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Tornadoes lift Region 2-1A trophy



The Bradford High School girls weightlifting team won the Region 2-1A championship and qualified eight individuals for the state finals: Takeirra Bakken, Courtney Comer, Mikayla Cooper, Brianna Jordan, Hannah McFarland, Gabby Oliver, Mahailya Reeves and Jessica Traylor. Other team members pictured are Presley Acree, Emma Franke, Kirsten Hodges, Allie McFarland and Breann Ponce, as well as coaches Bryan Griffis, Tammy Griffis, Kaylan Taylor, Joey Taylor, Kurston Bakken and Roger Crews. See inside for more. Photos by Cliff Smelley.



Kirsten Hodges (foreground, right) holds up the Region 2-1A championship trophy as she celebrates with teammates (foreground, left) Mikayla Cooper and (background, l-r) Gabby Oliver, Mahailya Reeves, Hannah McFarland and Presley Acree.



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NOTING**

Food distribution Feb. 3 and 17

The next food distribution at Starke Church of God by Faith will be Thursdays, Feb. 3 and 17, from 10 a.m. to noon. Food distributions are the first and third Thursday of the month. The church is located at 730 Old Lawtey Road in Starke.

Trevor Thomas Live at Lake Hill Baptist

Lake Hill Baptist Church of Keystone Heights will host Christian entertainer Trevor Thomas on Sunday, Feb. 13, at 11 a.m. A love offering will be accepted, and the Valentine's themed dinner on the grounds will follow. Please bring an Italian covered dish and join the fellowship following the service.

There will be no Sunday School service that morning.

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.

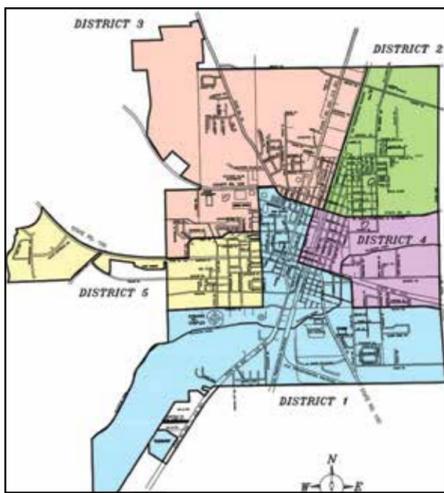
Voting districts to change after 30 years

BY MARK J.
CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

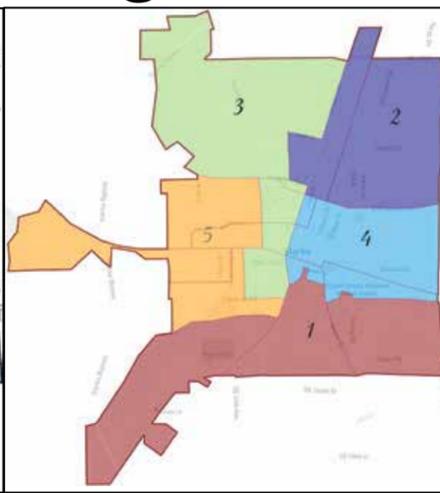
STARKE — Starke City Manager Drew Mullins has proposed a new voting district map, and the public is invited to comment on Feb. 15.

This will be the first time the city has undertaken redistricting since the districts were first created in the 1980s. For the past few months, the city has been seeking a consultant to work with its attorney on the process.

With the assistance of a software application and the county elections office, however, Mullins was able to redraw district lines that evened out the populations between the five districts and ensured that District 2 would remain a majority minority voting district.



Current voting districts in the city of Starke.



Proposed voting districts will be discussed in an upcoming public hearing.

"It checks off all the boxes," he said.

In fact, in terms of population parity, the map beats the accepted margin of

3% to 5% difference. The population difference between districts is below 1.5%. This is important in preserving the Constitution-based principal of

one person, one vote, as Mayor Janice Mortimer pointed out.

"Which is another reason why we really had to do this because we haven't done anything in over 30 years," she said.

It also meets the court-ordered demand for a majority minority district, providing District 2 with a 74% minority population, which includes nearly 63% Black residents and more than 8% Hispanic residents. The maps are based on 2020 census data. Commissioner Danny Nugent tried to argue that the construction of new apartments and subdivisions meant that population would continue to shift, and so a new map would soon be out of date. He wanted to wait.

See VOTE, page 4

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A walk down Main Street shows growth in business community

BY LARRY DUPEE
Special to the Times

LAKE BUTLER — Lake Butler is growing, slowly, but growing. There are still a good number of “old friends” present in the business community, that are now keeping company with some “new kids” that have come into being in the past few years, and all seem to be doing well enough to stay around for a while.

The simplest way to deal with this situation seems to be simply to take a “walk” up and down Main St. in the city and see what is there. So let’s take a walk and see what we can see.

The walk will start at the intersection of SR-100 and SR-121, heading west, considering the businesses on the left, then turn around and come back east, again looking to the left.

First encountered will be the old location of Dollar General, a building empty for a few years since the new store was built on the other side of the road. The building has most recently been owned by Lake Butler Hospital, which has used it for storage. A report by City Manager Dale Walker at a recent Lake Butler City Commission meeting indicated that the building would soon become the home for a new auto parts store, a result of the city’s work with the firm Retail Strategies. The name of the

store, whether they will buy or lease the property and when the store will arrive have not been announced yet.

Next on the route is the Mainstreet Plaza — a small “strip mall,” or shopping center what contains several small businesses.

First encountered are Subway and China 1, both of which have been in place for more than 10 years.

Next in line is the Lake Butler Medical Clinic — the offices of Dr. Martha R. Lloyd. Lloyd is the daughter of Dr. Roberto Perez and has taken is place in the plaza. The family practice office has been in this location for about 20 years.

Next comes Terry’s Florals, which opened in August of 2017. Owner Terry McPherson is a full service florist who offers both fresh and silk flowers and plants. McPherson said she was “Thankful every day for the people of Union County who have come to her shop to do business.”

Next to the flower shop is Union Medical, which opened in April 1989. They carry a selection of medical supplies and equipment, as well as nurses uniforms.

Also located in the center is the local WIC office, open only limited hours as posted.

Continuing down Main Street the next establishment

encountered is New River Health and the Union County Department of Health. Although the building has been onsite for several years and home to the health department, only in the past year or so has New River been a resident — moving from their previous location in the rear of the Driggers Building (see below).

Next in line is the First Baptist Church of Lake Butler, followed by the church’s center for Youth Ministry, named The Bridge. The building was, at one time, the home of the Lake Butler Volunteer Fire Department.

On the corner, across Lake Ave. from the Union County Courthouse, is a building that was once the Tomlinson and Maines Drug Company — a drug store complete with a full sofa fountain. The building, owned by Harriet Maines and her sister, Barbara DeVoe, now provides a home to several businesses (and was once the home of the Union County Times office). The businesses inside include Lake Area Title, Land and Homes Realty and Maines Real Estate.

After the courthouse, the Union County Sheriff’s Office Annex and the office of the Union County Supervisor of Elections (in what was once the Union County Public Library, is Laredo Mexican Restaurant, residing in a building that has been an Eckerd’s Drug Store, as well as a restaurant specializing in fried chicken. Laredo has been on site there for about three years and is owned by the same business people who own the restaurant of the same name in Starke. Of doing business in Lake Butler, Jesus Davila said, “This place is great! The people are nice and that is why we are still here. We have been well supported by the community.”

Continuing on is one of the newer businesses in Lake Butler, Nutrition Hideaway. The business serves meal replacement shakes and loaded teas — a nutritional alternative who desire to be healthy. Owners Ginger

and J.R. Thompson opened a little more than one and a half years ago and they are glad they decided to do so. “Being a part of the Lake Butler community has been everything we imagined and more,” Ginger said. “We love and appreciate all of our clients.”

Although not technically a Main Street address, but located in the same building as Nutrition Hideaway, is the 1st Choice Urgent Care clinic. It is also new to the community, opening in February of 2021. The clinic provides urgent care (walk-in and appt.) and primary care (appt. only).

The Lake Butler Masonic Lodge is just across the side street in a building that was once both the first and second school in Lake Butler during the years 1870-1908.

Next door is the New Beginnings Apostolic Church, located in the building that was once the home of the Lake Butler United Methodist Church, which closed a couple of years ago due to dwindling membership.

The next building in line is the Robert A. Driggers Building, empty for the time being, but past home of the now-closed Kirby Drug (in the front) and New River Health (in the back).

Next in the Lake Butler location of Ferreira Funeral Home, one of a number of facilities owned by Todd Ferreira in the region. Ferreira Funeral Home opened just about a year ago, replacing another funeral home that had come into the area and decided not to stay.

The next business is also closed, but was once named “Great Outdoors,” — a store specializing in hunting equipment. Owner Brian Worthington still offers concealed weapons classes however, the time and place of which can be found on a sign posted outside the building or on Facebook.

Shatto Heating and Air comes next in line and is one of the longest standing businesses on Main Street, with 21 years

under its belt. Owners Kim and Tim Shatto offer a full range of commercial and residential HVAC services, from repairs and service to new installation and replacement.

To finish the journey west on Main Street we find the new McDonalds, which opened just last year, and the Family Dollar, which has been around for several.

Now let’s turn around and travel east and see what we can find.

The first business we can see is Spires’ IGA, which first was first established in 1890. The market is a Lake Butler/Union County staple and is now in the fourth generation of ownership by the Spires family.

Although not right on Main Street, but highly visible from it is a building contained a Lake Butler “fixture” — the popular lunch spot called Skip’s Deli. The business opened in November of 1993 and is not in its second ownership. Proudly displayed on the wall behind the sandwich prep area is a photo of the establishment’s first customer, Inman Green. “We love serving the community of Lake Butler and seeing after their needs,” said a member of the serving staff.

In the same building is Distinguished Cuts Barber Shop, owned by Anthony Holmes. Holmes said he first opened in March 2012. “This is my hometown and I love doing business here,” Holmes said. “I cannot imagine being anywhere else.”

Continuing east, we come to an old building which was Lake Butler’s first gas station, owned by Joe Shaw. Current owner, John Turknet, rented the space for 20 years for a thrift shop (now closed), but still operates a produce business at the location. “I have been in the county for 30 years,” Turknet said. “I came from Jacksonville to Lawtey and then here and I never want to leave.” TruBlue Pools has been in business for about 19 years.

Business owner Carol Thompson offers pools, pool supplies, maintenance and pool cleaning and repairs — as well as advice to owners on how

Next in line is Union Liquors, which was purchased by owner Kalpesh Patel in 2010. The business used to be a combined bar and liquor store. Patel said, “There are so many good people here, I really enjoy serving them.”

Our next stop is one of Main Street’s truly historic buildings, the Townsend Building. Donated to be the home of the Union County Historical Society and the Marjorie Driggers Historical Museum, it was decided to grant ownership of the building to the city of Lake Butler in order for a grant to be obtained by the city for the restoration of the building. The ground floor is used by the city as a rental space for events, while the museum occupies the second floor.

Right next door, across an empty lot, is a (now empty) bank building. The building was built by the now defunct Farmers and Dealers Bank, then stood empty until TD Bank moved in. The TD Bank closed its Lake Butler Branch about a year ago in company efforts to decrease overhead by closing its low-growth branches. The building is now for sale.

Next comes the old location of Hungary Howie’s Pizza (see below), a small building. Next door to it is the Sunrise Food Mart and Gas Stop. The store had been closed for a year when owner Raj Patel reopened it in June 2020. He said he was very impressed with the customers he serves in Lake Butler, saying that they were all “very good, nice people” and he was happy to serve them.

TruBlue Pools, owned by Carol Thompson, has been in business for about 19 years and offers pools, a full line of pool supplies and services, including cleaning and maintenance. She

See GROWTH, page 4

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KH green-lights street concepts

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — The city council gave the go-ahead for more detailed plans to a landscape architect after approving her initial concepts for the South Lawrence Boulevard street scape project.

Elizabeth Manley said her recommendations should be viewed as an overlay that will enhance recent improvements to the road by a Florida Department of Transportation resurfacing project.

“We are not proposing any vehicular improvements other than perhaps if there’s consideration for a more decorative style of crosswalk,” she told the city council during a Jan. 20 meeting. “This is strictly a pedestrian streetscape improvement project.”

She said the goals of the project

are to create a safe, welcoming and walkable downtown, in addition to enhancing views of South Lawrence Boulevard businesses for passing motorists and pedestrians.

Manley added that she hoped to create a cohesive view of the city’s downtown area, a half-mile stretch of road from Keystone Beach to State Road 100.

Another objective of the project is to connect the primarily public spaces in the southern section of the corridor with the commercial spaces in the northern portion. Manley also said she hoped to reduce the number of signs along the roadway competing for the eyes of motorists and travelers.

“We’ve heard a lot of comments about that zone between on-street parking and the sidewalk that’s currently grassed,” she said of public input about the project. “How can we improve the accessibility and

the use of that zone as folks are getting in and out of cars on the street?”

Manley said she also took into consideration downtown’s three annual parades: the Our Country Day parade, the high school homecoming parade and the Christmas parade.

She said her recommendations align with the community’s desire to theme the roadway in a 1920s look, the same decade in which Keystone Heights was founded.

Manley said that based on downtown business owners’ desire to keep a clear view of their properties to motorists, she is recommending sable palms for the downtown area north of Nightingale Street.

She added that another idea she is proposing is street names put into the paving of streets.

“They are slip-resistant and vandal proof,” she said.



A landscape architect recommended sable palms for Keystone’s downtown area, north of Nightingale Street.

Other features include benches, planters and outdoor dining tables, in addition to a gateway feature that could be installed near the beach, alerting

pedestrians and motorists they are entering the downtown area.

Council members said they were pleased with Manley’s initial concepts and instructed

her to develop more detailed plans.

Clay chamber group holds inaugural meeting in Keystone Heights

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS — The Lake Region Prosperity Council held its first meeting on Thursday, Jan. 27 at Cedar River Seafood.

The council is part of the Clay County Chamber of Commerce. Clay Chamber board member and Capital City Bank Bradford-Clay President Patricia Evans said the council resulted from the chamber realizing it needed to focus more on the southern part of the county.

“We are going to work with partner and coordinate with other organizations that are already here doing amazing things in the county,” she said, “such as Answers, Embrace, the Keystone-Lake Region Business Association and Lake Area Ministries.”

Evans said that the chamber can add resources and advocacy to the area.

“We can make our local businesses stronger,” she said, “and ready for the growth that



(L-R) Clay Chamber board member Patricia Evans, Lake Region Development Corporation Executive Director Scott Kornegay and Keystone Heights City manager Lynn Rutkowski huddle before the inaugural meeting of the Lake Region Prosperity Council.

we know is coming to Keystone Heights.”

Evans said the council will meet monthly at 6 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of every month with the exception of February, in order not to conflict with Answers Resource Facility’s annual banquet.

“We want everybody to show up at the Answers Banquet and support that organization,” Evans said, adding that in February, the council will move its meeting to the fourth Tuesday.

Evans said there is no membership fee to join the council.

“We do ask that you become a member of the Clay County Chamber of Commerce,” she added.

Evans said she joined the chamber five years ago.

“The first year I just kind of sat back and watched,” she said. “Once I saw the benefits, I became more involved and attended all the councils.”

Evans added that when the chamber asked her to join its board, she agreed on the condition that the organization focus more on Green Cove Springs and Keystone Heights, areas she saw as underserved by the group.

Evans said work on the Lake Region Prosperity Council has been ongoing for several years, but has been delayed, in part, due to COVID.”

Another organizer of the council, Keystone Heights City Manager Lynn Rutkowski gave the crowd a preview of future improvements to South Lawrence Boulevard.

Scott Kornegay, executive director of the Lake Region Development Corporation, which is sponsoring the council, debuted a new video highlighting the development corporation’s mission and accomplishments.



When firefighters arrived to this structure fire on Northwest 204th Terrace, the home was engulfed in flames. Photo: Bradford County Fire Rescue.

Structure fire prompts power outage

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

STARKE — A Friday night structure fire in the Heilbron Springs area forced Clay Electric to cut power to 1,685 homes in Bradford County.

The outage lasted from 6:55 p.m. to 7:19 and was in response to a structure fire at 6891 NW 204th Terrace.

Bradford County Fire Chief Ben Carter said the vacant home was fully engulfed in flames when fire and medic units arrived.

He added that a power line near the home was arcing which prompted the county to request the power cut-off to the area.

Carter described damage to the home as a total loss.

“It basically burned to the ground,” he said.

Carter added that no one was injured during the incident and that he did not know the cause of the blaze.

The fire was reported to 911 by a neighbor.

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We reserve the right to limit quantities and correct all typographical errors. Some items may not be available in all stores. Design 2022 Florida Sun Printing.

GROWTH

Continued from page 2

also said she offers a lot of advice to pool owners and is happy to help all the people who support her business. Next door is an empty building that has been, in the recent past, a pawn shop and then a small church.

Up next is a small building that has been the home of an Italian restaurant, the Union County Times and, most recently, Gigi's Cuban Café (which recently closed). It is now set to be the new home of Cindy Thomas' business, B-Squared. She is moving into town from her old location near the RMC, which is already closed. Just as she did in her old establishment, she will be offering her signature Meal for Moms, as well as a selection of baked good and treats. Her new location will offer both a drive-through window and sit down dining, as well as a to-go options. The opening date for B-Squared has not yet been announced.

Welch Auto and Tire is another business that has been around for quite a few years. The business fills two buildings on both sides of a side street. The first one we will come to is where the mechanical work is done, while the second building is where the tire work is done.

Tonya Thornton has owned and operated Thornton and Co. Realty, Inc. for about a year and is still excited about serving her hometown community and introducing new people to it as well.

Next we find Winkler Appliances, Furniture and Electronics, which opened for business in 1987 when the Starke branch (which opened in 1928) of the business bought it from Wilson Rivers. The purchase was of a store which sold furniture, as well as appliances,

eventually resulting in the Starke store going into furniture sales as well.

On the corner of Main Street and Lake Street is one of the office of Meridian Behavioral Healthcare – a mental health center that serves the residents of Union County.

Across the side street is what may be the second oldest business still doing business in Lake Butler. McLeod's Barber Shop opened 60+ years ago under the management of Cyril McLeod. It was taken over by his two sons, Elliot and J.R. and is still open, offering haircuts in a traditional shop setting and chair.

Next to McLeod's, in a section of the town's oldest commercial building are Simply Blessed, an upscale consignment and resale shop and then Southern Goddess, a woman's clothing store owned by Daphne DuBois and her partner, Darin Childers. The store opened in June last year, fulfilling a DuBois dream of opening a store in the same location where her mother had a store in the 1970s. Next door to this is an empty store, which Childers was quick to mention would make an excellent addition to the block as a small, locally owned shop.

The next building also is a part of Lake Butler history. It began life as the home of the Langford Motor Co., a Ford dealership opened in the early to middle 1940s, then became Howard's Auto Parts, which claimed to sell more tractor parts than those for cars. For the past four year it has been home to James Tyson's Lake Butler Outlet Store, where he sells new but discounted items for the home and shop.

Tyson came to Lake Butler from MacClenny when he graduated high school and has been here ever since. "I enjoy doing business here and I get to meet the most interesting people

in the store," Tyson said. "Lake Butler is a hard little town for a business to come into and establish. Many come and go. I am thankful to the community for the opportunity it has given me to live the dream of owning my own business. I also want to thank Mr. and Mrs. Howard for giving me the opportunity."

The new home of Dollar General comes next on our walk, replacing the old building about 4-5 years ago. Next door is an old, empty building that has served, in the past, as Priced Right Autos and a video rental establishment. Next to Dollar General we find the law office of county attorney Russ Wade, then the Badcock & More home furnishings store and then the new location of Hungary Howie's, build about two years ago.

Next comes one of Main Street's newer businesses, Leif's Fresh Market. Located in the old Karen's Quick Stop, owned and operated by former county commissioner Karen Cossey, new owner Charles Alvarez, who named the business after his young son. The store opened about a year ago and sells a wide selection of seafood as well as local produce, "straight from the farms" and other products, most of which are locally sourced.

Our walk is about to come to an end, with only one more establishment to consider. Lake Butler Hospital has been around since it was built by the county about 1969 and was then named Union County Hospital. It was later leased to a Dr. Ramadan as a hand surgery institute (nationally known) for several years, then was purchased by Becky Thomas and renamed Lake Butler Hospital. It is now both a local hospital, complete with an emergency room and has, in recent years been a site for rehabilitation services as well.

So there you have Main Street.

There are many more businesses in both the city of Lake Butler and out in the county, but Main Street has always been the business center and today has the most historic businesses in the county. Lake Butler is growing, slowing but steadily. The retail establishments have thrived despite COVID, with a few even being brave enough to open in the middle of the pandemic. What's next. We will all have to just wait and see.

VOTE

Continued from page 1

"Half my district's gone," said Nugent, whose seat in District 1 is open for election later this year, along with districts 3 and 5.

The other commissioners did not agree, and neither did Mullins, who said redistricting is based on the most recent data collected, not on future assumptions.

"The reason I didn't take that in consideration is I don't like to go off of what ifs. I like hard data," he said. That information showed the districts varied in population by several hundred residents. Districts 2 and 3 had around 600 and 800 residents. District 1 had around 1,100, and the rest resided in Districts 4 and 5. It was obvious the larger districts would be smaller when the lines were redrawn.

Mullins credited Matt Barksdale, assistant supervisor of elections office, for introducing him to the software program.

"I was astounded when I saw it," Mortimer said. "This is what we needed."

It also appears a money-saving choice for the commission, as the single consultant responding to their search proposed a fee around \$40,000. There will still be legal costs. Up to \$30,000

has been authorized, and if a subcontract with a consultant is needed during the process, fees will be paid from that set-aside. There will at minimum be a \$3,000 retainer for the consultant, but \$30,000 in attorney and consultant fees is far less than \$70,000.

Public input on the map will coincide with two ordinance readings to approve the redistricted map. Those readings will be separated by a court review of the changes. Pending court approval, the second ordinance reading with put the changes in place.

Mortimer wanted an additional workshop to give the public a chance to comment prior to the process beginning. She said it could help when the map goes before court to show that there is community support.

That public comment opportunity will take place during the first hour of the commission's meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 15, at 5:30 p.m.

Melrose Art Walk Friday

Sculptor and member artist Diana Simmons will be at Mossman Hall for a reception during the First Friday Art Walk scheduled for Feb. 4 at 6 p.m.

On the first Friday of every month, from 6 to 9 p.m., the Melrose Art Walk encourages patrons to visit exhibits at each of the town's galleries. The Art Walk is sponsored by the Melrose All Arts Council.

Get help quitting

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

to Quit Tobacco group Thursday, Feb. 10, from 3-5 p.m. at the Bradford County Health Department. Virtual options by computer and phone are also available.

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

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

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

Flea market supports veterans

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 230 in Hawthorne will hold a huge flea market on Saturday, March 5, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sign up now for a 16-by-16 space for \$15.

In addition to the flea market, there will be a pancake and sausage breakfast, lunch, and a drawing for many wonderful prizes.

American Legion Post 230 is located at 20370 E. Hawthorne Road (State Road 20). For more information, call 352-481-4483.

February sobriety checkpoints announced

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

Letters

Truth be told

Dear Editor:

One thing the public should be able to expect from our commissioners and public employees is openness and honesty. Florida's Sunshine Laws under F.S.119 are designed exactly for that outcome.

In 2016 HPSII submitted a plan for phosphate mining to the Bradford County Commission. I showed up with a long list of questions and I've spent the last six years reviewing documents and seeking answers so as to separate spin from fact.

In 2017, the county hired OEC as consultants to review the mining plans that HPSII submitted, and then make recommendation to the county as to whether HPSII has shown that their plans are in keeping with Bradford's Land Development Regulations (LDRs). HPSII agreed to pay for the county's consultants (an odd arrangement), except for one section of the scope dealing with land use and regional planning, which HPSII did not want to pay for. The County has still not assigned that important section elsewhere for any review over these six years. Why not?

In November 2019, HPSII submitted their third Master Mining Plan (MMP), their cover letter stating that they hoped this was sufficient to proceed to the public hearing. In January 2020, the hydrogeologist submitted his final review to OEC, including review of the MMP. In the two years since then, despite my constant requests to know what we are waiting for, no action took place and I received no answer.

In March 2021, attorney Sexton gave an "update" saying that in September 2019 the hydrogeologist had

requested more information and HPSII was working on it. Supposedly, the Request for Additional Information (RAI) was "not reduced to writing." Mr. Sexton said he spoke with the HPS attorney and "our" OEC consultant, who both stated that the delay was a result of the September 2019 RAI.

Since my two years of requests for information about the "unwritten RAI" were unsuccessful, I wrote to OEC (that had by now been taken over by another consulting company, SWCA) but they did not respond. So in December 2022, I finally appealed directly to the hydrogeologist, who promptly confirmed that he finalized his review in January 2020 and had retired that same year. It is NOT TRUE that we have been waiting for two years for information requested by him, as stated by Mr. Sexton in March 2021.

So what is really going on here? Why did our County Attorney/County Manager Sexton drag the public and commissioners along on a two-year journey down a dead end road? Who benefits from this delay? HPSII? OEC? Not the county. Is the delay in going to a hearing due to the concerns expressed in the hydrogeologist's review of the mining plans? Why were the commissioners negligent in getting to the bottom of the two-year delay, despite my constant requests for transparency and my evidence of obvious "anomalies?" Why are our county's consultants seeking plans for deep well injection discharge for HPSII to consider in their plans? Is OEC/SWCA confused about their intended scope of work?

Deception and obfuscation from our public servants are NOT OKAY. The county

commissioners need to demand answers from their staff and consultants. We, the public, deserve better.

The BOCC needs to tell OEC/SWCA to submit their final report, including the hydrogeologist's review. The county then needs to bring the MMP to a hearing, as per F.S. 125.022. If HPSII is STILL not ready to proceed to the Hearing, perhaps their submission of an MMP six years ago was premature. They could withdraw their application and submit a new MMP when they are ready for the Hearing.

Carol Mosley

Who do you represent?

Dear Editor:

Is Sen. Jennifer Bradley too busy taking care of \$161 billion Florida Power & Light to look out for the voters who put her into office?

Bradley introduced Senate Bill 1024 into the Florida Legislature. The bill would slash the amount FP&L pays homeowners for the power they generate from their rooftop solar panels by 75%! The legislation was drafted by FP&L and delivered to her by an FP&L lobbyist. Two days after that, a political committee affiliated with Bradley received a \$10,000 contribution from FP&L's parent company, NextEra Energy. Last December, the committee received a second \$10,000 contribution.

Now, it should be noted there's nothing illegal with a political committee receiving money from a corporation. However, do Bradley's actions, which would take money out of the pockets of her constituents and put it into the pocket of multibillion dollar FP&L pass the "smell test?" I

think not.

Read the full investigative report for yourself at: cnn.com/2022/01/23/politics/Florida-solar-industry.

And, if solar panels are such a bad thing for Florida Power & Light, why has it announced plans to build 30 million solar panels by the end of the decade? Seems they must think what's good for a huge multibillion-dollar utility that can shower our legislators with thousands of dollars isn't good for the little guy.

Ken Scheffler

Alive and well

Dear Editor:

I read the letter from Mr. Smith titled "Parties need young intelligent leadership" in the Jan 18 edition with great interest - initially. Then I discovered that beyond one swipe at the Democratic Party and another at the Republican Party, the remainder, even though it did address an extremely serious problem, didn't have much to do with the original theme. Nevertheless, I need to object to two stereotypes the author brought up. The first is a reference to the Democratic Party being dead and the other is that the Democratic Party is controlled by a "group of liberal politicians led by a northern senator who is an admitted socialist." Both are wrong on several counts. In this letter, I would like to address the first misstatement.

The Democratic Party is far from dead as evidenced by the many things the Democrats have delivered to the American people, and that includes all the citizens of Bradford County, plus the things they are still trying to get done. In all the vitriol being spread around today, it is easy to

forget that it was the Democrats who delivered enough vaccines in less than four months to protect any American who wanted to be protected. How many of you remember facing financial ruin if the Democrats hadn't delivered the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021*? For decades, both parties have been trying to pass an infrastructure plan - the Democrats delivered on that as well. Even locally, the Bradford County Democrats' "We Care" initiative; bundled together \$26,000 in donations in 2021 to help various churches in our area provide food, meals, and supplies to those who needed it because of the pandemic. Personally, I don't think that qualifies as "all but dead," but "very much alive and well!"

Further, from where I sit, even though faced with internal squabbles, the Democratic Party has a very good chance of delivering major portions of their Build Back Better plan to provide things like free, universal preschool, so important to the development of young minds (which would provide the young, intelligent leadership Mr. Smith rightly suggest America needs). Or, affordable childcare - what Bradford County single mother or father doesn't need this? Or, ramping up clean energy projects to help save our dying planet?

Only time will tell what else this very alive Democratic Party can deliver.

Scott Belford
Bradford County resident

Order tests, get vaccinated

Dear Editor:

The Omicron surge in Bradford County has probably already peaked and should ease

in the next few weeks. In the meantime, I would recommend ordering free COVID antigen tests either online (at www.COVIDtests.gov) or by phone (1-800-232-0233).

Tweens and teens age 12-17 are eligible for the Pfizer COVID vaccine, which is available at CVS in Starke and Walgreens in Starke. The primary series is two doses separated by at least three weeks, and a booster dose should be given five months after the second dose of the primary series.

Thanks again for your time.
Arjun Bamzai MD
UF Health Family Medical
Group Starke

He will be missed

Dear Editor:

Lucian Bradley was a good man. He did all my air-conditioning work for the past 30 years. I did not know he had passed until yesterday. He will be missed.

If I called him with an A/C problem, he would typically be there within 30 minutes, and take care of the problem. His rates were always fair and reasonable. He even once borrowed money from me when he was doing the Community Bank job. He needed to order an expensive compressor and had to pay for it up front. I loaned him \$10,000 and he paid me back with interest as agreed.

He was always clean, courteous and on time. I will miss Lucian and I wish his sons the best. Linda and I will pray for his family.

Thomas Smith

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Keystone student advances in speech competition

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

ORANGE PARK — A Keystone Heights High School senior won a countywide public speaking contest held at the Orange Park Rotary Club.

Bryce Couey won the Clay County competition and now advances to the next level. Students from 45 First Coast high schools were invited to participate in the competition.

Couey said his best friend, Caleb Moncrief was slated to compete in the forum but had to drop out at the last minute.

“My guidance counselor called me and told me about it, and I was like: I guess so,” Couey recalled.

Couey spoke about the Higher Education Act of 1965, part of President Lyndon Johnson’s Great Society program. The federal legislation created low interest loans and work-study programs for students, expanded scholarships and appropriated money for college library expansion.



Bryce Couey, Photo: Rotary Club of Orange Park

“I talked about how it related to me,” Couey said of the law. “In

the act it talks about low-income individuals and first-generation college students. It improved college scholarships and grants for those types of students, and I am a first-generation college student.”

Couey said he tied the federal legislation to his own college application process and everything he has been through.

The KHHS senior said the event in Orange Park was the first time he has spoken in public.

“To be honest, I was really nervous,” he said.

On Feb. 17 Couey will travel to the WJCT studios in Jacksonville for a videotaping of his speech, along with the other roughly half dozen finalists.

The winner of the competition will receive scholarship money.

Couey is on Keystone’s basketball team, student council, the Future Business Leaders of America Club and the National Honor Society. He hopes to attend one of the major universities in Florida and go onto medical school.

Rehabilitated eagle released near Starke

A rehabilitated mature bald eagle was successfully released back to its home near Lake Crosby and Lake Sampson in Starke, Florida, on Jan. 24.

Just after Christmas, Aleathia Morabito, discovered the eagle tangled in moss, hanging upside down in a tall tree. Licensed wildlife rescue volunteer John Fields and neighborhood residents, including Guy DeRoche, retrieved the bird.

Fields transported it to the University of Florida veterinary college. The eagle was severely weakened from its ordeal. After a brief stay at UF where it was given intravenous fluids and stabilized, it was transferred to the Raptor Trauma Clinic at the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey in Maitland, Florida.

At the clinic, the bird was treated with antibiotics for a bacterial infection while regaining its strength in their large flight barn. After a few weeks, staff determined that the eagle was ready to go back to the future.

It was tagged with a silver U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service band on its right leg that will function similarly to a Social Security number or medical bracelet. Every band placed on a bird by a licensed bander has a unique number that identifies the individual, allowing scientists to procure all the associated data that was recorded when the band was placed, and each time the bird might be recaptured in the future.

Residents on Lake Sampson, with the assistance and guidance of Kaye Lee, Audubon EagleWatch coordinator for Duval, Clay and Nassau counties, conducted an inventory of eagle nests in the area by boat and kayak. They determined that the eagle was most likely the resident of an intact but unoccupied nest on Lake Crosby. Property owners on that lake reported that a single, mature eagle in the area appeared to be searching for its mate. So, it was determined by everyone concerned that the rehabbed eagle would be picked up in Maitland and returned to its probable home on Lake Crosby.

One of the volunteers who was part of the eagle’s original rescue team was Susan Baker, property owner on Lake Sampson. By chance, Jenny Murtaugh, a wildlife biologist from New York state, was visiting the area. Murtaugh has many years of experience handling wild raptors, including eagles. Because of Murtaugh’s



Wildlife biologist Jenny Murtaugh hands the eagle off to EagleWatch volunteer Gary Grossman.

qualifications, Audubon authorized the two volunteers to pick up the eagle and drive it from Maitland to Starke. A small gathering of locals and Audubon volunteers were waiting near the Lake Crosby boat ramp when Baker arrived with the resting eagle securely and safely in Murtaugh’s lap.

The eagle was carefully handed over to Gary Grossman, an EagleWatch volunteer, who had recently won an Audubon fundraiser-affle. His raffle win gave him the rare opportunity of handling and releasing a mature bald eagle. Murtaugh removed its hood and the eagle immediately took flight to the top of a nearby tree. After getting oriented, it flew away in the direction of the nest. Everyone was very pleased

with the evident success of the release.

Later in the day, a pair of bald eagles perched in a tree was sighted by Morabito and Nelson Rodriguez, near the location of the rehabbed eagle’s original mishap. One of the eagles had a silver band on its leg.

For help with an injured eagle, call Florida Wildlife Commission at 1-888-404-3922. You will be connected with a rescue group or you can ask for John Fields or Kaye Lee.

Bradford County needs an active EagleWatch monitoring program. If you are interested in participating, visit <https://act.audubon.org/a/eaglewatch-volunteerinformation>.

Local writer selected as finalist in national literary contest

Virginia Crawford Denmark, author of “Who Will You be in the Midst of Your Storm?”, was recently selected as one of three finalists in the annual Southern Christian Writers’ Conference Notable Book Awards.

Denmark is a public relations professional with communications and writing degrees from Jacksonville University. She said she was “totally shocked” her book was selected since she is a first-time published author. Out of more than 100 entrants, six overall winners were selected for various categories. Denmark’s book was chosen in the Devotional category with the eventual winner being, “Health, Healing, and Wholeness: Devotions of Hope in the Midst of Illness” by Tracy Crump.

“I am so honored to have my book selected as a finalist,” said Denmark. “God placed this book on my heart and would not let me set it down until I had it published. It is filled with stories of people who went through hard times — including my grandparents Jim and Christine Lawson. I then connected those stories with people in the Bible who overcame their own hardships. We all go through tough times, but it’s who and what we become during those times that matter most. Will we stand firm when others don’t? Will we get up and keep going? My prayer is ‘Who Will You be in the Midst of Your Storm?’ encourages many people to keep moving forward for God.”

Denmark’s devotional can be purchased on Amazon Books. She asks people to please leave feedback once they read the book.

Award-winning author Debora



Virginia Crawford Denmark, author and literary award finalist.



Mitchell Coty, who — like Denmark — grew up in Starke and graduated from Bradford High School has written more than 40 inspirational books, including the bestselling “Too Blessed to be Stressed” series.” She said, “The coveted honor of being selected as one of three finalists in the SCWC Notable Book Awards devotional category was more than deserved. “Who Will You be in the Midst of Your Storm?” is one of my personal favorites!” Coty has personally sold more than 1.5 million copies of her series in multiple languages around the world.

Denmark has been working in ministry for nearly 25 years. She is currently the public relations director for Hope Christian Academy and the music director for Hope Baptist Church. She worked 10 years for City Rescue Mission in Jacksonville where she was presented three International Union of Gospel Rescue Mission awards in recognition for a news

release that was picked up by the AP News Wire Service, and two overall international awards for her writing, editing and graphic design work. Additionally, she worked for Blue Cross and Blue Shield, and she and her husband also owned their own business for 10 years. Most recently, she was team leader for HCA’s re-accreditation status, working alongside the academy’s other directors.

The Southern Christian Writers Conference was founded in 1991 by David and Joanne Sloan. Four years ago, their daughter Cheryl Wray took the reins and expanded the conference to include the book expo. “We try to do everything we can to promote books by our members,” Wray said. “It’s an important ministry of the Southern Christian Writers Conference to encourage writers in their craft.”

TAB Media Group hosted the awards Jan. 22 at its building in Alabama for those who could attend.

IMPORTANT TAX FILING INFORMATION

The IRS announced it will begin accepting and processing tax returns on Monday, Jan. 24, 2022. The **filing deadline to submit 2021 tax returns** or an extension to file and pay tax owed is **Monday, April 18, 2022**, for most taxpayers.

Call me to make a tax preparation appointment ASAP:
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Dove nominated and award winning Tribute Quartet from Nashville, Tennessee, which includes local talent Josh Singletary, will be in concert at

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Sunday, February 13 at 11 AM & 5 PM

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

Crime

Recent arrests in Bradford, Union and Clay

Jan. 17 through Jan. 28

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

Loyal Eddie Aldridge, 68, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on Jan. 22 for failure to appear.

Amy Pearl Ball, 50, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on Jan. 27 for vehicle theft.

Jailen Stephan Bass, 22, of Melrose was arrested by Bradford deputies on Jan. 26 for battery and a probation violation.

Brittany Shyanne Davis, 24, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on Jan. 27 for battery, criminal mischief with property damage larceny and a probation violation.

Quinton Travis Ford, 50, of Fort White was arrested by Bradford deputies on Jan. 27 for a probation violation.

Robert Olin Fulgham, 47, of Lawtey was arrested by Bradford deputies on Jan. 22 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Craig Michael Huddleston,

53, of Hollywood was arrested by Starke deputies on Jan. 24 for trespassing and resisting an officer.

Robert Charles Hill, 45, of Melrose was arrested by Bradford deputies on Jan. 28 for sexual assault.

Craig Michael Huddleston, 53, of Hollywood was arrested by Starke police on Jan. 24 for trespassing and resisting an officer.

Shawn Aymara Martin, 50, of Starke was arrested by Starke police on Jan. 26 for failure to appear.

Jerel Andrea Phillips, 28, of Fort White was arrested by Starke police on Jan. 22 for battery.

Jordan Quadre' Presley, 25, of Gainesville was arrested by Bradford deputies on Jan. 27 for failure to appear.

Michael Wayne Roberts, 36, of Keystone Heights was arrested by Bradford deputies on Jan. 27 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Joseph Warren Smith, 36, of Orange Park was arrested by Starke police on Jan. 28 for selling drugs, possession of drugs and possession of drug equipment.

Randall Reese Smith, 32, of Orange Park was arrested by Starke police on Jan. 28 for selling drugs, possession of drugs and possession of drug equipment.

Rickie Robert Tyson, 64, of Starke was arrested by Bradford deputies on Jan. 26 for a probation violation.

Dylan Skye Webb-Johnson, 19, was arrested by Bradford deputies on Jan. 27 for a

probation violation.

Union

Leonard W. Ashley, 44, was arrested by Union deputies on Jan. 24 for lewd and lascivious exhibition.

Garrett Larhon Davis Jr., 23, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on Jan. 23 for domestic battery.

Breon Dixon, 29, of Milton was arrested by Union deputies on Jan. 24 for smuggling contraband into prison and possession of drugs.

Jose Dean Gonzales, 28, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on Jan. 22 for trespassing.

Steve Emanuel Jones, 50, of Lake Butler was arrested by Union deputies on Jan. 24 for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

Johnny Timms, 54, was arrested by Union deputies on Jan. 26 for battery on a firefighter or law enforcement officer.

Clay

Denard Tyrell Brown, 37, was arrested by Clay deputies in Starke on Jan. 26 for domestic battery.

Brianna Sue Erickson, 21, was arrested by Clay deputies on Jan. 25 in Keystone Heights for DUI with property damage.

Norman Lee Overmeyer, 53, was arrested by Clay deputies on Jan. 25 in Keystone Heights for domestic battery.

Dylan Skye Webb-Johnson, 19, was arrested by Clay deputies on Jan. 25 in Keystone Heights for a probation violation.

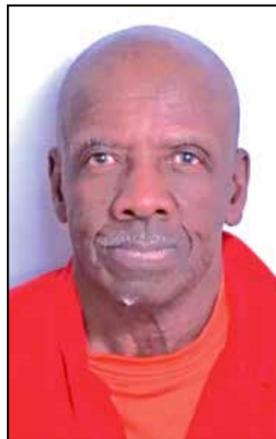
Molested boy at convenience store

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

STARKE — Starke police arrested a 71-year-old Lawtey man after a victim and witness said he rubbed a child's chest.

Willie Berry Jr. was arrested for lewd and lascivious molestation by a defendant older than 18 on a victim younger than 12.

According to an arrest report, the witness told police that he drove the child and defendant to the Circle K at the corner of U.S. 301 and State Road 16 to get gas, around 1 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 30.



Berry

The witness told police he went into the store to pay for the fuel, leaving the boy and Berry in the vehicle alone.

"(The witness) further stated that when he returned to the vehicle, he witnessed Willie rubbing and massaging (the victim's) breasts and upper chest," wrote arresting officer Michael P. Gillick. "(The witness) stated he immediately started screaming and yelling at Willie to stop."

The witness then said he took the defendant home and has not spoken to him since.

30 months for dealing in stolen property, other charges

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

STARKE — A Starke man was sentenced to 30 months in prison after pleading on Jan. 26 to charges associated with the attempted thefts of copper and air conditioning parts.

Brandon Adrian Nelson, 28, pleaded no contest to the May 13, 2021, offenses of dealing in stolen property, trespassing and criminal mischief. He also pleaded no contest to the Dec. 13 offenses of burglary, possession of burglary tools and criminal mischief.

In December Nelson was sentenced to six days in jail and a year of probation for the May 26, 2021, offenses of burglary, possession of burglary tools and resisting an officer.

In that offense, Lawtey police responded to a suspicious person report at a U.S. 301 motel. When



Nelson

around the break-in of a materials operation near the Bradford County Industrial Park on South Water Street and the Bradford elementary school now under construction on Southeast 144th Street.

According to an arrest report, the defendant was seen on surveillance video where a fence was cut. Starke police also found evidence of a large roll of copper stolen from the business.

The Dec. 13 offense involved the attempted theft of discarded air conditioning parts.

According to an arrest report, the owner of an air conditioning and refrigeration company caught the defendant trespassing in a field owned by his company. The field contained old air conditioning parts and is located off State Road 16, near the Clay County line.

an officer arrived, the defendant climbed through a window and fled from police.

During his Jan. 26 sentencing, the defendant's probation was terminated.

The May 13 incident revolved

Garden Club of the Lakes announces schedule

The Garden Club of the Lakes is planning a wonderful year. The club meets at Faith Presbyterian

Church, 1738 S.R. 21 in Melrose on the second Thursday of every month from 10 a.m. to noon. Masks are recommended but not required at this time; six-foot social distancing is in place. The public is welcome to attend.

The following is a list of remaining programs for the 2021-22 year:

Feb. 10 - Luke Miller from the

University of Florida Agricultural and Sciences Department will talk about invasive plants.

March 10 - The program is about edible weeds.

April 14 - Pruning skills to keep out plants healthy.

May 12 - Seed sharing and making seed balls and seed tapes. Please plan to attend.

Man cut doughnuts in front yard, choked woman

BY DAN HILDEBRAN
Monitor Editor

STARKE — A 34-year-old Starke man was arrested after he allegedly damaged his family's front yard and then strangled a family member, partially pulling her through a broken window.

Christopher Wayne Olive, 34, was arrested on Sunday, Jan. 22 by Starke police for domestic battery.

An arrest report stated that the defendant arrived home and cut doughnuts in the family's front yard, then threw a full can of beer at a bedroom window, shattering



Olive

the pane.

The victim told arresting officer Michael P. Gillick that she ran to a bedroom to check on the welfare of her two sleeping children.

"(The victim) stated she then attempted to look out the window at which time Olive grasped her by the throat," wrote Gillick. "The victim stated that she was unable to breathe, and that Olive dragged her out of the window."

The victim received superficial cuts to her arms, hands, back and stomach during the struggle.



Russ WADE
Attorney at Law

620 East Main Street
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PD BY CSTF

Valentine's Day luncheon is a 'go' at Union County Women's Club

BY TRACY LEE TATE
Times Editor

LAKE BUTLER — After a year or more without a Women's Club Valentine's Day Luncheon, thanks to COVID-19 and its subsequent mutations, club members have finally decided the coast is clear enough to allow the annual event to resume.

The date is set for Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2022 from 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Suggested donation for the meal is \$8, with the funds collected going towards the completion of the restoration of the historic clubhouse (which

was Union County's first courthouse).

All are encouraged to bring a friend, or their sweetheart, and dine on the main dish (often baked ham) and a selection of sides, salads and desserts showcasing the club member's best recipes. Enjoy the wonderful food — all you can eat — and the company of friends and neighbors as you eat yourself into an afternoon "food coma." Take-out containers will be available so you can "share the joy" with friends and family members unable to attend.

Starke adjusting water and sewer rates for the future

BY MARK J. CRAWFORD
Telegraph Editor

STARKE — The need to repay federal debt on a new sewer plant, fund ongoing and future maintenance of the system, and raise revenue for other services is behind a proposed increase in Starke’s water and wastewater rates.

Currently Starke charges the same base rate of \$17.37 to in-city customers for one gallon of water or over 200,000 gallons. Billing differences are based on an increasing variable charge for total usage, ranging from .089 cents to .32 cents per gallon. Similarly, the wastewater charge is a base rate of \$31.29 plus .309 cents to 1.192 cents per gallon.

Mullins said Starke is in the middle of the pack when ranked against other nearby municipalities. Starke charges residents \$20.04 for 3,000 gallons of water, compared to \$14.22 in Green Cove Springs, \$15.50 in Lake Butler, \$16 in Lawtey, \$23.32 in Orange Park,

\$29.84 in Lake City and \$39.02 in Hampton.

After the tedious process of sorting through one month’s bills, the manager’s office found that most waste and wastewater residential and commercial customers consumed no more than 3,000 gallons per month. With the exception of commercial sewer accounts, the majority are under 2,000 gallons.

Mullins then looked at the annual revenue for each category, water and sewer, residential and commercial. Residential water usage generated \$568,506 last year, residential wastewater generates \$1.04 million, commercial water generates \$343,300 and commercial wastewater generates \$781,674.

Consulting with the city’s engineers and accountant, the city needs \$480,000 a year to cover debt from the sewer plant upgrade, \$300,000 for annual maintenance and infrastructure, \$250,000 a year to make up for revenue shortfall, and \$150,000 a year to transfer from water and

sewer into the general fund to cover general government costs.

Based on that information, Mullins proposed:

—charging \$20.84 cents for 0-2,000 gallons of water per month. This is \$3.47 more than the current base rate.

—charging an additional \$6 for each 1,000 gallons of usage.

—charging sewer customers 150% of their water usage charge.

—charging a minimum late fee of \$20 or 10% of the bill, whichever is greater.

—increasing the cutoff fee from \$15 to \$20.

According to the city manager, this would raise more than \$1.17 million in additional revenue. The scenario saves money for residents using 2,000 gallons of months or less, encouraging conservation. The combined water and sewer bill would be \$52.10 compared to the current charge of \$56.62.

Those using more would pay more. At 3,000 gallons the monthly combined charge

increases from \$60.60 to \$67.10, and at 4,000 gallons the bill would increase from \$64.58 to \$82.10.

Implementation of the rate and structure changes will take place over three to four months. The commission voted 4-1 to proceed, with Commissioner Danny Nugent dissenting. He said it was unfair to expect customers to take on the additional burden of funding payback on loans that resulted from the city dragging out maintenance and upgrades. Since the new sewer plant was proposed the cost has increased from \$18 million to more than \$20 million, he said — even more money that the city doesn’t have to fund the plant.

“I believe some of this should be our responsibility to work it out of our budget to pay off some of that, so we don’t have to put more burden on the citizens,” Nugent said.

Commissioner Scott Roberts said Starke isn’t in this position because of an increased project cost, half of which is being

funded with grant dollars. The city has been behind in collecting revenue to support its utilities, whether it be vehicle and equipment purchases or infrastructure repair.

One result is that the city is under multiple consent orders from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to address infrastructure failures that threaten public and environmental safety.

“How do you address a deficit without affecting rates?” Roberts asked.

Nugent suggested increasing the bottom range from 0-5,000 gallons a month, but had to agree this would not raise the needed revenue. Rather than “monkey” with the numbers, Roberts said they should recognize that the proposal already benefits the low-income and low-consumption customers.

“They’ve been monkeyed with enough,” Commissioner Wilbur Waters agreed.

Plus, Commissioner Shannon Smith pointed out, they are

incentivizing conservation.

“We cannot keep operating in the red. It’s not fair to the citizens,” Smith said.

Nugent asked about postponing future projects to offset current needs, but Utilities Director Scott Anaheim said the city has been on “run to failure mode.” There are no projected projects in place, because there is no funding for them. The rate increases are designed to allow the city to set aside money so he can implement his five-year capital improvements plan. This affects other department plans as well. The city cannot proceed with street work if it doesn’t have money to take care of the utilities at the same time.

Costs will compound over time, Mullins said, as will concerns for public safety.

“So that’s the need for this. That’s the push for new rates. That’s the push for running it like a business,” he said.

Legal Notices

Bradford

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

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

Certificate Number: 1286
Year of Issuance: 2015
Parcel Number: 05817-C-01500
Case Number: 04-2021-TD-0027
Description of Property: SEE ATTACHED LEGAL DESCRIPTION
Name in Which Assessed: HANS JOACHIM HADAN;
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 of April 2022, at 11:00 AM, or any subsequently scheduled sale date.

Denny Thompson, Clerk of The Circuit Court Bradford County, Florida
By: Lisa Brannon Deputy Clerk
4907DA ACCOUNT NUMBER: R05817-C-01500
Legal Description
Parcel 1 - The West 75.00 Ft. of the East 525.00 ft. of the South 120.00 ft. of the North 720.00 ft. of the Northwest 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 24, Township 8 South, Range 22 East being LOT 16, BLOCK C in recorded plat.
Parcel 2 - The West 75.00 ft. of the East 450.00 ft. of the South 120.00 ft. of the North 720.00 ft. of the Northwest 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 24, Township 8 South, Range 22 East being LOT 15, BLOCK C in unrecorded plat.

1/13 4tchg 2/3-BCT

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

CASE NO. 21000201CAAXMX COMMUNITY LOAN SERVICING, LLC, A DELAWARE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, Plaintiff,

vs. WENDELL A. BROWN, ET AL. Defendants

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered December 22, 2021 in Case No. 21000201CAAXMX in the Circuit Court of the Eighth Judicial Circuit in and for BRADFORD County, Florida, COMMUNITY LOAN SERVICING, LLC, A DELAWARE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (hereafter “Plaintiff”) and WENDELL A. BROWN, TRUIST BANK AS SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO SUNTRUST BANK (“Defendants”), Denny Thompson, Clerk of the Circuit Court for BRADFORD, County Florida will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in the LOBBY of the Courthouse; 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, at 11:00 a.m., on the 24th day of FEBRUARY 2022, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

A TRACT OF LAND SITUATED IN THE SW 1/4 OF SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 8 SOUTH, RANGE 22 EAST, BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, SAID TRACT BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE MOST WESTERLY CORNER OF LOT 64 OF “KEYSTONE CLUB ESTATES UNIT ONE REPLAT”, AS SHOWN ON PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 51 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA AND RUN N 29 DEGREES 16 MINUTES 20 SECONDS W, ALONG THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID REPLAT A DISTANCE OF 180.0 FEET TO THE MOST WESTERLY CORNER OF LOT 63 AS SHOWN ON SAID REPLAT; THENCE RUN S 60 DEGREES 43 MINUTES 40 SECONDS W, 100.0’ FEET TO THE POB THENCE CONTINUE S 60 DEGREES 43 MINUTES 40 SECONDS W, 623.75 FEET; THENCE RUN S 00 DEGREES 14 MINUTES 05 SECONDS W, 183.84 FEET; THENCE RUN N 60 DEGREES 43 MINUTES 40 SECONDS E, 620.27 FEET TO THE WESTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE

OF A 60 FOOT ROAD; THENCE RUN NORTHEASTERLY ALONG SAID WESTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE WITH A CURVE CONCAVE SOUTHEASTERLY SAID CURVE HAVING A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 42 DEGREES 48 MINUTES 00 SECONDS, A RADIUS OF 10.0 FEET AND A CHORD BEARING AND DISTANCE OF N 37 DEGREES 42 MINUTES 55 SECONDS E, 102.17 FEET; THENCE LEAVE SAID RIGHT OF WAY AND RUN N 29 DEGREES 16 MINUTES 20 SECONDS W, 120.06 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the ADA Coordinator at (352) 337-6237, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance. If you are hearing or voice impaired, please call 711. If you are deaf or hard of hearing and require an ASL interpreter or an assisted listening device to participate in a proceeding, please contact Court Interpreting at interpreter@circuit8.org. Dated this 18th day of January, 2022. DENNY THOMPSON, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT BY Lisa Brannon As Deputy Clerk Van Ness Law Firm, PLC 1239 E. Newport Center Drive Suite #110 Deerfield Beach, Florida 33442 Phone (954) 571-2031 Email: Pleadings@vanlawfirm.com 1/27 2tchg 2/3-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION

File No. 04-2021-CP-000152 Division Probate

IN RE: ESTATE OF DAVID ROSS OSTEEN

Deceased. NOTICE TO CREDITORS The administration of the estate of David Ross Osteen, deceased, whose date of death was August 4, 2021, is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is P.O. Drawer B, Starke, Florida 32091. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative’s attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent’s estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent’s estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT’S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of first publication of this notice is January 27, 2022. Attorney: R. Nadine David, Esq., FBN: 89004, Florida Probate Law Group, PO Box 141135, Gainesville, FL 32614 Phone: (352) 352-2654 E-Mail: ndavid@floridaprobatelawgroup.com Personal Representative: Charles Michael David, Esq., PO Box 141135, Gainesville, FL 32614 1/27 2tchg 2/3-BCT

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

CIVIL DIVISION: CASE NO.: 2021-CA-0322 LOANCARE, LLC, Plaintiff,

vs. DAVID W. COXE A/K/A DAVID COXE; AQUA FINANCE, INC.; CAVALRY SPV I LLC AS ASSIGNEE OF CITIBANK NA.; FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION; ONEMAIN FINANCIAL GROUP,

LLC SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO ONEMAIN FINANCIAL OF AMERICA, INC.; STATE OF FLORIDA, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; DONNA J. COXE A/K/A DONNA COXE; UNKNOWN TENANT IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, Defendants

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated the 19th day of January, 2022 BRADFORD County, Florida, wherein LOANCARE, LLC is the Plaintiff and DAVID W. COXE A/K/A DAVID COXE AQUA FINANCE, INC CAVALRY SPV I LLC AS ASSIGNEE OF CITIBANK NA, FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION ONEMAIN FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO ONEMAIN FINANCIAL OF AMERICA, INC STATE OF FLORIDA, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE DONNA J. COXE A/K/A DONNA COXE; and UNKNOWN TENANT IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY are defendants. RAY NORMAN as the Clerk of the Circuit Court shall sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the east front door of the Bradford County courthouse, 945 North Temple Ave., Starke, FL, 11:00 AM on the 21 day of April, 2022 the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit:

SEE EXHIBIT “A” ATTACHED HERETO IF YOU ARE A PERSON CLAIMING A RIGHT TO FUNDS REMAINING AFTER THE SALE, YOU MUST FILE A CLAIM WITH THE CLERK NO LATER THAN THE DATE THAT THE CLERK REPORTS THE FUNDS AS UNCLAIMED. IF YOU FAIL TO FILE A CLAIM, YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO ANY REMAINING FUNDS. AFTER THE FUNDS ARE REPORTED AS UNCLAIMED, ONLY THE OWNER OF RECORD AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MAY CLAIM THE SURPLUS. If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in a proceeding, you are entitled to be provided with certain assistance at no cost to you. Please contact the ADA Coordinator, Alachua County Family and Civil Justice Center, 201 East University Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601 (352) 337-6237 at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8770 via Florida Relay Service. Dated this 20 day of January 2022. RAY NORMAN Clerk Of The Circuit Court By: Lisa Brannon Deputy Clerk Submitted by: De Cubas & Lewis, P.A. P.O. Box 771270 Coral Springs, FL 33077 Telephone: (954) 453-0365 Facsimile: (954) 771-6052 Toll Free: 1-800-441-2438 DESIGNATED PRIMARY E-MAIL FOR SERVICE PURSUANT TO FLA. R. JUD. ADMIN 2.516 eservice@decubaslewis.com EXHIBIT A

Lot 3 of Forest Heights A parcel of land situated in the Southeast Quarter (1/4) of the Northwest Quarter (1/4) of the Southeast Quarter (1/4) of Section 6, Township 6 South, Range 22 East, Bradford County, Florida; said parcel being more particularly described as follows: Commence at the Northwest corner of said Southeast Quarter (1/4) of the Northwest Quarter (1/4) of the Southeast Quarter (1/4) and run North 00 degrees 01 minute 50 seconds West, along the West line of the Southeast Quarter (1/4) of the Northwest Quarter (1/4) of the Southeast Quarter (1/4) a distance of 73.9 feet to an iron pipe; thence run North 81 degrees 49 minutes 00 seconds East, 628.7 feet to an iron pipe on the West right of way line of State Road No. 16, thence run South 35 degrees 00 minutes East, along said West right of way line 54.77 feet to a concrete monument on the East line of the East One-Half (1/2) of said Northwest Quarter (1/4) of the Southeast Quarter (1/4); thence run South 00 degrees 04 minutes 25 seconds West, along said East line 351.99 feet to the Point of Beginning; thence continue South 00 degrees 04 minutes 25 seconds West, along said East line 104.00 feet; thence run South 89 degrees 58 minutes 10 seconds West, 222.91 feet to the center-line of a 60 foot easement for Utilities and General Road purposes; thence run North 00 degrees 01 minutes 50 seconds West, along said center-line 104.00 feet; thence run North 89 degrees 58 minutes 10 seconds East, 223.10 feet to the Point of Beginning. Said parcel being Lot 4 of an unrecorded Map of Forest Heights as surveyed by Joseph G. Knapp, Registered Land Surveyor. Reserving an easement for Utilities and General Road purposes across the West 30 feet of the above described lands 1/27 2tchg 2/3-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION Case No.: 04-2021-CP-000158

IN RE: ESTATE OF WARREN J. DASSAU, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS The administration of the estate of Warren J. Dassau deceased, whose date of death was November 18, 2021, and whose Social Security Number is XXX-XX-2450 is pending in the Circuit Court for Bradford County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 945 N. Temple Ave, Starke, FL 32091. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative’s attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent’s estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT SO FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD 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 January 27, 2022. Attorney for Personal Representative: ADAM LEE LAW PLLC Adam J. Lee, Esquire FL Bar No:0072083 4735 NW 53rd Ave, Suite A Gainesville, FL 32653 Email: adamadamleelaw.com Email: legalassist@adamleelaw.com Telephone: (352) 373-5500 Attorney for Petitioner Personal Representative: Jennifer A. Dassau 29 Kiltie Drive New Hope, PA 18938 Petitioner 1/27 2tchg 2/3-BCT

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 8th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 2021 CA 000406 BAYVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC, n/k/a COMMUNITY LOAN SERVICING, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, Plaintiff,

v. ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES, BENEFICIARIES, GRANTEES OR OTHER PERSONS OR ENTITIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH OR AGAINST THE ESTATE OF BRENDA M. STAHLMAN, DECEASED, an individual; et al., Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION TO: ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES, BENEFICIARIES, GRANTEES OR OTHER PERSONS OR ENTITIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH OR AGAINST THE ESTATE OF BRENDA M. STAHLMAN, DECEASED (Address Unknown) HEATHER THRASH (Address Unknown) JEFFERY SCOTT CLARK (Address Unknown)

If alive, and if dead, to any Unknown Heirs, Devisees, Grantees, Creditors, and other unknown persons, unknown entities, unknown parties or unknown spouses claiming by, through or under any of the above named Defendants YOU ARE NOTIFIED, that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property in Bradford County, Florida: PARCEL 1: A PARCEL OF LAND CONTAINING ONE ACRE, LYING IN THE NW ¼ OF SE ¼ OF SECTION 27, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE NW CORNER OF SAID NW ¼ OF SE ¼ AND RUN S 85°4’ E, ALONG THE N’LY BOUNDARY THEREOF, 720 FEET TO CONCRETE MONUMENT LOCATED ON THE NW’LY BOUNDARY OF THE ROW OF SR S-225; THENCE IN A SW’LY DIRECTION, ALONG SAID NW’LY BOUNDARY AND ALONG THE ARC OF A CURVE CONCAVE TO THE SE AND HAVING A RADIUS OF 1960.08 FEET, A DISTANCE OF 256.92 FEET, AS MEASURED ALONG A CHORD HAVING A BEARING OF S 49°0’30” W, TO AN IRON STAKE FOR THE POB. FROM POB, CONTINUE SW’LY ALONG SAID NW’LY BOUNDARY AND ALONG THE ARC OF SAID CURVE, A DISTANCE OF 210 FEET AS MEASURED ALONG A CHORD HAVING A BEARING OF S 42°10’47” W, TO AN IRON STAKE; THENCE N 44°45’ E, 210 FEET TO AN IRON STAKE; THENCE N 42°10’47” E, 210 FEET TO AN IRON STAKE; THENCE S 44°45’ E, 210 FEET TO THE POB.

PARCEL 2: A PARCEL OF LAND CONTAINING 2.65 ACRES AND LYING IN THE NW ¼ OF SE ¼ OF SECTION 27, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE NW CORNER OF SAID NW ¼ OF SE ¼ FOR POB, AND RUN SOUTH ALONG THE W’LY BOUNDARY THEREOF, 314.59 FEET; THENCE N 71°40’43” E, 247.09 FEET, TO AN IRON PIPE; THENCE N 42°10’47” E, 210 FEET, TO AN IRON PIPE; THENCE S 44°45’ E, 210 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE LOCATED ON THE W’LY BOUNDARY OF THE ROW OF SR 225 (SAID ROW BEING ON A CURVE CONCAVE TO THE EAST AND HAVING A RADIUS OF 1960.08 FEET); THENCE N’LY ALONG THE ARC OF SAID CURVE, 256.92 FEET, AS MEASURED ALONG A CHORD HAVING A BEARING OF N 49°00’30” E, TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT LOCATED ON THE N’LY BOUNDARY OF SAID NW ¼ OF SE ¼; THENCE N 85°4’ W, ALONG SAID N’LY BOUNDARY, 720

FEET TO POB. PARCEL 3: A PARCEL OF LAND CONTAINING 2.64 ACRES AND LYING IN THE NW ¼ OF SE ¼ OF SECTION 27, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE NW CORNER OF SAID NW ¼ OF SE ¼, AND RUN SOUTH ALONG THE W’LY BOUNDARY THEREOF, 314.59 FEET TO THE POB. FROM SAID POB, CONTINUE SOUTH ALONG SAID W’LY BOUNDARY, 861.01 FEET, TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT ON THE W’LY BOUNDARY OF THE ROW OF SR 225 (SAID W’LY BOUNDARY BEING ON A CURVE CONCAVE TO THE EAST AND HAVING A RADIUS OF 1960.08 FEET); THENCE N’LY ALONG THE ARC OF SAID CURVE, 671.62 FEET, AS MEASURED ALONG A CHORD HAVING A BEARING OF N 22°40’10” E, TO AN IRON PIPE; THENCE N 44°45’ W, 210 FEET, TO AN IRON PIPE; THENCE N 36°02’17” E, 210 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE; THENCE S 71°40’43” W, 247.09 FEET TO POB. LESS AND EXCEPT PARCEL 1, AS CONVEYED BY DEEDS RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 1055, PAGE 347 AND O. R. BOOK 1133, PAGE 526, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA, has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to KOPELOWITZ OSTROW, FERGUSON, WEILSEBERG, GILBERT, Plaintiff’s Attorneys, whose address is One West Las Olas Boulevard, Suite 500, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33301, on or before

_____, 2022, or 30 days from the first publication date, and file the original with the Clerk of this Court either before service on Plaintiff’s attorneys or immediately thereafter; otherwise, a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. Dated on the 28th day of January, 2022. DENNY THOMPSON Clerk of the Court By: Lisa Brannon Deputy Clerk

“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” 2/3 2tchg 2/10-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: 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

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

SEE LEGALS, 8A

Starke Woman's Club dedicates Rosenberg Memorial Garden

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Della Rosenberg left quite a gift for the Woman's Club of Starke, so the club did something to honor her memory, officially dedicating the Della Rosenberg Memorial Garden on Jan. 12.

"This was a long time in the making," Charnelle Whittemore, club president, said. "We're very excited to see it come to life. We have a few more things to do, but we are almost finished."

Rosenberg, who passed away March 14, 2017, at the age of 100, bestowed annual monetary gifts to the Woman's Club, Bradford County Public Library, Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, Flagler College and the University of Florida as part of the Rosenberg Family Foundation. The stipulation regarding the money the Woman's Club receives is that it goes toward the preservation of the club building, which sits on the corner of Jefferson and Walnut streets in Starke.

Jeff Tidwell, executive vice president of Graves Tidwell Wealth Advisory Group of Janney Montgomery Scott LLC, expressed his thanks for those attending the dedication and to the Woman's Club for its work on the project. Tidwell handles the money for the Rosenberg Family Foundation, which is headed up by Clay Meux, managing director at Rogers Towers PA.

Meux was unable to be present, but Rogers Towers and the Rosenberg Family Foundation were represented by Rachel Duffy and Tara Forrest.

"I know this would mean so much to Della seeing this—being able to utilize the space and have this space upgraded on her behalf," Tidwell said.

Perhaps Rosenberg gave a sign of her approval. Whittemore shared how the water in the fountain blew a certain way and that club member Cleo Elder had talked to Tidwell about getting it fixed.

On the day of the dedication, the fountain was working properly.

"Maybe somebody did get by here and get it fixed, but I don't know of them fixing it," Whittemore said. "We'd like to think Ms. Della straightened it up for her dedication today, so we're just going to go with that."

Whittemore and Tidwell planted a temporary marker designating the garden in Rosenberg's memory. A permanent marker will be placed in the future.

Besides the fountain and improved landscaping, the memorial garden will consist of pavers bearing the names of individuals, families, businesses, high school graduating classes, etc.

The paver project is helping to raise the funds to finish the memorial garden. Pavers are \$100 each.

"We have 3,500-plus pavers to sell," Whittemore said. "It will continually be a piece of history to which you can add your name, your children's names, your grandchildren's names, your business' name."

Pavers are being placed in batches of 25. Whittemore told the assembled crowd that if anyone had purchased a paver and didn't see, not to worry. Another batch was planned to be

placed the following week.

A pleasant surprise

Linda Lee was the Woman's Club president when she opened a certified letter that notified the club of the Rosenberg Family Foundation and the monetary support it would provide.

"I actually had to sit down," Lee said. "I had to read it again. Then I started calling everybody on the board immediately and letting them know."

Whittemore said the club doesn't know how much total money it'll end up receiving.

"What we know is that we have enough money for years to come to preserve the club," Whittemore said.

So far, the money has allowed the club to do such things as replace all 59 windows, improve the flooring and purchase stage curtains, two stoves, a refrigerator, an ice machine and a washer and dryer.

"When people come in here, they are so impressed by how beautiful it is," Lee said, adding that Rosenberg's posthumous gift "was just a blessing because eventually this building would've failed if it hadn't been for her money."

Whittemore said a second garden will be added to the grounds in the future.

When thinking about what Rosenberg's generosity really means, Whittemore said she can't help but feel humbled. In essence, Rosenberg is enabling the club to have its own physical



Gathered at the Jan. 12 dedication of the Della Rosenberg Memorial Garden at the Woman's Club of Starke are (l-r) Woman's Club members Dawn Corbett, Lisa Rodgers and Linda Lee, Rosenberg Family Foundation member Rachel Duffy, Woman's Club members Wanda Smith and Margaret Johns, foundation members Tara Forrest and Jeff Tidwell, and Woman's Club members Cleo Elder, Charnelle Whittemore, Merry Hess, Brenda Fertig, Gloria Gillenwaters, Monterey Wasdin, Trish Tucker, Lori Thompson and Vicki Teal. Photos by Cliff Smelley.

presence that many clubs in Florida don't have.

"What I didn't know until this last year of my presidency is that across the state of Florida, there are so many woman's clubs that are no longer standing," Whittemore said. "The members are actually having to meet in church parsonages or buildings that they are renting every month for their luncheons and their meetings."

Meanwhile, "little, old Starke" not only has a standing

club building, "but one that is beautiful and perfect condition," Whittemore said.

The Starke club (especially the Della Rosenberg Memorial Garden) has certainly proven to be a popular place to take photos. Lee said somebody observed how many people gathered at the memorial garden to take prom photos. The number, including students and their families, most likely exceeded 300.

Lee encouraged everyone who poses for photos to share them on the Woman's Club of Starke Facebook page.

Whittemore said Rosenberg would've liked the idea of high school students using the garden as a scenic background for photos.

"I know that she is very, very happy about that," Whittemore said. "Her biggest focus was education."

High School. She was known for speaking her mind, sticking up for her students and doing what she thought would best prepare those students for success after school. Rosenberg was strict and expected a lot from her students. In an interview for a Telegraph-Times-Monitor story that was published July 13, 2000, Rosenberg talked of an incident involving a female student who was wearing a low-cut blouse.

"I gave her two safety pins and told her to go the restroom and take care of it, or she could call her mother and have her bring her another blouse," Rosenberg said.

Rosenberg said students weren't on the fence when it came to their feelings toward her.

"My students either worshipped the ground I walked on — and thought I hung the moon and the stars — or they hated my guts because I was so rough on them," she said. "But they also knew I was fair."

Prior to working at BHS, Rosenberg taught military correspondence, typing, accounting, shorthand and office practice at Camp Blanding. She

and two other teachers worked eight hours a day and also wrote their own textbook on military correspondence.

Rosenberg later worked at the Blanding post office, followed by a stint at the USO in Starke. She began teaching at BHS in the late 1940s.

If she felt something would benefit her students, she taught it, even giving her female students pointers on makeup and how they should dress for a job.

"I threw everything at them, but I felt like I had to," Rosenberg said. "A lot of these youngsters were the first child (in their family) to graduate from high school."

Many of her students had never traveled as far away as Jacksonville, let alone outside of Florida. Rosenberg would take groups of students on Saturday bus trips to Georgia.

The destination may not have been anything overly special, but the point was the experience.

"Most of the time it was just a little filling station," Rosenberg said. "We'd have

See GARDEN, page 13



Jeff Tidwell (left), representing the Rosenberg Family Foundation, and Woman's Club of Starke President Charnelle Whittemore applaud after placing a sign designating the Della Rosenberg Memorial Garden. A permanent sign will be placed in the future.

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Local DAR chapter meets on Feb. 7

The Col. Samuel Elbert Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, will meet on Monday, Feb. 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.

Florida Department of Health CHILD CARE FOOD PROGRAM NEWS RELEASE

(for non-pricing programs)

Regarding local child care center

Love'n & Learning 3

Love'n & Learning 3

Organization Name

announces its intent to participate in the

U.S. Department of Agriculture's Child Care Food Program, which is a federally funded program that reimburses child care providers for serving nutritious meals and snacks to enrolled, eligible children. Meals will be available at no separate charge to all participants enrolled at the center(s) listed below, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

Name of Center(s)	Full Address of Center(s) (Street Address, City, State, Zip)
Love'n & Learning 3	202 West Market Rd Starke, FL 3209
Love'n & Learning 2	10928 N. Division St. Hampton, FL 3204
Love'n & Learning	17484 Harrell St. Brookier, FL 32622

Parents/guardians of children eligible for free and reduced-price meals must complete an application. Eligibility information includes the names of all household members; income of each household member or household member's Food Assistance Program (formerly known as the Food Stamp Program) case number or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) case number; signature of an adult household member; and, if the application includes income information, the last four digits of the social security number (SSN) of the adult household member signing the application or an indication that this adult does not have a SSN.

Children who are members of households receiving Food Assistance Program or TANF benefits, children enrolled in Head Start or Early Head Start, and foster children are automatically eligible to receive free meal benefits with appropriate documentation.

Children from families whose income is at or below the levels shown on the chart below are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. The policy statement for free and reduced-price meals is on file at the child care center(s) and may be reviewed by any interested party.

Income Eligibility Guidelines (Effective July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022)

Household Size	Free Meals			Reduced-Price Meals		
	Annual	Monthly	Weekly	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
1	16,744	1,396	322	23,828	1,986	459
2	22,646	1,888	436	32,227	2,686	620
3	28,548	2,379	549	40,626	3,386	782
4	34,450	2,871	663	49,025	4,086	943
5	40,352	3,363	776	57,424	4,786	1,105
6	46,254	3,855	890	65,823	5,486	1,266
7	52,156	4,347	1,003	74,222	6,186	1,428
8	58,058	4,839	1,117	82,621	6,886	1,589
For each add'l member, add:	+5,902	+492	+114	+8,399	+700	+162

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Bradford girls lifters are Region 2-1A champions

Tornadoes qualify 8 for state, including 4 Region 2 champs

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

On the strength of four champions and three runners-up, Bradford High School successfully defended its championship from 2021, winning the Region 2-1A girls weightlifting championship

on Jan. 29 at Daytona Beach's Father Lopez Catholic High School. "This is one of the best days ever," said Gabby Oliver, who won the 199-pound class. Bradford had only five points at the conclusion of the first session, which consisted of the 101, 110, 119, 129 and 139 weight classes. The Tornadoes had to make up some ground if they wanted to win the team championship. Coach Bryan Griffis knew he had the lifters in



Courtney Comer won the 169 class. She's seeking her second straight state championship.

the heavier classes to do it. "I felt confident," he said. "I just wanted those girls to go out and perform. They exceeded my expectations."

The efforts of the lifters in the 154, 169, 183, 199 and unlimited classes resulted in 38 points, putting Bradford in first with 43 points total. Bradford was the runner-up with 27 points.

Brianna Jordan (154), Courtney Comer (169) and Mahailya Reeves (unlimited) joined Oliver as champions, with Reeves wowing the crowd as she broke her own state-finals record she set in the bench press two years ago. She lifted 380, surpassing her previous record by 5 pounds.

"I thought we were going to do something light, but we ended up showing out," Reeves said.

"Light" for Reeves is heavy for every other lifter. The three-time state champ has never been

seriously challenged in her high school career. She's never lost a meet and won this year's Region 2 title by 170 pounds.

She was one of two lifters who took first place by more than 100 pounds. Comer, the defending state champ in the 169 class, won by 150 pounds.

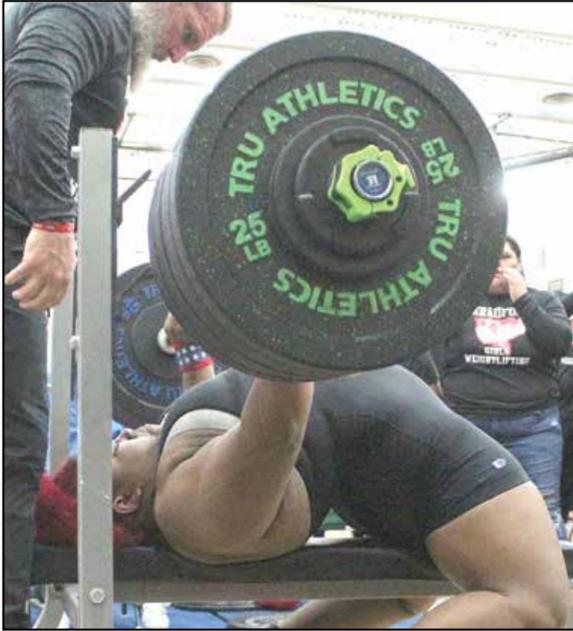
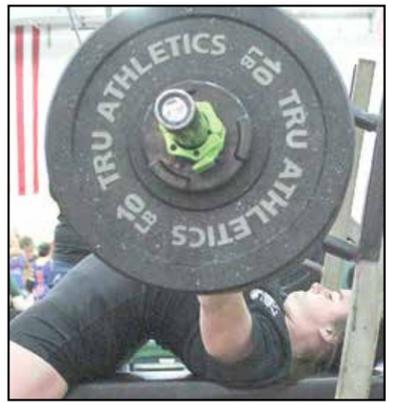
Jordan, last year's state runner-up in the 154 class, won by 90 pounds.

"They showed out," Griffis said. "You don't even understand how proud I am of these kids."

Jordan, Comer, Oliver and Reeves automatically qualified for the state finals, which will be held Saturday, Feb. 12, at Port St. Joe High School.

Bradford's second-place finishers — Hannah McFarland (110), Takeirra Bakken (183) and Jessica Traylor (unlimited) — all earned at-large berths. Mikayla Cooper, who placed eighth in the 119 class, also earned an at-

RIGHT: Brianna Jordan, who was a state runner-up last year, won the 154 class. BELOW: Gabby Oliver won the 199 class. She and Brianna Jordan will be appearing at state for the second consecutive season.



Mahailya Reeves, with Coach Bryan Griffis spotting, bench pressed 380 pounds to break the record she set at the 2020 state finals. She's attempting to become the first individual to win four state championships in Florida girls weightlifting. Photos by Cliff Smelley.

large berth, giving the Tornadoes a total of eight who'll compete at state — the most in program history after six competed last year.

Reeves, who competed for Union County her first three years of high school, attempted only one clean-and-jerk attempt (185) after her impressive showing in the bench press, finishing with a 565 overall total. Her first bench-press attempt of 345 would've

been more than enough to give her the championship.

At past regional meets, Reeves has attempted only what she needed to win her class, but this year, Griffis suggested she go ahead and break her own state record.

"It was crazy," said Reeves, a senior who's attempting to become the first Florida girls

See CHAMPS, page 15

NOTICE OF LAND USE CHANGE

The City Commission of the City of Starke, Florida proposes to change the use of land within the area shown on the map below, by amending the text and Future Land Use Plan Map Series of the City of Starke Comprehensive Plan, hereinafter referred to as the Comprehensive Plan, as follows:

CPA 21-01 is an application by the City Commission, and in response to the Objections, Recommendations and Comments Report, issued by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity dated January 14, 2022, to amend the text and Future Land Use Plan Map Series of the Comprehensive Plan, based upon an evaluation completed by the City, to reflect changes in state requirements pursuant to Section 163.3191, Florida Statutes, as amended.



A public hearing will be conducted by the City Commission to consider the amendment and enactment of the ordinance adopting the amendment on February 15, 2022 at 5:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the City Commission Meeting Room, City Hall located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida. The title of said ordinance reads, as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-17

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE TEXT AND FUTURE LAND USE PLAN MAP OF THE CITY OF STARKE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION, CPA 21-01, BY THE CITY COMMISSION, AND IN RESPONSE TO THE OBJECTIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS REPORT, ISSUED BY THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY DATED JANUARY 14, 2022, UNDER THE AMENDMENT PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED IN SECTIONS 163.3161 THROUGH 163.3248, FLORIDA STATUTES, AS AMENDED; PROVIDING FOR AMENDING THE TEXT AND FUTURE LAND USE PLAN MAP SERIES OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN BASED UPON AN EVALUATION COMPLETED BY THE CITY REFLECTING CHANGES IN STATE REQUIREMENTS PURSUANT TO SECTION 163.3191, FLORIDA STATUTES, AS AMENDED; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

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

At the aforementioned public hearing, all interested parties may appear to be heard with respect to the amendment.

Copies of the amendment are available for public inspection at the City of Starke Zoning Department, located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours.

All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decisions made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that for such purpose they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact the Office of the City Clerk at 904.964.5027 or via the Florida Relay Service 800.955.8770 (voice) or 800.955.8771 (TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the date of the public hearing.

NOTICE OF ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE
BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE
CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ordinance, which title hereinafter appears, will be considered for enactment by the City Commission of the City of Starke, Florida, hereinafter referred to as the City Commission, at public hearing on February 15, 2022 at 5:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the City Commission Meeting Room, City Hall located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida. Copies of said ordinance may be inspected by any member of the public at the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, located at 209 North Thompson Street, Starke, Florida, during regular business hours. On the date, time and place first above mentioned, all interested parties may appear and be heard with respect to the ordinance. The title of said ordinance reads, as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-17

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF STARKE, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE TEXT AND FUTURE LAND USE PLAN MAP OF THE CITY OF STARKE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, PURSUANT TO AN APPLICATION, CPA 21-01, BY THE CITY COMMISSION, AND IN RESPONSE TO THE OBJECTIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS REPORT, ISSUED BY THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY DATED JANUARY 14, 2022, UNDER THE AMENDMENT PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED IN SECTIONS 163.3161 THROUGH 163.3248, FLORIDA STATUTES, AS AMENDED; PROVIDING FOR AMENDING THE TEXT AND FUTURE LAND USE PLAN MAP SERIES OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN BASED UPON AN EVALUATION COMPLETED BY THE CITY REFLECTING CHANGES IN STATE REQUIREMENTS PURSUANT TO SECTION 163.3191, FLORIDA STATUTES, AS AMENDED; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

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

All persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decisions made at the above referenced public hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that for such purpose they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Persons with disabilities requesting reasonable accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact the Office of the City Clerk at 904.964.5027 or via the Florida Relay Service 800.955.8770 (voice) or 800.955.8771 (TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the date of the public hearing.

Tips on Preventing Tooth Aches

1. Brush twice daily. Brushing is the most important thing a person can do when it comes to keeping their mouth healthy.
2. Floss daily. Flossing serves the same purpose as brushing.
3. Limit sugary foods and drinks.
4. Drink lots of water.
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Keystone's Kaylee Wright placed third in the 183-pound class and will advance to state. Photos by Cliff Smelley.

2 KHHS lifters place at Region 2-1A finals

Kaylee Wright and Grace Wagner will compete at state

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Keystone Heights High School's Kaylee Wright improved upon her fifth-place

finish from last season, taking third place in the 183-pound class at the Region 2-1A girls weightlifting finals, which were held Jan. 29 at Daytona Beach's Father Lopez Catholic High School.

Wright was one of two from Keystone to place, with Grace Wagner earning a fifth-place finish in the 139 class. The two earned at-large berths to the state finals, which will be held Saturday, Feb. 12, at Port St. Joe High School. It'll be Wagner's first time competing at state, while Wright will be making her second straight appearance.

At the Region 2 meet, Wright had a 305 overall total (155 bench press, 150 clean and jerk), which was 60 pounds less than 183-class runner-up Takeirra Bakken from Bradford. Champion Marleah Dampier of Fernandina Beach had a 375 total.

It represented a 40-pound overall improvement from 2021, when Wright was lifting in the 199 class. She made her biggest jump in the clean and jerk, improving by 30 pounds.

Wagner had a 255 total (120, 135), improving by 40 pounds from last season's regional meet. Like Wright, Wagner's clean and jerk improved by 30 pounds.

The Indians had 11 competing in all, with Ariel King missing out on placing sixth in the 129 class by 10 pounds. She had a 235 total (120, 115), missing

See KHHS, page 14

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Obituaries

David Barnes

STARKE David Alex "LD" Barnes II, 31, of Starke passed away suddenly on Thursday, Jan. 27, 2022. He was born in Gainesville on July 26, 1990, to his loving parents, David Alan Barnes and Wendy Strickland Barnes. He was raised in Bradford County where he was a longtime member of Bayless Highway Baptist Church. Shortly after graduating Bradford High School in 2009, he pursued a career in law enforcement. He earned his certification as a Correctional Officer and proudly served at both Bradford Sheriff's Office and the Clay County Sheriff's Office for seven years until finding his main passion in construction. He was currently employed at Vallencourt Construction as a heavy equipment operator. He was a jack of all trades and loved life. He lived life to the fullest and enjoyed precious time with his family and friends. He was an avid outdoors-man who loved dog hunting, fishing, and riding his side by side. He thoroughly enjoyed music and singing; and was known for his prankster personality. He was amazing with kids and had a deep love for children. Three years ago, he met the love of his life, Victoria Floyd, the woman he was soon to publicly vow his love for and take her hand in marriage. He was filled with so much love and he gave that to all he knew. He was irreplaceable, a true treasure to those around him and will forever be loved and greatly missed. He was preceded in death by his maternal grandfather, John Strickland.



He is survived by his parents, David and Wendy Barnes; sister, Taylor (Jake) Pickett; paternal grandparents, David and Connie Barnes; maternal grandmother, Jenny Strickland; fiancé and best friend, Victoria Floyd; son, Kyson Floyd; parents-in-law, Shawn (Kelly) Thagard and Mike (Shellie) Floyd; sisters-in-law, Farren Floyd, Taylor Floyd (Patrick) Register, Payton Quinif; aunts, Linda (Mike) Collins, Cindy Strickland, and Christy Strickland; uncle, John (Missy) Strickland; cousins, Courtney Martin, Shelby Parmenter, Kaylyn Clemons, Dalton Cassell, Makayla Carlton, McKenzie Beck, Braden Strickland, and Arielle Strickland; niece, Kayden Floyd; along with numerous extended family members and many friends who were considered family.

A Celebration of Life was held on Tuesday, Feb. 1, at Sampson City Church of God with Bishop Billy R. Canterbury and Pastor Mike Conner officiating. Interment followed at Conner Cemetery.

Arrangements are 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

Roberta Frey

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS Roberta "Birdie" Mae Frey, 74, of Keystone Heights passed away at her home Friday, Jan. 28, 2022. She was born in Canton, Ohio Sept. 27, 1947, to the late Robert and Florence (Stutler) Bennett. She was a heavy equipment operator and a member of Fresh Start Fellowship. She actively enjoyed playing bingo, and being with her loving family.



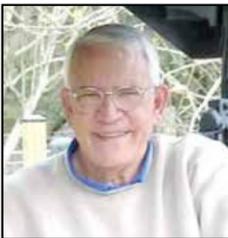
Her survivors include her children, Allen Ritter of Gainesville, Madeline Battis of Georgia, Donald Frey of Keystone Heights, Marc Frey of Calhoun, and Melinda Frey of Keystone Heights; numerous grandchildren; six great-grandchildren. She will be deeply missed by all friends and family.

There are no services at this time. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 340 E. Walker Drive, Keystone Heights, 352-473-3176. www.jonesgallagherfh.com

PAID OBITUARY

Dr. Mark Frost

Dr. Mark M. Frost, 73, passed away quietly in his sleep on Thursday, Jan. 20, 2022, following a lengthy illness. He was surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Jacksonville on March 4, 1948. He attended public schools in Jacksonville until his mother's death when he was 15, when he transferred to Washington, DC, to finish high school while living with his Uncle Dick. He attended the University of Florida for undergraduate work, and Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine. He worked with Dr. John Plant in the Herschel Animal Clinic from his Vet School graduation until his early retirement due to illness in 2006. His love of people and devotion to the health of animals made him a most special veterinarian to many. He was also very focused on civic activities as well as a dedicated lifelong Gator fan. He was a lifelong Rotarian, serving on many committees and was a past president of the Westside Rotary Club. He served on the Greater Jacksonville Fair Board for many years, including being a past president of the Greater Jacksonville Fair (1994-96). He was also a past president of the Jacksonville Chapter of the Kappa Alpha Order, a past president of the Beta Zeta Housing Corporation and a member of the Kappa Alpha Court of Honor. He was an avid outdoors-man; enjoying boating, fishing, and hunting, virtually all of his adult life. He was gregarious and a friend to all. He remembered all his friends and was always glad to see them. He loved to listen to stories and tell his own. He hated casseroles and asked that that be included in his obituary. He was a Christian and appreciated all that the Lord provided, especially his loving family and friends. Mark played poker in the Timuquana Tuesday-night "prayer meeting" for decades and will be remembered among his friends there for his laughter and stories. He married Tommye Morehead in Bryan, Texas, after graduation from Vet School in 1983. Mark and Tommye have two children, Elizabeth "Beth Anne" Frost and Kevin Edward Frost. Both went to the University of Florida for undergraduate and master's degrees. Beth Anne followed in her dad's footsteps and earned her DVM from Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine, and now practices at her two clinics, Pottsburg Creek Animal Hospital in Jacksonville, and Nassau Animal Hospital in Yulee. After receiving his BS and ME in civil engineering at UF, Kevin went on to Texas A&M and received a further MS in ocean engineering. He now works for Xylem in St. Petersburg as a sales engineer and project manager. Mark's greatest wish was to be a grandfather, an event accomplished with the birth of his twin grandchildren, Ellis Elizabeth and Graham Everett Frost, on Aug. 1, 2020, to Beth Anne. They were truly the light of his life!



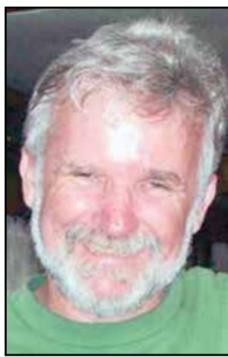
He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Tommye Frost; and both children, Beth Anne (Ashlie) of Jacksonville and Kevin Edward (Brenna) of St. Petersburg; two grandchildren; one sister, Barbara Woolfe of Nocatee; and one brother, John "Skip" (Terry) Frost of Bartow; and several nieces and nephews who, along with many friends and acquaintances, are profoundly saddened by his passing.

A Celebration of Life will be held at his residence in Melrose later in the Spring. Remembrances may be made to the Dr. Mark M. Frost Memorial Endowed Scholarship in the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine or a charity of your choice. Remembrances to the scholarship endowment may be forwarded directly to Ms. D. Turner, AUCVM, 317 S. College St., Auburn, AL 36849. Arrangements are by Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home, 340 E. Walker Drive, Keystone Heights, 352-473-3176. www.jonesgallagherfh.com

PAID OBITUARY

Michael Kane

HAWTHORNE Michael Anthony "Mike" Kane, 69, of Hawthorne, passed away on Thursday, Jan. 20, 2022, at his home following an extended illness. A native of Syracuse, New York, he resided in Hawthorne for 23 years, moving there from Starke. He was a motorcycle mechanic and had owned and operated Kane Cycle Repair in Starke for 40 years. In addition to his love of riding his bike; he enjoyed sailing and looked forward each year to his excursions to the Bahamas. He also cherished time spent with his family and was rich in friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert Anthony Kane and Rosemarie Pecor Kane.



He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Linda Kane, of Hawthorne; a daughter, Mary Catherine Horsley of Starke; two stepchildren, Carrie Ann Arnold (fiancé Kevin) and Edward Jason (Loren) Christensen, all of Jacksonville; three sisters, Janet (Leslie) Whaley of Concord, North Carolina, Moureen (Surupong) Tansuwhat of Gainesville, and Theresa Kane of Chester, Virginia; and one grandchild, Cayden.

Private services will be held by the family at a later date. Memories and condolences may be expressed to the family at Mike's Book of Memories page at www.johnsonoverturf.com

Arrangements are entrusted to Johnson-Overturf Funeral Home in Interlachen.

PAID OBITUARY

Michael Paris

STARKE Michael James "Mike" Paris, 57, of Starke passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2022, at UF Health Shands in Gainesville surrounded by loved ones following a brief illness due to cancer. He was a native of Florida and had lived in Starke. He served in the US Army and had worked in the construction industry. He was of the Baptist faith. He enjoyed reading, hunting, fishing, and spending time with family and friends.



He is survived by his parents, Mike and Ginny Paris; sons, Joshua Paris and Brandon Paris; grandsons, Hayden Paris, Kye Paris, Jacob Paris and Jackson Paris; brother, Andrew Paris; sisters, Laura Harris, Joanne York, Terry Paris and Michelle Wray; nephew, Thomas Welsh; and nieces, Danielle Welsh and Jennifer Harris.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 5, at Johnson-Overturf Chapel in Interlachen. The family will begin receiving friends at the funeral home at 1 p.m. until time of services. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the family to assist with final expenses. Memories and condolences may be expressed to the family at Mike's Book of Memories page at www.johnsonoverturf.com.

Arrangements are entrusted to Johnson-Overturf Funeral Home in Interlachen.

PAID OBITUARY

Minnie Patray

STARKE Minnie Lou Patray, 90, of Starke, went to her heavenly home on Saturday, Jan. 29, 2022, at North Florida Regional Medical Center in Gainesville. She was born in Gainesville on May 15, 1931, to the late Lucian Otis Hazen and Frankie Martin Hazen. Minnie Lou was a lifelong resident of Starke and graduated from Bradford High School. Shortly after high school, she met and married the love of her life, Ernie Don Patray, and together they spent 50 wonderful years. She had a passion for teaching and earned her associates degree from the University of Florida in elementary education and began teaching at Starke Elementary School. During this time she became a mother to three beautiful children: Donna, Lucian "Keith," and Mark. She was very driven, and she didn't stop there. She decided to enroll into the University of Florida and earn her master's degree in elementary education. After earning her master's degree, she continued teaching at Starke Elementary and briefly transferred to Brooker Elementary School but found her way back to Starke Elementary. She retired from Starke Elementary, but never truly left the school system. She spent her retirement being a teacher's aide in her daughter's classroom and helping at the school wherever needed. She enjoyed attending and worshipping her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, at the First Presbyterian Church of Starke. She was an avid reader who loved reading all books, but her favorites were anything mysterious. More than anything she loved her family, especially her grandchildren, and nothing made her prouder than seeing them accomplish their goals in life. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; and beloved dogs, FeFe and Leo.



She is survived by her children, Donna (Jeffrey) Jackson of Starke, Lucian "Keith" Patray of Deland, and Mark Terrell (Jean) Patray of Starke; grandchildren, Gary Don Brewer, Joshua Brewer, Marcus Patray, Jacob Patray, Caleb (Ashlyn) Patray; great-grandchildren, Megan (Cody) Tillman, Marcus Patray II, and Leslie Patray; soon to be great-granddaughter, Maddie Kay Starr Tillman; and her best friend, Betty Groves.

A private Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family requests to please make donations to First Presbyterian Church of Starke to assist with their building funds 921 E. Call St., Starke, FL 32091 (904)-964-7937.

Arrangements are 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

Do you have an In Memory or Card of Thanks to submit? Please email socials@bctelegraph.com.

Curtis A. "Lex" Sanders Attorney at Law



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Vivian Shafer

HAMPTON Vivian A. Shafer, 75, of Hampton passed away Monday, Jan. 31, 2022 at North Florida Regional Medical Center in Gainesville. She was born on Dec. 12, 1946 in Bradford County to the late Lester and Mabel (Southerland) McCullough and moved back to Bradford County in 2011 from Leiper's Creek, Tennessee. During her time in Leiper's Creek she worked for Logan's Steakhouse where she was known for her rolls and often saw George Jones dining there. She enjoyed cooking, and was a Tennessee Titan and FSU fan. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Lee Shafer; her son, Roland Shafer; siblings, Iris Hart and Charles McCullough.



Survivors are: her daughter, Zina Beth Johns; siblings, Lucille (Edwin) Vickery, Lynn (Myrtice) McCullough, all of Starke. Also left are her grandchildren, Jonathan Johns, Lydia Shafer, Roland Shafer Jr., Shauna Shafer, Johnnie Lopez and Merikee Lopez.

The family will receive friends at the DeWitt C. Jones Chapel of Jones-Gallagher Funeral Home on Friday, Feb. 4, from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. with funeral services beginning at 2 p.m.. Interment will follow at Santa Fe Cemetery with Pastor Steve Conner officiating all services.

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

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Obituaries

Re-enlistment ceremony continues Nordwall family legacy at Blanding

David Smith Jr.

David Bradley Smith Jr., 76, went home to be with his Lord and Savior, on Sunday, Jan. 30, 2022. He loved people, hunting, fishing, and growing vegetables to share. He was happiest when he was on his tractor. He loved mentoring students and spending time with his family. His first love was the Lord, Jesus Christ. He was an active member of First Baptist Church of Starke since 1981. He served the Lord faithfully as a Sunday School teacher, nursery worker, department director, deacon and as the church moderator. He was a career educator. He taught vocational agriculture for many years. He served as the director of the Bradford-Union Area Vocational Technical Center (now North Florida Technical College), and as county vocational director for Flagler, Nassau, and Bradford counties. He also served four years as a member of the Bradford County School Board. For the last three and a half years, declining health forced him to live in a nursing home, first at Windsor Health and Rehab, then at Signature Health Care of Middleburg since July. We are grateful and appreciative for the staff of medical professionals who have taken care of him. He was preceded in death by his parents, David and Iduma Smith; and one brother, Harvey Smith.



He leaves to cherish his memory, his wife of 55 years, Martha Panaway Smith; one son, David Andrew (Andy) Smith and his wife Penny; grandson, Jacob Clouthier; and great-grandson, Gage Clouthier.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, Feb. 4, at First Baptist Church of Starke at 11 a.m. with Pastor Chuck Register conducting his service. There will be no visitation before, but the family will receive visitors after the service. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the Building Fund of First Baptist Church.

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

PAID OBITUARY

Danny Stewart

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS Danny M. Stewart, 81, of Keystone Heights, passed away unexpectedly at his home Friday, Jan. 21, 2022. He was born Aug. 29, 1940, in Titusville to Arnold and Laura Stewart. He attended Lee High School and proudly served in the United States Air Force for four years. Prior to retiring he was employed for 36 years as a lineman with Bellsouth Telephone Company. He was a member of Trinity Baptist Church and the Florida Beach Boppers; he was a health enthusiast, enjoyed all types of dancing, but mostly he loved being with his family. In addition to his parents, he was also preceded in death by his brother, Cealwin Stewart.



He is survived by his wife of 12 years, Gayle (DeGarmo) Perry-Stewart of Keystone Heights; daughter, Heather (Paul) Campanale, of Fleming Island; Gayle's children, Kimbell (Earl) Perry of Jacksonville, Brett (Linda) Perry of Keystone Heights, Tami (Thomas) VanNorstrand of Melrose, and Leah (Doug) Helton of Treasure Island. He was also lovingly called "Peepaw" or "Grandpa Danny" by his grandchildren, Emily (Adam) Brandle, Erin Campanale, Elliana Campanale, Elijah Campanale, Lexi VanNorstrand, Brittany Parsons, and Dustin (Paige) Perry; and great-granddaughter, Sydney.

Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m., Friday, Feb. 4, with Pastor Brandon Denmark officiating. Interment will be at Jacksonville Memorial Gardens.

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

PAID OBITUARY

BY GEORGE E. CRESSMAN JR.
Camp Blanding Museum
Staff Historian

In mid-November 2021, there was a unique re-enlistment ceremony in the Memorial Garden of the Camp Blanding Museum.

Re-enlistment ceremonies occur regularly at Camp Blanding, so what made the November 2021 ceremony unique? It was unique because it was a U.S. Navy re-enlistment ceremony.

Sonar Technician Petty Officer Second Class Anthony Nordwall re-enlisted for a second term in the Navy. Nordwall is serving in Jacksonville in the Pre-Commissioning Unit of the USS Minneapolis St. Paul, a littoral combat ship.

Nordwall could have chosen to have his re-enlistment ceremony closer to his duty station, but instead chose Camp Blanding. Why did he do so? Because there is a deep connection between Blanding and the Nordwall family.

The story begins with Nordwall's great-grandfather Antoine Nordwall. Born in 1889, Antoine immigrated from Sweden with his parents in 1892. The family settled in Minnesota. Antoine enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in France during World War I. During the war, he was gassed.

Returning to the United States after World War I, Antoine was looking for work on the Red Lake Reservation when he met Rose Marie Lussier, a resident of the reservation. They married, and on Aug. 16, 1922, Stanley Anthony Nordwall was born — the first of five sons and three daughters.

The World War I gassing left Antoine Nordwall with a weakened immune system. While working as a mechanic

in 1935, he was injured in an accident. The injury became infected and gangrenous. After boarding a train for Minneapolis, Antoine died before he could reach a hospital.

The five Nordwall boys were sent to the Pipestone Indian Boarding School in Minnesota. Opened in 1892, the school had about 400 Native American students. As the oldest of the Nordwall brothers, Stanley was responsible for his younger brothers.

After leaving the school, Stanley Nordwall registered for Selective Service in June 1942 and was inducted into the Army in November 1942. Stanley volunteered for paratrooper service and was sent to Camp Blanding. The 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment was organized at Camp Blanding, and the command staff was qualifying men for airborne training. Stanley was accepted.

After parachute training at Fort Benning, the 508th went to England as an independent parachute regiment. In early 1944, it was assigned to the 82nd Airborne.

Stanley parachuted into Normandy on June 6, 1944, and into the Netherlands in September 1944.

Following the German counterattack in December 1944 (the Battle of the Bulge), the 508th and the 82nd Airborne fought in Belgium. Stanley was wounded by an artillery shell fragment during the Battle of the Bulge and spent two months in the hospital.

Stanley Nordwall was discharged after the end of World War II (he did serve again later). He returned home, married, and began a family.

And that brings us to Anthony Nordwall. He is the grandson of Stanley Nordwall.

Anthony Nordwall recalls being at Camp Blanding as a young child — he was there for a 508th reunion — but he really didn't understand his family's connection to Blanding until he joined the USS Minneapolis St. Paul Pre-Commissioning Unit. As part of his Navy duties, Nordwall arranged for small-arms qualifications at Blanding. When he told his father about visiting Camp Blanding, his father related his grandfather's time there.

Reflecting on his great-grandfather's death while trying to reach a Minneapolis hospital, his service on the USS Minneapolis St. Paul is especially meaningful for Nordwall.



ABOVE: Anthony Nordwall re-enlists in the Navy during a ceremony at Camp Blanding, where his father spent time after volunteering for paratrooper service. RIGHT: Anthony Nordwall receives a hug from his father, Stanley.



So, when it was time to re-enlist in the Navy, Anthony Nordwall requested the ceremony be conducted at Camp Blanding. Connecting to his family's legacy, the re-enlistment

Rare re-enlistment ceremony at Blanding was once common

BY GEORGE E. CRESSMAN JR.
Camp Blanding Museum
Staff Historian

A re-enlistment at Camp Blanding in any service other than the National Guard is rare, but during World War II, enlistments in all the services were an everyday occurrence.

Blanding was the reception center for all Florida residents, regardless of which service they joined. The Army and Army Air Forces, the Navy, the Marines and the Coast Guard all inducted Florida residents there, so Navy, Marines and Coast Guard men

and officers served at Blanding.

After induction, each man's stay at Camp Blanding was short — usually only two or three days — but it was there that each man got his first uniform and a brief introduction to military customs and behavior. Then it was on a train or bus and off to a new duty station, usually outside of Florida.

At the end of World War II, Camp Blanding's role was reversed; the reception center became the separation center for Florida residents — a beginning and ending for each man's service.

Blanding Museum display ties into Four Chaplains Day

A new Camp Blanding Museum display features a

painting on the sinking of the SS Dorchester, an incident that included the brave sacrifice of four chaplains, who are commemorated annually on Feb. 3, which is Four Chaplains Day.

On Jan. 23, 1943, the Dorchester — a civilian cruise liner that had been converted for troop-transport service — departed New York, bound for

Greenland. On board were about 900 soldiers. Among them were four chaplains: George Fox (Methodist), Alexander Goode (Jewish), John Washington (Roman Catholic) and Clark Poling (Dutch Reformed).

In the early morning hours of Feb. 3, 1943, a German U-boat torpedoed the Dorchester off Newfoundland. The chaplains moved to the ship's deck and immediately began helping soldiers get into lifeboats. There was an inadequate number of life jackets, so when the supply ran out, the chaplains gave theirs to soldiers who didn't have one.

The four chaplains stood on the deck, linked arms, prayed and sang hymns as the Dorchester sank. They went down with the ship.

The Dorchester painting at the Camp Blanding Museum is part of an Army's Chaplains Corps display.

The public is cordially invited to view the new display as well as the museum's other offerings. The Camp Blanding Museum is open daily from noon until 4 p.m.



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KHHS to honor Mattox at Feb. 15 preseason tournament

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Keystone Heights High School will host the Alan Mattox Preseason Baseball Classic on Tuesday, Feb. 15, honoring the longtime head coach who retired following last season.

Play begins with Clay taking on Palatka at 4 p.m., followed by the Indians, under new Head Coach Chris Roach, taking on Fort White at 7 p.m.

Mattox, who'll be present, will be honored between the two games.

In 29 seasons at KHHS, Mattox compiled a 466-319 record. He led the Indians to 10 district championships and 17 regional playoff appearances. Keystone advanced to the Final Four three times off regional championships and finished as a state runner-up twice.

3 record pins for Tigers against Palatka

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Most of the victories came through the host team forfeiting six weight classes, but the Union County High School wrestling team did have three earn wins through actual competition in a 53-23 win over Palatka on Jan. 27.

The Tigers' winners — Kale

Waters (113 class), Alexander Cortese (182) and Danny Thornton (195) — all pinned their opponents.

On Jan. 14-15, Union competed in the Billy Saylor Invitational at Suwannee, going 2-5.

Union defeated Godby 66-12 and West Nassau 42-30.

Caleb Crawford went 5-2 with three pins in the 160 class. Ian Halfacre (132) and Ethan Shea (138) each went 4-3. Shea won three matches by pins, while one of Halfacre's wins came by a major decision.

Bowden, Wingate go 3-1 for KHHS at Parker Duals

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Two Keystone Heights High School wrestlers earned three wins each at the Jan. 22 Terry Parker Duals.

Jason Bowden went 3-1 in the 126-pound class, pinning two opponents, while Sheppard Wingate went 3-1 in the 152 class, recording all three of his wins by pins.

On Jan. 15, Cody Saley and Jared Goetzman went 5-0 and 4-1, respectively, at War on the Shore at Fernandina Beach High School.

Each participating school wrestled in five rounds.

In a 59-24 loss to host Fernandina, Goetzman and Saley earned both of their wins by forfeits, as did teammate Matthew Delano (220). Alyx Nichols (160/170) won with a pin that occurred in just 49

seconds.

Goetzman again earned a win by forfeit, while Saley pinned his opponent in 32 seconds in Keystone's 42-30 loss to First Coast. Nichols, who went 3-2 in the tournament, and Saige Dennis (152) earned wins by forfeits, while Phoenix Contes (120) recorded a win by pin in 1:56.

The Indians next faced Baker County, losing 72-9. Goetzman took a 7-3 win, while Saley won by pin in 4:46.

In a 66-18 loss to Middleburg, Saley recorded a pin in 4:53, while Luke Graves (145) won by forfeit.

Keystone wrapped up the tournament with a 42-24 loss to Mainland. Goetzman and Nichols pinned their opponents in 3:17 and 2:30, respectively, while Contes and Saley won by forfeits.

The Indians lost a duals match to host Oakleaf on Jan. 18, with Wingate earning the team's only points by pinning his opponent.

Protecting your horse from bots

You might be thinking what the little, yellow dots at the tip of your horse's coat in late spring to early winter are. They are called horse bots and can be harmful to your horse's health.

Horse bots are fly larvae that are internal parasites to horses. If a horse ingests the bot eggs by licking or biting the area, the larvae will start to burrow in the mucous lining of your horse's mouth. After three to four weeks, the larvae will run through the stomach and intestines. The

larvae will detach from the stomach or small intestine and are passed in the droppings. They will burrow in the surface of the soil for one to two months and then become adult flies.

A big population of bots can cause gastrointestinal disturbance and esophageal paralysis. Be on the lookout for pus pockets in your horse's mouth. These are the first signs

that the larvae are migrating in the tongue and gums.

Bots can also cause your horse to have colic, ulcerations of the stomach and blockage resulting in a stomach rupture.

To control the population, you will need to break the life cycle of the fly. Grooming or clipping the hair may aid in removal of eggs. Consult with a veterinarian

about which insecticide would be beneficial for horse bot control. Most effective treatments should be applied one month after first sighting of eggs to control the next stage of larvae.

For more information about bot control, visit <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>, enter "horse bots" in the search bar and then click on the first result.

GARDEN Continued from page 9

Cokes and crackers. Then we'd stop somewhere else and get a sandwich or have something to eat. They got out of the bus, and they'd walk around a little. They'd (now) been out of the state of Florida."

She made students promise her that when they began working after graduation, they would save some of their earnings and not "blow everything they made on food, movies and clothes." As Rosenberg put it, they'd "save a little for a 'special fun' fund for a fun trip that would take them farther than the border of Georgia."

Basically, Rosenberg was a guidance counselor before officially becoming one.

"When I became guidance counselor, the kids told me they were glad they made me legal because I had been doing it all these years," she said.

Rosenberg knew the personnel supervisors at Prudential in Jacksonville and Southern Bell in Jacksonville and Gainesville. She said those people would hire any student she sent their way.

Nationwide Insurance in Gainesville was another business



Photos of Della Rosenberg were on display inside the Woman's Club of Starke.

that saw value in her students.

"They took every student I would send them," Rosenberg said. "Many of them became supervisors."

Lee said she was told those businesses wouldn't even require Rosenberg's students to take a test when they applied for a job.

"If they knew that they had been through her class, they knew they were good," Lee said.

Rosenberg didn't stop caring about her students' best interests after they graduated from BHS.

One of her former students told her how a University of Florida professor made a disparaging remark about the number of BHS graduates in a particular class, referring to them as the "Starke wonders." Rosenberg knew several professors and administrators at UF, so she began making phone calls. The professor later made an apology to the students during class.

"You may step on my toes, but you don't step on my children's toes," Rosenberg said.

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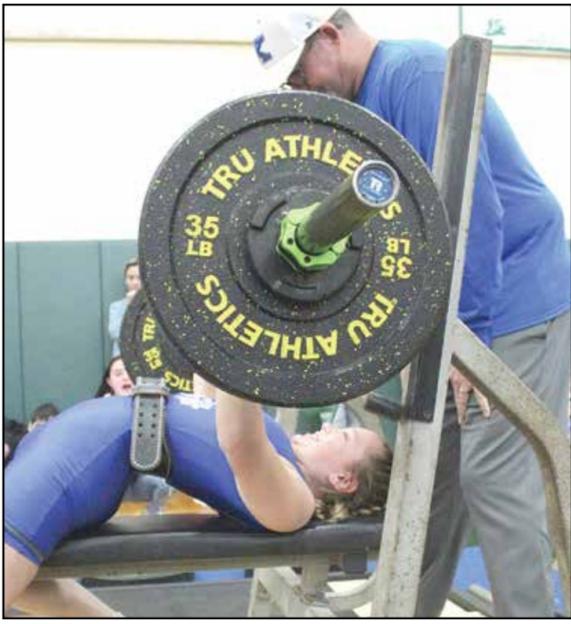
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Grace Wagner, being spotted by Coach Todd Gillenwaters, earned her first-ever berth to the state finals by placing fifth in the 139 class.

KHHS

Continued from page 10

out on two attempts of 125 in the bench and failing to get a successful lift on her first two clean-and-jerk attempts.

King's total represented a 20-pound improvement from 2021.

Lillian Mitchell was 30 pounds away from a sixth-place finish in the 183 class with a 225 total (120, 105).

Also competing for Keystone were Heidi Knapp, who had

a 175 total (95, 80) in the 119 class, Schiley Starling, who had a 160 total (85, 75) in the 119 class, Kathryn Brossette, who had a 210 total (110, 100) in the 129 class, Chloe Still, who had a 195 total (95, 100) in the 139 class, Kenly Chitty, who had no official total in the 154 class (she didn't have a successful bench-press attempt) and Harmony Geiger, who had a 235 total (120, 115) in the 169 class.

Knapp, Starling, Brossette and Geiger all had totals that were 10 pounds better than what they lifted at the District 5 finals.

KHHS boys soccer team loses in district quarterfinals

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Keystone Heights High School, the fourth seed in the District 4-3A boys soccer tournament, lost 3-1 to fifth-seed Newberry in a Jan. 28 quarterfinal match at Fort White High School.

Logan Spence scored the lone goal for the Indians (10-7-4), with Chris Anderson recording the assist.

BHS girls hoops team wins regular-season finale

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Santee Blye and Aniyah Carroll combined for 27 points and 36 rebounds, helping the Bradford High School girls basketball team defeat visiting Williston 35-25 on Jan. 27.

Carroll scored 18 points and grabbed nine rebounds, while Blye scored nine points and grabbed 27 rebounds.

The Tornados (8-10) also got five points from Sky McMillian, two points from Jakayla Evans and one point from Kimber Woods, who also had five rebounds.

Bradford now prepares to play

a semifinal game in the District 6-1A tournament, which is being hosted by Fort White High School. The Tornados, who are the second seed, will play either third-seed Dixie County or sixth-seed Bell on Thursday, Feb. 3, at 7:30 p.m. If Bradford wins, it'll play for the championship on Friday, Feb. 4, at 7:30 p.m.

KHHS, UCHS girls began district play Tuesday

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

The Keystone Heights and Union County high school girls basketball teams began play in their respective district tournaments this past Tuesday, Feb. 1.

Keystone, the third seed in District 4-3A, played sixth-seed Santa Fe. If the Indians (17-4) won, they played a semifinal game against second-seed North Marion on Wednesday, Feb. 2.

The championship game of the tournament, which is being hosted at North Marion High School, is Friday, Feb. 4, at 7 p.m.

Union, the fifth seed in the District 6-1A tournament, played fourth-seed Branford. If the Tigers won, they will play a semifinal game against top-seed Fort White on Thursday, Feb. 3, at 6 p.m. The championship game of the tournament, which is being hosted by Fort White, is Friday, Feb. 4, at 7:30 p.m.



Ella Hutchins (left) recorded two assists in the 5-3 win over Trinity Catholic that put the Indians in the District 4-3A championship match. File photo by Cliff Smelley.

Keystone is District 4-3A runner-up to P.K. Yonge

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

The higher seed won each game in the District 4-3A girls soccer tournament, which meant that in the championship match, second-seed Keystone Heights High School fell to top-seed P.K. Yonge, losing 8-0 on Jan. 29 in Newberry.

P.K. Yonge (12-1-2) earned one of the four automatic-qualifying spots in the upcoming Region 1 tournament, which begins with quarterfinal matches on Tuesday, Feb. 8, at 7 p.m. Four at-large qualifiers, selected based upon state rankings, will round out the Region 1 field. The Indians (15-6-3) entered the District 4 tournament as the eighth-ranked team in Region 1.

Keystone began play in the District 4 tournament with a quarterfinal match on Jan. 26, getting five goals from Ella Hutchins and four from Kiersten Shaw in defeating seventh-seed Interlachen 11-0.

Sydney Colaw, who scored the other two goals shared the team lead in assists with Elizabeth Waughon. Each had two.

Hutchins also recorded an assist.

Goalie Miranda Yow made three saves.

The Indians then took on third-seed Trinity Catholic for the right to advance to the championship match. Shaw scored three goals in a 5-3 win on Jan. 27.

Kendall Gagnon and Raegan Hogg each added a goal, while Hutchins had two assists.

Yow again made three saves.

P.K. Yonge, which had a first-round bye before defeating fourth-seed Newberry 8-0 in the semifinals, held an opponent scoreless for the 11th straight match in shutting out Keystone. Buchholz was the last team to score against P.K. Yonge, accomplishing the feat with a 4-1 win on Nov. 30.

The Blue Wave has allowed six goals all season.

Yow made 10 saves for the Indians.

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Jaira Highland competes in the clean and jerk at the Region 2-1A finals. Photo by Cliff Smelley.

UCHS' Highland competes at regionals

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Union County High School's Jaira Highland competed in the Region 2-1A girls weightlifting finals on Jan. 29 at Daytona Beach's Father Lopez Catholic High School, finishing with an

overall total of 225 pounds. Highland placed 12th in the 199 class. She had a best bench press of 110 and a best clean and jerk of 115. She earned the right to compete by placing fifth at the Jan. 18 District 5 finals.

UCHS boys win 3 in a row on the road

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Cole Andersen-Davis posted a double-double for the Union County High School boys basketball team, which defeated host Baker County 57-53 on Jan. 28.

Andersen-Davis led the Tigers with 17 points, while Thomas Williams and Curran Webb scored 14 and 11, respectively. Andersen-Davis and Webb grabbed 10 and nine rebounds, respectively, while Williams had seven to go along with three assists.

Quinten Rawls had three assists as well to go along with five points.

Gavin Jenkins and Dee Williams each had four points, while Jay Cohen added two.

The Tigers (8-11) are on a current three-game winning streak, which began with a 52-45 win at Fort White on Jan. 25.

Union entered the game having

lost four in a row, but ended that skid with the help of double-digit scoring by Jenkins (15 points), Thomas Williams (14 points) and Webb (10 points).

Webb finished with a double-double, grabbing a team-high 10 rebounds.

It was Andersen-Davis recording a double-double on Jan. 27 as the Tigers defeated host Bell 44-34.

Andersen-Davis scored a team-high 16 points and grabbed a team-high 10 rebounds.

Jenkins had 13 points, while Thomas Williams finished with five. Each player grabbed six rebounds.

Webb, who had eight rebounds, scored four points, while Cohen and Rawls each added three points.

Union played Keystone Heights this past Tuesday and will host Interlachen on Thursday, Feb. 3, at 7:30 p.m. The Tigers then conclude the regular season with a home game against Middleburg on Friday, Feb. 4, at 7:30 p.m.

The District 6-1A tournament begins Tuesday, Feb. 8, hosted by Bell High School. Union, the

sixth seed, will play third-seed Dixie County in a quarterfinal game at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 8. If the Tigers win, they'll play second-seed Bell in a semifinal game on Wednesday, Feb. 9, at 7:30 p.m., with the winner advancing to the championship game, which will be played Friday, Feb. 11, at 7:30 p.m.

Also playing in the tournament are top-seed Bradford, fourth-seed Fort White and fifth-seed Branford.

BHS boys drop games against 6A, 7A schools

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

The Bradford High School boys basketball team lost its third game in a row, falling 58-49 to Class 7A Oakleaf on Jan. 28 in Orange Park.

Shayne Davis and Jontez Williams scored 12 and 11 points, respectively, while Chalil Cummings had eight points, five rebounds, seven steals and three assists.

Hunter Crawford and Robbie Simmons-Godwin scored six and five points, respectively, with Crawford also grabbing six rebounds. Keith Ardley had three points, while Bernard Nichols added two.

The Tornados (8-10) entered the game off a 39-36 road loss to Class 6A Gainesville on Jan. 25.

Davis scored 11 points, while Simmons-Godwin and Williams had nine and eight, respectively. Simmons-Godwin also grabbed 10 rebounds, while Williams had nine to go along with three steals.

Cummings had five points, seven rebounds and three assists, while Nichols scored two points.

Amari Jones added one point and five assists.

Bradford is the number-one seed in the District 6-1A tournament, which is being hosted by Bell High School. The Tornados have a first-round bye and will play either fourth-seed Fort White or fifth-seed Branford in a semifinal game on Wednesday, Feb. 9, at 6 p.m. If Bradford wins, it'll play for the championship on Friday, Feb. 11, at 7:30 p.m.

CHAMPS

Continued from page 10

weightlifter to win four state championships. "Today was crazy."

She took the idea of going for the record in stride. Griffis said when he suggested it, Reeves replied, "All right. Put it on the bar."

Comer, a junior, has been as dominant as Reeves. In her

first two years lifting for Union County, Comer lost only one time — at the 2020 state finals, when she was her class' runner-up.

At this year's Region 2 finals, Comer had a bench press of 260, which was 120 pounds more than anyone else in her class. She then had a clean and jerk of 190 to finish with a 450 total.

Jordan, a junior, has been winning by incredible margins, too, but she provided a little

drama when she hit herself in the chin with the bar on her first clean-and-jerk attempt. Jordan was visibly dazed, but she was able to step back on the platform for one successful attempt before calling it a day, finishing with a 420 total (235 bench, 185 clean and jerk). Her bench press was the best in her class by 80 pounds.

Oliver, a junior who was a runner-up at last year's regional finals, had a 350 total (195, 155).

"I felt like I had a really good chance of coming in first," she said.

Griffis said Oliver is being motivated by the memory of her father, Michael, who passed away last May. Michael Oliver was a friend of Griffis'. The two went to school together.

"Our deal is we are doing this for Mr. Mike," Griffis said, adding, "When she got up there to do her lifts, every time I was telling her, 'This is for Mr. Mike.'"

"She won a regional championship. We've got one more step."

Reeves grabs the spotlight in the unlimited class, but the Tornados have another lifter in that class who's having an outstanding season. Traylor, a senior, placed second to Reeves with a 395 total (210, 185), which was 20 pounds ahead of the third-place finisher.

Griffis said it's huge for a team to be able to take the top two spots in the heaviest class.

"Jessica showed out today," he said.

Bakken, a junior who was the state runner-up in the 183 class last year, placed second with a 365 total (175, 190), which left her trailing Fernandina Beach's Marleah Dampier by 15 pounds. She attempted 205 in the clean and jerk, but just missed out on the clean part of the equation. Griffis believes Bakken would've pulled off the jerk otherwise, which would've allowed Bakken to tie Dampier and win the championship on the weigh-in tiebreaker.

"Takeirra was a quarter of an inch from placing first," Griffis said.

McFarland, a senior, had a



LEFT: A shoulder injury prevented Hannah McFarland from competing in the postseason last season. This season, she won the district title in the 110 class and placed second at the Region 2 meet. BELOW LEFT: Mikayla Cooper did enough in the 119 class to qualify for a return trip to the state finals.



ABOVE: Takeirra Bakken, who was a state runner-up last season, took second in the 183 class. LEFT: Jessica Traylor placed second behind teammate Mahailya Reeves in the unlimited class. During the medal ceremony, Reeves pulled Traylor up onto the number-one pedestal with her.



Cooper, a senior who made state last year, had a 240 total (110, 130) in the 119 class, which was good for eighth place. She unsuccessfully attempted 140 twice in the clean and jerk. If she had gotten it, she would've placed fifth.

Still, her total in what proved to be a strong region was good enough for her to advance. Cooper is one of eight Region 2 lifters who will compete at state in the 119 class.

"We've got a good team going into state," Griffis said. "I'm ready to see what these girls can do under some pressure."

If Oliver is feeling any pressure, she doesn't show it. She's confident the Tornados have what it takes to add a state-championship trophy to their collection.

"Oh, we're going to win," she said. "We're coming in first. Definitely."

Another four lifters competed for Bradford at the Region 2 meet: sophomore Presley Acree, who had a 160 total (85, 75) in the 119 class, senior Breann Ponce, who had a 220 total (105, 115) in the 129 class, sophomore Kirsten Hodges, who had a 190 total (100, 90) in the 129 class and junior Emma Franke, who had a 235 total (115, 120) in the 169 class.

shoulder injury that prevented her from competing at the district meet last year and, thus, moving on to regionals and then, possibly, state. This year, McFarland, after winning the District 5 title in the 110 class, placed second at the Region 2 meet with a 250 total (115, 135). That left her trailing

champion Kaylee Carolan of Wolfson by 30 pounds.

"When she came in at the beginning of the season, we were rehabbing her shoulder. She could hardly lift above her head," Griffis said, adding, "I am so proud of that young'un and what she's been able to accomplish."

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NFTC nursing program features good-natured sibling rivalry

BY CLIFF SMELLEY
Telegraph Staff Writer

Inspired by their brother, who had a congenital heart defect and lived until the age of 18, siblings Brandon and Morgan Boettcher are both enrolled in the practical nursing program at North Florida Technical College, with their eye toward eventually earning degrees and becoming registered nurses.

They are driven by the desire to help humanity, but there's also a competitive drive that makes each one want to do better than the other in regard to their schoolwork.

Morgan, a 2013 Keystone Heights High School graduate who's in NFTC's full-time program had already taken her first two tests and was awaiting her brother's results. Brandon, a 2008 KHHS graduate is in NFTC's part-time program.

"We actually got the exact same scores on both of our first two tests," Brandon said.

Morgan said, "I was a little mad. I thought for sure I beat him."

"It's funny," Brandon said. "Our brains are pretty similar."

It's what you'd expect of any sibling rivalry, but each wants the other to succeed and is willing to provide any help to the other. Brandon believes that desire each has to outdo the other is a good thing.

"I think in the long run it's going to make both of us better nurses," he said.

Both are certified nursing assistants. Morgan is currently working at Macclenny Nursing and Rehab Center.

"I've been a CNA for almost five years now. I just wanted to be able to do more for my patients," Morgan said.

Brandon is currently working at a restaurant after being



Morgan Boettcher (left) and her brother Brandon are both students in North Florida Technical College's practical-nursing program. Photo by Cliff Smelley.

employed at several healthcare venues, including a stint in the medical surgery unit at North Florida Regional Medical Center when the COVID-19 pandemic began.

"My first CNA job was at North Florida," Brandon said. "The med surg unit actually got turned into the COVID floor, so I was deep in the thick of it, just starting off my medical career."

He had been figuring out what health-related avenue he wanted to go down before settling on the same path as his sister. Since she was already enrolled at NFTC, he enrolled, too. Plus, he heard others in the nursing community give the school's practical nursing program high praise.

"They've always told me this is a really good program," Brandon said.

The fact that NFTC offers a part-time program has made it easy for Morgan, who'd find it difficult to be in the full-time program because of his work schedule and family life.

"With the two 10-hour days, it works around everything great," he said.

For Morgan, going to NFTC is a matter of convenience, but she was also familiar with the practical nursing program beforehand.

"My fiancé went through this program a couple of years back," Morgan said. "Having her has really helped me in getting through this program."

Also helping is the memory of Zackery Boettcher. Zackery was born with transposition of the great arteries and hyperplastic right heart syndrome.

"Both are pretty rare," Morgan said of the heart defects. "They caused a stroke when he was first born."

Brandon said, "It was during his first open-heart surgery. He was six weeks old."

"Altogether, he had five open-heart surgeries," Morgan said.

Zackery passed away on Jan. 1, 2012.

"Our brother wasn't expected to live six months. We were blessed to have him for 18 years," Brandon said, adding, "I always wanted to go into the medical field growing up because of him."

Brandon said he initially set out to go to med school and become a pediatric cardiologist. He didn't get that far, saying, "Life happened."

He came to embrace the idea of becoming a nurse rather than a doctor, saying provide most of the around-the-clock patient

care.

Morgan said one of her memories of Zackery is that he enjoyed his interaction with his nurses. It impressed upon her the desire to go into that field.

"He didn't want to go to the doctor because the doctor was always going to tell him that there was a (heart valve) leak and that he needed surgery, or you've got to take this medicine," Morgan said. "I feel like the nurses made it fun for him and (made) Mom a little bit calmer."

Brandon said before their mother, Davine Mauldin, became familiar with the medical terms doctors were using, "the nurses really broke it down and put it in layman's terms for her."

"Mom," whose name is Davine Mauldin, was an influence on her children as well. She was in her 40s when she became a CNA and followed that with more schooling in the area of phlebotomy.

Brandon and Morgan can relate to what their mother went

through.

"We saw what she went through to get her schooling and how hard she worked raising us," Brandon said. "It helped set the tone. I have two kids. Morgan's got three stepchildren. It kind of showed us how to balance work, family and bettering ourselves all at the same time. Our mom was huge in that."

Because of what his brother went through, Brandon said he specifically wants to work in pediatric care, saying, "I think I'm just goofy enough to where I can ease them while they're getting cared for."

Without missing a beat, Morgan said, "You're definitely goofy looking." To which Brandon replied, "You look just like me."

As siblings, they're close, but Brandon and Morgan can't help picking on each other. Brandon said he was looking forward to his next test. He said he's hoping he can beat his sister's score.

"Yeah, good luck with that,"

Morgan said. "I've maintained the highest grades in my class from the beginning."

"So, I'll maintain the highest grade in my class," Brandon said, with an emphasis on "the."

Morgan may want to beat her brother when it comes to test scores, but she also laughs and says if he does do well, she'll just take the credit.

"I taught him what he knows," she said.

Don't let the good-natured sibling rivalry fool you. Brandon and Morgan are close. Being students at NFTC has allowed them to be around each other a little more than their busy lives usually allow.

"I feel like we both work so much, but being here...makes us hang out just a little bit more," Morgan said.

Brandon added to that, saying, "Which is nice."

Besides, it also makes it a lot easier to compare those test scores.

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