD-0026
Description of Property: SEE ATTACHED LEGAL DESCRIPTION
Name in Which Assessed: JACQUELYN ELOIS MCKINNON; JACQUELYN E MCKINNON
Name on last tax roll, if different:
All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE,

FL on the 20TH OF APRIL 2022, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

TDA NUMBER: 487TDA
ACCOUNT NUMBER: R03331-0-00200
Legal Description
West Half of Lot 4 of Block 17 except North 5 feet of Livingston, Truby and Company's Sub-Division as per plat recorded in Plat book 1 page 41, Public Records of Bradford County, Florida.

Denny Thompson, Clerk Of The Circuit Court
Bradford County, Florida
BY: LISA BRANNON
Deputy Clerk
DATED: January 31, 2022
2/3 4tchg 2/24-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

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

Certificate Number: 684
Year of Issuance: 2014
Parcel Number: 02357-0-00200
Case Number: 04-2021-TD-0029
Description of Property: SEE ATTACHED LEGAL DESCRIPTION
Name in Which Assessed: THOMAS

See LEGALS, 10A



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Attorney at Law

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The KHHS FFA Forestry Team (l-r) Allie Ivey, Connor Browne, Jenna Baker and Lindsay Hovsepian.



Fifty Keystone Heights FFA members had the opportunity to interact with over 1,200 exhibitors showcasing the latest in farming technology at the Sunbelt Ag Expo in Moultrie, Ga.

Keystone Heights FFA has active year

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS—Rebounding from the 2020-2021 school year, in which FFA activities were restricted due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Keystone Heights FFA is having an active 2021-2022 school year. Some of the highlights include:

Hayden Marion, Allie Ivey, Lindsay Hovespian, Parker Lewis and Flynt Standridge earned state FFA Degrees at the Florida FFA Convention in June. The State FFA degree is the highest degree that the State FFA Association can bestow on a member.

Fifty-two members travelled to Moultrie, Georgia to attend the Sunbelt Agricultural Expo.

The Expo is known as North America's Premier Farm Show and members had the opportunity to interact with over 1,200 exhibitors showcasing the latest in farming technology.

In addition, students could attend educational seminars and see live demonstrations of cotton, peanuts, corn, soybeans, and hay being harvested.

Students also had the chance to visit representatives of agricultural colleges in the southeast such as the University of Florida, Auburn, Clemson, Georgia, and the Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

The Keystone Heights Senior FFA Forestry Team competed in the Florida FFA District 4 Forestry Contest in October at the Austin Cary Forest in Gainesville. Team members competed in a general knowledge test, tree identification, tool identification, insect and diseases identification and timber estimation. Members competing were Allie Ivey, Lindsay Hovsepian, Jenna Baker, and Connor Browne.

Twelve students are raising market steers and 16 students are raising market swine for the show and sale at the Clay County Agricultural Fair in April.

Members in both middle and high school participated in the virtual preliminary Florida FFA Career Development events for livestock judging, poultry judging, vegetable judging, and aquaculture.

The middle school opening and closing ceremony team competed and placed third at the sub district competition.

Blake Kendrick placed first in tractor driving at the sub district competition and went on to place second at the district level.

Tyler Kendrick placed first in extemporaneous public speaking at subdistrict competitions and went on to place second at the district level.

Several members attended the Showdown in the Springs Swine Show and Cattle at the Cove Steer Show in Green Cove Springs in January.

Blake Kendrick, Tyler Shaw and Allie Ivey were awarded Jacksonville Agricultural Fair scholarships in January.

The Clay County Agricultural Fair's Scholarship Committee awarded scholarships to five Keystone students.

Receiving scholarships were KHHS students Blake Kendrick - \$2,500, Tyler Shaw - \$2,500, Lindsay Hovespian - \$1,500, Isabel Johns - \$1,000 and Mallory Hollingsworth - \$1,000.

The students will be recognized during the fair's annual luncheon on March 22.

Agriculture students are preparing to take the Agriculture Associate Certification and Agriculture Technician Specialist Certification exams in April.

Senior members have prepared resumes, practiced interview questions, and are preparing to participate in mock job interviews in April.

The Keystone Heights FFA chapters are celebrating National FFA Week in class this week with dress-up days, daily in-class snacks, classroom door prizes, an agriculture advocacy project, Are-You-Smarter-Than-Your-Ag-Teacher contest and a kickball tournament during class on Friday.

The group will wrap up the week with its production of the "Big Man on Campus" competition Friday, Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. in the KHHS cafeteria.

Reporting and photos by Erin Verplanck, Keystone Heights High School FFA Advisor.



Bradford Middle School Clay County Poultry Judging: Koy Hartley, Kate Wainwright, Raelynn Moore, Kami Crawford.

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Showing animals at the Bradford County Fair.



Bradford Middle School Poultry judging team finished first in the state competition: Koy Hartley, Reece Scoggins, Mason Scoggins and Julia Zurfluh.



Bradford students in Agriculture Foundations learn to use microscopes in class: Autumn Dehoff and Raelynn Davis.



Bradford FFA students compete in Speaking Events at Sub-District Contests: Kynlan Jenkins, Kelsey Reddish, Brady Pearson, Kyndall Key, Cassidy Spratlin.



Bradford Agriculture Foundation classes show off their construction skills.

Soil and water group meeting

The Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District will meet on Tuesday, March 1, at 9 a.m. at

the Bradford County Extension Office.

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

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LEGALS

Continued from page 6

MARK JOHNSON; MOZELLE FRAZIER ET AL; RAPHAEL DELESTRE; DAVID E FRAZIER; GEORGE FRAZIER, JR; MALETA DELESTRE; BARBARA A. DELESTRE; DAVID EDWARD FRAZIER JR

Name on last tax roll, if different: All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on the 20TH DAY OF APRIL 2022, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

Legal Description: 02357-0-00200 21 6S 22, COM at se cor of SW1/4 OF NW1/4 NLY 284' WLY 27' TO W R/W OF GRAND ST & pob cont W. OR 1184 PG 56 Commence 182 feet North from the SE Corner of SW 1/4 of NW 1/4 and run West 239 feet, North 182 feet, East 239 feet, South 182 to Point of Beginning, Except part in the NE Corner 136 feet East and West by 60 feet North and South.

and Commence at SW Corner of SE 1/4 of NW 1/4. Run North 233.69 feet to Point of Beginning, continue North 130 feet, East 368 feet, South 104 feet, West 167 feet, South 26.31 feet, West 201 feet to Point of Beginning. Except R/W and except Northerly one-half. OR 433 PG 59 Denny Thompson Clerk Of The Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida BY: LISA BRANNON Deputy Clerk DATED: January 31, 2022

2/3 4tchg 2/24-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

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

Certificate Number: 827 Year of Issuance: 2014 Parcel Number: 02843-0-02004 Case Number: 04-2021-TD-0022 Description of Property: SEE ATTACHED LEGAL DESCRIPTION Name in Which Assessed: LOYAL E ALDRIDGE JR & LISA W ALDRIDGE

Name on last tax roll, if different: All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on the 13TH DAY OF APRIL 2022, 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 DATED: February 1, 2022 Legal Description: 02843-0-02004

A parcel of land containing 0.462 of an acre, more or less, and lying in the NW1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 27, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, in the City of Starke, Bradford County, Florida; said parcel being more particularly described as follows: Commence at the Northwest corner of said Section 27 and run South 89 degrees, 40 minutes and 32 seconds East, along the Northerly boundary thereof, 588.26 feet to a set iron rod; thence South 00 degrees, 00 minutes and 15 seconds East, parallel with the Easterly boundary of the right of way of Old Lawley Road, 468.19 feet to a set iron rod for the Point of Beginning. From Point of Beginning thus described continue South 00 degrees, 00 minutes and 15 seconds West, parallel with aforesaid Easterly boundary, 115 .00 feet to a set iron rod; thence South 89 degrees, 49 minutes and 57 seconds West, 175.00 feet to a set iron rod; thence North 00 degrees, 00 minutes and 15 seconds West, parallel with aforesaid Easterly boundary, 115.00 feet to a set iron rod; thence North 89 degrees, 49 minutes and 57 seconds East, 175.00 feet to the Point of Beginning. Above described parcel subject to an easement for ingress, egress and utilities over the Easterly 30 feet thereof.

Above described parcel also being conveyed with the right of ingress, egress and utilities over a 30 foot strip of land being more particularly described as follows: Commence at the Northwest corner of said Section 27 and run South 89 degrees, 40 minutes and 32 seconds East, along the Northerly boundary thereof, 558.26 feet to a set iron rod for the Point of Beginning. From Point of Beginning thus described continue South 89 degrees 40 minutes and 32 seconds East, along said Northerly boundary, 30.00 feet to a set iron rod; thence South 00 degrees, 00 minutes and 15 seconds East, parallel with the Easterly boundary of the right of way of Old Lawley Road, 468.19 feet to a set ironrod; thence South 89 degrees, 49 minutes and 57 seconds West, 30.00 feet to a set iron rod; thence North 00 degrees, 00 minutes and 15 seconds West, parallel with aforesaid Easterly boundary, 468.44 feet to the Point of Beginning.

2/3 4tchg 2/24-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

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

Certificate Number: 839 Year of Issuance: 2014 Parcel Number: 02949-0-00312 Case Number: 04-2021-TD-0024 Description of Property: SEE ATTACHED LEGAL DESCRIPTION Name in Which Assessed: J.M.V.M. SMITH TRUST

Name on last tax roll, if different: All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate

or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on the 13TH day of April 2022, 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 DATED: February 1, 2022 Legal Description: 02949-0-00312 The West 150 Feet of the South 1/2 of Lot 12, Block C, Blanding Subdivision, as per plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 2, Page 58 OG Public Records of Bradford County, Florida.

2/3 4tchg 2/24-BCT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

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

Certificate Number: 878 Year of Issuance: 2014 Parcel Number: 03292-0-00000 Case Number: 04-2021-TD-0025 Description of Property: SEE ATTACHED LEGAL DESCRIPTION Name in Which Assessed: TRACEY A COLEMAN & NEIL A COLEMAN

Name on last tax roll, if different: All of said property being in the County of Bradford, State of Florida. Unless such certificate or certificates shall be redeemed according to law the property described in such certificate or certificates will be sold to the highest bidder at the BRADFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, STARKE, FL on the 13TH day of April 2022, 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 DATED: February 1, 2022

Legal Description: 03292-0-00000 East half (E 1/2) of Lot 4 and South 25 feet of the East Half (E 1/2) of Lot 3, Block 1 of LIVINGSTON, TRUBY AND COMPANY'S SUBDIVISION of the Northeast Quarter (NE 1/4) of Northeast Quarter (NE 1/4) of Section 28, Township 6 South, Range 22 East as per plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 41 of the public records of Bradford County, Florida.

2/3 4tchg 2/24-BCT

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

GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION

CASE NO. 20000057CAAXMX PHH MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Plaintiff,

vs KRISTIN N. CULLEN A/K/A KRISTIN KULLEN A/K/A K. CULLEN AND MICHAEL J. WEMPE A/K/A MICHAEL WEMPE, et al.

Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated November 19, 2021, and entered in 20000057CAAXMX of the Circuit Court in and for Bradford County, Florida, wherein PHH MORTGAGE CORPORATION is the Plaintiff and KRISTIN N. CULLEN A/K/A KRISTIN KULLEN A/K/A K. CULLEN / MICHAEL J. WEMPE A/K/A MICHAEL WEMPE; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT are the Defendant(s). Denny Thompson as the Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the Front Lobby 945 N. Temple Ave., Starke, FL 32091, at 11:00 AM, on March 17, 2022, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

PARCEL A OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 39-PAGE 57

THE SOUTH 80 FEET OF THE NORTH 170 FEET OF THE EAST 440 FEET OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 13, TOWNSHIP 8 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST.

PARCEL B OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 34-PAGE 41

THE NORTH 90 FEET OF THE EAST 440 FEET OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 13, TOWNSHIP 8 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST.

PARCEL C A PORTION OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 13, TOWNSHIP 8 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 13; THENCE RUN NORTH 89 DEGREES 08 MINUTES 18 SECONDS WEST, ALONG THE SOUTH LINE, 357.06 FEET TO THE EAST LINE OF THE WEST 40' OF PARCEL 1 AS DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 746, PAGE 313 OF SAID PUBLIC RECORDS; THENCE RUN NORTH 00 DEGREES 17 MINUTES 44 SECONDS WEST, ALONG SAID EAST LINE, 15.00 FEET; RUN SOUTH 86 DEGREES 44 MINUTES 07 SECONDS EAST, 35.68 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

Property Address: 5587 SE 7TH AVE, KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FL 32656

Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim in accordance with Florida Statutes, Section 45.031.

Dated this 14 day of February, 2022.

Denny Thompson As Clerk of the Court By: Lisa Brannon As Deputy Clerk

IMPORTANT AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in a proceeding, you are entitled to be provided with certain assistance at no cost to you. Please contact the ADA Coordinator, Alachua County Family and Civil Justice Center, 201 East University Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601 (352) 337-6237 at least 7

days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8770 via Florida Relay Service. 2/17 2tchg 2/24-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, AICP, Senior Planner, at 352.955.2200, ext. 113, email yeatter@ncfrcp.org or visit www.ncflepc.org

2/24 1tchg-BCT

BRADFORD COUNTY TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED COORDINATING BOARD BUSINESS MEETING

The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council announces a business meeting to which all persons are invited.

DATE AND TIME: March 8, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room located in the Bradford County Courthouse, 945 North Temple Ave., Starke, Florida

DIAL IN NUMBER: Toll free 1.888.585.9008

CONFERENCE CODE: 864 183 272

GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED: To conduct the regular business of the Bradford County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.

Per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, to reduce the risk of becoming infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 and potentially spreading it to others, fully vaccinated people should wear a mask indoors in public if they are in an area of substantial or high transmission; if someone in their household is immunocompromised or at increased risk for severe disease; or if someone in their household is unvaccinated.

For additional information or to obtain a copy of the agenda interested persons may contact: North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603; godfrey@ncfrcp.org or 352.955.2200. The meeting agenda and supporting materials will be posted at https://www.ncfrcp.org/transportation-disadvantaged.

Any person may submit written or other physical evidence which he or she intends to offer into evidence during the business meeting to Lynn Godfrey, Senior Planner, at North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, Florida 32653-1603; or godfrey@ncfrcp.org.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 2 business days before the meeting by contacting 352.955.2200. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1.800. 955.8771 (TDD) or 1.800. 955.8770 (Voice).

If any person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the meeting, he/she will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence from which the appeal is to be issued.

2/24 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF AGENCY ACTION TAKEN BY THE SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Notice is given that the following permit was issued on January 28, 2022:

CR 18 Trail Segment 3 Florida Department of Transportation, District 2, 1109 South Marion Avenue, Lake City FL 32025 Permit# ERP-007-240538-1. The project is located in Bradford County, Section 30, Township 7 South, Range 22 East. The permit authorizes a surface water management system on 1.79 acres for construction of a multi-use trail known as CR 18 Trail Segment 3. The receiving water body is the Sante Fe River. A person whose substantial interests are or may be affected has the right to request an administrative hearing by filing a written petition with the Suwannee River Water Management District (District). Pursuant to Chapter 28-106 and Rule 40BB-1.1010, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), the petition must be filed (received) either by delivery at the office of the Resource Management Business Resource Specialist at District Headquarters, 9225 CR 49, Live Oak FL 32060 or by e-mail to tjm@srvwm.d.org, within twenty-one (21) days of newspaper publication of the notice of intended District decision (for those persons to whom the District does not mail or email actual notice). A petition must comply with Sections 120.54(5)(b)4. And 120.569(2)(c), Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Chapter 28106, F.A.C. The District will not accept a petition sent by facsimile (fax). Mediation pursuant to Section 120.573, F.S., is not available.

A petition for an administrative hearing is deemed filed upon receipt of the complete petition by the District Clerk at the District Headquarters in Live Oak, FL during the District's regular business hours. The District's regular business hours are 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., excluding weekends and District holidays. Petitions received by the District Clerk after the District's regular business hours shall be deemed filed as of 8 a.m. on the next

regular District business day. The right to an administrative hearing and the relevant procedures to be followed are governed by Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, Chapter 28-106, Florida Administrative Code, and Rule 40B-1.1010, Florida Administrative Code. Because the administrative hearing process is designed to formulate final agency action, the filing of a petition means the District's final action may be different from the position taken by it in this notice. Failure to file a petition for an administrative hearing within the requisite time frame shall constitute a waiver of the right to an administrative hearing. (Rule 28-106.111, F.A.C.). If you wish to do so, you may request the Notice of Rights for this permit by contacting the Business Resource Specialist in the Division of Resource Management (RM), 9225 CR 49, Live Oak, FL 32060, or by phone at 386.362.1001.

2/24 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: MIRACLE AUTOMOTIVE & TRUCK SERVICE CENTER INC. gives notice that on 03/11/2022 at 12:00 PM the following vehicle(s) may be sold by public sale at 620 N. THOMPSON ST. STARKE FL, 32091 to satisfy the lien for the amount owed on each vehicle for any recovery, towing, or storage services charges and administrative fees allowed pursuant to Florida statute 713.78.

1G2Z2H57N884204665 2008 PONTIAC G55 4DR SPT V6 2.4L 4CYL 4T1BF28K4XU083438 999 TOYT

2/24 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:

Timothy D. Martin Last known address of: 12122 Cedar Dr Brookler FL 32622

You are hereby notified that your eligibility to vote is in question. You are required to contact the Supervisor of Elections, in Starke, Florida, no later than thirty (30) days after the date of this publishing. Failure to respond will result in a determination of ineligibility by the Supervisor and your name will be removed from the statewide voter registration system. Published one time in the Bradford County Telegraph

Amanda Seyfang Bradford County Supervisor of Elections P. O. Box 58 945 N. Temple Ave., Suite C Starke, FL 32091

Date: February 18, 2022 Sarah Long

2/24 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned Starke 301 U-Store LLC, pursuant to SECTION 83.801-809 Florida Statutes "Storage Facility Act" will sell to the highest bidder the contents of the following storage units located at 1650 S. Walnut Street, Starke, Florida 32091. Said contents consisting of personal property, household and other goods, furniture, etc., or as otherwise indicated. Sale will take place March 12th, 2022 @ 11:00am. This sale is being made to satisfy a statutory lien. Registration will begin at 10:15am.

A60- James Humphrey A75- Rodney Puckett

Entire contents of the following units will be sold to satisfy a lien & other charges according to Florida Statutes 83.806. Seller reserves the right to reject any bids and to withdraw any unit from such sale. Open bids only. CASH PAYMENTS ONLY All Sales Are Final. 10% Buyers Premium. Contents must be removed by close of business 3/12/2022. For any winning bid the buyer must present a \$50.00 cleaning fee for each winning unit and is refundable upon returning the unit broom swept by close of business 3/12/2022.

2/24 2tchg 3/3-BCT

FICTITIOUS NAME

Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes, notice is hereby given that the undersigned, Richard L. Sipe, 14900 US 301 S., Starke, FL 32091, sole owner, doing business under the firm name of: RICHES PLACE, LLC, 14900 US 301 S., Starke, F 32091 intends to register fictitious name under the aforesaid statue. Dated this 17 day of February, A.D., 2022 in Bradford, County.

2/24 1tchg-BCT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of John Edward Nicholson, deceased, whose date of death was October 10, 2021, is pending in the Circuit Court for Union County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 55 West Main Street Union County Courthouse, Room 103 Lake Butler, Florida 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 17 February, 2022.

Attorney: R. Nadine David, Esq., FBN: 89004, Florida Probate Law Group, PO Box 141135, Gainesville, FL 32614 Phone: (352) 354-2654 ndavid@floridaprobatelawgroup.com, www.floridaprobatelawgroup.com

Personal Representative: Carl Alex Nicholson, 4642 SW 80th Way, Lake Butler, FL 32054

2/17 2tchg 2/24-UCT

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 24 February 2022. Attorney for Personal Representative: /s/ Bradley J. Busbin Bradley J. Busbin, Esquire Florida Bar No. 0127504 Busbin Law Firm, P.A. 2295 S. Hiwassee Rd., Ste. 207 Orlando, FL 32835 Email: Brad@BusbinLaw.com Telephone: (407) 955-4595 Fax: (407) 627-0318 Personal Representative: /s/ Deborah Luke Deborah Luke 1817 Truman Dr, Lawtey, FL 32058

2/24 2tchg 3/3-BCT

Union

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 8TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA, CASE NO. 21000056CAAXMX

REVERSE MORTGAGE FUNDING LLC, Plaintiff

vs. UNKNOWN SPOUSE, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITOR, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING AN INTEREST BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST THE ESTATE OF ROBERT C. BAKER A/K/A ROBERT CHARLES BAKER, DECEASED, et al., Defendants

NOTICE OF ACTION TO: UNKNOWN SPOUSE, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITOR, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHER PARTIES CLAIMING AN INTEREST BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST THE ESTATE OF ROBERT C. BAKER A/K/A ROBERT CHARLES BAKER, DECEASED

9242 SW 149TH LN LAKE BUTLER, FL 32054 YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following described property located in Union County, Florida:

LOT 2, QUAIL HOLLOW, A SUBDIVISION ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 3, PUBLIC RECORDS OF UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA.

has been filed against you, and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to this action, on Greenspoon Marder, LLP, Default Department, Attorneys for Plaintiff, whose address is Trade Centre South, Suite 700, 100 West Cypress Creek Road, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309, and file the original with the Clerk within 30 days after the first publication of this notice in THE UNION COUNTY TIMES, on or before March 10, 2022; otherwise a default and a judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID COURT on this 2nd day of February,

By: Kellie Hendricks-Rhoades As Clerk of said Court

By: Crystal Norman As Deputy Clerk

Prepared by: Greenspoon Marder, LLP (954) 491-1120; gmforeclosure@gmllaw.com

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a reasonable accommodation to participate in this proceeding should, no later than seven (7) days prior, contact the Clerk of the Court's disability coordinator at ADA Coordinator, (352) 337-6237. If hearing or voice impaired, contact (TDD) (800) 955-8771 via Florida Relay System.

2/10 4tchg 3/3-UCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

File No. 2022-CP-00003 Division Probate

IN RE: ESTATE OF JOHN EDWARD NICHOLSON Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS The administration of the estate of John Edward Nicholson, deceased, whose date of death was October 10, 2021, is pending in the Circuit Court for Union County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 55 West Main Street Union County Courthouse, Room 103 Lake Butler, Florida 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 17 February, 2022.

Attorney: R. Nadine David, Esq., FBN: 89004, Florida Probate Law Group, PO Box 141135, Gainesville, FL 32614 Phone: (352) 354-2654 ndavid@floridaprobatelawgroup.com, www.floridaprobatelawgroup.com

Personal Representative: Carl Alex Nicholson, 4642 SW 80th Way, Lake Butler, FL 32054

2/17 2tchg 2/24-UCT

Right-to-Know Act, the following information is available to the public upon request during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m.

Tornadoes defeat Madison to reach Final Four

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Bradford High School saw an 18-point third quarter lead whittled to single digits when visiting Madison County went on an 11-0 run, but the Tornadoes got a big fourth quarter from Shayne Davis, Dae'Jon Shanks and Jontez Williams in defeating the Cowboys 64-54 and winning the Region 3-1A boys basketball championship on Feb. 22.



Dae'Jon Shanks (left) and Jontez Williams celebrate the win. Photos by Cliff Smelley.

The Tornadoes (14-10) now advance to the Final Four for the second time in program history. Their only trip before now occurred in 1974.

"It hasn't hit me yet," Head Coach Sampson Jackson said. "I'm just excited. Later on, when I wake up in the morning, it's going to hit me that we're still practicing."

The Final Four will be hosted by Lakeland at the RP Funding Center. Bradford will play a semifinal game on Wednesday, March 2, at 8 p.m. against either Hawthorne or Trenton. If the Tornadoes win, they'll play for the championship on Friday, March 4, at 7 p.m.

"I can't wait until Lakeland," said Davis, who finished with 16 points.

Bradford put together a 10-0 run late in the first quarter to go up 17-7. Davis scored off an offensive rebound and was fouled, making the ensuing free throw. Williams then scored off his own steal before Robbie Simmons-Godwin scored off a Shanks assist. Simmons-Godwin was fouled on the play and made the free throw to put the Tornadoes ahead 15-7. Davis then added another field goal.

The Tornadoes had a 13-0 run in the second quarter to build a 19-point lead. Shanks and Davis

were each fouled on a successful basket, with both sinking their awarded free throws. Amari Jones scored off an offensive rebound and later hit a turnaround jumper. Williams then knocked down a three-pointer off an inbounds pass to make the score 32-13.

At that point, the game was a far cry from the two regular-season games the teams split — both of which ended with three-point margins.

"We played (tonight) like how we were supposed to in those first two games," Williams said. "We were supposed to do this."

It was a 40-22 game early in the third quarter when the Cowboys (16-12) went on an 11-0 run, with six of those points coming on three-pointers by Jonathan Akins.

Jackson said it was a brief stretch in which his team didn't play well, but the key thing was Bradford never lost the lead.

"We were still up," Jackson said. "You don't have to win by 10. You don't have to win by 15. You have to win by one."

"Basketball is simply a game of runs. They hadn't made one all game. They put one together in the third quarter. We just had to withstand it."

Williams, who led Bradford with 18 points, said, "We were going to keep pushing and just

keep playing how we play."

The Tornadoes scored eight straight during a stretch in the fourth quarter in which Madison missed six field-goal attempts. Bradford's Torin Brazell blocked two shots during that span, which included four points from Shanks. Bradford turned a seven-point lead into one of 15.

Shanks had seven points in the fourth quarter, while Davis and Williams each had six. The Tornadoes needed those points. The Cowboys put together a brief flurry in the final two minutes that saw them score seven straight points, but that only brought them to within 10 points of Bradford.

"At the start of the season, we said we wanted to go to Lakeland," Jackson said. "We had a rough patch during the season when we stopped saying that, because we had to focus on us and do the things we needed to do."

That rough patch saw the Tornadoes lose six of nine games. They finished the regular season 10-10.

"The regular season didn't go how we planned," Davis said adding, "The key to our success has been we started clicking at the right time. We're on a six-game winning streak."

Thanks to that winning streak,



Shayne Davis (far right) puts a shot in off the glass. The Tornadoes' Robbie Simmons-Godwin (far left) is also pictured.

the Tornadoes have won not only a district championship, but the second regional championship in program history — 48 years after a district championship, but the second regional championship in

See REGION, page 18

KHHS honors Mattox at preseason baseball classic

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Former players and current and

past coaches and administrators paid tribute to the man Walt Darty said represents Keystone baseball on Feb. 15 at Keystone

Heights High School's Alan Mattox Preseason Classic.

Mattox retired after last season, bringing to an end a 29-year career at KHHS in which he won 466 games. Mattox's teams finished above .500 in 21 seasons. He guided the Indians to 10 district championships, 17 regional playoff appearances, three regional championships, three Final Four appearances and two state runner-up finishes.

Athletic Director Chuck Dickinson presented Mattox with a plaque that listed those accomplishments as well as Colossians 3:23-24: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

The plaque also featured a Mattox saying: "Figure it out. Nobody cares."

The brief ceremony that took place before Keystone and Fort White played each other also included the announcement of the KHHS hitting facility being named the "Alan Mattox Hitting Facility."

Mattox, as was the case when he was coaching, chose to downplay his role in whatever the Indians accomplished during his tenure.

"Players make good coaches," he said. "I've been fortunate to have really good players."

Fort White Head Coach Rick

Julius, who coached alongside Mattox at Keystone, had the name of every player who played for Mattox and the record and accomplishments of every season compiled and framed as a commemorative gift that Mattox unwrapped during the ceremony. Julius had two such mementos created, with the other being presented to KHHS.

In summing up his mentor, Julius recited a quote by John Wooden: "A good coach can change a game. A great coach can change a life."

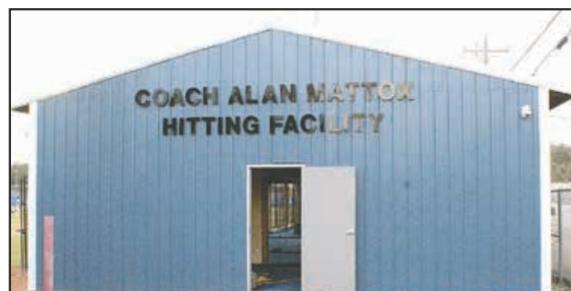
Mattox was visibly touched by the honors, saying the ceremony was "a little overwhelming and humbling." He stood in the midst of people who played for him, coached alongside him and worked with him or still work with him (Mattox is still teaching at KHHS).

"There's no trophy in the world that can replace what's standing on the field tonight," Mattox said, looking around him. "I really appreciate all of you people being here."

He may be retired from coaching, but it's apparent Mattox isn't done with the KHHS baseball program. Prior to the ceremony, Mattox was preparing the field for the game between Keystone and Fort White.

Isaac Morford, who had Mattox as a teacher and a coach, and also coached alongside him, said it was no surprise to see Mattox working on the field.

"This man is the best there is,"



The KHHS hitting facility is now named in Alan Mattox's honor.

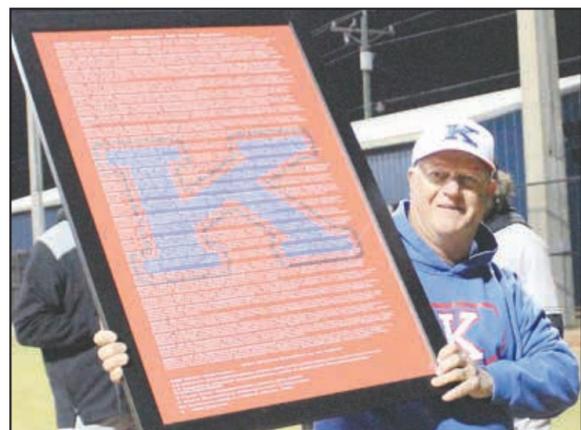
Morford said. "He coached us all to work so hard. He taught us by doing it himself."

Darty, a former teacher, coach and athletic director at KHHS, told Mattox, "The most important thing that you brought to Keystone is character and the desire to work hard on the field and off the field." He then

later added, "You are Keystone baseball."

John Sgromolo, the coordinator of district athletics and development in Clay County, said, "When I think of Keystone baseball, I think of toughness, grit. I think of

See MATTOX, page 13



Former KHHS Head Baseball Coach Alan Mattox displays a gift presented to him by former KHHS Assistant Coach Rick Julius (now the head coach at Fort White). Within the frame are the names of every player and the accomplishments of each of the 29 seasons Mattox coached at KHHS. Photos by Cliff Smelley.

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Obituaries

Rhonda Baribeau

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS Rhonda Arlene Baribeau, 59, of Keystone Heights died in Middleburg on Monday, Feb. 14, 2022. She was born in Barre, Vermont, on Dec. 31, 1962, to Harold E. and Joyce A. (Londry) Fisk. Left behind are two daughters, Jessica J. Baribeau (Aaron Dunham) of Wells River, Vermont; Ashley M. Baribeau of Keystone Heights; siblings, Theresa Slie of Bradford, Vermont, and Stenton Fisk of Saint Johnsbury, Vermont; and several grandchildren.

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

Jeannette Carroll

Jeannette S. Carroll, "Ms. Jet," passed away at her home on Monday, Feb. 14, 2022. She was born in Dover, on Sept. 15, 1935, to the late George and Eva Ellison Cumbie. She moved to Lake Butler in 1985 and shortly after started Jet's Clothing Store. She had a big personality and loved interacting with people. She also was an avid reader who enjoyed crochet, playing the organ, and dancing in her younger days. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband of 35 years, Rance Carroll; brother, Bill Cumbie; and sisters, Betty Horn and Madeline Glass.

She is survived by her sons, Mark (Barbara) Jetton of Oak Hill, and James Jetton of Lake Butler; her daughters, Cynthia (Frank) Ball and Tina (Dennis) Coppola both of New Smyrna Beach; 11 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

A service to honor her will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 22, at Archer-Milton Funeral Home, Lake Butler. She was laid to rest immediately following the service at Dekle Cemetery next to her husband.

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



PAID OBITUARY

Wilbur Combs

RAIFORD Wilbur Eugene Combs, 70, of Raiford went to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, after a brief illness on Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022, surrounded by his loving family. He was born Feb. 1, 1952, in Macclenny, the youngest of 10 children, to Wilbur and Myrtle Lee (Rhoden) Combs. He retired from Florida State Prison after nearly 30 years of dedicated service. He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He was an avid Florida Gator fan, and loved the outdoors; but most of all, he loved the Lord, his family and friends, and his church family. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Bobby, Talmadge, Elwin, Tommy, and Phillip; and sister, Helen Brantley.

He is survived by the love of his life and soulmate, Cindy; daughters, Renee Kopecky, Kim (Doug) Hodge, and Courtney (Mike) Snyder; grandchildren, Cami and Doug Hodge, Jon Kopecky, and Symphony and Serenity Snyder; brother, Ray (Linda) Combs; sisters, Verna (Billy) Stewart and Ferrell Robinson; sisters-in-law, Doris Combs and Mary Combs; plus, a whole host of nieces and nephews, and many special and dear friends.

A service for him was held on Friday, Feb. 18, at Archer-Milton Funeral Home. He was laid to rest at Sapp Cemetery in Raiford immediately following the service. Services were officiated by Bro. Larry Thornton. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the building fund at Raiford Calvary Temple Church of God, 5289 NW CR 125, Lawtey, FL 32058.

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

PAID OBITUARY



Kenneth Crawford

STARKE Kenneth Mitchell Crawford, 57, of Starke passed away in Gainesville on Sunday, Feb. 20, 2022. He was born in Tifton, Georgia on Jan. 25, 1965 to Mitchell Wayne and Elaine "Harris" Crawford. For 35 years he worked as a lineman for IBEW in the Atlanta area. During his free time, he enjoyed playing games with his sister Brentley, fishing, and helping anyone he could. He also enjoyed spending time around the grill with family and friends. He was preceded in death by his father, Mitchell Wayne Crawford.

Survivors include his mother, Elaine "Harris" Crawford; daughter, Nicole (Neil) Patton of Covington, Georgia; son, Kenneth Kirk (Hailey) Crawford of Social Circle, Georgia; sisters, Brentley Hudson of Starke, and Lisa Owenby of Sumter, Georgia; and three grandchildren, Liam, Roy, and Baelynn.

Funeral services were held in the DeWitt C. Jones Chapel on Wednesday, Feb. 23.

Arrangements were by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 620 E. Nona St., Starke. www.jonesgallagherfh.com

PAID OBITUARY



Marklee Harris Jr.

STARKE Marklee John Harris Jr., 62, of Starke, passed away on Friday, Feb. 18, 2022, at Haven Hospice Roberts Care Center in Palatka. He was born in Gainesville on Oct. 28, 1959, to the late Marklee John Harris Sr. and Betty Tetstone Harris. He graduated from Bradford High School and has been a lifelong resident of Starke. After graduating high school he began working at Winn-Dixie and was promoted to produce manager. He was employed by Winn-Dixie for close to ten years. Then he and his brother James opened their own produce stand on 301 called Harris Produce, which they owned and operated from 1994-1997. He also had a career at Publix as a meat cutter where he truly enjoyed working until he retired. He was an avid Florida Gator fan, and he had the best sense of humor. He was a simple man who enjoyed hunting, fishing, and horseback riding. Most of all, he loved his family and will be missed by all who knew him. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Debra Hardy Harris; and sister, Linda Faye Harris.

He is survived by his children, Marklee John Harris III of Starke, Edward Clarke of Callahan, and Stacy Breesee of Starke; brother, James Harris of Starke; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life was held on Wednesday, Feb. 23, at Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel with pastor Jim Cox officiating. Interment followed at Elzey Chapel Cemetery.

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

PAID OBITUARY



Edwin Mawyer

GRANDIN Edwin Eugene Mawyer, 87, of Grandin died on Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022. He was born in Grandin on May 25, 1934. He was preceded in death by his mother and step-father, Beryl and Mary Pugh.

His survivors include his daughter, Deborah Mawyer (Perica) Lazic of Keystone Heights; son, Evan (Janet) Mawyer of Minnesota; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

No services are scheduled at this time.

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

Daniel McInnis Sr.

STARKE Daniel "Dan" Lee McInnis Sr., 82, of Starke, died Monday, Feb. 14, 2022, at Orange Park Medical Center in Orange Park. He was born in Midland, Michigan on July 6, 1939, to the late James McInnis and Bernice Beem McInnis. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife; brothers, Bob McInnis and Jim McInnis; sister, Phyllis Leck.

A Celebration of Life was held on Tuesday, Feb. 22, at Archie Tanner Memorial Chapel with Pastor Jim Cox officiating. Interment followed at Santa Fe Cemetery.

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

Betty Murray

Betty Horne Murray passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her family on Thursday, Feb. 10, 2022 after a short illness. She was born in Capitola in Leon County on April 30, 1929, a daughter of James Wagner Horne Sr. and Ellen Pearl McAlhany Horne. She was raised and educated in Hampton. She attended Florida State University and received a master's degree from the University of Florida. She moved to Saint George, South Carolina in 1964 and began teaching at Saint George Elementary and Williams Memorial Elementary schools. She retired in 1998. She was a member of St. George United Methodist Church. She and her husband, Oliver, spent a year in the Solomon Islands as missionaries for the United Methodist Church. She was a member of various organizations; Mary Baily Circle, The Little Book Club, and, most special to her, The Rose Garden Club. She loved flower shows, designing the member's year book, and planning the Holiday Tour of Homes. She was predeceased by her parents; mother and father-in-law; and sons-in-law, David Keith Patrick and Christopher M. Pinckney.

She is survived by her husband of 59 years, James Oliver Murray; daughter, Melody M. Pinckney; granddaughter, Jennifer (Derrick) Patrick Messex; great-grandsons, Landon Keith Messex and Owen Bryant Messex of Saint George, South Carolina; sister, Barbara (Robert) Barksdale of Starke; brothers, James W. Horne of Gulf Breeze, and William (Billy) Horne of Hampton; sisters-in-law, Martha M. Murray of Grover, South Carolina and Betty P. Murray of Holly Hill, South Carolina; a special friend, Paula (Jerry) Loftis of Saint George, South Carolina; and special cousins, Cynthia Carlson of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina and Ann (Eddie) Nine of Columbia, South Carolina. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews who loved spending summers with their Aunt Betty and Uncle Oliver.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Memorials can be made to Saint George United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 506, St. George, SC 29477.

Arrangements under the care of Bryant Funeral Home, St. George, South Carolina.

PAID OBITUARY

Marilyn Norman

LAWTEY Marilyn Norman, 86, of Lawtey, died on Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022. She was the wife to the late Garland Norman Sr.

She is survived by her two sons; one daughter; a sister; six grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

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



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Jessie DuBose-Geiger

Jessie Kathryn Green DuBose-Geiger passed away peacefully at Suwannee Valley Care Center on Monday, Feb. 14, 2022, at the age of 93. She was born Jan. 3, 1929, in Callahan to the late Robert and Rosa Futch Green. She was a lifelong resident of Union County and enjoyed various jobs around the community; most notably was Jessie's Dress Shop, which she

owned and operated for many years. She was a strong-willed, sharp-tongued woman with a heart as big as the ocean. She loved interacting with people and had a wonderful sense of humor. Her ultimate joy in life was her family, whom she loved and would do anything for. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husbands, Jasper Clayton DuBose and Tony Geiger; and her son, Roger Eugene DuBose.

She is survived by her children, Kathryn Carolyn (Fred) Graves, Janet Matthews (John) Ennis, Keith (Sandy) DuBose Sr., Daphne (Darin) DuBose, Diana (Craig) Shadd; 14 grandchildren; and a multitude of great- and great-great-grandchildren.

A service to honor her was on Saturday, Feb. 19, at Archer-Milton Funeral Home. Services were officiated by John Ennis. She was laid to rest next to her son at Elzey Chapel Cemetery immediately following the service.

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

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Obituaries

Ron Patray

For two years and during very poor health, Ron just 'wanted to go see Jesus'! With his wife by his side, Wednesday evening, Feb. 9, 2022, about 6 p.m., he received that most cherished wish and prayer when he stepped into Heaven to see his Lord and Savior.

Ronald Terry Patray was born on Feb. 5, 1937, in Norton, Virginia, to James William Patray and Nora Terry Patray. When he was six weeks old the family moved to Starke, where he grew up. He graduated from Bradford High School in 1954, and enlisted in the Air Force where he served until December 1957. The he took a job with Otis Elevator. In May 1957, he came home on leave from Japan and Guam and looked up Bobbie, whom he had known when she was a freshman and when he was a senior. She was now a senior about to graduate from high school. They started dating and were married in Starke, on Feb. 28, 1959, then they moved to Jacksonville. During this time he accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior and was baptized in Kingsley Lake just outside Starke. In September of 1960, he and Bobbie moved to Gainesville so he could start school at the University of Florida. Bobbie took a job at the university to support his efforts as he earned a BS and MS in electrical engineering. In May 1965, he and Bobbie moved to Huntsville, Alabama, where he took a job with IBM. There they welcomed their precious daughter, Sherri. He was so devoted to her; he loved taking care of her and watching her grow up. He managed several development projects for NASA, including a test system for the Saturn/Apollo space program, flight software development labs for the space shuttle and space lab, and three space shuttle crew trainers for training astronauts. These projects were all completed on schedule and under budget. He also managed vendors on a \$10 million procurement, including significant customization of their systems. Cost and delivery schedules were achieved as planned. It was during these years that he and Bobbie became very active in University Baptist Church, where they did visitation for the church and taught Sunday school; he started a bus ministry and served the Lord in a number of ways. In 1975, they moved their membership to Highlands Baptist Church where he served as a deacon and continued the bus ministry. He really enjoyed working with the children. In 1979, they moved to Lexington, Kentucky, where he managed the development of a plastic injection molding manufacturing plant for making printer and typewriter covers and parts. After starting with a vacant lot he achieved goal to be in production in nine months. This included constructing a building, implementing systems, procuring, modifying and overseeing development, installing 31 plastic injection molding presses, and installing an automatic production tracking system. He also managed the definition and development of a test case system, which was used successfully in integration testing of new microprocessor-based typewriters and printers on a six-month schedule. But more importantly, as a member of Porter Memorial Baptist church, he continued to faithfully serve the Lord; witnessing to those who needed to hear from the Lord. In 1986, the family moved to Nashville, Tennessee, where they quickly joined Two Rivers Baptist Church. He served as a deacon, did church visitation, and continued to be an eager witness to others about Jesus and invite them to church. He retired from IBM in 1992 and began private project management/consultation, doing work for a number of entities including Thompson Caterpillar, Tridon, TVA, the state of Tennessee, and others. In 2012, the family joined Forest Hills Baptist Church. It was about this time that his health began to fail, but he continued to be a faithful witness for his Lord and Savior. He enjoyed coming to church and loved our Sunday school class and the wonderful, loving fellowship we had there. Many times while he was in the hospital, he would ask his caretakers: "Do you know Jesus?" He was always very supportive of the time-consuming legislative, public policy and speaking work that Bobbie did with Eagle Forum. In 2019, he received the Fred Schlafly Eagle Forum award 'recognizing the crucial role of supportive husband' (that he always played) from Eagle Forum and The Eagles. He was delighted; it was a well-earned and well-deserved award. He talked often of wanting to 'see Jesus.' We are confident that he did that last Wednesday, and he heard, "Well done, my good and faithful servant." He was preceded in death by his father, James William Patray; mother, Nora Terry Patray; brothers, Dr. Bill Patray, Don Patray, Gene Patray.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 63 years, Bobbie Patray, beloved daughter, Sherri Patray; grandchildren, Stephen (Nicole) Simpson, Caitlin Simpson, and Jacob Simpson; great-grandsons, Alexander Simpson and Maverick Simpson; sister, Joanne Gasset, and brother, Art Patray; plus numerous nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 26, at Forest Hills Baptist Church, 2101 Old Hickory Blvd, Nashville, TN 37215. Visitation will be from noon until 2 p.m. Military honors will be rendered at the church. Interment will take place at 11 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 28, at Middle Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery, 7931 McCrory Lane, Nashville, Tennessee, 37221. Memorials are suggested to the Forest Hills Baptist Church Building Fund, 2101 Old Hickory Blvd, Nashville, TN 37215.

Services under the direction of the Taylor Funeral Home, 214 N. Main Street, Dickson, TN 615-446-2808 TaylorSince1909.com

PAID OBITUARY

Laverne Paulk

STARKE Laverne H. Paulk, 81, of Starke died Sunday, Feb. 20, 2022 at UF Health Shands Hospital in Gainesville. She was born on May 23, 1940 in Reidsville, Georgia to the late Nathan and Mary (Brazelle) Hutcheson.

Survivors are her son, James Paulk of Starke; siblings, Annette Luning of Perry, Norma Killam of Starke, Allen (Jean) Hutcheson of Quitman, Georgia; three grandchildren; four great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandson.

There are no services scheduled at this time.

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

Edmund Thompson

Edmund Harry Thompson Jr. passed away on Sunday, Feb. 13, 2022, in Lubbock, Texas, while working as a long-haul truck driver. He was born June 22, 1956, in Key West, to Edmund Sr. and Betty Jean Summerall Thompson. He grew up in the Florida Keys, but has made Union County his home for the past five years. He was a simple man with a great sense of humor. He also enjoyed fishing and cabinetry work in his spare time.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Glen Thompson; and great-grandson, Brayden Davis.

He is survived by his wife, Ronda Thompson; sons, Edmund "Buddy" (Alaina) Thompson and David Thompson; daughter, Veronica McGuinness; grandchildren, Lyndsey, Jonathan, Natalee, Jessica, Ashley, Riley, Pierce, Lincoln, Maddie, Peyton, and Sophia; great-grandson, Grayson; and his sisters, Cathy (Gene) Cavanaugh and Edith (Russ) Hall.

A service for him was held on Wednesday, Feb. 23, at Archer-Milton Funeral Home, Lake Butler. He was laid to rest at Ft. Call Cemetery immediately following the service.

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

PAID OBITUARY



KHHS' Dennis earns 2 wins at inaugural girls regional finals

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Keystone Heights High School's Saige Dennis defeated two opponents and fell one match shy of competing for third place at the inaugural regional girls wrestling finals on Feb. 19 at North Bay Haven High School.

Dennis, wrestling in the 145-pound class, lost her first match by a 16-1 technical fall against Lake Brantley's Lanyla Hudspeth. She then pinned Baker County's Savannah Powell in 2:37 and Ponte Vedra's Mira Schmidt in 4:09. Mosley's Savannah Pitts handed Dennis a 20-11 major-decision loss, preventing her from reaching the third-place match.

Keystone's Stamatia Papainannou also competed, wrestling in the 140 class. She was pinned twice by Hagerty's Jada Llamido (39 seconds) and Florida High's Jaylyn Middleton (4:14).

Tornadoes collect 14 hits, 17 runs to win season-opener

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

After a preseason that saw the Tornadoes score 25 runs in two games, the bats continued to be on fire when the Bradford High School softball team opened the regular season with a 17-1, three-inning win over visiting Lake Weir on Feb. 21.

The Tornadoes, who were coming off a 7-5 loss to Bolles and a 20-2 win over Stanton Prep in the preseason, had 14 hits. Taylor Reddish drove in four runs, while four of her teammates drove in two each: Takeirra Bakken, Riley Blankenship, Allie Funderburk and Macey Padgett.

Bradford's first three batters drew walks. After Blankenship scored on a wild pitch, Bakken hit a two-run triple. Padgett then stepped to the plate and launched the first pitch she saw over the fence in left field to put the Tornadoes ahead 5-0. Bradford scored another two runs in the inning off a single by Cassidy Spratlin and a double by Blankenship.

The Tornadoes scored seven of their eight second-inning runs with two outs. Summer Sutton hit a sacrifice fly to score the inning's first run, which was followed by Blankenship's second RBI double. Following an RBI single by Hannah McFarland, Reddish hit a triple into right field that scored two. Bradford then scored a run on an error before Funderburk drove in two on a single.

Reddish ended the game with a two-run single in the third inning that enforced the mercy rule.

McFarland went 3 for 3, while Blankenship, Funderburk, Reddish and Spratlin each went 2 for 2.

Spratlin got the start in the circle, giving up no runs on two hits and no walks in two innings. Blankenship pitched the final inning, giving up an unearned run on one hit and no walks.

Bradford played Old Plank this past Tuesday and will travel to play Ed White on Friday, Feb. 25, at 6:30 p.m. On Monday, Feb. 28, the Tornadoes host Yulee at 7 p.m.

BHS baseball team opens with 4-3 loss

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Bradford High School's baseball team let a one-run lead slip away as host Yulee scored two runs in the bottom of the fifth to defeat the Tornadoes 4-3 in the regular-season opener for both teams on Feb. 21.

The Tornadoes took a 2-0 lead in the second. Kevin Crawford hit a leadoff double and later scored on a balk, while Luke Stucky hit a single that scored Mattox Burgin, who reached on a fielder's choice.

Yulee answered with two runs of its own in the bottom of the inning, loading the bases on an error and two singles before pushing two across on a two-out hit.

Burgin put Bradford back on top in the fourth. After reaching on a single, he scored when the Hornets committed an error on a ground ball hit by Hayden Hughes.

The Hornets loaded the bases in the fifth on a walk, a hit batter and a single. Another single scored the tying and eventual winning runs.

Starting pitcher Cason Pilcher gave up two runs on three hits and no walks through four innings. He struck out six.

Bradford played Baker County this past Tuesday and will host Orange Park on Friday, Feb. 25, at 7 p.m. On Monday, Feb. 28, the Tornadoes host Ridgeview at 7 p.m.

KHHS, UCHS baseball and softball teams in the midst of opening week

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Regular-season play for high school baseball and softball teams got underway this week, with Keystone and Union County playing their first games in both sports this past Tuesday.

Keystone's baseball team opened with Clay and will travel to play Santa Fe on Friday, Feb. 25, at 7 p.m. The Indians then travel to play Middleburg on Tuesday, March 1, at 6:30 p.m.

The Indians' softball season began with a game against Baldwin. Keystone hosts Baker County on Thursday, Feb. 24, at 6 p.m. before playing two straight away games: at Santa Fe on Friday, Feb. 25, at 7 p.m. and at Nease on Tuesday, March 1, at 6 p.m. The Indians then host Toco Creek on Wednesday, March 2, at 7 p.m.

Union's baseball team played Dixie County this past Tuesday and Baldwin on Wednesday. The Tigers travel to play Baker County on Tuesday, March 1, at 6:30 p.m.

The Tigers' softball team opened against Fort White and will host Newberry on Thursday, Feb. 24, at 6:30 p.m. Union then hosts Buchholz on Tuesday, March 1, at 6:30 p.m.

Col. Samuel Elbert DAR chapter meets on March 7

The Col. Samuel Elbert Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, will meet on Monday, March 7, at 10:30 a.m. at the Montgomery Conference Center (88 S.E. 75th St., Starke).

A \$10 brunch (payable at the door) is available.

Do you have a Revolutionary War-era patriot in your family tree? If you would like to find out, DAR can help with its

genealogical resources. Any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion or ethnic background, who can prove direct descent from a person who aided in achieving American independence between April 19, 1775, and Nov. 26, 1783, is eligible for membership. Please contact Registrar Jane Argo Romeo at 352-478-3544 for more information.



LEFT: Alan Mattox (right) receives a hug from former KHHS teacher, coach and AD Walt Darty. BELOW: Mattox (left) listens to Isaac Morford, who played for and coached alongside him, share some of his memories.



MATTOX

Continued from page 11

resilience. I think of integrity. I think of honor. I think of love of the game. Throughout the years, if you watched Keystone play under Coach Mattox, all of those characteristics showed through."

KHHS Principal Laurie Burke spoke of the impact Mattox tried to make on his players' lives, saying he approached his role as coach as being about more than the game itself. His goal was to help his players become productive citizens and good family men.

"He's teaching that through the game of baseball," Burke said.

Morford related how Mattox started a rec league for younger kids when KHHS didn't have a junior high team and how he'd drive senior baseball players to Grad Night at Disney World when they had to play a game and couldn't ride on the bus with the rest of their classmates.

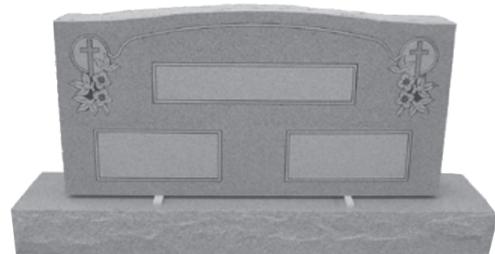
"It was no surprise to me when about a month ago, my daughter came home from school and said, 'My favorite teacher is Coach Mattox,'" Morford said. "I just had to laugh and smile and say, 'Yeah. He's mine, too.'"



He may have retired from coaching, but Alan Mattox isn't done with KHHS baseball. Before getting honored, he worked on getting the field ready prior to the game between the Indians and Fort White.

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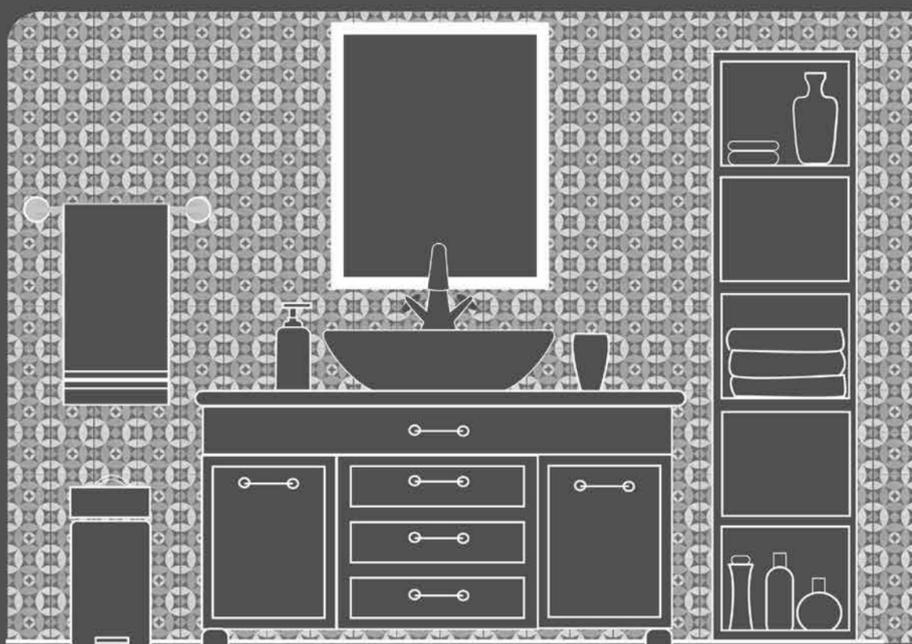
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THE HOUSE DIRECTORY

Tigers have 8 wrestlers earn Region 1-1A berths

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Caleb Crawford and Alexander Cortese were the runners-up in their respective weight classes and two of eight Union County High School wrestlers who placed in the top four at the District 4-1A boys finals on Feb. 16 at Clay High School.

The top four in each class qualified for the Feb. 25-26 Region 1 finals at Wakulla High School. Wrestlers who competed in fifth-place matches may also have the chance to advance if spots need to be filled in their classes. Union had two wrestlers place fifth.

Crawford, who was a district runner-up last year as well, began his day in the 160-pound class by pinning Bishop Snyder's Joseph Miranda in 33 seconds. He then pinned Baker County's Cannon Wiimpey in 1:06 to advance to the championship match, where he lost a 10-0 major decision to Clay's Luca Fiannca.

Cortese placed third in the 152 class at last season's district finals. This year, in the 182 class, Cortese earned a second-place finish. He pinned Nicholas Pereira of Bishop Snyder in 1:04 and the took two minutes to pin Toco Creek's Ethan Anderson. That put him in the championship match, where he lost by an 18-3

technical fall to Clay's Dominic Martin. Martin was the sixth-place finisher in the 152 class at last year's state finals.

Four Union wrestlers placed third: Alec French (106 class), Kale Waters (113), Ian Halfacre (132) and Danny Thornton (195).

French, after a first-round bye, was pinned in 1:49 by Clay's Jacob Bucci. Following another bye, French pinned Florida Deaf and Blind's Ivan Lihay in 1:53.

Waters, after a first-round bye, was pinned in 5:09 by Palatka's Demaris Carr. He then pinned Bishop Snyder's George Preston in 47 seconds and Baker County's Brock Duncan in 27 seconds.

Halfacre began his day by recording a 16-1 technical-fall victory over Toco Creek's Willie Sims. He then pinned Wolfson's Samuel Harris in 1:14 before getting pinned in 1:52 by Palatka's Mikade Harvey. Halfacre met up with Sims again, recording a win by a 14-3 major decision and advancing to the third-place match, where he defeated Baker County's Joshua Carter 13-6.

Thornton pinned Palatka's Curtis Clark in 30 seconds in the first round before getting pinned in 1:30 by Clay's Kedtrick Wilbon. He bounced back, pinning Toco Creek's Michael Soffian in 53 seconds and then pinning Bishop

Snyder's Matthew Carmona in 50 seconds.

Rodney Barnett and Ethan Shea placed fourth in the 138 and 145 classes, respectively.

Barnett, after a first-round bye, pinned Keystone Heights' Talon Lybarger in 1:02. He was pinned in 4:25 by Palatka's Brandon Lewis before bouncing back for a 17-2 technical fall over Baker County's Thomas Torres. In the third-place match, Barnett was pinned in 1:34 by Bolles' Denny Vohs.

Shea pinned Keystone's Luke Graves in 3:18 before getting pinned in 5:11 by Palatka's Johnson Sessions. He then pinned Florida Deaf and Blind's Edilberto Martinez in 3:40 before getting pinned in 1:28 by Bishop Snyder's Amari Akel.

Braden Adams (126) and Colin Hadlock (170) each placed fifth.

Adams was pinned in 1:19 by Clay's Rylan Herrera. After a bye, he was pinned in 2:39 by Clay's Alexander McCrystal. Adams then pinned Baker County's Gavin Sparkman in 3:36 in the fifth-place match.

Hadlock began his day by getting pinned in 1:41 by Clay's Ethan Larsen. He pinned Wolfson's Zach Molla in 46 seconds before getting pinned in 5:36 by Toco Creek's Lawton Case. Hadlock then pinned



Union County had eight wrestlers earn berths in the Region 1-1A berths and 11 in all compete at the District 4 finals. Pictured are: (front, l-r) Alex Cortese, Jameson Lang, Danny Thornton (seated on floor in front of Lang) Colin Hadlock, Caleb Crawford, Ethan Shea, Kyler Barnett, (back, l-r) Coach Edwin Johnson, Kale Waters, Ian Halfacre, Coach Chris Crawford, Alec French, Braden Adams and Coach Joshua Hodges. Photo provided courtesy of Brandi Crawford.

Bishop Snyder's Nate Campbell in 41 seconds.

Jameson Lang also competed for the Tigers, wrestling in the

152 class. He was pinned by both Keystone's Shepard Wingate and Bishop Snyder's Dylan Carter.

Union finished fourth in the

team standings. Clay won the championship, with Palatka and Baker County placing second and third, respectively.

3 from KHHS will advance to Region 1-1A wrestling finals

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Keystone Heights High School wrestlers Jason Bowden, Matthew Delano and Alyx Nichols earned the right to compete at the regional level after their performances at the District 4-1A finals on Feb. 16 at Clay High School.

The top four in each weight class automatically qualified for the Region 1 finals, which

will be held Feb. 25-26 at Wakulla High School. Wrestlers who participated in fifth-place matches put themselves in position to possibly fill in vacant spots and advance as well.

Bowden and Nichols earned automatic bids with fourth-place finishes. Delano, who was one of seven from KHHS to wrestle in fifth-place matches, will move on also.

Bowden, who wrestles in the

126-pound class, was pinned in 2:29 by Palatka's Alexander McCrystal to start his day, but he bounced back by pinning two opponents: Bishop Snyder's Jose Fuerte in 1:14 and Baker County's Gavin Sparkman in 2:28. He was then pinned in 1:29 in the third-place match by McCrystal.

In the 160 class, Nichols, after a first-round bye, was pinned in 50 seconds by Clay's Luca

Fiannca. Nichols pinned Bishop Snyder's Joseph Miranda in 3:45 before getting pinned in 1:40 by Baker County's Cannon Wiimpey.

Five Keystone wrestlers earned fifth-place finishes: Jared Goetzman (113 class), Phoenix Contes (120), Luke Graves (145), Shepard Wingate (152) and Delano (220).

Goetzman pinned Florida Deaf and Blind's Dino Jeudy in 52

seconds before losing by a 15-0 technical fall to Clay's Braden Glavin. He was then pinned in 5:28 by Baker County's Brock Duncan before recording a 14-6 major-decision win over Bishop Snyder's George Preston.

Contes was pinned in 2:30 by Baker County's Jonathon Walker before pinning Toco Creek's Adrian Sandoval in 2:43. Contes lost by a 14-5 major decision to Palatka's Ishmael Foster before

recording a 7-0 win over Florida Deaf and Blind's Khayree Lofton.

Graves began action by getting pinned in 3:18 by Union County's Ethan Shea. He pinned Toco Creek's Rylan McGinley in 1:40 before getting pinned in 2:02 by Bishop Snyder's Amari Akel. In the fifth-place match, Graves pinned Florida Deaf and

See KHHS, page 18

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Business Section Spotlight on Employment in the Tri-County Region

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Location: North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce
100 East Call Street, Starke, FL 32091

Date & Time: Wednesday March 16, 2022 from 10:00am to 1:00pm

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1. Go to www.employflorida.com.
2. Log in or register as a new job seeker.
3. Search for the job order # and complete the referral process.
4. Attend the recruitment event. Date and time are listed above.
**Please dress for success - no jeans/shorts, hats, or flip-flop*

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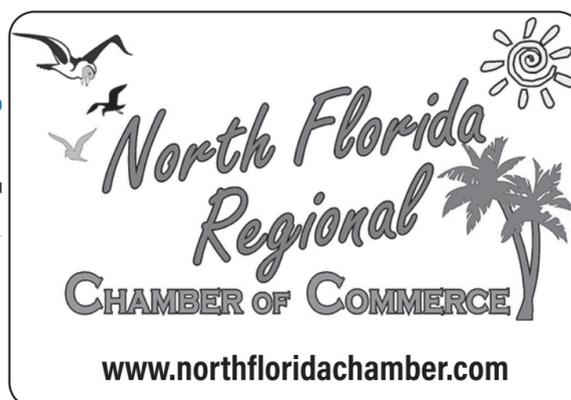
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Saturday, March 5, 2022: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
Monday, March 7, 2022: 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm
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KHHS

Continued from page 15

Blind's Edilberto Martinez in 2:43.

Wingate, after a first-round bye, pinned Union's Jameson Lang in 16 seconds. He then lost 6-1 to Clay's Hayden Mesaroz and was pinned in 2:03 by Baker County's Rasean Rayam. Wingate then won by injury default over Palatka's Hayden Edwards.

Delano had a first-round bye before getting pinned in 16 seconds by Baker County's Ian

Doyle. He was then pinned in 5:05 by Bishop Snyder's Daniel Brandenburg before winning the fifth-place match over Palatka's Benjerman Alicai by injury default.

Placing sixth for the Indians were Ethan Cosby (132), Talon Lybarger (138) and Coday Saley (285).

Cosby, after a first-round bye, was pinned in 3:34 by Palatka's Mikade Harvey. After another bye, he pinned Wolfson's Samuel Harris in 3:22. Cosby was then pinned in 4:25 by Baker County's Joshua Carter and in 2:40 by

Tocoi Creek's Willie Sims.

Lybarger had a first-round bye before getting pinned in 1:02 by Union's Rodney Barnett. After another bye, Lybarger was pinned in 1:44 by Tocoi Creek's Lucas Haraway.

Saley was pinned in 23 seconds by Bolles' Jack Pyburn. After a bye, he was pinned in 2:21 by Baker County's Chase Crews and then in 47 seconds by Tocoi Creek's Jason Callahan.

Keystone finished sixth in the team standings behind champion Clay, Palatka, Baker, Union and Bishop Snyder.



Bradford is off to the Final Four for the second time in program history and for the first time since 1974. Pictured: (front, l-r) Torin Brazzell, Amari Jones, Shayne Davis, Head Coach Sampson Jackson, (back, l-r) Assistant Coach Michael McMillian, Chail Cummings, Assistant Coach Justin McBride (behind Cummings), Hunter Crawford, Robbie Simmons-Godwin, Jontez Williams, Assistant Coach Tarrin Jackson, Jametrius Pringle, Bernard Nichols, Dae'Jon Shanks and Assistant Coach James McBride.

REGION

Continued from page 11

the first.

"It feels crazy," Williams said. "We haven't had one in a long time. We finally got one."

Shanks finished with 15 points, while Jones had eight. Simmons-Godwin and Brazzell added five and two points, respectively.

Regional run began with win over Bell

Bradford scored the first 13 points and clamped down defensively, holding visiting Bell to just three field goals in the first half en route to a 59-30 Region 3 semifinal win on Feb. 17.

The Tornados played Bell (15-13) six nights before, defeating the Bulldogs for the District 6 championship despite a 34-point game from Bell's Daniel Pittman.

Pittman scored 21 in the Region 3 semifinal, but the Tornados did a much better job of limiting his post-up opportunities. Jackson said when

you discounted his post touches on which he passed the ball back out, Pittman had only nine opportunities down low.

"Going into that district championship, we knew they had a really good post player," Jackson said, "but we were just relying on our talent to guard him. This week, we worked on a scheme to guard him, and it worked for us."

What also worked was Bradford's overall defensive pressure, which forced the Bulldogs into nine turnovers in the first quarter. It was a 5-0 game when a Davis steal led to an eventual basket off Brazzell's offensive rebound. Davis, who had nine points in the quarter, later scored on a drive to the basket, picking up a foul in the process and making the ensuing free throw for a 10-0 lead.

At the end of the quarter, Simmons-Godwin scored off a Davis assist to send the Tornados into the second quarter leading 13-0.

Approximately a minute into the second quarter, Bell scored its first point off a Pittman free throw.

Hunter Crawford had two baskets off offensive rebounds to help put the Tornados up 21-5 before the Bulldogs finally got their first field goal, which came from Pittman with 3:59 remaining in the first half.

Bell, which trailed 26-14, got off to a good start in the third quarter, with Pittman forcing a turnover and then later scoring. Bradford, however, responded with a 12-0 run, which included five points from Chail Cummings and four points from Davis.

Cummings scored nine points in all in the second half and finished with 13 overall.

Davis led Bradford with 19 points. The Tornados also got six points each from Crawford and Jones, five points from Williams, four points each from Shanks and Simmons-Godwin, and two points from Brazzell.

Cummings grabbed 11 rebounds, while Shanks and Davis had seven and six, respectively.

Davis, Jones and Shanks each had three steals, with Jones also recording three assists.

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